

The Fleetwood Area Historical Society
will be Open
Mondays from 9:00 - 12:00

- NOTE -

Next Membership Meeting
September 18, 2024
at 7:00

Delight E. Breidegam Building of the
Pennsylvania German Cultural Heritage Center
15155 Kutztown Road Kutztown PA 19530

*Come see the many Pennsylvania German displays.
We will be joined by the Longswamp Historical Society*



Fleetwood Area Historical Society Newsletter

www.fleetwoodpa.org • FleetwoodHistory@fleetwoodpa.org • 610-944.5800

SUMMER 2024

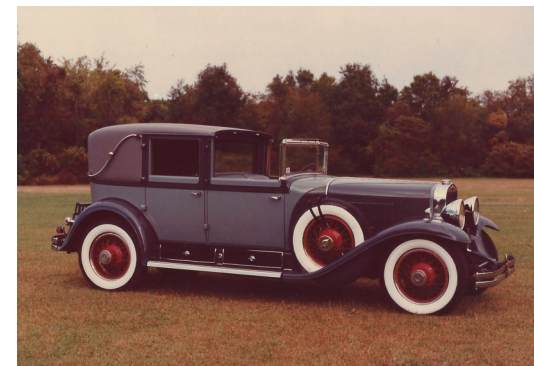
VOL. 26 ISSUE 3

VICE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

We had a busy Spring at the Historical Society. In May, over the course of four weeks, we had eight fifth grade classes visit the museum. The groups were well behaved and showed much interest in Fleetwood's history. Thank you to Dave and Betty for providing most of the guidance.

Ted Germand (W. Chicago, IL) of the Cadillac-Lasalle Club was attending their national meeting in Gettysburg and asked if we would open on Sunday May 17. Dave and I showed him around and provided information about the Fleetwood Metal Body Co(MBC). He is preparing a Fleetwood Body article for their newsletter. We asked him to debunk the fictitious Lord Henry Fleetwood of Pemberton, England, story created by GM in their post-takeover advertising.

(See us for details)



On another automotive note, Myrna Schild was kind enough to send a card telling me that her husband James died in April. James is the author of the silver book

"Fleetwood, the Company and the "Coachcraft" which has become our bible for information about the Fleetwood Metal Body Company. He and Dennis Becker interviewed Fleetwood MBC workers for information to include in the book. We are sorry to hear of his passing.

We again manned a booth at the Fleetwood Community Carnival. We had, and still have, additional copies of the 2023 Photo book available as well as new Society T-shirts. Thanks to



NEW T-SHIRTS AVAILABLE

all members who helped with this endeavor. The September 18th membership meeting will take place at the Breidegam Center of the Pennsylvania German Heritage Center in Kutztown. After a briefing about the services of the center, we will be able to explore their resources and view special exhibits.

The end of the year means election of officers at the Society. In November we need to nominate people to fill the offices of President, Vice President, Recording Secretary, and possibly Treasurer. Members need to step up and volunteer for these offices and help plan future activities.

Bill Strause, Vice- President
Fleetwood Area Historical Society

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VOLUNTEERISM

Volunteerism - the act of contributing free labor to conduct community service or support a nonprofit organization. Quoting Ellen Degeneras, "spread kindness and spread positively" is one of the simplest acts of volunteering - 12/7/2019.

America was founded on volunteering. It is one of the cornerstones of our American Society, including early volunteer militias that fought for our independence and the volunteers that supported WWI and WWII. Let's not get entangled in those types of volunteers, but spread out our thoughts.

Early volunteers included anyone who assisted when there was a house fire or barn burning with a bucket brigade verses our large fire engines of today. Back then people just threw water on the fire until it was out. Today, these individuals must secure training for all the different types of fires that they may have to suppress and there is the biological and environmental aftermath. Today we call them first responders and truly they are vital to a community's survival and growth. Without them our fire and property insurance would be a lot higher. Associated with them are the fire police who perform a service to protect ourselves from ourselves. As a society we cannot seem to avoid rubbernecking a fire or disaster.

Then the real reason for writing this article. OUR/YOUR community needs volunteers!!!. The Greatest Generation did a wonderful job building our nation and our community. They volunteered for more than one community organization. They served when called upon and made the rest of us feel good at community events. Those volunteers made up the Borough Council who provided community water and sewer services which we enjoy. At an American Legion meeting a young veteran declared, "If you're expecting my generation to volunteer, you're out of luck". A sad, but true comment. There is no Woman's Club of Fleetwood or Jaycees organization. Breakfast Brothers survives, barely. The Breakfast Brothers once had 55 members and you had to be approved by a committee. Now there is maybe 15 active members and they will accept volunteers immediately. The Fleetwood Public Library has a voluntary group called Friends of the Library. These volunteers assist with numerous Library functions to keep operating costs down and raise money for programs continuously. But again, the members are aging and new helpers are needed.

The Historical Society is no exception. The Fleetwood Historical Society was started over 50 years ago. Those charter members have moved on and there is a need for more VOLUNTEERS. While there is a good group of Friends assisting to update the School Room and other areas, we still need more people to assist. No experience necessary just an appreciation of history.

I sincerely hope the readers of this column can remake themselves into assisting our community volunteer programs. Surely, between churches, community government and social organizations there is a space for you. If you feel you cannot offer volunteering, how about getting a friend, child or relative to keep our/your community going.

RJA

MILK DEALERS PAY COSTS TO AVOID FINES

Fines of \$25 each were remitted to three Fleetwood milk dealers last night after they paid the cost at a hearing Justice of the Peace Harry G. Seltzer on a charge of failing to fix the price of their milk at 11 cents a quart.

The dealers, Paul Homan, and Daniel and Morris Strause, were prosecuted by the Lehigh-Northampton milk marketing committee after milk purchases were made from them for 10 cents a quart. The state milk control board recently fixed the price at 11 cents. Homan said, "they came down to my dairy and hustled me off as if I were a chicken thief, without even giving me time to eat my supper". "I worked hard for the business I have". "We're selling to a poorer class in smaller communities and our customers can't afford to pay 11 cents". "If the cooperative association can't make money at 10 cents a quart and don't know how we can expect to at 11 cents".

This story is a condensed version of a report that appeared in the Reading Eagle in about 1939. Mr. Homan also stated that he had not raised his price to 11 cents. With imposing fines of \$25, \$500, and \$1000, I am not sure how this story ended.

Bill Strause

Fleetwood Area Historical Society

Officers

Vice President - Bill Strause
Recording Secretary - Position Open
Treasurer - David Dreibelbis

Directors

Clair Derr Jim Shade Grant Moyer
Dale Adams John Koller

Contributors:

Genevieve Heffner, Russell Anderson,
Betty Hilbert, Roger Moyer,
Connie Snyder, James Weber

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These companies support
the Fleetwood Area Historical society

