



# The Manor

*A Newsletter of The  
Equinunk Historical Society  
Calder House Museum  
Calder Gift Shop  
Joel Hill Sawmill*



Volume 27, Issue 3  
Telephone: 570-224-6722

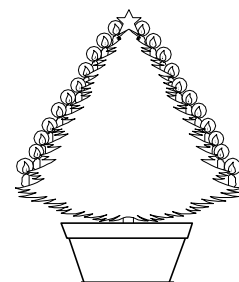
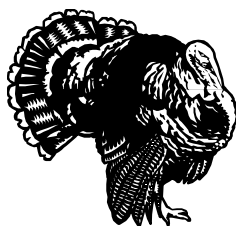
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Nov. 2010

*Welcome to the Board of Directors, 2010 - 2011  
New faces mingle with familiar friends.....*



*Former President Carol Ann MacMaster, Secretary Pat Wilson, incoming President Robert Wood, Art Flynn, Treasurer Cindy Rowe, Harold Butler, and Fred Peckham. Absent from photo; Gardie Mueller and Kathy Schrama*

## *President's Message*

**P**rojects have been the name of the game for this entire year. It began with the addition to the Calder House Museum which started like a house afire and has been slowed somewhat, waiting for the Floyd Schnakenberg bequest to be finalized. Distribution should be available this month (October). Then we can finish the insulation and sheetrock, the handicap bathroom, kitchenette, chair lift, etc.

The dugout canoe was cleaned and finish was applied to preserve the exterior. It is being housed in the basement where soon it will have a cradle to permanently display it. Other Indian artifacts will also be displayed along with a mural background.

The Hill Sawmill pond was dredged, over 200 tri-axle loads of silt and gravel removed, and in the process we discovered 16 oak logs and 1 hemlock buried under the silt at least 40 years, 50 or maybe even 100 years ago. The front viewing deck was torn off and replaced with a sturdy new one. The rear sills were replaced with 12 x 12 foot beams making the structure secure for many years to come. Whew, I'm tired just thinking about it all!

We invite you to the Calder Shop sale on December 3, 4, and 5 and on Sunday, December 5th, to the annual Open House at the Museum. Bring your favorite treat to share and enjoy holiday entertainment with Leana and J.R. Stanton.

*Bob Wood, President*

## On Being Thankful

In the first paragraph of the President's Message, Bob gave the membership the first inkling of what our beloved friend and late curator, Floyd Schnakenberg, has done for this organization. Before his untimely death on October 17, 2008, Floyd made the Equinunk Historical Society the beneficiary of a significant portion of his estate. Even the persons closest to him did not suspect that he had chosen this course of action. To say that we were stunned is an understatement.

When Floyd passed away he left a gaping hole in the fabric of this institution. Uncomplaining despite poor health, he participated in every event, and set for all of the Board an example of how to "man up", in today's vernacular, and strive to do his or her best for the Equinunk Historical Society.

A year before, long-time member Thomas Seccia, brother of neighbor and friend, Tony Seccia, who is featured on page 7 of this issue, also made EHS a major benefactor in his will. Thomas's gift enabled us to construct the annex to the Calder Museum, giving us much needed meeting space, display space, handicap accessibility, and room to finally exhibit our Native American dugout canoe. Thomas's gift gave us the structure. Floyd's gift will allow us to complete it. We could never have imagined what these two generous and caring individuals would accomplish with their generosity. We are and will be forever grateful.

### And Speaking of Gratitude –

After being duly elected President at the EHS Annual Meeting on August 22<sup>nd</sup>, Bob Wood welcomed newly-elected Board members, Harold Butler, Art Flynn, and Fred Peckham. Harold is also a member of the Joel Hill Sawmill crew.

Bob presented Certificates of Appreciation to three departing Board members who have between them, many years of service and Board participation. Marilyn Kneeland served as Treasurer through very complicated financial

### EQUINUNK HISTORICAL SOCIETY

#### Board of Directors, Staff, and Volunteers

2010 - 2011

President	Robert Wood
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President	Carol Ann MacMaster
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President	Gardie Mueller
Corres. Secretary	Kathy Schrama
Recording Sec'y.	Pat Wilson
Treasurer	Cindy Rowe
Directors:	Harold Butler Art Flynn Fred Peckham
Office Manager	Carol Ann MacMaster
Auditors	Barbara Newport, Nancy Sterck
Buildings/ Grounds	Don Kaszner, Fred Pfeifer, Charles Trummer
Bookkeeper	Barbara Teeple
Calder Shop Coord.	Barbara Conley
Curator	Alice Pedone
Finance Committee	Donna Burrowes, Dawn Joyce, Marilyn Kneeland
Genealogy	Eleanor Keesler, Carol Ann MacMaster
Head Sawyer	Chuck Heyn
Heritage	Margaret Snyder
Hospitality	Sara Ornstein, Cynthia Jackson
Membership	Carol Ann MacMaster
Nominating/By-laws	Peggy Cox, Margaret Snyder
Photographer	Don Kaszner
Program Coord.	Pat Wilson
Publications	Cristina Kobelin
Publicity	Carol Ann MacMaster, Linda Wescott
Saw Mill Com'tee	Robert Wood
"The Manor"	Linda Wescott, Editor
Proofreaders	Marilyn Kneeland, Robert Kramer, Carol Ann MacMaster
Honorary Directors:	Marjorie Anderson, Eleanor Keesler, Wellington Lester, Margaret Snyder, Ann Preston Vail

*The Equinunk Historical Society newsletter is published seasonally, three times a year, and sent to all members. Additional copies are available through the office at the Museum. Material for submission is always welcome and sought after. Please e-mail or mail submissions to Linda Wescott, c/o EHS, P.O. Box 41, Equinunk, PA 18417.*

arrangements, dealing with the bequests, and overseeing the establishment of the EHS Endowment Fund. Chuck Trummer was and still is our capable "go to" guy when something breaks or needs to be installed. Chuck and his wife Dot worked with food preparation and sales at the annual Car Show for several years. Linda Wescott completed an earlier term on the Board and subsequently served two consecutive terms as Recording Secretary. She edits this newsletter and handles publicity for EHS events. Though no longer active Board members, all three will continue to be associated with EHS, proudly wearing their varied hats.

## INTRODUCING.....

**H**arold C. Butler of Equinunk: Harold and his wife Carol have enjoyed their summer residence in Equinunk since 2002 when Carol acquired their dwelling from her parents who had owned it since 1961. They had actually visited regularly since that earlier decade and came to love the area and its residents. Now retired, they split their time between Equinunk and Florida. Their lives are busy, but they still find time to be active in their summer community.



Harold's bio tells us that he retired as owner and president of the Federal Machine Co. Inc. in New Jersey. He's a mechanical engineer with a Bachelor's Degree from New Jersey Institute of Technology and has a Master's Degree from Columbia University. He is a licensed Professional Engineer in New Jersey, and is a member of the Mechanical Engineering Advisory Board for the New Jersey Institute of Technology where he previously served as a coadjutant instructor. He was coadjutant at Rutgers University as well. Harold serves as treasurer of their homeowners' association and is active in various church, civil, and educational organizations. He is also a member of the Joel Hill Sawmill crew.



**F**red Peckham: Fred is an outdoors man. We have excerpted and condensed information for this bio from *The Upper Delaware*, a newsletter of the Upper Delaware Council Inc. where Fred represents Hancock, NY.

A native of Hancock, his family has owned their land for 125 years! Fred "has dedicated himself to carrying on the work of his late uncle by occupying the same seat his uncle held on the Upper Delaware Council....." He graduated from Hancock H. S. where he was an all-star athlete in football, track, and wrestling.

He earned a Bachelor's Degree from the SUNY Oswego School of Business. He worked in sales, selling plastics, adhesives, and tapes, and later, commercial construction coating products. He became involved in construction as supervisor for the development of high-rise hotels and other construction-related industries. He eventually opened his own firm, selling this area's bluestone in VA. When his uncle passed away, Fred returned to Hancock where he took over a business selling bluestone, sand, gravel, and topsoil. He now manages 284 acres of land which includes extensive riverfront property on the Delaware, and Frisbee Island.

The Equinunk Historical Society is pleased to welcome these two gifted individuals to its Board of outstanding, community-minded citizens at this critical time in its history.

Art Flynn, YOU'RE NEXT!

**F**or the first time in a very long time, the Equinunk Historical Society has found it necessary to raise its yearly dues. Individual dues will now be \$15.00; Family dues, \$25.00. The remaining categories will remain unchanged. Junior membership is still only \$2.00. Lifetime members pay \$125.00 but only once. Corporate membership is \$50.00 per year.

The GOOD news is that if you renew for another year before January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2011, you can still renew at the old rate of \$10.00 per individual and \$18.00 for a family. We believe our dues are still a bargain! We hope you agree.

## *Repairs to the Old Joel Hill Sawmill - the 'Inside' Story...*

**M**any years ago while attending grammar school, in September or October, the teacher would invariably direct us to relate an interesting experience which had occurred during the just-concluded summer vacation. It appears these experiences continue to come about.

In June I had the opportunity to assist in what one would call "work meetings" to perform maintenance and improvement duties at the Joel Hill Sawmill. Under the superb leadership and guidance of Head Sawyer Chuck Heyn and Saw Mill Committee Chair Bob Wood, along with assistance from Frank Heath, Blair Kobelin, Bob Smith, Chuck Trummer, Nick VanderWeide, and Dan Wescott, many needed repairs were made.

In May, these gentlemen replaced the entrance decking after the pond was dredged. No easy task, a marvelous job was done. The next project involved a structural support which had to be replaced due to age. The new structural member, a 12" x 12" beam, 16' long, was actually made from a log cut at the mill a couple of years ago. We were able to cut it in half which made it a lot easier to handle. In order to accomplish the installation, a section of the building had to be "jacked" up! The following week, siding was replaced where the new beam was positioned. Everything went according to plan without a hitch.

Other jobs included erecting of a fence alongside the pond, and repairing the stairway leading to the 2<sup>nd</sup> level from the top floor, adding a handrail. We attended to various other minor maintenance items and planned for future projects.

A lot was accomplished this summer and it was fun. There is much more to be done but knowing the skill and willingness of the many people to get involved, rest assured improvements will continue. We must also thank Kathy Wood for the sandwiches and delicious cookies she provided. Very much appreciated.

I think my teacher of old might have given me a good grade for this one.

*Harold Butler*



*It takes a lot of muscle to wrestle a large water-soaked oak log from the pond, but...*



*in the end the men win. Dan Wescott, Harold Butler, Chuck Heyn, and Bob Wood admire their prize.*

*Editor's Note:* The Sawmill Crew can use a new pair of hands (or several). The mill operates three weekends a year: the second weekend in July, the second weekend in August, and the first Saturday in October. Demonstrations are occasionally but not often added for group requests. The work of the mill is expert, careful, safe, and fairly rigorous but not beyond the scope of someone in good health. Contact the EHS office at 570-224-6722 if you would like to participate. Join the gang - the camaraderie is great!



*The deteriorated sill plate can be seen just below the raw wood of the replacement sill, sawn to size by the mill crew last year.*



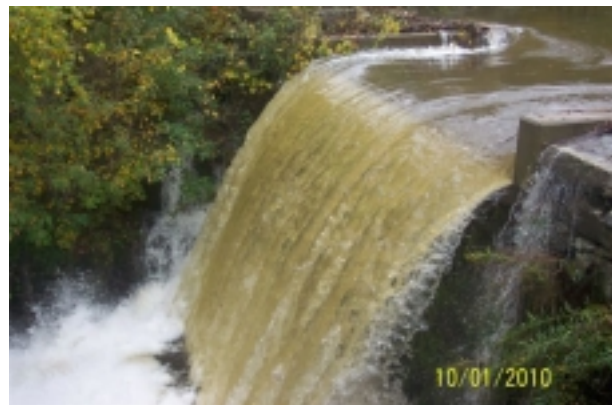
*Chuck Trummer's not afraid of heights*



*Left: Dan Wescott and Bob Smith put their tools and know-how to work!*

*Work continued over the summer, beginning with planning a strategy to remove the rotted sill plate jacking up the weight of the sawmill, and inserting the 12 x 12" replacement member. With builder Chuck Heyn's expert guidance, the job was completed in much the same way it would have been done 100 years ago. What an accomplishment!*

*And then the rains came - again! After many inches of rain fell over a short span of hours, the mill stream was roaring! The pond filled up and poured over the dam, flooded the new visitor's deck and licked at the newly-erected fence. We attempted to take photos of the waterfall in full torrent, but the spray coated the camera lens and blurred the pictures. The mill stood silently and solidly on its granite base just as it has done for more than a century, strengthened and secure once more.*





*Frank Heath keeps his eye on the proceedings.*



*Sawyer Al Day wrestles a large log into place*

*And in October, the scheduled demo went smoothly with Al Day as sawyer. Well, almost smoothly. The flood washed a branch down the pipe, which caught in the turbine, creating havoc with the saw. The crew persevered and later removed the rogue branch. All in a day's work, I guess. Ed.*

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### *Historical Bits-*



*Last month the "Reminiscing" column featured a story about Ray Pulis's father, Calvin Pulis. Calvin was a young farmer when he met Mrs. Gifford Pinchot, wife of then Governor Pinchot, who was later appointed the first Chief of the U.S. Forest Service.*

*The photo above shows Calvin Pulis astride his horse in front of his farm, at the junction of Rte. 90, (now the heavily-traveled Rte. 191,) and Gridline Rd. Rte. 90 is clearly visible behind Pulis's mount, a dirt road barely two carriages wide.*

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*Reprinted from the Equinunk Historical Society Newsletter, circa ?* Apropos to the recent Halloween season, this bit appeared in the Hancock Herald in November, 1932. "A queer apparition was seen at night on several occasions during the recent high water at Bouchouxville. Andrew Bouchoux calls it the "Phantom Raft". Instead of [traveling] downstream, the raft floats upstream under no apparent power. It has a pilot, a weird figure Joe Chambers of Equinunk says is the ghost of Boney Quillen. The Phantom Raft has caused much discussion on the main street.

*Postscript (paraphrased):* 50 years ago the Blizzard of 1888 occurred. Snow fell from Sunday until Tuesday. Trains on the Erie and O & W lines did not move. Wayne County roads were impassable. The Standard Oil pumps in Hancock did not miss a stroke.

## Reminiscing

### *Tony Seccia, Boy Scout, Forester, Cook, Friend*

by Linda Wescott

Tony is proudest of his history with the Boy Scouts of America. Joining the organization when he was twelve, he still remains active with organization – eighty-four years to date, and still counting! On November 5<sup>th</sup>, he was invited to the local council's annual dinner at the Radisson in Scranton. They did the usual tenure exercise, where everyone stands, and anyone with less than a year's activity is asked to sit down; then ten years, twenty, thirty, and so on. When they got to eighty years, Tony was the last man standing and was enthusiastically applauded. If you did the math, you'd know he is now 96!

Charged with tree preservation for the City of New York, Tony was employed by the Forestry Division of the Parks Department. He and his beloved wife Margit moved to the little house on Pine Mill Rd. with their daughter and two sons "a long time ago." The old house had a "borning room", close to the stove for heat, but the house had no bathroom or closets. They added a bathroom but not a laundry area since Margit always enjoyed taking her laundry to the laundromat. Asked if she would like a washer and dryer at the house she declined, saying that then she'd lose out on her opportunities to get to town.

Tony learned that before he and Margit came to Pine Mill, a small pond existed slightly below where his driveway now enters the road. It was more of a wide place in the streambed than a pond, but it sported an earthen dam which was used by the people on the west side of the road as access to their farm. The dam washed out in heavy rains and was never rebuilt, so the family had to find another access. If anyone knows if the pond had a name, please let us know.

Margit was not a cook when she and Tony married, so he undertook to teach her his Italian family's recipes. My friend Joy and I had never cooked stuffed artichokes, but I knew they were one of Tony's favorite dishes, so he good-naturedly agreed to give us a cooking lesson. We washed, trimmed, and opened up the vegetables which the dictionary defines as "the

unopened flower head of a thistle-like plant, covered with thick, leaf-like scales". We prepared the stuffing with breadcrumbs and herbs, and cooked the artichokes in a bath of bouillon which did not quite meet with Tony's approval. Low-sodium bouillon is not the bouillon of choice. We, of course, zealously overcooked them, but they tasted just fine and we had a lot of fun at our impromptu cooking lesson.

We always enjoy being in Tony's company – we learn by his recollections, his words, and his actions. He's enroute to church by 6:30 a.m. to make certain the building will be warm enough by the time 9 a.m. Mass commences. After Mass he visits Margit at the Pine Mill Cemetery. He visits her every day. He lives by his Boy Scout oath to this day. "A Scout is a Friend to All, and a Brother to every other Scout." That sums up Tony – he is indeed a Friend to All.



# EQUINUNK HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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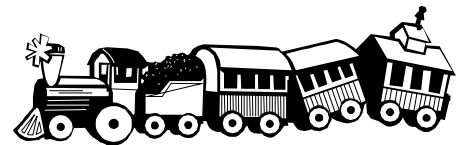
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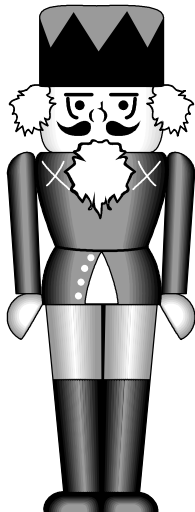
### *Dues - per year:*

Individual	15.00
Family	25.00
Junior	2.00
Lifetime	125.00
Corporate	50.00



## *Holiday Open House*

*The Equinunk Historical Society cordially requests your presence at its annual Holiday Open House on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, December 3rd, 4th, and 5th. The Calder Gift Shop is fully stocked with reasonably priced items to help ease your shopping chores. The Museum and Gift Shop will open at noon for your convenience.*



*The Museum will be modestly decked out in holiday fashion to give your special season a fresh and warm-hearted start.*

*On Sunday, the Open House from noon to 4 p.m. will feature seasonal music by J.R. and Leana Stanton, the talented musical duo from the Equinunk area.*

*Bring a sample of your holiday treats to share. Enjoy the holidays the old-fashioned way!*