



The Doorknob Collector

Number 85

September-October 1997



Philadelphia Rings a Warm Welcome

to

Antique Doorknob Collectors of America

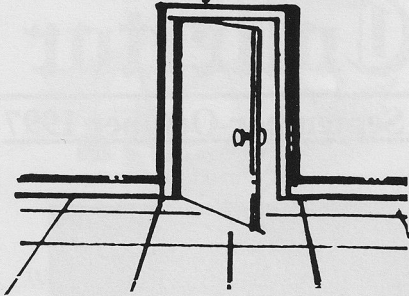
Most of the thirty-four ADCA members and family gather on the steps of Independence Hall for the above picture. Tours of the Philadelphia City Hall and the Masonic Temple in the morning, lunch at the famous City Tavern and then an afternoon walking tour that included some former Benjamin Franklin property and the Liberty Bell made for a very full day.

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THE OPEN DOOR

by ray nemec



In the news...A recent story by the Reuters news service said prices may keep rising as collectors hoard supplies of the old and valuable. A collector said, "the rare stuff is getting harder to find. It's drying up. There is not much stuff coming out of drawers or attics.....and there are more collectors out there." Sound familiar?

No, this was not written about doorknobs. It is about old fountain pens, which like doorknobs, are seeing supplies diminish and prices rise. Yes, collectors of other items are faced with the same problems we incur.

E-mail...Don Pearson would like for us to start publishing e-mail addresses of members. With that statement we are asking members to send us their e-mail address and we will publish them. Hopefully we will have a list to publish in the next newsletter. If anyone wants to contact Don about doorknobs, a possible trade, or just to say hello, he can be contacted at: pearson@northnet.org.

Old friends...We think most everybody had a good time at the 1997 ADCA annual convention. The question was asked, how many members have attended all the conventions? The answer is five members. It was interesting to note that of the 34 who attended the formation of the club in 1981, there were six of the original members at the 1997 convention. Len Blumin, Maude Eastwood, Florence Jarvis and Loretta and Ray Nemec have made them all. Charles Wardell was the other 1997 attendee who was there at ADCA's birth in 1981. Charlie has missed a couple of the West Coast conventions. ●

Meet Your Board of Directors

Each issue *The Doorknob Collector* will feature the picture of an ADCA member who is on the Board of Directors. In this issue we present:



CAROL MEERMANS

Records show that Carol Meermans joined ADCA in December 1981. She and her husband, Ralph, attended their first convention at St. Louis in 1985 and have attended the last six conventions. Carol was elected to the ADCA board in August 1997. ●

ADCA Roster Available

The new 1997 ADCA membership roster, listing members alphabetically and by state, is now available. There are over sixty dealers listed. There is a total of ten columns of information. The roster is a "must" for anyone interested in buying, selling, trading or just for association with other members in the friendliest club in the North America. To get the eleven page roster, send \$2.00 to ADCA Roster, P.O. Box 126, Eola, Illinois 60519-0126.

Congratulations!

To Bob & Barbara Rodder, on becoming the proud Grandparents of Megan Sophia Smith. Born August 19, 1997 and weight in at 9 lbs. 7 oz. Baby, parents and grandparents are all doing fine.

Number 18 in Winnipeg



Valerie Friesen

Winnipeg, Manitoba, has been selected as the site for the 1998, ADCA convention. Valerie Friesen and Bob Wilson will host ADC's 18th convention. It will be the first convention outside the United States.

Winnipeg, is the furthest north for an ADCA convention. Minneapolis, site of the 1986 convention, has held that distinction.

Valerie and Bob will be looking for your ideas and help in making our first sojourn in Canada a memorable experience. ●

All ads, material and articles for the November/December 1997 issue of *The Doorknob Collector* should be in the hands of the editors by October 15, 1997.



The Doorknob Collector ©

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Founded in September 1981, the *Antique Doorknob Collectors of America* is a non-profit organization devoted to those interested in collecting and preservation of Antique Doorknobs and related hardware.

The opinions expressed in this publication are those of the individual writer and not necessarily reflect those of the Board of Directors of ADCA or the editors of *The Doorknob Collector*.

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Recollections From a First Time Attendee

by Vicky Berol



It was with trepidation that I boarded the plane to Philadelphia to attend my first ADCA Convention. My concerns were for naught, as I was welcomed and befriended by all I met. I was so relieved!

It was wonderful. There was something for everyone. A tour of historic buildings, lunching at a gourmet restaurant with an impeccable pedigree, hospitality in the hospitality room and doorknobs, gorgeous doorknobs.

Thursday was the first day of "buy, sell and trade," and I really didn't know what to expect. I was overwhelmed by what I saw. It was fabulous. The hardware was so beautiful — just like jewels. Table upon table of round knobs, oval knobs, shiny black cat iron knobs, porcelain knobs, glass knobs and sterling silver knobs with detail so sharp you could cut your finger. The displays — some whimsical, others grand. I even got to see (and handle) the famous "doggie" doorknob!

To say that my four days were fulfilling is an understatement. It was everything I hoped for — and more. I had a great time, so thank you. I especially want to thank my husband, Marshall. Without his encouragement (and playing Santa), I would have been in San Francisco from August 12 through August 16.

If you have never attended an ADCA convention, I urge you to do so. You won't be sorry. See you next year. ●

Election Held

The Antique Doorknob Collector of America held their election of board members and officers at the ADCA annual convention at King of Prussia, Pennsylvania, in August.

Three of the board members, Secretary-Treasurer Ray Nemecek, Marge Bornino and Linda Smeltzer, did not run for reelection.

The remaining board members chose to run for another term and were re-elected. Len Blumin, Rhett Butler and Carol Meermans were elected to fill the vacancies.

For Butler and Meermans it is their first term on the board. Blumin returns after a two year absence.

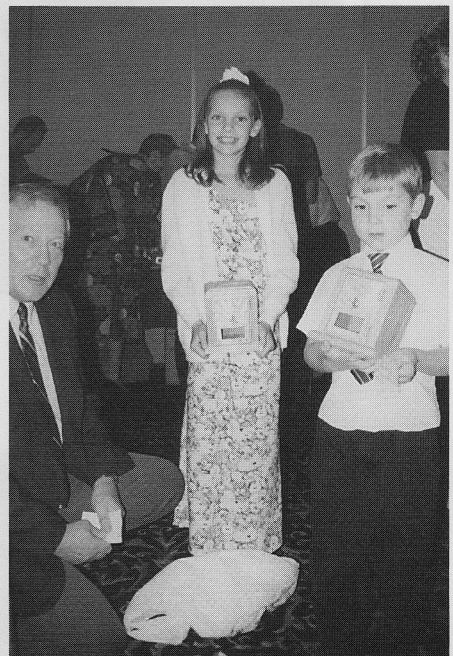
Win Applegate was re-elected president, Steve Rowe takes over as vice-president. He succeeds Dale Sponaugle who now becomes treasurer. Rich Kennedy was elected secretary. Other members on the board are Norman Blam, Maude Eastwood, Steve Menchhofer, Loretta Nemecek, Bob Rodder and Don Warming. ●

Megan Mann and Shawn Applegate received banks, made from old Post Office boxes, at the ADCA annual banquet. Each bank contains a rare Indian Head penny and were presented to Megan (daughter of Joe and Julie Mann) and Shawn (son of Brian and Christine Applegate) by Bob Rodder, convention chairperson.



Mayor Edward G. Rendall

Philadelphia Mayor Rendell breaks out with a big smile when thirty-two members tell him we are doorknob collectors. Mayor Rendell admitted he had never heard of doorknob collectors before. The meeting took place in the Philadelphia City Hall. Bob Rodder is seen capturing the moment on film. ●



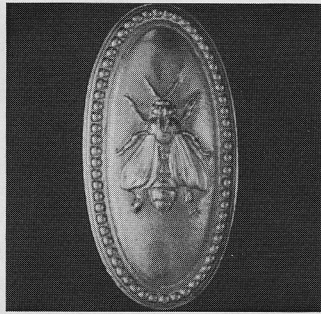
Ornamental Design in Antique Doorknobs

by Len Blumin

Representational Designs

- A-114** A bee. This knob was picked up in a Belgium flea market, probably in the 1960s, by a lady who moved to Oswego, Illinois.
- A-115** A standing or dancing griffin. This could have been a custom made for a hotel.
- A-116** Deer in foliage, well disguised.
- A-117** Bronze U. S. Eagle, Compare to A-108 (TDC #27).
- A-209** Mallory Wheeler, 1882 Catalog, p. 265. This rare "steamship" has yet to be found as a metal specimen. Photo is of a walnut knob, apparently hand carved, and slightly different from the catalog drawing.
- A-210** Steam engine.

A-114



A 115



A-116



A-117



A-209



A-210



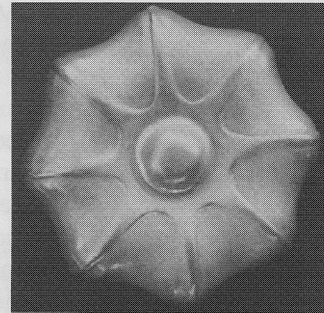
Representational & Odd Shape Designs

- A-325** Indian. Probably the rarest of the Indian Knobs. See A-203 and A-317.
C-128 Circa 1920.
C-129 Octagonal. A Niles knob.
C-130 Corbin 1895 catalog, Romanesque school. A concave knob with a "pineapple" in the center.
C-131 Entry knob diameter 2 1/2 inches. Inner knobs, diameter 2 1/4".
C-132 Striking rectangular knob with unusual motif. Wow!
An unusual rectangle, circa 1930.

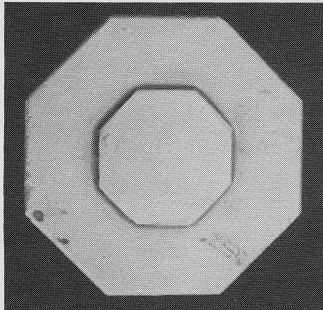
A-325



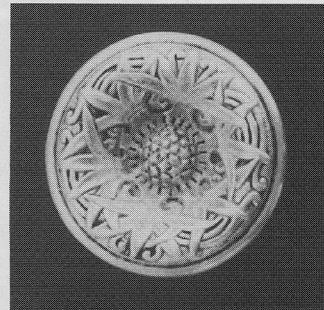
C-128



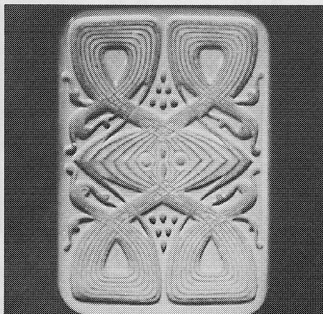
C-129



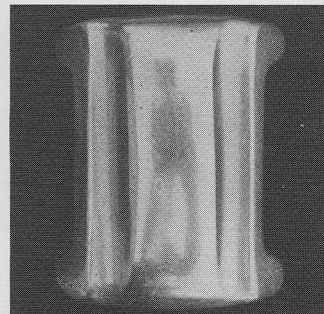
C-130



C-131



C-132



ADCA Membership

One of the most often asked questions by ADCA members is, "How many members do we have?" We thought you might like to see the numbers for each year. The club grew steadily from its inception in 1981 through 1994 when membership peaked at 262. Since then it has seen a decline each year.

In the 1970s and 1980s, architectural salvage businesses such as Salvage One had thousands upon thousands of doorknobs on hand. The amount has dropped dramatically in the 1990s. The drop has been the result of many factors. A move to save the older buildings rather than tear them down and increased interest in restoration of the buildings has sharply reduced the availability of the antique doorknobs we seek. A large flea market such as Kane County usually had five or six dealers with abundant supplies of door hardware in the 1980s. In the late 1990s there have been times when hardware is almost impossible to find. Needless to say, potential ADCA members be

come discouraged when they cannot find knobs to add to their collections.

The scarcity of desirable knobs has also brought an increase in prices. One need only attend ADCA conventions to realize the escalation in doorknob value as the demand outstrips the supply.

All this contributes to collectors losing interest. We have reached ADCA member number 500. However there are only 238 active members in ADCA. Many factors enter into the loss of a membership. We cannot help but think the lack of available hardware is a major contributor.



The Otte Family

The late Richard Wise's family was represented at this year's annual convention by granddaughters Cari and Becky and their mother and father Bonnie and Tom Otte. Bonnie presented an 1887 Russell & Erwin catalog to the archives on behalf of George Jurach who made the gift in the name of her father, Richard Wise. Cari won the lion head doorknob in the raffle. The Ottes also won the table center piece and the door prize. Unable to attend the convention were Richard's wife, Betty, and his other daughter, Lisa Rybicki. ●

ADCA MEMBERSHIP BY YEAR

1981---	43	1990--	207
1982---	71	1991--	208
1983---	82	1992--	239
1984---	90	1993--	241
1985---	100	1994--	262
1986---	105	1995--	253
1987---	137	1996--	241
1988---	165	1997--	238
1989---	186		

ADCA Board Members

Year	President	V. President	Secretary	Treasurer	Board	Board	Board	Board	Board	Board
81-82	J. Holland	A. Fredrick	M. Weimer	M. Weimer	D. Razor					
82-83	A. Frederick	L. Blumin	D. Miller	L. Kaiser	J. Holland	L. Nemec	C. Wardell			
84-84	L. Blumin	L. Nemec	D. Miller	L. Kaiser	M. Eastwood	A. Fredrick	A. Paholke	C. Wardell		
84-85	L. Blumin	L. Nemec	L. Kaiser	L. Kaiser	M. Eastwood	A. Fredrick	D. Miller	C. Wardell	F. Jarvis	
85-86	J. Holland	A. Still	L. Kaiser	L. Kaiser	M. Eastwood	L. Blumin	D. Miller	S. Menchhofer	F. Jarvis	
86-87	J. Kaiser*	M. Eastwood	R. Nemec	R. Nemec	A. Still	C. Bednar	D. Miller	S. Menchhofer	F. Jarvis	
87-88	D. Miller	L. Blumin	R. Nemec	R. Nemec	M. Eastwood	W. Applegate	B. Byington	S. Menchhofer	A. Still	
88-89	D. Miller	L. Blumin	R. Nemec	R. Nemec	M. Eastwood	W. Applegate	B. Byington	M. Davidovich	A. Fredrick	
89-91	L. Blumin	W. Applegate	R. Nemec	R. Nemec	M. Eastwood	B. Byington	D. Campbell	M. Davidovich	A. Fredrick	
91-93	W. Applegate	D. Sponaugle	L. Nemec	L. Nemec	M. Eastwood	L. Blumin	D. Campbell	C. Ruiz	A. Fredrick	
93-95	W. Applegate	D. Sponaugle	R. Nemec	R. Nemec	M. Eastwood	L. Blumin	N. Blam	R. Kennedy	A. Fredrick	
95-96	W. Applegate	D. Sponaugle	R. Nemec	R. Nemec	M. Eastwood	N. Blam	R. Kennedy	S. Rowe	L. Smeltzer	
96-97	W. Applegate	D. Sponaugle	R. Nemec	R. Nemec	M. Eastwood	N. Blam	R. Kennedy	S. Rowe	S. Menchhofer	L. Nemec
								M. Bornino	B. Rodder	D. Warming
97-98	W. Applegate	S. Rowe	R. Kennedy	D. Sponaugle	M. Eastwood	N. Blam	R. Butler	S. Menchhofer	C. Meermans	L. Nemec
								L. Blumin	B. Rodder	D. Warming

During the 82-83 & 83-84 terms the office of Sec/Treas. was split into positions

*Jim Kaiser died during his term as President was succeeded by V. Pres., M. Eastwood. C. Bednar became V. Pres.

From the Awards Chairman

by Rich Kennedy

The displays at this year's convention were fantastic. Members told me it was a real challenge voting for the best in each group. As a matter of fact, the displays were so good that there was a tie in the Emblematic Iron/Steel category.

Again, congratulations to the following winners:

Iron/Steel (patterns)

Marge Bornino

Charlie Wardell, Honorable Mention

Iron/Steel (emblematic)

Menchhofers, & Nemeccs - Tie

Iron/Steel (Figural)

Charlie Wardell

Bronze/Brass Display

Steve Rowe

Most Creative

Marge Bornino

Cheryl Blam, Honorable Mention

Best of Show

Steve Rowe

Cheryl Blam, Honorable Mention

As of yet there is no theme for next years convention, but it is never too early to think about taking part in next years display competition. It is fun to do and you have to be in it to win it! ●

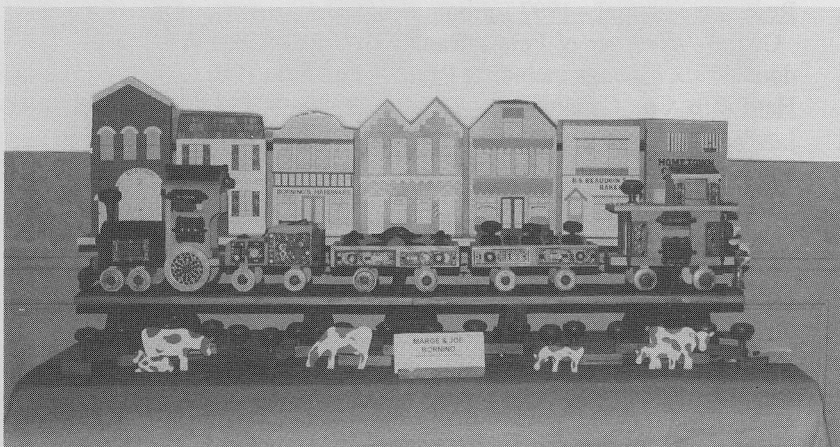
Over 1000 Attendees

The 1997 ADCA convention at King of Prussia, Pennsylvania with a total of 63 members and guests, brought the total attendance for the 17 year they have been held to 1,046. Following is the year by year attendance with the convention site.

Year Location	Total
1981--Waverly, Iowa	34
1982--San Francisco, California	32
1983--Naperville, Illinois	50
1984--Waverly, Iowa	54
1985--St. Louis, Missouri	51
1986--Minneapolis, Minnesota	60
1987--West Des Moines, Iowa	52
1988--Indianapolis, Indiana	65
1989--Iowa City, Iowa	71
1990--East Windsor, Connecticut	78
1991--South Lake Tahoe, California	76
1992--Elgin, Illinois	76
1993--Gaithersburg, Maryland	83
1994--Milwaukee, Wisconsin	80
1995--Santa Monica, California	56
1996--Grand Rapids, Michigan	65
1997--King of Prussia, Pennsylvania	63



Winners of the annual display awards pose for a picture at the ADCA annual banquet. They are (1 to r) Steve Menchhofer, Loretta Nemecc, Steve Rowe, Cheryl Blam, Marge Bornino and Charles Wardell. (Not shown are Barbara Menchhofer and Ray Nemecc).



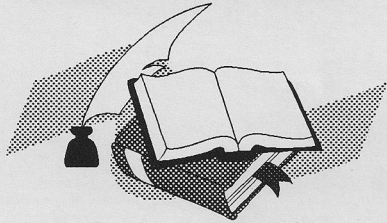
Railroad buffs were drawn to this year's display by Marge Bornino. Marge usually has a great display each year. The railroad exhibit caught the interest of everyone but rail fans seemed to enjoy it the most. Although it may not have been to scale and the gauge is in question, the quality of workmanship was superb. Hats off to Marge Bornino from all the rail fans.

Lock Museum Show in October

Tom Hennessey has informed us the Lock Museum of America's 25th annual lock collector show will be held Saturday, October 11, 1997. It will be held at the Terryville High School, Terryville, CT and show hours are from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Tables will be \$25.00 the price includes morning coffee and Danish, and a buffet lunch. Refreshment and appetizers will be served after the show at the museum. If interested in attending contact Geri Stuttig at 1-203-869-6260.

From The Archives



by Steve & Barbara Menchhofer

We had a great time at the ADCA convention this year. There were lots of doorknobs, related door hardware, and lots of friendly people. It was terrific!

Four donations were made to the Archives and the Emil Miller Memorial Library during the convention.

Rhett Butler donated A Guide to Architectural Builder's Hardware Research Material - 1997 Edition.

George Werthner of Pennsylvania donated six catalogs including Penn Hardware Co. Catalog No. 27 of Locks, Builders Hardware and Sargent Locks and Hardware - 1926.

George Jurach of California donated a Russell & Erwin Mfg. Co. Volume VII - 1887 catalog in memory of his close friend Richard Wise. Bonnie Otte, Richard Wise's daughter made the presentation in Mr. Jurach's absence.

Rich Kennedy made a monetary donation to the Archives.

To all of the above people, we say thank you for enhancing the Archives and the **Emil Miller Memorial Library**. Thanks for keeping our hopes alive to better educate our members about their hardware through our catalogs. ●

ADCA Roster Available

The new 1997 ADCA membership roster, listing members alphabetically and by state is now available. There are over sixty dealers listed. There is a total of ten columns of information. The roster is a "must" for anyone interested in buying, selling, trading or just for association with other members in the friendliest club in North America. To get the eleven page roster, send \$2.00 to ADCA Roster, P.O. Box 126, Eola, Illinois 60519-0126.

The Doorknob Exchange

Members are reminded that your dues entitle you to advertise items for sale, trade or wanted at no charge. ADCA is not responsible for any transaction or the condition of the items advertised.

Service: If you are thinking about selling your hardware collection, we would like to talk with you about custom auction services.

Web Wilson (#266)
P.O. Box 506
Portsmouth, RI 02871
PH: 800-508-0022

Wanted: I am interested in purchasing collections. If you are thinking of selling your doorknobs please contact me.

Cappy Lawton (#485)
402 Harrison Ave.
San Antonio TX 78209
PH: 210-822-5138

For Sale Hard to find and reasonable priced. Several brass exterior speaking tube mouthpieces.

Vicky Berol, Gofer Unlimited (#450)
2527 Gough Street
San Francisco, CA 94123-5012
PH: 415-771-9899

Wanted Still looking for the following hinges: 4 pair - 4x4 or 4 1/2 x 4 1/2. Cast Iron. Ball Tip. See Moes D-108.

Vicky Berol, Gofer Unlimited (#450)
2527 Gough Street
San Francisco, CA 94123-5012
PH: 415-771-9899

Wanted: Door Hinge 2 pr. 4x4. Cast iron. Steeple pin. (Moe's Catalog. D-118). Door Hinge 4 pr. 5x5. Cast iron with brass detail. Steeple pin. Pattern: Brocade. Door knob, rose and Key escutcheon (set). K-307. Cordova, also known as Granada.

Vicky Berol, Gofer Unlimited (#450)
2527 Gough Street
San Francisco, CA 9413
PH: 415-771-9899

Hardware Service: Free hardware matching service (furniture and house hardware). Send photo-copy and SASE along with description.

Steve Robinson (#460)
170 Kent St.
Portland, MI 48875
PH: 517-657-6155

Wanted. Video or Photos of 1997 convention. Contact Bob Rodder at 214/885-1488.

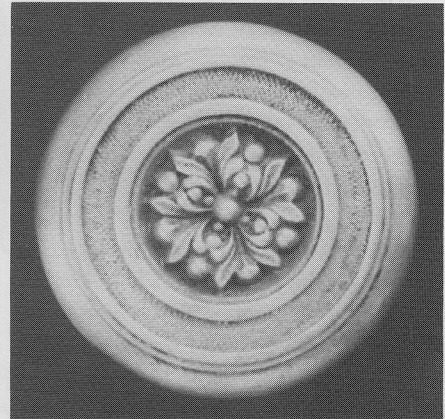
Correction

The doorknob described as M-146 in the July-August 1997 issue (#84) should have read M-150

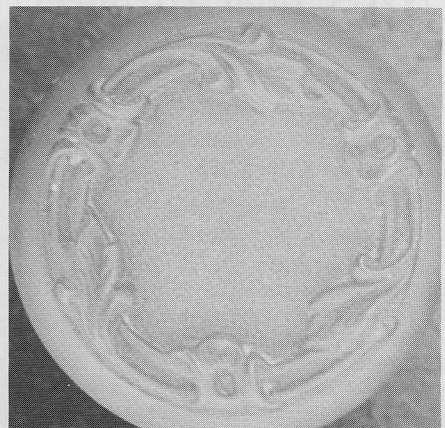
M-146 was actually shown in the March-April 1996 issue (#76).

Len Blumin said, M-150 "An Asymmetric, wreath makes an attractive perimeter design, circa 1905."

Shown below are the correct M-146 and M-150.



M-146



M-150

Available: Back issues of the Philadelphia Inquirer with the ADCA article in it. For a copy send business size SASE to: Bob Rodder 1293 Bruce St. Oreland, PA 19075.