



**NOW
&
AND THEN**



John Zavinski of Hermitage is a deltiologist – a collector of postcards – and illustrates historic local images here with modern views of the same scene. He is director of graphics and technology for *The Herald* newspaper and design director for *Life & Times* magazine. Contact him at jzavinski@sharonherald.com

The scenic Shenango in Sharon

By John Zavinski

THE VIEW ON A LAZY, warm evening along the Shenango River in downtown Sharon has n't changed all that much in the 70 years since the publication of the 1938 picture postcard above, but compared to the same view a century ago, it's a different landscape.

Actually, the modern view at right isn't entirely modern: It's from autumn 2005, two years before the replacement of the 1916-vintage State Street Bridge.

What today is the First National Bank building at left now sports a

two-story addition behind it, and The Winner building beyond it to the left is one story taller (added in the 1940s or '50s) than back then when the department store was The Sharon Store.

The tower of the old Sharon fire

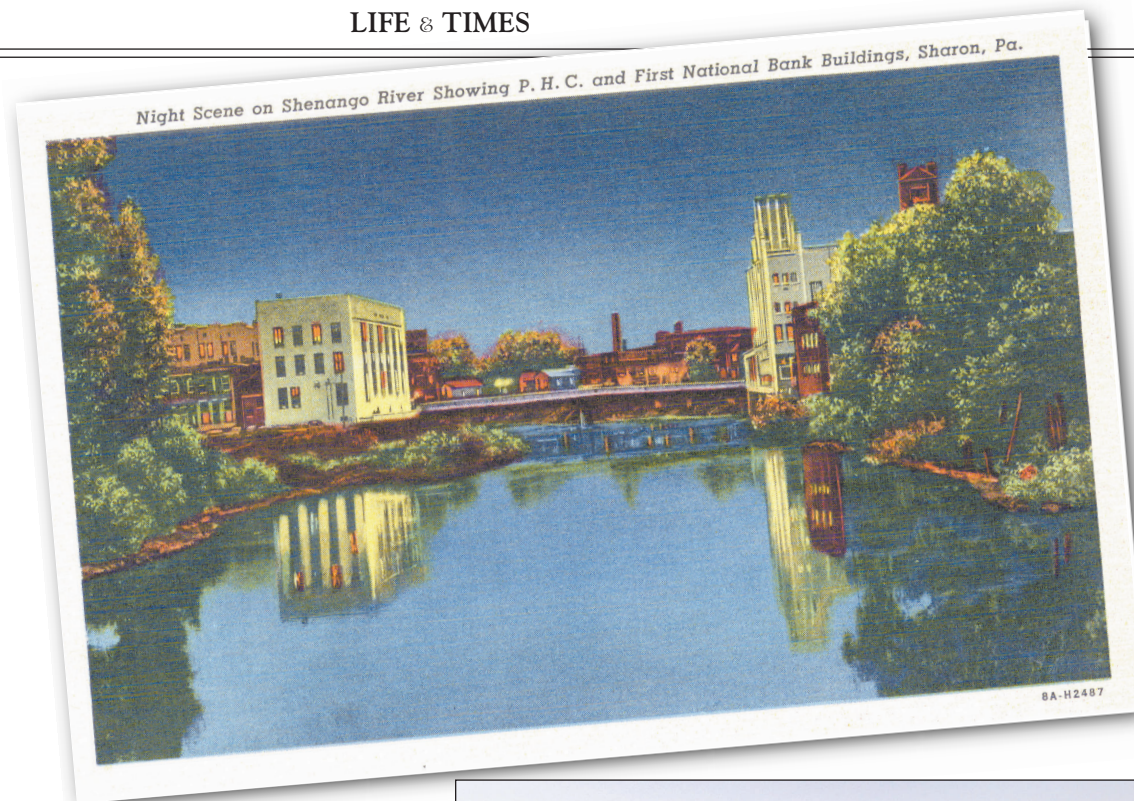
department peeks over the treeline at right. Beyond it is the familiar buff brick, art deco Protected Life building – now known as Riverview Place.

In the modern view, the Huntington Bank tower in the distant center replaced a block of riverfront store buildings in the mid-1960s.

At left, the previous arched-truss bridge spanned a river hugged by brick and wood-frame buildings, some of them on pilings over the river. At right was the original Protected Home Circle headquarters, which burned in 1935.

The mansard-roofed bank building at left actually is the same building there today. In the 1930s, the roofline was lowered and its Victorian appearance was modernized to an art deco style with a limestone facing. ♦

The view up the Shenango River in downtown Sharon in a postcard circa 1907-09.



Looking north toward the State Street Bridge in Sharon in 1938, left, and the same view in 2005, below.

