



Horse & Plow



SNOW! A Wintery Blast from the Past

The following are some interesting tidbits about several snow storms that happened around the county. Perhaps, you remember one of them.

BLIZZARD! was the word on the front page of *Today's Sunbeam* February 8, 1978 "County digs out from under 15 inches of snow" read the headline.

Lower Alloway's Creek police reported nearly 100 cars stuck while trying to leave the Salem Nuclear Generating Station. Elsewhere, some 75 vehicles were abandoned along Route 45.

In Penn Beach, drifts up to five feet high were reported around some homes. Pedricktown fought with snowdrifts up to four feet deep, but this did not stop workers from the *First National Bank* from getting to work. Several employees arrived via snow-

mobiles.

"The Blizzard of '79" with record breaking snowfall of 16½" in 17 hours, paralyzed traffic and brought most activities in Salem County to a halt.

The all time deepest snow in a single storm was 22 inches in 1909, the next deepest was 18" in 1922.

A gusty winter storm in March 1958 toppled utility poles and cut off electric and phone service for two weeks.

The blizzard of March 1888 was the big storm that caused a whole lot of trouble. It struck the entire east coast, causing about 400 deaths. Unofficial measurements in Salem were about 12-14

inches. Country roads were completely blockaded so that Salem was cut off from the surrounding country. "The telegraph and telephone wires are down so that for three days we have been completely isolated from the outside world." said a retired Colonel who fought in the Civil War. "The most frightening thing is what would happen in an emergency." Luckily we have snow plows and global warming to help out the people of Salem County now.



-Excerpts from Sunbeam Feb 20, 1979

\$100 Cash Award
Enter Our Recipe Contest
See back page

Clerk's Corner

On February 5, 2008, the State of New Jersey will conduct the Presidential Primary Election. The election will be limited to the "Choice for President" for the Democratic and Republican Parties. This will be the first separate primary election for the presidency in New Jersey.

The Primary Election for all other candidates will continue to be held in June of each year.

The County Clerk is currently developing plans for a number of exciting projects. We are in the process of producing an independent County Clerk website which will feature important information about our services. Further, we will include interesting stories regarding the history of Salem County. At this time, we are completing the production of a historic map which will feature each Salem County municipality. The map should be ready for distribution in early 2008.

The office is always buzzing with new ideas to make our great county even better. It is my goal to make the County Clerk's Office more accessible and more informative to the general public.

On behalf of the Salem County Clerk staff, Deputy Clerk Herb Stiles and myself, we wish you peace, joy and happiness in 2008 and thereafter. Feel free to contact me personally.

Thank you,

Gilda T. Gill
Salem County Clerk

Cupid to reign again at Old Court House

Valentine's Day

A Day that is always special and in 2008 the traditional exchanges of love will be joined by wedding and renewal vows in a special ceremony in Salem County's Old Court House located at the corner of Market Street and Broadway in historic Salem.

Couples wishing to be married and those wanting to renew their marriage vows are invited to share in a group wedding ceremony at 11 am, Thursday, February 14.

Those wishing to participate should contact the *Registrar of Vital Statistics* of the municipality in which the bride-to-be resides. The appropriate marriage documents must be processed through that office. Those wishing to renew their vows do not need such documents.

Once the paperwork is in order, couples should contact the Clerk's office at 935-7510, ext. 8605.

This special ceremony, conducted by County Clerk Gilda T. Gill, will provide a solemn opportunity to share and proclaim the commitments of marriage on the holiday celebrating love. Music and light refreshments will be included. There is no cost to participate.



"As soon go kindle fire with snow, as seek to quench the fire of love with words."

~William Shakespeare



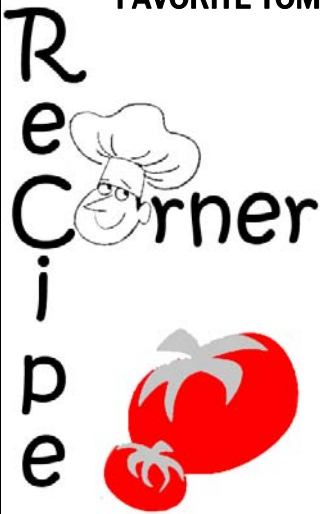
From the archives:

Salem Couple First in NJ to get Marriage License

Registrar of Vital Statistics, Frank S Harris, issued the first marriage license to Mr. Thaddeus Norkus & Miss Mikalina Bichkumas, both of Salem. The couple was married by Father Allen on July 4th at St Mary's Catholic Church. The couple was the first to register under the new Marriage Law which went into effect July 1, 1910.

-Salem Standard & Jerseyman July 6, 1910

FAVORITE TOMATO RECIPE CONTEST



Our recipe corner is currently blank. The County Clerk's Office is sponsoring a "Favorite Tomato Recipe" contest. So, look inside your recipe box and pick out a good one. The participants will be asked to provide their special dish for a "Chef's Tasting" in late March 2008. The judges will be local connoisseurs of the tomato and area professional chefs. One lucky cook will receive a **\$100 cash award** and certificate. So, mail in or drop off your recipe by **March 1, 2008**.

You may also email your recipe to:
Gilda.Gill@SalemCountyNJ.gov

Voting, whether absentee or at the polls, is a unique and integral part of a successful democracy. It allows the people of a country to choose their leaders and how they'd like to be governed. It is a sacred duty that should not be ignored.

The New Jersey legislature recently passed a law that allows any eligible voter in New Jersey to vote absentee by mail. A voter no longer needs an excuse to receive an absentee ballot. The county will allow, if permanently disabled, a voter, upon notice to this office, to receive a ballot for every election in the calendar year.

Please remember you must fully read and understand

any documents related to the election before signing and attesting to the document. There have been instances where a voter was unaware that an absentee ballot had been requested. Please be aware of everything you sign and those who request you do so.

Once an absentee ballot is requested the voter may not vote at the polls.

Absentee Ballot Application Available online SalemCountyNJ.gov

Voters will have their say February 5
In the 2008 Presidential Primary Election.
Following are important dates for voters :

- ◆ Last day to register to vote for Feb 5 election. Evening registration available at the Board of Elections and Municipal Clerk's offices 4pm to 9 pm **Jan 15**
- ◆ Deadline for mailed Civilian Absentee Ballot Applications to be received by County Clerk **Jan 29**
- ◆ Deadline for Civilian Absentee Ballot Application in person at County Clerk's Office **3pm Feb 4**
- ◆ **Primary Election Day—Polls open 6 am to 8 pm Feb 5**
- ◆ Board of Elections and County Clerk certify election results **Feb 11**

Answer to the fall issue contest question: How many toll gates were in Salem County in the early 20th century?

Although it may seem like the toll gate was born in New Jersey, based on the number of them around, toll gates were actually in use even before the New World was discovered. Archeologists have found evidence of a toll gate system in China dated around 4 BC some think even earlier.

But in New Jersey, toll gates became mania about 1850 and Salem County was no exception. The county had **two toll gates**, one on each end of what is now Route 49. The one on the lower end was at the William Dickerson house. This gate was built around 1869 and was only in existence about one year. The McPherson family watched over the gate and received \$1 per week for taking tolls from early morning until late at night. The gate on the opposite end, near Quinton, was presided over by Joseph Powell for six years.

The traveling public, at that time, was glad to pay toll for the use of traveling on the newly created "turnpike". The rate was a penny a mile for one horse; two cents for two horses. Because of these rates, the turnpike was well maintained, even more so than the regular roadways. Since, when the road got in bad shape or the mud was nearly to the hub, the toll was taken off and the gate was lifted. Then a local farmer would scrape the road to level it. This farmer then got \$1 and a free pass on the road good for two uses. It was a good way for a farmer with an idle team, due to the rains, to make some extra money.

Because of this fairness to farmers and the ease of traveling down the

level roadway farmers especially made use of the turnpike. It enabled them to carry more than double the produce and stock to the markets.

Although most paid the tolls there were some ways of getting around the toll. Going to church or funerals were some toll free excuses. Any one going to the mill to have wheat ground for the family was exempt as well.

Alas, for Salem County government, the last toll road was removed in 1943. Now, the only toll in Salem County may be Exit 1 for the Turnpike.

Excerpts from Salem Standard & Jerseyman Feb 11, 1932

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Salem County Clerk's Office

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