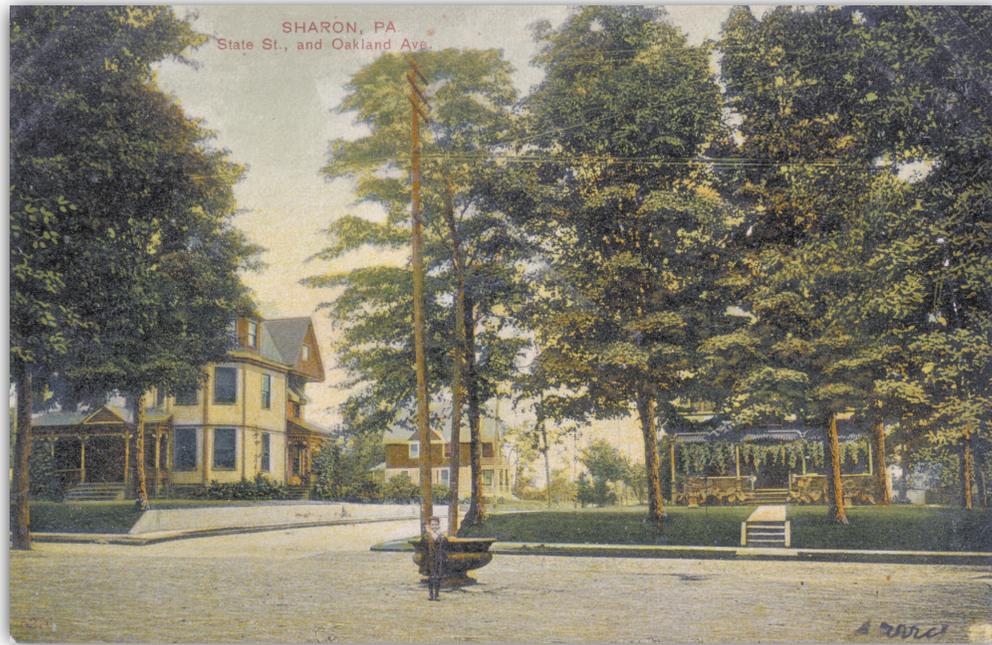



**NOW
&
AND THEN**


John Zavinski of Hermitage is a deltiologist – a collector of postcards – and illustrates historic local images here with modern views of the same scene. He is director of graphics and technology for *The Herald* newspaper and design director for *Life & Times* magazine. Contact him at jzavinski@sharonherald.com or 724-981-6100 ext. 235.



A child stands in front of a large urn/trough at East State Street and Oakland Avenue in Sharon in this 1907 postcard. The view is looking southeast toward the viaduct. The house on the right is the Daffin's parking lot today.

A pair of postcard mysteries

By John Zavinski

AFTER THREE DECADES HERE in my adopted town, I'm proud that I've become quite fluent in Shenango Valley history, particularly in what used to be where.

Collecting and studying postcards has sharpened my skills. Nonetheless, a few views have lingering mysteries. In the two cases here, it's not where they were but what happened to objects pictured.

The first is a large urn presumably for watering horses that stood in Sharon at East State Street and Oakland Avenue, near the top of Silver Street. A war monument stands there now, erected in September 1934. While bicycling on back streets a few years ago I stumbled upon what appears to be the same urn, centered in a curvy triangle of grass in the intersection of Wengler Avenue and King Street, just south of the Shenango Valley Freeway.

The mystery: Is this the same urn? How did it end up there? What possessed someone to mount a modern streetlight pole through the center?

Bill Cowen of



Mercer Co. Historical Society

This old photograph shows the size of the urn at State and Oakland where a war monument now stands.

Sharon tells me a similar urn/horse trough once stood at the foot of the West Hill at West State and Irvine. I've seen an aerial of Sharon from the early 1930s (before the original, two-lane Pine Hollow Boulevard) with my mystery urn clearly at Wengler already.

The other postcard mystery: What happened to an honor roll of local service members that stood in Herald Square in downtown Sharon during World War II?

My guess: It started to weather after the war and wound up forgotten in some vets' club basement.

It was in Herald Square in front of the now-demolished Elks Lodge, which today would be behind the Huntington Bank tower at Shenango Avenue and Pitt Street.

So contact me (e-mail and phone number are below my picture) if you can shed some light on these or have postcard mysteries of your own.



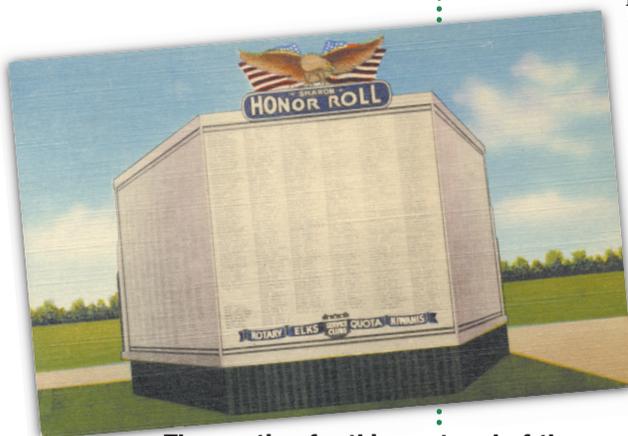
John Zavinski/Life & Times

Is this base for a streetlight at King Street and Wengler Avenue in Sharon the same urn that once was on East State Street?

Mystery photos are among the interesting discussions at meetings of the newly formed Sharon Heritage Society. Led by Nick Baron, the group of like-minded Shenango Valley residents has ended the odd gap where the county's biggest city lacked a historical society yet surrounding towns had their own.

Rather than deal with the costs and headaches of funding a building, the focus for now is on a virtual collection that eventually will be online. The plan is to have traveling events where people's photographs and artifacts can be scanned or photographed.

The group meets at 5:30 p.m. on the third Wednesday of the month (that's tonight, March 16) in one of the side rooms at Billy's Black and Gold in Sharon. Come join us. ♦



The caption for this postcard of the "Sharon honor roll" says it was erected in 1943 by four service clubs – the Rotary, Kiwanis, Quota and Elks – and designed to hold the names of all service men and women living within the city. Its four sides had 1,032 square feet of space, and by September 1943 2,700 names had been inscribed. The background was no doubt retouched to simplify it.