

Fleetwood Area Historical Society Newsletter

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[HTTP://WWW.FLEETWOODPA.ORG](http://www.fleetwoodpa.org)

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President's Corner

At our membership meeting of Nov. 20, 2019, all current officers and directors were nominated for reelection. The election will take place at our Dec. 18 membership meeting. Also, Arthur Counts, current board member, was elected as Vice President to fill the position vacated when Bob Knoll was appointed as recording secretary.

If this newsletter reaches you before Wed. Dec.18, please join us at our membership meeting and a program by Arthur Counts and his wife, both of whom are retired from Disney World in Florida. They will tell us all about the Disney World behind the scenes and underneath the amusements. It will be very interesting.

A new batch of fresh Apple Butter has been received, this time with new custom Society labels. After staying with current prices for many years, due to increased costs, the new pints will sell for \$3.00, but still a delicious bargain.

The new LED lights have now been installed in our Civic and our School room. The new lighting in these museum rooms is now excellent and the lighting will no longer fade our photographs.

As we write this piece, we are mourning the death of Larry Manmiller, husband of Joan Manmiller, our former treasurer for many years. Our thoughts are with Joan and her family.

Please remember that we continue our practice of having no membership meetings in January and February due to weather concerns. Meetings will resume on Wed. March 18. If there are subjects that you would be interested in hearing about or programs you would recommend that we schedule, please contact us at 610-944-5800, email us at Fleetwoodhistory@fleetwoodpa.org, or drop in on a Monday morning. We are always glad to get

suggestions for programs that our members are interesting in.

Our program on Nov, 20, by Lynn Otto and his wife about the French and Indian war and its impact on our region was very well received.

We wish to thank the Kutztown Area Historical Society for donating several historic items which they received that were related to Fleetwood. We share the favor when we receive items related to Kutztown.

Our new web site is now almost ready for release after a few improvements and additions are made. You will be pleased with the new site which will now be accessible with your cell phones.

We continue to have a surface water problem in our meeting room. Public Works manager Craig Conrad has promised to look into the problem.

For those who are not aware, Fleetwood now has a Borough Manager. This new position was Created in September and has been filled by former Councilman Chris Young. We look forward to working with Chris in the future.

I will be leaving this month for three months in Florida. I will be available by phone (610-781-9250) or by Email at wastrause@aol.com. But during my absence our effective slate of officers and directors will keep things humming.

With warm regards,

Bill Strause

FLEETWOOD AREA FISH RODEO

Celebrating its 60th Anniversary

Fleetwood area youngsters have been able to experience the joy of fishing for the past 60 years thanks to the efforts of the Fleetwood Fish and Game Association and the Fish Rodeo Committee.

It all began in 1960 when the Fish and Game Assn. voted to begin an annual fish rodeo for area youngsters. Few people know that the first rodeo was held in 1961 on the east branch of the Willow Creek which runs through the meadow of the Lloyd Schlegel farm adjacent to the east end of Fleetwood.

Permits were obtained from the Pennsylvania Fish Commission to construct 6 or 7 temporary dams in this spring-fed creek to raise water levels suitable for trout to live in. Railroad ties, chicken wire, logs and rocks were used by Fish and Game members to create the dams and trout were purchased to stock them. Some committee members camped overnight to protect the captive fish until the rodeo the next day. About 50 or 60 children attended this first fish rodeo.

Several days after the event, the dams were removed under the supervision of the Fish Commission.

The Schlegel farm was the site of subsequent fish rodeos in 1962 and 1963. Then in 1964 the Fish and Game Assn. was given permission to move the event to the Willow Creek where it runs through the Fleetwood Park. Similar dams were built and the next five fish rodeos were conducted in the Park.

During the spring of 1967, the late William Strohm (an avid fisherman) representing the Fleetwood F&G assn. approached the Fleetwood Borough Council about constructing a pond in the Fleetwood park using funds from Pennsylvania Project 70 Land Acquisition and Borrowing Act to pay for the acquisition of additional land adjacent to the park for the purpose of providing a pond for recreational purposes.

During the summer of 1967, Councilman Joel Schaeffer, chairman of the Park and Building Committee, announced that a plan was being developed by the U.S. Soil Conservation Unit to construct a pond on project 70 land in the park. Plans were finalized by December with construction to begin in 1968.

The spring of 1968 saw the many hours of planning become a reality. Construction of a half-acre pond was paid for by the Fleetwood Fish & Game Assn. at no cost to the Borough except for some piping and valves.

The first fish rodeo was held in the new pond in 1969 and has continued there each year thereafter. This ended the inefficient system of creek dams which required many hours of manpower to build and it

provided much better conditions for youngsters to fish. Also, the borough utility building could be used as a base for committee members, a place to serve food and drinks and an area where volunteers could "camp out" to protect the fish after stocking in the pond.

Several upgrades and improvements have been made to the pond and its immediate area since 1968 including a gazebo and fire pit in 1984. The late Barry Hawkins was instrumental in the installation of an aeration system in 2018 and also the introduction of hybrid plant-eating carp to help control weeds and algae in the pond. These fish are infertile and cannot overpopulate the pond.

While the Fleetwood Area Fish Rodeo was begun by the Fleetwood Fish & Game Assn., in 1974 the association formed the Fleetwood Area Fish Rodeo Association which included officers and members from the Fleetwood F&G Assn, the Walnuttown Fish & Game Assn., and, at that time, the Grizzly Guzzlers, an organization formed to celebrate Fleetwood's Centennial and continued, after the centennial, to work on civic improvement. They have since disbanded. Today the committee is made up of Michael Emerick, Pres. (Walnuttown F&G), John Koller, V.P.; Elsie Hawkins, Sec'y; Roger Anderson, Treas.; Dennis Keim, Terry Kline, Sheila Koller, Paul Noll and Cheryl Weidenhammer. We thank the committee for providing details for this article along with Craig Conrad, Robert Foose, Robert Hawkins, John & Betty Leibelsberger, David Schlegel and Robert Weidner.

The newly formed association now runs the fish rodeo with funding from area merchants and fund-raising efforts. Many area merchants also provide prizes for the event and are always recognized at the rodeo. Fleetwood and Walnuttown F&G Associations also provide volunteers to help at the annual event.

The Fleetwood Fish Rodeo Assn. is strictly a volunteer organization with members who care about teaching kids about the fun of fishing. To give you an idea of the scope of this project, we have compiled data from the last 10 years of the rodeo: This unheralded organization has purchased almost 7000 trout for the event at a cost of over \$26,000. Recent fish prices range from \$2.75 for a 12 inch trout to \$14.00 for a 17 inch trout. Each rodeo will see over 500 fish of various sizes stocked in the pond.

Prizes are awarded for the first to catch four fish in each of 4 age groups and the biggest fish in each age group. There is a bonus prize for anyone catching a

special Golden Trout. Prizes have varied from fishing rods, tackle boxes, back packs, snack baskets and other donated items. Each child registered receives a ticket for \$2.00 courtesy of the Walnuttown F&G Assn. which can be used to buy food or drinks at the rodeo. Adults can also buy food at reasonable prices.

The rodeo takes place each year on the Saturday of Mothers' Day weekend in May and is free for children from age 3 to age 12. On Sunday, teens from 13 to 15 can fish free and licensed adults can fish for a fee of \$5.00. The number of registered kids varies from 80 to 100 depending on weather conditions.

We wish to acknowledge Carl Metz and Chad Stewart, Presidents of Fleetwood and Walnuttown F&G associations, respectively. These organizations continue as the major support groups for the rodeo and work hand and hand with the Fish Rodeo Assn. to make the rodeo successful.

Along with all the fund-raising and planning efforts handled each year by the Fish Rodeo Assn., they continue to look forward to further improvements at the pond area such as better lighting and treatments for algae control.

We salute all the organizations and volunteers who have given their time and efforts over the years to provide a fishing experience for kids of all ages, some of whom will remember it always. The pond provided through their work is a wonderful asset in the Fleetwood Park which goes beyond fishing to ice skating and "duck watching." We wish them A Happy Anniversary and continued success for many more years. *-Bob Knoll*

FLEETWOOD SOUND COMPANY

A new line of high-quality audio equipment

In our newsletter of September 2018, we wrote about Oswald's Mill Audio Company which makes high-end, high efficiency, hand made audio components and loudspeakers in the former Fleetwood Shirt Factory buildings on Locust Street. Now OMA, as they are known, has created a new division known as Fleetwood Sound Company.

The introductory advertising states: "We created Fleetwood Sound Company to produce a new line of smaller, more affordable audio components while retaining the ultra-high build and design as our OMA line. Loudspeakers with the same solid hardwoods, hand rubbed finishes (oil and wax), conical horns and

innovative audio engineering-driven design made within reach, built under the same roof as OMA in Pennsylvania next to the factory that made the Fleetwood motor car synonymous with 'world's finest.'"

The new company has been using the worldwide reputation for high quality earned by the Fleetwood Metal Body during the 1920s. Advertising (as shown) uses a photograph (provided by the Fleetwood Area Historical Society) of workers in the body shop hand building a Fleetwood auto body.

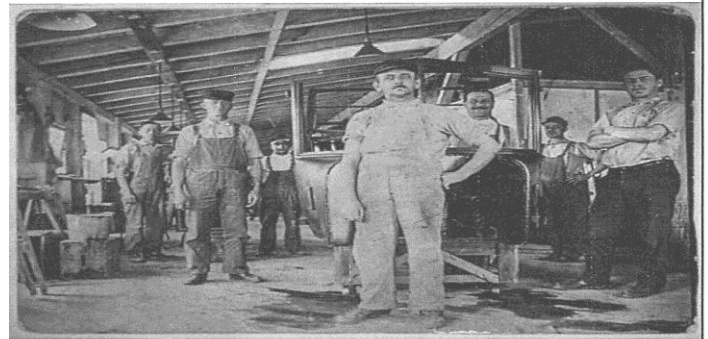
Fleetwood
SOUND COMPANY

BY

OMA

HANDBUILT, HIGH EFFICIENCY
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TRADITION RENEWED



WORKMEN WORKING ON A PARTIALLY COMPLETED AUTO BODY IN THE FLEETWOOD METAL BODY CO. CIRCA 1920'S

MADE IN FLEETWOOD, PENNSYLVANIA
NEXT TO THE FACTORY THAT MADE THE
FLEETWOOD CADILLAC FAMOUS

FLEETWOODSOUND.COM

We are proud to see the name Fleetwood continue to be utilized as an example of quality workmanship and have been happy to cooperate with the company as it advertises its new product line. We are also pleased to see the Fleetwood Shirt Factory buildings utilized with the manufacture of a fine product. *-Bob Knoll*

Fleetwood Area Historical Society

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President	William Strause
V. President	Arthur Counts
Rec. Secretary	Robert Knoll
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Corr. Secretary	Becky Schroeder

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