

The Mahoning Valley Historical Society Newsletter

HISTORICAL HAPPENINGS



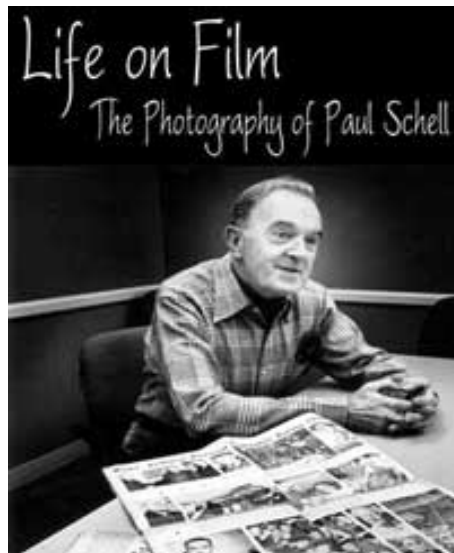
PRESERVING THE VALLEY'S HISTORY FOR 135 YEARS

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Volume 38 Issue 2

September & October 2010



New Exhibit Opens at The Arms Family Museum

Paul R. Schell (1922-2009) was an award winning professional news photographer with a career spanning more than three decades. Schell started his news career at the Beaver Falls News Tribune, and then spent 29 years at The Vindicator before retiring in 1985.

This exhibit features examples of the work Schell submitted to the annual National Press Photographers Association competitions. Originally taken for Vindicator and News Tribune assignments, Schell chose these images to represent his work to his professional colleagues. They also reflect Schell's experiences and insights into the people and places of his surroundings.

These extraordinary images are part of a collection donated by Paul Schell's wife, Evelyn Schell, to the Business and Media Archives of the Mahoning Valley in 2009. The museum is open Tuesday-Sunday from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. *Life on Film* will be open through the end of October.

Contact MVHS for information about:

- Membership
- Museum Tours
- Archival Library
- Outreach Programs
- Facilities Rental

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Business
& Media Archives
330-744-7621
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Truckin through Trumbull

On Sunday, September 12th, from 12:30 to 5:00 p.m., enjoy the comforts of a chartered bus ride to three historic houses in Trumbull County. Spend the day at the Trumbull County Historical Society's **John Stark Edwards House**, the Niles Historical Society's **Ward Thomas House** and the Girard Historical Society's **Barnheisel House**. Don't miss this chance to see these historic homes, right in your backyard. Cost for the tour is \$20 (\$10 for the bus and \$10 in admission fees). Please call to reserve your spots, seating is limited!

Coming Soon...

All Dolled Up

The December 3rd Preview Party kicks off this year's holiday spectacular! It's sure to be another memorable holiday display complete with seven rooms full of one-of-a-kind dolls, doll houses, toys, period Christmas decorations and lighting taken from the Historical Society's collection as well as private donors. You can help support this exhibit by becoming a sponsor or a volunteer. We are looking for room hosts, parking attendants and sponsors at any level. Please contact the Historical Society if you are interested in getting "All Dolled Up"

135th Annual

Founders Day Dinner

Tuesday, September 14, 2010

5:30 to 8:30 p.m.

DeBartolo Stadium Club

Join members and friends of the Historical Society for this exciting opportunity to hear about the progress of the Campaign for the Mahoning Valley History Center and to launch the public phase of fundraising.

We are also excited to welcome Alan Jenkins, author of *Steel Dreams*. This historical novel sets the reader in the midst of the 1930's proposed merger of Youngstown Sheet & Tube with Bethlehem Steel.

A short excerpt of the novel is available to read on the Historical Society's website, mahoninghistory.org. Copies of the book can be pre-ordered for \$22 (includes tax) and Mr. Jenkins will be available for signing.

Please RSVP by September 10th
\$30 for MVHS Members
\$35 for Guests

Capital Campaign Public Launch & Press Conference

Please Join Us!



Thursday, September 16 - 10:00 a.m.
at the Future Mahoning Valley History Center
325 West Federal Street, Downtown Youngstown

Recognition of Donors to Date
Final Plans & Renderings ~ Building Tours

Please RSVP to Leann Rich
330.743.2589 ~ Irish@mahoninghistory.org

Hands-On History: Hi-Tech History Summer Camp 2010

Rebecca Whittenberger,
Curator of Education

Another year, another successful summer camp! With a little help from the Curator of Education, this year's campers created a fascinating documentary entitled "Pioneers of Youngstown," featuring original and replicated artifacts and period costumes. Each camper also enjoyed learning the "behind-the-scenes" tasks of filmmaking. Everyone took turns being the director, camera operator, grip, actor and narrator. See the video online by visiting our website!

From This Direction



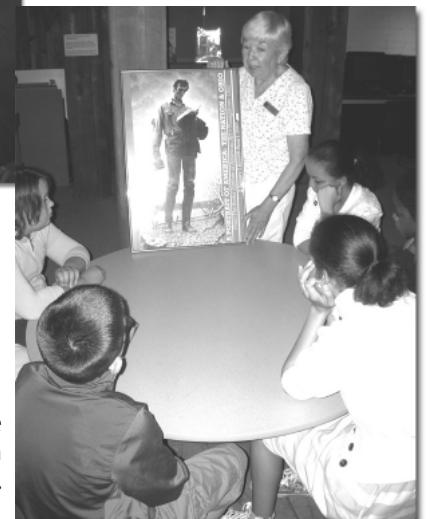
Campers Kali, Cole, Samarra, Victoria, Leah & Amanda pose with the camera in the log cabin.



Victoria and Amanda get ready to direct and shoot a scene.



Campers make a log cabin village, complete with trees!



Volunteer Ester Hallaman stops by to teach the history of log cabins using the famous Norman Rockwell portrait of Abraham Lincoln.

Frequently the archive receives requests for information needed to date an artifact from a local business or manufacturer. One of the recent requests was for help identifying and dating an embossed bottle which bore the name "Whistle Bottling Company, Youngstown, Ohio" on its surface. The patron had no knowledge of what the bottle had contained or a possible date for it.

Our first step was to try to confirm the presence of the company here in Youngstown. City directories assisted in that step, with the internet providing additional background information about the company and the brand.

In 1919 Charles Leiper Grigg invented and marketed an orange-flavored soft drink he named Whistle. Franchises brought the brand to communities across the country, including Youngstown, Ohio. The Whistle Bottling Company advertised "Thirsty? Just Whistle" as their catch phrase.

The first entry for the company appears in the 1923 Youngstown City Directory. The listing and its accompanying advertisement reads "Whistle Bottling Company, Frank Skrabsky, proprietor. Manufacturers of all kinds of soft drinks. "Whistle and Budwine a Specialty." 807 Franklin Avenue, Ohio State Phone 5291."

The company is simply listed as Whistle Bottling Company, Frank Skrabsky, proprietor (wife Lottie), 807 Franklin Avenue (also his residence) from 1924-1934. In 1935-1936 the company is listed as Whistle-Vess Beverage Company, Mrs. Lottie Skrabsky, widow of Frank, bottlers, 807 Franklin Avenue. Whistle-Vess was also a franchised operation, having its roots in the Midwest from the 1920s. The Vess name came from Sylvester Jones who marketed soft drinks in St. Louis, MO. His line of soft drinks included Whistle, adding other flavors to the Vess line by 1927, using embossed pinched-style bottles originally.



Here in Youngstown the Whistle-Vess Beverage Company changed its name to Cohasset Club Beverage Company in 1937-1938 with Mrs. Lottie H. Skrabsky serving as proprietor at 807 Franklin Avenue. In other locations, the Whistle-Vess name continued operations. In Jacksonville, FL the name existed up to the 1950s.

The bottle our patron called about was probably from the 1923-1934 time period, originally containing the orange-flavored soft drink known as "Whistle." The Whistle brand faded into the background primarily due to competition from the orange-flavored soft drink still known as "Crush."

The Mahoning Valley Means Business Jocelyne Kollay Linsalata Gallery of Industry, Business and Entrepreneurship

The Historical Society has produced a panel exhibit in the new Williamson College of Business Administration on the campus of Youngstown State University. The exhibit gallery will feature exhibits that focus on Valley businesses and the spirit of entrepreneurship. *The Mahoning Valley Means Business* celebrates the people, the ideas and the dedication that help build business and industry in the Mahoning Valley by providing an overview of the area and its evolution from a farming community to industrial powerhouse to the current day mix of technology and manufacturing. A large video screen will also be showing pieces compiled by the Business & Media Archives.

The Mahoning Valley Historical Society celebrates the history of the people of the Mahoning Valley.



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Historical Happenings

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MVHS is a private non-profit corporation, which owns and operates the Arms Family Museum of Local History, the MVHS Archival Library, and the Business and Media Archives of the Mahoning Valley.

Leann Rich, editor



www.facebook.com/mahoninghistory

Upcoming Events

- | | | |
|------------------------|--|----------------|
| Thursday, September 10 | MVHS Celebrates 135 Years | |
| Sunday, September 12 | Truckin Through Trumbull
Bus leaves the Arms Family Museum at 12:30 p.m. | |
| Tuesday, September 14 | 135th Annual Founders Day Dinner
Debartolo Stadium Club | 5:30-8:30 p.m. |
| Thursday September 16 | Campaign Public Launch Event
Mahoning Valley History Center, 325 West Federal | 10:30 a.m. |
| Sunday, September 19 | The Mahoning Valley Collects Exhibit Closes
Arms Family Museum | |
| Friday, December 3 | All Dolled Up Holiday Preview Party | 5- 7:00 p.m. |
| Saturday, December 4 | All Dolled Up Exhibit Opening | 10 a.m.-5 p.m. |

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