



**O Wind, If Winter comes, can Spring be far behind? ~ Percy Bysshe Shelley**



Finally it's Spring in Newport Township. This robin was sighted in early March on a resident's lawn on First Street in Glen Lyon.

**TOWNSHIP BUSINESS**

*By John Jarecki ~ Township Demolition Program*

Since the summer of 2006, Newport Township has been demolishing a series of abandoned and dilapidated buildings mainly through use of grant money received from Luzerne County's Office of Community Development (OCD), and supplemented by funds provided by the Newport Township Authority (NTA). Township Commissioner John Wilkes, who is also Chairman of the NTA, has been in charge of this project.

The Township has demolished other buildings partially destroyed by fire using insurance money, and individuals have, with their own money, demolished their own dilapidated buildings. But here I will discuss the 19 buildings that the Township has either demolished or will soon demolish using OCD and NTA funds.

Because of OCD grant requirements and other legal requirements, the process of demolishing a building has to go through a number of steps. The Commissioners must first get the permission of the owner of the building. They then do a title search to verify ownership, do an inspection for asbestos (if present, they must arrange for its safe removal), check for possible historical significance of the building, get county approval if a county grant is paying the cost, advertise for bids to do the work, and finally accept a bid and award a contract for the actual demolition. The accompanying table summarizes the work done by the demolition program. The 19 buildings in the program are listed

in 8 groups, each group of buildings having been demolished by work covered by a separate contract. For each contract, I have listed the locations of the buildings, the date of demolition, the cost of the work, the contractor doing it, and the source of funds.

The first building on the list is the Glen Lyon VFW, which because it partially collapsed in July of 2006, became a danger to the neighborhood. The Township, having received only one bid from a contractor for the work, quickly accepted it because of the danger, and arranged for its demolition.

When the Township asked for bids to demolish the third group of buildings, the low bidder, Shea Industries, offered to do the work for \$53,000. Because the Township had only \$47,000 of grant money remaining at the time, County OCD contributed an additional \$3000 and the NTA contributed another \$3500 to reach the needed total. The buildings were demolished in March 2007.

The house at 19-21 Arch Street, in the fourth group, was badly in need of repairs and, the neighbors believed, a danger to the community. Magistrate Don Whitaker found the owner in violation of the building code and fined him \$300 a day until he could make the necessary repairs. The Magistrate then arranged to forgo the fines in return for the owner's agreement to the demolition of the building.

In the same group, the Newport Township Authority provided the money to demolish the houses at 65-67 Laurel Street and 56



Continued from previous page

Spruce Street in Alden. The reason was that often the county grants used for the work have the requirement that the money must be used in a lower average income section of the community. In our case, that means that they often must be used in Glen Lyon.

In the seventh group, for the house at 2-4-6 Third Street in Glen Lyon, the owners could not be reached to ask their permission. The Commissioners and the NTA decided that an easier way to do the demolition would be for the NTA to buy the property in the County Repository Sale of properties with unpaid taxes. NTA could then give its permission for the demolition.

For the last group of buildings in this ongoing program, the Township announced a request for bids in March of this year. An announcement of the winning contractor is, as of this writing in mid-March, scheduled for April. In this group, the building at 51 East Main Street, Glen Lyon, formerly the Family Theater and later the CMOS building, has already been demolished by the owner. The work to be done by the Township is to clear and stabilize the area.

The Township's demolition program, judging by the number of buildings involved and the improvement made in the community's appearance and quality of life, makes this a highly successful effort. Congratulations to the Commissioners and especially to John Wilkes for this good work.

**Township Demolition Program**

The following table lists the buildings in the Township's demolition program in 8 groups, each group having been demolished in work covered by a separate contract. In the first two columns is a building's location, followed by the demolition date, cost of the work to demolish the group of buildings, the contractor that did the work, and the source of funds for the project.

Building Location Street Town	Demolition Date	Cost	Contractor	Funds Source
110 W. Main St.[1] Glen Lyon	Aug 2006	\$43,000	Bdaric Excavations	OCD
63 E. Enterprise St. Glen Lyon 10 W. Kirmar Ave. Alden 17-19 Vine St. Glen Lyon	Oct 2006	\$34,800	Shea Industries	OCD
241 W. Kirmar Ave. Wanamie 65 Ridge St. Glen Lyon 67 Ridge St. Glen Lyon 95 Newport St. Glen Lyon 592 Old Newport St. Wanamie	Mar 2007	\$53,500	Shea Industries	OCD and NTA
19-21 Arch St. Glen Lyon 65-67 Laurel St. Alden 56 Spruce St. Alden	Mar 2010	\$32,000	T. Brennan Heavy Equipment	OCD and NTA
102-104 Newport St. Glen Lyon 335 W. Main St. Glen Lyon	May 2010*	\$14,300	T. Brennan Heavy Equipment	OCD
1 Engle St.[2] Glen Lyon	Oct 2010*	\$14,000	Bdaric Excavations	OCD and NTA
2-4-6 Third St. Glen Lyon 64 E. Main St. Glen Lyon	Apr 2011	\$17,700	T. Brennan Heavy Equipment	OCD and NTA
51 E. Main St. [3] Glen Lyon 44 Coal St. Glen Lyon	Mar 2012**			

\* Date bid accepted

\*\* Date bids requested

[1] Glen Lyon VFW

[2] Engle's Factory

[3] Glen Lyon Family Theatre, CMOS Building

**MEMORIAL DAY OBSERVANCES AND EVENTS**

A Memorial Day Mass will be offered on Friday, May 25 at 8:30 AM in St. Adalbert's Cemetery Chapel.

The Newport Township Fire Department is sponsoring a three-day bazaar over Memorial Day weekend, Friday through Sunday, May 25, 26, and 27 at St. Faustina's Picnic Grounds in Sheatown.

On Monday, May 28, the Glen Lyon American Legion Post 539 will conduct services beginning at 9:30 AM at St. Michael's Cemetery, Glen Lyon. The Jeffries-Slapikas American Legion Post in Wanamie will also conduct services at cemeteries throughout the Township. All residents are invited to attend.



**FYI** In our last newsletter was an article about how Sheatown and some of its streets were named. One of our readers wrote in to inform us that Frederick Street was likely named for Fred Yatko. He and his wife Rosalie (Galli) were residents on that street. Our source also stated that Raymond Street might be named for one of the Galli boys. Many thanks!

**ELECTION DAY IS APRIL 24**

**Vote for the candidate of your choice. Every vote counts!  
Exercise your right and make your voice heard!**

**CORRECTION TO THE WINTER NEWSLETTER**

In the photo of the 1946 Glen Lyon Jewels, Ben Deluca was misidentified as "Ron" Deluca. We apologize for the error.



**Melissa Tanner**

*Director of Admissions & Marketing*

email: [mtanner@gcccenter.com](mailto:mtanner@gcccenter.com)

147 Old Newport Street  
Nanticoke, PA 18634  
(570) 735-7300, ext. 5329  
Cell: (570) 592-8698  
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## LETTER TO THE EDITORS

### DOGS IN NEWPORT TOWNSHIP

*By Bill Hourigan* ~ Newport Township currently has an ordinance in effect regarding the keeping of dogs within Newport Township. I am the owner of a dog and I am fed up with having to clean up my front yard and the alley behind my home of other dogs' feces.

The ordinance is No. 175-4 and was enacted and ordained at a regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners of the Township of Newport held on the 4th day of June, 1975.

**AN ORDINANCE REGULATING THE KEEPING OF DOGS IN THE TOWNSHIP OF NEWPORT BY PROHIBITING THEM FROM RUNNING AT LARGE: BY MAKING IT UNLAWFUL FOR DOGS TO DISTURB THE PEACE, INJURE HUMANS OR CREATE A NUISANCE AND BY PROVIDING FOR ENFORCEMENT AND PENALTIES FOR VIOLATION.**

In all, the ordinance sets forth regulations preventing owners from letting dogs run at large, disturbing the peace, causing injury to humans, causing damage or nuisance to private or public property, defecating on private property unless allowed by the owner of such property. Persons allowing dogs to defecate on public property are required to immediately remove all feces deposited by such dog and dispose of it in a sanitary manner. It also sets the number of dogs allowed to be kept at one location at four. Dogs in excess of that number may only be kept on premises for which a proper kennel license has been obtained.

Persons violating the terms of this ordinance can be fined up to three hundred dollars and related costs. Failure to pay such costs can result in imprisonment of (30) days.

PLEASE DO YOUR PART - CLEAN UP AFTER YOUR PET(S)

### Glen Lyon Crime Watch Reminder

*By Karen E. Rejician* ~ ATTENTION NEWPORT TOWNSHIP RESIDENTS RE 911!! Newport Township Police Chief Robert Impaglia is recommending that most emergency calls be made directly to 911 because it is faster, the calls are recorded for safety and liability reasons, and the 911 Center documents what time a citizen places the call, the time the police are dispatched, and the time they arrive on the scene, and the time the police clear the call. Also, names are run for warrants or suspended driver's licenses and vehicle registration information. By the time the officer is cleared from the call and arrives back at police headquarters, that information has been faxed to NTPD for their report.

It is recommended that 911 NOT be used for requests for accident reports, incident reports, general police questions or information, firework complaints, parking and abandoned vehicle complaints, and reports of stray animals.

#### **New Law Alert: No Texting While Driving**

*From the Office of State Rep. Gerald Mullery*

As of March 8, 2012, texting while driving is a primary offense in Pennsylvania. This allows a police officer to cite a driver for this violation alone. The fine is \$50.

## GLEN LYON CRIME WATCH

*By Karen E. Rejician* ~ Our police department is asked to control crime, maintain order, and provide services, from responding to emergency 911 calls to regulating the flow of traffic. On occasion, they must perform criminal investigations, quell rowdy crowds and violent offenders, and in so doing, put their lives on the line. For police officers, being on duty means being on the move. When in the field, access to information is vital to getting their job done safely. Therefore, our police department resources should not be limited.

The use of high technology equipment and applications is essential to the practice of community policing. Without high technology, officers may find it difficult to provide the level and quality of services the community deserves. Computer-aided dispatching, computers in patrol cars, automated fingerprinting systems, and online offense reporting systems should be available to the Newport Township Police Department.

With a car computer unit, police vehicles would be connected to a host of useful data such as running license information and performing background checks in order to approach a suspect safely and to issue tickets efficiently. Criminal records, statistics, and legal databases are available from secure websites. Wide-area wireless connection means you stay in touch 24/7, from wherever the job takes you. And because our police department is understaffed, the use of technology becomes even more critical.

Contributions towards the purchase of computers and wireless access would be greatly appreciated. Please help!

## A HEALING MIRACLE FOR BURNS

*Suggested by Tom Kashatus* ~ A young man sprinkling his lawn and bushes with pesticides wanted to check the contents of the barrel to see how much pesticide remained in it. He raised the cover and lit his lighter; the vapors ignited and engulfed him. He jumped from his truck, screaming. His neighbor came out of her house with a dozen eggs and a bowl yelling: "Bring me some more eggs!" She broke them, separating the whites from the yolks. Another neighbor helped her to apply the whites onto the young man's face. When the ambulance arrived and the EMTs saw the young man, they asked who had done this. Everyone pointed to the lady in charge. They congratulated her and said: "You have saved his face." By the end of the summer, the young man brought the lady a bouquet of roses to thank her. His face was like a baby's skin. This First Aid for burns is being included in teaching beginner firemen. The treatment consists of first spraying cold water on the affected area until the heat is reduced which stops the continued burning of all layers of the skin. Then, spread the egg whites onto the affected area. One woman burned a large part of her hand with boiling water. In spite of the pain, she ran cold faucet water on her hand, separated two egg whites from the yolks, beat them slightly and dipped her hand in the solution. The whites then dried and formed a protective layer. She continued for at least one hour to apply layer upon layer of beaten egg white. By the afternoon she no longer felt any pain and the next day there was hardly a trace of the burn. Ten days later, no trace was left at all and her skin had regained its normal color. The burned area was totally regenerated thanks to the collagen in the egg whites, a placenta full of vitamins.





An aerial view looking southeastward, with Nanticoke in the upper left corner of the picture, of the Newport North project located in northeastern Newport Township between Newport Centre and the Susquehanna River. Just above the project site is an impoundment filled with orange iron water known locally as “Lake Newport.”

## **RECLAMATION WORK IN NEWPORT TOWNSHIP WINS NATIONAL AWARD**

*By Paul Jarecki* ~ In 2011, the U.S. Department of the Interior, Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSM) recognized five winners of the Bureau’s awards for reclamation of abandoned mines. Awards were given for the best projects in each of OSM’s Appalachian, Mid-Continent and Western Regions; the Small Project Award and the National Award for the best project nationwide. The National Award was given to the Newport North Project, Luzerne County, Pennsylvania. The Newport North project targeted an abandoned half-acre mine pit in Newport Township that claimed the lives of six people in six years. The combined efforts of the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection Bureau of Abandoned Mine Reclamation (Wilkes-Barre District Office) for development, design and construction management and the private property owner Earth Conservancy enabled the project to reclaim 36 acres, backfill several strip pits and return 3,000 feet of dangerous high walls to its approximate original contour. Funding was provided by the OSM and access was provided by HUD and UGI Utilities, Inc. Knorr Contracting, Inc. of Bloomsburg was the contractor on the project which started on August 28, 2008 and ended on August 21, 2009 at a final cost of \$672,590.91. On April 29, 2009, an event to publicize the

“Stay Out-Stay Alive” program was held at the site where the six individuals perished. The event was attended by then Pennsylvania DEP Secretary, John Hanger, Pennsylvania State Police, state politicians, the property owner and local media. On October 10, 2011, OSM honored the award winners at an event during the National Association of Abandoned Mine Land Program’s annual conference which took place in Olympic Valley, California.

The engineer responsible for the design of the Newport North project was John Curley of the DEP Abandoned Mine Reclamation Wilkes-Barre District Office. Both he and his supervisor Mike Korb were among those responsible for supervising the management of the construction. John is a PE civil engineer, a Plymouth native and Penn State graduate. In an interview, he explained that DEP has done much work in Newport Township over the years. On file at the DEP Wilkes-Barre office is a list of 21 projects that have already been completed in Newport Township and one on the Newport/Conyngham border where the mine patch of Teasdale was located. John also said that much work is still needed in the Township. In the near future, he will be working on a reclamation project near the Newport North site where strip pits and high walls still exist. Mike Korb, who also is a PE civil engineer and manager of the PA-DEP BAMR Wilkes-Barre Office, is responsible for future reclamation projects in northeastern Pennsylvania. Mike reiterated that work will be done in the future near the Newport North site as well as on Earth Conservancy land located on the west side of Alden Mountain Road where

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strip pits need to be filled. An ongoing project is the stream relocation on Kirmar Avenue where the South Branch of Newport Creek crosses the road. Mike stated that much credit should be given to the land owners in these reclamation projects and in Newport Township the land owner, Earth Conservancy, has been very helpful. Because of its large tracks of open abandoned mine land and old strip mine roads, Newport Township is a popular place for the growing number of people who enjoy off-track driving. However, the public should be aware that these areas are still filled with many open pits and high walls which can make this sport very dangerous in Newport Township and other similar locations.



To the left is a picture of dangerous high wall about 70 feet high that was remediated during the project at the Newport North Project site. Above is an aerial photograph of the site looking northwest. The Susquehanna River would be located to the top left of the picture while Newport Centre would be located to the bottom right of the picture. Notice the abandoned roads, high walls and strip pits in the center and bottom of the picture. It is here that more reclamation work still needs to be done. The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection Bureau of Abandoned Mines has already targeted this area for future work, possibly in 2012.

**Conservation + Restoration = Recreation**

I think the environment should be put in the category of our national security. Defense of our resources is just as important as defense abroad. Otherwise what is there to defend? ~ Robert Redford, Yosemite National Park Dedication, 1985.





It is not uncommon to find pieces of anthracite coal throughout areas of Newport Township. This one was picked up while hiking the Penobscot Trail near Wanamie. When people encounter these remnants of the past during an outing, few realize the history of this shiny rock or why it was referred to as the “black diamond.”

**“Coal is like character-the deeper you go into it, the more interesting it becomes.” ~ David White, noted Geologist**

## **Coal : Its History and Influence in Northeastern Pennsylvania**

*by Paul Jarecki* ~ Coal can be defined as a rock composed of the altered and compressed remains of plant material. It is formed when plants are subjected to great pressure under anaerobic (oxygen-free) conditions. Plants use energy from sunlight and carbon dioxide from the air to form complex carbohydrate molecules which are the building blocks for growth. Leaves, wood from branches, roots, stems, etc. are all made up of complex carbohydrates. Energy is stored in carbohydrate molecules in the form of chemical bonds. This stored energy is the force which keeps these large molecules together and can be released through combustion. Combustion can occur either slowly and naturally through decomposition or it can occur quickly during burning when a high temperature (for example a flame) initiates a rapid energy release. Energy is released when the chemical bonds of the complex carbohydrates are broken and simpler compounds (carbon dioxide, carbon monoxide) are again formed. In order for combustion to occur, oxygen is needed. When plants or other organic matter accumulate in an oxygen free environment and are subjected to great pressure, the energy is trapped and concentrated. Oil, gas, and coal are all examples of this form of concentrated energy.

How mineable coal deposits turned up in the subsurface of Pennsylvania is very complicated. It involves huge geological changes which occurred many years ago. During the early Carboniferous Period (about 350 million years ago), the world was a very different place than it is today. Pennsylvania was located near the equator. It was a flat land of lush swampy forests and its climate was tropical or ‘ever-wet,’ meaning constant

rainfall. The area was covered with giant trees and ferns up to one hundred feet high with very large leaves. Over many years the trees and ferns died and organic matter accumulated in the bottom of the swamp where it began to decompose. The decomposing, however, would never be completed because the stagnant water of the swamp was low in oxygen. Over time, these swamps became filled with partially decomposed organic matter called peat. When the seas rose, warm sea water deposited sand and mud on the peat and buried it. These areas experienced cyclical periods of subsidence and reemergence. As the decomposing peat was buried deeper and deeper, its weight caused an increase in pressure. The porosity (the measurement of the amount of space between particles) of the peat got tighter and carbon dioxide, oxygen and water were squeezed out. In addition, chemical reactions occurred to form more bonds between the complex carbohydrates. The result of these processes, called coalification, is the hard, black carbon-rich material we call coal. The deeper the coal was buried, the more water and volatile components were extruded and the greater the carbon content became. As carbon content increases, coal becomes harder and the potential energy it contains increases. Because coal beds were subjected to varying conditions of temperature and pressure, coal with different degrees of hardness were produced in different areas. “Soft” coal is called bituminous and has a carbon content of 45-80%. “Hard” coal is called anthracite and has a carbon content of 80-96%. The word coal is of Indo-European origin and means “to glow.”

In the late Carboniferous Period (about 300 million years ago), the continents of North America, South America and Europe began to move and eventually collided forming the supercontinent Pangaea. This collision produced the powerful upheavals which formed the Appalachian Mountains, the oldest mountains on earth. In their infancy, the Appalachian Mountains reached the enormous heights of 15,000 to 23,000 feet. These new mountains buried the forming coal to great depths and subjected it to great pressure under increasingly high temperatures. Later during the Permian Period (about 300 to 250 million years ago), great mountain folding called the Appalachian Revolution occurred. Vast interior crumpling caused much stress to be placed on the huge masses of subterranean rock. As parts of the earth buckled, cracked and faulted, other parts were uplifted. The mountains literally folded over, split open and rock and coal formations were thrust up from deep inside the earth and in some areas were lifted above the more recent sedimentary rock deposits. Coal in some areas was now close enough to the surface to be mined. In addition, ice and water carved steep ridges and gouged out deep valleys and ravines. The current Appalachian Mountains are an erosional remnant of the mountains that were formed millions of years ago. They are a pale comparison to their rugged ancestors. In some regions, the extra pressure from this upheaval yielded coal that was harder and of higher carbon content than other types of coal. This coal is anthracite. One of the regions where anthracite was formed is Northeastern Pennsylvania.

In the 1790s, an industrial revolution took place in America with a transition from a manual-labor, draft-animal-based economy to a machine-based manufacturing economy. It was now possible to manufacture all kinds of industrial and domestic goods in large quantities. Almost every aspect of daily life was influenced in some way. Most notably, population and average income began to exhibit unprecedented growth. The need for a high quality fuel source to drive the new machines grew in leaps and bounds. There simply were not enough forests to supply wood to power the hungry factories. Coal has a higher energy content than wood and when it was



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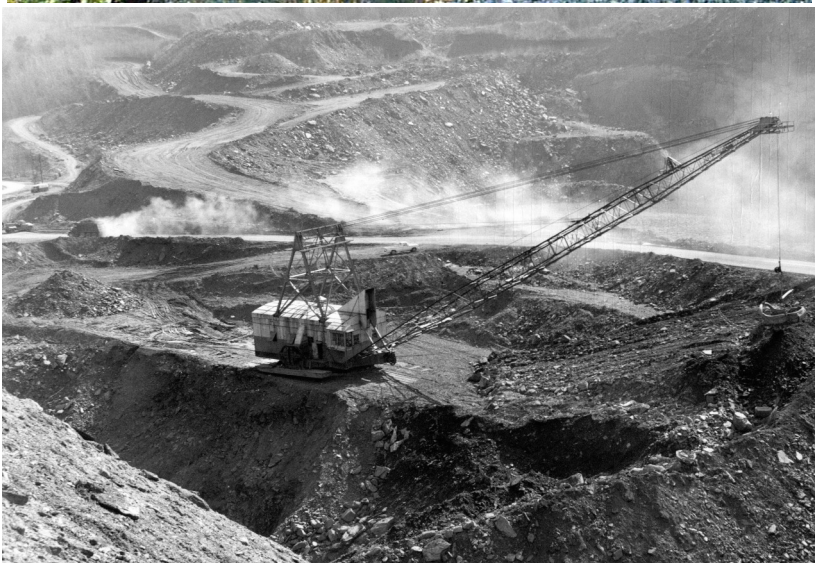
discovered how to harness its energy in the early 1800's, coal became very important as a high quality fuel. The demand for coal increased as the industrial revolution expanded. With the invention of the improved steam engine which provided the powerful lifting, drawing and pumping necessary for large scale mining, coal became a major industry. Pennsylvania had lots of coal beneath its surface and in Northeastern Pennsylvania a very rare and valuable type of coal, anthracite, was discovered. Anthracite accounts for less than half a percent of overall U.S. production and just 1.5 percent of demonstrated reserves. No wonder it was once called "black diamond!" Today over 95% of the Western Hemisphere's supply of anthracite comes from four coal fields in the northeastern Pennsylvania anthracite region which is the largest in the world. Anthracite is valuable because it burns cleaner and longer than other coals. Not only could anthracite drive engines efficiently in the workplace to make goods but it also became very popular for residential use in heating homes. The demand for anthracite peaked in 1917 when 100 million tons were produced. The demand for anthracite coal spurred an explosion of coal mining activity in Northeastern Pennsylvania and boom towns sprang up everywhere anthracite was discovered. Newport Township is located in the Northern Anthracite Coal Field and had huge quantities of anthracite. It soon became a hotbed of mining activity. In 1868, the Newport Coal Company was running a breaker in Wanamie. By 1875, the company's collieries employed 821 workers and produced 147,000 tons of coal a year. Alden Shaft Number 1 was begun in 1881 and within 3 years was shipping over 100,000 tons of coal per year. By the turn of the century, the breaker was processing 250,000 tons per year and employed more than 600 workers. The Glen Lyon Number Six Colliery began shipping coal in 1885. When it reached full stride, it was shipping over 400,000 tons of coal per year and employed 1,100 workers. To put the amount of coal in perspective, 400,000 tons equals 89,600,000 pounds.

Coal powered the vast industrial revolution which began in the 1790s and experienced a great expansion in production following the Civil War. Pennsylvania's great reserves of high-quality coal were directly responsible for the development of its iron and steel, chemical, glass and metal-fabricating industries. Much of the railroad network in Pennsylvania was specifically constructed to transport coal. Demand for coal peaked in America in 1918 when an astounding 277 million tons was produced. World War I was at its height and American industry was straining every muscle to win it. Virtually everything that required power ran on coal. Then came the Great Depression of the 1930s and American industry declined. Demand for coal fell off, therefore production declined. In 1944 during World War II, coal production again peaked at almost 209 million tons but declined steadily thereafter due to the end of the war and the emergence of cheaper and cleaner fuels, most notably oil and natural gas. Output in 2004 totaled only 75 million tons.



GOLDIE & JAKE, 1928

JOHN "GOLDIE" GOLIASH DRIVING  
A COAL CAR IN THE GLEN LYON MINE



**Top picture: Deep mining at #6 shaft in Glen Lyon, 1928**

**Middle picture : Operations at #6 breaker in Glen Lyon, 1965**

**Bottom picture: Strip mining operations in Wanamie, 1973**

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Coal in Pennsylvania, Educational Series 7, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources Coal Formation and Timeline, Saint Vincent College Environmental Education Center

[www.wou.edu/las/physci/GS361/Fossil%20fuels/Coal.htm](http://www.wou.edu/las/physci/GS361/Fossil%20fuels/Coal.htm)  
[www.mnn.com/earth-matters](http://www.mnn.com/earth-matters)

T. Izbicki, *Newport Township 1807-1900: A Study of the Transformation of an Agricultural Community into a Mining Community*

Thanks to John Mellow, hydrogeologist extraordinary, for his comments.





bronze medals as members of the 1992 USA Olympic team. Joe captured his 600<sup>th</sup> career win on January 25, 2004, which made him the fifth fastest coach in Division I women's basketball history to reach the milestone. He also served as assistant athletic director at Auburn and had administrative responsibility for seven women's sports programs.

Joe is the 1989 recipient of Mansfield's Alumni Citation Award. It is given annually to a member of the alumni who has made outstanding contributions to society through professional, civic, and philanthropic work.

In recent years, organized women's basketball has seen an explosion of growth on all levels, AAU youth, high school, NCAA, and professional. The popularity of the WNBA, the world's longest-running women's professional sports league, has grown along with this explosion. In 2011, the WNBA regular-season and playoff games were broadcast on ESPN2, ABC and NBC TV. Under Coach Meadors, the Atlanta Dream has become one of the most successful franchises in

## Joe Ciampi, Glen Lyon Native and Outstanding Newport Township High School Athlete, Accepts New Coaching Position

*By Heidi and Paul Jarecki* ~ The Atlanta Dream, a franchise in the Women's National Basketball Association or WNBA, announced on January 11, 2012 that Joseph Ciampi has been hired as an assistant coach under Head Coach and General Manager Marynell Meadors. Joe graduated from Newport Township High School in 1964 and starred in baseball, basketball and football. At that time, Jim Davis was head basketball coach at Newport. Joe then attended Mansfield State University and played basketball one year. He graduated with a degree in elementary education in 1968. After coaching high school basketball for nine years at Nanticoke Area and in New York State, he began his collegiate coaching career in 1979 as head coach of the U.S Military Academy's women's team at West Point. In 27 years as coach at the U.S. Military Academy and later at Auburn University he posted an overall record of 607-213. He is a member of the Women's Basketball Hall of Fame and the Alabama Sports Hall of Fame. On the collegiate level, he received both National Coach of the Year (1987, 1989, 1993) and SEC Coach of the Year (1985, 1988, 1989) honors three times. In 25 seasons at Auburn University, he guided the Lady Tigers to 16 NCAA appearances and three consecutive trips to the national championship games in 1988, 1989 and 1990. He led Auburn to the 2003 Women's National Invitational Tournament championship, four Southeastern Conference regular season titles (1981, 1987, 1988, 1989) and four SEC Tournament titles (1981, 1987, 1990, 1997). Seven of his players received Kodak All-American honors. In addition, Joe coached players who excelled on the Olympic level. Ruthie Bolton won a gold medal as a member of the 1996 and 2000 USA Olympic teams while Carolyn Jones and Vickie Orr won

the WNBA with a playoff appearance in 2009, a trip to the WNBA finals in 2010 where they lost to the Seattle Storm in three games and a trip to the finals again in 2011 where they lost to the Minnesota Lynx in three games.

At the announcement of Joe's hiring, Head Coach Marynell said, "I am really excited to add someone of Joe's caliber and experience to our staff. Joe has a winning legacy and he has coached some tremendous teams. His value is not only as a strategist but also in the rapport he establishes with his players. Joe loves to teach the game and I think that his success is a reflection of that passion." The Dream is the defending two-time, back-to-back Eastern Conference Champion. The Atlanta Dream tips off its fifth season in May at the Philips Area in Atlanta. The team travels to New York City twice in June to take on the Liberty. Check out the website at: [www.wnba.com/dream/index\\_main.html](http://www.wnba.com/dream/index_main.html)

Joe is the son of the late Joe and Helen Najaka Ciampi of Glen Lyon. He and his wife Lauren are the parents of four daughters: Lisa, Dawne, Kelli and Meghan. At last count, they have five grandchildren. The NTCO wishes him great success in his new endeavor.

### WISDOM FROM THE COACHES

"There are really only two plays: Romeo and Juliet, and put the darn ball in the basket." ~ Abe Lemons, coach from 1955-1982 at Oklahoma City, Pan American, and University of Texas

"We have a great bunch of outside shooters. Unfortunately, all our games are played indoors." ~ Weldon Drew, coach from 1979-1985 at New Mexico State University

"The secret is to have eight great players and four others who will cheer like crazy." ~ Jerry "Tark the Shark" Tarkanian, coach from 1968-2002 at Long Beach State, UNLV and Fresno State Universities



# TASTE OF THE TOWNSHIP



Happy cooks are good cooks. From left to right: Heidi Jarecki, Helen Klish, Diane Vishnefski, Elaine DeLuca, Mary Ann Murphy and Katie Pettit.



THE FINISHED PRODUCT



Putting prune filling into flattened dough



## Pączki

By Heidi Jarecki ~ A pączki (poonch-kie) is dough shaped into a sphere that has a sweet filling, usually prune, in the center, deep-fried, and then sprinkled with powdered sugar. Pączki have been made in Poland since the Middle Ages and were eaten especially on the day before Ash Wednesday. These pastries have become popular in the United States as a result of the culinary talent of Polish immigrants. This recipe has been used by the Altar and Rosary Society of St. Adalbert's Church in Glen Lyon for years. The Tarnowski sisters and guests recently gathered one Sunday afternoon to test their cooking skills. The lard used for this recipe was rendered from organic pork fat purchased at Fork's Farm.

### Filling:

3 lbs. prunes, pitted and diced. Combine with 2 1/4 cups water, 1/4 cup sugar and the juice of half a lemon. Simmer on low heat for 15 minutes or until prunes are soft. Let cool.

### Dough:

Combine 1 quart milk, 1 large cake of yeast, 1 cup of sugar. Let stand one hour.

Beat 12 eggs and add to mixture. Then add: 1 tbs. salt, 1 cup sugar, 1 shot glass of rum (the rum prevents the absorption of oil deep into the dough), 2 tsp. vanilla, grated whole orange, 1 cup melted butter and 6 lbs. of flour + more as needed. Work (knead) for 10 minutes. Grease large bowl with lard or Crisco, place the dough in it and cover with floured cloth. Place in warm area and let rise until twice its size.

Grease hands and section dough into the size of a large lemon. Gently flatten dough into a pancake. Place a heaping teaspoon of filling in the center and pull edges of dough up and seal with fingers. Shape into balls.

Place balls on floured cloth and cover with top cloth. Let rise until twice their size (about 1/2 hour)

Empty two large cans of Crisco (lard is better) into a heavy pot deep enough to allow the pączki to float while frying. Heat the melted shortening to about 312 degrees, just hot enough to have dough bubble when dropped in. Cook slowly, about 6 minutes on each side. When brown on both sides, remove and place on brown paper and allow to cool. Sprinkle with powdered sugar if desired. Makes 6 dozen.

(Editors' note: Taste of the Township is a new feature. We encourage our readers to submit a favorite family or ethnic recipe and any anecdotes related to it. Bon Appetit!)



The lard must be between 290 and 340 degrees hot.

Oh, so true....

If God had intended us to follow recipes, He wouldn't have given us grandmothers. ~ Linda Henley



## NTCO SEEKS SPONSORS AND VOLUNTEERS FOR THE EIGHTH ANNUAL CLEANUP EVENT

By Palmira Gregory Miller, Event Coordinator ~The Newport Township Community Organization kicks off the 2012 Great American Cleanup by bringing awareness to the environment and reminding our residents that “[Green Starts Here](#)”. This is a statewide cleanup campaign involving local and state government, businesses, waste haulers, and environmental and civic groups. The PA Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and the Department of Transportation (PennDOT), in cooperation with Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful, Inc., are among the sponsors of the Great American Cleanup of Pennsylvania.

You can join Pennsylvanians across the state and Americans across the nation in cleaning up litter and trash along our roadsides, streams, parks, forests and neighborhoods. Individuals, scouting groups, 4H groups, church groups, environmental clubs, businesses, college and university clubs and high school students are invited to be part of this effort.

Join the Newport Township Community Pride Event, Saturday, April 28th. Volunteers of all ages will gather at the municipal parking lot in Wanamie at 8 am. The NTCO will provide gloves, trash bags and vests, teams will be assigned, and safety instructions reviewed before teams head out for a roadside cleanup from Lee to Sheatown. Afterwards, volunteers will enjoy refreshments at the Township Municipal Building.

The Big Junk Drop Off begins on Friday, April 20th at 9 am ending on Tuesday, April 24th at 12 pm (noon). Dumpsters will be placed at the entrance of St. Nicholas Cemetery, across from the Compost Center near Glen Lyon. This event makes it convenient for Township residents to rid their properties and neighborhoods of unsightly debris. Last year eleven (11) illegal dumpsites were eradicated. Many residents removed unsightly debris in and around their properties for a safer and cleaner environment.

Township residents are reminded that they can put out one large item with the first garbage pickup each month.

Your support is needed to run this program. We depend on VOLUNTEERS and in-kind donations from area sponsors. Volunteers with trucks are needed to transport debris from derelict sites to the dumpsters. Also needed are volunteers to pre-

pare refreshments. Those with cars can take pictures, transport people as needed, and distribute supplies to road cleanup crews.

Please check [www.newporttownship.com](http://www.newporttownship.com) for updates, [www.givegab.com](http://www.givegab.com) for volunteer opportunities, and [www.gacofpa.org](http://www.gacofpa.org) for cleanup events throughout Pennsylvania.

You can do your part by cleaning up your own back yard and around your neighborhood. Ideally, we shouldn't have to pick litter up at all. But if we each pick up a piece of litter each day while walking down the street, hiking along a stream or in the woods, fishing, boating, playing in the park or anywhere else, Pennsylvania will be clean and beautiful!

Know that beautiful communities are not only nice to look at, but they are also economically vibrant places where people want to live, work, shop and play. It's up to everyone to make it possible and improve the overall quality of life. The Newport Township Community Organization along with the Great American Cleanup provides the means to do just that. Communities that are clean and cared for also help deter crime and keep our streets and neighborhoods safe.

### Schedule for the Big Junk Drop Off

Beginning Friday, April 20<sup>th</sup> ending Tuesday, April 24<sup>th</sup>  
9 am to 3 pm - Friday, Saturday, & Monday  
11 am to 3 pm - Sunday  
9 am to 12 pm - Tuesday

### The Newport Community Pride Event

Date: Saturday, April 28th  
Place: Municipal Parking Lot, Wanamie  
Time: 8 am to 12 pm  
Goal: Litter Cleanup from Lee to Sheatown

Join us for refreshments in the Municipal Building following this Event.

Call Palmira 736-6637 or Tom 736-6981 for more information.

The picture below shows volunteers who turned out for the 2010 Community Pride Event held in Newport Township. We are counting on YOU for the upcoming 2012 event. Won't you please help?





**Mother Theresa Haven** ~ During the week of January 30th through February 5th, meals, shelter and comfort were given to 25 homeless men from Mother Theresa Haven (formerly Vision Program) at St. Adalbert's Church in Glen Lyon. Volunteers from the Holy Spirit Altar & Rosary Society, the NTCO, and other groups participated. Vicky Frace helped coordinate the event.



Preparing dinner in the kitchen at St. Adalbert's Church are Theresa Van Dyke, Eric Van Dyke, Mary Margaret Kashatus and Linda Conner.



Serving the food are Karen Rejician, Linda Conner, Linda Hourigan, Heidi Jarecki and Sharon Julius.



**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS  
FREE THROW CHAMPIONSHIP**

The Sacred Heart Council 10676 Knights of Columbus, Glen Lyon sponsored a basketball free throw competition at Nanticoke High School in January 2012. The winner was Haileigh Hendricks, with Alyssa Lewis finishing second. Haileigh has the opportunity to advance to the District competition in the Knights of Columbus state-wide event.

From left first row: Mike Frantz, Deputy Grand Knight; Haileigh Hendricks; Alyssa Lewis.


Second row: Rich Laury; Joe Simone, Grand Knight; Henry Turchanik, Treasurer; Peter Zaleski, Advocate; Kevin Luksh, Youth Program Director.

**LITTLE LEAGUE IN NEWPORT**

Opening Day festivities will take place Saturday, April 21 beginning with a parade through the Township, followed by ceremonies at the field in Wanamie and then games will commence. The field is now called Hillan Field, in honor of Phoebe and the late Joe Hillan for their many years of dedicated service. During ceremonies, the memory of the late Russell Sager will also be honored. Newport Little League has joined forces with Nanticoke Area and has assumed that name. **PLAY BALL!**

**DANCIN' AND SINGIN' IN THE RAIN**

Do all you can with what you have, in the time you have, in the place you are. ~ Nkosi Johnson, a Zulu boy born into dire poverty while also being infected with AIDS, who died at age 12. Quoted in Jim Wooten's book: *We Are All the Same: A Story of a Boy's Courage and a Mother's Love.*

Life is not about waiting for the storms to pass...it's about learning how to dance in the rain. ~ Vivian Green 





**Knights of Columbus Lenten Fish Fry** was held on Friday February 24, and again on Friday, March 30 at their hall in Glen Lyon. Throughout its history, the Knights of Columbus has been an advocate and defender of civil and religious rights for all. The organization has contributed billions of dollars and millions of hours of volunteer service to charity. The Knights have service programs throughout the country that help local churches and youth programs such as substance abuse awareness programs, essay contests and scholarship competitions.







**Confirmation at Holy Spirit Parish**

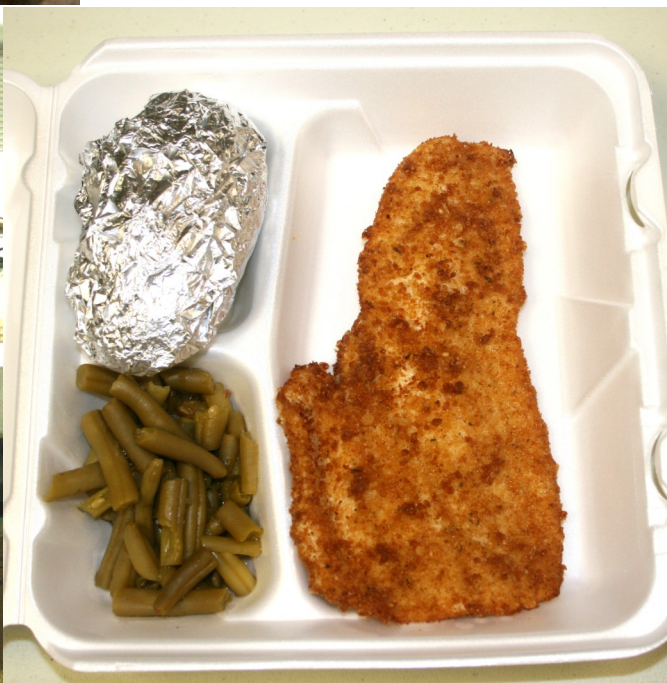
On March 1, the Most Reverend Bishop Joseph C. Bambera, D.D., J.C.L. (pictured above) of the Diocese of Scranton came to St. Adalbert's Church to administer the sacrament of Confirmation. The picture on the top left shows the Bishop addressing the Confirmation class of 2012. The picture on the immediate left shows the Bishop celebrating Mass with Rev. Anthony Generose, Pastor, Rev. Thumma Savari, Parochial Vicar, and distinguished guests.



**Fish Dinner on March 16**

**St. Adalbert's Church, Holy Spirit Parish**

In the pictures below, (on the left) members and friends of St. Adalbert's Altar and Rosary Society are shown preparing the fish dinners (on the right) at the church hall.

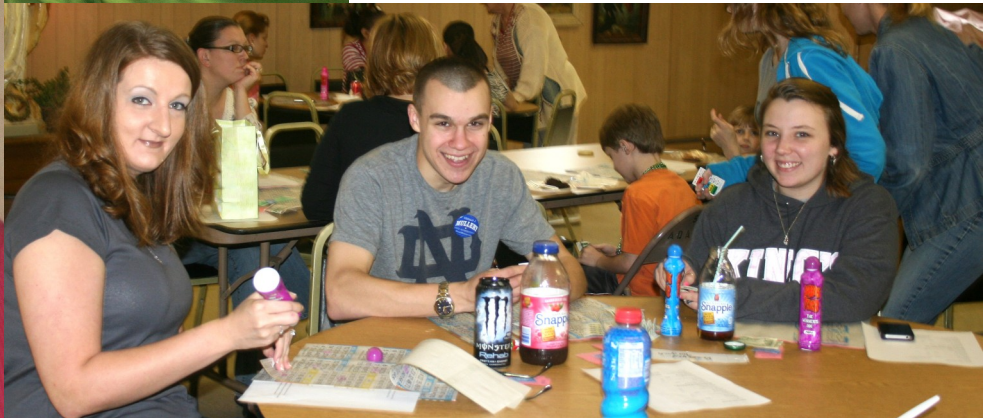






**SPRING HAM BINGO SPONSORED BY WOMEN'S ACTIVITY GROUP**

On March 18, the Newport Township Women's Activity Group held a Spring Ham Bingo in St. Adalbert's Church Hall, Glen Lyon. Refreshments were available, as well as a Chinese auction and bake sale. The winners "hammed" it up and a good time was had by all!





**St. Nicholas Ukrainian Church, Glen Lyon  
Halushki, Vegetable Soup and Bake Sale, Friday March 30**



Kitchen helpers include: Debbie Fudjak, Agatha Chabon, Ted Chabon, Karen Phair, Jane Kmietowicz, Ann Louise Cragle, Max Humen, Eugenia Humen, Mary Ann Koflanovich, Rose Koflanovich, Tillie Stapert, Theresa Truchon, and Harry Truchon. Also, many bakers contributed cakes, pies, tarts, and bread for the bake sale. Thanks to all who supported this event.



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**EASTER EGG HUNT  
NEWPORT TOWNSHIP WOMEN'S ACTIVITY GROUP**



The Newport Township Women's Activity Group held an Easter Egg Hunt on March 31 at the Wanamie Recreation Park. Guest of honor, the Easter Bunny, arrived on the Fire Truck.




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**Lions Clubs International**

**NEWPORT TWP. LIONS CLUB BROOM SALE**  
 The Newport Township Lions Club will hold their annual broom sale the last week of May in Sheatown at the Coal Car near the Turkey Hill convenience store.





## How Alden and Newport Township Got Their Names

By Heidi Jarecki ~ Alden (pictured above) takes its name from Prince Alden who was born in Lebanon, Connecticut on October 23, 1718. (“Prince” was his given name and he had no known royal ties.) In 1746 he married Mary Fitch and they had nine children. Mary was the oldest, born the following year, and the youngest, Daniel, was born in 1772. Prince Alden fought in the French and Indian War which raged from 1756 to 1763. The French and Indian War was part of the Seven Years War, a larger European conflict over colonies in the Americas involving France, Austria, Great Britain, Prussia and Sweden. The French had been threatening to take over the Caribbean and elsewhere, and partnered with Native American tribes to drive the British out of North America. Prince Alden felt obliged to defend the British Empire and enlisted in the Connecticut militia during this conflict. He started as a quartermaster, responsible for assigning quarters, clothing and equipment to troops, and gained the rank of captain. He was wounded in the leg during one of the Fort Ticonderoga campaigns in New York State.

How Prince Alden came to Newport Township begins in 1662. That year, King Charles II of Great Britain granted a charter to the Connecticut colony which included land “running from East to West...from the Said Norrogancett (Narragansett) Bay on the East to the South Sea on the West part.... Together with all firme lands.” This area ran beyond the Hudson River directly into Pennsylvania.

There was a dramatic population increase in the American colonies from 250,000 in 1700 to 1.25 million by 1750. Connecticut had more population than farm land and this prompted some residents to test the legality of the charter. The Susquehanna Company was formed in July, 1753 in Windham, CT and the following year, secured a “dubious deed” to a large tract of land along the Susquehanna River from Native American tribes. This tract of land amounted to about one-third of Pennsylvania. Plans were made to divide the territory into townships, each five miles square. Prince Alden became a member of the Susquehanna Company in 1761 when he purchased a “right” from an agent.

Forty settlers (men) and their families were assigned to each township. Initially there were five townships in what was then called Westmoreland County, CT and they were given the names Plymouth, Kingston, Hanover, Wilkes-Barre, and Pittston. In 1769, Prince Alden along with others arrived in

the area to help survey the five townships. However, they found that the land was already occupied by settlers from the Pennsylvania Colony. To put it simply, King Charles had granted charters to both Connecticut and Pennsylvania at different times. The Connecticut Charter was granted in 1662 and the Pennsylvania Charter was granted in 1681. Neither Connecticut nor Pennsylvania wanted to

give up their claims and the first of two conflicts called the Yankee-Pennamite Wars broke out in 1769 and lasted until the American Revolution (1775-1783). The second war began in 1784 and lasted two years.

Prince Alden went back to Connecticut when the first Pennamite War broke out and in 1772, returned to Pennsylvania. There are reports that he settled in what became Newport Township on what was later the property of Washington Lee. In 1773, six more townships were established by the Susquehanna Company: New Providence, Parkbury, Salem, Westminster, Huntington and Newport. Prince Alden was chosen as an agent. In 1774, the Susquehanna Company confirmed Newport Township, the name borrowed from Newport, R.I., the home of several shareholders. The Revolutionary War broke out in 1775. Three years later, bog iron was discovered near Newport Creek. Bog iron was used in tools, wrought iron rails, and cannonballs. Prince Alden’s sons John and Mason erected a forge with one hammer and one fire. The ore was of superior quality and the Aldens sold it as high as \$120.00 a ton. They also put up a gristmill near Nanticoke Falls.

The Aldens left the area in 1778 and returned to Plymouth Township during the winter of 1780-81. In 1782 a Continental Congress court of arbitration decided to grant the land in favor of Pennsylvania, but the Connecticut settlers refused to leave. In 1783, several Yankee residents were imprisoned by the Pennamite Colonel Patterson. Prince Alden was among them. He was released after a short incarceration. The Second Yankee-Pennamite War (1784-1786) ensued. Finally, through the Compromise Act of 1799, the Pennsylvania legislature secured a means of settlement with the Connecticut claimants.

Originally Newport Township included Slocum, Dorrance, Hollenback, Conyngham and Nescopock Townships, as well as one-third of what is now Nanticoke. The first recorded information is dated June 13, 1787 as follows: “At a meeting legally warned and held at the house of Prince Alden, Saturday, June 9, 1787, made choice of Mr. Prince Alden, moderator, and Mason F. Alden, clerk. Resolved the survey of this town(ship) was utterly lost at the destruction of this settlement, it is, therefore, resolved that a committee of three persons be appointed to carefully inspect and ascertain the proprietors and actual settlers of the town(ship) of Newport...” Members of the committee were Prince Alden, Capt. John P. Schott and Mason F. Alden. They were also to “allot out the third division of 300 acres lots, to each proprietor.”

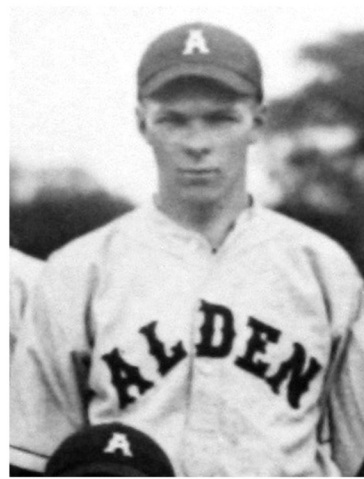
A few years later, Mary Alden died. Prince and his son Mason sold their Susquehanna holdings in 1793 and moved to Wyoming County. Prince Alden died on May 22, 1804 at age 85.

(Many thanks to Tom Izbicki, The Bicentennial History of Nanticoke, and various websites)

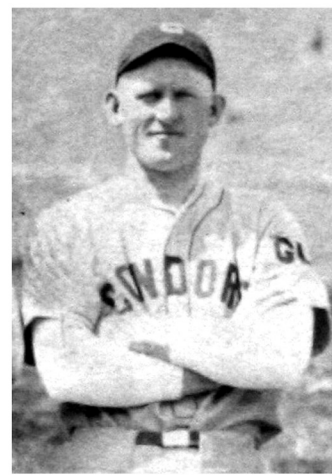




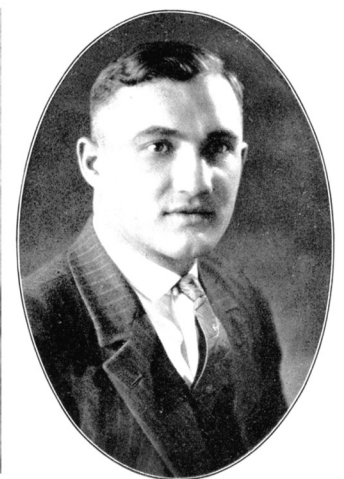
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## The Alden Stars and the 1929 Record League Baseball Championship

by Paul and Heidi Jarecki ~ In the early 1900's, northeastern Pennsylvania was a frenzy of amateur and professional baseball activity. There were many organized leagues, each filled by teams from towns and communities throughout Luzerne County. Newport Township was no exception and produced many outstanding teams. Large enthusiastic crowds attended many of these games whose outcomes were well covered by all the local newspapers.

In 1929, the Glen Lyon Condors were in the Record League along with the Nanticoke Eagles, East Hill Barons, Ashley, Brookside, and the Heights Starlings. By the seventh week of the pennant chase, the Glen Lyon Condors took the lead with a 6-0 record and Nanticoke was close behind at 5-1. Then two important changes occurred. The Alden Stars applied for and were accepted into the Record League circuit. They took the franchise left by the vacated Heights team and inherited their 1-4 record. The Brookside team was taken over by a new manager, Pete Konnick, who replaced the entire team with new and much better players. They inherited a 0-5 record. Alden, formerly in the Penn League, was recognized as one of the strongest amateur baseball teams in the county and the new revised Brookside team was considered even stronger than Alden. With the addition of this stiffer competition, new life was injected into the race for the Record League flag.

At the end of the regular season, the four top teams would play a best-of-three-game series to determine the champion. In spite of the disadvantage of inheriting losing records, Alden and Brookside secured third and fourth places at the end of the regular season with their excellent play and the pennant series was set. Glen Lyon, the first place team would play third place Alden and Nanticoke, the second place team would play fourth place Brookside. The most intriguing matchup by far was the Glen Lyon Condors and the Alden Stars series. The communities of Alden and Glen Lyon were both in Newport Township and were separated by only a few miles. Just their close proximity and familiarity with each other made them natural rivals but the high quality of the teams, the competitiveness of the players and many old grudges intensified the rivalry to a fever pitch. The games were played before large, boisterous crowds in an electric atmosphere.

In game one, Alden got the jump on Glen Lyon by getting to Bart, the Condors starting pitcher, for seven runs. Bart was

replaced by left hander Mike Sweeney. Sweeney's pitching was superb. He fanned eleven Alden batters, getting every man on the team, but Alden gave their pitcher, Stanley "Dick" Mrus, sensational support in the pinches to keep them out in front. In the first inning, Mrus contributed a grand slam home run and then scattered the Glen Lyon hits to protect the lead. Wadas came through with a double with two on and the Alden Stars nosed out a sensational 7 to 4 victory over Glen Lyon before a howling mob on the Alden field. Because of the rising tension, both teams were urged to obtain sufficient police protection for the remaining games.

In game two, Dick Mrus of the Stars opposed the young promising southpaw Mike Sweeney. Before a huge crowd of 3,000 fans at Glen Lyon, Sweeney held Alden to two hits and fanned eight batters as the Condors escaped elimination with a 5 to 3 victory. After several innings, Mrus was unable to take the mound for Alden and Glen Lyon bunched hits off Benson to take the lead and retain it. Second baseman Foxy Magaleski played great on defense while Simon Mack, Kovaleski and J. Turner starred at bat. The series was tied at one game apiece.

Prior to the final game, the team managers met to decide the game's location. After much wrangling and other evidences of an intense rivalry, a coin toss determined that the deciding game would be played at Alden. Judging by the haggling that was done that night, it is evident that this was more than just your everyday average rivalry between these two Newport Township teams.

The game's starting pitchers were named, Dick Mrus for Alden and Mike Sweeney, the Glen Lyon southpaw. Arch Turner caught for Alden and other players included Lustig at first base; Swanberry on second; Shunda, shortstop; Wadas, third base; with Paddock, Rudowsky and Poremba in the outfield. Utility players for Alden included Benson, Wamby, Augustine and Mike and John Dydo. Glen Lyon had Simon Mack catching and pitcher Bart in reserve; Chester Rogowicz who was also manager, at first; Foxy Magaleski on second; "Quack" Kolakowski at shortstop, and J. Turner at third. Kowalski, Schang and Kishel played outfield, with Shelly Lavulis, Charlie Wright, Chester Mack, Zev and Hudak in reserve. A crowd of more than 4,000 fans at the Alden field took in a slugging contest in which neither of the starting pitchers finished.

Glen Lyon opened the scoring on an error, and a single to center by Simon Mack. Alden came back with 6 tallies in the bottom half of the inning. Shunda's walk, Lustig's sacrifice, singles by



Continued from previous page

Paddock, Turner and Wadas, a perfect bunt by Rudowski and a double by Mrus pushed over five runs. Mrus then scored while Swanberry was tossed out at first. In the second inning, Glen Lyon's Chet Rogowicz advanced to second on an error and scored on Sweeney's single. Glen Lyon added two runs in the third on an error and doubles by Ternoski and Rogowicz. Alden chalked up four more runs in the bottom of the third. An error, a walk, doubles by Poremba and Lustig and a single by Paddock produced those runs and drove Sweeney off the mound. Hudak replaced Sweeney but did not finish the inning. Bart then took the mound for Glen Lyon and held Alden to one run on three hits for the rest of the game. That run came in the sixth, on two walks and a single by Lustig. Mrus, the pitcher for Alden, lasted until the eighth, when he was relieved by Benson. The final score was Alden 11 and Glen Lyon 7. Alden had qualified for the championship series of the Record League.

To Township fans, this series between the Condors and the Stars was every bit like a World Series, with cars strung along the streets, alleys and nearby fields. The trolley company of Wanamie was compelled to run four special cars to accommodate the Glen Lyon fans who were "held in excellent order" by Newport police.

For the championship series, Alden would face powerful Brookside which had swept the Nanticoke Eagles 10-8 and 5-4. In game one at Hollenback Park in Wilkes-Barre, Arch Turner's home run with Hodick on base enabled Alden to take the opening game 3 to 2. Mrus went the distance at pitcher. The attendance was 1,400 and the Alden fans celebrated long and loud by carrying their star slugger Turner off the field. In game two played in Alden, Lustig's screaming double in the 10<sup>th</sup> with Wamby on second gave the Newport team an 8-7 victory. Arch Turner led the winners with 4 hits in 5 trips to the plate. Mrus pitched into the 5<sup>th</sup> and then Benson took over and held Brookside to one hit for the balance of the game. A crowd of about 2,500 was in attendance. The Alden Stars were champions of the Record League and, perhaps more importantly, of Newport Township.

#### LOCAL BASEBALL IN THE 1920'S

"Sunday afternoon baseball was a ritual in the anthracite region. After morning church services, people walked home to eat dinner and then slowly made their way to the nearest diamond to watch the local league teams play. Players arrived at 12:30 p.m. to drag the dirt infield. Pepper games, batting practice and quick infield warm-ups followed. The game was under way by 2 p.m."~ William C. Kashatus *Diamonds in the Coalfields*

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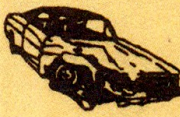
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### County and Municipal Taxes Due

Notices for payment of county and municipal real estate taxes were mailed in February to owners of property in Newport Township. Please notify Ken Angradi, Tax Collector, if notice has not been received. A 2% rebate on taxes owed is in effect until April 26. The face amount is payable from April 27 to June 26. The penalty period is from June 27 to December 31, 2012.

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## Life on Polander Hill

By Olga Yudisky and Heidi Jarecki

Olga Yudisky, 89 years young, has lived most of her life in the Polander Hill section of Alden. She is one of nine children born to John Krasulski and his wife Anna (Rudowski). John came from the Ukraine in 1907 and worked for a time on the railroad run from Alden to Teasdale. He was paid at a rate of a dime an hour and worked ten hour days, a dollar a day. He later worked in the mines for the Alden Coal Company. Anna was born in Alden and has the distinction of being the first baby to be baptized in the newly-built St. Vladimir's Byzantine Ukrainian Catholic Church in 1893. John and Anna married in 1911.

"Heidi Jarecki has been a long time friend of mine," Olga says. "When she approached me to do an article on living in the Polander Hill section of Alden, I hesitated. Reaching the age of 89 soon would take me back better than seventy-five to eighty years. I am sure that living was much the same throughout the township. I will reflect back as much as I can."

Growing up in a large family meant there was never a lack of things to do. "Mushroom and berry picking times were enjoyed by all. I can still taste those huckleberry pies to this day! Not to mention all the jellies and jams our Moms made," Olga recalls. "And the mushrooms were dried and prepared for our Christmas Eve holy supper. They sure tasted great! Everybody had a beautiful vegetable garden and some families raised their own chickens. Ah, to enjoy the organic vegetables and poultry today! I remember two cows that grazed in the pasture near the church up until the early 1940s. There were no grocery stores on the hill until the late '30s when the Locke and Spock families opened their grocery stores which made it very convenient. Prior to that time grocers, notably Domzalski, Glowacki, and Shergie, took orders and delivered them from Nanticoke. Dnazdaski Bakery and later Sanitary Bakery came through twice a week. Local farmers such as Barney Ulozas from Askam and Mr. Goods from Wapwallopen sold fruits and vegetables from trucks. Carter Bache was the first to open his

store on Sharpe Street in the late '30s. The Company Store, I do not remember." The Alden Company Store was closed by the time Olga was growing up and had become a furniture store.

The winter months were spent sled-riding in back of Pine Street down the hill by the church and ice-skating on Fairchild's Pond, located on Alden (Nuangola) Mountain Road. "Everybody young and old enjoyed sled riding and ice skating," Olga says. "Fairchild's Pond was a great place to skate. There were skaters who could match the Olympic skaters. We sure had fun. It was only a ten minute walk to the pond. Mr. Fairchild, a distinguished looking gentleman with a white beard, was generous. Skating was allowed until the time that he was ready to start ice-cutting. Ice was a precious commodity because ice-boxes were the only way to preserve food until the refrigerator came into being in the late '30s. My brother John worked in the ice-house for two winters. He said it was interesting how the ice was kept packed in straw. The ice man was a very familiar and busy man in town." Christmas was something to look forward to. "The Alden Social Club would organize concerts at the playground and they were well-attended."

The horseshoe curve by Fairchild's Pond was quite an attraction when the trains came through. When the passenger trains were still running, Olga recollects, "Parents would take their children to see them. If my memory serves me correctly, they were the 'Black Diamond' and the 'Phoebe Snow.' They were beautiful. They came into Wilkes-Barre and Scranton from New York. The engineers would wave to the kids and toot their whistles." (Note: The "Black Diamond Express" was the flagship passenger train of the Lehigh Valley Railroad which made its first run in 1896 and continued for 63 years. It ran from New York City to Buffalo, NY. The "Phoebe Snow" was operated by the Delaware, Lackawanna, and Western Railroad and ran from Hoboken, NJ to Buffalo.)

"There was a restaurant called Forest Hills Inn at Fairchild's. It was owned by Andrew Rushin and was a place for weddings, anniversaries, etc. It was also a nightclub which featured floor shows. You could have a great time eating dinner, dancing, and watching a floor show," Olga says. It changed hands several times before burning down sometime in the 1980s. The Alden Dance Hall on West Kirmar Avenue was also a popular spot. "Big bands played there. As a youngster, I recall going there once to a church function" before it was dismantled. The building which houses the Parkway Inn was once a hotel. "Many good times were had at what was called Min's Tumble Down Inn on West Kirmar Avenue. Dances were held on the third floor in the winter months, and card parties too." Dancing was a very popular pastime and there were plenty of opportunities. "St. Vladimir's church picnics often featured big name bands such as Lenio Brothers, and the Michalski Band. People would come from miles around and often walked from Nanticoke. Whenever Brunon "King of Polkas" Kryger's famous band played in the late '30s, several hundred people were in attendance. His opening theme was 'Hoop, Shoop, Wadona! This is Kryger's Orchestra!' That, I shall never forget!" she laughs.

Olga's family attended St. Vladimir's Church, which was located adjacent to the cemetery on Polander Hill. Catechism classes, Easter, Christmas and all the holy days, baptisms, first holy communions, confirmations, weddings and funerals meant a busy religious and social life. The original church had a resident priest. After the church was destroyed by fire, the day-school was turned into a chapel. Though it was Byzantine-Ukrainian, some Roman Catholics attended services there. Later, Monsignor Olesh who was pastor at St. Nicholas Church in Glen Lyon was also assigned to St. Vladimir's. He was the last priest to serve the parish. The chapel



Continued from previous page

was dismantled in 2007 after 120 years. Olga's brother Andrew is the sole vocation from St. Vladimir's. He is still active at age 83 and serves parishes in Johnstown and Revloc.

Kirkland M. Smith, the Superintendent of the Alden Coal Company, was very influential in town affairs. He donated the land for the playground as well as for the churches. Olga attended first grade at the East Kirmar Avenue School near the fire hall. This was because the newer Pershing School which was located on Newport Avenue had collapsed into a mine shaft in about 1929. This necessitated the building of K. M. Smith School which included grades K through 8. "It was a pleasure to attend a beautiful new school," Olga says. "I can still remember my teachers: Miss Mills for first grade, Miss Morris for second, Miss Garvey for third, Miss Eaton for fourth, Mr. O'Brien for fifth, Mr. Turner for sixth, Mr. Baran for seventh, and Miss Eaton and Mr. Roman for eighth. I didn't attend kindergarten. Twice a year, Mr. Nyhart the school superintendent administered tests. Oh, and Mr. Baran was a great music teacher. And every spring, we'd participate in May-Day Exercises which was meant to encourage physical activity." When it came time to attend high school, there were more students than they had buses for. If there was no room on the bus, students had to walk to Wanamie. There was no such thing as missing school!

Summers were filled with more outdoor activities. There was swimming at the Wanamie "res" or reservoir. "That was our lake," Olga declares, "and we did swim every day. Lasting friendships were made with the Wanamie kids. If you were lucky enough to get a ride, you could swim at Nuangola." Baseball was immensely popular. There were two amateur baseball teams which played games on Sunday afternoons, the Ace Nines and the Alden Stars. The Ace Nines played on a ballpark located across from Hrobak's Garage and the Stars played on a field near Polander Hill. And if you wanted to go to the movies, there were three movie theaters in Nanticoke from which to choose: the Family, the State, and the Rex. The price of admission was a quarter.

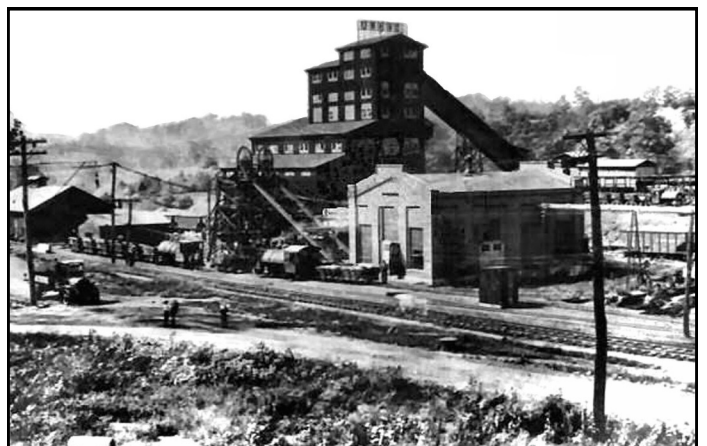
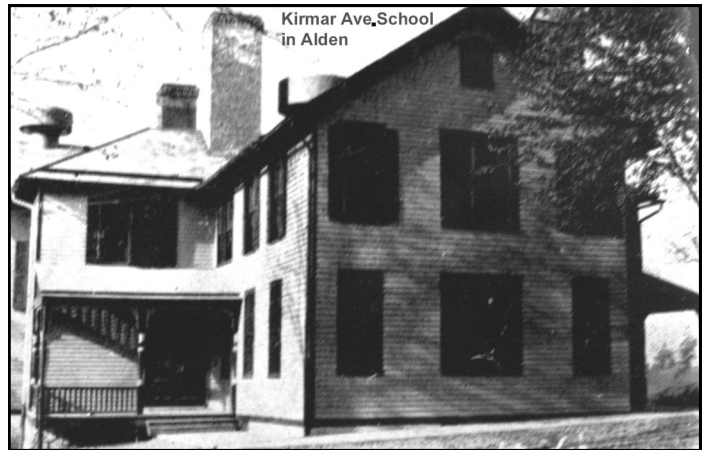
Olga and her siblings picked up the mail from the Post Office at Balliet's on West Kirmar Avenue on their way home from school every day. It was delivered there by trolley. Later on, the Post Office moved to Stanley Russan's basement next to O'Karma's. The Post Office that was located in front of K.M. Smith School had become a candy store by the time Olga was growing up. Beginning in about 1940, Mr. Shon, the mailman from the Nanticoke Post Office, got off the public bus and delivered mail to homes. Olga remembers Mr. Veronick's barbershop, the first in Alden, which was on the corner of Pine and Spruce Streets. Mr. Smereski's was the second when Mr. Veronick decided to open a garage.

Alden was predominantly Welsh at that time, presumably because they had mining experience in Wales. The majority of the houses on Polander Hill were built in the early 1900's by the Alden Coal Company to house miners and their families. Olga remembers the difficult life of the miners during the Depression and there were frequent strikes for better safety. The mines were idle quite a bit of the time. Exposure to coal dust, especially after blasting dynamite, was problematic and often led to tuberculosis and "black lung" disease. The Alden Coal Company was a private company and relatively small in comparison to the Susquehanna Coal Company and had its share of labor disputes. Eventually, young people were forced to seek jobs elsewhere. After graduating from high school in 1941, Olga found work in New Jersey as an industrial lab technician for the Vinylite Plastics Corporation where she was assigned to quality control. After a couple of years, she returned home, but many did not. The out-

break of World War II complicated matters. Olga had a tough time finding a job locally.

Olga met John "Jack" Yudisky from Wilkes-Barre and they married in 1946. They settled on Polander Hill. Olga has two children, Dennis and Linda, and three grandchildren: Holly, a commander in the United States Navy; Lauren, a PhD candidate at Northeastern University, and Cody, a high school senior who wants to become an engineer. Sadly Jack passed away in 1967.

The editors would like to thank Olga for sharing this remarkable description of "Life on Polander Hill." It was a memorable journey back in time. "Hoop, Shoop, Wadona!"



Top picture: East Kirmar Avenue School where Olga attended first grade. Middle picture: St. Vladimir's Ukrainian Catholic Church which was dismantled in 2007. Bottom picture: the Alden Coal Company breaker.





## Dr. Karl Sarpolis

By Heidi and Paul Jarecki ~ Karl Sarpolis was born in Wanamie to Peter and Elizabeth Sarpolis on November 7, 1887. Peter initially worked as a coal miner and later became proprietor of a hotel and saloon. Karl was the youngest of six brothers all of whom worked in the mines as teenagers. Karl could play several instruments as his father and brothers shared a love of music. Karl and his older brother John began school in the Newport Township school system but graduated from Lake High School in Chicago, Illinois. John would go on to college at the University of Chicago and then to Loyola University where he earned a medical degree. Karl followed in his footsteps. Karl played football at the University of Chicago for the famous coach Amos Alonzo Stag and earned money by playing music in several bands. He served in World War I and then returned to complete his courses at Chicago. He attended medical school at Rush College and earned a medical degree from Loyola in 1926.

Karl's life took a dramatic change when he was lured into professional wrestling by promoter Jack Pfefer. He went on to a very successful career as a wrestler and was nationally known. Karl competed with many of the big names in professional wrestling at that time. On July 12, 1932 he wrestled Jim Londos in San Francisco before 10,000 fans. Londos was once National Wrestling World Heavy Weight Champion and has been inducted into the Professional Wrestling Hall of Fame. In 1933 Karl claimed the undisputed championship of Lithuania by winning a tournament in Cleveland. Another match was against the legendary Ed "Strangler" Lewis in 1934. Lewis was World Heavy Weight Champion (original version) four times, American Wrestling Association Champion once and has also been inducted into the Professional Wrestling Hall of Fame.

Karl married twice, first to Vivian Proctor in 1936 and then to Lucile Gertrude Owen. After his second marriage, he moved from Chicago to Houston, Texas. In the 1930s and 1940s, he refereed on the circuit and filled in for injured wrestlers or those who missed bookings. Eventually, Karl became an owner of several wrestling agencies and was a wrestling promoter. He also practiced medicine in Texas. Karl Sarpolis died on May 28, 1967 of a heart attack following a boating accident.

**DID YOU KNOW?** St. Mary's Lithuanian Church in Wanamie was dedicated on Memorial Day, May 31, 1925 by the Right Reverend A.J. Brennan, Auxiliary Bishop of the Scranton Diocese. The congregation was organized in 1902. First pastor was Rev. J.F. Millauskas.

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## SUMMER PICNIC

St Faustina's Parish is holding its Annual Festival June 29th through July 1 at their picnic grounds in Sheatown. Featured bands are: Friday, 5 pm-12 am, Stealing Neil Band; Saturday 5 pm-12 am, Stanky for the Polish Mass and then Iron Cowboy; and Sunday 4 pm-11 pm, bands Avoiding Veda and Gone Crazy.





Sister, Theodosia (Strzalka) Mierzwa, Lt. Chester Strzalka, and Grandmother Rose Strzalka in front of Strzalka's Café.

## Chester F. Strzalka

By Paul Jarecki ~ Chester Strzalka of Glen Lyon, and a Newport Township High School graduate, joined the Air Force on June 6, 1941. First Lieutenant Strzalka served heroically in the United States Army Air Corps in World War II as a combat pilot in the European Theatre of Operations. He flew 52 missions in a B-26 Marauder in the Fearless Ninth, 322<sup>nd</sup> Bomb Group-452<sup>nd</sup> Bomb Squadron. On the 28<sup>th</sup> of November 1944, flying a B-26 43-34431 coded DR-X 1, First Lt. Strzalka and crew were hit by flak (antiaircraft fire) over the target Merken, Germany. The B-26 later crashed and Lt. Strzalka and T/Sgt O. E. Aune were killed. Lt. Strzalka escaped from the plane but for some inexplicable reason his parachute failed to blossom and he fell directly into the flames of his wrecked plane. The remainder of the crew returned safely. At the end of the war, the Glen Lyon V.F.W. Post on West Main Street was named for Chester Strzalka. The following is a detailed description of the event that ended Lt. Strzalka's life:

*"The Marauder piloted by 1<sup>st</sup>. Lt. Strzalka of the 452<sup>nd</sup> squadron, received several direct flak hits after dropping its bombs at the target. (The target was the defended village of Merken). One shell tore out the bottom of the cockpit and likely would have killed the navigator, 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Victor T. Honsa, Jr. of Chicago, if he had not moved seconds before, from his standing position between the pilot, and the copilot, to assist the bombardier, 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Fred B. Wilson, Pinehurst, Idaho, in the nose of the ship. Other flak hits knocked out the right engine, the interphone, and ripped big holes in the fuselage. The magnetic compass was the only instrument not shattered and it enabled the pilot to head his ship towards friendly lines. The crippled bomber rapidly lost altitude and airspeed until it appeared that*

*it might stall at any moment. All the crew, upon orders, bailed out at 3,500 feet, except the pilot, co-pilot, and the engineer-gunner, T/ Sgt. O.E. Aune. The pilot, and copilot, 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Elliot S. Moorhead, Jr. Washington, D.C. abandoned the ship at 1,200 feet. The B-26 dove straight down and exploded. The pilot and engineer-gunner were killed while the five men who survived landed smack into the middle of "no man's land" where a fierce artillery duel was raging. Yet all returned unharmed to the Group."*\*

\*Taken from the book "The Annihilators Book II," p. 151.



### THOUGHTS FOR MEMORIAL DAY

When our perils are past, shall our gratitude sleep? ~ George Canning

Courage is almost a contradiction in terms. It means a strong desire to live taking the form of readiness to die. ~ G.K. Chesterton





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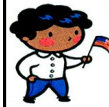
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Awake, thou wintry earth--  
Fling off thy sadness!  
Fair vernal flowers, laugh forth  
Your ancient gladness! ~ Thomas Blackburn



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The sun was warm but the wind was chill.  
You know how it is with an April day. ~ Robert Frost