

- Emlenton Pumping Jack Museum - Part of Historic Emlenton Rediscovered

by Brad Rapp

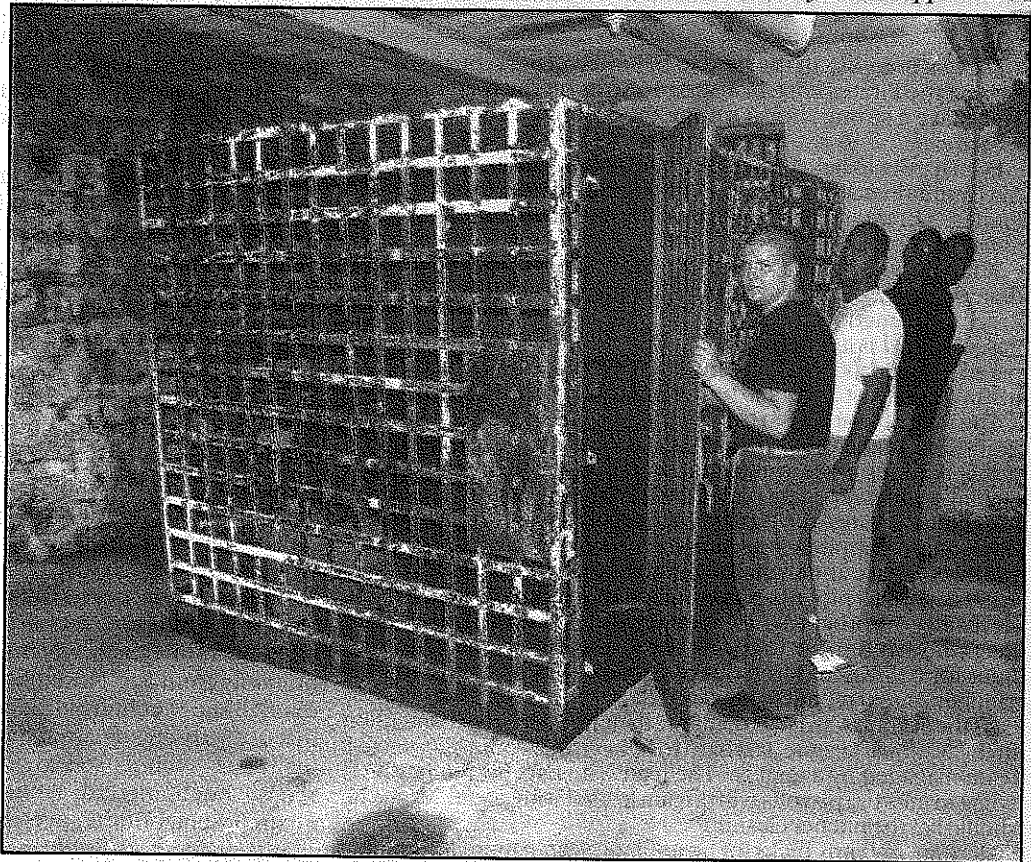
Just for a moment, jump on your imaginary horse and lets take a stroll back in time, the year 1872. Ulysses S. Grant, who was a long standing symbol of Union victory during the Civil War, was re-elected to his second term as President of the United States having served from 1869 to 1877. On average, horses cost \$60, pigs \$5, milking cows just over \$20, and goats only \$2. A farm worker earned \$25 per month. Locally, in Emlenton, Pa., the construction of a new townhall/meeting facility was being erected at present day 413 Hill St., the sight of the former ambulance garage.

The original foundation of the new town hall built in 1872 currently supports the existing top tier that was replaced in 1930 by architect Holmes Crosby to compliment the state of the art Emlenton School which was completed in 1928.

The old townhall built in 1872 doubled its duty having served as not only a venue for church, school and town meetings, but also housed the towns two jail cells which provided a safe haven for those needing to "cool off". The cells are approximately 4' by 6' with not much standing room.

Today, thanks to a \$750 donation from Columbia Gas of Pennsylvania to The Emlenton Pumping Jack Museum efforts are currently underway to help restore the lower half of Emlenton's days gone by.

The seven-hundred and fifty dollar donation by Columbia Gas was the springboard to move the project forward, the voluntarism of the community the catalyst. Bob Hanold of Bob's Painting Service of Emlenton donated the paint and his time as the general contractor. And thanks to a great working relationship with the Emlenton Borough



Mid Atlantic Youth Services provided many hours of service to help facilitate this project.

and Mid Atlantic Youth Services, the project will serve as a community outreach program for Carolyn Wilson who is the Community Service Coordinator at Mid Atlantic Youth Services. "We are grateful to be able to not only give back to the community but to give our kids a hands on experience in learning life skills that they can build their lives on. For many of our kids it is the first time that someone has shown them how to work and use various types of equipment, such as grinders, power-washers etc. We are thrilled to have this opportunity", stated Wilson. Lending a hand from Mid Atlantic Youth Services are her staff; Anthony LoDico, Tobey Schick, Dan Hornberger and others throughout the

project. The crew consists of Brandon, Tyrell, Omar, Tymier, Sean, Angel and Joe. On average Wilson's crew has been working the last seven days on average about 6.5 to 7 hours a day.

Wilson, who grew up in Emlenton, thanks to this project, experienced her first trip to the jail cell area. "I grew up in Emlenton and never knew we had a jail. I find this whole experience as a new discovery, chuckled Wilson. In fact, while working and cleaning off many layers of paint on the bars of the cells, cell block numbers were found embedded on the side doors of

the cells. A brass sticker also earmarks the name of the manufacturer who manufactured the jail cells at that time. Future plans also involve possibly planting four to five shrubs and a couple dogwoods outside the area for curb appeal. Completion is expected within the next month.

The Emlenton Pumping Jack Museum would like to thank all those involved who have helped bridge Emlenton's past and present. It is the Museums hopes for the future, that this building will once someday serve as a reminder of "days gone by".