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Newsletter of the Newport Township Community Organization Editors: Heidi and Paul Jarecki

"The first blooms of spring always make my heart sing." ~ S. Brown



**Kirmar Parkway in Alden**

## Newport Township Public Business

*By John Jarecki* ~ The following is an account of Newport Township public business arranged in two parts. The first is a discussion of continuing projects, and the second a discussion of items commented on or acted on by the Township Commissioners at their monthly meetings in January, February, and March 2025.

**Nanticoke-West Nanticoke Bridge:** Luzerne County now has access to \$55 million from casino gambling revenue that the County Council intends to spend on improvements to County roads and bridges. The Council has for some time been considering using at least part of this money for the replacement or repair of the Nanticoke-West Nanticoke bridge, which has structural problems that have reduced its vehicle weight limit to 15 tons. In November 2023, Benesch engineering consulting firm gave the County three options for work on the Nanticoke bridge: full replacement taking 3.3 years at a cost of \$64 million and two rehabilitation options, one taking 3.1 years, at a cost of \$47.8 million, and the second taking 2.6 years at a cost of \$39.6 million. Benesch recommended full replacement of the bridge.

On January 23, 2024, Newport Township Commissioner John Zyla,

Nanticoke Fire Chief Mark Boncal, Adviser to the Plymouth Township Supervisors Gail Conrad, and Newport Township Manager Joe Hillan attended a meeting of the Luzerne County Council to express their opinion that complete replacement of the bridge, in order to accommodate more traffic, is the only way that this project will give access to the Lower South Valley for future economic and residential development.

At a County Council session on February 12, 2024, Terence Ostrowski, President/CEO of the nonprofit Earth Conservancy headquartered in Ashley, spoke at the request of the Lower South Valley Council of Governments, which believes that full replacement is necessary for the economic and residential development of the Lower South Valley. He said that nearly 1,800 acres of economic development space is available in a corridor starting at the Dan Flood Industrial Park just outside Nanticoke and continuing into Newport Township, and that county officials should ensure the bridge plan they select can accommodate the increased traffic that he expects to come with development of this land.

In April 2024 Luzerne County received an additional \$10 million in federal funding for the bridge through the State's Transportation

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Improvement Program. In order to use the additional funding the County must conduct the project through the Engineering and Construction Management System of the State's Department of Transportation (PennDOT). In order to comply with PennDOT's process, the County cannot use the Benesch recommendation as the basis for the project. Instead, the County must now solicit and review letters of interest from three engineering firms. On Tuesday August 13, 2024 the Council approved a resolution that puts the project into the PennDOT's Engineering and Construction Management System. No further information is available.

**Glen Lyon Curb and Sidewalk Improvement Project:** Funded by a \$1.4 million Luzerne County Infrastructure Improvement Grant that the Township received in 2018, this project has repaired sidewalks and curbs along Main Street in Glen Lyon. In February of 2022, the Township asked for bids for the project and in March awarded a contract to Multiscape Inc. of Pittston to do the work at a cost of \$1,117,190.03. Multiscape started work in April of 2022 and completed the project in December 2023. Looking ahead toward further improvements, the Board of Commissioners authorized Township Manager Joe Hillan to apply for a State gaming grant to extend the original sidewalk project by adding small lengths of sidewalk that need to be replaced, but were skipped because of cost, such as those in front of KVal convenience store and in front of St. Nicholas Church. In November of 2024, State Representative Alec Ryncavage notified the Township that the State had awarded a State gaming grant of \$261,000 for the extended work.

**Blighted Property Remediation Project:** During 2021 Newport Township received a State Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) Blight Remediation grant of \$289,970 and an LSA (gaming) grant of \$250,000 for acquisition and demolition of blighted properties.

Township officials first get permission from the owner to demolish the building, with the owner then keeping possession of the land on which the building stood.

There were 22 buildings in the first seven Groups of properties chosen for demolition. The total cost of their demolition amounted to \$391,000. In addition, the building at 69-71 West Main Street in Glen Lyon (formerly Tarnowski's Store) was also demolished in May 2022 at a cost of \$22,000 after a Luzerne County court ordered an emergency demolition.

In November 2023, Township officials announced that an Eighth Group of buildings, consisting of 28 Line Street and 48 Newport Street, both in Glen Lyon, was chosen for demolition. In February 2024, they awarded a contract to Smart Recycling to demolish 28 Line Street at a cost of \$11,800. Smart Recycling completed the demolition in March 2024. In September 2024, Bdaric Construction was awarded the contract for the demolition of the building at 48 Newport Street and the garage at 69-71 West Main Street. The company completed the work in mid October of 2024. The Lower South Valley Land Bank, which acquired the properties in 2023, paid the cost of the work. In addition, the contractor constructed a fence along the sidewalk at 128 West Main Street, another Land Bank-owned property. The total cost of the work was \$52,000.

Additional properties are under consideration.

**Lower South Valley Land Bank:** In August 2022, the Commissioners approved Ordinance #2 of 2022 authorizing the Township Manager to enter into an intergovernmental cooperation agreement with other parties of Luzerne County for the purpose of establishing the Lower South Valley Land Bank.

In September of 2023, Township Manager Joe Hillan announced that the South Valley Land Bank acquired four properties at the August Luzerne County Judicial Sale: 1) 48 Newport Street (the building will be demolished as soon as the Land Bank receives the title for the property), 2) 5 Arch Street (the building will be evaluated for either sale or demolition), 3) 69-71 West Main Street (a garage on the property will be demolished as soon as the Land Bank receives the title), and 4) 128 West Main Street (this is a vacant lot that will be put up for sale in such a way as to keep it on the tax rolls). All properties are in Glen Lyon. Under Pennsylvania law, a land bank has the advantage of being able to acquire a property at a judicial tax sale (free and clear sale) without having to bid.

In November 2024, the Commissioners appointed Township Manager Joseph Hillan as a member of the Lower South Valley Land Bank Board of Directors.

**January 6, 2025: Residents' Comments:** An Alden resident called attention to problems created by a neighbor's burning of waste.

**Meeting Business:** The Commissioners approved motions to make the following appointments to positions with Newport Township for 2025:

Jason Kowalski	Fire Chief
Kyle Gruber	Deputy Fire Chief
Jeremy Blank	Police Chief
Penn Eastern Engineers	Township Engineer
B. H. & W. Consulting Services	Building Code Enforcement Agency
Slusser Law Firm	Township Solicitor

The Commissioners voted to hire John Zegarski as a part-time Fire Apparatus Driver.

The Commissioners approved Resolution #1 of 2025 authorizing an Official Act 537 Plan Update Revision. The Pennsylvania Act 537 Plan, also known as the Official Sewage Facilities Plan, is a plan that helps municipalities manage sewage disposal. It addresses current and future needs for the municipality. The update supports an Act 537 Plan Update by the Wyoming Valley Sewer Authority (WVSA), which is upgrading its facilities.

The Commissioners voted in favor of Resolution #2 of 2025 approving a lease agreement between the Lower South Valley Council of Governments (LSVCOG) and Hanover Township which allows the placement in Hanover Township of a Regional Municipal Fueling Station for use by LSVCOG municipalities. This fueling station, which is projected to be in operation by April 2025, should reduce gasoline fuel costs by 20 to 25% for these local governments.

Commissioner Mike Roke commended the Fire Department for its good work in fighting the fire that destroyed the former Pulaski School in Glen Lyon on December 23, 2024, which at the time was being refurbished to serve as an apartment building. He said that the members of the Fire Department have recently been put a good deal of effort to take courses in order to improve their ability to fight fires and that this training was crucial in keeping the School fire from spreading to other structures in the neighborhood.

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

- 1) The Township received a letter from Emergency Management Coordinator Jason Kowalski detailing the work of the Township Emergency Management during the fire at the former Pulaski School. The Newport Township Fire Department, the Nanticoke Fire Department, and many other mutual aid fire departments all worked together to fight the fire. Emergency Management set up a coordination center for the various units and an emergency shelter at the Municipal Building for residents affected by the shutting off of power to portions of the Township. (*Editor's note: Please see page 5.*)
- 2) Beginning in January 2025, Township recycling will no longer collect glass from curbside recycling containers. Residents can drop off glass at a dumpster in the Municipal Building parking lot.
- 3) No Nonsense Neutering (NNN), a nonprofit organization that has a contract with Newport Township to neuter and vaccinate 50 feral/free-roaming cats, now has vouchers for its services available at the Municipal Building. The cost will be divided between NNN and the Township. Residents of the Township can use this service by picking up a voucher at the Municipal Building.

**February 3, 2025: Residents' Comments:** None.

**Meeting Business:** Township Financial Oversight Consultant Jennifer Polito reported that the Township has submitted all the necessary reports to the State in order to receive its Liquid Fuels funds for 2025 during the first week in March. Liquid Fuels funds are mainly State gasoline tax funds given to municipalities for road construction, repair, and maintenance.

The Commissioners approved a memorandum of understanding and agreement concerning the collective bargaining agreement between Newport Township and Fraternal Order of Police representing the Township's police officers.

The Commissioners accepted the resignation of David Hoffman as a full-time fire apparatus driver and returned him to his former position as part-time fire apparatus driver. They also voted to hire Jason Poremba as a part-time fire apparatus driver.

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

- 1) On January 15 Eileen Rosen from the Pennsylvania Auditor General's Office conducted an audit of the Township's Liquid Fuels



Fund and found that all was in order.

2) The Township Manager is working with Attorney Jeffrey Rockman of the Slusser Law Firm on a dumpster ordinance and revisions to the Township's burning ordinance.

**March 3, 2025: Residents' Comments:** A resident of East Main Street in Glen Lyon described the deteriorating condition, including fire and safety dangers, of the house next to hers. Commissioner Debbie Zaleski said the Township would check on the condition of the house.

A Newport Township Crime Watch member announced that there will be an Active Shooter Presentation at the R-Bar in Alden on March 13 at 6 pm. The public is invited to attend.

**Meeting Business:** The Commissioners adopted Ordinance #1 of 2025, which revises the Open Burning Ordinance of 2020 in order to clarify its provisions. It forbids the transportation of material onto private or commercial property for burning, specifies the conditions under which open burning is permitted, and lists types of burning that are exempt from the regulations of the ordinance.

The Commissioners adopted Ordinance #2 of 2025, which requires persons placing a dumpster on public or private property to first get a permit from the Township. The Ordinance limits the time for which a dumpster can be used and specifies conditions under which it can be used.

The Commissioners adopted Ordinance #3 of 2025, which lists the buildings that are required to have a Knox Box attached to an exterior wall. A Knox Box is a small safe opened by a master key and containing keys that allow emergency workers quick access to a building. Buildings required to have this box include commercial and institutional buildings now under construction and certain previously constructed buildings such as schools and certain restricted entrance multifamily residential buildings.

The Township's website [www.newporttownship.org](http://www.newporttownship.org) has copies of all the above ordinances.

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

1) On February 14 the Township submitted an application to the Lowe's Foundation for a \$149,919 grant to fund the playground to be built on Railroad Street in Glen Lyon.

2) On February 26, the Township received and signed documentation for a Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) grant of \$158,197 that was awarded to the Township in November 2024 to purchase a recycling compactor truck. We should receive the funds within 30 to 60 days.

3) Newport Township will be holding an electronic recycling event on May 17 from 9 am to 11 am in the Municipal garage parking area. Details are available on the Township's website.

4) Because a fatal accident recently occurred at the intersection of Alden Road and River Road/Old Newport Street near the Turkey Hill Convenience Store in Sheatown, the Township has asked the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) to do another study of this intersection. There was a previous fatal accident in February 2024 at this same intersection. After it occurred, the Township asked PennDOT to do a study of the intersection, but PennDOT concluded that little could be done to improve safety.

### Floryshak Family Grant

A grant established to honor the Floryshak Family of Glen Lyon will be awarded to a deserving senior student from Nanticoke Area High School who resides in Glen Lyon. The award will provide financial assistance in the form of a one-time \$2,000 grant for help with the recipient's educational expenses to an accredited institution. The institution can be a 4 year, 2 year, or vocational program. The recipient will be selected based on positive community involvement as well as school and extracurricular activities.

The donors of the award are Vincent Floryshak and Diane Grudkowski Floryshak, 1971 graduates of Nanticoke Area High School. Interested students can receive complete information from the High School Guidance Department.

## NTCO President's Report

*By Stephen Phillips ~* The Newport Township Community Organization expresses its sincere appreciation to all those individuals or others who responded to our recent requests for contributions to help insure that we can continue with this Entity's concerted efforts to improve our beloved Township's overall quality of life. We express our gratitude to those who renewed their memberships to the NTCO, or have joined for the first time. Any successful organization is dependent upon the support, cooperation, and commitment of its members. As previously noted, the cost for annual membership is \$5.00. Membership applications found on the back page of the Newsletter should be sent to the Newport Township Community Organization, 113 Railroad Street, Wanamie, PA 18634.

We are pleased to acknowledge the following persons who have contributed to the Organization or to the Newsletter specifically: Marge Forgach, Kathleen and Chet Kovaleski, Theresa Berti, Tom and Pat Tarnowski, James and Catherine Yefko, Joyce and Rich Smetana, Daniel and Maria Floryshak, Marge Rinehimer, Ed Haines, Ann Firth, Al and Alberta Yarasavage, Elaine and Bob Deluca, Darlene and Tom Pantle, Paul and Peggy Shutta, Rich Vosheski, Ron and Margaret Womelsdorf, Ken Marquis, Paul Kantor, Eleanore Pish, Rich Barski, Terri Stashik, Dave Stashik and Michelle Stashik Santuk (in memory of their Dad, Joe Stashik), Rich Chapracki, Ralph Faull, Raymond and Virginia Domzalski, David and Joellen Kule, Richard Vosheski, and Col. Gene Haverlak. We also thank our donors who wish to remain anonymous. The Newsletter's total cost for 2024 was \$9,589.73. As a direct result of your assistance, the income generated totaled \$9,935.00. Keep up the good work!

Again we solicit your aid on behalf of our sister Township organizations. This support can be financial or by becoming a member in one or more of our Township partners. By continuing to work together, we can jointly help to build a better community. A graphic illustration of the import of all our local volunteer groups was recently exhibited by the Newport Township Crime Watch's sponsorship on March 13 of an Active Shooter training seminar.

In this regard, we are pleased to welcome our newest police officer, Earl Johnson, to the Township's police force. His hiring brings the complement of full-time officers to six. This is the largest number of full-time law enforcement officers the Municipality has had on its rolls in several decades. Officer Johnson brings ten years of experience to his new position. His hiring adds to an existing well-trained police force. When you see him on duty, welcome him to the Township.

With the advent of Spring, our roadways are clearly exhibiting the litter that ignorant individuals have scattered on our thoroughfares. We request that if you witness someone littering, please report this transgression to the Police Department in order that the violators can be punished. The amount of littering which occurs throughout our Township reflects very unfavorably upon the Municipality.

NTCO's monthly food distribution continues on the second Saturday of each month at the Township's Municipal Garage. Distribution commences at 11:00 am. Distribution is limited to Newport Township residents. The program has been chaired by Palmira Miller since its inception. She is capably assisted by Amy Saraka. We have been experiencing a diminishing number of volunteers to assist in this event. Please consider volunteering your services to aid this worthwhile community endeavor.

The NTCO continues to advocate that Township residents become involved in local activities and become informed about current issues. This year will see two Township Commissioners elected to office. The Spring Primary on May 20 will select the two candidates from each party for these positions. Remember former Speaker of the House "Tip" O'Neill's words, "All politics is local."



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On the evening of December 23, 2024, a fire destroyed the former Pulaski School on South Market Street in Glen Lyon. It was owned by the Macnaughton Company and was being renovated into apartments. Multiple local fire companies responded. It was a total loss.





## Pulaski Fire Emergency Management Report

January 3, 2025

Dear Board of Commissioners:

Due to the active commercial structure fire at S. Market St. in Glen Lyon, at the recommendation of the Township Emergency Management Coordinator, a State of Emergency was declared by Commissioner John Zyla at 22:31 on 12/23/24. The factors that prompted the declaration were the ongoing 3rd alarm commercial structure fire with all of Newport Township Fire Dept.'s resources fully committed as well as Nanticoke Fire Dept., and numerous other mutual aide companies. Water supply deficiencies were aided by the activation of the Luzerne County Tanker Taskforce providing supplemental water to the scene with the use of tanker shuttles. This operation disrupted traffic in Glen Lyon, causing many road closings and detours. Frigid temperatures and icing complicated safety at the scene, as well as the request of command on scene to shut down power, to allow aerial apparatus to operate safely.

Due to the power being disconnected to all of Glen Lyon, initially, then [slowly] being restored and isolated to Market St. and Newport St., a warming shelter for any residents effected [sic] was set up at the Municipal Building at 22:46. Emergency Management Facebook as well as the township text message notification system was used to notify residents. Transportation to the shelter was arranged for if needed. The shelter was staffed by one neighboring Emergency Management Coordinator and a volunteer from the township. The Township Emergency Operations Center, also at the municipal building, was operated on a minimal basis to coordinate resource requests from the scene. There were two resource requests. 1. Medic 9 requesting a generator for a patient on a ventilator. This was fulfilled by an EMA generator, however was subsequently not needed. 2. Request by the Tanker Taskforce at 00:29 am 12/24/24 for diesel to refill tankers operating at the scene. Falzone's was contacted and they delivered 100 gallons of diesel to the scene.

The warming shelter and Emergency Operations center were closed at 4:05 12/24/24 due to most affected areas having power restored. No residents took advantage of this shelter. Units were gradually released from the scene and roadways began to open. Newport Twp. Fire personnel as well as the Emergency Management Coordinator remained on scene while Stell Construction demolished the structure due to the extensive damage and ongoing active fire within the building. Units cleared the scene at 17:56 on 12/24/24.

From an Emergency Management perspective, we were able to provide resources needed to the scene as well as the residents of the Township. As a result of some deficiencies and [lessons] learned, revisions will be made to the Township Emergency Operation plan, which hopefully will be completed next month. I would like to thank all the Fire personnel, Nanticoke City fire, all the mutual aid companies, as well as the public who provided food, coffee, water, and refreshments to the emergency responders. Finally I would like to thank Kindra Kowalski for helping staff the Emergency Operations Center and set up the warming shelter along with Amy Saraka.

Overall, on the Emergency Management end, everything worked well. As it was said by Commissioner Zyla, this is what we train for.

Sincerely,

[Signed]

Jason Kowalski

Emergency Management Coordinator



### New Police Officer

At the March meeting of the Board of Commissioners, Earl Johnson, the Township's newest police officer, was introduced and sworn in by Police Commissioner John Zyla. Pictured above are sitting: Township Commissioners John Zyla, Paul Czapracki, Jack Vishnefski, and Debbie Zaleski. Mike Roke was absent. Standing are Police Officers William Dubiak, Earl Johnson, Chief Jeremy Blank, Thomas Nalbhone, Andrew Hashagan, Joseph SanMarco, and Township Manager Joseph Hillan.



### Lyon's Den Fire

By Fire Chief Jason Kowalski ~ Newport Fire Department was dispatched to 34 Orchard St. Glen Lyon for a Commercial Structure fire on 2/22/25 at 4:24 am. Engine 1 arrived and found fully involved fire on one side of the building. Crews from Newport Twp Fire made the initial attack on the fire. The fire was declared controlled by 5:15 am. The fire was contained to one side of the structure, however, there was damage to all three floors of the building. Mutual aid from Nanticoke City Fire, Hanover Township Fire, and Kingston Fire assisted due to the need for manpower. The cause of the fire is not considered suspicious and determined to be accidental.

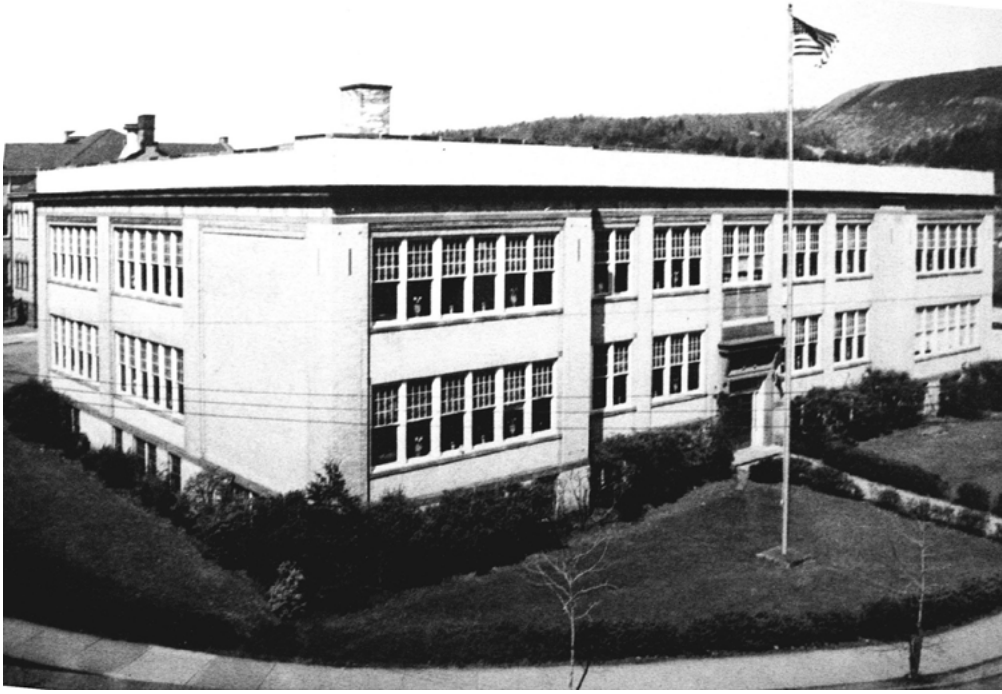


### NOTICES FROM THE TOWNSHIP

At the March 3, 2025 meeting of the Newport Township Board of Commissioners, the board voted to adopt Ordinance No. 2 of 2025. This ordinance regulates the placement of Waste Dumpsters and PODS on private property and within the right of way of any public street in the Township. Ordinance No. 2 is available on the Township's website [Newporttownship.org](http://Newporttownship.org).

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 out the elderly people in the neighborhood with maintaining their properties. This is a great time of the year to start bringing this type community pride back into the Township. It is just the simple things like keeping your property and front porches clean of debris, and of garbage and recycling cans, cleaning up after your dogs in your own yards 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



## A History of Pulaski School The Beginnings: 1921-1927

By Heidi Jarecki ~ A spectacular fire destroyed the former Pulaski School building on the corner of Newport and South Market Streets in Glen Lyon on the evening of December 23, 2024. It was owned by the Macnaughton Holding Company in Nanticoke and was being renovated into apartments. At this writing, the origin of the fire is unknown. Multiple fire departments responded and sought to contain the blaze from spreading. The house next door suffered some minor damage. The fire smoldered for days with billows of smoke rising from the rubble. It was reminiscent of the 1948 fire that destroyed the Newport Township High School Annex in Wanamie, the 1963 fire that destroyed Newport Township High School, and the 1974 fire that destroyed the former Roosevelt School on East Main Street in Glen Lyon. It was a sad day for Pulaski's former students.

The Pulaski School had its beginnings in 1921 and was built to accommodate students in sixth, seventh, and eighth grades. These grades constituted a "junior high school." In the early 1900's, the local economy had a major impact on public education. Most girls and boys never made it past 8th grade. Families were large in those days and the coal miners brought home small paychecks. Girls over the age of 13 were expected to stay home to help take care of their younger siblings. And boys under the age of 16 and some as young as 7 or 8 years of age were employed as breaker boys or trapper boys for pennies a day. The breaker boys worked in the coal breaker for long hours, sometimes 10 to 12 hours a day, separating slate from coal. The job of the trapper boys was to open and close the trap door of a mine to let the mining cars through. This job had to be done very quickly and in a minimal amount of time due to the ventilation and lack of air supply underground.

Pennsylvania's child labor laws, passed in 1909, prohibited employing children under sixteen in the mines, children under fourteen in other manufacturing and commercial settings, and boys under twelve from selling goods in public places. Girls were prohibited from peddling by laws passed in 1901. However, these child labor laws didn't take root for several years.

Pennsylvania's compulsory education laws have evolved over time, from the first law in 1895 to the current law that requires students to attend school from age 6 to 18. In 1874, a law required all school districts to provide public schools. In 1895, a law required children ages 8-13 to attend school for at least 16 weeks. And in 1921, laws were passed to create junior high schools and to require teachers to be certified by the state. At minimum, teachers had to attend two-year "normal schools" to gain certification. The population of Newport

Township was steadily increasing. The 1910 census recorded a population of 10,277; the 1920 census, 10,992; and the 1930 census, 12,087. In an article on September 13, 1922 in the *Times Leader*, the Superintendent of Schools Harry U. Nyhart reported to the Newport Township School Board that "the schools are in a very crowded condition and new buildings are badly needed to cope with the situation. The head of schools informed the board that 2,820 pupils were enrolled the first week of school and by the end of the month it is very probable that many more will be recorded. He also reported that three rooms in the Columbus school building in Wanamie are holding half-day sessions to accommodate the large number of children attending in that district and in the Roosevelt building at Glen Lyon the auditorium is being used as a classroom. The directors were urged to make some provisions at once to meet the emergency and the superintendent was fortified in the opinion that new schools are needed by the intention of the Lehigh & Wilkes-Barre Coal Company to erect new homes for their employees at Wanamie." In October, it was decided "to open two schools in Glen Lyon and one in Alden, Sheatown,

and Wanamie." However, the School Board was hampered by "the fact that the district [had] almost reached their borrowing power and before the necessary funds could be secured the matter must be submitted to the electorate for their approval. Architects estimate that it will cost approximately \$100,000.00 (\$1,867,196.43 in today's money) to erect and equip a modern eight-room school building. By unanimous consent of the Board, the solicitor (John Hibbard) was instructed to take the necessary legal steps to submit the project to the electorate." Members of the School Board were: President Stanley Scott, Vice President Peter Zydanowicz, Secretary Joseph Stark, Treasurer Anthony Prushinski, Anthony "Pappy" Frank, Peter Sarpolis, and John Dzurek. Alec Krulikowski served as tax collector. In November 1922, the electorate did not approve of increasing the indebtedness by \$225,000.00 (\$4,201,191.96 in today's money) for the erection of three new schools. This was a temporary setback. The election also brought new members to the School Board. Vincent Sheeder was President and Frank Kaminski, Vice-President, with members Stephen Sweeney, Rice, Ruptic, John Dzurek, and Anthony Frank. The School Board usually held meetings at the High School in Wanamie and most financial transactions were the responsibility of the Treasurer as directed by vote of the full Board.

Up until about 1912, the public schools in the Township were known by their location: the Newport Street School, the Enterprise Street School, the Robert Street School, the Coal Street School, the Kirmar Avenue School, the New Row School, the Retreat School, the Center Street School, and the Wanamie Central High School. The Lincoln School in Stearns Station was one exception. Most school buildings built after about 1913 were named for historically significant people: Columbus School, Pershing School, Kosciuszko School, Roosevelt School, K.M. Smith School, and Pulaski School.

Pulaski School was named for Casimir Pulaski who was born on March 4 or 6, 1745 in Warsaw, Poland. The son of a nobleman, he became interested in politics at early age. He soon became involved in the military and in revolutionary affairs in the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth. Pulaski was one of the leading military commanders and fought against the Commonwealth's foreign domination. When this uprising failed, he was driven into exile. Following a recommendation by Benjamin Franklin, Pulaski traveled to North America to help in the American Revolutionary War. He distinguished himself throughout the Revolution, most notably when he saved the life of George Washington. Pulaski became a general in the Continental Army, and he and his friend, Michael Kovats, created the Pulaski Cavalry Legion and reformed the American cavalry as a whole. At the siege of Savannah, while leading a cavalry charge against British forces, he was fatally wounded by grapeshot and died shortly after on October 11, 1779 at

age 34. He is called the "Father of American Calvary." Pulaski was a hero among his Polish compatriots and the naming of the new school was gratifying to many Newport Township residents. His portrait hung in the first-floor hallway of the school and when it was closed in 1980, the portrait was moved to the Library of John S. Fine High School in Nanticoke. In 1923, Nanticoke and Dupont also had schools named after Pulaski.

Undeterred by the lack of electorate support, the school board discussed at meetings where to build the new junior high school as mandated by the 1921 law. The grade schools taught children from kindergarten to 8th grade and it was clear that a new school was needed to alleviate overcrowding. As reported on March 17, 1923 in the *Times Leader*: "A communication with blue print enclosed was received from the Susquehanna Collieries Company, offering the board a plot of ground surrounding the Roosevelt building, containing about half an acre, for school purposes for consideration of \$1,000.00. Fully 30 minutes were taken up in discussing the feasibility of erecting a junior high school on this plot of ground. It was the consensus of opinion among the directors that it would be a waste of the taxpayers' money to erect a school on the site because the mine rock and ashes used to fill in this place has been on fire, may become so again and at the present time is unsettled." President of the Board Vincent Sheeder then appointed a committee to meet with the Superintendent of the Susquehanna Collieries, Francis Kohlbraker, to find a more suitable location.

In June 1923, bids were opened for the erection of a four-room addition to the Columbus School. The contract was awarded to lowest bidder Quoss Brothers of Nanticoke. By September 17, 1923, sealed proposals would be submitted to the School Board "for materials and labor required for the completion of the general construction work of a sixteen-room brick and frame school building at Glen Lyon, Luzerne County, Pennsylvania in accordance with the plans and specifications prepared by Ralph M. Herr, Wilkes-Barre, Pa. Each contractor estimating on the work heretofore referred to shall understand that the entire operation shall be completely finished on or before September 1st, 1924." Ralph Herr was a well-known local architect who designed school buildings for Nanticoke, Parsons, Larksville, Hanover Township, and Hazleton, as well as Newport Township. It was also reported to the School Board by Solicitor Hibbard that "the deed for the land in Glen Lyon, upon which the new school will be built, will be ready in a few days and an order for \$10,000 (\$184,498.83 in today's money) to cover cost was passed by the board."

On December 4, 1923, the *Times Leader* reported that "a new faction acquired control of Newport Township school board last night four new directors taking over control of the district. The officers who were elected last night are: [president] Dr. C.E. Moore; vice president Ignatz (Frank) Grohowski; attorney John J. Hibbard. Although control of the board passed into new hands, the meeting last night was peaceful." Frank Kaminski served as treasurer.

In March 1924, "a complete set of plans for ventilating, plumbing and electric wiring of the new school at Glen Lyon was submitted by Ralph M. Herr, architect, and accepted by the board. A motion was then adopted to advertise for bids to install a ventilating, plumbing and electric light system in the new sixteen-room grade school at Glen Lyon." And by August 1924, "the bids for the installation and completion of the electric wiring and clock system in the new Glen Lyon school were opened and read. A motion to award the contract to the lowest bidder was passed." The contract was carried out by Frank E. Baldwin.

Superintendent Nyhart reported to the School Board in October 1924 that the total enrollment was 2,840. That same month, the Building Committee was instructed to inspect the new school building to determine whether the structure "is advanced to an extent where it will warrant protection by insurance. The above committee was also instructed to report at the next meeting of the board its decision as to whether the new school will be used as a junior high school or a graded school." At a special meeting of the school board on October 27, Anthony "Pappy" Frank was elected treasurer to fill the unexpired term of the late Frank Kaminski. Also at that meeting, as reported in the *Times Leader*, "it was decided unanimously by the directors to transfer the sixth, seventh, and eighth grades of Glen Lyon [to the new school building] at that place as soon as completed. The new building has sixteen large spacious rooms and will provide ample room for the

children of that vicinity. The building committee was instructed to inspect the Pulaski school at Glen Lyon in reference to securing fire insurance." This was the first time the building was called "The Pulaski School" in local newspapers. It could not be determined how the name was selected.

On November 10, 1924, contracts were awarded to Decker-MacLane for furnishing hardware at \$2,885.00 (\$52,923.55 in today's money) and Wilder Marshall & Company for a combustion heating system at \$2,745.00 (\$50,355.34) at the Pulaski School. On November 18, as reported, "On motion by Thomas seconded by Frank, it was decided to insure the new Pulaski building at Glen Lyon for \$150,000 (\$2,751,657.89) to be equally divided between John Hagan of Sheatown and Andrew Seletski of Glen Lyon. The total cost of the new building is \$246,000 (\$4,512,718.95)." Also, Irving Ruckel of Wanamic, Superintendent of the People's Street Railway Company, was appointed to the School Board to fill the vacancy of the late Frank Kaminski. Superintendent Nyhart and the Supply Committee were instructed to determine what furniture would be needed at the new school and to solicit bids.

At the last meeting of 1924 on December 16, "Several matters of importance were transacted, among which was the practicability of cutting down the hill at the Pulaski building. This matter was discussed at length, and it was decided to interview the township Board of Commissioners to seek their cooperation. Unless the hill is removed, it will be necessary to construct a retaining wall around the school property, a piece of work that will entail a great expense to the school district." In June 1925, the Newport Township Board of Commissioners published an ordinance that provided for "a portion of Newport and Market Streets be regarded and repaved from curb to curb with a paving block, to wit, brick on a concrete foundation and that the necessary stone [slate] curbing be constructed along both sides of said streets and that said streets be excavated and a retaining wall be erected thereon between the points hereafter mentioned viz: Beginning at a point in front of Pulaski School Building on Market Street, Glen Lyon, Pa., thence along the corner to a point in front of driveway of the Kosciuszko School Building of Newport Street, Glen Lyon, Pa., a distance of three hundred (300) feet, more or less." The resulting wall still stands one hundred years later. William S. Norton served as Township Engineer and was also superintendent of the Alden Coal Company.

In February 1925, bids were solicited for the installation of electrical fixtures, and window shades with the expected completion date of May. In June, bids were opened for the grading, cutting and filling of the grounds. Work was completed by the end of the summer. Plans were underway for the official dedication and opening of the school on Labor Day, September 7, 1925.

The dedication included a parade and a lengthy program. The American Legion Post 539 oversaw the parade and Attorney Michael Donahue was chairman of the program. The Chief Marshall was Captain A. M. Thomas. His assistants were John A. Hibbard, Michael Donahue, Peter Babski, and Steve Supko. The parade assembled at 1:30 at the east end of town and marched up East Main, West Main, turned on Park Street and continued the length of Newport Street. In the first division were: the Kosciuszko Band, township police, school children, speakers and guests, school directors, commissioners and the general committee. The second division included Marshall Lieutenant John Lastowski, 109th Pennsylvania Field Artillery, all uniformed men, including the American Legion etc., societies and fire companies. The program was as follows: Overture, Kosciuszko Band; address of welcome, Attorney Michael Donahue; singing, school children; invocation, Rev. Webber; address, Attorney Frank Pinola, district deputy American Legion; band selection; address, Rev. Father Gryczwacz; address, Attorney Leonard Morgan; singing, school children; presentation of flag by William Healey, ex-national commander; flagraising, William Blackburn, commander Post No. 539; flag salute, firing squad, Steve Supko, sergeant; acceptance of the flag, Attorney John Hibbard; band selection; address by Rev. Father Miliauskas; band selection; address, Judge B.R. Jones; benediction by Rev. Father Lipinski.

The roster of the first teachers appointed to Pulaski School was not published in 1925. However, it is assumed that most if not all were re-appointed the following year. The list published on September 7, 1926 is as follows: Walter Krulikowski, principal; Alice Jennings; Helen Zydanowicz; Martha Stapinski; Celia Turek; William Parks; Andrew Tirpak; Lydia Zinloski; Sadie Shaughnessy; Louis Zeck; Chester Zimolzak; Zigmund Shekletski; Anna Papciak; Anna Rodski; Andrew Najaka; Lucy Vosheski; and Peter Ravin. A total of 17 teachers means



that every schoolroom was in use.

The annual reorganization of the School Board in December 1925 resulted in the following assignments: president Thomas M. Thomas; vice-president, Dr. C. E. Moore; secretary Ignatz Grohowski, treasurer John Dzurik; solicitor John Hibbard. That month, the coal miners were on strike locally, and in support, the members of Local Union 698, International Brotherhood of Teamsters, Chauffeurs, Stablemen, and Helpers refused delivery of coal. This created a crisis for local schools. As reported on December 10, "a special meeting of the [Nanticoke] school board has been called to consider emergency measures for getting coal hauled." On December 14, "Wilkes-Barre school officials expressed an opinion yesterday that sufficient coal is on hand to last until the holidays. Duryea, Newport Township, Nanticoke and Plymouth school officials reported yesterday that coal conditions in their districts are serious. In Newport Township it is said there is enough coal on hand to last until the holidays although all evening classes were suspended during the week. Newport Township school board obtained a considerable amount of coal before the teamsters refused to haul the product. At a recent meeting of the board a committee was appointed to confer with district officials regarding the action of the teamsters and to notify the union that the board can obtain the coal if the teamsters will haul it." The strike continued into the new year.

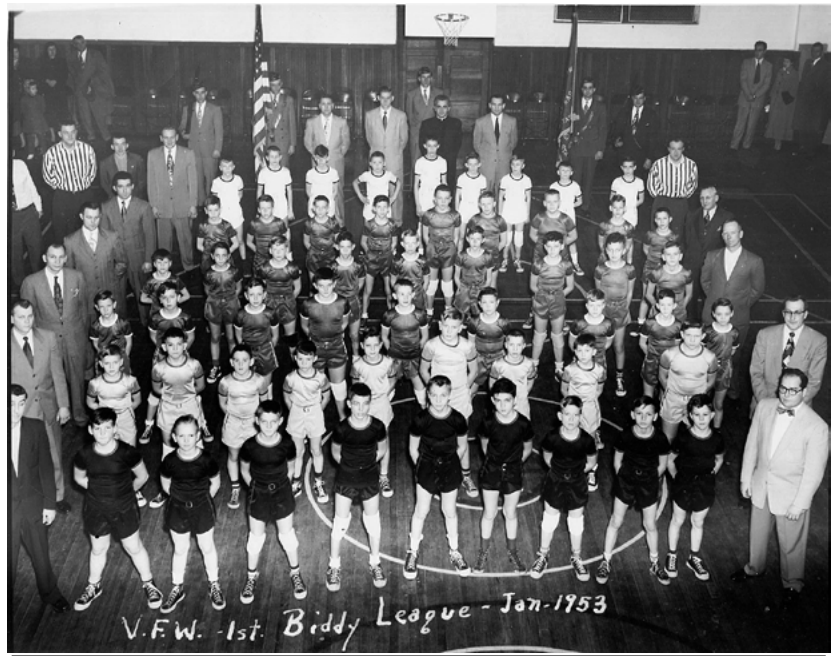
The first basketball game in the new Pulaski gym was played on January 15, 1926 between the Glen Lyon Keystones and the Nanticoke Celtics. The availability of the gym for public use meant that the many amateur teams had an additional place to play. Teams were also organized for the seventh and eighth grades, and in April 1926, they, along with the teachers, journeyed to Bloomsburg "where they enjoyed a chicken dinner. The trip was made by automobile."

In September 1926, the teachers of Pulaski enjoyed a corn and wiener roast. "The afternoon was spent in various forms of outdoor diversions, and during the evening, Peter Ravin entertained in his usual manner." On October 27, "The children and teachers of the eighth grades of the Glen Lyon schools held a masquerade party in the gymnasium of the Pulaski School. The gymnasium was attractively decorated for the occasion and several hundred children were in attendance and each student was masked." On October 28 at 4 o'clock the sixth grades held their Halloween party in the gymnasium and in the evening the seventh grades staged their party in the same place.

As reported in the *Times Leader* on December 11, the Our Gang Five basketball team of Glen Lyon defeated the Heights Sterlings at the Pulaski gym. On December 15, "The Nanticoke Centrals will journey to Glen Lyon tonight to battle the fast Newport Scholastics, composed of ex-college boys. The game is expected to be hotly contested. In the preliminary game the Wilkes-Barre high school freshmen will clash with the varsity team of the Glen Lyon Pulaski school." On January 12, 1927, the Kingdon High scrubs played the Pulaski varsity team. "Both teams are evenly matched and a good game will be assured all those that attend." The Pulaski team won by the score of 25 to 11. On the Pulaski team were: Nagorski, Domulevicz, Morgis, Stashek, and Kutz. The team was undefeated. In February, the Nanticoke Jr. High School Team played the Pulaski team for the championship of the eighth grades. The Pulaski team was victorious.

As reported in the *Times Leader* on March 11, 1927: "The first monthly issue of the *Pulaski News*, published by the students at the Pulaski School in Glen Lyon, created much interest among the students yesterday. A large number of school notes by the youngsters appear in the copy, also limericks and other notes and happenings of the town are mentioned. The paper states that there are 2,934 students in the schools of Newport Township and that a former high school graduate is meeting with success in the ring at Pennsylvania State College. A poem entitled "An Acrostic" by Eleanore A. Briske, each stanza representing an initial of the name Pulaski, attracted special attention. The poem follows:

P stands for Pulaski, the school we attend.  
U stands for unity, united till the end.  
L stands for laws, which we must obey.  
A stands for athletics, which we best display.  
S stands for scholars, many have we.  
K stands for kindness, without it we couldn't be.  
I stands for industry, hardworking, you see, ever plodding onward, as good students should be.



Biddy Basketball sponsored by VFW Post 8353 played in the Pulaski gym

The officers in charge of the paper follows: Leonard Cimbal, editor in chief; Leonard Sergott, assistant editor; Walter Kutz, eighth grade editor; Leonard Najaka, seventh grade editor; Joseph Orben, sixth grade editor. Members of the faculty act as proof readers before the copy is set up." The second issue appeared on May 4.

On May 2, 1927, a Child Health Day was observed by pupils of the Glen Lyon schools in the Pulaski gym. The program began with a selection by the Glen Lyon school orchestra, followed by demonstrations of various kinds, including Swedish and Norwegian dances, Japanese dances, Polish dances, drills, and calisthenics. The third and fourth grade pupils danced the minuet and the first grade children played several games taught by Anna Mulherin, instructor in physical education.

Music Week was observed on Friday, May 6. All Pulaski students participated with songs by Stephen Foster, Nevin, Cadman, Dvorak, and others. Each grade sang as a group, and at the end, the favorite songs of Stephen Foster were sung by the student body.

An art exhibit loaned by the Elson Art Publication Company of Belmont, Massachusetts was on display in the halls of Pulaski School from May 18 through the 20. "The object of this exhibition is to give people an opportunity to see a collection of the world's masterpieces of paintings, sculpture and architecture and to encourage and foster the study of art in the schools, as well as the teaching of art, and to raise funds to purchase pictures for the various school rooms." This event was advertised several times, and resulted in heavy attendance. "The faculty and children are highly elated over the collection, which consists of twenty five reproductions of the world's masterpieces."

The last event of the school year was the Flag Day Exercises on June 14. The event doubled as an Awards Day. "Medals were presented to students of the eighth grade for scholarship, leadership, and citizenship by a committee of American Legion Post No. 539. The presentation was made by Attorney Donahue. Division II awarded the pennant to the eighth grade basketball team [and] Mr. Zimolzak's team was winner of the seventh grade basketball league."

The Pulaski School was off to a great start. It was a jewel in the crown of the Newport Township School District, which in 1927 was responsible for 13 school buildings. As time went on, many factors led to the closing of Pulaski School in 1980, too numerous to discuss here. The fire that destroyed it brought back memories of when students couldn't wait to see which homeroom they were assigned to, the biddy basketball games in the 1950's and 1960's, the largely attended mining classes, and the normal every day activities of a junior high school. The friendships formed there have lasted lifetimes. Those of us who spent both our junior high school and high school days there may be a bit more sentimental. As long as it was standing there in sight, it was a physical connection to our past. The building is now gone, and we must keep our memories of it alive. The editors invite our readers to share their experiences of Pulaski School for publication in the *Newport Township Community News*.





The NTCO congratulates Lucas A. Yendrzejewski of Alden for achieving the rank of Eagle Scout. He is pictured at left with his parents Alan and Candice Yendrzejewski. His Eagle Scout project was the beautification of Quality Hill Playground in Nanticoke. He is a member of Boy Scout Troop 166 in Hanover Township. Luke is a senior at Greater Nanticoke Area High School. He is a member of the golf team, the National Honor Society, and is on the yearbook committee. He is also a volunteer scorekeeper for the Newport Biddy Basketball League. He has two brothers, Ethan and Owen, both students at Nanticoke Area. Luke plans to attend Penn State University Main Campus in the fall. Well done, Lucas!



Pictured above are the Hoagie Team of Holy Spirit Parish in Glen Lyon, preparing turkey and Italian hoagies on Super Bowl Sunday, February 9. Standing l to r are: Greg Dukinas, Jane Straub, Carol Sobotka, Heidi Jarecki, Janice Howell, and Susan Braden. Sitting are: Jennifer Morgis and Bruce Braden. Not pictured are Carol Wilkes, Sylvia Vassia, and Paul Jarecki. Another hoagie sale is planned for Election Day, May 20. Please call Carol at 570-736-7149 to place your orders. Thank you for your support.

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Left to right: Graduation from Newport Township High School in 1926; Graduation from Pennsylvania State College (later University) in 1930; Faculty Picture in the first Newport Yearbook in 1942.

### Newport Township Teachers: Peter Howanitz

By Heidi Jarecki ~ Among the more memorable teachers in the former Newport Township School District was long-time physics, biology, and general science teacher, Peter Howanitz. Mr. Howanitz had a collection of unusual expressions. In the fall, he would ask who was going “fungi-picking or nimrodding on Penobscot Range.” During rollcall, he would tell students “if you are absent, raise your hand.” When the classroom got a bit stuffy, he would ask the students to open the windows and “let in a volume of air.” He did not tolerate gum chewing. He called girls’ purses “shag bags” and if they were caught chewing gum, they would have to open their “shag bag” on the floor and drop their gum into it. Boys would have to stick their chewing gum on the blackboard, draw a circle around it and write their name next to it. While demonstrating a science experiment, Mr. Howanitz would measure solution in a flask by spilling it on the floor. He must have watched the popular TV westerns of the fifties and sixties, because he spoke of the “Ponderosa Pines” from *Bonanza* and “Matt Dillon, Dodge City” from *Gunsmoke*. Most of his students may not remember much about physics, but they certainly remember him!

Peter William Howanitz, affectionately nicknamed “P.H.” by his students, was born on December 22, 1907 in Glen Lyon. His parents were Valentine (William) Howanitz and Amelia (sometimes Nellie or Angela) Keblish Howanitz. They were born in Poland and immigrated to the United States in about 1899. They had ten children: Amelia Skordinski, Mary Dill, Helen Mayeski, Ann Gorney, Olga Sergott, Tillie, Stella, Peter, Emil, and John. The family lived at 11 Vine Street in Glen Lyon and belonged to St. Nicholas Church, and later, St. Michael’s Church. Valentine worked in the mines. He passed away on March 12, 1934 at age 59. Nellie passed away on September 23, 1973 at age 93. Peter’s sister Tillie passed away at age 19 in October 1930.

Peter attended Newport Township schools and graduated from the High School with the Class of 1926. It marked the 33rd annual commencement. Among his classmates were: Dr. Stanley Stapinski, Paul Selecky, Wilbur Fischer, Joseph Krafchik, John Phillips, Marcella Lipski, Chester Krushefski, and George Mayeski. He aspired to become a teacher and enrolled at Penn State. He graduated in 1930 with a Bachelor’s Degree in Education. He was a member of Tau Sigma Phi. While at Penn State, Peter became friends with Theodore Victor Letanoff, a former Russian count. Mr. Letanoff was a PhD student in biological chemistry and a decorated World War I hero. Peter invited him to Glen Lyon for Easter break and the visit attracted much attention. Like most

men attending college, Peter worked in the mines during the summers and accumulated eight years of experience.

Following graduation from Penn State, Peter attended Syracuse University and then Dickinson Law School. He was hired as a teacher in the Newport School District in August 1932. He was assigned to the Pulaski School and his monthly salary was \$110.00 (\$2,533.00 in today’s money). Among his fellow teachers in 1934 were: William Parks, Anthony Kanjorski, Joseph Krafchik, Zigmund Najaka, Edison Fischer, and Josephine Gavey Swithers. He was a member of the Black Arrows Club and enjoyed fishing. He occasionally acted in plays, such as “Done in Oil” and “Crazy Politics” at the Roosevelt School. He was a member of the Glen Lyon Condors (a baseball team) Clambake Committee and attended the 25th Jubilee of St. Michael’s Church in 1935. He participated in many of St. Michael’s events, such as card parties and dances. He served on the committee for the Glen Lyon No. 1 Hose Company’s annual picnics and stag parties.

By the 1936-37 school year, Peter was teaching at the high school. During this time, he was attending extension classes offered locally by New York University and eventually earned his Master of Arts Degree in June 1937. On August 31, 1938, Peter married Mary Lipinski of Kingston at St. Hedwig’s Church. They lived for a time on West Main Street in Glen Lyon and then moved to 183 Robert Street in Sheatown. In 1948, the family moved to 159 Sharpe Street in Alden where they remained until Peter’s retirement.

Peter was involved in high school activities, such as class trips, field days, senior class plays, and sports banquets. He served as class advisor and was on the Newport Township Athletic Council. In 1946, Peter passed examinations to qualify as a mine assistant foreman and in 1949, passed exams rating him as a mine foreman. This would qualify him to teach evening mining classes sponsored by the Glen Alden Coal Company at the High School. In conjunction with the mining classes, the State Bureau of Mines also offered classes in first aid. The following year, Peter taught the “902x Intermediate Coal Mining Class” sponsored by the Penn State Extension School. “All men employed in or about the mines in the township may register without any charges.” By 1951, Peter was teaching first aid classes as well.

In 1950, the club program at the high school recommended by the Middle States Association of Colleges and High Schools was implemented. Peter moderated the Science Club, and later, the Physics Club. Among the other clubs were: Camera Club, Sewing Club, Chemistry Club, Newspaper Club, Dramatics Club, Sports Club, Bookkeeping Club, and the Polish Club.

For several years, students of the physics and chemistry classes taught by Peter Howanitz and Frank Schraeder attended the science exhibit at



Wilkes College. In 1951, members of the sophomore history classes participated in an essay contest whose subject was the Wyoming Monument. Teachers in charge of the essay writing were Kathryn Delaney, Walter Serowicz and Peter Howanitz. Peter co-directed the 1952 senior class play, "Mother Does the Talking." In 1955, he was reappointed to the Athletic Council and served as ticket chairman.

In 1960, Peter was awarded a stipend as a participant in the Summer Institute for high school physics teachers conducted at Fordham University in New York City. The Institute was sponsored by the National Science Foundation and was devoted to a study of a new high school physics curriculum, developed by the Physical Science Study Committee made up of a group of physicists with headquarters at MIT. Peter was among fifty high school physics teachers from various parts of the country. The following year, Peter was awarded a special fellowship in the Summer Institute for High School Teachers of Science at Bucknell University.

In 1962, Peter, along with Joseph Rish and Joseph Trudnak, took courses in Civil Defense at the former Coughlin High School in Wilkes-Barre. Upon completion, they would set a 12-hour course for senior students and adults in the Township. World events at the time, such as the Cuban Missile Crisis in 1962 and the Nuclear Test Ban Treaty the following year, created international tensions and perhaps justified the notion of national preparedness. In January 1963, it was announced in the *Times Leader*: "Newport-Conyngham Joint School System is participating in a program to instruct Pennsylvania adults in matters of preparedness and survival should an enemy or natural disaster occur. This twelve-hour series entitled 'Individual, Family, and Community Protection' provides free text materials, no tests, no fees, and satisfying learning opportunities." Topics to be covered included fallout, nuclear weapons, purifying water, building shelters, stocking food, warning systems, and decontaminating one's self and family. Expenses for the series were borne by the Pennsylvania Department of Public Instruction.

In November 1963, the following appeared in the *Times Leader*: "A total of 22 men have enrolled in the newly formed mining class at Nanticoke Area School Jointure High School. There will be a total of 128 hours of study on mining and will be taught by Peter Howanitz, a teacher in Newport Township who has a mining certificate. With the mining industry advertising for the first time in its history for men to mine coal, the class was undertaken to help provide quality personnel."

With the opening of the new Greater Nanticoke Area High School in 1970, Peter was assigned to teach biology. He retired from teaching in 1974.

Peter and Mary Howanitz were the parents of four children, Peter Jr., Nancy, Evelyn, and Louise. A son died in infancy. Peter Jr. and Louise graduated from Newport High School, while Nancy and Evelyn graduated from Wyoming Seminary. Peter, Nancy, and Evelyn became physicians, and Louise became an ant. Following Peter's retirement after a 41-year teaching career, Peter and Mary moved to 39 Reynolds Street in Kingston.

Peter passed away on August 19, 1993 at age 86. Mary passed away on May 2, 2009 at age 99. Peter and Mary are interred in St. Mary's Cemetery in Hanover Township.

Sources: *Wilkes-Barre Times Leader*; *Wilkes-Barre Record*; *Ancestry.com*; *Archives.com*; *The Pennsylvania State College Yearbook La Vie*; *Newport Township High School Yearbook Newportraits*.

#### This Describes Mr. Howanitz Pretty Well

Good teaching is one-fourth preparation and three-fourths theater... ~ Gail Godwin, *The Odd Woman*, 1974



#### People To Know: Amber Borysewicz, AKA "Bory"

By Tom Kashatus ~ Amber Borysewicz is Commander of Glen Lyon American Legion Post 539. She assumed her position of leadership when she took the oath of office on September 8, 2024.

Commander Borysewicz now resides in Wanamie on Brown Row. She formerly lived in Glen Lyon for six years. She has been a member of Post 539 since 2023.

Commander Borysewicz's military career of five years began in 2010 when she enlisted with the US Marine Corps in Scranton. Basic training took place at Parris Island SC and job-related specialized training in the Military Police took place at Fort Leonard Wood, MO. After attaining a MOS (Military Occupational Specialty) at Camp Lejeune, NC, she was deployed in 2013 with the 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit to patrol the Persian Gulf Region (Syria, Yemen, Egypt, etc.) in the Middle East and was assigned to Landing Platform Dock-17 on the USS San Antonio, one of a class of amphibious transport docks of the US Navy. Commander Borysewicz was assigned to a Female Engagement Team (FET) which was attached to an infantry unit and placed on stand-by to search females captured during engagements. During this deployment she received the honor of "Marine of the Quarter," a competition which selected a Marine from each of the units on the USS San Antonio. Upon return from deployment Commander Borysewicz was attached to the 2nd Law Enforcement Battalion (LEB) at Camp Lejeune until her honorable discharge. She attained the rank of Sergeant.

AL Commander Borysewicz was born in Wilkes-Barre and raised in Dupont and Pittston where she graduated in 2008. Prior to enlisting in the military, she graduated at the top of her class from ITT Tech with an Associate Degree in Criminal Justice. Continuing her education, she later received a BS Degree in History from the University of Phoenix after her military service.

AL Commander Borysewicz sees her service in the American Legion as a way of living her philosophy of commitment and volunteerism to country and community. As Commander, she hopes to "modernize the way we do American Legion business. We must keep up with the times and [make an] effort to bring in new members. I would also like to show that we are not just a place where we sit around and have a drink - our purpose in the American Legion is to continue serving our country even when our time in the military is over. We are there for our community as well as our brothers and sisters who miss that military camaraderie."

#### Lest We Forget

But the freedom that they fought for, and the country grand they wrought for, Is their monument to-day, and for aye.

Thomas Dunn English  
"Battle of Monmouth," *American Ballads*, 1879

# Voices of the Past Personal, Patriotic and Memorable

By John Kashatus

## Foreword

Before the era of sound technology, the human voice was most valuable to many professions. The voice, the delivery and the message were necessary to have an impact on the listener. In bygone days, the city newspaper boy, the carnival barker, the railroad conductor, the barn dance caller, the circus ringmaster, the ballpark beer vendor, the produce huckster, and the auctioneer relied on their voices for success in their occupations.

Hearing a voice may unleash all kind of emotions, namely: comfort, joy, pleasure, amusement, excitement, inspiration, fear, goose bumps, anger, sadness, relief, contentment, and love. From the time of our birth we heard sounds, some are pleasant, some are innocuous, and some are unpleasant. Our mothers singing lullabies, while changing diapers or burping us, is usually our first experience finding comfort in someone's voice. In fact, research indicates that babies inside the womb recognize their mother's voice. We are sensitive to many voices during life's journey, especially those of parents and siblings who contribute to our learning in the early years. Grandparents, aunts, uncles, and cousins were the usual visitors who expanded the family circle. Many voices, real or recorded, can stir up memories of a time, or a place or a person.

Pre-school and grade schoolteachers replace the family during the formal learning process. They may have the tendency to raise the tone of their voices to correct behavioral issues. Middle or junior high school faculty members may raise the vocals even higher to maintain classroom decorum. After school hours, we remember the kids in the neighborhood as they would appear near our house and yell in unison, "Yo Johnny." That call usually meant we were going to have some fun, playing ball, building a bunk or hiking up to the red rocks and the field near the "tank." During the activities of the teen age years and high school, we created friendships with trust and shared common interests with school mates who became lifetime friends. Every so often, we recall a voice from our past, a parent, a family member, a priest/minister, a boss, a teacher, a professor, or a friend, which would put a smile on our face.

Prior to the mid 1950's, pre-teen kids were engaged with the radio shows of that era. Those shows included: Sky King, Boston Blackie, Sergeant Preston of the Yukon, Bobby Benson and the B bar B, and the Green Hornet. We remember Big Jon and Sparkie singing the Teddy Bear's Picnic, the Lone Ranger shouting "Hi-Ho Silver, Away," and the Shadow with the narrator's deep voice saying, "Who knows what evil lurks in the hearts of men, only the Shadow knows." Roy Rogers and Dale Evans, the Cisco Kid and Pancho, Hopalong Cassidy, and Gene Autry<sup>2</sup> were popular Western shows. The voices of the characters were familiar, but the images were not, not until some of those shows converted to television.

As the center of our universe expands, we develop an interest in sports figures, movie stars, and celebrities. When we hear their voices, it immediately attracts our attention. At times, the spoken message may have greater impact than the voice itself. Music is woven into the fabric of our American culture and the artists are viewed upon as "idols." Whether they are a soloist or a group, we buy their recordings, we sing the songs, and in many cases, we try to emulate the artist. We looked forward to the television program, *The Hit Parade*.<sup>3</sup>

The crooners came first, led by Bing Crosby singing the classic, "White Christmas." Perry Como, Frank Sinatra, Dean Martin, Pat Boone, Nat King Cole, Ray Charles, Tony Bennett, and Johnny Mathis continued to keep the "slow dancing" music popular. The rock'n/rollers followed: Elvis Presley, Chuck Berry, Bobby Darin, Paul Anka, Fats Domino, Sam Cooke, Roy Orbison, Buddy Holly, Frankie Avalon, Ricky Nelson, Jimmy Clanton, Freddie Cannon, Chubby Checker and Bobby Rydell. Fortunately we were entertained by some of these

celebrities at the former San Souci Park<sup>4</sup> in Hanover Township. One unique singer/songwriter was Bob Dylan who captivated the hearts of peace-lovers. The female solo artists of the era were: Theresa Brewer, Doris Day, Rosemary Clooney, Patti Page, Aretha Franklin, Ella Fitzgerald, Barbara Streisand, Dinah Washington, Peggy Lee, Dionne Warwick, Brenda Lee, Cyndi Lauper, Connie Francis, Gogi Grant, Celine Dion, and Tina Turner.

Crossover and country vocal artists like Johnny Cash, Patsy Cline, Willie Nelson, Jimmie Rodgers, Marty Robbins, Dolly Parton, Loretta Lynn, Conway Twitty, Reba McIntire, and Garth Brooks played a significant role in the music culture. Duos like the Everly Brothers, Simon & Garfunkel, Les Paul and Mary Ford, Sonny and Cher, and the Righteous Brothers made an impression in the music industry. Groups who received top billing were "Motown" - Diana Ross and the Supremes, "Doo-Wop" - Dion and the Belmonts, and the Folk-Pop music of the Kingston Trio and Peter, Paul & Mary. The "British Invasion," led by the Beatles and The Rolling Stones created excitement with young American teenagers. The Beach Boys and Frankie Valli & the Four Seasons provided competition for the British bands. There were many other popular groups including The Platters, Jay and the Americans, ABBA, Bon Jovi, the Bee Gees, Huey Lewis & the News, Led Zeppelin, Van Halen, Aerosmith, The Who, and The Mamas and Papas. Individual artists, Neil Diamond,<sup>5</sup> James Taylor, Bruce Springsteen, Barry Manilow, Billy Joel and Elton John have performed for decades and continue to draw enormous crowds. Three super talented icons of the 1980's were Michael Jackson, Prince, and Freddie Mercury, whose stage presence was creative and dynamic. All of these voices and their music bring back old memories.

We appreciate the value of the stage, the small screen and the big screen as they give us pleasure throughout our lives. We have enjoyed the movie industry and the male and female actors who entertained us during the past century. We became familiar with the voices of the characters they played in the world of "make believe." Two highly recognized voices in our past belong to James Earl Jones, the American actor and Muhammad Ali, who was a three-time Heavyweight Champion of the World. Some actors of the past delivered lines that we can still hear today in reruns and on YouTube.<sup>6</sup>

Radio and television have broadcasters whom we tend to favor for distinct reasons, whatever they may be, image, voice or on-screen personality. News men/women, disc jockeys, talk-show hosts, and sportscasters play a large part in our lives for extended periods of time. We became familiar with their catchphrases and their voices - Walter Cronkite - "That's the way it is." Hugh Downs - "We're in touch, so you be in touch." Chet Huntley and David Brinkley - "Goodnight David, Goodnight, Chet." Edward R. Murrow - "Good Night and Good Luck." Barbara Walters - "This is 20/20." Radio disc jockeys Alan Freed, Dick Clark and Wolfman Jack became celebrities spinning records. Oprah Winfrey, Phil Donahue, Merv Griffin and Howard Stern led the popularity parade of show hosts. Johnny Carson and David Letterman entertained the late night crowd. We may recall some sports announcers

4. Performed at San Souci Park: Jimmy Clanton, Bobby Rydell, Dion, Freddy Cannon, Neil Diamond, Mitch Ryder, Sam the Sham and the Pharaohs, The Dovells, The Association, 1910 Fruitgum Company.

5. His song "Sweet Caroline" is a feature at Red Sox and Penn State football games.

\*6. Some of the top quotes delivered by the actor: Match the actor with the famous line.

- |   |                    |
|---|--------------------|
| 1. Nobody puts baby in the corner.                          | A. Val Kilmer      |
| 2. We'll always have Paris.                                 | B. Bette Davis     |
| 3. You can't handle the truth!                              | C. Clint Eastwood  |
| 4. May the Force be with you.                               | D. John Wayne      |
| 5. You're going to need a bigger boat.                      | E. Marlon Brando   |
| 6. Frankly, my dear, I don't give a damn!                   | F. Humphrey Bogart |
| 7. I'm your huckleberry!                                    | G. Jack Nicholson  |
| 8. Make my day!   | H. Harrison Ford   |
| 9. Whoa, take 'er easy there pilgrim.                       | I. Judy Garland    |
| 10. Hello Bedford Falls, Merry Christmas.                   | J. Paul Newman     |
| 11. You had me at hello.                                    | K. Patrick Swayze  |
| 12. Fasten your seat belts- it's going to be a bumpy night. | L. Roy Scheider    |
| 13. Toto, I've a feeling we're not in Kansas anymore.       | M. Rene Zellweger  |
| 14. I'm gonna make him an offer he can't refuse.            | N. Clark Gable     |
| 15. Fat man, you shoot a great game of pool.                | O. Jimmy Stewart   |

1. The field is above Glen Lyon, neutral territory shared by East and West Side kids.

2. At Christmas time, we still hear Gene singing "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer."

3. The cast, Snooky, Dorothy, Russell and Gisele, sang the top hits of the week.



and their famous catch lines: Keith Jackson - "Whoa Nellie!" Mel Allen - "How about that!" - Dick Enberg, "Oh My!" - Phil Rizzuto, "Holy cow!" Harry Kalas - "That's outa here!" We remember one-time unforgettable sports calls: Vin Scully - "What a marvelous moment!" Howard Cosell - "Down goes Frazier!" Jack Buck - "I don't believe what I just saw!" Al Michaels - "Do you believe in Miracles?" When the USA Hockey team defeated the Russians in the Olympics at Lake Placid, it gave us chills and tears.

Kate Smith's "God Bless America," sung at Philly Flyers' games, and Whitney Houston's version of the National Anthem have been time-tested and continue at ballparks and on America's patriotic landscape.<sup>7</sup> Some famous Americans have made statements of historic precedent, namely: Astronaut Neil Armstrong and his words as he stepped on the Moon, "One small step for man, one giant leap for mankind"; Abraham Lincoln's Gettysburg Address<sup>8</sup> (wouldn't it be great to hear his voice?); John F. Kennedy's "Ask not what your country can do for you - ask what you can do for your country"; Ronald Reagan's "Mr. Gorbachev, tear down this wall."; Martin Luther King's "I have a dream" speech; Adlai Stevenson's United Nations comment, awaiting a response from the Communist delegation during the Cuban Missile Crisis, "I am willing to wait until hell freezes over!"; and Franklin D. Roosevelt's First Inaugural Address on March 4, 1933 in the midst of the Depression, "The only thing we have to fear is fear itself."<sup>9</sup> FDR's comforting voice heard over the radio, static included, gave great hope and promise to those living during some very difficult times.

#### Postscript

The voices of our past, too many to list, have taught us many life lessons, provided special comforts, and gratified us in many ways. From the earliest age, our children heard music and familiar voices with the characters on Sesame Street and Mr. Rogers. Going to sleep listening to WARM the Mighty 590 or Buffalo's WKBW's Top 40 was a dream to many teenagers in the 1950's. We attend concerts, stage plays and other venues to satisfy our passion for entertainment. The people of the present will, someday, reflect on the unique voices of their generation. So many voices affect us in so many ways, but we cherish most the voice we hear at the end of each day.

#### Side Story

Eddie Day's TNT, Joe Nardone's All Stars, Mel Wynn & the Rhythm Aces, the Poets, and the Clef Tones performed at dance venues and local high schools for decades. In the 1950's until the 1970's, the high school gymnasium hosted dances throughout the year as well as the Junior Prom. The school jointures, with expanded enrollment, moved their proms to hotels in the area. One or two local bands would provide the music for those all-night proms. Imported bands supplemented the locals to handle all the engagements.

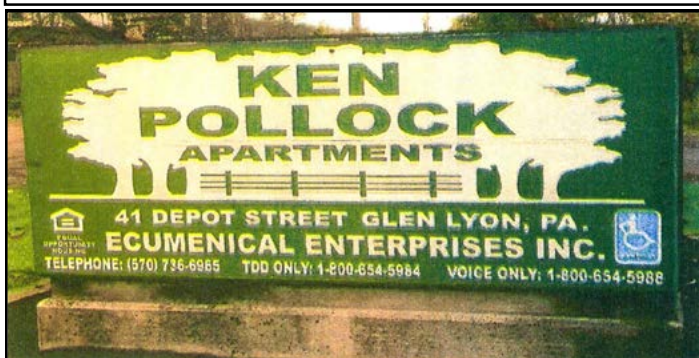
7. Back in the 1950's, music classes in school stressed songs of "Nationalism."

8. We did not hear Lincoln's speech, but Newport's Junior High students memorized it.

9. Considered to be the most notable quote of all time.

Sources: Wikipedia, YouTube, Citizen's Voice, Eddie Day, Joe Nardone, Paul Gregory.

**The All-Newport Reunion** will be held on Sunday October 12, 2025 at Holy Transfiguration Hall in the Hanover Section of Nanticoke. Everyone who attended Newport Township schools is welcome. Classes celebrating birthdays and anniversary reunions are invited to join us. Cost is \$32.00 per person. Please contact Heidi and Paul Jarecki with any questions at 570-733-2540 or hselecky@pa.metrocast.net. We hope to see you all there!



## American Legion & VFW Coming Activities

### Veterans Outreach Community Event

The American Legion Post 539 and VFW Post 8353 will be hosting "Veterans Night" Saturday, March 29th, starting at 1900 hours in the canteen at 62 Newport Street, Glen Lyon, PA 18617. All veterans in Wyoming Valley and a guest are welcome. The canteen will be open, a military movie will be shown, and food and coffee will be available. This is a night to just spend some time and meet with veterans of all ages and swap stories. Veterans do not have to be a member of the American Legion or VFW to attend. This is a monthly event. Come early and stay late.

### American Legion "Spring Fling"

On Saturday, April 26, 2025, from 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. (1700 to 2100 hours) American Legion Post 539 will be holding a "Spring Fling" fund-raiser at the Post social hall. This event is sponsored by members of the American Legion, its Auxiliary, and Sons of the American Legion. Cover charge for a ticket is \$20.00 per person. There will be live music by John Wildes' band, 2B1; cash bar; and at 6:00 p.m. a meal of Roast Beef, with the trimmings will be served. A basket raffle will be held and donations of baskets is sought and appreciated. For questions, please contact Tim Derr at 570-854-3758.

### Honor Guard Training

At 6:00 p.m. on the last Wednesday of the month, American Legion Post 539 and VFW Post 8353 of Glen Lyon will be holding a military "honor guard" workshop at the canteen which will entail training and work sessions for their members. The mission is to develop and deliver premier ceremonial honors, i.e., "Folding of the Flag," "Rifle Salute," "Taps," etc., at funerals and memorials and related events. This workshop will include training for the respective Post Auxiliary and Sons of the American Legion who also participate in ceremonial events.

### Newport Township Women's Activity Group Events



#### Spring Bingo

Sunday March 30, 2025

St. Adalbert's Church Hall, Glen Lyon  
Doors open at Noon  
Bake Sale, Refreshments, Basket Raffle  
Come and Try your Luck!

#### Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday April 12, 2025

Wanamie Recreation Park  
Beginning at 1 pm  
Easter Bunny arrives on the Fire Truck  
Come join the fun!

### Primary Election May 20

Polls are open on Election Day from 7 am to 8 pm; Last day to register to vote: May 5, 2025; Last day to request a mail-in or absentee ballot: May 13, 2025. Among the offices open for election in Newport Township are: Nanticoke Area School Board Director, Inspector of Elections, and Township Commissioners. The polls are located at the Municipal Building and the Municipal Garage in Wanamie. Be informed about the issues and vote!

**Low and moderate income rentals and elderly rentals include electric range, refrigerator, off street parking, community room, coin operated laundry, video surveillance, handicap accessible.**

**Applications accepted by appointment. Equal**

**Housing. Call: (570) 736-6965 or Stacy Levandowski**

## Obituaries

*By Tom Kashatus ~* These obituaries are in reference to individuals who have ties to Newport Township and/or Newport Township High School. They are published in abbreviated form due to limited space; thusly, a more complete obituary can be found on our website, [www.newporttownship.com](http://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](mailto:tomkashatus@gmail.com) or call 570-736-6981.

**STASHIK**, Joseph C., 92, of Sheatown, passed away peacefully on December 24, 2024. Joseph was born in Glen Lyon; he was the son of the late Andrew and Elizabeth (nee Boynoski) Stashik. Joe was a veteran of the US Army serving with the 3rd Signal Company, 3rd Infantry Division which was stationed in Korea during the Korean War. He was employed by McGregor Sportswear of Nanticoke and retired from Mercy Health Care Center of Sheatown. He was a member of Holy Child Church (Saint Faustina Parish) and a talented bowler. Joe was predeceased by his wife of 38 years, Bernadine (nee Stavetski); and siblings, Bernadine, Michael, and Stanley. He is survived by his children, Theresa Stashik; David Stashik; and Michele Santuck (husband, Michael).

**STAIR**, Carl F., 93, of Nescopeck passed away December 20, 2024. Carl was born in Newport Township on April 1, 1931; he was the son of the late Bruce and Esther (nee Rinehimer) Stair. He was raised in Dorrance and graduated from Newport Township High School with the Class of 1948. He continued his education to become a certified electrician. Carl was a US Navy veteran serving during the Korean War. He had been employed by AC&F/Whittaker of Berwick, Garret Railroad of New Castle, and drove school buses for Bower's in the Berwick School District. Carl was a member of First United Church of Christ of Nescopeck, Knapp Lodge #462 of Berwick, and the former Nescopeck Lions Club. Besides his parents, he was predeceased by his wife of 65 years, Audrey (nee Garrison) Stair; sisters, Dorothy Chapin and Judy Noble; and brother, Alfred Stair. Carl is survived by children, Gary Stair (wife, Susan) of Sellersville, Debbie Bloom (husband, Rick) of Nescopeck, and Todd Stair (wife, Susan) of Hobbie; sister-in-law, Shirley Stair; and brother-in-law, Rudolph Chapin.

**MACHINCHICK**, Joan (nee Weiss), 93, of Nanticoke, passed away November 20, 2024. Joan was born in Glen Lyon on June 28, 1931; she was the daughter of the late Michael L. and Mildred (nee Sechak) Weiss. She was raised in Glen Lyon and Nanticoke and graduated from Nanticoke High School with the Class of 1948. She also graduated from Marywood College with a B.S. in Music and received her Master of Arts Degree in Music Education in 1963. She had been employed by Nanticoke parochial schools – Saint Mary's, Holy Trinity and Pope John Paul II. She was a member of Saint Faustina Parish and the Lake Nuangola Yacht Club. Joan was predeceased by her husband, George, after celebrating 50 years of marriage.

**KASKA**, Eilene (nee George), 89, of Mountain Top, passed away December 24, 2024. Eilene was born in Slocum Township on January 9, 1935; she was the daughter of the late Lawrence and Dorothy George. She was raised in Slocum and graduated from Newport Township High School with the Class of 1952 and the Nesbitt Memorial School of Nursing. She was active in the PTA and Girl Scouts and flowers were her passion. She established the Sargent Seymore Eye Safety Education Program for the Association of the Blind. Eilene was predeceased by her husband of 54 years, Thomas Kaska; daughter, Lianne Lambriola; and siblings, Joan Crawford, Doris Yeager, and Willard George. She is survived by her children, Judith Fox (Chris), Granger, IN; Lora Williams (Rick) of Shavertown; and Beth Kaska (Kelly Ward), Mobile, AL.

**JONES**, Susan B., 59, of Sheatown, passed away January 4, 2025. Susan was born on Aug. 17, 1965; she was the daughter of the late Lewis and Eva Jean (nee Harding) Jones Jr. She was a graduate of John S. Fine High School and Wilkes College receiving a BS Degree in Business. She furthered studied for a law degree and practical nursing. Past employers include Sallie Mae, Schott Glass, and the Wilkes-Barre Housing Authority. Susan was predeceased by her sisters, Marilyn Petroski and Roberta Morris. She is survived by her sisters, Patty Key, Betty Cherr (John), and Robin Jones.

**HOWELL**, Harry W., 76, of Glen Lyon, formerly of Sheatown, passed away January 9, 2025. Harry was born in Baltimore, MD, on February 2, 1948; he was the son of the late Harry W. Howell Jr. and Elizabeth (nee Barron) Howell. He was raised in Sheatown and was a graduate of Newport Township High School with the Class of 1966. He also attended Wilkes Barre Business College and received a Business Administration Degree from Dyke College, Cleveland, OH. Harry was a U.S. Army veteran of the Vietnam War and attained the rank of SP4 prior to honorable discharge. He was employed by Equitable Life Insurance Company and retired from the Social Security Administration at Wilkes-Barre. He was a member of Saint Adalbert's Church of Glen Lyon. Harry is survived by his wife of 51 years, Janice (nee Frinsko) Howell; and daughters, Heather Biehl (husband, Jacob), Amy Berneski (husband, Matthew), and Lindsay Wilson (husband, Michael).

**STEWART**, Harold, 88, of Slocum Township, passed away January 9, 2024. Harold was born on August 23, 1935, in Slocum Township; he was the son of the late Byron and Verna (nee Harter) Stewart. Harold was raised in Slocum Township and attended Slocum and Newport Township schools. He worked for and retired from Wilkes-Barre General Hospital and later worked as an independent carpenter and painter. He was a member of Mount Zion United Church of Christ of Slocum Township and American Legion Post 781 of Mountain Top. Harold was predeceased by his brothers, George and Ira Stewart. He is survived by his wife of 49 years, the former Debbie Linn; and sons, Jason (wife, Shilo) of Mountain Top and Jeremy (fiancée, Cathy) of Slocum.

**KASHNICKI**, Constance C. "Connie," 83, a life-long resident of Glen Lyon, passed away January 18, 2025. Connie was born on January 1, 1942; she was the daughter of the late John and Annette (nee Swykowski) Klokososki. She was raised in Glen Lyon and attended Newport Township schools. Connie had been employed as a seamstress in the garment industry and was a member of Holy Spirit Parish/Saint Adalbert's Church of Glen Lyon. Connie is survived by her husband of 62 years, Edward; and daughter, Beverly Pierson (husband, Paul) of Nanticoke.

**LUCZAK**, Raymond Peter, Sr., 91, of Holiday, FL, formerly of Newport Township, passed away on January 25, 2025. Ray was born in Glen Lyon on April 20, 1933; he was the son of the late Anthony and Caroline "Carrie" (nee Butka) Luczak. He was raised in Glen Lyon and attended Newport Township schools. He enlisted in the US Army at the age of 17 and served with the 34th Regiment of the 24th Division before reassignment to the 14th Infantry, 25th Division. He then served with the Lynx's Blue Raiders, behind enemy lines during the Korean War. Ray was a member of the carpenters union and last worked at the Becthel Power Plant in Salem, PA. Ray was predeceased by his wife of 60 years, Marie Irene (nee Fischetti) Luczak of Mocanaqua; son, Raymond Peter Luczak Jr., brothers, Theodore, William, Edward, Joseph, Anthony, and Leonard; and sisters, Louise, Dolores, and Alma. He is survived by his children, Valerie Luczak with whom he resided in Holiday, FL, David Joseph Luczak of Cleveland, and Denise Marie Luczak of Harvey's Lake; sister, Theresa Langan of Sheatown; and brother, Robert of Hunlock Creek.

**TERNOSKY**, Ronald, 82, of Dallas TX, formerly of Glen Lyon, passed away on January 14, 2025. Ron was born on October 24, 1942; he was the son of the late Joseph "Ranger Joe" and Helen (nee Orzechowski) Ternosky. He was raised in Glen Lyon and graduated from Newport Township High School with the Class of 1960. He graduated from King's College in 1964, attended Officers' Training School, and was discharged after 4 ½ years as an Air Force Captain. Subsequently, he became employed with RCA leading to a successful career in marketing large-scale computer and communication systems. At age 58, Ron and a business partner founded "Recruit Inc.," a retained executive research firm. He was Chairman of Plano (TX) Library Foundation and founder of Plano's 50-plus Basketball League, and the Bombay Society. Ron is survived by his wife of 40 years, Irina (nee Schischakin) Ternosky; son, Maxim Ternosky (Kathryn, nee Childress); daughter, Kate Britt (Justin Britt); and sister, Carol Weatherall (Charles Weatherall).

**FRACE**, Marlene, (nee Caporaletti), 78, formerly of Mocanaqua, passed away April 9, 2023. Marlene was raised in Mocanaqua and graduated from Newport Township High School with the Class of 1962. Marlene was born on December 13, 1944; she was the daughter of the late Stephen and Anna (nee Kokora) Caporaletti.



**NOSS**, Russell David, Sr., 62, of Nanticoke, formerly of Newport Township, passed away January 23, 2025. Russell was born in Nanticoke on January 14, 1963; he was the son of the late Russell and Marion (nee Keller) Noss. He was raised in Glen Lyon and graduated from John S. Fine High School with the Class of 1981. Russell served in the US Army and after being honorably discharged, was employed in construction. He was of the Baptist Faith, a member of the Nanticoke Quoit Club, American Legion Nanticoke Post 350, and VFW Post 8363 of Glen Lyon. Russell was predeceased by his brother, Matthew Noss; and sister, Leslie Fogerty. He is survived by his son, Russell D. Noss Jr.; three brothers, Todd Noss, Keith Noss, and Philip Noss; and sisters, Patti Bobrowski of Sweet Valley and Beth McCartney.

**FAULL**, Thomas Calvin, 85, of Prince Frederick, MD, formerly of Newport Township, passed away on February 3, 2025. Thomas was born on March 17, 1939; he was the son of the late Lester H. and Emma (nee Whitebread) Faull. He was raised in Wanamie and graduated from Newport Township High School with the Class of 1957. He was a veteran of the US Army and subsequently was employed by Washington Hospital Center as Director of Patient Accounts retiring after a 30-year career. Thomas was also predeceased by his sister, Carol Faull. He is survived by his wife of 58 years, Frances (nee Walker) Faull; daughters, Kimberly Murray and Kristin Smith; and brother, Ralph Faull.

**HMELAK**, Mary Ann (nee Steeber), 83, a lifelong resident of Shickshinny, died on December 21, 2024. Mary Ann was the daughter of the late Andrew and Freda (Gensel) Steeber. She is survived by her husband of 58 years, George Hmelak, who was raised in Mocanaqua and was a graduate of Newport Township High School with the Class of 1960. Mary Ann worked at and retired from Acme Markets in Shickshinny after a 35-year career.

**WACLAWSKI**, Eugene J., 85, of Alden passed away February 1, 2025. Eugene was the son of the late Adam and Veronica (nee Dzwilewski) Wacławski. He was raised in Glen Lyon and graduated from Newport Township High School with the Class of 1957. He was a US Navy veteran, serving for four years; he was honorably discharged as an Aviation Electronics Technician Petty Officer 2nd Class. After military service, he was employed with AT&T and retired in Building Management after a 30-year career. Eugene is survived by his sons, Alan Wacławski and Brian Wacławski; and sisters, Alberta (husband, Albert) of Nuangola and Sylvia Vassia of Wanamie.

**BRACERO**, Delia Maria (nee Jimenez), 60, of Glen Lyon, passed away January 15, 2025. Delia is survived by her husband, Pedro Bracero.

**PETERS**, Donald, 82, of Mountain Top and Slocum Township, passed away February 7, 2025. Donald was born in Nanticoke; he was the son of the late Winfield and Hilda (Stein) Peters. He was raised in Slocum Township and graduated from Newport Township High School with the Class of 1960. Prior to retiring, he was the owner of Peters Oil Company in Mountain Top. He was a member of Slocum United Methodist Church. Donald is survived by his brothers, Carl Peters and Winfield Peters Jr.

**PAWLOSKI**, Dorothy (nee Kashatus), 93, of Audubon, PA, formerly of Glen Lyon, passed away February 7, 2025. Dorothy was born in Glen Lyon on November 22, 1931; she was the daughter of the late William and Mary (nee Matikiewicz) Kashatus. She was raised in Glen Lyon and graduated from Newport Township High School with the Class of 1947. Dorothy earned a Pharmacy Degree at Temple University; she participated in scientific roles at Merck, Sharp & Dohme, Smith Kline, while having a 50-year career as a pharmacist at Holy Redeemer Hospital. She was a devout Catholic and cherished her family and extended family. Dorothy was predeceased by her brother, Dr. William Kashatus Jr. She is survived by her husband and childhood sweetheart, Stanley Pawloski of Wanamie, whom she married in Saint Mary's Church in Wanamie; children, Jim (Barb) Pawloski, Ken (Angela) Pawloski, Judy Beck (Tom), and Amy Dykie (Jim); and sister, Maryann Benner.

**PALUCK**, Frank A. Sr., 86, of Nuangola, formerly of Alden, passed away February 12, 2025. Frank was born in Nanticoke on July 24, 1938; he was the son of the late Andrew and Mary (nee Szychowski) Paluch. Frank was raised in Alden on Prospect Hill and graduated from Newport Township High School with the Class of 1956 where he was senior class president. He also attended Penn State University. Early on Frank was employed by Topps Chewing Gum as a supervisor, and by HUD during

the Agnes Flood. He was a volunteer fireman for Nuangola Borough and was employed as its Zoning Officer. The Paluck Family also operated the General Store at Nuangola which transitioned to Paluck's Food Concessions and later Paluck's Catering. Frank was predeceased by his granddaughter, Krista Marie Paluck. He is survived by his wife of 66 years, Judy (nee Weyhenmeyer, Class of 1958) Paluck; son, Frank A. Paluck Jr. (wife, Denise); daughters, Dawn Brady (husband, Neil) and Lori Hatrak (husband, George); and sister, Andrea Paluch.

**SARNOWSKI**, Stanley, 84, of Groveland, Florida, formerly of Newport Township, passed away on November 20, 2024. Stanley was born on July 30, 1940. He was the son of the late John and Helen (nee Yahimciak) Sarnowski. He was raised in Glen Lyon and graduated from Newport Township High School with the Class of 1958. After high school, he enlisted in the US Navy and served on the USS Dupont, a Forrest Sherman-Class destroyer as a radio operator. He was honorably discharged. Stanley was employed by General Kinetics serving as Vice President and Controller prior to leaving after a 29-year career. He retired from Sense Corporation. Stanley is survived by his wife of 60 years, Kathryn "Kitty" (nee Decker) Sarnowski, formerly of Wilkes Barre; children, John Sarnowski (wife, Cheryl); twins, Steven Sarnowski, (wife, Ami) and Sandra McFarland (husband, Glenn McFarland); and sister, Irene Howard. Stanley was laid to rest with Military Honors in Florida National Cemetery at Bushnell.

**SIDAS**, Leon A., 82, of Alden, passed away on February 19, 2025. Leon was born in Pond Hill in July 1942; he was the son of the late Leon and Anna (nee Salokis) Sidas. He was raised in Glen Lyon and graduated from Newport Township High School with the Class of 1960, where he was senior class president. He also attended LCCC and was a US Army veteran. Leon was an active volunteer with Saint Faustina Parish and its fundraisers. Leon is survived by his life partner, Virginia Pickle; daughter, Vanessa; son, Jason; stepson, Brian Pickle (wife, Laurie); stepdaughter, Christine Kropiewnicki (husband, Jamie); and sister, Lenore Kline

**BUSH**, Dolores (nee Gregory), 84, of Tunkhannock, formerly of Glen Lyon, passed away February 24, 2025. Dolores was born on March 2, 1940; she was the daughter of the late David and Irene (nee Tullai) Gregory. She was raised in Glen Lyon and graduated from Newport Township High School with the Class of 1958. She embarked on a career with Bell Telephone and actively volunteered with the Nativity of the BVM Church and Tunkhannock Cub Scouts. Her major role and dedication was with her family. Dolores was predeceased by her husband of 58 years, Melvin Bush, in 2019. She is survived by her sons, Paul Bush (wife, Susan) and David Bush; daughter, Jeannine Tirpak (husband, Mark), sisters, Cathy Goliash, Mary Jo Evans, Diana Finstad, Lena Moore, and Palmira Miller; brothers, Peter Gregory, Daniel Gregory, Nicholas Gregory, and Basil Gregory; and 12 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren.

**EVANS**, Mark Anthony I, 77, of Shavertown and Glen Lyon, passed away February 20, 2025. Mark was born on October 25, 1947; he was the son of the late Stanley and Marian Evans. He was raised in Wyandotte, MI, later returned to Shavertown and attended Dallas schools. He was employed at Sikorsky Aircraft as a welder and later received certification as a locksmith designing and earning a number patents in that field. Besides his mother, Mark was predeceased by his daughter, Maria Evans and grandson, Christopher Evans. He is survived by Mary Jo Evans; and their six children, Mike Evans (wife, Rhonda) of Sheatown, Marian Kachmarsky (husband, Richard) of Pringle, Malcolm Evans of Glen Lyon, Mark Evans II of Glen Lyon, Martin Evans (wife, Jessica) of North Carolina, and Stanley Evans (wife, Stephanie) of Nanticoke.

**MIERZWA**, Chester M., 75, of Glen Lyon, passed away February 27, 2025. Chester was born on March 14, 1949; he was the son of the late Edward and Theodosia (nee Strzalka) Mierzwa. Chester was raised in Glen Lyon and graduated from Newport Township High School with the Class of 1967. He was a US Navy veteran during the Viet Nam War and was honorably discharged. Chet was a member of American Legion Post 539. He was a talented carpenter and was a contractor for many years before he retired. Chester is survived by his wife, Theresa (nee Butz) Mierzwa; and sons, Jeffrey (wife, Kim) and Brian; brother, Michael and sister, Theresa Roke. Interment was at Indiantown Gap National Cemetery in Pennsylvania.



## The History of Kirmar Park XIII: March 1917- April 1917

By Heidi Jarecki ~ Kirmar Park once stood between Alden and Wanamie on West Kirmar Avenue. Originally called Power House Grove, it featured a baseball field, two pavilions, a track and tennis courts. New features were added each year. People came from all over Northeastern Pennsylvania to attend events. William Warne, the superintendent of the People's Railway, a trolley system that ran between Glen Lyon and Nanticoke, was responsible for the Park. During the winter months, the Park was a hotbed of scholastic, amateur, and semi-professional basketball activity. This article continues the story of the Park which began in the Spring 2022 issue of the *Newport Township Community News*.

Sometime in March 1917, members of the Third Field Artillery of Pennsylvania, Luzerne County's representation in the Southern Army of the United States, were expected to return home after fulfilling their duties at the Mexican Border. The Mexican Revolution (1910-1920) which was really a civil war, had spilled over into the United States. President Woodrow Wilson ordered an increased military presence at the border. The crisis was solved through diplomatic means, and U.S. troops withdrew in February 1917. The recruits had departed for Mexico in August 1916 with much fanfare. Now that they were returning, a "Patriotic Meeting" was held in the Nanticoke Borough Building to plan events for soldiers from Nanticoke and Newport Township. Fundraising included an exhibition basketball game at Kirmar Park between the Nanticoke Nans and the Old Troy team, benefit performances in movie theaters, and collections in the schools. Other local municipalities such as Wilkes-Barre, Pittston, Hazleton and Plymouth also planned welcoming ceremonies and banquets.

On Thursday March 1, the Nanticoke Nans played a State League game with the Hazleton Mountaineers at Kirmar Park. As reported in the *Times Leader*, "The game tonight promises to be one of the best of the season, as Hazleton has been going at a great clip lately and causing the other teams no end of trouble. Pittston is crowding the Nans for third place and the locals will really have to win tonight if they expect to end up in this position. There will be an exhibition game before the regular league game between the Nanticoke Orioles and the Nanticoke Jaspers. These two teams are playing for the second-class championship of Nanticoke and the game should be a hummer." It would be the first of a series of three games. "The following players will be eligible to play tonight: Orioles, Van Horn, Superka, Schimmel, Clarke, Edwards, Trevett and Lovett; Jaspers, Thompson, Janowski, Hornsby, Ball, Davis, Phillips and Mooney." The Jaspers had "easy sailing, the game ending 38 to 4. The Orioles failed to secure a field goal."

The Nanticoke fans were "particularly anxious that the Nans finish in second place [in the League]. Chief Muller and Jake Schimmel will play the guard positions, Murray Simberg and Joe Evers at forward, and Dick Leary at centre [sic]." Dancing followed the game. The Nans defeated Hazleton by the score of 33 to 13. "The only three baskets that Hazleton got were the luckiest that have been seen at Kirmar this season."

Also reported, "At a double header played in the [Nanticoke] City League at Kirmar Park, the Keystones fastened their hold on first place by defeating the Indians by the score of 48 to 15, while the Follies won the second game from the All-Stars by the score of 21 to 12."

The Nanticoke Colgates were successful in their series with the Pittston Juniors, by defeating them in the second game 38 to 14 in Pittston. The first game was played at Kirmar Park, the Colgates winning 33 to 7.

At the Patriotic Meeting held on Friday evening March 2, committees were formed to welcome home Battery C, comprised mostly of Nanticoke, Newport Township and Plymouth residents. "The

Township citizens came to the meeting in large numbers and assured the committee that they would be well represented when the occasion requires. Attorney Michael Donahue of Glen Lyon gave a brief talk on the spirit of patriotism and promised to secure the united support of the Township people of this great movement. Other people present from the Township were William R. Anthony, John Morris, Sandor Engle, and Joseph Dzialdowski. T.D. Shea of the program committee reported as follows: 'About one hour before the soldier boys reach home arrangements have been made to notify the public of their arrival by having the fire alarm and church bells sounded throughout the town and township. This will give the people ample time to prepare for the reception which will take place at the [Nanticoke] station. Should the boys arrive home sometime in the daylight, the most people can do is to show their enthusiasm by shouting and the like, but should they arrive home at night red light will be displayed in addition to numerous other novel features.' A committee was appointed to notify the clergy to announce that all patriotic orders and the different societies should take part in the parade." Seven committees were formed, Program, Finance, Banquet, Parade, Reception, Decoration, and Announcement. All had multiple members.



The 1917 Newport High School Basketball Team. Standing, Dewey Phillips, Coach Peter Turik, Edward Kielar. Sitting: Chester Rogowicz, Captain Earl Smith, Edward Krulikowski. Source: *Times Leader*

The Wanamie Central (Newport) High School team played the Wyoming Seminary Reserves on March 2 at Kirmar. Members of the Newport varsity were: Earl Smith, Dewey Phillips, Chester Rogowicz, Edward Kielar, and Edward Krulikowski. Members of the Newport Reserves were: William Fine, Andrew Ruszian (Rushin), Charles Barrett, Lewis Dzwilzski, Stanley Kacala, and Peter Bush. The results of the Wyoming Seminary game could not be found.

The varsity played their last game of the season at Kirmar against the Kingston Men's Club on Monday March 19. The team had a very successful season. They won 15 and lost 3, the three

defeats came on foreign floors. They scored 483 points to their opponents' 183. The team's playing was marked by excellent passing. All the home games were played at Kirmar Park where they won 12 of their 15 victories. Peter Turik served as coach.

And yet another basketball league was formed, the Inter-County League. Nanticoke secured a franchise late in the season and played Taylor on March 3. The team played its home games at the Nanticoke Armory. Also on March 3, the Sunbury Division of the Pennsylvania Railroad played the Ilion, NY team at Kirmar Park. The results of the game could not be found.

On Monday March 5, the following appeared in the *Times Leader*: "In preparation for the reception of the members of Battery C upon their return home from the Mexican border, the various organizations of Glen Lyon are asked to be represented at a meeting which will be held in Stegmaier's Hall on Wednesday evening at 7:30 o'clock at which time plans will be furthered. William R. Anthony, Joseph Dzialdowski and William Charlton have charge of the movement in the township and it is their desire to have one of the largest turnouts that the township people have taken part in. Every organization including the United Mine Workers should make it their determination to attend this meeting and assure the parade committee of a full turnout. All citizens interested in the meeting are also asked to attend and give any suggestions that may aid the committee."

On Tuesday March 6, three Newport Township groups met and decided to give the Township boys who were returning from Mexico a banquet





Pictured above are three returning members of Battery C: left to right, Zigmund Staskiel, Sidney Albert, and Herman Sack, all of Glen Lyon. Source: *A Short History and Illustrated Roster of the 109th Field Artillery, Third Pennsylvania Field Artillery.*

and reception at Kirmar Park on March 31. As reported, "The plans of the local organization will not conflict in any manner with the plans of the committee arranging for the reception at Nanticoke. Many of the members of this Battery [C] are members of one of the [three groups] and they deemed it advisable to give them a royal welcome." They too formed committees, and several prominent speakers would address the men at the banquet.

In the League game, the *Times Leader* reported, "Nanticoke kicked Plymouth's dog all over the cage last night at Kirmar Park. We haven't devoted much space to this man Simberg so far this season. He deserves lots of praise, so we'll print his name in capitals, MAURICE SIMBERG." The score was 23 to 12.

Another meeting of the Welcome Home Celebration took place on March 9. "Dr. Meck, chairman of parade committee, announced that over 10,000 will participate in the parade, Glen Lyon alone relying upon 2,000 strong." Other details were discussed, such as programs, tickets, and fund-raising.

Nanticoke would play Plymouth again in a benefit game for the Plymouth Welcoming Committee on March 12. The proceeds would be used to further the banqueting plans that will be given to Plymouth members of Battery C upon their return home. As reported, "Tickets have been placed on sale and the largest crowd that ever assembled in the Plymouth Armory to witness a game of basket ball [sic] is expected to be on hand this evening. Appreciating the generosity of the Nanticoke team, the Booster Club of Plymouth has arranged for a banquet this evening for the two quintets." Nanticoke squeezed out a victory 25 to 24.

On March 14, as reported in the *Times Leader*, "The local moving picture theatres were crowded last evening when benefit performances were given to help defray the expenses of the reception and banquet for members of Battery C on their return home. The managers of the theatres secured the best of pictures and all enjoyed the performances."

On Sunday March 18, "The citizens and residents of Glen Lyon met in Stegmaier's Hall at Glen Lyon, at which time further plans were made in connection with the parade which will be held at Nanticoke. Twenty-two organizations were represented, and it is an assured fact that every society, including the hose companies, will be represented in the gala street parade. Glen Lyon will have the largest turn out ever in the history of that town and this fact speaks creditably for the committee in charge."

The last State League game of the season would be played on Thursday, March 15 between Nanticoke and Carbondale at Kirmar. Carbondale had already won the pennant. "Every citizen in this community and the neighboring towns should make it their determination to be on hand to show their appreciation for the team that has done so much and played such brilliant basket ball [sic] for Nanticoke." Nanticoke came away with a victory, 32 to 30. The headline reads, "Dick Leary wins game with field goal in the closing minute." As reported, "it

was one of the best played games of the season and the crowd was kept in a frenzy all the way."

It was expected that Battery C would return home on Saturday March 18. It was announced that "a formal reception will be held in the [Nanticoke] high school auditorium on Sunday afternoon at 3 o'clock. The date of the parade has been finally settled and will take place on Monday afternoon at 3:30 o'clock sharp. The banquet will be held on the evening of the parade and the members of the battery will be served free, while the citizens may attend the affair by purchasing a ticket at the price of \$2." The Battery didn't arrive home until Tuesday, March 20 at 1:15 pm at the Nanticoke station. As reported, "The members of Battery C are composed of as many members as when they left this town and not one from this locality was called home on account of sickness or death. They are in the best of health and somewhat tanned. After the baggage cars were unloaded the boys hurried to their homes." The formal reception was held on Sunday March 25, and the parade and banquet were moved up to March 26. A half-holiday was declared in order that everyone would have the opportunity of participating in or witnessing the parade.

About 200 men comprised Battery C. Most were from Nanticoke and Plymouth. Others were from Wilkes-Barre, Shickshinny, Scranton, Larksville, Breslau, and Edwardsville. Several members were from Newport Township: from Glen Lyon, Sidney Albert, Bernard Burke, Charles Gayefski, Stephen Niepower, Herman Sack, Zigmund Staskiel, Thomas Latonis; from Alden, Andrew Kullway, Edward Balliett, Matthew Kemrick; from Wanamie, John Stone, and from Retreat, George Zabawa.

On Thursday March 22, the Nanticoke Nans played an exhibition game against the Old Troy team at Kirmar Park. The proceeds benefited the Welcome Home Committee. That same night, the first game of a series between the old York State team and the Wilkes-Barre State League team was played at Kirmar Park, both teams agreeing to donate part of the proceeds to benefit the artillery reception. The York State team was victorious, 31 to 14, before a big crowd, "many of them returned artillery men." The second game of the series was played in Plymouth and the third in Wilkes-Barre.

The reception for the members of Battery C was held on Sunday March 25 in the Nanticoke High School auditorium. The parade and banquet were held the following day. The parade "moved over the route as was announced at exactly 3:30 o'clock, the time set for the starting. Dr. P. A. Meck, chief marshal of the parade, is to be congratulated for the success in which the affair was conducted. There was not a home along the line of march that was not decorated. This fact attested to the patriotism of the citizens of Nanticoke. Newport Township was well represented in the parade, and William R. Anthony of Glen Lyon was marshal of the second division. Joseph Dzialdowski, William Charlton, and William R. Anthony should be given great credit for the work which they accomplished." It was estimated that 18,000 people witnessed the parade. The

banquet was held at the Nanticoke Armory.

The Wanamie Juniors defeated the Kirmar Park Five on Monday March 26 by the score of 10 to 8. Ashley High School and Nanticoke High School were in contention for the scholastic championship. A three-game series was proposed. The series was tied at one game apiece and Nanticoke wanted to play the final game at Kirmar Park. Ashley was holding out because the team had never played at Kirmar and felt that playing there would hand the game to Nanticoke, which had played there several times. After much wrangling, the deciding game would be played at the Nanticoke Armory, a foreign floor for both teams. On April 4, Ashley was defeated by Nanticoke with a score of 19 to 13.

On Thursday March 29, it was reported that "the committees of the P.O.S. of A. (Patriotic Order Sons of America) of Alden and the Jr. O.U.A.M. (Junior Order of United American Mechanics) of Glen Lyon and Wanamie held a very interesting meeting on Tuesday evening in the lodge rooms of the latter lodge. Matters pertaining to the reception and banquet which will be tendered the boys from the township who are members of Battery C were made final and every indication points to an evening of enjoyment. The soldier boys will be banqueted free of charge and will be entitled to bring one guest with them. About four or five hundred expect to attend the banquet which will be held at Kirmar Park Saturday evening. A number of invited guests will be present to share this merriment." Among the speakers were George W. Coxe, John Hibbard, Dr. E. M. Davis and John S. Fine. "The Central (Newport) High School orchestra, under the supervision of Miss Mary Sheeder, will render the music during the banquet. The banquet will be served by the Ladies' Aid Society of the Glen Lyon Methodist Episcopal Church." The affair was held on Saturday evening, March 31. "The spacious hall at Kirmar Park was artistically decorated in the national colors and the spectacle was a pleasing sight. The address of welcome was delivered by Dr. E. M. Davis of Glen Lyon. He praised the boys for the spirit which they displayed in enlisting and assured them that they have the hearty support and good wishes of the people who remained at home. John S. Fine of Nanticoke delivered a splendid lecture on 'Old Patriotism.'"

On April 2, 1917, President Woodrow Wilson went before a joint session of Congress to request a declaration of war against Germany. Wilson cited Germany's violation of its pledge to suspend unrestricted submarine warfare in the North Atlantic and the Mediterranean, as well as its attempts to entice Mexico into an alliance against the United States, as his reasons for declaring war. On April 4, 1917, the U.S. Senate voted in support of the measure to declare war on Germany. The House concurred two days later. The United States later declared war on German ally Austria-Hungary on December 7, 1917.

Readers may recall in a previous article on Kirmar Park the opening of an amusement park at Hunlock Creek in the summer of 1916. On April 3, 1917, as reported in the *Times Leader*, "Hunlock Creek which was the recreation sport of thousands last summer, has been transformed into one of the leading amusement parks in this section of the State. This is a natural place and has existed for numerous years but never did the owner dream of its importance. Last season this section was visited by thousands of people daily and it quickly sprang into prominence. Realizing the vast importance of his domain, the owner set to work erecting a dancing pavilion, swimming houses, refreshment stands, toboggan slide and various other amusements. The park will be opened in the course of several weeks and picnickers will find this an ideal spot to spend the day. The waterfalls at this place [are] a beautiful picture to witness. New swimming pools have been erected and these promise to be a feature of the park. Nature has done a wonderful piece of work at this place, and it brings astonishment to the many people who visit this spot. The dancing pavilion is one of the largest in this section of the State and the refreshments stand is a great piece of handiwork. The bathing houses are situated on the banks of the creek and will accommodate hundreds of people. The park will be known as 'Croop's Glen.'" The swimming facilities offered there were a big attraction during the summer months, something Kirmar Park could not compete with. In addition, the "Russian Pavilion" located behind Engle Street in Glen Lyon took a few picnics away from Kirmar, as did San Souci Park which was where Hanover Area High School stands today. As the summer of 1917 progressed, dances continued to be popular; however, Kirmar was losing its foothold in the picnic department.

On Monday April 9, the Newport Township Police Protective

#### Top Popular Songs of 1917

Over There  
At the Darktown's Strutter's Ball  
Poor Butterfly  
Missouri Waltz  
For Me and My Gal  
Till the Clouds Roll By  
My Own Iona  
Send Me Away with a Smile  
Star Spangled Banner  
Livery Stable Blues

Association conducted its first annual ball at Kirmar Park. "The hall has been decorated in a pleasing manner for the occasion and music will be furnished by Oppenheim. It is the first annual affair of the Newport police and will undoubtedly be largely attended." A day later, as reported, "The hall was neatly decorated and furnished a splendid background for the merry dancers." The Chief of Police was Frank McAfee; assistant chief, Joseph Shershin; patrolmen, John Siomek, John Makowski, Charles Luptik, Joseph Klisch [sic], and Philip Womelsdorf.

On Monday April 16, the following appeared in the *Times Leader*: "Little did the patrolmen of Newport Township realize that the money which they obtained from their recent ball would be used for a charitable purpose, but this is exactly what happened. The members of the police force realized with a seriousness the sad blow that befell the Klisz [sic] family at Alden when the head of the family and one of the members of the police force was suddenly claimed by death. Instead of taking the money for themselves, they willingly turned it over to alleviate the sufferings of this family. The Newport policemen are to be heartily thanked for this generous act of kindness."

In response to President Wilson's declaration of war, "That the local young men are responding to the call of President Wilson for volunteers is evident by the number of young men that have enlisted in the local battery. It is the duty of every young man of the country to show his patriotism by enlisting in the Navy, Marines, Army, or other governmental position." Noticeably absent is mention of the Air Force. The United States Air Force originated in 1907 as part of the United States Army Signal Corps. It was created as a full military service by the National Security Act of 1947. In World War I, air warfare primarily consisted of reconnaissance missions using aircraft to gather information about enemy troop movements, followed by the development of "dogfights" where pilots would engage in aerial combat with machine guns, and later, the use of dedicated fighter planes to gain air superiority, with bombing raids becoming increasingly common as the war progressed.

On Monday evening April 16, the third annual ball of the Policeman's Protective Association of Nanticoke was held at Kirmar Park. "In keeping with the spirit of the times, the hall will be decorated with American flags. The committee has arranged with the officials of the People's Street Railway Company to have special cars on the schedule. Beenick's Orchestra, which has grown very popular in this town for the supplying of dance music, has been engaged. Carnations will be given to all persons attending and the old and new dances will be held." The following day, it was reported, "Music was furnished by Beenick's orchestra and every note of music was in harmony with the steps of the merry dancers."

In anticipation of summer, a new club was formed in Nanticoke on Saturday April 21 called the "El Placer Club." "They will hold a number of private dances during the coming months. The first dance of the season will in all probabilities be held at Kirmar Park on Memorial Day [May 30]. There are very few invitation dances held in the town and the newly organized club realizes the importance of this and should the first dance prove successful they will hold them monthly." It was later announced that the first dance would be on Monday May 28.

The City Dance Club (C. D. C.) of Nanticoke held the first of its weekly dances at the Nanticoke Armory on Thursday April 26. Beginning the following week, the dances were held at Kirmar. Dances popular in 1917 included ragtime, the Brazilian samba, the hesitation waltz, tango, maxixe, castle walk and the foxtrot. Ragtime music was still in fashion.

To be continued....

Sources: *The Wilkes-Barre Times Leader*; *Wikipedia.com*; *newspapers.com*; *tsort.info/music/yr1917*; various websites; "A Short History and Illustrated Roster of the 109th Field Artillery, Third Pennsylvania Field Artillery, 53rd Artillery Brigade, 28th Division, Armies of the United States, 1878-1917" (E-Book Edition).

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At the R Bar in Alden on March 13, the **Newport Township Crime Watch** sponsored a presentation “How to Survive a School Active Shooter” by Kevin Barrett, who is an Active Shooter and Defensive Tactics Training Certified NRA Instructor. Also contributing to the discussion were Robert Lembach, an instructor of criminal justice, defense tactics, and firearms, and Raymond Telnock, an instructor in firearms. In the photo from left to right: Raymond Telnock, Kevin Barrett, and Robert Lembach

**St. Nicholas Church** in Glen Lyon held a hoagie and bake sale on March 13. A basket raffle benefitted the people of Ukraine.



A panoramic view of the destruction of the **Pulaski School**. See pages 4 and 5 for more information. Photo taken by Tom Kashatus.

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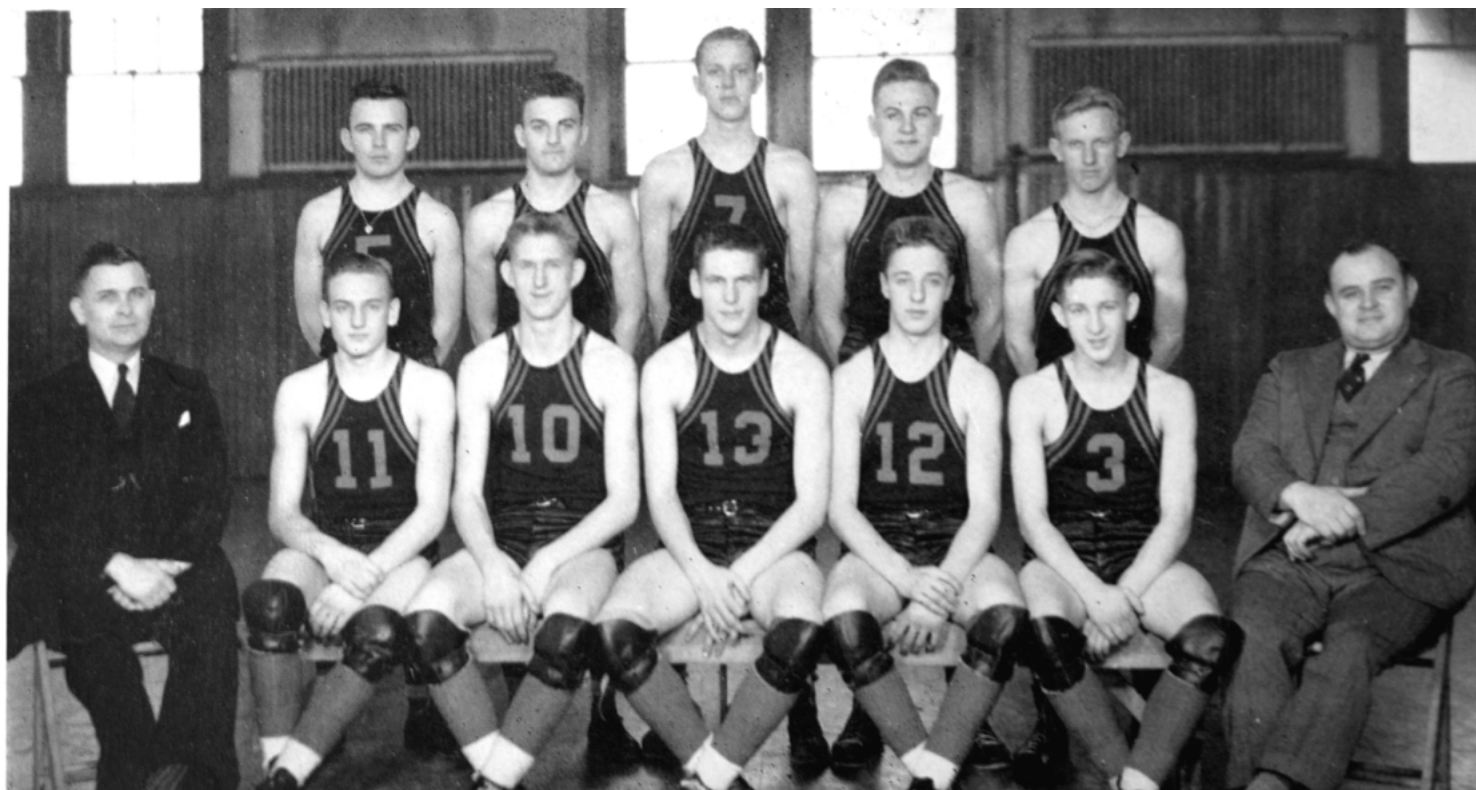
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First row, left to right: Arthur Jenkins, Coach; Bernard Rasavage, Chester Smocharski, Albyn Beleski, Louis Ravin, Thomas Sugalski, Steven Lerda, Faculty Manager. Second row: Thomas Kratchik, George Deluca, Edward Krauser, Walter Gorney, Zigmund Kishel.

### Newport Nutcrackers 1942-43 Basketball Team

From the 1943 Newportrait ~ Replacing Mr. Clem Rogowicz, last year's coach, a new basketball mentor was seen in the person of Mr. Arthur Jenkins, a former high school and college athletic star. Well liked by both players and fans, Coach Jenkins proved his ability for guiding the team in a highly successful season.

Taking advantage of his towering, speedy team, Coach Jenkins introduced a new type of play unprecedented in Wyoming Valley, namely the "Fast Break," sometimes called "Fire-Horse Basketball." This type of play lives up to its nickname, since it depends upon dazzling speed to make the basket before the opposing team has a chance to set up its defense.

Closely paralleling last year's season, Newport again took the honors in the first half of the League. In another closely contested mid-season contest Newport defeated the highly rated Swoyersville team, the score being 44-42.

To all appearances, Newport seemed destined to go back to the State Championship Title, but Berwick again proved the nemesis of Newport by beating them during the second half and again for the league honors at Meyers High School by the score of 45 to 35.

Almost every game was attended by a capacity crowd and wonderful cooperation was extended by the student following, which was rewarded by the team's winning fifteen of sixteen games and every exhibition game.

### 1942/1943

#### NON LEAGUE GAMES

Newport 32	Newport 49	Newport 36	Newport 41	Newport 44	Newport 54	Newport 44	Newport 43
Sugar Notch 24	Sugar Notch 27	Wyoming 19	Alumni 23	Swoyersville 42	Luzerne 22	Hazle Twp 29	Warrior Run 15

#### Infantile Paralysis Benefit

Newport 38
Luzerne 38

#### WYOMING VALLEY LEAGUE GAMES (won 15 lost 1)

Newport 52	Newport 50	Newport 42	Newport 45	Newport 45	Newport 47	Newport 43	Newport 61
Hanover 17	Berwick 35	GAR 19	Kingston 41	Plymouth 35	Nanticoke 24	Coughlin 33	Meyers 52
Newport 60	Newport 35	Newport 65	Newport 72	Newport 52	Newport 85	Newport 68	Newport 87
Hanover 21	Berwick 46	GAR 30	Kingston 46	Plymouth 36	Nanticoke 25	Coughlin 41	Meyers 29

#### PLAY OFF

Newport 35
Berwick 45

Berwick would go on to the State Championship playoffs and win its first game against Clarks Summit 59-26, but lose in the quarterfinals to Hazleton 42-28. Lower Merion High School in Ardmore won the Pennsylvania High School Basketball Championship for 1943.





## Casimir Pulaski

The former Pulaski School at the corner of Newport and South Market Streets in Glen Lyon was dedicated on Labor Day 1925. It closed its doors in 1980 and had been vacant for many years. It was being renovated into apartments when on the night of December 23, 2024 it was destroyed by fire.

Pulaski School was named for Casimir Pulaski who was born on March 4 or 6, 1745 in Warsaw, Poland. The son of a nobleman, he became interested in politics at early age. He soon became involved in the military and in revolutionary affairs in the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth. Following advice from Benjamin Franklin, Pulaski traveled to North America to help in the American Revolutionary War. He was fatally wounded by grapeshot, a type of ammunition that consists of a collection of smaller-caliber round shots, which when assembled, resembles a cluster of grapes. Pulaski died on October 11, 1779 at age 34. He is buried in Savannah, Georgia. Shown at left is the portrait of Pulaski which once hung in the first floor hallway of the school. When the school was closed, the portrait was moved to the Library of John S. Fine High School in Nanticoke.

Pulaski was not the only Polish military hero so honored by the Newport Township School District. The Kosciuszko School on Newport Street in Glen Lyon was dedicated on May 30, 1914. It served the elementary grades and was named for Thaddeus Kosciuszko who was born in February 1746 in what was then the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth, now Belarus. He served in the American Revolutionary War as a colonel in the Continental Army. An accomplished military architect, he designed and oversaw the construction of state-of-the-art fortifications, including those at West Point in New York. In 1783, in recognition of his services, the Continental Congress promoted him to brigadier general. A close friend of Thomas Jefferson, with whom he shared ideals of human rights, Kosciuszko wrote a will in 1798, dedicating his American assets to the education and freedom of American slaves. Kosciuszko eventually returned to Europe and lived in Switzerland until his death in 1817 at age 71. The execution of his will later proved difficult, and the funds were never used for the purpose he intended.

Kosciuszko School was closed in 1960, along with the Roosevelt School on East Main Street in Glen Lyon and the Columbus School in Wanamie. All primary grades were consolidated in K.M. Smith School in Alden.



**The Newsletter Gets Around!** At left, John and Chris Selecky of Laguna Beach, CA traveled to Morocco and are seen with the Newsletter in front of the Hassan II Mosque in Casablanca. The Mosque is the second largest functioning mosque in Africa and is the 14th largest in the world. It rises above the Atlantic Ocean and is built partially on land and partially over the ocean. No visit to Casablanca would be complete without lunch at Rick's Café from the movie "Casablanca" starring Humphrey Bogart and Ingrid Bergman. The movie was actually filmed in Turkey, so a smart promoter built a replica of the cafe in Casablanca. People flock to it, including tourists who love the movie. John grew up in Glen Lyon.





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### ATTENTION NEWSLETTER SUBSCRIBERS

This is a gentle reminder to send us your annual subscription fee of \$10 to us after you receive each winter newsletter in the mail. The cost of mailing the newsletters has risen through the years and it has become more difficult for the NTCO to absorb the cost of unpaid subscriptions. Any donations will be gladly accepted. Please make your checks out to the NTCO. Thank you!

Editors Heidi and Paul Jarecki



### NTCO NEWSLETTER ADVERTISEMENT

Contact Joe Maloney for more information at  
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- \$30.00 One-tenth-page or Business Card Size Ad
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### MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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 NEWSLETTER SUBSCRIPTION

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](mailto:hselecky@pa.metrocast.net)

If you have internet access, please furnish your email address to Thomas Kashatus at [tomkashatus@gmail.com](mailto:tomkashatus@gmail.com) 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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### Volunteers Needed!

The NTCO strongly encourages residents to get involved in whatever community activity best fits their interests and talents. There are several organizations to choose from: The Women's Activity Group, Little League Baseball, The Lions Club, The Newport Township Crime Watch, the Veterans' Groups, The Newport Township Community Organization, The Fire Department, the Fire Police, and Emergency Management. In addition to performing charitable and protective services, the groups also provide social opportunities as well. Won't you join us?

### We were wondering...

After the fire that destroyed the Pulaski School in Glen Lyon on December 23, 2024, it was suggested that the NTCO undertake a project to commemorate the School by creating a miniature, much like that of the previous miniatures: Newport Township High School, the Susquehanna Breaker in Glen Lyon, the Alden Company Store, Saint Stanislaus Orphanage in Sheatown and Najaka's Pond in Lee. They all were very popular, especially the High School and the Susquehanna Breaker. Might we produce one of Pulaski School?

We would like to hear from you. If there is enough interest, we will start the ball rolling. These miniatures are a labor of love. We are currently sold out of all previous miniatures, but they can be re-ordered if there are enough requests for them.

Let us know what you think!



Newport Township High School

### MONTHLY FOOD DISTRIBUTION

The Newport Township Community Organization and the Weinberg Regional Food Bank are working together to host a Food Distribution for those in need.

With the cooperation of the Township Board of Commissioners and Township Manager Joe Hillan, outdoor distributions take place in a drive-through format on the second Saturday of the month between 11 am and 12 noon. Seasonal fruits and vegetables, along with milk, canned goods, rice and pasta are among the foods available. The distributions take place in the Municipal Garage adjacent to the Municipal Building on Kirmar Parkway in Wanamie when available. Alternate site is the parking lot in the Wanamie Recreation Park. All recipients must pre-register at least five days before the event.

Palmira Miller chairs this event for the NTCO. She can be reached at 570-592-7876.

### NEWPORT TOWNSHIP COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION OFFICERS/CONTACTS

President: Stephen Phillips 570-735-3991  
Vice President: Tom Kashatus 570-736-6981  
Secretary/Treasurer: Linda Conner 570-829-0801  
Assistant Secretary/Treasurer: John Jarecki 570-736-6620  
Newsletter Editors: Heidi & Paul Jarecki 570-733-2540  
Advertising Agent: Joe Maloney 570-736-6828  
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~ The Late Honorable Paul R. Selecky