

# Sharon Hill Historical Society

## Newsletter

Vol. 6 No 3

February 2010

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Septa has approved the site plans for the restoration of the train station. The next step is to have the long term lease signed by Amtrak and the Borough. We are awaiting this. In the meantime, we are in process with the other plans for the station.

We would like to welcome Sue Finn as our newest member of the Board of Directors. Sue is enthusiastic about helping to preserve the history of Sharon Hill. We look forward to working with Sue and sharing her ideas.

Please join us for our annual meeting on April 8<sup>th</sup>. We will review our programs, plans and activities for the year. There will be election of officers and board members for new terms. Bring a guest. Refreshments will be served.

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### UPCOMING DATES

Please mark your calendars for the following dates in 2010:

April 8<sup>th</sup> . . . . . 7:30 PM

Annual Meeting

September 9<sup>th</sup> . . . . . 7:30 PM

General Meeting

December 9<sup>th</sup> . . . . . 12:30 PM

Christmas Tea

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### Images of America Book Sales

We are thrilled to announce that in less than three months we have sold over three hundred books and orders are still coming in!

It has been an exciting time since we took our first peek at the finished product! Pre-sales were brisk. We held a "mailing day", recruiting board members to assist in getting out the books to those who had pre-ordered. It was a joint effort of wrappers, baggers, and labelers.

Many people bought books as Christmas presents which added to the need for haste! All in all a busy but very satisfying and rewarding project.

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### WEB SITE

We are pleased to announce that the Society now has a web site.

Thanks to member, Steve Althouse, the site names our officers, lists meetings and events, and has copies of recent newsletters. There are also a few pictures on site which we will change from time to time.

Please take a look at the website which can be accessed at:

[www.sharonhillhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.sharonhillhistoricalsociety.org)

### MONSIGNOR KEHOE

Holy Spirit Parish has been honored to have one of its own named Monsignor in the Catholic hierarchy.

Monsignor Daniel Kehoe was recently named prelate to His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI.

A Mass of celebration was said by Monsignor Kehoe at Holy Spirit Church on January 17<sup>th</sup>. Later that day a Vespers Service was held for all newly appointed Monsignors which was held at the Cathedral of Sts. Peter and Paul, Philadelphia.

Congratulations,  
Monsignor Kehoe!

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### ABOUT THE IMAGES

We thought you might be interested in hearing how we obtained some of the images in the pictorial history book and also some of the input we have heard since its publication.

As most of our readers know, we first mentioned the pictorial history several years ago, in 2006. After that, it was mentioned in our quarterly Newsletters.

We heard from members, non-members, residents, former residents, one-time students of the

grammar and high schools and our books have been purchased by people all over the United States. We hope you have had a chance to read the acknowledgments in the front of the book recognizing our contributors who provided us with much information, photos, and their time to help us with the book.

Joe Walker has been a long time contributor of information, such as deeds, photos and background data especially regarding the area of Bonsall Avenue. Joe has a wealth of knowledge and a huge collection of memorabilia which he has generously shared with us. Two of his images appear on page 28.

Another big contributor of pictures, programs, and old clippings was Dolores Orner. Her donated photograph of the Spic and Span on page 98 has been one of the favorites of all. Several people recalled working at the Spic & Span as well as the Fish & Chips, Roberts Five & Ten, and the "Owl".

Images of the old cars that appear on page 14 were salvaged from the auctioneers block by alert resident Gerri Jackson.

The photo which took the longest to access and much correspondence and travel was the picture of the P.V. Engineering group on pages 88-89. We had solicited information for an earlier Newsletter from John Piasecki who provided us with a book

entitled "Whirlybirds". It was in this book we first saw the two page photo and realized we definitely would like to include it in the pictorial history. Acquiring the original and the authorization to use it was a very long process taken on by our President, Kathleen Clarke and her husband Bob.

This research duo also visited area libraries and museums, families and the internet to gather mansion photos and seek information for our files as well as for the book. Another of their great finds appears on page 60; founders of the Sharon Female Seminary, John and Rachael Jackson. The seminary later became Holy Child Academy. The Academy photo from our files is on page 61.

Another favored photo that attracted a good bit of interest was the picture of the Tom Thumb Wedding which was donated by member, Ken Watkins (age 84) Several people identified themselves and others in the picture and it brought back fond memories of a long lost annual event. It is surprising that so many of the readers found themselves or members of their families in school pictures, sports photos, clubs and events. etc. . We are trying to keep a record of those who were identified.

People commented also on the aerial maps as they tried to locate their homes, schools and churches.

Obviously, we could not

use every item which was submitted but we were pleased to have such a wide selection from which to choose. As you turn the pages of the book you will note the contributors of various images. Those not noted were taken from our files.

We thank all of you, contributors, purchasers and readers. We are thrilled with the reception the book has received and know that we could not have done it without all of you.

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### SNOW REPORT

Record breaking snow accumulations of 71.6 inches so far this season have already beaten the old record set in 1995-96 of 65.5 inches.

We recently had two major storms within a week's time and mounds of snow, some over six feet high, are everywhere!

We have had another light snow since the new figure and if this continues, we may have snow for Easter!

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For questions or suggestions regarding the Newsletter, please contact Jean Shiber - 610-583-9246 or on the internet [Jshib@aol.com](mailto:Jshib@aol.com)

**Sharon Hill Historical Society**

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**Sharon Hill, PA 19079**

President . . . . . Kathleen Clarke  
 V. President . . Charles McGuckin  
 Treasurer . . . . . Ginger Cain  
 Secretary . . . . . Jean Shiber  
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