Plans Underway for 3rd Annual Art Exhibition

The WAMCC Art Committee is planning the 3rd Annual Robert Haworth Memorial Art Exhibition to be held on Saturday, November 12 from 12 pm until 4 pm. The exhibition was started in 2009 to recognize Weir High Art Instructor Robert Haworth and the profound influence he had on his students. Mr. Haworth inspired countless numbers of students from 1932 through 1969 to become successful artists. Bill N. “Vasso” Ameredes will be the featured artist at this year’s event.

Exhibit to be at New Museum

As of this writing we are planning to have the Haworth Art Exhibit at our new museum, located at 3149 Main Street. We are keeping our fingers crossed the building will be ready.

1955 Weir Graduate Makes Donation

While on vacation in August, Attorney Charles F. Otey & wife stopped in for a visit at both the old and new locations of the Weirton Area Museum & Cultural Center. Charles is the Executive Editor of the Bay Ridge Eagle, of Brooklyn, NY, and they were in town visiting family. Charles is a graduate of the Weir High School Class of 1955 and is very much interested in keeping up with the museum’s progress. Charles left WAMCC a $250.00 donation before his return to New York.
Recent Family Discoveries at WAMCC

**Daughter Finds Full Page Article About Her Father’s Pharmacy**

During their visit to WAMCC earlier this year, Kenneth & Linda Boyd discovered that WAMCC had a 1939 newspaper featuring Linda’s father, Anthony Mantica, and Mantica’s Pharmacy in upper Weirton. The newspaper, which contains much of Weirton’s early progress from 1909 through 1939 was discovered and purchased a few years ago at an auction by WAMCC President Dennis Jones. These historical pages have been photographed then laminated and mounted for convenient viewing by the public.

**Visitors from Toronto, Ontario, Canada find Relatives**

On Saturday, July 30, a phone call was received from Sam (Salvatore) DeCaria & Fannie (Eufemia), who requested entry to the Weirton Area Museum to learn about Weirton and its people. Dennis Jones and Andrea Anderson met with Sam and Fannie, who were in town from their home in Toronto, Ontario Canada, and attending the “Defending the Faith Conference” at the Franciscan Catholic University in Steubenville. Knowing that many DeCaria’s worked and lived in Weirton, Sam, a real estate broker, was eager to learn more. It turns out that Sam’s grandfather, also named Salvatore, is one of four (4) siblings that came to the U.S.A. in 1909 from Italy. One of Salvatore’s four (4) siblings was a brother named Francesco, who also came to the U.S.A. at some point. Francesco was the father of ten (10) boys and five (5) of them immigrated to the U.S.A. One of those five (5) boys was also named Salvatore and he is the one that opened the International Pure Food Market in Weirton in 1929. Sam is shown above pointing to the International Pure Food Market in one of WAMCC’s large photos (above). So, in summary, the International Pure Food Market in Weirton was founded by Sam (Salvatore) Decaria’s grandfather’s brother’s son, Salvatore, who happens to be the father of Dr. Frank DeCaria of Weirton.

**The Five Brothers Who Came to Weirton**

Salvatore, father of Dr. Frank DeCaria, opened the International Food Market in 1929. Salvatore’s 4 brothers who also came to the U.S.A. were Bruno, Domenic, Fortunato, and Lawrence. Bruno’s sons, Vince & Tony DeCaria, were pharmacists, and they owned several pharmacies including the one on Marland Heights. Domenic’s son Charlie DeCaria worked with National Steel and was called “Detroit Charlie.” Fortunato’s daughter was a teacher at Madonna High School. Lawrence’s son Frank DeCaria is a teacher at WV Northern Community College. There are at least 15 descendants of the five brothers still living in the Weirton area.

**Weirton Picture Book Still in Progress**

As was announced some time ago, WAMCC President, Dennis Jones is authoring a large coffee-table book with all the great historic pictures of Weirton, including captions. The book should be available early next year.
Supporting Weirton’s Downtown Revitalization

John Sorrenti, who serves as President of Top of WV CVB and Downtown Weirton Business Association, recently received a $100 check from Edie (Cookie) Ferber of Minneapolis, Minnesota. Edie, a former resident of Orchard St. in Weirton and student of Cove School, was happy to hear of the revitalization projects going on in downtown Weirton and provided the check to help out in the efforts. John brought the check to a recent Top of WV Convention & Visitor’s Bureau Board Meeting, where it was decided to award the money to the Weirton Area Museum & Cultural Center for their building fund. In return WAMCC will have a display showing pictures of Ferber’s Restaurant, which was located at 3148 Main St, directly across the street from the Home Furniture Company (3149 Main St.), the new home of WAMCC.

Edie’s dad, Eddie Ferber, was a chef, who came to Weirton from New York. He was related to the Kuntz family, who had a market at 3913 Main Street (see photo showing Kuntz’s Market on page 6). Eddie first opened a restaurant downstairs at the “Triangle” in northern Weirton. He later moved his restaurant to 3148 Main Street across from Home Furniture Company. Ferber’s was well known for their pastries, especially the cinnamon rolls.

Looking South on 3100 Block of Main Street—1950 Fourth of July Parade
On the left is Ferber’s Restaurant (3148 Main St.), New Columbia Bar & Billiards (3152 Main St.), Burke’s Auto Store (3156 Main St.), Holliday’s Cove Bakery (3158 Main St.), Robert L. Focer, M.D. (3160 Main St.), Myers Drug Store (3162 Main St.), Modern Home Appliance Co.-Maytag Sales & Service - Culligan Soft Water Service (3166 Main St.), Twin City Club (3168 Main St.), Blynn’s Shoe Store (3174 Main St.), and Mid-City Café (3180 Main St.).

Looking North on 3100 Block of Main Street - 1955 Christmas Parade
On the left is Home Furniture Company (3149 Main St.), Taylor & Church Barber Shop (3147 Main St.), Personal Loans (Torpey’s Esso Service Station (3135 Main St.), Marsh Brothers Hardware (3131 Main St.), Cameo Restaurant (3119 Main St.), Mary K.’s Ladies Clothing (3117 Main St.), Max Nach’s Furniture (3107 Main St.), Schenley Jewelers (3103 Main St.), and Time Finance Co. (3101 Main St.). Included at the Time-Finance building was Cramer’s Shoes, Friedman’s Clothing, Edward D. Herch - Osteopathic Medicine, and George Rigas, M.D.

On the right is Ferber’s Restaurant (3148 Main St.), Weir-Cove Cab Co. (3142 Main St.), The Smart Shop (3132 Main St.), J. R. Arboget - Dentist (3130 Main St.), New Columbia Bar, Toyland (3126 Main St.), Mayflower Café (3124 Main St.), City Drug Store (3120 Main St.), and M&M Bar (3104 Main St.)
Museum Building Fund Continues to Grow

The following is a list of monetary donations to the Weirton Area Museum Building Fund since December 2010:

- J. S. Williams Charitable Trust .................................................. $30,000.00
- Dennis R. Jones ................................................................. $12,500.00
- Frangakis Family Charitable Foundation .................................. $10,000.00
- Drs. Juginder K. & Dolly Luthra ............................................ $10,000.00
- WV Community Participation Grant (Ed Bowman - 2010) .......... $10,000.00
- WV Community Participation Grant (Pat McGeehan - 2010) ...... $8,000.00
- WV Community Participation Grant (Pat McGeehan - 2011) ...... $8,000.00
- Sophia Popinos Charitable Trust ............................................. $7,016.00
- Weirton Historic Landmarks Commission (Shari Pepper / Dick Reinard) $6,500.00
- Starvaggi Charities ............................................................. $2,000.00
- Weirton Steel Co. Badge Fundraiser (see list at right) ............. $1,645.00
- Celebr8 Weirton Summer Kickoff Committee (Weirton Parks Board) $1,474.86
- John & Elma Pandelios ......................................................... $1,000.00
- David M. Weir ................................................................. $1,000.00
- Weirton - Wellsburg Chapter of Credit Unions ......................... $500.00
- City of Weirton (Councilman Max Fijewski) ............................ $500.00
- Robinson & Son Construction (Elisha Robinson) ...................... $300.00
- Charles F. Otey .................................................................. $250.00
- Susan O'Neill ..................................................................... $200.00
- Herman Capito .................................................................... $100.00
- Goldie Baly ......................................................................... $100.00
- Edie Ferber ......................................................................... $100.00
- Curt Lehman ....................................................................... $100.00
- John J. Good ....................................................................... $50.00
- George Bilderback in honor of parents George & Marie ............ $50.00
- Margaret Brennan ................................................................ $10.00

**TOTAL BUILDING FUND DONATIONS:** $111,395.86

Celebr8 Committee Makes Donations

The numbers above reveal that the Celebr8 Summer Kickoff Committee recently voted to donate $1,474.86 to the Weirton Area Museum & Cultural Center. They donated an equal amount to the Salvation Army to help our area flood victims. We are grateful to have had this wonderful committee earlier this summer.

Museum Building Expenditures Continue to Grow

The following is a list of building expenditures since December 2010:

- Purchase of Building (December 23) ..................................... $35,000.00
- Asbestos Survey (PSI - Professional Service Industries) .......... $1,800.00
- Asbestos Abatement (American Contracting Enterprises) ...... $15,059.00
- SMG Architects (Conceptual Museum Design) ...................... $5,100.00
- Akis Roofing ..................................................................... $1,050.00
- Badge Fundraiser Glass Paperweight Kits ............................. $1,496.75
- Shelving Materials .............................................................. $1,211.48
- Building Permit ................................................................. $25.00
- Extension Cords & Work Lights ........................................... $161.85
- Plastering 1st Floor (Harry Wilson - DSH Company) ............. $1,400.00

**TOTAL BUILDING EXPENDITURES:** $62,304.08

Below is a list of those who supported the building fund and received Weirton Steel Glass Badge Paperweights or just their badge:

- Leroy T. Cheuvrant
- Mona (Boyd) Davis
- Sandy Thorp
- Larry Lynch
- Cameron Cline
- Andrew L. Perhacs
- John B. (Pat) Porco
- Clarence E. Mason
- Bill & Jane Anderson
- Ralph E. Jones
- Arthur D. Cain
- William P. O'Neill
- Mike Karavolos
- Walter Jackson
- Herman Capito
- Charles Wright
- W. Howard Eastham
- George R. (Ted) Hanlin
- Gene Pulling
- Curt Lehman
- Jon A. Cook
- Richard M. Yurko
- Jeff Grace
- C. P. Warrick
- Carl Thompson
- Robert Everhart
- John Reese
- Manolis G. Aras
- Dee Stubbs
- Ken & Carol Kerns
- Charles W. Reynolds
- Walt Aftans
- Marian Munoz
- Paul B. Zuros
- Robert “Bobby” Gree
- Mike Kopa
- Eileen Mrvos
- Marv G. Hadobas
- William Mull
On September 15, 1929, cornerstone ceremonies were held at the site of the new Holliday’s Cove Odd Fellows Lodge. Delegations from 18 lodges in the Panhandle District along with the Weirton - Holliday’s Cove American Legion Post 10 Drum & bugle Corps participated in a parade to celebrate the event. Drum Major was Nat Jacobs. Photo above shows the Post 10 Drum & Bugle Corps in front of the first floor of the new IOOF Lodge across from the area between today’s Cove Post Office and Greek Church.

The I.O.O.F. building at 3507 West Street in Weirton was recently sold and several items inside were donated to WAMCC. A moving van was arranged, and on August 9th several items were hauled to WAMCC’s new building at 3149 Main Street. The Weirton I.O.O.F. is now combining with the Colliers I.O.O.F membership. WAMCC’s Art Lastoria, who is also a member of the I.O.O.F. helped arrange the donation with Councilman George Ash, who is also an I.O.O.F. member.
Preserving Our Local I.O.O.F.

Above Left to Right: Art Lastoria, Donald Kennedy, Dimitrios Akis, and Chris Mendel (President / Exec. Dir. WAMCC). On August 9th, these gentlemen helped move a nice old oak display case and several smaller cases.

More Stops for the WAMCC Moving Van

Above Left to Right: Chris Mendel, Paul B. Zuros, Art Lastoria, Councilman George Ash, and Dennis Jones (President / Exec. Dir. WAMCC) are shown removing the old I.O.O.F. lighted sign on August 17. The sign will be preserved with other IOOF items at WAMCC.

A Piece of WSX

Also on August 9th, the moving van stopped on Denese Drive to receive a piece of Weirton Steel Co. history (see photo right), donated by Ron Blanc. Ron retired from the mill in the year 2002. Ron also donated some National Steel Cutlery items that once belonged to his dad, Raymond Blanc, who retired in the year 1970.

Last Stop of the Day

The final stop of the day on August 9th for the WAMCC Moving Van was Weir High School, where retiring teacher Andrea Anderson was emptying her room at the planetarium. Weir High School donated several items to WAMCC, which were loaded by Chris Mendel and Dennis Jones.

Photo by Dennis Jones - WAMCC

Photo by Victor Greco - WAMCC

Photo from WAMCC’s Weirton Steel Archives

Photo by Dennis Jones - WAMCC

John Skerbetz requested a copy of this 1955 photo from WAMCC’s Weirton Steel Archives. It shows a large traffic jam in southern Weirton with the easily identifiable Ferguson Tire Truck stuck in the middle, near Kuntz’s Market. Kuntz’s Market, operated by Max Kuntz, was located at 3913 Main Street. Christy’s Fruit Market would later take the place of Kuntz’s Market.

A Piece of Weirton Steel Company’s General Office (above) is now being kept at WAMCC. The G.O. was located on Three Springs Drive, and Ron Blanc rescued this piece of history.