

Turkeyfoot Valley Historical Society

PASS IT ON

Share our history

Volume 17, Issue 1

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Pass It On
is a quarterly
publication of the
Turkeyfoot Valley
Historical Society

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If you are interested in
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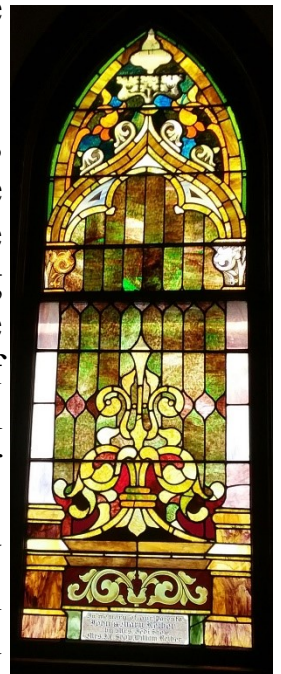
Trinity Lutheran Church Confluence, PA Dedicated April 17, 1904



The new Lutheran church is progressing very rapidly and the decorations on the interior are nearly completed. The memorial windows have been received and placed in position. The style of workmanship, artistic designs and also the memories they commemorate deserves more than a passing notice. On the south side is a beautiful window in memory of the late Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Sterner, contributed by their daughter, Mrs. Millie Hammill. This window is beautifully ornamented and has a life-size picture of Martin Luther.

Next to this window is one in memory of the late John Reiber and wife who, besides being pioneers here, were among the founders of the original Lutheran

church here. This window was donated by their children, William Reiber, Mrs. Jedi Show and Mrs. Jacob C. Show. On the other side is one presented by Mrs. Elizabeth Scott. On the north side is a beautiful window contributed by the family of Israel Welfley and



represents the “Good Shepherd” and is in memory of Elizabeth and Decatur Welfley. The next one is in memory of the late Dr. A. J. Welfley, contributed by his friends in Confluence.

On the west end of the church near the front vestibule are three fine windows, the first is in memory of Catharine Augustine, of Addison, contributed by Mary Thomas of the same place, who is a sister of the deceased. The next is in memory of Jacob and Hester Humbert, former well known residents and members of the original. The late Jacob Humbert died in 1871, and Mrs. Humbert in 1889. This memorial was contributed by their children, A. R. Humbert and Mrs. Harriet Hanson. The next is in memory of the late Alexander Read, formerly of Lonaconing, MD, and was erected by his children who reside near town.

On the left side is one in memory of Sibiani Frantz, contributed by her parents. Another is dedicated to the memory of little Leotta Groff, daughter of Harvey Groff, of Dunbar, presented by the Groff family. These memorial windows give the church a fine appearance and reflect credit upon the donors.



Lack of cash made no difference to Buzzy

By Mary Ream, City Editor



Buzzy Bower: Area personality

Buzzy Bower of Confluence is known as the shoe repairman with soul.

For well over 30 years, he fixed shoes regardless of the owners' ability to pay. It disturbed him to see holes in the soles of the shoes worn by the many children who frequented his shop. Sometimes he got paid. Sometimes he didn't. "Some couldn't and some wouldn't," he explains.

But it didn't make any difference to Buzzy, who continued fixing kids' shoes and doing other extra work free of charge for his customers. If a shoe that had been left at the shop to be soled also needed to be sewed, Buzzy simply did it. "It just took a few minutes," he says.

The hours were long, he recalls, and there wasn't much money in it, but things didn't cost as much then. And people worked

harder. "There was better living then," he points out. "People raised a lot of things such as soup beans, and churned their own butter." He said a box of crackers cost only a nickel and a big ice cream cone was just another nickel.

His Right Name

"Most people don't know my right name," he laughs, confiding that it's Clyde, and that mail addressed to Buzzy Bower nonetheless make sit to his door. He's had the name "from little up," earned it because, "I was always buzzing around, doing something."

He never hung a name shingle on his shoe sale and repair shop, but everyone in town called it Buzzy's.

It was the local hangout for the town's kids. Bower and his wife, the former Helen Wright of Addison, who died about six years ago, had no children of their own, but there were generally lots of them at the shop. They enjoyed driving nails into the board he kept on hand since "They liked to drive nails," copying the work of the busy shoe repair man they loved.

Worked Whole Life

Born one of 10 children in a little house across the Cassleman River, he's lived in Confluence all his life. He and the other youngsters in his neighborhood walked over a mile to school, and even went home for lunch. Buzzy used his father's equipment when he set up his shoe shop.

He's worked nearly all his life, beginning when he was a boy selling newspapers on the streets of Confluence for a penny a piece. "A penny was a lot of money in those days," he adds.

He can remember when collecting bottles was more than a hobby, when a medicine bottle was worth a cent and a kid could get a nickel for each pop bottle he picked up along the road.

He worked for a painter and a tinner (putting up spouting and installing furnaces) before he opened his shoe sale and repair shop. After he sold the business, he managed the Acme store in Confluence for 17 years.

Amazed At Prices

Now retired, Buzzy is amazed that a new pair of good leather shoes can cost \$90. "I used to sell them for \$1.95," he says. "I made 50 cents on each pair."

Even the cost of shoe repairs has skyrocketed. "I used to put men's gum soles on for 50 cents a pair. Now Cat's Paw rubber heels cost \$5.50, and more," he says.

"Today, people make more money, but it costs more to produce things," he says, adding, "You have more now."

He received a certificate of appreciation from the State Department of Community Affairs for his 50 years of active service in the volunteer fire company. He's also a member of the Lutheran Church.

Ten years ago, disgusted with years of walking with crutches, Buzzy went to Pittsburgh and had a British doctor replace his arthritic hip joints with metal and plastic ones, using what was then a revolutionary "glue" to hold them in place. He hasn't used the crutches since.

Modern advancements like that make Buzzy glad he's living in this age, but he admits it would be hard to start a shoe shop now. "You'd have to have an awful lot of money to start in anything," he says.

Article from Daily American Newspaper

Date Unknown



Turkeyfoot Lending Library

Hours for Lending Library are Tues., Wed., and Thursdays from 3:30-6 in winter, 3:30-7 rest of the year; and Saturdays from 10-1 in winter, and 10-2 rest of the year)

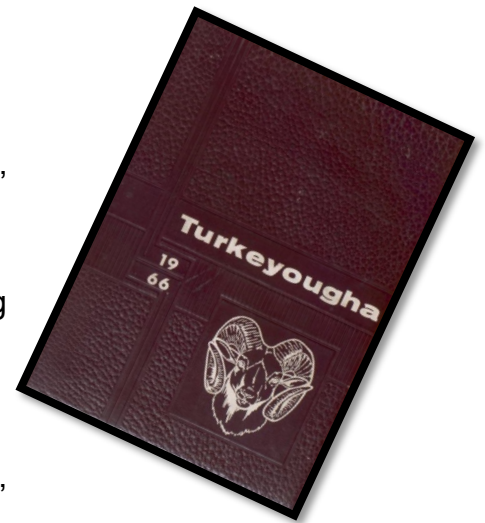
Here is a listing of all the Turkeyfoot Yearbooks available to look through at the Turkeyfoot Historical Society (please contact for times the Historical Society can be accessed) AND Turkeyfoot Lending Library (across from Post Office in Confluence).

1948-1950, 1952-53, 55-56, 70-71, and 73-79.

Other Yearbooks only at Turkeyfoot Historical Society: 1941, 47, 52, 57, 59, 60-67, 69

Other Yearbooks only at Turkeyfoot Lending Library: 1979, 1992

Enjoy seeing all of your schoolmates, or get ready for an upcoming Class reunion with pictures from our Turkeyougha Yearbooks!



Here is a listing of our local historical resources from Confluence, Somerset County and Fayette County:

- Addison/Old Petersburg Civil War Soldiers
- All Nine Alive: the Quecreek 9 rescue
- Baptist-Jersey Cemetery burial records
- Confluence Centennial Book
- Confluence Fire Station
- Draketown: Past and Present
- Family genealogies (as donated by local Families)
- In search of the Turkey Foot Road
- Indians in Pennsylvania
- Laurel Messengers 1960-1998 (Somerset Historical Society newsletters)
- Mt. Pike
- Newspaper clippings
- Obituaries
- Pa. Families (on CD)
- Price Hospital
- Ross Rush GAR Post 361 (on CD)
- Turkeyfoot News 3-2-1905 thru 1-11-1912 (on CD)
- Turkeyfoot Valley Joint High School 1952-2002
- Turkeyfoot Valley Veterans: World War II
- Turkeyfoot Yearbooks (selected years listed on previous forwarding)
- We remember World War I
- Youghioghenny: Appalachian River
- Youghioghenny River Towns



TAKE THE “OLDER THAN DIRT” QUIZ

Do you remember?

1. BlackJack Chewing Gum
2. Wax coke-shaped bottle with colored sugar water
3. Butch Wax
4. Candy Cigarettes
5. Soda Pop machines with glass bottles
6. Howdy Doody
7. Restaurants with tableside JukeBoxes
8. Home milk delivery in glass bottles
9. Party Telephone lines
10. News reels before the movies
11. 45 RPM records
12. P. F. Flyers
13. Carrying a metal lunch box
14. Drive in movie theatres
15. Telephone numbers with word prefix
16. The Andy Griffith Show
17. Soda Fountains
18. Roller Skate Keys
19. S + H Green Stamps
20. Flash bulb cubes



If you remember 0 to 5 - You are a whipper snapper
 If you remember 6-15 - You are getting there
 If you remember 16 - 20 - You are OLDER THAN DIRT!



2018 Programs

March 19th: Monthly Meeting 6:30pm

April 16th: : ***“Remarks on a March” The Life and Times of Charlotte Browne*** - Erica I. Nuckles, Director of History and Collections, Fort Ligonier

May 21st: ***“Fallingwater”*** - Ashley Andrykovitch, Curator of Education at Fallingwater

June 18th: ***“WWII: Women’s Air Service Pilots”*** - Heinz History Center Program

July 16th: ***“The Changing Faces of Fort Necessity”*** - Brian S. Reedy, Chief of Interpretation & Visitor Services, Fort Necessity NB & Friendship Hill NHS

August 20th: ***“The Steel City in WWII”*** - Heinz History Center Program

September 17th: Program to be determined

October 15th: ***“Spanish American War”*** - Dr. Eric Greisinger

November 19th: Monthly Meeting 6:30pm

December Event: ***TBA***

All meetings and programs start at 6:30pm at H. C. Harned Center unless otherwise noted.



Membership

This fiscal year is quickly coming to a close. We have added some new members since our last mailing. As we look at our total membership from all members, we have 80% (171 members) who have paid their memberships during this fiscal year. But that means we have 20% (44 members) who have not yet paid. If you happened to be one of them, we would hope that you will get your membership in soon. A note is enclosed as a reminder for those who have not yet paid.

Corporate Members

(For the 7/1/17 to 6/30/18 Year)

Gold Members

Confluence Lions Club

Silver Members

Confluence Tourism

Somerset Trust Company

Bronze Members

Beggs Printing

Hanna House Bed & Breakfast

Sechler Sugar Shack

Turkeyfoot Lending Library

TURKEYFOOT VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY **MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION – 7/1/17 to 6/30/18**

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____ Email: _____

____ Individual - \$15.00

____ Husband & Wife - \$20.00

____ Youth 12-18 - \$5.00

____ Child Under 12 – Free

____ Bronze Corporate - \$50.00

____ Silver Corporate - \$200.00

____ Gold Corporate - \$500.00

____ Platinum Corporate - \$1000.00

____ Additional financial contribution of \$ _____

Please make checks payable to Turkeyfoot Valley Historical Society and mail to the Society at PO Box 44, Confluence, PA 15424. NOTE: We are a non-profit 501(c)(3) exempt organization. Donations are deductible to the full extent allowed by law.

