

THE LANDMARK

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Newsletter of the Friends of Old Annville
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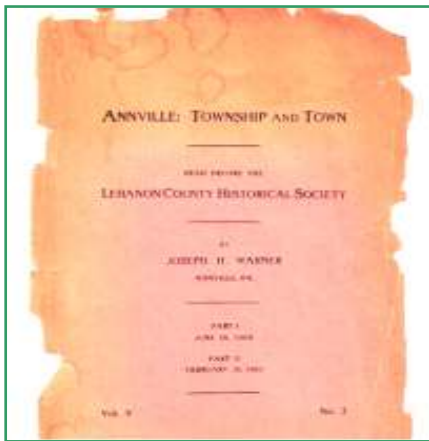
President's Message from Owen Moe

FASCINATING DETAILS FROM ANNVILLE'S HISTORY

One of the definitive 18th to 19th century histories of Annville, "Annville: Township and Town," was written by a Joseph H. Warner (photo) of Annville and published as a 119-page monograph by the Lebanon County Historical Society in 1909. Recently I have been reading an original copy, precariously tattered, which a friend graciously loaned to me. The information in the book is detailed, based on numerous original sources and documents, interesting, and readable. I think it's always good to refresh our memories and to retell the stories of who our forebears were and how we became a community. Below is my exceedingly brief condensation of Mr. Warner's history of Annville.



Short History of Annville



- ❑ When John Taylor, surveyor of the Province of Pennsylvania, arrived in this area in 1735 to survey William Penn's purchase, he reported the presence of a small settlement of Scotch-Irish immigrants in the vicinity of what is now the intersection of Queen and Cherry Streets. These first European settlers in the Annville area formed the nucleus of what would become our town.
- ❑ In 1747, after purchasing a large tract of land that included the Irish settlement, Andrew Miller allowed the Irish settlement to remain, charging rent, and naming the settlement Millerstown. (Friends of Old Annville celebrated the 250th anniversary of this event in 1997).
- ❑ From 1763-67, principal landowners Miller, Adam Ulrich, and Abraham Raiguel laid out streets and building lots in the settlement, which extended from the Quittapahilla Creek on the west to South White Oak Street on the east. At that time, the settlement was given the new name of Annville and was officially a part of Lebanon Township. In 1789, according to geographer Alexander Graydon, Annville consisted of 35 houses.
- ❑ In 1799, the Annville settlement became the central portion of a new Annville Township that split off from Lebanon. In 1805, geographer Joseph Scott lists the population of Annville Township in Dauphin County as "Anvil, 1485 free persons." Annville Township was further subdivided to add North Annville and South Annville Townships in 1845. By the 1900 census, Annville Township had grown to 2503 persons.

(Cont'd Page 2)

Random, Interesting Tidbits from Annville's History

- ❑ Oral tradition said that rifle barrels for Washington's army were manufactured in the 1770's in a stone building called die *alt Boremühl* located on the south side of the Quittapahilla at the foot of King Street.
- ❑ In the 1700's and early 1800's local farmers would travel in large convoys of horse-drawn wagons to bring their harvests to Philadelphia markets, returning home two weeks later with wares and goods from the city that they sold locally.
- ❑ Weaving was the earliest and for many years the main industry in the town. Peter Beck, the first of the weavers, established his business in 1768.
- ❑ Pianos (remarkably) were manufactured in Annville prior to 1800 by John Shertzer - two Shertzer pianos were still in use in Annville at the time Mr. Warner wrote his book in 1910.
- ❑ In 1821, a group headed by a Mr. Heintzelman established a cotton mill at a place known as the Factory Dam in North Annville. Their cotton, produced through 1848, was considered equal in quality to any in the country.
- ❑ In 1839, President Martin Van Buren was entertained at the Louis Gilbert Hotel on Main Street while visiting Annville on his way to Lebanon.
- ❑ Public schools replaced private schools and individual tutors in Annville in 1845 when the single township was split into three. Public education was adopted by a special February ballot to settle a hotly contested issue: town folk favored the public schools, but rural farmers, who outnumbered those in town, were strongly opposed. A major snowstorm occurred on the eve of the election, making it impossible for the rural farmers to come into town vote. Public education therefore passed overwhelmingly.
- ❑ As late as 1875, there were still 75 Annville families that kept a milk cow on their property right in town.
- ❑ In 1887, Joseph Kreider established the *Annville Journal*, a newspaper that was "independent in politics" and issued every Saturday morning.
- ❑ 76,482 pairs of shoes were manufactured in Annville at the A.S. Kreider Shoe Factory in 1895, its first year of operation.

Unfortunately, original copies of the monograph by Mr. Warner appear to be both scarce and fragile. Pending permission of the Lebanon County Historical Society, I will post the text from the Warner book on the FOOA web site so that we'll all be able to read it online. ■



Have A Green Thumb??

St. Mark Lutheran Church, 200 E. Main Street, Annville, is providing 20' x 30' garden plots in the field east of the Evergreen Cemetery to the Annville Community at large. For a printed copy of guidelines and a reservation form, please call (717)867-4326. Leave your name, address and phone number.

ICE BOY IN ANNVILLE (Conclusion)

By Ken Umberger

After some prompting on my part, Irv talked with the police chief of Annville, Herman Heisey, about my driving the ice truck within the town limits (mostly between stops). Herman allowed me to drive the truck, but only on the back streets, as long as there were no complaints. I drove for four years without a problem.

On an average summer day, we would cut and carry as many as 80 to 85 - 300 pound cakes in Annville alone, in the form of crushed ice, small pieces and 100 pound cakes for home refrigerators. That equals around 25,000 pounds of ice, or between twelve and thirteen tons of ice. Ten to twelve three hundred pound cakes were delivered weekly to Spangler's Meat Market's walk-in refrigerator, depending on temperature. The refrigerator was a top side loading unit and each 300 pound cake had to be cut into three 100 pound cakes and hand carried from our truck parked in the alley next to the Spangler home some 20 to 30 feet to the outside unit, and up four steps to a four-by-four opening. It was then placed flat on the wooden floor and pushed back out of the way. After depositing four or five cakes of ice, one of us would crawl into the unit, stack the cakes horizontally in two layers, and continue the process until all the cakes were in place. This filling operation was generally done at the end of the work day.

Earlier in my tale, I mentioned that Irv treated me like a son. Our relationship started my first day on the job. A running conversation would start at 4 a.m. when Irv picked me up at the bank, and continue throughout the day until about 4 p.m. when he dropped me off at my home on South White Oak Street. On many occasions, we would pick up on unfinished conversation we had the day before. Every subject imaginable was discussed - church, family, Boy Scouts, girls, sports, work ethic, and more. Irv talked to me about subjects that only a father would discuss with a son, which I welcomed

since my own father neither had the time nor inclination to do so.

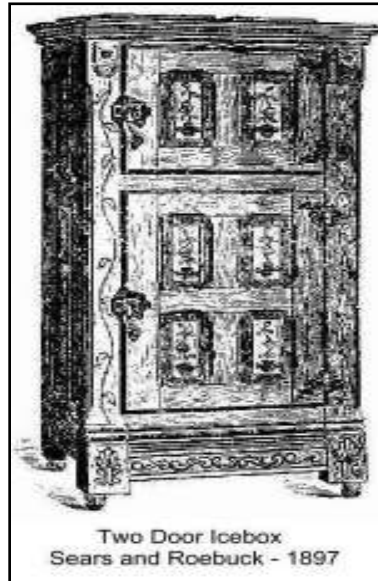
There was a specific comment that he must have repeated at least 100 times in the four years that I worked for him. It was, "Kenny, if you ever have a

question and you can't get an answer, tell me as I have many friends in responsible positions who can and will answer any question you may have." Sure enough, that day arrived and as he promised, we stopped the Annville route and he drove straight to Dr. Monteith's office on Main Street. We went around the back of the house to the door to his office. Irv rapped on the door, and the doctor opened the door and greeted us both with a "hiya" and he turned to Irv and said,

"what can I do for you, Irvie?"

Without hesitation, Irv said, "Doc, the boy has a question and I can't answer it. Will you help him?" Doc Monteith said, "If I can", so I related my question to him. He thought for a moment, and promptly answered it. After thanking him, we were back in the truck and on the route in less than 15 minutes. This action convinced me that Irv was a man of his word, and that he did, indeed, have my best interest at heart.

After this, I began to notice that throughout the route, people would stop their cars, park along the curb, and come across the street to pat him on the back, or shake his hand, always saying, "Hi, Irvie". In other instances, passers-by would roll their window down, wave and greet him. The longer this went on, the more I realized that this man had something genuine that I wanted - respect. It took some time before I finally broached the subject with him and when I did, he smiled and replied that these people were his friends.



Two Door Icebox
Sears and Roebuck - 1897

Almost every day on the route provided a new experience, and believe me, some of the stories you might have heard about the ice man (or the milkman) are true. Some of the instances were accidental, and others were deliberate, I won't share some of the more sensitive details, but there

were some funny ones. At any rate, I shared my experiences with Irv who did not seem at all surprised, no matter what the day threw at us. His smile spoke of knowledge of many years and he would say, "chalk it up to experience - it's part of growing up". ■



Friends of Old Annville will be holding its 21st annual **Historic Old Annville Day on June 19, 2010**. This is a new date for this year only - the third Saturday in June rather than the second as in the past. Also new for 2010: hours will be **10 AM to 3 PM**, and West Main Street (Route 934 to Chestnut Street) will be closed to traffic all day long, opening up the entire street to vendors and activities.

We will also have many activities on East Main Street, and plenty for families to do - good food, good music, and interesting crafts will abound. Help bring Main Street alive that day! So come join us for a great day!!! Vendor spaces will be available for a small fee, or just have a yard sale at your home. Contact Michael Bowman at 867-4101 for additional information or visit www.annvilletwp.com.

Do You Have The Mystery Card???

In December's issue of the Landmark, we printed a photo of a 1915 postcard of an Annville store for our readers to identify. We heard from two people, and would like to share their comments with you. However we'd like to ask first if one of our members may have purchased the card or may have one in their possession??? As you know from last issue, the store pictured was Shope's, and ultimately Kreider's Grocery, on the southeast corner of Main & Cherry Streets. Jerry Hoffsmith, who'd very much like to secure a copy of the postcard writes: "Our family has some history at the store, and in the 60's my Grandfather and Uncle both worked at the store. We also as a family shopped at Kreider's Grocery Store every Friday evening. My desk sits right where the check out and candy isle was. I often think about those times here in Annville. Both sets of our Grandparents lived here and my parents are booth from Annville." If you can help Jerry with his quest, please call him at Colonial Craft Kitchens, 717-867-1145.

Our 2nd letter came from J. Ellis Wood, who writes from Shamokin Dam, PA. Although Mr. Wood guessed the photo was of Kimport's Store - his letter adds another dimension to the Old Annville business community. Mr. Wood notes: "I seem to think this store was superseded by the John Mirsh Store; the clue is the porch over the sidewalk. This was located on the North side of Main just West of White Oak. The only other "overhead" I recall was at the Tydol-Veedol gasoline station on West Main and South Lancaster. Following Mirsh's was Bill Davis' Drug Store. Me and brother Dan, also RPh, were the first competition to Marry Seebold - Corner of Main and South White Oak.

Also wish to express great thanks to the Grandson of Dr. James Monteith for allowing his journals to be published. I knew Jim Monteith well – he was my physician in 1941-2, if I needed one. I even remember him when he was an under-grad at LVC. Up the street from us (East Sheridan Ave) was the home of the President of LVC, Dr. Gossard. We believe Jim was courting his daughter. Great story about the Shoe Factory – there were two in town at the time. Also liked his description of the fine School System and of Greystone. I attended there first in 1930 (3rd grader). We were relegated to the lowest level!

Our thanks too, for the volunteers who give much time to providing us a glance back at Annville, as well as today's progress. I have many fond memories of Annville during the 20s, 30s and 40s. Also, my special greetings to Blanche Hughes Schaeffer (Class of 1940) who started it all !! Tell her one of those “memories” is of Vince at the Rescue.

This Old Annville House **THE WONDERS OF WD 40**

Submitted by Michael Charelian, M C Carpentry, Annville



Just about everyone has a can of WD40 lying around the house. This ubiquitous household staple originally came into being back in 1953, when the Rocket Chemical Company of San Diego, CA, was commissioned to formulate a rust inhibitor to coat skins of defense missiles. After 40 attempts, they succeeded in designing the water displacement formulation they were seeking – hence “WD40.”

Since then it has triumphed over many a squeaky door and stuck lock. But WD40 has many other wonderful uses. As winter turns to spring, many of us start thinking about exterior home repairs, specifically roof repairs. Did you know that WD40 more humanely removes roofing tar off hands and tools than lacquer thinner or paint thinner? I also use it to coat the bottom of my lawn mower to keep the grass from sticking. Just a couple more reasons to keep that little yellow and blue can on the shelf.



From the Annville Free Library: BASIC COMPUTER CLASSES

Interested individuals are invited to enroll in an 8 week Basic Computer Class being offered by the Library April 14th through June 1st. Participants have a choice of signing up for Wednesday afternoons (2-4), or Thursday evenings (6-8). The classes are intended to be fun as well as informative, and they are offered at a price you just can't beat.

Computer guru and skilled communicator, Art Murray, will be volunteering his time and skills to offer these classes which are designed for the true first-time user. No prior experience in needed and the classes will introduce you to basic computer skills and provide you with resources for continued self-directed learning.

There is an initial charge of \$15. to register, but each student will receive a flash drive (storage device) to keep, and \$10 of the fee will be refunded after successful completion of the 8-week class. Please be sure to **CALL** Vicki Gingrich at the Library **NOW** for further details and to register, as class space is limited. 717-867-1802.



A Visit to 414 East Main

Some years back, an old friend teased that if she saw me with stars in my eyes or heard me talk about being in love ~ the object of my affection too often proved to be a dilapidated old building, rather than an exciting new man. But for Mrs. Robert Werni, when she developed those same stars in HER eyes, not only was she already married to Mr. Werni, but they were the parents of four teen and near-teen daughters. In the 30 years since the Wernis fell in love with their home at 414 East Main Street, ten grandchildren have followed, and they've continued, throughout, to improve and enhance their property.

Today, I think, everyone in Annville has a “fall in love” reaction to the Werni home which is unarguably historic (dating to the mid-1700's) and picture book perfect - both inside and out. Looking at the house today, it's hard to imagine its deplorable condition at the time the couple purchased it in 1980.

Mr. Werni notes that the home stood vacant for nearly 20 years, though at some point it was inhabited by hippies who used a woodstove that caught the front room on fire. As a result, when the Wernis purchased the home, they could stand downstairs and look into the second floor through the hole burnt through the floor above.



But the Wernis were game to tackle a house with holes. They recall that attending the public sale for the property, the auctioneer's runners and the crowd continued to bump into the post on the damaged and rotting side porch. Since this was the lone post remaining, a final bump jostled the support loose and the roof began to drop. As Mr. Werni says, the men simply knocked the post back under the sagging structure and continued on with the sale.

The Wernis worked on the house for nine months before it was habitable, and their living room “looked like a storeroom” for a year and a half. Mrs. Werni is still amused by the fact that their four girls, going upstairs for the first time, were thrilled that the five bedroom house would allow them each a separate bedroom. Mom and Dad had to point out the flaw in that theory, and only then did they realize that the home's only bathroom, in 1980, still remained at the foot of the yard. But on the plus side, as the home had begun life as a double, it DID boast a double outhouse which remains in the yard today.

Mr. and Mrs. Werni believe that they were among the first to tackle restoration of one of Annville's old homes with, Mr. Werni chuckles, “half of Annville watching”. And as pioneers in local historic preservation, the Wernis, in contemporary jargon, were also pioneers in “going green”. Doing hard, dirty work, they salvaged a great number of the building's pieces and put them to new use. Bricks from chimneys crumbling in the attic now face a living room wall and create a raised hearth for a gas stove. Wood shingles that covered the east side of the building today offer a warm textured wood wall in the TV room. From another site, after Mr. Werni had stripped the old lathe and plaster from the ceilings, he salvaged floor joists used to reinforce/sister the beams ~ lending support to the 2nd floor planks that wavered with just the weight of a puppy crossing the floor overhead. For fuel economy, Mr. Werni insulated all the walls, drywalled and plastered; and after replacing the original woodwork, added several inches to the already enormously deep windowsills. Mr. Werni also laid the

brick walks and patio areas around the home, pointed the stone, and has applied his woodworking skills to building marvelous (and authentic looking) cupboards, shelves and furniture – several examples pictured..



Asked about the toughest parts of the work, he recalls that in the process of adding the addition to the back of the house, his “worst” job was breaking through those enormously thick stone walls. The only disappointment the Wernis experienced relates to the lack of fireplaces left at the time they bought the house. This deficiency, with time, they remedied beautifully. Mrs.W’s most discouraging moment came after she’d finally talked her husband into removing all the siding that covered the home’s east side, only to face a wall coated with black pitch. Sandblasting removed the tar, but the Wernis remember coming home the next day to find the house still so filled with dust they couldn’t see. They said they simply turned around and went back out.

Although Mr. Werni began our discussion saying that his wife wanted the home, and he could’ve lived anywhere ~ after doing 90% of the restoration himself ~ there were 30 years of invested hard work and creativity reflected in his answer when I asked what he liked best about their home. Simultaneously, in stereo from both sides of the room, Mr. and Mrs. Werni said: “THE HOUSE!”. I suspect we all agree.

The Wernis searched the deeds for 414, but only back to the first that could be found in the Lebanon Courthouse. However, like many of the older homes in Annville, earliest records must be accessed in Lancaster County for the period prior to 1813 when Lebanon County was carved from portions of Lancaster and Dauphin counties.

“Snippets” of Old Annville from Our Members

Good SamaritansSubmitted by Elizabeth Liskey Fake

In 1945, being 15 years old, my father sent me to the Annville National Bank with a deposit. This was three blocks from the Liskey Farm on S. White Oak Street. When I got to the bank, the teller said “Miss, there is no money in your bank book”. I hurried home to tell Daddy I had lost the money. He kindly said, “Elizabeth, you retrace your steps and look all along the way back to the bank”.

I got to the Pennway Bakery about 3 o’clock. In the back part of the bakery men were unloading their trucks with loaves left from the day’s deliveries. I asked one of the men if he had found any money – that I was on the way to the bank and had lost the money to be deposited. The men said: “You go up to the office”. He showed me the way upstairs, and I told the man behind the desk that I’d lost some money on the way to the bank. He asked how much I lost, and I said \$75.. He opened his drawer and gave me the \$75.00. That was a lot of money at that time. I thanked him and hurried to the bank. I also hurried back home to tell Daddy the good news. What a joy for both of us. I am thankful for kind, caring, honest, trustworthy people in Annville. It was a wonderful town to grow up in.

Coming Next Issue: The Train Station Telegrapher by Bob Swope

