

"LAST CELEBRATIONS OF SUMMER"

Oh what a joyous outdoor day Saturday, September 16th was for those lucky enough to live in the Levittown area! Not only was it the 65th birthday celebration of our beloved Levittown community but it was also the 330th honoring of the Bolton Mansion in the Holly Hill section.

The weather was a perfect sunny day and the countless activities drew what seemed like hundreds of families to come out and join the fun. Not only was there delicious- looking outdoor cooking, an inflatable bounce house, face-painting, balloon- twisted animals, but also pony rides, a firetruck to explore, and many games of fun. On a safety note, there were law officers there making young children's I.D. cards by taking their photos, fingerprints, and information. Their parents looked very pleased about it.

It was fun to see a young 7-year old boy named Town Secoda, dressed in a police uniform, cap and all, riding around the property in a child-size Porsche Convertible. I couldn't resist taking his picture, especially when he held up what looked like real handcuffs. He told me that he would like to be a police officer someday. Before I walked away, he asked if I would keep my eyes open for any troublesome people and to let him know if I found any. I reassured him that I most certainly would.

I was mostly happy to be there that day with Levittown's well-known Historian, S. David Marable. He had another new exhibit from his monumental collection of original community memorabilia. On this special occasion, his exhibit was dedicated to first generations of Levittown and Fairless Hills residents, as well his own family who enjoyed visiting Levittown.

To preserve most of his original artifacts, Dave attaches copies to pressboard and cardboard covered with acid-free film for many exhibits. Many visitors on Saturday especially enjoyed seeing 13 boards of pages from the first Levittown and Fairless Hills phone directory, showing names of original homeowners from 1951-1953. Why, you may ask? Because they were able to find names of their friends and relatives who once lived there! At Dave's request, they happily signed their own name beside the family and friend listings they were able to find. Dave originally lived in Willowood and my family in Cobalt Ridge, so we both enjoyed reminiscing with many of the Levittowners. (Two of them brought Dave some of their original memorabilia, with one family even driving home to retrieve their artifact and bringing it back that very afternoon.)

By the way, few people are aware of how the directory was designed; a section by last names, a section by addresses, and another section with family names, employers, jobs, etc. Obviously, it was a much different world than we live in today.

Some of our Historian's other items on display, were Levittown maps, items representing Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts, 50-60 local postcards of churches, buildings, the Shopping Center, as well photos of people in the community. There was even a sample of a stamped piece of wood from the frame of an original Levittown home. I found them all fascinating. Happily for me, Dave also displayed a poster-size five-page story I recently wrote for him, entitled "Levittown's 65th Birthday-A Labor of Love for David Marable".

The time this special day went amazingly fast as Dave starting taking down his wonderful display (as always, in an organized manner).

Before leaving, he told me that he was happy that people came and enjoyed seeing a lot of artifacts and memorabilia that they could relate to and keep in their memories.

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