

Jefferson College  
Historical Society

May, 1969

Vol. II No. 4

CANONSBURG  
OPERA HOUSE  
C. F. FERGUSON, MANAGER.

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Presents the Motion Picture  
"The New Church Carpet"  
Saturday Evening, August 26, 1911

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Specialties  
JAMES DEMPSEY - Singing Comedian  
BABY BONITA - Premier Child Artist  
BEDDELL BROTHERS - Gymnasts

MAY MEETING

PANIC AT THE OPERA HOUSE will be the subject of the next program of the JEFFERSON COLLEGE HISTORICAL SOCIETY on Wednesday, May 14, at 8 PM in the second floor meeting room of the Canonsburg Municipal Building.

This disaster, headlined by THE DAILY NOTES Extra of Midnight, August 26, 1911, as " BY FAR THE WORST DISASTER IN THE HISTORY OF CANONSBURG---(27) LIVES CRUSHED OUT IN AWFUL JAM IN STAIRWAY", will be described by eye-witnesses as well as newspaper accounts.

KEEP THE DATE IN MIND. COME, AND BRING A FRIEND.

CITIZENS CONCERNED ABOUT JUVENILE VANDALISM

A meeting of the citizens of Canonsburg took place on January 7th. at the invitation of the Burgess and Council.

The Burgess stated the object of the meeting was to propose and adopt measures for maintaining the peace of the town and to suppress riots and disorders of whatever kind. After considerable discussion and comparison of views, the following resolutions were adopted:

- 1- RESOLVED, that the great and growing profaneness and disorder, manifest among the young and rising generation affords serious cause of humiliation and alarm.
- 2- RESOLVED, that this evil is to be attributed chiefly to the following causes:
  - A- To a lamentable deficiency in the exercise of domestic government and discipline on the part of parents...and others entrusted with authority.

(2)

B- To the growing insubordination of the age consequent on the neglects alluded to.

C- The main existing cause is the vending of beer, wine cordials and other intoxicating drinks to Apprentices, Students, and Other Minors, leading to a general profaneness and dissoluteness of habits, and threatening, if not discontinued, to render our village an abhorrance and a byword in the land.

3- RESOLVED, that the Burgess and Town Council be earnestly advised to adopt the most vigorous measures for suppressing all disorderly and riotous assemblages of boys and others, all firing of Cannons, Guns, and Crackers, all shouting, blowing of Horns, beating of Pans, and Drums, kindling of Bonfires, rolling and burning of barrels or other combustable materials, or whatever tends to disturb the peace, sobriety and good order of the village.

This meeting took place in 1837 and the above article is from the WASHINGTON REPORTER of January 27 of that year. The town was evidently not the quiet orderly village we like to think it was; nor were the youth of 1837 too much different than those of today. Can you imagine rumbling, flaming tar-soaked barrels careening down the hilly streets of Canonsburg in the middle of the night? This would hardly be a practice conducive to a restful night's sleep.

It happened here 132 years ago.....SO WHAT ELSE IS NEW?