



MEMORY  
LAND

Memories of Lower  
Pottsgrove



We would like to invite you to write a short story or essay about things you remember from your time living in Lower Pottsgrove. It doesn't have to be long, something about the size of the "Golden Oldies" piece they do sometimes in the Mercury would be great. But it can be longer or shorter, however you would like to do it. It doesn't have to sound professionally written, just anything in your own words sharing with us the memories you may have of life in the area. We thought it would be nice to share these memories with each other, and also make a collection that we could hand down to future generations. Things are so very different now than most of us remember, we thought it would be a good idea to create a collective memory of what life was like in the township during the earlier years that we could preserve for our descendants and the descendants of all the new people who have come to live in our community.

We will display each of these writings here on the website for all of us to read, and if we get enough responses, maybe we could put a booklet together.

Anything you would care to contribute would be greatly appreciated. You can mail your contributions to the Chapel or you can Email them to the website. The addresses are on the "Contact Us" page. We look forward to hearing from you.





# The Alpine Dips

by CAROL ISETT

We have come to the end of another long, hot summer. Fortunately for us, the warmer weather lingers much longer than it used to in our area, giving us a few more chances to visit the beach or amusement park for one last ride on everyone's favorite ride, the roller coaster.



**The full length of the Alpine Dips roller coaster**

Roller coasters have come a long way since the turn of the last century, but did you know that, according to an early souvenir booklet, our own Sanatoga Park had the very first ride of its kind that was ever built in any park. It was called the Alpine Dips and it was nearly a mile in length. Residents of Sanatoga and visitors were thrilled with the new roller coaster, which dominated the hillside on the east side of the lake, and excited screams of riders

echoed through the area. An exhilarating and sensational ride, it was designed especially for Sanatoga Park. Built in the most picturesque location, through the center of the park, on the crest of the hillside, where a full view can be had of its entire length, it was installed at a cost of nearly \$100,000 by the Philadelphia



**Entrance to the Alpine Dips**

Toboggan Company. It cost 10 cents to enjoy the thrills of this exciting ride.

According to the booklet, every possible safety device had been installed, and the cars were operated by highly competent guards, but there was one tragedy in the history of the Alpine Dips. A young boy, who had previously been warned by the guards against standing up during the ride, lost his balance and fell to the ground. It was one of two fatal accidents that occurred in the nearly forty years the park was in operation.

The roller coaster was operated at first by J. Rolland Kurtz, and he later purchased it during the last two years of its operation. But with the glory days of the fabled Sanatoga Park fading fast, it was sold to Amandus D. Moyer for dismantling in the late 1930's. Using the wood, he went on to

*found the C. D. Moyer lumber business in 1939, a trusted and respected staple in the construction field to this day.*

*It is interesting to ponder how many buildings in this area were built using the lumber from the famous Alpine Dips from Sanatoga Park.*



**A shot of the roller coaster from on the tracks.**

SUBMITTED SEPT. 11, 2012

