



From every mountainside, Let Freedom ring ~ Samuel F. Smith, "America"



The American flag on Retreat Mountain above Glen Lyon, taken on a summer's day. For the story, see page 3.

2012 GREAT AMERICAN AND NEWPORT TOWNSHIP CLEANUP EVENTS

By *Palmira Gregory Miller* ~ For the eighth year, the Newport Township Community Organization (NTCO) joined forces with the Great American Cleanup, the largest cleanup, fix-up, and beautification program held throughout the country. Pennsylvania's state-wide cleanup campaign involves state and local government, businesses, waste haulers, environmental and civic groups, and state agencies such as the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and the Department of Transportation (PennDOT).

Locally, from April 20 to April 28, ninety volunteers worked more than 500 hours, cleaned 30 miles of roadway, recycled 19 TV's and 13,400 pounds of tin, steel, cast iron, and aluminum, removed 150 tires and 56,300 pounds of trash throughout Newport Township during the Great American Cleanup of PA.

On April 24, in partnership with the Pennsylvania Environmental Council, an illegal dumpsite along Railroad Street in Alden was eradicated with the help of PennDOT, six volunteers from the Luzerne County Work Release Program, several members of the Community Organization along with the residents of Railroad Street working together to remove 4,000 pounds of garbage and 105 tires. Also, the group recycled 2,260 pounds of tin, steel, cast iron, and aluminum for a grand total of 4.18 ton.

From April 20 to April 25, the Big Junk Drop-Off took place. Dumpsters were placed across the highway from the Earth Conservancy Compost Facility near Glen Lyon for Township residents to properly dispose of unsightly debris from their properties. During this week over 20 volunteers worked 250 hours collecting

16.41 tons of trash. Volunteers also reminded residents that one big item can be disposed of on the first pick-up of the month along with their household refuse.

In partnership with Earth Conservancy, 8.49 ton of trash was removed from illegal dumping throughout EC property. Another partner was H. H. Gregg who recycled 19 TV's for Earth Day. Volunteers eradicated a dumpsite along Newport Avenue near Alden Manor. **Eric Karvaski** was cited by Officer Jim Evans for dumping in that area and **Mark Brown** from Alden was cited by Officer Jeremy Blank for illegal dumping at the old Weinick Park area. Once again the Spooky Off Road Club cleaned up contractors' debris and garbage along Old Newport Cemetery Road. This problem area is now being monitored.

Thank you to the following volunteers who donated their time at the Big Junk Drop-Off: Tom Kashatus, Palmira Gregory Miller, Bill Hourigan, Joe Maloney, Sharon Julius, Paul Jarecki, Heidi Jarecki, Andy Sweeney, Carolyn Phillips, Commissioner John Zyla, Faye Maloney, Ron Papciak, Mark Wassel, Jim Czyzycki, Debbie Prokopf, Ryan Searles, Mary Belles, Mary Evanusa, Charles Hodgson, Linda Connor, John Jarecki, Leigh Bonczewski, Jordan Sager and Kellie Havey.

On April 28, the Community Pride Event took place along the main roads in Newport Township where teams spread out to pick up litter from 30 miles of roadway. Sixty volunteers worked 226 hours, filled 125 bags of trash and large items to total 2,500 pounds of garbage and 45 tires, which was removed by PennDOT workers. After the event, volunteers returned to the Township Municipal Building to enjoy a light lunch provided by the NTCO.

Thank you also to the volunteers who took part in the Community Pride Event on April 28: Aymen Algahtani, Abdulazil Alhumad, Austin, Brooklyn and Krissy Blank, Giacomo, Melissa, Pasquale Jr. and Pasquale Bova, Arieli and Raymond Brabant, Asia and Shlonda Branton, Katelyn Butczynski, Stefanie Coxe, Sarah Cragle, Brayden Emel, Isabella and Natalyn Emel, Cassandra and Mary Jo Evans, Debbie Fudjak, Owen Godoy, Jane and Walt Golaszewski, Bill Hourigan, Codi and Renee Hornlein, Robert Impaglia, John and Paul Jarecki, Mary and Megan Jarrett, Sharon Julius, Tom Kashatus, Brayden, Isabella, Jennifer and Natalyn Kearney, Steven Masakowski, Brandon Michael, Palmira Gregory Miller, Caleb and Gabe Nelson, Anthony Peterson, Carolyn and Stephen Phillips, Emilyann and Melinda Remley, Ericka Roback, Lauren and Lisa Rudawski, John and Caroline Smith, Emily Spencer, Christopher Todd, Brendan Tonaglione, Kira and Theresa Uber, and Francis Zaleski.

Thank you to the following sponsors, partners, groups and organizations for providing services and/or in-kind donations throughout the events: Angela Vitkoski of the Pennsylvania Environmental Council, Mark Cesare of J. P. Mascaro & Sons, John Graham of Waste Reduction, Dan O'Brien of Keystone Landfill, Dave Rinehimer of PennDOT, Mike Dziak, Jacqueline Dickman, and Nick from Earth Conservancy, Captain Pugh of the Luzerne County Work Release Program, Joe Tarity of the Pepsi Beverage Company in Wilkes Barre, Paul Bush of UTZ Products, Antonio's Pizza in Nanticoke, Ron Papciak and members of the Spooky Off Road Club, the Newport Township Fire Department, the Newport Township Police Department, Newport Township Board of Commissioners, Wilkes University students, and Girl & Boy Scouts of America. A special thanks to Carolyn Phillips for preparing and delivering lunch to the many volunteers, Tom Kashatus for coordinating the events, and the Newport Township Community Organization for sponsorship.

Message from the President

By NTCO President Palmira Gregory Miller ~ Almost half the year has gone by and the Newport Township Community Organization has accomplished a number of wonderful things such as: running a daily recycling program, publishing and distributing a Community Newsletter, hosting a website www.newporttownship.com, holding eight days of cleanup events during the Great American Cleanup of PA, preparing and serving dinner to the homeless at St. Adalbert's Church Hall, holding a Chinese Auction at the Newport Township Fire Department Memorial Day Weekend Bazaar, sponsoring two Little League Teams, donating a laptop to the Newport Township Police Department, and donating several Newport Township Memorabilia Baskets to fund-raisers for non-profit organizations.

Year round, Tom Kashatus runs the recycling program which has proven to be our largest fundraiser. Heidi and Paul Jarecki continue to sell calendars, DVD's, wooden miniatures, t-shirts, hats, hooded sweatshirts and more with the proceeds funneled back into the community. This year the Community Organization has been able to donate to the Little League, the Newport Township Consolidated Fire Department, Holy Spirit Parish Vacation Bible School, and the Knights of Columbus.

We look forward to this year's summer fun events that are being planned and also partnering with the Newport Township Recreation Board on the playgrounds and the Glen Lyon Crime Watch at the National Night Out events. The Organization encourages all residents to participate in volunteer activities and there are many opportunities.

NTCO members and residents continue to identify and monitor illegal dumpsites within the municipality and applaud the Newport Township Police Force in their efforts to catch and cite illegal dumpers.

The Community Organization commends and supports the Newport Township Authority for the demolition program in ridding the Township of derelict properties.

Also, the NTCO would like to extend its congratulations to its Junior Members, Shelly Miller and Stephen Valenti who are 2012 graduates of Greater Nanticoke Area High School. Both will attend

college in the fall.

The NTCO extends its congratulations to 5th grader Junior Member Arieli Brabant for winning the Outstanding Academic Excellence Award from President Obama's Educational Award Program. NTCO also wishes her the best of luck in Pennsylvania's Miss Pre-Teen Pageant. Arieli is one of two finalists in Luzerne County to compete for the National American Miss Title this summer in Harrisburg.

TOWNSHIP BUSINESS

By John Jarecki ~ At a special meeting in April, the Township Commissioners approved a contract with Shea Industries of Clark Summit to 1) do clean up work on a demolished building at 51 E. Main Street in Glen Lyon (the former CMOS building and Family Theater) for payment of \$31,700 and 2) demolish the abandoned house at 44 Coal Street in Glen Lyon for \$6,800. Shea was the low bidder on the projects.

At their May 7 meeting, the Commissioners voted to amend the Township's recycling and refuse ordinances to require residents to place their refuse and items for recycling at curbside not more than 24 hours before the day scheduled for their pickup. For example, if your refuse is normally picked up on Thursday, you will now be required to put it out no earlier than midnight on the night of Tuesday into Wednesday. For the first violation, a resident would get a warning. For additional violations, he would get a citation. The purpose of these changes is to prevent problems that have come up because some residents have put their trash out too far in advance of pickup.

Also at the May 7 meeting, Township Solicitor Rich Shiptoski reported that the owner of the fire damaged house at 81 Ridge Street in Glen Lyon agreed to allow the Township to demolish the remains of the building and to use money paid by her insurance company into an escrow account, to carry out the demolition. However, as of the May 16 Commissioners' Work Session, the owner had still not signed the demolition agreement.

In other business at the May meeting, Township Business Manager Rich Zika said that he expects the Township to receive, at the end of May or in early June, the first of two new leased police cars. The first one is a 2013 Ford Explorer that will function as an interceptor utility vehicle. The car was, at the time of the meeting, in the Beyer Warnock vehicle fleet dealership in East Hanover New Jersey, near New York City. The dealership was transferring to the new car a light bar and radio from one of the Township's present police cars, which will no longer be used.

The Township is leasing the cars rather than buying them because state grant funds for local government expenses such as purchasing police cars are not available at this time. The Township is leasing the car at a total cost of about \$32,000 for a period of 36 months, during which it will make monthly payments.

The Township is doing this through the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's COSTARS program, which is a cooperative purchasing program run by the State's Department of General Services. The program provides a variety of supplies and services to its member organizations, which include local governments, school districts, public authorities, certain non-profit organizations, and state-related organizations such as the Turnpike Commission. Since the program purchases in large quantities, it can pass on the resulting cost savings to its members.

GLEN LYON POST OFFICE ANNOUNCEMENT

The Glen Lyon Post Office will remain open with its regular hours for the next two years, after which hours will be reduced. We encourage all residents to patronize the only post office in the township. You won't have to wait in line!

The Flag on Retreat Mountain

By Tom Kashatus ~ The terrorist attack on the Twin Towers in New York City on 9/11/2001, although one of the greatest tragedies in American history, inspired Americans in many different ways. Patriotism brought citizens together to show their compassion for each other and surged to levels that had not been felt since World War II.

Nothing is truer or more evident than the inspiration felt by a group of Newport Township young men who wanted to honor and show respect to all emergency responders, servicemen and women, veterans, and volunteers who give their time and effort – and sometimes their lives – to helping others and their untiring dedication and devotion to community involvement. Vinny Mitchell of West Enterprise Street, Glen Lyon stated, “The thought of Twin Tower survivors running down the steps to safety and emergency responders (firemen, police, and paramedics) running up the steps to save lives just boggled the minds” of these local patriots. Something had to be done for all to see in remembrance of America’s heroes that would be lasting and noticeable.

The idea of installing the flag on Retreat Mountain, just north of Glen Lyon, was the brainchild of Township fireman Joe Hoover. Nick Kratz who worked with Vinny at the Compost Center at the time developed the design for the flag pole and foundation. By September 14, 2001 Joe and Vinny, along with Darren Sager and Ron “Pip” Papciak, raised the first flag at the site.

Since the initial installation, Vinny has been the self-appointed caretaker for the 5 x 8 flag. Along with the help of several other local patriots, he has taken the responsibility of replacing the flags when they show wear, usually after four or five months. According to Vinny, nylon flags which cost \$42.50 each must be used because cotton flags will not withstand conditions at the site as well. Flag-changing ceremonies, which may attract up to forty people, give opportunities for the flag committee to gather. On these occasions, some members give oratory to recall the flag’s purpose. A collection is taken to purchase replacement flags and flags have been donated at times. The flag has attracted attention and has become a local landmark. Vinny stated that Glen Lyon’s “Old Glory” has even been the subject matter for essays and art assignments for local elementary school students.

ATTENTION NEWPORT TWP. RESIDENTS

The Newport Township Sewer Authority (NTSA) will be conducting smoke testing of the sewer lines during the months of July, August, and September of 2012. Residents will be notified by flyers posted on the main doors of properties prior to the testing. This testing is necessary to eliminate non-sewer water such as melting snow or rain from entering the system. It is also a means of finding rain gutters and drains that are illegally connected. This creates an undue burden and increases the cost of sewer treatments. An illegal connection is identified by rising smoke. The presence of smoke indicates a direct connection to the sewer system and could contain dangerous sewer gases that may be traveling with the smoke. The smoke itself is non-toxic and is not a carcinogen. If smoke enters a building during the test, residents should leave until it dissipates as a precaution. If an illegal connection is found, the property owner will be given instructions on disconnecting and sealing the piping. Call the NTSA at 735-0423 weekdays from 8 AM to 3:30 PM with any questions or concerns.

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT

By Karen Rejician ~ The Glen Lyon Crime Watch invites Newport Township communities and businesses to celebrate the 29th National Night Out Tuesday, August 7 from 5:00 to 8:00 P.M. at the Wanamie Recreation Park. We anticipate a representative from the Luzerne County District Attorney's Office, Newport police commissioner and police chief and others as guest speakers.

National Night Out is held the first Tuesday in August throughout the United States, Canada and on military bases. This event was developed by the National Association of Town Watch (NATW) to promote police-community partnerships and violence prevention and safety in neighborhoods.

REUNION ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Newport Township High School Class of 1955 will hold their high school class reunion on August 16 at Genetti’s in Wilkes-Barre. An icebreaker will be held on Aug.15 at the Selecky home, 28 W. Main St., Glen Lyon. For more information call John Antoinitis at 607-748-8783 or Marie Pucci Modrow, 570-283-1911.

The Newport Township High School Classes of 1966 and 1967 are planning a joint reunion. Class members will be notified when arrangements are finalized.

The Newport Township All Class Reunion will be held on Saturday, October 6 at Alden Manor. For information, contact Phoebe Hillan at 570-736-6798 or Virginia Maddy at 570-735-1198.

NEWPORT TOWNSHIP RECREATION BOARD

The Newport Twp. Recreation Board meets every second Tuesday of the month at the American Legion in Glen Lyon. Current members are: John Grabowski, Scott Shattley, and Bob Raineri.

The Board reports that all playgrounds are open and running. The swings and slides are in great shape, the grounds are kept neat with the help of Joe Hillan and DPW crew, and basketball courts and baseball fields are playable. See the schedule below for planned activities. For more information, contact us on Facebook (Newport Recreation Board) or call the Township Municipal Building. We hope you enjoy your summer. Be safe!

JULY & AUGUST SCHEDULE OF EVENTS (TENTATIVE)

<u>DATE</u>	<u>PLAYGROUND</u>	<u>EVENT</u>
JULY 14	ALDEN	SKILL GAMES
JULY 21	WANAMIE	KICKBALL
JULY 28	GLEN LYON	S'MORE FUN
AUGUST 4	ALDEN	WEIRD SCIENCE
AUGUST 11	WANAMIE	CHALK ART
AUGUST 18	GLEN LYON	PEANUT BUTTER-JELLY TIME

Events may change without notice. Check our Facebook page for updates.



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What a difference! 44 Coal Street Before and After Demolition

A NEW GREEN SPACE AT 44 COAL STREET

By John Grabowski ~ (Editors' note: For years the abandoned house at 44 Coal Street, Glen Lyon was an eyesore at best and a dangerous hazard at worst. These conditions had to be endured by John and Brenda Grabowski and their son Jake who own the house next door to the property. The situation has finally come to a happy conclusion. John now owns the property and demolition was completed on May 26. This is John's story about how the events transpired.)

My wife Brenda and I purchased our house in June of 1999. We immediately sent a letter to the said owner of 44 Coal St. offering to buy it from them. According to the deed, the owner lived in California. We never heard anything from them. A few years later, we had a lawyer look into it and discovered that the owner had died. We made an offer to buy the property from the heirs of the estate. When the estate's attorney reviewed the matter, he discovered that the deed was in the name of the true owner's sister. The will of the true owner, Lawrence Marra Sr., was being contested by several people. After countless hours of research, we learned what a nightmare condition Mr. Marra's estate was in. He was the owner of hundreds of properties throughout the state of Pennsylvania that were purchased at sheriff and/or free-and-clear sales. While going through a divorce, he transferred the deeds of several properties to his sister's name so that his wife of 40-plus years could not inherit them. After his death, the will was contested by several people and ownership of these properties was tied

up in the courts. We were back to square one.

Then, in 2010, after I sent countless letters and photos to Mr. Marra's son, he agreed through his realtor to sell the property to us. I threatened him with legal action if this house fell onto our property. An agreement was drawn up but when we had the deed researched again for the closing, another problem was discovered. The deed was NOT in Mr. Marra's name and he could not legally sell us the property.

The Newport Township Commissioners, especially John Wilkes, tried for years to resolve the issues with this property. Unfortunately, they could not resolve them either. Having nowhere to turn at this point, we decided to speak to one of the Luzerne County Commissioners. Originally we had spoken to Commissioner Steve Urban. It was brought up at a Luzerne County work session but Mr. Urban decided the county didn't want to get involved.

Later in 2010, one side of the dilapidated house which faced our property did collapse and would have hit our house were it not for the trees on our side. We decided to give it one last shot and made an appointment with then Commissioner Maryann Petrilla. We took pictures with us to show her what we had been living with for nearly twelve years. I can't say enough about the quick action she took with this problem. She immediately had someone from the Tax Claims Office and the Luzerne County solicitor look to see what could be done.

The Tax Claims Office had been working with the lawyers of the Marra estate because of the number of properties that were abandoned and because the estate was delinquent in paying property taxes. The result was a ruling by a judge that these properties could be sold through the Tax Claims Office. We were able to buy the property from Luzerne County through a private sale.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank those who helped us through the years of struggle with this property: Barb Mikielski, owner of Abstract Resources: her expertise in researching this property for countless hours was beyond compare! Maryann Petrilla, former Luzerne County Commissioner: she truly started the ball rolling when nobody else cared! The Newport Township Commissioners, especially John Wilkes, and Joe Hillan, Township DPW chief, who always tries to help with whatever problem you may have!

Sincerely,
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Firefighters preparing to rescue an “injured” firefighter from a second story window. Training was conducted at the Knights of Columbus rectory building in Glen Lyon.



Newport Township firefighter Jason Poremba attempting to pass with gear through a 16” opening.

On April 15, 2012, in a 3-day training event, members of the Newport Township Fire Department trained their personnel to operate in a controlled atmosphere under the direction of former Fire Chief Robert Ward from the West Hazleton Fire Department. Members of the department

learned how to rescue downed and trapped firefighters in the event of an emergency. It was emphasized over and over that this is a valuable training tool that must be learned.

“Rapid Intervention Team” Class Held by the Newport Township Fire Department

By James Hoffman, Newport Township Fire Chief ~ The idea of having a group of dedicated and specially trained firefighters standing by to “rescue the rescuers” has been embraced by most fire departments for many years.

Nationwide, more firefighters get in trouble while fighting residential house fires than in any other kind of structure, even though fires in these structures are considered to be a relatively routine “bread-and-butter” event. The presence of plastics and synthetics in today’s lightweight structures that make up many of today’s single-family residences generates greater quantities of toxic smoke and burn with higher rates of heat release. This can result in reduced visibility, earlier flashover, rapid fire spread, and structural collapse. Commercial occupancies also present many unique hazards, including large and unfamiliar open spaces that can lead to a lost and out-of-air firefighter—a situation potentially compounded by the lack of on-site fire protection equipment needed to keep a fire from growing rapidly and trapping firefighters inside.

Most of the large metropolitan fire departments in the United States started using fire ground intervention teams about 10 to 15 years ago. During the 1990s, the Federal Government got into the process when the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) issued the “two-in/two-out” rule, which mandates that when two firefighters enter an atmosphere that presents an immediate danger to life and health (IDLH), at least two firefighters shall be located outside the IDLH atmosphere.

With the integrated building designs of new home construction, firefighters stand a better chance of becoming trapped in a fire due to the light frame construction of homes. Homes are not built like they were years ago. The Newport Township Fire Department also provides mutual aid to the residents of Mocanaqua, Shickshinny, Nanticoke and Slocum Township. The class was open to all other surrounding fire departments in the area. Members from Hanover Township, Sugar Notch, Mocanaqua, West Hazleton, Salem Township, Edwardsville, Kingston and Berwick Fire Departments also attended. Newport Township Ambulance along with Nanticoke Medic 25B assisted on scene to insure the safety of the firefighters.

A special thanks goes out to the officers and members of the Glen Lyon Knights of Columbus for their cooperation and permission to use the old Saint Denis Rectory. The rectory building has been standing vacant for the last several years. The Knights of Columbus allowed us to use the building for training prior to demolition of the building. We have attempted to conduct this class several times in the past but had no success due to not having an appropriate building available. If it had not been for the Knights of Columbus, this class would not have taken place.

Members of the NTFD in attendance were: Fire Chief James Hoffman, Dept. Chief John Floryshak, Battalion Chief Dan Kowalski, Captain Pete Helmecki, Lieutenant Jim Hoffman, Lieutenant John Murphy, and Firefighters David Hoffman, Ron Papciak, Carl Smith Jr., Paul Mierzwa, Jason Poremba, Kevin Richards, Dave Wojciehowski, Harold DeStefano and Chris Halecki.

Those who can, do. Those who can do more, volunteer.
~ Author Unknown

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2012 Primary Election Results

By Tom Kashatus ~ With a presidential election looming on the horizon that also includes the election of candidates for the U.S. Senate and Congress and a number of Pennsylvania statewide offices, Luzerne County and its municipalities may have set a record for the lowest turnout of registered voters in its history. Media coverage implies that economic times will continue to be dire with high unemployment, an increased burden on emergency services, and taxes straining the pocketbooks of both rich and poor. No one would think that any problems exist in Luzerne County by the results of voter turnout during the recent primary election in April of this year. When we look at the failure of parties to get out the vote, percentages for both Democrat and Republican were roughly the same—less than 25%.

Party candidates characteristically carried their tickets nationally, statewide, and locally with most interest in Newport Township and the 119th Legislative District centering on the potential 2012 rematch between incumbent Gerald Mullery (D), a resident of Alden, Newport Township and Rick Arnold (R) of Mountaintop. Both had no opposition and will face each other in November. Election for State Senator won't take place until 2014 as Senator John Yudichak now fills that seat in the 14th Senatorial District. A familiar name with Newport Township roots is David G. Gliddon of Nanticoke who was elected to be a delegate to the Democratic National Convention. At the local municipal level the Republican Party had two openings in each of three wards for County Committee. Frank and Lori Vandermark of



From left to right: Gerald Mullery, Representative of the 119th Legislative District; Eddie "Day" Pashinski, Representative of the 121th Legislative District; and John Yudichak, Representative of the 14th Senatorial District. Photo was taken under the Capitol Rotunda in Harrisburg.

Wanamie were elected without opposition in the second ward. There were no candidates in the first and third wards. However, Glen Kipps (first ward) and Mark Mieczkowski (third ward) were elected by write-in vote.

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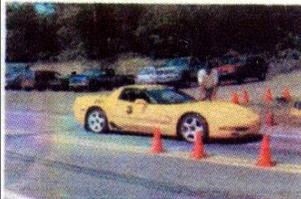
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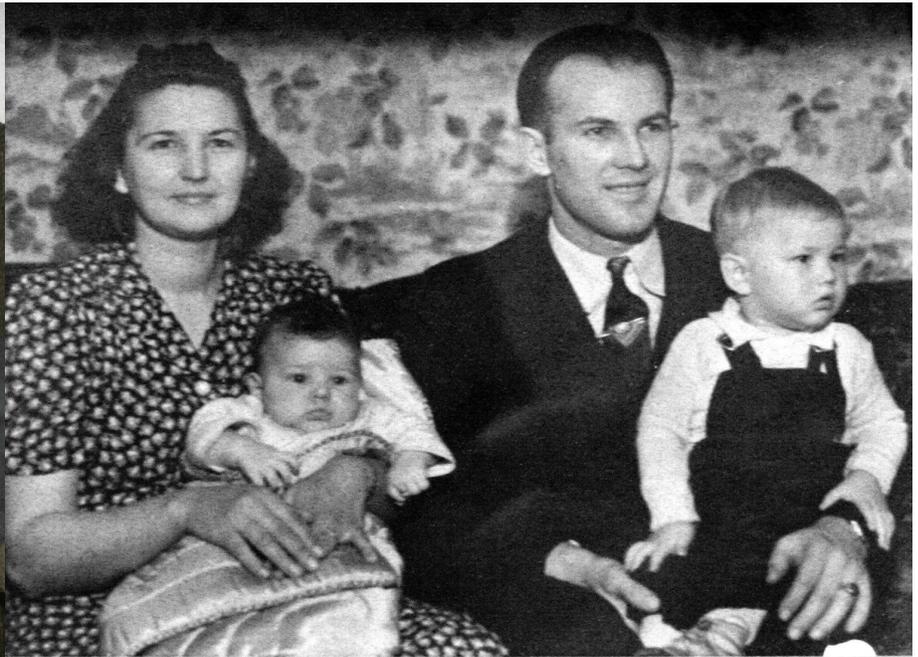
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Anna Piestrak Reaches Milestone

Anna, pictured here just before her 99th birthday and in 1940 with her husband Roman and sons Ed (left) and Richard (right)

By Heidi Jarecki ~ Imagine what Anna Koflanovich Piestrak has seen in her lifetime! This matriarch with a twinkle in her eye will turn ninety-nine years young this coming December 28 and what a party that will be! Her family includes three sons, Richard, Edward and Daniel and their spouses, ten grandchildren and fourteen great-grandchildren. Add numerous nieces and nephews and extended family along with friends and neighbors, and well, you get the idea! The place will be rockin'!

Anna's parents, John and Mary Koflanovich, came here in 1912 from the Ukraine just as her father was about to be conscripted into the army. They came through Ellis Island with their oldest child, John and settled on East Enterprise Street in Glen Lyon. Her father worked in the mines. Anna was born in 1913, the second oldest, and left school after the eighth grade to help her mother care for her six brothers and one sister. One of her parents' claim to fame was appearing briefly in the film "The Miracle of the Bells" in the walking scene which featured local residents.

The family belonged to St. Nicholas Church and whenever there was a church picnic going on at the Russian Pavilion, Anna attended every chance she got. She liked to dance. She'd get on the streetcar with friends to go to such places as the Alden Dance Hall, St. Vladimir's church picnics in Alden, and San Souci Park in Hanover Township. That's where she met her husband, Roman Piestrak who was from Warrior Run. As she tells the story with a smile, Roman asked Anna to dance and after that, never asked another girl! They were married in 1934.

The newlyweds settled on East Enterprise Street, Glen Lyon and soon had three sons. Roman, who played for the Glen Lyon Kanadians, Condors, and other local teams, had been offered full scholarships to college for baseball. He worked in the mines and later, on the Northeast Extension of the Pennsylvania Turnpike. He was a road foreman for the county when he retired. He was also a Newport Township School Board mem-

ber through the 1960's. He was influential in getting the cafeteria built in K.M. Smith School. In fact, the first meal served in the cafeteria was in 1975 to his grandson, Jeffrey. Roman passed away in 1990.

Anna, while a busy mom, also worked in various factories in the Township for twenty-five years until her retirement in 1962. The factories are better known by their location, such as the one in the old movie theater on East Main Street, and the one behind the VFW on Railroad Street. She also worked in the Engle Street factory and in Wanamie. She was a machine operator and did "time" work. She was asked to come back after her retirement, and that is a testament to her skills.

In 1962, the family moved to Arch Street, where Anna lived until two years ago, when she relocated to Alden. Anna's son Ed founded Piestrak's Gun Shop which is now managed by her grandson Kenny. These days you will find Anna visiting with family and friends while relaxing in her favorite chair watching the birds and squirrels in the backyard.

The NTCO wishes Anna Piestrak a very Happy 99th Birthday!

NOTABLE BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

Mrs. Francis Haines, Glen Lyon, celebrated her 90th birthday in May and Mrs. Theresa Gorney, Glen Lyon, celebrated her 80th birthday in June. In addition, the entire Newport High School Class of 1955 will turn 75 this year. Congratulations to one and all!

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Sebastian Klinges

By Heidi and Paul Jarecki ~ If you attend services in St. Adalbert's Church in Glen Lyon, have you ever noticed the beautiful paintings on the walls and ceiling of the church? If you have, a question you might ask yourself is: "I wonder who painted them?" The answer to your question is Sebastian Klinges.

Sebastian Klinges was born January 4, 1860 in Germany. He had two brothers, Henry and David. In 1883, he immigrated to the United States and resided in Wilkes-Barre for many years. On July 26, 1887, he was married to Flora Flickinger by F.C. Nagle, Minister of the Gospel, Wilkes-Barre. They had four children: Gertrude, Frances, Richard and an adopted son Charles. Mr. Klinges was an artist whose religious paintings can be found in several Wyoming Valley churches including the present day St. Adalbert's Roman Catholic Church in Glen Lyon and St. Mary's Church Of The Immaculate Conception in Wilkes-Barre. He also painted frescos in St. Joseph's Church in Forest City and scenes in St. Paul's Lutheran Church on the corner of South and South Main Streets in Wilkes-Barre. Among his secular works was the lobby of the Capitol Theater on Public Square. In 1913, his wife passed away. In 1918, while working in St. Adalbert's, he decided to settle in Glen Lyon. He became a member of St. Michael's Church, where he worked on his last commission. On January 16, 1948, he died at the home of his son-in-law Joseph Skladzien, 59 Railroad Street, Glen Lyon and is buried in St. Michael's Cemetery. His tombstone reads simply: Sebastian Klinges, Artist.

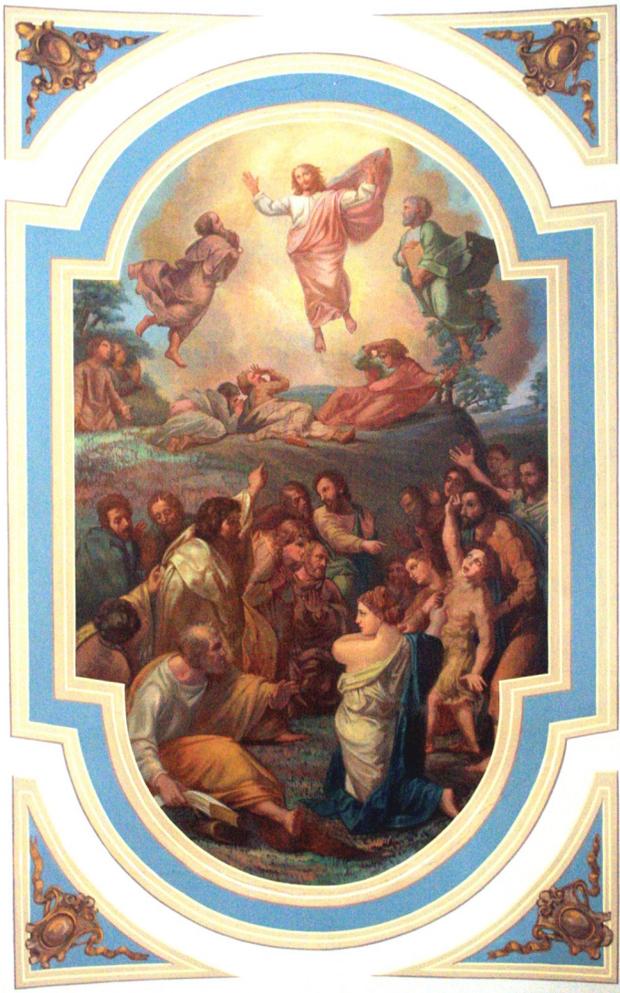
FAREWELL

For the past two years, Rev. Thumma Maria Savari has served as the Parochial Vicar at Holy Spirit Parish. (see Newsletter No. 27, Fall 2011) On July 3, he will be returning to his home diocese in India. Although his duties at Holy Spirit were very demanding, Father met them with generosity and a positive attitude. He will be missed by all. Good luck from your friends in Newport Township!



The two paintings above and the one below are murals in St. Adalbert's Catholic Church painted by Sebastian Klinges.



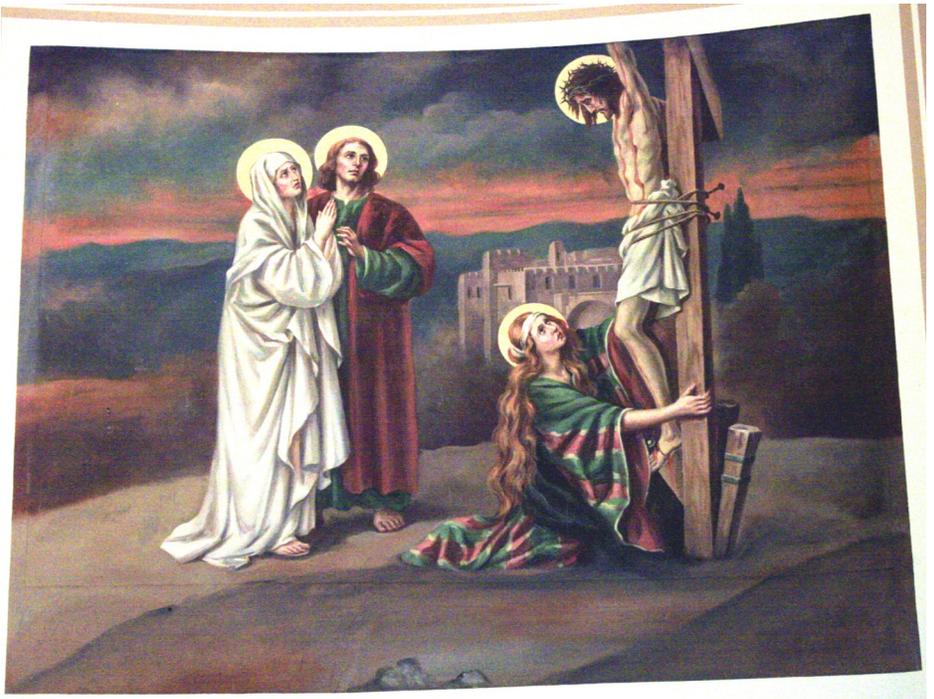
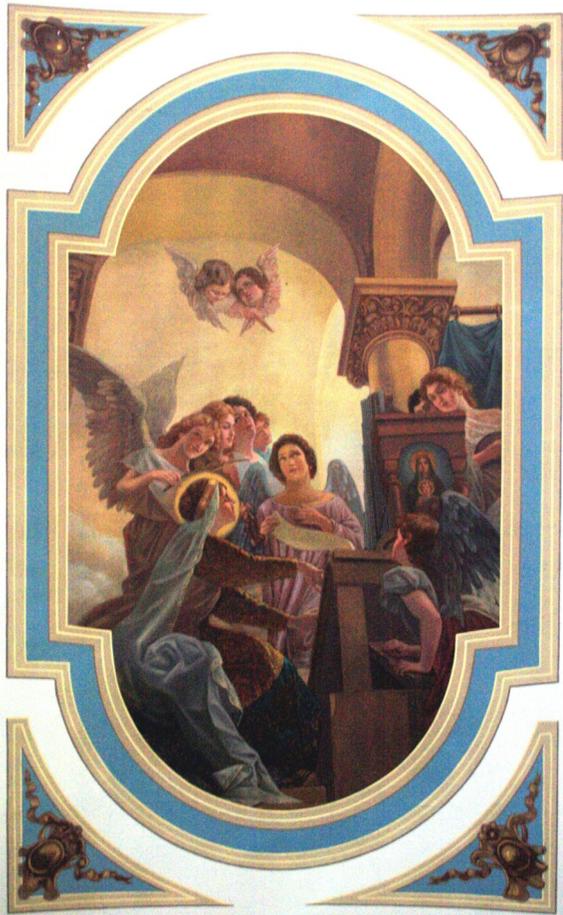


On the top left and right and bottom left are murals on the ceiling of St. Mary's Church Of The Immaculate Conception in Wilkes-Barre.



On the bottom right is a mural in St. Adalbert's Church in Glen Lyon.

All painted by Sebastian Klinges.



TASTE OF THE TOWNSHIP

To the left is the finished product.

Below are 5 pounds of St. Louis-style spare ribs.

Bottom picture shows Heidi Jarecki with the ribs cooking in the slow cooker.

Bon Appetit!



Barbecued* Ribs

By Heidi and Paul Jarecki ~ Although ribs are usually smoked slowly over low heat, you can get the same tenderness from your slow cooker that will give you all the hallmarks of barbecued ribs but without a grill. Here is a recipe that we found in *Better Homes and Gardens Publications Slow Cooker Recipes* that works really well. Try it and make southern style “barbecued” ribs all year round.

*They really aren't barbecued (grilled over coals or propane gas). They just taste like it.



4 to 5 pounds pork loin back ribs or meaty pork spare-ribs, cut into 2 to 3 rib portions

1 tablespoon smoked or sweet paprika

1 ½ teaspoons packed brown sugar

1 teaspoon ground pasilla chile pepper or ancho chile pepper

½ teaspoon salt

½ teaspoon garlic powder

½ teaspoon coriander

½ teaspoon dry mustard

¼ teaspoon celery salt

¼ teaspoon coarsely ground black pepper

½ teaspoon cayenne pepper

½ cup chicken broth

¾ cup purchased barbecue sauce

1. Trim fat from ribs. For rub, combine paprika, brown sugar, pasilla pepper, salt, garlic powder, coriander, dry mustard, celery salt, black pepper, and cayenne pepper. (We double the rub ingredients— one batch doesn't quite make it.) Generously cover rub on both sides of each rib portion. Place ribs in a 5-to 6-quart slow cooker.
2. Combine broth and ¼ cup barbecue sauce. Pour over ribs in slow cooker. Cover and cook on low-heat setting 8 to 10 hours or on high-heat 4 to 5 hours.
3. Preheat broiler. Line a baking sheet with foil and transfer ribs, meaty sides up, to baking sheet. Brush ribs with remaining ½ cup barbecue sauce. Broil 6 to 8 inches from heat for 5 to 8 minutes or until sauce begins to brown.



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~ James T. Kirk, Captain of the Starship *Enterprise*.

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LITTLE LEAGUE OPENING DAY PARADE AND AWARDS CEREMONY



Opening day for Little League was held on April 21. A parade (pictured on the top right) through the Township was followed by an awards ceremony and introduction of teams at the Hillan Complex in Wanamie. An award was given to Russell Sager of Glen Lyon posthumously for his exceptional work as President of the Newport Township Little League. He was instrumental in implementing the tee-ball program. Russ passed away in April, 2011. President of the Nanticoke Little League, Wade Rowles, presented a plaque to Russ's wife Sia and daughter Rene (pictured on the top left). A large crowd was on hand as the players, managers and coaches of 30 teams were introduced by Dave Buchinski, Vice President of the Nanticoke Little League. This is the first year that the Nanticoke and Newport Township Little League organizations have joined forces. Play ball!

THE GREAT AMERICAN CLEANUP OF PENNSYLVANIA BEGINS WITH THE BIG JUNK DROP-OFF



The Big Junk Drop-Off (April 20-April 25) sponsored by the NTCO started the cleanup effort in the Township for 2012. The event was held at Three Legged just outside Glen Lyon. Posing for the picture on the left are: (left to right) Paul Jarecki, an unidentified participant, John Jarecki, Andy Sweeney, Tom Kashatus (1st Vice President, NTCO), Jerry Mullery (State Representative), and Joe Maloney. The Drop-Off exceeded expectations.



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THE COMMUNITY PRIDE EVENT ADDS TO THE TOWNSHIP CLEANUP EFFORT



The Community Pride Event on April 28 sponsored by the NTCO concluded the organized cleanup effort in the Township. A large contingent of volunteers, both young and old, participated. A big thanks to all!

MEMORIAL DAY OBSERVANCES



Top left: Holy Spirit Parish Memorial Mass on Friday, May 25 at St. Adalbert's Cemetery Chapel. Top right: New flags at graves of veterans. Immediate left: Ceremonies by the Glen Lyon American Legion and VFW at St. Adalbert's and St. Michael's Cemeteries.

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Memorial Day 2012

On thy grave the rain shall fall from the eyes of a mighty nation! ~ Thomas William Parsons

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To the left is the Broom Sale sponsored by the Newport Twp. Lions. Local witches all say they are the best brooms around. Above, Tom Kashatus, 1st Vice President NTCO, presenting a check for \$350 to Dan Kowalski of the Newport Twp. Fire Dept. from proceeds of the Chinese Auction at the Fireman's Memorial Weekend Festival.



The Newport Township Community Organization (picture above left) and the Glen Lyon Crime Watch (picture above right) both purchased new laptop computers for the Newport Township Police Department at a cost of \$750 each. The computers will allow officers to access valuable databases and make electronic reports while in the field. Pictured on the left are: Bill Hourigan, Palmira Miller, Delbert Evans, Heidi Jarecki, Officer Jim Evans and Tom Kashatus. Pictured on the right are: Palmira Miller, Bill Hourigan, Heidi Jarecki, Delbert Evans, Mary Margaret Kashatus, Officer Jim Evans and Karen Rejcian.



Pictured on the left is NTCO President, Palmira Gregory Miller, presenting a \$600.00 donation to Nanticoke Little League President, Wade Rowles, for sponsorship of two girls' softball teams, the major league Red Devils and the minor league Red Devils. Looking on are: Dave Buchinski, League Vice President; Tom Kashatus, NTCO 1st Vice President; and Mark O'Connor, League Treasurer. This is the first year that the Newport Township and Nanticoke Little Leagues have joined forces. The season has been deemed highly successful organizationally and competitively as players and coaches look forward to all-star competition.



Melissa Tanner
 Director of Admissions & Marketing
 email: mtanner@gecccenter.com

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NTCO Summer Fun

The Newport Twp. Community Organization's Summer Fun program will continue this summer. Events and times have yet to be determined.

Summer afternoon, summer afternoon; to me those have always been the two most beautiful words in the English language. ~ Henry James



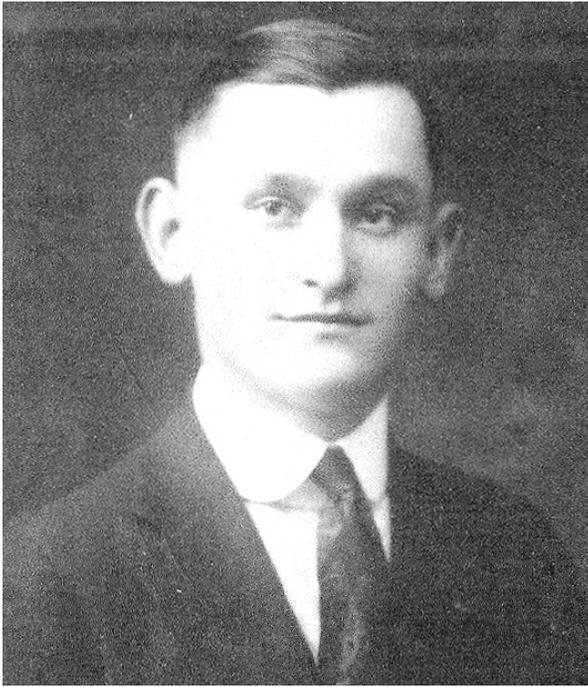
Baseball Hat



Tee Shirt (front)

NUTCRACKER 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, **sweatshirts** 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 at 570-736-6782 or email at hselecky@pa.metrocast.net. Add \$3.00 per item for shipping.

Also in stock are both DVD's of historic Township pictures and wooden miniatures of Newport High School, the Glen Lyon Breaker, the Alden Coal Company Office, and St. Stanislaus Orphanage.



Michael Cobosco Sr.



Emma Lipski Cobosco

Cobosco's Hardware Store

By John Selecky ~ Glen Lyon in 1915 was prosperous and growing. Immigrants seeking jobs were streaming into town. My grandparents were already here, having arrived in 1890. Businesses of all types were opening up to provide services for the new citizens, including a bowling alley, drug stores, grocery stores, etc. Several churches had been built, as well as three schools and a bank. There were about twenty bars and even two movie theaters. New streets were still being created and not all of them were paved. New homes were being built. Trolley cars were the main form of public transportation. The tracks came right down the middle of Main Street.

It was in this environment that young Michael Cobosco, at age 16 and wanting to do something to help support his family, opened a much needed hardware store at the corner of Main and Market Streets on the west side of town.

Cobosco's Hardware Store became an institution in Glen Lyon for over nine decades providing all kinds of products, great service, how-to information, and even Christmas trees. And, it was all due to its founder, Michael Cobosco, a true Renaissance man whose expertise spanned a great number of disciplines.

Mr. Cobosco was born in 1899 in Glen Lyon where he grew up. Like many young boys of that generation, he had to quit school in the 6th grade to go to work to help support his family. He got a job at the Breaker and after just one day, said "This is not for me" and quit. Fortunately, just at about the same time, an A&P store located in the building that became the hardware store had closed and moved elsewhere. At the grand old age of 16, Michael Cobosco took over the space and opened the store, a much needed business with the influx of workers coming into Glen Lyon to work in the mines. Glen Lyon was rapidly expanding because of this mostly immigrant labor, who could not afford to hire people to fix things in their homes or even to buy things, so they had to learn how to do it themselves. To make ends meet, the wives often took in sewing and knitting. It was for these people that Mr. Co-

bosco opened the hardware store in 1915. It filled a void in Glen Lyon at that time. And, I was lucky enough to live next door to Mr. Cobosco and got to know him very well.

Having never run a business before, Mr. Cobosco decided to talk with other business people in town to learn how to keep books, price things, and order products. Because he had little money, he had to convince suppliers to sell him merchandise on credit.

Once he began to stock the store, his customers sought advice on how to do things. Knowing very little but being very smart, he began to learn the various trades so he could help his customers. He made a deal with the best electrician in town who taught him about

electricity. He did the same with the best plumber, the best painter and the best car mechanic. He was committed to providing the best service he could to help his customers. And, since suppliers had given him credit, he did the same for his customers by carrying them on the "book" – from payday to payday.

Mr. Cobosco also wanted to help his customers in other ways, so he carried unusual products that most stores did not. He sold naphtha gas, which people used to clean clothes. He carried oil for lamps, which were used where there was no electricity. Not all buildings had yet received electricity. He had gas pumps out in front of the store for the new automobiles people were beginning to buy. He even sold Christmas trees. His daughter, Lorraine Cobosco Slingerland, shared that he always kept a bunch of these trees aside, hidden from view. When, as a young girl, she asked her father why he did that, he simply answered, "It is for Russian Christmas in January" so that local members of the Russian Orthodox Church would be able to have trees. He was very thoughtful.

He always did things for others. When cars became more prevalent, it was discovered that the batteries had to be recharged frequently. So, he added a battery charger to his services, as it was difficult to find battery chargers at that time. No one sharpened ice skates or sled runners for the kids, so he learned how to do it. He also learned how to fix radios, the dominant source of entertainment in homes.

Mr. Cobosco liked baseball so much, he sponsored and managed several local baseball teams, giving young men an opportunity to play and have fun. He added sports equipment to his product offerings, so kids didn't have to go out of town to find it. Also, when the Post Office needed a place to provide its services, he rented them part of the main floor to make it convenient for people to use the mail.

He didn't do it all by himself. In 1925, he married Emma Lipski who helped him in the store. They had three children: Lorraine, Connie, and Michael Jr., better known as Sonny. Sonny was only two years older than me and, living next door, was my first friend. We hung out together every day, which put me in constant contact with Mr. Cobosco. We played in the basement of the store a lot

Continued from previous page

during the winter and liked to ride up and down in the hand-pulled elevator he had in the back of the store to bring heavy stuff up from the storage area in the basement. He taught me how to fish and how to shoot a gun safely, since we did not have guns in our house. Yes, Mr. Cobosco sold guns for hunters in town. He was always great to me and made time for me when I was around. He put up with our mischief and shenanigans much better than Mrs. Cobosco or Grandma Lipski, his mother in law who lived with them. But, they were all great to be around, as were Lorraine and Connie, whom we teased a lot. They were like sisters to me.

Early on, they built a house on the empty lot next to the store and moved in around 1934. He designed and helped build most of it. It contained a lot of special features, including a clothes chute that went from the top bedroom floor down three flights to the laundry room, with a door in the kitchen. He wasn't too pleased when Sonny and I decided to check out the chute. Sonny went in and tried to slide down to the basement. He, however, got stuck between floors and had to be helped to get out. Plus, he had a 4" splinter in his leg. When I ran to tell Mr. Cobosco, I remember not being sure of what to be most afraid: Sonny getting stuck or me having to tell Mr. Cobosco. Well, we lived to play another day!

Everyone in the family worked in the store and I got included. Sonny and I filled the nail bins, stocked the shelves, swept the floors and helped the customers. Lorraine and Connie pumped gas and sold Christmas trees. Mr. Cobosco got a lot of good appliances and arranged a showroom for them to make it easier for customers to make decisions. All of us were sales clerks in the showroom. Sonny was only 11 and I was 9. Lorraine was a very creative artist and so, when she was in high school, she painted winter scenes on the big store-front windows to make them most festive. Mr. Cobosco had me and Sonny set up Lionel trains in the window for people to see. He was a very good businessman.

It was a shock when in 1950, Mr. Cobosco had a heart attack at the young age of 51 and passed away while in the store. Sixteen-year-old Lorraine was with him, but there was nothing she could do. It was a horrible day.

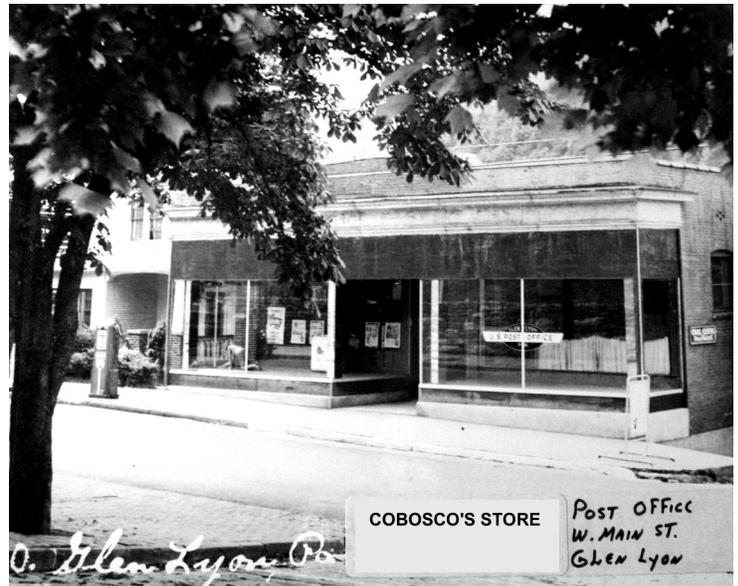
Mrs. Cobosco, with everyone's help, then had to run the store. Mike Jr. eventually took it over. They continued on the path set by Mr. Cobosco and continued to merchandise new items for the people of Glen Lyon. When televisions came out in the early '50s, Mrs. Cobosco put one in the front store window and turned it on so people who had no TV could watch it. It was not unusual to see ten people standing outside the store watching a TV show through Cobosco's windows. Sonny and I had to learn how to put antennas on tops of people's houses.....without falling off or getting electrocuted!

The store continued until Mike Jr. died in 2002. Presently, the building houses M. J. Food Mart.

Mr. Cobosco was a gentleman, a very good and savvy businessman, a great husband and father and a wonderful friend to everyone. Glen Lyon was lucky to have Mr. Cobosco and Cobosco's Hardware Store. Many people would attest to that! He was a great influence on me, and I only wish that he was around much longer than he was. (This depiction of the Store's impact on Glen Lyon was greatly enhanced by my lovely conversations with Lorraine Cobosco Slingerland, and I am grateful for her memories and insights.)



Above is a picture of Cobosco's Store circa 1920. Below is the Store circa 1960.



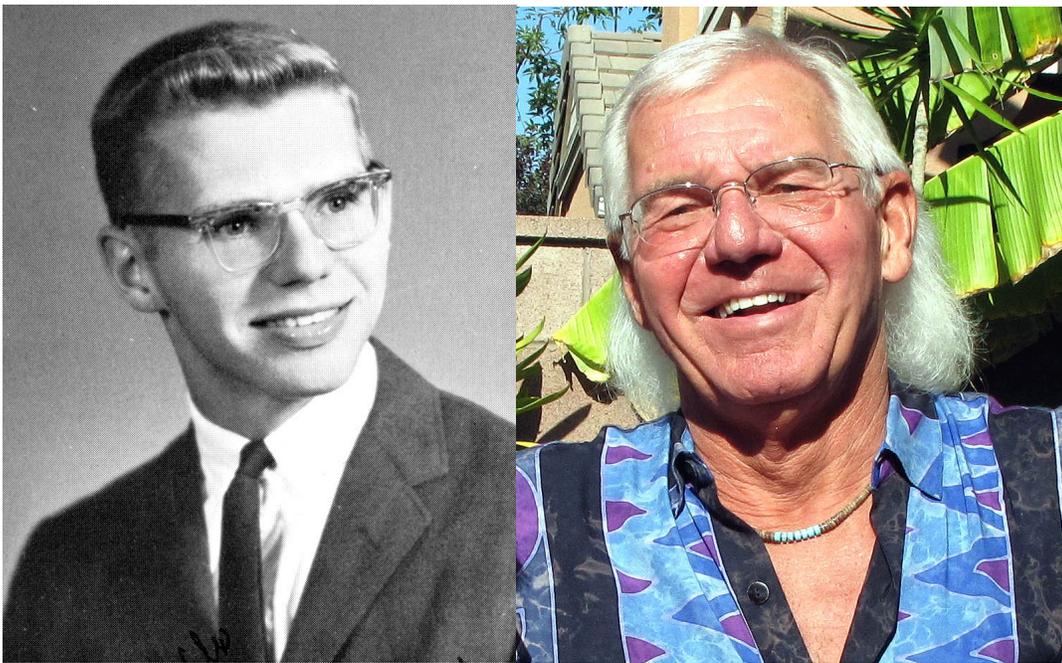
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GOOD BUSINESS

A business that makes nothing but money is a poor business.
 ~ Henry Ford

To be successful, you have to have your heart in your business,
 and your business in your heart. ~ Thomas Watson, Sr.



John Selecky in 1959 as a senior at Newport Township High School and in 2012

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

By John Selecky ~ What a great place the High School was! In your youth, you looked forward to going to the High School, and it was quite the place in 1959, our senior year. It lived up to all our anticipations and expectations. It was where we made friends for life!

Originally, the High School complex up on the hill in Wanamie had two buildings and the football field. In 1948 the Annex, as it was called, burned down, and fortunately the main building with the auditorium and basketball court were spared. This event impacted us in the lower grades, as new classrooms had to be found. It ended up with freshman classes being moved to the Pulaski School in Glen Lyon and students were referred to as being in 9th grade. So, those of us on the west side of Glen Lyon went to the Kosciuszko School for grades 1-4, the Roosevelt school for grades 5-6 with kids from the east side (the "other" side), the Pulaski school for 7-9 where we were joined by kids from the rest of the township, and finally to the High School for sophomore through senior years.

The High School was a two storied building with an auditorium in the middle and classrooms wrapped around it. The auditorium had a large stage and a balcony. The gym was attached to the back end of the auditorium. The gym was small, typical of the times, and also had a balcony which served as a running track where many laps were run. In the school basement were the rest rooms, a band room, boys and girls shower rooms, and a pool. Food was sold in the band room during basketball games and sometimes during lunch. You had to take a swimming test in the pool. For some that was quite intimidating either because they couldn't swim or, for the boys, you swam au naturel, which caused a lot of snickers. By the way, there was a rumor that you could look into the girls' shower room from the pool through a crack in the wall from "settling." We'll never tell.

Speaking of the girls, you can't imagine the outfits they had to wear for gym. Just lovely!!!

Because there was no cafeteria, we brought our own lunches to school every day. Right next to the parking lot was a hill which was not on high school property. So, during recess you could see a bunch of boys "having a smoke on the hill."

There were two course schedules from which to choose: academic and commercial. Academic prepared you to go on to college, and commercial stressed skills like typing, shorthand, woodwork, automobile repair, etc. And, except for the students from Wanamie who walked to school, the rest of us rode buses.

As we progressed through Junior High with great expectations and excitement about go-

ing to the High School, we were not prepared for the tsunami of a cultural change that was about to engulf us. It was called "rock 'n roll" and affected not only music, but dance, fashion, movies, language, and attitudes. It was electrifying and mind-blowing. It took us from the novelty songs of the early 50's to a whole new world. We went from "How Much is that Doggie in the Window?" to "Hound Dog," from "Que Sera, Sera" to "That'll be the Day," and from "Throw Momma from the Train, a Kiss, a Kiss" to "Heartbreak Hotel." And, it seemed directed at us, the teenagers of the time. We embraced it.

Its first real impact on us was sometime in 1955, probably with the movie, *Blackboard Jungle*, and its theme song, "Rock Around the Clock" by Bill Haley. We were 13 and in 8th grade. Then we heard Little Richard's "Tutti Frutti" and Tennessee Ernie Ford's "Sixteen Tons." In 1956, the flood gates opened. In January of that year, Carl Perkins recorded "Blue Suede Shoes" that was then covered by a guy named Elvis Presley. We had never heard anything like it before and instantly wanted more. And, we got bombarded! Elvis followed with "Heartbreak Hotel" that same month, followed by Fats Domino's "Blueberry Hill," Chuck Berry's "Maybellene" and "Roll Over Beethoven" among others. And for slow dances, Johnny Mathis released "Wonderful, Wonderful" in 1956 along with "It's Not For Me to Say." The Platters released "Only You" and "The Great Pretender." And, we had 45's of every song. When Bill Doggett released "Honky Tonk," we were in ninth grade, the top class in Pulaski school. It was heady stuff. And, we wore black pants with a pink stripe down the side. Girls started to wear tight sweaters and long, tight skirts. For the boys, the DA haircut was preferred or a flat-top if you didn't have enough hair for a good DA. And blue suede shoes or white bucks with chinos and V-neck sweaters. And you wore your shirts with the collars up.

Dances got to be more important and you had to learn how to jitterbug. The American Legion Friday night Teen House dances took on a whole new sound. I was one of the very few people who were "volunteered" to clean the Legion on Saturday mornings, so I also volunteered to take care of the Wurlitzer Juke Box in the dance hall. That way I could ensure we had all the latest songs. I heard some on late night radio from Buffalo, NY and a disc jockey named

Continued from previous page

“The Hound”. It wasn’t until 1957 that WARM radio, the Mighty 590 on the dial came into being and played the new rock ‘n roll. WARMland ruled our airways. Our junior year, we even arranged for one of their DJ’s to host a dance in the gym.

How were we in ninth grade to study during all of this? We had to memorize vocabulary for Latin III and learn Algebra from Mr. Parks with his “Parksie’s Scale” with the teeter totter imagery to explain it. And, we began to diagram sentences for English, maybe the best thing we ever learned. Essays had to be written and history had to be learned. Plus, high school is next year, and you had to be better prepared. Somehow we studied despite all these distractions.

Finally, in September 1956, we entered the hallowed halls of the High School: Who is in your homeroom; What are the rules; What is Chapel; How hard are the teachers??? It was a heady time. But, to walk in as an actual student for the first time was an unforgettable experience. We finally entered our Cathedral of Learning and the Center of our Universe for the next three years. We were in awe. Due to agreements among the various school boards, we now also had students from Slocum and Dorrance Townships and Nuangola Borough.

One of the first things to happen was “Chapel”. All classes met in the auditorium where our principal, Mr. Shepela, aka Shane (why, I don’t know), welcomed us all, made a bunch of announcements and had us sing some songs. We were led by “song leaders,” girls who stood near the front of the stage waving their fingers back and forth in time with the music like metronomes. “Tis Springtime, Tis Springtime” was one of Mr. Shepela’s favorites. Many generations still know the words to that song. At least the song leaders were pretty to watch.

Our High School life began. If you were in the Academic program, you had to pick a language: Spanish, Latin, German or Polish. Polish seemed a natural for life in the township, so that’s what I chose, along with “the boys”!! Also, we had Biology, Advanced Algebra, English, History, Health, Gym, and all with new teachers.

The majority of the teachers had been teaching at Newport for many years and had “reputations” we had to learn. Some were interesting and some were not. Some were quite colorful, like Mr. Howanitz, aka “PH,” who taught with flair. If he thought he did not have our full concentration, he would order “a new volume of air” in the room to invigorate everyone. And, he would open all the windows for a short while even in January. He would demonstrate the purpose of the bradish cloth used in the mines to redirect air current. By pulling down the window shade and bending it toward the back of the room the flow of this “new volume of air” would invigorate those of us who sat in the back.

Immediately one knew that the High School experience was going to be wonderful, if a little intimidating. First, you had sports teams and lots of activities. Football practice started before the first day of school. There was basketball and baseball. And, you could play in the band complete with cheerleaders, majorettes and color guards. There were a lot of clubs to join. There was time set aside each week for clubs, and you had to pick one: there was a Gun Club, Physics Club, the Newspaper Club, Typing Club, Yearbook Club, Sports Clubs, Driver’s Ed, Student Council and many more. The High School was an active place. And the newspaper kept tabs on all that was going on including a “Cupid’s Page” to “out” all the lovers and a “Rumors Page” usually asking students about funny situations in which they found them-

elves. One that gave someone a red face was “Who ran out of gas while parking at the Ball Diamond?” The name was never divulged, but everyone knew who it was. Everyone read these pages first.

There were many events in the auditorium, including Antrim Lyceum, a bureau that booked educational presentations with the high schools in the area. It could be a music recital, a movie, a juggler, a magician, etc. At least it got you out of class. It was hard to realize that you were here to go to class and learn, but the social part was very engaging and involving, especially with rock ‘n roll providing the sound track. There was also Chapel twice a week.

Early on was “Initiation Day”, when all sophomores had to wear strange clothes, or the guys had their pants on backwards or wore ear-rings and babushkas with strange hairdos or girls were in rollers or with their hair pinned up, and a sign around your neck on which you put your name with upperclassmen writing little notes questioning your stage in life. You were at their bidding, the whole time you were thinking how you will get even next year, when it’s someone else’s Initiation Day. Yet, it was fun! It was a rite of passage.

But, one quickly got into a rhythm to deal with all of this in High School. After a few weeks you felt as if you were now part of the life of the school, changing rooms after every class, hanging out at lunch time, getting the latest gossip, meeting more new people, going to athletic events, reading the school newspaper, checking homework, going to dances, and a million other things it seemed, with WARM constantly on the radio.

Rock ‘n roll made it to television in 1956 with the introduction of Dick Clark and American Bandstand in Philly. It was on in the afternoon and you watched to hear the music, see the new dances, the new clothes, and see artists live for the first time, singing their songs. There were no videos in those days. That’s where I first saw Jerry Lee Lewis, which was a life-changing experience. Fortunately we got that ABC channel, as in 1956, television was still in its infancy. There were only 3 channels, and they did not broadcast all day long. We saw a lot of test patterns with the Indian. And, those of us on the west side of Glen Lyon only got 2 channels because the breaker blocked the CBS signal for some reason. TV was not yet an intrusive media. Bandstand was a must. The little kids had the Mickey Mouse Club, which did feature Annette Funicello!! (Part II of John’s article about High School life in the late 50’s will appear in the Newsletter’s fall issue.)

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Newport home game at Weinick Park, May 1959. In the center of the picture is Mr. Zig Najaka, the highly respected and successful Nutcracker Coach, holding his symbolic fungo and overseeing the action. The crowds are typical of that time.

Newport High School Baseball in the '50s

By John Kashatus Jr. ~ World War II was over, the soldiers had returned to work in the mining industry, families were getting back on “track,” and it seemed like the towns that made up Newport Township were returning to normal. However, there were some definitive changes on the horizon. Many of the returning soldiers were opting to go to college under the GI Bill or look for employment other than the mines. Some families relocated to distant cities which took them away from their roots. Others remained local, but commuted long distances to their new occupations. Along with the cultural challenges, Newporters, like all other Americans, were faced with the oncoming Cold War with Russia and the impending Korean Conflict. The coal industry was still relatively strong, but a new method of mining coal—strip mining—created eyesores over a once pristine environment. One area that was not affected was Weinick Park in Glen Lyon, the home field of Newport High School Baseball. As the saying goes, “All roads lead to Weinick Park when you were looking for a game.”

Semi-pro baseball, which was extremely popular throughout the 20's and 30's, was interrupted during the war years. Yet, it created some excitement in the post WWII era. A local daily newspaper stated that 20,000 fans attended the opening day of the Wyoming League on May 7, 1950. The young boys of the 40's, who worked as ball retrievers and carried buckets of cold drinks at the local ballparks, would become the future ballplayers at Newport High School. As these young players were growing up in their respective towns—Alden, Sheatown, Wanamie, and Glen Lyon—they knew when those semi-pro fields would be vacant and they would get a few pals and stake their claim to the field. Newport High School also included outlying communities such as Nuangola, Slocum and Dorrance, where young boys were seen playing on ball fields and in pastures. In the summer, kids would play before noon until sundown on the sandlots. In their respective towns, sandlot teams were identified by their location, such as the Mule Barn, Company Patch, the Kanadians, Sandy Diamond, Engle Street, the Tank, Columbus School, Kelly Field, Polander Hill, etc. Team leaders would schedule games for the week and adult supervision was

needed only when a close call was settled by a passing spectator. All that was necessary was some baseball gear, a jug of water, and a bag lunch. Although these kids knew of famous baseball players, they held the local semi-pros in higher esteem. Indeed, they would mimic the batting stance or throwing style of those adult heroes during these afternoons of sandlot baseball.

The Newport High School Nutcracker's baseball team won a couple of division titles in the late 40's, but the 1950's were to become the most prolific era for the Township baseball teams. Stan Pawloski of Wanamie signed a professional contract with the Cleveland Indians after graduating in 1949. This inspired the Newport kids, since Nanticoke, their nearby adversary, had four players in the pro's during the 40's: John Grodzicki, Pete Gray, Al Cihocki, and Steve Bilko, who made his debut with St. Louis in the Fall of '49. They were now realizing that young ballplayers from the “hard coal” region could make it to the big leagues, with some luck and a lot of talent.

During the 1950 season, Newport, tied with Nanticoke at the top of the Southern Division with 6 wins and 1 loss, clinched the title with a 3 to 2 win at Nanticoke before 2000 fans in the final regular season game. Ed Zabroski was the winning pitcher, backed up by the hitting of Charles Domzalski and Ralph Martinell. Other players who contributed to the team's success were Syl Kovalich, John Ravin, Ted Angradi, and Henry Malec. Post-season play was moved to Artillery Park in Wilkes Barre, home of the Wilkes-Barre Barons. The Barons were in the Eastern league and were an affiliate of the Cleveland Indians. It was one of the nicest minor league parks on the East Coast and was certainly a treat for high school kids to play on a field where many major leaguers got their start. Newport got a first round victory over Pittston 7 to 4. Emil Augustine was the winning pitcher and was backed up by the hitting of John Koff, who went 4 for 4. The Nutcrackers lost in the semi-finals to Plains, who eventually won the championship.

In the 1951 season, with an 8 and 0 record, Newport had its first undefeated team of the decade. The Nutcrackers won the last game of the regular season over Shickshinny 5 to 3 in 8 innings. Emil Augustine, pitching a gem – a 3 hitter with 9 K's - smashed a 2-run homer in the top of the 8th for the margin of victory. At Artillery Park the Southern Division Champs lost a heart breaker in the first

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round to Hanover 7 to 6 in 8 innings. Emil Augustine had 10 strikeouts in 7 innings. John Koff, Henry Malec, Dan Grohoski, Don Bozinski, and Joe Hillan provided much of the offense, while Robert Babetski and Ed Domzalski completed the pitching staff. In June, Emil Augustine signed a professional contract with the St. Louis Cardinals and was assigned to Johnson City, Tennessee.

During the 1952 season, the Nutcrackers couldn't keep up the pace with Shickshinny, who claimed the Southern Division. The Indians were led by Jake Handzelek, Pat "Tiger" Denoy, and Elmer Hartman. Handzelek, played on the 1966 Championship Glen Lyon Condors in the Central League. However, a few positives came out of the '52 season... Bob Duliba, a Newport pitcher who struck out 17 batters in the Nanticoke game, signed a professional baseball contract with the St. Louis Cardinals. Ken Welgoss, Newport's center-fielder, signed a professional contract with the Philadelphia Phillies. Also, Little League Baseball, which was spearheaded by the Newport Township Lions, was brought into the communities. This younger group of kids was encouraged and inspired by these events.

During the 1953 season, Newport was crowned the Southern Division Champs with a 7 and 1 record and headed back to Artillery Park for the tournament. The Nutcrackers provided a major shock in the tournament as they upset Hanover 1 to 0. The Hawkeyes were riding a 22-game winning streak. The Red & Black reached the finals by beating Exeter 8 to 6, but lost another heartbreaker, this time to Marymount 4 to 3. Newport was led by the hitting of Stan Makowski, 3 for 3, and 2 hits each from Joe Betkoski and Steve Rentko. Jerry Gayewski led the mound corps, supported by some slick fielding by Jerry Petro 3B, and Frank Wempa SS. In addition to the high school season, Clem Kovalich, a '48 Newport grad, (playing for the Glen Lyon A.C.) signed a professional contract with the New York Giants in mid-summer. Also during the summer of '53, Newport Township's Little League created some excitement for the local community. In its second year of existence, the local All-Star team won the District 3 Title, continued winning in regional play, but ultimately suffered a crucial loss to Old Forge and consequently forfeited a ticket to the Pennsylvania State Finals at Williamsport. The adventure of that team is a story in and of itself.

The 1954 season was welcomed with high spirits, primarily due to the fact that a good nucleus had returned from the previous season. There were also a few sophomores who broke into the lineup. As the season commenced, Newport lost two tough games to Plymouth and ended up with a 5 and 3 win loss record, and there was a three way tie for the league crown. The playoffs for the Southern Division were again moved to Artillery Park. Newport beat Plymouth 5 to 3, and followed that with 6 to 3 win over Larksville to claim the title in the Southern Division. In the regional tourney, the Nutcrackers whacked Pittston 18 to 3 and nipped Swoyersville 10 to 8, aided by Steve Rentko's 2 triples in the same inning. The Nutcrackers avenged the 1953 finals' loss by beating Marymount 5 to 1. Newport had finally claimed the Luzerne County Championship and a trip to New York City. Outstanding hitting by Rentko, Joe Betkoski, Carnie Kornowski, Pete Keblish, and Floyd Rinehimer combined with solid pitching of Stan Gayewski and Bill Labeda helped Newport High School win its first County Championship since 1936.

Nanticoke High School captured the Southern Division title during the 1955 season. Bobby Zeedock was an outstanding player for the Rams. Another top-notch pitcher for Nanticoke was Don Komoroski, who later managed the Glen Lyon team of '66. Television was now available in many homes in the area. Although TV

had an adverse affect on semi-pro ball, high school baseball retained its popularity. The middle 50's also brought some changes in the music of school age kids. Rock 'n roll broke into the teen scene. Although the new music may have contributed to the growing generation gap, high school baseball was an activity that helped to bridge that gap, for it was enjoyed by young and old alike. A highlight to the baseball season came when Stan Pawloski made his Major League debut with the Cleveland Indians in September, the first Newport Township native since Mike Konnick in 1909.

The Nutcrackers went into the 1956 season with high hopes. With a strong nucleus of players returning from the '54 and '55 teams, Newport was a highly regarded favorite. Newport lost to Plymouth in the league opener, and then proceeded to win the next six games before losing to Shickshinny on the last day of the regular season. Newport and Nanticoke were tied with a 6 and 2 record and they headed to Artillery Park for a showdown and the Southern Division title. The Nutcrackers sealed another Southern Division title with a 5 to 2 win and a slot in the regional tournament. Their opponent in the first round was Plains High School, the champions of the previous season. The Plains Red Raiders were led by Bob Kropiewnicki, a highly talented pitcher who was setting strike out records while attracting numerous major league scouts to the area. Newport took an early lead as Karl Najaka was hit by a pitch, Rich Sokolnicki walked and both advanced on a passed ball. A perfectly executed squeeze bunt by Frank Chest provided the Nutcrackers with a run and excited the loyal fans. Plains eventually edged out a 2 to 1 win in the bottom of the 7th and went on to win the tournament. It was a heartbreaking loss for junior pitcher, Elwood Rinehimer, and the sluggers of the team, namely, Gene Domzalski, Bob Pivais, and Ron Kuchinski— guys who had played on the '54 championship team.

The 1957 season, although Newport had a winning record of 5 and 3, came down to a big game with Northwest High School, formerly Shickshinny. Northwest, led by a spectacular pitcher, Ed Winterstein, edged Newport 2 to 0, claimed the Southern Division title, and went on to win the Wyoming Valley Championship. The Nutcrackers were led by Buzzy Powis, Dave Stout, and Elwood Rinehimer- three key players from the '56 division champs. However, it wasn't a total loss for the local team. Newport Township was in the process of establishing a jointure with Conyngnam Township, and the future school district enrollment would include some of the players from that championship Northwest Rangers team. The jointure provided an expansion of cultural exchanges and friendships that would last over decades. The expectations for the next school year were running high with an influx of athletes from winning traditions in sports, namely baseball and basketball. Add to that some players from that special Little League team from '53 and the baseball outlook in Newport was exciting, to say the least.

The 1958 season began with an exhibition win 10 to 1 over Kingston on the road. The Nutcrackers started the regular season with a shutout victory over Northwest 3 to 0. After winning the first six games, Newport had an opportunity to clinch the title in the Nanticoke game. They beat the Rams 7 to 1, on a two hitter and 12 K's by Tom Klukososki. Jim Schinski 4-4, Syl Madurski 3-4, and Denny Kubasko 2-3 launched the offensive attack. In the final home game, Willard George provided the offense and defense for the Township nine in a win over Northwest 7 to 4. He hit a 3 run homer in the first inning while throwing a 4 hitter and striking out 10, completing the regular

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season undefeated. The playing site for the regional tourney was moved to the new Kingston Stadium with Newport slated to play Marymount in the second half of a double header.

Scoring commenced in the bottom of the first inning with a triple by Madurski and a squeeze bunt by John Kashatus. Two more runs were scored in the fifth on a squeeze bunt along with a collision at home, as Tom K and the defense shut out the Mounts 3 to 0. Next up was Hanover, champs of the Central Division. With the score 2 to 2 in the fifth and with runners on 1st and 2nd and 2 out, Kubasko attempted to steal 3rd. But the throw to the base was misplayed allowing the apparent winning run to score. Tom K struck out 10 and allowed 4 hits. With a perfect record 10 and 0 on the line, Newport was back in the finals against Pittston. The Nutcrackers completed the undefeated season with a one hitter by Tom K and an 8 to 0 win over the Panthers, as Larry Kerutis, Kubasko, and Klukososki led the offense, each getting 2 hits. Other players who contributed to Newport's success were: Ray Krauser, Paul Shemanski and Bob Ferlick. A trip to New York City, championship jackets, and memories forever accented one of the best baseball seasons for the Newport Nutcrackers. Following the season, Tom Klukososki signed with the Phillies and Gene Domzalski, playing at the University of Wyoming, signed with the New York Yankees. Seven Newport guys receiving professional contracts over a 10-year period was really something to talk about.

The 1959 season was scheduled to get underway in the middle of April. For the people in Newport Township and the local area, the winter season claimed some victims: the Knox Mine Disaster in January, and the "Day the Music Died" in February were sad events that affected families and kids. Looking ahead to another baseball season with five veterans returning and a cast of newcomers, the Nutcrackers had high expectations. Newport opened the new campaign with a 6 to 1 victory over Northwest as Ray Krauser, along with batterymate Pat Rutkoski, tossed a 2 hitter and struck out 15. After a lopsided win over Larksville 13 to 4, the Plymouth Indians shocked the Nutcrackers 4 to 3. This was the first loss in two years. In an old-fashioned barn-burner, and with a great team effort, the Nutcrackers scored 3 runs in the top of the 7th at Nanticoke to tie the game and 4 in the top of the 10th to ice it. Dan Piestrak and Ron Hoch had 3 hits each in a big win over Larksville prior to the rematch with Plymouth. The Nutcrackers, with a ½ game lead, nipped the "Old Shawnee" 2 to 0, in an old-fashioned pitching duel. The Red & Black also received a little help as Nanticoke beat Plymouth 8 to 1 behind the 2 hit pitching of former Newport native Lou Strzalka. On the final day of the regular season, the Nutcrackers locked up another Southern Division title and a trip to the regional tourney with an 11 to 2 victory over Nanticoke. Schinski and Kubasko, top hitters for the past two seasons combined for 5 hits to rally the home team. Newport opened the tourney with a 8 to 3 win over Lake Lehman, highlighted by Paul Shemanski's 4 for 4, and Krauser's 10 K's. The second round of the tourney was a classic confrontation between two powerhouses—Plains and Newport. The coaches, Bill Proach of Plains, and Zig Najaka of Newport were recognized for their coaching skills, unique baseball strategy, and the ability to get the most from their players. Both schools won championships, with Plains repeating in '55 & '56, and Newport now had a chance to do the same. The Red Raiders scored a run in the top of the 5th to take the lead, and the Nutcrackers threatened with runners on base in all but two innings. With one out in the 7th inning, an error and a base hit gave Newport an opportunity to tie or win the game, but a smash to shortstop was turned into a double play. The game, the season, and the decade of Newport's greatest baseball came to an abrupt end.

As a kid growing up in the township, Glen Lyon was the center of my universe. It was a booming metropolis with plenty of commercial businesses, a new car dealership, two movie theaters, three schools, six churches, and a lot of kids on every block. Most of the adult men worked for the coal company and the women were starting to work in the dress factories, which were now located in small towns. Everyone knew of the baseball history in the community, but as a school age kid, I began to realize that my ultimate goal was to make the high school team, which was very successful prior to my matriculation. At Newport anywhere from 50 to 70 guys signed up for baseball, yet the final roster had only about 20 players. Getting a taste of competition in my sophomore year provided me with a desire to play on a very good team. That desire was fulfilled in my junior year with a special group of kids who had similar goals. Practices were fun and Coach Najaka kept everyone on their toes by smacking baseballs to us with his trusty fungo. He also kept our minds busy with baseball terminology and challenging strategy. We practiced drills on defense and the execution of bunting, especially the Squeeze. Some of us were excused from school early to work on the infield for home games. Most of the guys were serious during games, but loosened up after the games were over. Post-game activities were often hilarious. Jim S interviewed the mock "Longines" award winners for their outstanding game performances. Background piano music was provided by Ray K whose specialty was "Shoogy Shoo". We traveled to school as well as baseball games in class—on Mountain Bus Line coaches. Experiencing the playoffs for the first time in 1958 was exciting because the opponents were all champs and teams that we hadn't seen. The daily newspaper provided a lot of hype with articles about each team and promoted the high school tournament. After squeezing out the first two victories, the final game was anti-climactic, with outstanding pitching and solid hitting dominating a good Pittston team. At the 1958 Newport Commencement, Principal Shepela acknowledged all members of the '58 Championship Baseball Team, by having us stand. It was a most pleasant feeling to share that moment with my teammates. As a senior, the baseball tradition was still a top priority, and our team continued on a path to the playoffs, but ultimately lost to a better team.

Bob Duliba's major league debut on August 11, 1959 brought one of Newport's best decades in sports to a close. The common denominator to the success of Newport High School's baseball program was Coach Najaka, whose teams won 9 division titles in 14 years, and 7 division titles during the 50's with 2 Wyoming Valley Championships, along with a few near misses. Although there was some heart-break, the decade of the 50's held a lot of joy for the communities, the esteemed Coach Najaka, and the kids who played for the school "on the hilltop far above us."

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