



The Friends of Mountwood Park Newsletter

Fall 2021 Issue Vol. 12, No. 4

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.*

*Our mailing address is PO BOX 2094,
PARKERSBURG, WV 26102*



When Fall begins, we are just a hop, skip and jump away from Halloween, Thanksgiving, and (dare I say it?) Christmas.

Letter From Our President

As winter approaches and the leaves are turning and falling, we are already looking forward to a new and exciting year at the Park.

Plans are being made to work on our nature trails. We will be cleaning up the trails and adding some new signs.

Carolyn Naylor has been working on obtaining additional information about the former residents of Volcano from their relatives. Several contacts and additions have already been made. We want to thank those who have already contributed and to Carolyn for the work she does. It is always nice to see a new photograph to put with the names.

We sponsored a Howl-Oween Pet photo contest this year. Pictures of the winners appear throughout this newsletter. You can also see the pictures on Facebook. I want to thank everyone who participated! The costumes were really cute. Thank you, Wendi Hamas-Williams, for making this happen.

Plans are being made to have Woof Fest next year. Woof Fest is a festival for dogs and their owners. We are planning to add something

new—mud runs. Watch for the date and details on our website.

We are planning to replace some of the signs at the dog park and pave the entrance with memory bricks. Our dog park is always open from daylight to dark. Bring your dogs out to do a little socializing with other dogs. However, you might want to bring water because, to prevent freezing during the winter, the water will be turned off.

Plan to join us at our monthly meeting (weather permitting) the second Thursday of each month at 6:30 pm.

Peggy Squires, President

A Howl-Oween Photo Winner



Mountwood Parks' Tea Top Table aka Devil's Tea Table

By Carolyn Naylor



Photo taken by Jeff and Donna Richards.

One of our readers, Vince Nedeff contacted us about the “tea top table” mentioned in our summer newsletter. Here is what Vince had to say about the structure.

“As far as I know “tea top” has also been known by a slightly more sinister name, *Devil's Tea Table*”. I don't know of any historical basis for that name but it is shared with the trail that passes by and connects to the Medicine Man trail between Route 50 and the Lake. That version of the name may have been created with the trail in the early 90s.”

Vince mentioned there is a similar, but less impressive, structure on the other side of the creek from the “devil's tea table”. It's crumpled quite a bit and is lower so the trees mostly obscure its' visibility from the Lake trail. A lot of large boulders and cliff face are found close by in the hollow between Medicine Man and Warrior Ridge

Another Season at the Museum

By Mike Naylor

Despite COVID, 2021 was successful! We had 299 visitors and collected \$300.30 from sales and donations. This is a marked increase over 2020 with 182 visitors and \$162.22 from sales and donations.

This year was also marked by several improvements.

- Kyra Scadden joined the cadre of active volunteers keeping the museum open.
- We received the tenth and final sign depicting the history of Volcano. Only two signs need to be installed.
- A sidewalk was added so viewing the signs will be easier and dirt will not be tracked into the facility. This was made possible through the generosity of R. C. “Heck” Heckert.
- A new and less cumbersome display rack replaced the oversized document rack.
- A model of the endless cable system was added. Pete Schindler, “Pete’s Toys” built an excellent working model for us of the endless cable system. Wesbanco provided a substantial donation.
- We added a new brochure detailing the points of historical interest within the Park and adjacent to it.
- Cheslyn Jonas donated a barrel compass that was used at Volcano.
- WHAW, a radio station in Weston, invited us to present an overview of Volcano. As a result, visits and donations increased from 45 visitors and \$33 for August to 83 visitors and \$103 in September!

A major task for the offseason will be evaluating our pictures and documents on

display. We continue to receive artifacts and pictures.

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Thanksgiving dinners take eighteen hours to prepare. They are



consumed in twelve minutes. Half-times take twelve minutes. This is not coincidence.

By Erma Bombeck

~ ~

The following article appeared in **The Parkersburg News and Sentinel** on **August 18, 2021**. The article was written by **Brett Dunlap**, a reporter for the paper.

Mountwood Archery Range Opens

VOLCANO — The new archery range at Mountwood Park is right on target for bow and crossbow shooters. The range, which officially opened Tuesday, is located on the site of the old parking lot for the old gun range just off U.S. 50 as people enter the park and take the first right once in the park.

Wood County Parks Director Jeremy Cross said the project has been in the works for around six months with the park’s maintenance crew doing all the work. Cross credited Maintenance Supervisor John Hyde with bringing the project together as it was designed.

“We are really proud of how it was built and what it will bring,” Cross said.

The range includes a stationary shooting line with targets at 10, 20, 30 and 40 yards. The targets themselves are 48 inches by 48 inches and 18 inches thick with multiple bullseye targets to aim at. The range also has benches for crossbow shooters with 20-yard and 40-yard targets with shooters having to bring their own chairs.

“We have big bullseyes and little bullseyes, different bullseyes that people can shoot at,” Cross said.

The range was paid for out of the park’s operating budget. There is also a parking lot adjacent to the range.

“The shape of the area made it perfect for the placement of the targets with the line of the hillside,” Cross said. “It also gives shade later in the afternoon.”

“The range appeals to young shooters all the way up to senior shooters. In West Virginia many people hunt and fish so an archery range was a good fit for Mountwood Park”, Cross said.



Parker Nulter, 10, tries out the new archery range at Mountwood Park on Tuesday. The range appeals to young shooters with bows all the way up to senior shooters who may utilize crossbows. (Photo by Brett Dunlap)



Conner Nulter, 8, tries out the new archery range at Mountwood Park on Tuesday. The range includes a stationary shooting line with targets at 10, 20, 30 and 40 yards. The targets themselves are 48 inches by 48 inches and 18 inches thick with multiple bullseye targets to aim at. (Photo by Brett Dunlap)



Bob Zellny, of Waverly, was at the new archery range at Mountwood Park on Tuesday with his crossbow. The range includes benches for crossbow shooters with 20-yard and 40-yard targets with shooters having to bring their own chairs. (Photo by Brett Dunlap)

Christy Nulter, of Parkersburg, brought her three sons — Xander, 6, Conner, 8, and Parker, 10 — out to the range Tuesday.

“I think it is nice,” she said. “It is a nice activity for the kids to come and do.”

They have been shooting at a hay bale at their house.

“This is a nice change,” Christy Nulter said. “It offers a little variety and it offers them the chance to hit something big.” The boys seemed to be enjoying themselves.

“I would definitely let their grandpa bring them out and shoot bows and arrows anytime he wanted,” she said.

Cross said they want to open the range up to any area schools with archery programs.

This Fall/Winter, the park will be building an elevated shooting platform, 10-12 feet high, at the range for two targets at 20 and 40 yards which will simulate shooting from a tree stand.

The one thing park officials ask of shooters is not to use broadhead arrows with the razor-like ends. People are being asked to use field tips only.

“The broadhead arrows could destroy the targets really fast,” Cross said.

Bob Zellny, of Waverly, was at the range Tuesday with his crossbow.

“This is great, better than what we had before,” he said. “It looks like it will last a long time. The kids will like it and the adults will like it.”

Mountwood Park Board Member Bill Summers commended the design of the range and its availability to people as well as having the stands setup specifically for crossbow shooters.

“It is the only public archery range in Wood County,” he said. “This is good for the development of young kids and hunters. I think it’s going to be a nice attraction.”

Don't Confuse Fame with
Success. Madonna is one;
Helen Keller is the other.

By Erma Bombeck

A Howl-Oween Photo Winner



(Thanks go to Steve Parker of Morgantown for his help with the Hanson William True story.)

Volcano Oil Producer and Civil War Veteran, Hanson William True

By Carolyn Naylor

Hanson William True was born on December 17, 1840, in Lower Salem, Washington County, Ohio to William B. True and Jane (Dutton) True. The True family trace

their lineage back to Holland. Some members of the family came to America on the ship that followed the Mayflower to Plymouth Rock, Massachusetts.

On April 4, 1861, the American Civil War began and Hanson enlisted in Company I, 25th Regiment Ohio Volunteer Infantry; was mustered in at Camp Chase, June 28, 1861. (When a unit was created, it was "**mustered in**" and when it was disbanded, it was "**mustered out**".) He took part in all 18 battles with his regiment until he received several wounds, the last at Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. His company went out with 100 men and only 12 came back. He was sent to Philadelphia, where he had to have part of the ulna bone taken out of his right arm. He lost the use of that arm. He remained at Philadelphia until the time of his enlistment expired.

According to the book *Where it all Began* by David L. McKain and Bernard L. Allen, Ph. D., Walker Township, the site of Volcano activity in 1870 was the main oil-producing area of the county at the time. There were nine coal diggers, 45 engineers (pumping system operators) and nine oil well superintendents living in the township. Hanson True was one of the engineers.

On February 17, 1875, Hanson married **Mary Alice Sawyer**, the daughter of John and Hannah (Fulwider) Sawyer. Mary was born in West Columbia, Mason County, West Virginia on April 5, 1854.

Although Hanson was wounded in the War, he was able to take care of his family. In Volcano he became an oil producer, running seven wells with one engine. Hanson and Mary had one son, Charles (aka Charley) who was born in Volcano on December 26, 1875.

On August 4, 1879, at 4 am, the citizens of Volcano woke up to the cries of "fire". The

town was on fire! The town people didn't realize their town would slowly begin to change as the oil started to diminish and their friends and neighbors would begin to leave. In addition, 1879 was also the year an oil pipeline was completed from Volcano to Parkersburg.

Parkersburg State Journal, August 8, 1884

VOLCANO, W. Va., August 1—Hot, dry and dusty, times hard, and the very best prospect for the hardest winter ever seen in these parts; corn, grass and all the fall crops burnt up with no fruit and but half the hay crop, a few early potatoes. Wheat and oats will be the only feed for the next twelve months (or you may say fifteen). Many farmers are at this early date feeding their stock hay and will be obliged to purchase western hay before the winter is over unless we soon get rains, of which there is no prospect at this writing. The great matter in buying feed is the want of funds to pay and surely times are blue—with good indications of bluer. Water in many localities is scarce and people and stock are now suffering.

The streams are nearly all dry and none of them have running water—now and then a deep hole affords a little water. I see in riding around several places where they are digging wells, this being a good time to be sure of permanent water should they be so fortunate as to tap a stream now.

Volcano's citizens could not seem to get a break and neither could the True family. Hanson, while working in the oil fields one day, had a huge log roll on him. The physician said he would be dead by morning. Well, he wasn't dead by morning and he recovered! However, it appears he decided he was finished with oil producing and with Volcano.

In the fall of 1884, Hanson, Mary, and Charley left for California. I wonder what kind of adventures they had on their trip west and the people they met along the way. Did they travel

by train, boat, or horse and wagon? Perhaps they had to use all three methods of transportation to reach their destination.

At San Luis Obispo, California, Hanson preempted 160 acres of land and bought 80 acres adjoining, and did general farming. He was described as being very public-spirited, which resulted in him having a large circle of friends during his lifetime. He, with the help of others, hauled lumber from San Luis Obispo for the first schoolhouse in the county which was built at Union. He was director of the Farmers' Alliance Business Association for many years, and for a time was president of the board, until he resigned in 1911. He was a Mason for over 40 years, having joined the order soon after the Civil War.

Hanson and Mary's son Charley took up farming with his dad—they began with a team of mules. Charley had to leave to attend school but once he graduated from the Chestnutwood Business College in Santa Cruz, he returned home to take up farming with his dad—now they had the use of a large and improved combine harvester. Charley ran the ranch himself when he was only 20 years old; later, he bought the stock and implements and rented the farm from his father. In June 1905, Charley married Estella Millikin. Charley and Estella had two daughters, Mary Elva True and Helen Estella True.

After Hanson died on February 18, 1913, Mary took charge of the home place. With the aid of Charley, she was able to make a success of ranching. Mary was 65 years old when she died in 1920 at Paso Robles, California. Charles, who died in 1950, is buried at San Luis Obispo, California.

It is during the worst times of your life that you will get to see the true colors of the people who say they care for you.

Unknown

~ ~

Smile.amazon will give to charity of your choice

Do you ever order from Amazon.com? If you place that same order on smile.amazon.com instead, you can designate that a portion paid be donated to charity. It will cost you nothing and you will still get Amazon's low prices. The difference is the charity of your choice will receive a quarterly check. Friends of Mountwood Park is a supported charity. Last year, we received a disbursement of \$42.70.

If we can do that with only one or two of us participating, just imagine the possibilities if all our members, family, and friends were to start placing their orders on smile.amazon.com and designate the Friends of Mountwood Park as their charity.

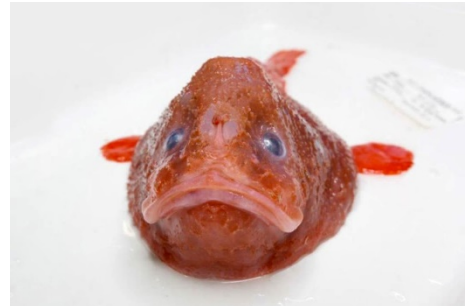
Remember, it costs you absolutely nothing and gives Friends much-needed revenue.

A Howl-Oween Photo Winner



By Carolyn Naylor

Park officials at Mountwood Park announced that the Lake is being drained in order to treat its sedimentary levels. According to Park Director Jeremy Cross, the levels are so high that those



traveling by boat have difficulty getting to the center of the Lake.

Every day, for roughly one week, the Lake is being drained one foot. According to Jeremy, when it is lowered, they will create structures by dropping some trees into the Lake. In addition,

some large boulders are going to be added for structure for fish habitat. I don't believe the fishermen need to worry because this project is expected to be completed before the January fishing season begins.

If you wish to contact the Park for more information, you may call 304-679-3611. If you prefer to contact them by mail, send your correspondence to:

Mountwood Park
1014 Volcano Road
Wavery, West Virginia 26184.

Their email address is:
info@mountwoodpark.org

A Howl-Oween Photo Winner



WEST VIRGINIA STATE GAZETEER AND BUSINESS DIRECTORY

(Note: 1873 Volcano was the center of oil production in West Virginia. In 1874 W. C. Stiles, Jr. adopted the endless cable system for the production of oil at Volcano.)

1875

Davis, E. P. & Company, General Dealers
Devore, Z. S., Watches and Jewelry
Evans, J. D., Hotel
Evans, O., Hotel and Saloon
Gates, W. W., General Dealer
Moore, Robert, Oil Dealer
Mussetter, H., General Dealer
Nicholas, George H., Hotel
O'Brien M. J. & Brother, Machinist
Rose, F. R., Oil Dealer
Sargent & Brown, Publishers
Shafer, Jno., Groceries
Shaffer & Jenkins, General Dealers
Thompson & Jenkins, General Dealers
Volcano Oil & Coal Company, Oil and Coal

(Note: On August 4, 1879, at 4 am, the citizens of Volcano woke up to the cries of "fire". The town was on fire. The town people didn't realize the town would slowly change as the oil started to diminish and their friends and neighbors would begin to leave. In addition, 1879 was also the year an oil pipeline was completed from Volcano to Parkersburg.)

1882 - 1883

VOLCANO. A village at the northern terminus of the L.F. & S.H. R.R., in Wood County, 23 miles from Parkersburg, and 65 from Wheeling. It is situated in the center of the West Virginia oil region, and large quantities of oil are shipped. Population receiving mail at this post office, 1,500. Express and telegraph, B&O. Mail daily. W. C. Stiles (sic), Jr., postmaster.

Anderson, D. L., Machinist
Bached, Bowen & Co., General Store
Bash, M., Blacksmith

Beave, M., General Store and Coal Miner
Benedict, J., Oil Well Supplies
Bibbee, T. S., Wagonmaker
Burghoff, A., Cooper
Carle & Wyatt, Oil Producers
Centennial Oil Company, Oil Producers
Cuthbert & Carle, Oil Producers
Davis, Reverend CTW (Catholic)
Hardy, James, Machinist
Howe, E. E., General Store
Lambert, Reverend W (Catholic)
Laurel Fork & Coal Company, Oil Producers
Laurel Fork & Sand Hill Railway Company
Marquis, R. B., Saloon
Moyer, W., Blacksmith
O'Brien, John Coal Miner
Parker, T. B., Justice of Peace
Paul, Jos., Saloon and Hotel
Pontiuss, C. F., Oil Producer
Pontiuss & Hardy, Oil Producers
Pontiuss & Johnson, Oil Producers
Sawyer, John, Blacksmith
Schaffer, John, Agent
Schaffer & Jenkins, General Store
Sharp, B. P., Barber
Showalter, J. L., Oil Producer
Shufelt & Timmons, Saloon
Simmons, P., Constable
Staples, W. W., Notary Public
Staples, E. W. & Company, Oil Producers
Stiles, W. C. Jr., Produce Dealer and
 General Store
Timmons, H., Shoemaker
Tompkins Reverend S. D.
Volcanic Hall Company, Music Hall
 Proprietors
Volcanic Oil and Coal Company, Oil
 Producers
West Virginia Oil and Oil Lands Company
Witman, C. H., Oil Producer
Wood County Petroleum Company, Oil
 Producers

1891 - 1892

VOLCANO. A village on the L.F. & S.H. R.R., in Wood County 23 miles by rail and 18 by pike from Parkersburg, the judicial seat and banking point, and 65 miles from Wheeling. It is situated in the center of the West Virginia oil region, and large quantities of oil are shipped. Population 600. Exp., U. S. Tel., W.U. C. M. Magill, postmaster.

Beane, Charles, General Store and Coal Miner
Carrell, G. L., Express Agent
Dayhuff, Martin, Machinist and Wagonmaker
Magill, C. M., Justice of Peace
Queen & Bros., General Store
Schafer, John, General Store
Smith, John B., Hotel
Wilson, John R., Saloon
Zones, C. M., Machinist

VOLCANO JUNCTION.

Known formerly as Laurel Junction, is located at junction of L.F. & S. H. and B.&O. R. Rs, in Ritchie County, 14 miles west of Ritchie C. H. and 20 east of Parkersburg, the banking point. Population 150. Exp., U. S. Tel., W. U.

Carle, J. E., General Store
Cuthbert & Carle, Oil Producer, Flour and
 Saw Mills
Kelly, James, General Store
O'Brien, John, General. Store and Oil Producer

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