



SCHUYLKILL HERITAGE

A Newsletter of the Schuylkill County Historical Society



Volume 18, Issue 5

"To discover, procure and preserve ..."

September-October 2023

We're full steam ahead this fall with a packed program schedule and new policy

Some of our programs have been drawing big crowds. Most recently, it was standing room only at the June 28 presentation by Assistant Director **Steve Young** on the Molly Maguires, and that was after we turned more than 30 people away!

We hated to do that, and to avoid having it happen again, we're now asking attendees to reserve their place by giving us a call at 570-622-7540.

For September and October, we have an exciting lineup featuring everything from the Maroons and coal planes to downtown Pottsville fires, ghosts and a new take on two suspicious deaths! So to keep from missing out, please make your reservations now!

Unless otherwise noted, each program will be held at our building, with admission at \$5 for the general public and free to Society members.

Molly Maguires Encore

6:30 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 7

That's right, we're giving everyone who didn't get to attend Steve's program another chance to see it!

Steve will tell the story of the Irish secret society from the early 1800s to the labor unrest that led to the controversial



The subjects of two upcoming programs: (Top) An illustration of an 1874 *Harper's Weekly* article on the Molly Maguires. (Right) A 1920s photo of an inclined coal plane.

trials and hangings of alleged Mollies arrested for kidnappings and murders in the coal region later in the century.

He will also discuss the aftermath of those incidents.

A Pow Wow Program

6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 13

"Porcupine Pat" McKinney will discuss the Pennsylvania German practice of pow wow, a Bible-based folk medicine that uses verbal incantations, gestures and manipulation of material objects.

Continued on next page



**Schuylkill County
Historical Society**

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305 North Centre Street

Pottsville, PA 17901

570-622-7540

Open Wednesday-Friday 10-4

Saturdays 10-2 (except

January and February)

*Our purpose is to discover,
procure and preserve the
historical records, data and
other relevant materials of
Schuylkill County.*



Photos of downtown Pottsville fires (left) at the F.W. Woolworth store, Centre and Mahantongo streets in 1950, and (right) at the Centennial Hall building in the 200 block of North Centre Street in 1916.

Continued from page 1

**Help Us Celebrate Our 120th
10 a.m.-4 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 14**

Stop in and see us during our regular hours and enjoy a special anniversary dessert. In the meantime, check out a story on our founder on page 5.

**Special Hours for
Pottsville Oktoberfest**

12-6 p.m., Saturday, Sept. 16

We will be open from noon until 6 p.m. as the festivities, including live music, vendors, breweries, distilleries, take place right outside our front door!

Holocaust Program

6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 20

Jennifer Umberger of Pottsville, who has a master's degree in Holocaust and genocide studies, will present an overview of Nazi Germany's state-sponsored, systematic murder of 6 million Jews and other ethnic minorities.

**Downtown Pottsville Fires
Walking Tour**

9:30 a.m., Saturday, Sept. 23

Reading Deputy Fire Chief and local historian **Michael Glore** will lead a leisurely one-to-two-hour walking tour that will also focus on the businesses, architecture and building construction of downtown Pottsville.

The tour will start at the Society. Admission is free to members and \$10 for the general public. The rain date is Sept. 30.

Famous Coal Planes

6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 27

Mining engineers **David Williams** and **John R. Ackerman**, author of *Inclined Planes in Pennsylvania Anthracite*, will speak about and show pictures of these engineering marvels that allowed railroads to move coal from the valleys over mountains to canals and later to other railroads.

Continued on next page



Society Assistant Director Steve Young leads a Haunted History Tour.

Continued from page 2

A Paranormal Investigation 6-10 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 30

We've had spooky goings-on in our building, and now you'll be able to look into them! Wyoming Valley Ghost Tours will guide us through this paranormal research session and provide all the equipment we'll need.

Tickets are \$50 and must be purchased via a secure link that will be available only on Wyo-

ming Valley Ghost Tours' Facebook page. Before ordering, Society members should call us to receive a \$5 discount coupon.

The Maroons Story 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 11

Society Executive Director and football enthusiast **Diana Prosymchak** will share her PowerPoint presentation on the Pottsville team that were denied the 1925 NFL championship even though they had won the

most games in that season.

Haunted History Tours Saturdays on Oct. 14, 21, 28 Baber Cemetery 6 p.m.

OR Downtown Pottsville 8 p.m.

Our popular Haunted History Tours are back!

The Baber tours will start at the cemetery entrance on 14th and Market Streets, and the downtown Pottsville tours will start at the Society.

Admission for each tour is \$10 for members and \$12 for the general public. Children 6-13 can take each tour for \$7.

The Dependable Hahn 7 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 18

Mike Glore will be back to talk to us about the history of Hahn Motors, the Hamburg manufacturer that supplied Schuylkill County fire companies with its trucks during much of the 20th century. He'll also discuss firefighting apparatus.

This event will be held at the Majestic Theater, 209 N. Centre St., Pottsville. Admission is free to Society members and \$10 for the general public.

Guilty or Innocent?

6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 25

Former *Shenandoah Herald* and *Danville News* writer **John H. Paul III** will discuss and sign copies of *Instigations of the Devil*, his book about two alleged lovers in Danville who were hanged in 1858 for their spouses' deaths. John, who says his research shows the two was innocent of both adultery and murder, is petitioning the state to pardon them.

OUR NEXT LOCAL READS

The Society and T-102 Radio's Local Reads book club will discuss *Billy. We Hardly Knew Ya* on **Thursday, Sept. 28 at 6:30 p.m.** This new book by Vincent Genovese, author of *The Angel of Ashland* and *The Pottsville Maroons and the NFL's Stolen Championship of 1925*, tells the story of Minersville High School football player Billy Ulmer and his tragic death during a game in 1943.

The group will decide on a selection for the next meeting, on **Thursday, Oct. 26, at 6:30 p.m.** For more info, check out our Facebook page or <https://www.t102radio.com/localreads/>

SATURDAY, SEPT. 9 IS BABER DAY!

3-6:30 p.m. at Baber Cemetery, 14th and Market Streets, Pottsville Picnic, tours, Third Brigade Band concert and more. The rain date is Sept. 10. Check Baber Cemetery's website for more info.

What do you know about what we grow?

Answers to this quiz by "Porcupine" Pat McKinney are on page 10.

1. Farming, a.k.a. "agribusiness," is the No. ___ economic driver for Schuylkill County. **A) 3 B) 5 C) 1 D) 2.**

2. What is the top food crop grown in our county's west end? **A) Apples B) Potatoes C) Chili peppers D) Onions**

3. Which crop is *not* grown in our county? **A) Cauliflower B) Hops C) Grapes D) Bananas**

4. Schuylkill County grows the most Christmas trees in the state and maybe the U.S. **A) True B) False**

5. Pennsylvania has a state flower, insect and dog. What is our state soil? **A) Hazleton soil B) Bloomsburg soil C) Alluvial soil D) Allentown soil**

6. Schuylkill County can boast a large number of wineries. Our very first one was **A) Short Trout Winery B) Galen Glen Winery C) Rattling Run Winery D) Smokey Hollow Winery.**



7. The three main resources that a Schuylkill County farmer needs are **A) Soil, sun, water B) Soil, water, luck C) Soil, rain, money D) Sweat equity, soil, good climate.**

8. Our county has this many farms, according to the U.S.

Department of Agriculture's Farm Service Agency in Pottsville. **A) Over 400 B) Over 600 C) Over 1,000 D) Over 2,500**

9. A new agribusiness that recently opened near McAdoo anticipates significant growth and will serve the East Coast. What crop will it grow? **A) Green beans B) Lettuce C) Beets D) Hops**

10. What annual weeklong public event is celebrating 40 continuous years of showcasing the work of farm families? **A) Schuylkill County Flea Market B) Dirt Mall along 61 C) Barbenheimers D) Schuylkill County Fair**

Bonus: Does Explore Schuylkill, our county's visitor and tourism agency, post a farm market map on www.schuylkill.org? **Yes or No**

Mahanoy Historical Society celebrates 25 years

The Mahanoy Area Historical Society is starting its yearlong 25th anniversary celebration with an open house during Mahanoy City Community Day on Saturday, Sept. 9.

Located at 1-7 W. Centre Street in Mahanoy City, the society will be open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Special Reading Railroad and Lehigh Valley Railroad displays will complement train rides sponsored by the Mahanoy Area Chamber of Commerce.

Visitors can get a free postcard with a historic rail photograph and enter a drawing for \$25 or a basket of books, maps and a membership to the society.

Treasurer Paul Coombe said the organization held its first meeting in October 1998. Other programs it is planning include a walking tour



The 100 block of West Centre Street in Mahanoy City before it was destroyed by fire in 1945.

this fall at the site of the former Kaier brewery and other properties the Kaiers owned.

For more information, visit the society's website at mahanoyhistory.org.

*From the president***Society salutes founder D.C. Henning****By J.R. Zane**

The Society, which is celebrating its 120th anniversary, owes our existence in large part to prominent Pottsville lawyer David Calvin Henning.

He was born in Lewisburg in 1847 and came to Pine Grove at the age of 21 to become the town's high school principal.

He resigned in 1870 to study law in the office of Lin Bartholomew of Pottsville, who was known throughout the state for his eloquence.

After his admittance to the bar, Henning married Isabella Atkins, a daughter of the iron baron Charles Atkins. The marriage bestowed upon him a directorship at the Pottsville Iron and Steel Co. From 1883 to 1888 he also served as captain of the Washington Artillerists of Pottsville.

He maintained his office at 410 South Centre Street, where he and his family also lived.

After Cyrus Pershing resigned as judge in 1899, Governor William A. Stone appointed Henning to fill the vacancy. His tenure was brief, as he was defeated in the fall election by George Wadlinger (whose own term was also short-lived because he died in office in May 1900).

Henning's passion was the history of his adopted county. He took a prominent role in the erection of the Soldiers' Monument on Pottsville's Garfield Square and was a prime mover in the formation of our Society, which had been under discussion since 1836. He held an informal organizational meeting at his office in April 1903, and soon the Society came into being.

It held its first meeting in the original YMCA at 311 West Market Street after it received its charter from the court on Sept. 14, 1903.

Henning was elected the Society's first president, serving until his death on Jan. 6, 1908. Officers also included: vice presidents Rev. H.A. Weller of Owigsburg, Heber S. Thompson of Pottsville and Professor E.W. Taylor of Donaldson; Recording Secretary D.G. Lubold, Pottsville; Corresponding Secretary Elena Roads; Pottsville; Treasurer John R. Hoffman, Pottsville; and Dr. H. J. Herbine, librarian.



The first official program was held on Sept. 28 in the G.A.R. Room of the Morris Building. Dr. J.J. John of Shamokin spoke about the early survey of 1759 that preceded the construction of the Centre Turnpike.

In 1907 Henning's two-volume *History of Schuylkill County* was published. Co-edited by Adolph Schalck, it remains one of the most important writings on the county, containing many genealogical biographies as well as historical research.

Henning died nearly two years after his wife Isabella. He was survived by one daughter, Anna, who later married Edwin Luther, the son of Roland and Theresa Yuengling Luther.

In Henning's obituary, the *Pottsville Republican* said "he has done more than any one man to compile a true and accurate history of the early days of this county and is deserving of the lion's share of credit for the great historic accomplishments of this society whose destinies he guided."

Despite his love of Schuylkill County, his burial occurred at his family plot in Lewisburg. Yet when visitors enter our building, they pass an alabaster bust of Henning perched on a window ledge, a reminder of our founder, who championed the importance of history.

From high school star to regulatory chief

By Lisa Von Ahn

The late James M. Taylor, who grew up in Pottsville and went on to run the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, received plenty of accolades in his life.

His yearbook describes him as the pride of Pottsville High School's class of 1952. Decades later, his government service earned him awards from presidents Ronald Reagan, George H. W. Bush and Bill Clinton.

Probably the high point of his career, however, was as a key member of a U.S. delegation that visited the Soviet Union's Chernobyl nuclear power plant two years after the deadly 1986 explosion there.

The ground-breaking trip in 1988 led to a U.S.-Soviet nuclear safety committee that he co-chaired, and he worked with U.S. agencies to make sure the Chernobyl victims were treated for radiation exposure.

He was a no-nonsense boss whose mission was making the world safer rather than gaining recognition, according to his children, James Taylor Jr. and Ginny Taylor Scott.

The second of John and Mary Alma Taylor's four children, he spent his first 18 years at the family home on 11th Street in Pottsville, between Market and Norwegian Streets.

At Pottsville High, he participated in numerous activities, from football to debating. His classmates voted him most popular, most likely to succeed and best all-around boy.

He graduated at the top of his class in 1952 and was offered scholarships to Yale, Princeton and the University of Pennsylvania. But because money was tight and those schools wouldn't cover his living expenses, he instead accepted an appointment at the U.S. Naval Academy, where he graduated fifth in a class of 680.

Adm. Hyman Rickover, the father of the nuclear Navy, chose him to pursue a master's degree in engineering, with a specialty in nuclear science, at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, where he also graduated with honors.

For the next 19 years, he reported to Rickover as a Naval officer and later as a civilian in



(Top) James Taylor receives an award from President George H. W. Bush for distinguished service. (Right) An undated portrait.



overseeing the development and deployment of nuclear submarines.

He had married Michele Fox, and Jim Jr. was 3 when Rickover sent him to the Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard in 1969.

Local workers had tracked radiation onto a pier. In an organization where the chain of command is everything, Taylor was involved in firing higher-ranking officers as part of the cleanup, Jim Jr. said.

The Taylors' second child, Ginny, was born during the five years that the family spent in Pearl Harbor.

A year after the 1979 accident at the Three Mile Island nuclear power plant, he joined the NRC as a division director.

After several promotions and the Chernobyl trip, he was named to the NRC's top staff position in 1989. He was especially proud of equipping the agency's Rockville, Md., headquarters with a gym, child-care center and health care facility.

At the same time, he was able to reduce its budget after he added the position of chief financial officer.

After retiring in 1997, he worked as a consultant for several years.

He died at 79 of Alzheimer's disease on Aug. 27, 2013. His epitaph in Arlington National Cemetery reads: "Ever vigilant for our safety."

Cressona Mall celebrates half-century

By J.R. Zane

For decades, malls were considered the premier shopping experience in America, but now many are empty. In fact, our Schuylkill Mall near Frackville is no more.

However, the Cressona Mall marks its golden anniversary this year. Its first anchor store, which was part of the Youngstown, Ohio-based Hills Department Store chain, opened on Oct. 2, 1973, and proved to be quite popular.

Eight more stores followed within several months.

Kingston, Pa., developer Mark Realty Co., which bought the land from the Reading Co., had announced building plans in 1969 that included a 100-room Holiday Inn at Connors Crossing.

More than 100,000 cubic yards of dirt had to be hauled to the site to fill and grade it. The Schuylkill River even had to be relocated, and a small bridge was constructed for access from Route 183. Hurricane Agnes in 1971 also caused delays.

The second anchor store, Grant City, was part of the national W.T. Grant business founded by its namesake in Lynn, Mass., in 1906. When the Cressona Mall store opened, Agnes Otto of Pottsville was a guest of honor because she was the first customer of Grant's downtown Pottsville store on March 16, 1932.

Acme opened its supermarket in the mall, where one also

could find Rogers Vision Center, Car-Lor's Ice Cream Shoppe, Luca's Pizza, Rea & Derrick Drug Store, a Miners National Bank branch, May's Dress Shop and the Paper Gallery.

Malls took business from downtowns, and Mrs. Otto was an example of that shift. Many believed that malls would become the new downtowns.

Despite space for 35 tenants, however, the Cressona Mall was rarely, if ever, fully occupied.

The Holiday Inn was never built, nor was the widely advertised and curiously named Samson & Delilah Health Spa intended to be within the mall. A Waterbed Delight store was a tenant until those mattresses went out of style in the 1990s.

Cinema 61, operated by Arnold Barket, opened in August 1976 with *Swashbuckler*, starring Robert Shaw, James Earl Jones and Peter Boyle.

That same year, however, the mall lost Grant's when the chain filed the second-largest U.S. bankruptcy during a time of economic hardship.

Other stores came and went.

Grant's sat empty for six years, but in 1982, a Laneco department store replaced it as the southern anchor store and started a mall revival. However, Laneco's only stayed until 1995.

Cinema 61 closed in 1988, and Blockbuster Video later took over the space until it closed around 2010. Hills was taken over by Ames, and the

your one-stop family saving center

Hills
THE ONE-STOP DEPARTMENT STORE

We understand families
We know that you want to get the most out of your money. That's why you'll find a wide variety of merchandise at the lowest prices. And our merchandise prices are always lower than you can find elsewhere.

Proud of what we sell
There's more to Hills than just clothing. We carry everything you need for a complete wardrobe. Great things for children, too. We carry books and records, toys, including many nationally famous brands, in everything we sell.

Our famous guarantee
Most assured that everything you buy must be right. We'll accept your return for a full refund. No questions asked. No hassles. No red tape. No arguments. We'll make you feel like you've won the lottery.

DO NOT LET THE OPENING DELAY MISS YOU

CRESSONA MALL
ROUTE 61

opens next tuesday at 10am

Acme location was taken over by Insalaco's and then Bi-Lo's.

The mall, while still retaining its 1970s interior, has attempted to reinvent itself over the past 50 years in response to the public's changing shopping habits.

It has hosted an Alvernia University campus, a military recruitment office and even a surgery center. It recently resurfaced its large parking lot.

Some of its stores, including Giant, Staples and Planet Fitness, only have outside entrances and aren't connected with the mall corridors (a trend that is nationwide).

Our downtowns faced competition from the malls and now both the downtowns and the malls face new challenges that our grandparents never dreamed of — *the internet*.

So on its golden anniversary we wish the best for the Cressona Mall. We encourage everyone to patronize all our county stores and businesses.

Ft. Lebanon marker to be rededicated

By Deb Reed

The Mahantongo Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution will rededicate a marker commemorating Fort Lebanon. The fort was built around 1755 in what was then Berks County in response to increasing hostilities between European settlers and Native Americans.

Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commissioner William V. Lewis will be the guest speaker at the ceremony, which will be held at the marker on Fort Lebanon Road, about 1 ¼ miles east of Auburn, at **2 p.m. on Sunday, Oct. 8.**

Fort Lebanon was part of a chain of strongholds that stretched along the Blue Mountains from Harrisburg to the Delaware River. Three of the forts were located in what is now Schuylkill County and formed Pennsylvania's northwestern frontier.

According to the booklet "Indian Hostilities Near Fort Lebanon," the fort was built along the Little Schuylkill River and a provincial road from Reading to Sunbury.

Covering 10,000 square feet, Fort Lebanon was surrounded by a 14-foot stockade fence. Inside was a 12-square-foot munitions magazine, 600 square feet of housing for soldiers and settlers seeking shelter, and a freshwater spring house.

"The fort was a place of shelter and protection for the families of the settlers whenever the Indians were unusually active in the vicinity," the booklet reads.

Captain Jacob Morgan commanded the fort from 1756 to 1757. He served in the French and Indian War and also later in the Revolution. His company, consisting of a lieutenant and 58 men, was listed in the records as "serving at the Forks of the Schuylkill."

The men not only kept a constant presence at the fort but also patrolled the area and protected the farmers in the fields. Morgan's detailed journals later became part of the Pennsylvania Archive and provide excellent information about the era.



It was Morgan's accounts that provided details of violent incidents between the Native Americans and the settlers.

The fort continued to operate until the advent of the American Revolution. It was then abandoned. Fields and woods, along with the remnants of the springhouse, are all that remain today.

In 1895 the state historical commission, along with D.C. Henning's book *Blue Mountain Tales*, determined the approximate site of the fort. It was Henning who recommended memorializing the location.

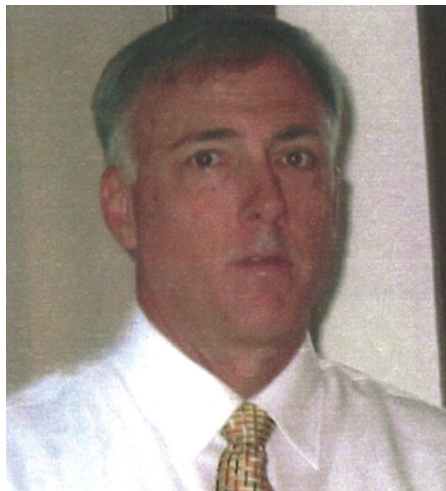
On May 30, 1913, the Mahantongo Chapter of the D.A.R. supervised "appropriate exercises" to mark the unveiling of the Fort Lebanon marker, the *Pottsville Republican* reported. Fifteen hundred attendees listened to stirring speeches and patriotic songs.

Miss Carrie C. Holt, a descendant of Jacob Morgan, unveiled the marker, which the Borough of Auburn and West Brunswick Township accepted.

Set on an 8 ½ ton boulder, the bronze marker reads: "On this site stood Fort Lebanon built by Colonel Jacob Morgan for the protection of the early settlers against the Indians. Erected by the Mahantongo Chapter Daughters of the American Revolution, of Pottsville."

After the rededication, a small reception will be held at the Auburn Municipal Building, which will also be the site of the ceremony in the event of inclement weather.

10 Questions/ 10 Answers



John Brenneman Jr. of San Antonio, Texas, has been a generous supporter of the Society.

Q. Where did you grow up?

A. Outside of Philadelphia, but I spent part of every summer and seven or eight weekends a year with my grandmother Florence Brenneman at her home on North George Street in Pottsville from the late '50s until her death in 1973.

Q. How did you spend your time in Pottsville?

A. My grandmother would send me downtown with a dollar. I loved to go to the five and dime stores. And we always took my grandmother for a ride and out to eat somewhere – Longo's, the Dusselink, Beckett's in St. Clair.

Q. Name an interesting person in your family tree.

A. My great-grandfather, Philip R. Brenneman, came from Germany as a child. He became a furniture maker with a store in downtown Pottsville,

but I think he made his money by mining silver and iron ore in Colorado. On his way west, he spent a couple of days with Buffalo Bill, who was then the marshal of Abilene, Kansas.

He came back to Pottsville, and after the great fire of 1914 destroyed much of downtown, built and opened the American Theater in 1916 for \$125,000. It was the town's first fireproof building. He died in 1918, and his siblings renamed it the Hollywood Theater in 1924.

Q. What do you remember of the Hollywood?

A. We owned the building until the theater closed in 1969, but since 1940, it had been leased out. My dad would take me down there. He knew Tony Discavage, the projectionist, and a couple of times, we would go up in the projection booth. When you're a little kid, that's a big deal.

Q. What interesting discovery did you make at the Society?

A. I found three photos of the American Theatre, including one of its interior.

Q. Do you have a favorite local sports team?

A. The Pottsville Maroons. The owner, Doc Striegel, was the family doctor, and the Brennemens knew him and the Maroons well. My father, his brothers and their uncles went to many of their games. Pottsville should have been the 1925 champion, no question.

Q. Did you attend any local historical events?

A. I remember the Maroons reunion in 1963, although I was still a little kid. The players were received very positively, with a parade on Centre Street. They were so little compared with how the players are today.

Q. Were there any athletes in your family?

A. My dad, Jack Brenneman, was a high-school track star. He actually beat Jesse Owens in a race. He was also very good baseball pitcher. When he was overseas during World War II, he struck out Ted Williams, who remembered that years later.

Dad's brother Richard was the 1938 PIAA state wrestling champion in high school and the heavyweight runner-up champion in the NCAA.

Q. How did you get involved in the Society?

A. We were in Pottsville in 2010 to bury my father and my Uncle Richard in the Odd Fellows Cemetery. My cousin had done a lot of research on the Brennemens, so we visited the Historical Society. I met the director, Peter Yasenchak, who ended up playing the ukulele at the funeral. I decided to join.

Q. What do you remember most about Pottsville?

A. The warmth and joy that I had there. My grandmother was very strict, but I could relax with her. She never told me to do anything; she always asked me, and I couldn't do things fast enough. I could talk to her for hours. When she died, I lost my security blanket. No one will ever fill that void.

Remembering how we did our laundry



Bob Lee of Newmanstown brought items from his extensive collection of antique laundry equipment to the Society for his program on Aug. 23. With the help of his friend Dave Watt (left), he showed us what our ancestors had to go through to wash and dry their clothes, from 1700s until the 1940s.

1948 Halloween ads in the *Pottsville Republican*

**HALLOWE'EN
PARTY**

Troutman's
Cafe
LLEWELLYN

Friday, Oct. 29

This Is A Good Chance To See
The Handsome New Bar.

BIG HALLOWE'EN PARTY
AMOR FRATERO
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 30

GALA FLOOR SHOW AND DANCE
Shows 11:00 P. M. and 1:00 A. M. — Featuring the One and Only
BILL SWEENEY
MASTER OF CEREMONIES
TONI CAROLE and Her Accordion
MARLOWE, the One and Only Red Head with Dances
As You Like Them
MUSIC BY PETE KAYE'S ORCHESTRA

Seafood — Steaks — Spaghetti — Mixed Drinks As You Like Them
NOISEMAKERS ● NOVELTIES



**Make us your friend
and shop 'til you drop!**

Pick up a \$5 shopping pass at the Society for Boscov's popular Friends Helping Friends promotion. You'll get up to 25% off on your purchases on Oct. 18, and the Society gets to keep the cost of your shopping pass!

Answers to the quiz on page 4: 1, C; 2, B; 3, D; 4, A; 5, A; 6, B; 7, A; 8, D; 9, B; 10, D;
Bonus - Yes, check it out under the Maps tab and see related materials, too!

We are grateful for these deeds of gift

The beautiful painting shown on this page is one of renowned local artist **Bob McCormick's** portrayals of life here when coal was king.

"I named this painting 'Once Upon a Mountain' because decades from now, I envision people looking back at the Anthracite Era and reading its history in disbelief," Bob explained. "How could our grandparents and theirs as well, have survived in such a harsh and dreary environment?"

"Not only were they forced to endure lifelong physical hardships, but they were often denigrated to feel the worthlessness of a disposable piece of machinery. Yet, they persisted. They endured."

"Men and boys trod up the hills, then down the shafts into the pits – never witnessing a dollop of sunshine throughout much of the year. Women and girls kept house and prayed to God for safe keeping and enough food to feed their families."

"Death loomed ever present, and remaining tough enough to endure the inevitable sorrow that would follow heavy footsteps on the porch and a knock on the door at any time led many a housewife to don a steely mask."

We thank Bob for donating this painting and sharing his thoughts about it. Prints of his works are for sale in our gift shop.

And we are grateful for these donations:

Larry Vinskie - meat scale.

Rick & Jody Hafer - yearbooks and photos.

Joseph R. Pedersen - Jaycees' Monopoly Board Game of Pottsville.

Marilyn Bamford Middleston - Pottsville Area High School yearbooks, Patriotic League



Dinner program and issues of *Crimson & White*.

Rick Hafer - photos, deeds and documents.

Bill Smith - women's boot hook.

Marge Sadusky - national and Mahanoy City chapter Constitutions of the Ancient Order of Hibernians.

James R. Pillsbury, John Robinson & Florence Robinson - portraits of G. W. Heebner and Anna-Margaret Fister Heebner.

Evangelical and Reformed Historical Society - Collection of Duenger family artifacts.

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

Robert Dusel

Tobis Lileck

Jim Lawrence

Jeff Rush

Sally Richards

Tom Phillips

Ed Rakowsky

Michael Zvairen Family

Frank Christian Family

George & Sharon Connell

Anthony Kern Family

Erin & Eric Cookson

Brent Miklesavage

Edward Bernitsky Jr.

Ling Family

Alan Bowers

Susan Sturgis

Linda DaRosa

Jake Miller

Paul Dion

Jean Kane

Steve & Jane Boyer

Dave J. Bernitsky

Joseph Medlinsky

Melissa Johnson

Charlotte Kocian

Milligan Wales

Mariann Young

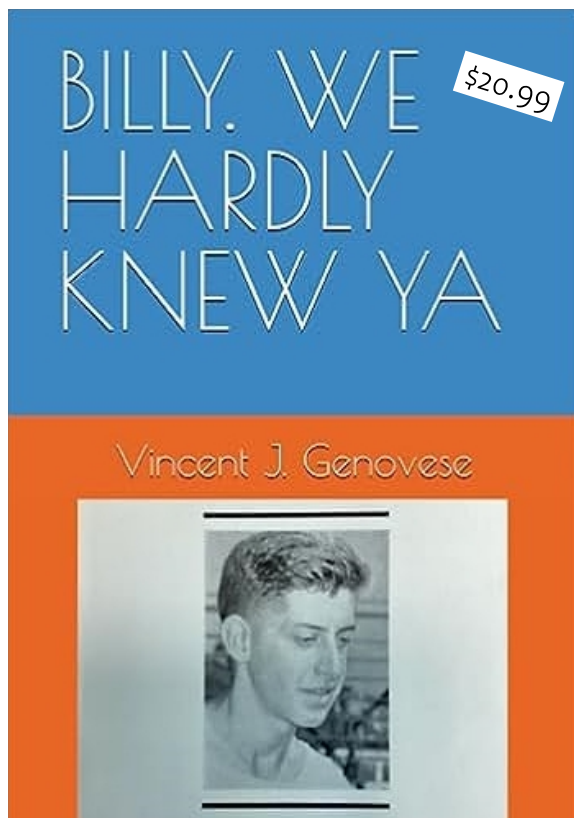
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Permit # 485

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OR CURRENT RESIDENT



LOCAL READS BOOK CLUB'S SELECTION FOR SEPTEMBER!

In his latest book, Vincent Genovese, author of *The Angel of Ashland* and *The Pottsville Maroons and the NFL's Stolen Championship of 1925*, tells the story of Minersville High School football player Billy Ulmer and his tragic death during a game in 1943.

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