

WINTER 2018-19

NORWIN
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

We preserve our local history, promote the history of the Norwin Community and embrace the opportunity to educate the Community about the people, places and events that comprise the history of Irwin, North Irwin, and North Huntingdon Township.



2018 Homes for the Holidays Tour



"The homeowners did such an awesome job, very well put together and festive."



"We loved all the older houses on the tour, their architecture and their history."

We are most grateful to our host families for sharing their homes with the community and we are thankful to the tour participants for their attendance and loyal support over the years!

Did You Know?



Estell Mason is shown with her team pulling the postal and freight sledge she used as a mail carrier in Alaska. She started out in October, 1908, with a team of eight Malemutes on the estimated 32,000 mile trip to prove the endurance of the special breed. The breeders put up the stake.

Around-the-World Dog Team Visited Irwin in 1912

Reported in an article in the Fulton County News of July 16, 1912: "Estell Mason and her team of Eskimo dogs passed through this place (McConnellsburg, PA) last Friday morning. According to the postal cards which she sells to support herself and dogs, and an escort, they left Nome, Alaska, October 27, 1908 for a trip of 32,000 miles around the world. They are now on their way to San Francisco to attend the Panama World's Fair.

The team is composed of nine dogs, seven of which were drawing the low-wheeled wagon; the other two ran with the team.

Besides the nine grown dogs, there were seven puppies in the wagon, or, rather, in the sled; for the 'second story' of the outfit was a sled, and in case snow is encountered, the vehicle can be reversed and the wagon can be carried on the sled."

THE MALIMOTE TEAM. By Harry J. Mason

Of all the methods of travel along forest, field and stream
There is nothing that will excite one's marvel like a well-trained
Malimote team.

They are ready and willing and anxious to plod the weary way,
From morn till night o'er the snowy plains as they haul a
Yukon Sleigh.

You can talk about your automobiles and other whirli-gigs,
Your big balloons and airships, and other sorts of rigs;
But of all the methods of travel to get from place to place
A team of well-trained Malimote will always win the race.

Your electric car is a cracker-jack till her batteries are done;
The gasoline car is a favorite, while the "gasoline she'll run.
There's cars that are fed on maple and others fed on steam,
But a small army of Malimotes is feed for the Malimote
team.

The machinery of a Malimote is quite a simple affair
Four sturdy legs and a mind of grit that will take them any-
where;

There are no electric batteries, coal-oil or gasoline,
Or that other propelling agency commonly known as steam.

An extended trip in your fancy machines means particular
preparations.

A great amount of mechanical skill and numerous alterations;
But the time it takes for a Malimote team to start off with a
rush,

Is the time it takes for the leader's ears to catch the driver's
"Mush."

I love those dogs, they are honest, they deserve the best of care.
It is the only reward I can give, but it will take me anywhere.
See those intelligent faces, do think I suffer remorse,
To prefer them for my life-long comrades to our other old
friend, the horse?

Now I will not dwell on the dangers we've been through to-
gether

For twenty-nine thousand miles in the last three years in all
extremes of weather,

And never once in the thousands of times we've been hooked
up ready to go

Have they failed to start when I said "Mush," or to stop
when I said "Whoa."

READ POEM
ON PAGE 3



"Around The World" Dogsled Trip Photo Card c. 1911

This 5.5" x 3.5" photo card depicts Estell Mason and Her Mascott Manofee on the front, and a poem by her husband, Harry J. Mason, on the back. The image of Estell in turn-of-the-century clothing, is actually a drawing with a photograph of her head and the dog's head added to the scene.



ESTELL MASON AND HER MASCOT
MANOFEE

THE MALIMOTE TEAM

Of all the methods of travel along forest, field and stream
There is nothing that will excite one's marvel like a well-trained Malimote team.

They are ready and willing and anxious to plod the weary way,

From morn till night o'er the snowy plains as they haul a Yukon Sleigh.

You can talk about your automobiles and other whirli-gigs,
Your big baloons and airships, and other sorts of rigs;
But of all the methods of travel to get from place to place
A team of well-trained Malimote will always win the race.

Your electric car is a cracker-jack till her batteries are done;
The gasoline car is a favorite, while there's gasoline she'll run.
There's cars that are fed on naphtha and others fed on steam,
But a small amount of dried salmon is feed for the Malimote team.

The machinery of a Malimote team is quite a simple affair
Four sturdy legs and a bunch of grit that will take them anywhere;

There are no electric batteries, coal-oil or gasoline,
Or that other propelling agency commonly known as steam.

An extended trip in your fancy machines means particular preparations,

A great amount of mechanical skill and numerous alterations;
But the time it takes for a Malimote team to start off with a rush,

Is the time it takes for the leader's ears to catch the driver's "Mush."

I love those dogs, they are honest, they deserve the best of care.

It is the only reward I can give, but it will take me anywhere.
See those intelligent faces, do think I suffer remorse,
To prefer them for my life-long comrades to our other old friend, the horse?

Now I will not dwell on the dangers we've been through together

For twenty-nine thousand miles in the last three years in all extremes of weather,

And never once in the thousands of times we've been hooked up ready to go

Have they failed to start when I said "Mush," or to stop when I said "Whoa."

Poem By Harry J. Mason



Today, three of the homes along Pennsylvania Avenue, pictured in the photo of Estell Mason's trip in 1912, can be seen.



Estell Mason is pictured along Pennsylvania Avenue in the early 1900's. She drove her dog team from Nome, Alaska to San Francisco for the Panama-Pacific International Exposition, for a \$12,500 purse.



Norwin Historical Society

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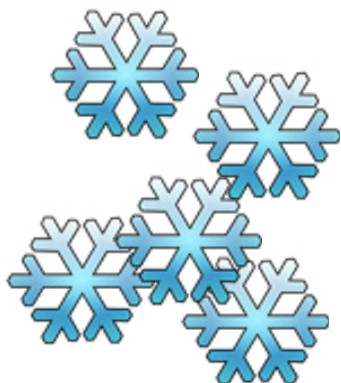
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TO:

**Stop by the History Center
during Main Street events
at our new address across
from the Lamp Theater!**



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