

THE LANDMARK

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Newsletter of the Friends of Old Annville

***NEWSFLASH!* Annville's History Is Being Made Today!** President's Message, by Michael Schroeder

Historians track the past like Hansel & Gretel tracked breadcrumbs – one clue leads to another, which leads to another, till the mysteries of the past start to reveal themselves. Here I offer a handful of breadcrumbs to future generations of Annville's historians, scraps of information plucked from the top of the "important stuff happening now" pile, as we here today work to shape our community's future. Lots happening in our little corner of the world! Consider:

☞ *Resignation of Township Commissioner Dick Charles.* On Monday, March 3 at the Annville Township Commissioners' monthly meeting, Commissioner Dick Charles tendered his resignation, effective April 6. For 14 years Dick has served as Commissioner, most notably as head of the Annville Economic Development Authority. Dick's leadership will be greatly missed. An exclusive interview with Dick Charles can be found inside this issue of the *Landmark*.

☞ *Future of the Allen Theater?* On March 14 the *Lebanon Daily News* reported that the U.S. Treasury Department had seized the Allen for non-payment of taxes and the property would be auctioned off at the Lebanon County Courthouse on April 8. But the article also reported that owner Skip Hicks said there wouldn't be a sale and the taxes are being taken care of. We sincerely wish Skip the best as he works to clear up this issue. The Allen Theater, a key business in Annville that attracts many visitors to our town, is well known in south-central Pennsylvania and one of our town's real treasures.

☞ *Family Dollar Store at 1324 East Main Street?* On March 4 the *Lebanon Daily News* reported that the Annville Township Zoning Hearing Board would hold a public meeting on a petition requesting several zoning variances to permit the construction of a Family Dollar Store where Reager's Auto Sales now sits. It was a fascinating meeting and instance of local democracy in action. To make a long story short, the Zoning Hearing Board turned down the petition and there will be no Family Dollar Store at 1324 East Main. And that, in my own view, is a good thing. Local businesses deserve all the support we can muster, but for a host of reasons articulated by neighborhood residents at the public meeting, we don't need an oversized cookie-cutter chain store plunked down in that section of East Main.

☞ *Future of the former Johnson's Bar?* Local scuttlebutt has it that the Lebanon County Planning Department has turned down a petition to permit a restaurant & bar at the former Johnson's Bar at 201 West Main St., citing a lack of adequate parking. In this case, local scuttlebutt is wrong, according to Luis Rodriguez of Lebanon County Planning, who says the owner, Angelo Mini – who opened Soprano's Pizza across the street at the former Kettering Corner at 104 West Main – has yet to submit a request for a zoning variance. Meantime the property is up for sale and its future remains another big question mark.



- ☞ *“A Dropbox for ZORC in the Cloud”*. That memorable phrase, seemingly lifted from an old *Star Trek* episode, was uttered by Township Commissioner Jim Scott at the March Township Commissioner’s meeting. Commissioner Scott was referring to the Zoning Ordinance Review Committee, which is hard at work revising and updating Annville’s fairly massive list of zoning ordinances, trying to determine the best places for zoning “commercial,” “gateway commercial,” “residential,” and so on. The tedious but essential work being undertaken by ZORC has major implications for Annville’s future.
- ☞ *Quittie Creek Nature Park – Cleanup from February’s Ice Storm*. We all remember the massive ice storm in early February that toppled trees and limbs across the Lebanon Valley. In the wake of the storm, Commissioner Jim Scott walked Quittie Creek’s banks from the Route 934 bridge to Willow Drive and counted 42 limbs & trees blocking the creek. Organizing a cleanup effort soon followed. On Saturday, March 15, upwards of 30 football players from Lebanon Valley College volunteered their muscle-power to help local park enthusiasts cut & drag a good number of those limbs & trees out of the creek. More work days are scheduled for every Saturday afternoon through April, and probably after. Some great photos of the cleanup effort can be found on FOOA’s Facebook page.
- ☞ *Quittie Creek Nature Park – Growing Greener Streambank Restoration Project*. The Quittapahilla Watershed Association, which under the auspices of the Lebanon Valley Conservancy recently received a \$444,000 grant for the project from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, hopes that this project will commence this spring, dramatically improving the streambank from Quittie Creek Nature Park to the Route 934 bridge.
- ☞ *Hazard Mitigation Grant Program*. Plans for the dozen properties taken over by the Township in the wake of the devastation caused by Tropical Storm Lee in September 2011 are still being developed.
- ☞ *Future of Fink’s Bakery*. We don’t know what the future holds for the former Fink’s Bakery at 25 East Main St., even as community leaders continue to explore various possibilities.

These are just some recent events, developments, and question marks that promise to shape Annville’s future, breadcrumbs for future historians to follow. For some we know the outcome, for others we don’t. Such is the nature of making history: we never know exactly where we’re going, but if we pay attention and become part of the process, we can help to craft the best possible future, in this case for our delightful community called Annville PA.

RECENT ACQUISITIONS TO THE ELECTRONIC ARCHIVES

Now available via Google Drive at [Annville/Collections](#) Donated along with more than 16,000 electronic files.

Contact bpfullmer@gmail.com for more information.

We extend heartfelt thanks to the many individuals who shared pictures and documents these past two month, including the following.

Several pictures donated by **Jeanne DeLong** reveal fascinating images from LVC and Mt. Gretna in the 1910s as well as gatherings of the Imboden, Struphar and DeLong Families. Items from the collection which have been posted to Facebook have generated many interesting observations, particularly about an old LVC tradition in which students, following a football victory against Albright College, paraded around the College before “burying Albright.”

Rachel Noll shares a large family album with pictures and news articles dating from the early to the middle of the twentieth century.

Electronic Archives Cont'd: **Lois Herr** mailed correspondence between two students who graduated from LVC in the 1920s which includes detailed information about several interesting people and events.

How appreciated is this information! If you have information to share, please don't hesitate to contact us. In most cases, materials are returned after not more than a week or so.

We are currently without a volunteer to scan or photograph wonderful donations such as these. If you are interested in contributing a little time to this meaningful and interesting project, please contact Paul Fullmer at bpfullmer@gmail.com.

FOOA Spring 2014 Program: HISTORY OF THE UNION CANAL SUNDAY, MAY 4 AT 2 PM

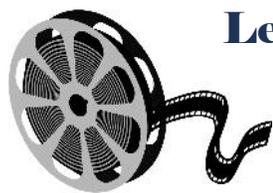


Laboriously constructed from 1792 to 1828 as a water channel to connect Reading and Middletown, the Union Canal provided a critical transportation route for shipping materials to and from the East. The canal was referred to as the "Golden Link" as it connected the Susquehanna River on the West to the Schuylkill River at Reading, allowing transport to Philadelphia. The canal closed in 1885, but portions of the canal still are evident in Lebanon County, including the Union Canal Tunnel, a hand-built engineering marvel that is the oldest existing transportation tunnel in the United States.

This program promises to be a good one, as **Jim Schucker** of the Friends of the Union Canal Tunnel Park will give us an overview of the history of the canal and its impact on Lebanon County. Jim will also talk about the current restoration of the canal boats that has been undertaken by Friends.

The program will run from 2-3:30 PM on Sunday, May 4 at the historic Annville Train Station, 155 North Moyer Street in Annville. Lemonade and cookies will be served.

Since we have somewhat limited seating at the Train Station, please RSVP your intent to attend by calling (717 867-4326) or emailing (moe@lvc.edu) Owen Moe. We hope to see you at the Train Station on May 4.



Lebanon Valley College Students to Produce & Screen Videos on Annville History

Members of the local community are welcome to view newly produced short videos on Annville history as part of an LVC class in digital communication. The class will screen the shorts at **9:30 a.m. on Tuesday, April 29** in Lynch Hall Memorial 189 on the LVC campus.

Three topics have been chosen for the presentations:

- (1) Restoring 112 N. College Avenue (the Lorenz House), including a history of the home and local interviews,
- (2) FOOA's Façade Grant Program, featuring interviews with recent recipients, and
- (3) Shoring up the walls of the Quittie, including interviews with Pennsy Supply administrators who will donate supplies and members of the Quittapahilla Watershed Association.

An opportunity for comment, question and answer will follow each viewing. Refreshments will be provided. For more information, contact Paul Fullmer at bpfullmer@gmail.com. Your presence would be greatly appreciated!



IN MEMORY OF DORIS FLORY

The Friends extend sympathy to Ron Flory and the Annville community at the loss of our dear friend, Doris Flory, who died Friday, March 21, 2014 at age 81. Doris was an exceptionally dedicated historian, a gifted artist, and caring soul.

In the late 1960s, when Doris and Ron joined Annville's Union Hose Fire Company, Doris began a thorough archive of that organization's history which produced, among other benefits, a written history of the fire company for its 75th anniversary in 1987.

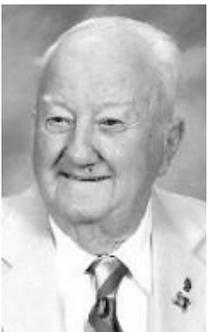
In the late 1970s, Flory began painting pictures of historic dwellings on ceramic plates and pieces of slate, including Annville Elementary School and Christ Church United Church of Christ. Many of her paintings grace the halls of Annville homes and organizations, including FOOA's train station where a painting by Flory of the Quittie Creek is on display.

From the 1990s through the 2000s, Doris worked more than full time on the development of a thorough archive of Annville history. Gleaning information from Annville census data, newspapers, and deeds, she developed binders dedicated to street addresses, family names, organizations, etc. In 2011 she donated the entire set of more than 40 binders filled with information to the Friends. The work, almost all of which has now been scanned, is now available as "Flory Notes" to Friends, students, genealogists, and historians through Annville's Electronic Archives.

Thank you, Doris, for the many ways that you have loved the Annville community and furthered our knowledge of our history. Your dedication and care will not be forgotten.

ANOTHER EPISODE FROM "WHY ME?" BY RED SUDBURY

*In honor of Spring, one of Mr. Sudbury's chapters that features more greenery and less blood than others of his harrowing biographical tales: **No Grass Grows in My Pool.***



"Awhile ago I was in the market for a new lawn mower. So I called Al Moonshine to bring one over which I'd looked at earlier that week. He demonstrated it for me and I told him it has to fit through the gate to my swimming pool, so I could mow the grass there. He suggested that I always push it through the gate and I agreed. I wrote the check and he left. So ten minutes later, I was mowing some grass in my yard before lining the mower up with the gate. I proceeded to get off the tractor when my foot hit the lever, making the mower jump into first gear. I fell into the seat as the mower made its way through the open gate. I got through but was heading straight for the pool. I put my feet on the concrete and tried to hold it back, but it was no use. I was on my way into the pool. My wife was on the phone with my daughter at the time, watching from inside the house. She said, "I've got to hang up. Your dad's in the pool with the lawn mower." I was in the pool with the mower completely under water and it was still running. My son Scott came out and I told him to turn it off. We lifted it out, left it sit for a half hour and drove it without a problem for the next two years."

In the next chapter, "Wear Shoes to Mow Grass", Mr. Sudbury picks up "several lawn mowers later" to related the tale of the lawn sweeper attacking his face. Watch for this and other hair-raising tales in future issues.

A Conversation with Dick Charles at the Time of His Most Recent Retirement

Many years ago, when taking the reins of an organization, a wise man said that a director, or leader, is only given an organization in trust by his predecessors. His job, then, is to sustain, nurture, and strengthen it so that he may ultimately hand off a healthier, stronger, and more contemporary organization to the next generation. Dick Charles has been just that leader and steward for Annville Township.

So while we know the bad news (that Mr. Charles is leaving Annville) in an interview with FOOA, that he graciously allowed during the flurry of last minute packing for a move only two days away, he related past and present good news, and shared the *better* news that he will be nearby and has already agreed to consult on Township efforts in days ahead. To recap this conversation:



What drove you to accomplish all that you have accomplished in Annville?

Mr. Charles recalls that at the time he made the decision to devote major effort to Annville's development, he had been working with the Board of Commissioners and the Greater Annville Committee for a decade. Back-tracking, he explained that he became actively involved about 1990 when the Greater Annville Committee was formed and he was asked to be Lebanon Valley College's representative to the new body.

Noting that the Committee's focus, in the mid-90's centered upon the downtown and consideration of developing the streetscape, he explained that the possibility of a major state grant just happened to arise in the late 90's at the same time he retired from college and joined with some friends to begin a fundraising consulting company. When an opening to chair the Greater Annville Committee arose, he agreed to do it. "At that moment Annville needed to demonstrate to its legislators and friends in Harrisburg that there was a serious effort and willingness". Of note, and Mr. Charles emphasizes this, the Commissioners had already voluntarily committed \$150,000 for a planning study with the Township engineer. "All of this was poised on the brink of action if someone would step forward and make it a priority for a while". At a time in his life where business and community activities were not full time ~ Mr. Charles describes his ability to tackle the work that followed to be a fortunate confluence of "opportunity and inspiration".

For what do you think you'll be remembered? "I'd like to be remembered as someone who felt Annville important enough to make a significant personal commitment to get things done". Noting that he found the community to be a wonderful place to live and raise family with a lot of downtown potential, as good as it was, he realized it could be better.

What did you most enjoy about your work in Annville? "It is satisfying to see things happening, to see things coming together, and people sharing in a vision ~ gratifying and enjoyable".

What would you consider to be the best moments in your 14 years serving the township? "Moments of culmination". Specifically, Mr. Charles notes, when the first phase of the Streetscape Project was complete, something that happened only after a great deal of inconvenience and discomfort of downtown businesses, residents, and downtown patrons. "When it all came to fruition and we were able to dedicate the first program, and then the moment of dedicating the fountain and the Annville Center area. These two big public events were enormously satisfying".

He continues, saying that it has "also been satisfying to be on the Board of Commissioners and to work on a lot of stuff that no one hears about" - ordinances and local legislation to make Annville better and to provide appropriate public safety and services. Although this was not a very public part of the last fourteen years work, Mr. Charles notes that there were positive elements in working with each and every one of the Commissioners. "This has been a continuing highpoint".

What do you see as the next steps in Annville's development? "Simply to build on the initiative and momentum we have and the streetscape philosophy ~ extending beyond Main Street to Queen on the south, to the north/south streets like Lancaster and King, etc., and extending the business improvement area beyond the immediate downtown - a little bit

further west". Old Annville Day has extended extensively beyond the historic square area – moving both east/west, and he would like to see more business develop, along with a downtown business association.



“One of the great problems of urban life is parking”. In this regard he notes that there are tentative plans for additional parking to the west of White Oak and to better organize the municipal lot (perhaps a multi-level approach), to support local business and to make it comfortable for others to patronize Annville’s downtown resources.

What might need to happen to realize the next steps? When the whole design/ planning for the area was concentrated west of 934 between White Oak and Lancaster and beyond that, Mr. Charles says that it was a little ironic that the Board actually took in further development of downtown Annville (with Streetscape 2) concentrated upon the Fink Bakery purchase. “All together we thought a renovated property where the bakery is located would be the centerpiece. What caught up with us – the recession. It was just not the right time for that”. We looked at

what seemed to be realistic to accomplish – to make a solid improvement between Poplar and S. White Oak and the buildings have been refurbished/reoccupied by business owners with parking in former back yards.

In respect to the Bakery, Mr.Charles indicates that there are several concepts and have been preliminary discussions but, to date, no agreement. Both the Economic Development Authority and Board of Commissioners “are very much interested in finding a way to turn this into a positive element”, whether this is as a community center, a commercial develop of small shops, or other idea potentially afoot. In this regard, Mr. Charles adds that the leadership of LVC is extremely supportive both in having people to continue to work with us, and by being financially supportive. Having worked with four College presidents, he “found every one to understand that Annville and the College are linked in many ways, and what helps one helps the other.”

Did you see a difference in Annville vs towns that completed lovely streetscape projects only to have their downtowns abandoned? “Each community has to find its own identity. In Annville, one of the things we’d like to see is a stability and a good business climate that endures long term. The turnover has been disappointing”. Continuing, he adds that “we need to create an environment where we have a good stable customer base so businesses can be located and be profitable for owners and good contributors to the tax base of Annville Township”. With almost no open land, he explains that we can’t look to more business or residential communities coming in and developing. Annville must “look to building on the strengths and the situation as we find it right now”.

When you began planning, did you have any idea you’d be so personally identified - something of a figurehead for downtown development? “None whatsoever. I saw myself as having experience throughout the years in organizational development, and getting people to work together was the challenge ~ to pool the resources of a lot of good people to advance Annville”.

Did you have any surprises or tense moments? “Right after I was elected to Board in ’99, I was surprised to find that there was a small but vocal group of people against the streetscape concept. This required a certain amount of persistence. The low point, then, was when Main Street “was a total shambles and businesses were having difficulty because of construction”. This, he notes, played right into the opponents’ hands, “but the Board had the persistence to stay with the program”.

On the positive end, explaining that his fundraising and consulting work takes him to many other areas of Pennsylvania, Mr. Charles has been pleasantly surprised by the number of people who know and comment on Annville’s successes. When he meets with leaders in other communities, he hears ‘oh yes, I go to the Allen theater’, or ‘I’ve driven through Annville and it’s amazing’. He says it’s very gratifying to hear the response from other communities, and to have them send representatives to tour and learn about the downtown projects.

Returning to the fact that Annville began its work under its own initiative, he says that it was only after a lot of work by many people in the 90’s, and the investment of \$150,000 for preliminary planning, that Annville’s goals began to attract Senator Chip Brightbill and Representative Mauree Gingrich’ attention. With their support, Annville was able to get two

Redevelopment Assistance grants from the Office of the Governor. This couldn't have happened without Chip Brightbill's influence. Meeting in his Harrisburg office, Annville's representatives had a chance to share their vision, resulting in Representative Ed Krebs getting on board, then Mauree Gingrich. Throughout there was "superlative legislative support" and despite political affiliations, commitment by all.

Will you consider consulting on future planning? "More than willing, there has been a lot of emotional investment in addition to time". Noting that he's already been asked and agreed to consult, Mr. Charles' response relating to the status of Annville clearly indicates that his enthusiasm has not been dampened or exhausted in the last decade. He cites the Township's improvements, such as the development of the police department under the new chief, the reorganization of public works, new codes, and a new approach to zoning. This is work, he says, that's oftentimes invisible and "not glamorous but creates a structure that allows all these positive things to happen that people do observe". This is work that sets the stage for people to be safe and comfortable on the street. Adding his appreciation for the opportunity to have worked with comprehensive regional planning, this he describes as being "bare bones at the moment but providing a structure that future community leadership can build upon".

Any Friends of Old Annville-specific thoughts? "FOOA was the leader before we came to Annville. Friends got themselves organized and created a mission to preserve and enhance the public appearance and perception of Annville. Along with the College, it's been a wonderful partner in these economic development efforts." "I can't say enough, that before the Greater Annville Committee there was a Friends of Old Annville that was organized to do much of the same work, and not being governmental, it could be more focused than the Authority. "The Friends were there first showing the positive value of focused community effort". Asked about the Façade Grant Program, Mr. Charles says he's "really pleased. It's an important corollary to the governmental side of economic development that further illustrates the benefit and value of private initiative".

Any personal plans or hobbies for this next phase of retirement? Since his formal or first retirement began in the 90's, it's not surprising that Mr. Charles answers first by saying he finds enjoyment in doing work -"it's sort of my hobby". Though he golfs, he adds that he is not an avid golfer, and while he enjoys boating, he's between boats at moment. Asked if Mrs. Charles has any plans for him, he notes that she's a "heavy duty (and prize winning) quilter", and that theirs is a "good partnership", though he doesn't quilt.

He recalls that in 1997, when retiring from LVC, he formed Franklin Consulting Group. Seventeen years later, that's actually his longest span of employment. Former employers included: Red Cross, Hamilton Watch, Georgia-Pacific, Franklin & Marshall, Wilkes University, and LVC. But, he adds "in a sense, Annville Township has been my longest personal employment".

We in Annville are unquestionable grateful for those years!

Mark Your Calendar

April 29th Film Screening

May 4th Union Canal

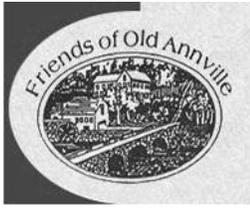
June 14th Old Annville
Day

Offering a program each month throughout the Spring, FOOA also has some surprises in store for Historic Old Annville Day.



SATURDAY JUNE 14th

Downtown Annville on Rt. 422



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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.

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

RENEWALS

M/M Bernard Bell
M/M Alfred P. Bernard
Kenneth Binkley/Elaine Smart
Mr. James Bowers
M/M James C. Bowers, Sr.
M/M William Christ §
Dana & Carole Ellenber
Paul & Becky Fullmer ★
Doris E. Gerber
Hildegard E. Henson
Stanley Herr
Richard & Rachel Hoffman

M/M Richard W. Hollinger
Dr. Frederick Johnson
Mrs. Lucille V. Kauffman
Dr. John Kearney
Christine I. King
Ronald & Patricia Krall
John & Linda McKlveen
Ronald & Patricia Krall
Dr. Joerg Meindl/Ms. Eileen Beazley ★
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M/M John D. Shuey
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Mark W. & Beth Wethington
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Mrs. Ruth Wolfe