

BEN AVON AREA HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER

Vol. XXI - Number 1 October, 2005



Lincoln Highway Program

The original Lincoln Highway (U.S. Route 30) came straight through Bellevue, Avalon, Ben Avon, Emsworth, Kilbuck, Glenfield and on to the west. Maybe that should be "crooked through" since, like all roads of the early 1900s, it followed the contours of the land. Now, of course, we put the rocks and dirt where we find it to be convenient.

You can get a nice look at the brick highway on a stretch that parallels Ohio River Boulevard in Glenfield.

We have arranged for Rev. John Harman, retired Lutheran minister and past president of the Lincoln Highway Association to speak to us:

7:30 PM Wednesday
November 2, 2005
Community Presbyterian Church
7501 Church Avenue
Ben Avon

He will bring slides of the highway between Ohio and Pittsburgh and a video of the 1919 Transcontinental Army Truck convoy. Do you know how this relates to our modern Interstate Highway System?



Annual Report

As of last June 30th, we completed another fiscal year. First I thank my fellow Board members. Each contributes to the success of BAAHA with talent and time. All have agreed to continue serving in 2006 even though other duties and interests keep all of us wondering how a monthly meeting can seem like it arrives on a weekly :schedule.

Jean Henderson, Vice President
Trudy File, Secretary
Tracy Ferguson
Ken Jaros
Bob Kiser
Darlene Phillips
B. J. Robertson

Our financial statement shows we continue to do well in that phase of our work.

We consider all of you on this mailing list members. As you know, we ask for \$10 from each family, or only \$5 for a single reader as "dues." These charges cover the printing and mailing costs. During the past year Trudy noted on your mailings the date of our last receipt from you. We had been getting queries about when renewal came and this seemed to be a practical way to keep track. Frankly, we have not deleted addresses unless requested. So much to our surprise, many of you multiplied the \$10 by the years since the last payment. We accounted for this extra money as a donation.

But it represents more than money to us. It expresses your thoughtful support which we much appreciate and will help us continue finding ways to keep history a part of our local lives. Thanks to all of you.

Ben Avon Area Historical Association
July 1, 2004 through June 30, 2005

INCOME/EXPENSE

INCOME

Checking Interest	\$ 62.84
Certificate Interest	93.05
Mailing list dues	810.00
Donations	1,874.00
Items for sale	<u>295.00</u>
TOTAL INCOME	<u>\$3,134.89</u>

EXPENSES

Postage and supplies	\$ 233.85
Maintenance	100.00
Electric service	100.00
Publishing	247.00
Program/Education	359.00
Fund Raising items	0.00
Property Insurance	<u>525.00</u>
TOTAL EXPENSES	<u>\$1,564.85</u>

NET INCREASE \$1,570.04

BALANCE SHEET

	<u>6/30/2004</u>	<u>6/30/2005</u>
Cash	\$127.00	\$127.00
Checking	6,665.67	8,142.66
CD	<u>7,019.24</u>	<u>7,112.29</u>
TOTAL	<u>\$13,811.91</u>	<u>\$15,381.95</u>

Notes: The former account from the 1992 Ben Avon Centennial Committee has a balance as of \$3,179.39 as of June, 2005.

2004-2005 Review

Perhaps the most exciting event during the past year was Mike Finke Day. It was also a good bit of hard work, especially by Tracy Ferguson. But she got Emsworth Borough and Avonworth School District involved early to share the burden. Alma Finke, Mike's mother, also was of great assistance. All in all, the day was very well received.

Our joint event with Sewickley Valley Historical Society was a speaker with the topic of Music of WW II. Not only was he knowledgeable and entertaining, his presentation was a great example of blending modern with old as he used Powerpoint slides and audio woven in with his remarks.

We continue to hand out newsletters and participate in community events such as Avon Club's Fall Festival to make our neighbors aware of our organization. We assisted in a Post-Gazette feature article on Vinegar Hollow.

Our newest way of connecting is on the web. Lloyd Corder stimulated the creation of a general Ben Avon site (benavon.org) and offered to include BAAHA. We had already been developing a site using the talents of Jeff Cieslak. Jeff worked the details out and you can now find us at www.benavon.org/BAAHA/. Check it out, and click on "newsletters." for past issues. Notice the little bar in the upper left corner of your screen. It controls the font size. If bigger is better for you (like me) then so be it!

In collecting oral histories we did not do many interviews through June, 2005 but we think we have found a good person to do the tape to Word document

transcription. In addition Avon Club has generously supported our effort with a donation we will use to pay for transcription and related costs such as tapes, etc.

Oral History Project

The purpose of the oral history project is to collect the personal memories of residents about life in the local area. We are not looking for world events type of material, just stories you might tell a younger family member. Sometimes your little memory will be the key to solving a puzzle about past life.

In any case, each person's perspective adds to the overall foundation on which we continue to build. So nominate someone, or even yourself, to be interviewed. These interviews take only an hour or so.

Hurricane Ivan Photos Wanted

Recent news is all about hurricanes Katrina and Rita and devastation of the Gulf Coast. Fortunately mere rain storms reached us. But not Ivan. The flooding of Ivan disrupted our area quite a bit. We would love to have copies of photos you took or collected to document the local impact.

St. Patrick's Day Flood

March 17, 1936

Continuing with bad weather, next year brings the 70th anniversary of Pittsburgh's St. Patrick's Day flood. Bill Johnston reminded us of this and suggests it as a suitable program. While nothing is final yet, we tentatively have this on the schedule - maybe March 17, 2006 itself since that is a Friday.

Our probable format will be a open round table similar to our program to hear the memories of WW II veterans. We hope many of you who have childhood memories will be able to join in and tell us about them.

Clifton Station

Do you remember the Clifton Station in Emsworth? It literally sat on the cliff behind what is now Holy Family Institute. A railroad model builder wanted photos to help him create a model of it. We could not help much, but he completed his project and sent us a couple pictures. To see them in color, which does justice to the effort, find a link on our web page: www.benavon.org/BAAHA/.

Donated Items Received

Please be patient, have some catching-up to do:

Pictures of Dean home	Tom Phillips
Ben Avon Lumber window stop, Bellevue commencement 1918 book & Jr. prom dance cards 1921 & 1922	Norb Micklos
Bloom's Pgh Guide, blotter cards (Gulf and Tejan), W.PA Hymns Book, square nails	Jim Bass
Oil painting of log house	Ray Gibson
Video of Gladys Phillips dedication	Bob Jones
WW II Destroyer History	Don Clem
Ben Avon Centennial Committee records from 1991-93	Jean & Dave Henderson
Frontier fort histories (1896)	Paul Brown

Renewing Members – THANK YOU!

Tracy & Jack Ferguson family	Kilbuck
Robert & Marlis Kiser	Kilbuck
Darlene Phillips	Ohio Twp
Betty Jane Robertson	EMS
Kim & Diana Hyde	BA
Chuck Floyd	Panama City Beach FL
Lois Delaney	EMS
Charles & Sally Davis	BA
James & Judith Little	McCandless Twp

Ben Avon Area Historical Association
 c/o 136 Dickson Avenue
 Ben Avon
 Pittsburgh, PA 15202



Please Join Us!

Alice Brown	Cranberry Twp
Bob & Jane Winter	Kilbuck
Jeb Geiser	Tridelpia WV
Bill & Sharon Trimble	Auburn AL
Dan & Wendy Herchenroether	BA
Thomas A Hessong	EMS
Betty & Don Pierce	Fullerton CA
Bill & Nancy Trondle	BA
Joan Turnbull	Vista CA
Phil & Carolyn Wodzinski	BA
Viola E Ohler	Harmony PA
Jody Redman	BA
John & Lou Seifarth	BA
Mary Ann Wrenshall	Avalon PA
Jean S. Kratzert	Aliquippa PA
Thelma E Woelfel	BA
Jane & John Angelini	BA
John D Rufer	BA
Carl & Elaine Weitz	BA
Eleanor Schaffner-Mosh	Greensboro NC

Ben Avon Historical Association c/o 136 Dickson Avenue, Ben Avon PA 15202			
Name:			
Address:			
Boro/Township			
Phone:			
Membership:	Family \$10	Indiv. \$5	Other
I would be interested in helping with:			
Articles for Newsletter			
Short Projects or Jobs			
Log House Maintenance			
Publicity			