

# THE LANDMARK

Volume XXXII No. II

March/April, 2012

Newsletter of the Friends of Old Annville  
P.O. Box 99, Annville, PA 17003

## THE IMPORTANCE OF A TOWN CENTER

### *President's Message by Owen Moe*

I have written in past issues about the progress that Annville has made in revitalizing its town center. When I recently came across an online pamphlet by the Urban Land Institute entitled "Ten Principles for Developing Successful Town Centers," I naturally assumed they meant developing the run-down centers of towns that have lost their businesses to the automobile culture, with its expanding suburbs and shopping centers. But to my great surprise, they were talking about creating town centers in the suburbs themselves. Paraphrasing the ULI pamphlet, it seems that active, healthy town centers provide something that all people value:

*For more than half a century, suburbanization has been the dominant force in America's metropolitan growth and development. From the beginning, suburbs revolved around such private pleasures as backyard barbecues, football practice, country clubs, and stay-at-home moms. One consequence is that there are few public places in suburbia where all segments of society can get together to interact, to celebrate, to stroll, to protest, to sit and watch the world go by, or just to enjoy day-to-day living. Gone are the street front stores that were intimately connected with the life of the community in towns and cities. That eclectic mix of new and old, mom-and-pop stores, and personalized service was replaced by more standardized, no hassle environments with predictable chain stores, mass market appeal, and plentiful parking. Gone too were opportunities to walk to the corner store, the movies, the library, the town square, or the local café, because land uses were designed to be separate.*

The missing element in all of this change, of course, is a sense of community. Unlike the suburbs, however, Annville has always had a town center, but at one time more vibrant and community-sustaining than it is now. And re-establishing a real town center where people can walk to interesting and useful shops, restaurants, professional offices, theaters, and places to gather, meet and sit is as important to those of us in Annville as it is to those in the suburbs.

It is in this context that I want to acknowledge the work of the Annville Economic Development Authority (AEDA) in its work on the Annville Center, a development project involving the north side of East Main Street immediately east of the stoplight. The work on the project has begun in earnest with the construction of the new limestone-walled parking area for 40-plus vehicles, well-screened immediately behind the 19<sup>th</sup> century homes on Main Street. Also under



construction are other associated public spaces including pedestrian walkways and a small corner park that includes a town fountain. In addition to providing valuable parking for new merchants and professional offices, the new public area can provide space for events such as community gatherings and possibly occasional farmer's markets.

With the new and very attractive public spaces that include significant parking nearing completion, the AEDA is now selling the buildings on Main Street, each of which will first undergo a "facelift" consistent with the original appearance to assist with historic preservation of the building facades. The final step in the project, to come somewhat later, will involve the development of the former Fink Bakery property. With all this hard work by AEDA, and a little luck to boot, we could have new merchants and professional offices moving into Annville, helping to further build the critical mass of businesses that will make the Annville town center self-sustaining. ■



## **RESTORING AN ANNVILLE TREASURE**

### **2012 Spring Program – Sunday, April 22 at 3 PM**



The spring 2012 program of Friends of Old Annville will give us a look at the renovation job being carried out by Jeff and Marie Kreamer at 533 West Queen Street in Annville.

The Kreamers, who purchased the 1795 Abraham Herr home, will talk to us about their efforts (and adventures) in restoring this 18<sup>th</sup> century limestone structure. They will also take us through sections of the home showing us examples of rooms before and after the restoration work. This will most certainly be an interesting and educational program – and a chance to see one of Annville's very early great homes.

There will be no charge for this event, but since we are limited in the number of people that we can accommodate, we do ask that you call (867-4326) or email ([moe@lvc.edu](mailto:moe@lvc.edu)) Owen Moe to reserve a spot for this event. We will accept reservations on a first come, first served basis.

It has been said that, at its best, preservation engages the past in a conversation with the present over a mutual concern for the future.

## Part II: The History of Education in Annville

Written by Kathy Gardner, Annville-Cleona High School, 1982

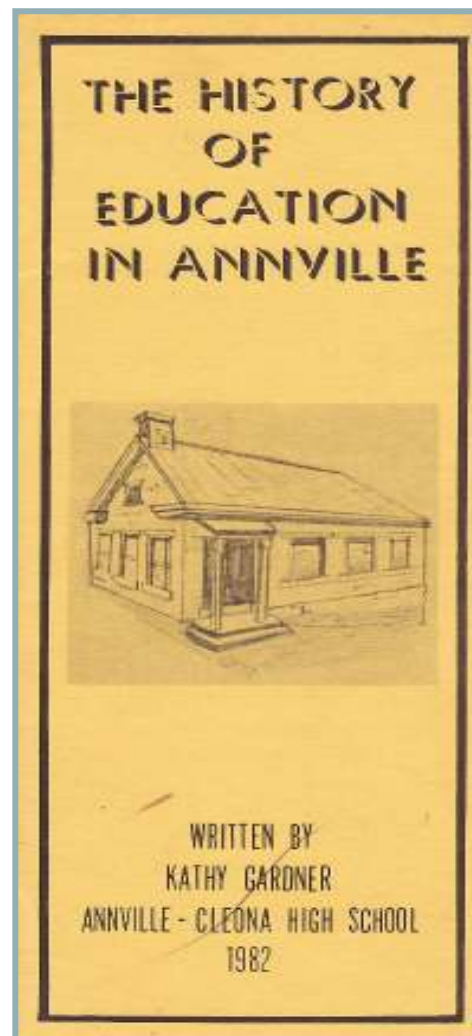
In our last issue of the *Landmark* we printed the first section of this history written by Kathy Gardner thirty years ago. Today Kathy writes:

*"There is a back story to the article..ACHS English teacher Joan McCulloh drove me around Annville on several Wednesday evenings to collect the oral histories of several of Annville's elderly residents as part of my research. I'd love for her to get some mention in your publication. She is still going strong in Mercersburg, PA writing local history for the Mercersburg Historical Society."*

*She adds: "Joan McCulloh actually had the high school print shop do the graphic work and run a batch of them (the booklets shown at the right)."*

While the establishment of this system provided free education for all children, many rural families who had the money sent their children to private elementary schools, and these children then took exams to enter the public high school. After the passage of the Free School Act, Humberger school, for example, was established as a private school by a group of Germans who feared that their children, if exposed to the public schools, would lose their German language and heritage. Located on land purchased by Henry Humberger in North Annville, the building was made of logs and served as a teacher residence and school. It taught only German until 1837 when English was introduced. When in 1843 the need for a new building became apparent, it was replaced by a new schoolhouse located on a second tract of land near the first on the road leading from Heilmandale to Waterworks.

Humberger School never boasted of more than one teacher at a time, whose discretion it was to decide in which language or languages the lessons would be taught. For three cents a day many rural Annville families chose to send their children to this school as an alternative to the public school system. Some of the descendants of these patrons, which included the Ashmead, Benson, Black, Boger, Elliott, Hean, Henning, Heilman, Fernsler, Snavelly, Huber, and Sherk Families, presently attend schools in the Annville-Cleona School District.



Another private school, the Annville Academy, was established in 1834 by John Sherter, Adam Ulrich, Leonard Heilig, and several others who saw a need for a higher course of instruction than that offered by any one of the Annville schools. It attracted the patronage of not only prosperous Annville students but also students from out of state. A new building was erected in 1839, and the school continued until 1865 when its building and ground were donated to Lebanon Valley College.

Despite the significant patronage of such private schools and others established before the passage of the Free School Act, the public school system had much support. The community erected buildings in the town and on South Manheim Street, which was enlarged several times to accommodate classes past the turn of the century and today is a part of the Annville American Legion building.

In 1845 Annville Township was divided into North and South Annville Townships with Main Street as the dividing line so that two districts emerged. This division unfortunately retarded the development of a more effective system and added to the maintenance charge. Each district had its own high school with one teacher and one principal.



North Annville's high school, a red brick building located on North King Street, was originally one room but was continuously enlarged until it finally included six rooms. North Annville High School is remembered as having the only football team in the history of any Annville schools until the present team was established. South Annville's high was originally a two-room building located behind the present site of Viozzi's Food Market, but it was later enlarged to four rooms.

In 1908, when the first class township of Annville was formed, this new governing until proved to be the first step in the development of a better school system, because it allowed the organization of one high school instead of two. The former South Annville High School became the combined high school for the district and at first offered only a three year course. Its graduating class in 1915 was the first to cover four years beyond the common school subjects. The former North Annville building held grades three through eight until 1827 when it was sold and renovated for manufacturing purposes. Grades one and two were housed in the South Manheim Street building and in the South Hall of the Lebanon Valley Academy.

In general, the organization, curriculum, and special programs of the early Annville school district were very different from those which prevail today. In the high school there was a total of four teachers and a principal. The teachers were required to teach a variety of subjects in every period of the six that made up a normal day. Class sizes gradually grew from the class of 1911, which had only seven members, to an average of twenty-five students in the classes of the mid-1920's.

The curriculum was basic, as the school board wanted to keep the tax burden upon the community as low as possible. Required courses included mathematics, English, history, biology, and a language, which was German, until 1914 when it was banished because of World War I and replaced by French. Latin was also an elective for college preparatory students. The school offered home econo-

No. 3553		MONTHLY SCHOLARSHIP AND ATTENDANCE REPORT												NATIONAL SYSTEM HIGH SCHOOL RECORD												
Name		Rice, Margaret										Address		Annville												
Grade		Senior				Course				College Prep				Room		1		Year		1926-27						
SUBJECT	FIRST SEMESTER					SECOND SEMESTER					SUBJECT	FIRST SEMESTER					SECOND SEMESTER					EXAMINED BY				
	1	2	3	4	5	Aver.	6	7	8	9		10	Aver.	1	2	3	4	5	Aver.	6	7		8	9	10	Aver.
English Comp.	98	98	98	98	98	98	99	99	99	99	99	99	Arithmetic	96	95	96	96	96	96	96	98	97				R. F. Rice R. F. Rice R. F. Rice
English Lit.													Plane Geometry													
German													Solid Geometry													
Latin													Adv. Algebra													
Caesar													Bookkeeping													
Cicero													Comm'l Law													
Virgil													Stenography													
Latin Comp.													Typewriting													
French	96	95	95	94	95	95							Economics													
Ancient History													Man'l Training													
Amer. Hist.	96	96	96	97	97	97							Mech. Drawing													
M. & M. Hist.													Dom. Science													
Choirs													F. H. Drawing													
Ele. Science													Music													
Biology													Physical Ed.													
Physics	88	88	88	88	88	88	95	96	96	96	96															
Chemistry													Days Absent													
Physiology													Times Tardy													
Algebra																										

my and manual training, but because of limited space these classes had to be held in rented space in the basement of the former St Paul the Apostle Catholic Church. One day a week school also offered a continuation school for students who had left school between the ages of fourteen and sixteen.

The program and activities open to students were limited. As there was no cafeteria, students had to go home or to pack lunches. Because the school did not offer chorus, band, any clubs, or social activities, the sports program was the only read student outlet. The absence of a school gymnasium caused many students to pay a fee of three dollars to join a gymnasium which Lebanon Valley College built in a part of its administration building. There, they could practice wrestling, eight lifting, tumbling, and basketball.

Basketball was the most popular sport at Annville High School at this time, and in 1918, when the Union Hose Fire Company was built, a basketball court, which the school's teams began using, was built upstairs.

Both boys' and girls' teams were successful, and, because buses were not used by the district, they traveled by open truck as far as Fredericksburg in their winter seasons. The sports of tennis and baseball were also available to students.

Because of the crowded conditions which prevailed in the district's schools, the Board of Education consented to have the question of a new building placed before the electorate in 1917. This vote, however, was strongly against the proposal, for residents were leery of indebtedness. In 1920, the same year women were granted suffrage rights, the question was again placed before the voters, and this time the proposal for the construction of a new building was approved, undoubtedly because of the support of the feminine voters. *(To be continued).*

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**Membership Renewal** Please remember that your MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL DATE can 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 Rachel at: (717) 867-2137 or e-mail [rrnoll@comcast.net](mailto:rrnoll@comcast.net).

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

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## RENEWALS

Michael & Barbara Arnold  
Dr/M Robert Bauer  
M/M Henry Berger  
Ed & Palm Bernardo  
Mrs. Joan Bernardo  
Andy & Mary Cantrell  
Paul & Betty Du Kelberger  
Dana & Carole Ellenberger  
Dr/M Arthur Ford  
Fred & Carole Frattaroli  
M/M Dennis George  
Mrs. Doris Gerber  
M/M Ernest W. Heisey  
Hildegard E. Henson  
M/M Richard W. Hollinger  
Dr. Frederick Johnson

Bob & Laura Kindt, Jr.  
John & Mary Kreider  
Jon & Jo Ellen Litz  
Scott & Karen Mailen  
M/M Robert Martin  
M/M Adam Miller  
M/M Carl S. Miller  
Gerald & Regina Musser ★  
DBA Providence Egg Producers  
Marcus & Kolleen Newman  
Ms Ruthmary V. Pearce  
Anthony & Alissa Perrotto  
Karyn Rose  
Doug & Bonita Royer  
Nancy S. Salamandra  
Dan & Donna Salerno

Lydia A. Schiavoni  
Mrs. Gladys Seiverling  
M/M John D. Shuey  
Doris T. Shull  
Mrs. Betty Streicher  
M/M Thomas Svirsko  
Mrs. Grace Tom  
M/M John Witmer  
Eloise Loy Zimmerman

## NEW MEMBERS

Kyle S. Becker  
Landin M. Comins

**PLEASE REMEMBER TO SEND ANY ADDRESS CHANGES TO RACHEL NOLL.**

**And please don't forget that a membership in FOOA makes a great gift to welcome a new neighbor or to honor a special occasion.**



**SATURDAY, JUNE 9<sup>th</sup> from 9 -2**

**Downtown Anville on Rt. 422**

Enjoy Crafts, Food, Music and Family Fun.  
Come Help Us Celebrate Anville!

Hosted by Friends of Old Anville. Visit [www.fooa.org](http://www.fooa.org) for more information.

## **IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER**

April 22: ABRAHAM HERR  
HOUSE TOUR

June 9: HISTORIC OLD  
ANNVILLE DAY

June 30: FAÇADE GRANT  
DEADLINE

**FOOA Facade Grant Applications Due June 30<sup>th</sup>** : In 2012, FOOA's *Facade Assistance Grant Program* , designed to assist property owners preserve and rehabilitate the façade of their historic properties, will again focus on Main Street in the Anville Historical District (Saylor Street to the Quittie Creek on the west).

Applications are due by June 30, 2012, and the size of the award could range from \$500 to \$2,500. All awards by the Friends of Old Anville will be grants, and repayment of the funds is not required. The grants do require a match of at least 50% by the property owner. Be sure to visit [www.fooa.org](http://www.fooa.org) and download your application packet now.



**Box 99, Anville, PA 17003**

**Address Service Requested**