



Warm Memories

Looking Back on the Summer in the Norwin Community

Past summers in the Norwin Community have provided rest, relaxation, adventure, and just plain good times. As the Historical Society looks back at the way the Norwin citizens spent their summers, in many respects, it mirrors the present times. Community Picnics, parades, street fairs, family reunions, amusement parks, and out of town vacations make up a few of the activities or events available to enjoy during the hot summer months.

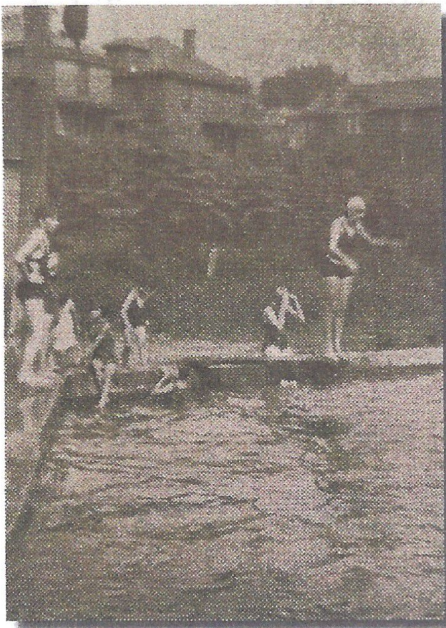
The Norwin community picnic has an interesting history in its evolution to its current location at Irwin Park. The Capital Firemen of Irwin along with the Irwin merchants association would hold picnics at Kennywood Park in the 1920's.

Oakford Park in Jeannette would become the next venue for the community picnic in the early 1930's. It is noted that both locations were accessible by rail or trolley. Oakford Park was replaced as a family venue around 1934. The story goes that excessive rain dampened the spirits of the people and the decision was made to move the community picnic to Idlewild Park. The park with its historic rides, picnic area and swimming pool was the choice of the Norwin merchants association and the Norwin Chamber of Commerce until 2019. When Idlewild could no longer guarantee the first Wednesday in August to the Norwin Chamber for scheduling our own Irwin Park became the new and current location of the renowned Norwin community picnic.

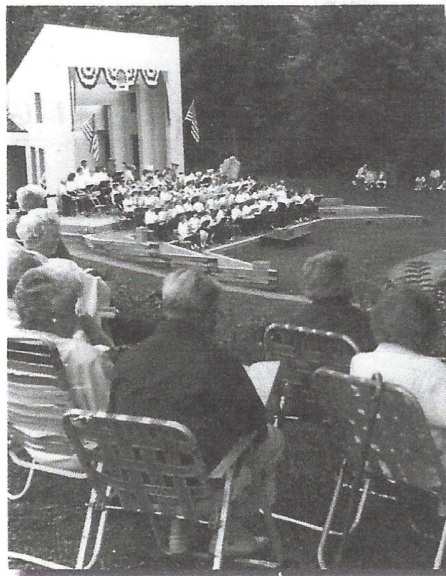
It is interesting to note that for many years there was a Manor and Westmoreland City Community Picnic that always occurred on the last Wednesday in July, giving our local residents and additional opportunity to enjoy Idlewild Park. A lack of personnel to coordinate this picnic brought it to an eventual end.

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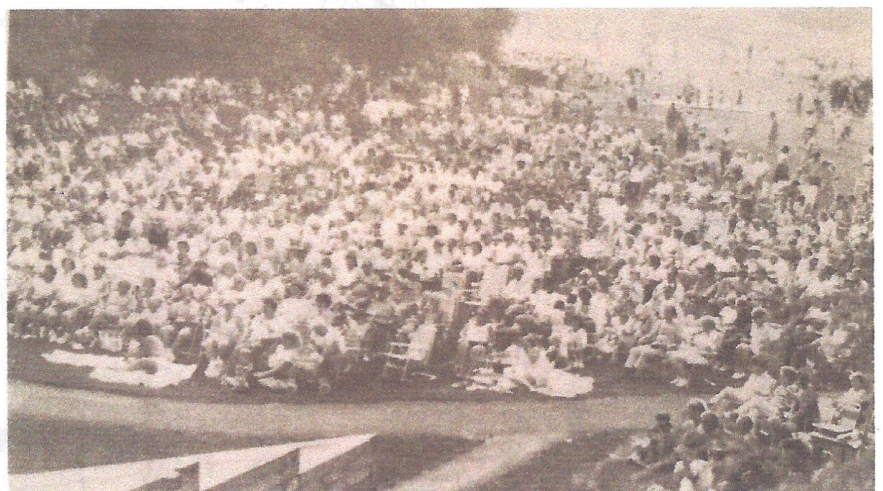
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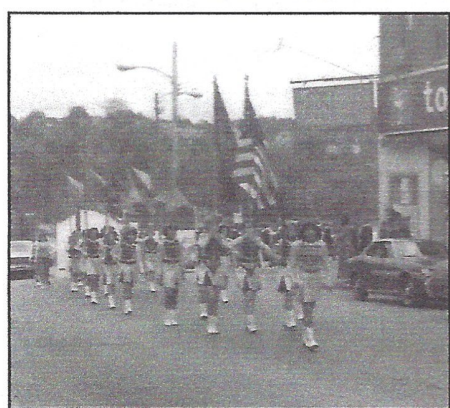
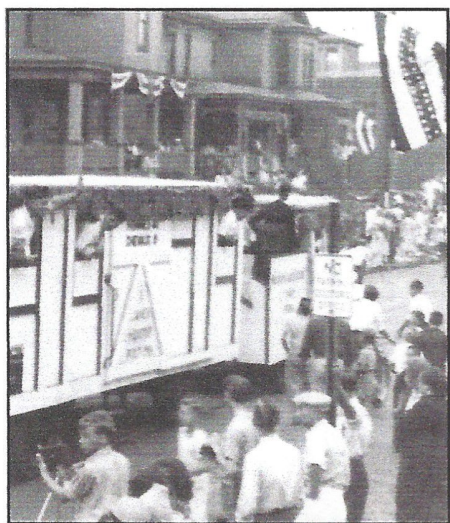


Swimming is a great summer activity and in 1914 the Irwin Borough Council created a recreational board that would construct a swimming pool for local residents at the current Irwin Park. As early as 1915 there was a swimming pool at the foot of Chestnut Street. Since Tinker Run flowed there, fed by water from the dam, it was a simple matter to erect a wall to make a pool. Early use of this makeshift pool had tents for dressing rooms. In 1921 Chester O. Sensenich gave money to construct a real swimming pool and dressing rooms.



The concept of street fairs, church fairs, and community fairs has always been present in the Norwin community. Early residents could always find entertainment at these fairs whether it would be a fire company or a church celebration. For example, in 1928 shortly after the Westmoreland City Fire Company was established in North Huntingdon Twp., a 3 day fair offered summer fun for the local community to enjoy. Labor Day saw Manor have a street fair at the end of summer for years. Fast forward to today and the community always has the St. Agnes Bazaar to look forward to in August.



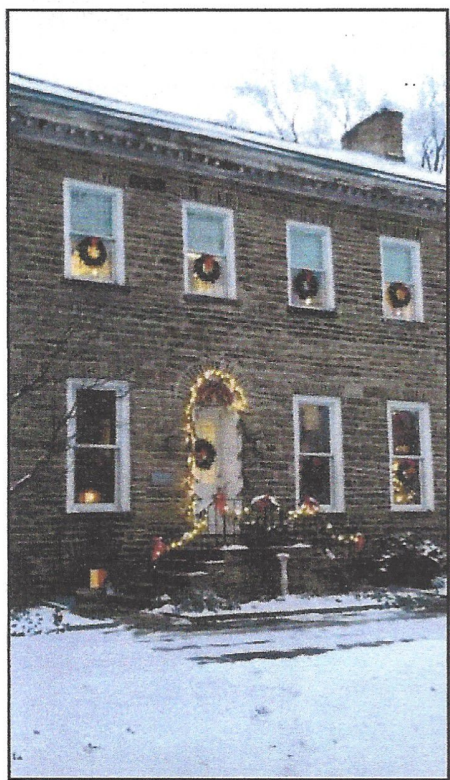


Parades in the Norwin community have always played a role in summer celebrations. The annual Memorial Day parade sponsored by the Irwin Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 781 in May is the first sign to begin summer activities. Over the years parades bring together the community to honor holidays and or milestones like the 75, 100, 125th, 150th Anniversary of Irwin Borough. Most recently a community celebration in 2023 brought the Norwin community together for a 3 day celebration in honor of the 250th anniversary of the founding of Westmoreland County and North Huntingdon Township.



Condolences for Carol Matregrano

The board of the Norwin Historical Society sends it's condolences to the family of Carol Murdock Matregrano. Mrs. Matregrano died peacefully at home on Saturday, November 23, 2024. Carol was a longtime friend and supporter of our society. Her affinity for Irwin was in part due to her uncle Richard Murdock of Irwin, PA. She possessed a zest for life that was exemplified by her world travels, a positive attitude, and her tireless work in her community of Haddam, Connecticut. She was a wife, mother, scholar, and a valuable and significant part of the communities in which she worked. Carol Murdock Matregrano forever remains an esteemed member of the Norwin Historical Society.



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NORWIN COMMUNITY, WE NEED YOU!

**FOR OVER 25 YEARS
WE HAVE HOSTED A
HOMES FOR THE HOLIDAY HOUSE TOUR!**

**THIS YEAR
WE ARE SEEKING HOUSES
OF ANY AGE
LOCATED IN THE NORWIN AREA
TO BE ON TOUR
TO BE HELD DECEMBER 6
FROM 3:30 - 8:00 PM.**

**WE ARE ASKING YOU FOR YOUR HELP.
IF YOU KNOW OF ANY HOMES IN THE NORWIN AREA
THAT COULD BE A POSSIBILITY, WE WANT TO KNOW!
WE PREFER TO HAVE ALL OUR HOMES LINED UP
BY THE END OF AUGUST.**

This is our main fundraiser for the Norwin Historical Society.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION
PLEASE CALL**

**GERALYN DEFELICE
AT 412-523-3222
OR
SHARON LUNN
AT 724-289-8706**

**WE TRULY APPRECIATE YOUR HELP!
THANKS!**

MEMBERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

PATRIOT - \$15 donation

1 YEAR MEMBERSHIP RECEIVES:

- 1 year subscription to our quarterly newsletter
- Presale invitation to purchase tickets to our Holiday House Tour before the general public

ADAM SAAM - \$125 donation

1 YEAR MEMBERSHIP RECEIVES:

- 1 year subscription to our quarterly newsletter
- Presale invitation to purchase tickets to our Holiday House Tour before the general public
- 2 tickets to the Holiday House Tour for the year of membership
- Acknowledgement of donation in our newsletter
- Certificate of Membership

JOHN FRANKLIN WOLF

\$250 donation

1 YEAR MEMBERSHIP RECEIVES:

- 1 year subscription to our quarterly newsletter
- Presale invitation to purchase tickets to our Holiday House Tour before the general public
- 4 tickets to the Holiday House Tour for the year of membership
- Business card size ad in our newsletter for the year of membership
- Acknowledgement of your donation in our newsletter
- Certificate of Membership

JOHN IRWIN - \$1,000 donation

5 YEAR MEMBERSHIP RECEIVES:

- 5 year subscription to our quarterly newsletter
- Presale invitation to purchase tickets to our Holiday House Tour before the general public
- 4 tickets to the Holiday House Tour for the year of membership
- Business card size ad in our quarterly newsletter during membership
- Annual Certificate of Membership
- Acknowledgement of donation on our website
- Acknowledgement of donation in our newsletter quarterly
- Opportunity to have your business cards available to public during our House Tour and Antiques on Main event
- Ad in our Holiday House Tour program
- Opportunity to have your business cards available to public in the Norwin Historical Society lobby on Main Street, Irwin
- Ad on our website



info@norwinhistoricalsociety.org

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Your gift to the Norwin Historical Society helps to preserve our history!

NORWIN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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Irwin, PA 15642

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Please return with check made out to Norwin Historial Society

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Irwin, PA 15642

Choose your membership level

- ☐ **PATRIOT**
\$15 donation - 1 YEAR MEMBERSHIP
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- ☐ **JOHN FRANKLIN WOLF**
\$250 donation - 1 YEAR MEMBERSHIP
- ☐ **JOHN IRWIN**
\$1,000 donation - 5 YEAR MEMBERSHIP

Name

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Address

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For your support!

NORWIN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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Aluminum Cans!**

**Please help the environment and
support us at the same time
by recycling your aluminum cans
at our 4 recycling bins:**

- St. Agnes Church Parking Lot
- Rear of Straw Pump Fire Dept.
- Irwin Playground Parking Lot
- L&L Fleatique in Adamsburg

