



RELEASE

FRIENDLY FOLKS OF ROARING SPRING ON WPSU-TV

The town and its community will be highlighted on "Our Town: Roaring Spring" on WPSU-TV.

UNIVERSITY PARK, Pa. (Nov. 28, 2006) — Community members from Roaring Spring ventured out into the community this fall, cameras in hand, to tell the story of their hometown. The production, "Our Town: Roaring Spring" will premiere at 8 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 14 on WPSU-TV, with an encore broadcast at 9:30 p.m.

The production gives viewers a sense of feeling, being and living in Roaring Spring. The program covers the long history of the spring and the industry that the spring has made possible in the area.

The program takes viewers to the Roaring Spring Department Store, which is the oldest retail business in Blair County. The owner of the store, Doug Mingle, explains the store's history. D.M. Bare founded the store in 1863. The store was in the Bare family for three generations. Doug Mingle's grandfather began to work at the store, and later took ownership of the company. As the store adjusted to meet the needs of the town, it eventually moved alongside Route 36 to a larger location.

The spring in town has been under the guardianship of the Bare family since the late 1800s. Still with the family, the spring was the source for the Roaring Spring Water Company, which was founded in the early 1980s.

Paula Sell and Michelle McIntyre offered a look at the Roaring Spring Community Library. Sell, assistant director and youth services coordinator, introduced the library's children's room. The library has puppets, train tables, musical instruments and many items other than books to stimulate learning in children. "I don't think that a child can ever be too young to come to a library," said Sell. They frequently offer storytime, crafts and activities. The library also has the Y.A. Café, a teen zone that was created in 2005. The hangout room for young adults is unusual for a small, rural library.

McIntyre, director of the library, explained the history of the library and the Eldon Inn. In 1907, townspeople had gathered to discuss building the Eldon Inn. The Inn was built and all 32 rooms were furnished for less than \$25,000. The library came into existence in January 1959, after a group of volunteers pulled resources together to create it. In January of 1966, the library moved into the Eldon Inn on East Main Street, bringing together the history of the Inn and the library.

The local YMCA is a big part of the Roaring Spring community. Rod Feather director of the Garver Memorial YMCA explains the many activities that are held there. The YMCA was established in 1957, and is now approaching its 50th anniversary. In addition to the aerobics classes, Silver Sneakers classes for seniors and basketball leagues, they are also very well known for the gymnastics program. The gymnastics program is open to all ages, and some students even go on to compete nationally.

David Long, materials and purchasing manager at the Roaring Spring paper mill, explained the history of the mill. Like many other businesses in town, was founded by D.M. Bare in 1866. It now employs around 500 people and is an employee-run business, operated by Appleton Papers.

A young Roaring Spring man, Drake Dodson, took a lot of footage that traced his family's history. Dodson's grandfather, Barney Barnhart, founded NPC, Inc. in 1954. NPC offers printing services. The company used to publish three weekly newspapers—The Hollidaysburg Register, The Cove News, and The Williamsburg Journal. Dodson also took footage of the legacy his grandfather left outside of NPC—his antiques. The family has four buildings that house their vast collection of antiques and woodwork.

Dan Hoover, president of the Roaring Spring Blank Book Company, explained the company history. Hoover is the great-great-grandson of D.M. Bare, who founded the Blank Book Company in 1887. It is a five-generation business, which stemmed from the industry that the spring provided as a water source.

Dick and Gale Reeve, along with Betsy Garrich and Dottie Wineland, introduce viewers to the many churches in the Roaring Spring area. Cathy Mellott takes viewers to a monthly dinner, "Manna on Main Street," held by the Trinity United Methodist Church. The dinner began three years ago and attracts between 125-150 people each month as a great opportunity to enjoy a good meal and socialize.

Gene Kurtz, president of Roaring Spring's historical society gave an overview of the train station. Built in 1906, it became rundown during the 1980s, when the historical society assumed responsibility for it. It has now reached it's 100th anniversary and is a great attraction for the town.

Linda Ritchey offers viewers the history and future of Nason Hospital. Dr. William Albert Nason, along with six other investors from Roaring Spring purchased the Park Hotel in 1886 and established a private sanatorium, which later became the Nason Hospital. In 1961, the hospital moved into its new building.

Throughout the program, one theme comes up time and time again, that Roaring Spring is "a great place to live," and is loved by everyone for the caring people that live there.

WPSU-TV created the "Our Town" series to treat viewers to the many personalities, perspectives, and possibilities that our local towns have to offer. The series adopted the concept of "day-in-the-life" picture books, which profile the people, places, and happenings of a specific town or area. Community members were invited to showcase their town in the ways they saw best fit. With the freedom of blank tape, camcorders, and plenty of enthusiasm, they were on their way. Roaming the streets, listening to the high school band, and visiting local landmarks, the program began to take shape.

Penn State Public Broadcasting serves central Pennsylvania with programming, educational services and community outreach. Its public media services produce, acquire and distribute programs that address local interests and reflect the diverse cultural, political, geographic and demographic characteristics of an audience within central Pennsylvania.

Partial list of locals who participated in the "Our Town: Roaring Spring" project:

Don Allright
Rob Bowers
Harold DeLozier
Drake Dodson
Rod Feather
Betsy Garrich
Dan Hoover
Rev. Joel Kletzing
Gene Kurtz
David Long
Michelle McIntyre
Doug and JoEllen Mingle
Becca Noal
Dick and Gale Reeve
Linda Ritchey
Paula Sell
Adam Seymour
Steve Tomlinson
Elaine Tremmel
Archie and Dottie Wineland

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