

Jenkins Journal

LANSDALE, PA

OCTOBER, 2009

Revisiting Lansdale's Centennial

October 13 program recounts celebration that packed the town

The year 1972 was a turbulent time around the world. The Watergate burglary. Civil disorder in the streets. Anti-war protests as the Vietnam peace talks broke down. Black September at the Munich Olympics.

But in Lansdale there was a great coming-together, bigger than any the town had ever seen. Residents celebrated the borough's 100th birthday with a week-long bash that included parades, pageants, parties, beads and hoop shirts, and the dedication of a new high-rise building named Century Plaza.

From May 27 to June 3, thousands of civic-minded citizens temporarily diverted the flood of bad news to remember 1872, the year when a small railroad village became a full-fledged town with a government of its own.

Lansdale's Centennial Celebration of 1972 will be the subject of the society's next Community Program, Tuesday, Oct. 13, 7:30 p.m., at the Lansdale Parks and Recreation Building, Seventh St. and Lansdale Ave.

The program will be hosted by Society President Dick Shearer and former *North Penn Reporter* Chief Photographer Willard Kriebel. Shearer was an editor at the paper in 1972, and Kriebel photographed the entire week of special events.

In addition to a video presentation by photo archivist Steve Moyer, the program will also include a display of memorabilia from the Centennial celebration.

There is no admission charge to the program, but, as always, donations are greatly appreciated.

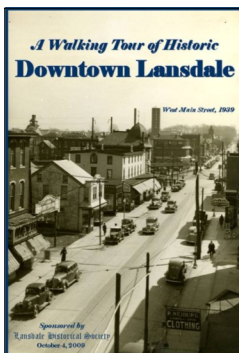


PARADES, PAGEANTS and more attracted tens of thousands of spectators.

Miss out on the walk?

Booklet, map, posters available as package

Last Sunday's successful Walking Tour of Historic Downtown Lansdale is pardon the pun – history. But for those who couldn't participate, here's a second chance to hike the route at your own pace and time.



The society is offering the 40-page tour booklet – packed with dozens of vintage photographs, a

map of the tour route, and reproductions of a dozen posters that list past and present occupants of some of Lansdale's most historic buildings.

All told, the package includes 56 pages of information about the downtown district. The cost is \$15 if purchased at the research center, or \$17.50 by mail.

The walking tour package would make a great holiday gift for out-of-town friends and relatives who still harbor memories of their old home town.

BRIEFS: November show postponed



THE JENKINS HOMESTEAD

Jenkins Homestead and Historical Research Center

• 137 Jenkins Ave., Lansdale, PA 19446.

• **Hours:** Wednesdays, Noon to 5 p.m.; Thursdays, Noon to 5 p.m.; Saturdays, 9 a.m. to noon.

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

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

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

Please mark your calendars: The November 10 Community Program, *Staying Power: Businesses that Stood the Test of Time* has been postponed to Tuesday, December 8, 7:30 p.m. at the Lansdale Parks and Recreation Building.

Preparations for last week's Walking Tour of Downtown Lansdale and the upcoming program on the 1972 Centennial delayed research for the show on businesses. The additional month will give us a chance to get back on track.

In previous years, we have not scheduled a December program because of the Holiday History Tour and the upcoming holiday season. This year, there is no history tour and the second Tuesday of the month – our normal meeting day – falls on the 8th, 17 days before Christmas.

Merck volunteers step up

Thanks to the efforts of three Merck & Co. volunteers, the society's attics and flower beds were given some much-needed clean-up attention last month.

The trio – Kay Fiala (a member of the society), Eric Mangin and Mary Beth Young relocated dozens of boxes filled with books and memorabilia in preparation for the installation of a new archival system. They also cleared weeds from our ground cover areas and gave the windows and doors an overdue

cleaning. They were part of a large contingent of volunteers that participated in the Penn United Way's "Day of Caring".

Board of Trustees to meet

The final 2009 meeting of the society's Board of Trustees will be held Wednesday, Dec. 2, 3 p.m. at the Research Center. Any member of the organization is invited to attend our board meetings.

Digital project finally under way

After a series of fits and starts, the long-awaited digital preservation project is finally getting started.

After a training session involving the manufacturer's training and support company, a number of our members are becoming familiar with the process of copying newspapers, maps and other printed matter. Those participating in the project include Steve Moyer, Clarence Kinsey, Phil Miller, Don Groff, Ray Walton and Frank Krimm.

Other members who are interested in helping out should contact Steve or Clarence.

And finally, our apologies...

...for this abbreviated edition of *the Jenkins Journal*. The time consumed preparing for the walking tour and the Centennial program amounted to more than we expected. A full edition of the newsletter will be forthcoming in November. Keep up with the society's activities at our Website, www.lansdalehistory.org.

Lansdale Historical Society

137 Jenkins Ave., Lansdale, PA 19446



The Jenkins Historic Complex