



Easter spells out beauty, the rare beauty of new life. ~ S.D. Gordon



Three-Legged, located between Glen Lyon and Wanamie, in early Spring

Newport Township Public Business

Newport Township Awarded \$500,000.00 From Gaming Funds For New Municipal Building

By John Jarecki ~ The Newport Township Commissioners announced at their work session on March 20 that the Pennsylvania Commonwealth Financing Authority has awarded the Township \$500,000.00 towards the construction of a new municipal building. The application for the grant contained a design for a new municipal building costing \$775,000.00 that would be built on Kirmar Parkway on a 5.7 acre parcel of land near the tennis courts in the Wanamie Recreation Park. While the Commissioners still have to raise the difference between the amount of the grant and the new building's cost, this is an important step in replacing our present aging municipal structure. The Commissioners said that State Senator John Yudichak was very helpful to them in getting this large state grant. The grants are funded through the Local Share Account. Monies are realized from casino gaming throughout the Commonwealth, including the local Mohegan Sun.

Other Business

January 7: Jeremy Blank, appointed by the Township Commissioners at a special meeting in December of last year, was sworn in as Chief of Police. Chief Blank replaces Robert Impaglia, who

resigned in September to pursue a career with the Pennsylvania State Police.

The Commissioners appointed James G. Hoffman as Fire Chief for a term lasting from 2013 to 2014. They also appointed Joseph Deluca to a full 5-year term on the Newport Township Authority.

The Commissioners voted to approve a 3% increase in pay for employees of the Department of Public Works (DPW) and also for administrative employees (except for the Township Manager). Wages of employees of the Police and Fire Departments are governed by bargaining agreements that their unions have negotiated with the Township. Their wages increased with the first pay period of 2013.

February 4: Commissioner John Vishnefski announced that the Township Recreation Board has chosen officers for the coming year as follows: John Grabowski as President, Robert Ranieri as Vice President, and Paul Pierson as Secretary.

The Commissioners approved a contract hiring Rich Zika as Township Manager at a salary of \$39,338 (a 3% increase) for the period from 2/1/13 to 1/31/14. They also passed an ordinance increasing the Township Tax Collector's salary from \$3000 per year to \$3750 per year.

March 4: The Commissioners appointed two new part-time police

Continued from page 1

officers, Nicholas Riebel of Wilkes-Barre and Kara Droll of Harding. Their starting salary will be \$11.00 per hour, which will be increased to \$12.44 per hour on completion of 6 months of satisfactory service. (See page 3)

Township Manager Rich Zika announced that he had received a letter from Pennsylvania American Water saying that the Company intends to install new water lines under the following streets and then repave them: Pine, Spruce, Hemlock, and Fine Streets in Alden. The Company also intends to do the same for a small length of Brown Row in Wanamie.

Commissioner John Wilkes announced that Luzerne County which has provided us with grant money approved the demolition of two buildings in the Township: one at 85 East Main Street and the other at 67-69 Newport Street, both in Glen Lyon. The Township is now having specifications written for the demolition, and when that is done, will ask for bids to carry out the project.

TO THE NEWPORT CLASS OF 1955

By John Antonaitis ~ Reference: Class Reunion Letter of January 17, 2013. We received a number of responses from classmates and the general consensus was that July and August were busy times. As a result, we are planning to have a class reunion on Thursday, September 5, 2013 at Genetti's in Wilkes-Barre. The time will be from 1:00 to 6:00 p.m. We will keep the price at \$25.00 unless an unforeseen situation arises. We need a commitment by mid-April as to the number of people including any guests who would attend. Checks should be made out to John Antonaitis and mailed by May 31. The menu will probably be the same, however let us know if a special meal is required. Please respond to me by email or to any of the committee members listed below:

John Antonaitis, 607-748-8783 ; 228 Ridgefield Road, Endicott, NY 13760 Email: jantonaitis@stny.rr.com

Marie Pucci Modrow, 570-283-1911 ; 180 Sidney Street, Swoyersville, PA 18702

Jean Stackhouse Harris, 570-822-6386 ; 75 Cook Street, Plains, PA 18705

Peter Valania, 570-735-4373 ; 405 Alden Mountain Road, Alden, PA 18634

Hope to see everyone there!

Newport Class of 1967 is planning a reunion this year. Details will follow.

Recycling of Televisions

By Tom Kashatus ~ New Pennsylvania state laws prohibit landfills from accepting televisions. Because of this new legislation, J. P. Mascaro & Sons, contractor for Newport Township waste removal, will no longer pick up TVs from the curbside if they are placed there during big junk pick-up on the first refuse pick-up of the month. However, according to Manager Mark Cesar, Mascaro has a dumpster located at their depot in Hanover Township for televisions and other electronic items as a courtesy to their municipal customers. They will accept items free of charge if they are transported to that site. The Newport Township Community Organization will recycle televisions and other electronic materials as a service to its membership. Please call (570) 736-6981. Residents are advised to remove/erase hard drives from computers prior to recycling. Types of electronic items include: laptops, TVs (CRT and flat screen), computers, printers, monitors (CRT & flat panel), DVD and VCR players, fax machines, scanners, gaming consoles, keyboards, mice, telephones, computer and gaming peripherals, cell phones, cameras, camcorders, CD/DVDs and cases, GPS navigation systems, ipods, MP3 players, remote controls, and audio equipment.

GLEN LYON CRIME WATCH

By Karen E. Rejician ~ The Crime Watch mourns the loss of our president and treasurer, Marie Morucci who passed away on December 17th, 2012. Marie was very dedicated and supported us even when she could no longer attend meetings. She attended Luzerne County Crime Watch Coalition meetings in Wilkes-Barre and graduated TWICE along with some of our members from the Pennsylvania State Police Citizens' Academy. It was her thoughts and ideas that kept the Glen Lyon Crime Watch surviving for so many years. Thanks to her, the children of Glen Lyon were given safe Halloween holidays as she rode through town giving out treats. She kept an eye on the children and watched for any suspicious behavior. The Crime Watch would like to extend sympathy to her family.

The Crime Watch will continue her legacy of trying to keep our neighborhoods safe. We meet at the Italian Club on the second Thursday of each month at 7:00. A Newport Township police officer reports on activities and answers any questions. Please join us!

Newport High School Class of 1963 Plans Reunion



Newport Class of '63 at its 45th Reunion at Alden Manor in 2008

By Lucille Rentko Flora ~ Newport High School Class of 1963 is planning its 50th Reunion to be held on August 31 at the Quality Inn and Suites, 880 Kidder Street, Wilkes-Barre, 570-824-8901. Addresses are needed for : Mary Ann Rinehimer, Lawrence Krasson, Gerald Schraeder, Charles Zemski, and Walter Kaszowicz. Please call Lucille at 570-823-1755 with any information or questions.

Newport Township Recreation Board

By John Grabowski ~ The Recreation Board welcomes its newest member, Paul Pierson. Paul is very enthusiastic about sports and hopes to start a basketball league at the Recreation Park on weekends in the summer.

Presently the Recreation Board is discussing events to be held this summer. While no final plans have been made yet, as summer nears please refer to our Facebook page or the event boards at township parks for upcoming functions. Any suggestions or comments are welcome and you can reach us through Facebook. Our meetings are posted at all township parks and the public is invited to attend. Board members are: John Grabowski, Chair; Bob Rainieri, Vice Chair; Paul Pierson, Secretary; Scott Shatley and Sue Mieczkowski. (Editors' note: The Board meets on the second Tuesday of each month at 6:00. Location varies.)

Electronic Recycling Collections will be conducted by Luzerne County on Saturday, June 8 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Butler Township Fire Hall in Drums and on Saturday, June 15 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Hanover Area Junior/Senior High School in Hanover Township. No fees will be charged.

MEMORIAL DAY OBSERVANCES

The Glen Lyon American Legion Post 539 will conduct Memorial Day services on Monday, May 27. Members will meet at the Legion on Newport Street at 9:00 am and travel to St. Michael's /St. Adalbert's cemeteries. Services will begin at 9:30 AM. Members will then travel to St. Nicholas Cemetery and conduct services beginning at 10:00 AM. All residents are invited to attend.

The American Legion and the Chester Strzalka VFW Post 8353 are responsible for the new flags that are placed at the graves of veterans each year. The public may bring old and worn flags to the Legion for proper disposal.



Miracle of the Bells Exhibit Extended

The Luzerne County Historical Society Museum's exhibit celebrating the 65th anniversary of the film version of "The Miracle of the Bells" has been extended until August 31. The Museum's hours are from Tuesday through Saturday 12:00 noon to 4:00 PM. The Museum is located at 69 South Franklin Street, Wilkes-Barre. Those who wish to visit the exhibit are asked to call the Historical Society at (570) 823-6244 to confirm the exhibit is open.



Part-Time Police Officers Appointed

At the March meeting of the Newport Township Board of Commissioners, Kara Kroll of Harding and Nicholas Riebel of Wilkes-Barre were sworn in by Police Commissioner John Zyla as part-time patrol officers. Shown in the photo are Police Chief Jeremy Blank, Officer Kroll, Officer Riebel, Commissioner Zyla, and Officer Stanley Drevenik.

West Kirmar Project

By Tom Kashatus ~ Pictured is a crew drilling test bore holes in the highway on West Kirmar Avenue, Alden. PennDOT plans to modify the bridge over the north branch of Newport Creek. The Creek is susceptible to being blocked by debris resulting in the flooding of the highway and nearby homes during heavy rainstorms.



Please Volunteer!

Volunteers do not necessarily have the time; they just have the heart. ~ Elizabeth Andrew.

Memorial Weekend Festivities



Officers and members of committees for the Memorial Day Weekend Bazaar: kneeling from left to right: Jason Kowalski, Jonathan Kerestes, Nicholas Kowalski, Vicky Griffith, and Kim Griffith. Standing from left to right: Lieutenant Wayne Vandermark, Captain Norman Bodek, Fire-Police Captain Leonard Paczkowski, President Ronald Womelsdorf, Secretary Leona Kowalski, Lieutenant Gerald Shemanski, Roy Tinney, Company Fire Chief and Treasurer Dan Kowalski, Janet Griffith, and Evan Wasilewski.

By Tom Kashatus ~ Consolidated Fire Department of Newport Township is looking forward to this year's Memorial Day weekend celebration as they continue to make plans with the St. Faustina's Grove Committee of Sheatown and the Quality Hill Recreation Association of Nanticoke in formulating their annual bazaar. The event will take place Friday, 5:00 p.m., May 24th; Saturday, 5:00 p.m., May 25th; and Sunday, 3:00 p.m., May 26th. Entertainment will be highlighted by Iron Cowboy on Friday, 40 Pound Head and Polka Nationals on Saturday, and Gone Crazy on Sunday. Preceding the festivities on Sunday will be a Fireman's Parade with trucks from various departments and municipalities. Judging of vehicles and departments will take place and trophies will be awarded. Pictured above are officers and members of Consolidated's various committees.



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'Tis springtime, 'tis springtime, Cold winter is past;
Warm breezes are blowing and May's here at last;
The birds are returning, Their songs fill the air;
And meadows are smiling with blossoms so fair.

The Danger of Black Ice on Fanucci's Hill

By Tom Kashatus ~ As you enter Glen Lyon coming from Wanamie, beware of the danger that lurks ahead on Fanucci's Hill during the fall, winter, and even into early spring. The road may appear clean and dry, but there is a spot that always has a tendency to freeze up when the slightest moisture looms above the surface and the temperature stabilizes at thirty-five degrees Fahrenheit or below. Morning dew may be the biggest culprit. Motorists may or may not be familiar with the gully that runs south to north under the highway just as they are leaving Glen Lyon, but they should be aware of the dangers that may lie ahead as they travel to work or return home from nightshift employment. On February 28th at approximately 7:30 a.m., two accidents took place there almost simultaneously. Crystal Piestrak-Paluck of Main Road Lee in a Nissan Frontier and Mary Ann Domashinski of Orchard Street Glen Lyon in a Jeep Liberty, while traveling east toward Wanamie, lost control of their vehicles. Serious damage occurred to both vehicles, but fortunately, there were only minor injuries to the drivers.

Letter to the Editors

Dear Editors,

During the month of January, ambulance service in Newport Township developed a situation that became serious beyond anyone's expectations. Much has already been written in the Citizens Voice and Times Leader that describe most of the circumstances in detail. Changes in Advanced Life Support (ALS) service basically precipitated confusion [with regards to] policy and eventual action [occurred]. Mistakes admittedly were made, and fortunately rescue proceeded without a fatality. One of the most disappointing aspects of this situation was that prior to the February Commissioners meeting, Commissioner Michael Roke publically requested through the media that township residents attend the February meeting to gain a better understanding of overall ambulance service in Newport Township and offer opinions and advice so that similar circumstances would not be repeated.

Unfortunately only four people other than regular attendees were present at the February meeting (two were from Nanticoke). What a poor display of attendance and concern for a matter of life or death circumstance for the residents of my endeared municipality!!! It proves beyond one's expectations that today's social and cultural concerns are motivated by the "I" and/or "me" attitude. If "I" or "me" am not affected at the time of the circumstance, then it is not an "I" or "me" problem.

Presently, progress has been made to stabilize current ambulance service, but the issue is far from being completely settled. Generally, everyone wants to see a harmonious system of mutual aid service be enacted between municipalities, but egos and old grudges still loom on the horizon. A satisfactory resolution to this problem is the responsibility of municipal elected officials, the emergency services associations, and all residents.

Tom Kashatus

NEWPORT TWP. COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION SEEKS SPONSORS AND VOLUNTEERS FOR THE NINTH ANNUAL CLEANUP EVENTS

By Palmira Gregory Miller, Event Coordinator ~ For the ninth year, the Newport Township Community Organization (NTCO) is encouraging the public to become part of the Great American Cleanup, the country's largest community improvement program. It harnesses the power of millions of volunteers to build and sustain vibrant communities. This exciting program takes place annually in communities from coast to coast.

NTCO brings people together to improve their community, and we know that when people join together in a common cause they can do great things. In fact, our collective actions have had a significant impact right here in our township.

Our volunteers are committed to improving Newport Township. For eight years we have cleaned and restored public places for safer, cleaner communities. We have scoured the roadsides for litter and debris. We eradicated illegal dumpsites. We recycled string lights, electrical cords, cans, appliances, grills, fencing, lawnmowers, bicycles, radiators, piping, motor blocks, electronics, furnaces, and all sorts of aluminum products to keep them out of landfills. All in all, we removed over 175 tons of trash, 2,700 tires, and recycled 210 tons of various metals.

We depend on VOLUNTEERS and in-kind donations from area sponsors to run these events. Individuals, organizations, scouting groups, sport teams, church groups, environmental clubs, businesses, college and university clubs and high school students are invited to be part of this effort and join Pennsylvanians across the state and Americans across the nation.

On April 13th, volunteers will gather to rid all playgrounds and parks in the township of litter.

NTCO will hold a Big Junk Drop Off Event beginning Thursday, April 25th at 9 am ending on Tuesday, April 30th. Dumpsters will be placed at the entrance of St. Nicholas Cemetery, across from the Compost Center. Hours of operation are 9 am to 3 pm, Sunday 1pm to 4pm. This event is intended for Township residents to clean their properties and neighborhoods of unsightly debris and to help eradicate illegal dumpsites throughout the Township for a safe and clean environment. It is not to rid your home of unwanted furniture such as mattresses, box springs, couches, loveseats, etc. These household items can be put out with your trash on the first pick up of each month.

Restricted items are: NO hazardous waste or motor oil; NO sludge, chemotherapeutic material, or asphalt shingles; NO driveway coating, garbage, tree limbs, lawn clippings, etc.; NO paints, thinners, concrete blocks, bricks, stones, or other building materials; and NO packing material such as Styrofoam peanuts. Tires will not be accepted. Brush & lawn clippings should be taken to the Compost Center just outside of Glen Lyon.

Volunteers with trucks are needed to transport debris from derelict properties and illegal dump sites to the dumpsters. Also needed are volunteers to take pictures, prepare lunch, and distribute supplies to cleanup crews.

NTCO will hold a Community Pride Event, Saturday, May 4th. Volunteers of all ages will gather at the municipal parking lot in Wanamie at 8 am. Volunteers will be provided with gloves, trash bags and vests, teams will be assigned, and safety instructions reviewed before heading out for a road side cleanup from Lee to Sheatown. Afterwards, volunteers will enjoy refreshments at the Town Hall.

Please check www.newporttownship.com for updates, schedules or changes in events or contact Tom at 736-6981 or Palmira at 736-6637 with any questions. Other volunteer opportunities are available at www.gacofpa.org.

Come on out and give us a hand! Thanks!



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Taste of the Township Stuffed Cabbage

By Heidi and Paul Jarecki ~ A dish consisting of cooked cabbage wrapped around a variety of fillings is common to the ethnic cuisines of the Balkans, Europe, Asia, and the Middle East. In Europe, the filling is traditionally based around meat while in Asia, seafood, tofu or shiitake mushrooms may also be used. Names for this dish include: pigs in a blanket or "piggies," American; golabki or golumpki, Polish; holubky, Slovak and Czech; toltott kaposzta, Hungarian; holubtsi, Ukrainian; golubtsy, Russian; balandeliai, Lithuanian; kohlrouladen, German; kaldolmar, Swedish; sarma, Balkan; kaalikaaryle, Finnish; chou farci, French; and prakas, Jewish.

An interesting Polish myth is that Casmir IV, Grand Duke of Lithuania and Jagiellon, King of Poland, fed their armies golabki before a key battle in the Thirteen Years War outside of Marienburg Castle against the Teutonic Order. The victory was said to have come because the soldiers benefited from the hearty meal.

There are of course many variations in the recipe and technique for making this dish. Like the McDonald's Hamburgers claim, it would be safe to say that millions have been consumed in Newport Township through the years.

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Memories of Home

Memory is a way of holding onto the things you love, the things you are, the things you never want to lose. ~ From the television show "The Wonder Years"

Home is a place you grow up wanting to leave, and grow old wanting to get back to. ~ John Ed Pearce

Holubky (Slovak Version)

Ingredients

- 1 head of cabbage
- 1/2 cup rice
- 1 ½ pounds of ground beef, or meatloaf mixture
- 1 chopped onion
- 2 eggs
- Salt and pepper
- 2 cans of diced tomatoes
- 2 carrots, cut in large pieces
- 2 celery stalks

Preparation

Remove the core from the cabbage. Place the head in a large pot filled with water. Cover and cook until soft. You can also put the cabbage core up in a bowl, pour water into the removed core and microwave for about 10 minutes. Remove the leaves and with a knife shave down the thick center stem from each leaf without cutting all the way through. Cook the rice in 1 cup of water until the water is absorbed. In a large bowl, mix the rice, onion, eggs, salt and pepper with the ground beef. When thoroughly mixed, place about 1/4 cup of the mixture on each cabbage leaf, depending on the size of the leaf. Roll the cabbage leaf around the mixture to encase the meat then seal each end. Place the rolled cabbage in a large soup pot, cover with the tomatoes, add the carrots and celery to the liquid and simmer for two hours until done. Another option is to place the rolls in a greased casserole dish, top with the diced tomatoes and bake at 350 degrees for 1 hour. You might want to layer sauerkraut with the stuffed cabbage. You can also use a pressure cooker. If you're in a hurry. Cook at high pressure for 20 to 30 minutes.



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2010 Census Data

Pennsylvania: 12,702, 379
Luzerne County: 320, 918
Newport Township: 3,452



Police Chief Jeremy Blank

By John and Carol Jarecki ~ We in Newport Township have a new Police Chief, Jeremy Blank, who took his oath of office at the Commissioners' Meeting on January 7 of this year. Chief Blank is a graduate of the Lackawanna College Police Academy and has been in police work since 2009. He has been a member of the Newport Township Police Department since 2010.

Chief Blank is originally from Danbury, Connecticut, and has lived in this area since 2001. His wife Kristalyn grew up in the area and graduated from Nanticoke Area High School. They have two children, a boy and a girl, ages 8 and 10.

Both Chief Blank and Kristalyn are active volunteers in the community. Chief Blank is Secretary of the Newport Township Lions Club and a Cub Scout Leader with Scout Pack 430 in Glen Lyon. He is also involved with the Nanticoke Junior Trojan Football Association. Kristalyn is a Girl Scout Leader and is also Secretary of the Nanticoke Junior Trojan Football Association.

We talked to Chief Blank about the Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) system that was put into operation in the Township at the end of last year. He told us that the system, as was intended, is much faster at notifying Township Police Officers in their patrol cars of residents' calls to Luzerne County's 911 Center. The system is also useful in providing driving directions for officers traveling to reported incidents and allows them to access information, while in their patrol cars, on persons that they deal with at these incidents. For example, it allows them to check the driving record of a person stopped for a traffic violation, thereby making it possible to deal more effectively with the situation.

We also talked to the Chief about Police Department programs for children. He told us that the Department has an active program of sending officers to talk to various children's groups,



On the left is Chief Jeremy Blank. Photo taken by Carol Jarecki. On the right is Chief Blank after being sworn in by Magistrate Don Whitaker (right) at the January 7 Newport Township Commissioners meeting. Also in the picture is Police Commissioner John Zyla. Photo taken by Tom Kashatus.

such as Boy and Girl Scouts and elementary school students, about being safe in dealing with strangers and about the process of fingerprinting. The Department is now organizing a program to teach children to be safe if they encounter guns in their daily lives. This is a program which doesn't use guns themselves but instead uses printed material to teach children how to be safe.

We thank Chief Blank for generously giving us time for an interview, and we wish him all the best in his new position.



Lions Clubs International

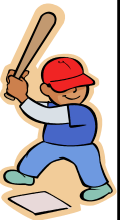
NEWPORT TOWNSHIP LIONS CLUB BROOM SALE

The Newport Township Lions Club will hold their annual broom sale the last weekend of May in Sheatown at the Coal Car near the Turkey Hill convenience store. Brooms cost \$10.00 each.

Once again, Township witches say there is no comparison!

Nanticoke Area Little League

Nanticoke Area Little League (which now includes Newport Township) will hold opening day festivities on April 20 at the Nanticoke Little League field near the High School. A motorcade will start there and then travel to the Hillan Field in Wanamie. Play ball!





Anna Rokosz Armstrong

Suggested by Joe Betkoski and written by Peggy Armstrong with a little help from Heidi Jarecki ~ Anna Agnes Rokosz Armstrong of Alden passed away at home on Thursday afternoon October 25, 2012, her son Joseph's birthday. At 104 years and eight months, she was among our oldest residents.

Anna was born on February 29 (leap day), 1908 in Austria. She arrived in the United States during World War I and became a life-long resident of Alden. She was a graduate of Newport High School, Class of 1924. She co-chaired many of her class reunions with her classmate, Mrs. Raymond Polniaszek of Glen Lyon. The only time Anna left Alden was during the Depression when jobs were hard to find. Her former neighbor invited her to go to New Jersey where she applied for a job. A test was required of all applicants and Anna received the highest score. She always gave credit to Mr. Agnew Shepela, who she said was an excellent business teacher at Newport High School. One of many historical moments Anna experienced took place when the famous German dirigible *The Hindenburg* flew past the building where Anna worked and all the staff were allowed to view it. *The Hindenburg* later crashed at Lakehurst Naval Air Station in New Jersey on May 6, 1937.

Anna didn't stay in New Jersey long. She was homesick and returned to Alden after a short time. She then got a job in the Carter Bache Store on Sharpe Street, Alden and this is where she met Daniel Armstrong. They were married in St. Francis Church, Nanticoke in 1931. Soon after their two children Margaret and Joseph were born, Daniel and Anna separated. Anna moved with her children to her father's home and managed to raise them as a single mom. At some point, she worked as a cook at Min's Inn (later The Parkway) in Alden. When her children were old enough to attend school, Anna was employed by the cigar factory in Nanticoke. After it closed, Anna got a job at the Berwick cigar factory. She drove a group of ladies to Berwick each day, even in the snow!

Anna was a member of St. Faustina Kowalska Parish (formerly Holy Trinity) in Nanticoke and was an active member of the Council of Catholic Women, serving as President for thirteen years. In around 1975, Father Poplowski wanted to revive the church picnics and Anna was chosen as chairperson. She was a wonderful

cook and baker and crocheted many afghans for the cause. When she asked for assistance, Stanley Olszewski volunteered to be co-chairperson. They remained a team for many years. Stanley shared a few stories about Anna. One was the time she drove her car from Alden all the way to Holy Trinity and when she arrived, she discovered her shoes were still on top of her trunk. She had a habit of wearing "old" shoes when she worked in the kitchen. Another was when preparations were underway for a bazaar and the pierogi dough was being stored in the refrigerators in Pope John Paul II School. Someone had mistakenly added yeast to the dough which grew overnight and was pushing its way out of the refrigerator doors when it was discovered the next morning. It was enough dough for 28,000 pierogies!

Anna was a member of the Northeast Luzerne District of the Scranton Diocesan Council of Catholic Women and served as president for a term. She was also an officer of the Scranton Diocesan Council of Catholic Women. She was active in the Ladies of Charity and served as Treasurer of the Catholic Daughters of America, Infant Jesus of Prague Court 1326. She also sang in the church choir and was instrumental in organizing Christmas caroling at the Nanticoke Hospital.

In her younger days, she wrote poetry and composed songs. They were published in the newspaper, and her teacher said she was among the youngest to do so. She tutored a neighbor in mathematics so he was able to take a radio course. As payment for her kind deed, the neighbor allowed her to listen to radio programs through ear phones (the only way at that time) and experience new radio techniques.

Many historically significant events took place during Anna's lifetime. She was living at the time the Titanic sank (1912) and was witness to the solar eclipse in 1925, one of the biggest phenomenon that year. The Citizen's Voice published a feature story on Anna's experience. The article appeared in the July 10, 1991 edition. She attended high school during the roaring twenties, was fortunate to get a high school diploma, suffered through the Great Depression of the thirties, then came World War II. National prosperity after the war was offset by the local decline of the coal industry in the fifties and sixties. In Anna's lifetime, seventeen different men served as President of the United States, a fact mentioned during her funeral Mass. If you were to ask Anna what she attributed her long life to, she probably would have said her church activities and her faith in God.

Anna's funeral was held the day Hurricane Sandy blew into the area. Rev. James Nash, Pastor of St. Faustina's, officiated. Surviving are her children, Margaret and Joseph, daughter-in-law Donna, 8 grandchildren, and 12 great-grandchildren.

CHURCH LADIES WITH TYPEWRITERS

These sentences actually appeared in church bulletins or were announced in church services:

The sermon this morning: 'Jesus Walks on Water.' The sermon tonight: 'Searching for Jesus.'

Ladies, don't forget the rummage sale. It's a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Bring your husbands.

The Associate Minister unveiled the church's new campaign slogan last Sunday: 'I Upped My Pledge – Up Yours.'

Weight Watchers will meet at 7 PM at the First Presbyterian Church. Please use the large double doors at the side entrance.

The eighth-graders will be presenting Shakespeare's Hamlet in the Church basement Friday at 7 PM. The congregation is invited to attend this tragedy.

Miss Charlene Mason sang 'I will not pass this way again,' giving obvious pleasure to the congregation.

A Family Reunion in Magras, Italy

By Paul Gregory

PROLOGUE

After reading John Selecky's "Roots" article [in the Fall 2012 NTCO Newsletter] I was inspired, along with John's urging, to write about my own "Roots" experience. I was able to relate to John's article because we both experienced similar emotions after discovering our families in Europe, John's in Slovakia, mine in Italy. In addition, this article will provide a written record for my family, especially our children and grandchildren. Because so much of our heritage is oral, interesting and poignant stories which are passed down from generation to generation become confused or forgotten. I hope this article also encourages others to share their family stories which are an important legacy that should be kept alive.

Nonno (Grandpop) Domenico Gregori arrived in America in 1906 at the age of 26. He immigrated from a small village, Magras, located in the Trentino Region of Northern Italy. He left his home because he did not want to be a priest, his assigned career. Nonna (Grandmom) Caterina Nicoletti, was born in a small village, Sassoferato, in the Ancona region of Italy. After her parents passed away, she went to live with her aunt and uncle in Rome, from where she eventually immigrated at the age of 16. Nonna and Nonno met each other in Glen Lyon and were married in 1909. They had 8 children (2 died in infancy), 22 grandchildren, and countless descendants. Their children included Dave, Bert (my dad), Mike, Johnny, Tommy, and Irene. Thank goodness that Domenico did not want to become a priest! His family legacy is large and ever growing. The children of our nonni (grandparents) became part of the Greatest Generation, which helped build and defend our country during difficult times as did many in Newport Township.

Nonno and Nonna had a business on Orchard Street in Glen Lyon, Gregory's Café. Nonno was famous for wine making and Nonna for her spaghetti dinners. I remember going to Gregory's Café for spaghetti and polenta dinners prepared by Nonna and that wonderful aroma of her sauce simmering on the coal/gas stove. Nonno enjoyed the outdoors and hunting. He talked about his youth in Magras where he would spend the summers in the mountain meadows tending the grazing cows. Nonna always had a neatly planted vegetable garden and chickens in the coop out back. The attic of the garage is where Nonno kept his wine press. Nonno died in 1946, which was the last connection with family in Italy.

DISCOVERY

In May 2001, my wife Peg and I decided to take a trip to Austria, Hungary, and Poland. Knowing that Nonno came from a small village in northern Italy not far from the Austrian border, I thought it would be interesting and fun to take a side trip and drive to Magras, just to see what the village looked like if it still existed. I was curious because my father related stories to us as told to him by Nonno. However, after extensively searching the internet, I could not find the village. My mother Pauline suggested I contact an old family friend, John Gionta, who had visited family in the same general area 25 years prior. He might know where Magras is located. John Gionta is the brother of Quinto Gionta, who taught 8th grade history. John and Quinto have roots in the same area, Val di Sole (Sun Valley), and have a cousin living there who owns the Monte Genner Hotel. John suggested writing a letter or going to the Hotel to get directions to Magras. I searched the internet and lo and behold, the Hotel had a web site and an e-mail contact. So, I sent an e-mail to Germanno Pangrossi, the hotel owner and John Gionta's cousin, explaining who I was and asked for directions to Magras. Fortunately, a hotel employee who spoke English received



The picture is at the restaurant in Magras during our 2008 visit. I'm in the center and my daughter, Robin, is the blonde to the left. The others are cousins. Attilio is to the right of me.

my e-mail and translated it for Germanno. Much to my shock, surprise, disbelief, and great joy, about three days later I received an e-mail from Attilio Gregori. WOW! Could this be a relative? Is there family still in Magras? You can't imagine the excitement and emotions that flowed. In any event, Attilio and I exchanged e-mails and became acquainted. Attilio is the Director of Tourism for the Val di Sole, where Magras is located, so he knows everyone in the tourist industry in that area and is a personal friend of Germanno. What luck! What a coincidence! In our correspondence, Attilio and I discovered that we had similar photos of Nonno as a young man taken with his parents and siblings in Italy. Attilio invited us to visit. I also received a beautifully written letter from cugina (cousin) Pia Gregori, a retired teacher, inviting us to visit Magras. Attilio explained that about 300 people live in Magras, about half of them Gregoris. Once again WOW! Attilio was also curious about his family history so he went to the village church in search of family records. He uncovered records dating back to the early 1700's, finding a marriage certificate of Giovanni de Gregori and Andrea Anna Gentilini. Imagine my surprise to find a family tree dating back to the 1700's! We adjusted our trip plans to include a 3-day visit to Magras. In preparation for the visit we created a photo album of Nonno's children and also a video of the American Gregory's.

REUNION

The long anticipated day had finally arrived. Peg and I flew to Europe and spent our first night in Innsbruck, Austria, adjusting to the time change. We awoke early Saturday morning refreshed and drove to Magras. The drive was beautiful, seeing the towering mountains of Austria and northern Italy, going through Brenner Pass, the border between the two countries, and viewing chalets and rolling meadows. The autostrada (highway) was a typical four-lane highway, easy to drive and well marked. Throughout the drive the anticipation of the reunion was overwhelming.

Upon leaving the autostrada, we drove the final 30 miles on a two-lane road, enjoying the mountainous scenery and passing through several small towns. We arrived in Magras around noon. My first action was to take a picture of the village sign. The place actually does exist! I had this intense feeling that Nonno was looking down with joy; he has come home. We drove up the steep, winding street to Attilio's house and were greeted by Attilio and his family, wife Nicoletta, son Bruno, and daughter Angela. Fortunately, Attilio's wife Nicoletta spoke English fluently, having been an exchange student in California. Our initial apprehension soon passed and we began to chat like we were old friends. Through Nicoletta's interpreting, Attilio explained that he was as amazed about this reunion as we were. It prompted him to search out our family rec-

ords at the local church and to arrange a get-together the following day, Sunday, for many family members whom he had not seen in quite a while. Our cousins were very hospitable. Nicoletta prepared a typical regional lunch consisting of a sausage and potato dish, supposedly one of Nonno's favorites, along with a salad. We met Zio (Uncle) Giovanni who stopped by after lunch and welcomed us to Magras. He was 90 years old, but looked very good for his age.

After a hearty lunch, Attilio, the ultimate tour director and so proud of the Val di Sole, drove us around the area. We met Germano Pangrossi, Quinto's cousin. I explained in my very limited Italian that Quinto was our "insegnante di storia" (history teacher). I also thanked Germano and his assistant for forwarding that initial email to Attilio. Attilio then drove us to Madonna di Campiglio, the magnificent, snow covered peaks of the Dolomites and a well known ski area.

After returning to Magras, Peg and I walked thru the village. Magras is a small, picturesque village tucked away in the foothills of the Dolomites. The houses are rustic stone and stucco. The area was once known as Tyrol and was actually part of the Austrian-Hungarian Empire prior to World War I. It was ceded to Italy following the war. The nearest large city is Trento, about 30 miles to the southeast of Magras. Magras is an ancient village; the name comes from a pre-Roman personal name. Its main economy is apple growing, cattle farming and now also tourism. The area has many fine ski slopes. Tourists, especially Germans, come to the Val di Sole to ski in the winter or to hike through the mountains in the summer.

We walked by the house where Nonno was raised, his church, and the school that he attended. A story my Dad told us was that Nonno had a brother who was an officer in the Austrian army and was killed during World War I. Sure enough, Giovanni Gregori's name was on the monument in front of the school. Seeing all of this brought to life the stories we heard as kids. We ran into Zio Giovanni and his wife. We could not speak each other's language but he invited us in for some limoncello, a wonderful sweet, lemon liqueur. Further down the street we met Gabriella Gregori who showed us their cows, neatly tucked away in a small barn right off of Main Street. We met "Don" Giovanni who I thought might be the "big man in town". Don Giovanni gave us two bottles of wine for dinner that evening (I saved one bottle and brought it back to Glen Lyon for Uncle Johnny). It turns out that Don Giovanni was the parish priest and Don is a title of respect for priests similar to our use of "Father."

That evening we had a wonderful Italian dinner at Attilio's house. Attending the dinner were Attilio's brother and sister and families, cugina Pia, Zio Giovanni and Don Giovanni. Both Nicoletta and Donatella, Attilio's sister-in-law, spoke English, so we were able to have an interesting conversation. We talked about Nonno and Nonna, their life in America and the American Gregorys. They talked about life in Italy and their families. We went to bed that night satiated, exhausted, and full of emotions. And there was more to come!

FAMILY MASS AND LUNCHEON

On Sunday morning we attended Mass in the village Church. Relatives started showing up and as Peg and I were introduced, we would kiss, shake hands, hug and greet them with "piacere," which means "pleased to meet you." The small church was packed with cugini (cousins) from as far away as Venice and Milan. Don Giovanni, the parish priest, gave the homily in Italian, the only words that I understood, were "Benvenuto e grazie Paolo" (Welcome and thanks, Paul). Cugina Pia also read a note of thanks and welcomed us to Magras, which was very nice. As we left the church to head to the cemetery, one of my cousins, Alberto Gregori (my father's namesake), mentioned to me with great pride that the church is older

than the discovery of America, having been built in the mid 1400's. That sure put a perspective on our own history. At the cemetery we saw the graves of Nonno's parents and siblings. Again, it was very emotional and enlightening to understand how large the family is and that this is my heritage.

The reunion luncheon was held in the Ristorante Conte Ramponi in Magras, where we met and chatted with many cousins, quite a few spoke English. English is a required language in Italian schools. The luncheon was attended by 80 or so family members. We exchanged pictures and showed the video; Attilio gave a slide presentation; and we gave speeches (Donatella was my translator). We took many photos and videos, ate some wonderful local foods and, of course, drank the local wines. The daughter of Giustina, Nonno's sister, remembered receiving the letter of Nonno's passing and her mother's sadness. The entire day was spent chatting, eating, shaking hands, hugging, kissing and later walking through Magras again, talking to relatives, until it became a blur of events and happy emotions.

After two very busy days and saying our goodbyes, we departed Magras to continue on our planned trip. During the drive to Salzburg, and for days afterward I was filled with all types of joyous emotions. It was almost overwhelming. Not only did we see Nonno's village, but we met a large family still living in Magras. I still cherish that happy reunion and our continuing relationship with our Italiani cugini.

EPILOGUE

Since the initial visit, Attilio, Pia, and Maura Gregori and I have remained in contact through email, letters, and Skype. We visited Magras again in 2008 and this time my daughter, Robin and her husband, Tony came along. Robin expressed similar joyous emotions. She said that the senior ladies reminded her of Nonna. Cathy Gregory Goliash and her husband Tom also visited Magras and met our Italiani cugini. They enjoyed the visit and had similar experiences as ours. In 2008, Attilio's son Bruno visited us in the United States. We took him to Glen Lyon to show him where Nonno and Nonna lived and to meet my mom and family. Bruno enjoyed meeting everyone and seeing the sights, but at the age of 16, I think he mostly enjoyed the dinner prepared by Aunt Irene, Palmira, and Marlene. Attilio and his family visited us in September, 2012. During this visit I was able to practice my Italian with Attilio and he practiced his English with us. Peg and I and our family plan to visit Italy again in July, 2013. This time my grandchildren will visit Magras, an event I am looking forward to.

After the Magras visit, we spent a few days in Krakow, Poland. My mother's father, Frank Strzalka lived somewhere in the general area of Krakow, but we had no further information. However, we enjoyed some wonderful Polish food and toured a beautiful city that was undamaged by the war. During our visit to Italy in 2008 we drove to Nonna's hometown, Sassoferrato and stopped for lunch. We had no further information regarding Nonna's family, but it was an opportunity to visit the town of her birth. In August, 2012, Peg and I visited her cousins in Kaunas and Vilnius, Lithuania. Peg saw the farm where her grandfather was born and met a cousin who still lives on the family farm. We attended Mass in the village church and visited the family gravesite. During our next Italy trip in 2013, we plan to visit Penna Sant' Andrea in Abruzzo, Italy, the home of Peg's paternal grandfather.

I take pride in my Italian/Polish roots as does Peg in her Italian/Lithuanian roots. We grew up enjoying the foods and customs of these wonderful heritages. I feel blessed to have grown up in Glen Lyon, enjoying both cultures, knowing people of different ethnicities, eating ravioli and golumpki (my Mom's were to die for!), attending the Italian Club family clambakes and St. Adalbert's parish picnics. Knowing our roots and our cultural heritage brings richness to our lives. It puts a perspective on who we are.

I migliori auguri (Best wishes)!



Photo shows volunteers who made the trip to Toms River: First row left to right: Jacob Bevan, Avis Miller, Jackie Yalch, Lee Kowalski, Nicholas Kowalski, Sharon Cease, Deborah Kearney, and Nicole Kearney. Second row left to right: Dan Kowalski, Mike Yalch, Jamie Kropiewnicki, Dave Lukashewski, Maria Lukashewski, Frank Baker, Father Jim Nash. Absent from photo: Cassie Yalch, Dorothy Nagy and Tom Kashatus (Photographer)

Christmas in Toms River NJ

By Tom Kashatus ~ When you put two community activists together and they do a little brainstorming, nothing but good can be the final product. That's just what Mike Yalch and Dan Kowalski did in December of 2012. The result was a humanitarian effort which brought some joy, friendship and sanity to a community that suffered devastation at the hands of Hurricane Sandy. Toms River or Toms River Township, population 92,000 plus, in Ocean County, NJ became the recipient of kindness and generosity from the Nanticoke/Newport community. Toms River and adjoining communities are resort areas with a boardwalk, amusement park, hotels, night clubs, and beaches. It is also a community where people live and earn their living from tourism, manufacturing, and the necessary services that any residential community requires. A claim to fame is the Toms River East Little League which won the Little League World Series in 1998.

When Hurricane Sandy powered its deadly force and destruction upon so many communities on the northeastern seaboard in late October, Toms River suffered its wrath as much as any other municipality. Much of the board walk disappeared, sand dunes piled high along the shoreline, amusement park rides became a tangled mesh of steel and lumber, and city blocks disappeared into nothingness. However, many of the affected residents still found somewhere to live and remain confident that they and their beloved community will survive and prevail. Restoration and reconstruction moves forward as the flow of government emergency funding is funneled to those who want to rebuild. Many will never return.

Toms River was a random choice for Kowalski and Yalch who felt that our good fortune in escaping the wrath of Sandy could turn into a positive effort to help someone in need of emotional and social support. The objective was a Christmas meal with gifts for the children, household supplies for the families, and general supplies for pets. A fund was set up using St. Faustina Parish Social Concerns as the treasurer. Fund raising became necessary and local organizations were asked to contribute. A successful boot drive was initiated on the corner of Roberts and Old Newport streets in Sheatown. St Faustina Parish was highly instrumental in sponsoring a sea food sale and solicited monetary donations. Representative Mullery's office was a key proponent of promotional activity. The Newport Township Community Organization and the Leonard Olzinski Family (who chose to forego exchanging Christmas gifts) contributed very sizeable monetary donations. Over \$7,000.00

10

was raised. P & D Pet Supplies of Mountaintop donated supplies for pets. Members of the Newport Township Consolidated Fire Department and Mike Yalch and Jamie Kropiewnicki of St. Faustina's Grove in Sheatown prepared the meal while the Dave Lukashewski Family of Nanticoke baked cakes and provided the transportation for food in one of their DPL mail processing vehicles.

The contingent of volunteers departed St. Faustina's Grove at 8:00 a.m., Saturday, December 22nd for the three hour trip to Toms River and BPOE Elk's Lodge #1875. The Lodge was prepared to accommodate over 600 preregistered flood victims. (Check out the website www.njhometownheroes.org/toms-river-elks-1875-christmas-dinner/.) Upon arrival they were greeted by The Elks Exalted Ruler Jackie Masterson (their first female member); Dennis DeMey, House Chair; Kathie DeMey, volunteer co-chair for the event; Patti Gillich, chair for special needs children; Eileen

Coyne, lodge secretary and volunteer co-chair; and kitchen coordinator Chef Stefan. The Elk's Lodge is a fraternal organization that serves the Toms River community in many ways by providing services for veterans; a meeting place for scouts, karate classes, and other volunteer organizations; club rooms are used by the local yacht club; a house dart league with over 30 teams competes weekly, and other activities.

During final preparation of the meal using the Elk's facilities for the 3:00 p.m. festivities, District Fire Chief John Lightbody escorted Tom Kashatus, Nicholas Kowalski, and Avis Miller on a tour of the areas affected by Hurricane Sandy – Ortley Beach (established as Ground Zero), Gilford Park, Bayshore, Windsor Park, Seaside Park where the boardwalk was, Seaside Heights, Lavalette, and Barrier Island. Devastation like none other was witnessed, and even today there is a state policeman - some from Pennsylvania - stationed at every corner to prevent pilferage and insure that the sanity of a once prosperous community will return. Readers are encouraged to go to our website www.newporttownship.com to view photographs taken of the devastation. Included are photos that show the effort which culminated in a successful initiative. We arrived back home at midnight.

My afterthoughts: New friendships were created. Respect, humility, joy, compassion, and sadness were just a few of the emotions I experienced at day's end. The Toms River folks extended an invitation to return just to talk and reminisce. Later, it was discovered that a member of the NTCO is a resident of Toms River, but was not seriously affected by the storm. Also, the father of another member of the NTCO resided in adjacent Monmouth County only to have his home washed away in the aftermath.

There are other New Jersey residents with Newport Township roots who suffered property loss. Our hearts are with them.



Newport/Nanticoke and Toms River Volunteers

Victims Resource Center's 28th Annual Geranium Sale

Tarnowski's Kielbasa is proud to sponsor the Victims Resource Center's 28th Annual Geranium Sale. Geraniums are available in pink or red and the cost is \$3.50 each. All proceeds benefit VRC services for victims of crime, a 24-hour hotline, and programs providing education, support and advocacy throughout Luzerne, Wyoming and Carbon counties. Orders can be placed in person at Tarnowski's Kielbasa or by calling 736-6585 by Thursday April 25th. Geraniums will be available for pick-up Thursday May 9th, Friday May 10th or Saturday May 11th.



Nanticoke Area Junior Trojans Awards

By Tom Kashatus ~ The Nanticoke Area Junior Trojans feted football players and cheerleaders before a packed house at the High School auditorium recently. After the ceremony a pizza party was held in the cafeteria for all parents, athletes and cheerleaders. Coach Tim Mackiewicz individually complimented all those who contributed donations and their time to the program. Nicole (Colatasti) Mackiewicz serves as president.



Rinehamer Award

Nanticoke Area Junior Trojans from left to right: Brandon Flynn , D team; Tom Petroski, C team; John Shoemaker, B team; and John Guszak (Gushock), A team.

Steve Rinehamer Award

By Nicole Mackiewicz ~ This award is given in memory of Coach Stephen Rinehamer of Wanamie for his dedication of 20 plus years to the Junior Trojan Football program. Coach Rinehamer was our Offensive and Defensive line coach, a thankless job but one that he did with great intensity. If anyone knew him, they knew that he did not talk about football much during the off-season, but come August 1st, he'd get out of his car whistle in hand, and he was ready to go. These young athletes join previous players too numerous to mention, and they will continue our tradition of Junior Football recognition. This award is given to the offensive or defensive player who was the most coachable and has made great strides in his position.



Turoski Award

From left to right: Nico Czek, D Team; Jeffery Cardimona, C Team; Colby Butczynski, B Team; Mark Walters, A Team.



Colatosti Award

From Left to Right: Cameron Fox, D Team; Joseph Fox, C Team; Nathan Kreitzer, B Team; Ian Nowakowski, A Team.

Bob Colatosti Award

By Nicole Mackiewicz ~ This award was initiated in 2004 and given in Coach Bob Colatosti's name for his dedication of twenty plus years to the Junior Trojan football program. Coach Colatosti has coached football for players of all ages starting with the C team and continuing through Greater Nanticoke Area High School varsity. Coach Colatosti was a former President of the Wyoming Valley Junior Football Conference and was responsible for implementing the D Team of junior football throughout the conference. This award is given to the young athlete who shows leadership, enthusiasm and team spirit on and off the field. The player who receives this award must have also shown the most improvement in his abilities from the start of the season to the final game.



Shepanski Award

From left to right: Aidan Jaskulski, D Team; Nathan Penko, C Team; Jared Pointkowski, B Team; Dawson Hughes, A Team.

Frank Shepanski Award

By Nicole Mackiewicz ~ In 1991 a special award was begun to honor Coach Frank Shepanski for his 20-plus years of dedication and love to the Junior Trojans. This award is given to the athlete who shows respect to his coaches, teammates and parents; indicates leadership on and off the field during games and practices; and when given a task, performs without question to the best of his ability. The athlete that receives this award has exhibited these qualities as Coach Shepanski did with his intensity and dedication to coaching Nanticoke Junior Trojan Football.

HANK TUROSKI AWARD

By Nicole Mackiewicz ~ Coach Hank Turoski was involved with the Junior Trojan Football Association for many years, coaching players from the "C" division up to and including the "A" division. Coach Turoski continued his coaching career with the High School Freshman and Varsity football teams. He also devoted his time as the strengthening coach. Coach Turoski did not only support the football program he supported all youth and high school sporting events. He could be found at the girl's softball games, wrestling meets, boys and girl's basketball games and even the girls' soccer games. Coach Turoski was always there to instill a higher quality of competitiveness and to encourage a person to believe in himself and never quit an assigned task. The recipient of this award possesses the qualities of "believing" and never quitting on the field or in life as Coach Hank would have demanded.



To the left: Post 539 members and Red Cross staff participating in blood drive. Sitting: Amanda Middleton, Lauren Wheeler, and Patti Boyle. Standing: Andrea Rambus, Arden Miller, Stefanie Stogoski. Absent in the photo: Lorrie Materewicz and Barbara Paganucci.

Below: Mike Cooper, Arch Street, Glen Lyon, being prepared for donation.



American Legion Blood Drive

By Tom Kashatus & Stephanie Stogoski ~ American Legion Post 539 in Glen Lyon has revived a community initiative considered to be crucial during times of war, widespread emergencies, and for some, their very survival in everyday life, during surgeries, and injuries suffered in accidents: a blood drive.

In partnership with the American Red Cross located off Middle Road in Hanover Township, the drive was spearheaded by Lorrie Materewicz, president of the American Legion Post 539 Ladies Auxiliary. Diligence and determination will insure the future success of this vital initiative. American Legion Auxiliary members assisting President Materewicz in the blood drive were Barbara Paganucci (a blood donor), Andrea Rambus, and Stephanie Stogoski.

The Blood Drive was held on the Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday at American Legion Post 539 from 1:00 p.m. until 6:00 p.m. Refreshments were provided by the American Red Cross and supervised by Auxiliary members. Donors from Glen Lyon, Wanamie, Mocanaqua, and Shickshinny Lake were welcomed. A door prize was awarded to a lucky participant and congratulations are extended to Marilyn Banas of Newport Street, Glen Lyon.

The Red Cross Chapter from Hanover Township services the northeastern Pennsylvania region which includes twenty-four counties and four counties in New York state. They have over 600 employees and do thirteen bloods drives each day, seven days a week, thus keeping their supervisors, nursing techs, and phlebotomists quite busy. Over 500 pints of blood are used per day from this chapter. Throughout the years many people from the Newport Township community have contributed to and benefited from blood donations of the American Red Cross.

There are plans to schedule another blood drive for the fall of this year. The Auxiliary hopes to make certain that the Red Cross has a continuous supply of blood and that Newport Township is a better and safer place to live for all of its residents.

VOTE IN THE PRIMARY ELECTION ON MAY 21

MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD!

The PA Voter ID law will not be in effect for the May 21 primary. Poll workers may ask you for photo ID, but you are not required to show it in order to vote. Individuals voting for the first time or voting at a new polling place must show either photo or non-photo ID.

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Cub Scout Troop 430 Soup Supper

By Tom Kashatus ~ If you missed it, it was your misfortune! What a wonderful culinary adventure it was to enjoy a lunch of fine cuisine made from the special soup recipes of local scout families! It was a fundraiser, but more importantly it was an opportunity for families and friends to get together to taste different soups and chili at the Glen Lyon American Legion Post 539 on a Sunday afternoon. An exceptional variety of soups were available, i.e., tomato soup, potato leek soup, “piggy (halupki) soup, stuffed pepper soup, chicken soup, beef barley soup, Italian wedding soup, and many many more. There was also coffee and other refreshments, bread, and desserts available – if you had the room to ingest. All food was contributed by the cooks and the only price tag was a donation of the diner’s choice. In the upper right corner are Scoutmasters Joe Figlerski and Jeremy Blank. To the immediate right are: Top Row left to right: Stephen Rudawski & Austin Blank. Front row left to right: Zack Fox, Joseph Fox, and Cameron Fox.



Cub Scout Pack 430 Pine Wood Derby

By Tom Kashatus ~ Joseph Fox of Cub Scout Pack 430 and his “souped-up” Spiderman pine wood racing car were the big winners at the Pack’s annual Pine Wood Derby after some fast and furious, lengthy and serious competition. The race was held at the American Legion in Glen Lyon. The competitors were responsible for developing their individual race cars from kits that they purchased. The body of the car is made from a block of balsa wood which is carved into the desired finished product. Tires, weights, and other ornaments are furnished with the kit. Painting and coloring is done at the discretion of each competitor. Each vehicle can weigh no more than five ounces. Judging is done by a computer program attached to the race track. The competition was supervised by Scoutmaster Joseph Figlerski. Computer operator was Newport Township Police Chief and Pack Master Jeremy Blank. Krissy Blank operated the starting gate.



Above pictured left to right with their prized entries: Stephen Rudawski with “Mindcrater” (third place); Cameron Fox with “Foxy,” Austin Blank with “Skateboard Packer” (second place); Christian Cognini, Joseph Fox with “Spiderman” (first place); Zack Fox and “Police Car,” and Brooklyn Blank with “Purple Fish.”

On the left are competing vehicles and the trophies and medals awarded to participants.

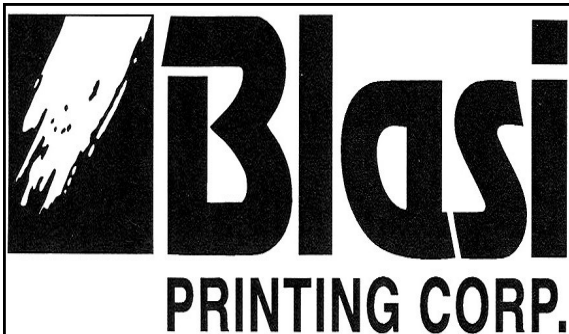
LENTEN FISH DINNERS



Above on the left are preparations for the fish dinner held at St. Adalbert's Church on February 15 in Holy Spirit Parish. From left to right: Joe Hillan, Carol Sobotka, Bernadine Betkoski and Heidi Jarecki. Above right is the fish dinner at the Knights of Columbus on February 22 at the Knight's hall in Glen Lyon. Pictured are Mike and Mary Ann Mihneski, and Dorothy Hudak. A second fish dinner at the Knights of Columbus Hall was held March 22.

St. Faustina's 2013 Annual Festival will be held Friday, June 21 to Sunday, June 23 at St. Faustina's Grove in Sheatown. Musical entertainment includes Stealing Neil, Iron Cowboy, and Gone Crazy. Saturday's 4 p.m. Mass features John Steven's Doubleshot.

St. Faustina's Youth Ministry is holding a basket raffle fundraiser on Sunday, April 14 at St. Stanislaus Gymnasium, West Church Street, Nanticoke. Doors open at 10:30 a.m. and drawings begin at 1:00 p.m. Over 100 baskets will be up for raffle.



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A Spring Ham Bingo sponsored by the Newport Twp. Women's Activity Group was held on March 10 at St. Adalbert's Church Hall. It included a bake sale and Chinese auction.



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New Life at Easter

For I remember it is Easter morn,
And life and love and peace are all new born.

~ Alice Freeman Palmer



Good Friday Food Tent Sale was held March 29 at the Del Balso Ford Parking Lot in Nanticoke. It was sponsored by the Newport Twp. Consolidated Fire Department, Quality Hill Playground Association and St. Faustina Grove and Cultural Committees. Offered for sale were potato pancakes, pierogies, halushki, broccoli and shells, red clam chowder and shrimp bisque.



St Nicholas Ukrainian Church, Glen Lyon held a halushki, vegetable soup and bake sale on Friday, March 22. Pictured above are the cooks who would not divulge their secret recipes. Thanks to all who supported this event.

Easter Basket Blessing at St. Adalbert's Church, Glen Lyon took place on Saturday March 30. At right, Father Don Williams is shown blessing baskets filled with traditional Easter foods: butter, bread, eggs, nutroll and poppyseed, ham, kielbasi, and salt. *Wesołego Alleluja!*



Meeting with the President

Matthew Pelak, shown above with President Barack Obama, is the son of Richard and Barbara Gizara Pelak of Glen Lyon. In February, he and other members of Team Rubicon met with the President in the Oval Office for about 20 minutes. Team Rubicon unites the skills and experiences of military veterans with first responders to rapidly deploy emergency response teams. Members serve in many places all around the world and in the U.S. They spent six weeks helping in the Rockaways after Hurricane Sandy and have been in Iraq and Afghanistan. For more information, check out their website: teamrubiconusa.org.



Easter Basket Blessing shown above took place at St. Nicholas's Church, Glen Lyon early Easter Sunday morning, March 31. Father John Seniw officiated.

A Sign of Maturity

I thought growing up was something that happened automatically as you got older. But it turns out it's something you have to choose to do.

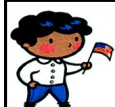
~ From the television show *Scrubs*

For Memorial Day and Any Day: The next time you dine at the Alden Manor Complex, check out the late John Forgach's tribute to Newport Township veterans located in the private dining room.



Easter Egg Hunt sponsored by the Newport Township Women's Activity Group was held at the Wanamie Recreation Park on March 23. The day was cold, the wind blustery, and there were even some snow flurries flying around, but that didn't stop the children from having a great time! Special Guest The Easter Bunny arrived on the fire truck. A Chinese auction featuring assorted Easter baskets was also held. About two hundred people braved the March winds. Happy Easter to all!

NEWPORT PRIDE! The NTCO is offering for sale adjustable Newport Township **baseball hats** (both structured and non-structured) at \$12.00, **tee shirts** for \$10.00, **long-sleeved tees** for \$12.00, **sweat-shirts** for \$18.00 and **hooded sweatshirts** for \$20.00, sizes S to 2x. Sizes larger than 2x can be ordered for an extra \$2.00. Custom orders for **zippered hoodies** can be taken at \$30.00 each. The hats are red with black lettering and the tees and sweatshirts are a light grey. Call Heidi Jarecki at 570-736-6782 or email at hselecky@pa.metrocast.net. Add \$3.00 per item for shipping.



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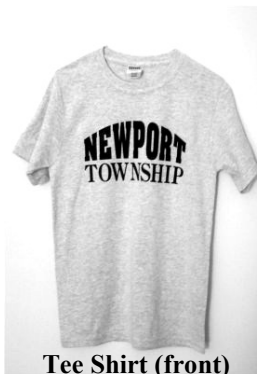
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Tee Shirt (front)



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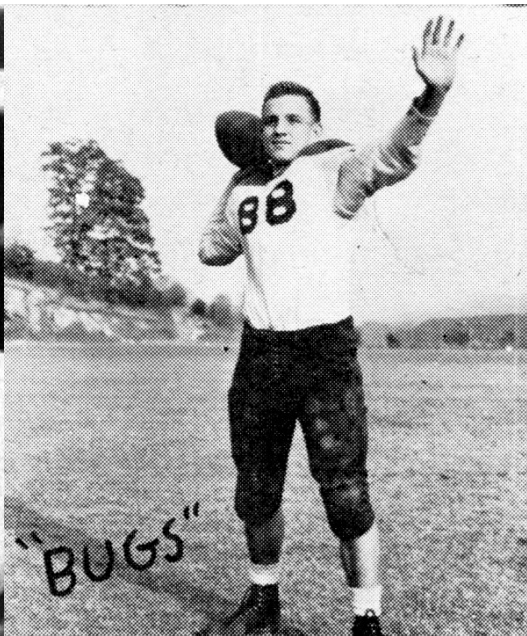


Enjoy the Great Outdoors right here in the Township. Walk, run, or bike-ride the Penobscot Trail in Wanamie. There are both easy paths and more rugged areas if you want a challenge. Those who can climb are rewarded with spectacular views!

Also try the Mocanaqua Loop which begins near the Mocanaqua-Shickshinny Bridge. The trails are marked and cross over into Newport Township.

Newport Township Memorabilia

The NTCO is offering for sale historic wooden miniatures of the Alden Coal Company Office and Store, Newport Township High School, the Glen Lyon Breaker and St. Stanislaus Orphanage. A new miniature featuring Najaka's Pond in Lee is currently under development. They can be purchased at the Variety Stop on East Main Street, Glen Lyon or by contacting Heidi Jarecki at 570-736-6782 or her email at hselecky@pa.metrocast.net. All are available for \$15.00 each, \$18.00 if they are shipped. Please make checks out to "NTCO." Both DVDs with a total of 1600 historical pictures are also in stock. Go to our web-site at www.newporttownship.com and click on "Memorabilia" for more information.



Bob Duliba

By Paul Jarecki ~ Robert Duliba of Glen Lyon was born January 9, 1936 and attended Newport Township High School where he played baseball, basketball and football. An outstanding football player, he was captain of the team, was selected as a Wyoming Valley All-Scholastic fullback and had aspirations of going to college on a football scholarship. He didn't play baseball until his senior year when baseball coach Zig Najaka asked him to pitch in a game because his starting pitcher was ill. In his first high school game, he struck out 21 batters and impressed two scouts for the St. Louis Cardinals who just happened to be in attendance. Bob did not exhibit very good control, but he was big, strong and threw the ball very hard. After the game, the scouts offered him a \$4000 bonus and \$175 a month salary to sign a professional baseball contract. Bob's father died when he was young and because his family was struggling, he took the offer. A day after graduation in 1953, he was on a train to Ozark, Alabama to play Class D ball in the St. Louis Cardinals farm system. At first, Bob just threw the ball as fast as he could, but the Cardinals worked with him and he gradually moved up through the farm system from Class C St Joseph to Class B Peoria and finally to Class A Allentown. The 1955 season at Allentown did not start off very well. His record was 1-1 with a 7.00 earned run average (ERA). Discouraged, Bob came home and joined the Marine Corps. It was there that he learned to pitch.


He played service ball for the Marine Corps for three years. It was a 150-200 game schedule and Bob pitched every fourth or fifth day. He faced very talented Army teams that were stacked with major leaguers and Bob eventually developed a tough mental approach to the game. He became a pitcher and not just a hard thrower. In 1959, after being discharged, he resumed his professional baseball career. At Omaha Class AA he was 8-5 with a 3.07 ERA in 123 innings and at the end of the 1959 season, he was called up to the St. Louis Cardinals. On August 11, 1959, Bob made his major league debut at Busch Stadium in St. Louis with two scoreless innings against the San Francisco Giants. Eighteen days later he earned his first major league save against Cincinnati. He finished 1959 with 22.2 innings and an ERA of 2.78. In 1960, he won 4 and lost 4 in 40.2 innings with a 4.20 ERA. In 1961, he was sent down to the minors. That year, he was 7-7 with a 3.48 ERA at San Juan/Charleston AAA and in 1962 4-4 with a 3.78 ERA at Atlanta AAA. That year, he was called up to the majors again where he pitched 39.1 innings with St. Louis, had a 2-0 record and an ERA

of 2.06. In 1963 he was traded to the Los Angeles Angels and was back in the minors at Hawaii Class AAA where he pitched well, a 6-5 record with a 2.91 ERA. In 1963 he was called up to the majors again where he got into only 6 games and in 1964 had his best year in major league baseball with a 6-4 record, 9 saves and an ERA of 3.59. In 1965, he was traded to the Boston Red Sox. That year, he started off in the minors at Toronto AAA where he was 4-1 with a ERA of 1.09 in 33 innings and was called up to Boston where he was 4-2 with a 3.78 ERA in 64.1 innings and 1 save. In 1966 he was back in the minors with Toronto for 4 games then went to Vancouver AAA where he was 7-1 with a 1.91 ERA in 44 games and 66 innings. In 1967, he was again playing for Vancouver where he was voted the Pacific Coast League's Most Valuable Player with a 6-3 record and 37 strikeouts and an ERA of 3.18. At the end of the season he was traded to the Kansas City Athletics. He was called up to the majors for the last time in 1967, where he pitched in only seven games. From 1967 to

1971, he finished his baseball career in AAA with good years in Vancouver 1967-1968, Iowa 1969 and Richmond 1970-1971. His minor league totals were 561 games, a 93-73 win/loss record, 1,299 innings and an ERA of 3.67. His major league totals include 176 games pitched, 257 innings (all in relief) a 17-12 record, 93 games finished, a 3.47 ERA, 129 strike outs and 14 saves. Of his six victories with the St. Louis Cardinals one was against Hall Of Fame pitcher Sandy Koufax of the Los Angeles Dodgers. Also while Bob was with the Angels, Mickey Mantle hit his 450th home run off him on September 17, 1964. Bob retired from professional baseball in 1972 at the age of 36. He went on to become a high school teacher and coach and was head baseball coach at Wilkes University from 1982 to 1987 and again from 1992 to 1995. In 2005, Bob was voted as one of the top 100 athletes in Wyoming Valley history by the Citizen's Voice newspaper. He was ranked number 95. Bob currently lives locally.

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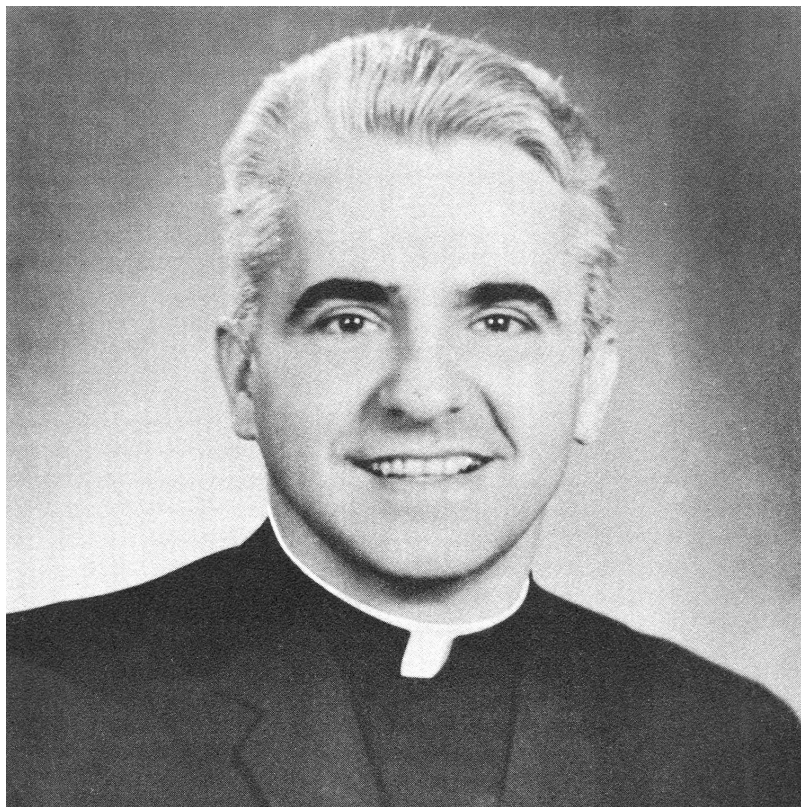
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Rev. Msgr. Bohdan Stephen Olesh

By Heidi and Paul Jarecki ~ Monsignor Bohdan Olesh was pastor of St. Nicholas Ukrainian Church in Glen Lyon from 1948 until 1998. During his fifty years of service at St. Nicholas, his warmth, intelligence, humor and dedication to church and community touched the lives of many people far beyond his parish. His remarkable life was one filled with many accomplishments and he, like others of his generation, was witness to many historic events.

Bohdan Stephen Olesh was born in Youngstown, Ohio on October 21, 1918 and grew up in Youngstown and Philadelphia. He graduated from Penn Treaty High School in Philadelphia and St. Basil's School in Stamford. In 1936, after deciding to enter the priesthood, he was assigned to St. John Chrysostom Seminary in Western Ukraine because he was fluent in Ukrainian. While there he resided with his grandparents and went to work as a teacher and laborer in the fields to support himself. In 1939 World War II broke out. In September, the Soviet Union moved in and Bohdan was trapped in Western Ukraine. On January 27, 1941, the Archbishop-Metropolitan of the Ukraine, Count Andrew Sheptytsky, counseled him to return to the United States and continue his studies there. It was wartime, and travel was difficult and dangerous. He returned by way of Moscow, Siberia and Japan. He flew from L'viv to Kiev, then by train to Moscow, and on to Vladivostok on the Trans-Siberian Express. He got on a ship to Japan and in Yokahama, caught the America-bound boat, the President Coolidge. He arrived at his parents' home on W. Master St. Philadelphia on March 17, 1941.

He then attended St. Mary's Seminary, Roland Park, MD, and Catholic University, Washington DC. He pursued post-graduate work at Fordham University. Bohdan Olesh was ordained to the priesthood in the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Philadelphia on January 14, 1942. His first assignment was the Church of the Assumption in Bayonne, NJ and he remained there until February 23, 1943, when he was named an instructor at St. Basil's Minor Seminary and assistant at St. Michael's Church, Yonkers, NY. From 1945 to 1948, he assumed pastorates in Minneapolis, Sloatsburg, NY, Spring Valley, NY, and Detroit. On January 2, 1948, Father Olesh was assigned pastor of St. Nicholas Church,

Bohdan Olesh, as a student for the priesthood, enjoying a cup of real American coffee shortly after his arrival in San Francisco aboard the liner President Coolidge.

Glen Lyon and St. Vladimir's Church, Alden.

On October 16, 1985, the Apostolic Pro-Nuncio in the U.S. notified the Ukrainian Catholic Archdiocese of Philadelphia that Father Olesh had been granted a papal honor with the title of Monsignor by His Holiness Pope John Paul II. Monsignor Olesh suddenly passed away in St. Nicholas rectory in Glen Lyon after 50 years of continuous service to his parish.



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HOW STEARNS GOT ITS NAME

By Heidi and Paul Jarecki ~ Just before the turn of the 20th century, the Susquehanna Coal Company, subsidiary of the Pennsylvania Railroad, began operating a colliery along the railroad between Glen Lyon and Nanticoke near Wanamie. The mine patch of about nine homes was named Stearns Station after Irving Stearns, who was general manager of the Pennsylvania Railroad's mining interests.

Irving Ariel Stearns, pictured above, was born September 12, 1845 in Rushville, N.Y. He graduated from the Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute of Troy, NY. in 1868. In 1869 he went to Wilkes-Barre and became an engineer in the office of R.P. Rothwell who was at the time the leading mining engineer in the region. From 1871 to 1872 Stearns was the superintendent of the McNeal Coal & Iron Co. of Schuylkill County. From 1872 to 1885 he was in private practice as a mining engineer and handled a great amount of business in the anthracite region. He was involved in the building of bridges at Shickshinny and Pittston and the surveying and mapping of many of the individually-operated mines. His practice extended throughout the country. In 1886 he became general manager of the Pennsylvania Railroad Company. At the end of his career, Mr. Stearns was president of the Wilkes-Barre City Hospital, Wyoming National Bank and the Wyoming Historical and Geological Society, Chairman of the Board of the Vulcan Iron Works and director of the Spring Brook Water Supply Co. and the Wilkes-Barre Lace Manufacturing Co. He died on October 5, 1920 at his home at 60 South River Street, Wilkes-Barre.

Some of the families who lived in Stearns Station include: Boyle, Smith, Cymbalysti, Rogowicz, Kopko, Zakszewski, McGill, Zlotowski, Kivler, Walkewicz, Howells, Lewis, Wallace, DeNardi, Fink, Campbell and Selecky. The homes were located just a few hundred yards south of the #6 shaft. Stearns Station operated until the 1950's when it was shut down in favor of strip mining.

LIFE IN STEARNS STATION (PART II)

(Continued from the Winter 2013 Newsletter)

By Robert Howells ~ (Editors' note: Stearns Station was a mine patch situated between Wanamie and Glen Lyon. Bob Howells lived in Stearns as a child for a period of four years before moving back to Nanticoke. He wrote an essay about his experiences. We first received a copy of the essay from Marie Zakszewski Vano several years ago. Mr. Howells passed away in 2010. It is reprinted here with permission from Mrs. Robert Howells.)

Washday was what the name implied. It usually took most of the day. The wringer washer was put in the middle of the kitchen and a chair with a galvanized tub to hold the rinse water was put alongside. Mom would take the wet clothes out of the washer, put them through the wringer, put them into the rinse water and back through the wringer. They were then put into a basket and taken outside to be hung on the clothesline. When they were dry, Mom would bring them in and, one at a time, would place them on the table, sprinkle the garment with drops of water and roll them up in a tight roll. It was very difficult to get wrinkles out of dry clothing. When she ironed, she would place the ironing board near the stove. She had three or four irons with which to iron. The irons had holes in the top to hold a common handle which fit all. She would put the irons on the stove and when they were hot enough, she would proceed to iron. When the iron she was using got cool, she would put it back on the stove, release the handle, and put it in another iron. She did this until the ironing was finished.

Even in those days, the ladies were concerned about their appearance. Mom had two irons which she used to "fix" her hair. (Her words, not mine.) One was a curling iron and the other was a waving iron. They both worked like a large pair of scissors. When she was about to do the girls' hair or her own, she would put the irons in the hot coals to get warm. When she thought they were hot enough, she'd test them on a newspaper. If they scorched the paper, they were too hot. In any case, if one smelled burnt hair, she was in trouble!

During the winter months, we always had hot bricks in the oven. They were not the small bricks used in building houses but the large, yellow bricks used for paving the roads. Each night before bedtime, Mom would take out a brick, wrap it in cloth, take it upstairs and put it under the covers at the foot of the bed. It sure was nice crawling into a warm bed and putting cold feet on a warm brick. In the morning, when she made the bed, she'd return the brick to the oven to heat up for bedtime.

I think it is safe to say that most of us suffered through a spell of diarrhea leaving us with a sore posterior. Mom had a remedy for the discomfort! She took a lid from the stove, wrapped it in newspaper and cloth, put it on a chair, and ordered us to sit on it. Believe me, it was very soooooothing.

Coming in from sleigh riding or walking in the snow always left me with cold, wet feet. Putting my "high tops" behind the stove to dry, I'd open the oven door and put a chair in front of it. It was great to sit in the chair with my feet on the little shelf below the oven and read a Big Little Book. (What! You never heard of a Big Little Book?!) "High tops" were shoes usually worn by kids in the country. I can't recall seeing many city kids wearing them. They came up over the calf of the leg to help keep your legs dry when walking through snow. At least, that's what I told my parents so I could get a pair. They had a little pocket on the side of the right boot which held a small penknife. Can you imagine what would happen if a kid wore shoes with a knife in a pocket today? And yet, we did it all the time in our one-room school-house.

(Continued on the next page)

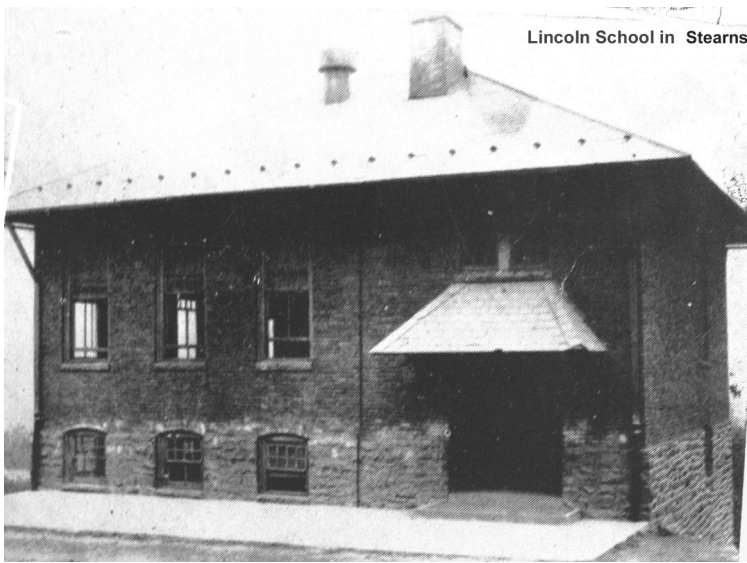
Ah, Spring!

April is a promise that May is bound to keep. ~ Hal Borland

Wise Words

If we had no winter, the spring would not be so pleasant; if we did not sometimes taste of adversity, prosperity would not be so welcome. ~ Anne Bradstreet

Continued from the previous page.



ATTENDING LINCOLN SCHOOL IN STEARNS

By Bob Howells ~The children from the mine patch and surrounding farms were required to attend a one-room schoolhouse. What we called farms were really plots of one or two acres at the most. The mine patch was Stearns Station which was just beyond Newport Center, near Wanamie. It was demolished many years ago for strip mining.

The school was not a wood structure as depicted in the old movies. It was made of brick and had an electric bell rather than an old time hand held bell.

Entering the school, there were steps going up to a foyer, through a cloakroom and into a large classroom. Stairs going down led to the tile restrooms for boys and girls and to the furnace room where the janitor stayed during school hours.

There was one full-time teacher and a full-time janitor. I never remember more than 14 students in all seven grades. The janitor's room contained a table, chairs and a couch. The couch came in handy for the janitor or the teacher to take a nap when things were going slow.

I was the only one in my grade level. There were others in the same situation. Some grades had more than one student. The teacher (always a male) spent little time in instruction for each grade. It was impossible to spend a lot of time with each grade, fifteen or twenty minutes, a few times a time was about all that he could handle. Hence, there was a lot of busy work.

There was no playground, but there was a lot of woods surrounding the school. A dirt road ran right in front of the school with woods just beyond. A farmer's field lay to the east with woods on all other sides. The wide range in ages made it difficult to play any organized games, so the woods came in handy for the boys to climb trees and play tag.

Whenever the teacher told one of the older boys to fill the inkwells, I knew I was in trouble. The penmanship teacher was coming. The boys put the filled inkwells in a hole in the desk. There was a hole in the upper right hand corner for right handed students and a hole in the upper left hand corner for left handed. When the penmanship teacher arrived, she distributed those old pens that held a replaceable pen point. When you pressed too hard on the pen, the point spread and you wound up with a big ink blot on your paper.

Every so often, the art teacher would come. Mr. "D" would usually come on a Friday afternoon. He'd bring a lot of construction paper and scissors that wouldn't cut. We'd wind up making a lot of silly things that didn't make much sense to me. I loved to draw and wondered why art class didn't include drawing.

The best art class we ever had was a sort of field day. Popinki were in season and both Mr. "D" and our teacher, Mr. "Y" liked mushrooms. The kids didn't know a popinki from a brussel sprout but we tramped through the field anyway. Eventually, the teacher had us bring all

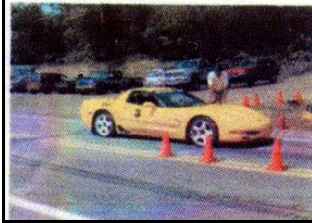
of our mushrooms to them and they sorted out the edible ones, put them in a paper sack and we all returned to school in time for dismissal.

The school board realized that the education taking place was not the best. The solution was to send the eighth grade to town to a regular school. An above-average high school dropout rate will do that.

Walking to the one room schoolhouse was a pleasant experience for me. There was an opening in the brush just across the road from our house. The path led through the woods, across an old footbridge, up another path and through a field to the schoolhouse. Now, since I was in eighth grade and going to the new school, we had to walk long distances on the road. The total distance to school was about a mile and a half, or just a little more. However, the people in the patch, if they were going out at the time, would give us a ride part or all of the way to the school. The milkman would take a detour and drop us off, or my uncle, who had only one arm, would drive his motorcycle with a side car down from Wilkes-Barre for a visit and give us a ride to school. (There were two of us going at the time.) One day, one of my teachers told me they would wait at the windows just to see what kind of conveyance would bring us to school.

Going to and from school through the woods was always a pleasant experience for me. I loved walking along those old paths, enjoying the thoughts of being a woodsman. However, I hated school and have no fond memories of that one room schoolhouse in the '30s.

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The Sopka Beer Garden in the 1920's

Andrew and Victoria Sopka

By Charlotte Sopka Santry ~ Andrew and Victoria Sopka were my grandparents on my father's side. They both immigrated to the United States from Poland. My Grandmother, or Babchi as we called her, came here in 1913. I am not sure about Dziadri, my Grandfather Andrew. I do believe they were married in the United States and proceeded to have four boys, my father Peter, being the last, the baby.

My grandparents were quite the entrepreneurial couple. In the '20s, during Prohibition, they operated a speakeasy on Rock Street in Glen Lyon. They made their own beer Babchi called "home brew," plus elderberry wine and I know there was a still to produce whiskey. The house is still there. However they rented that building. Renting was unacceptable for Babchi so she sent Dziadri to work in the coal mines to make enough money to purchase a house with a store front located at 125 West Main Street. The picture above is that building, and it is no longer around, I'm afraid. They did build a two-car garage complete with a smokehouse that faced the alley. The garage still exists although it is in severe disrepair.

Initially they opened a beer garden as depicted in the photo, but for some reason unknown to me, perhaps because of the children who knew my grandmother, they transformed it into a butcher shop and grocery store.

They made their own kielbasi, both smoked and fresh, kiszki (a Polish sausage made with pig's blood, seasonings, and usually barley), hams, and porketta. The smokehouse was located behind the store in the garage. The only wood they used to smoke their meats was fruit wood, either apple, cherry or pear. My grandfather and father were always on the hunt for fruit wood. I still have both kielbasi and kiszki recipes. Unfortunately, the porketta recipe died with my father. I regret not having that recipe, it was delicious.

My grandparents lived above the store in three rooms and there was a trap door in the pantry that went down into the kitchen of the store. Very nifty for a child. The house also included three rental apartments. They were frugal and knew how to make a buck.

They gave the business to my parents, Peter and Rosemarie, but the business failed. More than likely it was because of the advent of automobiles, which led to the demise of small town businesses, which still goes on to this day, unfortunately.

When I was a very small child, I spent most of my time in the store. I was happy and well cared for, not to mention well fed, by my wonderful grandparents, Babchi and Dziadri Sopka.

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When I was a boy of fourteen, my father was so ignorant I could hardly stand to have the old man around. But when I got to be twenty-one, I was astonished at how much he had learned in seven years. ~ Mark Twain

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Weather or Not

Everybody talks about the weather, but nobody does anything about it. ~ Mark Twain, editorial in the Hartford Courant, August 24, 1897

TO THE COMMISSIONERS OF NEWPORT TOWNSHIP

The Newport Township Community Organization congratulates the Newport Township Board of Commissioners for receiving \$500,000.00 of gaming funds to construct a new municipal building along Kirmar Avenue in Wanamie.

NEWPORT TOWNSHIP COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION SPRING DANCE

NTCO is holding a Teen Dance on Saturday, May 11th from 6 to 9:30 pm at the Glen Lyon American Legion, with DJ Rachelle Jarrett. Refreshments will be served. Admission is \$3.00. Free admission is available for all teens who participate in the Great American Cleanup Events.

NEWPORT TOWNSHIP COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION CITIZENSHIP AWARD

NTCO is accepting nominations for the 2013 Citizenship Award. Nominees 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 basis. Detailed information can be viewed on NTCO's website at www.newporttownship.com or contact Heidi or Tom. Deadline for nominations is October 31.

NEWPORT TOWNSHIP COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION RECYCLES

We recycle metals: motor blocks, brake drums, wheel rims, pipes, lawnmowers, charcoal grills, appliances, bed frames and springs, swimming pools, bicycles, exercise equipment, etc. We also recycle car batteries, electrical cords and wires, old Christmas lights, and aluminum products to raise funds for our community projects. The public's participation is very much appreciated. For assistance please call Tom Kashatus at (570) 736-6981 or email tomkash@verizon.net

NEWPORT TOWNSHIP COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION NEWSLETTER SUBSCRIPTION

The NTCO will make available print copies of our quarterly newsletter to those living outside the area. An annual fee of \$10.00 covers the cost of mailing. Newsletters are sent through the U.S. Postal Service. Send your check made out to "NTCO" to Heidi Jarecki, 28 West Main St., Glen Lyon, PA 18617. If you have internet access, please furnish your email address to Tom Kashatus at tomkash@verizon.net. Doing so will enable notification by link to new publications on NTCO's website at www.newporttownship.com. There is no charge for the online version. Photographs in the online version can be viewed in color; print copies are in black and white.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

We would be honored and proud to have you as a member of our Newport Township Community Organization. Your membership will show approval of and help support our good deeds and contributions that we favor upon our Community. Membership in the NTCO is \$5.00 per year based on the annual year January thru December. Send application with fee to: 110 1/2 Railroad St., Wanamie, PA 18634.

Name _____

Street Address _____

Town, City _____

Zip Code _____

Phone number _____

Email address _____

THE GREAT AMERICAN CLEANUP IN NEWPORT TWP. APRIL 13TH TO MAY 4TH

- April 13th: Park cleanups
- April 25 to April 30: The Big Junk Drop Off Event
- May 4th, 8am to 12pm: Community Pride Event

VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED

Contact Tom at 736-6981 or Palmira at 736-6637 to volunteer. Detailed information can be read on page 4. Please check www.newporttownship.com for details, updates and changes in schedule.

SCRANTON/WILKES-BARRE RAILRIDERS BALL GAME

NTCO will be the featured Community Organization of the Night at the Scranton/Wilkes-Barre RailRiders Game to be held on August 17th, 2013 @ 7:05pm. We will have a table set up in the ballpark to pass out information and promote our organization. Tickets are available for \$8. This will be a big night for the Organization. Rail-Riders Replica Jerseys will be given to the first 2,500 people into the ballpark. Join us for a fun night at the new PNC Field! The RailRiders are the N.Y. Yankees AAA affiliate. Contact Palmira for tickets.

NEWPORT TOWNSHIP COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION OFFICERS/CONTACTS

President: Palmira Gregory Miller 570-736-6637
1st Vice President: Tom Kashatus 570-736-6981
2nd Vice President: William Hourigan 570-736-6096
Treasurer: Francis Zaleski 570-736-6336
Secretary: Linda Conner 570-736-6580
Alternate Secretary/Treasurer: John Jarecki 570-736-6620
Newsletter Editors: Heidi & Paul Jarecki 570-736-6782
Advertising Agent: Joe Maloney 570-736-6828
Webmaster: Palmira Miller palmiram@newporttownship.com
Assistant Webmaster: John Jarecki jjarecki@pa.metrocast.net
Website: <http://newporttownship.com/>

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Stephen Phillips 570-735-3991
Mary Jo Evans 570-736-7277
Heidi Jarecki 570-736-6782
Joe Maloney 570-736-6828
Carol Jarecki 570-736-6620

Football's Best Quips, Quotes and Quellers



Martin D. (Mitch) Tullai



ART DONOVAN COMMENTING ON THE FACT THAT DON SHULA LOST THE 1985 SUPERBOWL TO THE REDSKINS.
"They said Shula could walk on water, but he missed a rock that day"

Martin (Mitch) Tullai, a native of Glen Lyon, graduated from Newport Twp. High School in 1946. He then graduated cum laude from Western Maryland College in 1952. While there, he played four years of football. He went on to coach and teach at St. Paul's School in Brooklanville, Md.

His book *Football's Best : Quips, Quotes and Quellers* can be obtained for \$10.00 by contacting Heidi Jarecki at 570-736-6782 or her email at hselecky@pa.metrocast.net. Add \$2.00 for shipping. All proceeds benefit NTCO.

Excerpts from *Football's Best Quips, Quotes and Quellers*:

Harmon Wages, former Atlanta Falcon's running back and TV sports-caster on his new radio talk show: "My momma always said I had a face for radio."

Jim Thorpe on money: "They say that money talks. The only thing it ever said to me was 'Good-bye!'"