Pennypacker Mills Presents Clear Toy Candy: A Sweet Tradition

Schwenksville, PA (November 30, 2012) – Most children one-hundred years ago hoped for a shiny piece of clear toy candy in their stocking. The three-dimensional shapes glistened like glass and were made of pure sugar. Small pieces were given as a sweet treat while larger pieces were used as decorative elements on cake tiers in the center of a dining room table during the Christmas holiday.

Candy making in the early 1900s became quite an art. Most people did not have the skill, nor the expensive molds that were needed to shape these candies. It became an accepted tradition to purchase these sweet treats at nearby confectionary stores, such as those at the Reading Terminal Market, where Samuel Pennypacker would buy much of his family’s cakes and sweets.

On Saturday, December 1, 2012, join Suzanne Wainwright-Evans, a collector of clear toy candy molds and a candy demonstrator, as she shares the history of clear toy candy making and demonstrates how these sweet treats were made using her own sets of antique clear toy candy molds. This free presentation will be held in the Classroom Building from 1:00pm-3:00pm. Parking is available.

Plan to stop by the Pennypacker mansion for a guided tour of the beautifully decorated home of Pennsylvania Governor Samuel Pennypacker and his family. Tour hours are from 10:00am-4:00pm. The last tour begins at 3:00pm. The Museum Shop is stocked with unique Christmas decorations, gifts, and holiday décor items for the home. Cash, personal checks, and credit cards are accepted.

Pennypacker Mills is located at 5 Haldeman Road, Schwenksville, PA 19473. For information and directions please call 610-287-9349 or visit the Pennypacker Mills page at http://www.historicsites.montcopa.org/. Pennypacker Mills is operated by the Montgomery County Department of Assets and Infrastructure, Parks and Heritage Services Division. The site offers year-round guided tours, education programs, changing exhibits, seasonal events, and craft workshops.

All images provided by Pennypacker Mills:
Candy demonstrator and collector, Suzanne Wainwright Evans, shows several of her completed clear toy candies.

Large clear toy candy shapes are displayed on a cake pedestal at Pennypacker Mills.