

Tuscarora-Herald, Permissions to Use

Begin forwarded message:

From: mjmccann@hushmail.com

Date: January 2, 2017 at 5:45:28 PM EST

To: "Robert McEwan" <robertandmariamcewan@gmail.com>

Subject: Re: Tuscarora Tank Farm

Hello Robert - you are welcome to use the info. Attached is a better image. Don't have much else on the site - although on the "West Jersey History Site" (<http://westjerseyhistory.org/images/hunterdon/stockton/>) at the bottom of the page is a ground shot of what I believe are the National Transit tanks. As I stated in my letter to the Herald I was pretty amazed at the smell - and at one point around 1996 I contacted both PADEP and USEPA to see what if anything is/was being done. I was told that someone periodically checks the canal for a sheen. Thought that was pretty weak - I'm no engineer but if oil can enter the canal by means other than surface runoff the canal wouldn't hold water? Anecdotally, during my career at NJDEP I heard that early ASTs didn't have bottoms: they were built over packed sand and relied on the properties of crude to 'seal' the bottoms. Mike

On 1/2/2017 at 5:15 PM, "Robert McEwan" <robertandmariamcewan@gmail.com> wrote:

Dear Mr. McCann,

Bridget was kind enough to share your email address. I volunteer with the Solebury Township Historical Society (STHS) and wanted to ask for your help if at all possible. Your letter to Bridget was really great. We would like to put it on our web site, noting you as the author. May we have your permission? We also wonder if you have more to say about the tank farm and if you have more photos. The one below is super, and really gives us a view we have not seen before. Your description is extremely helpful to the untrained eye (me!). The spill was a terrible event and still has ramifications for the people who live near by. So recording all we can about the specific history fits our mission.

Our web site (soleburyhistory.org <<http://soleburyhistory.org/>>) is growing in entries so you would be in good company.

looking forward to hearing from you.

many many thanks for sharing your knowledge,

and best for the new year,

Robert A. McEwan
STHS Board Member
ph: 215 479 4711

Begin forwarded message:

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From: "Bridget Wingert" <bridget@buckscountyherald.com>
Subject: FW: Tuscarora Tank Farm
Date: January 2, 2017 at 3:13:08 PM EST
To: "Robert McEwan" <robertandmariamcewan@gmail.com>

Here you go!

If you can't use the tank letter in a pdf format, please let me know.

Bridget Wingert. Editor
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-----Original Message-----

From: mjmccann@hushmail.com [<mailto:mjmccann@hushmail.com>]
Sent: Friday, December 23, 2016 3:34 PM
To: bridget@buckscountyherald.com
Subject: Tuscarora Tank Farm

Hey Bridget - I enjoyed reading about the Solebury tank farms. I commuted down that stretch of 32 for 21 years and was amazed at the petroleum odor - first believing it to be from asphalt making at the quarry across the river, below Stockton: no such plant exists. My job with NJDEP in Trenton was completing environmental due diligence for all the land NJ bought for open space, one component of which was studying aerial photography dating to 1930, with a stereo-microscope. Which was where I first observed the Tuscarora/National Transit site (see attached), along Route 32 and Ely Road. The numerous circular features in the photo are earthen tank dikes, which were situated along Ely Road. In this 1938 photo those dikes no longer contain tanks. Along Route 32 there are six 'square-ish' dikes, and several tanks remaining - as evident by the shadows they casting to the North. The ground in two of the square-ish dikes is darkened - which I believe is indicative of oil release - possibly the two National Transit tanks that were reportedly struck by lightning in August 1937, resulting in the loss of 1.5 million gallons of crude oil and fireballs that were reportedly visible as far away Philadelphia and Sellersville. I think it is fair to speculate that a plume of oil remains in the area to this day. Michael McCann

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