

# Fleetwood Area Historical Society Newsletter

Volume 24, Issue 4

October 2022

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

email: [FleetwoodHistory@fleetwoodpa.org](mailto:FleetwoodHistory@fleetwoodpa.org)

610-944-5800

- Supply Depot Fleetwood.....Page 2
- Surge Volleyball.....Page 2

### President's Corner

The Society has been busy over the summer months and there have been changes associated with the continuous growth of the society.

Kathleen Herman, a charter member and long-time recording secretary passed away. She had been Director Emeritus for the last several years. Her service and dedication, along with her husband Carl Herman, will not be forgotten as the Fleetwood Historical Society moves on.

Bob Knoll, our current Secretary and newsletter contributor has decided to resign from the position. He wishes to spend more time with wife, Joanne and family. We give our best wishes and thanks for years of service to the Society.

The community of Fleetwood will be celebrating it's 150-year celebration in 2023. The Fleetwood Council of Community Organizations, FCCO, is planning a full slate of activities for the year. The Society will be participating in those activities as well. More specifics on those items will be in forthcoming newsletters.

Over the summer the Society has suffered a couple of setbacks. Being located in a basement presents its own challenges for climate control. The air handler in the School room froze up and there was water damage to the floor and a wall, as well as mold and asbestos tile issues. To add insult to injury the large room hvac unit and heater broke down. The outdoor condensing unit and interior air handler must be replaced. All at a time when humidity conditions are the worst. The Society has purchased additional dehumidifiers and outside contractors have been used to remediate and control the issues.

As a result of these issues, the Directors chose to close the rooms to general public viewing. We are awaiting insurance issues and

damage repairs for the School room and supply issues for the hvac unit in the large room.

While assessing these incidents and inspecting the overall condition of all the society's rooms it was decided a general upgrade renovation should take place. Some areas have not been repainted or upgraded since the society opened in the basement. Lighting upgrades were done in all other parts of the Community building, but not the basement. We need new lighting, painting and ceiling tiles in numerous areas. The Society will be working with the Borough Council to develop a plan of remodeling and making the area look more appealing to our guests.

The Board also will be developing a criteria plan for accepting items. We have become a dumping off area for items not necessarily relative to Fleetwood and space is limited.

All the mandatory upgrades and renovations will cost money. The Board of Directors have decided to raise the dues for all categories of members. To keep the areas looking nice for our guests is no different than keeping your house presentable as well.

The Board appreciates your understanding of our financial conditions and requirements for the future displaying of the history of the Fleetwood area.

The Fleetwood Historical Society is a 501 3C non-profit organization. All donations are tax deductible.

*Bill Strause*  
President

## **SUPPLY DEPOT FLEETWOOD**

It was 1933 and millions of men across the United States were unemployed. The stock market crash of 1929 had devastated the nation. People stood in soup and food lines to avoid starvation.

Franklin D. Roosevelt was elected president 1932 and in his first 100 days proposed many programs to get America moving again. One of those programs was the Civil Conservation Corps, CCC. The program put millions of men to work in the outdoors. Those men were responsible for planting billions of trees, repairing roads, bridges, 800 parks and correcting soil erosion issues from the logging boom of the 1800's.

Pennsylvania had 151 of those camps. Those camps required food and supplies to exist. Enter SUPPLY DEPOT FLEETWOOD.

Supply Depot Fleetwood was located in the former Fleetwood Metal Body building. Now, a parking lot between S. Richmond and S. Franklin streets. The vast three floor building was ideal for the tasks required for supplying 146 CCC camps in PA, MD & NJ.

As we say, a "soup to nuts" operation. A partial list of items included, but not limited to: electric generators( as these camps were located in isolated areas), mattresses, shoes (including 14E sizes), clothing of all sizes for all seasons ( shoes, socks, underwear, t-shirts, pants, shirts, foul weather gear, medical supplies, vaccines, healing agents, custodial supplies, janitorial equipment, thousands of #10 cans of fruits & vegetables, corned beef, dried beef , pot-bellied stoves and 100# bags of sugar to mention a few of the thousands of items the supply depot carried

in inventory. In an average month, 2,000,000 pounds of items were shipped out.

In addition to shipping out supplies Supply Depot Fleetwood was also a reclamation center. When camps closed, shoes, clothing, generators, and pot-bellied stoves were returned for repurposing to other camps.

In the basement, reclamation of clothing and equipment was performed. A full carpentry shop with painting and mattresses being "fluffed up" for reissue. Shoes were repaired and resoled. The first floor contained canned goods, 100# bags of sugar and clothing for reissue. On the second-floor clothing was mended, sizing, foul weather gear repaired. There were many other operations on going for keeping the CCC camps functioning.

There were a number of local men who performed work at Supply Depot Fleetwood. George Strause, Anthony P. Robena, Stephen Fargo, Samuel R. Robena and Alvin C. DeLong to mention a few.

Supply Depot Fleetwood was the "Amazon" of the 1930's. Come read the entire article on display at Fleetwood

## **SURGE VOLLEYBALL**

If you have passed by the Fleetwood Park some summer weekends or weekday evenings, you may have seen a large group of young men and women playing volleyball at 10 or more nets set up in the park. This is Surge Volleyball and it is for the serious volleyballer.

Surge Volleyball, LLC, was founded and is run by Run Humer and his wife Sonia. Ron is the son of Leon Humer and the Grandson of Norman and Florence Heim. He now lives in the former home of Norm and Florence on the top of Poplar St.

hill. He graduated from Fleetwood High School in 1991.

Surge Volleyball was started in October of 2012 and is open to anyone who is serious about the game. As of this writing there are 228 athletes holding membership in Surge Volleyball. In addition, there are coaches and instructors.

Members pay an annual fee which includes practice sessions, weekly clinics, uniforms and tournaments. Group and private lessons can also be purchased.

Athletes come from the local area as well as from Lancaster, Manheim, Lebanon and other areas. One group makes the trip from North Pocono because the fees are more reasonable than in their area.

Members of Surge Volleyball can also join Keystone Regional Volleyball, a non-profit which runs USA Volleyball programs. On a different level is the AAU, or Amateur Athletic Union with its own tournaments.

Three membership levels are available: Junior level for those age 15 or below, Intermediate level based on skill, and advanced level for those age 16 and above.

During the summer season, teams of 2, 3, or 4 players are organized. Wednesday night leagues will often see 21 nets set up with up to 84 teams participating. Thursday night leagues usually involve 14 larger teams using 6 courts.

Some teams are organized for just women or just men, while others are mixed players.

Winter programs generally involve club teams. Currently there are 22 teams with 8 to 10 players each.

While Surge Volleyball is played in the Fleetwood Park in summer and in the Fleetwood Community Center in winter, it is not affiliated with the borough. Lease agreements with the borough enable use of the

community center gym as a tenant. Some activities are played at Body Zone or at Lancaster Mennonite High School.

Ron Humer has been seeking local small business involvement. One such business, Jay's Bar-B-Q, sells its products on Wednesday evenings during the summer when over 200 players are on the field.

Surge Volleyball is growing and efforts are underway to expand to the West Chester area.

With practice sessions, clinics, lessons and tournaments, Surge Volleyball is a very active organization providing a venue for a large number of those who are serious about the game of volleyball, bringing many participants into our town and benefitting local merchants.

---

#### Fleetwood's 150 year Anniversary Plans

- April 22 Miss Fleetwood Contest
- Expanded Memorial Day Celebration
- July 18-22 Annual Community Carnival
- August 12 Day at the Museum – A Community Center Open House.
- August 12 Night at the Museum. A ticketed FCCO planned activity in the cafeteria featuring refreshments and premier showing of Eric Schaeffer's "Finding Fleetwood".
- Sept. 28-30 Carnival in Park
- Sept. 30 Anniversary Parade
- October 6 Fireworks following Homecoming activities at the High School
- October 8 Community Church Service

### **Future Programs**

On Wednesday, **November 16** Mr. Brian Engelhardt of the Berks History Center will speak about the Pilgrimage to Disaster, a trainwreck in the California desert that killed 18 Berks County residents headed to a Shriner convention.

On Wednesday, **December 21** we will present a slide show prepared and presented by Phyllis A. Monroe in 1998 as part of Fleetwood's 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration. It consists of slides taken in the Fleetwood area in the late 1800's.

### **Fleetwood Area Historical Society**

#### **Officers**

|                 |                  |
|-----------------|------------------|
| President       | William Strause  |
| V. President    | Arthur Counts    |
| Rec. Secretary  | Russell Anderson |
| Treasurer       | David Dreibelbis |
| Corr. Secretary | Becky Schroeder  |

#### **Directors**

Dale Adams  
James Shade