



“ River stones remain, while water flows away.” ~ Romanian Proverb



Early Spring in the Forest between Lee and Glen Lyon

Newport Township Public Business

By John Jarecki ~ The following are items of Township business discussed or acted upon at meetings of the Newport Township Commissioners in January, February, and March of 2020.

January 6, 2020: The Commissioners held two meetings on this date, their reorganization meeting after the re-election of Commissioners Debbie Zaleski, Mike Roke, and Paul Czapracki, followed by their regular monthly meeting.

At the reorganization meeting, Magistrate Donald Whitaker administered the oath of office to the three re-elected Commissioners. The Commissioners then re-elected Paul Czapracki as President of the Board of Commissioners and reappointed Christopher Slusser as Township Solicitor, Jeremy Blank as Police Chief, and PennEastern Engineers as Township Engineer for the year 2020.

At the regular meeting, the Commissioners awarded to Norman Bodek a Certificate of Appreciation for 37 years of outstanding service to the Newport Township Police Department from 1982 to 2019. They also presented a plaque to Mike Dziak, retiring President and CEO of Earth Conservancy (EC) from 1994 to 2019, in grateful recognition of his service to the EC and for his assistance to Newport Township during

that period.

Township citizens' comments included a request that a report to be written on the possibility of the creation of an ATV park on Earth Conservancy land be given to the Township's Recreation Board and that there be a public forum about such a park in which residents could voice their opinions.

Commissioner John Zyla, who oversees the Township Police Department, said in December there were 22 police shifts that were covered by the State Police because Township officers were not available. He said that the reason for this was that one of the Township's four full time officers had resigned to take a job in another community at a higher salary. With a healthy economy and more jobs available at the new warehouses coming into the area, he said, it has become difficult to find people willing to work in part-time police officer positions.

In order to get and keep police officers, Mr. Zyla said, the Township would have to hire full time officers and pay higher salaries, and that means that the Commissioners will have to raise taxes. They will be hiring 2 new full time officers.

The Commissioners approved a 3% wage increase for employees of the Street Department and the school (Continued on next page)

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Retreat (p.14-16), Freddy Haverlak (p.17-19), Veterans of World War II (p.20), Community Events (p.21) Ads (p.22-23), NTCO (p. 24).

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crossing guard.

The Commissioners approved a memorandum of understanding and agreement concerning a collective bargaining agreement between the Township and the Police Officers' union. They also approved the hiring of two full time police officers at a starting salary of \$45,760.

Township Manager Joe Hillan included the following items in his report:

- 1) Starting on January 23 and continuing once a month, employees from each Township Department will participate in a safety committee meeting that will be held in the Municipal Building Community Room.
- 2) The following are updates to the Township's program of demolition of abandoned buildings:

1246 Center Street, Wanamie: The Township is advertising for bids for demolition of the building under Luzerne County's Scattered Site Demolition Program. Bids will open on January 24.

125-131 Main Street, Glen Lyon: The \$60,000 grant that the Township was awarded by the State's Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) should be deposited in its account by January 30.

161-162 Brown Row, Wanamie: The Township purchased the property at a Luzerne County repository sale, and is still waiting to receive the deed to the property.

February 3, 2020: There were no citizens' comments. Commissioner John Zyla announced that the Commissioners had interviewed three candidates for the two open positions of full time police officer.

Attorney John Solt, representing Solicitor Christopher Slusser, announced that he had, at the Commissioners' request, drafted amendments to two ordinances. The first is the Handicapped Parking Ordinance. The amendment would allow a person with physical disabilities to get a parking space that is exclusively reserved for his vehicle. The cost is initially \$100, with a yearly \$25 renewal fee. The second is the Burning Ordinance. The amendment would provide that the Ordinance can be enforced by, not only the Township Manager as is now the case, but also by Police Officers and the Building Code Enforcement Officer.

Financial Oversight Consultant Jennifer Polito reported that the Township did well in January, with an income of \$102,632 and expenses of \$102,698. She also reported that, for the year 2019, the Township again did well, with income exceeding expenses by \$115,419. The only problem was that the Real Estate Tax collection rate was at only 86% of possible revenue. Actual revenue was \$423,000 compared to budgeted revenue of \$450,000. The income tax, however, made up for the Real Estate Tax shortfall, with its actual revenue of \$450,000 compared to budgeted revenue of \$429,000. All Township Departments did better financially than was expected in terms of budgeted and actual expenditures.

The Commissioners voted to appoint Township Manager Joe Hillan as Right to Know Officer for Newport Township.

Township Manager Joe Hillan included the following items in his report:

- 1) The first phase of the Railroad Street Storm Sewer Repair Project, in which an underground storm drain pipe was installed, is now complete. Paving of the sidewalk above the drain pipe will be done in the spring.
- 2) On January 29, he attended a meeting of the Lower South Valley Council of Governments (LSVCOG). The group decided to assess each member a \$600 annual fee to help defray the cost of insurance for the equipment owned by the LSVCOG. The group also decided to defray the maintenance costs of the equipment by apportioning these costs among the members according to how much use the member made of the equipment.
- 3) The following are updates on the Township's program of demolition of abandoned buildings:

1246 Center Street, Wanamie. Bids were opened for demolition of the building on January 24. The low bidder was Smart Recycling of Dunmore with a bid of \$13,000. The Commissioners voted to approve a contract with Smart Recycling to demolish the building at the bid price dependent on final approval from Luzerne County, which is needed because the work is being done under the County's Scattered Site Demolition Program. 129-131 East Main Street, Glen Lyon. The \$60,000 grant the Township received from the State DCED to demolish the property was deposited in its account on January 29.

The Township is waiting for the deed to be signed by the owner and for the approval of the Bankruptcy Court, both of which are needed for the transfer of the property to the Township.

161-162 Brown Row, Wanamie. The Township is still waiting for the approval by the Luzerne County Council of its acquisition of the property in the County's repository sale. The matter should be on the Council's agenda at its first meeting in February.

23-25 Newport Street, Glen Lyon. This building was demolished by the owner.

March 2, 2020: A resident inquired about there being any new information as to whether the proposed Verizon cell tower on the east side of Glen Lyon would be built and whether curbs, as well as sidewalks, would be replaced in Glen Lyon with funds we received from Luzerne County under its low income grant program. The answer to both questions was no.

The Commissioners voted to hire two new full time police officers: Brandon Bradshaw and William Dubiak. Magistrate Donald Whitaker administered the oath of office to the two men. With these additions, the total number of Newport Township full time police officers is five.

Attorney Jeff Rockman, representing the Township Solicitor, the Slusser Law Firm, reported that since there were no objections to the transfer to the Township of the property at 125-131 East Main Street in Glen Lyon, the Bankruptcy Court would almost certainly approve the transfer. The owner will then sign over the property to the Township for demolition.

Financial Oversight Consultant Jennifer Polito reported that, in the first two months of the year, Township expenses were higher than normal because of costs of the Railroad Street Storm Sewer Repair project, but that the Township still had enough money in reserve to pay its bills without a tax anticipation loan.

The Commissioners voted to approve Ordinance #1 of 2020 amending Ordinance #6 of 2004 establishing and regulating handicapped parking space in the Township.

The Commissioners also voted to approve Ordinance #2 of 2020 which expands who may regulate burning in the Township.

The Commissioners voted to authorize Joe Hillan to cooperate with the Earth Conservancy (EC) in exploring whether equipment improvements needed at the EC's composting facility in the Township are eligible for State Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) grant funds. If the improvements are found to be eligible, the Township will cooperate with the EC in the grant application as principal municipal sponsor.

Township Manager Joe Hillan included the following items in his report:

- 1) The Township has, as of February 29, sold 1,399 refuse stickers, compared with 1,400 at this time last year.
- 2) In April the 2020 Census will begin. It is important that all residents participate and be counted. Government funds available to the Township depend on population as counted in the Census. Information can be found on the Township's web site, www.newporttownship.org.
- 3) The following are updates on the Township's program of demolition of abandoned buildings:

1246 Center Street, Wanamie. Demolition of the building is complete. The Township is waiting for the contractor to do grass seeding.

129-131 East Main Street, Glen Lyon. The Township is waiting for approval of transfer to the Township of the property by the Bankruptcy Court.

161-162 Brown Row, Wanamie. The Township is still waiting for the County Council, which delayed a vote to approve the sale of the property to the Township to its next meeting.

NTCO PRESIDENT'S REPORT

By Stephen E. Phillips ~ With the confirmed, impending closure of the State Correctional Institution at Retreat, Newport Township will face an adverse economic reaction. A concerted, cooperative effort will have to be implemented to assist in insuring that the financial future of the Municipality remains stable. The Community Organization is willing to lend its assistance to any endeavor directed toward this goal.

The related decrease in the Township's population, which is directly related to the prison's closing, may, as has been noted in a prior publication of this newsletter, result in Newport's classification being changed from a First Class to a Second Class Township. This would reduce the number of local elected officials from five commissioners to three supervisors. However, a local referendum can result in the Township's electorate choosing to be governed by five rather than three supervisors.

It is, therefore, incumbent upon all local residents and organizations to assist the Board of Township Commissioners in its attempts to expand the municipality's tax base. Maintaining and improving the appearance of the Township is a key element in attracting new residents and businesses to this locale. Strict code enforcement and the continued demolition of substandard structures throughout the Community are key elements in attracting new investment to the Area. In addition, steps should be encouraged to reduce, to the maximum extent possible, the littering problem which has negatively affected the Township for a good number of years. This is a situation which unfortunately, is common throughout a good portion of Luzerne County.

In a positive vein, the committed volunteers of the NTCO and the continued cooperation rendered by the American Legion Post 539 have insured that this Organization's sponsored Food Bank has remained very successful in its endeavor to serve a wide range of qualified recipients.

In its ongoing effort to maximize the resources and abilities of the Area's numerous volunteer bodies, Newport United will again be offering Easter flowers for sale on April 4. Also, Newport United has expressed an interest in potentially spearheading an effort to sell banners honoring local residents who have served in the military.

As part of its continuing effort to make the Township as safe as possible, the Board of Commissioners has hired two more full time police officers. This brings the complement of full time policemen serving the Municipality to five, the highest number in several years.

The Community Organization welcomes Patrolmen Brandon Bradshaw and William Dubiak as full time police officers to Newport Township, and wishes them well in the future.

VOTING BY MAIL APPLICATIONS

Voting by mail applications are available at the Newport Township Municipal Building 351 West Kirmar Avenue Wanamie, PA. The application is also available at www.newporttownship.org as well as www.luzernecounty.org.



At the January Commissioners' meeting, the above group picture was taken following presentation of plaques of appreciation to Mike Dziak and Norman Bodek. Left to right: Christopher Slusser, Township Solicitor; Commissioners Michael Roke and John Zyla; Mike Dziak, retired President of Earth Conservancy; Commissioner Paul Czapracki; Norman Bodek, 37-year veteran of the Township Police Department; Commissioners Jack Vishnefski and Debbie Zaleski, Township Manager Joe Hillan; Newport Police Chief Jeremy Blank, and Officer Thomas Nalbene.

K.M. Smith School Sold to Developer

by John Jarecki ~ In October 2019, the Nanticoke Area School District sold the former K.M. Smith Elementary School to real estate developer Jay Naparło for \$400,000. He plans to put apartments on the site. Judging from the luxury condo and townhouse community Yalick Farms that Mr. Naparło built on route 415, between Dallas and Harvey's Lake, his plans for the school should be a welcome addition to Newport Township.

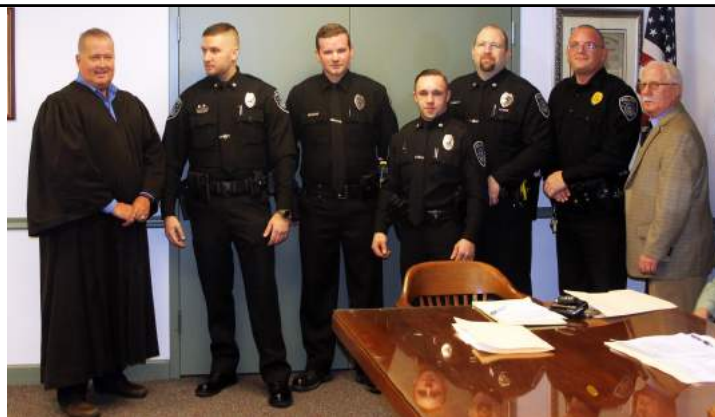
Mr. Naparło is originally from Plymouth. He graduated from Wyoming Valley West High School in 1968, and began working as an hourly worker in a Burger King restaurant. He advanced to assistant manager, manager, and supervisor of twelve restaurants. Then, with his partner Gene Chismer, he opened a Burger King in Williamsburg, Virginia, which they expanded into a group of more than a dozen restaurants in Virginia and North Carolina.

Mr. Naparło became involved in the local area about twenty years ago when he bought the Yalick Brothers farm, at the time a working farm, and built the condo and townhouse community previously mentioned. In 2005 Mr. Naparło began building residential units at the site, and they now number more than 125. In 2015 he began adding a retail and commercial center.

Whatever form the development of the former K.M. Smith School site takes, Mr. Naparło's success in the restaurant business and with Yalick Farms indicates that it should be a valuable asset to Newport Township and an improvement in its overall appearance.



Above is Commissioner Paul Czapracki presenting a plaque of appreciation to Mike Dziak, retired President of Earth Conservancy (left) and Norman Bodek, a 37 year veteran of the Police Department (right).



Newport Township Police Officers

At their meeting on March 3, 2020, the Township Commissioners voted to hire two new full time police officers: Brandon Bradshaw and William Dubiak. Magistrate Donald Whitaker administered the oath of office to the newly hired officers. John Zyla, Commissioner in charge of the Police Department, said that it has been more than 20 years since the Township has had five full time police officers. Pictured from left: Magistrate Donald Whitaker, Newport Township Police Officers, William Dubiak, Blake Brown, Brandon Bradshaw, Thomas Nalbene, Police Chief Jeremy Blank, and John Zyla.



Above: Janet Wenner (l) accepted the banner on behalf of her daughter, Jacqueline Saunders who is in North Carolina with her husband Stanley. Presenting is Leann Wenner.

Blue Star Banners Presented to Mothers of Active Military
Pictured above receiving banners from American Legion Auxiliary President Janet Wenner: (l to r) Linda Hourigan, Jamie Miller, Heather Brennan, and Gertrude O'Brien. For the full story see the Winter 2020 Newsletter, p. 10-11.



Hometown Heroes

Left: Stanley M. Saunders, Army; Length of Service: 21 years; Rank: Sergeant First Class; Deployments: Kosovo (once), Iraq (twice), Afghanistan (three times).



Right: Patrick William Hourigan, Navy; Length of Service: 21 years; Rank: Captain, Fighter Pilot, Top Gun; Deployments: Desert Storm, Japan, Singapore.



Above: Katelyn Jobeth Harrison, Army; Length of Service: 2 years; Rank: (Fuel) Specialist 4; Deployments: Fort Jackson, SC, Poland



Left: Christopher John Miller, Navy; Length of Service: 2.5 years; Rank: IT3 (Information Technician 3rd class); Deployments: Basic training in Illinois, currently stationed in California.



Right: Patrick Michael O'Brien, Air Force; Length of Service: 7 years; Rank: 2nd Lieutenant; Deployments: Korea, Iraq, Kuwait

Newport Township Declares State of Emergency

On March 17, 2020 at a special meeting of the Township Commissioners, a state of emergency in Newport Township was declared due to the COVID-19 coronavirus outbreak. The first case in Luzerne County was announced on March 15.

The Newport Township Board of Commissioners and Administration are planning, preparing and responding to the COVID-19 outbreak. We have been diligently working to address this for the safety and health of our residents and employees. We are urging everyone to practice everyday preventive measures like frequently washing your hands with soap and warm water, if soap and warm water are not available use an alcohol based hand sanitizer; avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth; stay home when you are sick, especially if you have a fever above 100 degrees. These practical measures will help reduce the spread of the virus. It is recommended that if you are sick, the first thing to do is call your Primary Care Physician. Do not visit the Emergency Room or Urgent Care until you are instructed to go there by your doctor.

COVID-19 is a respiratory illness that can spread from person to person. The virus is a novel coronavirus that was first identified during an investigation into an outbreak in Wuhan, China.

Please refer to www.newporttownship.org and www.cdc.gov/COVID19 for more information.

Stand Up and Be Counted in the 2020 Census

Starting in late March, the United States Census Bureau began distribution of brief surveys intended to gather information on a variety of issues such as: the population in a given municipality, funding of programs in education, health, housing, social services, and infrastructure; how much representation an area will have in the government; identifying needs of communities and determine what kinds of support people need; and working to end discrimination against vulnerable populations. Everyone must be counted. These counts show which communities are disadvantaged or need help. Newport Township will lose about 1,200 in population due the closing of SCI Retreat, so it is imperative that every resident respond to the survey. This year, residents will be able to respond online. If anyone needs assistance, please contact the Township.

Spring Cleanup Urged

Spring time has arrived in Newport Township and residents are urged to take pride in their community. In the past residents could be seen outside cleaning their front porches, raking and cleaning their yards, sweeping the sidewalks in front of their homes and even helping elderly people in their neighborhood with maintaining their properties. This is a great time of year to start bringing this type of community pride back into our Township. It is just the simple things like keeping your property and front porches clean of debris, garbage and cans, cleaning up after your dogs in your own yard or when you are taking them for a walk, and picking up litter that will make our community a more vibrant place to live and visit.

Joe Hillan, Township Manager

CATS

NEWPORT TOWNSHIP HAS A MIXTURE OF RESIDENTS WHO HAVE VARYING VIEWS ON CATS. SOME LOVE THEM, OTHERS DO NOT. OUR COMMISSIONERS ATTEMPT TO WALK THE FINE LINE THAT RESPECTS BOTH POINTS OF VIEW. RECENTLY THERE HAS BEEN AN INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF COMPLAINTS ABOUT CATS CAUSING DAMAGE AND CREATING UNSANITARY CONDITIONS. THIS IS AN ATTEMPT TO ADDRESS CAT ISSUES AND MINIMIZE BAD EXPERIENCES IN OUR COMMUNITY.

1. ORDINANCE 1976-4 CLEARLY PUTS FORTH THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF CAT OWNERS; SPECIFICALLY THE FACT THAT RESIDENTS WHO OWN AND SHELTER CATS ARE LIMITED TO THREE CATS, AND MUST ENSURE THAT THEY ARE EITHER IN THE RESIDENCE OR SECURED BY A LEASH SO THAT THEY ARE NOT ALLOWED TO STRAY FROM THE PREMISES.
2. IN ADDITION TO PRIVATELY OWNED CATS, THERE IS AN ISSUE OF WILD FERAL CATS. RESIDENTS ARE CONTRIBUTING TO THE PROBLEM BY FEEDING AND IN SOME CASES PROVIDING SHELTER TO THESE ANIMALS. WHAT NEEDS TO BE CONSIDERED IS THE FACT THAT WHAT MIGHT BE TWO OR THREE ROAMING CATS TODAY CAN EASILY BE TEN OR FIFTEEN IN A SHORT PERIOD OF TIME. THE S.P.C.A. HAS A PROGRAM THAT ELIMINATES PROBLEMS ASSOCIATED WITH FERAL CAT BREEDING. THIS PROGRAM IS THE MOST HUMANE APPROACH AND SHOULD BE CONSIDERED BY ANYONE FEEDING OR SHELTERING THESE ANIMALS.

REGARDLESS OF YOUR VIEW OF CATS, WILD OR DOMESTIC, CONSIDERATION OF OTHERS IS THE KEY TO HARMONY WITHIN OUR COMMUNITY. CONTACT THE MUNICIPAL AT 570-735-4735 IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS REGARDING WILD OR DOMESTIC CATS IN NEWPORT TOWNSHIP.

YOUR UNDERSTANDING AND COOPERATION IS REQUESTED.

APPRECIATIVELY,

JOSEPH HILLAN

NEWPORT TOWNSHIP MANAGER

Community Calendar

In cooperation with Newport United, the Township is posting community events on its website: www.newporttownship.org. All Township volunteer organizations are encouraged to submit their fundraisers and special events by emailing Bernice.shipp@newporttownship.org or calling Bernice at 570-735-4735. This will aid Newport United with announcements on the electronic bulletin board in Sheatown. Thank you for your cooperation.




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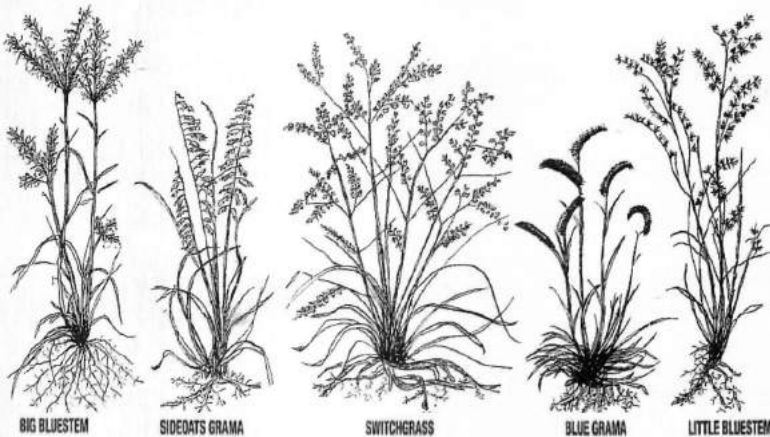
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The Flora and Fauna of Newport Township



Grass

By Heidi and Paul Jarecki ~ In the spring, we put away the snow shovels and bring out the lawn mowers because the grass in our yards which rested all winter begins to grow again.

Grasses belong to a large family of flowering plants known as Poaceae or Gramineae, commonly referred to collectively as grass. Poaceae includes the cereal grasses, bamboos (including sugar cane) and the grasses of natural grassland and cultivated lawns and pasture. All of our cereal grains belong to this family, including wheat, rice, wild rice, maize (corn), oats, barley, millet, and rye. Grains, which provide a source of carbohydrates plus nutrients and some protein, were among the plants first domesticated by humans. The grains became key factors contributing to the human diet and also the economy, and hence to the development of civilization.

With around 780 genera and around 12,000 species, poaceae are the fifth-largest plant family. The name Poaceae was given by John Hendley Barnhart in 1895 based on the type genus *Poa* described in 1753 by Carl Linnaeus. The term is derived from the ancient Greek *πῶα* (*pōa*, "fodder").

Grasses may be annual or perennial herbs with the following characteristics: The stems of grasses, called culms, are usually cylindrical and are hollow, plugged at the nodes, where the leaves are attached. Grass leaves are nearly always alternate and distichous (in one plane), and have parallel veins. Each leaf is differentiated into a lower sheath hugging the stem and a blade with smooth margins. Flowers of Poaceae are characteristically arranged in spikelets, each having one or more florets. The spikelets are further grouped into panicles or spikes. The part of the spikelet that bears the florets is called the rachilla. A spikelet consists of two bracts at the base.

Grasses are believed to have evolved 66 million years ago but new evidence suggests the origins may be as old as 107 to 129 million years. Grasses became widespread toward the end of the Cretaceous period, and is found in fossilized dinosaur dung. Today, grasses occur on all continents. They dominate open habitats from Arctic tundra and alpine, plains and prairies and tropical savannas, in deserts, salt-pans, and high mountains all around our planet. Grasslands constitute 40.5% of the land area of the Earth, excluding Greenland and Antarctica.

The grass family includes over 11,500 accepted species. Some grass taxonomists (also known as agrostologists) estimate there are as many as 13,000 species.

The Poaceae are the most economically important plant family, providing staple foods from maize, wheat, rice, barley, and millet as well as feed for meat producing animals. The Poaceae are the most important source of the world's dietary energy supply. They provide over one-half of all dietary energy; rice provides 20%, wheat supplies 20%, corn, 5.5%, and others grains 6%. Bamboo, thatch and straw are used as building materials. Grasses are also a source of biofuel, primarily in the conversion of corn to ethanol.

Grass Facts

1. Grasses make up about 26% of all plant life on earth.
2. A healthy lawn can increase a home's value by up to 20%.

3. Grass-covered lawns, prairies, and hillsides help prevent erosion by keeping soil in place with their root systems.
4. Grass lawns improve air quality by producing oxygen and trapping airborne dust particles and other contaminants.
5. Home landscapes that include grass lawns, trees and shrubs can reduce the air temperature surrounding the home by up to 14°F.
6. Giant bamboo, which can grow up to 151 feet tall, is the largest variety of grass.
7. A 2,500 square foot lawn produces enough oxygen for a family of four.
8. Varieties of grass grow on all continents, even in polar regions. Antarctic hairgrass is the only member of the Poaceae family native to Antarctica.
9. Grass is in many of the foods and drinks we consume, including beer, whiskey, and bread.
10. The fiber from many grasses is also used in the making of paper.
11. Grass is green because of the chlorophyll in it, the same chemical that you can find in most plants. Chlorophyll is a bright pigment that absorbs blue and red light but reflects green light, accounting for your lawn's color.
12. Grasses have evolved to grow at their base instead of their tips in order to protect themselves, unlike most plants. This allows them to be grazed or burned without receiving any damage to their growing points and allows them to regrow quickly.
13. Grass is essential to many sports around the world such as golf, tennis, baseball, football, soccer, and cricket. The most famous grass tennis court in the world is the Centre Court at Wimbledon in England. It is considered to be the most expensive lawn in the world and is composed of perennial ryegrass.

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Taste of the Township



Strawberries

By Heidi and Paul Jarecki ~ Nothing says spring like the taste of fresh strawberries and you can pick your own at one of several farms near by. One popular place is Pumpkin Hill Farms in Nescopeck.

The strawberry belongs to the genus

Fragaria in the rose family, along with apples and plums. The name of the scientific classification was derived from the Old Latin word for "fragrant." The strawberry is not classified by botanists as a true berry. True berries, such as blueberries and cranberries have seeds inside. The strawberry, however, has seeds on the outside. Native Americans called strawberries "heart-seed berries" and pounded them into their traditional corn-meal bread. Discovering the great taste of Native American bread, colonists decided to create their own version, which became strawberry short cake.

There are several theories on the derivation of the name "strawberry." The most popular one is that the name represents the spreading nature of the plant runners which are strewn, or "strawed," over the ground. Strawberries are plentiful in northeastern Pennsylvania and can be purchased at supermarkets, roadside fruit and vegetable stands or you can pick your own at Pumpkin Hill or Dymond's Farms in Orange in late May or early June.

Fresh Strawberry Cheesecake Pie

Courtesy of Diane Vishnefski

Ingredients

- 1 baked 9-inch pie crust
- 6 oz. cream cheese softened
- 2 tablespoons sugar plus 1/3 cup sugar
- 1 quart of strawberries, hulled and quartered
- 3 tablespoons corn starch

Directions


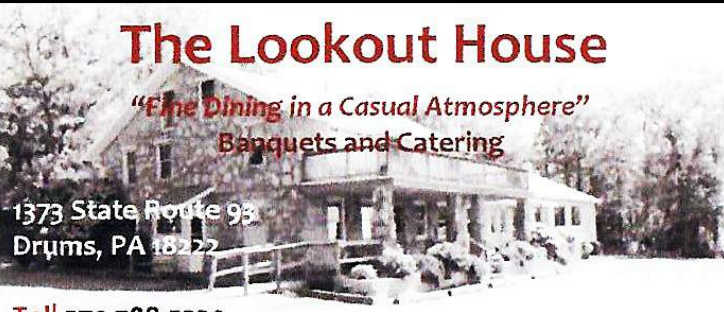
1. Beat cream cheese and 2 tablespoons of sugar together until smooth.
2. Puree half of the strawberries.
3. Add to the strawberries 1/3 c sugar and the corn starch.
4. In a saucepan, cook berry mixture and the rest of strawberries until thick and clear, about 7 to 10 minutes on medium heat.
5. Remove from heat and allow to cool about 10 minutes.
6. Spread cream cheese mixture on bottom of the cooled baked crust. Pour strawberries on top. Refrigerate three hours before serving. Can be served with Cool Whip or whipped cream.

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Frances Brunoizzi

By Vicky Frace ~ Recently, Frances "Francie" Morucci Brunoizzi, well known resident and long-time hairdresser from Orchard Street, Glen Lyon, celebrated her 95th birthday with friends at Giuseppe's in Nanticoke.

Francie was born on February 3, 1925. She is a 1943 graduate of Newport Township High School and following graduation she left Glen Lyon for New Jersey to work in a defense plant to contribute to the war effort. She helped manufacture crank cases used in airplanes. In 1947 she graduated from Empire Beauty School in Wilkes-Barre and opened a beauty shop at her home on Orchard Street. She had a successful business for over 50 years.

Francie is the daughter of the late David and Mary Morucci. Her three brothers, Albert, Arnold, and David served in the military during World War II. She married Richard Brunoizzi (now deceased) in 1953. Their son David resides in Swoyersville.

She continues to have a remarkable memory. She specializes in local personalities and how times have changed through the years.

Congratulations Francie and many more birthdays ahead!

Buck Hunting

Pictured right is nine-year-old Garrett Makowski, of Dorrance Township who shot this 8 point buck on Friday, the 13th of December. Garrett was mentored by his father Lee Makowski, a Wanamie native. He shot the deer with his 7mm-08 Savage. Garrett was accompanied on the hunt by his grandfather, Eddie Sotack, formerly of Glen Lyon, and his Uncle Jeff.



Make a Clean Sweep with Lions Brooms!



The Newport Township Lions Club offers high quality brooms for sale all year round, but Spring is a popular time to make a clean sweep! Brooms are \$10.00 each and can be purchased at Penn Mart Convenience Store in Sheatown or by calling Ron Womelsdorf at 570-735-8639. Ron will deliver brooms to your home. All proceeds benefit Lions projects. Thanks!

Primary Election Date May Change

According to the Philadelphia Inquirer on March 16, Pennsylvania officials are considering moving the date of the April 28 presidential primary election due to the coronavirus pandemic, Governor Tom Wolf said. "I'm not sure what impact it's going to have on the primary," Wolf said during a news conference. "Obviously, we want to keep people safe, so to the extent that the state needs to move the April 28 date to another date, other states have already done this, Pennsylvania is certainly taking that into consideration."



"For the Glory of Newport High!"

Upcoming Reunions

Class of 1955 The Newport Township High School Class of 1955 has tentative plans for a luncheon in May. Classmates are asked to contact John Antonaitis at jantonaitis@stny.rr.com for more information.

Class of 1960 The Newport Township High School Class of 1960 will be having a 60th class reunion on Sunday August 16, 2020, at The Berwick Golf Club, 473 Martzville Road, Berwick PA. A social hour will be from 12 noon to 12:45. Dinner buffet will begin at 1:00. Anyone wanting further information please contact Miriam (Charnogorsky) Ross at 570-752-3706 or e-mail raymir1961@yahoo.com. Also, please contact her if any class members have changes to their addresses or emails.

Class of 1965 It's that time again! Mark your Calendar for Friday, September 11, 2020 for the icebreaker at Benny Brew Company, 1429 Sans Souci Highway and Reunion Dinner Saturday, September 12, 2020, at the R Bar in Alden. Stay tuned for more information. Thanks to Mary Ann Murphy, Mary Ellen Noss, and Joan Ellen Sweeney for making the arrangements. We need updated email and mailing addresses. Please send to: Mary Selecky, email: maryselecky@yahoo.com; text 360-701-2389; land line 509-684-5378. Please send the information for any classmate in your address book to Mary as well as your own. See you in September.

GNA Class of 1970 The Nanticoke/Newport Class of 1970 is celebrating its 50th Reunion on Saturday, October 10, 2020 at the Wyoming Valley Country Club, Hanover Township, PA from 6:00 to 10:00 pm. Cost of the event is \$70.00 per person which includes dinner, a DJ and open bar. Smart casual dress is encouraged, but jeans are not permitted by the Wyoming Valley Country Club.

An icebreaker will be held on Friday, October 9 from 6:00 to 9:00 pm at Concrete City, 18 West Ridge Street, Nanticoke. Food and refreshments will be available for purchase during this casual (jeans okay) event.

On Sunday, October 11, 2020, a Mass will be held at 11:00 am at St. Faustina Church, Nanticoke in memory of our deceased classmates.

Address information is needed for the following classmates: Elaine Dante, Karen Demski, Patricia Legins, Timothy Malone, Patricia Bacon, Nadine Bianco, Timothy Burgess, Charles Dietrick, William Dietrick, Jane George, Diane Knorr, Richard Verchimak, Judy James Pennino, Clair Mabus, Anthony Mitkowski, Paul Szychowski, Nancy Belawicz, and Patricia Yukenavage. Please contact Debbie Maximowicz Malia at 570-814-0745; JoAnne Kanjorski Thomas at 570-814-5271; or Sandie Chesko Iracki at 570-885-8517 with addresses or any questions. Check out the Nanticoke/Newport Class of 1970 Facebook Page. Hope to see everyone there!

All Newport Reunion This annual reunion is open to anyone who attended Newport Township schools during the time of their existence. Please call Phoebe Hillan at 570-736-6798 for more information. The reunion is always on the Sunday of Columbus Day weekend. This year the date is October 11. It will be held at Holy Transfiguration Hall in the Hanover Section of Nanticoke. Invitations will be mailed in June or July. If any Newport Alumni has moved to a new address or if he or she would like to be added to the mailing list, please contact Heidi and Paul Jarecki, 28 West Main Street, Glen Lyon, PA 18617; phone number 570-733-2540; and email hselecky@pa.metrocast.net.

By Lorrie Materiewicz

Light Up Newport Township

The chairman of Pennsylvania's American Legion Auxiliary's Community Service Program has chosen "Light Up Pennsylvania" as her statewide project for this membership year (2019–2020). The Newport Township American Legion Auxiliary Unit 539 has chosen to support this initiative. The goal is to light up one house at a time, then a street, then a neighborhood, you get the idea, until the entire state is aglow with green porch/window lights. The idea behind these lights is to "greenlight" veterans. They are intended to recognize veterans and their families and greenlight them as part of their communities as they return home from service, and in a broader sense, support all veterans. This project actually started a few years ago, and our Township does have a number of green bulbs visible, one of which can be seen over the canteen entrance of the American Legion on Newport Street in Glen Lyon.

There are over 14.8 million veterans in the United States; over 840,000 live in Pennsylvania; 250,000 transition back to civilian life every year; and sadly, 20 commit suicide every day. By displaying a green bulb as a porch light, in a lamp post, or as a candle in a window, you would be showing your support for veterans and their families. Who amongst us does not know a veteran?

Walmart, a staunch supporter of veterans, is the only local brick and mortar big-box retailer this writer has found in a limited search that carries the green bulbs. However, Five Mountain Hardware in Shickshinny, though not "big box," does carry some different sizes of green bulbs, from C-7's to flood lights. Unfortunately, the holiday season has passed, so the opportunity to purchase a variety of bulbs has been missed; however, this writer has a limited supply and is willing to share provided the requestor promises to use the bulb to support the project.

It is frequently said that freedom is not free. Current and former military personnel have paid and continue to pay the price for OUR freedom. Congress earlier this year passed a bill that President Trump signed into law stating that the United States has been in a state of war since December 7, 1941 (Pearl Harbor Day). That's millions upon millions of veterans we have to thank for our freedom. Lighting a 60 watt-equivalent LED for 12 hours a day for a year costs approximately \$3.94; a 7 watt window candle bulb even less. That's just a small way of saying thank you.

So let's light up Newport Township! Please call Lorrie at 570-736-7177 if you would like to purchase a green bulb. God Bless!

In Memoriam

*A Donation has been made to the Newsletter of the
Newport Township Community Organization*

*in memory of Olga Yudisky
by the Izbicki Family*



Obituaries

By Tom Kashatus ~ These obituaries are in reference to individuals who have ties to Newport Township and/or Newport Township High School. The obituaries are published in abbreviated form due to limited space; thusly, a more complete obituary can be found on our web site, www.newporttownship.com. There is also a link leading to the original newspaper obituary or that of the funeral home. Your comments are always welcome; and, if someone is missed, please notify this writer at tomkashatus@gmail.com or call (570) 736-6981.

DILLOW, Brian "Chico," 49, of Glen Lyon, passed away on December 11, 2019. Brian was born in Baltimore, MD. He was a graduate of John S. Fine High School Class of 1989 and was employed as a CNA for Guardian Elder Care Center in Sheatown.

PUMILIA, Kathyryne J. (nee Lapinski), 64, of Glen Lyon for the past 15 years, passed away December 14, 2019. Kathyryne was born and raised in Brooklyn, N.Y. She retired as a security guard for Disney World in Florida.

JONES, Charles F., 89, of Slocum Township, passed away November 3, 2019. Charles was born on September 3, 1929 in Slocum Township. He was a graduate of Newport Township High School.

BOZIMSKI, Stephanie R. (nee Kearns), 80, of Millsboro, DE and formerly of Sheatown, passed away December 19, 2019. Stephanie was born in Baltimore, MD on November 8, 1939. She was employed at the former St. Stanislaus Nursing Home and Birchwood Nursing Home. She was a member of Holy Child Parish in Sheatown.

YACUBOSKI, Ed "Smiley," 81, of Mocanaqua, formerly of Glen Lyon, passed away December 23, 2019. Ed was born and raised in Glen Lyon. He was a graduate of Newport Township High School Class of 1956 and King's College with a degree in Business Administration. Ed was a veteran of the US Army. He was a member of Saint Mary's Church in Mocanaqua.

KOFLANOVICH, Margaret (nee Kopcho), 96, of Wanamie, and formerly of Glen Lyon, passed away January 1, 2020. She was the daughter of the late Wasil and Anna Kachurek Kopcho.

GARBUSH, Stanley W., 69, a resident of Ken Pollock Apartments in Glen Lyon for the past six years, and formerly of Sweet Valley, passed away January 1, 2020.

BUSH, Melvin S., 80, of Tunkhannock, formerly of Glen Lyon, passed away December 22, 2019. Melvin was born in Nanticoke on August 5, 1939. He was raised in Glen Lyon and attended Newport Township schools.

RIERA, Nora L., six months old, of Glen Lyon, passed away January 4, 2020. Nora was born in Plains Township on June 10, 2019.

ROTH, William W., Jr., 73, of Spring Mount, and formerly of Wapwallopen, passed away January 9, 2020. William was born on August 11, 1946. He was a graduate of Newport Township High School Class of 1964 and Penn State University with an associate degree in electronics and electrical technology. He was a US Army veteran serving from 1968 to 1972.

FORGACH, Dr. John Joseph II, 80, Colonel USAF Ret., of Evanston, WY, and formerly of Glen Lyon, passed away December 3, 2019. Dr. Forgach was born and raised in Glen Lyon. He was a graduate of Newport Township High School Class of 1957, attended Temple University School of Pharmacy, and graduated from Georgetown University Dental School with a DDS. Dr. Forgach was a US Air Force veteran, serving in Vietnam; and he was a member of the Chester Strzalka VFW Post 8353 in Glen Lyon. Among his many awards was the Vietnam Gallantry Cross.

LYNCH, James J. Jr., 93, of Smith Health Care, Mountain Top, and formerly of Glen Lyon, passed away January 10, 2020. James was born in Philadelphia on March 5, 1926, and lived there prior to moving to Glen Lyon in 1992. He was a US Army and US Navy veteran serving during World War II and the Korean War.

BARRY, Phyllis (nee Finnegan), 84, also known as Phyllis Carlo, of Port Saint Lucie, FL, and formerly of Wanamie, passed away December 2, 2019. Phyllis was the daughter of the late Thomas and Mary (Vandermark) Finnegan. She was a graduate of Newport Township High School Class of 1954.

CUABUS, Susan, (nee Fairchild), 84, of Port Charlotte, FL, passed away March 22, 2017. Susan was raised in Sheatown. She was a graduate of Newport Township High School Class of 1954.

STANKIVICZ, Christine Helen (nee Elvis), 84, of Luzerne, passed away January 24, 2020 in Wilkes Barre General Hospital. Christine was born in Wanamie on February 17, 1935.

KACHALA, Melania A. "Melanie" (nee Wieczorek), 78, of Rush, NY, and formerly of Glen Lyon, passed away on January 8, 2020. Melania was born in July 1940 and raised in Glen Lyon. She was a graduate of Newport Township High School Class of 1958 and the Wilkes Barre General Hospital School of Nursing.

WHITTAKER, Amelia K. (nee Zanolwicz), 86, of Sheatown, passed away January 22, 2020. Amelia was born in Nanticoke on December 19, 1933. She was predeceased by her husband Russell Whittaker.

OLSHEFSKI, Marion M. (nee Petro), 88, of Glen Lyon passed away January 28, 2020 at the Guardian Elder Care Center, Sheatown. Marion was born in Glen Lyon.. She was a graduate of Newport Township High School and the Wilkes-Barre Business School.

RISH, Joseph S., 75, of Statesville, NC, formerly of Berwick and raised in Glen Lyon, passed away on January 7, 2020. Joseph was born in Glen Lyon on August 30, 1944. He attended Newport Township schools.

TURNACK, Beatrice A. (nee Houser), 85, passed away Sunday, December 15, 2019. Beatrice was born in Dorrance Township. She attended Wenner's One Room School House and graduated from Newport Township High School Class of 1951.

CRAGLE, Eleanor I. (nee Burd), 74, of Mifflinville, passed away on November 4, 2019. Eleanor was born in Nanticoke on September 3, 1945. She attended Newport Township High School.

GOSS, Priscilla (nee Lewis), 87, of Hunlock Creek, passed away Saturday, October 12, 2019. She was born in Sheatown on June 6, 1932, and was raised there and in Nanticoke.

PACZKOWSKI, Antoinette B. (nee Wadas), longtime resident of Glen Lyon, passed away February 6, 2020. Antoinette was born in Nanticoke. She was a graduate of Nanticoke High School and Bloomsburg Hospital School of Nursing.

MAGALESKI, Gerry E., 81, a resident of Shickshinny Lake, passed away February 10, 2020. Gerry was born on November 23, 1938 and raised in Glen Lyon. He graduated from Newport Township High School Class of 1956, East Stroudsburg University with a BS in Education, and Kean University of NJ with an MS. He retired from teaching as Principal at the Old Turnpike School in Old Wick, NJ.

SKLANEY, Mark Patrick, 61, of Alden, died Friday, February 7, 2020. Mark was born in Nanticoke and raised in Alden. He was a graduate of Greater Nanticoke Area High School, Luzerne County Community College and Penn State University.

SOWA, Theresa (nee Kwaitkowski), 84, of Sheatown, and formerly of Nanticoke, passed away February 25, 2020. Theresa was born on November 3, 1935. She was predeceased by her husband, Edward.

KISLAVAGE, Leonard J. Sr., 84, of Nanticoke, formerly of Sweet Valley and Newport Township, passed away February 23, 2020. Leonard was born in Wanamie on February 4, 1936. He attended Newport Township schools, was employed by General Electric in New Jersey and retired from being self-employed as a contractor-carpenter. He was a US Army veteran, a member of the American Legion and VFW, and a noted dart champion, locally and nationally.

Empty Lots and Street Corners

By John Kashatus ~ By 1953, having lived two-thirds of my life with America at war, it was nice to return to normalcy. Well, almost. As children, we were learning a new term: "The Cold War." Whenever we felt reassured that we were safe, jets would fly over Glen Lyon, sometimes with a sonic boom, to remind us to stay vigilant. In fact, the guy who cracked the sound barrier, Chuck Yeager, is still living.

What did kids do in their free time when they weren't dwelling on International Politics? When they weren't in school or playing organized sports? When they weren't involved in church activities, Boy and Girl Scouts, or doing chores around the home? What did they do prior to computers, the internet, cell phones, PlayStation, Nintendo, and all the electronic games? The answer to those questions is easy. They played all types of outdoor games and had fun in empty lots and street corners, playgrounds, and even in their own back yards. During this era, pre-teen kids played cops and robbers, cowboys and Indians. They pretended to be U.S. Cavalry soldiers, Davy Crockett, Red Ryder, and heroes of the "silver screen." The weapons of choice were cap guns, cork guns, ping pong rifles, bows and suction cup-tipped arrows, and sometimes Daisy B.B. rifles (not recommended).

Each community in Newport Township had a bastion of special locations which bestowed temporary ownership to the kids of that particular neighborhood. I recall the empty lots on the West Side of Glen Lyon. Two of our favorite playing areas were the lot across from St. Michael's Church and the one behind the Bell Telephone building next to Snap Yablonski's ice cream shop. Other lots were located next to Tarnowski's Store near Chet Mack's garage, at the top of Market and Enterprise Streets and above the Glen Grove Park (Sandy Diamond*) near the end of West Main. The lot adjacent to the M.A. Hanna Coal Company office building near the breaker was well groomed, grass covered and hedge trimmed. It was a prime location for football, especially after 5 pm, when the office was closed. Another area of activity was the wide alley near the mule barn. This area had two drawbacks, the ground cover was largely coal dust, and there was a watchman on duty near the loading dock.

The playground at Kosciuszko School was a summertime venue and it featured many swings, a merry-go-round, teeter totters, a May Pole, a sand box, benches, and a clay-based basketball court. Plus, it had instructors who supplied athletic equipment throughout the day. The more popular sports were football, softball, baseball, and fast-ball (played with a sponge ball slightly smaller than a baseball) or stick ball. Tennis, badminton and table tennis were also available at the school playground. At summer's end, a Field Day was usually held which featured many participants, contests and prizes. In later years, Weineck Park, when available, became the field of choice for baseball, football and softball. Our lot across from St. Michael's became too small after a softball was smacked through a stained glass window. Transportation to all of these venues was by walking or bicycling. Bicycling down the hill from Weineck Park was a hoot!

Various streets and street corners were meeting places for the kids from the neighborhood. There was communication of the latest news (yes we actually talked face to face with our friends) and activities would follow. Although basketball and weak horses were primarily male games, there were co-ed activities which included tag, hop-scotch, jump rope (double Dutch and high waters), cigarettes, red light, hide 'n seek, roller skating, kick the ricket, etc. Some action areas were Railroad Street near Doc Ottaviani's chiropractic office where there was a basketball hoop, and the corners of Main and Park, Main and Chestnut and Orchard and Maple. The street corner activities usually came to a halt when the Fire House siren blew at 9:45 each evening. During the cold and snowy winters, making snowmen and building snow forts were popular activities. Sled riding in alleys and on streets occurred almost daily, while ice skating was a treat at Three-Legged or Beeb's in Lee. Beeb's and Lily Lake were destinations on hot, sweltering days in the summer, but automobile transportation was usually needed.

The East Side of Glen Lyon had the second highest population in the Township at this time. The East Siders had access to empty lots behind Fire House #1, near Fanucci's Beer Distributors, and a

triangular lot at the intersection of Rock and Main Streets. Similar to the west side, kids usually hung around with others on their street or block. There were Kanadians, Coal and Vine Streeters, and Main Streeters, who blended together because of the common venues they shared – the open space near the Russian Pavilion, the Roosevelt School yard and the Coal Street Playground. The Roosevelt School basketball court was well paved, but the hoops rarely had nets. The playground had equipment similar to the Kosciuszko playground, and also had a water shower pole for the extremely hot summer days. The Coal Street basketball court was one of the best outdoor facilities in the Township, as described in an article in the Spring 2018 Newsletter. The large field near the Water Tank provided the perfect setting for football and baseball games. In fact, the Tank became the site for BIG games between the East and West sides. The Kanadians had direct access to the Kanadians Baseball Field, a short distance from their homes. All the East Side kids had easy access to Three Legged for ice skating during those cold, snowy winters. Another common venue in the winter for East and West was the gym at Pulaski Junior High School; kids would reserve a time slot and chip in for heat and hot water for showers.

There were two neighborhoods in Wanamie, separated by the then newly built parkway: Main Street & Brown Row on the south side and College Hill on the north side. Columbus School yard and the Brown Row playground were gathering areas for the South Siders. The basketball court, baseball/softball field and playground equipment were utilized from dawn to dusk in the summertime. The well-groomed lawn on the east side of town near the colliery became a prime area for football games. The baseball field below the school, home of the Wanamie A.C. semi-professional team, was another venue when available. The Wanamie Reservoir was popular on warm days in the summer and cold days in the winter for seasonal activities. The North Siders were fortunate to have access to the grounds near Newport High School and a basketball court near St. Mary's Church. There was friendly interaction with both neighborhood groups, usually at the high school grounds.

The kids' territories in Alden were separated by geography. They gathered on Polander Hill, Prospect Hill, Lee Mine, and Hops, which included Railroad Street and the playground area. The pre-teen children spent their time in their own neighborhoods and it wasn't unusual for kids of various ages to play together – 6-year-olds playing baseball with 11-year-olds. The west end of Alden was near the Wanamie Reservoir, which was an attraction to adventurous youngsters. They played baseball on the Polander Hill Field. Basketball was popular on the street corner, a low traffic area at Prospect Hill. The Hops gang had access to the baseball field where the Alden Stars semi-professional team played. Two common venues for all neighborhoods were the playground, which was centrally located and Fairchild's Pond, which was an ideal place for ice skating in those cold winters of yesteryear. One unique street activity for the Railroad Streeters was evening pinching-bug races – the kids would catch pinching bugs and assemble them for racing under the street lights. Basically, sports and activities were similar in all the neighborhoods of the Township.

The center of youth activities in Sheatown was Tookey's Barbershop on Robert Street. Youngsters gathered there in the evenings, especially when Tookey was roasting peanuts. The aroma attracted people from afar. Tookey sponsored the Ramblers baseball team which played other pick-up teams. Playing various sports of the season was a common occurrence with the boys from St. Stanislaus Orphanage. Kelly's Field was a popular field of action. It was located below R.R. Heddon Lumber Company near the Nanticoke border. Snowball and rock fights were waged with Nanticoke groups or the orphanage kids. At this time there were no girls involved in these activities and the orphanage girls were kept on a short leash by the nuns. The Sheatown kids had access to two playgrounds, West Side Park in Nanticoke and the one at K.M. Smith School. The large brick wall at the latter was an excellent location for stick ball and also provided a good training ground for developing pitching arms.

One activity that the majority of these elementary school age kids did during the school term was walking to their respective neighborhood school twice a day. Yes, lunch time was spent in their home kitchen. Some of those walks were quite long and lifelong friendships were the result.

With some legal trespassing and declaring squatter's rights in these special places, this sentimental journey is (Continued on next page)

*Sandy Diamond was the original home of the Glen Lyon Condors.

proof that kids found many ways to have fun, keep fit and enjoy social interaction. Unlike some overprotective parents of the present era, these kids made their own decisions through trial and error. They learned how to choose friends and establish life-long values. They learned how to resolve disputes, some tactfully, and others through more physical means. But, nevertheless, they did it without parental intervention. Yes, those empty lots, street corners and playgrounds were major factors in building character in kids of that generation.

Sources: John Greytok, Steve Phillips, Alex Kostek, Len Sklaney, and Paul Gregory.



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Left, Newport Township Manager Joe Hillan and right, Administrative Assistant Bernice Shipp

New Township Manager Joe Hillan

By John and Carol Jarecki ~ Joe Hillan was appointed as Newport Township Manager in August of 2019 by the Township Commissioners. He took office in January of 2020.

Joe is a life long resident of Newport Township. He was born in 1960. The son of Joe and Phoebe Thomas Hillan, his family lived in Alden until 1962, when they moved to Glen Lyon. Joe has a long involvement with Township government. His father was a Township Commissioner, and he has attended meetings of the Township Commissioners since he was 15 years old.

He graduated from Nanticoke Area High School and worked for Techneglas in Pittston for 14 years. In 2005 he started working for Newport Township as Supervisor of the Street Department. In September of 2016, the Commissioners appointed him to the newly created position of Administrative and Operations Director. In this position, he was in charge of the Township Office in the Municipal Building and the Township's Street Department.

As Township Manager, Joe's overall goal is to improve the quality of life in the community and to improve the image and reputation of the Township, eliminating negative publicity. More specifically, he sees the following as important projects in the effort to achieve these goals:

- 1) The Township has submitted applications for State gaming grants for a number of improvement projects: demolishing abandoned buildings, replacing the basketball court in the Wanamie recreation Park, paving community streets, and purchasing a new police cruiser.
- 2) The Township will be working with PennEastern Engineers to put in new sidewalks in Glen Lyon, a project paid for by a federally-funded Luzerne County Infrastructure Improvement grant of \$1.4 million. This grant program provides money to low income areas. The sidewalk project, originally scheduled to be completed by 2022, will be delayed for a time. Township engineers will be writing a new work schedule.
- 3) The Township will work with the Luzerne County Transportation Authority (LCTA) to put a bus shelter near the Ken Pollock Apartments in Glen Lyon.
- 4) The Township will be putting the message out to residents that it is important that they participate in the 2020 Census. The amount of government funding that the community receives depends on the population as counted by the Census.
- 5) The Township will work to enforce the Quality of Life Ordinance, which provides that Township officials can immediately issue tickets to residents for such violations as having an abandoned vehicle on their property, accumulating trash, and having high grass and weeds. Joe was the initiator of the Ordinance, which sends a

clear message to residents that they should keep their properties in good order.

6) The Township will work with the Earth Conservancy (EC), State Representative Gerald Mullery, State Senator John Yudichak, and other interested parties in bringing business to the Township to increase the tax base.

7) The Township will cooperate with the Wyoming Valley Sanitary Authority (WVSA) in its program of each year re-pairing two or three water catch basins, which drain storm water from streets, and its program of sweeping Township streets each year.

8) The Township will continue in its efforts to replace aging stop signs, encouraging residents to clean up in public spaces after their pets, and to discourage them from feeding feral cats, which spread disease and cause other problems.

Joe has an open door policy for residents who have community problems. He in-

vites residents with this kind of difficulty to call the Township Office to make an appointment to talk to him about it.

Joe and his wife Diane have two adult daughters, one grandson, and another grandchild expected by the end of the year.

Joe has a long history of dedicated work for the Township. And he cares deeply about the well being of the community. We congratulate him on his new position and wish him all the best.

New Township Administrative Assistant Bernice Shipp

By John and Carol Jarecki ~ Bernice Prushinski Shipp was appointed Township Administrative Assistant by the Commissioners in August of 2019, and began working at the position in September. She is originally from Glen Lyon, graduated from Nanticoke Area High School, and has lived in the Ridgeview section of the Township for 32 years.

She worked for 25 years at the (now closed) Glen Lyon National Bank, rising to the position of Bank Manager. She then worked at the FNCB Bank in Nanticoke for 17 years as Manager and Assistant Vice President.

In her position as Administrative Assistant, she handles the work of the Township Office, such as issuing occupancy and building permits, selling trash stickers, and documenting Township finances. She enjoys working with and talking to residents who come into the Township Office on business. She says that her goal in this position is to have the Office business run smoothly and help the Township Manager in his work.

Bernice, whose husband Thomas passed away in 2017, has two adult sons and a granddaughter. We congratulate her on her appointment and wish her all the best in her new position.

Street Department in Need of Equipment

By Police Chief Jeremy Blank ~ When this writer was talking to [the Newport Township Street Department] the other day, they said that they could really use a battery operated high torque torque gun. They stated that when they are away from the garage and break a plow blade or something on the truck or backhoe, they must stop what they are doing and go back to the garage to use the air tools. Having one of these [torque guns] will create less down time and put them back on the job a lot quicker. Not to mention they will be able to break away bolts that they would not be able to by hand. The cost of the Dewalt DCF899M1 Cordless Impact with battery and charger is \$319.00.

The other item they are looking for is a Stihl FS91R Trimmer. This will be added to the three that they already have and will enable the fourth worker to be able to help. They would be able to put 4 or 5 guys on trimmer duty at the same time. The cost of this trimmer is \$329.95.

Anything anyone or any organization can do to help the Street Department would be greatly appreciated. Thank you.



Newport Township Teachers: Mary Caslin

By Heidi Jarecki ~ Mary Agnes Hagan Caslin was born November 3, 1907 in Strokestown, County Roscommon, Ireland. She was the second oldest of five daughters born to John and Jane Dillon Hagan. She and sisters Theresa and Jane immigrated with their parents from Ireland to the United States in 1910. The two youngest sisters Isabel and Veronica were born here. The family lived in Nanticoke for about six years, and then moved to 23 Prince Street in Sheatown. They were members of St. Francis Church in Nanticoke and active in its societies.

John Hagan was born in 1882. He was in the hotel business before coming to this country. He was employed as a conductor on the People's Street Railway, a trolley system that ran between Glen Lyon and Nanticoke. Active in Democratic politics, he was elected Justice of the Peace in Newport Township and was serving his fourth term when he suddenly passed away at age 62 on October 24, 1944. He was addressed as "Squire" and widely known for his wit and humor. Jane Dillon Hagan was also born in 1882. Jane later moved to Forty Fort. She passed away on April 4, 1971 at age 89. John and Jane are interred in St. Francis Cemetery.

Mary was educated in St. Francis parochial school until the eighth grade. She excelled academically, winning medals for the highest average. Mary studied piano with Sister M. De Lielis and her sister Jane studied viola. They often performed together at recitals and programs. They later attended concerts at Carnegie Hall and elsewhere. Mary graduated from St. Francis in June, 1921. She then attended St. Mary's High School in Wilkes-Barre and was among 79 students who received their diplomas on June 17, 1925. Bishop M.J. Hoban presided at the graduation.

Mary aspired to become a teacher. She attended West Chester State Normal School and graduated with her teaching certificate on June 8, 1927. Her application for a teaching position in Newport Township schools was filed on August 2, 1927. Among her fellow applicants were: Emma Selecky, Arthur Jenkins, George Sack, Mary Kutz, William Rushin, Alberta Gasavage, Walter Zemski, Louis Yablonski, and Edward Yarashefski. By attending fall, spring, and summer courses, Mary was among 62 young women who received their bachelor's degrees at the fourth annual commencement exercises at College Misericordia on June 15, 1930. Bishop Thomas O'Reilly presided. She remained active in Misericordia's Alumnae Association for many years, serving on various committees.

The teaching staff for the academic year 1931-1932 in Newport Township schools was announced on September 7, 1931. Mary was assigned to the Columbus School in Wanamie, her first teaching job. She taught the elementary grades there and later at the Robert Street School in Sheatown. In 1947, Mary was assigned to K.M. Smith School in Alden and remained there until 1952. That year, she began teaching English and presumably first-year Latin at the Pulaski Junior High School in Glen Lyon.

While teaching, Mary was active in several organizations: the St. Vincent De Paul Society at St. Francis, the Ladies Auxiliary of the Ancient Order of Hibernians for which she served as President, and the Irish Field Day held annually at San Souci Park. She enjoyed playing bridge and pinochle and belonged to the Junior Women's Card Club and others. In 1942, Mary was selected to serve on a citizen's committee to raise money for a memorial for those who died in World War II. She also served as a judge at the Annual Field and Track Day at the High School.

In 1949, an innovative visual education film program was developed in the Newport School District. Mary Hagan served on the visual education committee, along with William Rushin, Arch Turner, Margureite Davey, and Eugene Macur. The films were

shown to primary school students as well as junior and senior high students. Among the films were: Peck's Bad Boy With the Circus, Hymn of the Nations, Princess and the Dragon, and Snakes. The program was well received.

During the 1940's, Mary earned certification as a Notary Public and offered income tax, license, and affidavit service. She continued her education and attended New York University Graduate School during the summer months, both in New York City and at the Wilkes-Barre Center at Kingston High School and the Plains American Legion. She earned her Master's Degree in 1954.

Sometime between 1954 and 1956, Mary Hagan married John P. Caslin. John was born on March 25, 1905 in Manchester, England. He immigrated to the United States as a young boy and boarded with the Hagan family. John graduated from Newport Township High School and worked as a laborer in the mines to earn money for college. He graduated from St. Thomas College, which later became the University of Scranton. He served with the U.S. Army during World War II, earning the rank of Sergeant. He was employed as a rehabilitation counselor and later as supervisor for the Pennsylvania Department of Vocational Rehabilitation. He was active with the Knights of Columbus and the Donegal Society.

Mary Caslin continued teaching English and first-year Latin at Pulaski. Latin was taught for many years in the Newport School District because it was required for admission to college. Nationally there were strong enrollments in schools until about 1958. That year, Congress passed the National Defense Education Act, which omitted support for Latin. That began a slow decline in the teaching of Latin in the nation's schools.

This writer was one of hundreds of students in Mary Caslin's Latin class. One project Mrs. Caslin assigned was to design a Christmas card and the greeting was to be in Latin. This writer learned from that experience that there is a difference between "spoken" Latin and "church" Latin. There were many red lines drawn through the greeting inside the card!

In the summer of 1962, Mrs. Caslin traveled abroad to Rome, which was certainly appropriate for a Latin teacher. She spent most of the summer there and brought back many pictures of the sights. She was asked to make a slide presentation of her travels and showed them at a Children of Mary meeting at St. Adalbert's Church the following year.

In the High School, Frank Schraeder taught second-year Latin and when he retired in 1963, Mary Caslin was asked to teach both first and second-year Latin. That was the year the High School burned down, which forced double sessions at the Pulaski School. She continued teaching English and Latin until her retirement in 1970 after 40 years of teaching. Following retirement, she moved from Sheatown to Forty Fort.

Mary's husband John died at age 74 on September 3, 1979. Following his death, Mary moved from Forty Fort to 10 East South Street in Wilkes-Barre. Mary Hagan Caslin passed away on June 19, 1990 at age 82. They had no children. She and John are interred in St. Francis Cemetery, Nanticoke.

A Newport Claim to Fame

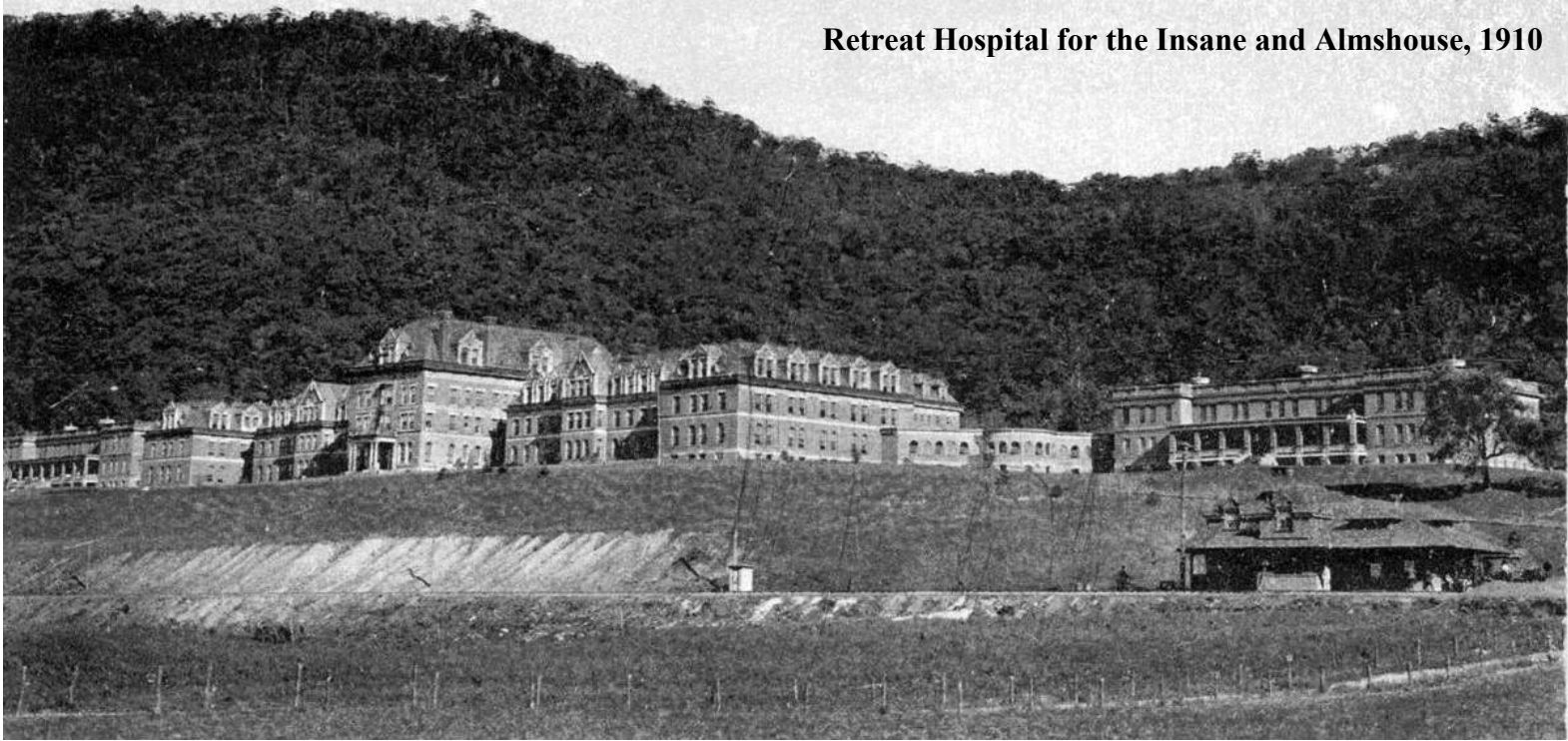
From the Wilkes-Barre Times Leader, Wednesday June 16, 1920

New Fire Truck Climbs Giant's Despair

For the first time since the coming of automobiles, a fire truck yesterday climbed the 23 per cent grade of Giant's Despair on the Wilkes-Barre mountain. The machine that accomplished the feat was a six-ton triple combination Stutz machine that was recently purchased for \$11,000 by the councilmen of Newport Township. One of the passengers on the trip up the mountain was Chief Frank Hochreiter of the local department, which will shortly receive a Stutz fire truck of larger design.

Giant's Despair several years ago helped such noted automobile racers as DePalma, Chevrolet, Harron, Christie and others to build up their records of daring. Since that time many local machine drivers have climbed the grade at good speed, but yesterday was the first time for the effort to be made by a fire truck. About a year ago an agent for another company had declared that a fire truck could not reach the top. His statement fell yesterday when the Newport Township machine made it in good time.

The rear axle on the truck was built by the Sheldon Axle and Spring Works. The truck has a four-cylinder pumping engine, with a capacity of 500 gallons. The machine ordered by the city will have a six-cylinder engine capable of 700 gallons.



RETREAT

By Heidi and Paul Jarecki ~ On January 15, 2020, a recommendation by the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections to close SCI Retreat was announced in the local news media. Two days later, on January 17, Governor Tom Wolfe agreed and the process of shuttering the prison got underway. This decision adversely affects Luzerne County, and especially Newport Township and surrounding communities. Employees and township residents had hoped for a different outcome.

The history of the complex of buildings known as Retreat begins on April 2, 1860. On that date, a special Act of the Pennsylvania State General Assembly authorized the township of Wilkes-Barre to be incorporated into a poor district and to erect a poorhouse. A farm of 146 acres located on the northernmost boundary of Newport Township was purchased for the purpose of erecting buildings for the care of the poor. This land was located on the other side of the 1300 foot mountain (then known as Lee Mountain) from Glen Lyon and next to the Susquehanna River. It was very isolated and could only be reached by horse and wagon over a steep mountain from Newport Center on a dirt logging road two miles long.

By supplements to the Act in 1861, 1863, and 1864, other townships and boroughs were eventually annexed to the Poor District. These included the townships of Plains, Kingston, Plymouth, Hanover and Newport, the boroughs of Courtdale, Edwardsville, Forty-Fort, Larksville, Laurel Run, Luzerne, Miners Mills, Parsons, Pringle, Swoyersville, Warrior Run, West Wyoming, Wyoming, Kingston, Ashley, Plymouth, Sugar Notch, Nanticoke, and the city of Wilkes-Barre. In 1863 the first poorhouse was built. It was a wooden frame building 35 x 74 feet, and three stories high. The facility was built to accommodate poor, unwed mothers. In 1867 the official name was "The Central Poor District in the County of Luzerne."

In 1879, a brick building, the same size as the first, was built. The female residents occupied the new building and the older structure was exclusively for males. A large productive farm was developed to provide food for the 200 occupants.

In 1881, a newspaper article appeared describing "a cool retreat in a mountain ravine at Newport Station on the Lehigh Valley Railroad." Between 1883 and 1884, the Pennsylvania Railroad (PRR) constructed tracks between Sunbury and Wilkes-Barre and provided a depot near the poorhouse that helped transfer passengers and supplies to the remote area. The first mention of "Retreat" as a place is in 1884 in a train schedule of the PRR published in the Wilkes-Barre papers.

In 1886, the first ferry became operational. It was a wooden boat that transported people and supplies across the river from what is now Route 11. It was later replaced with a steel ferry.

By 1895 an additional building for men was built. These 14

structures comprised the "Luzerne County Almshouse." It was also called the "Retreat Poor Farm." An almshouse by definition is a locally administered public institution for homeless and aged persons without means.

In 1898, due to overcrowding in the state institutions for the mentally ill, the Luzerne County Poor Board agreed to provide a new asylum. On September 2, 1898 Pennsylvania Governor Hastings complimented the Board for its action and building operations were begun in October 1898. At a meeting of the board of the Central Poor District on February 21, 1899, it was decided to issue \$200,000 in bonds to raise funds for construction. In August 1899, the board inspected the new asylum buildings in the process of erection. The asylum would be a group of five buildings having a combined length of 417 feet and a width of 50 feet. The center structure would be the administrative building. The four buildings adjoining the administrative building comprised the male and female wards. The cost was estimated at from \$300,000 to \$350,000. The grounds in front of the asylum sloped towards the railroad tracks (See above picture).

On June 21, 1900 the new Hospital for the Insane opened its doors. It was the eighth hospital in Pennsylvania for treatment of mentally ill persons. The other seven hospitals were located at Danville, Hillside (above Scranton), Harrisburg, Norristown, Polk, Warren and Wernersville. All construction was completed with funds provided by the state legislature. The hospital received its first patients from Danville State Hospital. A post office was located there in 1902 and Mrs. Minnie Gessinger was postmistress for more than forty years. The post office closed in 1952.

By 1906 new construction resulted in an infirmary building connecting to the original unit adding 200 beds. In 1920, two additional units were added increasing the capacity to 650. A school offering a two year course of nursing training was operated there until World War I. Sometime between 1921 and 1926 the name was changed to Retreat Mental Hospital, although it was still governed by the Central Poor District of Luzerne County. Additional construction over the years made provision for employees in the form of cottages, dormitories and small apartments.

On June 14, 1928, lawyer Peter Turek of Glen Lyon was named Poor Director for a five-year term and was reappointed in 1933.

In 1929, plans were drawn for a school to be built on the grounds. Completed in the summer of 1930, the school opened for the fall term. Teachers were assigned from the Newport School District, the first being John Mulherin, followed by Joseph Kachala. The school was sometimes used for church services. It was closed in 1952. At a cost of \$14.00 per day, Retreat students were transported to other schools in the district.

An additional building was begun in 1937 and utilized in 1939 for 100 more patients. By an Act of the State Legislature in 1937 the system of Poor Districts was abolished, and County Institution Districts were set up. Although County Commissioners assumed control of poor and indigent sick relief in the counties, management of individual institutions remained the same.

(Continued on page 16)

1906



1919



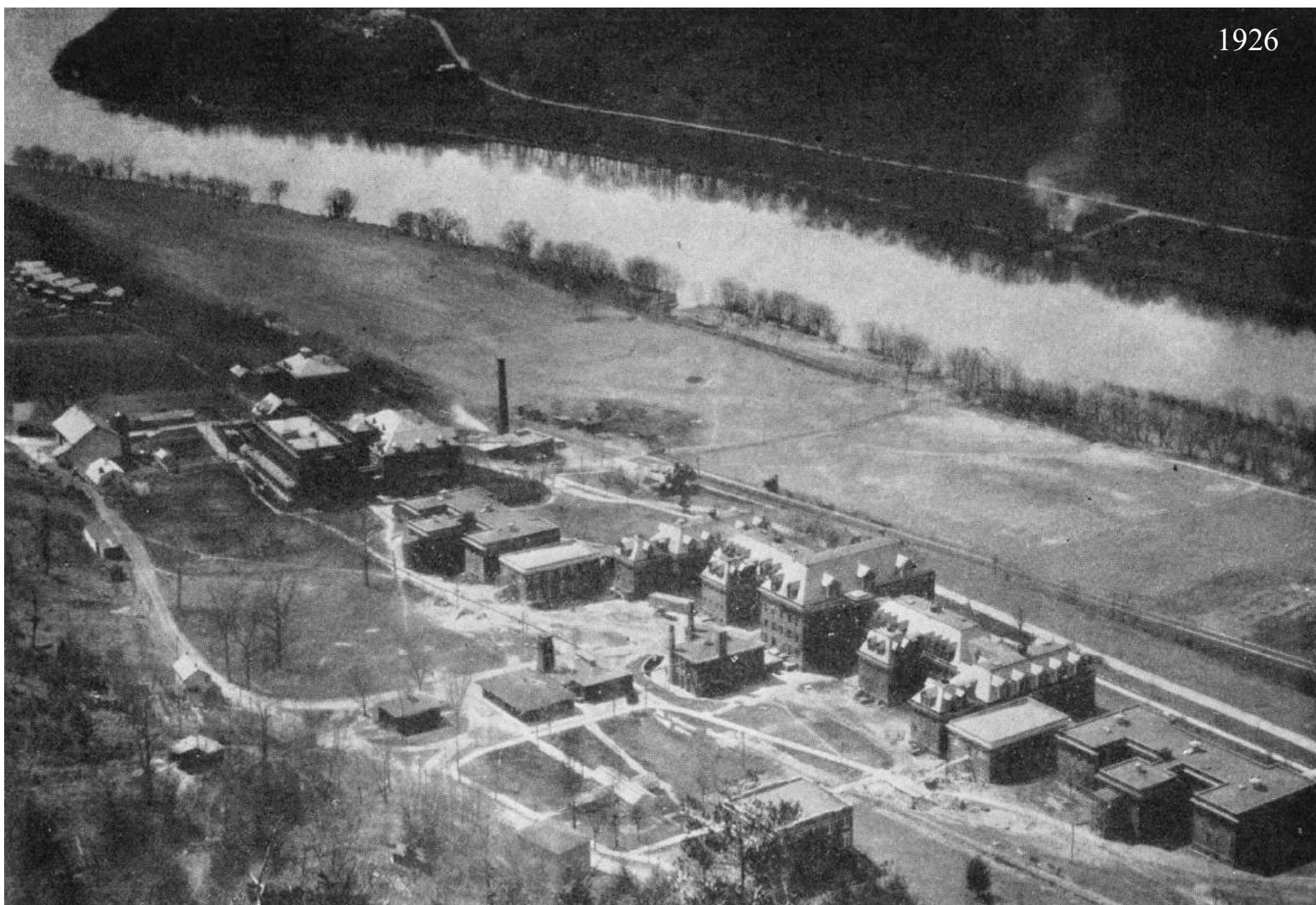
HOSPITAL FOR INSANE—PHARMACY ROOM.

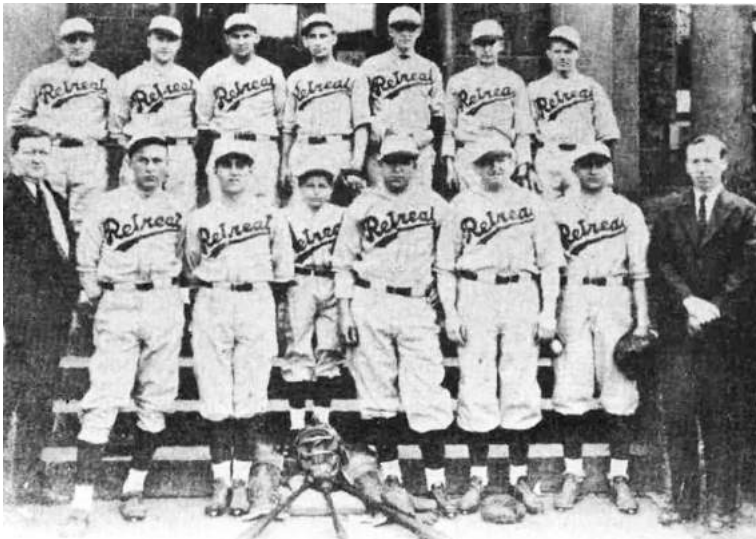
1919



HOSPITAL FOR INSANE—VIEW FROM ADMINISTRATION BUILDING LOOKING NORTH.

1926





Employees and boys who lived on the grounds formed baseball teams. This picture dates back to 1930.

In November 1939, the Township made improvements to the road from Glen Lyon to Retreat and a guide fence was erected.

In April 1941, Retreat Hospital was placed on the approved list of the American College of Surgeons, the highest authority on hospitals in the United States.

In December 1945, the Luzerne County Institution District evacuated the infirmary, which was formerly the property of 23 municipalities that formed the old Central Poor District. The State would pay \$100,000 for the infirmary, all buildings and land adjacent to Retreat. The money was to be divided on a pro-rated basis among the 23 municipalities. On February 7, 1946, the State made the payment and the old Almshouse buildings were emptied and remodeled into patient dormitories in 1949 and 1950. This added 300 additional beds.

On February 11, 1951 a new road by way of Stearns Station was constructed by a coal company conducting stripping operations in the Township. The road extended from upper Wanamie to the air shaft on top of the mountain. The road was used extensively because ferry and railroad operations were inconsistent. The original road from Glen Lyon had become impassable.

In 1951, Leonard Najaka of Glen Lyon, Representative of the Fourth Legislative District, sponsored a bill to have the old Carey Avenue steel bridge in Hanover Township relocated to Retreat. The

bridge was 1210 feet long. On September 10, 1951, Governor John S. Fine was present at the dedication of the Retreat Bridge. The last ferry to cross the river carried Dr. H.T. Fiedler, superintendent of Retreat State Hospital, and his automobile. Dr. Fiedler then became the first person to cross the new bridge in an automobile when it was open to traffic. Ferry service at the hospital was then terminated.

In a state audit conducted in 1973, the then State Auditor General Robert Casey recommended additional staff for patient care. However, discussions about "phasing down" Retreat began in April, 1975. The reasons given were the loss of Medicare certification and a state plan to improve its mental health care system. There was great community and employee opposition.

Five years later, Department of Public Welfare Secretary Helen O'Bannon announced that Retreat would close on June 13, 1980 as a result of decreasing patient population and cutbacks in the overall budget of the Department of Welfare. Because of the loss of federal funding, the patient population took a steep dive, down to 233 patients. The last Superintendent serving at Retreat Hospital was Dr. George Gittens.

On June 29, 1980, an Executive Order signed by Governor Richard Thornburgh transferred the facility to the Bureau of Corrections, effective July 1, 1981. The Bureau turned Retreat into a State Correctional Institution. The mental hospital was dismantled in 1981 and construction of the new prison buildings was completed by 1987. It was designated a medium security prison that housed approximately 1,120 adult male offenders. SCI Retreat was comprised of 22 buildings, eight of which are housing units. Some of the housing units are dormitory style, and others are multiple occupancy cells. The facility officially opened in January 1988. It was accredited by the American Correctional Association in 1988 and had successfully achieved reaccreditation every three years since that time.

In January 2017, it was announced that SCI Retreat was one of five prisons across the Commonwealth being targeted for closure. The other prisons were Waymart, Frackville, Mercer, and Pittsburgh. The impact of closing Retreat would be felt by several neighboring municipalities, but most severely by Newport Township in terms of population and subsequent tax base loss. In 2017, Retreat had a budget of about \$58 million, housed about 1100 inmates, and employed 409 people, many of whom lived in Newport Township. After three anxious weeks, it was announced on January 26, 2017 that SCI Retreat would remain open. The SCI at Pittsburgh was chosen for closure.

Once again, in August, 2019 prison officials briefed lawmakers and Retreat prison staff about their possible plans to close Retreat because of a \$140 million state budget deficit. The formal announcement came on Friday, January 17, 2020.





Pictured left is Freddy Haverlak as a pitcher for the Alden Stars, a semi-professional baseball team. Above, as a boxer.

Freddy Haverlak, The Schoolboy Wonder

By Heidi Jarecki ~ Freddy Haverlak of Polander Hill in Alden became an overnight sensation in local boxing circles in the late 1920's and 1930's. Dubbed the Newport Schoolboy Wonder, he was still in high school when he was "discovered" in 1926. An all-around athlete, he played football, was a pitcher for the high school baseball team, and participated in marathon track events. However, boxing became his bread and butter.

Back in the 1920's some of the best boxing matches in the country were held in Wilkes Barre at the South Main Street Armory by the Armory Athletic Club (A.C.). Sports reporters from that time were enamored with Freddy Haverlak's natural ability and predicted he would go far. He weighed in at between 118 and 123 pounds and was considered one of the most promising featherweights in a generation. Early in his career, he was being touted as the "next champion."

Frederick (Freddy) George Haverlak was born on February 21, 1909 to George and Anna Haverlak, both of whom emigrated from Poland. George and his first wife had three children. She died in childbirth and then he married Anna. One of fifteen children, Freddy's siblings were: Andrew, Stephen, Pauline, Irene, Peter, John, Dorothy, Thomas, Michael, Mary, Elizabeth, Pearl, Eva, and Julia. The family lived at 25 Railroad Street, Alden and belonged to Holy Resurrection Orthodox Church. George worked in the mines, and died suddenly at age 57 in May, 1927. Following his death, the family moved to 132 Robert Street, Sheatown. Anna Haverlak passed away on September 28, 1936 at age 56.

Freddy's name exploded in the Wilkes-Barre Times Leader in the summer of 1926. As reported, "It was Jack 'Fakir' James of Plymouth who discovered this schoolboy box-fighter, and it was in Jack's gymnasium at the old Frantz House in good old Shawnee we saw this human dynamo in action. To say he can box, hit and take it, is putting it mildly, for he seems to possess every qualification that will push him up the ladder. Although the scores of people who have watched Freddy in the gym believe it is an injustice to keep him in the background all of this time, the impresario of the West Side is certain he is making no mistake for he wants the Pride of Polander Hill to step into the ring fit and ready. When that time comes the boxing fraternity of the coal diggings will see a real fighter. He has a good left hand, and a right that shoots with precision and accuracy. He steps around like a veteran and the display of natural boxing skill gives this 'little chappy' a great advantage." Freddy drew large crowds each night he worked out. He was described as "fast as lightning and hits hard and often. The boy is a natural boxer and should go over big in the boxing world."

Freddy participated in boxing matches between 1926 and 1933. After his father died in 1927, Freddy used his boxing earnings to help his widowed mother. He had aspirations to the priesthood.

On November 17, 1926, Freddy at age 17 was scheduled to make his debut in a four-round bout at the Wilkes-Barre Armory against Pete Zubic of East End, a student at Coughlin High School. Zubic who had fought several fights, was of the "rock 'em and sock 'em style." Prior to the fight, Freddy was taken to a gents' furnishing store and fitted with a new suit, shirts, shorts, and shoes. It might have been the first time he ever had "new" clothes. The match with Zubic was canceled.

It wasn't until January 14, 1927 that Freddy fought his first ring battle as a preliminary to the Baker-Latzo bout. Pete Latzo held the World Welterweight Championship from 1926 to 1927. Freddy "astounded ring students and critics with his fighting ability, easily meriting the judges' decision over Johnny Rose of Edwardsville. Haverlak has everything a fighter needs and he will be heard from during the months to come." Following his first win, his fans bought him a new bathrobe and shoes and presented him with a \$20.00 bill.

Two weeks later, Freddy's second bout was against Benny Schwartz from Lackawanna County in a six-rounder. His third was in March, 1927 against Ted Morrissey (Marcy) of Glen Lyon in a four round tiff billed as the "Championship of Glen Lyon and Newport High School." In June, he fought a six-rounder with another boxer from Glen Lyon, Joe Natalina. Freddy made quite an impression. On June 11, 1927, a sports reporter wrote: "Freddy has had only four fights--fought only twelve rounds in all—and against hard hitting opponents, yet Freddy looks like the best prospect raised in this neighborhood in a long long time. Daily the smiling kid works out at the Plymouth gymnasium. Scores of fight fans watch the little wonder-machine in his training routine and my how earnest he is about it." Freddy won his first four matchups.

On July 14, 1927, Freddy was matched against Johnny Dunn, a bantamweight from Newtown. His manager Jack James declared, "Don't shed any crocodile tears for Freddy Haverlak. He'll take care of himself. Freddy will surprise all the boys. He has it over Dunn like a tent. He is a better boxer, a better ring general. He can punch better than Dunn....many folks believed Freddy didn't have a chance, but since they have watched him in the gymnasium, they know he will outgame and defeat Dunn decisively. This schoolboy champion of mine is the best boy developed in the coal regions in many years." Dunn was the betting favorite, being more experienced and a good fighter. In the end, the judges disagreed on the verdict. One judge called it a draw, the other awarded it to Haverlak, and the referee said Dunn was the winner. Even though he lost, it was considered one of Freddy's greatest fights, considering who his opponent was.

In January, 1928, a proposed fight at the Armory between Freddy and Jackie Britton from Pringle, another schoolboy fighter, stirred controversy over their weight categories. Jackie declared he was a bantam, and he shouldn't be fighting a featherweight. Then there was the rule that Freddy's age prevented him from going more than six rounds. Ticket sales went through the roof and there was a great deal of press coverage. On January 17, the day of the fight, Freddy weighed in at 123, and Jackie, at 122. The official weight for their division was 124. The day after, it was reported that "Jackie Britton of Pringle, and Freddy Haverlak of Newport, gave a five and one-half round exhibition of terpsichorean (dancing) art that would have done credit to any vaudeville troupe. Referee Lou Grimson, after warning the troupe twice, stopped the contest in the sixth or final round and declared it a no contest." This led the Pennsylvania Athletic Commission to take the purses of both boys. Ordinarily, the pair would have been fined and given 90 days on the suspended list. It was decided to put on a rematch, and on February 6, 1928, Jackie and Freddy fought "six slashing rounds with Haverlak getting a decision which brought down the wrath of many spectators and applause from about an equal number of others." This fight does not appear on the accompanying list of Freddy's fights (page 19) for reasons unknown.

On June 14, 1928, Freddy graduated from Newport Township High School. He then entered Wyoming Seminary and hoped to join a religious order.

Freddy finished his first 13 matchups at Wilkes-Barre venues with an impressive 8-2-3 record. He got his first knock out against Johnny Reagan who was making his debut. By January, 1930, his manager Frankie Bachman decided he had enough experience to venture out into other venues, such as Brooklyn and Canton, OH. His first match out of the area was a last minute substitution against (Continued on next page)

(Continued from previous page)

Tito Piro, described as a classy lightweight before the Brooklyn Sporting Club. As reported, "Piro, weighing 136 ½ pounds, has enjoyed the record of having kayoed his last ten opponents. The fans, at the tap of the first bell believed the Newport schoolboy just another victim for the famous Piro, but Freddy, handicapped by weight, stepping only at 129 pounds catchweights, opened his bag of ring tricks. In the second round, Haverlak's right to the chin put the famous kayo artist on the floor for the count of six, while, in the succeeding rounds Haverlak swarmed over his Brooklyn foe, winning the verdict easily."

Over the next year and a half, as his record attests, Freddy had a great deal of success. With every new venue in places like St. Louis, Connecticut, New York, Tampa, and Pittsburgh, Freddy's fans followed his every move. On January 27, 1931, it was reported: "Word from Danbury, Conn. early this morning to his former manager, Fakir James of Plymouth, was that Freddy Haverlak of Alden had won the decision over Steve Smith's younger brother in a sensational six-round bout there. Haverlak had the New England featherweight down twice in the final round. Smith's brother fights under the name of Jules Sombathy."

Not all of Freddy's fights are listed in the official boxing record. Take this one from February 10, 1931: "Freddy Haverlak...at Birmingham Ala., last night won in eight fast rounds over Eddie Stewart, the clever lightweight of that city. It was a rough and ready battle of eight rounds, Haverlak displaying rare boxing skill and a real punch. This is the second appearance of the Newport schoolboy in the southern city, and after his splendid victory of last night, it is understood he will be returned within two weeks for another important contest." Freddy was in the "stable" of Max Rosenbloom of New York who assigned boxers to specific fights. Max Rosenbloom was an American boxer, a world boxing champion among light heavyweight champions between 1930 and 1934. He was nicknamed "Slapsie Maxie" due to his open-gloved style of boxing.

In January, 1932, Freddy was sent to Milwaukee and staged a sensational fight with Freddy Tompkins. The judges voted it a draw after eight torrid rounds. Each scored two knockdowns and they were groggy at the end. Jumping to May, 1932, Freddy won over Don Whitlock in Laurel Maryland in eight rounds. He "displayed unusual ring ability and hitting power." In July, 1932, he weighed in at 133 and won a five-round decision in Buffalo from Frankie Garcia of Utica. Then began a string of losses, perhaps because of an injury he sustained in his fight against Arthur DeBeve in August 1932. As reported, Freddy "lost a close decision to Arthur DeBeve, of France, in eight rounds. Up until the third round, Haverlak had an edge on the Frenchman, but he injured his right hand early in the fourth round and was unable to use it for the remainder of the bout. Haverlak despite the injury refused to quit and went the entire distance and in the closing rounds despite the injury stood toe to toe and swapped punches with DeBeve."

The only knockout in which Freddy was on the losing end was to Ray Bowen of Washington, D.C. at the Twin-City Sporting Club at Laurel, MD on September 14, 1932. Bowen won on a technical knockout in the second round of the scheduled eight-round semi-final to a fight between Max Rosenbloom and Natie Brown.

After one more loss, Freddy announced his retirement in a letter to the Sports Editor of the Times Leader, William Loftus on November 16, 1932. The entire letter reads: "There being an unusual lull in the boxing game at this time, I thought I would write you about some of the things I have experienced in my travels about our great country. One doesn't have to be a wizard to know that it takes a smart manager to get satisfactory purses. And when one doesn't get those purses I deem it best to withdraw from the game. Anyone who knows anything about boxing must admit it is a "tough business" and one that taxes every ounce of manhood in one's body.

"Many boxers claim they're in the business for the sport they derive from it. Well, ask those same fellows to render their services free of charge and if they do their honest best against a good boy I'll wager that they won't show up for their second contest unless they get paid for it and paid well. I must admit I am in the game for what I can get out of it and in a short time as possible.

"As I have joined the Benedicts some time ago and now have two besides myself depending on me, I do not care to leave home 18

unless I am compensated well enough for it. When I don't receive much money for fighting boys the caliber of Jack Kane, Lou Terry, Frankie Rio or Henry Perlack than I did in my preliminary days I think it best to retire and accept a position I have been offered.

"In all my travels I haven't boxed a boy weighing less than one hundred and thirty five pounds, the majority weighing over well over one hundred and forty, while I scaled between one hundred and thirty and one hundred and thirty three. So while the boxing game will be a thing of the past where I am concerned, I still think I can defeat any boy in the world at 130 pounds. For although I have been boxing for five years I have just reached my majority [sic]. So you see, while I am an experienced and seasoned boxer, I am still a youngster in actual years.

"Before I close I wish to thank the best manager and second in the boxing game, Mr. John T. James and Mr. Johnny Dougherty of Plymouth for all they have done for me, the Armory A.C. of Wilkes-Barre for giving me an opportunity to get started and fans who attended the shows in which I contested. For although many came to see me get knocked out I collected on their admission fees just the same, so I must confess I am thankful for that. I also wish to thank the sportswriters, yourself included for all past favors."

The letter was signed, Yours truly, Freddy G. Haverlak.

Imagine the reaction of his fans, the sportswriters, and the boxing community!

Freddy fought three more fights which were judged as losses or no contest. His last professional fight was at Madison Square Garden on Friday November 3, 1933. It was a preliminary to the World Light Heavyweight Championship between Max Rosenbloom and Mickey Walker. Perhaps Max persuaded Freddy to one last hurrah. In a four rounder, Freddy fought against Al Jaiette (Gillette) of Jersey City. Freddy won the decision in five rounds.

Then he walked away. He was 24 years old.

He kept his hand in local boxing circles for several years following. In 1940, the Newport Township Work Projects Administration (W.P.A.) recreation leaders headed by Felix Rasmus and Joe Schinski of Glen Lyon were promoting tumbling, gymnastics and boxing. Township boxers Freddy Haverlak and Mike Suder of Alden, and Mike Cooper of Glen Lyon, who had captained the Penn State boxing team, were among those giving boxing instructions.

Freddy married Stella Havlen in 1931. Stella was born in 1912. They had two daughters, Natalie and Diane. They lived on Old Mountain Road in Alden. Freddy registered for the draft in 1940, but this writer couldn't determine if he was called to serve. Sometime between 1945 and 1949, the family moved to Dover, NJ and then later to Elmira, NY.

Perhaps the best description of Freddy's personality was in a column called "Evening Chatter" by William Loftus. It reads: "Some how or other folks this column has taken a particular liking to little Freddy Haverlak, the Newport Township featherweight, who just now is touring the country making a name for himself as a box-fighter. We recall the first night little Freddy stepped into the ring. We recall his subsequent victories and how the little hamlet down the river rejoiced at his success. However in Plymouth there was rejoicing too for Jack James, who has spent many years in the boxing whirl, took to Freddy from the moment he saw him draw on a mitten for the first time. Months ago, Haverlak left here for the big city because it meant opportunity and a chance in the profession he enjoys. He went to New York and since then has been fighting weekly in the larger cities of the country — and let us say, with much success. But Freddy Haverlak has not forgotten the friends who helped him up the ladder. Several times each week little Freddy pens a letter to his old mentor, Fakir James, and tells him the whats and wherefores of the things doing with him. He reports, as it were, for he counts James not only his friend, but a second dad. That is what we like most about this smiling kid who is bound to make good. He is not too proud to remember he came from the sticks—and not too busy to keep in touch with the old home town and his friends. Freddy is the type who appreciates, for this he has proved beyond a doubt for us. Little wonder we praise him, for we are certain if the folks knew little Freddy like we do, they too would admire him. In this world of sport there are too many who forget the good deeds—it seems so seldom one meets a chap who really cares."

Freddy Haverlak of Elmira Heights, NY passed away on April 23, 1987 in Arnot-Ogden Hospital. He was 78 years old. Stella passed away in July, 1979. Freddy is interred in Scotchtown Cemetery, Erin, NY.

FREDDY HAVERLAK'S BOXING RECORD (23-18-5)

| DATE | OPPONENT | OPPONENT'S RECORD W-L-D | LOCATION | RESULT |
|------------|------------------|-------------------------------|--|--------|
| 1927-01-14 | Johnny Rose | 4 -10 -1 | South Main Street Armory, Wilkes-Barre | W |
| 1927-02-01 | Benny Schwartz | 0-2-0 | South Main Street Armory, Wilkes-Barre | W |
| 1927-03-25 | Ted Morrissey | 1-1-0 | South Main Street Armory, Wilkes-Barre | W |
| 1927-06-23 | Joe Natalina | 1-1-1 | South Main Street Armory, Wilkes-Barre | W |
| 1927-07-14 | Johnny Dunn | 11-16-4 | Artillery Park, Wilkes-Barre | L |
| 1927-10-25 | Johnny Reagan | debut | South Main Street Armory, Wilkes-Barre | W KO |
| 1927-12-01 | Jimmy Connolly | 1-0-1 | South Main Street Armory, Wilkes-Barre | W |
| 1928-01-17 | Dick O'Leary | 25-4-3 | South Main Street Armory, Wilkes-Barre | NC |
| 1928-02-06 | Dick O'Leary | 25-4-3 | South Main Street Armory, Wilkes-Barre | W |
| 1928-03-30 | Dick O'Leary | 25-5-3 | South Main Street Armory, Wilkes-Barre | W |
| 1928-05-01 | Billy Kelly | 43-15-5 | South Main Street Armory, Wilkes-Barre | D |
| 1928-12-06 | Frankie Garcia | 30-13-4 | South Main Street Armory, Wilkes-Barre | L |
| 1929-06-11 | Eddie Leroy | 19-3-2 | Artillery Park, Wilkes-Barre | D |
| 1930-01-01 | Al Jackson | 30-7-9 | Town Hall, Scranton | L |
| 1930-11-17 | Tato Pira | 9-0-1 | Prospect Hall, Brooklyn | W |
| 1930-11-24 | Jimmy Perry | 18-27-12 | Canton Auditorium, Canton | W |
| 1930-12-02 | Lou Terry | 27-9-9 | Arena, Saint Louis | L |
| 1930-12-23 | Jack Ratti | 1-2-0 | St. Nicholas Arena, New York | W KO |
| 1930-12-27 | Ramon Bordelies | 12-6-2 | Ridgewood Grove, Brooklyn | L |
| 1931-01-12 | Tony Kimmer | 7-1-1 | Jamaica Arena, Jamaica, Queens | W |
| 1931-01-16 | Panama Kid Costa | debut | Armory , Hackensack | W KO |
| 1931-01-19 | Al Santoli | 1-1-0 | St. Nicholas, New York | W |
| 1931-01-26 | Jules Sombathy | 22-27-8 | Seifort Hall, Danbury | W |
| 1931-01-27 | Jules Sombathy | 22-28-8 | Columbus Hall, Stamford | L |
| 1931-02-20 | Battling Red | debut | Benjamin Field Arena, Tampa | W |
| 1931-04-06 | Joe Boler | 9-4-6 | Motor Square Garden, Pittsburgh | D |
| 1931-05-01 | Wildcat O'Conner | 34-8-3 | South Main Street Armory, Wilkes-Barre | L |
| 1931-07-09 | Vince Murphy | 6-4-0 | Watres Armory, Scranton | W |
| 1931-09-14 | Glen "Kid" Lehr | 79-29-13 | Coliseum, Des Moines | L |
| 1931-10-26 | Bulldog Downs | 4-3-5 | Sullivan's Bowl, Charleston | L |
| 1931-11-02 | Felix Thomas | 5-11-3 | Convention Hall, Kansas City | L |
| 1931-12-01 | John Lozansky | 8-6-5 | Columbus Hall, Yonkers | D |
| 1932-01-01 | Fred Tompkins | 18-9-4 | Auditorium, Milwaukee | D |
| 1932-03-04 | Eddie Speaks | 0-1-0 | Legion Arena, Lake Worth | D |
| 1932-03-21 | Frankie Rio | 29-12-9 | Biscayne Arena, Miami | W |
| 1932-04-15 | Henry Schmidt | 3-1-0 | Grand Rapids | L |
| 1932-04-21 | Don McLeod | 12-18-4 | IMA Auditorium, Flint | L |
| 1932-05-23 | Don Whitlock | 6-6-8 | Twin City Arena, Laurel | W |
| 1932-06-06 | Victor Lotti | 11-7-0 | Heywood Arena, West Springfield | W |
| 1932-06-14 | Roland LeCuyer | 11-16-1 | Heywood Arena, West Springfield | L |
| 1932-06-20 | Al Borrelli | 15-2-4 | Fair Grounds Arena, Allentown | W |
| 1932-07-14 | Frankie Garcia | 46-30-7 | Bison Stadium, Buffalo | W |
| 1932-08-22 | Arthur DeBeve | 36-25-13 | Twin City Arena, Laurel | L |
| 1932-09-14 | Ray Bowen | 32-12-4 | Twin City Arena, Laurel | L TKO |
| 1932-10-17 | Leroy Gibson | 10-5-1 | Memorial Hall, Dayton | L |
| 1933-05-26 | Johnny Cataline | 10-9-3 | Armory Arena, Charleston | NC |
| 1933-06-02 | Jimmy Reilly | 29-13-3 | Clarksburg | L |
| 1933-06-19 | Tony Sciolino | 18-6-4 | Broadway Auditorium, Buffalo | L |
| 1933-11-03 | Al Gillette | 32-34-4 | Madison Square Garden, New York | W |

Source: www.boxrec.com

KO- knock out, TKO – technical knock out, D- draw, W-win, L- loss, NC- no contest



Veterans of World War II: John L. Cherrie

By Tom Izbicki ~ My uncle, John Louis Cherrie was born in Glen Lyon on October 26, 1919, the son of John and Ida (Bellando) Cherrie. As a boy, he was active in the Boy Scouts. He graduated from Newport High School in 1937, serving as the salutatorian of his class.

John served in the US Army during World War II, entering service in October of 1941. He was in Tunisia (See Newsletter Spring 2019, page 9) and Europe in the 1st Armored Division, serving under Generals George Patton and Mark Clark.¹

John was not given to telling war stories. Nonetheless, his family knew he had been in-

involved in transporting ammunition. Once he fell asleep atop a load of ammunition and realized, upon waking, that he could have been blown sky high. John was with the division at Kasserine Pass in Tunisia in February of 1943. There American troops learned how tough their opponents could be. Thereafter, he served in Italy, in Sicily and then from the Anzio landing in early 1944 to the war's end in the north of the country. Asked about welcoming crowds in Rome when it was liberated, John said his unit passed through the city at night and saw no one.

After being mustered out of service with the rank of sergeant in May of 1945, John took time to recover from three years overseas. Then he attended the University of Southern California. John graduated with the highest marks of his class in pharmacy. He was in private practice in the Los Angeles region, usually residing in the vicinity of Van Nuys and later of Oxnard. His work as a pharmacist included running the Canoga Park Pharmacy for several years, and he also was in the pharmacy of St. John's Hospital, Oxnard.

John Cherrie retired from pharmacy practice and returned to the Wyoming Valley. He died in Nanticoke in February of 2003 and is buried in the Italian Independent Cemetery, Glen Lyon. In addition to professional organizations, John was a member of the American Legion and the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

¹ Patton only commanded II Corps, in which 1st Armored served, for a month in North Africa; but his name, not Eisenhower or Omar Bradley, comes up in this connection when Uncle John's service is mentioned. Mark Clark was senior American commander in Italy from mid-1944 to the end of the war in Europe.

First Armored Division "Old Ironsides"

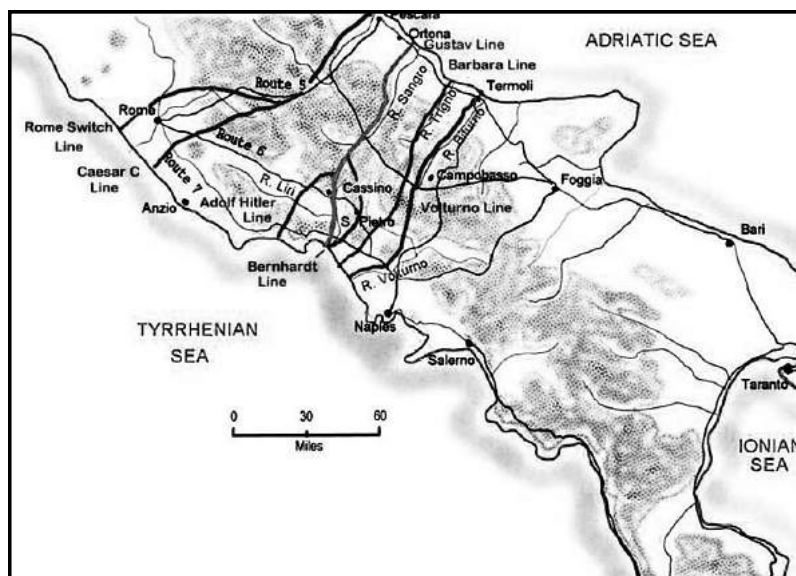
By Heidi and Paul Jarecki ~ The First Armored Division, nicknamed "Old Ironsides," is the oldest and most recognizable armored division in the United States Army. It was the first armored division to see combat in World War II. As part of the mechanization of the U.S. Army and the buildup for World War II, cavalry and reconnaissance units were brought together to form the First Armored Division at Fort Knox, Kentucky on July 15, 1940. Major General Bruce R. Magruder was the Division's first commander, serving in that capacity from July 1940 until March of 1942. General Magruder is also responsible for the Division's famous nickname "Old Ironsides," after he saw a picture of the frigate USS Constitution, which is also nicknamed "Old Ironsides."

The First Armored Division's first contact with the enemy was as part of the Allied invasion of North Africa, Operation Torch, on November 8, 1942. The invasion forces suppressed all resistance in the beachhead area within three days. Old Ironsides then advanced toward Tunisia.

In January of 1943 Old Ironsides was part of II Corps and received the mission of defending central Tunisia against an Axis counterattack. In February the First Armored Division met with a superior German armored force at Kasserine Pass. The Division sustained heavy losses in personnel and equipment, and was forced to withdraw. The Germans outran their supply lines and faced determined Allied resistance. After three more months of hard fighting, the Allies could finally claim victory in North Africa. The German and Italian forces in Tunisia surrendered between May 9 and 13, 1943. Old Ironsides was reorganized in French Morocco then moved to Naples, Italy on October 28, 1943 to support the Allied effort there.

After the Allied invasion of Sicily, which began in July 1943 and ended on August 17, the American Fifth Army invaded mainland Italy in September of 1943. The First Armored Division took part in the attack on the Winter Line in November 1943 as part of General Mark Clark's U.S. Fifth Army. The Winter Line, also known as the Gustav Line, was a series of German and Italian military fortifications in Italy commanded by Albert Kesselring. The Gustav Line, though ultimately broken, effectively slowed the Allied advance for months between December 1943 and June 1944. The First Armored Division then flanked the Axis armies in the landings at Anzio, and then passed through the city of Rome and pursued the retreating enemy northward until mid-July 1944.

The Division continued in combat to the Po Valley until the German forces in Italy surrendered on 2 May 1945. In June, the Division proceeded to Germany as part of the occupation forces.



Sources: www.militaryvetsshop.com; www.historyarm.mil; www.wikipedia.org; www.uso.org



Three siblings of the Selecky Family visited Lido Beach in Florida in February and got caught up with local news. Pictured are Juliana Selecky Semple of Erie, PA, Peter Selecky of Bradenton, FL, and Mary Selecky of Colville, WA. They grew up in Glen Lyon. Nice weather!



Relaxing in the pool at Punto Cana in the Dominican Republic are Carol Sobotka of Glen Lyon (right), her daughter Pam (left) and granddaughter Sophia (middle) who looks like she's engrossed in the Newsletter. The pool looks very inviting!



The Altar and Rosary Society of St. Adalbert's Church held a hoagie sale on Super Bowl Sunday. Pictured is the assembly line, standing: Carol Sobotka, Ann Marie Gorgas. Sitting: Steph Stogoski, Carol Wilkes, JoAnne Thomas, and Jennifer Morgis.



The Newport Township Fire Departments joined forces with St. Faustina's in Nanticoke and held a fish dinner on Ash Wednesday. Pictured are: Barbara Yacuboski, Virginia Pickle, Carol Sobotka, and Marie Farrell.



Above center is George Brezna, the winner of the kielbasa eating contest sponsored by Tarnowski's, Main Street, Nanticoke. George ate 5 pounds in 21 minutes! Stacie and John Vishnefski are proprietors.



St. Andrew's Church in Alden sponsored a shrimp dinner in the church hall on March 7. Pictured is the kitchen crew. At right are head chef Vicky Frace and Rev. Charles Warwick, pastor.

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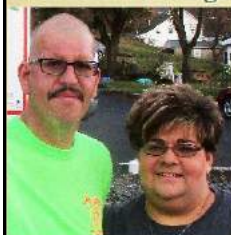
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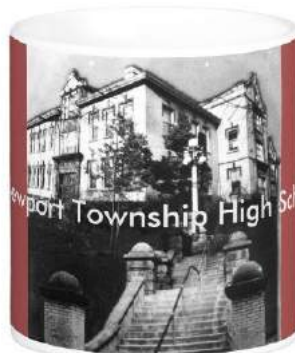
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Two Ways to Remember Newport High School

Pictured above left is the miniature of Newport High School designed by the Cat's Meow. Send a donation of \$15.00 plus \$3.00 for shipping and it will be yours!

For a donation of \$10.00, you can enjoy your morning coffee or tea while reflecting on your care-free youth! The mug, pictured below left, features a composite black and white photograph of Newport Township High School and its famous steps, with wide red stripes bordering each side. "Newport Township High School" is printed across the center in light gray lettering. If mailed, include postage: \$7.15 for one, and \$9.00 for two. Contact Heidi and Paul Jarecki, 28 West Main Street, Glen Lyon, PA 18617. Email: hselecky@pa.metrocast.net. Phone 570-733-2540. Check out NTCO's website.

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We would be honored and proud to have you as a member of the Newport Township Community Organization. Your membership will show approval of and help support our many projects to benefit your hometown! Membership is \$5.00 per year per person based on the calendar year January through December or a lifetime membership is available for \$50.00. Send application with fee to NTCO, 113 Railroad Ave., Wanamie, Nanticoke, PA 18634.

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NTCO will make available printed copies of its quarterly newsletter to those living outside the area. An annual fee of \$10.00 covers the cost of mailing via the US Postal Service. Send your check payable to "NTCO" to Heidi Jarecki, 28 W. Main St., Glen Lyon, PA 18617; email: hselecky@pa.metrocast.net

If you have internet access, please furnish your email address to Thomas Kashatus at tomkash@verizon.net to be entered into our data base. You will then be notified of new publications on NTCO's website at <http://www.newporttownship.com>. Photographs on internet publications are viewable in color. Hard copies are printed in black and white.

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NTCO's meetings are held on the second Tuesday of the month at the Municipal Building in Wanamie at 6:45 p.m. We invite you to attend, share your ideas and help develop new programs to benefit Newport Township. There are many ways to showcase your talents and the community will reap the rewards!

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~ The Late Honorable Paul R. Selecky