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*Naval nurse  
 Mary Schaaf  
 while stationed in  
 Astoria, Oregon  
 at Tongue Point  
 Naval Base,  
 June 1947.*

**See full article  
 on Page 3.**

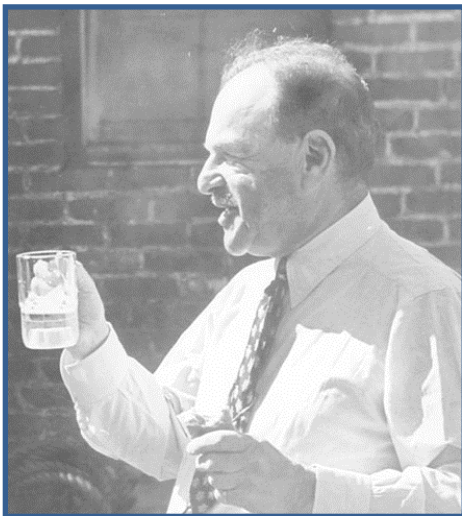
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# THE HARBOR VIEW



*Harborcreek Historical Society celebrates 25 years in 2019!*



## **Celebrating Ernst Behrend's 150<sup>th</sup> Birthday**

**By Jane Ingold, Reference and Instruction Librarian,  
 John M. Lilley Library, Penn State Behrend**

Tucked away in a box in the Behrend Archives is a drafting tool set and a note from Ernst Behrend saying that he'd purchased it with \$50 he "won" on March 29, 1869 for being the first boy born into his family. Those instruments would serve him well as he built a Fortune 500 company that created jobs for Erie residents for over a century.

He was born in Coeslin, Germany to Hammermuhle Paper owner Moritz Behrend and his wife, Rebecca. Ernst earned a degree in mechanical engineering from Charolottenburg Polytechnic Institute in Berlin and served as a Lieutenant in the Prussian Mounted Artillery before immigrating to the United States in 1896. He first worked as a draftsman for Pusey-Jones. Meanwhile, Moritz Behrend was raising a million dollars to fulfill his dream of starting a mill in America. The family settled on Erie as an ideal site as it was centrally located between New York and Chicago and allowed for easy access to important resources, namely water, wood, and railroads.

Ernst Behrend developed a reputation as a paternalistic employer whose management mantra was "teach, don't boss." Hammermill was one of the first companies to offer bonuses, paid vacations, and retirement plans. He was also credited with innovations in papermaking. In 1902 he and his brother Otto, a chemical engineer who served as Hammermill's treasurer, patented a high-speed device that revolutionized the watermarking process and allowed the company to become the first to make paper solely from wood pulp. In 1912 he established a franchised system of sales agents who sold only his products and the company began to advertise nationally. All the hard work paid off, with 80% of the market belonged to Hammermill by 1930.

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# Gifts to the Society

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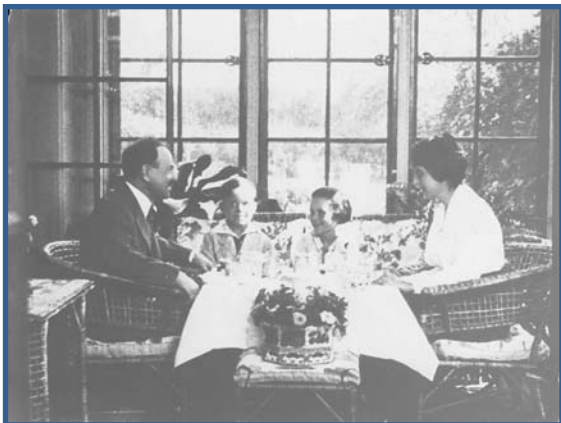
**In Memory of Evelyn Seyboldt - Rick & Louise Smerick**

**Thank you to those who have given extra with membership renewals and/or through the donation box!**

*The Society began the Memorial Gifts program a decade ago, and many members have given to the organization in recognition of a loved one, a classmate or a family celebration. We invite you to consider making a donation "In Memory," "In Honor" or "On the Occasion" of a person or event that is important to you.*

## Celebrating Ernst Behrend *(Continued from Cover)*

Professionally, he served as a Trustee of the Institute of Paper Chemistry and was member of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers. A founder of the National Industrial Conference Board, he was serving as Vice Chairman at the time of his death in 1940. He was posthumously inducted into the Paper Industry International Hall of Fame in 2012. He had been nominated by Dr. John Lilley, past provost and dean of Behrend College.



Luckily for Harborcreek Township, business wasn't the only thing on his mind. He was introduced to visiting Newport debutante, Mary Brownell, at a party held by her finishing school friend, Maud Carter Shannon, daughter of Erie and Western Railroad Company founder Edward Carter. Mary later recalled that, when Maud asked her which bachelor she would like to be seated next to at dinner, she said "I think I'd like to sit next to the paper man. He seems the nicest." And she sat next to him for nearly 40 years. They married in 1907 and welcomed a son, Moritz Warren in 1909 and daughter Harriet Ellen, in 1911. They originally lived in a mansion Ernst had built on the Hammermill grounds, but eventually the sawdust (and no doubt the smell) from the paper mill led them to purchase several properties in Harborcreek Township to build an estate.

Ernst was quite involved with civic affairs. During World War I, he served as a Four-Minute Man, rallying citizens to support the war effort. He was commissioned as a Lieutenant-Commander in the US Volunteer Naval Reserves in 1928 and was the only local person to earn the Distinguished Service Certificate from the Pennsylvania American Legion. He chaired the Erie Community Chest campaign in 1923. He served on the boards of the First National Bank, Deerfield Academy (his son's Massachusetts prep school), and Hamot Hospital, acting as president of the latter for two years beginning in 1920. Among his other honors were an honorary degree from Thiel College in 1936 and his induction (along with his family) into the Erie Hall of Fame in 2012.

Ernst Behrend died of a heart attack at the age of 71 on September 22, 1940 in Glenhill Farmhouse. He was laid to rest in the Behrend Chapel in Wintergreen Gorge Cemetery, which was dedicated to his son who died in a car accident in 1929. It is the site of the annual Hanging of the Greens ceremony, held each December by Behrend College to honor the family for its gift (through Mary Behrend) of land and buildings to house the campus. The Lilley Library at Behrend will hold a birthday party for Ernst Behrend on his 150<sup>th</sup> birthday, March 29, 2019.

# World War II Nurse Mary Ellen Schaaf

Written by Emma Holland and edited by Cam Stadtmueller

Mary Schaaf was born into a family that valued history, education and public service. Following in her mother Lucy's footsteps, Mary enrolled in St. Vincent School of Nursing, graduating in 1943. After serving for a year as a school nurse in the Harborcreek School District, Mary decided to enlist in the military, following in her father Peter's footsteps.



World War II was the first war in which women were legally allowed to serve. Mary was eager to be in the Naval Nurse Corp, and she reported to Sampson Naval Training Base near Geneva, NY on June 13, 1945. There she joined hundreds of women who had similar skills and goals to nurse the injured and wounded soldiers. When the war in Europe ended with VE Day on May 8<sup>th</sup>, the US shifted focus to the Pacific Theater. Thus, Mary's first assigned base was at Mare Island Naval Base, which was northeast of San Francisco at Vallejo, California. There she was a member of the Nursing Corp who staffed the 534-bed hospital. She remained at Mare Island from August 2<sup>nd</sup> until November 7, 1946. Mare Island was also an important naval base for the maintenance and refurbishing of the U.S. Pacific fleet.

While the *U.S.S. Wharton* was moored at Mare Island in November 1947, Nurse Schaaf reported aboard for duty. The *Wharton* traveled to accept wounded soldiers and sailors from the Western Pacific ports on Guam, Saipan, Tacloban and Puerto Princesa in the Philippines, Yokohama and Sasebo, Japan as well as Shanghai, China.

While aboard the *U.S.S. Wharton* Schaaf was promoted to rank of Ensign in the U.S. Navy Nurses Corp for "performing her duties in a highly efficient and satisfactory manner."

By March of 1947 Mary was aboard another hospital transport ship destined to retrieve wounded military men from the Western Pacific. The *U.S.S. General A.E. Anderson* sailed to China, Japan, the Philippines and Guam before returning to Mare Island, CA.

Even during World War II the United States Chiefs of Staff were aware of the psychological and emotional impact upon the doctor and nursing staffs in their care of the wounded and dying. To counteract the sights, smells and sounds experienced by medical personnel, Mary's next assigned post was near Astoria, Oregon, at Tongue Point Naval Base, June 1947. This assignment, at the opposite end of the nursing spectrum, featured women and babies, such a positive, soothing reversal of medical care.

(Continued on Page 4)

## Welcome new members!

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## Office Hours

Winter Office Hours: (thru March 31<sup>st</sup>) Wed. & Sat. 10 am – 2 pm

Regular Hours: (resuming April 1<sup>st</sup>) Tues., Wed., Sat.  
10 am – 2 pm, Thurs. 4 – 7 pm

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## Mary Ellen Schaaf *(Continued from Page 3)*

Although Ensign Schaaf's request to resign from the U.S Naval Reserve was accepted in October, she was transferred to the U.S. Naval Hospital in Bremerton, Washington. She left here for Harborcreek on December 19, 1947 with a Navy issued mileage voucher for \$211.44 to pay for the trip. In total, Schaaf served 2 years, 6 months, and 7 days, and was awarded the World War II Victory Medal and the American Area Service Recognition.

During her 1946 trip from Sampson Base in NY to the Mare Island Naval Station, Mary stopped in Denver, Colorado to visit her brother, Peter, who was five years younger. He was in the U.S. Army and awaiting his assignment for duty. While Peter and Mary were growing up they often heard their father, Peter Sr., speak of his World War I service. In 1909, he had enlisted in PA Volunteer Naval Militia and trained aboard the *U.S.S. Michigan (Wolverine)* under Commander William Morrison. Between 1917 and 1920 Peter Sr. was in active duty and rose from rank of Ensign to Lieutenant. Mary and Peter, Jr. admired their father and wished to carry on the family's commitment to serve the United States.

Following her military service, Mary worked as a nurse at St. Vincent Hospital where she met Earl Thomas Holland. After marrying on April 10, 1948, Mary and Earl lived in a home owned by her father on Dias Street in the Brookside section of Harborcreek. They later moved to Wesleyville where they raised five children: Elizabeth, David, Timothy, Michael and Patrick. In the mid 1960s, Mary returned to college, pursuing a Bachelors degree in School Nursing from Edinboro College. While working for the Erie School District, mainly at Wayne Middle School, Mary went on to earn a Masters degree in Counseling from Gannon College.

Patrick's daughter, Emma Elizabeth Holland, organized her Grandmother Mary's military papers into a notebook as an 8<sup>th</sup> Grade project at St. James School. Mary had meticulously saved all correspondence, including envelopes sent to her Station Road home. Emma's report includes comments from Mary's children and reflects the Schaaf/Holland family love of country and volunteerism - the heart of American values.

The donation made by the Schaaf/Holland family to the historical society includes a naval uniform jacket and documentation of Mary's service in the US Navy Reserves (USNR) of the Navy Nurse Corp (NCR) during WWII.

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## Family connections made at December open house by Louise Smerick

A year-long display at the Harborcreek Historical Society that was created by Brenda Weaver told the stories of immigrants who settled in Harborcreek. Every three to four months in 2018, the exhibit changed and focused on different ethnicities. At the end of the year, the exhibit featured information on immigrants of Scandinavian heritage. Brenda included the story my mother, Virginia Andersen, and how her father (1905-1987) - my grandfather - emigrated from Finland with his parents.

*They began on October 27, 1909 by first heading to Hanko where they boarded the Finnish ship "Titania", traveling two days to England. Then, they traveled by train to the Liverpool area. On November 6, 1909, they boarded the Celtic White Star Line ship bound for New York City. The fare was 500 Finnish marks plus 30 marks in landing fees. The ocean trip took eight days. The final leg was a train ride to Erie.*



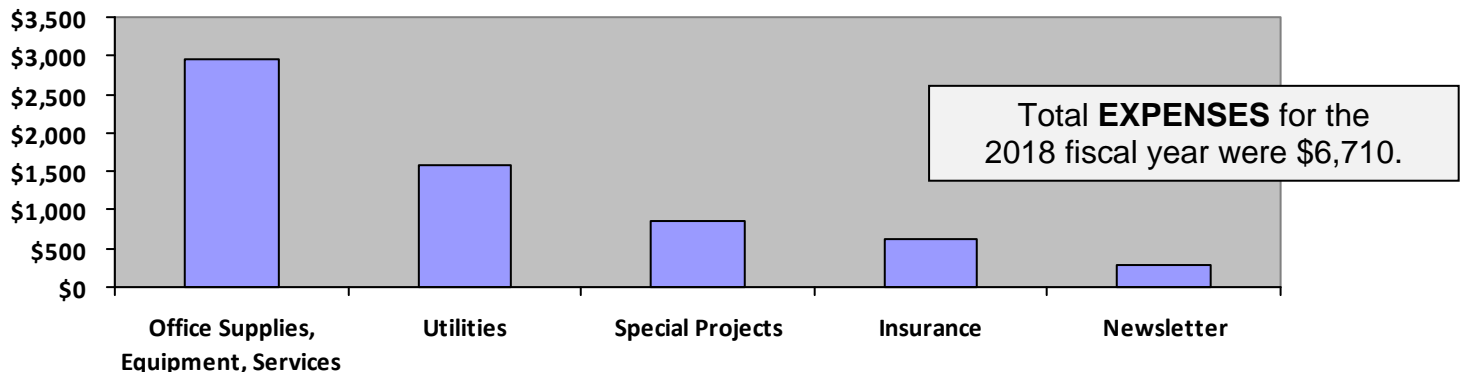
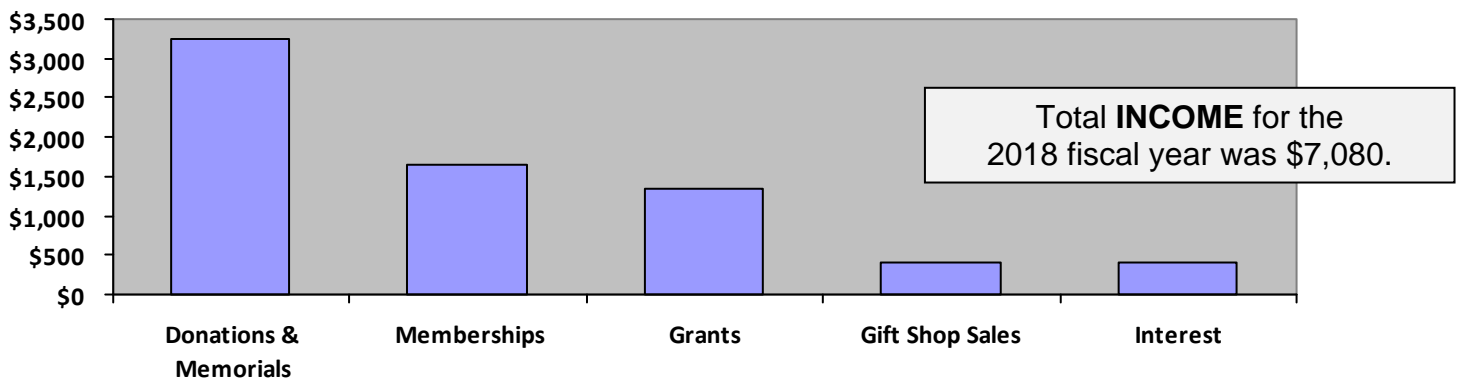
During the historical society's Open House this past December, I chatted with a couple from Fairview, Hal and Shirley Fuller. We discovered that we are related. It was a fun surprise to finally meet Shirley, whom I occasionally heard about from my mother. My mom and Shirley met years ago, and they meet often as part of the now defunct National Secretaries Group in Erie. Shirley is related to me through my great-grandmother's Swedish side. My great-grandmother (1887-1988) had a younger brother; he was Shirley's grandfather.

It is always interesting to talk with visitors at the Gifford-Blanchfield House. This was a special day for me. You never know what treasures you will find when you visit.

Shirley Fuller of Fairview (left) and Harborcreek Historical Society Director Louise Smerick (right).

## Harborcreek Historical Society's 2018 Yearend Financials

by John Skuce, Treasurer





## Behrend Medallion presented to Paul Weitz by Jane Ingold

On Sunday, October 7, 1973, Irv Kochel, Director of Behrend College placed around the neck of Astronaut Captain Paul James Weitz a blue and white ribbon with a bronze medallion bearing the seal of the university. The inscription on the back read: "Presented to Captain Paul J. Weitz, October 7, 1973, for distinguished service to society and eminence in his chosen field. He has brought honor to himself, his community and to mankind as one of America's first Sky-Lab Astronauts." The Behrend Medallion program had been established that year as part of the celebration of the campus's twenty-fifth anniversary and Weitz was the first recipient.

The luncheon, attended by nearly 200 faculty, students, and guests, was held at the J. Elmer Reed Union Building. It began with an invocation by Rev. Guy Patrick of Mercyhurst College, followed by a welcome by Dean of Student Affairs, Ben Lane. After the presentation Weitz addressed those present. A benediction by Rev. Ralph Storm of Messiah Lutheran Church concluded the ceremony.

According to the program for the event, the award "the award provides a means of recognition of Northwest Pennsylvania persons who have brought honor and fame to the area through notable achievement or prominence in their specialized fields. It further provides an inspiration for others." The medallion is comparable to Penn State University's highest award, the Penn State Medal, which ranks in status with honorary degrees that other universities present. Mary Behrend herself was one of two recipients of the Penn State Medal when it was created in 1958.

To be eligible for the Behrend Medallion, the recipient must be a native or resident of Erie, Warren, or Crawford County. Several other Harborcreek residents have received it in the last forty-five years. They include Harriet Behrend Sayre, as well as Behrend administrators T. Reed Ferguson and Irv Kochel, who both lived in houses on campus. (The Kochel family purchased their own home on Reese Road in 1986.) Jordan Road residents Ray and Virginia McGarvey, the former owners of Meadowbrook Dairy and Country Fair, were awarded joint medallions in 2004.

Weitz, a 1954 graduate of Penn State with a Bachelor of Science degree in Aeronautical Engineering, received a second honor that day. He became the ninth Penn State alumnus to be named an Alumni Fellow, which is the highest award that the Penn State Alumni Association bestows.

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## Historical society annual meeting a hit



The historical society held its annual meeting on Saturday, January 26, 2019 at the Harborcreek Township Building. Jane Ingold, Society director and Reference and Instruction Librarian for the John M. Lilley Library at Penn State Behrend, was the keynote speaker. She spoke about the Behrend family, Hammermill Paper Company, and the founding of the Behrend campus. Following Ms. Ingold's presentation, Treasurer John Skuce provided an overview of the society's 2018 yearend financials, and President Lori Sheridan talked about the organization's accomplishments in 2018 and key projects slated for 2019, as this year marks the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Harborcreek Historical Society. Thank you to all who attended!

*Photograph by John D. Fox Photography*