

Interview (cont'd)

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hike in school district taxes. Oliver Overlander thinks that move was a mistake. With inflation cutting into the borough's budget, the quality of municipal services cannot be maintained unless more money is raised.

HISTORIC DISTRICTING

Oliver Overlander thinks restoration efforts are one of the best things that have happened to Marietta.

He hopes that the older houses in towns will continue to be preserved, because the increase in property values that results benefits all property owners.

In areas where all the homes date from the early 1800's, historic districting might be a good idea, since it would protect the value of the preserved homes in the area, Oliver thinks.

"It's bad to build new homes in a restored area," Oliver says, "but it's okay on Fairview Avenue, where there are already a lot of new homes."

The present zoning laws state that new homes should conform to the surrounding buildings, Oliver notes.

"Historic districting should be started in a few blocks," Oliver says. "We can see if the people in those blocks want it. If they do, it's a good thing."

The regulations in the historic district shouldn't be too strict, Oliver feels. Some towns, like Litz, have ridiculously tough rules in their historic districts, according to Oliver.

He notes that no one in Marietta has really restored a house to its original condition. Real restoration would involve tearing out all the electrical wiring, and installing whale-oil lamps.

"The historic district commission shouldn't force you to clean the paint off your brick, for instance," Oliver says.

GROWTH

Marietta has improved dramatically in the last 10 years, Oliver thinks.

The improvement was due to a combination of two things: people have been fixing up the town's beautiful old houses, and the municipal government has taken active steps to improve the town.

This combination of private and public energy resulted in higher property values, and a growing town.

"Basically," Oliver says, "the majority of houses that have been saved from deterioration have been saved because people from outside have come into the town and fixed them up to make them attractive and beneficial to the town."

We don't have room for big industries. You can't compare Marietta to the tourist strip on Route 30. We don't have the big motels, and the Dutch Wonderland and we don't have room for them.

The only attraction for tourists would be the antique shops and the homes that have been restored."

The small size of the borough restricts its tax base, Oliver notes.

The businesses on Route 441, and the big Armstrong Carpet Plant, are outside the town limits.

Oliver says, "We can only grow from within."

IMPROVEMENT

One improvement Oliver would like to see is a paving job for Front Street.

"A lot of homes were damaged in the '72 and '75 floods," he says. "Very few are left. They came back, and fixed up their homes. I think those people deserve one heck of a lot of credit."

"The borough now has an obligation to take care of Front Street. I think Front Street should be redone from one end to the other."

Oliver notes that Front Street is one of the 5 major streets in the borough. The last major paving jobs were done on Walnut Street and the Charles development.

Another improvement, which might be accomplished quite cheaply, involves the rivershore.

"We have a beautiful river that's perfect for fishing and boating," Oliver says.

If local organizations, like the Lions, Jaycees, and fire company volunteer their time, a park could be built along the shore.

The park would have to be simple because high water could threaten permanent structure. Pathways, picnic areas, and free boat launching facilities could be built.

Such a park might attract local people to the town, giving a boost to local businesses. It would also make life more pleasant for the people of Marietta.

MARIETTA AT A TURNING POINT

The following is a prepared statement written by Oliver C. Overlander II, Borough Council President of Marietta:

"Just a decade ago, Marietta had many more problems than it has today. Buildings were falling down from lack of maintenance, and year after year the elements began to deteriorate many of our homes, buildings throughout the Borough. We had no public sewage system and the smell of burning garbage and exploding aerosol cans was common throughout the town. Borough Council did

take steps to eliminate these problems only because the general outlook of the town left something to be desired and in order to better the town something had to be done. Overcoming many problems and often thankless hours spent at meetings, trash collection came about, also our present sewage system, and the passing of our present housing ordinance. Thus eliminating burning in the borough. Having weekly trash collection and making it mandatory that every dwelling be hooked up to the public sewage system. The housing ordinance put a stop to property owners letting structures deteriorate and fall down. Today if a property is in violation of the housing ordinance, the borough can exercise the right to prosecute if a violation isn't corrected in a reasonable time period, thus eliminating most of our delapidated buildings. This ordinance can only be effective if buildings are constantly inspected and violators are pressured by the borough to comply with the adopted housing ordinance, which by the way, is taken directly from the State and Housing code. But this is 1976, and we are forced with current problems which must be met with swift action to protect the welfare of all Marietta citizens. Property values in the town have increased and if these values are to remain stable and the town will continue to improve then every property owner along with borough

council must do their part to improve and maintain the town. Our growth must be within our boundaries. We must all realize that any more annexation by the borough is very doubtful due to the cost of such an endeavor. This is where Marietta missed the boat in past years, when the town fathers couldn't foresee the future growth of this area. So we must be content to grow within our boundaries. Voters have a very big responsibility to elect the best men available to borough council. Even with, foresight, ambition to set and achieve worthwhile goals, men who can do the job voters want them to do. At the present time, I believe people are reluctant to come to council and voice their opinions or complain because they feel it wouldn't do any good to complain. As president of borough I urge all citizens to attend council meetings if only to be informed of borough matters. And if you have a complaint, problem, or need assistance, I guarantee you will be heard. Election Day Voters have the last word either to elect a good man, retain one who has served well, or get rid of any councilman who doesn't measure up to voters standards.

Hypertension clinic

The Lancaster PA Chapter of the American Heart Association will hold a free 6 day hypertension clinic in conjunction with the Lancaster Home Builders show at Park City from Monday, April 5 through Saturday, April 10.

Blood press. clinic

The April schedule of free blood pressure clinics sponsored by the American Heart Association, Lancaster, PA Chapter was announced today. These free blood pressure testings are provided by your HEART FUND dollars and will be provided at Sloan's Pharmacy, 61 East Main Street, Mount Joy, Tuesday and Wednesday of each week from 2 to 4 p.m.

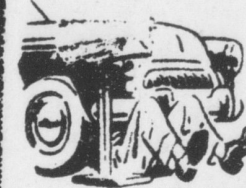
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