Mount Wolf Borough Celebrates It's Centennial

By TERESA McMINN

For the Daily Record/Sunday News

Richard Humbert of Manchester eyes up some of the displays at the Mount Wolf centennial museum on Saturday. (DAILY RECORD/SUNDAY NEWS--JASON PLOTKIN)

Mount Wolf Fire Department President Mark Shroyer checks out the 1951 engine pumper that once belonged to the department during the borough's centennial celebration Saturday. (DAILY RECORD/SUNDAY NEWS--JASON PLOTKIN)

Mark Sands recalled spending his childhood allowance money at The Train Depot on Center Street in Mount Wolf. On Saturday, Sands, his wife, Melissa, and their sons Connor, 6, and Cameron, 3, visited the Depot, which was a stop on a self-guided walking tour of the town. The tour was part of the Mount Wolf Centennial Celebration. Mount Wolf was incorporated as a borough on Aug. 23, 1910. "This is a good day to get everybody out to see their neighbors," said Mark Sands, a nearly lifelong borough resident.

Craig Holler, 63, owner of The Train Depot, said his dad, who died last year, owned the nearby railroad station. "We moved here in 1955," he said and added that his mother, Esther Holler, 90, still lives in the borough in the same house where he was raised. "There's a lot of history here," Craig Holler said of Mount Wolf. "It's still a small town. I think that's the most important thing."

Deb Rohrbaugh and her husband, Joel, of East Manchester Township, also walked the tour. "We actually went in one house I've driven by," Deb Rohrbaugh said of an 1856 home she's admired from outside for years. "We finally got to go in." The centennial celebration gave the community a chance to get out and appreciate the town, she said. Diehl Funeral Home hosted a town museum that featured old photos of places including Otterbein Church and Mount Wolf Junior High School.

Betsy Beakler, who was raised in the borough and now lives in East Manchester Township, helped set up the museum displays. Turnout for the event was great and steady, she said. The museum featured more than 1,000 pieces of the town's historical memorabilia, including a circa-1920 wooden chest from the Mount Wolf Baking Co. and aerial photos from 1940, 1957, 1964, 1971 and 2006. "I'm intrigued by the wool old baseball uniform," she said of a layered, thick and scratchy ensemble. "That kind of blew my mind."

Celebrate Mount Wolf's Centennial

Borough opens a museum, plans a day of festivities
TERESA MCMINN, FOR FLIPSIDE
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The Mount Wolf museum opening Saturday will showcase memorabilia, including that of the borough's dairy businesses. (DAILY RECORD/SUNDAY NEWS PAUL KUEHNEL)

Mount Wolf's centennial celebration will highlight the borough's unique heritage, said Patti Kinder, chairwoman of the event's museum and souvenir committees. Kinder, a resident of the borough for nearly 60 years, said more than 100 folks donated items for a special museum that will be open through the weekend. The museum will be housed in a new chapel at Diehl Funeral Home, she said. "We'll have over a thousand items on display" she said of memorabilia including a vintage fireman's parade uniform, old newspaper clippings and photos. "The centennial is …a celebration of my heritage and the heritage of the community." The museum will also showcase a 1920s baseball uniform, Kinder said. Souvenirs for sale include hats, T-shirts and tote bags.

The borough has had a baseball team since 1889, said Mount Wolf resident Donna Naylor, Centennial Day event chairman.

Mount Wolf, which covers less than a square mile, started in the early 1800s as a mid-way train stop between Emigsville, Liverpool - which is now Manchester Borough, and New Holland - now Saginaw, according to historical information listed on the town's website.

The Codorus forge and furnace, which produced cannons and cannonballs used by the Continental Army during the Revolutionary War, was built in Mount Wolf's southwestern region and purchased by James Smith, a signer of the Declaration of Independence, in 1771. From about 1850 to 1910, businesses in the borough included Wolf's Lumber and Supply, the Wire Cloth Factory and Mt. Wolf Furniture Co., Inc.