

VALLEY HISTORIAN

Greater Monessen Historical Society
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Blanche Thebom, Star at the Met and Beyond, Dies at 94, Born in Monessen

By MARGALIT FOX

Blanche Thebom, a mezzo-soprano who was discovered singing in a shipboard lounge as a teenager and went on to sing more than 350 performances with the Metropolitan Opera, died on Tuesday (March 27, 2010) at her home in San Francisco. She was 94. Her death was confirmed by Roger Greenberg, a longtime friend.

In a field long dominated by Europeans, Ms. Thebom (pronounced THEE-bom, with the th as in thin) was part of the first, midcentury wave of American opera singers to attain international careers. Associated with the Met from the mid-1940s to the mid-1960s, she was praised by critics for her warm voice, attentive phrasing and sensitive acting.

Ms. Thebom was best known for Wagner. She made her Metropolitan Opera debut in Philadelphia in November 1944 as Brangäne in an out-of-town production of "Tristan und Isolde"; the next month she appeared with the company in New York, singing Fricka in "Die Walküre." Reviewing her "Walküre," a critic for The New York Times wrote that Ms. Thebom "scored an immediate success."

At the Met, her other roles included Ortrud in Wagner's "Lohengrin," Azucena in Verdi's "Trovatore" and Amneris in his "Aida," and the title role in Bizet's "Carmen." She also sang at Covent Garden and the Glyndebourne festival in England.

In 1957, presented by the impresario Sol Hurok, Ms. Thebom made a three-week tour of the Soviet Union. (There, as The Times wrote afterward, "the singer was

In Memory Of:
Blanche Thebom
1915-2010

surprised to find that her mink coat was a traffic stopper wherever she went.”) Her engagements included a Carmen with the Bolshoi Opera in Moscow. Ms. Thebom last performed at the Met in 1967. She later directed the opera program at the University of Arkansas, Little Rock, and afterward moved to San Francisco, where she taught privately and helped create a training program for young singers. In later years, Ms. Thebom appeared often in duo recitals with the soprano Eleanor Steber.

Blanche Thebom was born on Sept. 19, 1915, in Monessen, Pa., and reared in Canton, Ohio; the year of her birth is often given erroneously as 1918. Her parents immigrated from Sweden. As a girl, she sang in a church choir.

While still a teenager, Ms. Thebom traveled to Sweden with her parents in the 1930s. On the crossing, she was heard singing in the ship’s lounge by Kosti Vehanen, a pianist who often accompanied the contralto Marian Anderson. Mr. Vehanen arranged for Blanche to study in New York, where her primary teacher was Edyth Walker, a former Metropolitan Opera mezzo.

Ms. Thebom’s marriage, to Richard Metz, ended in divorce. No immediate family members survive. Her recordings include Mozart’s “Cosi Fan Tutte,” in which she sings Dorabella, on the Sony Classical label, and albums of songs by Hugo Wolf and Robert Schumann for RCA Victor. She appeared in films, among them “Irish Eyes Are Smiling” (1944) and “The Great Caruso” (1951).

Ms. Thebom’s career seemed ordained from the moment she stepped onto the New York stage. Making her recital debut at Town Hall in January 1944, she sang a program of Massenet, Handel, Mussorgsky and Brahms. Reviewing the concert, The Times called her a “richly gifted young artist,” adding, “Her work revealed a wealth of temperament and an inherent musicianship that presage a brilliant career.”

Mon Valley African American Cultural & Historical Exhibit opens

The annual spring ethnic exhibit at the Heritage Museum opened on March 20, 2010 and honors the contributions of African Americans in the Greater Monessen area. Newspaper articles chronicle the struggles, as well as the triumphs of Mon Valley African Americans, as they helped develop the industrial towns of the area. Photos, African clothing, artwork and literature are featured. The Heritage Museum is open Wednesday through Saturday from 10 AM until 3 PM. For further information please call 724-684-8460.

We remind everyone that admission to the Heritage Museum is free. ☺



Bertha Lucas, Monessen, PA (c1912-1915)

Photo is courtesy of Mrs. Lee Carol Cook, daughter of Judge Livingstone M. Johnson.

MHS Yearbooks wanted

The Heritage Museum library is looking for copies of the Monessen High School yearbook, as well as the school newspaper. Currently, the High School generously donates a copy of each new yearbook to the Museum each year. We want a complete collection. **Was the yearbook published during the Great Depression years of the 1930’s?** We have few yearbooks from that era.

Thanks to the School, in our Museum Shoppe, we have extra copies of the following MHS yearbooks for sale:

- 1969
- 1970
- 1980
- 1984
- 1985
- 1987
- 1988
- 1989
- 1990
- 1991
- 1992
- 1993
- 1998
- 2000
- 2001
- 2002
- 2003
- 2004
- 2005
- 2006

They make great gifts! Only \$20.00 each.

We invite you to jump in!

Volunteers are the foundation of the Greater Monessen Historical Society. Our volunteers are an important and dedicated group, who are crucial to the Society's operations. There are few things more enjoyable than exercising your talents! Volunteering provides an array of opportunities to get connected to those working to preserve our cultural and industrial heritage. We value and are interested in our community's lively history. To achieve that goal, we need assistance. This is a great opportunity to learn in the company of wonderful people. ☺ Come and join us. Some opportunities that await you are:

- *Help plan and produce special events and programs
- *Create wonderful exhibits showcasing our rich heritage
- *Help catalog the archival collection of photos and items
- *Join the Oral History Committee
- *Conduct tours
- *Enter computer data
- *Become a Museum docent
- *Document historic properties
- *Perform genealogical research
- *Research
- *Marketing/Public relations
- *Apply for grants

Veteran oral history interviews

After doing the Veterans Exhibit last fall and working with so many veterans, who have interesting stories to tell, we have realized the need to document their stories. We would like to begin to compile a list of veterans interested in telling their stories. If possible, we would like to record the sessions on dvd. If you are interested, please call 724-684-8460 to participate or to help with the interviews.

Did you work at the Five and Ten?

In cooperation with local Westmoreland County libraries, GMHS is looking for former employees of the G. C. Murphy Company. Westmoreland Heritage has suggested archiving photographs of the local stores and recording oral history interviews with former workers. The "One Book, One Community" summer reading program will feature Jason Togyer's new book, "For the Love of Murphy's". It is a history of the McKeesport-based G. C. Murphy Company, which operated five and ten cent stores throughout the region. Our research shows the Murphy Company purchased the J. K. Skelley Store at 265 Donner Avenue and reopened it as a G. C. Murphy 5 and 10 on June 7, 1902. The store later relocated to between 5th and 6th Streets and remained in business until the early 1970's. We are also interested in seeing any Murphy memorabilia you may have stored in attics and cellars.

Help spread the word

This newsletter goes to the dues-paying members of the Greater Monessen Historical Society and a few others. We need all of you to be our ambassadors to others. Urge your neighbors, friends, co-workers and relatives to join the Society. Buy them a gift membership. **Just fifteen dollars for an individual and twenty dollars for a family.** Ask them to volunteer their time. Ask them to donate local history photos, memorabilia and their family genealogies. We have 261 current members. Through your help, we can continue to grow. Tell everyone we are here!

Rededication of the Herman Mihalich Boat Launch Sunday, June 6, 2010

The City of Monessen will hold a celebration for the rededication of the Herman Mihalich Boat Launch on Sunday, June 6 from 11 AM through 10 PM. GMHS has been asked to take part. We will have a tent with yearbooks to peruse and other photographs will take you down Memory Lane. An assortment of ethnic cookbooks and other items will be available to purchase. We hope to see you there!

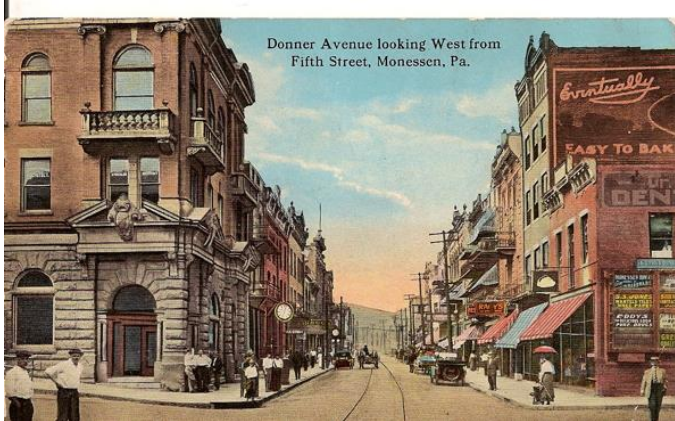
Founders Day Saturday, July 10, 2010

The Greater Monessen Historical Society will celebrate Founders Day on Saturday, July 10, 2010. Details will be announced at a later date, but please keep the date open. Any ideas on what events you would like to see?

Second Annual Mon Valley River Dinner Cruise Tuesday, August 3, 2010

The Greater Rostraver Chamber of Commerce in partnership with the Greater Monessen Historical Society, BARC (Brownsville), Donora Smog Museum, Mon Valley Regional Chamber of Commerce, Monongahela Historical Society and TEAM Charleroi will once again sponsor a Mon Valley River Dinner Cruise on Tuesday, August 3, 2010. Tickets are \$60 each and available at the Monessen Heritage Museum. **There will be reserved seating for groups of ten or more.** The Empress, of the Gateway Clipper fleet, will dock at the Charleroi Trustees Park (behind the Montgomery Ward Building) and begin boarding at 6 PM. We will travel south on the Monongahela River towards California, PA. The cruise will last approximately 2 ½ hrs and have a buffet dinner and cash bar. Once again, a distinguished citizen from each organization will be honored for community involvement and service. Last year three hundred

passengers took part. **Tickets are limited.** Call 724-684-8460 today!



Fourteenth annual Westmoreland County Architectural Design Challenge

On March 22 & 23, 2010, Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation and the Greater Monessen Historical Society hosted the 14th Annual Architectural Design Challenge for Westmoreland County schools. Over one hundred middle school and forty high school students participated from Belle Vernon, Franklin Regional, Greensburg-Salem, Laurel Valley, Ligonier Valley, Monessen, Penn Trafford, Valley and Yough School districts. The project started in October 2009 with visits to the historic and vacant Monessen Savings & Trust Building that had been built in 1904-1906. Students were assigned the task of building a model showing a new use for the building and designing a streetscape for the 500 Block of Donner Avenue. Students envisioned a variety of new uses for the Monessen landmark that included: a community center, sports emporium, day care, tutoring center, candy store, yoga center, restaurant, hotel, coffee shop, family fun center, arts and music center, roller rink, physical therapy studio, and dance club, along with "green" building concepts. The Monessen Middle School team won first place and the student choice award. Teammates were Marisa Germinario, Dominic Zboyovsky, Thomas Lucy, Chase Nejberger, Blake Pawelec, Zoey McCully, Nathanael Moon, Dane Breakwell and Monet Wade. **CONGRATULATIONS!!!!!!**

Mon Valley Slovak Cultural Society visits

The April 26, 2010 meeting of the Mon Valley Slovak Cultural Society was held at the Heritage Museum. The group viewed the annual spring ethnic exhibit and had a kielbasa meal before conducting the meeting. The new Slovak 2 disc DVD was previewed before being placed in the Museum Shoppe. **Wouldn't your group like to hold one of their meetings at the Heritage Museum?** The Monessen Public Library & District Center Genealogy Forum has also held a monthly meeting at the Museum to look at the new exhibit.

Recent Donations to the Heritage Museum

Dedication program of Monessen Public Library, 1960 MHS Commencement program, photo of MHS students standing at front window, 1959 MHS Handbook, MHS Basketball schedule, MHS Football schedule of 1959, MHS playbills, 1960 Class Night Program, Band concert program, 1960 Class song, Greyhound Gazettes 1958-1960, MHS newspaper clippings, MHS team photo: Jackie Rohland Gates

1941 MHS yearbook, Monessen Golden Jubilee nickel, First Presbyterian Church postcard, Park Plan postcard, Downtown Monessen photos, Pittsburgh Steel photos, First Presbyterian booklet & clippings, Two MHS 1942 Gazettes, Pierre Luti clippings, Brown souvenir photo album, Monessen friends photo, MHS 1940 yearbook, Viaduct post card: Aladene Carcelli Emerson

Scans of Mon Valley African American photos from the collection of Rev. Joseph Edward Morris of Monessen (c1912-1915): Mrs. Lee Carol Cook

Pitt Panther plastic glass, two Monessen Centennial cups, Essen cap, two glass Monessen 105th Convention WPFA mugs, Elect Mihalich legislator pin, Three Vote Mihalich State Representative pins, Three 100 years Monessen 1898-1998 pins, Wooden carving Bronco League World Series 1967, Cardboard cut-out picture of Ted Harhai in Greyhound uniform, 1987-1988 PA Interscholastic Athletic Assoc. Basketball Championship booklet, World Series patch, Bronco League neck badge with tie, Greyhound jacket, 1950's photo of Pittsburgh Steel company, Essen Germany pewter plate, Monessen Lions Club cup, August 20, 1948 Football ticket Monessen Ravens vs. Washington Merchants, Two K of C anniversary wine glasses, 1991 Raven Athletic Assoc. 60th Anniversary program booklet, four Monessen Lions Club glasses: Ted Harhai

Photocopied articles on Mon Valley Underground Railroad: California Area Historical Society

Blast Furnace #3 Charger electrical blueprint: Robert Conroy

Tin Dollhouse: Linda Rohar

Memorials

In memory of Patsy Martucci by Michael & Patricia Twardy.

In memory of Ray Jozwiak by Dorothy Jozwiak

In memory of Tony Ortallona by Dr. Martin Dudas

We also received a donation in honor of Don & Gloria Hayes given by Robert Hayes.

One Hundred Years ago in the newspapers May-July, 1910

In May of 1910, the Swedish Society broke ground for a two-story frame building on McMahan Avenue between Sixth and Ninth Streets for their meetings. They organized in 1903 and have 75 members.

The Grand Hotel is now owned by Mr. P. M. Dyer of Pittsburgh. The former owners, Mr. & Mrs. Schuler will take a six month trip to the west.

St. Leonard's Church held their annual "Crowning of the May Queen" ceremony to a standing room only crowd on Sunday night, May 8, 1910. One hundred twenty-five small girls dressed in white and wearing wreaths of smilax made up the procession led by four visiting priests and Rev. Father A. J. Wigley. Regina Stevenson was the May Queen, and she placed a crown on the statue of the Blessed Mother.

The Monessen Bottling Works was sold to J. P. Spielman by G. M. Mitchell, a trustee through the United States Bankruptcy Court.



A memorial service for King Edward of England will be held May 15 in the First Baptist Church. An invitation is extended to all to pay their respects for the dead king.

The bowling lanes in the Capitol Bowling room are being removed to convert the space into the Liberty Theatorium, a motion picture theatre with opera chair seating for 300 persons and one of the largest screens in the city.

The new Linden Avenue school building will be built by the Motz Lumber Company for \$29,682.45 with the design done by Architect J. M. Beall.

New steel glass lined tanks and a new cellar costing approximately \$50,000 have been installed at the Independent Brewing Company, so a new beer called "White Ribbon" can be made.

The Foster House has been remodeled and redecorated. The kitchen has been enlarged and rearranged with new appliances. It is owned by Adam Brautegam.

The Star Dairy Lunch opened on May 26, 1910 next door to the Daily Independent office on Sixth Street.

The Monongahela Hotel is being remodeled and renovated by its first owner and builder, E. L. Cunningham of Erie. Exterior has been painted with the windows and doors trimmed in dark red. The interior from cellar to attic has been replastered and repapered. The bedrooms have new carpets, mattresses and bedding.

St. Paul's Lutheran Church laid the cornerstone for their new structure at the corner of Eighth and Donner on Sunday, May 29, 1910. Rev. M. M. Allbeck, who was the first pastor, laid the stone. The Westmoreland Lumber Company is the contractor.

Decoration Day was quiet with most stores closed. The Page Woven Wire Company was the only manufacturer that closed for the day.

One thousand Polish Americans headed by a brass band celebrated Polish Emancipation Day with a parade. The day began with High Mass at St. Hyacinth's. A patriotic program was held at the Star Theatre.

The Bijou Theatre advertises that the building is disinfected daily and has an asbestos booth with cushioned seats and gentlemanly attendants.

Miss Dot Elliot has become the first female chauffeur in Monessen as she drives the new Buick automobile purchased by Dr. A. R. Wilson.

Mrs. William James has also become a female chauffeur.

The Star Theatre will show the motion picture "Teddy Roosevelt's Return" on June 29, 1910.

The Hebrew congregation will hold their third annual picnic at Eldora Park on July 18, 1910. Proceeds from ticket sales will go toward the building of the new synagogue.

Mrs. W. James, the female chauffeur, will retire from her hazardous pleasure and return to devoting her time to domestic affairs. She retires with honor and distinction.

J. M. Wilson, a Rostraver Township farmer, sold his cherry crop in Monessen for \$4.00 a bushel.

The Bijou Theatre will reopen on July 23, 1910 after being remodeled. New opera seats have been installed. Recently, it was enlarged.



Spring & Early Summer Weddings of 1910

Miss Mary Winnifred Talfer of Monessen is engaged to John Francis Stahl of Pottstown. Wedding will be in the fall. Mr. Stahl works for the railway mail service and may transfer to the Panama Canal zone.

Fred Lindauer, a piano player of Charleroi and Miss Mary Clonon of Monongahela eloped to New York May 9, 1910. Bride is eighteen years old. Groom came to the area four years ago.

Miss Mary Tepe of Clairton will marry Robert T. Dumont, formerly of Monessen, on May 25, 1910.

Miss Edna Blose, of Reed Avenue, will marry Fred J. Tickle, a former Pittsburgh Steel Company machinist, in Chicago. (Wedding took place on June 8, 1910)

George Harrison of Monessen and Miss Elsie Lynn of Donora obtained a marriage license on June 10, 1910 in Pittsburgh.

Miss Mena Anderson of Monessen and John Gettig of Braddock will marry June 15, 1910 in Essen. Groom is a bookkeeper for the Griswell Wire Company at Braddock.

Miss Barbara Gertrude Wigley, sister of Rev. Father A. J. Wigley, and Alphonse J. Keifer of Bennett Street, Pittsburgh were married June 15, 1910 at St. Leonards Church. They will live in Pittsburgh.

Miss Ruth Eller of Belle Vernon and Adrian Nesson of Pittsburgh will marry in St. Leonards Church on June 15, 1910. Bride has been a Belle Vernon school teacher and the groom is employed on the P & L. E. Railroad. They will live in Belle Vernon.

George Harrison of Monessen and Miss Elsie Lynn were married June 16, 1910 at the bride's home in Donora. The couple will honeymoon in eastern Canada and then return to live in Donora. The Groom is employed as a pourer in the open hearth furnaces of Donora.

Gerald Hicks of Monessen and Miss Elsie Neil of Essen were married June 22, 1910. They will live at 968 Donner Avenue. Groom is the assistant superintendent of the shipping department at the Tin Plate mill, and the bride has been superintendent of the sorting department for eight years.

Miss Mary Etta Wheatley and Mr. Hugh McLaughlin were married June 22, 1910 at the bride's home. The groom is a local athlete and volunteer fireman. They will reside in Monessen.

Mr. Jesse Zundel was married June 28, 1910 and honeymooned in Missouri. He is associated with the Zundel Coal Company.

Gertrude I. Meyers of Donner avenue is engaged to Jack D. Burgauer of Muncie, Indiana. The wedding will occur in August. The groom is in the typewriter business.

Miss Josephine Woods of Monessen and Fraser Culton MacLellan will marry June 29, 1910 in the First Baptist Church, followed by a two week honeymoon in Rhode Island and Nova Scotia.

Miss Esther McLuckie and Samuel J. Blythe, both of Monessen, were quietly married June 29, 1910 in Youngwood. The groom is a clerk at Peter Amann's Grocery.

Miss Amelia Marie Bertleman and Carl Woodward, both of Monessen, will wed July 9. The groom is engaged in real estate with the firm of Pierce and Woodward at Sixth and Donner. The bride was formerly a stenographer for Attorney Daniel Reamer. For their honeymoon, the couple will travel with the local Elks going to the annual convention in Detroit.

Miss Elsie Flickinger of Charleroi and William McDermott eloped to West Virginia and were married July 10, 1910. The groom is in the real estate business in Clarksburg, where they will reside.

Mr. & Mrs. Fraser MacLellan returned home on July 11 after a ten day honeymoon to the east. The bride was formerly Miss Josephine Wood. They will temporarily live at 128 Oneida, while a home is built on Reed Avenue.

Mr. J. H. Farquhar of Monessen and Miss Anna Walters of Masontown were married July 12, 1909 at the bride's home. They will reside in Monessen where the groom is engaged in the feed business.

Lieutenant Rae Furlong of Roscoe and Miss Cora Wainwright Glover of Tacoma, Washington are engaged and will marry this month. The bride had been a school teacher in Alaska for two years.

William Eller of Monessen and Miss Mary Cuning of New Brighton, PA were married in Youngstown, Ohio on Saturday, July 23, 1910 in a secret ceremony. Meeting on the train that morning, the best man, John Smith, of Monessen and the bridesmaid, Miss Marie Gable, of New Brighton, decided on the way to Youngstown to surprise the bride and groom and get married themselves immediately following the first ceremony.

Wedding Anniversaries

Postmaster and Mrs. E. M. Frye celebrated their twentieth wedding anniversary May 13, 1910 with dinner at Pittsburgh's Seventh Avenue Hotel and a visit to the theatre.

Mr. & Mrs. Max Shapiro of 228 Donner Avenue celebrated their tenth wedding anniversary on May 29, 1910. Mr. Shapiro owns the Famous Clothing Store on Donner Avenue.

Mr. & Mrs. George Nash celebrated their nineteenth anniversary on June 2, 1910.

Mr. & Mrs. William Gensler of Dutchtown celebrated their silver wedding anniversary on June 22, 1910 with a surprise party given by the Ladies Aid of Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church.

Mr. & Mrs. A. R. Ney of McKee Avenue celebrated their Silver Wedding anniversary on June 24, 1910.

Mr. & Mrs. Frank Naylor of Webster celebrated their thirtieth wedding anniversary with a country picnic on July 16, 1910. Roast duck, chicken and turkey comprised the feast. The couple formerly lived in Monessen.

What were the newspapers saying in 1910?

The following two editorials appeared in the Monessen News in spring of 1910.

As To Decorum

Our great grandmothers taught their daughters that repose of manner was the first requisite of true propriety. No well bred lady would fidget in company, put her hands to her face, toss her head or finger her buttons. If she talked, she did it in a soft voice and without gesticulation, no matter how many rings she wore or how pretty her hands might be. She was taught even to control her features; that by squinting and winking the eyes and twitching the mouth were not nice and that they could and should be intermitted in polite society. In sitting, neither the knees or the feet were to be crossed. Rocking was odiously vulgar. Yawning and stretching were unspeakable offenses and above all, the hands must be crossed or folded in the lap and kept there.

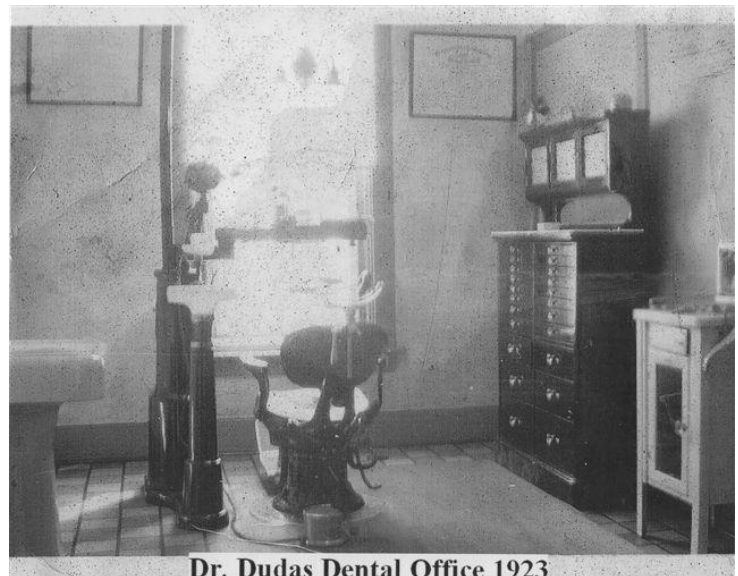
We plead for at least a partial resumption of the old forms. Let mothers once more teach their girls to sit still in company, to cultivate calmness. Let our women learn to carry on earnest conversation in subdued tones and without gesticulation. Monessen News, May 16, 1910

Need Cow Pen

Monessen Borough needs a cow pen. Residents have frequently called up the police station and made complaints about stray animals pasturing over town and destroying lawns and shrubbery. The reply from the police department is that they have no place to impound them.

The practice of pasturing cows in Ninth Street Park has become a nuisance unbearable to residents in that vicinity. The owner has been notified in one instance and the police department informed of the ordinance prohibiting stray animals, but neither appears to have done any good.

Something will have to be done soon either by the owner or the borough authorities to protect residents of this section. Persons who can afford to own a cow can afford to pasture her. No charity is needed in this case. If these cows broke out occasionally, the people who are bothered would not be so irate, but the present nuisance comes from deliberate breaking of a borough law regarding pasturing cattle on parks and vacant lots. Monessen News, June 10, 1910



The above photograph is from the collection of Dr. & Mrs. Martin Dudas.

Dan's Archives



Grand Hotel, Monessen, Pa., July 4, 1910. Datz Photograph.

Monessen's Pageant of Nations

Monessen's Independence Day celebration for the year 1910 was a memorable event in the town's history. It was an attempt to unite all of the nationalities under the American flag. The Celebration Committee contracted to decorate all public buildings with a canopy of flags and bunting. The square corner of Sixth and Donner was bedecked to give the railroad entrance to town a proper look. The Grand Hotel was the first private business to decorate.

On Sunday, July 3, 1910, the various churches held patriotic services followed by the reading of the Declaration of Independence.

Monday morning, July 4, started with a 9:00 baseball game at Page Park, which drew hundreds and featured the Page and Tin Mill teams. At 11:00, the Declaration of Independence was read in Slovak at Electric Park

followed with a salute and charge by the Monessen Sunday School Cadets in Sixth Street Park.

At noon, the Pageantry of All Nations Parade started at First Street and Schoonmaker with Colonel Charles M. Derickson as grand marshal. Three thousand men were in line to march to Twelfth Street and the finish at Electric Park. The line-up included Chief Marshall, aides, Star Band, city officials in automobiles, Monessen Drum Corps, Sunday School Cadets, Fire Department, Indian warriors and maidens, floats, Afro-American league with 110 men, floats, French with 150 men, Swedes with 350 men and horsemen, floats, Greeks with 300 uniformed infantry and sailors, Croatians with 200 uniformed men, Slavish with 500 men, Poles with 350 men, Hungarians with 300 men and horsemen, Finns with 300 men, women and children, floats, Italians with 600 horsemen and uniformed Garibaldi infantrymen and floats, and finally 100 American sailors. The Italian band played "My Country Tis of Thee" to wild cheering.

The motorized floats recalled scenes of American history. L. L. Reeves drove a band of Indian warriors with seven Indian maidens following on horseback. William McShaffrey drove a float on which the Goddess of Liberty was impersonated by Miss Stella Doney. Uncle Sam (Frank Craig) sat on a float driven by W. A. Miller. The Afro-American Protective League created two floats. On one, Booker T. Washington was impersonated and on the other Crispus Attucks and Toussaint L'Ouverture were shown in character. The Swedes also had two floats. One showed the Civil War Battleship Monitor. The Greeks carried a large painting of George Washington on their float, while the Finns portrayed Hiawatha. The Hungarian floats featured their great patriots. The Italian float showed the Santa Maria returning laden with riches and Indians.

The parade finished at 2:00 while the participants gathered around the speakers platform. Rev. H. O. MacDonald gave a welcoming address followed by the various bands playing patriotic strains. H. R. Pore read the Declaration of Independence again, after which Byron W. King gave a patriotic address that asked the foreigner to make America his home.

At 3:00, Electric Park was overflowing with five thousand spectators, who came to see an athletic competition among the nationalities. It featured running events, tug of war and an obstacle race. The day concluded at 9:00 with an hour and a half fireworks display.

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