



# The Manor

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



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## *A Little Fanfare Please!*



*Photo: Dave Soete*

**Introducing the new Board of Directors of the Equinunk Historical Society - l to r: Donna DuBois, Art Flynn, President; Bob Wood; Carol Ann MacMaster, Secretary; and John Schror.**

A few members of the new Board assembled for a photo during a recent program at EHS. Regrettably, not all board members could be present that evening. Thanks and applause for these individuals who are wonderfully generous with their time and who take the welfare of the Equinunk Historical Society so to heart.

To our equally wonderful missing members, Donna Burrowes, Treasurer; Gardie Mueller, 2nd Vice President; Richard Stowe, and Pat Wilson, 1st Vice President, we will catch you soon, camera in hand. At least we had a quorum for the photo!

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Kudos to **MBK Materials** and **Bill Pykus Excavating** for the donation of materials to repair the driveway and enhance the yard at the Calder House. Their generosity now and in the past are greatly appreciated, especially at this time of year when our resources are lower. Also, special thanks to Greg Quaglio for bringing the need to our attention and for spreading the material. Visitors to all our First Friday programs will be *really* pleased with the new surface, especially when it snows!

## President's Message



Dear Members and Friends,

The Equinunk Historical Society has once again experienced another successful year with many activities that encouraged people to come to the museum and to visit the Joel Hill Sawmill.

Recently we enjoyed a program by Ken Ely, founder and proprietor of Good Neighbor Walls, who delivered a fascinating talk about stone walls in northern Pennsylvania, sponsored by the Pennsylvania Council on The Humanities. His descriptions of the different types of walls and how they were built kept the more than capacity crowd spellbound for nearly two hours. I know I learned a lot and I am sure everyone who attended did also.

It was great that we were able to get a grant from the *Wayne County Community Foundation*. The money received will be used to build a roof over the handicap ramp to keep snow and ice from building up on the ramp, making it inaccessible.

I have been moving a little slower this summer since I had bilateral knee surgery in March. Some problems arose in my right knee that kept me from getting "up to speed" as fast as I wanted to. I recently had that knee operated on and feel it will be a lot better. Thank you to all who kept me in their prayers, sent cards and offered to assist in any way they could.

Don't forget to mark your calendars for the start of the Calder Cafe's First Friday during the winter. The first one is November 6 and they will run through April. Pat Wilson is the "spark plug"

### EQUINUNK HISTORICAL SOCIETY Board of Directors, Staff, and Volunteers 2015 - 2016

President	Art Flynn
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President	Pat Wilson
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President	Gardie Mueller
Corres. Secretary	Sherry Zona
Recording Sec'y.	Carol Ann MacMaster
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Genealogy	Eleanor Keesler, Carol Ann MacMaster
Head Sawyer	Chuck Heyn
Heritage	Margaret Snyder
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Photographer	Don Kaszner
Program Coord.	Patricia Wilson
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Publicity	Linda Wescott
Saw Mill Com'tee	Robert Wood
"The Manor"	Linda Wescott, Editor
Proofreaders	Marilyn Kneeland, Carol Ann MacMaster Barbara Gogan
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*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 publication is always welcome and sought after. Please e-mail (c/oEHS) or mail submissions to Linda Wescott, c/o EHS, P.O. Box 41, Equinunk, PA 18417.*

who had been doing a fantastic job organizing them. Everyone who attends always seems to have a good time and it makes a great night out during the winter months. Encourage your friends to attend on the first Friday of each month with music beginning about 7:15pm. I hope everyone enjoyed their summer, and to all of the "snow birds"-- have a safe trip to the sunny south and return safely.

Art

## Hangin' with Ed Simpson



*Rob Schwarz photo*

Please let us introduce you to a wonderful artist in our midst. Ed Simpson, (Eddie to his friends,) We will have the pleasure of featuring Ed's art work on the walls of our gathering space at the Caldor Museum throughout the winter and spring months. When you come to hear the music at First Fridays, please take a few minutes to view his work.

Eddie was born one of ten children, on November 14, 1928 in Montreal, Canada. He met his future wife, Phyllis, while they were teens working in a textile factory. They married in Canada in 1951.

In 1953, with \$700 in their pockets and high hopes, they left Canada and came to Long Island, NY. Eddie worked there for the Iron Art Company until it went bankrupt, and then went into business with a friend, making wrought iron decorative spiral staircases and railings. That business began down in Eddie's basement. He and Phyllis moved five times and had three sons, Eddie Jr, Wayne, and Bruce, during their time on Long Island. So it was a busy time, but Eddie managed to find time to make paintings in the evenings. Eddie credits Bill Alexander and Bob Ross for inspiring him to paint through their television programs. But that was just the beginning.

Since he first put paint to canvas back on Long Island, Eddie has enjoyed making a wide range of American landscapes and seascapes in all seasons. He likes to feature old barns, farm houses and lighthouses in his scenes. Eddie works in oils and acrylics and even

makes his own frames from scrap lumber he finds. His work ranges from small pieces to "sofa-size" and "wall-size" murals. And he is not limited to canvas. Nowadays, Eddie scouts garage sales for old saws, takes them apart, refurbishes the handles, paints natural scenes on the blades, and then reassembles them. They are beautiful!

But Eddie's interests and skills extend well beyond iron work and painting. In 1970, he bought land in Equinunk and began the work of making it a home. He built his house, a two-story workshop, a playhouse for his kids, porch swings, picnic tables, you name it. And he has built more than one gazebo for family and friends over the years. Anyone stopping by his place can see at a glance that he is also a gardener. Nothing is ever wasted and he usually sprouts his flowers and trees from seeds he collects. Eddie enjoys our wildlife and they like him. Chipmunks and chickadees eat right from his hand! Photography is another attraction for Eddie. He has cabinets full of pictures he takes of the things he loves: family, friends, animals and the natural world.

Eddie's spirit of adventure took him many places before he settled in Equinunk. Prior to marrying Phyllis, he 'rode the rails' as a hobo with friends. He remembers to this day how many people traveled that way, men *and* women, and he saw how dangerous and exciting that was. He tells about one job in particular at the Calvary Stampede rodeo where he and a friend cared for the horses. With a grin, Eddie says, "We were pilots," long pause, "We shoveled one pile from here to there."

In 1988, Eddie and Phyllis moved here permanently. After she became sick with Alzheimer's Disease, he retired to stay home and care for her. Since Phyllis died, Eddie has divided his time between Equinunk and Florida. Naturally, he has studios in both places. When I asked him why he keeps painting, he answered that he just wants to keep getting better. We are fortunate to have this wonderful artist and neighbor, Eddie Simpson, right here and just as he is.

*by Jeanne Schwarz*

*Ed. note: Another neighbor speaks eloquently of Eddie's compassion. She tells how he cared for her mom, his longtime friend and neighbor, especially as she neared the conclusion of her life. It seems that Eddie embodies the kindness that is Equinunk.*

## *The Passing of Friends*

**Ed Dix** passed away on his 94<sup>th</sup> birthday at Bethany village on August 5, 2015. He was a favorite here at EHS, and visited often, always volunteering to help anytime we needed him. He once wrote his name and phone number on a piece of paper and stuck it on the office computer tower so we wouldn't forget.

He and his wife, Dorothy, who preceded him in death after 67 years of marriage, have always been active members. He was an active member of his community, serving for many years as the District Magistrate, Supervisor for Buckingham Township, SEO, volunteer fireman and first responder EMT out of the Northern Wayne Fire Company, was deputized by the Honesdale Sheriff's Department and served on the Lakewood Library Committee and as a Boy Scout Leader.

Ed was also predeceased by his eldest son, Edward I. Dix. He will be missed by his daughters Dawn Yonkin and husband Charles, Betsey Ambuter and husband Bruce, and son David of Starrucca, along with 17 grandchildren, 33 great-grandchildren, and 4 great-great-grandchildren. Along with many community members, we too will miss our old friend.

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**John "Doc" Hathaway** was a longtime EHS supporter. He passed away on September 10, 2015 with his family by his side in Sarasota, Florida.

"Doc" Hathaway was always very active in his community and throughout his life he encouraged others to do their best and was always looking for an opportunity to lighten another's burden and provide them a reason to smile.

We loved to hear his stories and especially loved his enthusiasm for all things baseball. He graduated from Hancock in 1950 where he was a standout baseball player. He also played on the community team and donated several mementos from that era including a ball and bat and photo of the team. He also coached many Little League and Pee Wee League youngsters throughout his years in Sidney, New York.

"Doc" was born in Pine Mill to Grace and Emmett Hathaway on August 6, 1930.

He is survived by his wife of 60 years, Dorothy, two sons and a daughter, and his sister Betty Wood.

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**Grace Schuman Kean** was 96 when she passed away, surrounded by her loving family. Born in 1920, she was the daughter of Leo and Lillian Rose Schuman. She had three daughters, Leona White, Leora DuMond, and Lois Young. She made her home with Lois and her son-in-law, Wally Young.

From her obituary notice: "Grace was a kind, loving lady who enjoyed being with her large family and many friends. An active member of the Equinunk United Methodist Church and the United Methodist Women, she greatly enjoyed the company of monthly luncheons with special friends." She was active in many community organizations, notably the Pine Mill Community Hall Assoc. Grace's son-in-law Wally was a longtime sponsor of the Equinunk Historical Society's Car Shows. Grace's smile will be greatly missed.

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In a stunning follow-on, **Leora Kean DuMond** of Honesdale, daughter of Grace Schuman Kean, passed away after a long illness just three days after her mother's death.

From her obituary: "She grew up attending the Equinunk United Methodist Church. She married Chauncey DuMond Jr. of Starlight in 1963. A military family, they moved six times in eleven years. Funeral services were co-celebrated with her mother, Grace Kean, at the Equinunk United Methodist Church. Our deepest sympathies go out to Lois and Wally Young and all of the family.



# Northern Pennsylvania Stonewall History

In a distinct departure from its usual programs, EHS presented an evening program on Friday, October 2 at 7 PM. to a standing-room only crowd. “Northern Pennsylvania Stonewall History: Tradition and Restoration”, was developed by Ken Ely of Good Neighbor Walls, who came to us through a grant from the Pennsylvania Humanities Council. Ely, who engages in the restoration and construction of dry-laid fieldstone walls, focused on the history and styles of stonewalls of our area. He conducts lectures and workshops on the subject. He is a member of The Stone Foundation (Santa Fe, NM) and a supporter of The Drystone Conservancy (Lexington, KY). Since 2000, Ely has been a participating artist in the Susquehanna County Artists’ Open House Studio Tour. He was a featured heritage craftsman from 2005 to 2009 at the Harford Fair (Harford, PA).

Ely’s presentation included a discussion of the geology of the region, the purposes and incentives for building the walls and a look at those who built them. Audience participation was enthusiastic, as it allowed the talk to be guided by the facets of stonewall building that most interested those present. Slides showed old walls in the region, fallen structures, recently built walls and walls in various stages of completion. A sampling of tools and equipment employed in stonewall construction, such as hammers, chisels, pry bars, measuring tapes and sticks, levels, knee pads, etc. were displayed as well. Comments that followed the presentation included, “Can he come back again next year?”



President Art Flynn



A Full House



Carol Ann, Greg, & Ken Ely  
Photos by Dave Soete



Ken demonstrates a special hammer that doesn't reverberate when breaking stones.

## *Donations of items and monetary donations*

*This is that time of year when we nervously check and recheck our records. We want to thank (prousefully!) everyone who keeps EHS in mind this year while writing a check or sorting out family treasures. But the dread of having omitted a contribution of an item or a check, haunts us! PLEASE - if we scrambled our records and didn't note your donation below, CALL US. Let us set the record straight.*

### **Item Donations:**

**Faron & Suzanne Tuttle** –book “*Historical Collections of the State of Pa,*” 1843, Tax ledgers from Scott Township, PA, from 1880, 1883, 1885, 1886, 1894, and 1897. Partial booklet detailing raft trips down the Delaware River in 1864, from above Equinunk to Trenton, NJ, newspaper article showing early tax list (1739) with family names, from Minisink, newspaper, “*The Commoner,*” dated August 8, 1902, and other assorted papers. **Helen Adams** – childrens books with stuffed animals of characters in the books, toy trucks and stand, wooden tray with wood and metal toys, toy glass and metal dinnerware, other assorted toys, two teddy bears with advertising printed on them, and a hand-made album of photos chronicling her program “*History and Culture Reflected Through Toys.*” **Rachelle Cinque** – 1940's doll carriage, old Viewmaster w/pictures, box of piano rolls for player piano, vintage zither. **Sherry Waldron** – old deeds and documents from the Zurn family. **Gardie Mueller** – German knitting spool, (Strickliesl), old wooden hand-made gavel. **Mimi Steffen** – complimentary copies of her latest books, “*Rural Schools in Buckingham Township,*” and “*Rural Schools in Manchester Township.*” **Loie Knight** – vintage parasol. **Deborah Wiwczar** – child's pink dress. **Eleice Rybak** - copies of Victorian calling cards, postcards, and photos, much of which is related to Abraham family, copies of early church records for Damascus Baptist Church. **Willis & Theresa Johnson** – Old postcard with picture of early Equinunk church/schoolhouse, assorted family papers. **Michael J. Walsh** – draft horse harness from late 1930's and early 1940's, belonging to Vernon Roney, former Preston Township Supervisor, and used to plow roads for the Township, one set of harness for driving cart, two full horse collars and one bridle. **Wayne Co. Library Alliance** – scale model of early Winterdale, Pa (Haides,) blackboard section and chairs from Winterdale one-room school, photos, framed items and genealogical information on Foster/For-ester and other families in the area.

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### **Monetary Donations**

Irene Allen, Thomas Bataille, Susan & Ben Baxt, Donna Burrowes, Vicki Busch, Anthony J. Cirucci, Arthur & Heather Clay, Barbara Conley, James & Jean Daly, Mary Daly, Kevin & Arlene Delaney, Patricia Delucia, Eileen DePaola, Faith Droppa. Art & Sandy Flynn, Mr. & Mrs. Clark Galloway, John Garrah, Beverly Gill, Crystal Hege, Elaine Hillier, Mr. & Mrs. John Johnson, Esther Joyce, Jack Joyce, Marilyn Kneeland, Mr. & Mrs. Samuel Knight, Blair & Kristina Kobelin, Wellington & Helen Lester, Beverly Lloyd, Margaret Longo, Carol Ann Macmaster, David Maxey, Thomas McConnell, Mr. & Mrs. Robert Mermell, Ann O'Hara, Charles & Evelyn Ponall, Greg & Kathy Quaglio, Hugh Rocks, Richard Rodenburg, Peter & Ellen Russell, Stephen Smith, Margaret Snyder, Kay Stephenson, Granville Teeple, Chuck & Dorothy Trummer, Nick Vander Weide, Emma Varcoe, Jane Varcoe, Alice Walsh, Robert Walsh, Judith Wells, Edna Werner, Linda & Dan Wescott, Pat Wilson, Marty & Pat Wood, Richard Wood, Robert & Kathy Wood.

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**On the subject of donations:** Once again, we would like to thank Richard Reagan, who every year, starts us off on the work of supporting the Annual Car Show by being the first to make his generous donation. Mr. Reagan's donation is important to us, in that it gets us energized for the work ahead. Yes, Folks - work on the Car Show begins in January, when the first publicity gets posted to the publishers of the directories of events in our region. Please keep us in mind as the spring months pass. New sponsors (\$200.00) and all donors are very welcome. Join the fun!



*photo by Blair Kobelin*

**Picnic at the Sawmill:** On a balmy fall day in October, several sawmill crew members and their families gathered for a picnic on the new deck. (See *The Manor*, Aug. 2015, pg. 7.) The commodious deck had room for three long tables of diners, and two for foodstuffs, enough for a small army. Being a mid-week event, not everyone could attend. We'll just have to do it again in the spring. Instead of watching the leaves drift down over the falls, we can watch them unfurl instead.

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**Calder Gift Shop** Coordinator, Deborah Wiwiczar, is busy preparing the shop for Christmas shopping. A wizard at decorating, she will have the shop ready for visitors during the EHS Holiday Open House, Dec. 4, 5, and 6. Come and visit one of the prettiest places in all Equinunk.

Deborah advises that donations to the gift shop inventory are always welcome, as are consignments. Call 570-224-6722 and leave a message. Someone will call you back.

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### **Revised Booklet Still Available**

There are still copies of the revised edition of the Equinunk Cemetery Assoc. booklet available for purchase. The first edition was printed in 1989. The revised booklet contains a brief history of the Cemetery, a list of "Burials Without Stones", and a list of 376 markers showing names, location, date of birth, date of death, service conflict and rank. To purchase a copy please send your check payable to the Equinunk Cemetery Association, P.O. Box 91, Equinunk PA 18417, in the amount of \$10.00 plus \$2.00 for postage. The booklet may also be picked-up at the Equinunk Historical Society. Call ahead as hours are limited. 570-224-6722.

# EQUINUNK HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P.O. BOX 41  
EQUINUNK, PA 18417

## **MEMBERSHIP INFO:**

### *Dues - per year:*

Individual	\$15.00
Family	25.00
Junior	2.00
Lifetime	125.00
Corporate	50.00

