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# SUSQUEHANNA BULLETIN

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Ten Cents

## Dr. Brown retires at Wyeth

At the end of this month Dr. John H. Brown will retire as general manager of Wyeth Laboratories at Marietta.

His retirement ends 42 years of service with the company, which was called Gilliland Laboratories when he joined it in 1932.

In addition to his position at Wyeth, Dr. Brown is chairman of the advisory committee of Dauphin Deposit and Trust Company of Columbia, president of Marietta Gravity Water Company, and a director of Pequea Valley Vineyard and Winery. (Dr. Brown has an extensive vineyard of his own near his house east of Marietta.)

Despite an absorbing and time-consuming professional career, Dr. Brown found time to donate his talents generously to his community.

### Community leader

He is a member of the Planning Commission of East Donegal Township, served for eight years as a member of the Marietta Borough

Council, was active in the Marietta Lions Club and served in all of its offices including president, and has been active with his wife Kitty in Marietta Restoration Associates since their inception. Deeply interested in local history, he served as the first president of the Associates.

John and Kitty Brown were married soon after he came here to work at Gilliland Laboratories. They raised their family here: Saranna, Mrs. James Miller, and Jay Harold, who is vice-president and treasurer of Miller and Hartman, Inc., in Lancaster. John and Kitty have three grandchildren: Christopher Miller, Mig Brown and Jay Harold Brown III.

### Prevented a tragedy

The career that brought Dr. John Brown to Gilliland Laboratories in 1932 started in a strange, almost tragic way.

John was a student in college when he happened to go to the locker room at the college and found a student there with a knife in

his hand about to cut the arteries in his wrist.

John interrupted the suicide and talked to the student, who he found was in desperate trouble of all kinds. The student was flunking his courses in school, he was having trouble with his girl friend, and his mother was dying in a hospital.

John took the student to the Dean's office. The Dean called the student's father and found that the father could not leave his wife's hospital bedside. The Dean asked John to take care of the student until the father could come, promising John he would do what he could later to repay him.

For four days John looked out for the desperate student, who slept in John's room and went along to the final exams John was in the midst of.

### Asks Dean for job

Later, a position was open as student instructor at the college. Although the position had always been given to a senior and John was only a junior, he wanted it and needed it

much, since he was putting himself through school, and the job paid \$50 a month, a big sum to John in those days.

John went to the Dean and asked for the position. The Dean, remembering his promise to repay John, let him have the position.

It was in that position that John began his career as laboratory researcher in bacteriology. That position led to a position in bacteriological research at the Henry Phipps Institute, and it was at the Institute that he first heard of Gilliland Laboratories.

### Idea for park

Among his many contributions to his community, Dr. John Brown likes to recall the beginning of War Memorial Park in Marietta. He was a member of borough council at the end of World War II. He was concerned that there was no playground for children in Marietta. He also wanted a memorial to the soldiers who had given their lives in the war. The two needs were combined in the idea of a living memorial of a



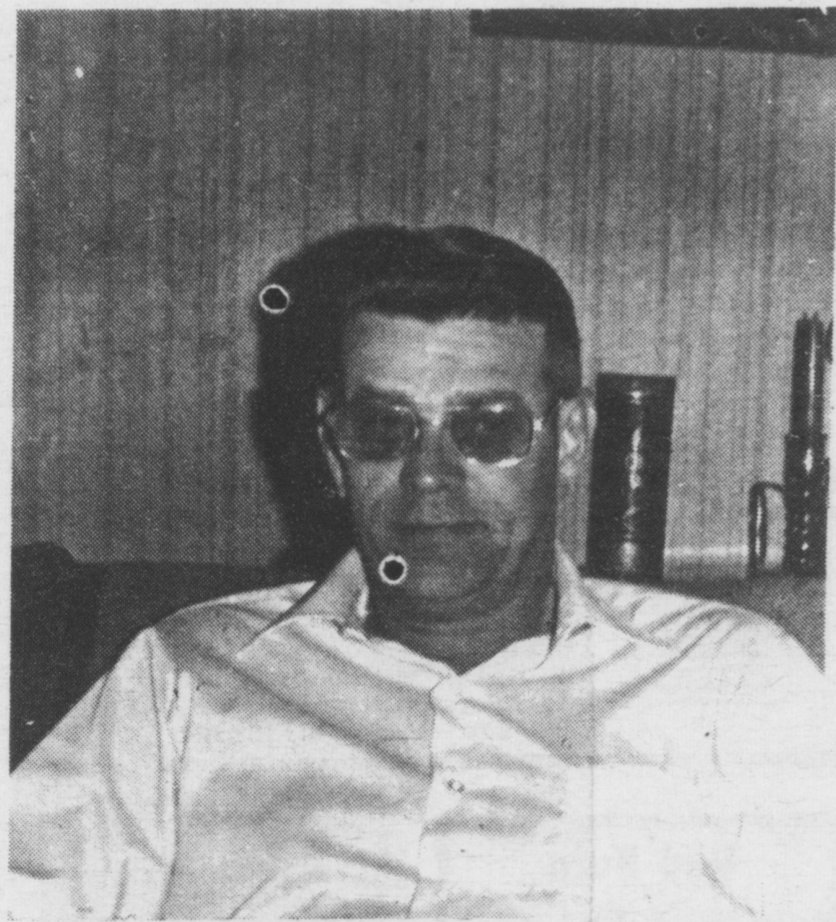
Dr. John Brown

park.

But the question was: how to raise the money for a park? At that time, before the construction of Route 441, traffic to and from the Depot on the west end of

Marietta moved on Market Street. There were lots of speeders.

Dr. Brown designed and had installed a speed trap along Market Street. It (Continued on page 2)



John L. Parker, Jr.

John L. Parker, Jr., President of the Borough Council of Marietta, settled down in the borough soon after his marriage to the former Mary Louise Wisman, who had been born and raised in Marietta. That was almost

twenty-five years ago, because John and Mary Lou just celebrated their silver wedding anniversary by taking a week's trip to Virginia. They spent three days at Williamsburg looking over that restored village, which

reminded them of Marietta's current restoration program.

They have three children: John L. Parker, III, of Marietta; Raeann, a student at Donegal; and Michael a student at Riverview.

### Active in community

John had not been in Marietta very long before he became active in community affairs. He joined the Marietta Youth Athletic Association, and, contributing his skills as an electrician, installed the stadium lights in War Memorial Park.

He also donated his electrical skills when needed to other service organizations, like the Jaycees and the Lions. When there were carnivals in the park, John did the wiring. He did the electrical work on Marietta's street Christmas lights, which continue to win praise from visitors to town. He was also active in the Midget football league, and drove a bus to convey the players to their games away.

### Defeated for council first time

In the 1950's he made his first run for borough council. That first time he lost.

With some urging from others he ran again in 1968. This time he won. Then, as now, Barney McDevitt was mayor. John, a Democrat, worked well with Barney, a Republican.

On the local level, John does not believe that political party affiliation is so important. He says there are good men in both parties.

Although he had not been eager for office when he had first run, John says he learned a lot about government during that first term in office. In 1970 he wanted to serve his community again and felt he had something to contribute. That time he lost the election.

### Pres. of Council, Constable

But in 1974 he was elec-

ted to Council again, and this time he was chosen as its president. In addition, he was elected to be borough constable.

John Parker's life at present is very much part of the borough of Marietta. Besides being president of borough council and constable he is also superintendent of the water pollution control plant on the east end of town. The plant serves not only Marietta but East Donegal Township as well.

John has a very simple principle which he adheres to in government: to do what is good for all the citizens. That is not such an unusual principle for a public official to proclaim. What is unusual about John Parker is that he acts on it and sticks to it.

### Gave tax money back to citizens.

Marietta Borough has had continuing trouble raising enough revenue to meet all

its expenses. Last year with unforeseen expenses in the new development on the western edge of town, budget problems were especially severe.

To solve their financial problems, council members had talked at various times about claiming the extra one-fourth of the one per cent earned income tax to which the borough was legally entitled. Whenever that possibility had been raised John had asked for an amendment stating that any additional revenue acquired over and above what was needed to meet borough expenses, should be given back to the taxpayers.

Mount Joy Borough Council voted last December to claim the additional fourth of the one per cent earned income tax, thus making it available to all the municipalities in the

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