



The Friends of Mountwood Park Newsletter

Winter 2019 Issue Vol. 10, No. 1

Friends of Mountwood Park Officers
Peggy Squires, President
Melody Crawford, Vice President
Carolyn Naylor, Secretary
Mike Naylor, Treasurer

Friends meet the 2nd Thursday of each month at 6:30 pm.

Festival held at Point Pleasant, West Virginia. Wendi is a volunteer for the Friends of Mountwood Park.

•Eleanor Rinehart

We were sad to hear that on November 28, 2018, Eleanor Rinehart of Walker passed away. Eleanor was one of the founding members of the Friends of Mountwood Park. Although Eleanor was unable to attend our meetings in recent years, she found other ways to show her support. She is missed.

•New Members

We want to welcome our newest members, Mr. and Mrs. Richard Fauss of Elkview, West Virginia to the Friends' family.

•Wendi Williams



We want to congratulate Wendi Williams for being crowned Mrs. Mothman at the 2018 Mothman



In this picture is Friends' president Peggy Squires with Linwood Lowden. Linwood is the author of the book *White Oak, West Virginia Alias Volcano (The Resurrection of a Ghost Town)*.

•Quote –As you get older, three things happen. The first is your memory goes, and I can't remember the other two.

Norman Wisdom

•We Got Mail!

We received the following letter from Mr. James Hardigg.

“The recent issue of the newsletter for Mountwood Park is very interesting to me. The article about my grandfather, Dennis O’Brien, says that his wife, Anna, and my mother, Mary, went to the wedding of Madge McCandless in New York City in 1910. Grandfather had been invited too, but was somewhat ill and stayed home in Parkersburg. He was expected to recover shortly and my grandmother and my mother went to the wedding. Unexpectedly, Grandfather died of pneumonia before they returned.”

“I wonder if the large amount of soot in the air in Parkersburg from the burning of soft coal for household heating may have aggravated his pneumonia. When I was visiting Grandmother when I was a child, I remember finding soot in the window sill in the morning if the bedroom window was left open a bit to have some fresh air at night. Grandmother’s house was heated with natural gas, but many houses used bituminous coal. My Aunt Evelyn also died of pneumonia in Parkersburg about sixteen years later.”

“The article in the newsletter also showed a picture of Shaffer’s store in Volcano. I had not known that the building was owned by Grandfather. I remember that store chiefly because one could buy “penny candy” there which I did when I had a few pennies.”

“I also remember walking along the road in front of the store on the way back to the family’s house accompanied by some of my family including Charlie

Pettigrew, my Aunt Evelyn’s husband, when a car went by and stopped a little way ahead. A man jumped out of the car, ran toward us, and shouted “Captain Pettigrew!” He had been the first sergeant in Uncle Charlie’s company in World War I.”

“I have pleasant memories of my grandparent’s house at Volcano. In the summer of 1938, I was with Grandmother at Volcano. I worked with Cheslyn Jonas, Sr. and John Durkin in the oil field. Each morning I walked over the hills to a well they were cleaning. I walked back over the hills for lunch and back to the well afterwards. I was fifteen years old and at the end of the day I was pretty tired, but I liked being with Grandmother.”

“My children remember being at Volcano in the summers. We all regret not being able to visit Aunt Katherine there in the summertime.”

“Recently, I have been listening to an “audiobook” of a biography of John D. Rockefeller. It is interesting to hear names associated with Parkersburg. One was “Archbold” and another is “Camden.” I knew an Archbold family that lived in Parkersburg for several years when Mr. Archbold was in charge of transportation for the Standard Oil Company.”

“I have been told that John D. Rockefeller offered my grandfather a job at Standard Oil but it would have meant that grandfather would have had to move to New York City. Grandfather preferred to stay in West Virginia where he could sometimes be in the country. I have a similar outlook and live next to a forest in a small town in Massachusetts.”

“I’m glad to hear that Mr. Taitt’s house is being lived in.”

“I heard that a large limb from an oak tree fell on our house. I asked the forester to try to find someone to repair the damage. Repairs, if practicable, did not happen. The house would have to have been lived in to protect it from thieves.”

Sincerely,
James Hardigg

•Quote- Have you ever noticed that anybody driving slower than you is an idiot, and anyone going faster than you is a maniac?

George Carlin

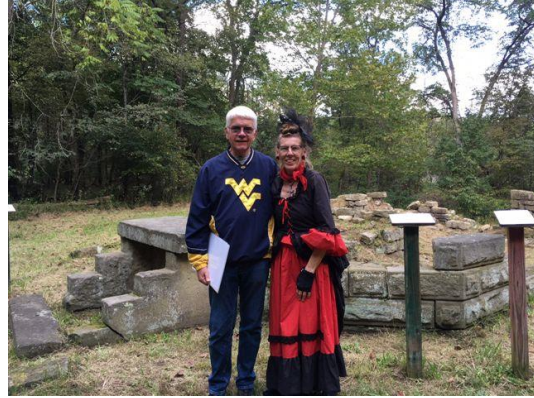
•30th Annual Volcano Days Antique Engine Show

By Carolyn Naylor

During the last week end of September, thousands came to Mountwood Park to have fun, eat, and learn about the history of Volcano, West Virginia.

Although it rained earlier in the week, which created mud, the days of the event were excellent. The Park Director Jeremy Cross estimated the show had between 6,000-7,000 visitors throughout the weekend.

Several people left the festival for a guided tour up to the Thornhill mansion site ruins. Those on the tours were excited when they saw Red Neck Nellie (Patty Cooper) climb onboard. They just knew they were in for some laughs and probably at the expense of Mike Naylor, their tour guide.



This photo is of Mike Naylor and Red Neck Nellie (Patty Cooper) at the former Thornhill mansion site. Photo was taken by Bob Zellny.

On the wagon ride to the ruins, Mike pointed out where various buildings, shops, churches, roads and rail lines were located in the town of Volcano.

There were several people on the tour from Ohio and Pennsylvania. This was their first excursion to Volcano Days and for some, their first trip to West Virginia.

Friends of Mountwood Park is very fortunate to have Patty Cooper, Bob Zellny (our tractor driver) and Mike Naylor as volunteers. Each of them always steps-up when help is needed.

•Museum Report for 2018

By Mike Naylor

There were 807 visitors to the museum in 2018 with receipts of \$495. We also garnered an additional \$315 from other sources. The wagon rides were a big hit at Volcano Days accounting for \$205 of the \$336 collected at Volcano Days.

Next year we are moving the wagon rides forward an hour to 12:30 and 3:30.

Harmony Ridge has visited the museum twice in 2018 along with the driving tour

of “downtown” Volcano and the walk around the Thornhill estate.

•Volcano Buildings Moved to Parkersburg

I seem to continuously discover information about the citizens of Volcano that astounds me. And, the following information quoted from *Where it all Began* by David L. McKain and Bernard L. Allen, Ph. D. is a good example.

“Less than a mile away from Terrapin Park were located the street car barns of Shattuck’s Parkersburg and Marietta Inter-Urban Streetcar Company. To their rear was the old McCandless home. A few weeks before Shattuck was interviewed, this property, a piece of oil field history, was razed. A two-story frame structure, it had been erected in Volcano years before. It was moved to Parkersburg when its owner, the McCandless’, moved from Volcano to Parkersburg in the early 1890s and decided to bring their house with them! The decision to tear it down was made



only after Mrs. McCandless’ death. Twenty-one months later in November 1903, it was announced by The semi-weekly Sentinel that the construction of new street car barns on the property was nearing completion.

This was not the only Volcano building moved from this now ghost town to Parkersburg. When the Stiles brothers opened their foundry and supply

company, they tore down the Volcano Hotel, floated it down the Little Kanawha River, and reerected (sic) it in downtown Parkersburg as the machine shop of the new company. It was finally torn down in the 1950’s, and the wood sold for enough money to build another plant.”

•The People of Volcano

John Noon was a railroad laborer. , John was born in 1826 in Ireland. He



claimed to have witnessed the first spike driven when the line was built and watched as the last spike was pulled when the line was taken up. He died in 1910 and is buried at Easton, West Virginia in the Greenhill

Catholic Cemetery.

Mary Noon was the wife of John Noon. Mrs. Noon was born in 1840 and worked as a servant for the Stiles family. She died at Petroleum on August 10, 1915. She is buried at Easton, West Virginia in the Greenhill Catholic Cemetery.

Curtis Thompson was a bookkeeper and lived on the Boulevard (an abandoned road in front of Phil Rager’s home) in Volcano. Unfortunately, for his neighbors, he also raised pigs and every spring he would let the hogs out to forage. There were so many hogs roaming and rooting along the street that a woman visiting called the street “Swine Avenue”. Swine Avenue would be what the street would be commonly called thereafter. Curtis left Volcano in April 1887.

On October 19, Mike Naylor visited the Colonial House and spoke to the residents about the history of Volcano. They had heard about Volcano but wanted to know more. We were happy when we received the following from one of the residents. We later heard she dressed as Red Neck Nellie at the House Halloween party.

“Oh those WV Hills

how majestic and how grand, with their summits bathed in glory like our Prince Emmanuel’s land.”

I loved singing that song in school just as I loved the stories of Louis Wetzel, Mcculio’s Leap and Betty Zane running for help to save the fort.

It is people like Mike Naylor and the Mountwood Park Association who will keep WV history alive.

I am a resident of “Colonial House” on 23rd Street in Parkersburg. It is governed by a non-profit board and is less expensive than other homes in the area. We in turn support other non-profit organizations. We, with the help of the Jefferson School Girls Basketball Team and the Vandevender Cheer leaders have collected 329 pairs of socks for House to Home. We will be filling Easter eggs for Mountwood Park Easter egg hunt and making treats for dogs at the humane society.

Mike Naylor was a guest speaker at the Colonial House and reviewed his book on Volcano. He also gave each of us an autographed copy of his book. I did know it was an oil boom town but didn’t know that the oil latterly oozed out of the ground. His snapshots show the hills covered in oil derricks, even by the church door. It was hard dirty work but these were strong hardy people.

“Red Neck Nellie” (so called because she wore a red scarf) had a large part in

the history of Volcano. The drinking and fighting declined somewhat after she came. I wish I could have met her. I don’t think she was all bad.

I wish you well in your grant applications. We need to keep the story of Volcano alive for our grandchildren. Mountwood Park is a beautiful place all ages to enjoy.

Josephine (Jo) Beverlin
Colonial House
Parkersburg, WV

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