Evangelical Congregational Church housed the first offices of Dr. O. H. Mengel.

Mr. and Mrs. Harry Phillips of 102 South Balliet street. Mr. Phillips was born in St. Nicholas and reminisced about his job as a "printer's devil" for the Record American Newspaper. His salary in 1925 was five dollars a week. This was one of the leading newspapers at that time and was printed in Mahanoy City and was delivered to many of the mining towns in the area.

The printing was done on a flat bed press and eight pages could be printed at one time. The circulation was about 6000 subscribers and each evening paper was usually eight pages.

Talking about the progress made in the printing business, Mr. Phillips said coveralls had to be worn in the old days because of the ink staining their clothes but today it could be considered a white collar job. Compared to the flat bed press of yesteryear the 16 page presses today can run off 30,000 papers an hour.

He worked for this firm for forty four years until 1969, when they were bought out by the Shenandoah Valley Publishing Company. He is presently employed by the Shenandoah Evening Herald and in July of 1975 will celebrate his 50th year in the newspaper business.

As he reminisced about the old days he recalled The St. Nicholas Breaker was being built. The steel workers from Philadelphia, New Jersey and New York rented rooms in private homes in St. Nicholas and played quoits and baseball with the residents. They hated to leave the coal region.

Evangelical Congregational Church housed the first offices of Dr. O. H. Mengel.

profiles of prominent folks here in 1906

JOSEPH J. KEHLER, a farmer and former dealer of Frackville, was born in Eldred township on Jan. 19, 1846, a son of George H. and Sarah (Felterhoff) Kohler, both of whom were natives of Schuylkill county.

John Kohler, grandfather of Joseph J., was a native of Schuylkill county and a prominent farmer of Eldred township. He married Elizabeth Hepler. Samuel Felterhoff, the maternal grandfather of our subject, also was a farmer of Eldred township, but died in Dauphin county. The maiden name of his wife was Meurer.

George H. Kohler, the father of Joseph J., was for many years a farmer of Eldred township and was a large landholder, but in later life he removed to Mahanoy City, where he died. His family consisted of two sons and one daughter, of whom Joseph J. was the eldest son who graced his maturity. Joseph J. Kohler was reared on the old homestead in Eldred township, where he attended the public schools of the St. Nicholas school district.

At age 15 he entered schools in Philadelphia and at the Free Library in Pottsville. In 1874 he obtained a position in the United States Land Office in Pottsville, in the capacity of a student in the famous Eastman business college.

At the age of fifteen years he initiated his independent career by becoming a clerk in a general store at Ashland, where he remained one year, after which he was in charge of a general store in Eldred township for five years. He in 1873 became engaged in farming and operating a mill in Eldred township, until 1881, when he removed to Frackville.

Later he removed to Ashland where he was engaged in conducting a general store until 1900, when he sold the business to his son, Webster, and returned to Frackville. He has since been a resident, devoting his attention to farming and real estate. He is also a stockholder in and director of the First National bank of Frackville, of which he was one of the original organizers. He is a Republican in his political proclivities, having served in the borough council, and is a member of Camp No. 66, Austrian Organization of the Sons of America.

Mr. Kohler is a zealous member of the United Evangelical church and maintains an active interest in the work of that denomination. For many years he has been superintendent of the Sunday school and is one of the leaders in the weekly society meetings.

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