

HISTORICAL & PRESERVATION

News

Number 24

NEXT MEETING:

Sept. 24th at 7 p.m.

This month we welcome South River resident Bill Hermstedt. Bill will be presenting a program about his adventures along the eastern seaboard in search of lost treasures.

Please join us on Sept 24th at the Old School Baptist Church Museum (War Memorial Building), 64-66 Main Street in South River.

Meeting Dates:

NOVEMBER 19

FEBRUARY 25

APRIL 28

JUNE 23

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President's Message*by Marilyn Anastasio*

The solemn dedication of South River's 9/11 Memorial to Christopher Dincuff and all who perished on 9/11 demonstrated South River family pride. All shared a prayer and a tear.

The monument, designed by Blaise Batko, will allow us to reflect on that day in a quiet and peaceful setting.

Thank you for your letters to Governor McGreevey and members of New Jersey's Senate and Assembly. Your requests to restore funding to the arts were heard. Fortunately, the South

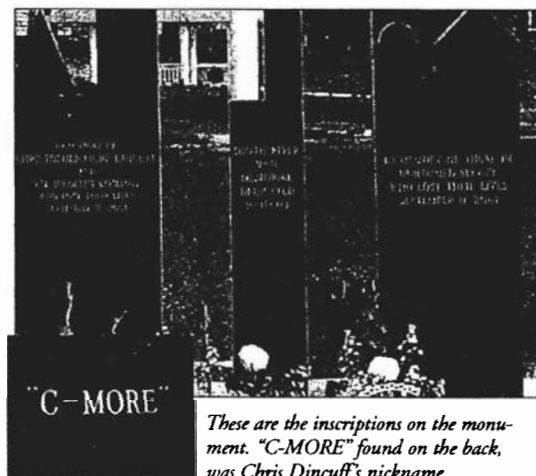
River Historical & Preservation Society was a recipient of some of that funding. The New Jersey Historical Commission approved our application and we received \$5,000 towards the work of cataloging our collection. With the computer program "PastPerfect," we will be able to make our South River collection more accessible to those who visit us at the museum or on our web site at www.rootsweb.com/~njsrhps/. A special "thanks" goes to Candice Lewandoski and Ann Rafano for their work on this project.

South River Unveils Its September 11th Monument

On Thursday, September 11, 2003, just as the sun was setting, hundreds of South River residents gathered at Dailey's Pond Park near Prospect Street for the unveiling of the 9/11 memorial dedicated to the Borough's only victim Christopher M. Dincuff.

The dedication ceremony included speeches from local, county and state politicians, the Superintendent of South River Schools, Chris' former boss from Carr Futures, a Villanova Alumni board representative and his parents.

Among the presentations in honor of Chris were the raising of an American flag that once flew at our nation's capital presented to Chris' siblings by three current members of the South River Rams football team. The ceremony concluded with moving words from Chris' parents thanking the residents of South River for their continued support.

**"C-MORE"**

These are the inscriptions on the monument. "C-MORE" found on the back, was Chris Dincuff's nickname



The 9/11 monument by Blaise Batko is at Dailey's Pond Park

June 25th Highlights—

Louise Fitzpatrick reminisces about her father

The program began as Donna Rafano introduced Dr. Louise Fitzpatrick, daughter of former Mayor and longtime Athletic Director John F. Fitzpatrick. A short film from Field Day 1931, in which Fitzpatrick appears, was shown. Dr. Fitzpatrick spoke about the collection she recently donated to the Society, "materials on South River history, not just her father's history." She described her father's background and related some anecdotes about his life:

- He was born in 1898 and was raised by his mother in a South River that was not yet ethnic, but which became a very diverse community in later years. Throughout his life he "really did believe that this was the best place on earth."
- He appreciated the ethnic diversity and was very interested in the youth of South River, but because of his many activities, he wasn't home a lot.
- During the depression, and throughout his life, he helped individuals and families in many ways, providing letters of reference, jobs, etc.
- His work at Kiddie Keep Well Camp was not just another job, but something very important to him.
- At home, he had a private face that was much quieter and different from the public face that most people saw. While he was not a handyman, he always made sure that things got taken care of around the house.
- As a father, he never told stories, but invented a series of quizzes on subjects he found interesting such as name the municipalities in Middlesex County and name the counties in New Jersey.

Donna Rafano invited others in attendance to share their memories of John Fitzpatrick. Several people spoke including Councilman Art Londensky, who spoke about serving as Fitzpatrick's



Dr Louise Fitzpatrick shares with us what life was like as the daughter of John Fitzpatrick.

right hand man for several years, and explained that Fitzpatrick was probably responsible for getting him involved in politics. Councilman Londensky also told of Fitzpatrick using small incentives like hamburgers and milk shakes, paid for from his own pocket, to motivate the kids he coached.

Dr. Fitzpatrick added that people like Mr. Lesh and Mr. Bryan mentored her father in education areas and Bill Allgair in politics, her father later passed that on when he mentored others. Another attendee told how Mr. Fitzpatrick made sure a neighbor who couldn't afford medical treatment was taken care of.

Many of the scrapbooks and photos donated by Dr. Fitzpatrick were displayed. On display was a collection



Louise and some of her former South River classmates.

of sport photos on loan from Leon Korygoski. Special thanks to Mr. Korygoski who also let us publish several of his photos in our newsletter last February. Marilyn Anastasio showed her photos from when she worked at Kiddie Keep Well Camp. We thank Dr. Fitzpatrick for traveling from Villanova, Pa to be with us!

2003 - 2004 Membership— If you join now your membership will be good through December 2004!

Society Corporate Members



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Ray Laffin of Laffin Chevrolet with our Membership Chairwoman Candice Lewandoski



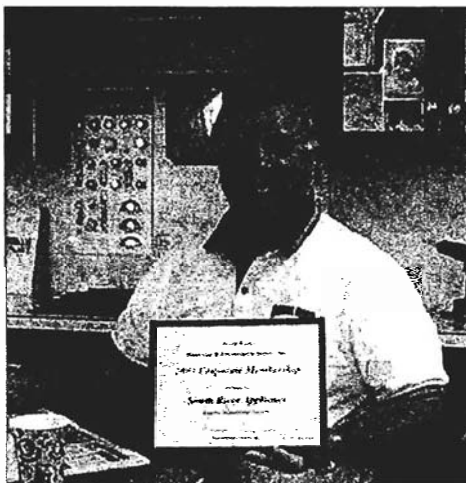
Danny Barreiro of the Ria Mar Restaurants



Suzie Buffalino of Grand Companies



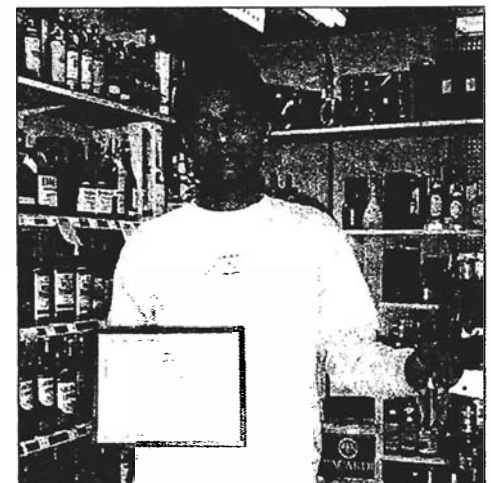
Polish Army Veterans Association members Walter R. Sosulski and Stanley Sachowicz (manager)



Joe Harkay of South River Appliance, Inc.



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Corporate Sponsors not pictured: Gerri's Hair Designers and Moche Aaron Yeshiva High School



**South River
Historical & Preservation Society, Inc.**

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Visit our website at:
www.rootsweb.com/~njsrhps/

WE WILL REMEMBER...
all those who were lost on
September 11, 2001.

We will remember
Christopher M. Dincuff
(1969 - 2001)

for his dedication to the South River community
and his unbounding spirit that touched everyone
who knew him.

A quote from Chris' father — Sept. 11, 2003:

*"Christopher was not a firemannot a police officer...
not an emergency service worker... Christopher was brought
up to be a loving caring person... He was a friend
...On September 11th Christopher was doing
what he was supposed to be doing, he was working....
Christopher is my hero."*

