



THE LANDMARK

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

President's Message

Building Equity

It's hard to assign economic value to historic preservation because of all the intangibles. What is it worth to us to preserve a living link to our history as a community? What about the ambience and aesthetics of a daily walk through a historic neighborhood? How can we assign value to maintaining our sense of place? What about the value of new-found community in a restored and active town center?

Nonetheless, people do work at assigning value to historic preservation. The Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP), an independent federal agency whose mission it is to “*promote the preservation, enhancement, and productive use of our nation's historic resources,*” maintains an active online catalog of web-available studies on the economic impacts of historic preservation (www.achp.gov/economicstudies.html). A particular set of studies that caught my eye were related to property values in historic districts across the nation (www.achp.gov/economic-propertyvalues.html).

One study carried out in 2002, entitled “Property Value Appreciation for Historic Districts in Alabama,” was instructive and encouraging (www.ncshpo.org/current/pdfinitiatives/Alabama.pdf). This study looked at long term property value appreciation in seven different designated historic districts within the state of Alabama. Looking at one such historic district, the Leinkauf District of the city of Mobile, the average annual rate of appreciation for historic properties within the district was 10.0% for the period 1985-2000, compared to 3.5% for other residential properties in the Mobile area. Every historic district in Alabama, whether urban or rural, showed the same general conclusion: historic designation has a *positive and substantial impact* on the value of properties located in a historic neighborhood, both in the short-run and in the long run.

The Alabama report then cites similar studies in many states. One particular study in the state of South Carolina, “The Impact of Local Historic Districts on House Prices in South Carolina,” looked at a cross-section of historic districts from small towns to large cities, from the coast to upstate. The

results mirrored those from Alabama, and their overall conclusion bodes well for Annville: “These studies show that *historic preservation zoning, which establishes local districts with design review,* increases property values.”

No one knows how to evaluate economic impacts in our current environment of severe recession. I think, however, that restoring and preserving older buildings that were built well from quality materials and with interesting architecture just has to pay off. And encouraging the revitalization of a town center by restoration and new development to create a self-contained economic community here in Annville will help all of us weather economic distress and the certainty of increasing costs for transportation.

In the long term, Annville's decision to zone historically, to create a historic area review board (HARB), and to entrepreneurially invest in the downtown area is likely to pay handsome dividends for all of us who live and own property here in this charming and interesting small Pennsylvania town.

-Owen Moe

This Old Annville House – Radiant Floor Heat

We've all had the toe-curling sensation of stepping on a cold bathroom floor on a chilly winter morning. Not the nicest way to start your day! Radiant floor heat is a great way to give your tile floor that toasty feeling and upgrade your bathroom.

I recently installed such a set-up for a client in their master bath. The WarmingSystems electric warming kit was ordered online (www.warmingsystems.com) and arrived in two days. It consisted of: thermostat, wire, aluminum tape and instructions.

After measuring and laying out your floor area, spool out the thin wire. zigzagging it back and forth, space it out about 3" apart and tape down with tape. Cover with Thinsit and lay tile after drying. A separate circuit will need to be run. While all this is a relatively simple procedure, for best results I highly recommend letting a professional do the installation. Put an end to pocsicle toes with radiant floor heat.

*Submitted by Michael Charelian, M C Carpentry,
Annville*



The Friends of Old Annville Train Station is open to visitors Tuesday, 7-9 PM, and 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.

Tell Us About YOUR Old Annville Home

As those of us who love old houses know – every home has its stories, its unique features, or its equally unique problems; and most leave lots of questions in our minds that our readers may be able to answer. Please send YOUR home stories to FOOA, or e-mail valerie@ezonline.net .



Gracing the path at the north and south entrances to the Raymond J. Swingholm pedestrian bridge in Annville's Quittie Creek Nature Park are signs created by artist Steven Woelfling from Olde Towne Sign Company.

The signs not only designate the name of the bridge, but also show representatives of some of the frequent visitors to the park. The pedestrian bridge was installed in 2007.

NEW Grant Opportunity

Dennis Flake,
Grant Committee Chair



Based on the success of several fundraising activities in 2008, FOOA is starting something new and exciting for 2009. The FOOA Board of Directors, at their January meeting, approved a Pilot Program for a **Façade Grant Assistance Program**.

The Pilot Program will focus on the West End of Main Street in the Annville Historical District (934 to the Quittie). The Grant Assistance Program is designed to assist property owners - both private residences and independent business owners - in preserving the historic exterior appearance of their property. Naturally, this is only an assistance program, so the property owner will also have to invest in the improvement of their real estate.

A facade grant could range from \$500.00 to \$4000.00. FOOA has allocated \$4000.00 for the 2009 Pilot Program, so the grant may be one grant for \$4000.00 or be divided into several smaller grants. The grant will be paid directly to the contractor once the work has been completed and inspected.

Applicants will need to complete a FOOA application by June 1, 2009, and the improvements will need to be finished by the end of 2009. Historical and Architectural Review Board approval must be obtained prior to submitting an application.

Please let your friends and neighbors in the designated area of Main Street know about the program. Since this is a pilot, please provide any feedback on the Program. Please contact FOOA for more information, including an Overview, Criteria for Selection, and the Application Form.

ANNVILLE MEMORIES:

THE QUITTIE & STEINMETZ'S WOODS, 1939-47

David H. Wallace, October 2003

As far back as I can remember I was fascinated by wildlife, particularly birds and flowers. I'm not sure how it began, but suspect that it started with my watching birds in our backyard at 504 Maple Street when I was kept home from school for weeks at a time because of recurrent bouts of bronchial asthma. In those days before antibiotics, I had to stay in bed as long as I had a fever. Only after two days with no fever was I allowed to get up for half an hour, then for an hour, then two hours and so on until I was declared well enough to go outside and eventually back to school. During those prolonged home stays, when I wasn't making jigsaw puzzles or reading or playing with my blocks, I would look out my bedroom window and make lists of what I saw - typically robins, crows, starlings, sparrows, and dandelions.

After I had my tonsils out at the age of eight, the bronchial problems disappeared, but my interest in birds continued, with outside encouragement. My third grade teacher, Miss Haas, gave me a book called *Our Bird Friends and Foes* and someone else gave me a book of nature verses. The latter included a poem about the meadowlark for which I composed a very simple



tune. I was then in fourth grade, taking singing lessons from Mrs. Edith Frantz Mills. The school music teacher, Miss Hoover, impressed with my little composition, arranged a string quartet accompaniment for it, and had me sing it at the school's first arts festival. Not all my schoolmates were impressed, however; I remember one of them saying spitefully that I hadn't made the tune up at all, that I had copied it out of an old book!

Two other adults helped stimulate my budding interest in birds and wildflowers. Miss Helen Ethel Myers, librarian at Lebanon Valley College, used to let me accompany her on walks up to Steinmetz's Woods, north of town, on the gravel ridge above the Trout farm. I particularly remember her pointing out where to find bi-colored bird's foot violets and Indian pipes. She also gave me her brother's World War I canvas gas mask bag to carry my Chester Reed bird guides (red, green, and blue). The bag also held my cyanide bottle for collecting insects, given to me by Professor Derickson, head of the college's biology department.

By sixth grade, I was a fully-fledged birder, as you might say, and began making daily lists of the birds and flowers I saw around home or on my frequent hikes up to North Annville (Steinmetz's) Woods and down along the Quitti. I have saved a few of these lists, dating from 1939-41 and 1947. Here are a few from 1939:

Saturday, March 12: Went to N. Annville woods with Paul Shettel in the morning. Started to snow. Went up again in afternoon. Snowed and sleeted. Sailed boats on the way home. Saw many birds, especially & Robins, Juncos, Chickadees, Downy Woodpecker & a Cardinal. The Skunk Cabbage has been in bloom since Feb. 27.

Saturday and Sunday, March 25, 26, and Friday April 21: Went down to the Quitti and up in woods with Paul Shettel. Observed Hepatica in bloom for first time. Saw about five Garter Snakes. Saw Kingfisher, Hermit Thrush, English Sparrow, White-breasted Nuthatch, Upland Plover, Marsh Hawk, Purple Grackle, Flicker, Crow, Blue Jay, Sparrow Hawk, Robin, Chickadee, Starling, Swamp Sparrow, Song

Sparrow, Hairy Woodpecker, Red-wing Blackbird, Fox Sparrow, Mourning Dove, Chipping Sparrow, Downy Woodpecker, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Cowbird, Chimney Swift, Tufted Titmouse, White-throated Sparrow, Junco, Kill-deer, and Cardinal. Observed Corn Speedwell in bloom

Trips to the Quitti, as I called it, usually began with a walk down Bachman's Lane, often including time spent in the little creek, turning over stones in search of crayfish. We didn't go into the quarry, which at that time was still active, but went on past the mill, in the vicinity of which all the trees and bushes were coated with white lime dust. Crossing the bridge (this was long before it was washed away in the Agnes flood of 1972), we almost always turned to the right along the south bank of the creek, past a flourishing bed of watercress and into a well-grazed pasture.

Two memories of that pasture stand out in my mind. One was the patches of Vipers Bugloss here and there, evidently too thorny for the cattle to eat. The other was a stone outcrop on which I discovered Walking Fern. This impressed me because in the 1876 edition of Gray's Botany the only locality listed for Walking Fern was either Mount Joy or Lititz. On the edge of the pasture there was a small inlet at the head of which was a spring. We called this spot "Snug Harbor" and spent many a happy time picking through its stone bed for crayfish and skipping flat stones across the Quitti. A little further along the south bank there were a number of old willow trees with low-lying, half-recumbent branches on which we used to climb and sit. This was a good area for birds, including my first Black-throated Green Warbler.

Although my walks continued along the south bank all the way to the old mill on South White Oak Street and occasionally even farther, I have only a sketchy memory of that stretch, at least until nearing the mill, where the bank became a wooded hillside. In the Spring that hillside was covered with Dog Tooth Violet (Trout Lily), Hepatica, Spring Beauty and other early wildflowers. I remember coming across a patch of Wild Ginger

on the south bank west of the bridge. Sometimes, coming home from school, I would walk along the north bank, although that was not as interesting, mostly flat and grassy, as I recall. Once in a great while I ventured along the north bank to the east of the lime plant on Bachman's Lane. It was in those woods, now part of the Nature Park, that I discovered a small stand of Showy Orchids on May 14, 1939. A year later I tried to find it again to show a visitor from New York State, but without success. Ten years later, I took a number of photographs of scenes along the Quittie for the 1950 Quittapahilla, the LVC yearbook, a copy of which I am giving to the Friends of Old Annville archives.

I remember swimming in the Quittie only once, with my elementary school friend Jared Horn. We both got sick, presumably from taking in some of the highly polluted water, and never tried that again! The only other activity I associate with the area in the present Quittie Nature Park is ice-skating in the quarry. Then, as now, the floor of the quarry often contained a shallow pond which occasionally froze over and provided a much more accessible, and considerably safer, place to skate than the Water Works.

To get to Steinmetz's Woods, north of town, we sometimes crossed the railroad tracks at Saylor's lumber yard, walking up the dirt lane that led past Tom Trout's farm and into the woods just above the farm. Other times we walked out past the college athletic field and crossed the tracks next to the power station, guarded by fierce looking and sounding German shepherds. Where the lane divided, one way going to Myers' fruit farm, the other to the old farmhouse across from today's cemetery, we usually went straight ahead through the farm pasture along the little creek and up the steep hill where the water tower now stands. This hill, then a close-cropped pasture, was a favorite in winter, when we could ski down it or just slide on an icy crust down to the creek at the bottom. The descent was always somewhat chancy, owing to a number of rocks

scattered about the hillside. Although Violet Hill (now known, I understand, as Pansy Hill, the site of the Grandview Cemetery) was just across the road we rarely went over there, as it offered little to entertain us and was not particularly rich in birds or flowers.

I don't remember much about Steinmetz's woods themselves, although I saw lots of birds and flowers there. One particular memory is of eating the roots of Sweet Cicely, which we knew as Wild Licorice Root. When the snow was right we also used to cross-country ski through the woods. On the way home, we would sail little boats or sticks down the little creek. On at least one occasion we spent quite a bit of time making little dams in the creek, much to the annoyance of the farmer I suspect.

My interest in birds and flowers, or at least my interest in listing, always seemed to taper off after school was out or soon thereafter, to be revived again the following January. By the time I entered high school, however, I was too busy with other things to do much hiking and it was not until the spring of 1947, when I was a student at Lebanon Valley College, that I resumed intensive bird-watching for a couple of months with my former birding partner, Paul Shettel. After that, thirty years were to pass before I took up birding again, in Maryland and in many great places across the country I visited in connection with my work as a Curator/ Historian with the National Park Service.

Dr. Wallace was graduated from Lebanon Valley College in 1947 with a BA in English and History, and received his MA and PhD from Columbia University. Beginning a remarkable professional career at the New York Historical Society, Dr. Wallace moved to work for the National Park Service - serving as Chief of both the Branch of Museum Operations and the Division of Reference Services for Harper's Ferry. Following an initial retirement in 1980, Dr. Wallace returned to the Park Service where he carried out research on historic furnishing for sites such as the Lighthouse Keeper's quarters at Cape Hatteras and the homes of Theodore Roosevelt, Carl Sandburg, & Martin Luther King. A resident of Frederick, MD, Dr. Wallace was honored in 2005 as AHS Alumnus of the Year.

RENEWALS

Scott & Crystal Aungst •
M/M Larry Aungst •
M/M Bernard Bell
M/M Alfred P. Bernardo
Philip & Sue Billings
Dr. Norman V. Blantz •
Ken & Betty Blauch
Michael & Bonnie Bowman •
Butcher Block Antiques
M/M K. Kenneth Brown II
Betty Lou Colban
Mrs. Alice S. Diehl •
Robert & Elizabeth Fasnacht
M/M Paul W.K. Freeland
M/M Ernest W. Heisey
Hildegard E. Henson
Jim & Elma Jean Kreider
M/M Thomas Lehman
Ken & Kathy Long
M/M Carl O. Miller
Grace I. Miller
Ms. Becky H. Morgenthal •
Ms. Ferne L. Nebeker
Dr/M John D. Norton III
Paul H. Rabold
Dr/M Jacob Rhodes
Dr/M John Rill
Annville Veterinary Hospital
Ms Alexis I. Schaeffer
M/M James Scott
Mike & Melanie Semrau
M/M Ralph B. Shanaman
Joe and Anne Shemeta
Dick & Lois Smith
Mrs. Betty Streicher
M/M Earl Sudbury
Mr. Raymond Swingholm
Mrs. John Synodinos •
Mrs. Grace Tom
M/M Robert Werni
Dr/M Allan Wolfe
Dane A. Wolfe
Allen & Beverly Yingst

• Denotes Friend of FOOA

CALENDAR

FOOA's Program Committee is hard at work on what we believe will be an exciting mix of events and programs. Watch www.fooa.org and your Landmark for details.

In the meantime, from the **Annville Free Library** - as always, the Library offers extensive opportunities for children and their parents. *Be sure to contact the Library at 867-1802 for details on:*

- * Smart Start Infant & Caregiver Story Time
- * Pre-School Storytime
- * Youth Room

Highlights of programs for adults include:

Take-a-Break Tuesday (last Tuesday of each month at 6:30)

Jan 27Land of Penguins & Glaciers: Antarctica (*Phil & Judy Feather*)
Feb 24..... Making Books About Family Memories (*Susanne Bensing*)
Mar 31Part I: eBay Buying (*Lori Musser, certified eBay Instructor*)
April 28Part II: eBay Selling (*Lori Musser*)
* \$10 Registration Fee for eBay Classes

Feb 12 & Mar 26College Financial Aid Information Night
Contact Al Leo @575-4512 for more information
Feb23-Apr 20Will Read for Chocolate! Book Discussion
(*Dr. Matt Willen, Elizabethtown College*)
Mar 3 & 5 Basic Computer Classes beginning.
Register at the Library - space is limited.

Yoga Classes: Call Denise Smith @ 867-4517 for information

Tai Chi Classes: Call Laura Reazer @ 272-3148 for information

NEW MEMBERS

John E. Feather, Jr.
Feather & Feather Law Office

PLEASE REMEMBER TO SEND US ADDRESS CHANGES

And don't forget that membership in FOOA/subscription to the Landmark makes an excellent gift to welcome a new neighbor or to commemorate a special occasion.



Annville Note Cards

Set



1A



2A



3A



4A



5A

Set



1B



2B



3B



4B



5B

Each set will contain one Train Station card and one Church card.

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Each set contains 10 note cards and envelopes (2 of each site).

_____ copies of Set A at \$8.00 each = _____

_____ copies of Set B at \$8.00 each = _____

Total amount due = _____

If you cannot pick up the cards add \$2.00 for shipping and handling.

Special orders will be honored at a price of \$1.00 per note card.

Send your order form and payment (made payable to FOOA) to :

FOOA, c/o Jill Palanzo, 515 East Main Street, Annville, PA 17003.



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WATCH FOR NEW EVENTS & PROGRAMS COMING SOON!!!

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