

Jenkins Journal

LANSDALE, PA

SEPTEMBER, 2017



Founders Day August 26th

Lansdale's Founders Day is just around the corner, bringing with it a new event – an antique car parade as part of this year's theme, "Moving Through the Years".

Founders Day, held annually to celebrate the incorporation of the borough in 1872, will be held Saturday August 26, with a long list of activities that run from morning until night.

This year's new addition, the car parade, will feature antique vehicles through 1972 that have been restored mostly to original condition. The parade will form at Whites Road Park and proceed north on Broad Street at 11 a.m. The route turns east on Vine Street to Derstine Avenue and will disband at Main and Wood Streets.

The route chosen by the Founders Day Committee of Discover Lansdale has a history of its own. During the early days of motoring South Broad Street was nicknamed "The Speedway" because it was the straightest, best-paved road in the area, a great place for adventurist drivers to test out their cars.

Another highlight of this year's Founders Day will be the presentation of the Lansdale Lifetime Achievement Award at 10:15 a.m. to Bob Kreamer, chief executive officer of the North Penn Boys and Girls Club. Kreamer has headed the organization for 29 years during which time it has expanded to include new facilities in the Indian Valley and Wissahickon areas.

As part of Founders Day, the Jenkins Homestead will be open from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. for tours and two new displays featuring the theaters and auto dealers of Lansdale will be available for viewing in Borough Hall throughout the day.

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Society Opens Season With Program on Kennedy

We will be starting our fall/winter season of Tuesday Evening programs with a history of John F. Kennedy. President Kennedy would have been one hundred years old this year and as a tribute to him, David Fritz, who has done extensive research on Kennedy will present a program with a brief early history of his life and an in depth discussion of his various campaigns on his way to becoming one of our most

beloved and admired political leaders.

The program will be held at the Lansdale Parks and Recreation Building at 7th Street and Lansdale Avenue in Lansdale and will begin at 7:30 P.M. There is no admission charge for the program but donations are appreciated. Members and non-members are welcome to attend our programs.

This will be the first of our monthly meetings for the 2017/2018 season. Please check the flyer included with this Journal and you will see a complete schedule of future programs.



Program DVD's on Sale

We are having an inventory reduction sale on our Tuesday Evening program DVD's. The regular price of them has been \$18 each or 4 for \$55.

Now on Sale for \$10 EACH

(If shipping is required, add \$4 for orders of 1-3 or \$8 for 4-10.)

These program DVD's make excellent gifts for a former Lansdale resident who has moved from the area and has an interest in the old home town.



THE JENKINS HOMESTEAD

Jenkins Homestead and Historical Research Center

• 137 Jenkins Ave.
Lansdale, PA 19446.

• **Hours:**
Wednesdays: 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Thursdays: 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Saturdays: 9 a.m. to noon.

• **Telephone:**
(215) 855-1872;
(215) 393-8919

• **E-mail:**
info@lansdalehistory.org

• Please send mail correspondence
to 137 Jenkins Ave., Lansdale, PA
19446.

• **Website:**
www.lansdalehistory.org

Back Then Book Now On Sale **A Reverse Countdown of Our Top 50 Most Popular Facebook Postings**

The society's latest publication, *Back Then: Facebook Favorites*, is now on sale and is available at the research center or by mail.

Facebook Favorites is a compilation of the 50 most popular photographs posted on Dick Shearer's daily Back Then column between July 1, 2015, when the series began, through Dec. 31, 2016. During that period more than 600 photos were posted and viewed by followers across the nation who have roots to Lansdale and the North Penn community.

The 48-page book ranks the top 50 photos based on the number of "hits" received during the 18-month period. Each picture and the caption material posted with it are included in *Facebook Favorites*, and where possible, we've added a selection of comments from our followers.

Clearly the most popular photo was a shot of the entrance to West Point Park, the local amusement facility that closed in 1989. More than 120,000 viewers responded to the picture, which was 10 times more hits than its closest competition received.

Because of this we've included extra color photos of West Point Park and a full page of comments from visitors or employees who shared their memories of the park.

Facebook Favorites is on sale at the research center during regular business hours. The price: \$12. It will also be available on Founders Day (Aug. 26) at the research center and at our downtown location (Borough Hall or Railroad Plaza) throughout the day. The cost by mail is \$15 (to cover postage and packaging). In all cases, cash or check only.

Back Then: Facebook Favorites is a good look-see for anyone interested in local history and the changing landscape in the North Penn area and a great gift for friends who grew up here but moved elsewhere over the years – and you don't even need a computer to enjoy it.

Don't forget to follow Back Then daily. We're closing in on 2.7 million hits since the series began two years ago. Simply Google "Lansdale Historical Society Facebook" and scroll back to view any postings you've missed.

Morning to Evening Events Scheduled for Founders Day

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Here is a complete schedule of Founders Day events:

- * **Lansdale Farmers' Market**, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., Pennndale Middle School
- * **Opening Ceremony**, 10 a.m., Borough Hall
- * **Festival of the Arts**, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Memorial Park
- * **PennSuburban Chamber Health & Wellness Fair**, 10 am-2 p.m., Railroad Plaza
- * **Lifetime Achievement Award**, 10:15 a.m., Borough Hall
- * **Vintage Car Parade**, 11 a.m., along Broad, Vine & Wood Streets
- * **Jenkins Homestead Open House**, 11 a.m.-3 p.m., Jenkins Avenue
- * **Fairmount Fire Company Model Trains**, 11 a.m.-4 p.m., 100 Vine St.
- * **Free Admission to Whites Road and Fourth Street Pools**, Noon-7 p.m.
- * **Fairmount Fire Company Water Battle**, 1-2 p.m., 100 Vine Street
- * **Food Festival and Beer Garden**, 1-7 p.m., Green Street
- * **Rollin & Tumblin' (band)**, 1-3:30 p.m., Century Plaza
- * **Family Entertainment**, 1-7 p.m., Century Plaza
- * **Police Station Tours**, 1:30-4:30 p.m., Borough Hall
- * **Philadelphia Funk Authority (band)**, 4:30-7 p.m., Century Plaza
- * **Fireworks**, 9 p.m., Pennndale Middle School



Volunteer Spotlight



Frank Krimm- Preserving Lansdale's Past, Committed to Lansdale's Future

One day when Frank Krimm was 4-years-old and living with his family on Koffel Road, he wheeled his scooter into the road. Fortunately, Frank did not meet any moving traffic. His mother, however, was distraught, and insisted that the family move into Lansdale where little Frank could play safely on the sidewalks. And so Frank's family moved to W. Mt. Vernon Street, where he lived all his life until moving to Brittany Pointe in recent years.

Though Frank has long been interested in our town's history, he became a member of the Lansdale Historical Society through his wife, Annette. During the 1960-70s, concerned citizens like Annette Krimm realized that action needed to be taken to preserve the historic buildings of Lansdale. The Lansdale Historical Society was born in 1972, and the society's volunteers began to work on the restoration of the Jenkins Homestead. At the time, Frank served on the borough's Planning Commission, and in his words, he was "not excited about keeping an old house." But Annette must have been persuasive. Before long, both Frank and Annette Krimm became members of the society, and both worked diligently to return the Homestead to its 18th century appearance.

Later, when the building that now houses the Research Center became available through a grant from Senator Edwin Holl, Frank's technological experience proved invaluable in establishing the society's computer system. He has worked for many years behind the scenes in maintaining the buildings and grounds, and he's the person who receives the after-hours calls when there is a security concern.

Frank waited to accept a position on the society's Board of Trustees until Annette retired from the board about ten years ago. In addition to his maintenance and security duties, Frank also volunteers each week to digitize past issues of *The Reporter*. He also helps to set up chairs and equipment for our monthly meetings. At the society's annual banquet in April of this year, Frank received the Society's Legacy Award for his outstanding service to the society. Annette also received the award, posthumously.

And so a little boy's ride on a scooter started a chain of events that turned out to be very fortunate in bringing Frank Krimm to the Lansdale Historical Society. Frank continues to be committed to Lansdale's future while preserving our past. He is ever a goodwill ambassador for our town.

Willard Kriebel Photo Show Scheduled for October 10th

Willard Kriebel, former chief photographer of *The Reporter*, will return to Lansdale on October 10 for a Community Program featuring a collection of the many photos he has snapped in the years since his retirement from the newspaper.

Willard, who gained state and national acclaim for his innovative news photos, retired from *The Reporter* in the 1990s, moved to Florida with his wife, Carol and embarked on a passion they share – world travel.

Their interest in travel was ignited back in his newspaper days when he hosted several tours that were sponsored by the paper. He also was one of the first U.S. photographers to tour Russia in the days before the fall of the Soviet Union.

Since then - trusty camera in hand - he has visited dozens of countries, using his own special touch to capture an essence of the people and scenes he has encountered along with way. Some images, he admits, were shot with (of all things) a cell phone.

Eleven years ago Willard narrated one of our Community Programs which featured his favorite photos taken during his newspaper

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Lansdale Area Artifacts for Sale

We have been going through our inventory of items, have culled out a number of them and they will be available for sale at our Founders Day Open House on August 26th. A list of these items is printed below.

Regular issues of the Lansdale High School Maroon & White booklets	
\$7 Each	1924-26
Yearbook issues of the Lansdale High School Maroon & White booklets	
\$10 Each	1925-26
Regular issues of the Lansdale High School Talisman	
\$7 Each	1927-55
Yearbook issues of the Lansdale High Talisman booklets	
\$10 Each	1927-35
Lansdale High School Yearbooks	
\$15 Each	1936-52

(Please note that not all years are available)

Prints of Lansdale and the surrounding area originally used in a promotion by First Federal Savings and Loan of Lansdale that were commissioned in 1972 are available. These include the train station, the Beinhacker Building, the Heebner Agricultural Works and the Jacob Beaver's Store (Later Keiser's Variety Store), all in Lansdale. Also The Walker Inn in Montgomeryville, the North Wales Academy and the Reading Railroad Hotel in North Wales, the Gwynedd Friends Meetinghouse, the Plains Mennonite Church and (Location unknown) the Montgomery County Farmland. The prints are \$15 each.

We also have an assortment of 1972 Lansdale Bicentennial pins at \$0.50 each and packages of old Lansdale Historical Society Wooden Nickels for \$1. Need some old time wooden toys? We have an assortment available.

In addition to these items we also have copies of the booklets the Society has published over the years including the Walking Tour Book, and the Back-in-Time books I, II and III-Cost is \$10 each or 3 for \$25, The Junction Town Booklet \$5 and issues of the 1972 Lansdale Centennial Book for \$5.



Society Spring Tea Notes

The Lansdale Historical Society held its 7th Annual Spring Tea & Luncheon on April 28th. This year the theme was “Step Into Fashion” with a fashion show by Chico’s, Soma, and White House Black Market.

The Lansdale Borough Hall was the perfect venue for a look at the newest fashions for spring. A delicious tea and luncheon was prepared and served by the Lederach Tea Room. Everyone received a small door prize and several baskets were raffled off along with a beautiful handmade afghan donated by Pat Mahoney.

Steve Moyer, our resident photographer took many great pictures during the event. They are available for viewing at the Historical Society’s research center. All in all it seemed that a good time was had by everyone and we hope to see you all again next year.

Willard Krieble

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career. The response was so great a second show had to be scheduled.

The October 10 program will begin at 7:30 p.m. at the Lansdale Parks and Recreation Building, 7th St. and Lansdale Ave. As always, admission is free but donations are greatly appreciated.

This will be an excellent opportunity to meet and greet the Kriebles and wish Willard a happy 80th birthday.

Lansdale Historical Society 137 Jenkins Ave., Lansdale, PA 19446



The Jenkins Historic Complex