

Photos, courtesy of the PA State Archives

The Pennsylvania State Archives generously gave permission to member Lou Thieblemont to photograph the Archive's collection of photos that pertain to Camp Hill. This article contains an aerial shot taken in 1939 or 1940 by well-known aerial photographer Sam Kuhnert. You may have noticed his embossed mark reproduced in the previous issue of our *Newsletter*. That was an error! Here it is again – on purpose!



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Get out your magnifying glass! The above left photo is an enlargement of the lower left quadrant of the above right photo. Note the water filled quarry in the upper right quadrant of the left photo.

The high school can be seen in the absolute center of the right hand photo. It shows as a large dark roof over a lighter building, across the street from a wooded almost triangular area.

Route 15, which is South 32nd Street, runs across the bottom of the photo. That field across the street has been the Camp Hill Mall since about 1960. Originally, the Oyster family owned the property south of Market Street that included the area from the quarry to South 32nd Street. George Oyster's daughter Tillie married Jacob Koons, the butcher who owned the Old Steelton Store. Tillie and Jacob became the owners of this section of the Oyster family properties. The Koons lived on Market Street at 30th [barn in the rear] in the farmhouse renovated and enhanced by interior designer, George Case. HSCH member Janet Koons D'Agostino, daughter of Tillie and Jacob, has fond memories of growing up among the orchards of the area and sharing produce with all their neighbors.

Murray Ott managed the quarry for the Koons until it was closed during 1924-1925. It is said that almost all houses built in Camp Hill before 1925 have basements lined with stone from the Ott operated quarry. Murray Ott was involved in constructing the above-ground portion of many houses, too!

After the quarry operations halted, the City of Harrisburg hauled the cinders from the city's heating system to dump them into the quarry as "fill". Many people used the inactive quarry as their private dump. Many a neighbor tipped disused items down the quarry. Children enjoyed scavenging treasures from there unbeknownst to their parents. And shooting rats! Hobos took up residence. Eventually the land surrounding the quarry was sold and Central Avenue was developed on the filled site between 28th and 30th Streets.

The strip of land that includes 31st Street from Market to Chestnut Streets was sold earlier to the Hempt family. Grace Hempt developed the string of houses that make up south 31st Street, shown across the center of the photo on the left. On the East side (even numbered) 11 houses were built from 1925 to 1928, with one more built in 1930. The West side (odd numbers) shows only 5 of the 8 houses built, which indicates that the above photo was taken in 1939 or 1940. Two more houses were built on the West side in 1940 and one in 1945.