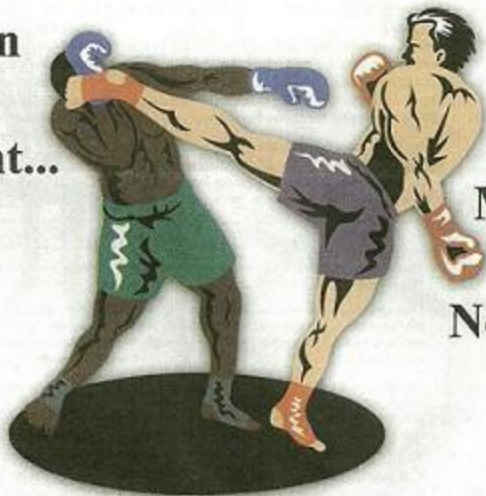


The **LEVITTOWN**
LEADER

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" News you can use, and fun for free "

**Where
Levittown
Learns
to Fight...**



**...Mixed
Martial Arts
in the
Neighborhood**



Hometown Pages



Bike Rides and Baseball Cards A Lifelong Levittown Journey

By David Marable

When my family moved into our Levittown home in the Willowwood section, it was a wet and muddy neighborhood. All the houses had lawns of dirt. To enter our new home, we would walk on boards from the carport to the vestibule. Our neighbors would meet out on the sidewalks. The year was 1952.

After a few years, our neighborhood was filled with kids. We would play summer games of Indian ball in the backyards. We would flip baseball cards under the carport. I recall Bobby S. and Alice W., who lived on Willow Drive, playing hide and seek by the light pole. Within minutes we had a dozen kids show up to join in.



As we grew up, Levittown became our playground. We would ride our bikes throughout Levittown and Fairless hills, seeking opponents for pickup games of baseball and basketball. There was a day I remember playing baseball at Benjamin Franklin School on Mill Creek Park way. A small helicopter hovered overhead.

Two men were in the cockpit and they waved down at us. One of the parents was taking 8mm camera shots of us playing baseball, and he took some of the helicopter. To my surprise, when I had the 8mm film developed into single photos 59 years later, I saw that the two men in the helicopter were William Levitt and his pilot Raymond Proffitt. I was lucky enough to meet Raymond Proffitt in 2003 at his home in Florida.

To enter our new home, we would walk on boards laid across the mud.

As an adult I became very interested in the history of Levittown, how it was built, and the importance of the concept. I have interviewed hundreds of original Levittowners (original home owners). They all had wonderful experiences and memories of the community.

A most interesting interview took place in my old neighborhood. I went to visit Mrs. S, still in her Willow Drive home. I asked her about Alice W. and if it was true that her aunt married William Levitt. It was true, and when I filled in for Bobby S's brother putting insulation into homes I was actually working for Levitt & Sons.



In 2000, when I started to gather history for the Fairless Hills 50th Anniversary, I became even more intrigued by the history of Levittown. I began to study all the communities that were built by the family of Abraham, William and Alfred Levitt. Over the last decade I have collected hundreds of journals, documents, memorabilia, and thousands of original photos.

It has been a grand journey of a lifetime, especially with my sons helping me to gather the history and show it all in over forty programs/exhibits around the area.

To my neighbors: the 60th Anniversary of Fairless hills is in 2011, and the 60th Anniversary of Levittown, PA. will be celebrated in 2012. It's just around the corner! ■

