
OUR HERITAGE

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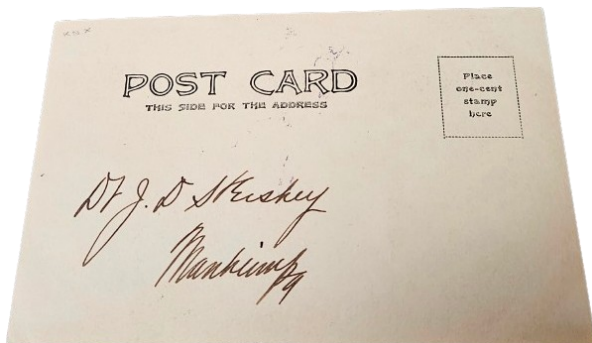
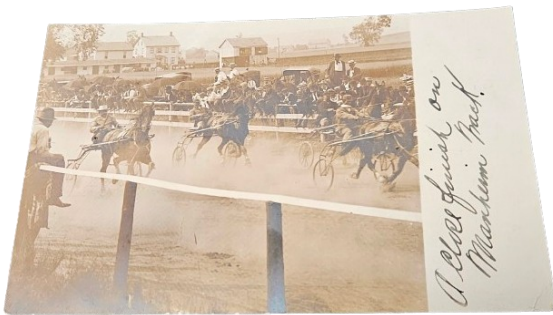


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"A close finish on Manheim Track."

The 1907-10 period postcard shows a race track that at one time existed east of Manheim. The back of the card bears the name of Dr. J. D. Hershey whose property was located at 17 South Main Street. At the rear of the doctor's property was a large barn that served as his horse stable. Also, across from the stable, along South Wolfe Street, Dr. Hershey maintained a horse corral.



The track opened on August 30, 1888. It had a one and one-half mile race rack, beyond the railroad tracks on the East High Street. The track, the sheds and the grandstand were located east of Hostetter's Brick Yard. Twenty one horses had been entered for the various contests on opening day. The town assumed a gala appearance and most of the shops and factories were closed for the afternoon.

At noon the trains brought in a large number of people, and from all directions vehicles of all descriptions came flocking in, their occupants being anxious to see the coming events of the afternoon. The Liberty Band had preceded the large concourse of people to the park, while Citizens' Band repaired to the railroad, and after the arrival of trains, came marching up South Prussian Street, (Main Street) thence to the Park, enlivening this portion of the town with their choice of music. It was estimated that from twelve to fourteen hundred people were present.

On one occasion the spectators and band joined in a chase across the field of a crooked gambler. When the band members returned one of the members was dismayed to find that his horn had been stepped upon and crushed by an enthusiastic member of the posse, while leaving the grandstand.

William Bare of York was the financier, helped by local stock owners. They had trotting horse races, pacing horse races, running horse races, bicycle races and foot races. The train from Lebanon to this Borough used to stop at the East High Street crossing to unload the passengers from Lebanon and points between. Decoration Day and Fourth of July were highlights of the year. Quite a few horsemen from the Borough and nearby points bought horses that looked as if they might have racing talents. Some horses made well, others failed. There were quite a few horserace trainers in town for a few years and they reaped a splendid harvest at the expense of the local owners. There was a big grandstand at the track and stabling for many horses. There was quite a time when John Apple's horse, Purdy, and Joseph Bakers' roan stallion, used to race with the Apple horse always the winner by a narrow margin.

Hidden For Many Years

The tin cookie cutters pictured in this article were found in an old tin container, when a family in Elizabethtown, Pa. (Arthur G. Spickler) was preparing to sell items at auction. The cutters were from Mr. Spickler's grandmother, Mrs. Aaron Good. They are 5 of 20 old and unused cookie cutters sold at auction on Sept. 20, 1979. The rabbit cookie cutter is dated, which is a rarity. The rabbit cutter also bears the initials of the tinsmith but they are undecipherable.



4³/₈ x 6



3⁷/₈ x 6⁵/₈ & dated 1898



6⁵/₈ x 2³/₄, Man In The Moon



8³/₄ x 4¹/₄



5¹/₈ x 4¹/₈