

THE LANDMARK

Volume XXX, No. 1

January/February, 2010

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

Personal Stories and Recollections

President's Message from Owen Moe

I don't know how it works for others, but when it comes to learning about another era, I would much rather read a historical novel than a history textbook. When history is told as a story, it is engaging and personal, full of details about what life was really like in those days and in that place. The same is true about personal stories and recollections - they make history come alive and they give us a glimpse of another time through the eyes of people who first participated in the history and now, much later, interpret it. Oral history has become an important tool in recent years because of its ability to capture and preserve the key first-person narrative that is so important in helping us understand our past.

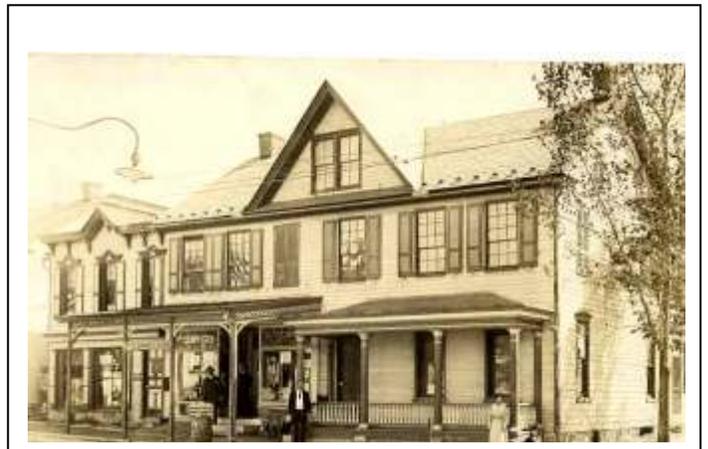
I have been delighted with the personal stories and recollections that people have been willing to share with Friends of Old Annville, and which we have published in the Landmark. These stories have been many and varied, but all thoughtful and all having given us interesting snapshots of life in Annville. I'd like to mention some of the personal accounts we have published in the past several years:

David Wallace took us back to his childhood and birding along the Quittapahilla. **Verna Ziegler Kwiatkowski** painted an expansive picture of life in Annville in the 1930's and 1940's in the west end of town. **Dr. James Monteith**, former Annville physician, wrote extensively about public health related topics in Annville in the 1930's (his writings were given to FOOA by his grandson Wesley). **Robert Swope** told of his days as a newspaper carrier in the late 1940's and early 50's, and with this issue we start publishing an account by **Ken**

Umberger about his experiences as an ice boy the mid 1940's.

We have enjoyed running these pieces, and many of you have told us how much you have enjoyed reading them. We will soon begin a series of digests of a number of personal stories taken from "Porches" by Phil Billings and Dan Massad. These poignant personal accounts were based on oral history interviews, retold as portraits by the authors in both word and drawing.

For the past two years, we have been archiving all new editions of the Landmark on our web site, www.fooa.org. We will try to extend that archive backward in time to encompass, hopefully, the last decade. We hope that the web will give us a means to keep these personal recollections accessible for years to come. In the meantime, we still seek new personal recollections dealing with life in Annville and Lebanon County. Please consider writing up your story and sending it in to FOOA at fooa_annville@hotmail.com. ■



Were you able to identify **Shope's Store** from the 1915 postcard in the last issue of the Landmark?

ICE BOY IN ANNVILLE

By Ken Umberger

Some 65 years ago, in June of 1944, shortly after school left out for the summer vacation, I started to work for Irv Romig, one of two ice men in town. George Schell was the other one, who had both an ice and milk route. A former classmate, Fred Hartz, started to work for George about the same time period.

Irv initiated a discussion with my mother concerning my ability to work on his ice route. At first she had some concerns about the weight of the ice and my age. Irv was not aware that I was only twelve years old and was considered big for my age at five feet seven inches and about 145 pounds. Irvie, as he was called by the townspeople, informed my mother that he simply wanted someone to help him - the ice business had become too much for one person and he would take my age into consideration.

The idea of being an ice boy appealed to me for several reasons: it would be my first real job, I could earn some money to help buy my clothing, and hopefully have some left over to start my own savings account (\$18.00 a week sounded like big money to me).

Working for Irv was truly a once in a lifetime experience, as it turned out he treated me more like a son than an employee (I'll talk more about this later). For the first month he carefully prepared me both mentally and physically to handle the ice business. The first few days on the job were centered on such things as how important it was to properly enter a home and greet each customer

Perhaps equally important for me was to gain the customers' trust by taking only what was offered to me. I was certainly put to the test in some homes: cookies and candy were neatly arranged on a dish on top of the refrigerator in a way that if one piece

was taken, it would be obvious. Whenever this happened, I would keep Irv informed. I knew the testing was over when the dish of treats disappeared, and in its place was a brown bag labeled "for the ice boy and Irvie". As you can guess, they usually contained freshly baked cookies, home-made cake, or candy.

The physical part of my training began when Irv explained that body size and brute strength alone are not sufficient to pick up and carry large pieces of ice, ranging from 300 to about ten pounds. Lifting technique and conditioning of the arms, back, and body was important, so for a time I was relegated to carrying the small pieces of ice with tongs. These pieces ranged from ten to 75 cent pieces which we hand cut to an approximate size, to fit in the iceboxes.

Home iceboxes at this time were made of wood, lined with cork, and ice was loaded from either the front or top. Most of them were beautiful pieces of cabinetry. Other refrigerators were metal, much like the refrigerators of today, and were top-front loaded. The large 100 pound pieces would be carried by Irv in a canvas bag on his shoulder.



Each time we pulled up to a customer's home we checked the front window for the ice sign. I would generally get the opportunity to measure and cut the various pieces. One morning, we pulled up in front of the old Batdorf building and after checking

the sign in the third floor window, I cut a 100 pound piece and put the canvas bag on it. Irv asked, "Well, do you want to try it?", which was music to my ears. Unknown to Irv, I had actually lifted 100 pound pieces off of the truck bed numerous times.

With the ice pick in my mouth, both hands on the canvas bag and my shoulder against the bottom of the bag, I leaned in and pulled the vertical block against my shoulder, but it tipped over as I lifted, and the canvas bag and the ice went sailing over my right shoulder. When it hit the street four or five feet behind me, it shattered like a dropped glass. No one was more surprised than I was, but Irv simply laughed and said, "You big bugger, you've learned the lifting technique!" and that was the last thing ever said about it. From that moment on, at least in my mind, I was an "Ice Man", and I took my turn regularly with Irv on the delivery of the 100 pound cakes.

Normally we delivered ice to private homes and businesses Monday through Saturday. Depending upon the heat, sometimes also on Sunday to businesses and for special events. My day would begin

at 4 a.m. every morning, and end at 4 p.m., and I would meet Irv in front of the old Annville National Bank. After a quick check on the ice supply at the Penway Bakery, we proceeded to go to Cleona, which was our early route, arriving back in Annville at Irv's home on Maple Street promptly at 8 a.m. Irv's wife, Sadie, was not well, and our brief stop at his home allowed him to check on her and see to her needs before we started our second route in Annville. The Annville route consisted of private homes, both bakeries, Finks and the Penway, restaurants, saloons and private clubs.

We delivered the ice on a grey Dodge pick-up truck with a wooden-floored, open bed, surrounded by wood on all sides. The springs were extra heavy-duty, raising the back of the truck slightly to accommodate the weight of the ice. We used two hand-held ice tongs, two ice picks, one five-gallon wooden bucket, one hand-held ice chopper and a large canvas covering (slowing the melting process) to handle the ice. In summertime, Irv took both front doors off the truck which saved some time as we got in and out frequently, often stopping five times within the same block. ■

To be Continued ...



HISTORIC OLD

ANNVILLE

DAY

Saturday, June 19th 10:00-2:30 pm

Downtown Annville on Rt. 422

 **Enjoy Crafts, Local Artists, Food, Music and Family Fun. Come Help Us Celebrate Annville!**

Hosted by Friends of Old Annville. Visit www.fooa.org for more information.

This Old Annville House A Cool Trick for a Hot Shower

Submitted by Michael Charelian, M C Carpentry, Annville



Banish wasted hot water from your shower! Want to save water, energy and money on your monthly utility bills? Try a full or low flow eco-friendly showerhead especially designed to do just that. I'm talking about the "Evolve" showerhead, and it works like this: you turn on your shower, and when the water reaches 95 degrees the flow slows to a trickle. So, if you are brushing your teeth, not yet ready, or otherwise distracted, the hot water waits for you! You then pull a pull chain attached to the showerhead and your shower resumes.

The "showerstart technology" knows when the water is hot and holds the flow until you are ready, conserving water and energy. This is for use only if you have to wait for hot water, not if you have an instant hot water system.

Evolve's "Roadrunner" showerhead and "Ladybug" adapter are two great options. For more info, go to <http://evolveshowerheads.com>. I believe in going green. If you buy one of these devices, call me, and MC Carpentry will install it for you for free.

2010 Calendar of Events

FOOA's Calendar of Events for 2010 is a work in progress. As you'll see from the advertisement on page 3, the Historic Old Annville Day Committee has been meeting and is well along with planning for June. Other Committees are formed to tackle the Spring and Fall Schedule and to look at planning toward another Façade Grant round, so we hope you'll watch for your next *Landmark* to see these ideas unfold.

In the meantime, if you have an idea for a program, or if you'd like to host a program at your old Annville home, please be sure to let us know.

From the Annville Free Library

Smart Start Infant & Caregiver Storytime - Jan. 19, 26, & Feb. 2, 9 / April 6, 13, 20, 27
PREWALKERS (birth-12 mos.) @ 10:15 am / WALKERS (12-24 mos.) @ 11:15 am

Preschool Storytime - Children ages 2 ½ -5
Tues. & Thurs., 10:15 am - 11:00 am, Jan. 19 - April 29 (no storytime on March 30 / April 1)

After School Storytime - Ask for registration forms at your A-C school office or Annville Free Library.
Grades 2 & 3 - Tuesdays, 3:30-4:15 pm, Jan. 19 - March 23
Grades K & 1 - Thursdays, 3:30-4:15 pm, Jan. 21 - March 25

Youth Room -After School Hours - Mon. thru Thur., 2:30pm - 6:30pm / Fri., 2:30 pm - 5:00 pm

Students in 4th thru 9th grades. This adult supervised, youth-only space is equipped with computers, card and board games, and a casual reading and socializing area. Come hang out with your friends!

Adult Programs@ Your Library:

✪ **TAKE-A-BREAK TUESDAY** – last Tuesday of each month @ 6:30 pm

Jan. 26 – “Tales of the Iditarod” presented by Ruth Ann & Ray Funck /Glenn Blantz

Feb. 23 – “Authentic Nantucket Lightship Baskets” presented by Garrett Van Hoesen

March 30 – “A Semester in Haiti” presented by Liz Lingle /A-C Spanish teacher

April 27 – “Handmade Soaps ” presented by Twisted Sisters / Tina & Maryanne
Registration Required (begins April 1) / \$10

✪ **COLLEGE FINANCIAL AID INFORMATION NIGHT** – February 22, April 12
Contact Betsy Hershey @ 717-575-4512 for more information.

✪ **BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP @ the Annville Free Library**

- Participants will be responsible to purchase their own copy of the book selections.
- Meets **Mondays - Jan. 25, Feb. 22, Mar. 29, Apr. 26, May 24 from 6:30-8:30 pm.**
- For more information or to register, contact Dee Neff at 867-1802

✪ **STAY HEALTHY @ the Annville Free Library**

- **Yoga Classes** – Call Denise Smith @ 867-4517 for more information.
- **Tai Chi Classes** – Call Laura Reazer @ 272-3148 for information

FOOA ONLINE:

As Owen Moe mentioned in his President’s message, the Friends of Old Annville’s website: www.fooa.org now offers you the opportunity to review back issues of the *Landmark*. But at FOOA.org you’ll also find details of programs and events, walking tours, a pictorial history of Quittie Park’s development, and photo features such as Laura Charelian’s “Artful Images” of Annville’s architecture.

Be sure to bookmark FOOA.org and visit frequently!



The Friends of Old Annville Train Station is open to visitors Tuesday, 7-9 PM, Saturdays, 9 AM-12 noon, or upon request.

The Station is also available for parties and meetings. Please write Friends of Old Annville, P.O. Box 99, Annville 17003, or call (717) 867-0770 for information.

