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The Dam Show

2007

AUSTIN DAM MEMORIAL PARK
Two Miles North of Austin (Pa) on Route 872

3 BIG DAYS • JULY 20, 21, 22
FRIDAY 6 - 11 P.M. • SATURDAY 2 - 11 P.M. • SUNDAY 2 - 6 P.M.
She taught us about life and now she has taught us about death and how to face it.”
Vicki Ripple, Daughter

“She was an inspiration, a spark and a godsend for helping me understand the workings of the Dam Association.”
Tracie Gordnier, ADMA President

Dixie Ripple
1941 - 2007

Dedication

Dixie Ripple was an inspiration, a spark and a godsend for helping me understand the workings of the Dam Association. She died at her home in Costello on April 13, 2007 with her family at her side.

Dixie and her husband Bill were among a handful of volunteers who put their names and checkbooks on the line for purchase of the dam property from International Paper Company in 1990. They had successfully worked to have the heritage property listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1989. In 1992 they launched the Austin Dam Memorial Association as an official, non-profit, public corporation. (The other founding members of the Austin Memorial Dam Association included Jack Cooney, Bob Cooney, Mina Cooney, Anita Owens, Don Young and Howard and Dottie Bajor.)

She began life as Dixie Lee Stuckey. The name Dixie Lee had nothing to do with the south. It was the name of Bing Crosby’s wife. She had a great sense of humor and was loaded with life! And she loved to play poker. “When I was courting her,” Bill Ripple said, “I went to her house and there were all six kids and her dad playing penny-ante poker.”

Among Dixie’s writings is a poem that carries a message for the community of Austin. It speaks to the tragedy of the Austin Dam Disaster of 1911 that killed 78 people. But the poem also looks to the future through eyes of hope and optimism.

Her poem, “Thank God For Todd” helped her own family and a grieving community through the loss of a her young nephew in an automobile accident years ago.

She once claimed first prize in a poetry contest held as part of the Potter County Fair. That published poem was written in defense of men at the time when the women’s liberation movement was just underway.

Unfortunately many of her writings were lost on their way to New York City where they were to be published as a book. The family remembers pieces about being a housewife, raising three daughters, grandchildren, changing with age, local history narratives and many pieces of poetry.

But the family has discovered a second gem – a notebook where Dixie faithfully collected pieces of information. Whenever family members told stories she would promptly record them in her notebook. Among the pieces are memories of the aftermath of the dam breaking told by her Grandmother Thelma Stuckey, a nine-year-old at the time of the disaster. There are stories about encounters with panthers and funny stories from six-foot seven-inch Uncle Avery Ripple.

Dixie had many interests. And she spent a good deal of time doing research. What she didn’t know she was driven to find. The Internet boosted her ability to uncover information.

She was a painter who favored pastels, at one time owned an antique shop, and loved to read. She had worked on the election board and served as an auditor for Portage Township. She was a member and past worthy matron of Mecca Chapter #217 Order of Eastern Star of Austin. She was also a former member of the Austin Area School Board.

One of her most important characteristics was being a caring, good friend and confidante. She was a good listener and someone easy to talk with. Smiles came easily to Dixie. People trusted her as someone with whom they could share information and get valuable advice. And she was the contact point for distributing family information. She will be missed as the person to be counted on to keep family information flowing.

Dixie is survived by her husband and three daughters, Rhonda Valenti and Laurel Ripple, both of Austin; Vicki Roberts of South Byron, N.Y., five grandchildren, two brothers, three sisters and many nieces and nephews.

In the history of Dixie’s cancer battle, things improved before taking a sharp downturn in the spring of this year. There was a hope that she would be able to read her own work at this year’s Dam Show. That was not to be.

Her daughter Laurie, who is an English teacher and has both a professional and personal interest in poetry, will be reading her mother’s work at the Dam Show as part of a dedication on Friday evening.

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HISTORY OF AUSTIN DAM

Austin was one of the boom towns of the region's 1890-1910 lumber era. As the old growth trees were vanishing, the Freeman Run valley still had immense tracts of pulpwood. Industrialist George Bayless arrived from Binghamton, N.Y., to build a paper mill.

Freeman Run couldn't supply the steady flow of water needed to power the mill, so Bayless in 1909 contracted for the construction of a huge concrete dam. It stretched nearly 550 feet across the valley, stood 50 feet high, and held approximately 250 million gallons of water at a depth of 40 feet.

While some townspeople worried that the dam might break, most saw it as a symbol of continued employment and prosperity. They speculated that, even if the dam failed, Austin was far enough downstream that the water's depth would probably be no more than a few inches.

The dam gave way on the afternoon of Sept. 30, 1911, releasing a torrent that claimed upwards of 80 lives and nearly wiped out the town. After the flood, many families moved out. Others persevered and rebuilt the community.
JAKOB’S HOLLOW

One of the highlights of Dam Show 2006 was the debut of original songs based on the 1911 Austin flood by the local folk trio, Jakob’s Hollow. Those haunting melodies, based on actual accounts of the tragedy, will return in 2007.

Philadelphia recording artist Steve Quelet and Nashville musician Eppie Bailey didn’t expect to find like-minded collaborators when their paths converged in little Coudersport, Pa. Along came Potter County’s own Judy Shunk with her solid stand-up bass sounds and Jakob’s Hollow was born.

Steve is a long-time member of the South Jersey and Philadelphia area songwriting and folk communities, often returning to the area to perform. He has recorded with bands in the Baltimore and Philadelphia regions, and released three critically acclaimed CDs as a solo artist.

Eppie wrote, recorded and performed with her brother around Nashville and still maintains close ties to the area. She also has a long-running partnership with her sister-in-law, Julie Cataldo in Nashville, with their company Zephyr Arts (creator of the Dam Show logos.)

Jakob’s Hollow’s music is gaining notice on a national level, and a recent co-write, “Listen To The Angels,” based on Hurricane Katrina and the people of New Orleans, is gaining airplay on national folk radio stations.

They derive the name from two sources. Eppie’s second son happens to be named Jakob, plus there’s a particularly scenic hiking trail that runs through Jacob Hollow on the Susquehannock Trail System.

ABOUT THE DAM SHOW

The Dam Show is a cooperative effort of the Austin Dam Memorial Association and Potter County Fine Arts Council. Both groups are all-volunteer organizations. Money is always an issue for both. The Dam Association cleared its treasury to improve the road and bring electricity to the dam this year.

The Art Council’s money goes into the show itself for artist fees and sound and on-stage lighting. Much of the progress of both organizations comes from the energy of volunteers. So we all volunteers!

RULES

1) FAMILIES FIRST: The Dam Show has an interesting mix of performers – that’s an annual goal. But an even more important goal is that this is maintained as a festival that is safe and comfortable for families. The legacy of the Dam Show is one of high quality performances on stage and a peaceful, mellow feeling where festival goers can feel relaxed, comfortable and able to enjoy the entertainment without any irritation. The sound system is tweaked in a way that folks can hear the nuances of the music and don’t have to spend time trying to figure if the decibel level might exceed recommended limits.

2) GOOD TASTE: The Dam Association reserves the right (and has never even had to think about using that right) to remove anyone from the property who fails to act in good taste in any way and fails to observe the Families First Rule Number 1.

3) FOLLOW THE DAM RULES: They include NO CLIMBING ON DAM RUINS, NO JUMPING OFF DAM ROCKS, NO SWIMMING IN FREEMAN RUN or the little spring-fed ponds around the dam.

4) CHILDREN MUST BE SUPERVISED BY THEIR ADULTS AT ALL TIMES: There may be some break times if children are engaged in activities like storytelling or art projects – but the watchful eye of parents is a necessity. There is nothing more annoying to our volunteers than having to ask children not to climb on the dam ruins or other rules violations while parents sit by passively.

5) REALIZE THAT THE PARK IS A WORK IN PROGRESS: We are charged with maintaining the park as a heritage property and preserving the property as a study site. Part of the reservation in aggressively moving rocks and landscaping is tied to this concept. We are attempting to move deliberately and thoughtfully as we work to make improvements at the park. So – watch out for uneven terrain!

6) TRASH: We are all volunteers and hope that everyone visiting the park acts as a volunteer to help keep the grounds picked up and free from trash. TRASH IN FIRE RINGS has been a pain. HELP!

7) ENJOY YOUR VISIT TO THE DAM: Give us suggestions, tell others and come back soon. You can e-mail messages to austindam@yahoo.com or through the website: www.damshow.com

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CHARLES KENNEDY
MUSIC OF THE UNDERGROUND RAILROAD

Did you know that Potter County played an important role in the secret shuttling of slaves from the southern states to freedom in Canada?

Such an interesting heritage provides ingredients for both education and artistic development. For two weeks in July, students age six and up have been gaining an appreciation of this special piece of national — and local — history through a Summer Music Camp led by the internationally acclaimed Charles Kennedy Jr. They’ll be demonstrating what they’ve learned on Friday to kick off the Dam Show.

Coudersport PTSA and Potter County Fine Arts Council sponsored the program, in cooperation with the Austin Dam Memorial Assn. Bill and Nancy Trimbur of Coudersport handled the arrangements. The project is funded by an Arts in Education grant from the Pa. Council on the Arts, in cooperation with the Arts Council of Erie, regional administrator.

Kennedy, who has a masters degree in voice and a bachelors degree in drama, has performed in Europe, West Africa, Hong Kong, Central America and throughout the U.S. But his passion is education.

For the past 30 years, he has worked with children in workshops and assemblies, often with an emphasis on the Underground Railroad.

“Children love to sing the spirituals and songs of the Underground Railroad,” Kennedy explained. “They also enjoy researching the songs, designing the concert and performing.”

At least two buildings in downtown Coudersport were critical refuges for slaves escaping to Canada. One of them, the Five Elms Apartments on East Second Street near the Coudersport Consistory, featured a “widow’s walk” that allowed sympathizers to peer out in all four directions for marshals. A secret room in the basement led to a tunnel that could usher the slaves to Mill Creek with quick escape down the Allegheny River.

Several other Underground Railroad “stations” have been identified throughout Potter County.

BLUE SKY MISSION CLUB

The funky and inspiring Blue Sky Mission Club is a melodic outfit of world-class musicians with a deep understanding of roots, rhythm and bluegrass. The Club’s jumping-zydeco-pop beats and lively social commentary are a winning combo on the festival circuit.

Drummer Ron Riddle, formerly of Blue Oyster Cult, helps Blue Sky Mission Club deliver the kind of music that people love to dance to — a unique blend of soul, country, zydeco and rock traditions.

Christina Barry, London McDaniel and Joe Prusch provide mesmerizing vocal harmonies, while the uniquely powerful lap steel guitar playing and roaring accordion of Rob Delphus stir the sonic spirit. Add the old-time fiddle playing of Joe Prusch with bass virtuoso Victor Penemann and you have a mixture that shakes, bumps and makes you want to two-step all night.
GORDON STONE BAND
Gordon Stone, one of the Dam Show headliners, is making a flying trip to Potter County to perform a Friday night set in-between his other obligations as an in-demand performer.

Why? Because he has a genuine affinity for the people and the setting that make the Dam Show a unique experience.

Stone is coming off successful gigs in Boston and New York City, where he performed with long-time rocker Lou Reed and other notables. Earlier this year, the Gordon Stone Band performed in Thailand.

For more than 30 years, Stone has been writing and performing his genre-crossing music. He was well established as a banjo and pedal steel master when he rose to even more prominence more than a decade ago with the well-known jam band, Phish.

That affiliation exposed a whole new audience to Stone’s style of music and, a year later, he formed his own group, the Gordon Stone Trio.

Drummer Bronz was a regular with Stone before striking out on his own for a time. He’s back now to join McCartan – the group’s bassist for the past two years – in forming a special chemistry that earns the band consistently glowing reviews.

PARKING & SHUTTLES
Parking will be available at the Park Entrance Lot for a $5 fee. Shuttles will run continuously from the lot to the festival.

In addition, free shuttle service is available from the Park Entrance to the festival. Shuttles will run every 15 minutes.

FREE Parking is available at the Austin Area School and free shuttles will run from the school to the Festival on the hour.
THE DAM SHOW: A BRIEF HISTORY

The Dam Show began five years ago when there was a need for improvisation and a quick shift in gears by the sponsoring organization, Potter County Fine Arts Council.

Goals of the Dam Show include maintaining consistently high quality, while providing an annual blank page for artists, musicians, poets and more. The dam show is constantly evolving. Throughout the history of the Dam Show, local and regional performers have occupied the stage with national performers.

“We had a grant from the Pa. Partners in the Arts that would have brought blues artist Shemekia Copeland to Potter County for a concert,” an Arts Council spokesperson said. “She had just been named the top female blues artist that year and her career had taken off on a whirlwind that is still going strong.”

Tracie Gordnier suggested the Austin Dam Memorial Park as an outdoor venue that would be a perfect spot for the big voice of Shemekia Copeland and give audience members a chance to move around and dance during what promised to be a lively show. But Shemekia needed a break from a hectic schedule and decided to take a month away from performing. The Dam Show was born.

The grant money was used to hire four bands in a hurry. They included the Simm Redmond Band, Cletus and the Burners, Hank Roberts with Wiggy Dog Boy and Plastic Nebraska. The music ranged from folk rock through bluegrass to acoustic jazz played with a cello accompanied by a Hammond B3 organ. The performers were veterans of the rich festival scene in Ithaca and upstate New York. And we discovered that Hank Roberts, considered one of the top jazz cellists in the world, is one of the most sought-after studio cellists in the country. Added to the eclectic mix of performers were local groups and students from Austin who practiced after school to put together pieces for the program that had almost a variety show format.

Until this year, there was no electricity at the dam. Amplifiers and lights were run by a rented diesel generator. There was a hope and goal that there could be interesting lighting on the dam for the first Dam Show. Thoughts included renting lights from a company in Buffalo, enough lights to illuminate the huge concrete sections of the dam in different colors. But estimated costs made that an impossibility — until publicity for the first Dam Show went up on the Austin Dam Memorial Association website. Folks who owned Groovin’ Lumens lighting company of Honeoye Falls, New York saw the publicity and offered to light the dam for free, because they had an interest in the dam’s history and had been thinking independently that it would be great to put up a stage and have a concert at the dam.

So the first Dam Show had the most interesting lighting that one can expect at a festival anyplace and that spectacular illumination has become a hallmark of the Dam Show.

FLOOD OF 1911 ON VIDEO

Two video productions spotlight the tragic Austin flood of 1911. One of the works was produced by Chris Legarski of Montoursville, whose documentary on the failure of the Austin Dam was part of his film making degree work at the Pennsylvania School of Technology in Williamsport. The E. O. Austin Historical Society will be showing the Legarski film at its booth during this year’s Dam Show.

In 1997, Mansfield University professor Gale Largey produced his 90-minute documentary on the Austin disaster. Moving across the town’s earliest wooded beginning to its fiercely industrial urbany, the film reveals Austin, within the context of apathy and tragedy, through a rich interplay of narration, interviews, and detailed photographs.

Largey’s film explores the social environment of industrial America in the early 1900s. Turning on the tragic pivot of the flood, a portrait of an American community is etched starkly with the character of its people made plain in the receding waters.
STORYTELLER BONNIE KYOFSKI

A celebrated storyteller is coming to Dam Show to share colorful tales of the region’s history.

Dr. Bonnie Kyofski, a retired education professor at Mansfield University, will share tales told to her by her grandmother, who lived in Potter County.

A story about Austin during World War II will also be a part of her line-up. Additionally, she’ll be discussing the Civil War, as well as some humorous tall tales.

While her program will be aimed toward children, many adults take an interest in history, she said.

This is Kyofski’s first appearance at the Dam Show. She has a true appreciation of the region’s interesting heritage: “The men and women of the Pennsylvania north woods whistled while they worked in the woods, mines, and fields. They told tall tales, sang boisterous songs and were prodigious fighters. They felled and floated the masts for the tall ships and provided the intricate decoration for Victorian architecture of the era.

“They were the Bucktailed Wildcat sharpshooters of Civil War fame and the women who kept the home fires alight and farms afloat while their husbands were fighting and dying on the Civil War battlefields. They staged the first labor riot in the United States and later went on strike with the legendary Mother Jones.”

THE SLANT

A band with Potter County roots has branched out and become a success as a live performer and recording artist. The Slant, formed in 2004, defies conventional description and takes certain pride in traveling along a slight detour from the mainstream.

Singer Mark Zedonek and guitarist Mike Kamper (formerly Atlas) combined with bassist Brad Austin and drummer Zach Dow (formerly Blue Squares) to start The Slant. The multi-talented Andre Costello came along to expand the lineup.

A debut album in 2005 had a feel-good sound with roots in classic and independent rock. Then came a second release reflecting a course alteration into new realm of musical experimentation.

The latest release, “Animanatomy,” demonstrates The Slant’s evolution and maturity, with a blend of folk, rock, and self-styled music that includes different harmonies and occasional banjo, mandolin and harmonica offerings.
DAM SHOW 2007 SCHEDULE
(Scheduled Appearances Subject To Change)

FRIDAY, JULY 20
Show opening: John Peet and Gloria Richardson
Blue Sky Mission Club
Music of the Underground Railroad
featuring local students in a Pennsylvania Council on the Arts project
led by Charles Kennedy of Erie.
Jakob’s Hollow
Dedication of Dam Show V to the late Dixie Lee Ripple
Reading of her poetry by her daughter Laurie Ripple
Dam Jam Session
Gordon Stone Trio

SATURDAY, JULY 21
Tom Martin
Fetish Lane
“Drums Along Freeman Run” The Buddhahood’s Drum Workshop
A lively, hands-on drum workshop featuring the Buddhahood.
Storyteller Bonnie Kyofsky
Jonathan Haley

SATURDAY, JULY 21 (continued)
Brother Dietze and the Dixie Boys and Friends
The Slant
Redheaded Stepchild
The Buddhahood/with Essence of Motion Dancers

SUNDAY, JULY 22
Freznel Lenz
Redheaded Stepchild
Essence of Motion Dancers
Student Performances
Under direction of Larry Herbstritt (Songwriter for the Stars)
Fetish Lane
AUSTIN DAM MEMORIAL PARK: THE MISSION CONTINUES
Big things are in store for the Austin Dam Memorial Park.
Members of the Austin Dam Memorial Assn. (ADMA) are determined to make the park a more attractive destination for everyone from history buffs and curiosity-seekers to picnickers, community groups and outdoor enthusiasts.
The tall columns of concrete surrounding the ruins of what was once the Bayless Pulp & Paper Company Dam, just north of Austin Borough, have vast potential as a tourist draw.
Over the years, ADMA has tackled the major challenges of land acquisition, brush-clearing, road-building and construction of a pavilion and picnic facilities. It has been accomplished almost entirely through private donations and fund-raisers.
Now, the challenge is to improve visitors’ experiences. The park is a peaceful setting, where visitors can picnic, walk among the dam ruins, fish for trout or wade in Freeman Run. An access road has been built on the west side of the dam.
ADMA has been addressing many challenges, one by one, with the goal of having the park in tip-top shape in time for the 100-year anniversary of the flood of 1911.
Over the past two years, the park has benefited from projects by the Pennsylvania Conservation Corps (PCC) workers. Recently, electricity has come to the pavilion – an important step in the park’s continuing development.
Additionally, ADMA has added a quarter-mile-long road to the campground area near the park’s entrance off Rt. 872. It was built mostly by volunteers.
Other recent park improvements include: improved picnic areas with charcoal grills; development and marking of new trails; a new kiosk near the dam ruins; and partitioning of a kitchen area at the pavilion.
ADMA leaders are also pursuing several collaborative projects. They’re working with the Pa. Dept. of Conservation and Natural Resources to develop a park development plan and teaming with E. O. Austin Historical Society to schedule a winter festival.
They’re also talking with Austin Borough about possible projects at the abandoned paper mill property, south of the park, and collaborating with the Pa. Lumber Heritage Region and U.S. Rt. 6 organizations to explore mutual projects. ADMA has also been working with local schools to coordinate educational programs and field trips.
One item on the ADMA wish list is the development of water service to the pavilion, if finances will allow.

AUSTIN DAM MEMORIAL ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP

Name _____________________________________________________
Street ____________________________________________________
Community ________________________________________________
State________ Zip_________ Phone _______________________
e-mail ____________________________________________________
Send completed form along with $5.00 membership dues to The Austin Dam Memorial Association, PO Box 495, Austin, PA 16720.
"Charming" is one adjective that comes to mind when one thinks of Brother Dietze and the Dixie Boys.

Accomplished musicians in their own right, the other band members take a back seat when their inimitable vocalist, the 94-year-old Rev. Kenneth Dietze of Shinglehouse, takes the microphone.

He shakes off any hint of infirmity to deliver rousing renditions of classics such as "Four-Leaf Clover" and joyful gospel selections, a la "Meeting in the Air."

There's not a listener in the house who isn't tapping his toes or smiling broadly when Brother Dietze and the Dixie Boys perform their special magic.

Behind the soul-stirring vocals are instrumentalists who strike the perfect balance of "on the paper" excellence and effective improvisation. They include: from Andover, N.Y., Don Burns, tenor sax and clarinet, Dave Burns, guitar and banjo, Mark Amman, bass; from Whitesville, N.Y., Jason Burns, percussion; from Wellsville, N.Y., Shawn Derrick, keyboard; from Coudersport, Art Metzger, trumpet and flugelhorn.

Lighting specialists from the Rochester, N.Y., company, Groovin' Lumens, have never faced a challenge as unique as converting the ruins of the Austin Dam into a canopy for their special artistry. But they've nailed it – and now the light show is an indispensable part of the Dam Show.

Groovin' Lumens returns this year with its aura of colors, patterns and special effects.

The artists, who had illuminated the stage for musicians as diverse as the Jerry Garcia Band and the Del McCoury Band, fell under the spell of the Dam Show back when this festival debuted in 2003 and now they wouldn't miss it for the world!

They're back! A favorite of previous Dam Shows, Kathryn Koch and David Nanni – the duo known as Redheaded Stepchild – return in 2007.

For more than a decade now, Kathryn and David have maintained a strong reputation as a live act while selling thousands of recordings. Now based in Nashville, Redheaded Stepchild spends most of its time on the road.

Built around Kathryn's fiery vocals and the lyrical and melodic sensibilities that both artists share, the songs are steeped in tradition, yet intensely original. You'll hear a wide palette of acoustic sounds, including Koch's stellar harmonica and saxophone playing and Nanni's driving guitar style.

With amazing presence and diversity, Koch never fails to deliver soulful, heartfelt and inspiring performances. Often belting out her lines from five feet behind her microphone, Kathryn can leave audience members feeling more like witnesses!
IF WE BUILD IT, THEY WILL COME...

The E. O. Austin Home and Historical Museum is a visible symbol of perseverance and hometown pride. It’s also an important storehouse of memories, preserved for future generations.

Perhaps it was inevitable that the wealth of Freeman Run Valley history collected and recorded by so many would one day come together under one roof. Still, the colossal task required a true community effort.

Seeds were planted in March 2001 when a group of local citizens with a keen interest in the region’s past gathered to form a local historical society. And where better to showcase the many photos, artifacts and memories of the past than in the home of the town’s founding father, Edward O. Austin?

Austin’s original home had been gone for years, but the local leaders had an extensive collection of photos and written descriptions. They set their sights high: building a complete replica of the structure, right down to the fancy scrollwork and spacious porch, and making it headquarters for the new Austin Historical Society.

The E. O. Austin Home and Historical Museum is the jewel of downtown Austin, built on the community square, just a stone’s throw from the lot where the town founder’s home stood. Under its roof, visitors can step back in time to gain a better appreciation of the struggles and the triumphs of previous generations. Knowledgeable volunteers can help you interpret the exhibits and answer questions.

Edward O. Austin was an engineer and surveyor who ventured south from New York State to explore the unspoiled wilderness of today’s southern Potter County, Pennsylvania. Arriving at the junction of Freeman Run’s two forks in 1856, he purchased about a vast section of forest land and built a modest log home.

Austin’s ambition and affection for this special area laid the groundwork for industries which poured into the valley after roads were blazed: sawmills, chemical plants, kindling wood factories, paper mills and others.

After serving in the Grand Army of the Republic during the Civil War, Austin returned to the region. He built his second home in 1878, in the area that’s now the community square.

The town’s explosive growth continued as a rail line was built to carry its manufactured goods to faraway markets. Austin served as a base for the great lumber establishment of F. H. Goodyear, who controlled much of the nation’s hemlock and bark market.

E. O. Austin died on Aug. 1, 1909. He and his wife Julia are buried in the family plot at Forest Hill Cemetery; a towering stone of white marble marks his resting place.

The borough that bears his name today is a tight-knit community situated amid an abundance of natural resources. The E. O. Austin Home and Historical Museum pays tribute to the town’s founder while celebrating the region’s rich, colorful heritage. For more information, call (814) 647-8358.
THE BUDDHAHOOD

You won’t believe your eyes and ears when you see this band that rocked the Dam Show last year. Great vocals, folk, rock, world music, drums, horns, energy, power and super musicianship are all rolled into this popular festival band.

The Buddhahood will be closing out the Saturday evening show and will also be presenting a fun, free, and open drum workshop at 3:00 Saturday afternoon. Bring your own drums for the workshop which is supported by a grant administered by the Pa. Humanities Council with funds provided by the Pa. Council on the Arts. The workshop will be West African, Brazilian and Middle Eastern drumming.

The Buddhahood performs at venues throughout New York and northern Pennsylvania. One of the top-drawing original acts in hometown Rochester, the band also plays the most popular regional live music venues. The Buddhahood enchants and delights!

SONGWRITERS’ ROUNDTABLE

Potter County’s Songwriters Roundtable is enjoying another successful season at its new location.

The cozy lodge at Ski Denton is hosting this year’s series. It’s located along Rt. 6 between Coudersport and Galeton, near the Pa. Lumber Museum.

Steve Quelet, folk singer and songwriter who relocated from the Philadelphia area to Potter County, has lined up a schedule of talented performers for the series, which runs monthly through November. He joins Eppie Bailey as the monthly co-hosts.

Besides the visiting performers, Songwriters Roundtable features a local opening act, as well as the work of local area artists and artisans. Home-cooked meals and a social time precedes each performance, starting at 5:00 p.m. The program begins at 7:00 and wraps up at around 10:00.

Songwriters Roundtable is made possible through a grant from the Pa. Partners in the Arts and support from the Potter County Fine Arts Council.

Admission is $10 for adults and $5.00 for children under age 12. Dinner is available for $8.00 (adults) or $5.00 (under high school age).

Entertainment lineup for the upcoming shows is as follows:

- Saturday, Sept. 1: The Kennedys and Linda Stout; opening – The Cherry Tree Laners.
- Saturday, Oct. 6: Brent Hopper and Brittany Riley, and the Deb Callahan Blues Band; opening – Larry Herbstritt.
- Saturday, Nov. 3 (5:30 to 10:30): Annual fund-raiser and open microphone.
Not many rural communities have available professional dance instruction. Essence of Motion Dance Studio offers just that, with classes in Coudersport and Emporium.

Students from Essence of Motion will be demonstrating their skills as part of the 2007 Dam Show. They will perform to selections such as Country Charm, In A Factory Downtown, Mockingbird Lullaby, Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy and Memories Of Don Ho. Austin High School graduate Katie Sasala will be the soloist for "And Now A Skit by Pedro Sanchez."

The studio, under the direction of Anita Bartlett and Margaret Spahr, provides instruction in ballet, tap, jazz, hip-hop, lyrical, Hawaiian and modern dance for students age three and up.

"Although our primary focus is on dance, we believe that all forms of physical challenge can be beneficial to everyone's structure," Anita said. "We believe that by teaching people to dance, we can help them enjoy life and become happy, healthy individuals." Anita and Margaret have observed firsthand how dancing transforms people. Some enjoy dance as a competitive hobby while others discover their creative and expressive side by moving to music.

"No matter your age or sense of rhythm, everyone can dance!" Margaret said. "We encourage students to express their ideas and see them come to life."

Each of the instructors is eager to share her own love of dancing.

Margaret Spahr started her dance training at the age of four in Punxsutawney. Upon moving to Emporium in 1992, she continued her training and began to compete. After she graduated from Cameron County High School in 2000, she went on to study dance and perform at Slippery Rock University.

Anita Bartlett started her dancing at the age of two at in Pittsburgh. After numerous competitions, she traveled to Athens, Greece, with the company to perform in a dance tour. Anita studied classical ballet at LaRoche College, then transferred to a more modern program at Slippery Rock University. She taught at GiGi's Studio of Dance in New Castle, then joined Margaret in becoming co-owners of Essence of Motion in 2005.

To call Jonathan Haley a musician is hardly adequate. This young singer, songwriter and guitarist considers his music to be part of a larger mission to touch and inspire others.

He's professionally trained in classical guitar and fully committed to his music, but Haley has other life ambitions -- combating hunger, helping abused children and otherwise living his faith.

Born into a musical family -- the "musical Morleys" of northern Potter County -- Jonathan was the only guitar player to win the Presidential Music Scholarship at Houghton College. He refined his composing and performing skills, then released his first CD, "Under His Wings," last year.

Haley's style branches from contemporary Christian, to classical, to inspirational. He often performs with his fiancé, Leigh, a talented violinist.
FETISH LANE
A warm Dam Show welcome to a newcomer! Fetish Lane, featuring “folk music with a big fat kick,” also features lyrics that will paint pictures in your head. The three-part harmonies will blow you away. The melodies will grab you by the ear and drag you along.

This is all backed by an energetic percussionist who is sure to engage you in his visual performance style. Music Outlook magazine says, “Fetish Lane is feel good music, boasting harmonies reminiscent of CSNY, and feel-good percussion. This band makes me happy!”

Percussionist Israel Lorimer alternates between drums, congas, and other instruments ranging from cow bells to washboards. Others in the band are John Edick on guitar, Ken Held on guitar, and Ed Gliha on bass.

Fetish Lane performs at festivals, cafes, colleges, and clubs. The band has shared venues with Fairport Convention, the Marshall Tucker Band, the Jerry Garcia Band, the Hickory Project and other notables.

The band’s first CD, Acoustic Brew (2001) was well received, leading to the release of a live album capturing the vibrant festival sound a year later. Another studio project “Time,” will be out this year.

FREZNEL LENZ
There’s a double-dose of Freznel Lenz coming to the Dam Show on Sunday. Not only will the Manheim, Pa., band perform during a Christian worship service that morning, it will return to the stage to kick off the Sunday afternoon menu.

Freznel Lenz is a five-piece original Christian band whose collaborative song-writing produces tunes within all genres of music, including rock, country, blues, bluegrass, funk, jazz, Latin calypso, and even reggae.

The band gets its name from one of the early optical marvels of the 18th century, the Fresnel Lens, which is the prism, commonly used in lighthouses, that magnifies light so it can be more easily seen from afar.

“Our music is designed to shine the light of faith,” explained guitarist and singer Scott Frantz. “It’s divinely inspired and it connects with audiences of all ages and musical tastes.”

“Without getting overly religious,” Frantz continued, “we do magnify the truth of the gospel with our music, and we try to do so in a way that makes you think outside the box.”

Freznel Lenz’s appearance is made possible through the work of the Rev. John Baney and the Austin United Methodist Charge.
LARRY HERBSTRETT
Coudersport’s “songwriter for the stars,” Larry Herbstritt, returns to the Dam Show this year in a behind-the-scenes role.

Herbstritt, who provides private music lessons in-between his songwriting and composing duties, proudly presents several of his students during the Sunday afternoon set.

The program is still being pieced together as we go to press. So far, students Gabe Trimbur, Bobby Brown, Sara White and Allie Kightlinger are scheduled to perform selections ranging from ‘70s rock to classical pieces. One or more other students may also take the stage.

Herbstritt burst onto the local scene as “Ollie,” the leader of the ‘60s rock band Ollie and the Go Gos. He went on to become a prominent songwriter and music arranger. Some of his compositions, including “I Just Fall in Love Again” and “Cowboys and Clowns,” became number one hits, performed by Anne Murray and Ronnie Milsap, respectively.

After Herbstritt returned to his hometown of Coudersport, he began taking young aspiring musicians under his wings, some of whom have gone on to study music and embark on professional careers.

Herbstritt assembled several musicians for high-powered sets at the Dam Shows III and IV. He plays today in a classic rock band, Every Tom, Jeff and Larry, and continues his songwriting career with ties to Nashville and Los Angeles.