

# Sharon Hill Historical Society

## Newsletter

Vol. 6. No. 1

May 2009

### PICTORIAL HISTORY

We definitely think you will be pleased with the upcoming pictorial history of the borough.

We have gathered a multitude of pictures and items of interest for the pictorial book, some of which has already been submitted to the publisher.

The photos are from the 1800's until the year 2000 and the items are interesting mementos which were donated to us by our readers, interested residents or from our own files.

The publisher has informed us that the copies will be ready in the Fall, so we suggest you keep the book in mind when you think about Christmas. Even though it seems a long way off, the timing should fit in nicely with the arrival of the completed pictorial history.. We think the book may solve some of your Christmas gift-giving problems!

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### GFWC 85<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY

It doesn't seem that long ago that we last wrote about the anniversary of the General Federation of Woman's Club. Surprisingly, it was ten years ago.

This year now marks the 85<sup>th</sup> year of the club in Sharon Hill; a remarkable milestone!

The ladies have done a host of charitable deeds for various borough organizations and charities during those years, as well as enjoying the camaraderie of their club sisters.

We wish the Woman's Club many more years of enjoyment, service and accomplishment.

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### FOURTH OF JULY

The holiday will be here before we know it! Once again we have leased the trolley for our annual ride in the parade.

Members are invited to join us on a first come first served basis. In order to defray the cost of the rental we are asking for a \$10.00 donation. Like all good things, the cost has risen over the years.

Call early if you would like to ride with us on the trolley. Please call: Jean at: 610-583-9246.

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### FALL MEETING

We will hold a meeting on September 10<sup>th</sup> at Borough Hall - 7:30 PM  
Please try to attend.

### PRESERVATION AWARDS

This year's award was presented to:

Eddie E. Young  
219 Barker Avenue



Each year for the annual preservation awards, we try to research the deed of the particular home or business, etc. to learn an approximate time of construction. It is a process of starting with the current deed and working backward. And we must confess that as amateurs, we are not always successful!

Although there are several gaps in this home's ownership, we found that there are early deeds for the property which are dated: 1889, 1908, and 1914

From the picture, you may note the stone pillars in front of the house.. We are always curious about the pillars as there are a great many around the town which

date to earlier times in the borough's history; remnants of old walls, buildings or markers of the past.

Another interesting fact which we learned about the home is that the name of the homeowner on the 1889 deed is also listed on the petition which landowners sent to the courts in order to break away from Darby. Margaret Vaughan was the owner of the property at that time and also one of the petitioners who pleaded for the recognition of Sharon Hill as a borough in 1890!

The home has been very well maintained and the addition of double doors at the front entrance has added to the home's basic authenticity; a lovely home which holds some interesting history.

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### RECOGNITION AWARD

At the March meeting of Borough Council, a recognition award was presented to Kate Kelly in appreciation of her effort in establishing the first official collection of historic materials for the borough. Kate also researched and wrote the "Origin and History of Sharon Hill" for the 1990 centennial.

For her continued interest and assistance in historic matters, Kate has been named an honorary member of the Historical Commission.

Our thanks to Kate for providing many of the files which we use to research people, places and things concerning Sharon Hill's history.

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### JANSEN'S FLORIST

Many of you will remember the lovely stone building which once housed Jansen's Florist. It is located at Chester Pike and Kenney Avenue. Maybe you may recall the fountain with its stone frogs which was on the Kenney Avenue side of the building. The fountain has a fancy stone mural of swans above it and on either side there are stone peacocks in vivid color. On the opposite side of the building there is a circular stone image of a heron, also in color.

A few years ago the part of the building which once housed the hothouse was torn down and several shops were put in which faced toward Ridley Avenue.

Recently new owners purchased the property and a whole new front has been put on the building. The stone wall which runs along Chester Pike in front and Kenney Avenue on the side is being repaired and the entire building and grounds seem to be taking on a new life.

We recall that (now deceased) stonemason, Clayton Valerio, once told us

that he and his Dad retrieved the stone from a demolition site in Philadelphia. Both of them worked on the construction of the building.

It was lovely in its day and it looks as though it will recapture its youth once again.

We will keep you posted on the progress of the rehab of this wonderful old building.

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### PRESERVATION MONTH

The above article about the former Jansen's Florist fits in well with the National Trust's theme this year which is:

#### ***This Place Matters.***

The theme refers to protecting and enhancing our communities and the places that really matter to us!

The current rehab of the old Jansen property is a great example of the National Trust's Theme! **We do care!**  
**This place does matter!**

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For questions or suggestions regarding the Newsletter, please contact Jean Shiber @ 610-583-9245 or on the Internet JShib@aol.com.

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