

JULY 1998

CHAMBER CHATTER

The Newsletter of the Waynesburg Area Chamber of Commerce

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SUPPORT YOUR YOUTH, BUSINESSES AND TOURISM IN GREENE COUNTY AND HAVE A SENSATIONAL TIME.

JULY 24th ROCK 'N' OLDIES
CELEBRATION '98

Greene County Fairgrounds

JULY 26th MISS RAIN DAY PAGEANT

Waynesburg High School

JULY 29th RAIN DAY 1998

Downtown Waynesburg

Wear your poodle skirts or dress for the nineties, just be prepared to rock and harmonize to the music of the '50's and 60's. Friday night, JULY 24th gates open at 4:00 p.m. Tickets may be purchased by calling (724) 627-7323 or stop by the local Chamber and TPA office and participating sponsors. This *Wally & Bev Production*, officially sponsored by Super 8, WANB, Greene County Office Supply & Xerox as well as Lewis Limousine will be a night to remember. Enjoy a classic car show, games, contests, prizes, sumptuous food, beverages, Local celebrities will perform as well as PERSONAL APPEARANCES by . . .



The Drifters

"Under the Boardwalk" – "Up on the Roof" –
"Save the Last Dance for Me" – "This Magic Moment"



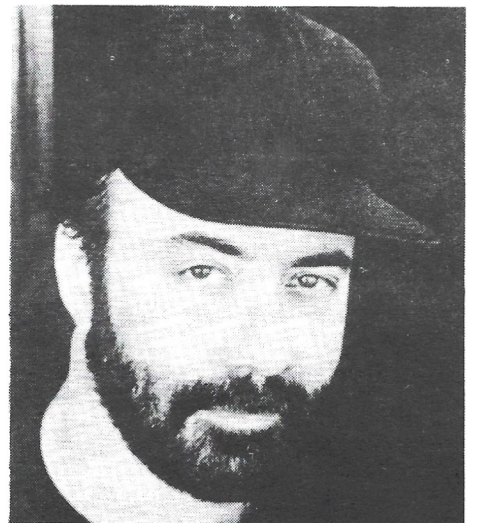
The Coasters

"Charlie Brown" – "Yakety-Yak" – "Smokey
Jo's Cafe" – "Young Blood" – "Little Egypt"



Barbara Lewis

"Make Me Your Baby" – "Baby, I'm Yours" –
"Hello Stranger"



Will Porter and the California All-Stars

☆ GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING ☆

WEDNESDAY, JULY 22, 1998

12:00 Noon

THE GOLDEN CORRAL

FEATURING AUTUMN MARISA,
MISS RAIN DAY 1997

Please join us and bring your guests.
If you cannot attend please send your representative.



Miss Rain Day Contestants

MISS RAIN DAY SCHOLARSHIP PAGEANT 1998

Fifteen Greene County girls between the ages of 14 and 18 will be vying for the coveted Miss Rain Day Crown at the Miss Rain Day Pageant held at 6:00 pm on Sunday, July 26th at Waynesburg Central High School auditorium. We are celebrating the Miss Rain Day Pageant's 20th Anniversary and former Miss Rain Day Pageant winners will be returning to the stage this year. We thought you'd enjoy learning what they are doing now and hope you attend the Miss Rain Day Pageant.

Carla Caldwell 1996

Carla currently resides in Waynesburg with her mother Connie McNeely. This fall she will be a sophomore at Slippery Rock University with a double major in business and dance. She has selected in her freshman year to be a member of the University's dance team "EXPRESS." She is currently working for the summer for Dr. Janson's Chiropractic Office in Waynesburg. In her spare time she enjoys modeling and dancing.

Jodi Leigh Wade 1995

Jodi was named Miss Rain Day 1995. She is the 20 year old daughter of Sam & Linda Wade of Clarksville. She is a 1995 graduate of Jefferson Morgan High School and in December 1998 she will be graduating from Waynesburg College with a degree in Secondary English Education. She is engaged to be married on November 28, 1998 to Larry Stallard of Rices Landing.

Amber Chaudhry 1994

Amber was Miss Rain Day 1994, and the recipient of the top awards in all four areas of competition. She is a 1995 graduate of Waynesburg Central High School and is currently a Junior at Valley Forge Christian College. She has received the Outstanding Achievement Scholarship and the Dean's Scholarship and is on the Dean's list with a 4.0 GPA in Elementary Education studies. She has also been listed in the National Dean's List for two years. She is actively involved in her church and community and gives voice lessons in her spare time. Amber is employed by the Sight and Sound Theaters where she will be appearing in their production of "Holiday Time" October 17th through January 2nd.

Sherry Lynn Tucker 1993

Since passing on the crown, Sherri has attended Point Park College in Pittsburgh. On May 3rd of this year she graduated Cum Laude with a BA in Dance. While in college she was a dean list student all eight semesters, a member of the dance club and was inducted into the Alpha Chi Honors Society for excel-

lent academic achievement and exemplary character.

Sherri has performed in many dance productions at the Point Park Playhouse and has performed for other dance affiliations. For the past four years she has been a dance teacher at the Ginny McClelland Dance Studio in Waynesburg.

A member of the Union Valley United Methodist Church, Sherri serves as Sunday School secretary and sings in the choir.

Currently Sherri is pursuing a career in professional dance, and eventually plans to own a dance studio.

Michelle Maxon 1992

Michelle is currently living in North Carolina and is studying music, for hopes of being in a successful band someday. Her special memory of the Rain Day Pageant was actually trying to learn how to dance with Joyce Ellis! Most of all, she enjoyed meeting such wonderful people, from very small towns, with such real dreams and making life long friendships.

Amber Renee' McKean 1991

Amber McKean was named Miss Rain Day in 1991. She graduated from California University of Pennsylvania with a Bachelor of Arts in Communications. She centered her studies in Public Relations and Advertising. She was a member of the Theta Phi Alpha.

She is engaged to Paul J. Bandish of Hopwood and they will also be married next week on August 1, 1998.

One of her best memories from Rain Day is that the month before the pageant and she had minor foot surgery. That year the contestants went on a outing to Nemaocolin Woodlands. As much as she tried to hide her bandaged foot from everyone in the pictures, the night we saw the slide show it seemed every picture of her, all you saw was the big foot. The following night her mom kept complaining about all those pictures showing her foot, to this day she still calls her "pageant hop along."

Jonella Wozny Williamson 1990

Jonella is a graduate of Carmichaels Area High School and Waynesburg College with a degree in English/Electronic Media. Currently, she operates a private music instruction studio in Waynesburg, and teaches chorus at Mapletown High School. She is active in the Jackson Community Methodist Church, where her husband, Ben, is the pastor. Jonella recently released two projects, "I have a Message," and "Silent Strength," on the Behold Music label. Jonella has many fond memories of her pageant activities, but is most thankful for the opportunity that the title gave her to witness for her Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Allison Nixdorf 1989

The summer of 1998 is a very special one for Allison Nixdorf. One week from the "Miss Rain Day Pageant" on August 1, Allison

and her fiancée Travis Miller, will be married. The couple will reside in Morgantown and Allison who is enrolled in the school of medicine at WVU will continue to work toward becoming a physician.

Allison finds it hard to believe that it has been nine years since she was named "Miss Rain Day." During that time she has graduated from Waynesburg Central High School and West Virginia University. At WVU, Allison majored in Interdisciplinary Studies with an anthropology minor graduating Summa Cum Laude and is a member of Phi Beta Kappa and the Golden Key National Honor Society. After graduation Allison joined the University of London's Box Grove Project, a 500,000 year-old site in southern England. She also served for a year as an Americorp archaeologist for the USDA in West Virginia and worked as a contract archaeologist investigating Eastern Woodland Native American sites in West Virginia, Ohio and Indiana.

Thinking back to Rain Day 1989, Allison the daughter of Suanne Nixdorf and the late Allen Gibson Nixdorf III, fondly remembers the exciting whirlwind of events, the lifelong friends that she made, but most of all she remembers her dad and the fun they had going to parades. Her regret is that her dad's joy and laughter will not be with her on August 1 when she becomes Mrs. Travis Miller.

Pamela Titus Bogucki 1988

It is hard to believe that just 10 short years ago Pam was crowned Miss Rain Day 1988 at the age of 16. Now at the age of 26 she is married and resides in Carmichaels with her husband Jason and their son Joshua who is 7 months old.

Pam is employed by Rolling Meadows Nursing and Rehabilitation Facility in Waynesburg. She is in charge of admissions and marketing.

Pam enjoys walking, exercising and spending as much time as possible with her husband and son.

It still amazes Pam to this day how many people still recognize her as Miss Rain Day. The people she had the opportunity to meet in the community as Miss Rain Day have turned into good business contact as well as good friends.

PAM WOULD LIKE TO WISH ALL OF THE CONTESTANTS LOTS OF LUCK AND SUCCESS WITH THEIR FUTURES.

Christine Booth Owens 1986

Christine and her husband, Kirby reside on the North Side of Waynesburg. She is the owner and the operator of Perfect Ten, Etc., specializing in acrylic nails, hand made items and flowers for all occasions. Her hobbies include designing and creating wedding gowns and formal wear. As a matter of fact,

Christine designed the gown she is wearing tonight. Pageant memories include being crowned Miss Rain Day 1986, and the full day of festivities on Rain Day, July 29th. Christine and Kirby are expecting their first child in September.

Ann Beth Cowan-Kier 1985

Ann Beth resides in Mt. Lebanon with her husband, Periodontist, Dr. Gregory Todd Kier. She is currently a self-employed writer/news reporter. She has contributed her talent to a variety of media outlets including, the Pittsburgh Tribune Review, Hospital News, Upper St. Clair Magazine, WWCS Radio and WTOV-TV. Her journalistic background spans 10 years. Ann holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in English from Washington and Jefferson College and a Master of Arts degree concentrated in Communications from Duquesne University.

When she is not working, Ann contributes her time to the American Cancer Society. She is a past board member of the Chartiers Mental Health and Mental Retardation Center and past board of the Interfaith Re-employment Group. As a former college cheerleader she has been invited on numerous occasions to serve as a guest judge and coach for a number of Allegheny County high school and middle school Cheerleading squads.

Ann enjoys tennis, skiing, golf, dancing, running, and she is an avid photographer. This year she will be on the other side of the camera, as she has recently signed with a large Pittsburgh modeling agency to do print and TV commercial work.

Jodi Burge Rhodes 1984

Jodi Rhodes is a registered nurse at the West Virginia Hospital on the obstetrical and newborn nursery unit. She is a 1991 graduate of the Washington Hospital School of Nursing. She resides in Dry Tavern with her husband, Scott and their 1 year old daughter Maddison.

Michelle Morris Santia 1983

Michelle is married to Mark Santia and resides in Pittsburgh. She has a 2 year old daughter Talia and a 5 week old son Roman. She is self employed as a fitness instructor and a writer. She also is pursuing a Masters Degree in Organizational Leadership at Carlow College. Her best images in her memory are those of the smiles of her mom and dancing teacher backstage and of the cheers from her friends who supported her from the audience.

Julie Winslow Jones 1982

Julie resides in Placerville, California. She is married to Jeffrey, an attorney and they have three children, Jacqueline, age 5, J. Martin, age 3, and Jessica, age 2.

Julie works as a Clinical Nurse Coordinator for Metropolitan Plain Management Consultants and is a Senior Technical Ser-

vice Representative for Medtronic Neurological. Her jobs keep her busy but allow her the flexibility to spend time with the children.

She sends her regrets for being unable to attend tonight, but her daughter Jacque' is racing in swim finals this weekend. "My advice to all the contestants tonight is to believe in yourself and you will reach your goals."

Kim Huffman Lightner 1981

Kim resides in Rogersville with her husband, Jon "Chip." A graduate of Waynesburg College, she is an Assistant Manager with Community Bank and an Executive Coordinator with Market America. She is a member of the American Institute of Banking and the Independent Professionals Network in McMurray. She enjoys skiing, aerobics and relaxing on the beach.

Georganne O. Farrah 1971

Georganne was crowned Miss Rain Day 1971 on the steps of the Courthouse. She is married to Michael A. Farrah and resides in Waynesburg. She is currently employed by the Pennsylvania State Police in Waynesburg. Her future plans include relocating to Nevada.

Marianne Prodan Gideon 1968

Marianne resides in Carmichaels and is married to Nelson K. Gideon, owner and operator of Gideon's 300 Interior Decorating. She is a graduate of Robert Morris College, Pittsburgh, PA. She has been employed by Centerville Clinics Inc. for over 28 years and is the Director of Medical Records and Primary Care Satellite Offices.

She has one stepdaughter, Lesli and three granddaughters.

Marianne serves on the board of SWPPA (Southwest PA Partnership for Aging) and is a member of the Carmichaels Chamber of Commerce, Greene County Health and Welfare, Greene Academy of Art, and Friendship Hill Association. She is a member of St. Hugh Church. Her hobbies include walking, skiing, camping and antiques.

Marianne's mother and aunt were the ones who entered her in the pageant and it was a special moment for them when she won.

Carla Gray Kiger 1964

Carla resides in Milton, Pennsylvania with her husband Bill. Her son, Wyatt and daughter Catrina are both married and she has one grandson, Colby. Today she is a Executive Administrative Assistant for International Home Foods, Inc. Carla is involved in her church choir and other activities within the church. Her hobbies include sewing and raising house plants.

She recalls her special memories of Richard Hatfield calling out her name as Miss Rain Day and being crowned by Rain Day Prophet John L. Daily. Her prize was a 3 piece set of luggage. She was taken for a ride in a car that could also be driven in the water. Unfortunately due to it raining, they could not drive into the water because the bank of the creek was too muddy and too slippery to drive out of the water. She remembers a luncheon given in the contestants' honor at the Waynesburg Restaurant. Carla will never forget the bathing suit contest on the courthouse steps.

RAIN DAY FESTIVAL - JULY 29th

We have a hat bet going with JAYLENO of the tonight show. The festival will go on all day with food, games, crafts, dunk tank, "funnel cake" and funny faces . . . everything a festival should have will be somewhere on High Street in Waynesburg JULY 29th - RAIN DAY, A TRADITION FOR 124 YEARS! Here is the entertainment lineup:

- 6:00-11:00 Pancake Breakfast Ladies Auxiliary - Fire Department
- 11:10-11:50 Ginny McClelland Dance Studio
- 11:50-12:30 Barbara's Dance Studio
- 12:30-1:40 Joyce Ellis Dancers
- 1:40-2:20 Sweet Inspirations
- 2:20-3:00 John Buchanan & Friends
- 3:00-5:50 True Value-Jimmy Dean Country Show Down Competition (Sponsor: WANB Radio)
- 5:50-6:30 Rain Day Contestants
- 6:30-7:05 Percival Pickers
- 7:05-7:30 Taps, Rain Day Awards, Company K
- 7:30 Jimmy Beaumont and the Skyliners

SPECIAL THANK YOU

John Glass of The Observer Reporter for his "classic" performance as Chairman of the Waynesburg Area Chamber of Commerce Golf Tournament. Thanks also to a great committee: Kay Laskody, Susan Stoy, Karl Baily, Merle Williams, Dennis Frost and our "special consultants, Chad Moore and Stan Majesky." Again, Thanks to the Observer Reporter for their participation and donation of ad space for the Golf Outing.

Rain Day



July 29 • Waynesburg, PA

A HISTORY OF RAIN DAY

July 29th may be just another day to the rest of the world, but to the residents of Waynesburg, Pennsylvania, it has a special significance, which is passed along from generation to generation. Rain Day has had the distinction of having rainfall in the county seat of Greene County 103 times out of the past 124 years as of 1997.

It all started during the late 1800's at a drugstore located on High Street (the main street in town). An unknown local farmer who happened to be in the store remarked by chance to the pharmacist, William Allison, that "It always seems to rain on July 29th." This comment inspired Allison to keep an annual record of the rainfall on that day. William's brother, Albert, continued recording this mystical event; then, sometime during the 1920's the record keeping was taken over by the late Byron Daily.

Rain Day would have remained a local phenomenon if it hadn't been for the efforts of the late Waynesburg newsman, John L. O'Hara. He began sending Rain Day stories to other newspapers in the 1930's. Today, newspapers, TV and radio stations from across the country and around the world flood the town of Waynesburg with calls every July 29th to learn if it has indeed rained. Calls have been received from such places as England, Australia, Japan and Ethiopia.

For many years the only observances of Rain Day were the annual hat bet between Byron Daily's son, John, and a national or

regional celebrity and a brief ceremony on the Courthouse steps.

In 1979 the Waynesburg Borough Special Events was created to hold a special celebration on July 29th. That same year the Waynesburg Area Chamber of Commerce held its first annual Miss Rain Day Pageant. Each year since, under the Chamber's sponsorship, one attractive, talented local teenage girl has won not only the coveted crown, but also hundreds of dollars in scholarship funds.

Among the activities sponsored by the Special Events Commission on July 29th is a street fair in the heart of town and live continuous entertainment on the Courthouse steps, arts and crafts booths, food, children's games and assorted other diversions, including a dunk tank manned by local celebrities. Best of all, the admission is free! The festivities are silenced every year at 5:00 PM to pay a moment's tribute to the men of Company K, 2nd Battalion, 110th Infantry who were from Waynesburg and were killed in France during World War I on Rain Day, 1918. Nearly half of the 250 Greene County men were either killed or wounded on that day. As John O'Hara once wrote, "On that Rain Day in 1918, it rained bullets on the men of Company K."

No matter what your pleasures, there is something at the Rain Day Festival to interest you and your family. If you are interested in participating in Rain Day, call the Special Events Commission at the number below.

Call (724) 627-8111

Christmas Ornaments – 2nd Edition

We have ordered Xmas Ornaments featuring the Carmichael's Covered Bridge. They will be on sale Rain Day. Late last year we had ornaments to sell at the Christmas Parade and we were stormed out . . . we still have some "first edition" featuring the Court House. The Chamber will also have the Dunk Tank. The new Miss Rain Day, her court and contestants will be the "DUNKEES" Support your Chamber, practice your pitching skills and join us on RAIN DAY.

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Specialty Herbal Products

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Legg Mason Wood Walker, Inc.

60 West High Street
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Contact: Jeff Widdup 627-3377

THANK YOU

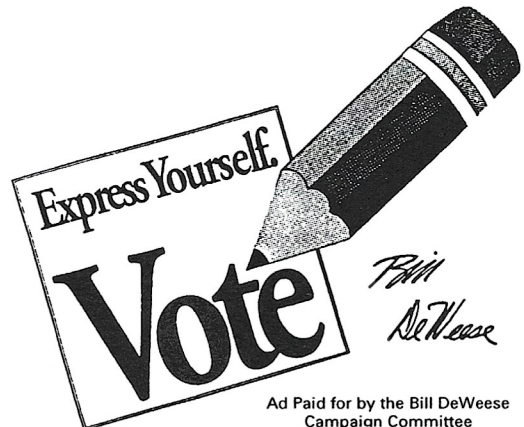
Julia Insana of Franklin Care . . . for talking with the membership last month about the new Alzheimer Unit.



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RAIN DAY '98