



December 2015

THE ELVERSON HISTORICAL COMMISSION EXPANDS ITS COLLECTION

Chris Cameron

The Elverson Historical Commission (EHC) has been busy adding to its collection of historical artifacts thanks to the generous donations of Tom and Betty Hess.

Tom Hess and Betty recently moved out of the Borough, but donated several wonderful historical pieces to the EHC. The longtime residents of Elverson had already donated a number of Elverson related memorabilia, including a restored milk can from WH Wilson, Springfield Station marked with the Wilmington and Northern Reading Railroad emblem. The can predates 1911 when Springfield was officially incorporated as Elverson Borough. The can was found under the front porch of a West Main Street resident many years ago and was given to Tom.

The Hess' most recent donations include a paper C-Bar-C Ranch advertising banner that the couple purchased from a local auction. The C-Bar-C Ranch was a country western themed fairground that once stood near the present day intersections of Routes

23 and 401 and operated during the 1930s. Performers including many country-western musicians of the day performed at the C-Bar-C and it even hosted a rodeo that came by train from Texas.



Primitive Wooden Firkin

The couple also donated a primitive wooden advertising firkin that once belonged to the former Stitler's Store on the Northwest corner of Routes 23 and 82. A firkin is a small wooden cask/bucket used for storing salt, butter, liquid, and sometimes fish. Tom believes that the firkin may have been used to store codfish at the former general store. It is a great piece of local history to add to the Borough's collection.



Early Cast Iron Warwick Stove

The largest donation from Tom and Betty is not from Elverson, but was originally manufactured in nearby Warwick. It is an early cast iron Warwick stove, one of the smaller models that were probably used to heat small parlors. Tom believes that it dates to the mid-to-late 1800s. It is in exquisite condition and the couple had it in their home for the past 40 years, but they did not use it.

Judging from the interior, the stove was once used, but the exterior is in great shape. Tom said that he once owned a larger model, but he felt that the smaller one belonged in our community. He purchased it from a local antiques dealer either in the late 1960s or early 70s.



C Bar C Ranch Advertising Banner

Other donations from the Hess' include two displays of arrowheads found

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in Warwick Township in fields along Grove Road. Tom purchased the collection at an auction in 2005. He also donated a large vintage atlas of Chester County and two separate framed maps of local municipalities, one which shows Elverson when it was known as Springfield. "I had the maps on my wall in my home," Tom said. "A heating and gas worker came to my house and we started talking about the maps and he told me that he has the entire atlas that they came out of and he ended up selling it to me. You have to buy things when you find them."

Tom has enjoyed collecting almost anything related to the history of the community. He has organized a small display in Borough Hall of some of his other items that he has donated, including printing plates from Zook's carriage/surrey shop, cast iron peddler's badges from the 1930s, an advertisement for a 1928 flower show held at the former Elverson Fire Hall, and a large matchbook

from the former C-Bar-C Ranch.

Tom is a former member of the Elverson Historical Commission, the Borough Council, and served as the chief of the Elverson Fire Company. He has lived in the Borough since the 1940s and he is the former owner of West Philadelphia Machine Works, a metal fabricating company within the Borough.

It is the goal of the EHC to have all of its collection on display in Borough Hall, once interior renovations are completed. The Elverson Historical Commission is always accepting donations of historical artifacts and community memorabilia, from old letters and postcards to newer, larger items. Please help us to preserve the history of our town through your donations. For inquiries contact **Chris Cameron, EHC chairperson at 610-901-3058 or chrisdcameron@yahoo.com**.

PENNSYLVANIA TURNPIKE WIDENING PROJECT

Merle Stoltzfus

Information for the PA Turnpike reconstruction and widening project (MP 298-302) was presented to public officials on November 5th followed by an open house for the public held on November 17th. You can obtain the same information in the convenience of your home by visiting the web site: www.patpconstruction.com/mp298to312/

Do you hear and/or see the turnpike? For most of us, the obvious answer is YES!! However, the sound mitigation consultants for the current project completed a study suggesting **no need to provide barriers** even though adding enough future traffic to occupy six lanes. The project plan further insults our senses by **removing the existing earthen berm** (sound & visual barrier) constructed by Stoltzfus Enterprises in 1998 with no replacement in the current plan.

The citizens of Elverson NEED to forcefully comment to this current plan in great numbers or we will miss our opportunity. Hundreds of returned questionnaires with comments WILL make a difference. *NOW is the time to express your desire to have barriers installed along the north side of this interstate highway.*

The questionnaire provided at the public meeting is on page 3 of this newsletter. Simply pull out pages 3-4 of this newsletter, complete the questionnaire, fold, stamp and mail. One stamp today could significantly affect the future value of your home. The **comment period ends on December 4, 2015**. Join your neighbors in our efforts to keep from degrading our greatest square mile!



COATESVILLE VA MEDICAL CENTER COMMUNITY GIFT DRIVE

I will once again be hosting a Christmas gift drive for the residents and patients at the Coatesville VA Medical Center. Last year we were able to not only have a gift for each patient at the Medical Center, but we were also able to help Veterans who had previously been homeless with items to use in their new housing provided by an organization "100 Homes for 100 Vets."

If you would like to donate, please contact me (610.286.0758 or bettyshaw@reagan.com) for a list of gift suggestions and where to deliver the items for collection.

We would like to have all gifts received no later than **December 16** so delivery to the VA and other areas in the county can be made in a timely manner. Please consider picking up an extra gift as you shop the end of the season sales.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to call. Once again, thank you so much for helping to make this upcoming holiday season special to these special people.

Betty Shaw
610.286.0758 home
484.947.6986 cell
58 Saddler Drive, Elverson, PA 19520
bettyshaw@reagan.com



Questionnaire
Open House Plans Display - November 17, 2015

1. Where do you live? Caernarvon Township
 Honey Brook Township West Nantmeal Township Elverson Borough Other _____

~~2. How did you hear about tonight's meeting?~~
 Letter from the PA Turnpike Commission Neighbor _____
 Postcard from the PA Turnpike Commission Newspaper _____
 Website Other _____

~~3. Do you think that the Plans Display tonight clearly and thoroughly presented the project information?~~
Yes No No Opinion

~~4. Do you feel that your questions were adequately answered?~~
Yes Some No N/A

5. If you have additional comments/questions/ concerns, please list them here :

5. Would you like us to follow up with you? Yes No

If yes, please provide your contact information:
Name: _____
Address: _____

Phone Number: _____
Email Address: _____

~~Please drop your form off in the comment box~~ or mail back to:
ATTEN: Christopher Salvatico
AECOM
1700 Market Street, Suite 1600
Philadelphia, PA 19103

Thank you for taking the time to complete this comment form. ~~Please place your questionnaire in the designated drop box or give it to a member of the Project Team before leaving.~~

If you would like to take this form home with you, please return it no later than **Friday, December 4, 2015.**



Fold on the dotted lines. Postage is required.

Place
Stamp
Here

ATTN: Christopher Salvatico
AECOM
1700 Market Street, Suite 1600
Philadelphia, PA 19103



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Dr. Darryl Hajducek
Dr. Leslie Freeman

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Wednesday 8-4, Thursday 8-4, Friday 8-2

ACCEPTING NEW PATIENTS!



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**OUR THANKS TO
THE BUSINESSES
WHO SUPPORT THIS
NEWSLETTER.**

If you would like your
business
included,
please contact
Esther Prosser,
esther@stoltzfus.com,
484.269.7153.

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HOW WELL DO YOU KNOW ELVERSON BOROUGH? - Jody Phillips



I thought that November's photo would be fairly easy to identify and I was correct. Six people knew that the two posts are located at the northern edge of the Borough on North Chestnut Street (Rte. 82), just before it merges with Park Avenue to become Elverson Road in Caernarvon Township, Berks County and that they used it to support a

sign. Congratulations to Linda Godschall, Mary Frazier, Kayleigh Troxell, John Mohl, Homer Weaver and Tralaina Blankenship. The Troxells, who live across from the site, explained that the Elverson sign was there when they moved in about three years ago. There is a similar sign just before South Chestnut Street ends at Rte. 401 near Sunnyside Drive. Please keep an eye out for the missing sign. It looks like the one pictured above.

December's mystery photo (right) is on another Elverson historic building. Please tell me where the building is

located and a little bit about its history. No hints this time as it should be easy to identify.

If you know where this building is, please email Jodysfritz@gmail.com or call 610-286-8913. All who guess correctly will win an Elverson tee shirt. Small, medium and large sizes are still available in royal blue and yellow but there are only medium shirts left in orange. Happy hunting!



Send your Elverson news and stories to our editor at brenda@stoltzfus.com by December 20 or call her at 610.286.5115. Newsletters can be found on www.elversonboro.org.