Do you read the "Good Old Days" column printed each day in this newspaper? Do you enjoy it as much as I do? Then you should look at a local newspaper from the early days and relive the past. I researched a newspaper from 1876 and found many interesting facts. 1876 was the centennial year for our country and all businesses had special sales called "Centennial Sales." Death and marriage announcements were four-line articles listed in the same column as the want ads. The evening newspaper was half the size of the papers of today, consisted of four pages and cost two cents per single copy, ten cents per week by carrier or five dollars a year by mail. The first notation for January of the centennial year read: "This year will be a great year for the American nation. It is leap year, presidential election year, and the Centennial Anniversary of our Independence, for the purpose of giving us a rest during so much excitement there will be one extra Sunday, or fifty-three in all."

The National Centennial Invitation read:

"Oh! Come, With fife and drum, And the big brass band, From all over the land, And celebrate And dedicate The Great Centennial; The young, The old, the strong, And every one, From Stonington To clime perennial! Come, Come! And make things hum With the big bass drum, And hearty cheers and noise- Men, women, and the boys,- And girls and little ones, With banners and pop guns.- Celebrate and dedicate The great day of the nation! Oh, come from all creation!"

What a nice name for a nice street! The chestnut grove at St. Joseph's is at the left. A blight in 1917 destroyed most of these trees. Dr. Berk lived in the house on the right and Dr. Meyers and family presently live here.

Do you enjoy it as much with many attractions is announced by the committee:

"The Pastime Dancing School of Frackville meet each Friday nite. They are devoted to the Terpsichorean art."

"The Frackville Dramatic Association entertained on Saturday, January 22, 1876 with a play, "That Rascal Pat."

"A leap Year party was held at Seaman's Hall with Mr. James Reiley leading the grand march—thirty-five couples were present."

"The old reliable stage line running between Frackville and Shenandoah which was run by Al Shappel has been purchased by Mr. Moses Snyder."

"Mr. Fred Sanner, while driving through the east end of the borough, broke his wagon, for which he blamed the borough authorities for not repairing the road."

"The Pastime Social Club of town have reorganized and will meet in the future at the Depot House. The club is flourishing under the management of Messrs. Meyers and Hadesty."

Advertisements listed the kind of merchandise and the name of the business but prices were not always listed—some of the ads read:

"If you are suffering from consumption—try Boschee's German Syrup at your druggist."

"Hoop skirts and Corsets.—Gumboots and Capes, at your general store."

"Centennial handkerchiefs for little girls are now the rage."

This was the year of the Molly Maguires. Mine bosses were receiving Molly Maguire "coffin notices" and their posters "stared you in the face wherever you went."

A Pennsylvania Central advertisement read "80 hours from New York to San Francisco—try the experience of going 40 miles an hour across the continent."

January of 1876 was an unseasonably warm month and the coal business, the winter outer wear clothes and the ice business was ruined for the year. In fact, it was written, "A sorrowful ice man informed us last evening that the crop was decidedly rotten—not in Denmark, but in Shenandoah!"

I enjoy going back into the past—why don't you try it—you'll like it!

Frackville news was listed under Gilberton and here are some of the items listed:

"Don't forget the entertainment in Odd Fellow's Hall on Saturday Night. An entirely new programme with many attractions is announced by the committee:

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