

1890

1990

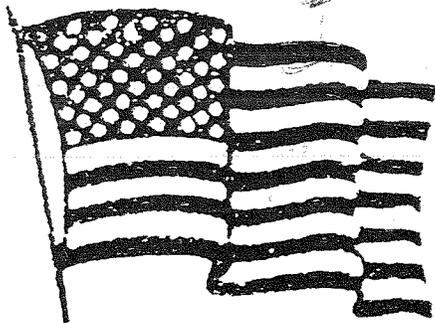
100th BIRTHDAY



CELEBRATION!

Sunday, July 29, 1990
3:30 PM

Raising of the Flag Kenneth L. Iatesta
William F. Thornton
Music: "To The Colors" Tim Bowden
Courtesy of the Pottsgrove Community Band
Dedication Kenneth L. Iatesta
President - Board of Commisioners
"National Anthem" Tim Bowden



FOREWORD

The citizens of Upper Pottsgrove Township are justly proud of the accomplishments we have placed behind us. We do not celebrate our 100th Anniversary with only an eye to the past — but it is with this historical reminiscing that we hope to lay the foundation for an even greater future.

The residents of our great community join hands to celebrate our 100th Anniversary. We hope the value and importance of this event will prove to be worthy enough that it will be remembered during the passing years. We have organized to build a foundation for the future by reliving the events of the past.

Let all those who love Upper Pottsgrove and what it stands for join hearts in an effort to make our township an even greater community for our children and the generations to follow.

This book is a monument to the leaders of the past who had the vision and courage to build for the future. May God in His infinite wisdom guide us in our efforts to make our churches, homes, schools, community and nation move forward.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The committee wishes to express their appreciation to Waste Management for their donations of the tent and port-a-lets, Roger Weand for his contribution of hotdogs, Sue Roberts and Kristi Moyer for game supervision and Kenneth Iatesta for the rolls. A special thank-you to Thomas Roberts and the members of the Pottsgrove Community Band who provided a wonderful concert and members of the Fire Company who helped cook and serve refreshments and deliver celebration notices.

The Committee would also like to acknowledge the contributions of historical facts and pictures provided by our residents. Any omission has not been intentional.

Co-Chairpersons William F. Thornton & Marilyn D. Chapis

Paul Hughes
Russell Trainer
Kenneth Fenstermaker
Sandra Fritz

Diane DeLong
Virginia Geiser
Jean Hollenbach
June Smithson

Upper Pottsgrove Township

MONTGOMERY COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA
 1420 Heather Place, Pottstown, PA 19464
 Telephone (215) 323-8675

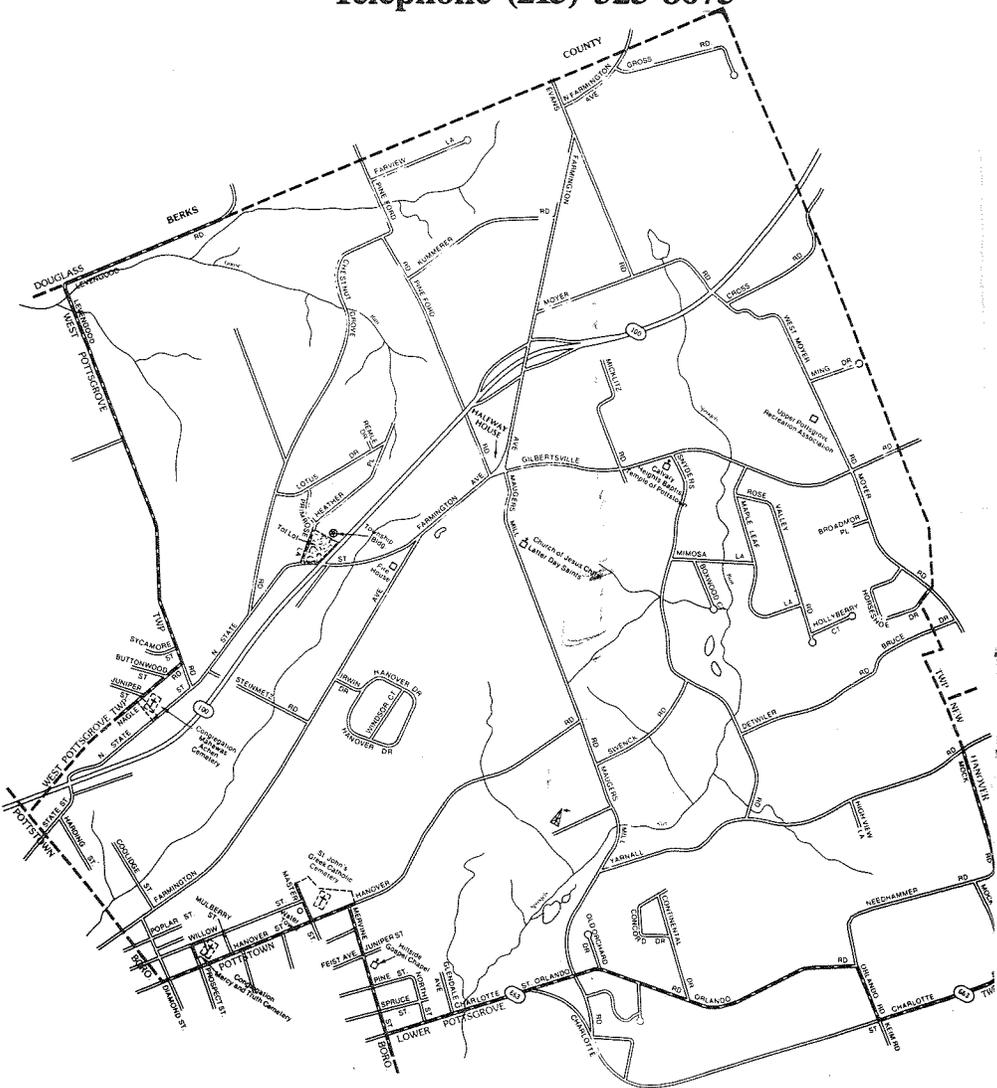


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HISTORY UPPER POTTS GROVE

The first residents of the Schuylkill River Valley were the Lenni-Lenape Indians, members of the Delaware Nations. They hunted and fished the heavily wooded and rolling valley until driven away by the early English and German settlers. The German settlers were from the Palatinate area of the German Empire.

The section of Pennsylvania now known as Upper Pottsgrove was part of the westernmost manor laid out by William Penn, who gave it to his youngest son, John. About 1732 John sold the area to George McCall, a wealthy Philadelphia merchant. At this time the area was called Hanover and included what is now the Pottsgroves, Douglass, New Hanover, and Upper Hanover townships.

After Mr. McCall's death in 1740, the manor was divided among his children. His son, Archibald, received much of the land now comprising Upper Pottsgrove. He sold it in ensuing years to tenants and to his brother Samuel. The tract included a copper mine which probably was in use at the time of the Revolutionary War, but it was closed shortly afterward.

In 1773, John Potts resided in the region now called Pottstown. In 1815, 268 acres were taken from what was known as the town of Pottsgrove to form the Borough of Pottstown, the second official borough in Montgomery County. On June 10, 1875, the Court of Quarter Sessions divided the remaining township into "the Upper and Lower election districts." Then, 116 years later, in 1931, after Upper Pottsgrove formed as a township, another portion of it was annexed to the Borough of Pottstown.

Upper Pottsgrove Township formed as a second-class township in 1890 with 5,680 acres and a few hundred residents. Its supervisors met in each other's homes until 1929, when their meetings were moved to the township's newly built four-room brick schoolhouse.

The Smith map of 1893 shows a number of homes that might be called a community around the Halfway House, a tavern situated half-way between Boyertown and Pottstown on Farmington Avenue. The tavern was operated almost continuously, providing food, drink and rooms.

Many changes came with the end of World War II. The Upper Pottsgrove Fire Department was founded in 1949. Students in the township became part of the Pottsgrove School District which was organized in 1955-56, and full-time police protection began in 1962.

When developers began building homes near Pottstown, the new residents petitioned to be annexed to the Borough of Pottstown so they could have municipal water and sewers. However, Upper Pottsgrove became a First Class Township in 1965, which put an end to further annexation attempts. A sewer authority was established in 1972.



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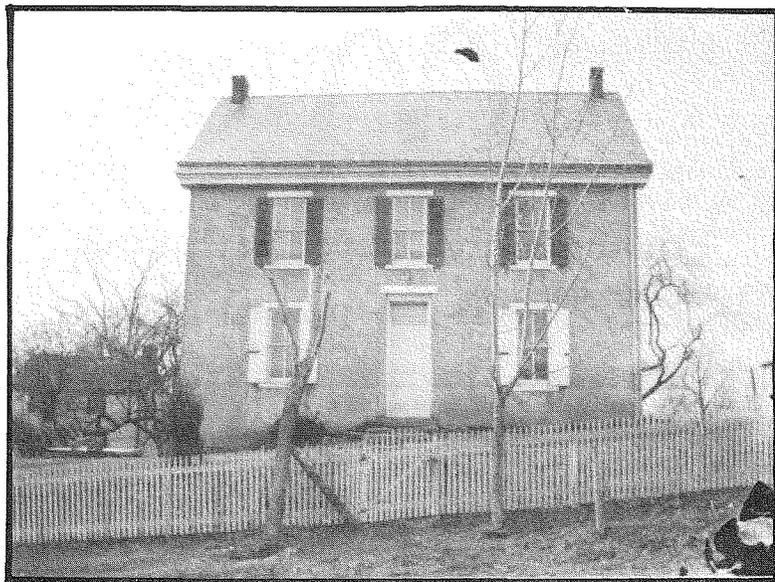
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Horace G. Bealer's home 1932. Now owned by John & Gladys Smith (presently Avil Studio).

LIFE IN UPPER POTTS GROVE

In the early years, farming and farm-related workers such as wheelwrights, plowmakers, tinsmiths, blacksmiths and carpenters provided the main business in the township. The local economy was supported by fishing, copper mining, and saw and chopping mills along Spregel's run. In 1907 there was one basket-maker and one cigarmaker in the township.

Almost all social and recreational activities revolved around the farms until after World War II, but after the First World War, other activities began springing up. Most notable of these were twilight auctions and community picnics.

From 1930 on, the first Sunday in September was a special time of fellowship when families gathered at the Snyder Farm on Snyder Road. The annual event featured a picnic with each family bringing a well-packed basket, music and games.

Auctions also were held at the Snyder Farm gatherings, as well as Freese's on State Street and The Pines and the Halfway House, both on Farmington Avenue. In addition, Freese's drew customers with such added attractions as cock fights and women wrestlers, activities which continued until a short time after World War II. Camp meetings were held in nearby Linderman's Woods.

During World War II, the higher wages in industry enticed many farm families to factories in Pottstown, and mechanization made it possible to maintain the farms. After the war, however, more workers sought land for homes in the area, and now only a few farms remain.

Do you remember when Maugers Mill Road was a dirt road? Fence rows were torn down to build the macadam road. They used 18 inches of stone base from the fence rows of the farms. An old steam roller, wagons and teams of horses were used to build both Maugers Mill Road and State Street.

Maugers Mill Road got its name from the mill which operated in the vicinity near the bridge at the bottom of the hill. It was fed by water from two dams, one of which is still in existence.

The mill was a three-story frame building on the south side of the road. The mill race, waterwheel and canal were located along the back of the homes on the north side of the road. The men took wagon loads of apples to the mill to have apple butter and cider made, and area residents came to the mill to purchase them, as well as feed, cornmeal, flour and ice.

The ice was harvested from the top dam. When the water froze, men would take wagons over what is now Yarnall Road, cut the ice, pack it in sawdust and take it down to the mill to sell. One time the ice wheel froze. Two men were hired to break the ice from the wheel, but they were almost killed. So they had to heat water to thaw the rest of the ice from the wheel so that the mill could operate.

Maugers Mill operated in the late 1800's to 1916 when it burned down. At that time the Hollenbachs lived on a farm on Maugers Mill Road, and Christopher Hollenbach, a 12-year-old lad at the time, remembers the mill burning and the sparks igniting the roof of their barn. He had to go up on the roof with a wet broom to put out the sparks.

Over the years, the creek seemed to rise, and the locks deteriorated.

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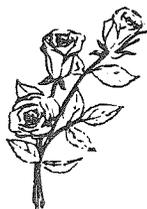
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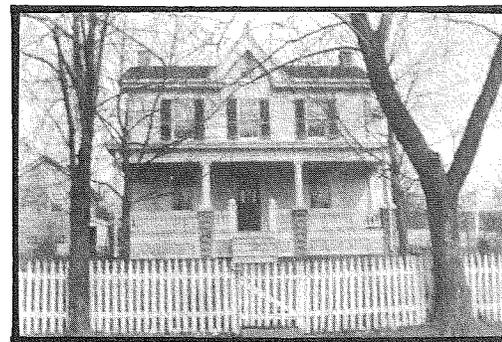
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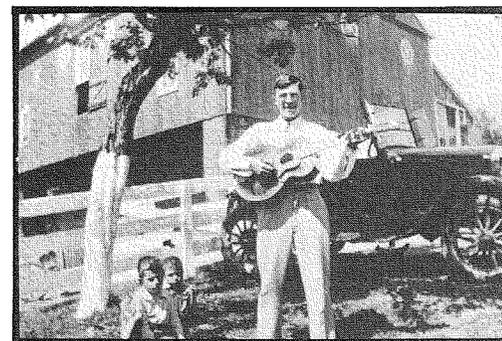


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John H. Bealer's home (1934).



John H. Bealer's barn (1934).

Two copper mines once existed in Upper Pottsgrove. One was over around Farmington Avenue and Steinmetz Road. The other copper mine was located in the area to the west of Orlando Road. There is still a sandstone marker on a bank in that area. The mine veined up toward the area now called Colonial Heights where the shaft was located. In existence since 1900, it was abandoned in 1917 when it went bankrupt. The tools were left in the mine, and it was closed.

Remember Sunset Park? The Morello family operated it on the south side of Mangers Mill Road by the lake. There was a pavilion there where square dances and shows were held. Walter Swavely was the fiddler for the square dancers, and many times Mr. Hollenbach called "the figures." Some of the older citizens may remember Hank Lawson and the Bums, Gloomy, Weary, Sparky and Hank, as well as Shorty Long and others who were stars of the Western Shows. They played at the park.

CURFEW

Ordinance 162 prohibits the presence of children under the age of 18 on the streets or in public places between the hours of 11 p.m. and 5:30 a.m. unless accompanied by a parent or guardian or unless there exists a reasonable excuse. Information regarding this ordinance may be obtained through the Police Department (327-1441).

SNOW REMOVAL

Ordinance 27 enacted January 3, 1967, states no person shall park or allow to be parked any motor vehicle or other vehicle on any street within the Township following the deposit or accumulation of ice or snow of 3" or greater in depth until the snow has been completely plowed for the full width of the cartway. Penalties for violations are prescribed and authorization to remove such vehicles at the cost of the owner is stipulated. This ordinance was enacted to facilitate the efficient and prompt removal of snow and ice.

WEEDS

Township Ordinance 118 states every person, owning or occupying any land within the Township shall cut or remove all grass or weeds in excess of six (6) inches in height on or before June 1 and August 1 of each year.

ANIMALS

It is unlawful for any person to permit any animal to run at large unless accompanied and under the immediate control of the owner or keeper. All complaints concerning stray animals should be directed to the Police Department at 327-1441. Dog License Applications are available at the Township Building.

SUBDIVISION AND LAND DEVELOPMENT

The Township has an ordinance regulating the subdivision of land, adjustment of lot lines and the development of lots, multi-family or non-residential uses. Plans are subject to review by the Montgomery County Planning Commission and the Upper Pottsgrove Township Planning Commission and approval by the Board of Commissioners. This is in accordance with the Pennsylvania Municipal Planning Code ACT 247 of 1968, as amended. A copy of the ordinance may be reviewed or purchased at the Municipal Building. Information regarding subdivision or land development may be obtained at the Municipal Building.

BUILDING PERMITS

Permits are required by the Township for, but not limited to, new construction, additions and structural alterations, storage sheds, signs, temporary uses and structures. Information regarding permits may be secured from the Zoning Officer at 323-8675. Certain setbacks and constraints would apply. The cost of the permit is nominal and it could avoid significant costs that may be incurred if ordinances are ignored. In addition, penalty provisions apply to all construction which proceeds without the proper permit (s) and inspection. We urge everyone to comply with the zoning regulations for the welfare of the entire community.

UPPER POTTS GROVE TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT

Phone 327-1441

A Little Life Is Worth More Than A Little Time



Officers;

*Charles Maddona, Margaret Jeffers,
Chief Joseph Stednitz, Steven Sigoda*

**Help Your Police Help Your Community
Congratulations To Upper Pottsgrove Township
From The Police Department
On It's 100th Anniversary**

EMERGENCY EVACUATION PLAN

Upper Pottsgrove Township has adopted an evacuation plan to be implemented in the event of an incident at the Limerick Nuclear Power Plant or some other emergency. Plans for these emergencies must address the special needs of individuals with disabilities or without transportation. Forms to be completed may be obtained at the Township Building. Those who should complete the form are individuals and families with special needs. This information will be used for emergency management personnel to update emergency plans for fires, floods, weather emergencies and disasters. Please remember we can help you only if we know who and where you are. This information is confidential.

SIGNS

Types and sizes of signs are regulated by the Township Zoning Ordinance. Location, size and duration of all signs, must be approved by the Zoning Officer (323-8675).

“FIREMEN DON'T HAVE A CHANCE”

When the trucks are delayed 40 seconds in traffic, people say: “It took them 20 minutes to get here.”

When the truck races at 40 mph, “Look at those reckless fools.”

When four men struggle with an eight-man ladder: “They don't even know how to raise a ladder.”

When firemen open windows for ventilation to reduce heat in fighting a fire: “Look at the wrecking crew.”

When they open the floor to get at the blaze: “There goes the axe squad.”

If the chief stands back where he can see and direct his men, people say: “He's afraid to go where he sends his men.”

If they make a good “stop” folks say: “The fire didn't amount to much.”

If they lose a building: “It's a lousy department.”

If lots of water is necessary: “They are doing more damage with water than the flames.”

If a fireman gets hurt: “He was a careless guy.”

If a citizen gets hurt: “It's a crazy department.”

If a fireman inspects a citizen's property: “He's meddling in somebody's business.”

If he wants a fire hazard corrected: “I'll see the mayor.”

If he gets killed and leaves a family destitute: “That's the chance he took when he joined the fire department.”

As a fireman, you may have heard remarks like these, but you work on regardless, saving lives and protecting your community -- because this vital job must be done.

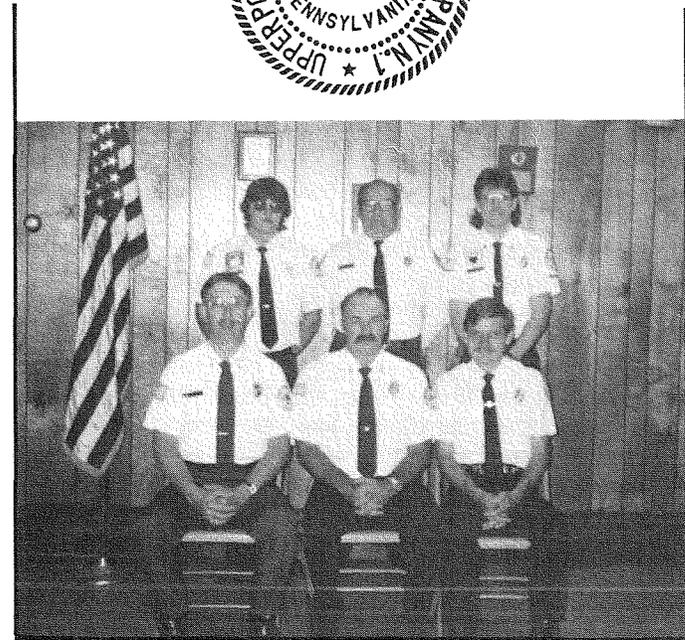
Upper Pottsgrove Township

Fire Company No. 1



1409 FARMINGTON AVE.

POTTSTOWN, PENNA.



Seated Left to Right: Gary Conrad, Assistant Chief, Ken Fenstermaker, Chief, Charles Ritschard, Assistant Chief

Standing Left to Right: Mark Neiman, Assistant Engineer, Charles Steward, Chief Engineer, Brian Klingerman, Assistant Engineer

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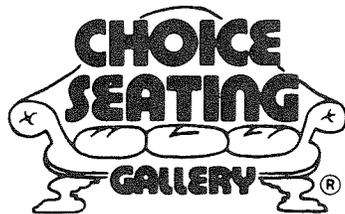


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UPPER POTTS GROVE TOWNSHIP FIRE COMPANY NO.1

In the fall of 1948, a group of 12 men got together and decided it was time to organize and establish a Fire Company in Upper Pottsgrove Township.

Articles of Incorporation were drawn up, and the Upper Pottsgrove Township Fire Company NO.1 was officially chartered in 1949. By this time about 20 men were interested, and the first meetings were held in garages, grocery stores, and finally, with the permission of the School Board, in the Schoolhouse.

In 1950, the company purchased the present ground on Farmington Avenue from Howard Bealer. Plans were drawn up and arrangements made, and before the year was out, the company was firmly established in a new building.

That same year, the fire company received an old 1923 Hahn pumper, donated from the Swarthmore Fire Company. It had solid tires, gearshift on the running board, and was as cantankerous as a 30-year-old jackass. Finally the truck was tamed and used to acquaint the new firemen with pumps, hose handling, and how to hang on the back of a fire truck--especially this one.

In 1951, the company purchased a 1928 Hahn pumper from a New Jersey fire company, and the members performed considerable work on her before she was placed in service. She served the company well for seven years and finally was put to pasture in deference to a 1959 International pumper purchased from Harwick Body Works. The pumper, which carried a 750 gallon per minute Hale two-stage pump, is still housed in the station and is used in limited service.

Supporting this pumper is a 1949 Tank truck which carried 1600 gallons of water. Lack of water, back then as now, was a serious problem in our township, and the company had to rely on tank trucks to fill the gap until additional help arrived. The tank truck also was called upon by our neighboring fire companies in fighting barn fires and other fires where a shortage of water existed.

To supply the complement of equipment, the company acquired a 1955 Utility truck to carry extra equipment and men to calls. On Sept. 30, 1972 a 1972 Dodge D300 (Brush Truck) along with a building addition were dedicated to the fire company.

Seeing a larger supply of water was needed for the rural township, the company contracted Hamerly Manufacturing to build an 1800 gallon tanker which was housed on Sept. 13, 1975.

Then, in 1979, due to the rising amount of special service calls, pump details and the need to transport manpower to fire and accident locations, a new GMC utility truck was placed into service, replacing the aging 1955 unit.

Again, the company, foreseeing the rapid growth of the township, contracted the FMC Corporation to build a new pumper with a 1000 gallon booster tank and a 1000 gallon pump to add to its fire protection force. On May 13, 1983, the New Pumper and the second addition to the apparatus room were dedicated.

Now, due to planned development of nearly 400 new homes in the township, Upper Pottsgrove Township Fire Company NO.1 is "specing" another piece of equipment-- a 3000 gallon Tanker-Pumper to provide additional protection for present residents and the new residents who are planning to live in this beautiful area.

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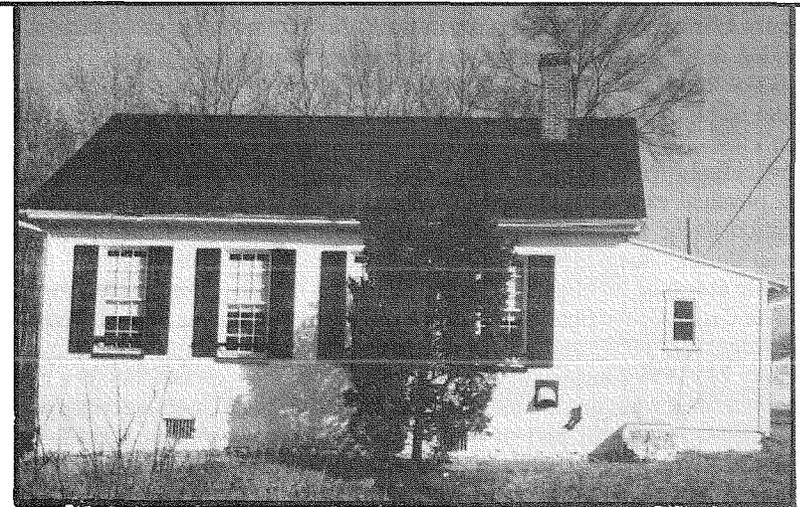
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SCHOOL DAYS, SCHOOL DAYS

“School days, School days, dear old golden rule days,
 Readin’ and ’ritin’ and ’rithmetic,
 Taught to the tune of. . .”

The Hickory Stick? Ask any of the old timers around Upper Pottsgrove, and they will explain those words to you. Even as late as 1929, some of the teachers in the Upper Pottsgrove School District used those long, stinging branches to keep order in the classroom.

Today the hickory stick and the form of punishment it meted out have gone the way of walking miles to school, having the biggest kid in class stoke the wood stove, lining up at recess in front of the outdoor toilets, and sending students over to the neighboring farm for water.

Yes, all those things once were part of the educational process in Upper Pottsgrove, even the water part. Students at both Chestnut Grove and Cedar Grove Schools had to go to the neighbors’ homes for water. The youngsters at the Cedar Grove School, on the corner of Gilbertsville and Snyder roads, got their water from the farm which belonged to Harry Grandy, father of Virginia Geiser and Marjorie Nettles, both of whom presently live on State Street. The farm is now owned by the Rev. and Mrs. John Althouse.

The long walks to school ended for some Upper Pottsgrove students in 1929, but only to areas designated too far to walk. Mr. Grandy, the same farmer who provided those kids with water, started busing students in 1936.

Some things haven’t changed for Upper Pottsgrove students, however. If you wonder what happened to Marble Tournaments and Hobby Day - well, everything doesn’t last - but the Spelling Bees, trips to museums, festivals, May Day, which is now called Field Day, picnics and dances as well as health concerns, hearing tests, physical examinations, and vaccinations all go back to the beginning of education in the township. Upper Pottsgrove school students have been doing the “in things” for years!

Here are some highlights regarding education in Upper Pottsgrove Township:

The Cedar Grove School was conveyed to the Pottsgrove School District by deed August 9, 1852, and the Chestnut Grove School was conveyed by deed February 21, 1853. During those early years, the teachers earned \$35.00 a month, school was in session just six months, and the school board met in private homes.

Pottstown was still part of Pottsgrove so there were other schools in the Schuylkill River Valley. However, in 1890, distribution of funds were made by the Montgomery County judges to Pottstown and Pottsgrove school districts, probably because of the change in the borough’s boundary line. Expenses and appropriations for the Ringing Hill and Center school buildings were shared by Lower and Upper districts. Tuition was paid to Lower Pottsgrove and Pottstown for township students attending schools closer to their homes. In 1888 Upper Pottsgrove District purchased one-half acre of ground on Glasgow Road just above the stone quarry for \$150.

The turn of the century brought some notable changes, including the enforcement of a “County Dog Tax” which brought Upper Pottsgrove and other districts some shared revenue. In 1917 the school session was increased to seven months and school was closed for one week due to the diphtheria epidemic.

Within the next ten years, the Vaccination Law and Compulsory Attendance Law were enforced, a truant officer and census taker were hired, teachers’ salaries grew to \$100 a month and the school session increased to eight months.

Then in 1927 a bond was floated for the construction of a new consolidated school building at a cost of \$16,000, including the purchase of the land. The General Election was held at the public house, also known as the Halfway House.

Construction of Upper Pottsgrove School was completed in 1929 and both the Chestnut Grove and Cedar Grove school buildings were sold at auction. Today Chestnut Grove School is a private home and Cedar Grove School has been a chapel for many years.

The 1930’s brought some options to the area’s high school students. They could attend Pottsgrove High School or North Coventry School (which later became part of the Owen J. Roberts School District.) Other students were part of an agreement between the school board and the township solicitor who was to offer the annex portion of Upper Pottsgrove to the borough of Pottstown for the sum of \$6,000 cash and one year’s free tuition for the students attending Pottstown High School.

In 1940 hot meals prepared by a WPA-provided cook began for all students, with a request for parents to pay only what the food cost, if they could afford it.

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Also during this decade, diphtheria toxoid was administered to all students, with their parents' consent; Defense Bonds were purchased with Sinking Funds; drinking fountains were installed; teachers' salaries went up to \$163 per month, and war time (Daylight Savings Time) was adopted.

Additionally, teachers were requested to demand written statements from the parents of students who wished to leave the school grounds to go to a public eatery; I.Q. tests and reading tests were administered; a ditto machine was purchased with candy funds; an audiometer machine was purchased for hearing tests; and subscriptions to The Weekly Reader began.

In 1946 Edith Emery volunteered her services as a substitute teacher on the strength of her college degree without any teacher training. The County Superintendent who had the power to grant emergency requests, did so, and she was elected a substitute. Edith still lives in the township, on Chestnut Grove Road.

The following year a number of cases of pink eye and ringworm were noticed. That same year the principal asked the school board for a ruling on girls wearing slacks. The decision was left to the discretion of the teachers.

By the end of the decade Upper Pottsgrove School became so crowded that its eighth grade students as well as high school students were sent to Pottstown, and plans were approved for a community-donated cafeteria building for the school.

During the early 1950's, Upper Pottsgrove students were attending high schools in Pottstown, Boyertown and West Pottsgrove and some big changes began taking shape for school children in the township.

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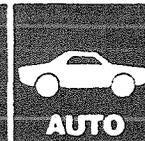
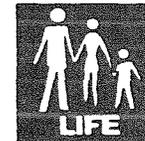


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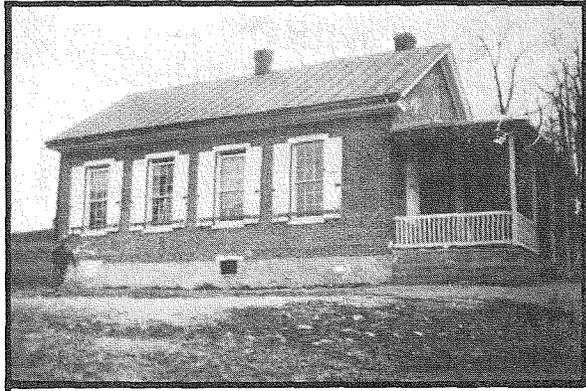


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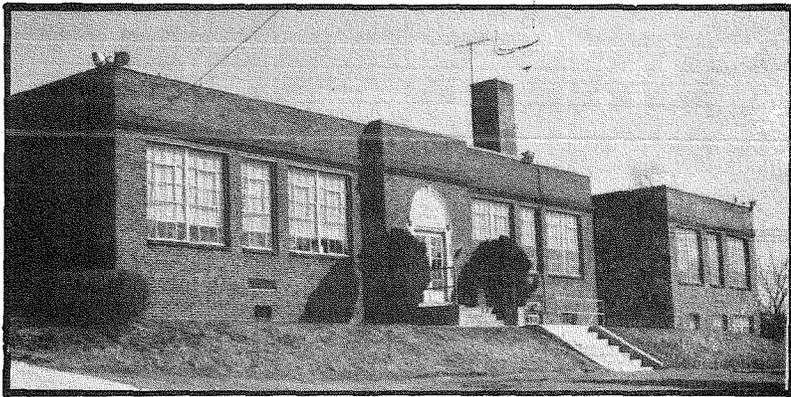
326-0625



Chestnutgrove School.

In October of '53, Lower, Upper and West Pottsgrove School Boards met with the County Superintendent to discuss a merger. After a varied discussion a decision by all three boards was reached on the following points: The three townships would work out a plan for a three-district consolidation; the school administration would work out a thorough study on the costs of a three-district venture, and the three districts would continue to cooperate with Pottstown on planning a program for the four districts. The plans would include classes for kindergarten through grade 12. In April of '54, a resolution was passed to agree to a merger with Lower and West Pottsgrove.

Most of the Upper Pottsgrove school board meetings during the early 1960's dealt with the finances, exonerations, delinquent taxes, etc, as the district was in the process of reorganization. The board's final meeting took place June 14, 1966, and students living in Upper Pottsgrove Township became part of the Pottsgrove School District, which was organized in 1955-56.



Upper Pottsgrove Elementary School closed 1973.

Waste Management of Pennsylvania-Pottstown

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215/326-6050



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TAX STRUCTURE

Township Real Estate Tax.....	11 mills
Township Fire Tax.....	3 mills
School Tax.....	219.5 mills
County Tax.....	31.25 mills
Real Estate Transfer Tax.....	1% shared with School District
Occupational Privilege Tax.....	\$10.00 shared with School District
Earned Income Tax.....	1% shared with School District
Township Per Capita.....	\$5.00
School Per Capita.....	\$10.00

CITIZEN INVOLVEMENT

A community is only as strong as its citizens. The ability of the Township to cope with the current problems, as well as future needs, depends on the quality of citizen involvement. If you are interested in participating in the local government of your community, please call the Township Office at 323-8675. The Township has numerous commissions, boards and authorities in need of concerned citizens.

VOTING PLACE

Upper Pottsgrove Fire Company, 1402 Farmington Avenue. Voter registration forms and absentee balloting material are available at the Township Office.

OPEN BURNING

Burning of paper, wood, cardboard, garbage or other refuse is prohibited unless burned in a suitable incinerator or a permit is obtained. Township ordinances prohibit the burning of any dangerous or inflammable material and automobiles or their parts. Information is available regarding burning by calling the Township Office 323-8675. Burning is prohibited on Township Roads.

STATE AND TOWNSHIP ROADS

State roads within the Township are Route 100, Maugers Mill Road, Gilbertsville Road, State Street, Farmington Avenue, Levensgood Road and Moyer Road between Gilbertsville Road and Bruce Drive. All maintenance of these roads is the responsibility of the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation in Norristown at 272-0136 or 275-2368. All other streets are the responsibility of the Township Highway Department and complaints concerning street conditions should be directed to the Township Office at 323-8675. The Township maintains 18.75 miles of road.

ON-SITE SEWAGE DISPOSAL

A permit is required for the installation or repair of any on-site sewage system. Contact the Township Office 323-8675 or Sewage Enforcement Officer 286-9409 for information about applications and fees.

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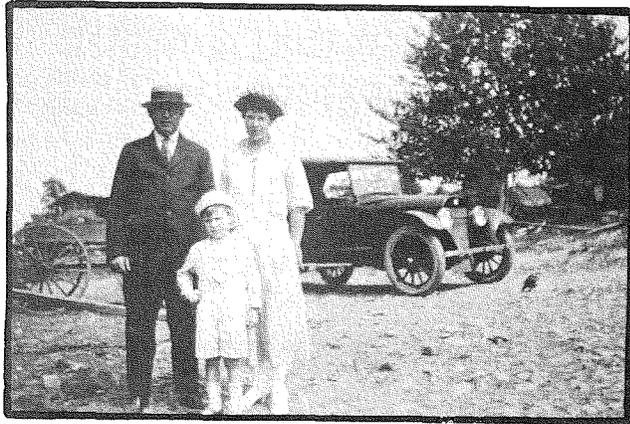
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INSURANCE COUNSELOR
CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER

Insurance and Financial Planning
Services

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Pottstown, PA 19464

215-323-2142



Luther Boyer, his wife and son, Ernest. Long time tax collectors.

Have you seen any snakes lately? They are still around in certain areas of Upper Pottsgrove Township, but not nearly as prevalent as they were in the earlier days of the township. There was a farm on what is now the Old Orchard Drive development. They burned the hill in order to plant an orchard, and in so doing, killed about 125 snakes.



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Sun. 8:00 - 6:00

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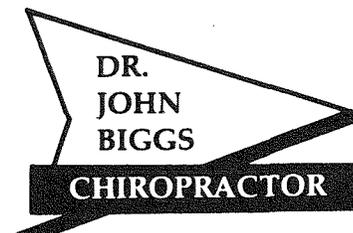
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326-1577

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Pottstown, PA 19464*

UPPER POTTS GROVE SWIM CLUB

This facility is a private club located on Moyer Road between Route 100 and Gilbertsville Road. Memberships are available to interested parties. A wading pool, 6 lane swim pool with a diving well, snack bar and volleyball court comprise the grounds. Free outdoor movies and swimming lessons are available. The pool is open between Memorial Day and Labor Day and further information may be obtained by calling 326-7723.

POTTSTOWN PUBLIC LIBRARY

Upper Pottsgrove Township residents are entitled to free membership at the Pottstown Public Library located at 500 High Street in Pottstown. ACCESS PA, the state-wide library card system, enables members to use more than 600 libraries throughout the Commonwealth. Call 970-6551 for more information about ACCESS PA and the special programs offered by the Children's Department.

MEETINGS

- 7:30 PM Board of Commissioners - 2nd & 4th Monday of each month
- 8:00 PM Planning Commission - 1st Tuesday of each month
- 8:00 PM Sewer Commission - 3rd Wednesday of even numbered months.
- Zoning Hearing Board - On submission of applications

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Gravely, Toro, Snapper

Take me out to the ballgame. We would be remiss not to mention the Pottsgrove Little League. Because of the dedication to our youth, a number of our residents have provided many many volunteer hours to build, prepare and maintain the fields. Needless to say, coaching and transporting the boys to and from the games demanded, and still does, a lot of volunteer hours. For current program information call John Kochel (327-1440) or Gary Hess (326-2981).

Were you one of the teenagers or young adults who patronized Hartwell's which later was taken over by and known as Filby's on Farmington Avenue in the late 30's and the 40's? It was the "place to go" to see your friends, dance to the music of a jukebox and enjoy one of their specialties - a chip steak sandwich for 25 cents. Booths rather than tables were popular then.

How did Fox Hill get its name? There is a story to it somewhere, but the long and short of it is that a lot of fox were trapped here.

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**Rt. 100 & STATE STREET
POTTSTOWN, PA 19464**

POTTSGROVE RECREATION BOARD

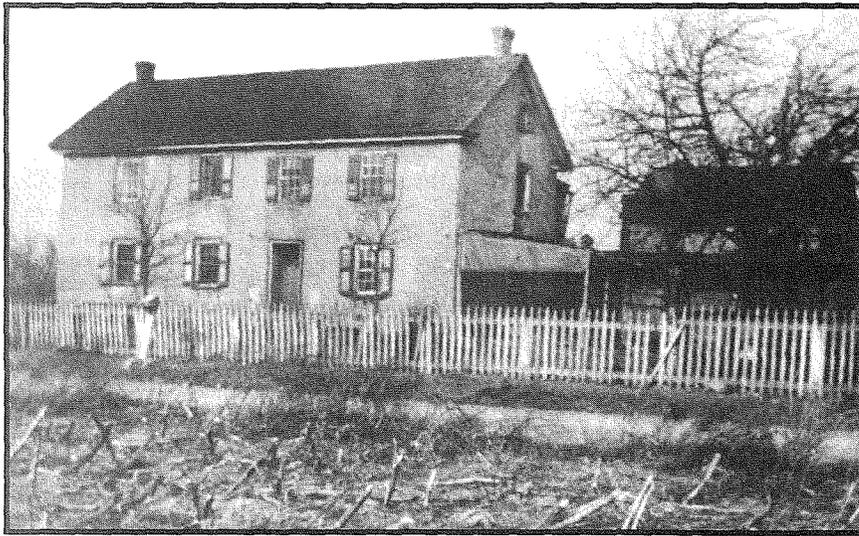
This Board is the central recreational organization and is funded by the three Pottsgroves and Pottsgrove School District. Its purpose is to provide recreation for the residents of the Pottsgroves. Popular programs consist of women's exercise, volleyball league, summer playgrounds, ice skating parties, free summer family movies. Information about these and other programs is mailed with school tax notices in July. Current information may be obtained by contacting Eugene Swann, Director of Recreation, at Pottsgrove High School (326-5105).

GOVERNMENT

Upper Pottsgrove Township is a First Class Township governed by a Board of Commissioners which is elected by the qualified voters of the Township. The Board of Commissioners, elected for terms of four (4) years each, serve both legislative and executive functions. Their responsibilities include maintenance of roads, enactment of legislation covering health, fire and police protection and taxation, adoption of ordinances and rules and regulations deemed necessary for the proper management and control of the Township in order to maintain good government and protect the safety and welfare of the residents.



Thornton Home (1625). North Gilbertsville Road.



*Donald & Auvelie Frey. Address 99 Mauger's Mill Road.
Originally built in 1750.*

The oldest scene of continuous activity in Upper Pottsgrove is the Halfway House. It opened in 1727 and gained its name for its location - half-way between Pottstown and Boyertown. In addition to serving travelers food, drink and lodging, it included a store and a barn where public auctions were held at one time. The barn and store later burned down.

The Halfway House was noted for its seafood dinners. Even though ownership has changed numerous times, the name has remained the same.

The Halfway House also served as "the public house" where elections were held, and who knows how many great business deals took place there!

Additionally, the tavern served as a stop-over place for cattle drives from the railroad station in Pottstown to "points west," a feat that caused great consternation to some residents along the way. They complained of the stench left by the cattle in route and often demanded something be done about it. Eventually, something was done about it. The drives stopped when transport by trucks came into vogue.

Today, in addition to serving the area as a good place to dine, Halfway House also stands as a marker for giving directions to newcomers in the township. Four roads intersect at the historic building on Farmington Avenue where Pine Ford, Gilbertsville and Maugers Mill roads all deadend into the avenue.

BASKIN  ROBBINS

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*Originally, the Bliem Estate, in 1780, 202 acres, now
Sunnyside Farms.
Now owned by Al Piazza.*

Sussell Park was located on Snyder Road and was opened by Dr. Sussell, the dentist. He built two lakes and tried to fashion an amusement park somewhat like Sleepy Hollow Ranch in the early 1940s.

The Pottstown Quoit Club was located on Yarnall Road and was a very popular club for about 30 years.

Has anyone seen the sign: "Amos Baker, The Harness Maker"? For many years, it hung on a building on Orlando Road.

The Pines in the early 1930s was the scene of an auction house run by Gordon Levegood and Ralph Richards. Many of the farmers sold their produce at the green frame one story building which was located just north of Diamond Street. Later, Bert Bickel built her home on that ground. She started the restaurant business in the three-story building next to the auction house when she moved down from the Halfway House, where she worked for number of years for Jimmy Sides. Bert Bickel's "The Pines" was like a household word when it came to seafood.

Civil Defense was headed by Anthony Morello as director for almost 30 years. Kenneth Iatesta is now in charge of the program which includes the title of Emergency Management Coordinator. Mike Zacek, Ken Fenstermaker, Bill Means, the firemen and our police force are members as well.

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SOME UPPER POTTS GROVE FAMILIES

Upper Pottsgrove Township is a family-oriented community, and some of those families have been around here for generations. While new families are always welcomed into the Township, it is fitting to salute those old-timers and their offspring for staying here, helping to lay a good foundation for later generations to continue to grow and prosper, and in so doing, paving the way for the newcomers. Here are some interesting facts about them.

The five-generation family to "settle in and stay put" the most is surely the Kummerers. Back in the mid-1800's, John H. Kummerer bought 68 acres of prime farmland between Pine Ford Road and Farmington Avenue for the sum of \$5,500. He and his wife first lived in a log house on the property, which also included a cold cellar, called a cave. Eventually they built and moved into the big three-story farmhouse in which his great grandson, Robert "Bob" and his wife, the former June Mauger, now reside.

John H. and his wife, Mary Alice (Mock) had seven children, including William Mock Kummerer, who farmed the family property after his father's death. William married Esther Bickel, and they had two daughters and one son. The son, John Bickel Kummerer married Ellen Spohn and they had six children. Three of the children are deceased. Daughter Marie Prout lives on Chestnut Grove Road, while daughter Ruth Richards lives in Pottstown.

Bob moved out of the farmhouse when he and June married, first living in

Pottstown and then in Kenilworth. Then Bob built the house on the farmstead where Charles Albright now lives. In 1963, he returned to the family farmhouse, bringing with him June and their two children, Linda and Robert John. Linda had a home built on a portion of the family farm which her father deeded over to her. And now, she is raising a fifth generation of Upper Pottsgrove citizens on the Kummerer farmstead.

Altogether, 16 Kummerers have been born in the big old farmhouse. June regrets that their two children were not born there, but she is proud that they have grown up in the house and proud that Bob's and her grandchildren are growing up on the farmstead.

Christopher Hollenbach, who has resided in the Township the longest, was born in 1904 and is head of a four-generation family. He came to America with his parents from Austria/Hungary in 1908 and first lived in Steelton, PA. The young family then moved to Upper Pottsgrove in 1913. For two years they lived on Maugers Mill Road and then moved to North Hanover Street. "Chris" and Bertha, his wife of many years, still reside on the family farm on Hanover Street. All four generations presently reside in the township.

Among Upper Pottsgrove Township's three-generation families are the Ludys, Greskos, Bealers, Majkas, Schaeffers, Meekers, Prouts, Boerners and Mosers.

Without the help of the Bealers and Maurice Meeker, with their brawn, muscles and big machines, the Township would not have shaped up so quickly. Wilmer Bealer and Maurice Meeker served on the governing body of the Township for many years.

The resident who most deserves the title of "Mr. Upper Pottsgrove" is the late John F. Prout. For more than thirty years Mr. Prout served the Township as an Auditor, Secretary/Treasurer, Supervisor and Commissioner. He served the community with diligence, integrity and loyalty and was recognized for his service in 1974 when the municipal building was named the John F. Prout Municipal Building. Charlotte Prout, his widow, and two of their sons, John and Tim, still operate the poultry farm on West Moyer Road.

Many residents who served the township in some official capacity during the first half of this century still make their presence known, either in person or through their descendants who have remained here.

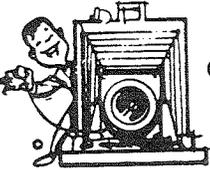
For example, residents named to the Upper Pottsgrove School Board from 1919 to 1959 included John D. Kummerer, truant officer John Schwenk, John Meeker, Christopher Hollenbach, Harry Overholtzer, Robert John, Claire Smith Burden and Anthony Morello. In addition, Kummerer and Meeker were elected directors while Hollenbach served as president of the board as well as a member of the School Authority.

Schwenk also provided some labor as well as sold wood to the school. Maurice Hartenstine, father of Janie Mitchell, provided the labor in the new consolidated school building and was chairman of the Cafeteria Association.

Other members of the John family involved in township education were Mildred and Polly John who began teaching at Upper Pottsgrove School in 1927 and 1931, respectively.

The records also show that Ruth Meeker was enumerator in 1951, Hazel Levan was township secretary from 1964 through 1969, John Levan was the police officer from 1963 through 1968, Herbert Geiser was assessor in the late 50's and early 60's and Virginia Geiser served as tax collector and treasurer from 1966 to 1985.

Orlando's Photo Service



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Arlen Specter.....(215) 597-7200

Unites States Representative

(5th District)

Richard T. Schulze.....(800)362-5652

Correspondence to Federal Officials should be addressed to:

The Honorable (Name), (Title)
Washington, D. C. 20515

STATE OFFICIALS

State Senator (District 24 - Pottstown & Pottsgroves)

Edwin G. Holl..... (215)368-1500
427 W. Main St., Lansdale, PA 19446

State Representative (District 146 - Pottstown & Pottsgroves)

Robert D. Reber, Jr.(215)326-9563
424 King St., Pottstown, PA 19464

Correspondence to State Officials should be addressed to :

The Honorable (Name), (Title)
Harrisburg, PA 17120 or to their local address

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FIRE.....323-2424

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Scott F. Breidenbach.....326-7923
Marilyn Chapis326-6816
William W. Means326-4123

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Sandra K. Fritz.....323-8675

SEWAGE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER

Leslie Johnson.....286-9404

MANAGER & ZONING OFFICER

George A. Probst323-8675

TREASURER & TAX COLLECTOR

Jean Townsend367-6109

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Julie Delong
John P. DahDah
John McCullough
Thomas Christman

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John Heckman
John Althouse

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Engineering Co.323-9111

CONSTABLE

Russell Trainer.....326-1162

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Steven Sigoda
Margaret Jeffers
Charles Maddona

HIGHWAY ROADMASTER

Frank Quinter.....323-8675

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Kenneth Fenstermaker.....367-6820

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Edward O'Brien
Aaron Katz
Elmer Bingham

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Paul Hughes, Chairman.....326-5353
Patti DellaVecchia
Harold Moyer

CIVIL DEFENSE & EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COORDINATOR

Kenneth L. Iatesta323-8675

CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION

John Sechrist, Chairman.....323-2270
Robert Lewis
James Mangam

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Upper Pottsgrove Fire Co.
1402 Farmington Ave.
Emergency.....323-2424
Social Room327-3194

DISTRICT JUSTICE

Charles Dasch.....326-9458