

## Turkeyfoot Valley Historical Society

# PASS IT ON

Share our history

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

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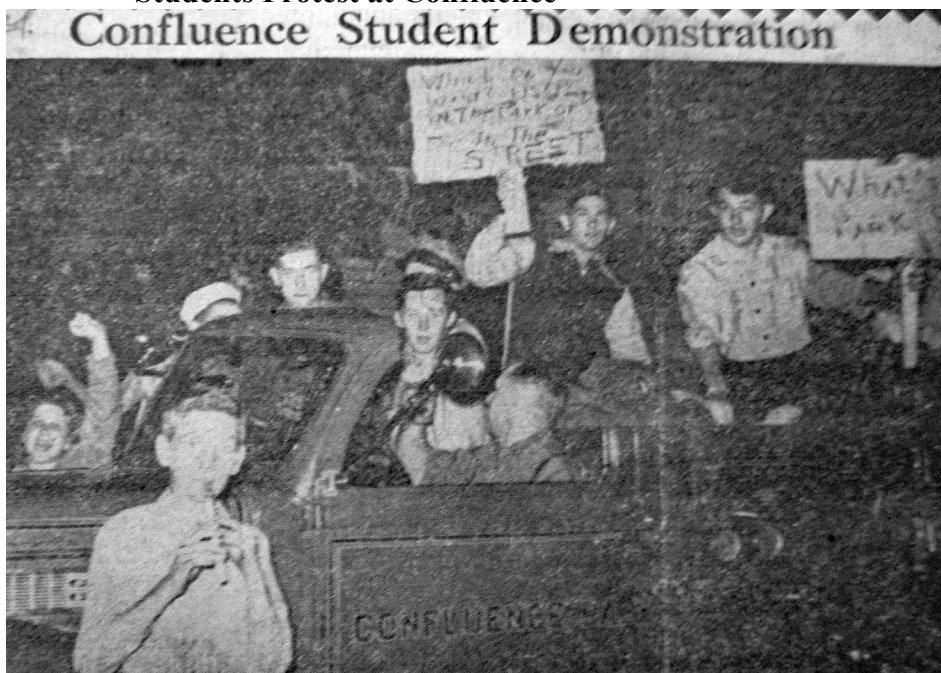
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### NOTE TO MEMBERS

If you are interested in  
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Pass It On electronically,  
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### Football Nabbed, Paraders Kick Students Protest at Confluence



The Confluence High School grid team have their football back today, but only after a four-hour torchlight protest parade in which 150 students, 50 parents and volunteer firemen took part.

The parade, marked by occasional screeches from the town fire truck, broke up about 11 p.m., after Burgess

D. H. Pore returned the football which he had ordered seized earlier in the day, in an effort to break up the use of the community park for athletic events.

Pore, who became burgess only three days ago, succeeding Dr. Edwin Price, who resigned after three-and-one-half years in office, announced he would enforce an old borough ordinance which banned athletics in the park.

When a dozen members of the high school grid squad turned out for practice yesterday, Policeman Ned Hoyt seized their ball.

The protest parade which followed, citizens said, was similar to a demonstration staged 15 or 20 years ago, when the no-athletics ordinance was passed originally. At that time, Council yielded and permitted the park to be used for athletics, but the ordinance was never repealed. Ray Mitchell, a spokesman for the protestants, said a citizens' committee would draft an ordinance permitting athletic events in the park.

### Confluence Rises Against Edict of Burgess Pore

A mass demonstration was staged by perhaps as many as 1,000 parents and students in front of the residence of Burgess D. H. Pore in Confluence on Wednesday evening after a town policeman had taken a football from Confluence High School students, who were engaged in a practice session in the community park, to arouse that community as nothing within 20 years has done. The park has been the site of various civic activities for more than one-half century.

(con't page 2)

Spokesmen for the parents and children say that they understood that the policeman, Ned Hoyt, had acted under orders of the newly-appointed burgess, who claimed to be enforcing an age-old town ordinance, which had been disregarded for several decades in order that the youngsters of the town might keep out of mischief.

The burgess was charged with larceny and burglary and the expectation is that the case will be brought before the attention of District Attorney Thomas F. Lansbury today, Thursday.

The football was finally handed over to the students at 11 p.m., climaxing a four-hour demonstration which resembled one staged in the community many years ago by the town's fire department to prevent the park from being "fenced in".

Yet never in the history of the town on the fringe of the Somerset-Fayette border had a demonstration reached the proportions of Wednesday night's been staged.

Torches were lit and a procession was led by students from the high school band. The fire department turned out with its truck. Signs were carried by the partisans, denouncing the stand of the burgess and an effigy of Burgess Pore was ignited.

Burgess Pore has only been in office for a few days, and in looking over the town's ordinances, decided to enforce the one that prohibited sports events in the town park. This sudden decision was regarded as being most unorthodox by Confluence citizens, who formerly had flocked out to the park for whatever amusement came to town to relieve the tedium of a small town.

Dr. Edwin Price tendered his resignation as burgess on September 2, after three-and-one-half years' service in which he frequently differed in opinion with the town's councilmen.

The demonstration was conducted in an orderly manner, but had plenty of color.

As a result of the demonstration, town council will hold a special meeting this Thursday evening at which time a drive will be made to obtain recreation facilities for the youngsters of the community. The meeting has been called for 8 p.m. at the borough building.

### **Confluence Yet on March, No Burgess**

A group of more than 600 Confluence partisans held the second mass demonstration in two successive nights in the community of 1,035 persons in the southwestern end of Somerset County when Burgess D. H. Pore, who ordered a football confiscated from a group of students using the municipal park as a practice field, did not appear at a town council meeting called for 8 p.m. in the municipal building, at which time the Burgess Pore and council were to hear the appeals of the citizens' group to abolish a 20 year old ordinance, revived only Wednesday, prohibiting the conduct of athletic events in the more than one-half century old park.

The group, which found the council chambers darkened past the 8 p.m. deadline for the meeting, flocked out



# Donations

*We are finally getting caught up on our donations.  
Thank you all!!!  
Also, thanks to Mona for helping us get our donations in order.*

- ♦ **Adrienne Balcom** – Markleton Sanatorium postcard
- ♦ **Dusti Betker** – Confluence Bottling Works O. F. McKee bottle found in woods by Randy Conn
- ♦ **Jimbo Bower** – Civil Defense police helmet from 1950's that belonged to his father
- ♦ **Randy and Rose Hall** – Roy Warren Hall's World War II uniform
- ♦ **Dixie Hyatt Estate** – various issues of the Laurel Messenger, genealogical information about many local families, newspaper clippings, postcards, etc.
- ♦ **Sam McClintock** – 1978, 1980, 1981, 1982, 1983, 1985, 1986 and 1987 Turkeyoughas
- ♦ **Colleen Sann Reeves** – 1947, 1948, 1949, 1950 Turkeyoughas, Confluence High School sweater letters and pennant, school play booklets, Mt. Chevrolet memorabilia, Gobblers for various dates for 1946-1950, newspaper clippings, "The Fabulous 50's" pamphlets, CHS football programs, prom booklet, baccalaureate and commencement programs, "Pocket Guide to Science" with Joseph Show's name on front, family photos, various awards and certificates from CHS, Lutheran Church bulletins from 1950's, County Bank program from 1949, "Generation upon Generation" book
- ♦ **Linda Reeves Spoerlein** – Addison-Confluence Lutheran Parish booklet from 1970's, History of Confluence Lutheran Church dated 1995, History of Confluence and Ursina Lutheran Church dated 1920, Stemwinders books, "Aftermath" about the 1998 flood, Somerset County Historical Notebook dated 1945, Confluence Ladie's Aid Society plate, Mt. Chevrolet memorabilia, "You No Get Something for Nothing", 100 years of the Goniak family history written by H. John Enos, photos from the class of 1968, Confluence Christian Church booklet dated 1998, "Tornadoes '98", Confluence Centennial book, World War I and II Service Record book for Confluence, 1947 & 1950 Turkeyoughas, Civil War Veteran cemetery marker, newspapers about JFK assassination and Man on Moon, photo from the U.S. Naval Training Center dated 1946 with Froggy Reeves and Jack Suder in photo
- ♦ **Mona Tissue** – Orville Fike 1930 Weekly Memorandum calendar, a fan from Humbert's Funeral Service, 1979 prom pendant, 76 issues of the Laurel Messenger, Confluence High School Mug 1941 - 1991
- ♦ **Turkeyfoot High School** – 2023 Turkeyougha

We also have received a large bound volume of the Army paper, "Stars and Stripes". Unfortunately, there was no note with the book, so we do not know who to thank.

## Where was the first incline constructed in America?

- A. Johnstown
- B. Pittsburgh
- C. Confluence

# Trivia

Please read on to find the answer.

“Dr. William Collins made a geological survey in 1840 to determine the mineral value of the land of this region. He was the first to discover limestone here and was the first to urge its value for agricultural purposes. For seven or eight years, he burned lime for use as a fertilizer and, by his efforts in this direction, did much to enhance the value of farming lands in this section, and to him the farmers of the country are largely indebted for his valuable fertilizer.”

“In his operations in the burning of the lime, he found it necessary to construct an inclined railway from the quarry to the kiln. He made the patterns for the wheels, built the cars and put the railway in successful operation. This was the first inclined railway in the country, and for some time was an object of great curiosity. People came from a great distance just to see this inclined railway.” (Taken from the Confluence 150<sup>th</sup> Book, page 58)

For the record the Mon Incline was built in 1870, the Duquesne Incline was built in 1877, and the Johnstown Incline was built in 1891.

### Confluence Yet on March, No Burgess (con't)

to the bandstand of the community park where they formed their lines of parade.

Amidst rumors that Burgess Pore had tendered his resignation, a fact that could not be confirmed by the American at a late hour Thursday night, they lit torches, carried signs and made merry in front of the burgess' darkened home and paid visits to several members of the borough council, who sometimes disagreed with Dr. Edwin Price who tendered his resignation as burgess September 2, but who disregarded the ordinance in order that juvenile delinquency could be combatted in the community through the medium of clean recreation. Faithful and loyal was the town's fire department, which contributed a truck to the parade. The streets of the community were filled with a chain of automobiles and the protestants seemed to be filled with more enthusiasm than they had been the previous evening.

The burgess, according to neighbors, had departed from his home shortly after 3 p.m. and was said to be over in Fayette County, just across the border. His return was expected before the meeting by neighbors, who seemed surprised that he did not appear.

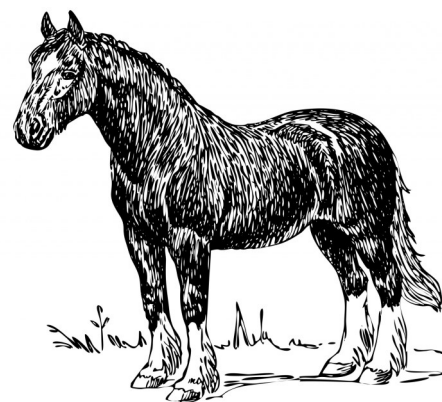
Rumors could be purchased for a dime a dozen in Confluence streets, and returning veterans were reminded of the days when they were enroute to the war fronts of the world. The most persistent rumor of all was that Burgess Pore had tendered his resignation, but councilmen maintained “zipped” lips.

“We're going to have another parade Friday night at 8:30,” said George Johnson, one of the spokesmen for the citizens' group. “We note that enthusiasm is growing in our cause and we will parade until we get our wishes fulfilled. Each parade will grow bigger and better according to the interest being maintained.” The community band will lead the procession in tonight's line of march.

## A FRIEND IS GONE

*A TRIBUTE BY MARIE TERRY BOUGHNER*

He was gentle and kind, was Frank the milkman's horse, and dependable. In rain or sun, in stinging cold or scorching heat, he carefully drew the wagon filled with bottles of milk and cream.



He scarcely needed a driver, as he sedately and carefully stepped along, taking the corners with a sweeping curve. He always came up "our" street at the same time each morning. Many a time have we set our clock by Frank and the milk wagon, and never missed it by more than ten minutes. He knew the milk route well, and knew where to stop for his master to catch up. He had a good master, but Frank was getting old. Twenty-two, they said. About the same as seventy-five for a person.

This last morning Frank drew his wagon as usual. When the last bottle had been delivered and Frank stood in front of his owner's door (for Frank was owned by Dr. Carl Frantz, and he stopped in front of the hospital while his master left his order book) the horse was seen to suddenly rear, gave a scream and dropped dead.

A great many children cried over the death of old Frank, and many grown ups felt like crying too. Someone said, "He deserves a eulogy", so here it is:

### TO FRANK

The turf was green that day in May,  
The sun shown bright on "Frank the bay"  
As he plodded along with his "one hoss shay",  
His coat was smooth, for he had good care  
But the gray was sprinkled through his hair.

Twenty years of farmers' work,  
(For Frank was never a horse to shirk)  
Had left him just a bit stiff in the joints  
Yet not without his knowing points.

Down Oden Street, he slowly came  
Then through each by-way, street and lane

For he knew the route in sun or rain  
Through rutty alleys the chariot went  
Where traveling was never meant,  
The bottles rattled in dissent.

At last the morning's route was o'er,  
The housewives had their milk once more  
And Frank had stopped at his master's door.  
There came a twinge, a pain, a rend,  
Old Frank reared up—it was the end,  
And Confluence had lost a friend.





## Washington's Trail 1753

<http://www.washingtonstrail.org/>

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### SUMMIT EXPLORES GEORGE WASHINGTON'S TRAVELS IN WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA

**Butler County, Pa.** — Speakers have been announced for the annual George Washington Summit, a day-long gathering for history enthusiasts being held Thursday, April 18, at the Butler Country Club, 310 Country Club Rd, Butler, PA. The program, developed by Washington's Trail 1753, includes speakers, discussions, historical authors, museum displays, and door prizes. Cost is \$65. Registration is available now, online or by check at [washingtonstrail.org/events](http://washingtonstrail.org/events).

Speakers at this year's program include Brian Reedy of the National Park Service presenting on Washington's seven trips to western PA; Diane Anestis, talking about Native women and their important role in tribal governance; Allan Spencer, discussing transportation and lodging of Pennsylvania Natives in the 1700s; Don Teter, giving a first-person presentation about George Washington as a young surveyor; and Doug Wood, explaining Dunmore's War, a 1774 conflict over land in the Ohio River Valley.

"We again have an impressive lineup of speakers," notes Martin O'Brien, president of Washington's Trail 1753. "Attendees are sure to learn fresh insights and understanding about the western Pennsylvania George Washington experienced in the 1700s."

Sponsors for the day-long event include Washington's Trail 1753, the Butler County Tourism and Convention Bureau, Oil Region Alliance, and Laurel Highlands Visitors Bureau. The Butler Country Club is fully accessible and offers plenty of free parking.

Contact:

Rodney Gasch, Washington's Trail 1753, 724-290-2129

This year's history summit, sponsored by Washington's Trail 1753, features five in-person speakers. Early reservations are required, at [washingtonstrail.org/events](http://washingtonstrail.org/events).



### In sympathy to the following family members:

**James D. "JD" Keslar**, 80, Addison, passed away Saturday, December 16, 2023 at Goodwill Mennonite Home, Grantsville, MD with his wife by his side. He was born August 9, 1943 in Confluence, a son of Clarence and Evelyn (Bluebaugh) Keslar. His parents and a brother, Bill preceded him in death. He is survived by his wife of 55 years, Patricia "Patty" (Close), a son, Shawn (Lori), Morgantown, WV; daughter, Sharla Keslar (Carrie), Kensington, MD and "Grandpap" to his beloved grandchildren, Marissa Show (Sam) and James Keslar and two great granddaughters, Emma and Mia Show, all of Smithfield; sister, Rita Kahl (Carl), Somerset; sister-in-law, Linda Keslar, Morgantown and brother-in-law and sister-in-law, Randy and Audrey Close, Somerset. JD was a 1961 graduate of Turkeyfoot Valley Area High School and a veteran of the US Army. He married his high school sweetheart, Patty on July 6, 1968. He retired from the US Army Corps of Engineers – Youghioghenny Lake in 2004. He was a member of the Addison Methodist Chapel, Confluence Lions Club, where he was a past president and treasurer and a recipient of a Melvin Jones Fellow Humanitarian Service Award, Old Petersburg-Addison Historical Society, Turkeyfoot Valley Historical Society, Ursina American Legion and a life member of the NRA. He previously was a

coach for the Confluence Little League and enjoyed deer hunting in his younger years. The family would like to thank Dr. Naeem and the Goodwill Mennonite Home staff for the 10 plus years of care JD received from them and for being a second family to Patty. Friends will be received from 12-3 PM Wednesday, December 27, 2023 at the Humbert Funeral Home in Confluence, where a service will follow the visitation at 3 PM with Rev. Samuel McClintock officiating. A graveside service will be held at 2 PM Thursday, December 28, 2023 in the Somerset County Memorial Park. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be directed to the Addison Methodist Chapel, PO Box 143, Addison, PA 15411, Alzheimer's Assoc., 1100 Liberty Ave., Suite E-201, Pittsburgh, PA 15222 or the Somerset County Honor Guard, 435 S. Lynn Ave., Somerset, PA 15501.

*If you have any obituaries you would like published, of our faithful members, please email them to [tfvhs@tfvhs.com](mailto:tfvhs@tfvhs.com) for publishing in our newsletters.*



### Confluence Yet on March, No Burgess (con't)

Richard Hegedus, another spokesman, said that a petition is being drawn up for the signatures to secure funds for recreational and football equipment for Confluence High School students.

It has been 10 years since Confluence had fielded an 11-man football team for competition with county and district teams. Students have formed several six-man teams for intramural purposes and with the intent of playing other youngsters in Rockwood and neighboring towns.

*Thanks to Linda Reeves Spoerlein for donating these newspaper clippings from the Somerset Daily American dated September, 1946*

# Membership News

THANK  
YOU

Please support the following businesses who are currently supporting the Historical Society with their corporate memberships

## Bronze Corporate:

Beggs Printing  
Hanna House Bed/Breakfast  
Sechler Sugar Shack  
Somerset Trust Co  
Tissue Farm (New Member)  
TMI Group LLC  
Trustmont Group  
Turkeyfoot Lending Library



## Welcome New Members!

Larry Walsh  
Mary Aukerman

## Silver Corporate:

Confluence Lions (Silver)  
Confluence Tourism (Silver)

# Volunteers!



## Volunteers Needed

If you would be willing to come and sit for an hour or two, this would help keep our building open for visitors. Please check with Pastor Ron Schaeffer if you can help out. Home phone: 814-395-5168 or cell 814-233-0117 and leave a message.



We have a Facebook page!! Search for "Turkeyfoot Historical Society" on Facebook to check out our postings. In order that more people can see our page we would appreciate your following the page and sharing our postings with your friends.

See you in  
April!