

THE LANDMARK

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September/October, 2011

Newsletter of the Friends of Old Annville

Annville, FOOA, and the Flood of 2011

President's Message By Owen Moe

Thirty nine years after Hurricane Agnes, Annville was battered this time by Tropical Storm Lee which, like Agnes, stalled for a time over our area. The storm dropped approximately a foot of water on ground already saturated from rain that came with Hurricane Irene the week before. The combination of an uncharacteristically raging Quittapahilla Creek (picture below), rain water draining off the northern hills into Annville, and rapidly rising groundwater damaged homes all over Annville. Particularly hard hit were the houses close to the creek—homes on High, Lancaster, and King Streets. Both historic and newer homes were damaged. County Commissioner Jo Ellen Litz, on September 21, reported that 31 Annville homes had been destroyed and 43 had sustained major damage.

But even on streets relatively far away from the Quittie—Maple Street, College Avenue, and others—basements filled with rising ground water. Much was destroyed by water, and some of our neighbors lost nearly everything. The crisis brought people together - work parties of neighbors and friends helped many homeowners to haul out heavily sodden books, furniture, paneling, family treasurers, and appliances from basements and to clean up the muddy residue left by the receding waters.

Friends of Old Annville was also affected by the storm as the basement of the historic train station took on 27 inches of water. The electric power went out for 9.5 hours in parts of the East end of Annville before and during the heaviest rain surge on Wednesday night/Thursday morning of September 7/8, rendering inoperable the very capable sump pump in the train station just at the time it was needed most. After that night of deluge, I checked the exterior stairwell to the train station, which is the only entrance to the basement, and found deep standing water which, we soon learned, extended through the door into the basement itself.

With help from Dennis Flake, Kathy Moe, and Tucker Hull who loaned us two very valuable sump



pumps, we were able to bail and pump out the water and assess the damage. We lost a rug, an old trunk, two pressboard desks, a dehumidifier, and our plumber just recently informed us that we have lost our furnace as well. We also had damage to some of our archived Annville memorabilia, mainly items that were stored on the lowest shelves. Kathy Moe, working with two college student volunteers, and Fred Richter working on a second day by himself, dried a portion of the papers and photos that were affected. Quite ironically, when Fred Richter was trying to dry some of the soaked three-ring binders of historic memorabilia, the first binder he opened was the one dedicated to photos and articles about the 1972 flood due to Agnes.

We will work to replace our furnace and dehumidifier, and we hope to save much of our archives, but we most certainly will lose some materials. Fortunately, Paul Fullmer had already scanned many archived items for his electronic

archive of Annville history. Paul will continue to scan as we dry the materials, and we will continue to build the electronic archive into what we hope is an extensive and flood-proof repository of Annville history. ■

Prices of the Day

DOZEN EGGS 18 CENTS
2 LOAVES BREAD ... 15 CENTS
3 LBS COFFEE 39 CENTS
TOOTHPASTE 27 CENTS
LB OF BACON 39 CENTS
HEAD OF LETTUCE 7 CENTS

A 'Snippet' from Harry Fake, Jr.

"I was 13 years old in 1939 and our church Sunday school handed out tickets for the rides and food for Annville Picnic Day the following Wednesday! I asked my mother for extra money to spend, but she didn't have any to spare, so I asked my grandfather and he handed me a 50 cent piece. Man! I thought I was the richest kid on the block. I went to Hershey Park and had a very good time AND I even brought home some 'change'!"

Harry resides in Cleona and is a member of the A.H.S Class of '44.

Phil Billings to Speak at Annual Dinner Meeting

We are pleased to announce that Dr. Philip Billings, Professor of English at Lebanon Valley College, will be the featured speaker at our annual dinner meeting on Saturday, November 12. Billings, who earned his BA degree from Heidelberg College in Ohio and his MA and PhD degrees from Michigan State University, teaches American literature, poetry, and writing fiction at LVC.

In his talk, entitled "How I Discovered Annville," Phil will speak to us about his experiences in the writing of *Porches* and *Porches 2*, two books that he published in conjunction with artist Dan Massad. In the 1980's, Phil carried out many interviews, oral histories if you will, with many of Annville's long-time residents. He then retold their stories in poetic form in the *Porches* series. Many of us read with interest Phil's poems about Nellie Bernardo and Carrie Stober that we published in recent issues of the *Landmark*. We look forward to this talk and hope you will be able to join us.



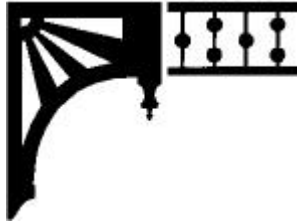
Election Ballot for FOOA'S November's Annual Meeting

Up for reelection this year at FOOA's annual business meeting are:

Paul Fulmer, Vice President

Jill Palanzo, Secretary

Members at Large: Mike Bowman, Rachel Noll, Val Weiner



Friends of Old Annville
Annual Dinner Meeting

Saturday, November 12, at 6:00 PM

Annville American Legion
 35 South Manheim Street in Annville

Featured Speaker

**Dr. Philip Billings, Professor of English, LVC
 and author of Porches and Porches 2**

Talk Title: “*How I Discovered Annville*”

Also, Presentation of 2011 Historic Building Award
 Presentation of 2011 Façade Grants, Report on Quittie Park Expansion,
 Pictorial Review of 2011, and More.....

Wine and Cheese Mixer, Buffet Dinner, Dessert and Coffee
 Cost: \$20 per person



Friends of Old Annville Annual Dinner Meeting Reservation Form

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Number Attending _____ @ \$20/person

Payment Enclosed \$ _____ (*payable to “FOOA”*)

Mail this form and payment to: Owen Moe, 308 East Main Street, Annville, PA 17003

Deadline for reservations: November 10, 2011

Excerpts: 1972 Flood in Annville

By Ron & Doris Flory

On the pages that follow, Ron & Doris Flory chronicle their experience with Annville's last great flood in 1972. Despite the passage of nearly 40 years, those coping with the effects of 'Lee' will undoubtedly recognize many of the same losses and share many of the same feelings. They are sadly timeless. We can only hope that like the Flory's in 1972, flood victims in 2011 will also share the same experience of community support and caring.



In our active volunteer service of the Union Hose Fire Company of Annville, starting in 1967, we helped many disaster victims from fires, health problems, accidents, tornados plus many more. We never thought we would be a victim of a disaster.

In 1972 we had some terrible tragic events starting with the Fogelman fire March 20 and the death of two young children and a severely-burned girl. Then the Dechert home on Manheim St. was destroyed by fire in April. By June 5, women in the Union Hose Fire Company had organized the Emergency Committee to help at a disaster, giving coffee and food to firemen and disaster victims. The next fire was the Millard pig farm, then June 22nd "Agnes" arrived and we, plus many others along the Quittapahilla Creek became victims.

We purchased our "historic" home in April 30, 1968. We have pictures of the home being moved in 1946 from the now small triangle north of the elementary school facing South White Oak Street to 351-353 South Lancaster Street. We wanted the double home so Doris' mother would also have a home after she sold her home and business, Millers Nursery and Garden Center. We both loved the home and the wonderful neighborhood.

We did major renovations and enjoyed our years watching the improvements, then Wednesday, June 21, a cold rain storm moved into PA. That evening 5.5 inches of rain fell and Thursday the 22nd it rained all day and by midnight 10 inches of rain. The Fire Company was checking on people in the possible flooding area and at 5:30 in the morning of the 22nd they told us and the others on lower Lancaster Street to evacuate our homes. Met Ed had been called and they instructed the fireman to pull the electric meters on the homes in the flood area, as Met Ed people could not get to Annville due to flooded roads. Our home was 250 feet from the creek, sitting on a 25 foot high bank. Normally the creek was only 8 inches deep. We left our home as water was lapping at the first floor and we only took a few items of clothes and our dog and two cars. We were new to floods and thought it would stop and we could return.

We went to the new fire hall on East Main Street to help and have a familiar place to stay, but the electric was out so the women went to the old hall on Railroad Street where they had gas stoves for heat and cooking for the firemen and displaced persons. The firemen were busy keeping track of the flooding and pumping basements. The women set up the area upstairs for people with blankets, pillows, games, and clothing - all donated by Annville people. The Lebanon Valley Home had just finished a new wing and offered the victims a place to stay. Doris and daughter Cristal slept there. Ron stayed at the Fire Hall and slept very little. Doris and Cris came to the Fire Hall each morning to help serve and care for victims and firemen. We made three meals a day with food donated by the Social Club and people of Annville. One of the most unforgettable deliveries of food, after people could get into Annville, was the Fogelman family bringing large cans of food to feed the firemen and displaced people.

The firemen returned to our area in the AM to make sure people had left their homes, and found an elderly woman who didn't want to leave her home. Ron talked to her and she agreed to leave. Ron carried her to the fire truck. Annville was completely isolated. West Rt 422 was flooded due to the collapse of the Iron Bridge on West Queen Street, with a feed truck sitting on the bridge. Both floated to the bridge on West 422, blocking the water. 422 East flooded at Weaber Street and 934 South flooded at the Quittapahilla Creek, while 932 North flooded from run off and small streams.



The communications of Civil Defense, now EMA, in the basement of Lebanon Municipal building was flooded, so there were no communications for emergencies except radios in the fire trucks. The firemen of Annville went into the Town Hall to move things out of water in the basement and found the old dispatch base that was used by Annville in the 1950's. They hooked the base up and it worked, and used it until the CD base in Lebanon could be used again.

Friday the 23rd the rain had stopped. The water was up to High Street and was about 4 feet deep, and the current was too strong to get to our home. We were concerned as we had left behind, upstairs, our Parakeet. There was no way they could rescue the bird, so they returned to pumping basements and water drains in other parts of town, as well as rescuing stranded people. By Sunday, June 25th, Ron could reach our home. Doors were open, windows broken, 1 ½ to 2 inches of mud covered the floors and furniture. The refrigerator was moved across the

kitchen and the water line of 5 ½ to 6 feet was very clear on the living room wall. It was the same on Doris' mother's side. The old wainscoting was buckled and her antique desk top was lying broken on the muddy floor.

The long process of cleaning began, salvaging what we thought we could save, while the rest went on the curb for pick up. First thing was to get the slick mud from the floors. We found a very ill Parakeet upstairs, and though friends offered to care for our daughter's ill pet, it was to no avail. The days were long and dates are not remembered, just the memories of our two-family home damaged and a need to be there to start over again. We found the foundation on the 353 side had fallen in due to the force of the water. Men of our church offered their help to remove the porch and jack the sagging wall up little by little until it was back to a normal level. We picked up our wall phone and no dial tone. Ron took the phone apart, poured out the water, and by that time it was ringing as friends offered their help.

The women of the Fire Company and others came with food. When Doris could finally return to the home she found family members loading the dishes into garbage bags to take to their homes to clean and wash and store until the home was in order. One man helped us to buy lumber and other materials to repair our home. People babysat our daughter and our dog as well. It was a trying time and very slow recovery time - cleaning and drying out the home. With the cold wet weather even the upstairs walls were moldy. We stayed at different homes at night, returning in the early morning to start again and again. There was so much disease in the water of the flood, the smell was terrible. Our daughter found a cat hiding - wet and scared and hungry. She cared for the cat but picked up a bacterial infection on her head, under her hair. This was a long painful treatment for her and us. Some of our photographs were in the flood and we took them and patted them dry and hung them on a wash line at our family's home, but our movie film was in a box we forgot about for many months, and the film was muddy and stuck together. We still have that film even with the water line on it, as those films are of our families.

We didn't take the extra loan from the Government; we only took the first forgiveness grant, \$4,500. We had \$20,000. damage. Ron and Doris' uncle did most of the repairs except for two furnace repairs, carpet replacement, and the foundation wall repair which was done by Ron and his dad. The pile of damaged flood items rose along Lancaster Street as well as the items we thought we could save in the garage. Some of these fell apart. Our daughter's toys from the down-stairs we knew were no longer safe and could not be cleaned, and we were also told the appliances should not be used.

Our home came first as well as Doris' mother's side. She loved the home and needed to return from a stay in Palmyra, so we finished her side first then some of ours so we could sleep upstairs and lock the doors and begin looking for replacement furniture at a good price.

Then the outside came next. The yard was filled with silt, oil, mud, sewage, and items from other victims of this flood. When the water was still up in the yard, a row boat came into the yard. Two men in the boat were trying to get our neighbors' picnic table that was hanging from the limb of a tree. Ron had to scare them away with his empty pistol after they laughed and said we're down here on the water and you are on the bank. When the water went down we found many tires in the back yard and the next morning they were gone. We couldn't believe people would do this in a time like this. The firemen did patrol the homes that were in the flood area, but who would expect someone to do this in broad daylight. At the end of our yard near the creek was a large tree and 20 foot from the ground in the fork of a tree was a stump washed in by the flood. After our yard was cleaned, the next year, we painted on the stump "Flood 1972" which was pictured in the Lebanon Daily News. At the base of the tree we found the body of a wild duck. We knew she had a nest there, and under her were two eggs. She had protected her eggs with her life in 25 foot of water. Our garage had corn growing in the mud on the cement floor. This corn we had to see that duck. All the tools were rusted and had to be washed and oiled. Nails and



screws were scattered in the mud. All we could do was shovel it up.

June 22nd 1972, a flood party was organized. Everyone on our street was invited and brought a covered dish. This was a party of thanksgiving and friendship. We invited people who had moved away after the flood, firemen, commissioners, plus others. The Washington Band played with no charge for the first party. The second and third one Ray Clodoveo's Accordion Band played. These were held 1973 to 1975 and 1976 was the Bicentennial. The flood parties were a time to meet old and new residents and volunteer fire company persons. The street was closed from High Street to the end of Lancaster with the Commissioners OK.

After 1972, we held hope for no more flooding, but four times our basements were flooded, one of those times to the bottom of the first floor, and 16 times in the yard. We kept a measuring stick in our backyard to see the footage of the water, as well as keep time of the water rise.

Finally after many meetings, letters, and articles in the Newspaper, the flooding in the creek area was reduced by the removal of the Dam breast at the mill. 1979 we felt we could not stand another inch of water, so we moved to higher ground, but memories live on. Remembering our neighborhood and the people who helped us at that time. We might forget a name, but they know who they are. We could have never recovered had it not been for them and our faith in God.

God Bless You All, Ron & Doris Flory

After The Marshall Home Tour 125 West Main Street

On September 25th, a time when many were just beginning to recover from the devastating effects of Tropical Storm Lee, it seemed fitting for Friends of Old Annville to hold a house tour, hosted by owners Nevin & Eileen Hoover, at 125 West Main Street. The Hoover's beautiful home, a burned-out shell just 16th months ago, is a testament to triumph over adversity and an unquestionable inspiration to many who may feel that life will never return to normal.

Those who toured the former business and rental property, could not help be astounded by the creative blending of salvageable historic elements and modern amenities in this very sizable and elegant home that is now a primary residence for the Hoovers. Exposed logs and pocket doors share space with the very best that a 21st century model home might have to offer.

But despite massive granite-topped kitchen islands, whirlpool bath, and 2-sided glassed fireplace, the history of the Marshall home is still very evident in its architecture; and its 'living history' continued to unfold throughout the day. In this regard, pictured below are Dr. Warren Brubaker and his wife, Mary; and to the right Nevin Hoover explores family documents with Dr. Jeffrey Marshall, great, great, great grandson of Dr. John G. Marshall, Annville physician and original owner of the home. Dr. Marshall, with his sister and aunt, came from Wyomissing to tour the home, and brought with them family photos and documents which Paul Fullmer promptly scanned for FOOA's archives. One of the volumes, a family history published in 1915 by Professor Thomas S. Stein, A. M. of Annville, PA describes the Marshall physicians of Pennsylvania - 5 of whom practiced in Annville, and 17 or more in Pennsylvania.



Dr. Brubaker (left), whose father was also an Annville doctor, grew up in the home at 125 Main Street from the age of 2. As visitors looked out at a massive tree whose enormous trunk filled the entire window, Dr. Brubaker attributed the tree's enormous girth to the fact that it grew from the old cesspool. He recalled as a boy playing hide-and-go-seek, having had the clever idea to tie a rope around the tree (then a sapling) and lower himself into the cesspool. As the bottom of the hole was a 16 foot drop and Dr. Brubaker's youthful knot-tying skills proved to be somewhat lacking, he was ultimately pulled, unconscious, from the pit. He regaled the Hoovers with further stories of adventures in the cellar and solved the mystery of when the addition was added to the back of the house. Now a den with a vaulted ceiling and a widescreen TV where visits watched a slide presentation chronicling the fire and the stages of rebuilding, the addition (lost to the fire) was added in 1929, the year Dr. Brubaker's father bought the home.

After a great tour, that blended the story of the home and its literal rise from ashes with the history of those who built and enjoyed it over the last 100+ years, FOOA extends its thanks to the Hoover's for the opportunity to share 125 Main Street and the new Flower Garden (in its new home to the rear of the house) with the community. And we thank Drs. Brubaker and Marshall for helping to bring the home's past inhabitants alive for us.



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Membership Renewal

Please remember that your MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL DATE may be found on the mailing label of this issue of The Landmark. Please send your dues and address change to: Rachel Noll, 1673 Louser Road, Annville, PA, 17003-8856. Have questions? Call: (717) 867-2137.

Individual & Student \$ 5.00 ♦ Family (2+ persons) \$ 10.00 ♦ Business \$25.00
Friend of FOOA \$ 50.00 Benefactor \$100.00

RENEWALS;

Iris Berliner Alster
Scott & Crystal Aungst
M/M Leroy Brandt
Tim & Audrey Brandt
---Timothy S. Brandt Plumbing
M/M Richard F. Charles §

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M/M Richard Wherley