

HAYCOCK HISTORICAL NEWS

The Newsletter of The Haycock Historical Society • Summer 2014

THE DUTY TO DISCOVER

AN INTRODUCTION TO HAYCOCK TOWNSHIP'S OWN

RON BEVILACQUA – SCULPTOR

THATCHER HILL SCULPTURE STUDIO

BY Chris Handschin

Each year one special Kringle craftsman is selected to be Kringle's featured artist. The selection is carefully made based on the artist's skill and dedication to his or her craft. We seek to share with our visitors the amazingly talented people Haycock Township offers.

This year **Ron Bevilacqua**, owner/operator/instructor of Thatcher Hill Sculpture Studio has been chosen for this honor. He has participated in nearly every event, even when the concept of Kringle Christmas Shoppe was brand new and hosted in a private home. Ron has steadily honed his creative abilities throughout his lifetime. We think it is fitting to acknowledge his talent as a superb sculptor and resident of Haycock.

In the studio of another notable Haycock Township artist, Joanne Isaac, a favorite quote hangs among the etchings. "Everyone has a talent of some kind. It is divinely given to him and, therefore, it is his duty to discover it. He will suffer until he does. He will suffer anyway, but it will be a different kind of suffering and he will enjoy it." (Collins, Huntington Post) These words seem to epitomize Ron's creative journey -- to the point of "enjoyable suffering"

Ron's earliest recollection of creating something from wood dates back to carving neckerchief slides, as a boy scout in Glenside, over 50 years ago. His first career was that of a mason. As a profession, the work is just as much about creativity and artistic ability as it is about sheer brawn. Often it is the mason who must envision the mantel, the fireplace, the chimney, a wall, -- as a well-placed harmony of pieces assembled together to create an appealing permanent edifice. The mason's work often outlives him. Therefore the record of his ability does as well. Skilled masons were highly respected tradesmen from the earliest recorded history.

Ron reflects that his experience as a bricklayer taught him how to use tools safely, efficiently and effectively. He learned how to work hard to complete a project and to take pride in his accomplishments. Gratifying as it is, a mason's life is physically demanding. By the time he reached the age of thirty-three, Ron realized the mason trade was a young man's business. He feels that his greatest accomplishment was to begin a second career teaching masonry construction at a Vocational/Technical high school in the School District of Philadelphia, a turning point in his life. This career change required him to return to school to earn his teaching certification. He persisted in this endeavor while working full time, raising a family and taking evening

courses at Temple University. In 1996, he earned his Bachelor of Science in Education. As it turned out the degree and ultimate teaching career was an impetus to grow and develop his artistic foundation. He studied welded metal with Linda Brenner at the Cheltenham Art Center. In the 1970's, he began seriously creating. His earliest work was with welded metal sculptures and creating folk art furniture.

In 1979 Ron and his young family moved from Glenside in Montgomery County, where he had spent his youth, to Haycock Township. By then he had married his wife, Dorothy, who he'd been introduced to shortly after she arrived in the United States from England to work as a nanny. Two sons, Walter, born in 1968, and Scotty, born in 1970, completed their family. Both boys attended Haycock Elementary school and went on to graduate from Quakertown High School. The lure of rustic Haycock Township had set roots for this aspiring sculptor and his family!

Shortly after the move to Bucks County, Ron began taking carving classes at the Baum School of Art in Allentown,



Ron Bevilacqua working in the Thatcher Hill Sculpture Studio

studying with Philadelphia sculptor, Richard Lieberman, later with Lehigh Valley artist, Ben Marcune and Bucks County's Johnathan Hertz. He persisted at his study there, attending class one night per week for fifteen years. Using what he learned



Knot Owl

over those years, Ron built a foundation with which to create his individual style. He joined local art groups throughout the 1990's. As the style evolved Ron began to gain self-confidence with his skill set. He began entering juried exhibitions. Some of the many places Ron has shown his work include the New Hope Art Center, Sidetracks Gallery, Phillips Mill, Prallsville Mill, Woodmere Museum, Stover Mill, Broad Street Gallery, Katie Stauffer Art Center, Quakertown Arts Alive, Upper Bucks Open Studio Tour, Greenshire Arts, Artists of the Earth, Bucks County and Valley Forge Audubon Societies as well at a host of alliances and groups. In 2009, he participated in Sculpture in the Park—the largest juried sculpture exhibition in the United States, which was held in Loveland, Colorado. He considers himself to have been fortunate to be included in some major nationally recognized shows and to have won many awards for his work. Ron has always drawn his inspiration from the classics--Michelangelo, Bernini, and Rodin. He's also been particularly inspired by the modern interpretive wood sculptor, Christopher White. He shares his skills at his studio with his own students and other aspiring artists needing space to work in an art-inspiring atmosphere. Ron takes much pride in students who have exhibited their work in local juried exhibitions.

Ron's signature style can be described as simplistic and interpretive with a keen eye for graceful form. He, like many impassioned sculptors, "sees" the natural image, whether the human form or that of a bird or mammal, emerging from the raw material. He methodically collects pieces of driftwood or uniquely shaped tree limbs and tree root systems to later uncover or, "discover" through sculpting, the natural forms he imagines lie waiting within the material. Ron attributes some of his findings to his wife Dorothy who shares his ability to see potential images. Visitors to his website will see a favorite quote penned by Auguste Rodin: "I invent nothing, I rediscover."

In a skewed parallel universe, several decades before Ron's time, our Haycock Township was the home of an eerily similar

self-made sculptor, George Papashvily, who immigrated from Russia in the early 1920's. He had a similar passion for coaxing forms from nature out of stone in a simplistic abstracted style. Artists will confer; it is deceptively difficult to make an artistic piece simple! Ron has mastered this technique with extreme grace and beauty in his sculptures. He was asked if he perhaps knew George or if Papashvily had inspired his work. After all, discovering two such notable sculptors with a similar mindset, having lived in such close proximity is a compelling coincidence! As it turns out, George's spirit may have been the only force to have influenced Ron. George died a year before Ron moved to Haycock or knew of the Papashvily name. Ron has visited the Papashvily homestead and viewed some of his outdoor sculptures. He admired George's interpretations and simplicity.



Lady Takes a Slow Ride

Although currently most recognized for his wood pieces, Ron has had years of experience working in stone. With origins in Sicily, his uncles, grandfather and great uncles worked as masons. They created in stone, so Ron says, there is a fondness for it in his blood! Ron takes great pride in his Italian family heritage. Although he was born in South Philadelphia and grew up in Glenside, his Italian grandparents hailed from the Abruzzo region. Returning to Italy in the year 2000, Ron first experienced carving Carrara marble in Pietrasanta, Italy. For centuries Italian quarries have produced this highly-prized distinctive white stone used by the great sculptors of Europe. A more recent journey to Sicily and southern Italy only reaffirmed his passion for the enjoyable suffering life of the sculptor. Regardless of the skill set, working with stone in any capacity takes a toll on the body. One must reflect with utmost appreciation the physical pain masters such as Michelangelo or Rodin must have encountered while hammering away at marble for hours, even years on end!-- all done in the days before splints and surgery were readily available options for physical pain! Ron has endured the orthopedic surgeons skills for repetitive motion injuries on more than one occasion in order to pursue this art form, yet he persists, thankfully.

When asked what was his medium of choice, Ron explained that the grain and contrasting colors inherent in both wood and stone are of particular interest to him. With wood, the knots make the images appear very apparent but the downside is one never knows if a crack or area of rotten wood will force a design



Equus carved from raspberry alabaster

change. Also, the nature of wood makes the pieces limited to indoor exhibits. Alternately, with stone, the sheer weight limits the size of the piece because of transport and installation issues while at shows. Overall, our mason, turned teacher, turned sculptor enjoys the durability and permanence of stone and expects to do even more with it in his future.



Ron in front of his Thatcher Hill Sculpture Studio



Carving commemorating the 300th Anniversary of the Richland Friends Meeting

Ron will have an extensive display for show and sale at Kringle Christmas Shoppe this year. An interesting side-note worthy of record—our featured artist is also an excellent vocalist and folk guitarist! He has entertained Kringle Christmas Shoppe visitors for many years and may again if his schedule allows. For more information about Ron, his work or studio sculpture classes, visit his website at: www.buckscountysculptor.com/



HHS Summer picnic, a beautiful July afternoon and nice time.

Haycock Historical Society Trivial Pursuit

Prominent People of Haycock Township
Question 1

Heda Massing lived in Haycock Township on Country Lane in the 1940's. Later in 1951 she wrote her autobiography *This Deception*. The spy who put Alger Hiss behind bars tells the incredible true story of her exciting and dangerous life.

- A. True
- B. False

Answers on page 7.



**Stover One-Room School 1954-55
Grades Second and Third**

(LAST YEAR OF THE ONE-ROOM SCHOOLS IN HAYCOCK)

Top Row: left to right- Donald Bickley-Dan Ritter-Donald Crouthamel-Loretta Stanczik-**unknown**-Raymond Cope-Ralph Cole

Second Row Down: left to right- Dennis Neimy-Vizma Tupitis-Andrea Kess-Michael Dowd-Jamie Meade-Robert Pope-Steve Swartley

Third Row Down: left to right- Nellie Queen-Pamela Feist-Michael Meade-Johanna Kess-Linda Sheridan-**unknown**-Mary Beth Wenhold

Fourth Row Down: Left to right- Bobbie Gieske- (?) Zintek-Johnny (?)-Berle Zintek-Judy (?)-Gloria (?)-Pamela Cole

Fifth Row Down: Left to Right- Nicholas Mandic-Kenneth Fox-Ronald Diehl- (?) Crouthamel-Fred Diehl-Herbert Lieke



New Harrisburg One-Room School 1954-55

Grades Third and Fourth

(LAST YEAR OF THE ONE-ROOM SCHOOLS IN HAYCOCK)

Top Row: left to right- Irena Prociuk-Lamar Shive-Cecelia(Peggy)Johnson-Vernon Swartley-Ronald Diehl-Inta Sturman-Larry Wirebach

Second Row Down: left to right- Nancy Bauer-Carole Johnson-Eric Schenk-Nelson Sherwood-Eddie Schettig-Michael Mandic-Linda Dimmick

Third Row Down: left to right-Bill Guttman-James Werner-Michael Lindmeier-Jerry Sturman-Eriks Dzintarnieks-Julian Hampton-Gale Gulden

Fourth Row Down: left to right- Carol Schuster-Livija Rieksts-Lamar Feikel-**unknown**-Gerald Kilhefner-Norman Diehl-George Casey

Fifth Row Down: left to right- Mary Ann Kilmer-Carol Crouthamel



**IN MEMORY OF
Richard Cope**

October 9, 1939 to July 21, 2014

HAYCOCK IN THE OLD NEWS

From the Quakertown Free Press:

Feb. 26, 1942: “Gun emplacements and anti-aircraft guns should be set up along the North Penn Valley and from the ring of mountain tops that guard the Lehigh Valley and Bethlehem Steel including **Haycock**, Buckwampun, Swope’s Hill, Flint Hill and Lehigh mountains, military experts declare. Enemy bombers would come humming up the North Penn from Philadelphia to Bethlehem or up the Delaware river. The least that would happen to Quakertown is that bursting shells and shrapnel would fall in the towns here from the guns.”

(Excerpts from my family history)

Willard Fluck

Quakertown

Haycock Historical Society Trivial Pursuit

Prominent People of Haycock Township

Question 2

Neepaheilomon alias Joe Tuneam

Joe Tuneam lived along one of the creeks in the Haycock area. On a deed for Haycock land in 1756 is a reference to Joe Tuneam’s Run. This creek is now called Kimbles Creek and runs through Towhee Park.

A. True B. False

Question 3

Neepaheilomon alias Joe Tuneam

What was Joe Tuneam famous for?

A. making baskets

B. a very good deer hunter

C. One of the Indians that was chosen to accompany the Englishmen on the walking purchase of 1737.

See page 7 for answers.

Kringle Christmas Shoppe – The Elf Wish List is out!

With the fall and winter seasons ahead, we’ll have an opportunity to experience the phenomena of **Kringle Christmas Shoppe**, now in its eleventh year! Kringle will be held again at the Bucks County Latvian Baptist Church annex, located in our quaint village of Applebachsville, **December 5th through December 7th**.

Kringle presents an opportunity for everyone involved to come out a winner. This is the **main** fund-raising source for your society. The event is a juried local show -- shoppers have the opportunity to support **local** artists and tradesmen by purchasing from an ever-evolving selection of inspected, guaranteed high-quality, unique gifts created by local artists, sculptors, handworkers, authors and crafts folk. Unlike the experience of shopping at big impersonal malls that support foreign trade, our guests are treated to unique choices while they listen to local musicians in a quaintly festive atmosphere. The merriment is contagious! Community members look forward to our event as the start of their holidays and enjoy the social aspects of our well-attended affair. Last year nearly 1000 visitors attended! Our guest list now includes many Philadelphia area visitors.

Of course that means a flurry of excited preparation for some folks --- Could we include you?

Our Haycock Historical Society’s Social Events Committee oversees the production. This group eagerly invites members to join. Committee members have “hands-on” involvement prior and during the event. This team meets about 10 times prior to Kringle – usually Thursday evenings at Stokes House. Committee members are treated to a dinner meeting and a special dessert meeting along the way. This group approves new artists and is the face visitors see at the door, stocking displays, and interfacing with the public. With this level of dedication, they enjoy “first dibs” on purchases as they work to transform the open hall into a holiday shopper’s wonderland. Being on the committee is simple: Just attend the meetings and the show-- share your time and talents as a “Kringle Elf.” For more information on upcoming meetings contact Chris Handschin: (215) 536 – 0364 or chandschin@verizon.net

Even if you don’t have the inclination to be an “Elf” on the Kringle team, the society still could benefit greatly from just a **little** help from our H.H.S. members. Whether it is baking cookies, making a crock pot meal, supplying a pizza for workers, helping with parking, circulating flyers,--whatever it is you can afford to do, please consider donating a few hours of your time this year? Any help is greatly appreciated!

Please examine the colored insert in this newsletter issue. Fill in a spot(s) you can help and either mail it to Kringle Committee Chair, Chris Handschin -- 1114 Old Bethlehem Road, Quakertown, PA 18951 or hand it to any of the Haycock Historical Society Officers at one of our upcoming general meetings. (Please refrain from simply verbally committing to a task as your generous and important offer may become lost.) Thank you in advance for your support!

Chris Handschin



Steve Applegate provided the entertainment at our July picnic.

ACTIVITIES

October Fridays - 10a.m. to noon the Stokes House will be open

October 18 - volunteers needed to man the Haycock Historical Society's booth at the Haycock Township Picnic, raindate Oct. 19. Come and help out with our Haycock History Trivial Pursuit and win a Haycock History t-shirt.

November 8 - Fall Yard and House Cleanup - 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.

Brunch will be supplied. Rain date is Sunday November 9- 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. Weed whackers, chain saws and rakes are all welcomed.

December 5, 6, 7 - Kringle Christmas Shoppe

December 21- Victorian Tea at Stokes House 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

HAYCOCK HISTORICAL SOCIETY TRIVIAL PURSUIT

This is an opportunity to practice before the Township Picnic.

- Question 1: A
Question 2: A
Question 3: C

MEETINGS

Sept. 18 - Herb Kaufman will speak on Civil War Medicine.

Oct. 16 - Anne Atkins will speak on Eleanor Roosevelt.

Nov. 20 - Bruce Bowday will speak on George Washington in Bucks County.

Meetings are held at the Bucks County Latvian Baptist Church in Applebachsville and begin at 7 p.m.

OFFICERS

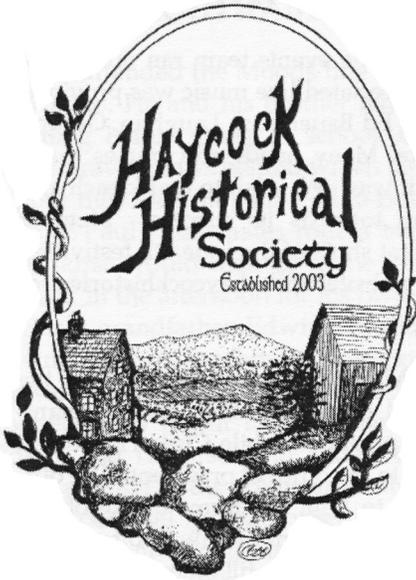
- President: Pat DeWald wdewald@verizon.net
V. President: Margie Fulp m_fulp@hotmail.com
Secretary: Diane Vosburgh dmvosburgh@gmail.com
Treasurer: Paula Laughlin pmlreader@yahoo.com
Ad Hoc: Chris Handschin chandschin@verizon.net
Ad Hoc: Nancy Janyszeski ncj@epix.net

Please submit material for the newsletter or suggestions for interviews to Margie Fulp. (215-257-7472) or m_fulp@hotmail.com

Bucks County magazine
KATHY DRIVER
Account Executive
309 W. ARMSTRONG DRIVE • FOUNTAINVILLE, PA 18923
Home 215-536-2095 • cell 215-208-1903
Drivers8@verizon.net • fax 215-536-2095

CORDES LAW LLC
ANDREW J. CORDES
Attorney at Law
27 SOUTH STATE STREET NEWTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA 18940
PHONE 215-968-2248 FAX 215-968-4568
WEBSITE cordeslawllc.com E-MAIL a.cordes@cordeslawllc.com E-MAIL cordeslawllc@gmail.com

HHD USA



P.O. Box 715
Quakertown, PA 18951

www.haycockhistoricalsociety.org

AN INVITATION TO MEMBERSHIP

YES, ENROLL ME AS A MEMBER OF THE HAYCOCK HISTORICAL SOCIETY!

I WANT TO BE PART OF RECLAIMING OUR HISTORY AND PRESERVING IT FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS.

- Individual Membership - \$20/year**
Receive quarterly newsletter and attend all special functions this year – Jan. thru Dec.
- Family Membership (Parents & Children in household) - \$30/year**
Receive quarterly newsletter and attend all special functions this year – Jan. thru Dec.
- Corporate Sponsor - \$100/year**
Gain advertisement in our newsletter by yearly sponsorship (ad size smaller than business card)
- Corporate Patron - \$200/year**
Gain advertisement in our newsletter by yearly sponsorship (ad is full business card size)
- Lifetime Individual Membership - \$200**
Receive honorary lifetime status, receive quarterly newsletters and attend all special functions
- Lifetime Household Couple Membership - \$250**
For just \$50 more, join as a household and enjoy all the benefits of lifetime membership

DATE _____

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY, STATE, ZIP _____

PHONE _____ E-MAIL _____

SEND APPLICATION ALONG WITH CHECK MADE PAYABLE TO HAYCOCK HISTORICAL SOCIETY TO:
P.O. Box 715, Quakertown, PA 18951