

Clifford Township News

Issue 9

June 2005

Newsletter sponsored by The Clifford Township Community Alliance CTCA



This beautifully painted wooden sign will soon greet people as they drive into the Village of Clifford heading south on Route 106. The landscaping will be done by volunteers including members of the newly formed Mountain View Garden Club.

Township News

Spring Clean Up: Thank you from the entire community to the folks who volunteered their time and energy to pick up the township roads and to those who assisted at the Township building sorting trash into the appropriate dumpsters. Each time the clean-up is done, those involved learn a little more about what works and what the community needs. Next year the effort will be spearheaded by Rob Keating (Venture Travel of Uniondale) who has generously volunteered each year.

Township Building Update: The inside of the building has been repainted thanks to the effort of Renee Reynolds, township secretary, and assisted by those performing community service. The gym floor has been wonderfully refinished and looks brand new! The building will have several renters; the rent will offset the payments due for the new roof. Several samples of floor tile are being considered for the new hallway flooring.

Township Meetings: The sewage enforcement officer and building code officer are available at the township building on the 2nd and 4th Mondays each month from 6 to 7 PM. The township supervisors meet the 2nd Tuesday at 7 PM. The CTCA meets the 4th Wednesday of each month at 7 PM. A meeting to discuss plans for the Bicentennial Celebration in 2006 will be held at the township building on Wednesday, June 15 at 7 PM. (See the article on page three of this newsletter.)

Township Road Damage: As a result of recent bad weather, it has been estimated that our roads have suffered approximately \$40,000 in damage. The township is prioritizing roads for attention. FEMA is supposed to aid in this effort but patience is a prerequisite.

Special Thanks: All of the flags on Main Street were changed by Dave and Kay Burney. They set a great example of personal commitment to a valued community project.

Meet Your Neighbors, The Lynches

Steve and Marge Lynch are well known to many long-time residents of Clifford Township. Since 1942 they have been active participants in the daily life of our town through their work and volunteer service.

The Lynches were the Postmasters of Clifford for forty years. Steve served from 1945 to 1975 with Marge as Clerk and then Marge took over as Postmaster from 1975 until 1985. The location of the post office changed three times during their tenure. From 1916 until 1947 the post office was part of a store (now gone) located on the south side of the White's Garage. The store was owned by E.E. Finn and then Frank Hasbrouck, both previous postmasters of Clifford. The Lynches then petitioned to have the post office moved across the street to a room in their home where it remained until it was moved in 1983 to its present location. The post office was in a downstairs room (currently Harry Phillip's Township Tax Office) of the home where Steve and Marge raised their family of four children. Marge also was a beautician for a number of years in another room in the house.



When Steve became postmaster first class postage was 3 cents but only 1.5 cents for an unsealed letter. Clifford townspeople would have to be handed their mail since the mailboxes opened only in the back. Both Steve and Marge reminisce about how friendly everyone was and how wonderful it was to greet people daily while delivering their mail.

Steve and Marge are Charter Members of the Clifford Fire Company and Ladies Auxiliary, respectively. Steve served in many roles over the years including President for 11 years, Hose Foreman and member of the Board of Directors. He remembers responding to the very first call the newly formed Clifford Fire Company in 1947 and driving the fire engine to the scene. Marge has served as President of the Ladies Auxiliary for many years at various times, as well holding many other positions. Steve and Marge have seen the Fire Company become an important rallying point for the people of Clifford Township. They both treasure the camaraderie they have shared with so many others over the years in the countless fund raising activities and social events.

The Lynches are enjoying their retirement years in a home they built overlooking the town of Clifford on the road to Dundaff. Thank you Steve and Marge for all you have done for Clifford!



Clifford Township Volunteer Fire Company at the recent Carbondale fire with Ladder 18.



Clifford's newly commissioned Heavy Rescue 18 vehicle at an I-81 accident scene.

Open Meeting for the Bicentennial Celebration

Local folks are rallying to organize plans for the celebration of the township's bicentennial in 2006. On **Wednesday, June 15 at 7 PM** at the Township Building, a meeting will be held for all those interested in sharing ideas or who want to be actively involved.

On Saturday, July 1, 2006 a day-long series of events will be happening from one end of the town of Clifford to the other; from the township's new and improved fire hall to the recently renovated township building and recreational complex. Slated for discussion are an old fashion parade, music, historical displays, food, sports competitions, old time children's games, a veteran's memorial, guest speakers, antique and art exhibits, flea market, community beautification and more! Please come and share your ideas!

Clifford Township History Book and Video

This is your opportunity to influence how Clifford Township will be remembered for years to come. A group of township residents are in the process of collecting memories, stories, newspaper clippings, old letters and photographs which tell stories about life in our area over the past 200 years for a bicentennial history book and video.

Don't be disappointed!! If you have items you feel are important to include in such a township history book and video, now is the time to collect them and make them known to the people working on these projects. The goal is to collect the majority of the material by the end of the summer, so the writing can begin. If you know of friends and relatives with Clifford roots who have moved away but may have items to share, please let them know of this collection effort and the July 1, 2006 festivities.

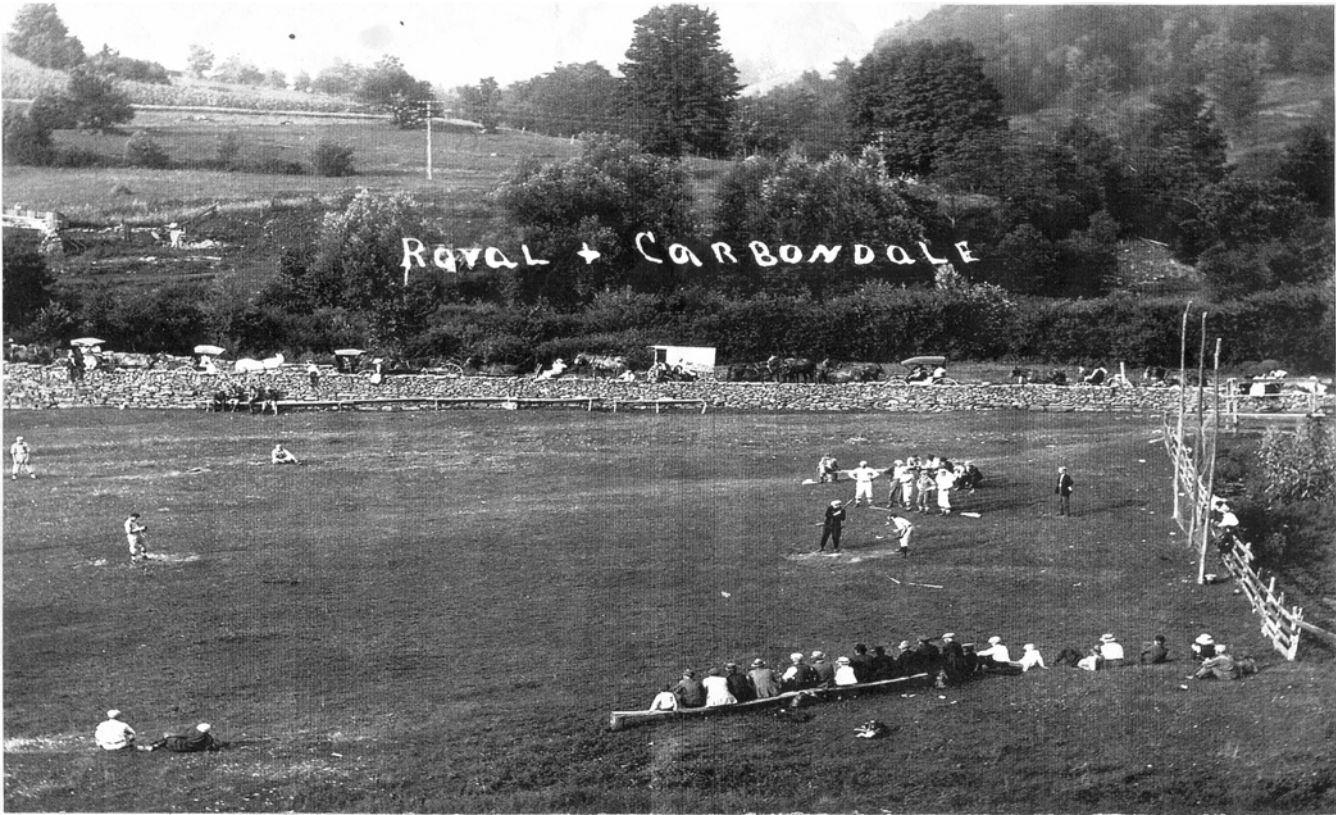
Contact people include Kim Bostjancic at Clifford Supply (222-4261), Jerry Verboys at Clifford Auto (222-4820), Sally Fischbeck (222-3520) and Mark & Sandy Wilmot (679-2723).

The Mountain View Garden Club

The new Mountain View Garden Club has had a very full schedule in its very short history with many exciting events to come. Members have been very busy with various organization and planning meetings. Highlights of recent activities include planting around the sign and the front of the Clifford Volunteer Fire Company Fire Hall, helping with the South Gibson baseball field clean-up, cleaning a two mile section of Route 106 from Royal to West Clifford as part of the community spring clean-up, attending a composting seminar and planting in front of the Uniondale Post Office. The club recently held a very successful Plant Exchange as a fund raiser which has the potential to be a major social event of the early summer for many years to come.

Other events planned for 2005 include a tour of Gibbs Perennial Gardens with lunch at Gilley's Restaurant on June 24, plantings at the Clifford Municipal building this summer, plantings around the new Village of Clifford sign this fall, and a house and garden tour of Grey Towers in Milford with lunch at The Settler's Inn in Hawley on September 23.

A fall bulb sale is being planned to coincide with the Elk Mountain Fall Festival, as well as the club's second clean up of Route 106 the week before the festival. A full membership meeting with a speaker will be held on October 12, at 7 pm at the Clifford Volunteer Fire hall. Finally, to finish off 2005, there will be a tree planting seminar to train volunteers to plant trees acquired by the township in November as a result of a state grant. The mission statement of the Mountain View Garden Club is to share their knowledge and love of gardening while beautifying the Elk Mountain community. New members are welcome! Call Kathy at 222-4451.



Baseball, Anyone? There is a history of baseball in Clifford Township. We are interested in learning more about this to include in the township history book and video. This picture may have been taken near Royal in the early 1900's. Can you provide any information about this or other baseball leagues and games? Please help us collect and preserve our township history. Call either Sally 222-3520 or Mark at 679-2723. Thanks.

Clifford Township News
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