

***FICTITIOUS NAME REGISTRATION:  
A Y2K- SCENARIO***

Surely all of you have heard of the Y2K problem that threatens the "civilized" world when computers suddenly can't tell what time it is at 12:00 midnight, year 2000. What you might not know is that by year end 2000 your clients fictitious name registrations might stop working also.

The Fictitious Name Act (Title 54 Section 321 for individuals and Section 503 for corporate fictitious name registrations) provides for the automatic cancellation of any fictitious name (FN) registration that has not been renewed by year end 2000.

The act does provide that any amendments to a FN registration filed with the Corporation Bureau during the prior 10 year period will act as an automatic renewal.

What are the Bureau's plans for 1999? According to Michael Frick, the Corporation Bureau Director, the Bureau is required to mail notices to the last known addresses of each FN on record. These mailings will start no earlier than 11-1-99 (See Section 133(d)). Because of this, it might be wise to file an amendment for each client that may have failed to amend their address after moving. In this way your clients will be sure to receive any notices from the Bureau and the address change amendment will act as a renewal, thereby avoiding the Y2K problem.

Can Esquire Assist help? You betcha. Our database goes back to December of 1993 and we can generate a list of any FN filings received from your office since that time. Of course we can help with the filing of FN renewals and will have a reduced rate for these filings. We can also run searches for names registered by your clients, whether human or corporate. I will be glad to talk with you about this.

***SLIGHT INCREASE IN FEES COMING IN 1999  
- FIRST SINCE 1992***

As many of you know, our pricing scheme is designed to maximize your client's dollars. Our base fee applies only to the first matter we work on. All additional matters, documents or searches have been billed at a rate of \$10. For searches, this is \$2 less than the State charges plus the State charges \$2/page to fax any copies, way more than we charge. While our "additional matter" fees are at 1960 levels, we

now find it necessary to face the loud calls from our accountant that it is time. Accordingly, starting May 1, 1999, our charge for additional matters will rise to \$13. Remember though, to the best of our knowledge, our competitors (the big guys) all charge their base fee (some as high as \$35) for each matter they work on, and some even send separate invoices for each matter ordered. From **Esquire Assist** you receive one convenient invoice detailing all matters worked on. For the speed, quality and professionalism you receive from us, you simply can't find a better bargain for your State level corporate/business or UCC searches. Call for our complete price list. See our story on PennDOT ( p.2) for our new lower PennDOT service fees.

**NEW PHOTOGRAPHIC SERVICES**

Esquire Assist now provides digital photographic services in the Harrisburg area. Photographs of site locations can be e-mailed to you before your trip to the "burg" which should help you locate your destination with ease. In addition, we specialize in artistic scenes of Harrisburg and Pennsylvania. If you would like a particular scene for your office wall, call us. You may be surprised.

**CORPORATE OFFICES OF  
ESQUIRE ASSIST, LTD.**

Even though it has been two years this January, we continue to receive mail to our old address. Below is a photograph of our new office located at **225 South Street**. You will see that it is a towering three story structure but what you cannot see is the history our corporate edifice has. Built around the turn of the century, this humble abode was once home to an Italian family of eleven. The father ran a fruit stand at an old farmer's market in downtown Harrisburg (long since replaced by hi-rise apartment buildings). We were told that he actually ripened bananas in the basement before taking them to sell at market. As a matter of fact, our electrician was a friend of one of the boys in the family and he tells stories of gathering on the front stoop to play

music on hot summer evenings.

Our new address appears on the front of this newsletter. Please double check your records to make sure we receive overnight deliveries without delay. Thank you.

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**PennDOT - CHANGES IN LOCATION,  
SERVICE AND OUR FEES (REDUCED)**

Our PennDOT services suffered a blow last year with the fire at the old PennDOT building. The new building is located about 2 miles outside of the downtown area. It is now necessary for us to drive to the new location so PennDOT information is not as readily available as it was when located opposite the Corporation Bureau's office building. Nevertheless, we still go to PennDOT routinely and can make special trips for emergencies. The good news is that photocopy information no longer takes 6 weeks to obtain. In fact, we now receive insurance or title information while we wait (usually a 30-60 minute wait). We even lowered and restructured our PennDOT fees as follows:

\$15 for a basic vehicle printout  
\$20 for basic printout w/insurance

The additional \$5 helps defray the cost of waiting for the insurance information. But note, the above fees are actually a reduction in our overall PennDOT fees. An additional \$5 per record is charged by PennDOT for the documents we obtain.

**SQUIRREL QUEEN RESCUED FROM  
PENNDOT BUILDING**

For those of you that have been wondering if the

Squirrel Queen survived the PennDOT demolition, read on. As you will remember in our last episode, the Squirrel Queen was being dragged into an old underground tunnel by a band of renegade squirrels in an attempt to keep the Queen (our very own Diane Luther who feeds the squirrels peanuts in the Fall) all to themselves. There was a valiant attempt to rescue her from captivity, but alas the attempt fell short. Upon regrouping however, the Queen's noble knight made one last desperate attempt to save her as the very demolition sirens echoed through the city canyons. Armed with only a secret knowledge of a second access tunnel and dressed in one of the Queen's own royal robes, the brave knight was able to surprise, confuse and otherwise catch off guard the band of Queen-nappers. As the very demolition blasts were heard and the building began to crumble and tumble, out of the clouds of billowing dust ran the brave knight with the Queen over his shoulder. Onlookers were somewhat confused by the sight until the knight shed his royal costume and then, it was said, a joyous chorus arose from the crowd for now the Squirrel Queen was safe and free to feed the Capitol squirrels once more. Alas, but joyously here ends the saga of the Lost Squirrel Queen.

As one dedicated Revenue worker that we deal with every day says, "Hey, if we can't have a little fun, why work!"

***We here at Esquire Assist would like to wish you a peaceful transition through the approaching Y2k era.***