

the **Harmonist**



the Harmonist

Published by

The Friends of Old Economy Village

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The Friends of Old Economy Village

a nonprofit corporation, supports the Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission in the interpretation, development, preservation, and promotion of Old Economy Village.

Old Economy Village

interprets the history of the Harmony Society and preserves and interprets the unique, material culture of the Society during its period of residence in Beaver County, Pennsylvania for citizens of and visitors to the Commonwealth.

Membership Prices and Benefits

Youth - \$15 (12 - 17)

Student - \$25 (18 - 22)

Individual - \$35

All memberships receive:

- Free admission for regular daily visits
- Free admission to special events
- The Harmonist Newsletter
- Reduced adult admission to all other PHMC "Trails of History" sites
- 10% discount in the museum shop
- 20% discount for workshops and fundraising events

Additional Levels of Support and Benefits

Senior – \$45 (over 65 yrs.): One free admission for an additional guest.

Family/Grand Family – \$55: For two adults living at the same address and their children or grandchildren under 18.

Friend – \$125: Receives free admission for one guest per visit, 10% discount on site and wedding rentals, and two any day admission passes.

Patron – \$250: Free admission for one guest per visit, membership in PA Heritage Society, including an annual subscription to PA Heritage Magazine, four any day admission passes, and 10% discount on site and wedding rentals.

Benefactor – \$500: One Family Membership to gift, eight any day admission passes, recognition at the Annual Meeting, membership in PA Heritage Society, including an annual subscription to PA Heritage Magazine, and 10% discount on site and wedding rentals.

Sustaining – \$1,000: Two Family Memberships to gift, special recognition in *the Harmonist Newsletter*, recognition at the Annual Meeting, membership in PA Heritage Foundation, an annual subscription to PA Heritage Magazine, permanent addition to the OEV Visitor Center Wall of Honor, and 15% discount on site and wedding rentals.



Pennsylvania
Historical & Museum
Commission

Tom Corbett, Governor
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We are open

*Tuesday through Saturday 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Tours 10 a.m., 11 a.m., Noon, 1 p.m., 2 p.m., and 3 p.m.
Sunday we are open Noon – 5 p.m.
Tours times are Noon, 1 p.m., 2 p.m., and 3 p.m.*

Prices

\$10 – Adults (12-64)
\$9 – Seniors (65+)
\$6 – Children (3-11)
Free – Children under 3, FOEV members, and active military

Oktoberfest

Old Economy Village

October 12, 2013

Reservations by October 7

(724) 266-4500



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Site Administrator's Report

Michael Knecht

Have you read any good books lately? David Miller, Old Economy Village's Educator, and I are currently reading *Harmony on the Wabash in Transition - George Rapp to Robert Owen: 1824-1826* by Karl J. R. Arndt. This book is a compilation of letters and other primary source material that Dr. Arndt transcribed, translated, and edited. Many of the original documents are found in the OEV archives, but others are from libraries and archives throughout the United States. Together these items help to paint a picture of the plans, trials, and tribulations of the Harmony Society as it relocated from Harmonie, Indiana to Economy, Pennsylvania.

David and I have met periodically to discuss what we are learning and to share some thoughts from two previous OEV Site Administrators - Dan Reibel and Raymond Shepherd. You see, the copies that we are reading had belonged to Mr. Reibel and Mr. Shepherd and both have written notes and occasionally highlighted parts of the text during their ownership and use of the books. We have also been sharing the material with other staff members during our biweekly staff meetings.

Here are a few things that I have found interesting:

- Most of the original building material, such as lumber, bricks, and shingles, was purchased from Pittsburgh and the region. It was not produced here by the Harmonists.
- George Rapp lived in a hut for several months prior to moving into town. Where was that hut?
- The Society was very active in politics, "...it will please Mr. Clay when he hears that the Harmony has voted for him..."

The original source material is indeed a great read. If you too would like to learn more about the Harmony Society, or the many other topics covered in our library, stop in at the Visitor Center and spend some time reading and researching with us. Together we can learn more about these topics and then find ways to share this information with our staff, members, and visitors.

From the Educator's Desk

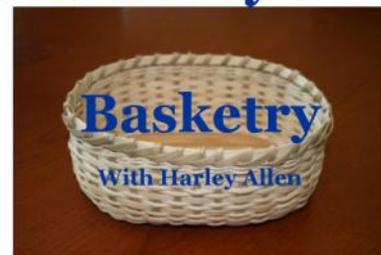
David Miller



There are two things I would like to highlight. Our Trades workshop is going to be held on Saturday, October 19. Harley Allen will be instructing on the trade of basketry. He will show how to weave a bread basket with the dimensions of 12" x 6" and approximately 4 1/2" tall. Several different weaving techniques will be taught along with an emphasis on shaping the basket. Harley is a retired school teacher who has been weaving baskets for 15 years. He has taught basket weaving in different venues. He has examined Harmonist baskets in our collection. If you are interested in attending this workshop, please sign up early since there is only room for 10 people in the class.

Students are back in school and teachers are contacting me to schedule their field trips. I'm excited about our new Christmas Time for Children Tour that has been developed by Pam Mallon and Holly Dofner. This tour is designed for preschool through second grade students. Rather than a commercial Christmas story book being read, Pam Mallon has written a story that involves the Harmonists, their town of Economy, a mouse named Napoleon and grumpy old Belsnickel. This heartfelt Holiday story and tour should delight over 1000 students this December. If you are interested in volunteering to give school tours please contact me. We always are in need of more guides to assist with the school tours. Our tour guides are going to have a lot of fun doing this new tour.

2013 Trades Workshop Old Economy Village



October 19
Pre-registration required by October 16
www.oldeconomyvillage.org
(724) 266-4500



New Products in the Gift Shop

Pam Mallon

Membership has its privileges. Take advantage of your 10% discount in the Old Economy Village Store. Beautiful glass produced by the Mosser Glass Company in Cambridge, Ohio makes a perfect gift for the person who has everything. Nan Loncharich's wool pins are playful and attention getting for the woman or girl who is not afraid to get noticed. A variety of cookbooks can add a little spice to everyday fare or help you to prepare a gourmet meal. Gooseberry calendars and pocket planners will keep you organized in 2014. The store offers Wendell August Forge's ornaments and bookmarks ideal for teacher or hostess gifts. Wooden ware made by Allegheny Treenware is handmade, practical and worthy of display. Award winning potter, Tom Wintczak's folk art redware is available in the Old Economy Village Store. Beer mugs make a nice souvenir of your visit to our historic site. Books that cover a range of interests from old time crafts to history are for sale. 1820 candles produced locally can bring fragrance into your home. Dragonfly soaps can clean up the biggest mess or lull you into blissful tranquility. Peggy Karr artist glass is a pleasure to look at and adds interest to an empty windowsill or china cabinet. The Old Economy Village Store supports local companies and artists. Many items in the store are one of a kind. The ways to use your 10% discount go on and on. So come on in and start



Above: Mosser Glass pieces on display in the Museum Store.



Above: The River City Brass performing in the garden.

River City Brass at Old Economy

Pam Mallon

Birds lined up on the roof tops of Old Economy Village bobbing their heads and tapping their feet to the rhythms of the River City Brass. Far below people gathered in the garden with their lawn chairs and blankets to enjoy an evening of Pittsburgh's best big band. James Gourlay conducted his band to play strains of Gershwin and Sousa. Even the summer flowers seemed to bend and sway to the sounds of trumpet solos. A little less than 100 years ago, John Duss's orchestra played similar music in the garden. The evening seemed to transport people back to a simpler time long ago.

Pizza provided by Vocelli's and Greek delicacies prepared by Little Athens Catering satisfied the biggest appetite or provided a light snack to the long lines of people outside their tents.

The River City Brass Band enjoyed the evening as much as our guests and promised to come back next year. Old Economy Village and the River City Brass Band were a perfect combination. A reunion is planned for July 12, 2014.

Upcoming Events...

 October 	 October continued 	 December 
<p>3rd-5th: <u>Communal Studies Association Conference</u> The CSA is coming to OEV. To learn more and to participate please visit, www.communalstudies.org</p> <p>12th: <u>Oktoberfest</u> Join us for an evening with all things German: food, beer, and Burke's Bavarian Band \$32 FOEV Members or \$40 for non-members. Sponsor Tables available. Reservations must be made by Oct. 7th.</p> <p>For the most up-to-date information on our events please call (724) 266-4500 or visit our website: oldeconomyvillage.org</p>	<p>19: <u>Trades Workshop</u> Come learn the art of basket weaving with Harley Allen. Only 10 spots available \$40 FOEV Members or \$50 for non-members Register by Oct. 16.</p> <p>26: <u>Museum Store Class to Create 18th c. Wool Flowers</u> Come to the Museum Store for a book signing and a class with Nan Loncharich. Class size limited to 12 people. \$30 per person Register by Oct. 21</p>	<p>7th-8th: <u>Christmas at the Village</u> Step back in time to visit a 19th century Christmas Village. Walk along a candlelit cobblestone street. Local choirs will be performing in the Feast Hall. Please visit our website for more information.</p> <p>14th: <u>Christmas Dinner</u> Come and enjoy a candlelit dinner and musical entertainment in the historic Feast Hall. \$60 FOEV Members, \$75 non-members. Sponsor tables are available.</p>

Curator's Corner

Sarah Buffington

VOTE!

On September 19th, the Conservation Center for Art & Historic Artifacts announced a contest for Pennsylvania's Top Ten Endangered Artifacts. Old Economy Village has one of the top ten artifacts, and we need your vote to get it conserved.

Actually, we have not one, but two artifacts in the competition. George Rapp's silk velvet coat and hat were chosen from 60 artifacts across the state. These garments were hand-sewn from Harmonist-made silk. They have seen a great deal of wear and tear - not necessarily from George Rapp himself. Research tells that he only wore it a few times, but from all of the use that the coat has experienced since his death. The coat was reportedly kept in a secret room with other special items for the remainder of the Harmony Society's existence. Sometime in the early twentieth century the coat was loaned to a department store in Pittsburgh. When it was brought back to Old Economy Village in 1949, John Duss paraded around in the coat. The garments were also worn from 1956 until 1961 in "Man's Reach," the play by Gladys L' Ashley Hoover, presented by the Harmonie Associates to raise money for the restoration of the site.

The coat is about 170 years old, and that amount of time alone can wreck havoc on a silk garment.

The lining is in shreds, and many of the seams of the coat have fallen apart. We want you to be able to see this coat on display, but its condition has not allowed this. **It is up to you to vote to have our precious artifacts restored. Please pass the word!** You can vote as many times as you want until November 1st. We are also looking to raise funding for this conservation. Go to www.PATop10Artifacts.org to donate and vote!



Above: Holly Dofner, First Lady Susan Corbett, Brenda Reigle (PHMC Director of Historic Sites), Mary DeMars, and Sarah Buffington attended a press conference at the Governor's Mansion on Thursday, September 19, 2013. This press conference announced Pennsylvania's Top 10 Most Endangered Artifacts and George Rapp's ceremonial coat and cap were among the artifacts chosen. Now OEV is trying to raise \$5,000 to get the items conserved. Go to patop10artifacts.org/garments to vote and donate today!

Meet the Staff of the Friends of Old Economy Village

Mary DeMars

Since 2009, the Friends of Old Economy Village (FOEV) have increased their responsibilities at Old Economy Village (OEV). The Pennsylvania Museum & Historical Commission (PHMC) and FOEV are jointly running and maintaining OEV. The Friends are in charge of the programming, school tours, daily tours, special events, weddings, and facility rentals. The PHMC owns and maintains the site. With the increase in responsibility, the FOEV Board decided to transition their current staff and hire two new docents so that FOEV can have a more effective operation. Below are the new staff roles.

Sandy Carroll, Volunteer & Facility Rentals Associate.



Sandy Carroll transitions from Volunteer & Outreach Coordinator to Volunteer & Facility Rentals Associate. Sandy is not only in charge of running the volunteer program at OEV but is in charge of coordinating the wedding and facility rentals. Anyone interested in having a wedding or renting out a building

for a corporate meeting or an event please contact her at (724) 266-4500 x 120 or c-scarroll@pa.gov. Sandy is also coordinating Erntefest, Spring Garden Workshop, and Gertrude's Birthday.

Brandy Clark, Docent.



Brandy Clark began volunteering at OEV in 2009. As a volunteer guide she was here consistently during the school year for the school tours and would come in for regular tours. Brandy also volunteered for many special events. July 1st, FOEV hired

her to conduct two tours a day and clean the buildings on Sunday, Tuesday, and Wednesday.

Ruth Ann Cvetichan, Museum Store Sales Associate.



FOEV hired Ruth Ann Cvetichan, a former state guide, to assist on the weekends. Ruth Ann works mostly in the Museum Store, but during festivals you may catch her in the Children's Store.

Mary DeMars, Marketing & Development Associate.



Back in 2011 Mary DeMars was an intern, and that fall, FOEV hired her as a docent and office staff. As of July 1st she is the Marketing & Development Associate. Mary's new responsibilities include maintaining the website, editing and publishing the quarterly newsletter, marketing the site including all the programs and events, writing grants, and sending out the bi-weekly emails. Mary is also coordinating the Christmas Dinner, Christmas at the Village, and the Garden Mart.

Pam Mallon, Museum Store & Museum Store Associate.



Pam Mallon was a dedicated volunteer and hired through the DCED grant to be a docent and office staff back in 2011. As of July 1st Pam can be found organizing and running the Children's and Museum Stores. Pam is constantly meeting with local artisans and vendors for new products for the Store. Pam is also coordinating Oktoberfest, the Easter Egg Hunt, the Antique Car Show, the Summer Concert, and writing the Christmas Children's Tour.

Betty Nelson, Docent.



Betty Nelson was a state guide until the furloughs of 2009. The Friends hired her as a weekend docent. Then in the fall of 2011 Betty was hired back by the state for a six month period. After this period Betty volunteered as a tour guide and FOEV was able to hire her back in 2013 as a docent. Betty can be found giving tours Thursday through Saturday and also cleaning the buildings.

Elaine Voss, Office Manager.



Elaine is the steady face of FOEV. Elaine has worked for the Friends for eight years and has been a support system for the staff. Elaine meets bi-weekly with accountants to make sure the books are up to date and correct. She also maintains Membership records and sends out renewal notices to you. Elaine works Tuesday through Friday.



Above: Antique cars line up along the Cobblestone Street during the Antique Car Show. The event was held over the Fourth of July weekend and over 800 people attended this year's event.

Grand Success for the Car Show

Pam Mallon

Antique car drivers waited patiently on Church St. for their turn to enter the site grounds. Early arrivals parked on the cobblestone street of Old Economy Village. When the street was full of pre-1950's cars the remaining cars were directed to other areas of the village and soon every available space was taken. Lawn chairs were set up under the trees and the owners enjoyed their conversations in the shade. Hamburgers and hot dogs sizzled on the grill and cold beverages floated in melting ice. Visitors lined up twenty deep waiting to order.

Over 800 people came to walk among vintage cars and listen to the toe tapping banjo riffs of the Pittsburgh Banjo Company. Even Mother Nature played nice for our Antique Car Show this year and temperatures stayed in the 80s with sunny skies. Children stayed busy making rope and putting out imaginary fires with the fire pumper. Something for all ages and interests made this year's car show an event worth attending.

LETTER TO SOME FRIENDS

Dan Reibel

This letter, written by then Director Dan Reibel in 1981, was presented to the staff, volunteers, and Board before Rebel left for Washington's Crossing. Dan was curator and then Director of Old Economy Village from 1965-1981. Reibel passed away in 2012. This is the second half of the letter, the first half was printed in the Summer 2013 Newsletter.

Jo Ann Andrews came to us with the idea for a Christmas program. She wanted to have a real old fashioned Christmas with none of the commercialism that had developed. We decorated a few rooms in the Great House and had lots of food in the Feast Hall and admitted 250 people. That was all we thought we could handle. We now admit about 3,000 people and could sell even more tickets if we had only the strength to open another day.

We have made the facilities of the museum available to public television and WQED for a bicentennial film "The Boston Massacre." I had never seen a film made before and after having seen one, I would never again be willing to let any museum I control be used as the setting for one. Still, I thought it was an interesting experience.

The Harmonie Associate House remodeling was finished in 1971 along with a garden. The garden had been made possible by a grant from the Robinson Foundation, which have been very generous to us.

In 1972 we were beginning to realize that we were not going to get a visitor center so we put heat in the Granary in order to use this as an auditorium. The Granary turned out to be an ideal building for meetings, concerts, and programs but it is an original Harmonist building and such use is not in its best interest.

When expansion of a local factory in 1972 threatened one of the Harmonist buildings, we had it moved to the museum grounds. The building was a gift of the H. H. Robertson Company who also donated funds for the move. The intention was to make this building into a Live-In Building. We had funds for this as recently as two years ago but these disappeared into our security system. If we could restore this house we could develop a program that would be famous nationally.

The Robinson Foundation gave us another grant in 1972 for the Education Program. We built a reproduction of the Harmony Society pump and a bake oven. We had no idea what a Harmonist bake oven looked like so we copied one from Black Creek Pioneer Village (Toronto) which had been built by Germans from Beaver County. No gift ever had more use. We must have baked several thousand loaves of bread in the bake oven to the delight of many visitors who have never

tasted real bread before. Probably 80,000 children have pumped water from the well. Both items continue to serve us well to this day.

We got a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities for the Live-In and conducted that program five days a week instead of two or three. The *National Geographic School Bulletin* carried a story on the program giving us national publicity. Eight years later we still get correspondence from that article on the Live-In.

Patsy and I were married in 1973. One of the results of that was that we were sitting around one night before dinner having a drink and fell to discussing all the things we might do at the museum. One of them was that our program was so heavily concentrated on children that we were neglecting the adult audience. We thought of all that unused space in the Frederick Rapp House and began wondering how a decorative arts exhibit would go over. Shortly after, we asked Anne Genter to come down and look the idea over. We met in the "modern" kitchen in the Frederick Rapp House from which all our meals were catered. It was sort of a depressing place. Anne liked the idea and started looking for funding. In about one year and a half, we raised about \$50,000 from the Rachaelwood Foundation, Peter Standish, the National Endowment for the Humanities, the P.M. Moore Foundation, the Pittsburgh Junior League, and Mrs. B. F. Jones III. We were able to make some very attractive rooms that no one ever saw and place them on exhibit for at least a limited audience. This project is an excellent example of what a private organization can do for a state operated museum as the total state investment in this project was \$1,000 for part of a rug (the rest of the rug was from Mrs. B. F. Jones III) and the balance coming from donors and the NEH. The Associates have continued to place about \$2,000 a year in this project, mainly funds from the P.M. Moore Foundation.

We had applied for a grant of \$75,000 to the National Endowment for the Humanities to catalog the archives in 1972. We had not heard anything from them (which was not unusual) and had assumed that the project was dead. Late in 1973 we received word that they would fund \$25,000 of this project with the understanding that if we could make significant progress they would entertain the idea of another grant later on. Under the direction of John Renaldo we started the project in 1974. Under the hand of the archivist, Joan Condliff, the project made great progress. Mrs. Condliff had to leave in the middle of the project and we made less progress after that. Eventually, the

archives were transferred to Harrisburg and the project is being completed there. The loss of the archives was a blow to us as a museum but I am pleased that we were able to develop this grant, the first of its kind in the PHMC, and get the project started. The archives had gone unnoticed by the PHMC and this project brought it to their attention. As I understand the Harmony Society archives are the largest, single collection in the PHMC. This project should be completed this year [the archives have returned to OEV and are stored in the Visitor Center upstairs].

The Harmonie Associates commissioned a work of music by Joseph Wilcox Jenkins in 1974. This piece came to be called the "Lobgesang" and was performed in the Feast Hall. Mr. Jenkins captured the feeling of the Harmony Society and their music quite well and I would have liked to perform this again at some time.

Ralph Hill joined our staff as Music Archivist and developed a number of concerts for us. When he resigned in 1976 we no longer had a resident musician on the staff and depended on the outside performers. This has worked very well and we have projected a number of concerts in the future.

In 1976 we started a number of "Craft Sundays" to help keep our craftsmen busy and to help train the teenagers. We did this for two years and the program was reasonably successful. Part of the benefit of this is the fact that the museum has every building open and visitors could wander at will. This is a much more satisfactory method of operating the museum but we can only do it when the crowd justifies it.

In 1977 we were able to employ a Curator of Collections for one year. Nancy Kraybill substantially completed the catalog that had been started in 1965. No catalog is really completed but we are now in a position to locate any article at any time in a collection of 14,000 items. One of the things I am proudest of is the 22 books occupying about 24 inches of shelf space, which are filled with all the accessions we have made over the years. Nancy and I were able to substantially reconstruct the 1938-41 Writers' Project Catalog of the Collection. With this we know what Harmonist items were here when the State acquired title in 1937. Out of this experience of working with a completely uncataloged collection came my book on registration methods. I cannot let this moment pass without also mentioning Patricia Acklin who completed Nancy's work. If I leave a monument there it is this catalog. If anyone wants to set up a memorial to me, let them fund a Curator of Collections' position to continue this work.

In 1977 we were closed once due to a budget im-

passee, and had so many changes in hours and admission fees that we hardly knew what was happening. Our attendance dropped. It made me resolve that as long as I was able we were never going to close again. We would stay open on some basis no matter what happened in Harrisburg or the world.

In 1977 we also professionalized the management of the Harmonie Associates by adding a paid manager. Floriene Dunn, a past president, took over these duties which are now being performed by Susan Orleman at this time. Sue has done a good job and this has worked well in practice and it has made it possible for us to recruit a broader range of people for offices in the Harmonie Associates.

We were accredited as a Museum by the American Association of Museums in 1978. This is a fairly rigorous examination of us by our colleagues in the museum field and is a complement to all the work we have put into the museum.

There were five professionals on the staff at the beginning of 1978 and only one in July, myself. Nancy Kraybill's grant ran out and she went on to the Winterthur program, our archivist resigned, my wife left for Carnegie Museum, and Mrs. Dunn resigned to go into business for herself. Shortly after, Susan Orleman replaced Mrs. Dunn and Ann T. Nickerson assumed the duties of Curator of Education. Under Ms. Nickerson's hand the education program has been greatly expanded and refined. We now have nine separate youth tours, role players, cooks, and Young Harmonists. We have a wide audience. About 75% of the museum visitors are conducted through these programs.

All of this brings me more or less to the present. This has not all been a long string of unparalleled successes. There have been about as many failures as successes. However, on the whole, we have developed a large group of friends who were willing to contribute some of themselves to OEV and I appreciate all of them. I suppose over 1,000 people have contributed some of themselves to the museum during my tenure, over the ordinary contribution, and I wish I could thank them all. A few people stand out in my mind and if I mention them I hope the others will not be offended for being left out. Anne Genter has been involved in almost every activity at the museum from cleaning the Baker House to being President of the Associates. She will be remembered best for her chairmanship of the Decorative Arts Committee. Margaret McKean was a great help in our garden and in getting the Herb Society of America involved in the museum. My wife Patsy helped set up an education program at

the museum that has become nationally known. Carol Standish and Lucy Blundon were the first gift shop chairwomen and were of great help to me when I was just getting started. Some of the presidents of the Harmonie Associates stand out in my mind, particularly, Jack Malone, J. Harvey Moore, and Robert Lewis. Jo Fingeret, and Lois Meyers were able store chairwomen and helped set up the Harmonie Associates as a business. The corps of docents have been fantastic over the years. Maude McKean was in our first docent class and has given more tours than any other docent. Among the teenagers, Iona Walker, Beverly Olson, Curt Garner, Amy Mengon, and the "King" George Kowalsky were people who come to my mind at this time as being of a great help to me at various times. Among our interns, Janet Seapker stands out as well as Sue Shields, Kay Zuris, Paula Martinac, Kim Carroll, and Susan Gangwere. Almost 50 people have worked as interns at OEV and are now scattered throughout the museum field. I'm as proud of our graduates as I am of any from the museum schools.

I have had a great deal of help in press and public relations. Len Szafaryn arrived on the scene about the same time I did. He made the Beaver County Tourist Promotion Agency an arm of OEV, although I imagine he views it the other way around. We would hardly start a project without consulting Len. We have had a great deal of help from the two Beaver County papers, the *Beaver County Times* and the *News*. Ray Palket of the *News* has become an old friend and we have so many people on the *Times* that have helped us that we would almost have to print their whole table of organization to include them all. We have had a great deal of beneficial publicity from all the news media in the tri-state area and I really appreciate it.

For some reason or other, we were unable to get a line in the *Post Gazette* for over ten years but I am happy to say that they now have a Beaver County section and we get regular coverage from them.

The thing that has made me the proudest is the fact that when one says, "The Museum," one knows what museum and no one has to ask "What Museum?" The two things I am also proud of is the catalog of the collection and the education program. Our education material is widely used in the museum field at large. Patsy's and my interpretative manual is used in several museum publications as an example to follow. Ann Nickerson's work was cited in a recent article. From starting with no interpretative material at all, the docent now has a book the size of a telephone directory to work from.

When I was hired I was a curator and have never liked these other titles especially the bureaucratic ones such as "Historic Site Administrator II." Right now, I am a Director. Curator means someone who has a care for something. Curator is an honorable title. A director is his own chief curator and I have been mine. When the new curator starts he is not going to be in the position I was. Thank goodness! He is going to find the collection cataloged and stored as well as we can. The research files are complete; there is a well trained interpretative staff with plenty of resource material, exhibits that represent our best capabilities, an interested and active volunteer program, and a huge body of people interested in the museum. I hope that you will all support him/her as well as you have supported me.

We are often asked what the most valuable thing in the museum is. As a matter of policy, we never answer that question, especially as value has many meanings. I will now give the answer to the question. The most valuable thing in the museum is the people. They are the Harmony Society whose memory we perpetuate; they are all the staff who not only make their living here but contribute part of their lives; they are the Harmonie Associates and all the volunteers. The artifacts in the museum have lasted all this time, with practically no care at all but believe me, it is the human relations that are most fragile. The greatest gift that I gave the museum was to help the people get involved in the museum and the greatest gift you can give is to get others involved as well.

If I have acquired a great deal of knowledge about running a museum, so have all of you. This whole trip has been a learning experience for all of us. I am leaving all of you in a completely different frame of reference than when I found you. You are all now equal partners in OEV. You are all capable of handling a huge portion of the museum program. I am going to try to impart some wisdom to you gained by 16 years of working for state government.

1. When an administrator tells you something cannot be done because of Harrisburg, the union or state procedures, he is lying to you. He is telling you he does not know how to handle it or that he does not want to handle it. Little things like state regulations have not stopped us from accomplishing something in the past and they should not in the future.
2. Although at first glance the whole aim of the bureaucracy may seem to keep anything from happening at OEV. In actual practice they do

want a good program at OEV. When there is a hitch, find out what the real problem is and solve it.

3. Do not let them close you on Mondays. Almost 20% of the people attending your programs come on Monday. If the State closed its operation Monday and allowed you to keep your programs going you would still be faced with turning away visitors who see the museum open. I have never understood why we were asked to close on Mondays as we have always had the staff to be open.
4. Avoid adversary relationships. Use the word "we" instead of "them and "us."
5. The right to associate and petition for redress of grievances is guaranteed in the Constitution. You as friends of OEV have an opinion on how the museum is run. You have a right to make your wishes known to official in State government. If they are wise they will listen. You have a right to demand an answer and a solution to problem (See No. 1 above.) Exercise those rights.

Collectively and individually you have a perfect right to demand that OEV be run in some sensible fashion and to ask for an accounting when it is not. I think that you all have acquired the sensitivity to know what OEV is and can be and have the right to expect it. If I have done nothing else, I have done this much.

I am going to leave you now. I am not going to go very far and you will always be with me in my thoughts, as I hope I am in yours.

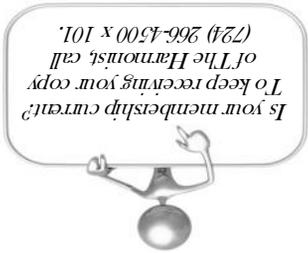
Save the Date



The Friends
of
Old Economy Village
Annual Christmas
Dinner

Saturday, December 14, 2013
Hors d'oeuvres begin at 6:00 p.m.
Feast Hall



Friends of Old Economy Village
270 Sixteenth Street
Ambridge PA 15003



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Old Economy Village is open year round
Guided Tours: Tuesday - Saturday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Sunday noon to 5 p.m.

Monday - Sunday for Group, Historic, & School Tours
with reservation
(724) 266-4500
www.oldeconomyvillage.org