

Jenkins Journal

Newsletter of the Lansdale Historical Society

January, 2020

The 1980s: January 9:

An Era of Reagan and Rubik's Cube

A lot happened during the 1980s; it was the decade of big hair, big phones, pastel suits, Cabbage Patch Kids, Yuppies, Live Aid, Thriller and Pac Man. More importantly it was an era of iconic moments that changed the world, from the U.S. hockey team defeating the Soviet Union to the fall of the Berlin wall.

We will look at the cultural, political, and news events that shaped this decade along with how it affected us here, locally, around the Lansdale area—events like the end of the beloved West Point Park or the conversion of the old Lansdale Post Office to a new Borough Hall.

There are many subjects to cover during this decade of materialism and consumerism for our second Community Program of the 2019-20 season to be held Thursday, Jan. 9, 7:30 pm, at Lansdale Borough Hall, 1 Vine St.

The 80s is the second part of a five-part series, “The



PRESIDENT REAGAN AT KING OF PRUSSIA, 1987. SEN. ARLEN SPECTER, GOV. DICK THORNBURGH AT LEFT.

Decades”, covering the news, trends, sights and sounds here at home and on the national level from the 1940s through the 80s.

This second presentation will be narrated by Bill Henning. As usual, there is no admission charge but donations are appreciated.

The 1950s: February 13

Rock ‘n’ Roll and North Penn, too



EXPANSION OF LANSDALE HIGH SCHOOL INTO NORTH PENN HIGH SCHOOL, 1955.

The society’s third Community Program of the season will feature the days when rock ‘n’ roll was born, far too many Americans died in a far-away place called Korea, the nation liked Ike, tail fins and interstate highways.

We learned to “duck and cover” and dance to Bandstand. Television invaded every household, introducing us to Uncle Miltie, Howdy Doody and Sgt. Joe Friday.

Here at home, Hatfield and North Wales high schools faded into memory while Lansdale High morphed into North Penn and took in students

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NEWS BRIEFS: Reporter clip files rescued

The society scored a “big save” in November when we acquired the extensive clip files of *The Reporter* from the 1960s to about 2000.

These are news clippings of individual local stories filed by date and subject matter. They fill more than a dozen four-drawer filing cabinets and would have been an irreplaceable loss since they were headed to the dumpster with the sale of the Reporter building.

A special nod goes to the Lansdale Public Works Department for handling the move for us. Without Rick DeLong and his gang this would have been impossible.

In addition to the files, we were able to salvage other pieces of Reporter memorabilia, including historical books, signage and photography equipment.

While the Reporter building has been sold to local, non-newspaper-related interests, the paper will continue to lease space there for its offices.

A Reminder: It's dues time

Just a gentle but not-so-subtle hint that the deadline for 2020 membership renewals is January 31. If you have not submitted your dues, please do it now.

Your financial support is important to us. Without it we might not be able to continue some of the important services we provide to the North Penn community.

In an age when local history is seldom taught in our schools, it is left to organizations like us to inform and educate the public about the region's historic roots and how they shaped the towns we live in today.

While filling out your renewal form, please consider making a contribution above the basic \$20 individual rate. Every dollar helps us do more.

Continuing tale of our computers

This may sound like a broken record so please excuse us if you will. The society's computer systems, which were hacked last February, are finally “just about ready” to go back on line, according to IT volunteer Dwight Bennett.

What started out as a six-month project has taken much longer, but there is a light at the end of the tunnel and we're getting closer to it.

Lansdale Historical Society

is a 501c3 registered non-profit organization.

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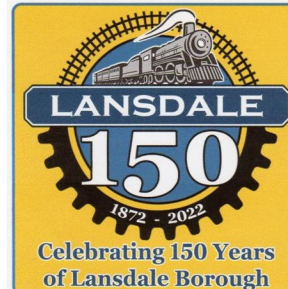
Email: info@lansdalehistory.org

Website: www.lansdalehistory.org

Facebook: Facebook/Lansdale Historical Society

SAVE THE DATE!

Thursday, January 16, 7pm—Lansdale Borough Hall



Here's your chance to help plan an important piece of Lansdale's history in the making.

Come out to a community meeting where you can become a part of the borough's 150th anniversary celebration in 2022. Suggest ideas for events and offer your opinions. Hear what the Anniversary Steering Committee may consider. Learn about past Lansdale celebrations.

Get in on the ground floor by volunteering to turn these ideas into reality—a 150th gala that won't be forgotten.

The planning and work start now! See you on January 16.

We want to thank our members, volunteers, customers and supporters for their cooperation during this extended process.

We also want to offer our apologies to any financial donors who have not yet received recognition letters. Your donations have been received and deposited, but in some cases the follow-up correspondence has disappeared. We will replace it as soon as possible. Rest assured, your contributions are greatly appreciated.

1950s: Rock and North Penn

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from the entire region.

There was the Rec, the Turnpike Extension, sock hops, WIBG and Hy Lit, and something new downtown called the Madison Parking Lot. Clemens moved to the edge of town and one of those new-fangled shopping centers sprang up on South Broad Street. The Mart arrived in Montgomeryville, complete with Fleck's Sticky Buns.

These were the 1950s, the third of our Decades series. It will be presented Thursday, Feb. 13, 7:30 pm, at Lansdale Borough Hall. The presenter will be Steve Moyer, who has hosted many of our shows in the past.

As usual, there will be no admission charge but donations are greatly appreciated. No program is scheduled for March.



The Jenkins Homestead and Historical Research Center

are open to the public
Wednesdays-Thursdays 11 am–4 pm
Saturdays 9 am–noon.

There is no charge for tours of the 1770 homestead. Charges may apply for research projects.