



## February 2014

### HARRY BARNETT RECEIVES ELVERSON BOROUGH CANE

*by Jody Phillips*

Harry L. Barnett, Jr., of Park Avenue, received the Elverson Borough Cane at a ceremony held at the Twin Valley Fire Department meeting room on Sunday afternoon, January 19. Elverson Historical Commission member Jody Phillips presented the award in a ten-minute ceremony attended by about 25 of Harry's friends and family members.

After Harry thanked the Historical Commission for the cane and those in attendance for coming, he introduced the 12 family members who had come to honor him - from his wife Geraldine, who sat by his side during the entire ceremony, to his younger sister, all the way down to his two young great-grandsons. I then invited these guests to the front of the room for a group picture. Harry seemed to enjoy the photo session and smiled over and over while holding the cane and certificate. Geraldine also smiled broadly as she watched Harry show off his new cane.

Everyone then adjourned to the lounge area for refreshments, which Harry and Gerry had brought. During this time, Harry proudly showed off the photo of him wearing his fire fighters hat, which was on the wall at the far left side of the top row of a photo gallery of firemen. I commented to him then that I thought he probably would not need to use his cane for quite a while as he was so spry and moved around so well. He just laughed.

Harry was born in Lower Chansford Township, in York County, 25 miles from of the city of York, on January 17, 1925. He grew up on a small farm where his family raised crops and livestock - mainly steers and swine. Harry went into the

Army directly out of high school. He told me that after he graduated from Lower Chansford High School on May 26, 1943, he barely had time to celebrate because the very next day he had to report at 7 a.m. to Harrisburg to be inducted into the Army.



After training at Camp Van Dorn in Mississippi, he was sent to Camp Swift in Texas where he received further schooling at the Third Army Mine School. He was then immediately sent out on maneuvers. He explained that he didn't even get a furlough after training because there wasn't enough time to travel home. He was sent



to New York and less than a week later was on a ship headed for Glasgow, Scotland. Harry served with the 164th Combat Engineers as a jeep driver for various officers. He once drove for a Captain who was Head of Reconnaissance - a dangerous job since reconnaissance duty meant

being on the Front Line.

After three years in the war, he returned to the USA and went to night school to study Agriculture. When offered a job in the Soil Conservation Service, he had a choice of working in West Chester or an area north of Pittsburgh. He chose West Chester, which was a wise choice because there he met his future wife Geraldine. Harry and Gerry were married on May 20, 1951 and have been together almost 63 years..

Harry retired from the Soil Conservation Service in 1989 after 30 years of service. During that time he and Gerry lived in West Chester and Honey

Brook, raising their three sons and enjoying hunting and camping at their small cabin in Clearfield County. He became active in the Elverson Volunteer Fire Department, working as an EMT on the Ambulance Squad, Ambulance Captain and Fire-Police Captain, and moved to the borough in 1991.

Harry stopped camping and hunting about three years ago but still stays active. He told me that one of his favorite wintertime activities is clearing the sidewalks on Park Avenue. He rides a tractor with a 54-inch blade and does both sides of the street - and he does a good job too! He also enjoys visiting with his family. He still drives and loves to go out to eat; his favorite restaurant is Red Lobster. He doesn't watch a lot of TV but likes the races. He has always been active in his church.

Harry has served his fellow man in some capacity for most of his life and will surely continue to do so - especially if we get a big snowstorm in February!

## SUPPORT OUR ELVERSON EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICE (EMS)

Elverson EMS is a non profit organization and must work at raising funds in order to stay in business to be here when an emergency arises. All municipalities in Elverson EMS' coverage area donate yearly, but unfortunately it does not cover all costs. Elverson has many expenses; monthly rent to TVFD, EMT salaries and benefits, vehicle expenses, insurance costs and continuing education classes for staff members, to list a few.



Each year Elverson EMS sends out a mailing to all the residents in our coverage area for the membership program. Please be aware your membership may not have come with the usual names printed on your membership as it has in the past. We purchased an updated mailing address to try and include new members of our community. Unfortunately those names did not match your past membership. We are working to update our list. Thank you for your patience as we update.

Family Membership covers two Adults and all dependants living at home. The membership also covers emergency transports from local physician offices and Urgent Care Centers in Elverson EMS' response area, which includes both Elverson and Morgantown.

Typically, an insurance company will only cover a pre-determined amount of the invoice and require the patient to pay the remainder. If you decide to enroll in the Elverson EMS membership program, *you will not be responsible for the portion of the bill that your insurance company does not pay.* This includes deductibles and co-pays that many Medicare Advantage plans make you responsible to pay.

**The Elverson membership program covers you for all 911 emergency services medically necessary provided ONLY by Elverson EMS.** The membership does not cover you out of the Elverson EMS response area. We do not provide non-emergency transports.

Due to Medicare and insurance regulations, you will not be considered a member unless the requested amount is paid. Please note that although Elverson EMS works very closely with all of the local volunteer fire companies, there is no affiliation. Please support both Elverson EMS and your local fire Department.

**MEMBERSHIP IS VALID FROM JANUARY 1, 2014 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2014 FOR SERVICES PROVIDED TO YOU FROM A 911 EMERGENCY.**

Please mail a check payable to:  
Elverson EMS  
PO Box 154  
Elverson, PA 19520

Notate in the memo section "2014 Membership"

To pay by Credit Card, please provide the following information and return to the above address

Member Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Street / PO Box \_\_\_\_\_

City and Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Credit Card # \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_

Card Type: Visa, MasterCard, Discover  
(circle one)

Membership Amount  
\$50.00 Family  
\$35.00 Individual/Single Person

\$\_\_\_\_\_ Additional Donation

Questions regarding the membership please call our ambulance billing and membership dept. **610-286-7978**. If you have a true medical emergency please dial 911.

## HITTING THE DAY CARE JACKPOT!

**T**he Whole Child Learning Center, Inc. is proud to be celebrating their 10 year anniversary on February 9, 2014. Just 13 years ago, the creation of this Center was just a dream for two local women who had been working in child care since they were sixteen years old. They had worked their way up from teaching in every age group to assistant directors, directors, and regional managers for corporate child care organizations. After many years of helping other organizations become successful they realized that there was something more they wanted for their own families.

Kathy and Kim decided to make a very difficult decision, to venture out and create the Childcare Center of their dreams. They spent several years designing and making plans for everything they wanted and thought each child deserved. They wanted a true family atmosphere where parents would feel confident dropping off their children and knowing they would be loved and cared for, as they would at home. They wanted flexible schedules, staff continuity, great benefits, top of the line security, and an exceptional curriculum.

They worked long and hard trying to do it on their own but no matter which avenue they took, they had to sacrifice too much to make it affordable. If it wasn't possible to put everything into the Center that they wanted for their own children, it wasn't worth doing. Their dream almost came crashing down when Kathy's Dad came up with a plan.

The rest is history, as the three of them set off to make their dream a reality. They created a family owned and operated center that could make a difference in the lives of many children and their families.

Everyone should see the difference that The Whole Child Learning Center is bringing to early childhood education. It is not only a warm, loving, nurturing environment for infants and toddlers, it is an exceptional preschool as well, and accepts children from 6 weeks to 12 years of age. At the WCLC, Kathy, Kim, their highly qualified faculty and staff prepare children to transition into kindergarten while making it exciting and fun and a very positive experience for the whole family.

The WCLC also provides transportation to the Twin Valley, Robeson and French Creek Elementary Centers. Transportation may soon be available for the Honey Brook Elementary Center as well. Please call [610-913-WCLC \(9252\)](tel:610-913-WCLC(9252)) for information, or visit [www.thewclc.com](http://www.thewclc.com) to request information or to schedule a tour.

“Living near the WCLC and having my son enrolled is like hitting the “daycare jackpot!” I LOVE having my son here and I can't imagine having him elsewhere. The staff are so caring and it is very apparent that each child is well known individually and cared for exceptionally! I am so excited to have him here for years to come and watch him move through the different rooms, meet all the teachers and make friends!” R. Palmer



The Whole Child Learning Center, Inc. is a Keystone STAR 4 site, which is the highest star level that can be achieved. For information on the Keystone STAR program please visit [www.pakeys.org](http://www.pakeys.org) to see why it is such an important program in providing your child with quality child care. They are also a Nationally Accredited Facility and members of important organizations like the Pennsylvania Early Childhood Education Association (PECEA), the Pennsylvania Child Care Association (PACCA), National Child Care Association (NCCA), and the Delaware Valley Association for the Education of Young Children (DVAEYC).

Join the WCLC family today and your first week will be free!

### **THE FARMERS' MARKET AT ELVERSON**

*Saturday, February 22*

10 am to noon

Twin Valley Fire Company

## PRACTICAL ENERGY CONSERVATION TIPS FOR OLDER HOMES

Lauren VanSteenvoort

Older homes frequently have built-in energy efficiency features which our modern technologies do not take advantage of, or which have fallen into disuse or misuse. Historic homes, in particular, must be treated carefully, in order to not alter the character or harm the original fabric of the structure. Because these homes were built before many of our modern technologies, some employ fundamental conservation strategies, but still do not meet today's standards of energy efficiency. Simply by **changing your habits** and the way you operate your home, you may be able to conserve resources and save money, before even spending a dime.

1. Don't heat or cool rooms that aren't in use. Traditionally, families would live in certain areas of their homes in the hottest and coldest times of the year. Figure out which areas of your home are the easiest and cheapest to occupy during these times, and close off other areas that are not being occupied. Also, by turning down your thermostat, you will save 2% on your heating bill per degree reduced.

2. Reduce levels of illumination in your home; contemporary homes are typically over-lit by historical standards. Besides the electric powering your lighting, lights generally add heat, and contribute to your cooling loads during the summer.

3. Shutters, window shades, drapes and window awnings are traditional devices to control interior house climate. Used appropriately, they can mitigate the drawbacks to keeping your original, single-pane glass windows. Historically, in the summer, you would open the house first thing in the morning to let in the cool night air. As the sun begins to warm the air, you close the windows and shades on the sunny side of the house. In the winter, shades and drapes should be closed at night, and on the cool sides of the house, but opened on the south and west during the day to let in the sun.

In addition to solar heat gain, this will also reduce the amount of artificial lighting needed. Simply operating your double-hung windows properly, alternately opening top, bottom, or both, will also assist you in cooling your house.

4. During the summer, fireplace dampers can be opened to allow warm air to rise up the chimney and promote air circulation. On cold days, be sure to close the damper tightly to prevent heat from escaping.

5. Ceiling fans have a very practical use during the summer **and** the winter. They typically consume only as much power as a large light bulb, and significantly less than an air conditioner. During the winter, a ceiling fan can help warm the room by recirculating the warm air that rose to the ceiling. Of course, fans only warm and cool people, not the room, so be sure to turn them off when you leave the room.

6. Dust or clean radiators at least once a month during the heating seasons. Avoid painting radiators if possible, or use a special paint designed for heat transfer. You can increase heat output from a radiator by placing a small fan on the floor aiming at the radiator.

7. Next time you need to paint the exterior of your home, consider your paint color. In warm climates, light colors reflect more of the sun's heat. In northern areas, darker colors will absorb more of the sun's heat during the winter.

8. Lower your hot water heater temperature to 120° F. In addition to reducing your energy costs, it will reduce the risk of burns.

After you begin taking these simple steps toward efficiency in your own home, the most logical next step is enlisting a professional to do an energy assessment. Auditors use specialized equipment, such as infrared cameras, to determine areas you are losing heat. They will do a room-by-room assessment for efficiency, as well as recommend safety measures you can take.

I scheduled my first energy assessment while living in a historic Victorian home in New England and spending over \$600 one month on heating costs alone. After taking advantage of a free **Home Energy Survey** offered by our utility company, we were able to implement some of the recommended efficiency improvements, and decrease our heating costs by more than 50%! To find out more about energy assessments in our area, contact **PPL Electric** about their **Energy Audit and Weatherization Program** at **877-486-9204**. PPL has financial assistance available for many of the upgrades that may be recommended in your assessment.

Before opening your wallet for renovations, please consider the impact these changes may have on your home. Many investments could offer significant energy cost savings, or they could be costly mistakes. Examples of measures that should be preceded by careful consideration include insulating, window replacement, and any alteration



of historic materials. I highly recommend reading **The Old-House Journal Compendium**, by Clem Labine, which is where I gathered much of the information for this article. Also, please feel free to contact the Elverson Historical Commission at [elver-sonhistoric@gmail.com](mailto:elver-sonhistoric@gmail.com) with any questions. We are always happy to offer free advice!

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*Lauren VanSteenvoort is on the Elverson Historical Commission, and she works for Muhlenberg Greene Architects in Reading. You can find more of her practical advice on the MGA Blog at [www.mgarchitects-ltd.com/blog](http://www.mgarchitects-ltd.com/blog).*



Dr. Leo McCormick  
Dr. Darryl Hajduczek  
Dr. Roger Walker

92 Kemp Road  
Pottstown, PA 19465  
(p) 610-705-0201  
(f) 610-705-0180

83 W. Main Street  
Elverson, PA 19520  
(p) 610-286-7000  
(f) 610-286-7003

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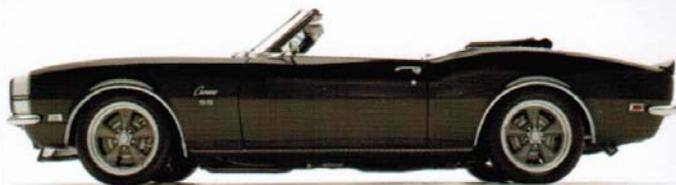
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## HOW WELL DO YOU KNOW ELVERSON BOROUGH?

*Jody Phillips*

Last month's contest was a bit unusual in that I received five calls and three emails on the day my Newsletter came in the mail, all from people who were confident that they had the answer to the question I posed in my January column. They were half correct. They all knew that the photo depicted the old Elverson train station but none knew where the picture had been taken. I gave each of them two hints - that you could see it from a car window and that it was on a sign. Three guessed where this sign was located - in front of Tim Hennessey's office at the train station, in the back room at the Elverson Deli, and (the correct answer) on the Elverson sign on Route 23, on the northwest boundary of the borough.

Congratulations to Ellie Troxell who has won a \$10 gift certificate towards food at the Elverson Deli. Ellie didn't win because of having lived in the borough for many years because Ellie is only six years old. She is just very

observant - a trait that seems to run in her family since Kayleigh Troxell won last month. Since I received no other calls with the correct answer, there are no runners-up this month.



I have printed another photo to show the entire sign. If you look closely at the photo in the January newsletter, you can see the tip of the R in the upper right hand corner - my hint that it was a sign. I have tried to find out who painted it, but no one seems to know. If you know, please contact me.

Also, remember that you can call with your answers until the deadline date of the next issue and you might still win the grand prize. If I don't receive a correct answer in the first three days of the contest, the first correct answer thereafter wins. The three-day period in the beginning is only to allow for late mail pickup. I remember that one time I didn't receive the correct answer until that deadline day. The winner was quite surprised when I told her that not only was she not too late to enter the contest, she had won the big prize.



Call me at 610-286-8913 or email me at [jodysfritz@gmail.com](mailto:jodysfritz@gmail.com).

**Elverson Borough  
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## **BOROUGH COUNCIL BEGINS THE NEW YEAR WITH NEW MEMBERS**

Borough Council began the new year with Judge Cabry swearing in newly elected members. Incumbents Merle Stoltzfus and Esther Prosser were elected to another 4 year term. Dwight Frizen and Bob French were elected to serve as first term members. Bob Broderick was elected as Elverson's mayor.



*L to R: Jack Stewart, Dwight Frizen, Shirley Crehan, Bob Broderick, Bob French, Esther Prosser, Judge Cabry, Merle Stoltzfus.*

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### **TO OUT OF ELVERSON BOROUGH RESIDENTS:**

The Elverson Borough Newsletter is mailed free of charge to all Borough residents. We are asking all who are NOT residents of the Borough to pay \$12 each year in order to receive it each month in the mail. Write your check to the Borough of Elverson, 101 South Chestnut Street, Elverson, PA 19520. Include your name and your address please.

If you would like to continue receiving the newsletter *free of charge*, pick one up at the Borough office during open hours (Monday, Tuesday and Thursday, 9 am to 4 pm) or log onto [www.elversonboro.org](http://www.elversonboro.org) and click on newsletters.

If you have questions about this, feel free to contact our Borough secretary, Lorrie Stolz at 610.286.6420 or [lorrie@elversonboro.org](mailto:lorrie@elversonboro.org).

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