

Clifford Township News

Issue 6

July 2004

Newsletter sponsored by The Clifford Township Community Alliance CTCA



Upcoming Township Events Clifford Picnic July 28-31, 2004

Wednesday, July 28	Fireman's Parade @ 7 PM
Thursday, July 29	Family Night
Friday, July 30	Giant Fireworks Display
Saturday, July 31	Barbeque

CTCA Committee meets the 3rd Thursday of every month at 7 pm in the Township Building.

Recycling is the the 3rd Saturday of every month from 9 am to noon at the Township Building.

It's Clifford Picnic Time!

Volunteer fire companies have to spend a lot of time raising money to keep up-to-date equipment, to maintain the fire hall and to provide adequate training for its members. For Clifford Township Volunteer Fire Company, chartered January 1947, one of the largest sources of funds is the annual fireman's picnic, one of the original fundraisers. The first picnic was held August 25-27, 1949 on LaCoe's Flats (to the left of Clifford Supply and Auto). Tents were used for shelters and stands had to be erected and dismantled every year. Six years later, the Fire Company purchased 21 acres of good, flat land with a small pond, which was turned into a fairground. In July 1959, the first picnic was held at the new location and it has been there every year since during the last full week of July.

Highlights of the picnic include fireworks, children's rides, bands, bingo and too many great foods to mention. The children's rides have been a mainstay since the picnic was first held. The train was purchased in October of 1954 and has been in operation ever since. In addition, everyone enjoys the motor boat ride, fire truck and hay wagon rides.

Last year a renovated and reinvigorated dunk tank added a new dimension to the entertainment; theme nights, costumes, guest appearances, disco lights and rock music enticed young and old to throw some balls or to just stand and watch the fun. Underage "dunkees" must have permission slips signed by parents. Please call Cherie at 222-4628 to sign up.

This fundraiser may look like it runs effortlessly, but planning begins far in advance and requires many volunteers from the Fire Company and community to work in preparing the grounds, the stands and working the stands during picnic week. Again, this is all done by volunteers who hope the Fire Company raises enough money to provide the best possible service to those in need. If you would be interested in helping with the picnic or becoming a member of the Fire Department, please call the station at 222-3741 or send an e-mail to clifst18@nep.net. For more information about the Fire Department and its activities, visit our website at www.cliffordfire.com.

So remember why this picnic is held each year. You help by coming and supporting your firemen while having a great time!

Get to Know Your Neighbor

A recent obituary surprised many locals because even as neighbors, we often do not know a lot about each other. Why wait until it is too late?

This has inspired a series of articles which glimpses into a fascinating facet in the life of a resident, be it history, employment, hobby or talent. If you know someone with a "story", call Cherie at 222-4628. The nominee will be contacted for an interview.

Bob Shostek

Bob Shostek and his wife Kathy live near Lake Idlewild with their son, Kyle and this is a story about skiing.

Bob, originally from Scranton, fell in love with skiing as a youngster, worked hard to buy a season ski pass and in 1975 joined the Elk Mountain Ski School. Over the last 16 years, Bob has obtained several positions within the Professional Ski Instructors of America,



Eastern Division (PSIA-E). He spent from 1992 to 2000 on the PSIA's Demonstration Team, a select group of skiers who set the direction of modern skiing techniques. As the current coach of the Examiner Trainee Squad, he trains, test and certifies other ski instructors. In these positions Bob has worked at all the major ski areas in the Eastern United States and has trained many present and former members of the U.S. National and Eastern Ski teams. He will serve as the President of the PSIA-E this winter.

Bob feels strongly about the positive values that can be taught by sports; leadership, pride, discipline, humility, team spirit and a healthy life style. He has volunteered his time

as a coach for the South Gibson/Clifford baseball league for the past five years. He previously coached youth soccer for the Mountain View School District.

Kathy Shostek, also an avid skier, works from home as a writer/analyst for a Philadelphia health service research firm. Son Kyle is training for alpine ski racing with the Elk Mountain Ski Club.

When not at the ski slopes, Bob works for Illustre Aquatic Design, a custom spa and pool company based in Carbondale. Pleased to meet you, neighbor!

Grant Awarded

The long awaited notification has come; Clifford Township will get the State Grant for the recreational complex. That's the good news. However, there is still much that needs to be done to actually receive anything! The first step is to hire a state-approved architect to layout a plan which then must be submitted for state approval. When this is accomplished, there will be a follow-up story on subsequent steps.

Motto

The CTCA is planning to erect a "Welcome to _____" sign on Route 106. Our vision is of a dignified, attractive sign on a stone base with a landscaped surround. To this end, the public is asked to submit a motto or welcoming phrase for consideration. It should represent the nature of the community, its values and aspirations. Please send your submission to CTCA, PO Box 339, Clifford, PA 18413.

Township News Sources

The Clifford Township Newsletter is available on line at <http://www.elkmtnarea.com/community.html>. Additional news which does not get into the two or three CTCA newsletters printed per year, appears on the Clifford page in the Carbondale News issued the third Wednesday each month.

Advertising

To assist with the cost of printing the newsletters, the CTCA gladly accepts sponsors and advertisers. Please contact Chris at 222-5808.

QRS Goes in Service

Based on months of research, preparation and additional training, Clifford Township Volunteer Fire Company is now certified as a Quick Response Service (QRS) by the PA Dept. of Health. QRS is a non-transporting emergency service that responds to a scene initially to stabilize a patient until a transporting ambulance arrives. This takes the level of care for our area to a new level; our Fire Rescue/EMS Company is the only one in Susquehanna County to provide both QRS and basic life support ambulance services.

The QRS vehicle, Rescue 18, will continue to serve as a Rescue vehicle, but as of July 1, 2004 it also plays an integral part in EMS, side-by-side with Ambulance 18-9. It can also act as a communication command post. Rescue 18 can be dispatched via 911 throughout the coverage area when the ambulance is committed to another incident, is short staffed, or is out of service for any reason. This new QRS certification will allow for emergency care by our trained professionals to reach township residents faster. Along with medical calls, Rescue 18 has the ability to prepare multiple patients for transfer at the scene of motor vehicle accidents which expedites the patients' arrival at a hospital. In this arena, time is crucial.

The QRS concept answers many of the community's needs. It is a way to help handle the sharp increase in calls for help over the past few years, to deal with daytime staffing issues and it also complements rather than duplicates the current ambulance service.

The level of emergency services provided to Clifford Township residents would not be what it is today without the foresight, hard work and commitment of former and current leaders and members of the Clifford Township Fire Company. A special thanks to all that made this Quick Response Service possible!

Be sure to check out the Fire Company's website: www.cliffordfire.com.

South Gibson/Clifford Athletic Association (SGCAA) News

The new Clifford ball field was well utilized this season. It was the home field for the following list of teams: T-Ball (Jaquars) sponsored by Lunkerz Deli, Coach Pitch (Flames) sponsored by White's Excavating, Minor League Boys (Coyotes) sponsored by NEP Telephone, Little League Boys (Yellow Jackets) sponsored by McGraw, Peterson and Nepa, and Little League Girls Softball (Piranhas) sponsored by Grecco Supplies and Kochmer Quarries. The Clifford field was also the home for the Susquehanna County East Girls All-Star Team.

The SGCAA would like to thank the coaches, parents and friends for their support and especially the children for their participation. Special thanks to the kids who helped out with the dugout and concession stand construction! Thanks also goes to Knowlton and Sons Masonry for their continued support of materials and labor.

Baseball is a great sport for boys and girls of all ages. Kids, join a team! For information, call Art Roberts at 222-3878.

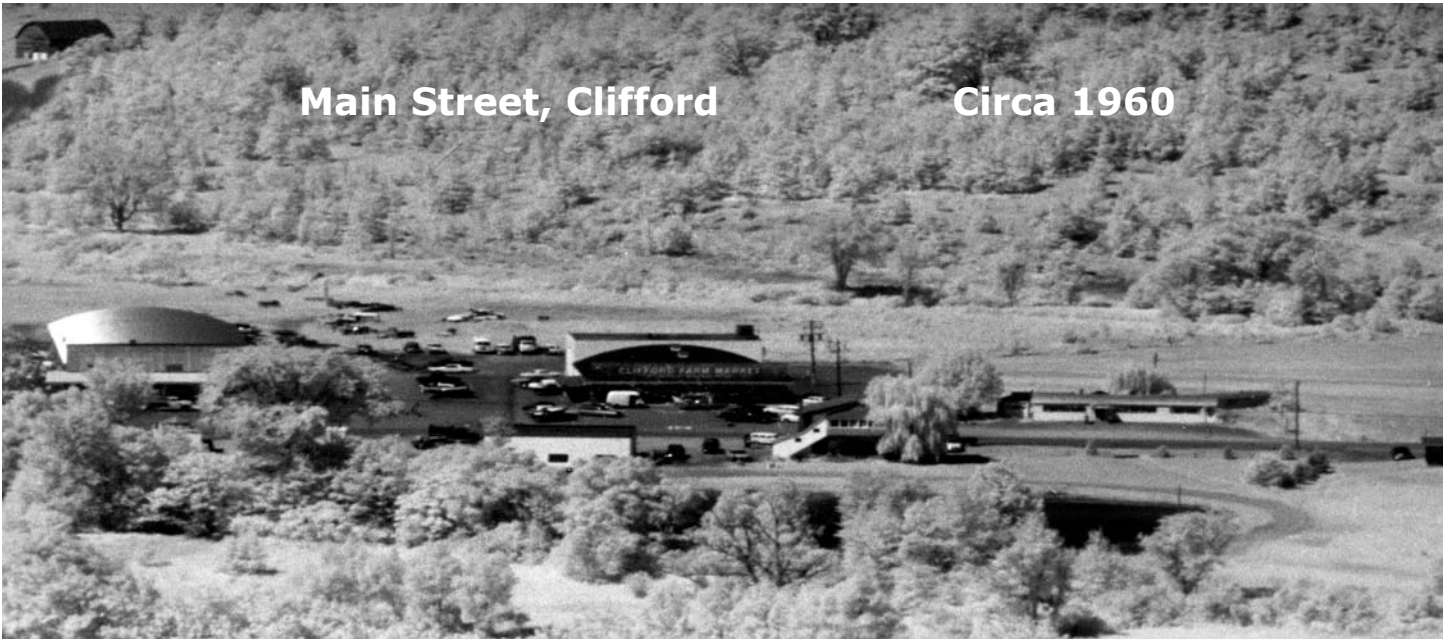


Acknowledgements

The CTCA would like to acknowledge the literary efforts of the following volunteers and say "Welcome Aboard"! The cover article on behalf of our volunteer fire company is thanks to Bobbie Jo Turner. The interview for the "Get To Know Your Neighbor" is thanks to Robin Roberts. These are both the first of an on-going series. Stay tuned for more!

Main Street, Clifford

Circa 1960



Do you have memories of Clifford from this time period? The buildings are: Dean Johnson Motor, Clifford Farm Market, and Horn's Diner on one side of Main Street and across the street are the garage, home, go-kart race track and pond of Homer Ross. This photo contains the historical reasons why the current Clifford Food Rite grocery store is often referred to by "old-timers" as the "Farm Market" and the current Mountain View Restaurant as "The Diner". If you are willing to share information, photos and memories of Clifford Township, please contact Sally at 222-3520 or stop by Clifford Supply to reminisce with Pete Marcho and have your conversation tape recorded for future generations to enjoy!

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