

EARN FRONTIER (October 4, 2011)



**EAST ALLENTOWN RITERSVILLE
NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION
P.O. BOX 1136, ALLENTOWN, PENNA. 18105
Web Site: Eastlehighearn.com**

**NEIGHBORHOOD PRESIDENT and EDITOR DENNIS L. Pearson
TEL. # (610) 434-1229...EMAIL: dpearson@enter.net**

Please Note --- Regularly Scheduled Neighborhood Meetings are held on the Third Monday of the Month at 7:00 PM ... The Location for our meetings is the St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church located at 1933 Hanover Avenue...

The following are the dates of our meetings for the remainder of the year ...

October 17, 2011, November 21, 2011, ...

Residents of EARN and anybody else can see the dates of our meetings and our newsletter on Eastlehighearn.com Website ... Also known as the EARN Frontier

City Closes East Side Fire Station!

**At 4:17 P.M. on September 29, 2011 Fire Chief Robert Scheirer, without warning closed the East Side Fire Station located at 720 N. Irving St. ... Fire Chief Robert Scheirer will attend EARN's October 17, 2011 meeting to explain the situation ...
Plant to be there**

The Closing comes as a result of a letter sent to Fire Command on that day by Firefighter Steve Foulke. In the letter, Foulke asked for a status

report on all of the station issues that had been brought up over the past

months. Foulke was questioning whether any of the necessary repairs were going to be made, citing the City's lack of response to concerns expressed over growing mold issues.

Scheirer, in a March 29, 2010 Morning Call article acknowledged the mold and ventilation concerns. "The station is literally falling apart at the seams and sinking," Chief Robert Scheirer told the federal government last June (2009). "We are now at the point where the station is considered an unsafe structure for fire personnel to work out of."

The station was built in 1953 and at one time housed two engines and one ladder truck. As recently as 2002, Engines 12 and Engine 13 responded to calls out of that station. In that year, the City eliminated Engine 12 and shifted the personnel onto Engine 13. Today, in addition to Engine 13, One rescue boat responds to water rescues from the station.

The closing comes less than 24 hours after Engine 13 responded first-due to a working structure fire at Rice and Spice at 950 N. Quebec St.

In addition to the extensive damage to the fire building, 3 other businesses- Broad St. Deli, Ehmer Meats and Frazier State Farm insurance suffered minor smoke damage.

As firefighters removed Fire Apparatus, station gear, supplies and equipment from the station, Scheirer gave no indication as to the City's plans on making repairs other than to say plans are still under way for a new station.

But, Allentown is looking for a temporary facility on the East Side to house the station. Meanwhile, Allentown City Council has been asked to approve a \$4 million bond, which includes \$1.85 million for a new fire station at the same location as the East Side Fire Station.

East Allentown Rittersville Neighborhood Association MINUTES 8/15/2011

President Dennis Pearson called the regular monthly meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. on August 15, 2011 at St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church.

Present: Four officers (Dennis Pearson, Bob Smith, Bob Jacoby, and Dave Schell) and thirteen neighbors.

Dave Schell read the minutes for meeting of July 18, 2011. It was moved by Bob Jacoby (2nd by Janice Bowman) to approve the minutes. The motion was approved by voice vote.

Next month we will have a candidate's night for candidates for City Council and Allentown School Board After January, when Mike D'Amore takes the District Judge position, we will have no Council representation from the east side. D'Amore's replacement will have to be a Democrat, but will not have to be from the East Side.

Word is out that there may be some changes in General Assembly districts for the east side. 14-1 may be moved into Jennifer Mann's district.

A quirk in State law seemingly provides that a person must live in their assembly district for a year before running. If the district is changed some candidates may be unable to run even if they lived in the same house for decades, if the district is moved to include them within the year before the election. This was the T.J. Rooney of the law ... But it has to be checked out whether T.J. Rooney's interpretation was correct or self serving.

We will have a quick turnover in the newsletter so as to get the news out on the yard sale.

The lawyer hired on the Appeal matter claims that only he will speak, as he will be citing the errors that were made in the zoning board's decision.

This decision was based on an earlier decision concerning Scarlett's, on Lehigh Street. The situation on Lehigh Street is different, in part that there are multiple night clubs in the Airport Road area, which was not the case on Lehigh Street. Erv's print shop is moving to Nelson Street and the new entrance will be in the front of the building.

There was a discussion about why this type of business is moving into the area. These businesses are promoted in the free tourist info that is available in the area. Additionally, the Boulevard Lanes is partly a nightclub and there is a hookah bar on Hanover Avenue at Halstead Street. There may be a gambling establishment requested for the shopping center at Hanover Avenue and North Maxwell Street. This would be a computer online gambling center. We are not certain how this would meet legalities.

East Side Youth Center reacted to the note in our May minutes about the dispute between various sports teams needs to practice. Irving Park is sometimes not available in spring due to it being sometimes rented out to visiting teams. There is also a turf war going on as to what parks should be equipped with lighting. The neighbors in the area around the Allentown State Hospital property object to lighting in fields in that area. Nothing has been decided about the use of the ASH property. The Allentown Police have a presence at the ASH property. They are using the area to train their K-9 patrols to search for cadavers. The state did not renew the Haven House lease, leading us to believe

that they would move somewhere on the 1400 Block of Union Boulevard due to a Lehigh County Ordinance. We do not know why the state is insisting that Haven House has to vacate the ASH property.

Dennis Pearson commented on the letter that he was supposed to write to the school district administration concerning the number of administrators that were hired. As it happens, a number of the new administration positions were added as requirements of various legislation, including No Child Left Behind. This was done to allow a newly planned school for the gifted. The students involved in this protested and the school never came into being. At least two of these administrators have left the district, one to Parkland.

The yard sale will be Saturday, September 17th. The applications will be going out with the next newsletter. Hopefully, we can get it out in time. We have access to the pool area after it closes in September. Normally we are not charged for Project Haas, but will be charged a \$50 fee for this event. One of the city council members said that he would pay the fee. Since we are serving coffee we will have to get a \$10 health permit. The intent of the yard sale is to support the scholarship mini-grant.

We will be moving our Project Haas stuff into the bathhouse either before or after the yard sale. Insurance has been paid for that event. Last year we had two PPL lift trucks to put up the tree on the pole.

Janice Bowman brought some information on the American Parkway Bridge. The New England Avenue plans have been delayed due to arsenic. There are supposed to be plans for an arts area from the prison to the hotel at PPL so the question will be raised as to whether there will be additional eminent domain takings beyond that which may be used for the Arena. This would affect the property tax base and also state taxes if it were made a special tax district under Act 50.

Bowman also handed out cards for a seminar on the new health care law. The seminar will take place on September 17th at De Sales University.

When the American Parkway Bridge goes through it will require removal of the yard waste site on the East Side. The Lehigh County site was recently privatized. The new owner raised the prices. Several municipalities in southern Lehigh County approached Allentown to allow them to use the Allentown system. Allentown has refused. Some of the municipalities in western Lehigh have started their own consortium, and the southern Lehigh municipalities may join them.

Lehigh County is planning a real estate reassessment. By state law it is supposed to be dollar neutral. Some areas of the county will have higher assessments, which will allow them to lower the millage. Other areas will have lower assessments and will have to raise the millage. Anyone with a higher net

tax bill will be upset about it. If Allentown puts more area into the Keystone Opportunity Zone it will hurt the overall tax base.

It was noted that Joseph Brennan (D-133) was in trouble for driving under the influence. He was in rehabilitation when the budget was voted on, and thus was not present to represent his district. Good news—the Hanover Avenue project is almost finished. There are some drainage problems at the East Side Fire Station.

A neighbor reported trouble with a rented property in the 2000 block of E. Cedar Street with loud parties. They have called the police. This happens every weekend. The neighbor asked for advice on what could be done about the situation. Both of the times that the police were called the noise stopped as soon as the person reporting it hung up the phone. It was suggested that they video record this next time and take the recording (with a date and time stamp) to the police. The neighbor inquired as to whether we can write up a petition to take to the police complaining about the situation. Taking the matter to the city housing board would probably result in a dead end.

The group discussed attempts to make single-family homes into apartments in Midway Manor and at the corner of N. Plymouth and E. Highland. Dennis Pearson remarked that we have more houses that are unfit for habitation (probably > 25). He has noticed this when delivering the newsletters.

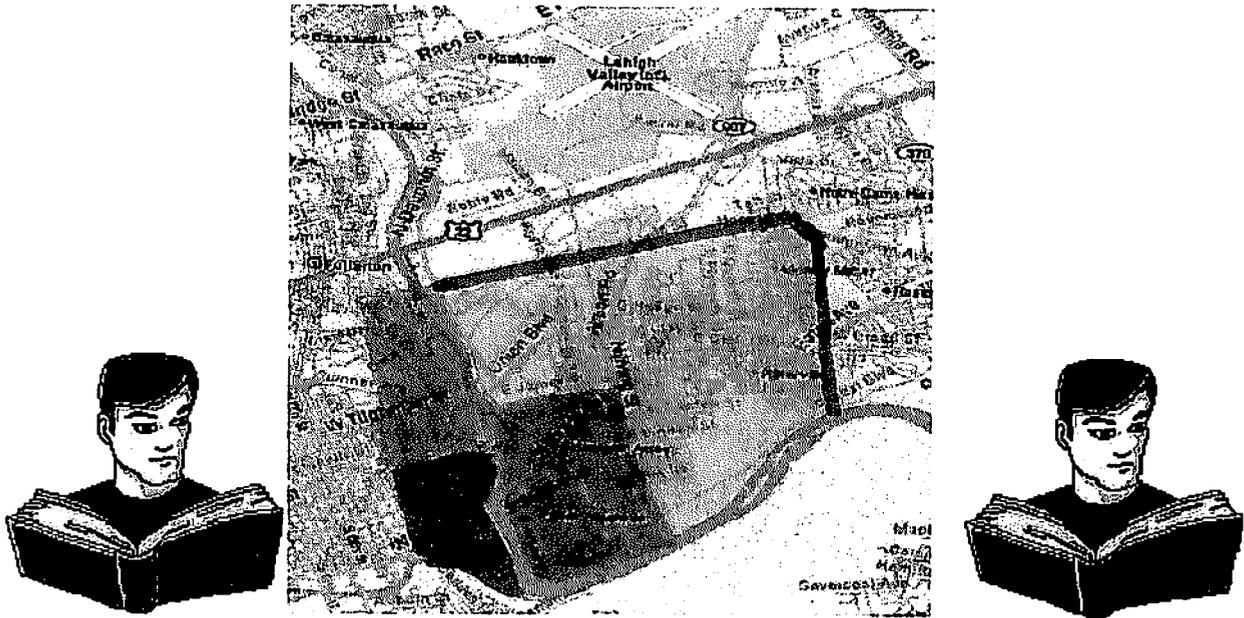
Question: Is it a law that three noise violations would require the tenant to leave? This would be a case for the Tenant Nuisance Board. Additionally, the rules for Section 8 housing are stricter. The neighbor should get the Section 8 regulations and file the complaint through them if this housing is Section 8. Some of the rentals on the East Side are not licensed rentals and not inspected. The inspection folks are supposedly five years behind on inspections.

Bob Jacoby moved adjournment (2nd Eleanor Hay). The meeting was adjourned at 8:39 p.m.

Respectfully,

David A. Schell, Secretary

EARN operates in a geographical territory comprising The 14th and 15th wards of Allentown
*** The membership of this neighborhood association is open to any individual resident, property owner, business, professional, industrialists, or representatives of non-profit organizations located within the neighborhood boundaries



PROJECT HAAS

EARN has once again been granted permission to place holiday decorations at various locations in East Allentown by the City of Allentown. Irving Park, of course has been our prime spot. To refresh your memory, our initial holiday light display occurred in 1994. It was a special attraction and received praise from the City of Allentown Bureau of Parks as an added asset to the East Allentown area. This tradition has been renewed every year since and will continue this year for the 18th time.

Consequently, the time is again at hand for the EARN Project Haas Christmas Decoration Committee to act in preparation for this year's holiday lighting event... This year be part of the setup team.

What the neighborhood did in these prior years was to place a special holiday scene in the pool area, place lights around the entire roof of Irving Park's Bath House and turn the Park's Flag Pole into a lighted Christmas tree that a former Allentown Mayor called the "Sparkle Tree."

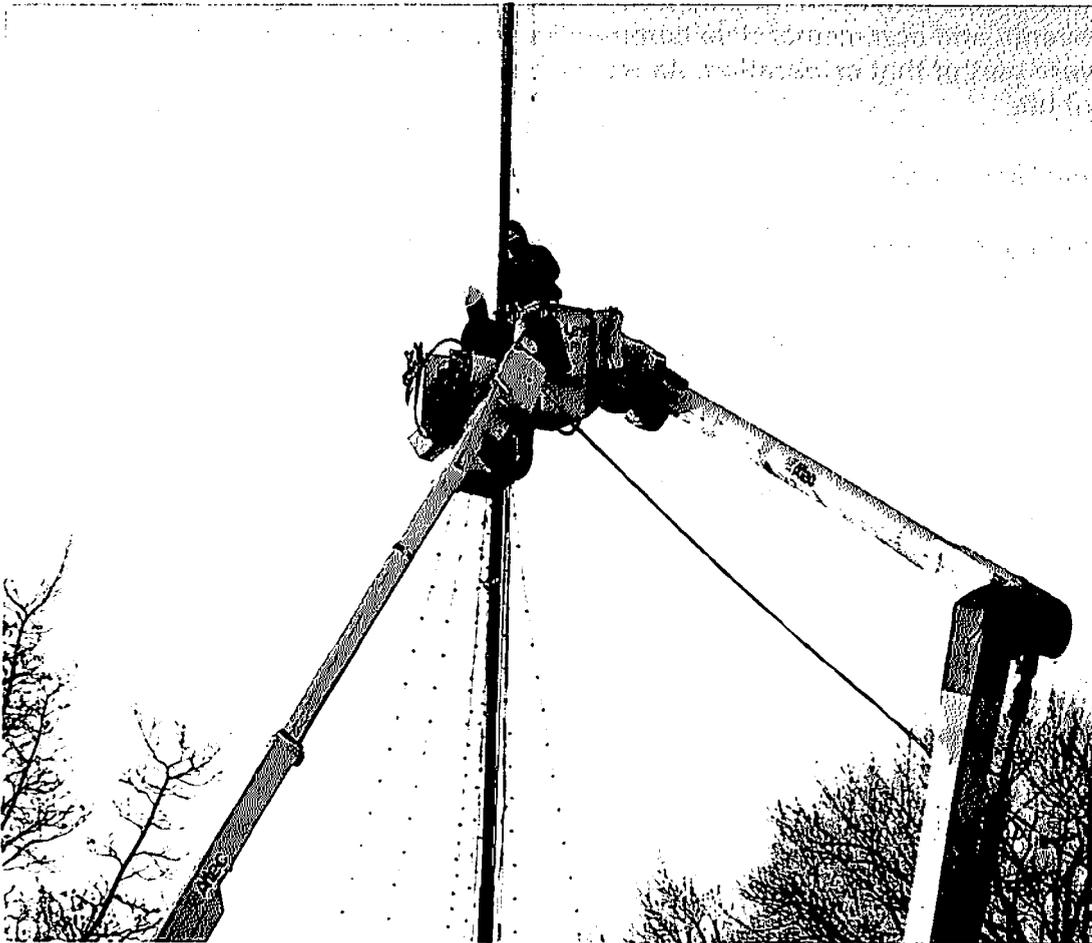
That is what we intend to do this year.

We are very appreciative of the financial and/or volunteer support that businesses and individuals gave to us last year and years past. ... Can we count on your help again to promote our activity this year despite the trying economic times we all are experiencing. We are very appreciative that companies like the PP & L provided high lift vehicles and essential manpower, which were very

important ingredients in making the "SPARKLE TREE" become a reality these past fifteen years. And of course, the same ingredients will bring the "SPARKLE TREE" to life for the Eighteen year with your promotional, financial and/or volunteer support.

In addition, the neighborhood is very grateful that the Budget Store and Lock Village Self Storage granted us space in its self-storage business for the storage of these holiday decorations

Without volunteers to help repair and set up our displays, we cannot set up what we did before; and without financial support we would be hard pressed to improve our project. If you or any of your colleagues are interested in helping us contact one of the following individuals: DENNIS PEARSON 610-4341229, Robert Jacoby 610 435-3417. DONATIONS can be sent TO EAST ALLENTOWN RITTERSVILLE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION, P.O BOX 1136



A Year of Celebration

In 2012 the City of Allentown will mark a monumental milestone – its 250th anniversary, or Semiquincentennial. Like our nation, our city has grown and changed during its long history. From a small village along Trout Creek to the third-largest city in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Allentown has evolved from a small outpost to a major metropolitan hub.

Allentown has always played a significant role in the history and growth of our nation. We have been the protectors of the Liberty Bell and the First Defenders of the Republic. Our city has a proud history as an industrial and retail powerhouse that helped build America, put it on the road, clothed it and helped it communicate in new and innovative ways. Even today, as we enter a new millennium, the City of Allentown remains on the cutting edge of business and technology; a regional leader in culture, arts, sports and entertainment; a proud community eager to build an even brighter future on a solid past according to our political leaders. In 1962, our civic and business leaders came together to create a memorable Bicentennial Celebration that included an enriching variety of community events and commemorative ceremonies that still live in the memories of those who were part of that celebration. As we look ahead to 2012, can we equal and better that tribute.

What can East Allentown - Rittersville do to celebrate Allentown's Semiquincentennial?

Meanwhile, Lehigh county's actual Bicentennial birthday is on March 6, 2012. Organizers are planning a two-day community celebration to take place the weekend of March 10 and 11 at the Allentown Fairgrounds Agri-Plex facility. The celebration will involve a multitude of community groups, churches, youth organizations and historical societies with displays, exhibits and cultural entertainment on the county's rich history, which will include a variety of ethnic foods and beverages.

In recognition of Lehigh County's own "Fourth of July" there will be fireworks, a short parade and some entertainment. Organizers expect it to be a star studded event as the Bicentennial Committee will launch a Lehigh County Hall of Fame, inducting a class of living honorees who either were born, worked or lived at one time in Lehigh County.

What can East Allentown - Rittersville do to celebrate Lehigh County Bicentennial?

Lehigh county was separated from Northampton county by an act of Assembly passed the 6th March, 1812. The act defines the boundaries as follows:

"That all that part of Northampton county, lying and being within the limits of the following townships, to wit: The townships of Lynn, Heidleburg, Lowhill, Weissenburg, Macungie, Upper Milford, South Whitehall, Northampton, Salisbury, Upper Saucon, and that part of Hanover township within the following bounds, to wit" Beginning at Bethlehem line where it joins the Lehigh river; thence along the deed line until it

intersects the road leading from Bethlehem or the Lehigh Water Gap; thence along said road to Allen township line; thence along the line of Allen township westwardly, to the Lehigh, shall be, and the same are hereby, according to their present lines, declared to be erected into a county, henceforth to be called LEHIGH."

Please note a bit of history

Among the patriots of Northampton (now Allentown) and vicinity, the man who attained the highest civil positions in the Revolutionary period, was PETER RHOADS. Born in Whitehall township in April, 1737, two miles north of the present city of Allentown, the son of DANIEL ROTH, a native of Switzerland, who died in the same hour in which his son was born, was educated among the Quakers, by whom he was persuaded to change the spelling of his name to RHOADS.

Peter Rhoads came to Allentown when it was called Northampton during the first year of its existence, and built a good sized stone residence at 107 North Seventh Street. He not only looked after the Allen's interest, but was a tailor and store-keeper. In 1776, Peter Rhoads along with Peter Burkhalter were sent to Pennsylvania's first Constitutional Convention. After the war period , Rhodes continued to be active in the community, Serving as a Judge of the local Courts. He was said to be President Judge of the newly formed county court when Lehigh County was organized as a new jurisdiction according to the Allentown-Lehigh County celebration book of 1962. But in reality he might actually have been an associate Judge Then too, Rhodes served as the first Burgess of the Borough of Allentown in 1811. He died in 1814

The first term of Lehigh County Court was opened on December 21, 1812. On that day, the Court of Common Pleas, of Oyer and Terminer and General Jail Delivery, and the Orphans' Court was opened under President Judge the Honorable Robert Porter, Esq. On that day, nineteen attorneys were admitted, there were nineteen civil cases, three petitions to open roads, and one case praying for the appointment of a Commissioner to examine a person of unsound mind. Three persons made declaration of their interest in becoming citizens.

The first term of court was held in the hotel of George Savitz on the main square in Allentown, which later became the Hotel Allen. In 1813, the court moved to the upper story of the prison building, which had been erected on the southeast corner of Margaret and Andrew Streets (later known as 5th and Linden Streets).

Court was held here until final completion of the courthouse at 5th and Hamilton Streets. The plan of construction for the courthouse was secured by a citizen named John Yeakel, who had visited Lycoming County and had obtained a plan of the courthouse there. The total cost of completion was \$24,937.08 and court was held in the newly built courthouse for the first time in August 1817.

The first President Judge of Lehigh County, Robert Porter, had also been a President Judge in Northampton County. He had been a member of the Fourth Pennsylvania Artillery Regiment near the end of the Revolutionary War at the grand old age of thirteen.

He had been helped in his enlistment by his father, who was Colonel of the Regiment. After the war, he studied law and was admitted to practice on May 15, 1789. He was appointed to the position of President Judge in the newly created Lehigh County by Governor Simon Snyder

first court held in, the county met in the public house, owned by Mr. George Savitz. The following is an extract from the public records:

At a Court of General Quarter Sessions of the Peace, began and held at the borough of Northampton, for the county of Lehigh, on the 21st day of December, before the Hon. Robert Porter, president, and the Hon. Peter Rhoads and Jonas Hartzell, Esq., Associate Judges of the said Court.

At the November term, 1813. --- Court met at the house of George Savitz, and adjourned from thence to meet in the upper story of the county prison, prepared by the commissioners for holding the courts of the county of Lehigh, until the courthouse be erected.

Grand jurors. Jacob Newhard, Sr., foreman; Zacharias Long, Casper Moyer, George Brush, Philip Kleckner, Andrew Eisenheart, Jonathan Knauss, George Yeahle, John Cromer, John Bergenstock, John Jerret, George Wenner, Adam Singmaster, Daniel Trexall, Frederick Hyneman, George Essing, Abraham Diehl.

Please Note --- another bit of history ---

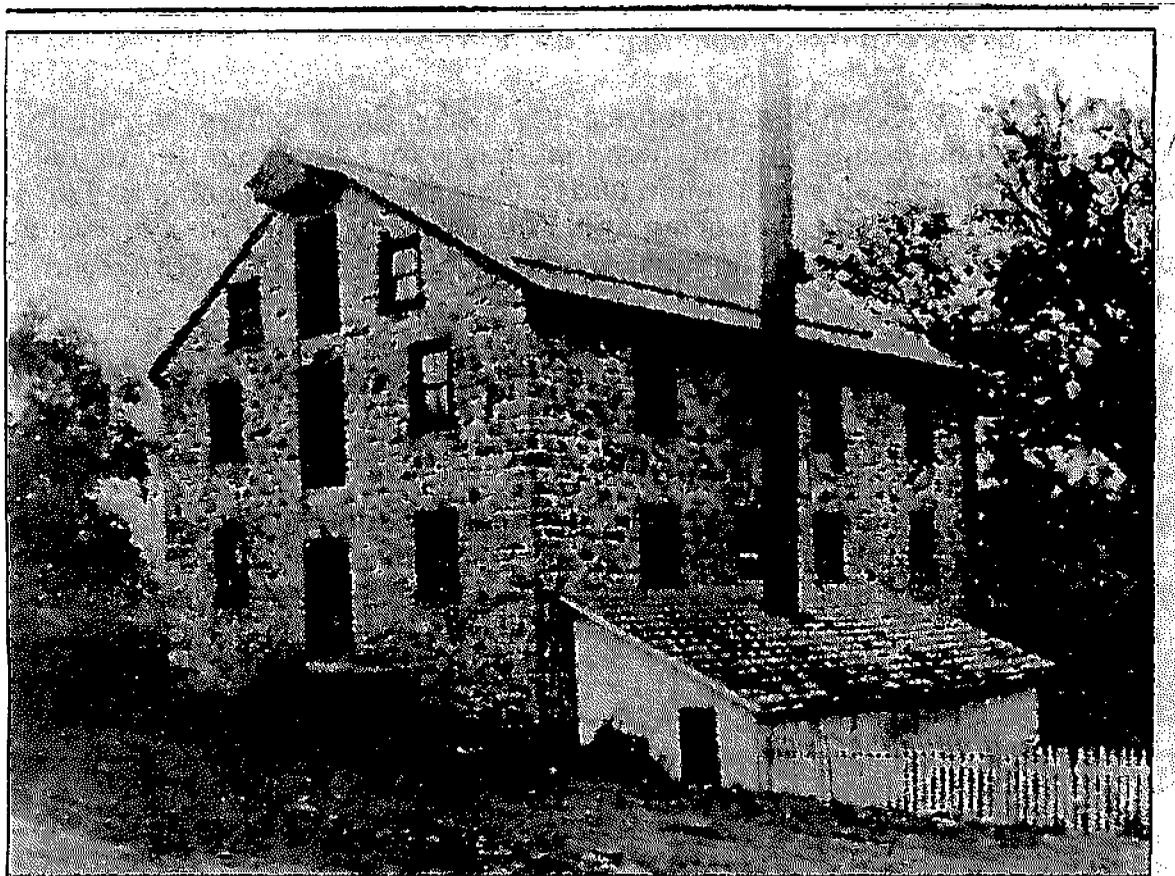
The name of Kohler is found in Switzerland as early as 1476, when Nicholas Kohler is mentioned as participating in the battle of Murten. Representatives of the family have been prominent in civil life and scholars in Switzerland since the 16th century. Jacob Kohler, the ancestor of the Kohler family of Whitehall, came from Muelhausen. He was the first settler in the vicinity of Egypt, locating there as early as 1728 locating on a 250 acre rectangular tract with the Coplay Creek flowing through it, and containing several fine springs. Here Jacob Kohler cultivated his land, clearing it of timber, year by year, until 1768 he had 115 acres of cultivated land and 215 acres of uncultivated land. In 1755 he built the first grist-mill in the vicinity and tradition has it that as he had a large family of daughters, he employed them in the digging of the mill race. He was one of the overseers of the poor in 1753, as is shown by a small scrap of paper that still exists. On April 10, 1761 was naturalized as a English Citizen ... On August 25, 1769 he deed his land to his two sons, the elder receiving 155 acres and the mill property and the younger receiving 193 acres.

Peter Kohler, eldest son of Jacob Kohler Sr. was born at Egypt, April 2, 1735. He assisted his father on his farm and at the mill and in 1762 opened a hotel in Egypt to which he added a store in 1764. He continued to conduct the mill and became one of the leading citizens of the township. At the beginning of the Revolution he was chosen a member of the County committee of observation, November 8, 1777, was appointed a Commissioner to collect clothing for the American troops, and December 16, 1777, he was appointed by the Assembly to take subscriptions for the continental loan in the county. He was

commissioned one of the justices of the county May 28, 1779 and was elected to the State Assembly in 1780, 1781 and 1782... Peter Kohler died in 1983. He married Juliana Margaret Guth, the eldest daughter of Lorenz Guth,,,

Peter Kohler was the brother-in-law of Peter Rhoads of Allentown as his sister Sabina Kohler married Peter Roads in 1962 and had 4 children which reached maturity ... She died in 1785 ... Upon the death of Sabina Peter Rhoads married the Eva Catherine Kohler in 1789 , the widow of John Miller who died in 1788.

Dennis Pearson's mother Christine is directly related to Jacob and Peter Kohler ... And children of Peter Rhoads and their generation would be considered cousins.



KOHLER'S MILL, built in 1809, was torn down in 1940. The house at 4296 South Church St. is built on the mill's foundation.

AS I SEE IT FROM HERE

By Kenneth W. Haas, Emeritus of *The Common Sense Herald*

(Editor's Note --- The following words appeared in the Common Sense Herald, Volume 11 # 1 – March 23, 1992--- They have as much meaning now as they had then. Ken Haas died in 1993.)

It had been a rough day for the Judge. A steady parade of defendants stood before him - all types of crimes, both small and large. The Judge was bone-tired. Not the physical tiredness we often feel, but the mind-numbing mental tiredness of fatigue that saps your very last reserve of self-control. This very last reserve of self-control, of course is necessary to prevent an individual from going off the deep end mentally. Finally, with total exasperation the Judge threw up his hands and cried out: " That's it! I have had it up to here!" The statement accompanied by the appropriate gesture to the throat area.

The Judge continued: " I will hear no more cases today. Court is in recess until tomorrow. I ask all the people present here that may want sanity to return to their political leaders and to their government and to their society to go home and pray tonight with all their fervor at their command. With God's help and our own basic instinct in regard to what is right and just, may we all come back tomorrow with our act cleaned up."

Don't we all feel like that Judge sometimes; and yes, he has suggested a wonderful, wonderful idea! What would brother Brown say about that? I think he would say Amen.

Clearly, we must all clean up our act in our personal conduct, in our dealings with one another. People that are called on to lead must do so with honor and dignity. Telling us the unvarnished truth, they must purge areas under their command or authority of deceit, dishonesty, inefficiency, corruption, misdealing, conniving and immorality.
