

WHAT'S THE STORY BEHIND THOSE TOWN MARKERS?

by Joseph J. Fisher

IT ALL STARTED IN THE 1970S FOR JACK GRAHAM, who had an interest in the historic cast iron town markers that welcome Pennsylvania residents into various communities. Graham was fascinated enough by these prominent navy blue and bright yellow trimmed signs that he started sketching out the information on the many different signs he came across.

Little did he know that three decades later he would be a part of an organization dedicated to locating, restoring, protecting and preserving these town markers. Graham, a native of Pittsburgh who lives in Perry County, has more than 200 index cards filled with information about these signs. After retiring from the Pennsylvania State Parks system, Graham was approached by Nathaniel Guest, who would later become president of the Keystone Marker Trust. Guest, who also serves on the board of directors for organizations such as Preservation Pennsylvania and the Schuylkill River Greenway Association, was the first to initiate discussion about ways to revitalize the signs statewide. "The years have not been nice to these signs," Graham said. "Town markers help create a sense of place throughout towns and communities across the commonwealth."

Throughout the years, the markers have ended up in local buildings, private yards, some even abandoned on the side of the road after a motor vehicle accident. The Keystone Marker Trust works with local municipalities and historical societies, along with other organizations, to restore markers that have been bruised, dented or even chipped.

To see the full story and more pick up a copy of the Summer 2012 issue!

[Return to the index](#)

- > [Homepage](#)
- > [Current Issue](#)
- > [Past Issues](#)
- > [Subscribe](#)
- > [Advertise](#)
- > [Contacts](#)
- > [FAQs](#)
- > [About Us](#)
- > [Visit Daily Item](#)
- > [Visit Central PA](#)
- > [Visit PA](#)
- > [Visit Lancaster](#)

An idea is born

A magazine loaded with content not only for Central Pennsylvania residents but for visitors to the commonwealth. ”

