



# LEEDS LETTER

JULY 2013

## UPCOMING EVENTS FOR 2013

### September LCA Meeting

Tuesday, Sept. 10 @7:30  
Leeds School Teacher's Lounge

### Saratoga Race Track and Casino Bus Trip

Friday, July 26 , 7:30 am - 8:30 pm  
For more details see article →

### Saturday Night Movies!

Keep your eyes peeled for LCA's posters of dates/times/movies which will be displayed throughout Leeds and on our website! Bring a blanket and drinks. Popcorn is always provided!

### Leeds Block Party

Early September - Date to be decided  
Watch for posters!

### WANTED

#### Excellent, kind, thoughtful person with a truck or car

Someone who is willing to keep an eye on and remove and dispose of full garbage bags from the container on the bike path near Front Street + Florence Street is needed. The overflowing garbage looks really gross. The two individuals who have been dealing with this (along with much more) would like a break and hope to find an outstanding individual willing to do this good deed. If you are that amazing person please contact heidi@heidistevens.com or if you choose to be an anonymous awesome person, that works too!

### HAVE A SAFE AND HAPPY SUMMER! - LCA



### Saratoga Race Track and Casino Bus Trip

The bus will depart from Leeds Grammar School, Friday July 26th at 7:30 am. We'll arrive at the casino which is about 1.5 miles from the race track by 10:00 and stay for just an hour and a half. Our group will then head to the race track and arrive by noon.

This trip is suitable for gamblers and non-gamblers alike. The picnic grounds, parklike setting, live music and thoroughbred horse racing and pageantry are all part of the day. Once there, bring out your lawn chairs, coolers, drinks of any type (no bottles) and settle in. Usually we stay as a group - so you can wander and explore the Civil War Era race track and all of its nooks and corners at your leisure.

Raffles, chit chat, tips on what horses to play, tips to the driver, air conditioned bus with bathroom (no shower -sorry!) And admission to the track are all included for just \$35. But hurry - the trip sold out last year. Call Jim Mias at 584-1623. Oh, and we are generally back home to Leeds by 8:30 pm. We may have another trip Friday, August 26th.

### Leeds Garden at Base of Front street

Lora Sandhusen and her neighbor, Gwen Dwyer were able to spread out the large pile of rich mulch the night before the heavy rain storm hit- thank goodness! A big thank you to Lashway Lumber for generously donating and delivering the mulch for the garden. Lora says, "I'm pretty happy with the garden this year - thanks to Annie Morehouse's excellent design ideas, it is turning out to be pretty low maintenance, which was the goal. Little by little, Deb Jacobs and I are expanding it and clearing out the remaining weeds. At this point, everything is pretty much done, and because it is so low maintenance, it's going to be enjoyable for years to come, hopefully!"

We are always trying to build community around the garden and get more people volunteering. There will probably be some work to do in the fall to put it to bed for the winter, so I'll let you know what's up then! If you are interested in lending a hand contact Lora Sandhusen at: lorasandhusen@gmail.com

## Leeds Teenagers Offer Lawn Mowing Services to Leeds Residents.

The boys have all the equipment and energy necessary to care for your lawn. If you are interested in getting an estimate for lawn mowing, weed whacking or general lawn clean up, or would like more information, please contact Michael Dean at michaeldean7133@yahoo.com or call or text 413-320-3193. Stay tuned for Autumn services!



### Leeds Hats for Sale!

Sorry, green, blue and orange hats are SOLD OUT! Only 7 hats left - 2 colors to choose from: khaki and black. The hats have a metal clasp, adjustable back and are on sale for \$20.00. You can see color photos on the LCA website:

[www.leedscivic.org](http://www.leedscivic.org) or on the poster in the Leeds post office. Proceeds will help fund LCA functions and restoration of the Hotel Bridge as a walking bridge. To order a hat contact Heidi at 585-9923, or [heidistevens.com](mailto:heidistevens.com)

### Have you ever thought about getting your old photos digitized?

Now you can do so right here in Leeds! Professional photographer, Pamela Cobb of Upland Road can take your collection of priceless family photos and digitize them for posterity. She can be contacted at 584-2800 or email to [pccleeds@gmail.com](mailto:pccleeds@gmail.com).



### Fresh, Local Leeds Honey

Perhaps the bees that visit your garden are busy making honey at Bill Romito's hives! Now you can purchase fresh, local Leeds honey which is available from Bill Romito at 530-9029 or [happyvalleybees@gmail.com](mailto:happyvalleybees@gmail.com) or come by 32 E. Center St.!

*Continued from June newsletter -*

## Gazette Series about Leeds,

By Alice Manning, 1975,

### Industry Ceased in 1930

The entire silk industry in Leeds ceased operations in 1930 which was a sad blow for the industrious little village. There was hardly a family there during the last of the 19th century and the first 30 years of the 20th century who was not in some way affected by or connected with the silk mills.

Every member of some families was employed by the mill. Statistics from the "Smith College Studies" show there were dozens of workers who had been connected with the industry for more than forty years and many had been there for 50 years.

In 1865, the silk industry did \$443,000 worth of business and employed 214 people in three factories along the Mill River. These, of course were not all located in Leeds.

In 1919, which seemed to be the peak year for the silk industry locally, the annual value of the product of the four principle mills on the Mill River amounted to \$11,3 million. Of this Leeds was a very vital part. From that time on, however, the decline was constant and rapid.

In 1943, the mill on upper Main Street, which had been unoccupied since 1930 was demolished. Another mill on Main Street had been partially praised. In 1938. One of the building is presently being renovated and remodeled into apartments. One of the buildings that had been occupied by the Shepherd Woolen Mills was taken over when it failed was taken over by A.P. Critchlow of Florence.

Critchlow was born in Nottingham, England in 1813. When he was 14 he was apprenticed to a die sinker and served the required seven years. On becoming of age he engaged in the horn button business in Birmingham where he was apparently fairly successful. In 1843 he met Josiah Hayden of this area, who encouraged him to come to this country and start a button manufacturing plant in Haydenville.

After working with Hayden for a few years he moved to Florence and commenced making wooden buttons. He employed the material most abundant at that time, the wild laurel found in the nearby woods. So enthusiastic was he about the button business that he soon experimented and perfected a composition suitable for making buttons and the machinery for its proper manipulation. This was really the forerunner of today's plastic.

*-To be continued in next newsletter*