

Sharon Hill Historical Society

Newsletter

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PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

At this time Septa is working with Amtrak to finalize the long term lease for the station. The Society has an extended lease with Septa for another year.

We are also working on a final list of requirements from DVRPC which is managing the restoration project for Penndot.

We are moving forward!

PICTORIAL HISTORY

Our book will be published on November 16th. We think it looks great! When you get your copy, we hope you will enjoy the photos and images we selected. You will probably reminisce about old times, be surprised by some new things and identify with certain groups and places.

The book is 128 pages of wonderful pictures. We included some maps to give you some perspective as to the locations of historic sites. Our time frame went from the early years of the town until 2000. Yes, a relative or a friend might be seen in the book! If you feel that you could have contributed items to the

book or have more information to add, please e-mail them to Kathy at

rpclarke49@aol.com
or call Jean at 610-583-9246. We would be happy to have them for our files.

If you haven't ordered your copy, please use the enclosed form to do so. Your purchase of the book will help in our effort to preserve the history of Sharon Hill.

CASS SCENIC RAILROAD

This June, after what seemed like an almost vertical twisting mountain ride, we finally arrived in the town of Cass, West Virginia, a typical early twentieth century, small company owned town. The logging company, W V Pulp and Paper Co., founded the town in 1900 to house their employees. The railroad was built in 1901 by Hungarian, Italian and Austrian immigrants to bring the timber to a band saw mill and connect to the Chesapeake and Ohio RR along Greenbrier River.

The existing station (1975) is an adaptation of the original station which was replaced in 1923. Trains leave daily to tour the reconstructed logging camp.

The Railroad and Logging Museum has a plethora of memorabilia and features detailed descriptions of the Shay logging steam locomotive which was designed especially for the West Virginia terrain of sharp turns and steep grades.

The Cass Showcase tells the history of the town through an audio visual show and a scale model of the entire town. The model is incredibly accurate and the volunteer tour guide is very knowledgeable.

The area is preserved as a state park, is on the National Register of Historic Places and is a rare example of an authentic operating museum of lumber railroading in the country.

MEMBERSHIP MONTH

A reminder to all that November is our membership month. We have enclosed a form for you to return with your membership fee. Please note any change of address, etc.

Our thanks in advance for your usual generous response.

FOURTH OF JULY

Seems like a long while since July but this year's trolley ride was exceptionally pleasurable. It was a beautiful day plus we had the most authentic open-air trolley ever!

The large windows allowed us to enjoy the breeze and practically shake hands with the spectators along the way!

We also had traditional hats and flags, plus the ladies had red white, and blue beaded necklaces provided by member, Barbara Kahler.

OLD DOCUMENT

We recently acquired a document that is over one hundred years old from the firm of Damon Engineers.

Our thanks to David Damon for thinking of the Historical Society concerning the document which is an agreement between Albert F. Damon, Jr., Engineer, and the Borough of Sharon Hill. It concerns the planning stages and services toward installing the first sewers in the Borough and is dated 1905.

The agreement is signed by Chief Burgess George W. Dwier and Secretary Thomas H. Garvin. Both of these men were active in the formation of the Borough of Sharon Hill; in fact Garvin Boulevard is named after Thomas Garvin. He became the second

Burgess of the town and also served 25 years in the House of Representatives.

JANSEN PROPERTY

In the last issue of the Newsletter, we reported that new owners had been renovating the beautiful stone building that once housed Jansen's Florist.

We recently spent a pleasant September afternoon chatting with the new owner and Executive Director of the future "Health Concepts" building. Howell Strauss, DMD.

Dr. Strauss is the Executive Director of the Aids Care Group in Chester, PA and plans to open his new outpatient medical facility in January 2010. There will be offices for dental, medical and family therapy services with a total of five dentists and four physicians and registered practitioners available as clinicians.

Health Concepts is funded to treat those with reproductive health problems, those living with infectious diseases such as HIV/AIDS, and people needing routine family medical care, but who are not insured or who just can't find a suitable provider nearby.

Our interview took place on the **rooftop** of the building which Dr. Strauss and his brother, Kevin, and a host of Delaware County

contractors have transformed into what we jokingly referred to as the Sharon Hill branch of Longwood Gardens.

Artfully arranged plants, small trees and flowers are enhanced by two cast-concrete spouting fountains, decorative outdoor furniture and on the day that we met, there was an accommodating soft breeze and a warm dosage of sun!

Although the rooftop garden was of particular appeal, it should not overshadow the wonderful overall rehabilitation of the entire corner of Chester Pike & Kenney Avenue. The stone wall around the building has been repaired. The grounds behind the building display another beautiful garden with a gravel path winding through it. Here too, as on the rooftop, there is a variety of trees and plants; most of them year-round growth.

As preservationists and historians, we are so pleased to have this building restored. It is a definite plus for the community.

Sharon Hill Historical Society
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