Ted Mallick's story: From Waterboy to beorman

Mr. Ted Mallick, 113 North Sixth street has lived in town for many years. We all remember him delivering that "refreshing beverage" as a driver for Bruceik's Distributors. His first job as a young boy in 1927 was as water boy gal'les attached to the front that brushed the snow to both sides of the street. Farmers delivered their wares by sleigh and coal was also hauled this way. Remembering the old fashioned weddings, he talked about the hard winters and the deep snows of the old days. Only the trolleys could run because they were equipped with a large brush "sweeper" attached to the front that brushed the snow to both sides of the street. Farmers delivered their wares by sleigh and coal was also hauled this way.

Mr. Mallick remembers the undertakers having four "attachments" that could be hitched to his horse: the hearse for funerals, the wagon for hauling coal, the sleigh for winter, and a coach for weddings. He talked about the flu of 1918 and the many lives that were lost in this epidemic. Anyone having a horse was asked to help the undertakers pull the wagons to bury the dead because bodies were lying around waiting to be buried.

His first family car, a seven passenger Peerless had a vacuum tank—"to make it up the Vulcan you had to stand on the running board and keep feeding it gas." Because this was a large car it was used to transport many of our football teams to out of town games.

When his 18 year old sister passed away there weren't many cars in town and the funeral cortège travelled by trolley from Frackville to Malzeville to the church and back to town for the burial.

His father worked as a fireman at the Trolley Barn in Connerton for the Schuylkill Transit Company. He had to shovel coal into the boiler, to make steam which supplied with water. It was his job to go to four or five fresh water springs that were located between these two points and with bucket and dipper keep the men supplied with water. He was paid two dollars a day at this job.

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Mr. Mallick also worked for DMH Detroit Mobile Homes for eight years but is now enjoying the leisurely life of a retired man. He is active in the Senior Citizens of town and is busy collecting old pictures of Frackville and its residents.