

East Falls Past--March Happenings

The Fallser, March 2007, by Wendy Moody

Here's what was happening during March in Falls in years past:

March 3, 1916 – What a change there has been in the reading of newspapers since before the Civil War broke out. At that time the late James Mills owned what was then known as the Ledger route which took in the territory between School Lane and Islington Lane and from the river to the township line. The Public Ledger was the principal paper and had but four pages, as had the Inquirer, Press and German Democrat. Mr. Mills had a store on Ridge Avenue opposite Calumet Street. He kept a horse stabled in the rear end of the cellar of the ten-pin alley next to the store and drove in a wagon every morning to Third and Chestnut for the daily supply of papers.

Chronicle

March 14, 1935 – On this date, an article appeared that recalled colorful figures in Falls around the time of the Civil War. They included: **George Eldridge**, principal of the old Forest School, who organized a volunteer company of militia during the Civil War with **John Dobson**, internationally known textile manufacturer as captain; **Bill Stehle** who baked delicious coffee cakes; **William Lawson** who was Falls' first letter carrier, **George Arnold** who was an expert on Brussels carpet at Dobson Mills; **William Griffith Morrison**, a marble cutter and letterer of tombstones; **Joe Evans**, owner of the Fountain Park Hotel in Falls, who had a large pet elk which, on one occasion, became vicious and attacked his mother-in-law, severely injuring the old lady, and **Dr. John Conry**, a militia captain, who used a large poster of Jenny Lind at the Fountain Park Hotel for target practice for his Jackson Rifles

Suburban Press

March 5, 1986 - Mayor Wilson Goode will make an appearance at St. Bridget School, on Friday, March 14. According to Sr. St. Herman, Principal, the Mayor will visit in observance of Catholic Schools Week. *The Review*

March 17, 1993 – City Council and Mayor Rendell arrived at an agreement that would keep Falls of Schuylkill Library, and nine others slated for curtailed hours, open a full 37 hours a week. The Friends of Falls of Schuylkill Library, as well as the Coalition of Friends Groups, lobbied intensively to keep the branches open, organizing highly visible



rallies. Councilman Michael Nutter attended a rally at the Falls Library and told them he supported their position. *The Review*