

BROADSIDE

Autumn 1993

THE VILLAGE OF EDINBURG

by Bernice Tantum

Bernice and Myron (Marty) Tantum have lived in Edinburg for about 40 years. They owned and ran the Edinburg general store (The Village Pantry) from 1960 to 1970. Our thanks also to the following who contributed their memories: Dorothy M. Tindall, Pauline Conover, Nellie and Al Carson, Joe and Madeline Taylor.



about forty years ago, my husband and I moved into a tiny, peaceful village called Edinburg. Its name had originally been Assunpink (or Sandpink), after the creek upon whose bank the village was located.

The name changed in the mid-1800s when the village wanted to honor a much-admired resident, who had come originally from Edinburgh in Scotland. There is no record of the details, but the legend persists.

The Assunpink banks served as a rest place on the great migration of the Lenape Indians every year to the Shore.

Arrows, grinding stones and axes are still found on the land northeast of the bridge on Old Trenton Road. Because of this, it was a favorite place for the archaeology clubs to have their "digs," according to Andy Mitchell, who owned the land. A great many relics and the remains of the Indian campfires were found.

The village of Edinburg was located at a crossroad (Old Trenton Road and Dutch Neck-Edinburg Roads). These roads were part of the stagecoach routes from the West to the Shore, and North from Trenton-Bordentown to Cranbury and on to Perth Amboy and New York City.



Edinburg general store c1933. Duke and Viola Stultz, Prop. (Donated by Bernice and Myron Tantum.)

Because of its importance, the Old Trenton Road from Mercerville to Edinburg was one of the first roads in this area to have macadam paving.

EDINBURG BUSINESSES

During the 1800s, Edinburg was a busy place. It had its own post office in the general store, several businesses, a hotel/tavern and a boarding house. The boarding house was next to the general store where Harold ("Gran'pop") Conover, father-in-law of Pauline Conover, was raised. Here he helped his mother in its operation, feeding the many "drummers" (salesmen) who boarded with them on their sales trips to the area farmers.

The General Store and Post Office

According to Woodward's History of Mercer County, 1883: "The pioneer merchant is thought to have been John T. Hutchinson, probably as early as 1820. Other general store keepers have been Marco Krakakie, Job Silvers, Lucien Britton, Richard Waddy, Israel Baldwin, Richard R. Rogers, Isaac R. Rogers, Charles R. Hutchinson, Samuel Tindall and Joseph L. Watson (1883 storekeeper)." Mr. Hohenstein, shopkeeper before the 1920s, delivered groceries to customers three times a week via horse and wagon.

The general store keeper when we came to Edinburg in the 1950s was Duke Stultz. Duke was blind from birth, but knew where everything was in the store. He could slice luncheon meats on the machine without cutting himself. He was able to make coin change, but had to trust his customers to tell him the denomination of any bills involved. His wife, Viola, also worked in the store. Duke's blindness both awed and frightened some of the store's customers.

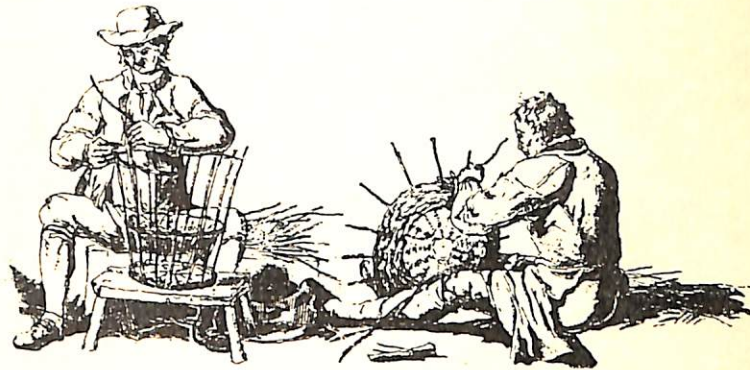
Judging from the two old gas pumps still located on the sidewalk in front of the general store (Village Pantry), the store sold gasoline, as well as food and supplies.

Woodward states, "The post office was established in 1852 with Richard R. Rogers as postmaster. The post office has, most of the time, been kept in the store. A majority of those who have occupied that building as merchants have been postmasters. Joseph L. Watson in 1883 is no exception."

In the early 1900s another grocery store was started at the corner of Dutch Neck-Edinburg and Old Trenton Roads opposite the general store. This shop later became a harness shop, which also sold tobacco and cigars. Jacob (Jake) Clayton was the shop operator. The house was occupied by the Earl Weart family before the present occupant, Newton Mount.

Basket Factories

In 1873, Absalom Hart built a shop in which he manufactured baskets. His business gradually increased until it furnished employment to five basketmakers. This business was located at the Alvin Carson residence on the Dutch Neck-Edinburg Road, just north of the general store.



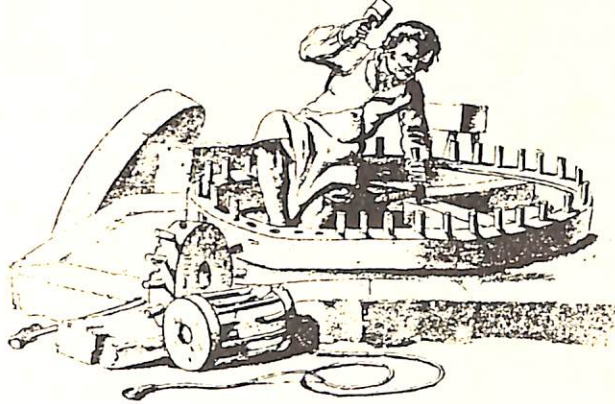
In 1874, Melvin Sailey established a similar shop in a house on Old Trenton Road, fourth house northeast of the Edinburg general store. It is believed to have been the oldest house in Edinburg Village. The house was demolished during the 1980s and replaced by a new, white, colonial style house. Both basket factories continued in business well into the 1900s.

Other Businesses

A grist mill was operated by Elison Carson located at the junction of the Robbinsville-Edinburg and Old Trenton Roads. The house was home to Jasper and Bertha Rogers for many years. The Gadekar Family lives there at present. Al Carson remembers that the property included a barn, which has long since been demolished.

At one time there was a broom factory in Edinburg. The reeds for the brooms were soaked in the bog between the hotel and the first house on the Windsor Road. Edinburg had a blacksmith shop run in an early day by Daniel Howell. David B. Hill came to the place in 1828

and carried on blacksmithing until 1870, when he was succeeded by his son, James M. Hill. Woodward lists a blacksmith shop, two basket factories and a hotel. Pauline Conover recalls a blacksmith shop operated by William Appleton, where all iron work for plowshares and wagons made it a large operation.



Wheelwright shops operated in Edinburg from time to time. In 1878, D. Frank Hill began a wheelwright business which closed five years later in 1882.

A distillery and cider plant was established by Joseph Mount near Edinburg on the Old Trenton Road. It has been said that he made nothing stronger than applejack, and after a few years, the plant was used solely for making cider. There was also a smaller cider mill operated by Amos and then John Tindall. (WWT Tercentenary booklet 1964 and Pauline Conover).

According to Pauline Conover: John W. Davis carried on a shoemaker's establishment; William Ogborn a turning

mill for turning chair parts; John Hutchinson a weaving shop which made a muslin called "all warp."

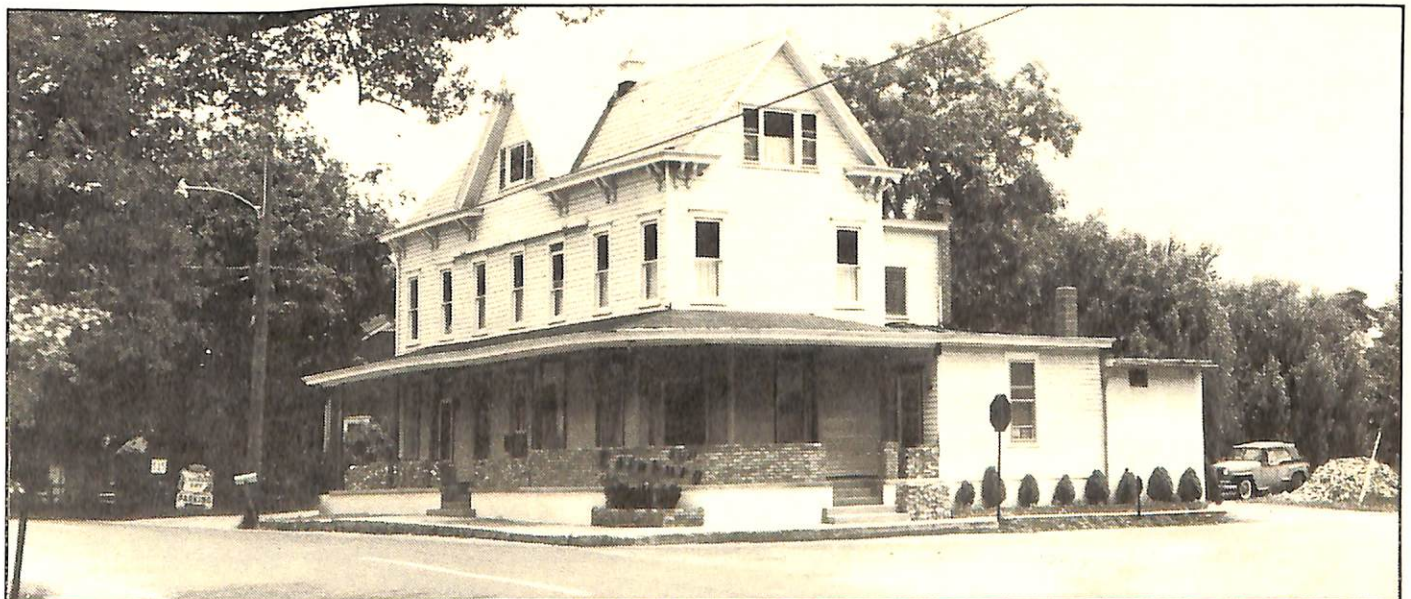
According to The Princeton Recollector, Major Voorhees operated a tanyard where farmers took their beef skins to be converted to leather for a commission of one half!

Additional businesses: Foundry between 1810-20 operated by Thomas Leonard, cooper's shop c1850 by Aaron Furman, manufacturer of boots and shoes by Absalom Hart c1860s.

Hotel/Tavern

One of the oldest landmarks in Edinburg is the former hotel/tavern (now offices) still located on the corner of Old Trenton and Windsor Roads. Tradition has it that the present building replaced one about 300 yards back along Windsor Road, which burned down to the ground in 1895. This original hotel/tavern had been built around 1751 and was in business during the American Revolution. According to Walter Carson, its appearance was similar to the Windsor Hotel and the general store in Dutch Neck, a long, low building with a front porch.

When rebuilt shortly after the fire, the Victorian style prevailed, with fancy woodwork and other Victorian details. At that time an ice house was added. The "new" hotel took advantage of traffic on Old Trenton Rd., the main straight road from Trenton to Cranbury. John H. Hutchinson is thought to have been the first hotelkeeper of the "new" hotel.



Edinburg Hotel 1962 (WWT donation - Book of photographs of all commercial signs in West Windsor Township - 1962.)

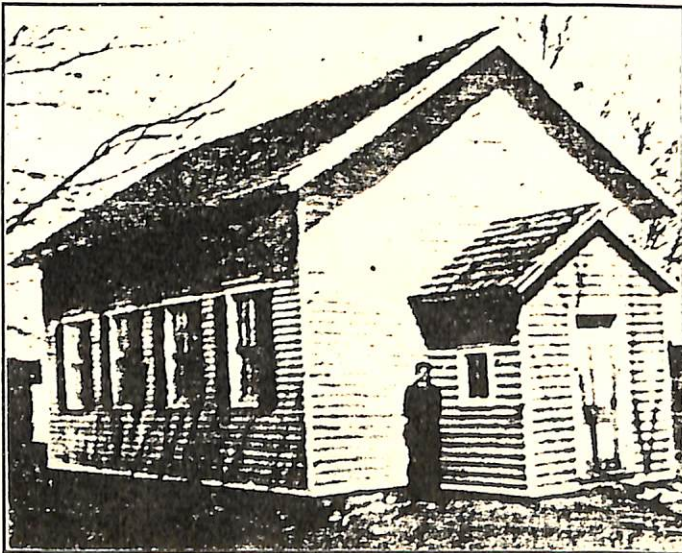
During Prohibition, the hotel was a speakeasy. Later, during the 1940s, the hotel became the base for recreational hunting weekends. People came from far and wide to shoot pheasants and other game birds raised by Bill McManus.

In the 1950s, the hotel was purchased by the Edward Bambos and the Zmudas, who renovated the building inside and out. The upper floors were gutted and made into living quarters with a two-story cathedral ceiling. The hotel was now a tavern only. At about that time, Bernice Tantom painted murals with a colonial theme on the walls of the tavern.

SCHOOLS AND CHURCHES

Old maps show a schoolhouse on Old Trenton Rd. In 1964, the building was owned by the village barber, Benjamin Carlucci. When Mr. Carlucci built another house on the property, there was no need for the school and it was torn down. The property at present houses The Pet Veterinary Clinic and Hospital.

Newel Tantom, Myron (Marty) Tantom's father was a student at the Edinburg school. Frank Rogers, another Edinburg student, donated the photo of the school shown below. (c1900).



Edinburg school c1900, Old Trenton Rd. (Courtesy of Frank Rogers)

There was no church located in Edinburg itself. Churchgoers went either to the Presbyterian church in Dutch Neck, the Methodist church in Windsor or the Hamilton Square Baptist Church.

EDINBURG FAMILIES

The Tindalls: Grandma Tindall (Mrs. George Tindall) was the social leader and standard setter of Edinburg. She fostered good manners and championed learning with her excellent library and interesting conversation. She was long-time resident Dorothy M. Tindall's mother-in-law. The Tantums also became part of the Edinburg family when Pat Tindall, Dorothy's daughter, married Stanley Tantom, Myron's cousin.

George Tindall's sister, Eva Tindall Hill, was mother of Madeline Hill Taylor. Madeline married Joe Taylor, who drove the school bus in the early 1930s. During spring when unpaved roads became muddy quagmires, the young Edinburg pupils, such as Andy Mitchell and the Keris boys, would get out and push.

The Mounts: Another Edinburg neighbor was Mrs. Vera Mount, mother of Newton and Victor. The big farm house across from The Sweater Barn on the Windsor-Edinburg Road was called "The Mount Farm." It is an old Edinburg family home, which appears on an 1849 map under the name Mount.

The Saileys were a long-time Edinburg family: Mrs. Hazel Sailey and husband Willard "Bunk" Sailey was also known as the "Mayor of Edinburg". Their children were Ada and Melvin. Mr. Sailey's great niece, Janet, is now married to Victor Mount and lives in Edinburg.

HISTORIC HOUSES IN EDINBURG

One of the oldest houses in the Edinburg area is now located in Mercer County Park: the 1761 John Rogers House, which is on the National Register of Historic Places.

Many of the former businesses mentioned above were built in part during the 18th century, with 19th century additions. Most of these are now residences and include the three houses on either side of the Edinburg Road, along Old Trenton Rd.; the hotel and two houses next to it on the Old Trenton Rd. and one house north of the parking lot of the Village Pantry on the Edinburg Road. (Mercer County Historical Sites Survey, Mercer County Cultural and Heritage Commission and Office of N. J.

Heritage, N. J. Dept. of Environmental Protection, 1988, prepared by Susanne C. Hand, assisted by Robert W. Craig.



View of the 1761 Rogers house today, in Mercer County park.

TRAFFIC

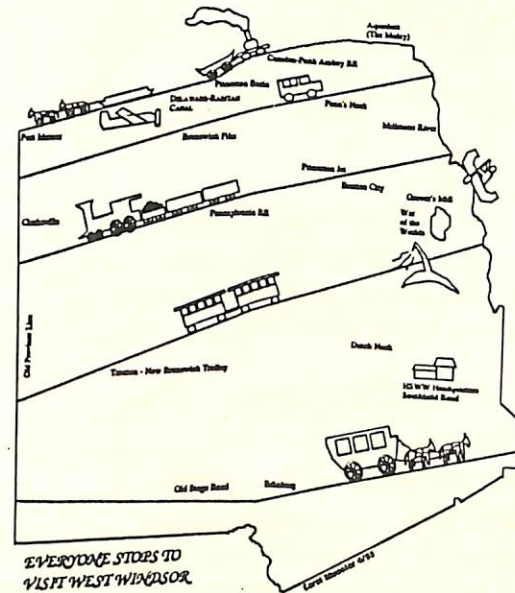
The fuss in 1991 about the Edinburg bypass is not new. Forty years ago, Walter Carson (Al Carson's father) told me that the powers-that-be were going to widen the road right through my living room on Old Trenton Road! We are still waiting for a solution to our traffic bottleneck.

Edinburg, like Chicago, was a "bustling town." However, if we ever get rid of the traffic bottleneck, Edinburg will again become a little peaceful village, once an important center for the farming community around it. ❖

HS OF WW TEE SHIRT

Sales of the HS of WW tee shirt, designed by Carol Silvester, are booming. The shirts have the HS of WW logo in an oval on the front and a map of West Windsor, showing transportation routes, on the back (shown below). Colors include red, green and blue with white ink; teal with purple ink; purple with green ink; and black and navy blue with grey ink. Sizes are: Medium, Large, and XLarge. We also have tees in toddler's size. Shirts are \$10 each.

The shirts will be available at our Flea Market, September 18th, as well as at our Holiday House Tour, December 12th. In the mean time, you can obtain shirts from Kay Reed at the West Windsor Township offices. ❖



IN MEMORIAM

It is with great sadness that we report the untimely death of one of our founders, Carol Lee Silvester, in an automobile accident on May 18.

Carol was president of the Society in 1985 and 1986 and vice president/secretary the other 8 years of our existence. She was also treasurer of the Historical Associations of Central Jersey.

The Silvester Family has donated a pine tree in Carol's memory which has been planted on the grounds of the Zaitz-Schenck House.

We extend our deepest sympathy to the Silvester Family on behalf of the Society and its members.

10TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION!



Despite the 90 degree heat, about 100 people, from three months old to over 80, celebrated with us at the Zaitz-Schenck House, Saturday, June 19th.

The barbershop quartet, "The Princetones" (pictured above, left) sang, explained four-part harmony, and led a singalong. The group, which donated their time and talents to us, was greatly appreciated.

Wayne Kalinowski of Windsor Farms donated his time and tractor-pulled haywagon to give children-of-all-ages a long ride all around the field between the Zaitz-Schenck House and Old Trenton Road (above, right).

As a surprise, Jack Flood and Bob Murray presented Max Zaitz and his family with a plaque of appreciation upon their donation of the 117 acres (including the Zaitz-Schenck House), which will be named Zaitz Park.

Cliff Reed, Bernt Midland and Malcolm Roszel grilled the chicken and hot dogs, while Kay Reed, Joan Parry, Lolly Dey, Lillian Coleman and Marilyn Wilson served salads, beverages and desserts. Charlotte Goldstein did such a good job enlisting bakers we were able to have an impromptu bake sale at the end of the event, adding to our

profits. Beverages were generously donated by Halo Farms of Trenton.

Marjorie Heyman, assisted by daughter Sarah, entertained the younger set with games and activities throughout the afternoon.

We mustn't forget all those who worked during the day: Anneliese Midland and Shirlee Bleacher who took the first shift of reservations; Frank Updike who took over for the rest of the afternoon. Jeanette Flickinger and Diane Rogers sold tee shirts, toys and all but one "talking animal," Peg Roszel and Jay Silvester continued the good work. Jay also minded the HS of WW exhibit. Donald Schenck, Keith Reed, Gordon Keith and Jim Ruch tended to the parking. The Society is fortunate to have such good workers as members.

Bernt Midland, of course, taped the key portions of the event for posterity (and Channel 52) and lots of still photos went into our HS of WW Album.

Thanks to all who helped make it a wonderful celebration! Whatever will we do to top it on our 20th? ❖

GIFTS TO THE SOCIETY

We haven't had room in a Broadside since 1991 to list all the donations the Society has received. We are extremely grateful to all our donors for items that will add immeasurably to our library, research and exhibit material.

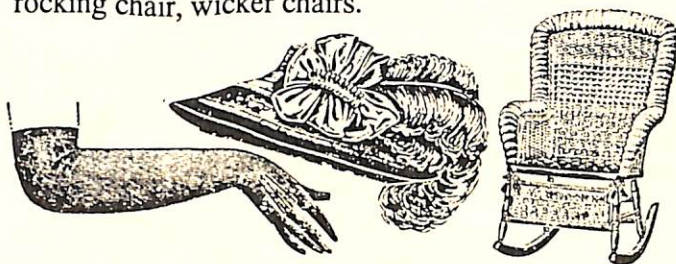
CLOTHING: **Hannah Tindall** has donated her 1890 family wedding dress, veil and headpiece; **Pauline Conover** - adult and child dresses, gloves; **Dorothy Tindall** - ostrich feathers, beaded evening bag, eye-glasses in case; **Mrs. LaMont Haggerty** - 1930s hand-bag; **Pat Tindall Tantum** - four dresses 1960s; **Carol Koehn** - 1920s style green velvet dress; **Annabelle Jantz** - fur pieces; also veteran's memorial U. S. flag.

PHOTOGRAPHS AND RESEARCH MATERIAL:

Bernice & Myron Tantum - photo of Edinburg general store, painting by William Priory and bottles from the Edinburg hotel; **Charles & Frances Raleigh** - 8 copies of the 1964 West Windsor Tercentenary booklet; **Luci & Ed DiPolvere** - posters and program from 1976 Lions Club Bicentennial event and 1977 Community picnic; **David Axelrod** - "War of the Worlds" phonograph record; **Ruth Finkelstein** - post cards of Plainsboro and

Dutch Neck School; **Dorothy Tindall** - post card "Walking around the Block," books: "Laws of NJ" 1880, Gifford's Statutory Constructions 1852.

FURNITURE AND ART: **The Contemporary Club (via Violet Cox)** - Oriental rug for double parlor of Zaitz-Schenck House; folding tables and chairs; **Peter Weale** - store display cases; **Annabelle Jantz** - quilt frame, household items; **Pala Zaitz Mosteller** - braided rug; **Martha Redi** - pewter porringer, creamer and sugar bowl; **Ann Blyman** - Framed picture "The Bog" 1930; **Beulah H. Faccini, Helen H. Sullivan, Marjorie H. Gattel** - painting of Niagara Falls 1914; **Mary Durkee** - 2 dovetail dining room chairs, 2 card table chairs, rocking chair, wicker chairs.



FARM EQUIPMENT: **Max Zaitz** - Oxbow yoke, two-man saw, potato scale, veterinarian medicine and hypodermic needle; **F. W. Suttmeir** - horse drawn cultivator, horse drawn scoop-excavator. ❖

BECOME A MEMBER!

1993-94

Join the Historical Society of West Windsor and get involved in our efforts to document and preserve the history of our community. Your benefits include a year's subscription to Broadside, discounts on our events and a great feeling of satisfaction! Send this form and your check to:

The Historical Society of West Windsor • P.O. Box 38
Princeton Jct., NJ 08550 • Attn: Kay Reed, Treasurer

Please check the appropriate box:

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☐ SINGLE MEMBERSHIP \$8/year
☐ FULL-TIME STUDENT MEMBERSHIP .. \$5/year
☐ SENIOR CITIZEN MEMBERSHIP \$5/year
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 Representative)..... \$25/year

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

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Additional Donation \$ _____

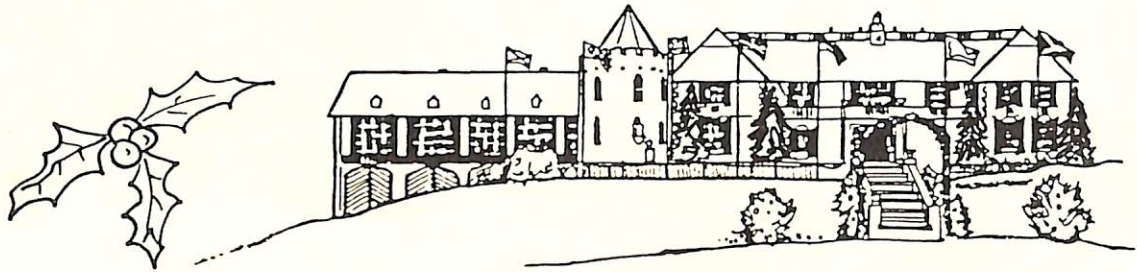
Amount Enclosed \$ _____

UPCOMING EVENTS

Our 10th year will include two more fund-raising events: On Saturday, September 18th (note date has been changed), we will hold a Flea Market at the Zaitz-Schenck House from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. A form for reserving space at the flea market is included with this newsletter.

We are hoping for contributions to sell at our flea market table. Please ask your friends and family also for tax-deductible donations. Donations may be brought to the Zaitz-Schenck House. Phone Mary or Warren Schenck at 799-1278 to arrange for them to unlock the house for you.

The "Castle" will once again be the site of our Holiday House Tour on Sunday, December 12th, from 1 to 5 p.m. We will need members to act as Room Guides and to help with the refreshments. Those of you who have participated in other Tours know it is a fun event, so if you are willing and able, phone Joan Parry at 452-8598 and volunteer your services. Hope to see you then! ❖



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