

Elizabethtown

HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Established April 28, 1970



September - October NEWSLETTER 2018

Your source for local history

The Elizabethtown Historical Society convenes on the third Tuesday of each month, with the exception of January, February, July, and August. Our programs begin at 7:00 PM. Doors open at 6:30 PM. We are open Monday-Friday 8:30 AM – 12:30 PM and by appointment.

North Market Street Bridge Work

July of 2018 is not the first time that work has been done near the Market Street bridge over the Conoy creek. Enjoy the photo taken near the bridge in bygone days.



Curator's News for June, July and August Thank You

A sincere thank you to our wonderful curatorial volunteers who faithfully donated hours to sort and document our photos and artifacts. They are *Joanne & Everette Kirchmer, Virginia Hunsberger, Lee Winters III, Morgan Way* and *Phil Forney*. If you are interested in being a curatorial volunteer, please contact me.

Inquiries

I had 23 inquiries made requesting information about Elizabethtown and all have been answered.

Donations

David Heisey made a donation of over 22 vintage agricultural items. They were all from his former farm or the late Levi Ober's farm in Elizabethtown.

Descendants of Lt. Robert Dale Reem donated multiple artifacts in his honor.

Lt. Robert Reem was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor Posthumously in 1951. The following have also contributed to our collection: *Theresa Newbaum, Debra Grubb, John Alleman, Nancy Crago, Joanne Ferrari* and *Gerald & Ann Cole*.

Message from Interim President

A vacancy, as the result of the departure of our President, Dan Helm, has necessitated a change at the Society. As per our bylaws, "the Vice-President shall become President until the next regular election". I, Philip Forney, am now the interim President until elections are held this November. I will continue to focus on the Society's mission and purpose as I have as a volunteer for the past thirteen years. Fran Strouse, a member of the Board of Directors, has graciously agreed to assist me with my interim role as President.

Sincerely, Philip Forney

The Amish in Elizabethtown Presented by Edsel Burdge September 18, 2018 at 7:00 PM

Edsel Burdge will speak on the history, religious foundations, cultural and economic structures of the Amish community in Lancaster County and Specifically the Elizabethtown area.



Edsel Burdge is the research associate at the Young Center for Anabaptist and Pietist Studies at Elizabethtown College and holds a M.A. from Villanova University. He gathers demographic data on various Anabaptist groups, especially the Amish. He also interprets the work of the Young Center to the college community, the public at large and the media. He co-authored with Samuel L. Horst, the book *Building on the Gospel Foundation: The Mennonites of Franklin County, Pennsylvania and Washington County, Maryland 1730-1970* (Herald Press 2004)

Curator's Requests

- I have uncovered boxes of slides and to determine their value, they need to be viewed. Do you have a **Kodak carousel slide projector** that you can lend the Society? If so please contact the office @ 717-361-9382.
- We have old Rotary phones from the early 1900's that were donated by the Masonic Village. They will become part of our "then and now" display for the children in the schoolhouse. **We need a Cell phone** to contrast the Rotary phone. If you have one to donate contact the office @ 717-361-9382.
- There are volunteer opportunities to assist the Curator that you can do in the comfort of your home at your convenience! I have a box of papers that need to be sorted. I can drop them off or you can pick them up. If you are interested, please contact the office @ 717-361-9382 or send an email to info@etownhistory.com

Thank you, Kathleen

The History of the Shoe Industry in Elizabethtown Presented by Richard Barr October 16, 2018 at 7:00 PM

Richard Barr, son of the proprietor of the former Economy Shoe Store, will provide an overview of the shoe industry.



Richard Barr (Rick) was born in Lancaster and raised in Elizabethtown. He graduated from Elizabethtown High School. He achieved a B.A. in Psychology from Elizabethtown College in 1969 and a Master's in Guidance & Counseling from Millersville University in 1972. He served in the Army with a 7 month tour in Vietnam. Most of his employment was in the shoe industry. He retired in 2007 and is currently residing in Virginia.

Airplane Crash in Elizabethtown

On July 4th, 1935 hundreds of residents of Elizabethtown gathered in Klein's field behind the Elizabethtown High School on South Poplar Street to celebrate the nation's birthday and watch an air show. Five planes from the Lancaster Airport were scheduled to entertain with death defying stunts. Unfortunately, one stunt did not defy death and the crowd watched in horror as the plane plummeted to the ground. It crashed on the lawn adjacent to the drive which led into the Masonic Village. An eyewitness that day was a young boy, H.K. Eshlemam. Along with his friends, they ran to the crash site and amidst the confusion and panic retrieved a souvenir from the site. It was the seat belt from the ill-fated plane. Please visit our website for the entire story. Also visit our museum to see the display which showcases that seatbelt.

Executive Committee

Phil Forney- Interim President
Ken Shaffer-Treasurer
Richard Keeseey-Assist. Treasure
Dan Mikanowicz - Asst. Secretary
Kathleen Forney - Curator
Virginia Hunsberger - Assist. Curator

Ann Klein of Elizabethtown, a Woman in a Man's World

In 1951, William Klein Jr., of the Klein Chocolate Company married Elizabeth Ann Fisher of Lancaster County, PA. Elizabeth Ann (know to all as Ann) was 21 years of age. Her father, J. Henry Fisher was a keen businessman. In 1940, he purchased the forty-five year old struggling New Holland Machine Co. along with four other local investors. Using their innovative ideas and savvy business skills they catapulted their newly reorganized company into a worldwide success.

As the company grew exponentially it drew the attention of the international Sperry Corporation. Sperry purchased the successful company then turned around and sold it to Ford Motor Company in 1986.

Ann's father's sense of adventure and interest in machinery strongly influenced her. However, Ann's interest did not focus on farm machinery but on cars, in particular, Rolls Royce and Bentley. Ann and her husband, William Klein, Jr. had over 55 antique cars garaged in Elizabethtown. Ann became somewhat of a legend and there are many stories surrounding this colorful woman. One that many locals fondly remember is the spirited Ann driving down South Market Street behind the wheel of one of her beautifully restored antique convertibles with a cigar dangling from the corner of her mouth.

Ann's father's entrepreneurial skills also had a strong influence on her. That quality was evident when Ann encountered difficulty in finding tires for the family's collection of antique cars. As Firestone and Goodyear automated their plants they found it too troublesome and too expensive to continue making tires for her antique cars. To meet the needs of collectors, drivers and antique dealers, Ann founded the Universal Tire Company in the spring of 1968. A courageous undertaking for a woman in a male dominated business in the 1960's. The Universal Tire Company started to manufacture tires in various sizes for old cars in the basement of Collins Motors on Route 230, just east of Elizabethtown.

The "plant" opened with three workers and turned out an average of 20 tires daily. The assembly line was complete with tire molds and factory equipment. As the demand for more tires increased so did the need for a larger production facility. By 1971, the operation was in the Lancaster Building on 2650 Columbia Avenue, Lancaster, PA.

Irvin Strohm, the Operations Manager reported that the company was producing 4,000 tires annually. The Universal Tire Company's tire making process differed from standard tire production in that everything was done by hand.

Shortly after the Universal Tire Co. was established, Ann was asked to expand operations to include manufacturing tires for antique airplanes. One of the company's first orders was to equip an antique airplane with tires that were to be exhibited in the Smithsonian Institute in

Washington, D.C. The Universal Tire Co. is still operational and is located between Hershey and Elizabethtown on Route 743.

Ann also founded Klein Kars to service her collection and many other collectors who owned antique automobiles. She continued to be active in Klein Kars until her death.

In 1982, Ann developed ALS, a disease with a life expectancy of 4 to 5 years. Ann applied the same courage, determination and spirit that she had used in her business endeavors to battle the disease. She defied the odds and lived an active and productive life for twenty-two more years.

Sources: Mr. Fisher's company :
History of New Holland, 1940-1985. by Ivan Glick
Expertise in Antique Car World Leads Local Ann Klein to New Business: The Chronicle 4/22/1971 section 2 page 1 by Alice Hastings



2018 Programs

9/18/18

"The Amish in Elizabethtown, Lancaster County"
presented by Edsel Burdge
Research Associate at the Young Center for Anabaptist
and Pietist Studies at Elizabethtown College

10/16/18

"The History of the Shoe Industry in Elizabethtown"
presented by Richard Barr
Son of the Proprietor of the former Economy Shoe Store

11/20/18

"A History of the Elizabethtown Lions Club"
presented by Michael Myers
Past President of the Elizabethtown Lions Club

12/4/18

Annual Holiday Dinner
in the Hollinger Barn at Ironstone Ranch

Doors open at 5:30 PM Dinner at 6:00 PM
"Barns of the Susquehanna Valley"
presented by Greg Hubler

Members \$ 10.00
Non-members \$ 25.00

Elizabethtown Historical Society
57 South Poplar Street
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(717) 361-9382
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