

Oct. 9, 2013

TOURING SULLIVAN COUNTY'S MUSEUM ... while dusting

An acquisition recently came in from John Pittock that he obtained at a local estate auction. It was the LaMunsonor Eagle yearbook of 1937 from the Davidson Township High School of Sonestown. It starts right out with the forward being of interest for this third volume of the "Eagle" endeavoring "to bring to you a complete record of the activities, accomplishments, and pastimes of our school life during the school year, 1936-1937. We, in doing this, have recognized the great need for pictorial illustration; so throughout the book, in both theme and content we have endeavored to satisfy this demand. The basis of our work is a sincere hope that these pages will succeed in recalling the real spirit of Sonestown High School. Chester Swisher, Editor. Woodrow Snyder, Business Manager. H. Carleton Hess, Sponsor."

The book is divided into sections, starting with the board of directors and then the teachers listed by departments or grades. Then, starting with the Seniors, goes through the grades. The interesting thing is the photos in each section. The pages themselves are of a smooth, thin construction like paper and the photos for students remind one more of the kind you'd get from an instant candid photo booth, where you jump in, pull the curtain across and the result is a strip of multiple images. In virtually every case, these photos had to be re-put onto the pages after each page was cleaned from the damaged caused by the glue that affixed them. Then the very back of the book will have all the advertising of local businesses. But, here's the most interesting thing we found about the year book: the section entitled "Alumni". It starts with 1906 and goes through to 1936 for past graduates. Only two are listed for 1906. They are; Lela Buck, Housework, Newberry, Pa. and Vera Buck, Mrs. Tracy Laurenson, Pottsville, Pa. Occupations are listed for unmarried women and men, whereas married women are listed as Mrs. With the husband's name. And the occupations themselves are of interest also. They include clerk, farmer, teacher, minister, machinist, electrician, funeral director, mechanic, dentist, mayor, railroad worker, auto agent, store manager, business, laborer, banker, contractor, shop worker, salesman, at home, chemist, garage work, principal, advertiser, road worker, merchant, chain store, hotel worker, hotel manager, cook, nurse, surveyor, clerk, waitress, trailer driver, news paper worker, factory, highway worker, C.C.C. camp, dairy, timekeeper, Navy, furniture factory worker, foreman, Army, Dickinson Seminary and housework. Because this listing covers thirty years, the gamut of livelihoods is very often quite different from any that we would list today. But, that same difference can give us insight into the past.

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The attached photo: These three seniors from Sonestown H.S. 1937 are Sara Eddy of Laporte, Warren Feister of Sonestown and Maurice Fulmer of North Mountain.

