



**How beautifully leaves grow old. How full of light and color are their last days. ~ John Burroughs**



The Autumn Glory of the Red Maples in the Recreation Park

**Newport Township Police Department Installs Laptop Computers in New Police Cars**

*By Carol and John Jarecki* ~ The Newport Township Police Department recently purchased two Gateway laptop computers for use in its new police cars. The laptops were funded by the NTCO and the Glen Lyon Crime Watch. They will be part of a Computer Assisted Dispatch (CAD) system that will enable officers to respond more quickly to 911 calls and give them access to information at the location of reported incidents. The first of two new police cars is (as of this writing in mid-August) about to be put into service and the CAD software is being installed on the laptops.

We recently talked to Newport Township Police Chief Robert Impaglia about the new laptops and the CAD system. According to Chief Impaglia, the laptops will be used to communicate with the Luzerne County 911 Center in Hanover Township through a Verizon cell phone connection. A GPS system in each car will register the car's location, and the CAD system will relay this information to the 911 Center. Computers at the center will keep track of all cars and use this

information to insure a quick response to each police call. The GPS will also give travel directions, if necessary, to the responding car. Communication with the 911 Center will be by use of a secure Virtual Private Network (VPN). The public and potential lawbreakers will therefore no longer be able to use a scanner to eavesdrop on police communications.

The CAD system will allow dispatchers and police officers to respond more quickly to 911 calls. Under the present system, one person at the 911 Center receives a police call. He then relays the information to a second person who sends a police officer to respond to the call. Under the new system, as soon as the person receiving the call enters the proper information into his computer, the system will immediately relay the information to an officer in the area of the reported incident.

This quick notification allows the officer to respond about four minutes sooner. In the case of a reported house break-in, the four minutes could be crucial in resolving the situation in a satisfactory way. Shortening the chain of communication also reduces the chance of mistakes creeping into the message. The major advantage of the CAD system is that it will allow



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a police officer to access a great deal of information while he is in his car, either before or after he arrives on the scene of a reported incident when he most needs it to do his job. He will be able to access the Pennsylvania Justice Network (JNET), which provides several different kinds of law enforcement information: driver's license records, motor vehicle registration records, information on stolen property, and on wanted persons. For driver's license records, the system gives a person's name, address, license number, and photo and therefore can be a great help in correctly identifying the person.

By providing a police officer with more information accurately and quickly, the CAD system helps him to do his job in a more efficient, more productive way and with greater safety for himself and for the community.

We thank Chief Impaglia for generously giving us his time for this interview.



**Newport Township Police Chief Robert Impaglia**  
(photo by Carol Jarecki)

### Newport Township Public Business

*By John Jarecki* ~ The following are some of the important matters of public business that were discussed at Newport Township Commissioners' meetings in June, July, and August.

June 4: The commissioners approved Ordinance #5 of 2012, as requested by the Wyoming Valley Sanitary Authority (WVSA). This ordinance sets up standards for the disposal of mainly industrial waste water into sewer systems, deals with setting fees by municipalities or sanitary authorities for use of sewer systems, prohibits storm water from being dumped into sewer systems, and requires Newport Township to cooperate with the WVSA in enforcement of the ordinance. The WVSA, it seems, is trying to control what waste water is entering its sewer system and to collect money for any damages to its facilities caused by waste discharged into its system.

Township Manager Rich Zika announced that 1) the demolition of the building at 44 Coal Street in Glen Lyon is complete, 2) the demolition of the building at 81 Ridge Street in Glen Lyon is nearly complete (since then landscaping was done to complete the work), and 3) the cleanup of the property at 51 E. Main Street is nearly complete. (Since then extra fill was added to complete the work.)

Mr. Zika also announced that the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) awarded a contract for \$897,416 to Earth Movers Unlimited to reclaim the Alden Mountain East Mine Site, a parcel of 39 acres off Alden Mountain Road in Newport Township.

July 2: The Commissioners awarded contracts for two street repair projects. The first project, funded by State Liquid Fuels Funds, involves repaving Lee Mine Street, Laurel Street, Spruce Street, and

the alley between Laurel and Spruce Streets, all in Alden. The contract for the work was awarded to Pennsy Supply of Pittston for \$87,014.

The second project, funded by the Luzerne County Office of Community Development (OCD), involves the following work in Glen Lyon: 1) repaving the lower section of Engle Street, Second and Third Streets. The storm drain on Third Street will also be replaced. 2) repairing the Park Street storm drain basin, and 3) repairing the storm sewer line on Railroad Street. The contract was awarded to Popple Construction of Laflin for \$70,006.

August 6: The Commissioners hired Brian Gasper of Warrior Run, who is 30 years of age and has been an office manager for 13 years, as a part-time police officer at \$11.00 per hour, to be increased to \$12.08 per hour after 6 months of satisfactory work.

Mr. Zika announced that Centax, a company hired by the local governments of Luzerne County to collect the Earned Income Tax, as required by a recently enacted State law, has fallen far behind in processing tax receipts and in forwarding them to local governments. As of early August, Newport Township's tax receipts were behind by \$100,000 and increasing. It has turned out that Centax, certified by the State to do the work, actually did not have the resources to do it properly.

### Newport Township Police Chief Robert Impaglia Resigns

*By Heidi and Paul Jarecki* ~ At the Newport Township Board of Commissioners' meeting held on September 6, Newport Township Police Chief Robert Impaglia submitted his resignation and will pursue a career with the Pennsylvania State Police. He expressed gratitude to the Board for the opportunity to serve the residents of Newport Township. The Commissioners, especially John Zyla, praised Chief Impaglia for his excellent performance and professionalism. The residents in attendance also expressed their appreciation. The commissioners appointed Jim Evans as Police Officer in Charge until a new police chief is hired. For now, all police department emails should be sent to [nt.pd@live.com](mailto:nt.pd@live.com) to the attention of Officer Evans.



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## 2012 NTCO CITIZENSHIP AWARD

By John Jarecki ~ The NTCO is accepting nominations for its second annual Citizenship Award. Anyone can make a nomination, which should contain a statement of why the nominee deserves to be considered. Nominations should be submitted in typewritten narrative form by October 31 to The Newport Township Community Organization, Attention: Heidi Jarecki, 110 ½ Railroad Ave., Wanamie, PA 18634. A candidate can be either a resident or non-resident, as long as he or she works for the benefit of Newport Township. Nominees must be at least 12 years of age and should demonstrate highly developed voluntary community service to the Township and its residents on a continuing and consistent basis or on a one-time project with the objective of improving life in the Township. Current officers and those on the Board of Directors of the Organization may not be nominated. The Award will be presented at the Organization's dinner meeting in December. The recipient will receive a plaque and/or certificate, an NTCO memento, and dinner for two. In addition, the recipient's name will be engraved on a plaque to be displayed at the official headquarters of the NTCO. Mrs. Phoebe Hillan of Glen Lyon was last year's recipient.

## Nanticoke Area Little League Baseball

By Tom Kashatus ~ Because of a decrease in population and volunteerism in the South Valley area, a way to continue and improve the quality of baseball and softball throughout Nanticoke Area had to be found. As a result, Newport Township Little League and Nanticoke Little League combined their charters in 2012 and formed the Nanticoke Area Little League which now encompasses the municipalities of Nanticoke City, Newport Township, and Plymouth Township. The move has motivated the community and the Little League program in the direction of strong leadership and a successful year within District 16, Section 5 of Little League All-Star competition.

Baseball fans may have the impression that Little League focuses on just boys' baseball and the Little League World Series in Williamsport, PA. However, Little League has expanded its competition ranges over the years to include children and teenagers from age 5 to 18 years old. Most local leagues offer T-Ball, Coach Pitch, Minor and Major baseball and/or softball. The following is an indication of the different levels of World Series championship that may be achieved on an international level:

Little League Baseball "Boys' Major" 11 to 12	Championship – Williamsport, PA
Little League Softball "Girls' Major" 11 to 12	Championship – Portland, Ore.
Junior League Baseball "Boys" 12 to 14	Championship – Taylor, Mich.
Junior League Softball "Girls" 12 to 14	Championship – Kirkland, Wash.
Senior League Baseball "Boys" 13 to 16	Championship – Bangor, Me.
Senior League Softball "Girls" 13 to 16	Championship – Sussex, Del.
Big League Baseball "Boys" 15 to 18	Championship – Easley, SC
Big League Softball "Girls" 15 to 18	Championship – Kalamazoo, Mich.

As Little League season draws to a close, many local tournaments are set up to cover a wider spectrum of age groups to offer even more children the opportunity to learn and play the game. They also give parents a chance to socialize with those residents from other communities. We cannot close without mentioning the dedication that was put forth by the managers, coaches and directors. Special recognition must be given to President Wade Rowles and his wife Kim who were always there to respond to questions and updates concerning Little League matters.

See page 9 for Little League photographs

## PENNSYLVANIA VOTER ID LAW Department of State, House Bill 934

By Heidi and Paul Jarecki ~ The state's new voter ID law, passed earlier this year in March, has survived one attempt to overturn it in Commonwealth Court. It was appealed to the State Supreme Court and has since been sent back to Commonwealth Court as of this writing. It is not clear if the law will be in effect for the general election on November 6th. Basically the law stipulates that an official photo ID issued by a governing body and which also has an expiration date is required by those who wish to vote. For more information, contact State Representative Gerald Mullery at 156 South Market Street in Nanticoke. Office hours are from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday and 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Friday. You can call (570) 826-2584 or go to [www.pahouse.com/Mullery](http://www.pahouse.com/Mullery).

Also you can contact the Luzerne County Voter Services in the Election Bureau at 570-825-1715 or call its hotline at: 1-866-OUR-VOTE. Questions may also be answered by going to [www.votersPA.com](http://www.votersPA.com) or calling 877-868-377. If you are a Facebook member, go to [www.Facebook.com/PaDepartmentofState](http://www.Facebook.com/PaDepartmentofState). On Twitter, the address is: [www.twittr.com/VotesPA](http://www.twittr.com/VotesPA). Dept. of States voter-ID hot line (877-868-3772). Another hot line for voter ID requirements is the Committee of Seventy's PA Voter ID Coalition at 866-687-8683.

## Violators Beware

By Tom Kashatus ~ Tuesday August 28 was Newport Township Day at the magisterial office of Justice Donald Whittaker in Nanticoke. Charges or citations were filed against township property owners for failure to pay refuse/garbage fees (21); for violations of the nuisance ordinance, mainly high grass and weeds (3); and for failure to have property inspected prior to occupancy (1). Although only one property owner appeared for the hearings, all of those charged were found guilty. Those found guilty can appeal to the Court of Common Pleas. If a thirty-day waiting period for the appeal process expires, they will be ordered to pay fines ranging from \$25.00 to \$300.00 plus court costs. Those found guilty of violating the nuisance ordinance for high grass and weeds were: William & Sherma Hutchinson, 6006 Boardwalk Drive, Tobyhanna, PA for property at 72-74 Coal Street in Glen Lyon; Paul Gushock, 1044 E. Main Street, Wanamie, PA for property at that address; and William & Kelly Ritsick Jr., P. O. Box 1932, Kingston, PA for property at 85 Ridge Street, Glen Lyon. For repeat offenders of the nuisance ordinance, the Magistrate will likely exercise a sliding fine scale as high as \$300.00 per day from the day the charges are filed. Violators in this category are: Ascent Community Redevelopment Association for property at 56 Arch Street, Glen Lyon as of May 21; Albert Polasik for property at 68-70 West Main Street, Glen Lyon as of May 14; and Ocwen Loan Servicing, LLC for property at 200-202 West Main Street, Glen Lyon as of May 25. Newport Township receives no monies from the fines imposed, but is mainly concerned with compliance of ordinances. Magistrate Whittaker stated that he will not look upon violations of Township ordinances lightly and that property owners are responsible for obeying the law.

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## Class of 1947 Reunion Committee



Pictured is the Reunion Committee of Newport Township High School Class of 1947. Seated from the left: Jessie Olshefski, Dorothy Kuniega Murphy, Robert Dickshinski, and Louise Repotski Obaza. Standing: Therese Lutz Dillon, Thelma Littleford Blockus, and Floyd "Nick" Fenstermacher. Photo taken by Carl Obaza: 32 Elm Street, Mountain Top, PA 18707, phone number: (570) 474-6038.

The last reunion held by the Class of '47 was their 55th. However, the committee continues to meet on the first Wednesday every other month of the year. The next two meetings are on November 7 and January 2. The meeting venue changes and it is best to call Thelma at (570) 735-5489 for further information. All classmates, their spouses, and/or friends are welcome to participate in the get-togethers.

## Letter to the Editors: Chivalry is not Dead in Glen Lyon

*By Patrice Marie* ~ An elderly man misses the brake, then hits the gas and runs down a handicap sign and hits the back end of a parked car. The first thoughts on everyone's minds were: "Did he get hurt?" or "What happened?" Within minutes, volunteers came from everywhere and passers-by, patrons and neighbors rush to his aid, 20 to 25 concerned citizens. A neighbor who is a nurse, Rosanne Hoffman, came quickly to assess the man's vital signs and his awareness. She pulled up a chair and made him comfortable. She stayed with him, sacrificing her precious time to assist him until EMT's could be there to check him further. The Fire Department was there it seemed in seconds. Dan Kowalski directed traffic and made sure no one else was caught up in the distractions and also in an accident. People ( neighbors) came not as spectators but to assist. This was a testimony as to how kind the people in Glen Lyon are and how much they care for each other. It would be nice if we were to call this town "the town with a loving heart." Truly this old coal town surely has something to offer. Even the police officer on duty that day, Chief Robert Impaglia, went beyond the call of duty. As the EMTs were checking the elderly man to see if he was okay, Chief Impaglia was outside changing this 90- year-old man's flat tire which blew out as it was removed from the handicap sign post. What a hero! This police officer showed compassion and acted on it. When we are so busy, it's hard to see that others are in need but not so in Glen Lyon with its kind and concerned citizens. How grateful we are for that because we live here too. So, pay it forward because it just might be that the next time an accident occurs, you might be the ones who need assistance.

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## Mother Teresa Haven

*Photo and article by Tom Kashatus* ~ Members of the Newport Township Community Organization prepared the Wednesday evening meal for the men of the Mother Teresa Haven (formerly the Vision Program) which was held in August at the Youth Center of Saint Faustina Parish on Church Street in Nanticoke. The event was hosted by the Social Concerns Ministry of Saint Faustina Parish for a two week period. Meals and sleeping quarters were provided in the gymnasium of the Pope John Paul Elementary School. Also furnishing a meal and participating during this event were the Smith/Fanucci/Rinehimer Family from Glen Lyon as well as Mrs. Frances Brunozzi and Ms. Vicki Frace. The Social Concerns Ministry also provides clothes to the Haven men as well as other needy individuals. Mrs. Brunozzi and Ms. Frace are very active during the entire week with the Haven initiative during January/February when Saint Adalbert's Church in Glen Lyon hosts the event for a week in the church hall. The Holy Spirit Altar and Rosary Society, Knights of Columbus, and Smith Family are also involved in the Saint Adalbert's initiative.



Pictured from left to right are Sharon Julius (NTCO), Palmira Gregory Miller (NTCO); Lorraine (Yurkowski) Beck, Ministry Co-chair; Delbert Evans (NTCO), Sharon Ignasick, Ministry Chairperson; and Bill Hourigan (NTCO). Absent was Ministry Co-chair Debbie George.

## VALLEY WITH A HEART

*By Heidi Jarecki* ~ The 12th Annual Benefit Ride & Family Picnic organized by "Valley with a Heart" was held on Sunday, September 3 at St. Faustina's Grove in Sheatown. More than 300 motorcyclists participated in a 40 mile run partly through Newport Township. The event featured local bands, a Chinese auction, a variety of vendors, a mechanical bull, a dunk tank, fireworks, kids games, face painting, and of course, food. Funds raised support local children with serious illnesses and are administered through the Luzerne Foundation. The recipients of this year's efforts are: Riley Schmidt, aged 2, of Hanover Township; Emilee Hillard, aged 10, of Sweet Valley; and Jacob Maniscaco, no age or town given. The group has raised more than \$300,000 this year. The Family Picnic is sponsored by Turkey Hill and Super Foodtown. Check out the website at [www.valleywithaheart.com](http://www.valleywithaheart.com) or call 570-735-

## Luzerne County Tire Recycling Event

Luzerne County Tire Recycling Event will take place Saturday, October 6th in Butler Township and on Saturday, October 13th at Hanover High School from 9am to 3pm. All tires must be registered prior to the event. A registration number is needed in order to drop off your tires. Please refer all questions to Beth DeNardi at 1-800-821-7654.



## Recycling Program Initiative

*By Tom Kashatus* ~ Over the past four years there have been many Newport Township residents – and also many from beyond our boundaries – who have contributed scrap metal to our Newport Township Community Organization (NTCO) recycling initiative which has been our main fund-raiser. One thing is certain: the publishing of this quality newsletter is made possible because of the contribution of recyclable materials by our good friends. You are the best!!!

Advertising income (and we also greatly appreciate the patronage of our very important community advertisers) covers approximately one half the cost of the newsletter's publication. Most of our income has been realized from recycling light iron and appliances, cast iron, prepared and unprepared steel, and aluminum products. Strangely, electrical cords and old Christmas lights also bring in income. So, thank you, friends, for your generous support of our recycling program throughout the year. You have made it possible for us to pay our bills, support our many projects and contribute to many other volunteer charitable organizations that benefit our community and its residents. All of our funds are spent on initiatives that are related to Newport Township and its residents.

There are recycling initiatives where the NTCO has established a partnership with other entities that may recycle items during a certain time of the year at no charge to the consumer. For example, we partner with HH Gregg Electronics collection during the week of Earth Day in April; the electronics collection at the Hanover High School and in Butler Township during August; and the Luzerne County Solid Waste Management tire collection in October. We have developed a relationship with Allan Industries of Wilkes-Barre Township, formerly of Nanticoke, where we feel that we receive the best possible price for an honest weight. It is noted that due to the demand for scrap metals today, prices are more favorable than ever before. A new Pennsylvania law will make it illegal for landfills to accept televisions and monitors after January 1<sup>st</sup> 2013 which will open doors for a more controlled recycling process for these items.

What is recyclable throughout the year??? Almost anything that is considered a metal or contains metal is recyclable. Examples are: large appliances like washers, dryers, refrigerators; small appliances and tools such as toasters, microwave ovens, mixers, blenders, pots and pans, drills, circular saws, etc.; (Continued in next column)



Pictured are NTCO members after loading their trailer and truck with electronics items for drop off at Hanover High School: from left to right: Pedro Bacero, Jonathan Keefe, Palmira Gregory Miller, Tom Kashatus, and Bill Hourigan.

charcoal and gas grills; lawnmowers; bicycles; fencing; black & galvanized pipe; furnaces; motor blocks; rotors and brake drums; vehicle wheel rims; lawn & garden tools; Christmas lights & electrical cords; computers & printers; air conditioners; bed frames and springs; bath tub and sink fixtures; electrical instruments; etc.

For anyone who wishes to participate in our recycling initiatives you may call Tom Kashatus at (570) 736-6981 or Bill Hourigan at (570) 736-6096 or any member of the NTCO. As this recycling business is so competitive today, it is recommended that items not be placed at the curb or front lawn but arrangements be made for pickup by the NTCO. The NTCO is a 501(c) 3 charitable organization and all donations in kind are tax-deductible under IRS regulations.

## Namowicz Tournament

*By Tom Kashatus* ~ Remember when the boys of Glen Lyon West Side would play “fasties” and “spongies” down by the mule barn between West Main Street and Railroad Street during the 1950’s? After school and during the summer (sometimes all day long) the guys would gather there and choose sides and play the game until our dads would holler from the front or back porch, “Johnny, Tommy, Georgie, Jimmy—time for supper!” After supper, we’d go back to the mule barn to finish the game before darkness would make it impossible to see the ball being pitched.

Well, life came back to the old sandlot, but the game is different and the “guys” are not the same; today it is whiffle ball and the annual tournament of the West Side All Stars of the Namowicz family. Just to see the competitiveness of these “old timers” and “youngsters” as they choose sides and work up a sweat is a spectacle to be held in awe. Pictured are the participants of the third annual tournament which is held on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July each year.

Pictured on the right, top row, left to right: Randi D., Brian L., Brad N., Mark P. holding Kelly S., Joel S., Derek P., Ryan P., and Dave J. Bottom row from the left: Jenna S., Ella N., Sloan L., Gage L., Aiden N., and Gabriel J.







To the left, Andrew Selecky stands at the grave of his mother with his sister, Anna in 1936. Above, John Selecky and his wife Christobel stand at the same grave site in 2001.

## DISCOVERING OUR ROOTS IN SLOVAKIA

*By John Selecky* ~ In the beginning of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, Glen Lyon and the rest of the villages in Newport Township were farming communities. Just before the Civil War, coal was discovered which changed everything. The coal companies needed workers to mine the coal, and there were few available. So recruiters were sent to Europe and especially Eastern Europe where there was a lot of political turmoil from various empires invading and occupying several countries. The East Europeans were suffering under these conditions and looking for escape from this domineering occupation of their land and oppression of their freedoms. This made the offers from the coal companies very attractive. In many cases the young men were offered tickets to come by boat to New York from where they would be transported to places like Pennsylvania and Ohio with the promise of a job. And, Glen Lyon was one of the places to which these immigrants came. These young men, many of them teenagers, left their families to travel along dirt roads on ox-driven wagons or down rivers on barges to Germany and other points of departure. They endured a long ocean voyage under bad conditions to come to this foreign land about which they knew almost nothing. And, they came with very few personal belongings and not much money. But to them, America meant freedom from tyranny.

Most of those who came to Glen Lyon were from Poland. My family came from Slovakia. My paternal grandfather, Andrew, whom we called Dziedi (Grandfather), left Slovakia in 1885 when he was only 18 years old, bound for the Honey Pot section of Nanticoke. Three years later, in 1888, he found a new and better opportunity in Glen Lyon, so he moved there and began our family's residence in this town which has lasted for 124 years and

we're still counting! He and the other early immigrants helped Glen Lyon grow from a village to a town with a bank, churches, stores, service outlets like shoemakers, bars and restaurants, movie theaters and a good school system, as they knew the importance of an education for their children.

Our family was no different from the thousands of other immigrant families coming to Glen Lyon. When it came to choosing a wife, most of the young men stayed within their nationality. Having the same language, traditions, religion, etc. made married life easier and probably helped diminish any homesickness they might have had. There were organizations like the Italian Club, Slovak Club or Polish Falcons where they might meet young ladies. Back then, churches were known by nationality and young men naturally attended churches where their native languages were spoken. Church picnics like those at the Russian Pavilion and weddings were other social opportunities at which men looked for brides. And so, Dziedi met at a wedding a young lady also from Slovakia, Julianna Fabry, whom he married in 1891. He built a house for them on Market Street which still exists today. There they raised a family of nine children, the youngest of which was Paul, my father.

Andrew and Julianna's life was built around the traditions and culture of Slovakia: the language, the food, religious practices, and the music of their homeland. The Tatra Mountains of Slovakia were celebrated in song. Although their neighbors and friends were mostly Polish, underneath it all they were all immigrants from countries whose cultures were separated only by language. They helped each other. Polish was spoken everywhere in Glen Lyon, including the churches and businesses. Everyone danced the polka and loved kielbasa. Polish folk dancing was taught to us kids at the Hose House.

(Continued on next page)



So it was into this rich culture that my family was born. Dad went to law school and when he returned, met a lovely Slovak young maiden in Wilkes-Barre, Helen Jurchak. They both were first-generation Americans with parents from Slovakia who gave them a strong grounding in their cultural and ethnic heritage and customs. They married and settled on West Main Street, just up the hill from Dad's homestead. Their house is still in the family today. Mom and Dad had seven children and brought them up with the same traditions in which they grew up. This was typical of Glen Lyon families of the day, be they Polish, Italian, Lithuanian, Ukrainian, Irish, Welsh, or whatever nationality or religion they were.

In our house we learned about the Tatra Mountains in Slovakia and Janosik, the Slovak Robin Hood who hid in them. We ate traditional Slovak dishes like halupki, halushki kapusta and zufka. Dad played the accordion, and we heard Slovak folk songs like "Tancuj!" which means "Dance." We prayed before meals in Slovak. Mom had an authentic Slovak costume as did some of us kids which we wore to Slovak events and some Polish ones, too. And we were filled with stories about the homeland, not only from our parents but all our aunts and uncles. It was pretty much the same in their houses. There were Slovak clambakes. And we were supposed to date Slovak boys or girls. Mention meeting a new girl and the first question was, "Is she Slovak?" The next question was, "Is she Catholic?"

Regardless of the nationality, the homes of most of my friends were the same way but it was Polish or Italian or Lithuanian or Ukrainian. Growing up in this environment in the '40's and 50's was wonderful. Every time you went into the home of a friend you heard stories about the old country because most of their parents were either immigrants or first-generation Americans, who were still closely tied to the immigrants who preferred to speak in their native languages. And everyone was so friendly. If the family was eating, you were expected to sit and eat with them. If you needed help building something, everyone was anxious to help. And if you got into trouble, EVERYONE HEARD ABOUT IT. As teenagers, if you went somewhere or did something you should not, your Mom found out about it before you got home. It was as if all the mothers in town had a secret communication system. And, rumors were rampant. But, all of this made Glen Lyon a wonderful place to grow up, even if you didn't realize it at the time.

Being surrounded by all this Slovak culture and hearing all the stories raised in me a curiosity to see Slovakia and find the village from which my Grandfather came. This was reinforced in 1979 when my sibs and I wrote a family history to pass down to our children before too much was forgotten and the older generation of aunts and uncles with their memories were gone.

Then, in 2001, my wife Christobel was taking me to meet her aunt who lives in Vienna and to visit the Austrian town in which her mother Charlotte was born. Chris is very lucky because when she was young, she went to Austria with her mother and stayed with her grandparents several times. Since we were going to Vienna, and since Austria borders Slovakia, it occurred to us to go to Slovakia and find the grave of my great grandmother, a picture of which my family had. Plans were made.

Unable to speak fluent Slovak, we knew we would need a translator. Using our friendships in the Slovak Heritage Society in Wilkes-Barre, we were introduced to a college student in eastern Slovakia who agreed to be our guide and translator. We gave him the few details we had: the name of the village,

the birth date of my grandfather, the year he migrated to America, and a picture of the grave site. The young man, with whom we have developed a close friendship, searched the archives and found the actual 1867 birth announcement of my grandfather with the address of the home where he was born and lived.

With maps and a Slovak dictionary in Chris' hands, we drove five hours from Vienna to Presov, in Eastern Slovakia and met Miso, our guide. We proceeded north to our destination, the small village of Dlha Luka where we found the graveyard and, after searching for a while, found the tombstone of my Great Grandmother. Can you imagine the emotion of the moment? It was pure ecstasy! We called my Mom in Glen Lyon to share the experience. But, we weren't done! Noticing that there were fresh flowers on the grave, we had Miso ask a passing Babci who put the flowers there. She told us to go to the little store in the village and ask them. They would know.

The proprietor of the little store was named Jozef Jurcisin. Miso approached him with a picture of my Grandfather from 1936 when he came to visit his sister. The picture, in addition to my Grandfather and his sister, included her son, his wife and their baby. After Chris and I listened to Miso and Jozef speaking in Slovak about the photo for what seemed like an eternity, a big smile crossed Miso's face, and he yelled out in English that the other man in the picture was Jozef's Grandfather, which meant that we were COUSINS! We had found family! Dziedi's sister's married name was Jurcisin and this 40 year old man, Jozef Jr., was her grandson. He was my second cousin, once removed. We wanted the church bells to ring to announce this joyous occasion!

Jozef, for his part, pulled out his cell phone and started making phone calls. All of a sudden, family members started appearing, and we met all kinds of cousins who were as interested in us as we were in them. They showed us the house in which Dziedi was raised, the church where he went to Mass, the field in which he played. We matched pictures and stories and answered a hundred questions. One question was why the boxes of clothes, etc. and letters stopped coming in 1960. The simple answer was that my father had died, and he was the one sending them.

We had only planned one day for this adventure not knowing we would meet family, so we only had a few hours. That evening, we called Mom again so she could speak to our cousins in Slovak and after promising them we would return, we said goodbye and went back to the hotel to decompress. Miso said his brain was exhausted from translating for hours, since our cousins could speak only a little English.

As we left, we thought how amazing it was that as an 18 year old boy Dziedi left his family and this small village of about 2000 people in the foothills of the Eastern Tatra Mountains to go on a month-long journey to New York and eventually Glen Lyon with a sign hanging on his neck which read: Honey Pot, PA. What courage it must have taken to leave his family, maybe for forever, and venture to an unknown land where he could not speak the language and knew nothing of the culture. What oppression these immigrants must have been under to want to leave and seek freedom. We couldn't wait to get back to Dziedi's grave in Glen Lyon and tell him we went "home". And, when we did, we sprinkled some of the soil from his mother's grave on his grave in Glen Lyon to complete the journey.

This September just passed was our sixth trip to Slovakia and my brothers and sisters and some of our children joined us, some for the first time. Some of our Slovak cousins have come to America for visits. One even made it to Glen Lyon where we showed her Dziedi's grave and the house he built on Market Street.

Having been raised among the many wonderful ethnic cultures in Newport Township, I felt a sort of closure to have returned to the source of our existence in America. It is a trip we highly recommend for anyone who has the opportunity. If you are one of those lucky enough to have found your roots in the "old" country, the editors of this newsletter would like to hear from you. Please share your stories!

Do Videmia!



## Jena Lipowski

By Tom Kashatus ~ One of the rarest feats to accomplish in softball is a “perfect game,” especially at the Little League level. This year Jena Lipowski of the Nanticoke Area 11-12 girls’ Little League Softball All-Star Team, and a member of the NTCO-sponsored Major League Red Devils team, shined as she wind-milled her pitches through the Mountaintop lineup when her team entered District 16 playoff competition. The locals achieved a Little League District 16 Championship by beating Duryea/Pittston Township twice in double-elimination playoffs but ended short in their quest to continue on to state competition when they entered sectional play. The boys’ Little League Baseball World Series takes place in Williamsport, PA and the girls’ Little League Softball World Series is held in Portland, Oregon.

As a resident of Polander Hill, Alden, Jena began her career playing for Newport Township T-ball at age six. Later her parents Marc and Karen (Sivilich) Lipowski moved to the Rhone (Hanover) section of Nanticoke. Jena, however, remained with Newport Township Little League and continued her play through coach-pitch and minor league due to a Little League grandfather clause. After learning to pitch underhand, Jena began to develop her talents and enjoyed throwing

windmill style which appeared to come naturally. Many hours of practice also loomed on the horizon. As she progressed under the tutelage of Joe Drach, a well-known Wyoming Valley native of fast-pitch fame in the 1950s and 1960s, Jena began throwing faster and with greater accuracy while developing different styles of pitches. As a child, her goal was to win a Little League District title and that was achieved when she became a teenager.

Jena is now 13 years old and will be attending Nanticoke Junior High. She has played “travel ball” for the past two years with the PA Fusion of Nanticoke. The team has earned much success throughout northeastern Pennsylvania and beyond. Jena stated that her success wouldn’t be possible without the help of her family and especially her coaches, teammates, and many volunteers of the Nanticoke Area Little League organization. She is the granddaughter of John and Helen Lipowski of Nanticoke and Fred and Barbara Sivilich (both deceased) of Nanticoke. John is an ardent fan of softball and played against many of the best teams throughout Pennsylvania in the heyday of “fast pitch” in the 50’s and 60’s. The teams he played with from Nanticoke were Lapoka’s, the Polish Club, Kruczek’s, J & L’s and George Smith’s.



Above, Jena Lipowski pitches for the Nanticoke Area 11-12 Girls Little League Softball All-Star Team.

To the left is the Nanticoke Area Little League Major Team Red Devils: First row (bottom) left to right: Kendalyn Yurkin, Danielle O’Connor, Elizabeth Moore, Ashlee Hules, Kelsi O’Connor.

Second row left to right: Kaeley Zatorski, Emily Scott, Sydney Swales, Abbie Corcoran,

Third row left to right: Cassandra Novakowski, Kassandra Rinker, Jenna Lipowski.

Back row left to right: Coach, Mark O’Connor; Manager Jason Rinker; Coach Marc Lipowski

The Red Devils are sponsored by the NTCO.



**A SUCCESSFUL SEASON OF NANTICOKE AREA LITTLE LEAGUE**



**Nanticoke Area Little League  
11-12 Girls All Stars  
District 16 Champions**

Front row, left to right: Megan Murphy, Elizabeth Moore, Olivia Kivler, Lauren Cann, Taylor Zabrenski, Morgan Briggs, Jena Lipowski, Michaela Buckley and Jackie Briggs.

Second row left to right: Tiffany Toporcer, Miranda Dunn, Danielle O’Conner and Abbie Corcoran.

Top row left to right: Coach Chaun Cann, Jason Rinker, Marc Lipowski and Kiera Brown.



**Nanticoke Area Little League  
9-10 Boys All Stars  
District 16 Champions**

Front row left to right: Kyle Zeller, Luke Myers, Chris Ormes, Nate Penko.

Second row left to right: Jadynd Heald, Austin Norton, Jake Krupinski, Dylan Szychowski, Colby Butczynski, Adam Eckhart, Devland Heffron, Cullin Brown.

Back row: Manager, Pat Heffron, Coach Todd Norton; Coach Allen Brown.



**Nanticoke Area Little League  
Senior League  
District 16 Champions**

Front row, left to right: Coach Steve Kotch, Patrick Duda and Michael Mavus.

Back row, left to right: Coach Jim Strickland (white shirt), Coach Mike Mavus, Jimmy Strickland, Mathew Pawlowski, Kyle Robert Sorber, Larry Youngblood, Josh Bencoter, Tyler Kotch, Jacob Harvey, Bradley Yanus, Sebastian Maul, Rick Ultsh, Tyler Myers, Aaron Scott, Eric Levzdowski, Coach Dave Horvath and Coach Gerry Pawlowski.



**Nanticoke Area Little League  
10-11 Girls All Stars  
Section 5 Champions**

Bottom row Left to right: Jena Niewinski, Megan Duda, Brinley Sobeck, Katie King, Abbey Kotch, Liz Redenski and Stephanie Layland.

Second row from left to right: Lindsey Rowles, Alyssa Lewis, Kelsi O’Connor, Kendra Ryan and Sabrina Holevinski



## TASTE OF THE TOWNSHIP SPAGHETTI (PART I)

By Heidi and Paul Jarecki ~ The history of spaghetti is long and controversial. The story about Marco Polo first bringing spaghetti to Europe from the Far East in 1295 is not true. Although the Chinese have been making noodles from either rice or wheat flour since at least 3000 B.C. and Marco Polo did bring it back home with him, pasta had existed in Europe since the Roman Empire. The spaghetti pasta as we know it today, made from semolina flour, probably was first prepared in the 1100's in Sicily or possibly earlier in Arabia and brought to Sicily through the incursion of Islam into Sicily. Pasta's rise to a national dish in Italy in the 1600's parallels its use with tomato-based sauces. The tomato originated in central South America and southern North America which today would include Peru and Mexico. It wasn't until 1540 that the Spaniard Hernan Cortez brought the first tomatoes to Europe from the New World. Tomatoes didn't arrive in Italy until 1596.

For a number of years, tomatoes were used exclusively as a decorative plant because it was presumed to be poisonous; the tomato is a member of the nightshade family. The earliest known Italian red sauce is the famous Marinara sauce from the Naples area. Marinara is derived from an Italian word meaning "of the sea" possibly alluding to the fact that early marinara sauces often contained seafood ingredients. There are many traditional Italian sauces. Most have a tomato base but some do not, Alfredo sauce for example has a cream base. Some sauces are thick and chunky and are appropriate for any shape of pasta. Others are more viscous for use with shell or spiral-shaped pasta. Pureed, creamy or clinging sauces that flow evenly over the face of the noodle are best for long sleek pasta shapes such as spaghetti.

Thomas Jefferson can be credited with bringing pasta to the United States. When he served as Ambassador to France from 1785-1789, he was introduced to this tasty dish, and he liked it so much that he ordered a pasta-making machine sent back home. Spaghetti came to Newport Township with Italian immigrants, who settled in northeastern Pennsylvania from 1870 to 1915 to work in the anthracite mine fields. It became very popular and large quantities of spaghetti have been made and consumed in the Township over the years. In addition to family meals, spaghetti dinners are popular fund raising events for community and church organizations. Many people have their own special ways of preparing spaghetti. For this article, we talked to many cooks, both young and old, throughout the Township in search of tips for making the best spaghetti sauce. Many will not divulge their secrets. We will persist!

Part II of this article will appear in the winter newsletter.

(Sources: Various websites)



### What are you going to do with all those tomatoes from the garden? Why not make spaghetti sauce?

Below is a simple recipe using fresh tomatoes, olive oil and garlic. It is another way to use all those tomatoes that you grow in your garden in the summer time. **Serves:** 2-4

#### Ingredients:

1 ¾ lbs. peeled Roma tomatoes \*  
5 tablespoons olive oil  
3 cloves of garlic  
Salt to taste

\* Using a paring knife cut out the stem. Then slice a shallow X in the bottom (blossom end). Plunge it into a pot of boiling water for a few seconds and then into a bowl of ice water. Remove the cooled tomato and peel away the skin.


#### Directions

Cut the tomatoes into cubes and crush the garlic. Add the tomatoes and garlic to the olive oil in a heavy saucepan over medium heat. Bring the sauce to a simmer then lower the heat to keep the sauce at a slow, steady simmer for about 45 minutes, stir occasionally. Add salt to taste and keep warm while you prepare your pasta.

#### Variations

1. If you want a thicker sauce, add 3 tablespoons of tomato paste. Shredded parmesan cheese can also thicken the sauce.
2. Try substituting butter for olive oil. Many say that butter and the juice of stewed onions transform tomatoes into something special. Simmer tomatoes, butter, and a halved medium sized yellow onion for 45 minutes then discard the onion.
3. If the sauce is too bland, add spices. Fresh basil and/or oregano are always good. Some cooks even add hot pepper. Other spices are rosemary, thyme, marjoram, parsley and black pepper.
4. If the sauce is too acidic, add sugar or carrots.
5. To increase the flavor you could add celery, mushrooms, onions, olives, red wine, cheese, chicken stock, meat or seafood.
6. If you want a smoother sauce, run the tomato cubes through a blender before cooking.

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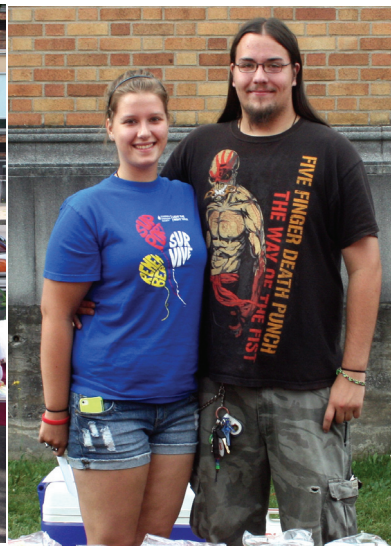

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**Ice Cream Social** On July 8, the Altar and Rosary Society of Holy Spirit Parish held an ice cream social at St. Adalbert's Church. Pictured above are (left) Steve Resavy dishing out ice cream, and (middle) Stanalee Lutz and (right) Marcy Raiewski with their creations.



**Yard Sale**

A community yard sale was held on July 14 at the K.M. Smith School parking lot in Alden. It was organized by Lauren Skamarakes, a student at Greater Nanticoke Area High School as her senior project. Proceeds benefited the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society in memory of Lauren's aunt who passed away from leukemia. Pictured on the far left are some items offered for sale. On the near left are Lauren Skamarakes and Daniel Reese.

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**GLEN LYON PENNSYLVANIA: A TRILOGY**  
 by Frank E. Urban

Frank Urban, who graduated from Newport Township High School in 1953, has written a book about his ancestry and growing up in Glen Lyon. It is very interesting reading. Copies can be ordered by contacting the Xlibris Corporation at 1-888-795-4274 or on the web at [www.Xlibris.com](http://www.Xlibris.com).

**Make Someone Laugh Today**  
 "The greatest thing in life is love and the second is laughter."  
 G.Y. Morgan

**Just Keep On Going**  
 "Never flinch, never weary, never despair" ~ Winston Churchill





On Sunday July 22, the Newport Township Recreation Board held "Bicycle Safety Day" at the Wanamie Recreation Park. The event was sponsored by the Newport Lion's Club, Glen Lyon Crime Watch, Newport Twp. Women's Activity Group, the NTCO, Pepsi, Mr. Opachinski, Eagle Scout Project and 400 Club/Nanticoke. In the top picture are Board members and representatives from some of the sponsoring groups: Jason Kowalski, Heidi Jarecki, John Zyla, Fay Maloney, Karen Rejician, John Grabowski, Brenda Grabowski, Police Officer Jeremy Blank and Scott Shattley. Board member Sue Mieczkowski was also present. 75 helmets were distributed free of charge and 40 bicycles were registered. A helmet decoration station was set up and three new bicycles were raffled off at the conclusion of the event.







## “National Night Out” Promotes Police-Community Partnerships

The Glen Lyon Crime Watch with assistance from the Newport Recreation Board and the NTCO sponsored “National Night Out” on August 7 at the Wanamie Recreation Park. Pictured on the left are Crime Watch members: Tom Kashatus, Mary Margaret Kashatus, Palmira Miller, Karen Rejician, speaker Luzerne County D. A. Stefanie Salavantis, Faye Maloney, Delbert Evans, and Heidi Jarecki. Middle pictures left to right are speakers D.A. Salavantis, PA Rep. Gerald Mul- lery, and Newport Commissioner John Zyla. Marie Morucci is President of Glen Lyon Crime Watch.







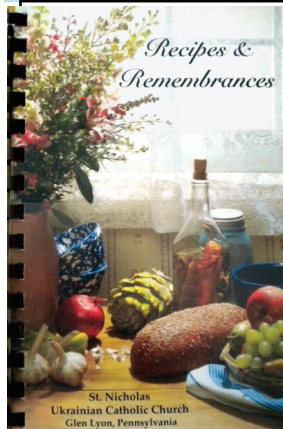
## Tarnowski's Kielbasa Wins Award

By Paul Jarecki ~The Plymouth Kielbasa Festival was held August 24 and 25. In this year's competition, Tarnowski's Kielbasa of Glen Lyon took second place for fresh sausage, missing top honors by just one point. In the smoked category, Tarnowski's scored high for taste and texture. So, if you are looking for great tasting kielbasa, Tarnowski's is the place to go. On the left are John and Stacie Vishnefski, the present proprietors. John is the grandson of Tad Tarnowski, who with his three brothers, John, Leo and Chester, developed their kielbasa recipe in 1946. Chester's son Mike was the next guardian of the secret recipe which has been passed to John and Stacie. Call 570-736-6585 or visit the store at 32 East Main Street in Glen Lyon. Kielbasa sticks and loaves, turkey kielbasa and horse-radish sauce are also available.



## Summer Fun Finale

By Tom Kashatus ~ The Newport Township Women's Activity Group partnered with the Newport Township Community Organization (NTCO) for the Organization's summer fun finale at the Conyngham Township swimming pool in Mocanaqua. On a beautiful Thursday in August, fun was had by 60 children of all ages throughout the morning and afternoon while many of the parents and guardians who attended shared an opportunity to reminisce over past events and discuss the upcoming school year. Many just enjoyed the



## COOKBOOK AND REMEMBRANCES

Parishioners and friends of St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic Church, Glen Lyon, have compiled a cookbook of 300 of their favorite recipes. This cookbook entitled "Recipes and Remembrances" is filled with traditional and ethnic recipes and a history of the Church. The cookbooks are available for the price of \$10.00 each and are available by contacting Debbie at 736-6908 or Ann at 735-5622. They can also be shipped anywhere for an additional \$4.00 shipping fee. Make checks payable to St. Nicholas Church, P.O. Box 62, Glen Lyon, PA 18617.

able to St. Nicholas Church, P.O. Box 62, Glen Lyon, PA 18617.

## ARE YOU CHRISTMAS SHOPPING?

The 2013 CALENDAR OF HISTORICAL PICTURES is now available for purchase at \$10.00 each. The NTCO also has all items in stock for the upcoming holiday season: sweatshirts, baseball hats, T-shirts, knit hats, and hoodies with "Newport Township" embroidered or screen-printed on them; wooden miniatures of the High School, the Glen Lyon coal breaker, the Alden Company Store, and the Orphanage; two DVD's with historical pictures, and license plate frames. Call Heidi Jarecki for further information at 570-736-6782 or stop in at the Variety Stop in Glen Lyon. Also, check out the NTCO website. Thanks!

water and sunshine. This was the fourth year that the Women's Activity Group passed out much needed back-to-school items to the children as they look forward to another year of intense education. The school package included a folder, tablet, pencils, crayons, markers, glue sticks, coloring books, protractors, etc. Other projects undertaken by the Activity Group are the Easter Egg Hunt in the spring, the Halloween Party in the fall, and the Santa Claus Party at Christmas time. They also contribute to other township charities and volunteer organizations. The Group's chairperson for this event was Patricia Graboske. Officers of the Women's Activity Group are President Brenda Grabowski, Vice President Debbie Ward, Secretary Mary Lou Gray, and Treasurer Debbie Forgach. Two major fundraisers are held annually: the Ham Bingo in the spring and Turkey Bingo in the fall. This year's Turkey Bingo will be held on November 18<sup>th</sup> at Saint Adalbert's Church Hall in Glen Lyon.

This was the final summer fun project for the NTCO this year. All attendees were furnished with a picnic array of fruit, drinks, and pizza from the Corner Pocket in Mocanaqua. Detroit Tigers and Colorado Rockies sweatshirts and web-kins were also available to those youngsters who participated. Chairperson for the NTCO Summer Fun was Tom Kashatus who received assistance from members Palmira Miller, Sharon Julius, William Hourigan and junior member Shelly Miller.

The NTCO also contributed to the Newport Township Recreation Board's bicycle safety and helmet give-away event with a \$250.00 contribution. It was held July 22.





The small village of Lee sits close to the Newport-Conyngham boundary. It once boasted a post office, a stagecoach stop at an inn, and a one-room school.

place among several coal companies along the Newport-Conyngham (previously known as Hollenback) boundary. Most of these were leases or mortgages. Eventually, flooding in the Lee Shaft led to problems. In 1915, the West End Coal Company took ownership of the Lee Shaft and began the dewatering process. In 1932 when it became futile to keep the water out of the shaft, operations at Teasdale were shut down and families forced to move. The village of Lee remained. It is possible that Lee took its name from the Lee Shaft, which may have been on property once owned by Washington Lee.

However, there were other coal companies operating in the area from which Lee could have gotten its name. The George F. Lee (no known relation to Washington) Coal Company operated here briefly in the late 1880's. It was based in Plymouth and had offices in Montreal. Also, the Lee Coal Company, organized by Reese Brooks of Scranton, operated the Lee Mine near Newport Avenue in Alden.

## How Lee Got Its Name

By Heidi and Paul Jarecki ~ How Lee got its name is a bit unclear but it probably begins with a man named Washington Lee who acquired extensive property in Newport Township from the early 1800's until his death in 1871. Keep in mind that Newport Township once extended far beyond its present boundaries and included one-third of Nanticoke. Washington Lee and later his nephew, Washington Jr., held over a thousand acres of land in Newport Township. Although the early history of mining in Newport is poorly documented, it would be a safe bet to say that Lee was the first to mine coal here. In 1823, Lee and George Cahoon operated the Striver's Mine using an early form of strip mining. Coal was dug out from soil level with hand tools. Teams then drove right into the mine and loaded their cargo which they hauled in wagons to the Susquehanna River. The cargo was then loaded into arks which were navigated by river pilots who ran the falls below Nanticoke. Lee's mining operations shipped 20,000 tons of coal a year on the North Branch Canal that was formed from the Nanticoke Dam. Lee operated the mine at a loss.

Beginning in 1845, the purchase of coal lands in the township was no longer monopolized by Washington Lee. Hendrick B. Wright began buying up farms as investments. Whereas the Lee holdings were concentrated around Honey Pot and on the future site of Glen Lyon, Wright's purchases were centered around what became Wanamie and Alden.



After the Civil War, a colliery was started by the Great Atlantic Coal Company and a mine shaft which became known as the Lee Shaft was dug in the present-day extreme western end of Newport Township. By 1871, Washington Lee sold a majority of his coal holdings to the Susquehanna Coal Company. He still retained some land, and having no children, willed most of his remaining property to two nephews, Andrew and Washington Jr. Washington Lee died that same year.

By 1883, a mine patch named Teasdale after the superintendent, John Teasdale, had grown up around Lee Shaft. Two years later, the Central Railroad of New Jersey extended its line from Wanamie to Teasdale. Sometime in the early 1880's, just over the hill from Teasdale, a small village was founded by the Pan-Coast Coal Company which became known as Lee. There was a one-room school which included grades one through eight, a stagecoach stop called Mountain Inn which had a watering trough for horses, and a post office. H.F. Hanks is listed as the postmaster in 1900.

Between 1882 and 1900, a long series of land transactions took



The Lee Shaft is located in the lower left corner of this view of Teasdale. Operations were shut down due to uncontrollable flooding.

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Pictured above is the Sedor family in 1943 when they resided in Lee. Back row: Peter and Marcella. Front row: daughters Marie, Judy and Marcella (Marcy)

## GROWING UP IN LEE

*By Marcella Sedor Kelly and Judith Sedor Becker* ~ In approximately 1935, our parents, Peter and Marcella Levandoski Sedor, moved from Mocanaqua to Lee into a house built by the uncle of our mother. Our sister Marie was 4 years old, and Judy was born in that year, Marcy five years later. The house was a Cape Cod style with a huge yard in which we children often played — and had to pull weeds by hand! We were surrounded by woods where we often built playhouses. We divided the rooms by moss and curtains hung between the trees.

We accompanied our father into the woods to pick berries—and often ate more than we brought home! Behind our house there was a wonderful running creek with cool refreshing water. And there were also rattlesnakes that entered our property that our father had to kill to keep us safe. However, at one point, Marcy recalls being attacked by a hummingbird in our back yard and had to be rushed to the hospital.

During the Second World War, we had a victory garden and also raised chickens. We got attached to the chickens and felt sadness when we had to kill them and have them for dinner. Judy and Marie had the worst job of their childhood plucking the feathers from the chickens!

We also had dogs and rabbits who were good company for us in the country. Being at least two miles from both Glen Lyon

and Mocanaqua where our grandparents lived and owned a grocery store, we often walked to either place because we had only one car. We certainly received our exercise! Eventually we were able to get another car and our mother taught herself to drive by going forward and backward in the driveway.

In the summer we swam in Najaka's Pond and skated on it in the winter. We also enjoyed their lobster tail dinners on Friday nights.

There were about 10 or 12 families living in Lee at the time. Judy and Marie often played "How Many Steps Before the Queen/King," jump-rope, and other games with the neighboring children.

During the war, the homeless "carpetbaggers" camped out in the woods near our garage. We would see evidence of the fires they had built to cook their dinners. Because our father was at work most of the time, our mother was home alone with us children and she feared for our safety. Occasionally the "carpetbaggers" would knock on our door and beg for food. Marcy and Judy remember one time at night hiding under the table from fear. Fortunately, we were never harmed.

Marie and Judy and the neighboring children traveled by school bus to the Glen Lyon schools, Kosciusko and Pulaski. Judy did not attend kindergarten but doesn't know whether it was because kindergarten wasn't available at that time. We carried our lunches with us and remained at school the entire day. (Editors' note: Children who lived in town routinely went home for lunch during the school day.)

In 1944 we sold the house in Lee where Marcy was born, and all of us children hated to leave. We moved to West Main Street in Glen Lyon with very fond memories of our life in the country.

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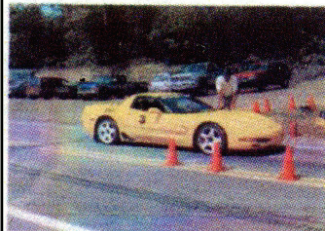
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## **Newport High School in the Late 50's: It was like "Happy Days!" (Part II)**

*Continued from the Summer 2012 Newsletter*

*By John Selecky* ~ With the onset of rock and roll, car design in Detroit matched the music and times. Instead of one color, two-tone cars became available with lots of chrome, fins, large engines and loud radios. You could even order push-button shifting mechanisms. The '55 Chevy's and '56 Chrysler 300's were particularly fast. Drag racing had its place in the Township, with the usual run being "fence to fence" at the cemeteries up Seven Shaft Hill in Glen Lyon. Everyone knew who had the fast cars. Kids came from Nanticoke to take their chances with the fences. It was exciting. And the cars seemed to fit the Rock 'n Roll scene. The highways became pretty, as Sally would say, with pretty cars. And with the cars came the Drive-Ins. There were drive-in movies, sometimes called "Passion Pits," drive-in diners and eventually even drive-in churches. By 1957 we began getting our drivers' licenses, which added another distraction with which to contend. And so junior year, it was going to be tough to concentrate on academics!

But, junior year was much better. You had survived that first year and now had some presence on campus. Classes got tougher and activities seemed to carry more weight. And now the subject of college and College Boards became an often-discussed subject. Adults kept asking, "What are you going to do?" How did we know? We were just turning 16. But, the most significant event of Junior Year was to arrive at school that first day and meet a whole bunch of new students from Mocanaqua. Newport Township School District had formed a jointure with Conyngham Township which had too many students. So, for the first time in our lives, we had fellow students with whom we did not grow up. It was earth-shaking! And a great thing to have happened. We got new athletes for the teams, new band members, new majorettes, new Color Guards, and new people to date and new people in the classroom. What helped was that the Conyngham kids were very nice. Although it was tough for them to leave their old school, it was quite exciting for us and added to the electricity of being Juniors.

By now, Rock and Roll was in full force. We now knew Little Richard, Jerry Lee Lewis the Everly Brothers, and Buddy Holly, to name a few. And cars. And clothes. And girls. And boys. A great time to be a teenager. Just like they showed on Happy Days. We had our characters and we had our places to hang out. Happy Days had Arnold's Soda Shop, we had M&B's or Broma's or Ma Malarchik's in Glen Lyon, Ma Brunski's in Wanamie, and Lundy's in Moc. They each had a juke box, a pinball machine, a dart board and sometimes even a shuffleboard. You could hang out there for hours. The only adults present were the owners, and we enjoyed driving Mary and Barney nuts until Mary exploded. The music even invaded the High School because at the first Chapel assembly, Mr. Shepela was very proud to display the new stereo the school got for our use. And, in Chapel, he often played pop records for our enjoyment. He sat, listened and smiled very proudly. And we got to use the stereo for school dances. Stereo sound was a relatively new thing and quite innovative. The sound was clearer, louder, and split into a right and left side. Just what we needed for rock 'n roll.

Junior year was a particularly good year in sports for us. It seemed that our teaming up with the Seniors made us pretty competitive, which was something new. Our school adminis-

trators always put us in the category with the larger Wilkes-Barre schools, so we played GAR, Meyers, Kingston, Hanover and Nanticoke, our chief rivals. We often lost to them. But Junior year was different. For the first time in a long time, and maybe for the last time, we beat Nanticoke in football. And, it was on their field. It was a Saturday afternoon, and we were playing the "T" formation for the first time as Coach Serowicz had preferred to play single wing until then, a run oriented style. It was on a pass play from the "T" formation that scored the only touchdown in the game. Our fans went nuts! Nanticoke was stunned. And, the motorcade home through Nanticoke was very slow and very triumphant. We were heroes.

We then beat them in basketball, which made our pretty good season even better.

To top it off, our baseball team went on to win the 1958 Championship under Coach Zig Najaka that spring. The team practiced hard, played hard, and drew quite a following of adults along with most of the high school. Those were great times.

Mr. Leonard Zimolzak, aka Penner, was the youngest member of the faculty and pretty close to our age. He brought fresh, young concepts to the band and the Choir, which he directed. The band appeared in different parades and, each year, marched at the Bloomsburg Fair. Because of this, the sizes of the band and the choir grew. Penner even took the choir on the road to perform at Retreat and some of the grade schools during the holidays. There was an annual Spring concert. He taught us to sing the Hallelujah Chorus from Handel's Messiah. It was quite difficult and we nicknamed it "The War Horse." Eventually, it sounded very good. There was almost too much to do. And you wanted to do it all.

Classes were hard but the climate in the High School was very comforting and safe. The teachers were available to help if you needed it. We were exposed to new schools of thought and philosophies through poetry, Shakespeare, physics, trigonometry, Government and classical music. We were as intense in the classroom as we were on the dance floor.

As Juniors, it was our responsibility to create and host the Senior Prom. Our committee picked a Japanese theme and called it "Sayonara." We had lots of meetings to discuss music and bands, color themes, decorations, etc. Then, as the event came closer, we had to ask for dates, the gym had to be decorated, and favors had to be ordered.

When we thought we had seen it all, the Glen Lyon American Legion announced that they were going to host an After-Prom Party. The idea was to prevent any accidents from underage drinking. It would start one hour after the Prom, feature live dance bands and a full meal cooked by the ladies. The Legion was decorated just for the occasion. We were not allowed to leave before it was over, as the Legionnaires promised our parents that they would take care of us. Anyone who wanted to leave early had to bring a note from their parents. But, who wanted to leave?? It was a great party. It lasted until 3:00 AM. We had the best time! The Seniors loved the Juniors, I think!

Class Night followed where the seniors dressed up in suits and gowns and paraded on the football field to sit facing the stands filled with parents, families, and friends. The program included the Honor Roll students giving each fellow student a funny gift with a little poem explaining the reason for that gift. Next came Commencement, where the graduates wore caps and gowns and marched on the football field to the sounds of the high school band. Speeches, awards, diplomas, hugs, tears, and saying good bye: we realized that next year would be our turn.

Continued on the next page



Continued from previous page

The summer of 1958 was great. There were a lot of local dances, including the ones at Sans Souci where we danced to Joe Nardone's Rock and Roll band. We hit all the lakes like Silkworth, Harvey's and Nuangola. Come September, we were ready to start our Senior year! By now everyone was driving. On Saturday nights we went to the Passion Pits. We were mobile!

But, the music changed a little. Elvis entered the Army and stopped recording. Jerry Lee Lewis married his 13-year-old cousin and was blackballed. Little Richard became a minister and stopped recording. Buddy Holly died in a small plane crash. But the Everly Brothers hung in there with "All I have to do is Dream" and "Bird Dog." "Volare" by Dean Martin was a hit as was "Tequila" by The Champs.

The first day of Senior year finally arrived. We were Kings and Queens of the Hill! It was going to be a busy year, but we were surrounded by friends and we knew how to "work" the high school. We took over the hallways, had our own places to hang out, and had nicknames for almost all the teachers. The Senior Class always put on a play, so try-outs were held. Penner had new plans for the band and choir, which meant we had to practice. Our sports teams were thinner with the loss of last year's seniors. Our yearbook had to be organized and printed by next Spring, so there were deadlines to meet. At least we didn't have to do the prom. Juniors did that. And, we had to pick out our class rings and name cards! Heavy stuff. We were Seniors!

One of the first things we had to arrange was "Student Teaching Day" when seniors took over for the teachers and taught their classes. Everyone chose a subject they liked and made arrangements with the respective teacher to teach the class. You could select two or three classes, but that required a lot of preparation. The class officers took over the Administration, but weren't allowed to make new rules. We all had to dress up and act "scholarly" in front of the sophomores and juniors. We expected to be heckled by the boys in the classes. However, the teachers stayed in the room and didn't let it get out of hand. At the end of the day, we had to admit that it was fun. We appreciated better the hard job the teachers had.

The Christmas Pageant was fun, as was the Christmas Dance. The Senior Play sold out. And the Nutcracker Tribune sponsored a dance in the gym that featured a WARMland DJ. That was cool and novel. Kids came from all over the Valley. Teen House continued to pack them in, and it was fun to make "the run" to Moc. Now that was a fun drive. The Lee/Moc Expressway. Yes, there were close calls. There were even a few accidents. One of the more humorous events was when one of the group drove the family car down to Moc without permission and worried about the mileage registering on the odometer. So, it was decided to drive down to Moc but make the return trip in reverse so the odometer would turn backwards. True story.

Then Spring was upon us and the end was in sight. As exciting as that was, it was also scary because our ideal life was about to change.

One of the last Chapels was Awards' Day when Mr. Shepela handed out awards and pins to the seniors who did work for the clubs, the band, the sports teams, the newspaper, and the plays. The valedictorian and those on the honor roll were also recognized. The following Sunday, a baccalaureate Mass was held at St. Adalbert's for all the seniors.

The Prom was on May 29<sup>th</sup>. All the girls looked lovely and the guys rented white dinner jackets to wear. The Legion had the After-Prom Party again, so we danced until dawn. Some even did the polka!

We had Class Night when we handed out the silly gifts to our

classmates with the poems explaining the gift.

Commencement was on June 4<sup>th</sup>. We all looked mature in our black academic attire. We celebrated our four years at Newport High School. I remember being on the football field afterwards, excited about the future while realizing that this amazing part of our lives was coming to an end. When would we all see each other again? Would life still be somewhat of a constant party? Then it was over. Summer came with the dances and stuff, but come September we would not have the sanctuary of the high school to turn to. A new part of our lives was beginning.

I am happy to report that the friendships we developed in our class continued with many gatherings and parties over the years. Proof of that was when 80 people showed up for our 50<sup>th</sup> High School Reunion in 2009. Our hair is now gray and our bones creak a bit, but just like in 1959, we danced our booties off to our music until late in the evening. We even have a website so classmates can share old pictures and memories. Some of us have been friends for over 65 years.

Life was great "On the hilltop far above us..."

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<b>Thursday</b>	<b>7 PM - 9 PM</b>	<b>\$0.75 mugs</b>

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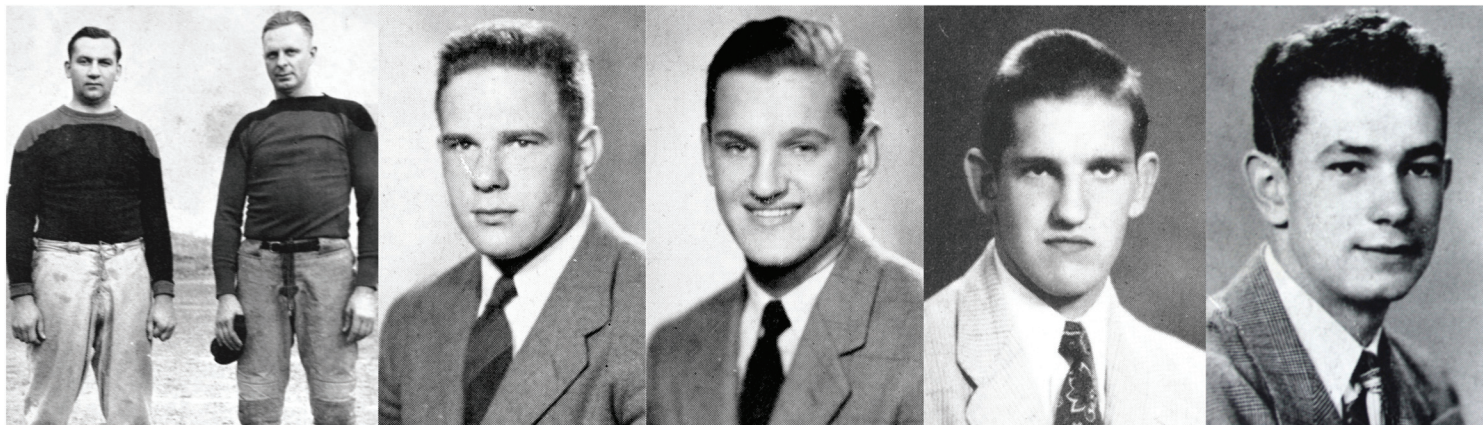
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## The History of Newport Township High School Football, Part II 1944-1966

(Continued from Fall 2011 Newsletter)

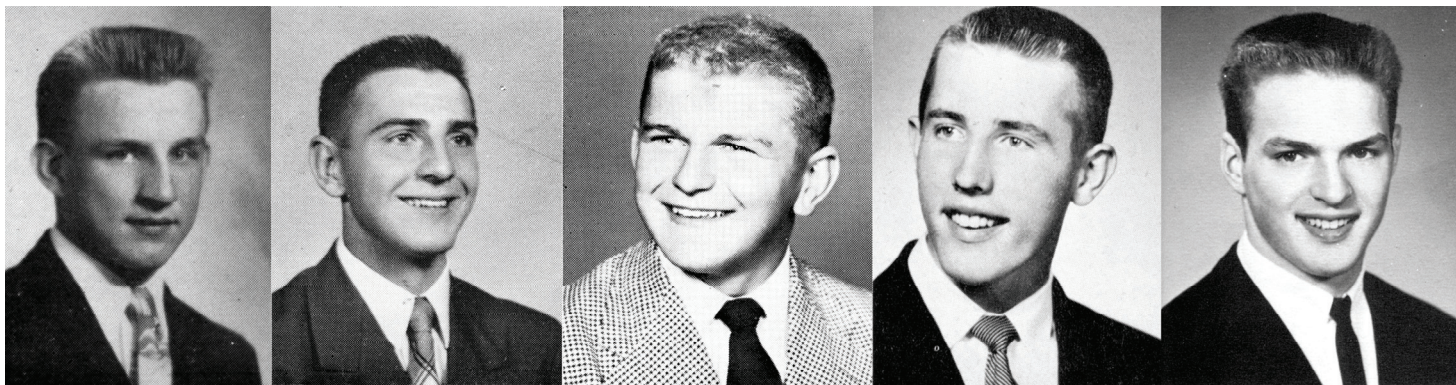
By Heidi & Paul Jarecki ~ In 1944, the Newport Township High School football program showed great improvement. This was in large part due to new Head Coach Walter Serowicz and Assistant Coach Raymond Garlinski. Walter Serowicz graduated from Newport in 1936 where he starred in both football and basketball. In his senior year he was one of the best high school basketball players in the state and led Newport to the 1936 State Basketball Championship. After graduating, he attended St. Thomas College (later the University of Scranton) where he was a three-year starter on the basketball team. In his sophomore year, he set a new scoring record for Scranton and led his team to one of its most successful seasons in history. In his senior year, he also played football. Raymond Garlinski was also a former star on the St. Thomas College team and as assistant coach at Newport, he was in charge of coaching the line. He developed it into one of the strongest and hardest charging line that Newport ever sent onto the field. Serowicz took charge of the backfield. In 1944, Newport had a record of 4 wins 3 losses and one tie. It was the first good year Newport had after almost two decades of mediocrity. Newport depended heavily on defense that didn't get pushed around all year. Every team that played Newport admitted the Nutcrackers gave them their hardest game of the season. Newport defeated Nanticoke 6-0 and placed one player on the all-scholastic team, tackle Joseph Malczyk who was a junior.

The 1945 team was, in the opinion of many critics, the best team in Newport history. Their record was 4 wins, 2 losses and 1 tie. One player made all-scholastic, fullback Peter Ravin. In 1946, Zig Najaka replaced Raymond Garlinski as assistant coach and Newport's record fell to 1 win and 7 losses but they quickly rebounded in 1947 with 4 wins, 3 losses and 3 ties. Newport guard Joe Ravin made All Scholastic and Newport finally beat Plymouth 6-0. It would be the only time in their history that Newport defeated Plymouth. In 1948, Newport for the first time ever was in contention for the conference championship. It was a tight race between Newport, Plymouth, Nanticoke and Plains. In the opening game, Newport easily defeated Shickshinny 26-6, then dropped the next game to a strong Plymouth team 19-6. Plymouth had lost their opening game to powerful Swoyersville by a 6-0 score. Newport then defeated Coughlin 19-0 and Larksville 14-6. This set the stage for a crucial Mitchell Day game with Nanticoke. Nanticoke entered the game with only one defeat, an opening day loss to Larksville. Newport prevailed in a hard-fought 12-7 victory. In their

next game Newport beat undefeated Plains 19-12 and for the first time in their history Newport took the lead in the conference championship race. In the next two games, Newport was tied by both Hanover 12-12 and Berwick 6-6 and their dreams of a championship ended. On Thanksgiving Day, twice-beaten Nanticoke and once-beaten Plymouth met for the championship. Nanticoke won a bitter 10-7 victory and was awarded the Wyoming Valley Conference Championship. Newport had a strong line led by such players as Stralka, Rentko, Zab and others. In the backfield, they had the all-around work of Stan Pawloski and the heavy plunging of Ray Engler. Newport placed one player on the All-Scholastic team, back Stanley Pawloski. Stan could do anything and everything on the field. Even in defeat, Stan had a good game against Plymouth, setting up and scoring Newport's only touchdown. He did it all in beating Larksville, good runs as well as tossing and catching important passes that led to the winning tally. In the big game against Nanticoke, Stan was a star on defense and punting as well as his regular work. Stan was an all-around back. He hit the line, caught passes, punted exceptionally well and played a tough defensive game. Newport had its best teams in the 1940s. They had four winning seasons 1944, 1945, 1947, and 1948. They also had four wins against their arch rival, Nanticoke.

In the 1950s, Newport's football teams were relatively successful but most of their successes were in the beginning part of the decade. Between 1950 and 1955 Newport had a record of 26-27 with one tie and two winning seasons, 1952 and 1953. Newport produced two All-Scholastic players, fullback Bob Duliba in 1951 and tackle Frank Urban in 1952. Two other players, Pete Keblish and Gene Domzalski, went on to athletic success after high school. Pete Keblish, who graduated from Newport in 1953, played on the University of Pennsylvania football team where he was an honorable mention All Ivy League at guard in 1959. After college Pete entered the University of Pennsylvania Medical School which led to a highly successful career as an orthopedic surgeon. Gene Domzalski graduated from Newport in 1956 where he starred in basketball, baseball and football. He entered Wyoming University and become a highly touted running back until a knee injury ended his football career after his sophomore year. Gene was also a successful minor league baseball player and when his baseball career ended, he taught and coached in the Newport Township School System. At Newport, he served as head basketball and baseball coach as well as assistant football coach. His success as a high school baseball coach led to a job as head baseball coach at Wilkes College. From 1956 to 1959 Newport's football record fell to 1-28 and one tie. Newport produced no All-Scholastic players.





**BOB DULIBA**

**FRANK URBAN**

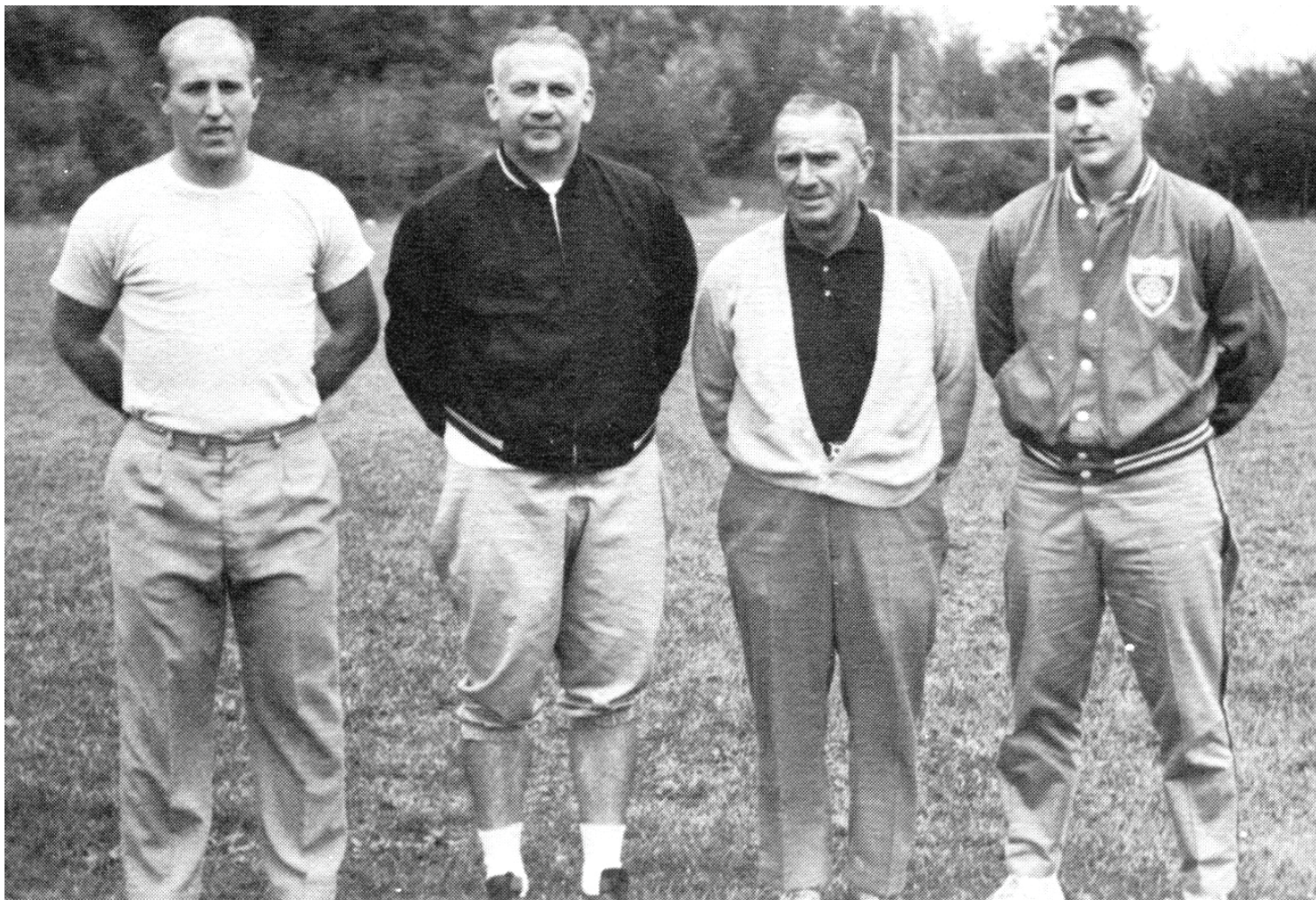
**PETE KEBLISH**

**GENE DOMZALSKI**

**AL ZERFOSS**

The only bright spot in this period was a dramatic victory 6-0 over Nanticoke in 1957. It ended with a touchdown pass from quarterback John Selecky to end Syl Madurski. From 1960 to 1966 Newport had no winning teams but they did have two victories over Nanticoke in 1960 and 1962. Alan Zerfoss who graduated in 1966 went on to become a star football player at the University of Wyoming. In 1968, he was voted All Conference at guard. In 1966 neither Newport nor Nanticoke were having a good football season but when they met on the gridiron at Lincoln Field in Nanticoke it was an important game. At the end of the school year in 1967 Newport Township High School and Nanticoke High school would cease to

exist. Both districts consolidated to form the Greater Nanticoke Area (GNA) School District. Nanticoke was highly favored to win the game but to the surprise of many Newport was in contention throughout the game. Both teams played well with great desire to win this final game. Nanticoke won 14-13 when Newport was stopped half a foot away from the goal line on a 2 point conversion. It was a bitter-sweet ending to this long, ancient rivalry for the Newport fans, players and coaching staff which included Head Coach Walter Serowicz, Assistant Coaches Gene Domzalski, John Kashatus and Athletic Director Zig Najaka. The following week, Newport lost to Hanover in the final football game in its long and storied history.



**Coaches Domzalski, Serowicz, Najaka, and Kashatus.**





**Halloween at Columbus School, Wanamie 1950**

Bottom row: Karen Rinehamer, Joyce Makowski, Walter Kasowicz, Elaine Zarota, Theresa Kopera, Janice Pish.  
 Middle row: Stasia Ziomek, Sharon Stabulis, Thomas Garvey, ?, ?, Donald Blackburn.  
 Top row: Richard Rule, Paul Pawlush, Frank Kaminski, Stephen Bosha, Robert Masakowski, Clyde Tubick, Rodger Sherman.

**Remember when.....**

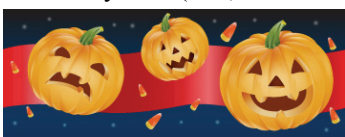
By Heidi Jarecki ~ Halloween is right around the corner and most folks who grew up in Newport Township participated in that timeless tradition of trick-or-treating. Dressing in costume, going house to house throughout the township's neighborhoods, knocking on doors and asking for a treat is part of everyone's childhood. However, the tradition of singing a Halloween song in exchange for that treat has sadly fallen by the wayside. So, to refresh your memories, here are the lyrics to four songs from days gone by. Those who don't know the melodies can just ask any of our "senior" citizens to hum a few bars! Slight variations are acknowledged.

Mean old witch, believe it if you can,  
 Tapped on my windowpane and ran, ran, ran  
 Ran helter-skelter with her toes in the air,  
 Cornstalks flying from the old witch's hair.  
 Swish went the broom-stick, "Meow" went the cat,  
 Hop went the hop-toad sitting on her hat.  
 "Wee," chuckled I, "oh what fun, what fun!"  
 Halloween night when the witches run!

Pumpkin Man, Pumpkin Man,  
 Catch the brownie if you can,  
 Yes I will, Yes I will,  
 If the brownie will stand still!

The witches are calling, "Yahoo, Yahoo!"  
 Their broomsticks are waiting for me and you  
 Come join in our play, for this is the day  
 When all of our wishes come true, Boo!

Halloween, Halloween,  
 Oh, what funny things are seen!  
 Witches' hats, coal-black cats,  
 Broomstick riders, mice and rats!  
 Halloween! Halloween!  
 Jack-o-Lanterns light the scene.  
 Costumes queer, shrieks of fear,  
 Strangest night in all the year! (Yes, there is a second verse!)



**Staff of the Glen Lyon Bank, 1953/54**

Seated left to right: Barbara Magaleski Hudak, Benjamin C. Rydzewski, Louise Smetana Mizia and our faithful cleaning lady Mrs. Sekulski. Standing left to right: Michael Danko, Marie Ramaika Jurchak and Eugene Repotski.

**Working at the Glen Lyon Bank**

(Editors' note: Newport Township's only home-grown bank was the Glen Lyon Bank which opened for business on April 1, 1912 under a state charter. At the end of the first day it had 30 savings accounts totaling \$800.00 and 17 checking accounts totaling \$19,200.00. Harry U. Nyhart served as President, John Barrett was Vice President, and Benjamin C. Rydzewski was Cashier. The bank was a one-story brick building at its present location, 18 East Main Street. In 1927, extensive remodeling began and was completed the following year, when it became a national bank. By 1937, it had over 5,000 savings accounts and 500 checking accounts totaling \$1 million. Beginning in the 1970's, the bank went through several mergers, and eventually closed. The building is now privately owned. From 1948 to 1954, Marie Ramaika Jurchak was employed at the bank as a teller. Following is a description of what it was like to work there during that time period.)

By Marie Ramaika Jurchak ~ I graduated in the Newport High School Class of 1948 with no plans or means to go to college. I had to find a job. One of my teachers told my mother the Glen Lyon Bank was planning to hire a new person preferably out of high school whom they could train. I had two years of academic courses and two years of business. I applied and for about three months I went there after school for a few hours and after graduating started working full time. This was before computers so transactions were recorded by hand in each customer's account book. The bank handled loans and mortgages, Christmas clubs, safe deposit boxes and worked with the mine officials on payroll. I remember typing up war and savings bonds which were deducted from miners' pay. There were many businesses in town that kept checking and saving accounts with us. The bank president then was Dr. Thomas.

The bank was small but busy. It was beautifully constructed of marble and had mahogany furniture. The board room was located upstairs and was used only for meetings. It had a balcony. Among the many incidents I remember, one day I accidentally pushed the alarm pedal up and that created quite a commotion! The police happened to be at the hose house next door and came right over, weapons drawn. Imagine my embarrassment! I never did that again! I recall Mr. Danko, who walked to work, was a snappy dresser, and ate butterscotch krimpets for lunch almost daily. Speaking of lunch, most of the staff went home for lunch, but if not, we ate in a small room used by safe deposit customers. And Mr. Rydzewski the Cashier always typed his own letters. Gene Repotski was the bookkeeper and started working at the bank just before I left.

In 1954, I married Tom Jurchak whom I met (guess where?) at the bank! After raising three children, I took a job as a sales person and part-time manager of a specialty shop for ladies ready-to-wear and gift shop. I am now retired and live in Massachusetts. I remember the good ol' days!



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### Love Blooms in Summer

A life without love is like a year without summer. ~ Swedish Proverb

If a June night could talk, it would probably boast it invented romance. ~ Bern Williams

### Can Beauty be Compared?

No spring nor summer beauty hath such grace  
As I have seen in one autumnal face. ~ John Donne



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