

Intelligencer Journal/Lancaster New Era

The Cabbage Hill coat of arms

*Dear Dr. Scribblermug:
I came across this mug/stein with a coat of arms from
Cabbage Hill in Lancaster. What can you tell me about it?
Eric Conner, Lancaster*

Dear Eric:
This took some doing, Eric.

Peter Knapp, a member of Lancaster Liederkranz, finally located Frank Gross, nephew of the late Paul Gross. Paul created this coat of arms, or crest.

According to Frank, his uncle was the youngest of 17 children who grew up on Cabbage Hill. Paul Gross painted the German regional crests that hang on walls of the Liederkranz's ballroom, and he designed the coat of arms.

"He also played the accordion," adds Frank. "If he didn't know the tune, he would have you whistle it and then he would play it."

Paul Gross died in 1977. In that year, his coat of arms was reproduced on hundreds of steins. The one you have, Eric, must date from that time.

According to an old newspaper clipping Frank Gross has provided, this is what the elements on the coat of arms signify:

The motto at the top, of course, translates as "Cabbage Hill Over Everything."

The knockwurst spreading from the duck's Prussian helmet represents Kunzler's meat processing plant.

The pretzel in the duck's right "hand" memorializes a pretzel bakery at High Street and Fairview Avenue.

The flowing stein in the duck's left "hand" represents Rieker's brewery and all Cabbage Hill residents who brewed beer.

The cabbage head held by the two German Dachshunds pays tribute to the cabbage patch cultivated by the "Hebrank girls," and the sauerkraut cannery at Hazel and Water streets.

Supporting it all is a "Laurel and Filbert" ribbon that provides "tracks" for the "Hill boat," otherwise known as the Laurel and Filbert trolley.

And that explains everything.

*The Scribbler welcomes comments and contributions at
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