

THE VALLEY VOICE

SAUCON VALLEY'S WEEKLY PAPER



Photo by Sue Brown

Jim Kyle plays Horace and Gail Kriebel portrays Dolly in "Hello, Dolly!" opening Friday, July 26.

Behind the scenes at 'Dolly'

By Arthur Joel Katz
Of The Valley Voice

Turnabout may make a great play as this summer's Saucon Fine Arts production of "Hello, Dolly!" enters its last week of rehearsals.

The production will be on stage at Saucon Valley High School on Friday, July 26 and Saturday, July 27 at 8 p.m. and Sunday, July 28, at 2 p.m.

"Dolly" is staged, musically directed, and produced by the same folks who brought us the smashing "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat" this past winter, Henry J. McClenahan Jr., Con Gallagher, and Kevin and Patti O'Connell. Susan Hansen is once more doing hats and props.

The turnabout has to do with the fact that most leads in "Dolly," with the notable exceptions of Scott Reinbold and April Banko as the young lovers, are parents who worked behind the scenes in the "Joseph" production.

Reinbold, who played Joseph, and Banko, who

was also in that production, have just graduated from the high school.

Many cast members are also working on costumes, construction, lights and the like. They are assisted by school board members and their spouses, including George Baxter (Susan's husband), who is building scenery, while Director Janie Hecker (along with Mary Elliot) is working as co-stage manager, and Pam Freund (John's wife) and Ann Angelilli (Larry's wife) along with Brenda McGuire are doing costumes. Director David DeRemer is banging drums in the band.

At a recent rehearsal you could almost smell the grease paint if not hear the roar of the crowd.

A cacophony arose between the band room, where the orchestra was rehearsing with Kevin O'Connell, and the stage, where Gail Kriebel was belting away as Dolly as Patti O'Connell played piano.

In the wings, the children (some 34 of them will be in the production) were being valiantly shushed.

School directors defend changes

But after hours of discussion public appears unconvinced

By Arthur Joel Katz
Of The Valley Voice

It was a hot time in the old town Monday night, July 15, as the Saucon Valley school board held a public meeting to listen to comments about the administrative change it had made by reassigning Dr. William Yerger from principal of Reinhard Elementary School to executive administrator for grades kindergarten through eight.

Amidst the heat and humidity in the un-air-conditioned meeting room, a crowd of 80 expressed concerns, criticized, hooted, and even, in some rare cases, supported the board. They raised the temperature considerably and everybody sweated.

The evening began with retiring Interim Superintendent Bob Nagle aggressively defending the stance he took in the Yerger case. He was hot and angry, he said, and had no desire to be at the meeting, which is to be not only his last with the school board but probably the last board meeting of his career.

He started by proposing the question, "How did I come to the conclusion that we should make the reassignment that we did?"

Nagle said that for some time the board had been receiving complaints about the administrative structure. He emphasized several times that he was not referring to Yerger specifically. Dramatically, he listed the kinds of complaints he had in mind:

- Parents who complained to administrators and got no action. "That is extremely serious," he said.
 - Students who leave grade two with good expectations in reading and somehow end up in remedial reading classes in grade three. "That is extremely serious," he said again.
 - A case of suspected child abuse not reported. "That is very serious."
 - Lack of curriculum coordination, failure to inform teachers of important developments, or to allow them to participate in district-wide planning.
 - The inability to assess student progress and principals who are concerned only with their own "fiefdoms" and not the progress of students as a whole. "Simply unacceptable," he said.
 - No longer could the district tolerate events like scheduling block classes without appropriate in-service training of teachers.
- A superintendent, even an interim one, "is totally responsible for what happens in a district, and a failure of administration is his failure," Nagle said. It was absolutely necessary to shake up the entrenched bureaucracy.

"Management theory holds that the longer people are in jobs the more they do things that benefit themselves," he said. Accordingly, what was necessary was to find a way to force the ad-

Continued on page 25

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St. Theresa's lists graduates, award-winners

St. Theresa School's graduation took place Sunday, June 9. The graduates are:

Matthew Davis, Andrew Fritch, Crystal Guerrieri, Sheehan Lemley, Martin G. Lewis, Ryan M. McBeth, Abby L. McKellin, Lindsay L. O'Keefe, Dawn K. Parker, Lauren E. Prezby, Ellen M. Price, Marc J. Ripper, Mark D. Romanowski, Valerie M. Torres, Amanda L. Valente, Jason A. Viegas, Laurel L. Waitkaitis, Jen R. Yuhas and Scott N. Yuhas. Jennifer Yuhas received a \$700 partial scholarship to Bethlehem Catholic High School.

The Principal's Award is presented to the girl with the highest general average. The recipient was Ellen Price.

The Pastor's Award is presented to the boy with the highest general average. The recipient was Marc Ripper.

The President's Award for Educational Excellence is presented to students who earn a grade-point average of 90 on a 100-point scale and achieve in the 85th percentile or higher in math or reading. The following students have met these criteria: Andrew Fritch, Abby McKellin, Ellen Price, Marc Ripper, Mark Romanowski and Jennifer Yuhas.

One Service Award is presented to an eighth-grade girl by St. Theresa's Women's Guild. The recipient was Dawn Parker.

Another Service Award is presented to an eighth-grade boy by St. Theresa's Holy Name Society. The recipient was Ryan McBeth.

The American Legion Award is presented to a boy and a girl. This year the awards went to Amanda Valente and Scott Yuhas.

The Safety Patrol of the Year Award goes to a student who then spend a day on duty with a Hellertown officer in a police patrol car. The recipient was Abby McKellin.

The School Safety Patrol Award of Merit goes to the student who stuck it out. The students given this award are Ryan McBeth,

Abby McKellin, Lindsay O'Keefe, Dawn Parker, Ellen Price, Marc Ripper, Valerie Torres, Amanda Valente, Laurel Waitkaitis, and Jennifer Yuhas.

Honor roll

St. Theresa School, Hellertown, recently announced its honor roll for the fourth quarter of the school year. Those named are:

Principal's List

Grade 8—Abby McKellin and Ellen Price. Grade 7—Elizabeth Chegezy, Meredith Dull and Brian Strawn. Grade 6—Pam McKellin and Diana Silva. Grade 3—James Heckler, Sara McKellin and Kelly Sweeney

First Honors

Grade 8—Sheehan Lemley, Dawn Parker, Marc Ripper, Amanda Valente, Jennifer Yuhas. Grade 7—Michelle Gehris, Kelly Haymaker, Chris Matlaga, Kelly Petrino. Grade 6—Alyssa Check, William Gibson, Miguel Rilloraza, Teri Romanowski. Grade 5—Erin Frey, Katie Haymaker, David Lin, Julie Mauer, Tarah Rodriguez. Grade 4—Matthew Donoso, Brett Haymaker, Brad Palank, Christine Romanowski. Grade 3—Samantha Ahern, Eric Grida, Erin Hefferan, Travis Ihle, Joseph Haymaker, Joseph Yuhas.

Second Honors

Grade 8—Lindsay O'Keefe, Lauren Prezby, Mark Romanowski. Grade 7—Jamie Gunshore, Kristin Haymaker, Kerry Korpics. Grade 6—Marianne DeMatos, Kate Duffy, Anthony Hayes, Jennifer Majewski, Stephanie Seaman. Grade 5—Troy Gescek, Laura Grida, Christina Moser, Paul Stein, Vanessa Mahan. Grade 4—Dustin Good, Frankie Hayes, Jenica Hendricks, Amanda Kurecian, Kyle Roberts. Grade 3—Brian Csermak, Melissa Gescek.

Effort

Grade 5—Rachel Galle. Grade 4—Jacque Parker, Eric Tocci

Perfect attendance: Michelle Gehris, Dustin Good, Zachery Hanzlick, Victoria Lin, Vanessa Mahan, Mallory Shelbourne and Jason Yuhas.

The following Moravian Academy Upper School students earned high honor and honor roll status for the fourth quarter marking period.

High Honor

Grade 9—Luke Mason, Bethlehem.

Honor

Grade 12—Maureen Mahlman, Abigail Mason and Krista Svalbonas, all from Bethlehem. Grade 10—Marst St. John from Bethlehem.

AROUND SAUCON VALLEY Heller Homestead plans open house

Saucon Valley Conservancy invites you to an open house of the Michael Heller Homestead on Sunday, July 21, from 2 to 4 p.m. Free House tours are open to the public. Come see the grounds and the unfurnished main and tenant houses.

Located on Friedensville and Creek Roads the Michael Heller Homestead is of great historical value, representing one of the few pre-Revolutionary colonial American farmsteads in our region.

The Hellertown Historical Society will hold its annual picnic at the Tavern of the Grist Mill on Walnut Street, Hellertown 5 p.m., Wednesday, July 24. The public is invited to attend and is asked to bring their own lunch.

Amanda Hoffert, daughter of Lee and Denise Hoffert of Dettweiler Avenue, Hellertown, has been named an All-American Scholar by the United States Achievement Academy.

All-American Scholars must earn a 3.3 or higher grade-point average.

Amanda, who attends Saucon Valley High School, will appear in the All-American Scholar Yearbook.

Amanda's grandparents are Robert and Dorothy Hoffert, also of Hellertown.

Mary Puskas, 89 years old, lives in Gracedale and would appreciate mail from old friends in Hellertown. Her address is: Gracedale County Home, Gracedale Avenue, Nazareth 18064.

St. George's preschool, 1735 Delaware Ave., Hellertown has openings in its nursery class for children who will be 3 by Sept. 1 and in its pre-kindergarten class for children who will be 4 by Sept. 1.

At a recent Saucon Valley Jaycee meeting, president Carol Schneider named MaryRose Heller and Rich Schuyler Jaycees of the Month for their hard work on the Junior Olympics in June.

The Jaycees' next meeting is Tuesday, Aug. 13 at 7 p.m. at the Grist Mill. Anyone living in the Saucon Valley who is under age 40 is invited to attend.

Bulletin Board

July 18

7 p.m., Hellertown Block Watch Zone 2 meets at Saucon Valley Community Center.

July 21

2 to 4 p.m., Heller Homestead House Tour, Friedensville Road.

July 25

7 p.m., Hellertown Block Watch Zone 3 meets at Saucon Valley Community Center.

July 31

7 p.m., Chamber of Commerce holiday planning committee meets at Pearl Bodor's home, 373 E. High St.

7 p.m., Hellertown Block Watch general meeting at Christ Lutheran Church.

This is C.J. LUTHAR's
hometown newspaper.

Moravian Upper School announces honor roll

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Saucon Valley High School announces honor roll

Saucon Valley High School recently announced its fourth-quarter honor roll. Those named are:

Highest Honor

Grade 12—April Banko, Lena Feoktistova, Michael Frey, Elizabeth Hahn, Kristy Howells, Tamarind Johnson, Kristy Kovalovsky, Katherine LaBuda, Corinne Ley, Danielle Linney, Jason Miller, Katarina Mucha, Patricia Pearson, Amy Thomson.

Grade 11—Susan Antonioni, Michael Belcak, Dawn Brosious, Dennis Dias, Jeremiah Duffy, Elizabeth Duh, Matthew Dull, Michelle Landy, Nicole Majczan, Alyssa Medei, Lisa Miller, Andrew Reber, Emily Sheston, Laura Silva, Kathryn Stavola, Courtney Yelovich.

Grade 10—Nichole Eisenhart, Stephanie Hahn, Sarah Hardy, Megan Kennel, Molly Kranzley, David Kreps, Sasha Linney, Karen Madden, Michael Malinzak, Stewart McCadle, Wilfred Morrison, Rachel Mowrey, Melissa Nagy, Emanuel Nogueira, Matthew Ochs, Stephanie Ochse, Clinton Osmun, Christiann Pearson, Cynthia Perreira, Andrea Rafferty.

Grade 9—Katherine Bentley, Amy Borger, Karen Di-Concetto, Emily Duh, James Linden, Amanda Molnar, Sara Rafferty, Nicole Ripper, John Robinson, Nathaniel Stanglein, Michelle Stavola, Douglas Troutman.

High Honor

Grade 12—Kristin Alpaugh, Megan Alpaugh, Jenny Brucker, Anthony Casciano, Jennifer Davco, Bradley Davis, Clifton Davis, Jonathan Eicher, Kyle Fliszar, Kimberly Frederick, Kelly Gehris, Michael Golinsky, Daniel Grobe, Michelle Harding, Shalyn Hill, Erin Karabhin, Beth Katsa-

ros, Emily Keck, Raymond LaBuda, Kristin Lang, Justin Mascio, Ariel Pavlinsky, Craig Puerta, Scott Reinbold, Joaquim Sarmiento, Lori Snyder, Nicolette Stavrovsky, Sara Szmodis, Kevin Taylor, Jeffrey Teschke, Aaron Vinai.

Grade 11—Elizabeth Buniak, Dennis Drust, Stephen Fleming, Cayle Hamman, Christopher Heiserman, Amanda Hoffert, Cassandra Kellam, Kenneth Kern, Jeffrey Koehler, Justine Lockard, Stephanie Schoch, Amber Shumar, Chad Slotter, Michael Stoltz, Daniel Szy.

Grade 10—Gwenn Ackerman, Connor Briggs, Daniel Brown, Shauna Cunningham, Matthew Dronenburg, Zachary Ewaniuk Jr., Daniel Gonzalez, Kristy Grobe, Brett Hasenecz, Emily King, Sarah Kopac, Marcus Lazaro, Elizabeth Lennon, Christopher Levan, Joseph Luybli, Erin McLean, Shannon McLean, Kelly Ohm, Melissa Regalis, Christy Sigworth, Rebecca Stratton, Kimberly Teschke, Michael Venanzi, Jonathan Weaver, Kyle Yeakel.

Grade 9—Sean Donchez, Jason Eisenhart, Rebecca Gorczynski, Nicole Grida, Kimberly Hill, Deanna Kichline, Christopher Lentz, Kimberly Reichard, Cory Rosenberger, Natalie Sofka, Janine Stavrovsky, Kelly Stohl, Amanda Wynn.

Honor Roll

Grade 12—Ryan Albertson, Frank Behum, Jennie Brown, Brian Campbell, Lindsay Dubbs, Kathleen Ehret, Crystal Finkbeiner, Tina Hrinkonich, Joseph Killar, Christy King, Jed Knoble, Elaine Kurtz, S. Joshua Lance, Jason Lesser, Joshua Long, Thomas Lynch, Eric Miller, Nicole Morello, Michael Ochs, Kristen Ohm, Christine Opitz, Christopher Park, Jennifer Pheiff, Rebecca Scherer, John Stark, Matthew Stohl, Jennifer Weikert, Jaime Wohlbach,

Kevin Yeakel, Amanda Zonay.

Grade 11—John Becker, Jenifer Beri, Michael Branco, James Butler, Melissa Csaszar, David Csernak, Sarah Duddy, Erica Edinger, Garrett Hall, Leslie Haney, Michael Haymaker, Robby Hoppes, Brian Keifer, Alecia Koller, Andrew Lazar, Kasey Lebkuecher, Marybeth Lewis, Christine Lintner, Sarah Logan, Robert Mabey, David Maura, Michele Meckes, Kyle Neith, Raymond Ortwein, Gino Salverio, Laura Schantzenbach, Ryan Schantzenbach, Joseph Searfoss, Joseph Sommons, Jaime Townsend, Michael Wetzel, Michael Youse, Scott Ziegler, Jennifer Zimpfer.

Grade 10—Shannon Albright, Maribeth Collins, Tammy Crue, Michael Davis, Daniel Elane, Leonard French, Miranda Fritchman, Jennifer Gangi, Samuel Hess, Devan Karabin, Emil Karol, Karrie Kauker, Amanda Kichline, Jennifer King, Sarah King, Erin Kriebel, Timothy Kupstas, Cassandra Lappe, Dawn Macey, Caroline Opthof, Monica Ortwein, Kerri Pauling, Tonya Rodriguez, Bobbie Jo Saracino, Tara Schrantz, Matthew Smith, Allison Stathos, Lucian Strybuc, Marc Sweeney.

Grade 9—Lauren Anderson, Nicholas Capone, Kyle Christman, Christa Connar, Sean Dobrosky, Kyra Duddy, Amy Domingues, Nathaniel Dubbs, Robert Frey, Christopher Gebhardt, Michelle Headman, Melissa Hecker, Bambi Herczeg, Ryan Homa, Melissa Kametz, Nicole Kemmerer, Geoffrey Leayman, Michael Lenner, Michael Majewski, Brian O'Donnell, Jenna Palank, Jacquelyn Pena, Colleen Pinkowicz, Megan Plebani, Robin Plebani, Angela Rauscher, Jason Salverio, Barry Schultz, Stephen Strybuc, Andrew Symer, Elliot Thomas, Jessica Tissoni, Diane Vassich, Daniel Vinai, Elizabeth Wheeler.

Middle school lists students on 6th-period honor roll

Saucon Valley Middle School recently announced the honor roll for its sixth and last marking period. Those named are:

High Honor

Grade 8—Joshua Ahmet, Jonathan Bartholomew, Jamie Brown, Kristina Buhaj, Colin Sawson, Jessica DiJirolanio, Jessica Freund, Melissa Gonzalez, John Goodman, Sieu Ha, Monica Hansen, Wendy Hillegass, Christopher Hoffert, Rebecca Kipp, Suzanne Leach, Cory Lipp, Nazy Madani, Heather Majczan, Lesley Matus, Kendra Metzger, Benjamin Osmun, Dana Schrantz, Andrea Snyder, Sarah Stratton, Robert Thomson, Lora Yerger.

Grade 7—Amy Ambler, Sarah Baxter, Blair DeFulvio, Matthew Elshiaty, Zahya Hantz, Rebekah Hardy, Rachel Hoffert, Patrick Kennel, Adam Kovacs, Timothy Lancaster, Margaret Luthar, Dana Pheiff, Brett Philpotts, Sofia Pinto, Jaclyn Race, Bernard Rafferty, Joshua Shaffer, Sarah Staats, Holly Stoneback, Thomas Szy.

Grade 6—Michele Bedics, Evan Beerer, Sarah Bowlby, Kelly Braun, Stefanie Clowser, Brianna Cunningham, Tonya Dellatore, Keith Dow, Emily Ferrell, Robert Grim, Eric Harold, Angela Hay, Joshua Heacock, Ashley Herczeg, Alex Hillman, Lyle Kares, Christopher King, Drew

Kmetz, Ryan Kneller, Sara Krentz, Emily Lazar, Dana Long, Chad Majczan, Sarah Mastrianni, Sara McKeown, Kristen Mitchell, Chrystal Olah, Amber Ott, Adrienne Pauling, Katelyn Perna, Jenny Perreira, Heather Rasich, Sarah Rauscher, Erik Reiersen, Matthew Ruhe, Dustin Schrantz, Alyssa Sellers, Laurie Slutter, Rebecca Stanglein, Sean Thomson, Andrea Travisano, Ethan Voice, Ryan Walters, Dale Waters, Elias (Lee) Zarnas.

Honor

Grade 8—Jonathan Benza, Sarah Bromfield, Rayna Bruder, Adele Carl, Shannon Clay, Corey Diehl, Brian Dow, Cullen Drescher, Jamie Duffy, Joseph Edelman, Meghan Fleming, Patrick Fleming, Michael Frederick, Ian Frey, Meredith Hahn, Robert Hegney, Shane Hogan, Brianne Krenicky, Matthew Lang, Jeremy Lesser, Phillip Malitsch, Kristin Matey, James McKeown, Erin O'Donnell, Donna Pinkowicz, Jessica Quintans, Nicholas Rehm, Maryann Roff, Zachary Schellhaas, Tasha Sell, Serena Stauffer, Ian Strawn, Christine Weber, Bruce Weikert.

Grade 7—Michael Andree, Kimberly Carson, Michael Clauser, Amy DeRemer, Rebecca Ellis, James Finnen, Audrey Hall, Nancy Harte, Sean Heiserman, Todd Hoffert, Sarah Hume, Brandie Kessler, Shanna Kichline, Matthew

King, Emily Koller, Gary Lang, Crystal Lesser, Nikole Lonardo, Michael Mahn, Douglas Malitsch, Karen Mangano, Charles May, Briana McGonagle, Daniel Pauling, Adam Pengh, Elizabeth Raub, Ryan Repash, Christopher Riegel, Tara Salgado, Kelly Savitske, Robert Selden, Andrew Smith, Naomi Starkey, Bonnie Walters, R. Lee Walters, Eric Wespi, Scott Wespi, Taryn Winterburn, Kelly Yerger.

Grade 6—Brooke Beitler, Brian Bettler, Amy Bromfield, Jennifer Brown, Jason Civitella, Roseanne Dalrymple, Russell Demko, Elizabeth Dodson, Lauren Donchez, Dana Dunn, Joshua Ernst, Tanya Fetzer, Kristen Fiorot, James Frain Jr., Lindsey Fritchman, Lee Gilman, Meghan Gough, Kelly Hacker, Dale Hock, Adam Kipp, Jason Kleibschedel, Ashley Klein, Emily Lechner, Brian Lennon, Alyssa Lora, Todd Lutseo, Jocelyn Lutton, Ryan Martim, Christopher McCardle, Andrew Meilinger, Nicole Nocek, Justin Novak, Victoria Opthof, Jason Osmun, Gregory Otto, Jamie Palank, Jonathan Rasich, Joel Raudenbush, Sara Ravier, Jennifer Reilley, Tara Rohs, Amanda Rosati, Nathan Ross, Kori Sanders, Todd Seifert Jr., Doruk Seren, Dina Skraban, Heather Smith, Kyle Smith, Robert Stoltz, Deanna Takacs, Logan Tratnyek, Cassandra Walther, Juli Weirback, Jacklyn White, Eileen Wolf, David Young, Erika Zawadzki.

Hellertown Lions elect new officers

The Hellertown Lions Club recently elected board members for 1996-97.

They are:

President, Tom Renninger; first vice president, Bob Thompson; second vice president, Pat Paparelli; third vice president, Peggy Reichard; secretary, Peggy Reichard; assistant secretary, David Heintzelman; financial secretary, Ed Laub; treasurer, Jim Hein; assistant treasurer, Lou Hassay; Lion tamer, Dave Stauffer; assistant Lion tamer, Bill Diehl.

Also: tail twister, Maynard Underkoffler; assis-

tant tail twister, Frank Wilk; chaplain, Mike Zito; assistant chaplain, C. Shelly Hill; bulletin editor, Peggy Reichard; song leader, Bob Thompson; assistant song leader, Bill Koczen, and ways and means, John DelRe.

The immediate past president is Bill Lewis

Elected to serve two years on the board are William Shimer, Keith Zweifel, Clarence Diehl and Bill Mills.

Elected to serve one year are Bob McKay, Carl Werley, Carl Laub and Don Gingles.

Arthur Joel Katz

Letter to my mom

Dear Mom,

Sorry I haven't written sooner. Thirty-five years may be a long time between letters, but I have been busy and, what with you being in heaven and all that, it has not exactly been convenient. Besides, I figure you have been watching over me and now, with Aunt Dotty joining you last year, you are pretty much up to date. Anyway, I could use a sympathetic ear, so here goes:

I have long since abandoned Hollywood. Susan and I are living here in the Saucon Valley, a little more than a mile out of town. Although you know what a bad boy I have been, honest to God I have straightened out. (By the way, if you run into God, please give Him my regards.) We have been getting on well with our neighbors, although not everybody loves the rooster waking them up at 4 in the morning. The same could be said for Hellertown. Not the rooster, of course, but that not everybody loves me.

One of the problems is that I have been writing a column for the local newspaper. Sure you make friends, but if I follow your instructions and try to tell the truth, I often get my head handed to me. Rumor has it that the Borough Council has a contract out on me. You would think those people would have skins as thick as their skulls. Participating in a public debate, I know how important having a thick skin is. Actually, I would be disappointed if someone wasn't taking off after me. At least I know there are people out there who actually read me.

This aside, I am happy to report that we are approaching the third anniversary of our moving here, and we are still enjoying it very much. Lower Saucon is often quite beautiful and Hellertown is a microcosm of America. It has its faults, but it is a wonderful place to live. Although it was primarily a blue-collar town, it has great hidden facets and surprising talents. There is a breakfast club that meets most mornings at 7 at a place called Sweet Treasures that is like reading a Gallup Poll. Despite diverse political opinions, they break bread together, and some of the lines thrown around the table remind me of the time when I used to play poker with all those comedy writers on the coast. My publisher took us to a first-rate steak cookout given by the chamber of commerce which was a lot of fun. And the butcher, the barber, and the newspaper store are as lively as ever. A used book store has opened on Main Street, a sure sign that the new library has had some effect. Susan Ackerman, the cat doctor, continues to tend our cats, and David Doll fixes what ye olde incompetent can't fix. What is more, the people are actually polite to one another. You can't pass anybody without at least a friendly nod.

I do have a few beefs. One of them has to do with the triple intersection about a couple of hundred yards below our house. People coming out of Hellertown along Water Street (the name

changes to Freidensville Road for some reason), crash with people driving along Bingen Road or Mountain Drive or Hickory Hill Road with sufficient frequency as to require ambulances and/or tow trucks about once a week. I suggested to Chief Guy Lesser of the Lower Saucon police that he would save a lot of money if he built a station on the vacant land at that corner, or better still, put in a small hospital. Seriously, Mom, the township seems to have had engineering plans to do something about the problem, but PennDOT never coughed up the money. Maybe if more people join you in heaven as a result of this intersection, the state or even the township will do something about it.



Another has to do with Hayes Street in south Bethlehem. Some bureaucratic idiot decreed that all the lovely old trees that used to line the street had to be cut down in order that the town could fix the sidewalks! Then they are to replant trees. Give them 50 years and they'll have to do it all over again. Maybe that was the devil's work.

Then there are all these developments. God must really be annoyed with the way people have been treating His landscape. Sure He has made more people, but can't houses be built for them that aren't made of match sticks and are placed with greater sensitivity to the environment?

There are other minor irritants. Out of habit, the school buses stop at crossings that have no tracks and haven't seen a train in over 25 years. The fish at the Superfresh are all frozen and there is not much variety. The New York Times is not delivered and costs \$1 on weekdays and \$3 on Sundays. The kids all say "like" like in, "Like, I'm gonna go to the movies" or "Like, don't tell me what I can say." And "youse" is part of the local dialect if not the dictionary. And my editor edits my copy using the so-called Valley Voice Style Sheet which refers to something called the "Elongated-Yellow-Fruit Rule." (Would I kid you?)

Finally, I do wish we could have a little peace and harmony on the question of what to do with the schools. The people are so suspicious of one another. Surely it is possible to have a debate without all this animus. I don't know. Maybe that only happens in heaven. Good as it is, Lower Saucon and Hellertown are not heaven.

Well, I can hear you saying "There, there," and I am grateful. I'll write again in another 35 years if I'm still around, but don't count on seeing me up where you are. I suspect I am going to the other place.

Love and kisses and give a hug to Aunt Dorothy, Joel
ARTHUR JOEL KATZ WANTS READERS TO KNOW ONLY REAL NAMES WERE USED IN LAST WEEK'S COLUMN ON A MEETING OF THE BARNYARD BOARD.

Letters to the Editor

Report from township authority

To the Editor:

As chairman of the Lower Saucon Authority let me state very briefly that our basic responsibility is to endeavor to provide public water and sewer to as many new customers as is practicable while continuing to maintain proper service to existing customers within the township.

Generally, the expansion of the customer base or service area will allow a reduction in system fixed costs to each user. However, we can only expand service within the township in balance with the available allocation of these utilities from the City of Bethlehem unless alternative sources are de-

veloped.

Lower Saucon Authority has continued to study the feasibility of supplying these utilities to locations not reasonably accessible to existing pipelines within the township and during the past four years we have continued the discussions with the Hellertown Authority regarding the purchase of bulk water from the Hellertown Authority as an option in order to provide service to our residents.

Currently, Lower Saucon Authority is completing a review of preliminary engineering covering the extension of pipelines in the township to the south and east of Hel-

lertown in preparation for projected growth and future utility services in that area. This growth may include residential development, new schools and shopping centers, as well as in communities further to the south. I would hope that the discussions with the Hellertown Authority will be finalized in time for inclusion in our evaluation of the options prior to our submission or recommendations to Lower Saucon Township Council in the near future.

Richard J. McCarthy
Lower Saucon Township

Just 2 little words

To the Editor:

Travelgate—Saucongate.
Allen Henderson
Hellertown

THE VALLEY VOICE

SAUCON VALLEY'S WEEKLY PAPER

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Bud Prosser

How many newlyweds honor vows?

Several weeks ago my youngest son got married and a good number of family and friends were there to share that special moment with he and his new wife. And, as most parents do, my wife and I stood proudly as the wedding vows

were exchanged.

And now reflecting back on it all, I realize that the odds of this being a lasting marriage are against them. What a sorry statistic that is.



It has become ever more apparent that, in many cases, the vows are said but not meant. You marry for richer or poorer, for better or worse, in good health and bad, which evidently cannot be coped with in today's society. It has become apparent that in many marriages husband and wife walk their own paths, keep their own checking accounts, and eventually go their own ways. Divorce is damaging and if there are children involved it becomes even more so. My son's marriage is really out of my hands, but I can pray that his marriage will not be another statistic. Marriage isn't easy; you have to work at it. Working at it is something today's generation seem unwilling to do.

And this is As I See It!

MEMORIES

A special supplement to THE VALLEY VOICE

A history of Saucon Valley Community Center

Information gathered by
Phyllis Schnaible, executive
director of the Saucon Valley
Community Center:

With a little bit of luck and a whole lot of help, the Hellertown-Lower Saucon Township area has its own Community Center.

In December 1970 a group of concerned citizens began working toward providing a meeting place for the purpose of recreation, leisure, character building, and a planned program for the residents of the area. A board of directors was established which included representatives of seventeen civic and social organizations, and local governing bodies plus several members-at-large. Officers of the board were: Gerald T. Long, President; Wilbur Krause, Vice-President; Leonard Troman, Treasurer; and Mrs. Robert Szakmeister, Secretary. The group incorporated as a non-profit organization in January 1971.

The problem of housing such a program was met with an offer by the congregation of Christ Lutheran Church to use their old church building located on the corner of Saucon and Northampton streets in Hellertown. The Zoning Board of Hellertown approved an application for special exception in the use of the structure. There were stipulations attached to their approval, the most important being that after 5 p.m. parking for the Community Center must be in the parking lot of First United Church of Christ, one block away. The congregation of that church had offered its parking facilities to alleviate the congestion of parking in the neighborhood of the Center.

A Program Committee was formed to study the possibilities for use of the building. They determined that there should be youth representation on the board so they can express themselves regarding the type of program they would like. There are several rooms in the building which are suitable for use as meeting rooms for organizations and plans were made to make these available without charge. The committee also



The first dinner at Saucon Valley Community Center. Left to right are: Anna Fluck, a person unknown, Stephanie Nagorski, Mae Quier, Harriet Hine, and Mr. and Mrs. George Werkheiser.

Photo courtesy of Irene Frey

recognized the need for a drop-in center for young people to gather in a semi-structured situation, for separate girls' program, and a boys' program similar to the Boys Club.

In order to accomplish these aims, the building had to be made

ing presented a financial challenge. An appeal for funds went out to all organizations, clubs, businesses, and residents in the area and their response enabled the board to go ahead with their plans.

Cleaning, painting, and most of the repairs were done by volun-

per work required with the organization of the Center. By-Laws and house rules were drawn up and committees were formed. Furniture, equipment, and games were contributed by residents.

In October 1971, the Boys Club of Bethlehem opened their Heller-

arts, and crafts.

In November 1971, the Bethlehem YMCA began a Y-Teen Club in the building for junior and senior high school girls. They met weekly and their program encompassed everything from cooking to crafts.

A junior board was formed to draw up regulations for the Teen Drop-In Center and to supervise during open hours.

In December 1971, the Teen Drop-In Center opened its doors to the eager young people of the Saucon Valley area. Their area included a lounge and a large game room, most of which was furnished with donated equipment. Plans for the Drop-In Center included various workshops, films, and pro-

Continued on next page

The problem of housing such a program was met with an offer by the congregation of Christ Lutheran Church.

ready for occupancy, with some serious cleaning, painting, and repair work to be done. Funds had to be raised to cover the costs—just to heat and insure the build-

ers, the nucleus of which was the Board of Directors. When they were not participating in work or paint parties or fund drives, the board was doing the necessary pa-

town extension in the Community Center building. Operating three evenings each week, they had more than two hundred boys enrolled in their program of games,

History of SV Community Center

Continued from previous page

grams of interest for the young people. The Junior Board enforced the rules and policies of the Center in cooperation with adult supervisors, who were also in the building at all times while it was open.

Financial problems for 1972 were practically alleviated with a \$3500 grant from the Outreach Program of the Greater Bethlehem Area United Fund. The balance of the year's budget was made up of donations. Application was made for membership in the United Fund beginning in 1973.

On April 9, 1973, the formal dedication of the Community Center was held. Mr. and Mrs. Harrison W. Prosser were the honored guests and were presented with a plaque for their help to the Center. State Senator Jeanette Reibman and local officials also attended along with 400 interested citizens.

Through the 1970s and into the 1980s the Center has changed administration five times. Patrick A. Fekula, Terry Newhard, Bruce Anderson, and Carson Hart were past Center directors. William Parks was the last director before Richard Morrissey, who took over in September 1983. During the administration changes, a senior citizen luncheon program began. It was sponsored by the Northampton County Area Agency on Aging in Nazareth. Kitchen staff were hired to serve a luncheon meal to anyone over the age of 60 years old. The senior meals program along with other senior citizen activities such as cards and bingo were started at the Center. Meals are still served every weekday at 11:45 a.m. and reservations are made one day in advance. Kitchen staff includes Victoria Malkiewicz and Anna Sobota, Site Manager. The late Estelle Faseno was in charge of the senior meals and activity program in the late 1970s and early 1980s.

During the late part of the 1970s the Center and the Bethlehem YMCA set up an administrative affiliation, which formalized with a management contract signed in June of 1983. The contract expired in January 1987. Under this contract, the YMCA agreed to assist the Center board in supervising the new director, developing operating policies and procedures, and to form a long-range operational plan for the Center.

Under the direction of Richard Morrissey in 1983, staff appointments were made—an administrative assistant and two teen counselors—this added three more staff people in addition to three senior activities staff. Mr. Morrissey had also started some new programs by suggestion of the Community Center members. Activities such as boxing and karate were offered.

The Teen Center was open after school and two nights a week. Through donations by local organizations, the Teen Center was able to purchase a stereo and a table soccer game. The Teen Center also sponsored dances throughout the year for the teen community in Hellertown.

After the departure of Richard Morrissey in September 1986, Lisa Yamnicky was appointed interim

director until a new director was found. Classes were kept running and the Center was able to function normally on a daily basis. This interim period lasted for about 5 1/2 months.

In January 1987, John Brotzman was hired as the new director. Under his direction there was a focus on creative crafts as opposed to sports activities because of a lack of liability insurance. Quilling, tatting, sculpture, ceramics, basketry were some of the programs being offered to the public.

An inter-generational day care center was started in 1987 by Dr. Elizabeth Conard, who received a venture grant from the United Way. This program was housed inside the Center but sponsored by Family Counseling Services of the Lehigh Valley. Due to lack of participation the adult day care portion of the program was discontinued. The child care program remained and started operating five days a week offering services to children from 18 months to 12 years of age. A before and after school program has also been offered during the fall. Various activities including field trips are planned. In February 1988, Carol Sigworth was hired as a Program Coordinator. Several new programs were started including a summer playground and various children's programs.

Executive Director, John Brotzman, resigned as of August 12, 1988. During the time in which he left, Lisa Yamnicky was named interim director.

After several weeks of deliberation by the Board of Directors, Lisa Yamnicky Rupert was named the new director of the Community Center. She started the director's job on November 1, 1988. The Center's programming during 1989 has been updated by including children's programs, namely the Kids n' Kaboodle class created and instructed by Carol. This highly successful program is for children ages 18 months to 5 years. Senior citizen activities are also included. Various activities are created to stimulate the seniors minds and tap into their creative talents.

Regular-programming in the form of aerobic exercise, sports, and craft programs have still been operating.

A full schedule of summer programs have also been available. One very successful program has been the story hour in the park, which has been staffed by a group of volunteer school teachers. A summer playground program, geared after the Hellertown-Lower Saucon Recreation Board program, has been offered two weeks out of the summer. A dance class for children has also been reactivated.

The Day-By-Day Care Center, sponsored by Family Counseling Services of the Lehigh Valley continues to operate with the addition of a school aged summer program.

Since early 1989, there has been talk about building a new community center. The center board has discussed with the borough the possibility of obtaining land. Negotiations have been in the works for over a year. Lower Saucon Township has also been contacted but no response has been forthcoming.

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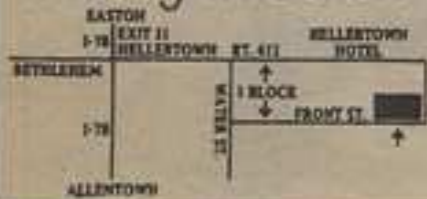
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From left: Community Center executive director Phyllis Schnaible, program director Elaine Bender and daycare coordinator Judy Riegel.



Saucon Valley Community Center is housed in what used to be Christ Lutheran Church and before that was Christ Union Church.

Lutheran church gave home to SV Community Center

Courtesy of the Hellertown Historical Society

The building that houses the Saucon Valley Community Center was at one time Christ Lutheran Church that was at one time Christ Union Church built in 1897 and the Mother Church, Christ Church-Lower Saucon, founded in 1736.

In 1870 a small group of dedicated Christians formed a new congregation of the Reformed Church in the village of Hellertown.

The village with a population of about 350 was an old community dating back to the early 1700s having been settled by people of German Lutheran and Reformed Protestants. The devout

gestion of Rev. Samuel Hess and with the leadership of his son Hon. Jeremiah Hess, they organized themselves into a congregation known as Christ's Reformed Church of Hellertown as a part of the Lower Saucon charge.

On April 14, 1870, in the village schoolhouse (site of the present United Methodist Church), it was decided to unite with the Lutherans in erecting a church at the southeast corner of Saucon and Northampton Streets. During the construction of the sanctuary, services were held in the schoolhouse and in Hellertown Hall (southeast corner of Main and Durham Streets). The union

building was dedicated on May 28, 1871. Rev. T.O. Stem served the church until July 30, 1876 when he resigned. In the church book, Rev. Stem records the

following: "I served this congregation for a period of a little over six years, during which time large accessions of such as should be saved were made to the church."


On June 1, 1877, the Rev. A.B. Koplin, D.D. became the pastor and it was during his pastorate that the bonds of mutual Christian fellowship and endearment between pastor and people exerted much influence in the life of the church

Continued on page 10

school teacher and preacher Rev. John Philip Boehm, one of the first land owners in the Hellertown area, organized the first German Reformed congregations in America in 1725, and the Lower Saucon Reformed Church, (now the Lower Saucon United Church of Christ) our "mother Church", held services as early as 1736.

By 1870, the German Reformed people living in the village decided to form a new congregation separate from Lower Saucon. At the sug-

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Union Church fire provided start to Dewey Fire Co.

Taken from "The Look Back," published by Lower Saucon Township Historical Society, courtesy of the Hellertown Historical Society.

The fire at Christ Union Church at the corner of Saucon and Northampton Streets led to the start of Hellertown's water system and its volunteer fire company, Dewey No 1.

On April 17, 1896 lightning struck the steeple of Christ Union Church at the corner of Saucon and Northampton Streets and it burned to the ground.

It was fought hard by a bucket brigade of men that braved great danger by climbing on the roof of the building to spill the buckets of water on the fire as they were passed to them in relay. All these efforts were in vain for sooner or later the water supply, being taken from nearby sources, gave out. The building was at the mercy of the flames which reduced it to ruins.

This pointed up the danger of fires to the homes of any or all the inhabitants of the town. A large water supply and an organized effort with better equipment, better than mere buckets, were the answers to the problem. This placed the responsibility on the borough government for supplying these needs so glaringly apparent.

To get an expression from the people of the town an election was held at the Stever's Hotel, now Park Hotel. With 118 people favoring it, council set about to float a bond issue to cover the costs of a water system. Now do not think that there was no opposition, for there was. After the bonds were sold, land acquired, a reservoir constructed and the lines were being brought into town, petitions were circulated to stop it but it never happened.

A bond issue of \$20,000 was floated and at a public auction the bonds were auctioned off one by one to the highest bidder until \$18,000 worth were sold. The auction was held at Stever's Hotel. With this money, land and springs were acquired, a reservoir built, a main line to and trunk lines in the borough were laid.

Most of the water, often said to be the second best in the state of Pennsylvania, came from the Wharton Spring acquired from the Thomas Iron Company by barter. The concession was for water supply to the company's house at the corner of Main and West Depot Streets free, forever. This concession is still in effect.

For 30 years the water system was operated by borough council but the bond issue was

not retired for the revenues were placed into the general fund of the borough together with taxes and spent by borough council.

Around 1926, several years after the part of the township from Chestnut Street on up had been annexed to the borough. It became incumbent on the borough to give those people in that area water from the borough supply. The mains in that section were owned and operated by the City of Bethlehem, so the borough had to buy the lines from the city before it could furnish them with water.

When M.J. Dimmick became the burgess he negotiated the purchase of these lines for the sum of \$39,500. The outstanding bonds of the first bond issue were still not retired so another \$18,000 was needed. Not to take the water to this section and other extensions that

An organized effort and better equipment—better than mere buckets—were the answers.

had to be made, a bond issue of \$60,000 was floated and sold

At this point the burgess proposed to council that a law then in effect gave council the right to appoint a commission of three men who would operate the water system for council. They would also collect all revenues which would be kept in a separate account and for the use of the water system only.

This was done and for the next 15 or more years the system was improved by the addition of more land, more springs, wells, a filter bed, chlorination and an extension of mains so as to give better circulation to the various dead end areas.

The work of this department was next assigned to the water authority, now the Borough Authority. This group also made many advances in our water system.

The burning church did not only spur interest in the water system, it also put new life into the endeavor of some of the people who had met before to start a fire company, but without success.

The big moment came January 18, 1898 when volunteers, as they called themselves, met in the basement of the building on the corner of Main and East Saucon Streets.

The group started an organization called The Dewey Fire Company No. 1, named after Admiral George Dewey, hero of Manila Bay. Milton Bud Keller became the first chief.

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Lutheran church gave home to SV Center

Continued from page 7
and the community.

On July 17, 1890, events took an unexpected turn when a cyclone destroyed the steeple of the church which necessitated its replacement as well as a new church bell. On April 17, 1896, the church was struck by lightning and completely destroyed it by fire. A new church was dedicated May 2, 1897. Dr. Koplin was a cofounder of Phoebe Deaconess and Old Folks Home (now Phoebe-Devitt Home) at Allentown, Pa. His death on March 5, 1917, brought to a close a fruitful pastorate of forty years, during which time the church grew in spiritual strength as well as in membership.

Rev. George B. Hamm became pastor of the church Sept. 29, 1917. His energetic and scholarly leadership resulted in some notable achievements. The congregation continued to grow. Greater interest was cultivated among the lay people in

the mission of the church and many projects were promoted involving the young people of the church. Under the guidance of Rev. Hamm the membership of the congregation increased and its influence widened resulting in a definite need to provide for better facilities to carry on the work of the church. A new church building was constructed at Penn and Northampton Streets and it was formally dedicated Dec. 5, 1937. The separation from the Union Church, where for two generations Reformed and Lutheran members had worshipped, took place in January 1938. Rev. Hamm served the congregation well and with the courage of his convictions. He died July 14, 1940.

The affairs of the congregation were well handled in the interim of pastorates under the direction of R.N. Taylor, who acted as president of the Consistory, with the assistance of Mrs. Hamm as the Parish work-



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Lutheran church gave home to SV Center

er and the Rev. F.C. Seitz, D.D. as supply pastor. Oct. 18, 1940 the congregation withdrew from the Lower Saucon charge and due to a denominational merger the name was changed to the Christ Evangelical and Reformed Church of Hellertown, Pa.

On April 20, 1941 the Rev. Adam E. Schellhase, D.D. became pastor of the church. He inherited many challenges which were met with enthusiasm and devotion by the wonderful teamwork of Dr. and Mrs. Schellhase. The membership grew from 346 to more than 550. The debt of \$6,200 was wiped out in 1943. The 75th anniversary of the church was commemorated Oct. 14, 1945. Dr. Schellhase's warm friendliness and care for everybody was reflected in his work in the church and in the community. He died Dec. 16, 1946 after a serious illness of several months.

The Rev. Richard H. Winters

was installed as pastor in the spring of 1947. His youthful zeal and pleasing personality soon endeared him in the hearts of both young and old. He was a forceful preacher and deeply sincere about the meaning of Christian faith in a changing world and the need to take one's religion more seriously. Richard Schellhase was ordained in the Christian ministry May 25, 1947. After a short period of faithful service, Rev. Winters resigned in August of 1949.

The Rev. Edward O. Butkofsky, D.D. assumed his duties as pastor Sept. 1, 1949. The church received by merger the members of Apple's New Jerusalem Church, April 8, 1951. In December 1952 the first monthly issue of "Church News" was mailed to all members. With a steady increase in membership, Dr. Butkofsky saw the need for expansion of the church facilities and his appeal to the congregation to raise funds to construct a new building met with

enthusiastic response. His sermons were masterful and greatly appreciated as was the time he gave not only for our church but for the church at large. He served our congregation until his resignation Dec. 1, 1954.

During another interim of pastorates the services of the church were carried on by Dr. Howard J.B. Ziegler, of the philosophy department of Lehigh University, Dr. A. Roy Eckardt, head of the department of religion of Lehigh University, Rev. Ernest Miko, of Christ Church, Lower Saucon and Rev. J. Canfield VanDoren, retired Presbyterian minister, who graciously served wherever he was needed.

Rev. Theodore E. Haas,

Th.M. was installed as pastor, June 12, 1955 and shortly after, on June 26, 1955, Robert N. Taylor Jr. was ordained in the Christian ministry. It was through the combined efforts of the pastor, consistory, building committee and enthusiastic congregation that a new church school and church addition were completed and dedicated June 10, 1956.

In 1957, due to a denominational merger, the name of the church was changed to First United Church of Christ of Hellertown, Pa. The church youth program, from 1963 to 1969 was directed by student assistants Stephen Nicholas and Robert Voelker from the Moravian Theological Seminary and

Richard Solliday, from the Lancaster Theological Seminary. Leonard Heffner, was ordained in the Christian ministry June 9, 1963. A mortgage burning ceremony, Nov. 20, 1966 marked the clearing of the debt on the church building erected at a cost of \$225,000.

In 1967 the congregation assumed the full financial support of our missionary to India, Miss Miriam Rogers.

Ronald Haney enrolled as a student for the ministry at Bangor Theological Seminary in Sept. 1969. Richard Solliday was ordained in the Christian ministry June 14, 1970 and assumed his duties as the congregation's first associate pastor, Aug. 1, 1970.

Events mark 25th year for SVCC

Here is a list of the remaining events in a series planned by the Saucon Valley Community Center to commemorate its 25th anniversary:

FAMILY PICNIC—Saturday, August 3—An old fashioned day of fun, food, and frolic. Dimmick Park. Details to be announced.

ART AUCTION—Friday, October 4—Lehigh University Conference Center—Moun-

taintop Campus This is a great opportunity to buy that piece of art you have always wanted. Refreshments will be served.

THE GRAND FINALE AND THE BEGINNING OF THE FUTURE "DINNER" This dinner will be the closing event of the year long celebration of the 25th anniversary of the Saucon Valley Community Center. It will mark the beginning of the future and our entry into the next century.

All these events are an ambitious undertaking. We cannot do them without your support. Remember this is your CENTER and your COMMUNITY.

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Se-Wy-Co fire fighters of yore pose on their spanking new Ford 1926 fire truck in front of the Paul C. Huff Ford dealership (now Britt's Tire Service at Main and Chestnut streets, Hellertown). They are, from left, Camille Julien, George Mentzel, George Scholl, Clarence Krause, Leon Raeder, Paul Mobis, Harry Reinhard, T.R. Peterson, Asher Bowman and Fire Chief Harold G. Gross.

Harsh winter of '26 led to founding of Se-Wy-Co Fire Co.

"Se-Wy-Co Fire Company" by R.L. Kantor. Taken from "The Look Back," a publication of the Lower Saucon Township Historical Society.

The winter of 1926 was harsh as the eastern part of the nation was in the grip of a cold wave. The Lehigh River was frozen from shore to shore at some places and Saucon Creek along the Hellertown Road was frozen over with one inch of ice.

The thermometer fell to -4

degrees F. Furnaces were required to work extra hard. During the last week of January the Lafayette Hotel in Allentown caught fire and on the 28th of January eighteen families were made homeless on East Mechanic Street in Bethlehem.

On the same evening in New York City more than 2,000 persons were driven from their homes by fires in numerous parts of the city. The fires were not confined to the larger cities. On Saturday at 2 A.M. on

January 30, 1926, flames destroyed four dwellings at Wydnor and badly damaged a fifth house. Mr. and Mrs. Gabriel Pearl, Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Devlin, Forrest Jacoby and John Nelmes were left homeless.

Liberty Fire Company in Bethlehem was telephoned and responded. There being no fire hydrants, a line was laid to Black River Creek where a small dam was also built; but the headway of the fire and insufficient water caused the

homes to be lost.

Action because of the disaster was not long in coming. A meeting of several residents of Wydnor was held in the Harvester Grange Hall on Sunday, January 31, and it was decided by those present to call a meeting on February 3, 1926 of all residents of Seidersville, Wydnor and Colesville for the purpose of discussing the matter of fire protection.

Twenty-two people attended this meeting whereby the fire company was then organized. George Mentzel was elected president and at a later meeting Harold G. Gross was elected as the first fire chief.

The name SE-WY-CO was decided on because of the company serving the Seidersville, Wydnor and Colesville areas. The new firemen wasted little time in preparing themselves for any future emergency. By fall of the same year (1926) a Model T Ford was in service. The Grange Hall, where the fire truck was kept and used as the fire house, was purchased in 1931 and increased in size several times in the years following to fulfill their needs.

In that same year (1931) the Ladies Auxiliary was organized with Mrs. Edgar Larish as its first president, and it has been an invaluable asset over the years.

Through the years of the Depression, World War II, and the post war years to the present, the company continued to grow both in membership and equipment. Today (1983) the social members total 1,325 and active firemen and ambulance personnel total 43.

Having four pumpers, one rescue truck, and an ambulance for their use, SE-WY-CO can unequivocally boast of having one of the finest volunteer fire companies possible.

In keeping with the high standards for progress set by past members, the company on July 10, 1982, broke ground for the construction of a new \$250,000 social hall to be completed this year.

The new hall will be used for social functions and banquets. It will have three times as much space as the old 100 person banquet area started in 1938—an important feature since banquets and public dinners are an important source of income. The old building will continue to be used for storage of the fire-fighting equipment and meet-

The name Se-Wy-Co was decided on because of the company serving the Seidersville, Wydnor and Colesville areas.

Also underway is a drive for a new fire truck. The residents of the SE-WY-CO area are and can be proud of their fire company. It was their ideas, pride and ability to work together for the past fifty-six years that made it all possible.

FIRE CHIEFS: Harold G. Gross 1926-1940; Howard Weiss 1959-1963; Karl Gross 1973-1976; Camille Wydnor 1940-1953; Ben Herzog 1964-1968; Bruce Nash 1977-1978; Austin Ruth 1953-1958; Edward Deegan 1969-1972; Wm. Cszaszar 1978-present.

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First mill on the Saucon

Taken from "The Look Back," a publication of The Lower Saucon Township Historical Society.

The acres of land along the Saucon Creek which Irish chose were for Bucks County lottery tickets, as the story goes. The stone mill which he built here was the very first to exist, along the Saucon, where it stone-ground the valley farmers' grist.

In 1735 the Penns projected a lottery to dispose of one hundred thousand acres of land in Upper Bucks County, but as it never was drawn, the holders of the tickets were allowed to locate the land they called for.

Among them was Nathaniel Irish who three tickets and under these he located three five hundred acre tracts on the Lehigh, two on the south and one on the north bank. He built a mill at the mouth of the Saucon before 1740, the first in this region.

Afterwards he sold this tract to a Mr. Cruikshank of Philadelphia. The other two tracts, one on each side of the river he sold to the Moravians, on one of which Bethlehem was built.

Mr. Irish probably never lived north of the Lehigh, for his home stood on the site of William Shimer's dwelling at Shimersville, and was removed in 1816. The ruins of the mill are still to be seen on the premises of John Knecht, Bucks County History - W.W.H. Davis 1876.

According to the anniversary brochure of Bethlehem 1892, Irish sold the mill after a few years of operation and in the next ten years it changed hands many times. The owner in 1892 was Howard Knecht who years before had acquired the property and had completely renovated the first mill structure.

He installed the most modern mill machinery changing it from a grist mill into a roller mill. The wheat of the valley farmers now was turned into a fine grade of flour under such names as "White Lily", and "Golden Flour."

Mr. Knecht developed a big trade with stores, bakeries and other businesses which used flour. He was kept busy with a number of teams, daily delivering the product made at his mill. In 1743 the Moravians of Bethlehem asked the county courts to open a wagon-road to the mill so they could take their grain there for stone grounding, which was the type of mill then operated by Irish. This the county did.

Along the south branch of the Saucon sprang up after this first mill was built under such names as Hess, Boehm, Heller, Wagner, Moyer, Benner, and Ehrhart. Today but a few remain as mill buildings, Wagner, Moyer and Ehrhart. Wagner's mill dating back to 1752 was acquired by the borough of Hellertown under the Project 70 program and has been the headquarters of The Hellertown Historical Society. The Moyer's mill is changed into dwelling units and is located on Meadows road.

The only mill in semblance of operation is the Ehrharts Mill now close to a hundred years old. In 1972 it was still operated by the Ehrharts as a grain, feed and seed sales warehouse. Ehrharts Mill was restored in 1987 and placed on the National Register of Historic Places. A fire destroyed the mill portion of the complex in 1995.



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1950: Lions Club lauds Chief Zimpfer

Taken from "The Look Back," a publication of the Lower Saucon Historical Society.

Fifty years of continuous community service merits a note of appreciation. At least that is what 100 members and guests of the Lions Club think, as they showed by honoring Police Chief Charles Zimpfer at a testimonial dinner March 9, 1950 in the American Legion building.

Lion Herbert Hoffert introduced Zimpfer, giving a short account of the highlights in the latter's career. Paul Trumboyer presented the club's gift to the chief, a radio. Zimpfer, moved by the presentation and the surprise, voiced his thanks to those who arranged the testimonial.

Chief Zimpfer, who is 79 years old, has served the borough in an official capacity for a half century. Aside from his job as police chief, he has also held the positions of water and street superintendent.

Burgess Myron D. Parsons, program chairman for the affair, introduced guest speakers. Included in that group were: Fire Chief John Schweder of Bethlehem; Capt. Vincent Coughlin of the borough police; Eugene Hine, chairman of the police committee of Borough Council; George Parsons, head of council's fire committee; Rev. Robert Krauss, chaplain of the Four-County Firemen's Association; John Pfeiffer, assistant fire chief, and Christopher Pfeiffer, an associate of Zimpfer on the police force for 25 years. Rev. Byron R. Stauffer, president of the Lions Club, was in charge of the meeting.

Chief Zimpfer was born in Baden, Germany, in 1882 and came to the United States at the age of 9 with his parents and six older brothers and sisters. The family lived in Philadelphia for several years, Buckingham in Bucks County, and then moved to Hellertown. After working a short time at the Bethlehem Steel Co. he embarked on his career as a public servant: 51 years of service on the police force, 49 years as chief, and 49 years as fire chief. In addition, he was also street supervisor and water superintendent for the borough.

Zimpfer died in 1952, after having left his community a better place for his fellow man.

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Temple Schoolhouse

Known to the Dutchmen as 'Es Temple Schulhaus'

"The United School or the 'Temple' School" by Herbert S. Weisel. Taken From "The Look Back," a publication of the Lower Saucon Township Historical Society.

The early settlers of the Lower Saucon Township area were of German origin and of the Reformed and Lutheran faiths. Once the land was cleared and fit for agriculture and homes were built, their main concern became the building of churches and schools.

The first schoolhouses were of frame construction, there being an abundant supply of timber. These buildings were later replaced by stone and brick structures.

Many of the schools were located in a building which had formerly been a house or other structure and purchased at a small cost. Education in the early days was based on a "pay as you go" economy. Examples of this were the frame schools built in the form of an octagon and described in the following excerpt from an 1874 Northampton County History and written by the Hon. Jeremiah S. Hass.

B-Sided Schoolhouse

"Northampton County claims the high honor of

the summit of which rose a short chimney, whose base rested on the rafters beneath; the rude building was without vestibule, closet or out-house, without black-board, map or globe; a desk fastened to the wall around seven sides of the room; a bench firmly fixed to the floor and without a back, surrounded the inner periphery. When scholars recited they had but to reverse their position by throwing their feet over the bench, and faced the inner part of the circle, where was the stove and the magisterial form of him who wielded the rod.

All the scholars were taught to make their manners exhibited by "formal courtesy," to strangers whom they might meet on the road. The writer has seen the little ones form themselves in line and make a bow, and say "good afternoon" as he chanced to pass them on their way homeward from school."

A story is told of a school board attempting to build another school in which the matter of economy was an important factor.

Director A: I make a motion that we build a new schoolhouse.

Director B: I second the motion.

Vote—all in favor.

Director A: I make a motion that we build the new

Director B: I second the motion.

Vote—passed unanimous.

In A.H. Carsten's book "Pennsylvania's Best" is the story of an engagement between the British and the Americans during the Revolution, near Philadelphia, where an octagonal schoolhouse, a low buff stone, plastered structure which was built in 1753, was captured and recaptured eleven times in 45 minutes of fighting.

Several schoolhouses in Lower Saucon Township were also used for church services. Among them was one located on Wassergass Road directly across the road from the present Saucon Valley School District's Lower Saucon Elementary School.

The building was erected before the Civil War and was the first school in the Wassergass area. The dwelling was occupied by the Martin Raab family.

The Pennsylvania Germans living in the Wassergass community used this building for Sunday church worship services and religious education as well as weekday evening revival meetings and religious holiday programs. Sometimes it was called "Es Temple Schulhaus"—the "Temple School-house" because of its use for church purposes. It was officially known by the school district as the United School-house.

Among the community's outstanding evangelists preaching the Word of God during the 1860s was Mose Dissinger, who stirred the emotions of his listeners by his gestures and shouting. He was quite frank, outspoken and quick to admonish any inattentive member of the congregation.

The story is told that at one of his preaching services a mother in the congregation was nursing her baby and a nosy young man seated in the pew behind her, leaned over and closely watched what was taking place. Mose the preacher, distracted by the man's obvious curiosity, stopped preaching and turning to the woman who was

the object of the man's attention, and said, "Wan du fertich bist sel kind drenka, gep selim kalp im sitz hin-nich der aw dehl." (When you finish nursing the child, give some to that calf sitting in back of you.)

The United School was included in Assessor Silas Wasser's reported list of schoolchildren in the Lower Saucon Township schools for the period of 1897-1903. During the time of the Civil War, Wasser at the age of 11 was a scholar in this school. The school master

Many of the schools were located in a building which had formerly been a house or other structure and purchased at a small cost. Education in the early days was based on a "pay as you go" economy.

being the birthplace and home of the Hon. George Wolf, who as governor of the State of Pennsylvania in 1834 signed with warm endorsement the bill providing for the establishment of free schools, a measure that has been heartily advocated by the Hon. Thaddeus Stevens. This resulted in the increase of the number of schoolhouses in the county; many were built in the inexpensive form of an octagon, twenty to twenty-five feet in diameter with a peaked roof, from

schoolhouse on the site of the old one.

Director B: I second that motion.

Vote—all in favor.

Director A: I make a motion that we build the new schoolhouse out of the material in the old building.

Director B: I second the motion.

Vote—unanimous.

Director A: I make a motion that we do not tear down the old building until the new one is built.

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was Thomas D. King, an able and devoted teacher as well as one skilled in penmanship.

In an interview with the late Mrs. Floyd (Maude Wasser) Brader on February 7, 1983, several days before her death, she told me that her father, Frank S. Wasser, was taught the art of fraktur by schoolmaster King.

This was a type of writing originating in Germany and was done as a sideline to teaching. King's teaching ability is evidenced by the penmanship in Silas Wasser's 1860 workbook on display in the society's Lutz-Franklin One-Room School Museum on Applebutter Road.

One can imagine how the schoolchildren came trudging along the winding Wassergass dirt road in all kinds of weather on their way to school. They had a beautiful view of the lower Saucon Valley, and the little village of Hellertown surrounded by the green of the trees, the rich farmlands and the clear, cool, spring waters of the meandering Silver Creek as it joined the Saucon Creek flowing northward to the Lehigh River. The low hills in the west formed the background from the Wassergass Road in the 1860s.

The peaceful and happy schooldays of the United School children were suddenly saddened by the outbreak of the United States Civil War and the calling into military service of their beloved teacher, Thomas D. King.

A number of Lower Saucon Township members of the Pennsylvania Militia were in training in their own private way for some time. I remember my Uncle William H. Weisel telling me that as a boy of 9 he watched these militiamen drilling in the open field adjacent to the present Detwiler Plaza in Hellertown.

On August 4th, 1862, on order of the War Department, a special draft of men from the militia was made calling them into service of the United States to serve nine months unless sooner discharged.

Teacher King was a member of the militia that assembled on August 22, 1862, at Easton, for the organization of Northampton County 153rd Regiment Pennsylvania Volunteers Infantry and assigned to Lower Saucon Township's Co. "C."

The regiment entrained for Harrisburg on September 25th and after being further indoctrinated and furnished with a uniform and other needed equipment the regiment was enlisted in the military service on October 7, 1862.

After being encamped at Harrisburg, Pa., until October 18, they left by train for Virginia by way of Baltimore and Washington, D.C.

They were assigned to the 11th Corps of the Union Army and after a stop at Stafford, Va., set out on the march for the famous battlefield of Chancellorsville, Va.

A letter home from the war by the old schoolmaster

Camp near Stafford, Virginia
December 23, 1862

Dear Silas:

I have received your very kind letter some time ago and read it with great pleasure. I am indeed happy that so many of my scholars which I taught are now writing to me, which shows that they have not forgotten me, for I am thinking many times on you and wonder if you are in school. When I come back and you have Sunday School, I will be with you again and then I can see how well you learned. I think you are all diligent in school; and try to obey and please your teacher as you have done before.

Silas, I am in no warm school-room this winter, teaching joyous girls and boys; but am marching most of the time through mud and sometimes rugged places. We have no bed at night to sleep on; but wrap ourselves in a few blankets, and if the nights are not too cold, we sleep quite well.

Dear Silas, did you ever think how the soldier lives? If you did not, think once when it is cold and snow on the ground, that the soldier stands at some place and watches so that none can get in or out of camp. This we have to do sometimes no matter how cold it is or how fast it rains. Sometimes we are marching a whole day through the mud and in the evening we strike up little tents and we want to sleep we have to creep in. Then we march we have to carry along our things and what we eat in a haversack. We cannot go to a table as we do at home; but at such times each one must cook for himself. You would think it a very funny way if you would see it once. But do not think that I am sorry that I am here. I am as happy as I could be at home. We have sometimes very hard times; but we generally think the time is not long and then we can be with you again and tell you more about how the soldier lives.

Silas, do you know why I am writing these things to you? So that you can learn that not all

people live like you at home. Do you remember that little boys get mad sometimes when they do not get everything they want? We ought to pray and thank God that he is so kind as to preserve our health, giving us our food, good clothing, good houses and kind parents to take care of us when young and sick, and who gives us indeed plenty of everything. Be thankful that we have no war in our vicinity.

How do you think it looks in Virginia where we pass through? Do you think the people are living like you at home? Nearly all the houses are empty and some are burned, some are broken to pieces and others destroyed in different

But do not think that I am sorry that I am here. I am as happy as I could be at home.

ways. Little boys and girls have not the privilege of going to school and learn like you at home. How many houses do you think I have seen in Virginia that look like schoolhouses? Only two and in those I do not know whether school was kept. Do you know how thankful you should be to your teacher who is teaching you, and to your dear parents who are sending you to school day after day? Improve your time, for youth is the most favorable time to improve the mind.

I must draw to a close. When you write again, write me about your school, for I am anxious to know you all get along. [Illegible line.] I think you will not get this letter till Christmas, so I do not wish you a happy Christmas but a happy New Year. But I hope you had a happy Christmas. I think you were happy when you ate your good things, for Christmas brings joy and gladness.

I send my best respects to your father, your family, your school mates and to all inquiring friends. I thank you most kindly for your writing to me and close by saying that I am well at present and I hope you are all the same.

Your kind teacher,
Thomas D. King

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If you look close, you can see what used to be there

Looking Back by Herbert S. Weisel. From "The Look Back," published by the Hellertown Historical Society.

Following a recent meeting of the Lower Saucon Township Historical Society at the Saucon Valley Junior High School, I proceeded south on Main Street on my way home. As I crossed Sycamore Street, I recalled that this was the northern boundary line of the Borough of Hellertown at the time of its incorporation in 1872. The land west to the Saucon Creek and south to Division Street was part of the John Geissinger farm.

Continuing my walk, I came to the house on the northwest corner of Main and Depot streets, at one time owned by the Thomas Iron Company and served as the superintendent's home. At Hampton

Street I was reminded of the large stone barn belonging to the Geissinger farm. It was razed in 1919 and replaced by the present brick building (my dad's store) original-

and stone.

This is the site of the original Boehm homestead. It was built of logs in 1747. The stone addition

died in 1749 while visiting his son.

The building reflected the talents and skills of a people who were strangers coming to America and out of necessity built a

number of other landmarks fall before progress.

For many of us the stories of our ancestor's experiences of coming to America happened so long ago that they have been forgotten.

The pioneer Boehms were among the many German immigrants who fled the Palatinate in the early part of the 18th century, and came to America. Immigrants from many countries came to our shores at different periods. Various reasons and different motives induced them to leave their homes in Europe.

Our school histories tell us why our ancestors came to America. They tell us the dates of wars, political problems, religious persecution, industrial revolution and economic changes. But those dates tell us only a small part of the story and nothing of their experiences. What about their feelings? The anxiety of making the decision to go to a strange world, the emotions in leaving family and friends, the thrill of landing in a new world, the many heartaches and disappointments, the joy in making new friends and enjoying the rewards of hard work.

My reminiscing of the Boehm home brings to mind the experiences of two immigrants who came to America from Frankfort, Germany in 1905.

My father, a harness-maker, while at work on his stitching horse looked up as a man and woman came into the shop. They introduced themselves as Reinhold Roekle and wife Emilie. Reinhold, who was a stutterer, tried to tell my Pennsylvania German father what they wanted but he was not understandable. The door to our living room next to the shop was open and my mother, hearing the confused conversation, came to offer her help. It was then that Emilie entered the conversation and she soon made it clear that they had just arrived from Germany and were looking for Reinhold's brother, Gottlieb, a butcher by trade and who lived in Hellertown. She explained that Gottlieb had asked them to come here and stay with him until they found a place of their own.

My parents told them that Gottlieb could be found at the Park Hotel across the street. They were not told that he was the town tippler and did menial work at the hotel and livery stable. After expressing their appreciation for the information, they left in search of Gottlieb. Their first meeting of these German immigrants with my parents was the beginning a long and lasting friendship.

The Roekles found Gottlieb sleeping off a jag in the livery stable tack room and soon discovered that this glowing promises of a

Before crossing Main Street I paused for a moment as I stood in front of 766—the oldest house in Hellertown.

ly erected as a horse sales stable. Before crossing Main Street I paused for a moment as I stood in front of 766 Main Street—the oldest house in Hellertown.

I simply had to lift my eyes from the building's modern storefront at street level to see the unchanged upper story to take me back over two centuries and show me the use of some of our Saucon Valley's natural resources of wood

was erected in 1797. Parts of the upper story can still be seen on the face and north side of the building. It was a very simple colonial building and built by Anthony William Boehm, one of Saucon Valley's pioneer families. He was the son of Rev. John Philip Boehm, first Reformed church minister in America and the founder of the Boehm family in this country. It was in this home that Rev. Boehm

house from the valley's forests—the log cabin—and later used the stones, gathered in clearing the land, to construct a more durable building.

Over the years the Boehm homestead deteriorated and was scarcely habitable. In our community's failure to have the homestead restored, a part of its Saucon Valley heritage has almost disappeared. In past years we have left

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home and employment was a wild exaggeration of his circumstances and ability to help them. Without complaining, they accepted this unexpected letdown and with their German determination they proudly faced the uncertainty of the future. However, Harvey Myers, the genial hotel proprietor placed a room at their disposal until they would find a place of their own.

Before many days they rented the Boehm homestead and with the help of newly made friends the happy immigrants began house-keeping in their first home in America—the same home that had given shelter to the first Boehms more than a century and a half before. Reinhold secured employment as a laborer at the Thomas Iron Company and Emilie was hired as the cook's helper in the Park Hotel kitchen. With Emilie's warm, friendly personality and efficiency as a housekeeper along with Reinhold's ambition and willingness to work, they welcomed and enjoyed the friendship of their neighbors and coworkers.

After living in the Boehm home for a year, the Roekles moved into the house next door to my parents, at the site of the Detwiller Plaza, and a still closer friendship ensued. Their visits with us were always enjoyed, Emily spending many an hour with my mother, while Reinhold sat in the harness shop with my father and friends discussing the latest news. Emilie soon learned to speak some English. Reinhold was slow in learning a new language, handicapped by his stuttering and having difficulty enough speaking his native German. As a youth I had learned to understand and speak Pennsylvania German. My parents in conversing with each other spoke the dialect but spoke English when speaking to me, my sister and my two brothers, with one exception on the part of my father. He would stand by and deliver an admonishing lecture in Pennsylvania German on the subject of wrongdoing, while my mother administered the deserved punishment with a leather strap, the handiwork of my father, the harness maker, and which always hung within easy reach on a clothes hook in the kitchen.

One of my chores as a youth was to run errands to the store for my mother and Emilie. Both were excellent cooks and many delicious meals were cooked up on their wood burning kitchen stoves. Recipes were exchanged and my mother's cookbook contains recipes labeled with Emilie's name attached, such as Emilie's strudel, Emilie's noodles and Emilie's goulash. The Roekles had been in Hellertown about three years, becoming well established in the community, when they received an invitation from a nephew living in New York to join him and offering them a home and employment. They had

learned to like our Saucon Valley and their newly made friends and reluctantly accepted the opportunity to better themselves. They appreciated all that had been done for them as strangers in a new land, but they were determined to undertake a new venture. Their leaving was not without its sadness after the few years of a close friendly relationship. The friendship continued however by the exchange of letters. We learned that they were happily settled in a tenement house in Brooklyn. Emilie was employed as a cook and waitress in a delicatessen and Reinhold was a driver of a two horse-drawn brewery wagon delivering beer to saloons. In a short time they acquired a partnership in the delicatessen with Emilie doing the cooking and baking and Reinhold was the handyman dishwasher. Emilie went to night school learning to read and write English, preparing to become a naturalized citizen.

While attending preparatory school in 1913 and 1914, one of my study subjects was German and Emilie and I exchanged letters. She wrote in English and I in German. Emilie and Reinhold were quite successful in their first business venture and decided to make another investment. After disposing of their partnership in the delicatessen, they purchased and managed the brownstone tenement house in which they lived.

Our friendship continued and we enjoyed each other's visits. My mother and I visited them in Brooklyn and they spent their vacations with us. Time, however, took its toll and after Reinhold's death the tenement house was sold to the nephew and Emilie was able to spend more time with us. She made numerous trips to her relatives in Germany and after returning from one of those visits she was stricken ill and died. This ended a long existing friendship.

As a descendent of German immigrants, I learned from my school history that they fled from the Palatinate in the 18th century because of religious persecution and that they came to America in 1734 in search of another home. The history books with the dates of events and happenings tell me only a part of the story of my ancestor's immigrant experiences.

The story of the feelings and experiences of the German immigrants, Reinhold and Emilie Roekle, who came to this country a century and a half after the arrival of my own immigrant ancestors, tells the rest of the story and I have made it a part of my own history. It has given me a firsthand knowledge and understanding of my own ancestor's feelings as they faced the hardships, despair, disappointments, hard work, enjoyment and happiness as they struggled to achieve the promises of the American dream.

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Mason's Hall

Built in 1876 by the Odd Fellows, it was known as Odd Fellows Hall

Masonic Building by Herbert S. Weisel, taken from "The Look Back," a publication of Lower Saucon Township Historical Society.

When driving along the roads of our rural Lower Saucon Township or taking a stroll along the streets of Hellertown, my thoughts turn to some of the buildings and dwellings that have disappeared. Our community has been rather lax in the preservation of some of these historically rich buildings to make room for progress. They are a part of us, since they contributed so much to the influence and makeup of our lives. The memory of them still lingers.

But there are buildings still standing and seeing them every day they have become so commonplace that we have forgotten how much of our history is to be found out there. Our public schools didn't teach us about buildings and their role in our society—serving as a home, a house of worship, a place of business, or a public building.

In the 1980—number two issue of "The Look Back" I reminisced about the Carriage Factory building in the downtown section of Hellertown and the important part played by various craftsmen in the history of our Saucon Valley community. As one walks through this part of town, one rarely looks above street level.

Changes to the fronts of old buildings are usually made at that level to accommodate business needs and to make them more attractive to the passersby. We fail to see the changes made above that level.

In this issue of "The Look Back" another building in the same downtown area of Hellertown is brought to mind. Changes were not made in the usual way to this particular one of the few remaining landmarks in our Saucon Valley. It is the "Mason's Hall."

It was erected in 1876 by the local lodge of a fraternal society called the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and was called the "Odd Fellow's Hall." The building was sold in 1962 by the Odd Fellows to the Hellertown Lodge No. 563, Free and Accepted Masons.

The front of the building at street level remains intact as it was originally, with steps up to two entrances, one to a place of business on the first floor and the other to a stairway leading to the second and third floors. A roof extending from the building to the curb continues to provide protection and shelter from inclement weather as it has for the past century. It was customary for business places to have a roof covering the entrance-way. The window openings on the second and third floors were walled up and the mansard roof and dormers were removed and replaced by a flat roof.

Before another part of our Saucon Valley heritage disappears, perhaps we need to recall how much this old building has contributed in many ways to the life of our community before it escapes one's memory.

In the early 1800s the people in our Saucon Valley were predominantly Pennsylvania German descendants of the early settlers of the 1700s who had made changes in their mode of living when they came to America. These descendants in the mid 19th Cen-

tury, most of whom were farmers, still exhibited many inherited traits, social habits, and domestic customs of their ancestors. No matter how humble the home or how poor the family, their mode of living was one of plain, simple, and friendly hospitality.

Some social customs are still observed in Pennsylvania German communities such as neighbors and friends getting together to help in certain kinds of work called by the English speaking people a "bee." A quilting bee, a soap making bee, an apple-butter making bee, or a corn husking bee. The German called this a "frolic," a word which seemed to be borrowed from the English, but it is more likely a corruption of the German "forhlich" because such an occasion was

Before another part of our Saucon Valley heritage disappears, perhaps we need to recall how much this old building has contributed.

one of good natured fun and merrymaking followed by everyone partaking of a sumptuous meal.

Church worship services on Sunday and other church holidays were observed by attendance in the morning and the remainder of the day was spent in social recreation by visiting friends and relatives, and in other ways of diverting one's thoughts from life's worries and concerns.

In Southern Germany after church services on a Sunday morning, the custom of recreation in the afternoon took place in a beer or music garden where beer and wine was dispensed and drunkenness was almost unknown. The American early New England Christian who observed Sunday strictly could not understand this German custom because they viewed it from the standpoint of what they saw of drinking in this country. A German familiar with the American custom with regard to drinking expressed the difference between the two countries when he remarked, "In Deutschland trinken die leute, aber in America saufen sie es." (In Germany, people drink, but in America they drink until drunk.)

During the years of growth between 1830 and 1860, the township's rural area and the village of Hellertown experienced a gradual increase in population due to the completion of the railroad between Bethlehem and Philadelphia, and the use of new methods of farming with improved machinery, made the farmer's life less burdensome and increased production of agricultural products.

The change in community life did not, however, prevent the people from fulfilling their obligation to their church, the education of their children, or their participation in traditional customs. When families were stricken with illness, misfortune, or disaster, the neighbors helped them with their farm work and provided them with food and gave them financial assistance.

But this change in life style gave the people more

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leisure time and they felt a need to improve their social life in a more organized effort in providing help for the needy as well as a gathering place for social and recreational activities of the community.

In every community there is a desire for people to improve life and health. There are certain things that people do to gratify it. People desire companionship and fellowship. The church helps people to live in harmony and with the home and family are most important in the life of the community. It was this "sense of community," that spirit of fraternalism of numerous orders, societies, and organizations then existing in America after the Civil War that provided the motivation to fulfill that desire to improve their welfare.

These organizations helped to play an important part in the makeup of the life of the Saucon Valley in the mid 19th Century.

A representative of a fraternal organization met with several influential men of the community to explain its purpose and principles and encourage the formation of a local lodge of a society called the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. The teachings of the organization were of a fraternal, religious, and beneficial nature. The purpose of this men's fellowship was to provide essential help for the widow, financial help for the sick member, and care for the orphan.

A number of individuals were favorably impressed with the principles of the order and were convinced that its moral, fraternal, and social influence in the community would be the means of giving more meaning to their own lives and improve the social life of the community.

In 1867, the Saucon Lodge No. 606, Independent Order of Odd Fellows was organized in the Lower Saucon Township village of Hellertown. The first officers of the lodge were Dr. A.J. Harris, Noble Grand; L.E. Weaver, Vice Grand; Joshua K. Hess, Secretary, and W.H. Weist, Assistant Secretary. The lodge meetings were held in a second floor room of the T.R. Laubach carriage factory (now Carson's Hardware building).

During the first ten years, the lodge had a steady growth in membership and prospered with the community. It was evident that the influence for good of its teachings of Friendship, Love, and Truth had found a place in the community. Encouraged by its efforts and in order to more efficiently carry out its principles it was decided to erect a building to meet its present and future needs. The building would also be made available for use by other like minded fraternal

and civic groups.

The Board of Trustees under whose efficient management the building was erected were: Charles Mauch, Harrison H. Klein, J. Francis Roth, and Dr. Henry D. Heller. The building was dedicated on May 22, 1877. The dedication program was arranged by the Building Committee. A parade was held with Jacob Jacoby of the Coopersburg Lodge of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows as Chief Marshal and George Weierbach was banner bearer.

Participants in the parade were local lodge members, and visiting members from Quakertown, Sellersville and Coopersburg lodges. Preparation for the event included what turned out to be very controversial. This was the committee's appointment of a constable to maintain order during the celebration. The committee's choice of a certain local citizen for the position was not approved at a meeting of the lodge. After a long and heated discussion, the committee appointed one from another community who met with the lodge's approval.

The building was erected in a period of time when there were no architects in the community to design the structure, but a builder who was a skilled master carpenter having the talents of a real architect-builder was hired.

He conceived his own building to meet the organizations' needs. Craftsmen and workers consisted of stonemasons, carpenters and bricklayers, as well as other people in the community who contributed of whatever skills each had. The variety of building materials used in its construction and available in the immediate area were stone for the foundation walls, sand and lime for the mortar and plaster, timber for the framework, bricks for the walls, and mill work for the interior.

The first floor storeroom for many years was a drug store. Business was conducted at various times by pharmacists Elwood Ball, William Ball and Foster Eisenhart. For some time Stanley Eisenhart and Stanley Yeager operated patent medicine businesses and an ice cream parlor. It was here that Linford Bauder's Yeager's Pharmacy had its beginning.

In years past it was a gathering place for "old cronies" as they discussed the news of the day around a potbellied stove. Frequently seen there were two lifelong friends, Elias Koder, a master-carpenter craftsman, and Tobias Rentzheimer, a retired farmer who was the father of Dr. William H. Rentzheimer. The storeroom is now a dance instruction studio.

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By Herbert S. Weisel. Taken from "The Look Back," a publication of Lower Saucon Township Historical Society.

The third floor of the I.O.O.F. Masonic Building provided a meeting room for many fraternal, beneficial and patriotic organizations. Their fundamental purposes were to fulfill a desire of many citizens of the Saucon Valley for a better life, health and fellowship by getting together in a joint effort to provide financial aid to needy members and their families and by promoting the general welfare of the entire community. Following is a list of the many organizations meeting here over the years. Some of them have disbanded, while others are still alive.

Saucona Lodge No. 606, Independent Order of Odd Fellows was instituted in 1867, and erected the building in 1876. It was the first fraternal and beneficial organization in Lower Saucon Township's village of Hellertown. Its principles of Friendship, Love and Truth as practiced by its membership added materially in the uplifting and betterment of community life. In spite of a dwindling membership, regular meetings were still held in the building in 1982.

Theodore S. Weaver Post of the Grand Army of the Republic No. 271, an organization of Union Civil War veterans, was organized July 23, 1882. The organization remembered their fallen comrades on Memorial Day by commemorative services and by the placing of floral wreaths on their graves. It was actively engaged in community affairs and proudly upheld the principles of patriotism, love of home, life and liberty.

Hellertown Lodge No. 563, Free and Accepted Masons was constituted in the building in 1883. This fraternal order employs rites and ceremonies in which the Holy Bible occupies an important place. Its teachings are basically simple, prescribing morality, charity and obedience to the laws of the land. In 1983 the lodge celebrated its 100th anniversary of its constitution.

Hellertown Castle No. 112, Knights of the Golden Eagle was constituted in 1866. The principles of the order are the cultivation of social, moral and intellectual feelings, and assisting widows and orphans. The foundation of the order is the Holy Bible and the motto is Fidelity, Valor and Honor. For many years their uniformed Commandery was well-known throughout Pennsylvania for its award-winning exhibitions of precision drilling in parades under the com-

mand of Captains Quintus Wagner and Herbert Cless.

Camp No. 295, Sons of Veterans was organized in 1891. The principles and objects of the order were to help the Civil War veterans of the Grand Army of the Republic in paying tribute to the departed Saucon Valley Union Army veterans. When the G.A.R. disbanded, the Camp took over their work.

Hellertown Council, No. 538, Fraternal Patriotic Americans was instituted in 1892 to maintain and promote the interests of Americanism, free competition in business, employment, the public school system and uphold reading of the Holy Bible in the public schools. The order was previously known as the Jr. Order of United American Mechanics.

Killatin Tribe, No. 121, Improved Order of Red Men was instituted in 1904. It taught the principles of Freedom, Friendship and Charity. For parade purposes they wore replicas of American Indian costumes and performed cultural Indian dances. Colorful floats depicted the Indian's primitive living customs.

Edward H. Ackerman Post No. 397, American Legion was organized in 1919. Originally an organization for veterans of World War I, its membership now admits veterans of World War II, the Korean War and Vietnam War. It sponsors service-oriented, welfare and Americanism programs. The post members met here until the erection of their own building in 1927. Memorial Day is observed by paying tribute with solemn ceremonies in memory of departed veterans of the Saucon Valley.

Hellertown Camp No. 200, Patriotic Order of America was instituted in 1924. This ladies organization motto is God, our Country, and our Free Schools. Its purpose is to promote patriotic principles, protect and support our public institutions, safeguard our schools, and help provide for orphans and aged members.

Washington Camp No. 275, Patriotic Order Sons of America adopted as its motto, God, Country, and our Free Schools. Its purpose is to promote patriotic principles, protect and support our Free Public Schools. American flags were presented to public schools for display on an outside flag pole and in the school room.

The Order of the Eastern Star in the United States was founded by Rob Morris in 1850, as a result of his interest in an idea that the female relatives of Master Masons should share the benefits from knowledge of this great fraternal

order. The Hellertown Chapter of the order was formed in 1954. The teachings of the Order are based on the morality of brotherly love, relief and truth. These principles are expressed through ritualistic ceremonies portrayed through stories of several Biblical heroines. The Order is not a religion nor does it wish to compete with established religion. However, those members who best understand must truly live by the teachings of the Order and are better members of their respective churches and communities.

Hellertown Temple, No. 47, Ladies of the Golden Eagle was organized in 1925. The motto of the order is Faith, Hope and Charity. Its teachings are based on religion and fraternalism. As a beneficial society it assists the sick and needy members.

The organizations meeting on the third floor of the building had much influence on the moral and spiritual life of many individuals of the Saucon Valley community. One cannot imagine how many lives were touched by their principles and purposes. One cannot imagine the number of friendships that were formed, the amount of sick and death benefits granted and the charitable contributions made.

The second floor hall of the building became the center for the social, recreational and civic activities of the community. Living in my memory are some of the educational, political and social affairs enjoyed after days of toil by farm and village families in a spirit of neighborly friendliness.

School graduation: The Hellertown High School senior class graduation exercises were held here from 1897 to 1910.

Church services: The hall served the community well in a time of disaster in 1896, when during a severe thunderstorm, the Christ Union (Lutheran and Reformed) Church building was struck by lightning and destroyed by fire. Worship services and Sunday School sessions were held here until the dedication of a new church building in 1897.

Moving pictures: My first motion picture show was seen in the hall in 1908. It was an old silent film of a heavyweight boxing match between Bob Fitzsimmons and James J. Jeffries held in Coney Island, New York, in 1899. The film was shown by "Put" Keller, a Lower Saucon Township resident and the keeper of a saloon located on the site of the present Hellertown Hotel parking lot.

The moving picture machine was placed about 25 feet from the screen and operated by hand. The

hall was darkened and as the machine was cranked the noise made by the ratchet wheel sounded like that of winding up the spring of an old-fashioned wall clock.

There were a number of interruptions during the show when the reels had to be changed or a torn film had to be spliced. Due to the fluttering motion of the pictures, they were called "flickers." The price of admission to my first moving picture show was 5 cents. It was a most thrilling and exciting event in the life of a 12-year-old boy. . . .

This concludes my reminiscing about the Masonic Hall building. It is in this Saucon Valley landmark where we find a sense of life that lives in the memory of older residents of in photographs.

Before the building was erected, the land was swampy and near a creek. Its construction was done by local skilled craftsmen and laborers. The building was the scene of the community's social and civic activities.

All this was made possible by the foresight of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and its concern for the welfare of the community. Can we imagine how the influence for good resulting down throughout the years, from the teachings of these societies and the friendly community gatherings may have been a contributing factor in the life of a growing Saucon Valley.

Since the Depression years of the 1930s many changes took place in the economic and social systems of our country. These changes greatly affected the Saucon Valley fraternal and beneficial societies, some of which have disbanded.

The government and society have taken care of some of the problems faced in the past by members of these organizations, their sick, their widows, their orphans. Social Security, Medicare and other programs have reduced the demands for their efforts and funds. But today, in 1982, one can see in the present generation that same spirit of community—to care for others as they assist the worthy charitable service clubs and organizations whose purposes in providing civic service to the community are comparable with the principles and goals of the fraternal and the beneficial organizations of past years.

May we continue that same spirit of community friendliness of past years and as we experienced in 1972 when the entire Saucon Valley participated in Hellertown's Centennial celebration.



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The 1933 graduation class of Hellertown High School.



The 1932-33 basketball team from Hellertown High School.

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The Ford auto dealership in Hellertown was located on Water Street before it was paved. The business was owned by Harvey F. Myers (1866-1935), who later constructed a larger building at Main and Chestnut streets (later the Paul C. Huff Ford Agency, then Murray Motors, and now Britt's Tire Service) for his business. Myers also owned the Park Hotel, sold farm implements, and was one of the town's most famous auctioneers. In the latter half of the 1940s and during the 1950s the Hellertown Herald newspaper was printed in the building and in 1981 it was occupied by Marozzi's Coal Heating Center.



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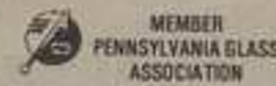
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Public seems unconvinced

After long hot meeting to explain recent administrative changes

Continued from page 1

ministrators to work together.

He also said that safety at Reinhard was in no way being compromised by the removal of Yerger as principal. In fact, he said, Yerger would not move his office "if he stayed."

Much of this explanation floated like a lead balloon with a majority of the audience. Their mood was not helped when Director Thomas Macarro commented that, although he thought Yerger was a good principal, Yerger should "stop whimpering" and do his new job, especially in that a lot of people have no jobs at all.

Many of the public were outraged by this statement, as well as a statement from Nagle somewhat later on to the effect that a lot of the criticism aimed at the reorganization plan was really the opening steps in a political campaign to unseat the board.

Member Susan Baxter denied Nagle's major premise, arguing that in her opinion teachers in the district worked well together.

"Why force collaboration by job-title changes?" Baxter said.

Baxter insisted that a principal was needed in each school. She could find no reason for the reassignment. Nagle's explanation clearly did not satisfy her. "What is the intention?" she asked.

Echoing Baxter, director Mike Karabin said that Nagle had not given the board enough evidence to justify the change.

"I would back you if you gave me support," he said to Nagle. But, he said, Nagle had not done so and he could not agree with the change.

There followed a brief statement from school board president John Freund III to the effect that his two children had gone through Reinhard and he was very satisfied, but that was apart from the question of administration. Administrators must serve all 2,200 students in the district even though they are currently located at four separate sites. Freund said that "he found it difficult to challenge the ideas that structural changes are necessary for force cooperation" among administrators.

For the next two hours, the public held a sometimes heated dialogue with Nagle. Many argued that Yerger had been an excellent principal, one that they really treasured. Some were concerned that there would be no principal to greet their children when they first enter the school system. Some said they were worried about their children's safety at Reinhard school that would now have no resident principal. Some said that Yerger did not deserve demotion.

Nagle maintained that Yerger was not being demoted, although members of the audience insisted that forcing Yerger to report to two former colleagues, principals Doug Koch and Harry Krammes, could only be called a demotion.

Along this line, a number of people wondered who would do Yerger's future evaluations. Koch and Krammes? Nagle replied that he was almost certain incoming Superintendent Ralph Tarola would do his own evaluations of administrators, including Yerger.

Some in the audience charged Nagle's action in "demoting" Yerger and also "firing" former high school principal Frank Kawtoski was a reaction to their testimony against former Superintendent Jayne Coover.

Nagle absolutely denied the charge, saying he "couldn't have cared less" about that. As to politics, he said, it didn't matter to him as he would not be around anymore.

Nevertheless, former Director Claudia Gilman charged that Nagle was simply "doing the board's bidding." She said that Nagle was not "a hatchet superintendent," but rather the board was "a hatchet board."

Several people, including Director Karabin, felt the board should have waited to act on the reorganization plan until Tarola took over. Tarola, however, has several times pub-

licly stated he favors the reorganization plan and Yerger's reassignment.

One parent, Mary Mayer, asked a question that clearly had Nagle stumped. Nagle had said that sound administration could not justify having a principal for only grades kindergarten through two, and, indeed, the district had at one point a principal for grades kindergarten through six and that in his experience he knew of schools with principals for grades kindergarten through eight.

"Why not," Mayer said, "one principal and two assistants?"

Nagle said that this was a valid approach and should be looked at.

Former board member Frank Vasko attacked not only the board but the whole national educational system, which he said was "nothing but a mutual-admiration society."

Gilman, among others, wanted to know what Yerger's new duties would be. Indeed, there was some suggestion that he would have to supervise three lunch periods and two bus departures. Nagle said that Yerger had already rendered valuable service in working with Assistant Superintendent Ric Grove on putting together an in-service program to acquaint science teachers with the new program. He also said Yerger, who had been instructing on block teaching in the Bethlehem schools, could perform similar services for the district.

He denied that there was any plan to use Yerger for lunch and bus duty, but the specifics of Yerger's job would have to be left to Tarola and would, no doubt, be known by September.

Not everyone was satisfied with this explanation, and throughout the evening members of the audience insisted on knowing what Yerger's specific duties would be.

Nagle was also frequently pressed for his reasons in reassigning Yerger rather than one of the other principals, if, as he stated, the need was to have one assistant and only two principals for the grade schools.

Nagle, who admitted that he was wrong when he stated that Yerger did not have the necessary credentials to become principal of the middle school, nevertheless said that it was his call to make and he made it in the interest for what he considered good administrative reasons.

Initially Nagle refused to provide any more reasons for his decision. He did say, however, he did not wish to remove Harry Krammes as principal of the middle school because he felt that Krammes was making progress there. Krammes, he said, was the only principal who had not given all of his teachers top evaluations. Automatic rating of teachers to the highest category was the equivalent of no evaluations at all, he said.

Former board member Frank Vasko attacked not only the board but the whole national educational system, which he said was "nothing but a mutual-admiration society." He was furious with the idea, which he attributed to Nagle,

that previous boards had wasted the taxpayers' money by not making necessary changes while at the same time spending increasingly more money. He said teachers were "stymied by the system" and it was entirely their union's fault. Vasko said the whole thing was a mess.

Nagle agreed with him at least to the extent of saying that the situation in the district had been a mess. "That's why I spoke tonight," Nagle said.

After the public comment period, various members of the board replied.

Member David DeRemer urged that the "reputational" issue involving Yerger be balanced against the real progress the board was making in addressing questions of curriculum, books, and buildings.

Joseph Kelhart, later joined by member William Schellhaas, said it was typical to resist change. "It takes you out of your comfort zone," Kelhart said. He urged all concerned to "give valuable changes a chance."

Janie Hecker said her experience as a teacher had taught her "collaboration is a key part of education. Administrative collaboration sets an example of collaboration for the whole system, teachers and students."

All board members agreed that, if the administrative revision involving Yerger did not work in six to nine months, they would revisit it and either put the old plan back or try a different one.

Finally, president Freund summed up. In a calm tone, he recited many of the concerns expressed at the meeting which he had written down, and replied to each one in turn.

He took up first the charge that the board was somehow seeking revenge against Yerger for Yerger's part in the Coover situation, a charge which he absolutely denied. Freund said that if this was politics on the part of the board, it was certainly extremely foolish. The board, he said, certainly made no political points, especially with people in the room, by doing what it had done.

As to demotion, Freund denied Yerger had been demoted, although Nagle did say that Yerger, in a letter to Nagle, had protested his "demotion." Freund said that there were definite procedures that had to be followed if a principal was demoted and that Yerger would have certain rights in the event of such a demotion. Thus far, he said, Yerger had issued no formal complaint about his alleged demotion.

As to safety, Freund said the new plan provides for greater safety at the Reinhard School. It is true, he and Nagle said, that principals are often out of their buildings. Emergency plans are always in place, and, indeed, some emergency actions require the approval of a principal who is not assigned to the particular building. Now three administrators would share responsibility, not just one.

Freund said that safety was one of his prime motives in approving the reorganization.

Freund also said he had campaigned for school director on the basis of finding new solutions to make better use of district funds.

A saving of \$70,000 by not having to hire another administrator equal \$1.2 million in capital funds, assuming an interest rate of 6 percent, he said.

As to Yerger's job duties, Freund noted that the heart of the new administrative plan is to hold the three administrators collectively responsible for the grade schools. As to Yerger's particular duties, other than in fostering cooperation, then have not yet been determined.

On curriculum, Freund said that each school has been operating independently. Individual teachers and principals have been deciding what is to be taught. The administrative change will help change this situation.

When the meeting ended, the rain had already come and gone, and the air was cooler.

Perhaps this was a good sign.

Woman breaks rule number 7 at Hellertown swimming pool

Rule number 7 caused Kristen Wecht to be ousted from Hellertown's swimming pool Tuesday, July 9.

Rule number 7 has to do with swimwear. No, she wasn't wearing a thong—one of those bathing suits that are little more than two pieces of string. Quite the opposite, she wore a T-backed top on the top; to cover the bottom, she wore a bottom that came down to her knees. The outfit is made of Lycra and nylon, the same as much briefer bathing suits and bikinis.

Rule number 7 says, "No cutoffs or street clothes allowed in the pool (bathing suits only)."

Her chosen swimwear has been called an exercise suit by the Paris courtiers of the fashion world and by

Hellertown lifeguards and pool officials.

First the lifeguards told her it was Spandex; she said it was not. Then they decided it was an exercise suit and told her since it is like something you would jog or do aerobics in.

And they said it would bring dirt into the pool. Wecht replied it had just come out of the dryer.

She pointed out people who wore athletic shorts and boys who wear suits down to their knees. But to no avail.

Time will tell if the interpretation of rule number 7 will continue to remove people from the pool who prefer to wear modest swimwear.

SAUCON VALLEY WORSHIP SERVICE

Assembly of God

Hellertown Assembly of God, 2065 Apple St., Hellertown. Pastor, Rev. Fred Dougherty. Sunday school, 9:30 a.m. Worship service, 10:45 a.m. Evening service, 6 p.m. Wednesday evening prayer meeting and Bible study at 7 o'clock.

Episcopal

St. George's Episcopal, 735 Delaware Ave., Hellertown. Christian Education, Saturday, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Sunday school for ages 3 to 5, first and third Sunday of the month at 9 a.m. Sunday school for grades three, four and five at 9 a.m.

Lutheran

New Jerusalem Evangelical Lutheran, 3233 Apples Church Road, Bethlehem. Rev. Leon C. Zinkler, interim pastor. Sunday service at 9 a.m. Vacation Bible school, July 8 to 12.

Christ Lutheran of Lower Saucon, Easton Road, Hellertown. Pastor, Rev. Thomas Vega-Neel. Church school, 9:15 a.m. Worship, 10:20 a.m.

Christ Lutheran, 69 S. Main St., Hellertown. Rev. Philip C. Spohn pastor. Holy Communion, 9 a.m.

St. Luke's (Old Williams) Lutheran, 20 Church Road, Hellertown. Pastor, Rev. Lois L. Baucom. Worship, 9 a.m. Bible school July 15-18 for ages 4-13, 9:30 a.m.

Friedens Evangelical Lutheran, 2451 Saucon Valley Road, Center Valley. Pastor, Rev. John W. Tomlinson. Worship at Lower Saucon Park, 9 a.m. followed by AAL sponsored church picnic honoring church council and others "Just say Thanks!"

Mennonite

Steel City Mennonite, Mixsell Avenue. Pastor, Rev. David Kochsmeier. Sunday worship, 9:30 a.m.; Sunday school follows. Home Fellowship Groups meet second and

fourth Sunday evenings; call 865-4899 for time and locations.

Methodist

St. Paul United Methodist, 645 Main St., Hellertown. Pastor, Rev. Sunnam Choi. Worship, 10:45 a.m. Sunday school, 9:30 a.m. Bible study every Tuesday at 10 a.m.

Moravian

Mountainview Moravian, Constitution Avenue and Magnolia Road, Hellertown. Pastor, Rev. Marlin L. Schaffstall. Adult Bible Study, 8:30 a.m. Morning Worship, 9:30 a.m.; nursery provided.

Grace Moravian, Old Bethlehem Pike and Preston Lane, Center Valley. Pastor, Rev. Dr. Earl Shay. Sunday school, 9:30 a.m. Worship service, 10:45 a.m.

Roman Catholic

Church of St. Theresa of the Child Jesus, 1408 Easton Road, Hellertown. Pastor, Monsignor Raymond F. Merman. Weekday masses, 8 a.m. Saturday mass, 5 p.m. Sunday morning masses at 7:30, 9, 10:30 and noon.

Church of the Assumption B.V.M., 4101 Old Bethlehem Pike (off Route 378 on Colesville Road), Bethlehem. Pastor, Monsignor Robert J. Coll. Weekday mass, 8:15 a.m. Saturday mass, 5 p.m. Sunday morning masses at 8, 10, and 11:30 a.m.

United Church of Christ

Lower Saucon UCC, 1375 Third Ave., Hellertown. Pastor, Rev. Lamar Handwerk. Church school, 9:15 a.m. Worship service, 9:30 a.m. Nursery care available.

First UCC, 501 Northampton St., Hellertown. Pastor, Rev. Floyd P. Swart. Worship, 9:30 a.m.

DEADLINE IS FRIDAY THE WEEK BEFORE PUBLICATION. ALL FAITHS ARE WELCOME. WRITE: THE VALLEY VOICE, P.O. BOX 147, HELLERTOWN, PA 18055.

DEATHS

Rev. Joseph Sikora, served St. Theresa's

Rev. Joseph F. Sikora, 79, of 551 Broad St., Emmaus, died Friday, July 12, in Lehigh Valley Hospital, Salisbury Township.

He served as pastor and pastor emeritus of St. Philip Neri Catholic Church, Philadelphia, for 19 years until retiring in 1991.

Earlier he served as an assistant pastor at St. Theresa's Catholic Church, Hellertown, among many other communities in eastern Pennsylvania.

In 1943 he graduated from St. Charles Borromeo Seminary and was ordained at Ss. Peter & Paul Cathedral, both in Philadelphia.

Born in Emmaus, he was a son of the late Joseph F. Sr. and Justine (Lener) Sikora.

He was a member of the First Catholic Slovak Union, Branch 505, Emmaus and the Fraternal Order of Police, Philadelphia Lodge 5.

Arrangements, Horace W. Schantz Funeral Home, Emmaus.

V. Joan Fenstermaker

V. Joan Fenstermaker, 55, of Clarence Drive, Hellertown, died Friday, July 12, in Muhlenberg Hospital Center.

She was the wife of Robert G. Fenstermaker. They were married 34 years.

Born in Nanticoke, Luzerne County, she was a daughter of the late William and Mary M. (Swanhart) Harvey. Arrangements, Falk Funeral Home, Hellertown.

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not received your tax bill, or if you have received tax bills other than
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Office at the number listed below.

Pennsylvania Tax Collection Laws state that taxpayers are not
relieved from the payment of real estate taxes for failure to receive a
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School real estate taxes may be paid by mail or in person at the
Hellertown Branch of Meridian Bank, 659 Main Street, P.O. Box C,
Hellertown, PA 18055.

Inquiries regarding school tax bills should be promptly directed
to the Saucon Valley School District Business Office (838-7028) as
the discount payment period ends Friday, October 4, 1996.

Saucon Valley School District
Mary M. Curtin, Tax Collector
Business Office
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BELLETTI'S BANTER

Lots of old-timers at Old-Timers Picnic

By Mark Belletti
Valley Voice Columnist

Hellertownians seen recently at the Lehigh Valley Old Timers Athletes 17th Annual picnic held at South Mountain Grove included **Bill Szabo**, **Charles Bartolet Jr.**, **Bill Persa** and **John Wadolney**. The committee will meet next March 29 to plan the 1997 picnic, which is open to all old-timers 55 and older. For more particulars, contact this writer at 838-8880.

In other matters:

The Hellertown Legion baseball team, playing in the Northampton County Legion League, lost three and won one in recent play.

- The first loss was to the Southside Kings 10-8 at Dimmick Park. **Cayle Hamman** was 3 for 3 with two runs batted in. **Jeremy Duffy** and **Joe Orwan** were 2 for 4. Orwan also had two RBIs.

- The next loss was to Bath 10-5. **Steve Donchez** went 3 for 4 with a triple and two RBIs, and **Sean Donchez** had two hits.

- The third loss was to Bath 15-7. Shining for Hellertown was **Tom Dowling**, who had three hits and scored twice for the locals. **Steve Donchez** also had two hits and scored three times.

- The locals posted their second win of the season when they slaughtered Wind Gap 17-5. Leading the attack for Hellertown were **Jer-**

emy Duffy, **Tom Dowling** and **Chad Hamman**. **Cayle Hamman** was the winning pitcher, who added a double and a triple, scoring twice and knocking in three runs.

Hellertown is now 2-13 in league standing.

Blue Mountain League baseball: The Hellertown Royals shut out **Andretti** 12-0. **Jake McGeary** helped the winning cause by jacking a two-run homer. **Pat Colley** added four hits and two RBIs and are now 12-10 in the league.

District 20 softball: Northwest shut out Hellertown 13-0 in a Senior softball game played in Hellertown. Pitcher **Michelle Quier** of Hellertown had nine strike-outs.

District 20 Senior Little League: Northwest of Bethlehem defeated Hellertown 7-4 after yielding only one hit in four-plus innings.

Big 33 Football Classic: The 39th edition for this classic game pitting the Pennsylvania All-Stars against the All-Star team of Ohio will be held Saturday, July 27, with a 7 p.m. kickoff at Hershey Park Stadium. Tickets are available from the Hershey Park box office at (717) 534-3911. Reserved seats are \$10, general admission \$5.

Summer camps: Lehigh University, July 29 to Aug 2. Soccer will be featured for ages 13 to 17. Lehigh soccer coach **Dean Koski** is director. For information call 758-4305.

Behind the scenes at 'Dolly'

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From the rear, anyone within 500 yards could have heard McClenahan conversing with Gallagher as they tried to fill the stage with dancers.

"Hello, Dolly!" of course depends on the lady who plays the part. Gail Kriebel plays her in the Ethel Merman mode. Kriebel has a beautiful, natural and untrained voice with a three-octave range. Kriebel played the mother superior in the well-remembered production of "The Sound of Music" a few years back. Both her children have been in Saucon productions. Her husband Bob is also in this production. Based on hearing a rehearsal, she makes a wonderful Dolly.

Opposite her is Jim Kyle, sporting a real gray beard, as Horace. Kyle, too, worked on "Joseph" backstage. His on-stage career at Saucon began with him playing the butler in "Sound of Music" and he has played a number of supporting roles in each summer production since performing the part of the mayor in "The Music Man." In real life, Kyle is a personnel director who is also an amateur magician with a not-so-secret love for the theater. McClenahan says that Kyle is extremely even tempered—a rarity for even amateur theatrical folks—and takes direction well. He has grown with every part he has played and

is clearly ready now.

For Reinbold and Banko, "Dolly" is a real departure. This is the first time they are working with adults. McClenahan says that the whole idea of mixing the age groups is to give everyone a feeling of what it is like to do summer stock. Also, although this is Reinbold's fourth show, it is the first time he has been required to do much dancing. He claims he's enjoying it immensely. Banko, of course, is a dance veteran.

Banko and Reinbold have become close friends as a result of working together on "Hello, Dolly!" And work it is. Five rehearsals a week have taken a big chunk out of their pre-college summer. Especially is this true of Reinbold, who has been working full time. His parents see him at 10:30 most nights, he says.

Although neither Banko or Reinbold come from a theatrical family, they both have been bitten by the bug. Banko says that she is a real show-tune buff. Reinbold says he loves shows, but he is no way the expert that Banko is. Both intend to get involved in the theater in college as a side line. Banko is to attend Villanova majoring in political science. Reinbold is heading for Penn State with the idea of either becoming a lawyer or doing something law-related.