



# The Herald

Summer  
2005

*Hark the happenings of Historic Langhorne Association*

160 West Maple Ave., Langhorne, PA 19047 215-757-1888 <http://hla.buxcom.net>

***HLA is Open***  
**Wednesdays 10am-12pm**  
**7-9pm**  
**Saturdays 10am-12pm**  
**Other hours by appointment**  
**Admission is free**

### Computer Fund Update

From member Larry Langhans

The Board of Directors and all the volunteers at Historic Langhorne want to thank everyone who has contributed to the Computer Fund. We have met with more success than we had ever imagined. To date \$3645 has been donated. This combined with the \$2000 from our matching donor, we now have a total of \$5645 with which to purchase new computers and other items to help in the preservation our past. As previously mentioned, a Dell laptop computer has already been purchased along with a printer to be used in inventorying the archives and to take our material out to the public. We have also purchased a DVD burner for our existing Gateway computer that, thanks to Charlie Lauble, was loaded with scanned documents and photographs. The burner has allowed us to backup all of those hours of work on one disc. Up to this point, we were fearful that that sole computer would crash and all the work would be lost.

We have also purchased a large-scale copier/scanner/printer to scan larger items. A wireless router was donated by Sue Wolbert of Newtown. Jim Maier and Charlie Lauble have spent many hours setting up the system.

What we need now are volunteers with some typing skill to enter inventory information into a database. The system is very simple and can be learned very easily. If you have an hour or two a month and would like to help, stop by HLA any Wednesday or Saturday morning or Wednesday evening.

The following are additional donors whose names did not appear in the last newsletter: Jim Flannery, Ruth Irwin  
Phil and Debbie Miele

### **HLA TO CLOSE!**

Well, not quite! For the past several years, a small, dedicated staff of volunteers has been keeping HLA open. Jean Noble, Jim Maier, Charlie Lauble, Evelyn Aicher and Larry Langhans have faithfully been keeping the doors open Wednesday mornings and evenings and Saturday mornings for the many visitors who stop by. Without them, HLA would not be open. Other Board members work very hard behind the scenes. We need helpers to come in during visitation hours to greet visitors and help out with the workload which has greatly increased with the many activities and programs. More volunteers could also allow us to be open additional days. Consider spending a morning or evening or two a month at HLA to lend a hand and learn some fascinating history. Stop by any time. You will certainly be welcomed!



*Member Nancy Pietsch has shared her hat pin collection with us. Nancy has been collecting hat pins for about 40 years. To this date, she has 59 hat pins. Her oldest hat pin dates back to 1799. Most of the hat pins date back to the late 1800's to the early 1900's. Hat pins were very necessary to balance the sometimes large, extravagant hats en vogue during the turn of the century. Nancy also has some from the 1950's & 1960's.*

Would you have an hour or two available once a month or better yet, once a week? HLA would love for you to volunteer for us with data entry. We're very friendly here so, stop by, meet new people and learn something in the process....

## TEACHERS AND STUDENTS VISIT HLA

*A community update from Larry Langhans*

During the months of May and June, groups of students and teachers from the Neshaminy School District visited HLA as part of a walking tour of historic Langhorne, organized by Lynn Wallace. Charlie Lauble presented programs on the history and schools in the area using photographs and maps from our collections. Charlie, who has spent hours scanning maps, articles and photographs, used a computer to project the images. Groups of students from Neshaminy Middle School first attended the program, followed by the teachers from the school. In June, four classes from the Oliver Heckman Elementary School also visited HLA as part of their walking tour of Langhorne. The programs proved so popular that two additional teacher tours for the entire district were organized as part of a summer workshop program. Thanks to Charlie, hundreds of students and teachers in the Neshaminy district have learned about Langhorne's history and about HLA. When was the last time YOU visited HLA? Stop in any Wednesday morning or evening or Saturday morning. What! You say these times are not convenient! See the article "HLA TO CLOSE" on page one.

# 20<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL SUPPER

## TURKEY

BENEFIT



### Langhorne Fire Co. No. 1

## SUNDAY, NOV. 21, 1948

### At Fire House

1230 P. M. TO 6 P. M.

Adults \$1.50

Children 75c

## Acquisition of Wells Family Account Books

When lifelong resident of Langhorne Ralph Wells passed away a while ago, his daughter, Linda Osterhout donated a collection of more than 100 items to HLA. Members of the Wells family had been masons and builders in Langhorne for generations and among the collection were 39 account books dating back to 1845. As many of these account books are fragile, we have purchased special covers and boxes to store them. Each book was hand written, containing records for a year or two of the various jobs and workers for Gilbert R. and Harvey G. Wells. The names of many citizens were listed as having work done, which included plastering cellars, lining wells and cesspools. In addition, the Wells had the contract to repair county bridges that were listed by name.

Harvey Wells' account book from 1888 - 1889 contained many interesting entries that included work on the library, which is now the headquarters of Historic Langhorne Association, building kilns at the Langhorne Brickyard and the "brickyard house," located at the corner of Richardson and Hulmeville Avenues. Until now, the owners of that house had thought it to have been built later, but the Wells book confirms its date of construction.

Some other items in the collection included:

- 3 County and State tax notices dated 1892, 1893, 1894.
- An 8 X 9 ¼ sheet of papers with hand drawn plans for a "house to be built on the Gilbert R. Wells lot opposite the Brick Yard." (The house was never built!)
- "Landlord's Notice" dated December 31, 1889 to Mr. Joseph Wall telling him that G. R. Wells wants to regain possession of his property at the end of the term, First day of April, 1890.
- A list of building materials and their costs from A. Schellinger, Builder's Mill Work, Trenton, N.J., March 8, 1888. (Could this have been material for the library?)
- Langhorne Spring Water Company Permit "to have a supply of water." July 19, 1890.
- A handwritten letter from the Langhorne Spring Water Company to Mr. Gilbert Wells asking him to put in a bid for doing the mason work on the engine house.
- A postcard of the Langhorne Gas Works.
- A postcard of Helen Gumper & Ralph Wells in Tom Thumb Wedding.
- A postcard of Longshore's Old Coal Yard on the P.R.R.
- A postcard of Langhorne Borough Hall under construction.
- A postcard of Decoration Day showing G.A.R. (Grand Army of the Republic) entering the Methodist Cemetery (Pre World War I)

This material is a wonderful addition to our archives and will be of great use for people researching their homes. We thank Linda Osterhout and her family for donating it to us!

Be sure to visit HLA during the month of October as we exhibit many photographs and information on past businesses in Langhorne. Below is a small sampling of what we have in our computer archives.

Thursday, October 26, 1950

*Delaware Valley  
Advance*

## Girls Young Women

### EXCELLENT JOB OPPORTUNITIES

IN  
LANGHORNE

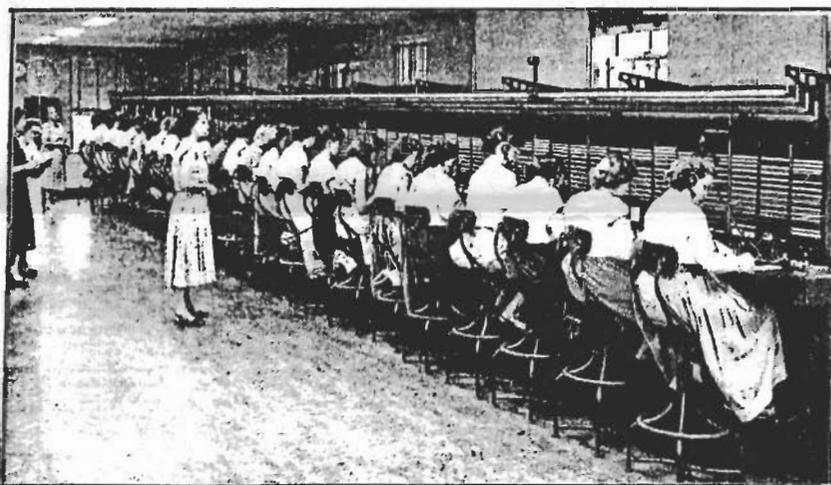
STARTING RATES AS HIGH AS  
\$33.00 FOR A 5-DAY WEEK. FRE-  
QUENT INCREASES AND OTHER  
WAGE COMPENSATIONS.

Call  
**Miss Golden**  
Norristown Official

for an appointment  
for an interview.

THE BELL TELEPHONE  
COMPANY OF  
PENNSYLVANIA

10-26-1f



Do you remember the old Bell Telephone building that once stood on the lot next to the current Verizon building at 149 N. Bellevue Ave.? (above right) It was said there were about 80 operators per shift that worked in the old building. The building was built in the 1920's, and the photo is from 1947. The new Verizon building was built in 1973 and the old building was torn down. The photo to the right shows some of the operators working, circa 1951.



This gas station was located on Maple Ave. on the west side of the Langhorne Hotel where the addition was added. This is where the term 'curb side service' came from, as the gas pumps of the time were located between the sidewalk & the street curb, and cars would pull up to the curb to get gas. This station was here when Maple Ave. was the Lincoln Hwy. (road from NY to San Francisco) from 1915-1923, and served its traffic until the highway was moved to South Langhorne, now Pennndel.

## *Coming Attractions for 2005 Brought to you by HLA*

### Monday, September 26, General Meeting- 7:30pm

#### **'A Voyage aboard the Gazella'**

Join us for this informative and entertaining evening as Chris Blaydon presents a slide show of his adventures aboard the tall ship Gazella. Chris was a crew member on the ship that sailed from Philadelphia to New England.

#### **Ghost Tour 2005 - runs through October**

Times and dates will be posted in the next newsletter.

Join us for our 3rd annual guided ghost walk through Langhorne borough as we recount some spiritual stories of our old town. Both believers & non-believers welcome, and our tour guides will make a believer out of you! FYI-the tour will differ from last year.

Tickets and reservations are necessary and this info in our next newsletter.

#### **Langhorne Businesses of Bygone Days—on exhibit through October**

Be sure to visit us during the month of October as we present an exhibit of our town's businesses that are all but a memory. We will have many old photos on display that you may remember or learn something new.

#### **Thursday, November 17, Holiday House Tour 2005, 11am-8pm**

Welcome the holiday season as HLA is part of the annual house tour. Come see the magic created by our volunteers and start your holiday shopping at our gift shop!

#### **December, Santa Visit & Carol Sing**

Information on these events will be in our next newsletter.

Have you seen our web site lately? You'll be amazed at all the information and photos available to view. We know you'll learn something new about Langhorne. Our web address is <http://hla.buxcom.net/>, or just search: **Historic Langhorne Association.** It will be time well spent.

## Historic Langhorne Association's 2005 Officers and Committee

### Members

President- Jim Maier  
Vice President- Larry Langhans  
Treasurer- Jack Fulton  
Recording Secretary- Evelyn Aicher  
Corresponding Secretary- S. Marrington

Technology- C. Lauble & Jim Maier  
Artifacts- Evelyn Aicher & Ruth Irwin  
Publicity- Diane Villano  
Hostess- Nancy Pietsch  
Archives- Larry Langhans & Jim Maier  
HLA Gift Shop- E. Aicher & Judy Sloan  
Finance- Jack Fulton  
Genealogy- Beverlee Felkner  
Holiday House- Open  
Library- Jean Noble  
Membership- Jack Fulton  
Newsletter- Sally Marrington  
Oral History- Open  
Programs- Joy Ward  
Property- Charles Lauble  
Sun Shine- Nancy Pietsch  
Ways and Means- Jean Noble  
Ghost Tours- Jim Maier  
Grant Advisor- Kathy Horwatt  
House Plaques- Judy Sloan  
Landscaping- Joy Ward  
Tea- Lynda Johnson