



THE LANDMARK

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Newsletter of the Friends of Old Annville

President's Message by Michael Schroeder

As the buds on the trees swell with the promise of summer and the last remaining piles of crusty dirt-laden snow melt into the warming earth, we pause to take stock of some notable recent developments in our little town. Among the highlights:

☞ **A New Creek Flowing through Quittie Creek Nature Park?** Well, no, it's our same old Quittie Creek, but after all the streambank restoration work undertaken this past winter, it might well be mistaken for an entirely new waterway. "It's a stunning transformation," said local architect and avid fisherman Joe Connor on a walk along the restored streambank this past winter. "You'd never know it was the same creek!" Phase 1 of the \$946,588 project has been mostly completed; Phase 2 awaits the final approval of all the paperwork by PA-DEP and is expected to commence sometime this spring. By the time the project is completed this summer, visitors will be forgiven for thinking they've stumbled into an entirely new creek. A week-by-week photographic chronicle of the Streambank Restoration Project can be found on the Quittapahilla Watershed Association's website (Homepage > Photos & Images > Restoration 2014-15), or directly at www.quittapahillawatershedassociation.org/photos/projects2014-15.html.

☞ **New LVC Admission Center at 209 E. Main St.** In mid-January, outgoing Governor Tom Corbett's office announced a \$1.65 million grant to Lebanon Valley College for the construction of a new 7,600 square foot Admission Center on the campus's southeast corner. "Lebanon Valley College will establish a vibrant presence on Annville's main street, and it will strengthen the partnership established between the College and the local community," according to an LVC press release. "The new facility will enhance the Annville streetscape and the Annville Historic District." Construction is expected to begin this summer and be finished within the year.

☞ **New Health Professions Building on the LVC Campus?** In another LVC-related development, the College recently submitted an application (via the Lebanon County Commissioners) for a \$5 million grant from the PA Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program to help pay for a projected \$16.8 million Health Professions Building on the north side of campus to house the College's rapidly expanding physical therapy, exercise sciences, and athletic training programs. This would be LVC's first new building since the completion of Stanson Hall in 2009. (Artist's rendering at right by Stantec, Inc. and © Lebanon Valley College.



☞ **New PinnacleHealth Facility at Annville East Center?** As reported in the Lebanon Daily News on February 3 and March 18, Harrisburg-based Pinnacle Health wants to turn the Annville East Center at 1251 East Main St. into what it calls "the Lebanon Valley Advanced Care Center." (Photo at right © Lebanon Daily News) Currently home to Black Swan Antiquities, the Blue Mountain Thrift Store, and the Lazer Factory, the building would be expanded from its current

79,800 square feet to a 91,000 square-foot medical facility. The Annville Township Planning Commission is considering the proposal, as well as the concerns expressed by Annville residents, including Black Swan Antiquities' owner Sandy Adams, who "expressed indignation" at the plan: "You have three woman-owned businesses and a nonprofit here that are being put out on the street. I don't know how you could feel good about that; I really don't." The Planning Commission conditionally approved PinnacleHealth's preliminary plan, but many steps remain before final approval.



☞ **Annville Township Approves Resolution Opposing Proposed "Atlantic Sunrise" Pipeline.** On February 2, in a unanimous vote by the township commissioners, Annville Township became the second municipality in Lebanon County (after South Londonderry Township) to formally oppose the proposed 42-inch diameter, 1,480 p.s.i., underground natural gas pipeline that the Oklahoma-based Williams Partners wants to build as a short-cut from the fracking fields of northern & western PA to the processing & export facilities on the Gulf Coast. The proposed pipeline would traverse the township's far western edge, cutting under Quittie Creek right next to the recently upgraded Wastewater Treatment Plant. Unlike an ordinance, the resolution does not carry the force of law - the commissioners are reluctant to pass an ordinance for fear of a lawsuit by Williams - but is a powerful symbolic statement, and in my view, a very welcome one. Regardless of one's view on this issue - and my own view is that in this era of rapid global climate change, expanding pipeline infrastructure for methane, a greenhouse gas that's up to 80 times more potent than carbon dioxide, would be nothing short of madness - the proposed pipeline has the potential to affect our township and region for decades and bears very close attention. ■



LEBANON VALLEY COLLEGE SESQUICENTENNIAL

In 2016, Lebanon Valley College will celebrate its 150th anniversary. We welcome your participation in the festivities! The Friends of Old Annville plan to coordinate closely with the college to commemorate its 150 years of history in our town.

If you are interested in helping or have artifacts and memories that you wish to share, please contact Karen Feather, Secretary of the College, at kfeather@lvc.edu.

FOOA Movie Matinee Packs the House

The Leedy Theater of Lebanon Valley College seats 200 and virtually every seat was claimed, with standing-room-only in the back of the theater, for the Old Annville Movie Matinee held on Sunday, March 15.

Master of Ceremonies Paul Fullmer, who put the playbill together, introduced a series of movie shorts dealing with World War II recruits shipping out at the Annville Train Station, digitized films from operations at the Millard Quarries and the Millarden Farms in 1950, clips from Phil Feather of the bicentennial celebration in Annville in 1976, and video shorts of historic preservation and archeology at the log cabin owned by Mary Lou Harris on West Main Street.

After each video, Fullmer received interesting comments from the audience, many of which filled in historical details. Dr. Dean Snyder, who digitized, edited, and narrated the Millard videos was present and served as a resource person during the discussions.



Members of the Millard Williams Family in attendance at the Movie Matinee are pictured with video compiler Paul Fullmer (center). They are (L-R): Jack L Williams Jr⁴ (Jack L Williams Sr³, Laura A. Millard Williams², HE Millard¹), Marion Millard Snyder³ (Benjamin Millard², HE Millard¹), Marion's husband, Dr. Dean Snyder Sr (veterinarian of the Millard Williams operations), and their son, Dr. Dean Snyder Jr (who donated much of the footage for the event). ^{1,2,3} refer to generations.

After the talk memorabilia were on display, including a small race car built for one of the Williams boys. The program inspired several additional contribution to FOOA's archives, including 1943 color (!) footage of a barn-raising in Cleona. One audience member is in the process of writing a historical piece on the Millard Williams operation for distribution throughout the mid-Atlantic states through the March 28 edition of the magazine *Lancaster Farming*."

All in all, the program generated significant interest and enthusiasm.

484 people can't be wrong – follow & “like” FOOA on Facebook

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PROGRAMS & EVENTS TO COME: Mark the Date



HISTORIC OLD
ANNVILLE
DAY

SATURDAY JUNE 13TH

Downtown Annville on Rt. 422

Great Annville Tornado Walk, October 11th plan to join Friends of Old Annville for a walk that follows the path of the devastating Tornado of 1915.

The Annville Free Library, in collaboration with FOOA, is planning a Walking Tour of the history and locations of the AFL in Annville -- so keep an eye peeled on local newspaper and the FOOA website for more details!"



★★★ FROM ANNVILLE TO THE BIG TOP ★★★

Recently FOOA was privileged to receive the donation of three rare photos of two acrobats who got their start in Annville at the turn of the 20th century. The acrobats pictured, Brewer and Bowers, are related to Annville resident Helen Lupinetti and her cousin Robert Faust, who donated the images.

The story of these young men evokes an era long gone when children dreamed of running off to join the circus. In the late 1800s, when Brewer and Bowers were young children and a circus came to town, it must've been a dazzling experience of sight and sound. With brightly painted circus wagons, jeweled horses, wild animals, and spangled performers all descending upon main streets with a steam-powered calliope to herald their entry, it must've been a veritable Disneyland on wheels .



In the case of Adam Brewer, though, it seems he was not a young man who ran away from home on a whim, but one who honed a skill and talent and had the tenacity, creativity, and flexibility to maintain a career that reached into some of the Nation's most prominent theaters, circuses, and vaudeville -- flourishing in the thriving post-WWI economy.



While there is no shortage of online references for Adam Brewer and Joe Bowers who performed as Brewer & Bowers acrobats and “clown tumblers”, the history grows a bit murky as Brewer apparently teams with both Bowers and Ray Mervyn to form the Brothers Damm – a name used in performances dating from 1898 to the time of Brewer’s death in 1932. Perhaps our readers may have more information to add to this story.

Reports of their performances are carried in the *The New York Daily Tribune*, the *Sacramento Daily Times*, the *Evening Times* of Washington, DC, and papers in Boston and Brooklyn. In 1909 *The San Francisco Call* writes of their “acrobatic feats of strength” at the National Theatre, and notes that they’d been featured at the New York Hippodrome earlier in the same season.

Closer to home, the *Reading Times* in 1916 reports: “Messrs. Brewer and Bowers, the acrobats living here, have gone to Georgia, where they will join Sun Brothers’ Circus”; and the 1917 *Harrisburg Telegraph* tells us that “Joe Bowers and Adam Brewer, traveling as Brewer & Bowers, have returned home after spending a season with Robinson’s Big Shows.”

1924’s *Lebanon Daily News* provides an update article writing that “Damm Brothers, the Lebanon county lads, who have been making a national reputation as acrobats ... have gone to Havre de Grace, Maryland, to join the Walter L. Main Circus ... The brothers were to report on Saturday, but were delayed by a birthday party which was staged at Harper’s Hotel. Jacob Getz motored the acrobats to the place in his Studebaker sport car.”

Sadly, just 8 years later in 1932, the *Lebanon Daily News* carries Brewer’s obituary:

Adam G. Brewer, 48 years old, of Annville, known professionally as one of the Damm Brothers, died Tuesday morning at the Good Samaritan Hospital, Lebanon, following an illness of several weeks. Adam was taken ill several months ago while enroute with the Wheeler and Santelle Circus. He was forced to abandon the grease paint and desert the sawdust to return to his home.

"Flick", as he was affectionately known, first gained attention while playing football at Lebanon Valley College in the days when eligibility rules were not seriously considered by any schools. He became a circus performer as a comic acrobat and also played on some of the big time vaudeville circuits. He was nationally known in the show world as one of the Damm brothers and was widely liked for his good nature. He threatened several times to leave the "big-time" forever, but when spring came the echoes of the razor-backs shouting across the lots rang in his ear and he donned his comedy costume and went forth to entertain the youngsters who turned out to see the "biggest show on earth. " Despite failing health he started out again last spring but was unable to last out the season due to his physical condition. Death was due to a complication of diseases. Surviving are his wife, Anna; three brothers, Harvey, of Annville; Henry, of Allentown, and John, of Harrisburg. One sister, Mrs. Liddie Parker, of Harrisburg, also survive.



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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 ★
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With the recent launch of FOOA's new website, you may now renew your membership online at www.fooa.org.