

# **Local Miscellanea**

Compiled from:  
The Burgettstown Enterprise  
& The Observer-Reporter

Fort Vance Historical Society

STATE OF PENNSYLVANIA  
COUNTY OF.....

} SS.

On this, the.....day of....., 19....., before me, .....,  
the undersigned officer, personally appeared  
known to me (or satisfactorily proven) to be the person whose name subscribed to the within instrument, and  
acknowledged that executed the same for the purposes therein contained.

In Witness Whereof, I hereunto set my hand and official seal.

.....  
.....  
My Commission Expires.....

# AGREEMENT

STELLA H. CULLEY, widow,  
.....

with

JOHN FRITCH and  
.....

ARLIN G. FRITCH, his wife.  
.....

Recorded, Vol.                      page  
I hereby certify that the precise residence of  
the Buyer within named is  
60 Main Street  
Burgettstown, Penna.  
.....  
.....

THOMAS J. TERPUTAC, ESQ.  
729 Washington Trust Building  
Washington, Penna. 15301

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
COUNTY OF.....

} SS.

RECORDED on this..... day of..... A. D. 19....., in the Recorder's Office  
of the said County, in..... Vol....., Page.....

Given under my hand and the seal of the said office, the date above written.

....., Recorder

1. Seller agrees to sell and convey to buyer on or before 90 days from the date hereof by general warranty deed in fee simple absolute, clear of all mortgages, judgment liens and tax liens and other encumbrances affecting its marketability (except as hereinafter set forth) all the real property described in Paragraph 8 hereof.

2. Buyer agrees to purchase said real property and to pay Seller therefor the sum of TWENTY SEVEN THOUSAND and no/100 ----- (\$ 27,000.00 ) Dollars as follows: FIVE HUNDRED (\$500.00) DOLLARS down upon the execution of this agreement and the balance of Twenty Six Thousand Five Hundred (\$26,500.00) Dollars within ninety (90) days from the execution of this Agreement.

3. Possession shall be given on \_\_\_\_\_ 19\_\_\_\_, and settlement shall be made at the office of Seller's attorney on \_\_\_\_\_ 19\_\_\_\_; or as follows

Possession shall be given upon the date of closing or otherwise as agreed upon by the parties.

4. Buyer and Seller shall each pay one-half of all state and local realty transfer taxes payable upon this transaction, but real estate taxes, sewer charges, and rents and royalties shall be prorated on a calendar year basis between Seller and Buyer as of date of delivery of possession of the premises, except as hereinafter set forth:

5. From and after the date of this agreement, insurance shall be provided and paid for as follows:

Each party shall secure insurance to protect their own interests.

6. Time is \_\_\_\_\_ of the essence of this Agreement.

7. The parties further agree as follows:

It is expressly agreed and understood that in the event that the Buyers are unable to secure a mortgage for the financing of this transaction with Mellon Bank NA within ninety (90) days, this Agreement shall be null and void and the down payment shall be refunded to Buyers.

This Agreement also includes all items of furnishings and personalty in the apartments except a couch and rug, and in the storerooms it includes shelves, showcases and filing cabinets.

9. If Buyer defaults in payment or performance for 90 days, Seller may, at Seller's election, use one or more of the following remedies in addition to or instead of any other remedies provided by law:

(a) rescind this agreement and retain all sums paid on account hereof as liquidated damages, in which case Seller shall retain title to the real estate free and clear of any obligation or duty to Buyer and Buyer shall surrender this Agreement for cancellation;

(b) eject Buyer from said real estate, for which purpose Buyer hereby authorizes any attorney of any Court of Record to appear for Buyer and confess judgment against Buyer in an amicable action of ejectment, with immediate writ for possession of the real estate and for damages, to include attorney's commission of 15 % or \$ and costs, hereby waiving stay of execution, exemption and inquisition, with release of all errors;

(c) affirm this agreement by delivery of deed to Buyer, declare all sums due hereunder to be forthwith due and payable, and cause judgment to be entered therefor, for which purpose Buyer hereby authorizes and empowers any attorney of any Court of Record to appear for Buyer and confess judgment against Buyer for the whole balance due, together with interest, attorney's commission of 15 % or \$ , and costs, and hereby agrees to immediate execution thereon, waiving stay of execution, exemption and inquisition, with release of all errors.

10. This Agreement shall extend to and benefit and bind the heirs, executors, administrators, successors and assigns of the parties. Whenever used herein, the singular number shall include the plural, the plural the singular and the use of any gender shall include all genders.

NOTICE — THE USE OF ONE OR MORE COAL CLAUSES MAY OR MAY NOT BE REQUIRED BY LAW WITH THIS AGREEMENT.

WITNESS the due execution hereof the day and year first above written.

*Stella H. Culley* (SEAL)  
Stella H. Culley

..... (SEAL)

*John Fritch* (SEAL)  
John Fritch

*Arlin G. Fritch* (SEAL)  
Arlin G. Fritch

..... (SEAL)

..... (SEAL)

WITNESSED BY:

*Thos. E. Moore*

*Margaret S. Seffert*

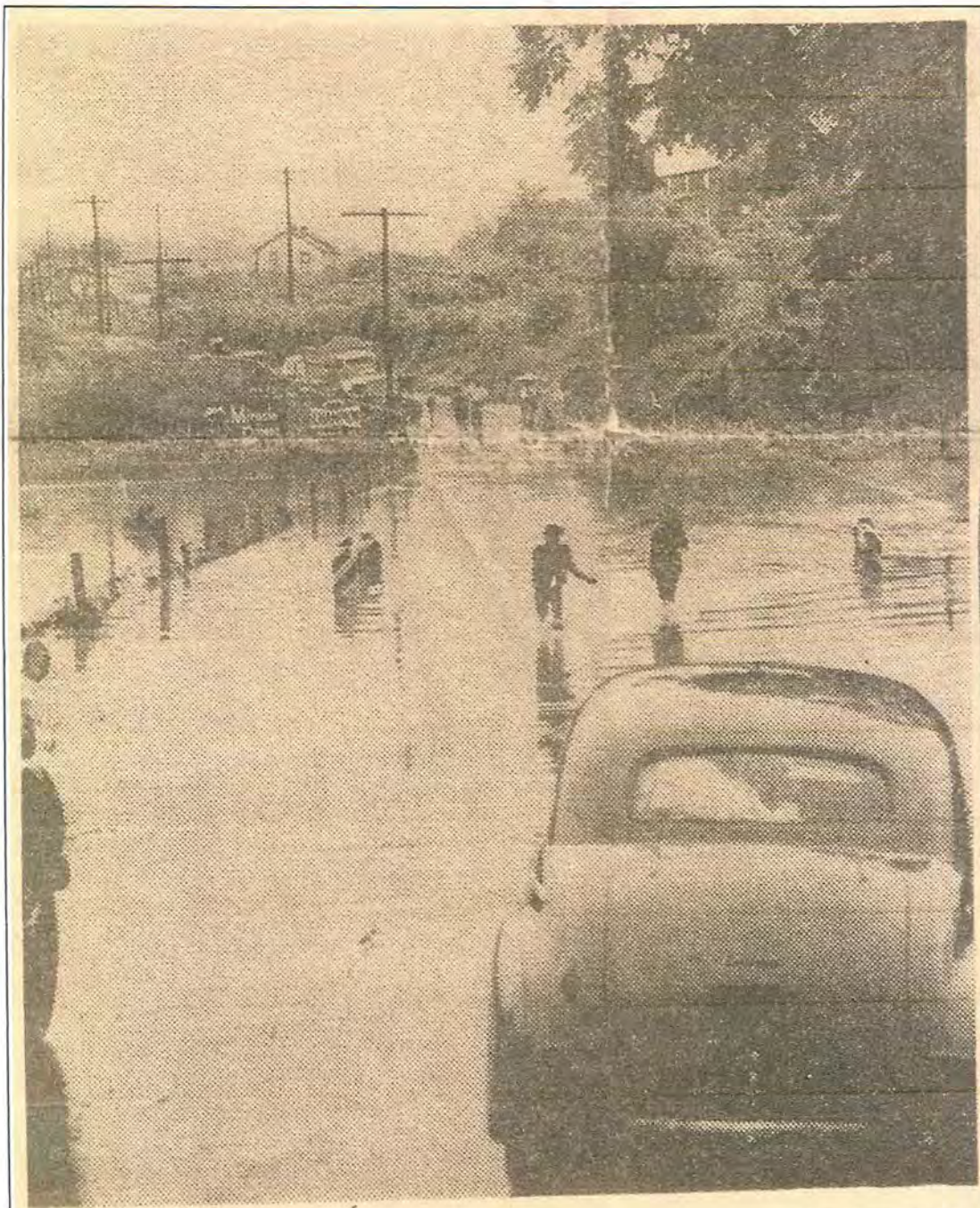
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123456789, now the Borough of Burgettstown,

UNDER AND SUBJECT to such exceptions, reservations, conditions and covenants as are contained in the chain of title.

BEING a part of the same conveyed by Russell Marino, Clerk of Orphans' Court of Washington County, Pennsylvania, to Wayne M. Culley and Stella H. Culley, his wife, dated June 13, 1968 and of record in Deed Book 1280, page 776. The said Wayne M. Culley predeceased his wife, Stella H. Culley, leaving her seized in fee simple absolute of the aforesaid property by operation of law.

UPON which is erected a two story frame dwelling with two storerooms and two apartments.



Observer Photo

Scene above shows water overflowing Route 18, just south of Atlasburg. Stranded cars are shown along with motorists and some of the youngsters of the district playing in the water. Traffic over Route 18 through Slovan resumed shortly before 5 o'clock last evening and being halted approximately three hours, and resumed through Burgettstown about 7 p.m. during which time all of Slovan and sections of Burgettstown were isolated.

**1950 Flood-Atlasburg  
Observer-Reporter**

*Fort Vance Historical Society*

### Want Atlasburg Road Fixed

A committee composed of Henry Tennyson, justice of the peace; Tony Filipponi, Isaac Schwadron and Mike Humenik, of Eastonville, met the commissioners Friday morning in the interests of the road between Atlasburg and Burgettstown, which, it is claimed, is almost impassable. This committee was appointed at a mass meeting held at Langeloth on March 18, when resolutions were passed regarding the condition of this road. In these resolutions it was stated that the condition of the road is a menace to the traveling public and a disgrace to the county. The committee presented a petition signed by several hundred citizens.

The road is a link in the highway from Washington to Burgettstown and is part of the state route from Washington to Beaver. The distance from Atlasburg to Burgettstown is three miles. A number of years ago the county improved one mile of this, beginning at Burgettstown. Shortly afterwards the state adopted it as a route, but this improved section was always a bone of contention between the state and the county. The former claimed that the court should keep it in repair because it had been improved by the county. On the other hand, the county maintained that it was up to the state to make the repairs. As a result, the road was neglected for years. Last spring it was almost impassable. It was claimed by a number of residents in that section that several horses were drowned in the chuck holes, and that several Ford machines that disappeared mysteriously found muddy graves in the bottoms of these holes.

Last summer the county placed a quantity of "red dog" from the nearby mills on the bad section. The committee Friday morning informed the commissioners and county road engineers that the road is worse this year than it was last year, but the officials doubt this, as they do not see how such a thing is possible, as the road last year looked as if it had been shelled by 42 centimete guns of the German army. However, the commissioners promised to investigate, and as soon as the weather will permit to make some improvements.—Washington News.

**Committee want Atlasburg Road Fixed**  
**The Burgettstown Call-March 29, 1917 Edition**

## ATLASBURG

by A.D. White

Having frequently, during the early years of the present century, driven the valley road south of Burgettstown from where that road is intersected by the road coming down from Cross Creek Village, the writer recalls that the large farm located at this intersection was known as the Buchanan Farm and was then occupied by Joseph B. Henderson. He was a native of Chartiers Township and was a noted breeder and importer from England of Dorset Horn sheep and from Holland of Holstein cattle. On this farm, Mr. Henderson concentrated most of his attention of the breeding and raising of his fine flocks of Dorset sheeps.

At the time spoken of the only evidence of a town at or near the present site of Atlasburg was a small group of houses, not over five or six in number. These unpainted houses were the home of families whose men were employed at the oil wells operated near here by the noted oil man, R.G. Gillespie. In tribute to this man, this small hamlet was called "Gillespie City." Mr. Gillespie held leases on twenty or more farms comprising around three thousand acres of land centering at about this point. On these leases during the oil excitement of 1904-1906, he had drilled about 190 wells, most of which were producing oil wells, from which also considerable quantities of natural gas flowed, most of this being used on the lease for the operation of gas engines or for heating the homes of his employment.

One of the well-known drilling contractors on these leases was Henry McKinney, for many years a familiar figure around Burgettstown. Most of the "rigs" or derricks used for drilling these wells were put on by the firm of Bailey and Trimmer. Along Mr. Gillespie's field superintendents in charge of his extensive operations were Messrs. Cline Woodling, William Bell and Ralph Farley, all of whom also were well-known in Burgettstown. Some of the families who resided at Gillespie City are remembered as Harper McCune and Frank Bonner. Charles W. Tope worked for a time as gauger in the oil field, was then manager of the Valvoline Pipe Lines Company at Burgettstown, and later entered the oil business for himself by investing in producing oil and gas wells.

In the year 1911, the Buchanan Farm and the adjoining Studa, then owned by J.B. Henderson, were purchased by the Brownsville Coal Company, and that firm immediately began preparations for sinking two shafts here and opening a coal mining plant. Although the Pittsburgh vein of coal at this point lay 225 feet below the surface, yet it was believed that these shafts could be sunk and coal could be mined economically despite this depth. By the end of January, 1912, barracks had been constructed on the Studa Farm for housing the workmen at the shafts and some machinery had been moved on to the site of the new mine. By early spring work on both shafts had been started and on March 14, it is recorded that one of the workmen was killed while working in one of the shafts.

As this summer wore on the shafts were sunk deeper and deeper. The difficulties of excavation ever increased with the depths, since all excavated rock had to be raised from the shafts in huge buckets, operated on the end of a cable. After about a year of difficult boring, the shafts were completed and the giant elevators to be used in each one were installed. Between the mouths of the two shafts the power house and mine shops were located in two brick buildings.

Since the Buchanan Farm was to be used for the town site for the new mine, Henderson discontinued his farm operations here. On August 6, 1912, he had a sale of his personal property and two weeks later he and his family moved to Hickory, where he continued, for a time, to care for his flocks of fine sheep. Later, the Hendersons purchased the D.C. Miller Farm, about three miles south of Atlasburg, and there the son, J. Raymond Henderson, continues the breeding of sheep as well as serving as an officer in the Continental Dor-

set Club, a nationwide organization of Dorest Horn sheep breeders.

By 1914, the coal company here, then known as the Atlas Coal Company, was ready for operations at their new mine. On the upper side of the valley road, opposite the mine, the company erected a large two-story brick building to be used for the company store and the mine offices. For the first several years of its operation, W.A. McBride, of Houston, was superintendent of this mine, and Samuel J. McCalmont, of Burgettstown, was for many years mine clerk here.

Houses for the miners who were to work here were being erected while the mine was being readied for operations and a large number of families soon appeared to occupy the houses and to furnish the manpower for the mine. The houses built here were single residences of various types of architecture and a fair sized "yard" was furnished for each house. Some time later, as more houses were required, the "new blocks" were built on the adjoining Russell Farm just south of the Main town site.

With the mine in full operation, coal production was stepped up and during the years of World War I, large quantities of the "black diamonds" were produced here and shipped to market over the branch line of the Pennsylvania Railroad which had been constructed up the valley from Burgettstown when the mine was first opened.

The north shaft of the mine here had a slow elevator and the cage was used for transporting the miners into the pit and for lowering supplies. In the south shaft, used exclusively for hoisting coal to the surface, there were two platforms balanced on opposite ends of the huge cable, so that as one platform was raised with a full car of coal, the other was lowered with an empty car. These elevators were operated at a high speed, too fast for human riders, although once or twice one of the mine officials was known to have ridden one of these elevators. At first this hoist was operated by steam and the whistling of the steam engine in operation was a very common sound around Atlasburg. At that time, the electric power commercial electric lines were built to this place, the hoisting was changed to this power and the whistling of the steam engines was no longer heard.

With the influx of the families here, many children, of course, appeared on the scene. For the school term 1913-14, these children attended the one-room Cooke School, a mile south along the valley road, and the teacher, John P. McNelly, recently told the writer, that he had as many as ninety pupils during that term with room for only about one-third that number. A few children also attended the "Yellow" School at Slovan, but it, too, was becoming over-crowded. In 1915, the brick school was built at Atlasburg. This was enlarged in 1957 and is now one of the six elementary buildings of the Burgettstown Area School System.

The Atlas mine was eventually purchased by the Carnegie Coal Company, which operated it for a few years longer, but increased cost of mining coal here and other financial difficulties of this company compelled the closing of the mine and the sealing of the shafts. In recent years, the power house and other buildings here have been occupied by the Alex E. Paris Construction Company, the Atlasburg Machine Company and more recently by the Atlas Alloys Company plant.

Most of the houses at Atlasburg are now privately owned and they make comfortable homes for the families of men who must go elsewhere to find work. In addition to the public school, the Atlasburg Church of the Nazarene continues here as one of the community's fine institutions.

Next - Cedar Grove

## Atlasburg

By A.D. White-Burgettstown Enterprise- 1967 Edition



#### **Work on the New Railroad**

Actual work on the construction of the Atlasburg branch of the Panhandle will begin in a few days. During the past week three steam shovels arrived for use in the grading, and a number of teams are busy hauling lumber, etc. The new branch is to be an extension of the track to the plant of the American Zinc & Chemical company at Lange-loth and will terminate at Cedar Grove, near Patterson's Mill. It is understood that the construction is to be completed within four months.

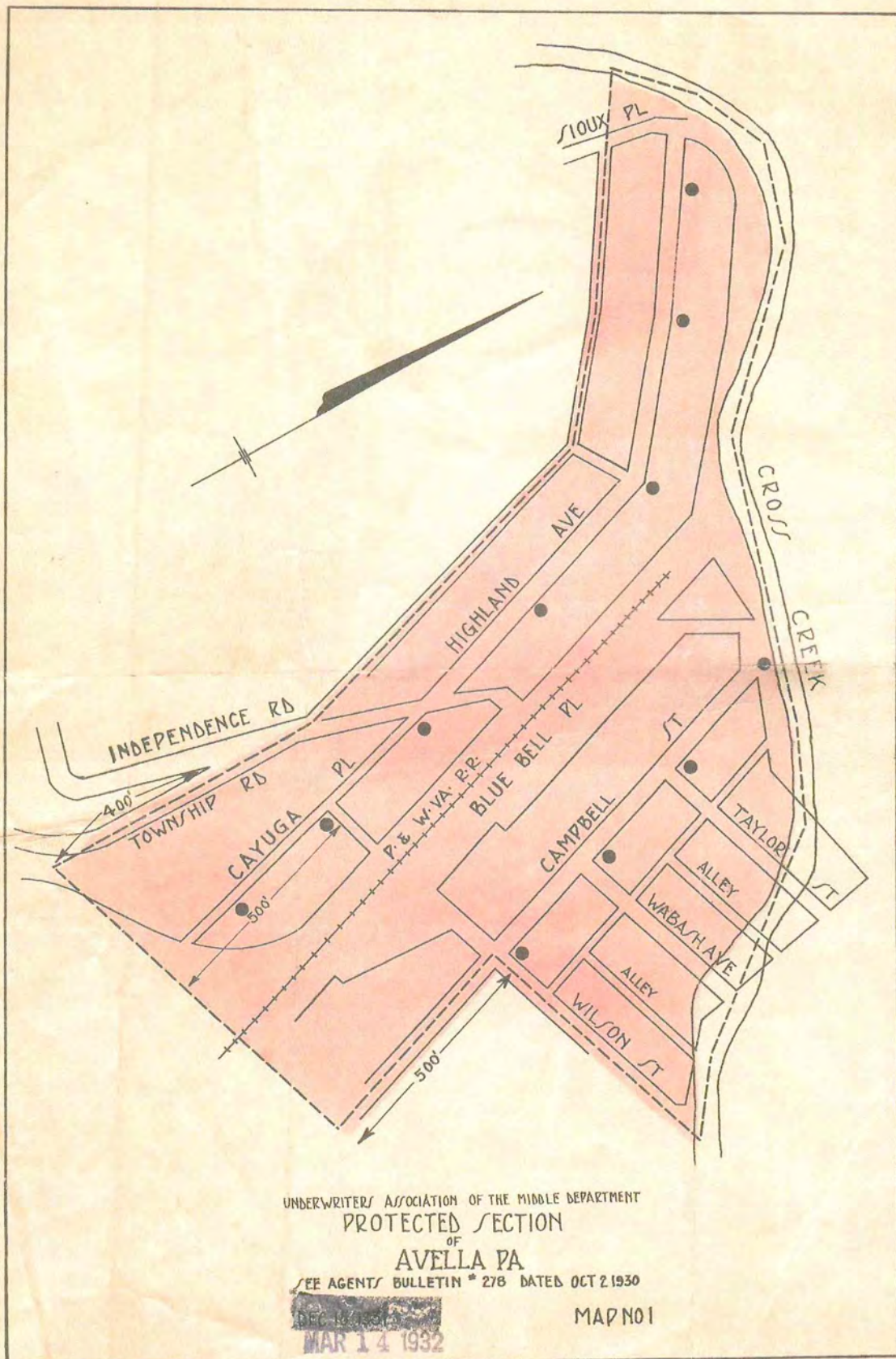
The building of this branch means further developments in the coal fields of Smith, Jefferson and Crosscreek townships, adding to Burgettstown's already enviable reputation as a coal-shipping center.

#### **Work on the New Railroad**

**The Burgettstown Call- March 11, 1914 Edition**



**Blue's Fruit Market-Atlasburg**



**Underwriter Association of the middle Department Protected Section of Avella, PA Dated October 2, 1930-December 15, 1931-March 14, 1932**

*Courtesy of Fort Vance Historical Society*

#### Avella Theater Burned.

Fire of unknown origin resulted \$3,000 damage at the Brozier Theater, Avella, early Wednesday morning of last week. The blaze, which started under the stage was discovered by the owner, Phillip Brozier, who roused members of his family, residing on the second floor. They fled from the building in night clothing. Avella firemen confined the blaze to the interior of the theater. The fire burned through the stage and destroyed sound equipment under the stage, and damaged the screen. The interior of the building, a two-story brick structure, was damaged badly by water and smoke.

Two of the most prominent farmers in the Cross Creek Valley in the early days of Avella were Samuel S. Campbell and W. J. Brown.

Each laid out his farm in lots and sold them to those who eventually made Avella what it is today.

The section laid out by Mr. Brown became known as Browntown, a name that yet remains. It was here that Alexander Wells first established his mill in the late 1700s.

Campbell, on the other hand, laid out the lots where later the Avella Volunteer Fire Department and the Lincoln National Bank were built.

The "Campbell" house on the corner now is the home of James and Rose Geresti. The Campbell Theatre and the Presbyterian Church were also built on Campbell land.

Samuel Campbell was from the Campbell-Rea families, the original Campbells having first settled on what became later Serenity Farm.

From the "memories" of the late A.D. White: "Mr. Campbell was a large man, well-built and of commanding appearance. He had a good singing voice and sang at many community



**KATHRYN SLASOR**

gatherings.

He helped organize the Lincoln National Bank and served as its president. He was part owner of Avella Lumber and Supply, which remained in the Campbell family for two more generations. I remember him well."

Tragedy struck the S.S. Campbell family in the year 1899. During a storm that passed over Pattersons Mills,

Mrs. Campbell was struck by lightning and instantly killed. She had gone out to look after some young turkeys and was hurrying back to the house.

As she passed a locust tree, lightning struck it, the bolt running down the trunk and out a limb. It then struck her in the head and passed downward,



Contributed

**OLD AVELLA** - This is the scene on Avella's Main Street, year unknown.

burning off part of her clothing. Mrs. Campbell's parents were James and Martha Stevenson Rankin.

An Avella man who is extremely well-versed in the area's history, especially that of mining, and who willingly shares his knowledge is Albert Stefkovich.

Mr. Stefkovich was born here, and made Avella his home his entire lifetime. He says he has lots of memories,

many pleasant, some unpleasant, and a few he classifies as just plain "bad."

One of the latter was the day his father was building the brattice wall in the Cedar Grove mine and the roof collapsed on him. He was severely injured and died a few days later. He was a bricklayer and a carpenter. Albert was 5 years old.

Countless families in the mining areas suffered the

same cruel fate. When the breadwinner left home with his lunch pail in the morning, the wife and children never knew whether or not he would return that evening.

"He was killed in the mine," is the only memory many have today, of their fathers and older brothers.

Details have been nearly lost to the little ones who remained to live a childhood life of poverty, but growing up with a deep appreciation of the good things that life brought later.

Mr. Stefkovich says that the entire Avella area was dotted with mine entrances, coal cars and tracks, and slate dumps. Groups of plainly built houses sprung up, creating a long list of mining camps.

In Cedar Grove was the Carnegie-Illinois Coal Company. In the area between Pattersons Mill and Avella were the three blocks known as Burgettstown Coal Company.

Nearby and adjacent to the Alex Paris home was the small operation known as Oak Hill. Donahue Mine was in the Gardner Street area. P & W was at the junction of routes 231 and 50, at the foot of Painter Hill.

Duquesne was in the area of the former Falleroni Store, in Browntown.

The "rooms" of Pryor Mine stretched under the vicinity of the Starinsky farm on Knox Hill.

The Waverly Mine was located near Seldom Seen, a locality that has always lived up to its name. It was near the West Virginia state line.

Jefferson Coal lay under the Miller farm. Penobscot Mine was on a knoll also near the state line, with its rooms stretching underneath several farms such as Cunningham, Baker, and Pettibon, meeting the rooms of Jefferson Coal under the Habaly farm.

Tales have been passed down that when this writer's father and grandfather worked in the Penobscot Mine, they entered a tunnel or passageway near Kidd's Mill and walked underground to Penobscot.

This was supposedly a "short-cut." Mr. Stefkovich says that this no doubt was true, as there were many openings and passageways on many sides of many hills."

(Slasor is a special correspondent for the Pennsylvania Focus.)

**Further Historical Accounts of Avella's Early Days (Pg. 2)**  
**PA Focus-December 4, 1999 Edition**

*Fort Vance Historical Society*

When Clara Withum said, "They moved the Hodgkiss Building," that is what she meant.

When Mike Rockey said, "They moved the bank," that was also true. The thing that created the confusion was that the Hodgkiss Building and the bank building were one and the same at that early date.

Eugene Painter has a picture that proves that the bank began its operations in the Hodgkiss Building. Kurt Meyers pointed out that indeed buildings were moved back in the early twenties.

Meyers is a Hodgkiss grandson, and lived in this building for 26 years. He notes the "crooked" floors resulting from being pulled in some manner across the back yard, probably by mules.

This was the conventional method of moving houses in those early days, according to sparse accounts from other areas.

The Hodgkiss Building still stands, somewhat obscured by other buildings adjoining it. It is a beautiful white, two-story structure with a wide gable high above the front entrance. This imposing structure housed both the post office and the bank, and dominated the entire corner of what is now Campbell Street and Route 50.

At the same time, anyone standing at the railroad station and looking toward the main section of town would be facing the somewhat similar-appearing building, complete with almost identical gable — the Wabash Hotel, owned by the Sfara family.

In early photos taken from



**KATHRYN SLASOR**

this spot, one can see that station and the hotel. But the roof section of the Hodgkiss Building, being about the same height, and standing on the lower corner, nearly superimposes itself onto the hotel from behind.

This gives the appearance, and the false impression, of a double building, two parts of which were built too close together.

To add to the confusion, still another old photo shows Sam Major's store to be in the same spot as the hotel and the Sfara Building. It is known from accounts of many older residents that Sam Major did conduct a store there. Sam must have foreseen that someone in the future would question it, so he had his name printed on the side of the building in large letters.

By talking at length to many, and by twining bits of information together from each of them, the puzzle is being solved. As it appears now, after weeks of visiting all the sites and studying all the angles, the corner geography changed radically throughout the years.

Not only were the bank and the Hodgkiss building one and the same down on the corner,

## Hodgkiss Building, Bank One and Same in Early Days (Pg. 1) PA Focus-February 26, 2000 Edition

*Fort Vance Historical Society*



Contributed

**BUCKEYE SCHOOL** – In Avella's early days, the "new" Buckeye School sat near the road that leads from Cedar Grove to Avella. It is shown here as the farthest building up the hillside.

but the Wabash Hotel, Major's merchandise store and the Sfaradance and recreation hall were also one and the same a few feet away, near the station.

All of this moving and changing of minds and activities took place up to 90 years ago. Most of the details were handed down by word of mouth and memories have a tendency to become hazy.

Any dates quoted have been arrived at by sheer mental calculation. By this reasoning, it is believed that the Hodgkiss Building was built at its original location around 1903.

When it was decided by persons unknown to move it to the rear of its lot, the date would be around 1920.

It was apparently moved with

the least effort being exerted, as the gable remains on the upper side, facing the station.

The present towering brick building quickly filled the space that had been vacated, and Lincoln Bank was again in business. However, this flurry of activity lasted only until 1929 when the big crash came, one that shook the financial world of that day.

From that time until the present day, this huge structure has stood hopelessly vacant, a sad reminder of the day that trusting investors lost their fortunes and, for some of them, their hopes and dreams for the future.

The only spark of life since then came in the 1940s and 1950s when a beauty shop named, "Rose Lou's" opened for a short period in one of the upper rooms. Operated by Rose Lou and Billy Clouston, the beauty shop also passed into oblivion as had the bank.

The little annex huddled against the bank that at various times housed the A&P Store, Geresti's Appliance Store and the Pennsylvania State Liquor store has been silent for many years. The Wabash Station, in an extremely dilapidated condition, is crying out for some renovation, which may soon be a reality.

As has been stated previously, the Sfaradance building is professing toward prosperity, and with Dellovade's Fabricating plant in the next lot, Avella still has hopes for a bright future.

It is with an abundance of thanks and appreciation that I pick up my camera and typewriter and head out of Avella and back to Burgettstown.

Much more could be written about this little railroad and mining town, and I may return some day and pick up an occasional story. Avella's people are wonderful, and I enjoyed each visit and phone conversation with all of you.

*(Slasor is a special correspondent for Pennsylvania Focus.)*

## Hodgkiss Building, Bank One and Same in Early Days (Pg. 2) PA Focus-February 26, 2000 Edition

*Fort Vance Historical Society*



The late Joe DePetro came to the Avella area as a friendless, penniless 15-year-old Italian immigrant in 1911, who was unable to speak English.

Due to a set of scattered and unbelievable circumstances, he was left alone in a strange and generally unfriendly world.

With help from a few total strangers whose nature it was to befriend the unfortunate, Joe's fortune began an about face.

With hard work, scrimping and saving from his meager earnings, and with much heartache and many tears behind him, he defied what seemed to be his destiny of a life of poverty and began to climb the ladder of success.

He bought a farm in Independence that had potential and proceeded to develop it. Through the succeeding years he added to his fortune, through herds of Aberdeen Angus cattle, registered horses and other farm stock.

Shadow Lawn Farm became an Eden, providing the village with a wondrous backdrop. His barnyard was neater than most lawns.

His crops followed the gentle twist of the earth. Fields of tall corn graced his acreage, right up to the farm roads.

In his late years of retirement he relaxed under the huge shade trees in his back



**KATHRYN SLASOR**

yard or proudly showed off his weedless rows of vegetables to anyone who chanced to pass by and reminisced about the past 90 years.

Gone was the toil of the Penobscot mine; the humming of the sawmills at Pine Flats; the escapades with the Cunningham Brothers of Hollow Rock; the horse trades with the Gypsies at the County Fairs; the smell of Jim Grimm's skunk hides in the shades of death.

In addition to Mr. DePetro, whom we have featured for the last few weeks, many other notable citizens helped to boost the good name of Avella throughout the years.

Although impossible to give credit to the entire population, most of whom should fall into this category, a few outstanding persons will be named:

- Dr. Harry Stunkard came to Avella in 1905. He was the mine physician for most of the

mines in this section.

He was one of the old-type country doctors as "no night was too stormy, no mud was too deep and no distance too far" for him to answer a call. He was considered the friend of the poor man.

He was serving as Independence Township Supervisor at the time of his death, which occurred in December 1931. Complications had developed following an operation for appendicitis. He was deeply interested in good roads and better highways.

- James Wilson was probably the oldest harness maker in Washington County.

For more than 60 years he worked at his trade, turning out thousands of sets of harness. He served many years as postmaster at Independence Post Office.

- James Buxton, who lived far into his nineties, was a unique personality. At this advanced age, he was still caring for his own needs.

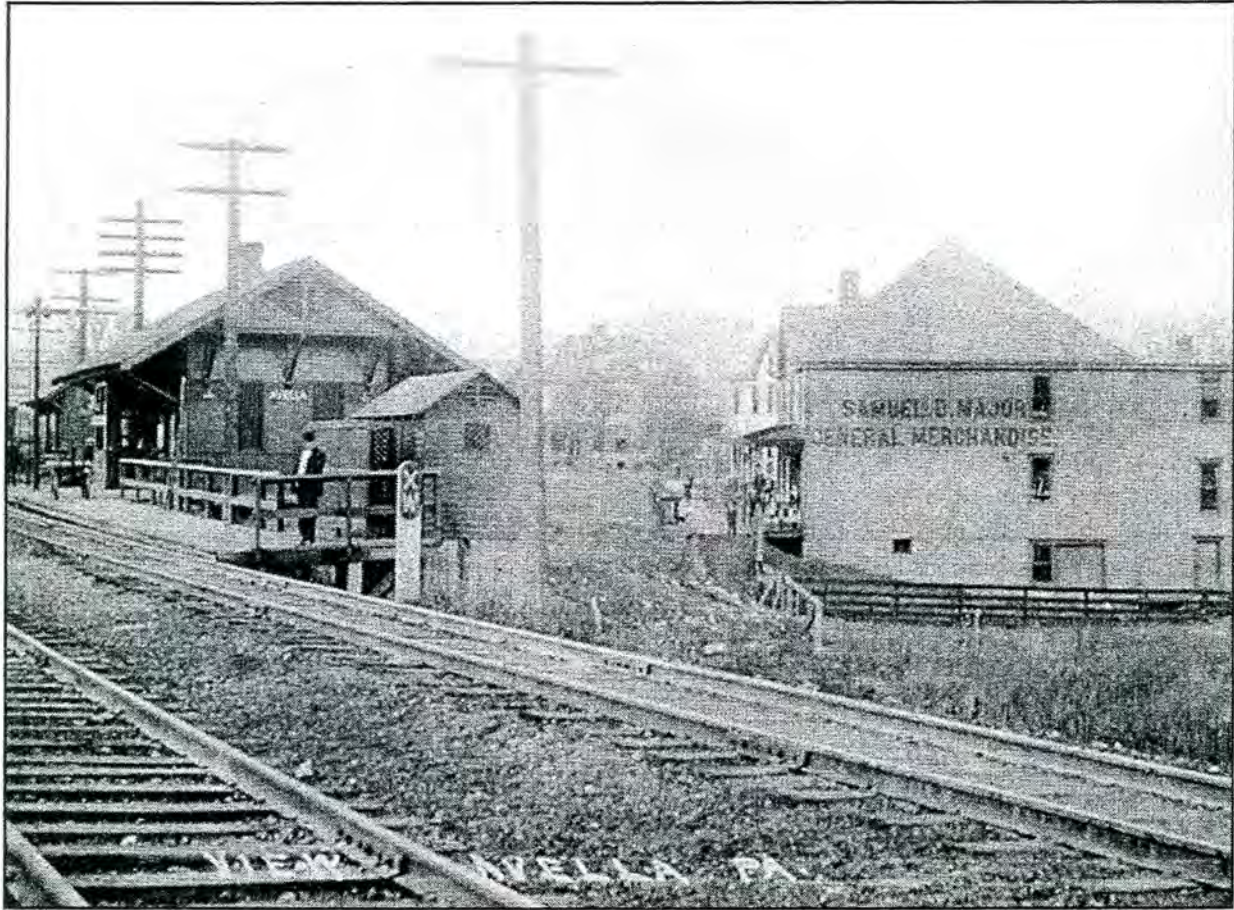
He did his own cooking, raised his own garden and canned his own fruit. He asked no favors of anyone.

- The Barnes name was prominent in Avella and fringe areas as well as in Jefferson Township. David Barnes married Emma Sutherland, from another well-known family.

Their sons were Austin and Alvin, who were popular in the

## Joe DePetro, Italian Immigrant Makes His Mark in Avella (pg. 1)

PA Focus-January 29, 2000 Edition



Contributed

**AVELLA HISTORY** – This is the station area in Avella, with Wabash Railroad on the left. That's the old Campbell house, one of the first in Avella, in the background with the Samuel D. Major store at right. Wabash Station was built around 1903.

young peoples' circles. Austin, later a Washington County Commissioner, died of heart trouble at 46.

Alvin, a ministerial student, died at Adrian (Michigan) College at age 27. He was married to Bertha Buxton, a local

schoolteacher.

(Slasor is a special correspondent with the Pennsylvania Focus.)

**Joe DePetro, Italian Immigrant Makes His Mark in Avella (pg. 2)**  
**PA Focus-January 29, 2000 Edition**

*Fort Vance Historical Society*

The late Joe DePetro was nearing 82 years of age in 1976 when he was interviewed by Albert Miller concerning the background of the Penowa and Avella areas. Albert, one of Washington County's most conscientious preservers of local history, passed away one year ago, leaving a great void in the lives of many who were of kindred spirit.

Joe remembered small incidents the two of them had experienced together in the 1920s. Albert was born in 1911, the year that Joe had come "across the water" to the new world. Although Joe had spent his early years getting acclimated to a different way of life while Albert's roots dated back to 1795 in his home community, the two became fast friends.

They reminisced on the low wages that a miner made by hitching a decrepit old mule to a coal car to get the coal out of Penobscot mine. They recalled the days when Joe earned \$75 for 20 days of work pulling 150 cars from Pryor mine to Penobscot. They remembered when George Minda was killed in a slate fall in



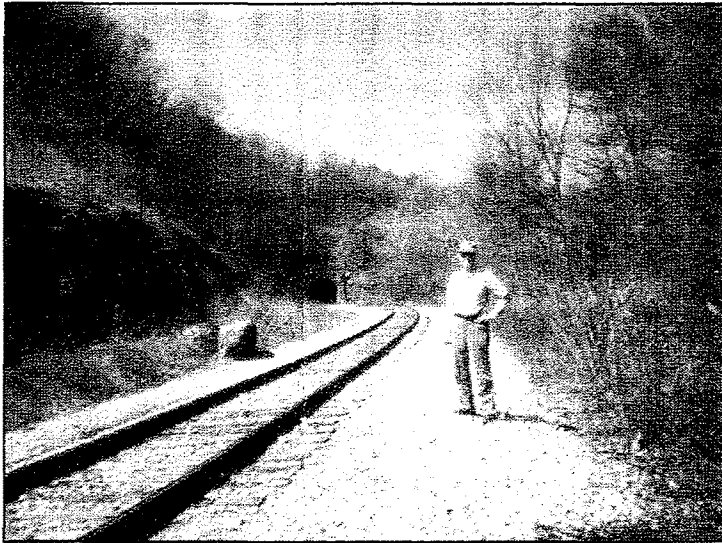
**KATHRYN SLASOR**

1921. They recalled the horror when several people were killed at Cliftonville mine riot in 1922, when an actual shooting war broke out in the lush green hills along the Wabash railroad.

They remembered when the Sutherland sawmill moved into Pine Flats to harvest the virgin timber. They spoke of Albert's Uncle, Alden Miller, who hauled hemlocks from Hollow Rock that were cut on the George Cunningham place, for a shed barn that Johnny Cassidy built. They discussed the little log house in the "forks" of Pine Flats, that their memories told them was the home of George and Anna

**Joe DePetro Remembers the Penowa-Avella Area (Pg. 1)**  
**PA Focus-January 15, 2000 Edition**

*Fort Vance Historical Society*



Contributed

**CRAIGHEAD TUNNEL** — Ed Taylor stands at Craighead Tunnel, in background. Craighead, or Plummer's Mill, was in the woods on the right side of the road, behind Taylor.

Habaly before they bought the John Scott farm. They told of the board fence on Barnes' Bottom where, a century before, had stood an ancient schoolhouse. (Albert said he was told that it

was there in 1818).

They remembered the old road that went from Pine Flats to the "far" Cunningham place, not even a scar of which now remains.

*(Writer's Note: For many years I heard Albert tell of incidents touching on "the far Cunningham place." I felt that if I listened long enough and often enough the word, "far," would make sense. Surely I must be hearing the wrong word. And if not, and I was hearing correctly, "Far Cunningham" seemed like such an odd name for a man.*

*One day, when he was relating another incident that happened at the "Far Cunningham" place, I could stand it no longer.*

*"Albert," I interrupted him. "Who would have a name like "Far?"*

*Albert barely stopped talking long enough to acknowledge my question. Without changing the tone of his soft, gentle voice, he inserted the only explanation possible — "It was the far Cunningham place because it was farther over the hill from us than the "near" Cunningham place which was right out here along the road.)*

Joe DePetro also knew where both Cunningham brothers farmed their acreage. George had chosen his land in the valley of Hollow Rock Run, while

Lanty's farm lay atop the hill above, close to the gooseneck turn in the road that today still leads to the Miller farm.

Prior to 1912, the steep hillsides of Hollow Rock Valley were overspread on both sides with huge White Oak trees, all the way to Shades of Death.

Bill and Charlie Sutherland had really made the right move when they shattered the silence of centuries in this serene valley with the clatter of their sawmill.

When the trees were cut down, Joe DePetro was one of the men who hitched up the team and pulled the logs to the mill where it was set up beside the creek.

Joe also helped change the course of Hollow Rock Run at one point in Pine Flats where the Wabash Railroad went through. He did this by "churning up" the water with the horses. A bridge was later built which eased the situation.

A Mr. Wickersham had earlier attempted to operate a sawmill in the spot but it was not successful.

More on the taped interview later.

*(Stasor is a special correspondent with Pennsylvania Focus.)*

**Joe DePetro Remembers the Penowa-Avella Area (Pg. 2)**

**PA Focus-January 15, 2000 Edition**

*Fort Vance Historical Society*

Albert Miller and Joe DePetro, both deceased, left quite a legacy of Avella and Penowa area tales.

They had worked together in the early 1920s in the great outdoors and remembered clearly many of the humorous sidelines of hauling logs, building crude bridges, hunting, trapping and other rugged activities. All of these led to their great knowledge of the hills and streams of the extreme southwestern tip of Jefferson Township.

Both men were well acquainted with the many families who made their homes in the Pine Flats and Penowa areas, and gave the community a long list of idiosyncrasies.

The Buxtons were gristmill-oriented. The Cunninghams farmed the steep hillsides along Hollow Rock Run. The McGuires always seemed to be shrouded in mystery.

There was Jim Grimm, a trapper and fur trader whose greeting was always, "Got any skunk hides thar?" And faithful old Tom Bane, whose reputation was "the nicest man I ever met," had served as janitor at Bethel Church, and who had been brought north from the hills of Kentucky by Albert Miller's grandfather many years before.

Trapper Jim Grimm, who lived along Hollow Rock Run in the Shades of Death Valley, was



**KATHRYN SLASOR**

poor in this world's goods but rich in the legacy of the large family of children he left behind. (Some of his descendants still live in Steubenville, Ohio.)

One of Joe DePetro's favorite yarns concerns the day that he and George Cunningham rode their horses to the Jacktown Fair.

It was always said by the county folks that "if you have never been to the Jacktown Fair, you have just never lived." Thus, George Cunningham mounted Patch, his little mare, and Joe DePetro proudly perched atop his handsome mare which he claimed was double-gaited.

"I think I'll trade mine off at the fair," George confided to Joe.

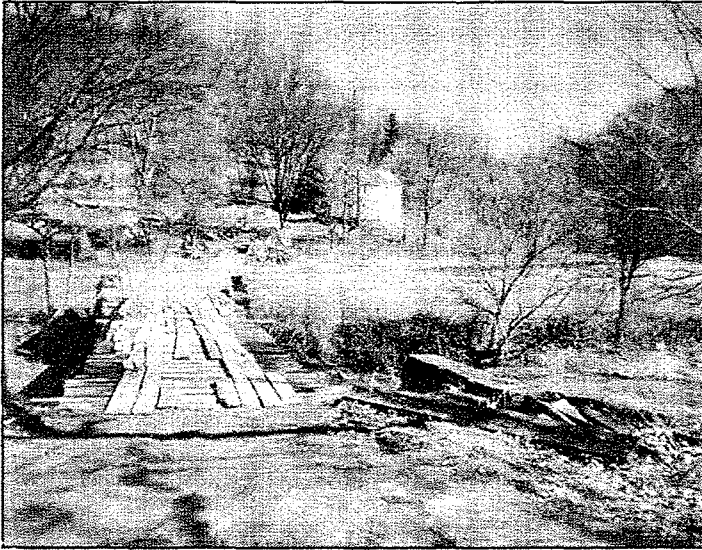
"Better watch out," Joe warned him. "You may not have a horse to bring back."

As they browsed, they saw a "nice little 4-year-old sorrel mare" in company with a band of

**More Tales Told about Avella, Penowa Area (Pg. 1)**

**PA Focus-January 22, 2000 Edition**

*Fort Vance Historical Society*



Contributed

**FORMER MINING CAMP** – Louis Kaposy's home, visible in the distance, is at the entrance to the former mining camp of Seldom Seen. The old houses were nearly a mile beyond this point and could be reached only on foot. A few of the moss-covered foundations remain. This bridge over Cross Creek is the only access to the old camp area.

Gypsies.

"Want to trade?" George asked them. The price of \$6 plus his mare, Patch, was agreed upon in the trade. So the Gypsies took Patch and George saddled up the "Nice little sorrel mare."

They had not gone far when the mare began to shake and heave. With a series of strange

sounds as of muffled fireworks, the sorrel expelled a half dozen sponges into the air behind her. She shook violently and heaved often.

"What will we do?" we asked each other. They agreed to take her back to the Gypsies.

"We traded. You keep what you got. We keep what we got,"



Contributed

**TOOK TOUR** – Louis Kaposy, left, is shown here with Carl Patsche after a tour of the old Seldom Seen mining camp.

was their answer.

George and Joe got their horses back to pine Flats by 3 p.m. in the afternoon. The sorrel, who had been pumped full of drugs and plugged with sponges by the Gypsies to put her in a temporary top-notch condition, was getting worse. She lay down on the ground and was soon dead.

"Call Jim Grimm," Joe told George. "He will skin her for the hide."

When Jim Grimm arrived, he looked his usual self-dirty overalls, bloody hands, and carrying his sack lunch.

Joe DePetro rocked with laughter as he recalled that episode on Albert's tape more than 50 years later. "Jim sat right down on that dead horse and ate his lunch."

*(Slasor is a special correspondent for the Pennsylvania Focus.)*

**More Tales Told about Avella, Penowa Area (Pg. 2)**  
**PA Focus-January 22, 2000 Edition**

*Fort Vance Historical Society*

This writer's first visit to the big city of Pittsburgh, from the isolated, spread-out, rolling hills of a 69-acre farm, was an education as well as an adventure.

Even at age 12, we had never seen a building much higher than our old weathered cow-sheep-and-horse barn, with the great slanting roof — a building so tall that we could not throw the ball high enough in the air while attempting to play "Andy-Over."

We had always stood in awe as we looked at the great heights of some of the downtown banks and city buildings in Steubenville as they towered over us while we did our Christmas shopping.

To us children, it was a miracle that a building could stand that tall.

Then came the visit to Pittsburgh. Nothing we had ever seen could compare with the sight of those skyscrapers.

"Don't stand there and look up," reprimanded our Great Uncle Gray, who had treated us to the trip. "Everyone will think you have never been in the city before." (Which was true)

"But how do they get the so tall?" I asked in all innocence. And in keeping with Uncle Gray's comedy-quips of many years, he quickly replied, "They start at the top."



**KATHRYN SLASOR**

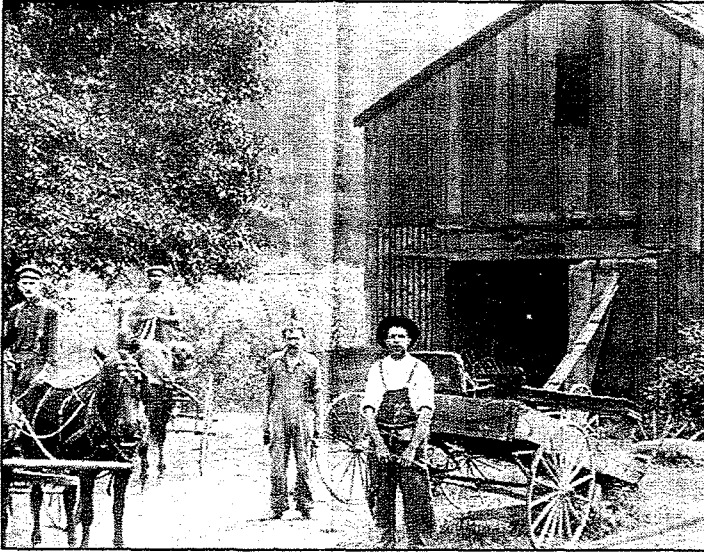
Avella has been known for many achievements, but the building of skyscrapers is not one of them. Avella is a typical small town of one-, two- or three-story homes, stores and other businesses. The one exception is the tall structure built by Joe Rector, pictured with last week's article.

Steve Szunyog remembers when it and a number of other buildings were constructed.

"It was small when they started out," Steve recalls. "The first level housed a blacksmith shop and a good blacksmith," he said. "As time went on, Joe Rector added a story at various intervals, one story at a time," he said.

Steve said the building was mainly occupied by bachelors, many of whom were immigrant

**Avella-Not Known for Skyscraper Buildings (Pg. 1)  
PA Focus-December 25, 1999 Edition**



Contributed

**OLD BUSINESSES** – Avella's Moten's Blacksmith Shop in 1904.

miners employed in the outlying coal mines.

More information will be given about this building as it becomes available.

Blacksmiths were a necessity in the early days of Avella, before the automobile took over the role of the horse.

The accompanying picture is of Moten's blacksmith shop in

1904. It stood, according to Raymond Boso, to the rear of where the firehall stands today, and "down by the creek."

As Raymond so thoroughly pointed out the town building by building, it became quite evident to this writer that businesses of the past were just that — businesses of the past, long before Steve's and Raymond's time.

For instance, the Jim Wiegmann Funeral Home, in the shadow of the overhead bridge wall, is only a memory. Even the alley on which it bordered is overgrown, with parts of it having deteriorated into the town's main parking lot.

Curtis Pharmacy now stands where Larry Brozier's Flower Shop once graced the main street. DeFilippis night club, later Bill and Addie's Bar, burned to the ground, leaving only an open alley near Spataro's Grocery, as a small space good only for parking a few automobiles.

Spataro's Grocery has evolved into a convenient store.

It has been many years since entertainment seekers have been treated to a movie at Phil Brozier's Theatre, where the front entrance was closed by an iron gate after hours.

The large abandoned brick edifice, with the broken windows as its main feature today once housed the finances of the neighborhood as the Lincoln National Bank.

As is common knowledge, the bank "went under" with disastrous consequences 70 years ago, with the "Crash of 1929." Since that tragic event, the building has stood in all its desolation on

the corner across from the Campbell house.

The small structure annexed to its side was once the A & P store, managed by George A. McElhane. In the rear of the annex was the Pennsylvania State Liquor outlet.

Raymond recalls many other businesses throughout the town and extending out into the surrounding countryside.

His story will be continued in a later issue.

Meanwhile, Mank Scouvar, also with an excellent memory and the willingness to share his knowledge, says that the Scouvar name was first associated with that of Matthews.

Their store was located where the main parking lot is today.

Mank's wife, Marty, cherishes two souvenir plates that have been in the family since 1908 and 1912, the dates engraved on them.

More will be told about Avella by those quoted here, as well as by others who are dusting off their memories about the old buildings and businesses.

But we are fairly certain that none will have any recollections about any skyscrapers in Avella — except the Rector building.

*(Slasor is a special correspondent with Pennsylvania Focus.)*

## Avella-Not Known for Skyscraper Buildings (Pg. 2) PA Focus-December 25, 1999 Edition

*Fort Vance Historical Society*





**Orville John Secrist, Blacksmith Shop**

**Located near the creek behind the Avella Volunteer Fire Department-Early 1900's-Avella, PA**

*Courtesy of Fort Vance Historical Society*

I have interviewed quite a few residents of the Avella area in the past few weeks for this series of tales of that small town and its importance to those who live or have lived there.

One question has been asked of most of them, and we usually get the same answer from each one.

But somehow or other, the answer does not exactly fit the picture that accompanies the details involved in the question. But since we have nearly exhausted our sources in the older age group, it seems we should accept the unanimous answer and move on.

The question goes something like this: "What can you remember about the general merchandise store operated by Samuel D. Major?"

Nearly everyone knew that this was a big general merchandise outlet very near the railroad station. They also knew answer and move on.

The question goes something like this: "What can you remember about the general merchandise store operated by Samuel D. Major?"

Nearly everyone knew that this was a big general merchandise outlet very near the railroad station. They also knew that it was the only large building that stood in that vicinity other than the station itself.

Some said that it was a "fun" place, where dancing was enjoyed, and good food was served.

Others remembered having been in the store and of shopping there.

Stella Sfara Cindrich says that her parents, Rocco and Christina Sfara, owned the hotel, which was Major's building. She



**KATHRYN SLASOR**

says that Major sold the building to Sfara, and that it was a hotel.

Helen Martin recalled that she had been in Major's Store when she was very small, and that it was a store, not a hotel. Also, she, in her childhood memory, "thought they were doing something to the building."

And Mike Rockey, in trying to describe either the hotel or Major's store, remembered, "They changed it."

The photos show only one when she was very small, and that it was a store, not a hotel. Also, she, in her childhood memory, "thought they were doing something to the building."

And Mike Rockey, in trying to describe either the hotel or Major's store, remembered, "They changed it."

The photos show only one building.

But a cross-section of Avella's longtime residents talk as if there were both a hotel and a merchandise store, yet only one building.

Then comes a photo that shows the Major building with large lettering on the side that leaves no doubt that Samuel D. Major was the owner of this building.

However, in the same photo is shown what seems to be another



Contributed

**RAILROAD STATION**— On the left is the large building in Avella that still stands near the railroad station as shown here. Both were probably built shortly after 1904, when the first train sped down the Wabash track on July 2 of that year. This beautiful frame structure was known both as the Sfara Building and the Wabash Hotel. It is presently being beautified by Larry and Carol Carter.

building very close to it, that resembles the hotel. With most of this building not showing, the mystery remains.

This photo, by the way,

accompanied a recent chapter in this story.

Others interviewed, in addition to those named in previous chapters, are Gene Georgetti,

Louis Kaposy, Clara Withum and Gene Painter. The latter says that this building was indeed Major's store when he was a boy.

He has a molasses pitcher

that came from the store as a souvenir about the year 1909. It was still Major's during the years from 1923 to 1925, Eugene recalls.

Concerning the other building that seems to lean over in the photo and become nearly a part of the Major building, Eugene believes that this may have been the white building that in those days housed the bank and the post office.

It was known as the Hodgkiss building, as it was owned by a man of that name. It stood on the corner where the vacant old Lincoln bank ruins now stand.

It seems that when the time was right for Avella to go into banking in a big way, the Hodgkiss building was moved from the corner to a spot on the other side of the lot.

The brick bank was then built, Major's store was sold to Sfara, and the station area took on the look somewhat as it has today.

The station that was nearly indispensable for so many years, has deteriorated into near-ruins.

But the Sfara building, or Major's store, which could answer to either name, has an attractive "new look."

Carol Carter, of Bethel Ridge, is in the process of opening an antique store within its proud walls.

*(Slasor is a special correspondent to Pennsylvania Focus.)*

## Avella Residents Remember the General Merchandise Store (Pg.2)

PA Focus-February 19, 2000 Edition

*Fort Vance Historical Society*

## David Templeton's Seldom Seen: A journey to find the meaning behind Shades of Death Road

Sunday, April 22, 2001

By David Templeton, Post-Gazette Staff Writer

*Seldom Seen, David Templeton's whimsical perspective on life and times in and around Washington County, appears weekly in Washington Sunday.*

As I wheeled onto Shades of Death Road near Avella, I was greeted by an eerie welcoming committee -- haunting silence and three turkey buzzards circling overhead.

The only thing lacking was background music from "Jaws" or "Psycho."

Deciding to barrel down this bodacious byway, I could only hope the buzzards planned to snack on road kill rather than Templeton-kababs.

So I followed the gravel road in Jefferson down the ridge face into Washington's heart of darkness with no idea what to expect -- ax murderers or oak trees? The living dead or living happily ever after? Mummies or mammas?

In truth, the name does kick up some nervous atmosphere. But more nerve-wracking is the fact no one knows why it's named Shades of Death. With such a name, one expects explanation.

Granted, Shades of Death is more provocative than, say, Pea Road in Cross Creek or Aunt Clara Road in Hanover.

The county has plenty of traditional, backwash names -- Pole Cat Hollow Road in Blaine, Possum Hollow Road in Hopewell and Owl Hollow Road in Morris, and a series of runs named Plum, Potato, Dog, Raccoon and Horse.

But one might argue Shades of Death is the most spine-tingling road name in the county, beating out in my mind such brow-beating back roads as Devil's Den and Acid Dump in Hanover and Dynamite in Amwell -- places where one might expect to encounter Beelzebub, burns and blasts.

Regardless the name, Shades of Death maintains an unmistakable aura.

It connects Campbell Drive and Bethel Ridge Road by dipping down to cross then follow Hollow Rock Run and its picturesque waterfall. There are six houses along its length of less than two miles.

En route, the road succeeds in blending mystery and history, the macabre and the macadam to create a treasure that blends Thomas Hardy and Stephen King.

And while one might expect a story about Shades of Death on Halloween, spring begins revealing the road's enigmatic beauty -- the green tarpaulin of trees that creates a dark esophagus that eventually burps one up onto Bethel Ridge, but only after passing spooky Bethel Church and its hoary cemetery.

Tom Shernisky, who moved to Shades of Death five years ago, recounted the tale of Indians naming the road in the 1800s because the hemlock trees lining it blocked all sunlight. Dairy farmers hauling milk on wagons to Avella needed a guiding light to find their way at midday.

OK, that explains the Shade part.

But the tale suggests Indians using the D-word because of "poisonous" hemlock trees lining the road and creating shade. Problem is, hemlock plants, not trees, are poisonous.

Whatever its source, the name has become a self-fulfilled prophecy, giving rise to myths of murder and mayhem, fires and hangings, bad things and even worse things.

"What's in a name is what you make of it," Shernisky said. "I like it in a way. It keeps people away. A lot of kids come out for extracurricular activities, of course. It's a novelty thing."

Indeed, boys are drawn to the roadway like bees to nectar, but not only because of the name. On an early spring day, Glenn Lowe, 16; Bill Durbin, 18; and Chris Tuttle, 17; and his brother, Dusty, 14, all from Avella, strolled down Shades of Death in search of "a little adventure." The four bounded across Hollow Rock Run and scrambled into long-abandoned coal mines. Talk about shades of death.

When the county 911 system led to regulations that all county residences have street addresses, Maureen Gump and her family were upset they had to list Shades of Death in their address. The Gumps petitioned Jefferson supervisors to use Bethel Church Road instead, but supervisors feared confusion with Bethel Ridge Road.

But the road name "became a nonissue" when the Gumps began using a post office box rather than a street address.

When one needs answers in Jefferson, it's time to consult with Kathryn Slasor, a local historian who's writing a history of the area. Her six-page history on "Shades of Death," written in 1977, provides family anecdotes but few clues about the horrific name.

"Such a forbidding name for one of nature's most beautiful spots," she writes, noting how lost strangers find the name "appalling."

"Many tales have been handed down through the generations concerning this dark vale situated in the southeastern section of Jefferson," Slasor wrote. "These have included an assortment of yarns concerning the untimely demise of nameless individuals which, added to the natural darkness of the place, probably resulted in the unusual name."

Slasor described how tall trees, wildflowers, the winding road, stream and waterfall "combine to give it a rare natural beauty" and are conspirators in the name.

Timbering removed virgin hemlocks, diminishing the darkness of the road. But she acknowledges her mother, a resident of Shades of Death, helped perpetuate the legend by once telling her, "Of course, it's haunted. A shadow followed Grandma across the creek one night."

Other tales include a man groping his way through the dark who fell over a log and touched a dead body, and one who was found hanging from a roadside tree.


"And many others just as gruesome have come to my attention," Slasor wrote. "But the individuals are nameless, and no facts can substantiate any of the stories. Thus with tales such as these being handed down through the generations, it is little wonder the name, Shades of Death, evolved."

So as I traveled the road, the name circled like turkey buzzards in my brain as the ambiance created mystique. I was almost disappointed goblins -- shadows -- didn't follow me.

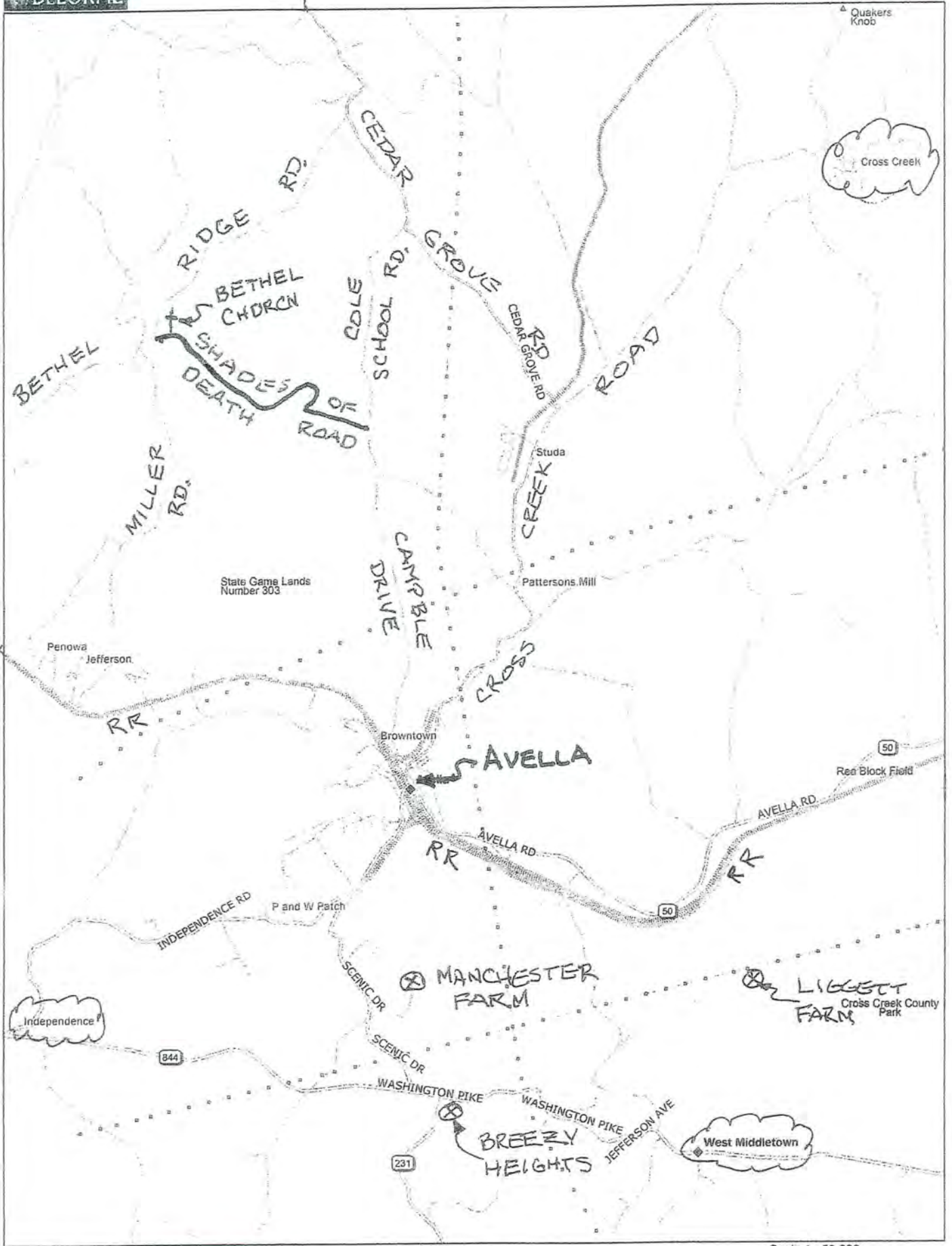
I beheld only beauty, perhaps enhanced, perhaps tainted by the road's shocking name.

And those looming buzzards, circling like specters with ugly red heads and epic wingspans, seemed to exist only to boost the road's morbid reputation, because one thing's for sure -- they never got a taste of my Templeton-kababs.

*David Templeton can be reached by e-mail at: [dtempleton@post-gazette.com](mailto:dtempleton@post-gazette.com)*

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Scale 1 : 50,000



1" = 4,166.7 ft

Data Zoom 12-0





**The old church**

St. John's Byzantine Catholic Church at Avella will be celebrating its 75th anniversary Sunday, June 26, with a divine liturgy at 4 p.m. and a banquet in the church hall at six o'clock.

The 4 p.m. service will begin with a processional; then the most Rev. John M. Bilock, apostolic administrator, and co-celebrants, Rev. Daniel A. Magulick, together

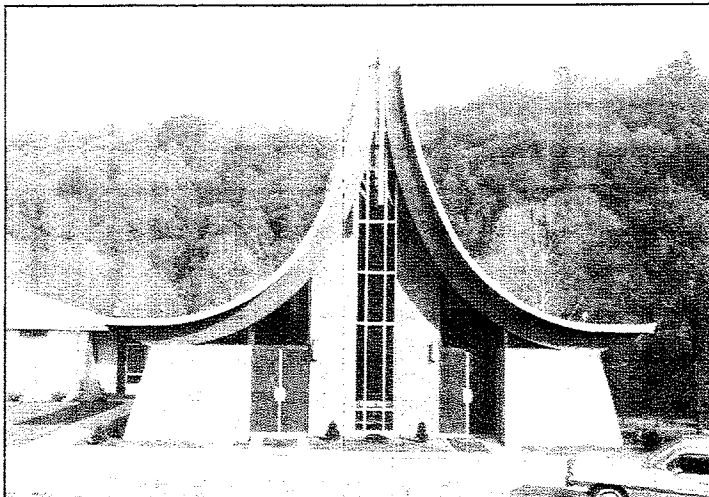
with other former pastors of the church, will be taking part. The Burgettstown Council 3440 of the Knights of Columbus will also participate.

At the banquet in the social hall a program will be presented to include several speakers. A booklet containing the "History of St. John's Church," compiled by John Shymchyk, pictures pertaining to

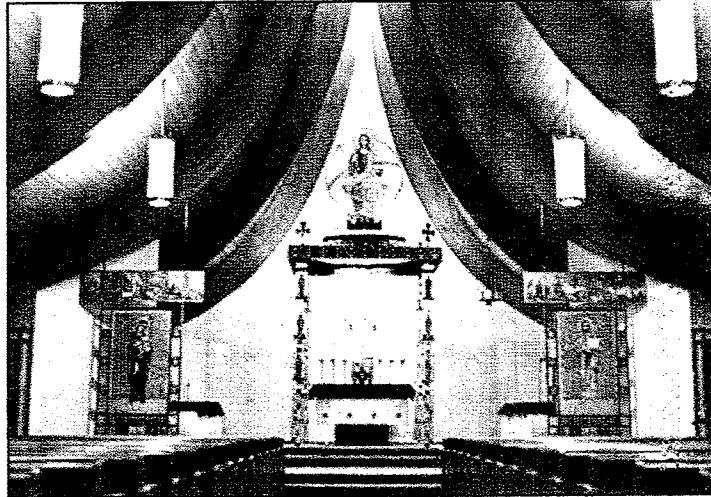
**St. John Byzantine Catholic Church to Celebrate 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary (Pg. 1)**  
**The Enterprise-June 22, 1994 Edition**

*Fort Vance Historical Society*





The new church



Inside the church

the church and congregation, and lists of pastors and cantors will be available.

Founders of St. John's Church were early 20th Century immigrants to America from the Carpathian mountain region of Austria-Hungary. In Europe the church had occupied the center of their lives, and their strong faith had helped them overcome many hardships.

A dozen men, who represented 31 families in the Avella area, met in 1916 at the home of Michael Haverlack Sr. to discuss organizing a church.

The first divine liturgy was offered in Avella at the Wiegman Hall on Main Street. Later, Cross Creek Township school directors permitted the group to use Buckeye School, where the first St. John's Church was later located.

In 1919, a parcel of land on the Avella-Atlasburg Road was purchased from the Pittsburgh and Southwestern Coal Company. The church leaders canvassed the families of the area to collect funds, and a loan of \$8,000 was obtained under the supervision of Fr. Nicholas Sagon of Mingo Junction

so that the building of a church was begun.

Another group of Byzantine Catholics had settled in the Burgettstown area, and a church was eventually erected in Slovan in 1918 with Fr. Simchek serving the Byzantine Rite Catholics of Avella, Burgettstown and Weirton. However, this church was destroyed by fire, and Fr. Simchak moved to Avella, where he did much to solidify the parishioners of that area.

Coal strikes and the depression created difficult times, but with perseverance and sacrifice on the part of the members, the church grew and St. John's became permanent.

A bus was eventually purchased so that worshippers could be transported from Burgettstown and other distant points to Avella.

During the time Fr. Michael Dudick was pastor, major remodeling was done to the first little church. The Girls Sodality was also organized. It was soon evident that a larger building was needed.

A fund-raising campaign was conducted in 1960, and pledges in excess of \$60,000 were made for the construction of a new church.

Tribilecock and Associates, an architectural firm in Pittsburgh, was hired to design the new building, which was to be located along the road between Patterson's Mills and Avella.

On May 7, 1961, ground was broken. The Mellon Stuart Company was designated as general contractors for the construction.

The work was completed and the new church was dedicated May 13, 1962.

Since then there have been various remodeling projects including the replacing of the skylight with a wooden structure, the paneling of vestibule and stairway, the installation of additional lighting and carpeting and new glass icons have been added between the nave and vestibule.

Meanwhile in 1957, land for a cemetery was purchased from the West Pointe Cemetery Association, and a tractor was bought to help maintain the church grounds and the cemetery.

In 1988, Fr. Daniel Magulick took over the parish and served it in addition to his duties as pastor at St. Mary's Church in Weirton.

Since its beginning, 37 pastors

have served the St. John's congregation, each offering his unique services.

During the time of Fr. Dan Magulick's pastorate, a new air conditioning system was installed; a beautiful chandelier was purchased for the nave; and the driveway and parking lot were paved.

Much has been done to prepare for the anniversary celebration this year.

A lector program has been instituted in the parish which has given the parishioners an opportunity to express themselves by liturgical readings during regular services.

Catechism instruction is also being offered to children before the Sunday liturgy so that the youth are receiving proper religious instruction.

As John Shymchyk has written in his history of the church, "During the past 75 years our forefathers suffered many hardships and had to overcome difficult obstacles to reach this point. With courage, perseverance and deep faith they succeeded and left their children a legacy of which they can be proud."



**Avella, PA**  
**Post Card-Unknown Year**

*Courtesy of Fort Vance Historical Society*



**Avella Train Station**

*Courtesy of Fort Vance Historical Society*

This week, I will inform readers of some of the remaining chapters of the Avella stories back into the town proper.

We have been out in the "wilds" of Independence Township for several weeks exploring the fringe areas. We still have more to cover in those areas, but will get back into town for the time being.

Later, we will tell you more about "the ghost of Seldom Seen." And the pot of gold that is rumored to be buried near John Brown's race track. And ... so much more.

I have interviewed a number of local men and women who have made Avella their home most of their lives. To quote a few of them on various points of interest:

- Mark Scouvar says that some of his relatives — George P. and Nellie Shanks — had a dry goods store where the laundromat is located today. Mr. Shanks will be remembered for his gracious sense of humor and his ability to entertain.

Mark remembers when he worked in his father's hardware store and one of his jobs was crimping stove pipe. This building now houses Village Tack, operated by Alan and Michelle



**KATHRYN SLASOR**

Gordon.

- Steve Szunyog remembers when many of the present buildings were constructed.

He particularly liked the blacksmith shop in the Rector building, which eventually became the tallest structure in Avella.

- Al Stefkovich recalls the dozen or so mines that surrounded Avella, and the hard work involved in getting the coal out of the hillsides.

Later, stripping operations began with Al at the helm.

As his shovels crawled over the Knox farm in their thirst for the coal that was under the surface, other interesting bits of information came to light.

As a result, Al can point out

stone fences that were built and forgotten many generations ago.

He's discovered old foundations and stone walls, as well as scars of old roads — one of which he believes was a major route leading west.

He believes at one time there were old settlements atop Knox Hill near the Nancy Gillespie farm.

And, of course the old Wells graveyard and its adjacent Indian burial mound were evident nearly to the present time.

- Dolores Valduga lives in the front yard of the old creamery. The building where milk, cream and ice cream were favorite subjects of conversation around the station has been converted into the Valduga garage.

- Raymond Boso says that the Campbell barn stood where the Avella fire house was later built, across from Lincoln National Bank.

The A&P store had its headquarters in the small annex beside the bank.

The proprietor there was George A. McElhaney. Bini's ice cream store of recent months was Gardner's Garage.

And at one time, Raymond's relatives, William and Gail

**Upcoming Chapters Brewing on Avella's History (Pg. 1)**  
**PA Focus-February 5, 2000 Edition**

*Fort Vance Historical Society*

Clouston, kept the boarding house near the intersection of Routes 231 and 50, enroute to the P&W Mine.

He also recalls "Junk Man Joe," whose business was on the lot where Dennis Halmi has his body shop.

• Stella Sfara Cindrach recalls the day in 1929 or 1930 when Prohibition was repealed and "all the bars in town opened."

There was no doubt a "hot time in the old town tonight," as the square dancing refrain goes! Even "Poor Man's Paradise" by the Wabash track, probably blared with revelry.

In last week's photo, the lettering on the building near the station read, "Samuel D. Major, General Merchandise." And in today's accompanying picture is a dress that was bought at Major's in 1922.

• Helen Martin of Eldersville, who was born in 1908, remembers riding to Major's store with her father in the spring wagon when she was a little girl. More about Sam Major and other memories next week.

*(Slasor is a special correspondent for Pennsylvania Focus.)*



Contributed

**DRESSING UP** – Margaret Stricko, left, models the new dress she got at Major's General Merchandise Store in Avella back in 1922. With her are her cousin, Elizabeth Bulyko, and her sister, Anna Stricko. Margaret, then 12, is now Margaret Gordon Hines, who lives across the road from where the old Patterson Mill once stood just outside Avella.

**Upcoming Chapters Brewing on Avella's History (Pg. 2)**

**PA Focus-February 5, 2000 Edition**

*Fort Vance Historical Society*

## Water Problem Still Continues In Avella

The water problem of the community of Avella concentrated on Washington last Wednesday when disappointed women who had appeared for a scheduled hearing in court paraded with signs in picket-line formation before the Washington County Court House.

This impromptu parade late in the morning was staged after representatives and counsel of both sides of the Avella water dispute appeared for the hearing only to find it was not to be held.

This latest facet of the Avella water situation arose last Monday when William Debelak, of Avella, petitioned the court for a restraining order to prevent the threatened shut-off of water at his home for non-payment of his water bills.

Judge David H. Weiner signed the order for a temporary injunction and set Wednesday at 10 a.m. for a hearing on the matter.

At the appointed time, the parties found that Judge Weiner is vacationing, that Judge George T. Cummins reportedly would not be in the court house during the day and that President Roy I. Carson already had matters scheduled.

A group of Avella women had come to the scheduled hearing with signs asking for "Justice" and pointing out alleged deficiencies on the Avella water supply.

There was a lengthy and crowded discussion in the court house hallways among counsel and parties. When it was learned that there would be no hearing, the women headed for the sidewalk in front of the court house and marched in single file carrying their signs.

One new sign was quickly prepared and added in the

line. It said, "Where's the Judge?"

Attorney John W. McIlvaine, who represents the petitioner for the injunction, after conferring at length with George B. Stengenga, who represents the Avella Water Company, said it appears that the temporary restraining order against the shutoff will remain until mid-August. He said he believed Judge Weiner would return from vacation about August 12, and that the matter would probably be taken up then.



**“These four mothers carry signs that tell the story of their effort Monday morning to obtain a better water supply for Avella. Left to Right: Mrs. Dorothy Woodburn, Mrs. Thelma Merryman, Mrs. Margaret A. Miller, and Mrs. Louise Campbell.**

**Burgettstown Enterprise-September 16, 1964 Edition**



**“Mothers say No Water, No school.” One of the many signs carried by a group of determined mothers in the Avella community Monday morning.**

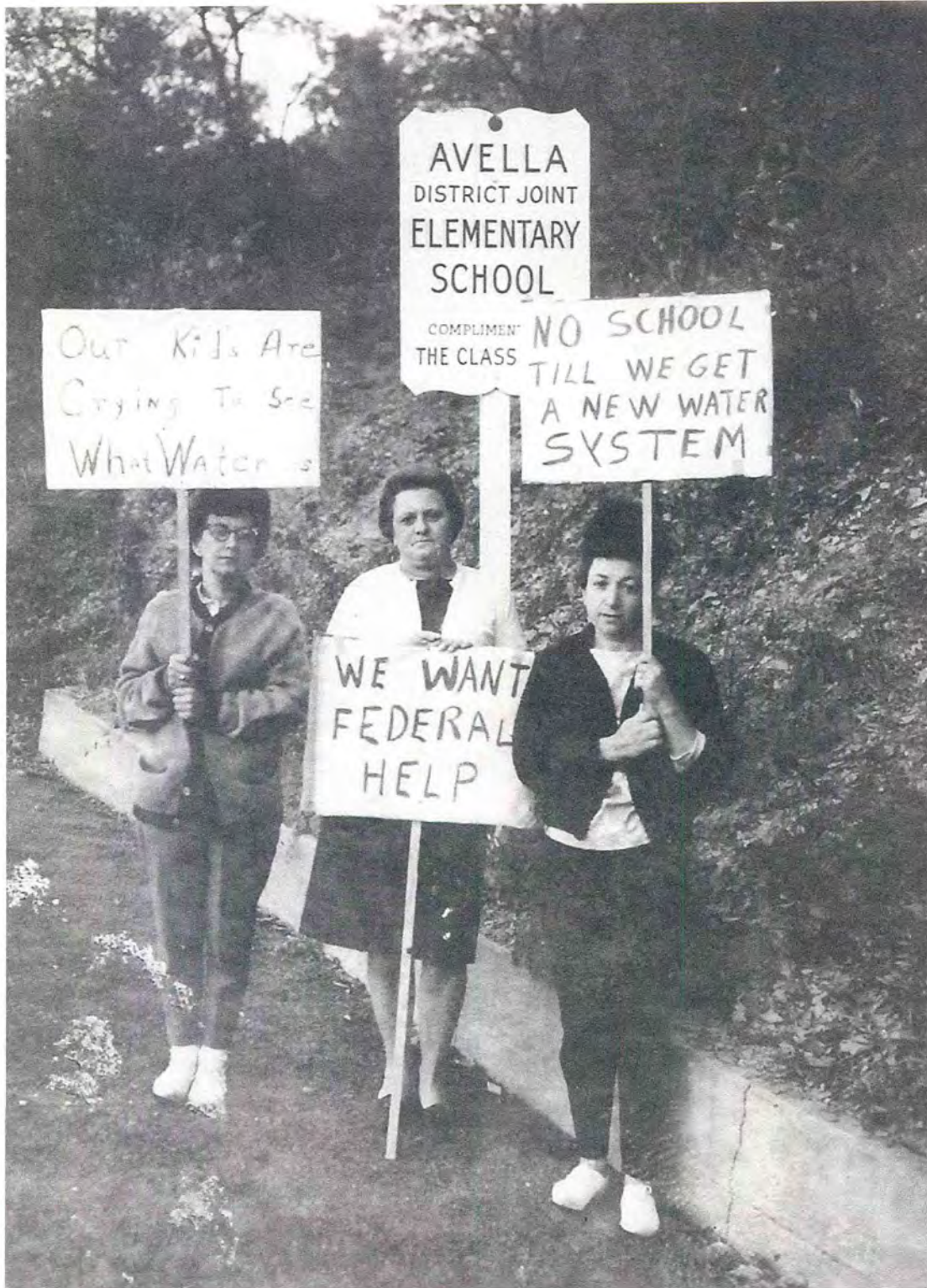
**Burgettstown Enterprise-September 16, 1964 Edition**





**“Parade of pickets before buses of the Avella Joint Schools parked at the high school entrance. The picketing continued for three hours, this morning”.**

**Burgettstown Enterprise-September 16, 1964 Edition**



**“These three women were among the first group of parent pickets who appeared at Avella High School Monday morning.”  
Left to Right: Mrs. John Danna, Mrs. Clara Kurucz, and Mrs. Anne Marcott.**



**“This was the scene at the Avella High School late Monday morning.  
Women pickets can be seen in forefront.  
Students at the left are leaving the buses, which are parked.”**

**Burgettstown Enterprise-September 16, 1964 Edition**

# Cemetery tour explores passage of time

Linda Reese, a member of Genealogical Society of Southwestern Pennsylvania, points out some of the features of an old tombstone in Grove United Presbyterian Cemetery in West Middletown.



BRAD HUNDT/OBSERVER-REPORTER

By BRAD HUNDT  
Staff writer  
bhundt@observer-reporter.com

AVELLA – Even though it's just off Sugar Run Road, Doddridge Cemetery blends so easily into the landscape you would miss it unless you were looking for it.

The ground is covered in moss and crushed leaves, and no flowers decorate any of the tombstones. Some of them haven't stood straight for decades, while others have toppled over entirely. There are about 25 graves in this small, homestead cemetery that have been identified. There are undoubtedly more, but the markers are long gone and the occupants are now unknown and

will probably never be known.

It would be the perfect place to come around Halloween for a dose of the heebie-jeebies, but a handful of members of the Genealogical Society of Southwestern Pennsylvania were strolling through it in the sunny daylight that marked Saturday afternoon as part of a tour of cemeteries along Route 844 in Washington County.

This is the second time the Genealogical Society, which uses Citizens Library in Washington as its base, has embarked on a tour of local cemeteries; in the fall, they traveled along Route 40 and stopped at some of the historic cemeteries between Washington and

*Please see Tour, Page A2*

## Tour

*Continued from Page One*  
West Alexander. Given the abundance of family cemeteries and church graveyards in the county, more tours are planned, according to Linda Reese, a member of the Genealogical Society who led Saturday's tour.

The tour was about more than looking at stones, though there was plenty of that. The styles employed on older stones were explored, some of which were idiosyncratic based on the maker of the stone. But, as Reese pointed out, the stones inevitably tell stories, some of them heart-breaking. In Grove United Presbyterian Cemetery in West Middletown, for instance, she pointed to one stone on which the names of three children were engraved. They all died within the same week in April 1841, which suggests an epidemic swept through the area.

The stone that featured the names of the three children was still relatively well-pre-



BRAD HUNDT/OBSERVER-REPORTER

The passage of time is evident in Doddridge Cemetery in Independence Township. It's a homestead cemetery, and the identities of some of those buried in it are now unknown.

served, but some of the stones from the same period are edging toward being illegible. Reese noted tombstones from the 1700s and 1800s reached that state because they were crafted from sandstone and marble. Granite, which is more durable, became commonly used in the 1900s.

Sherry Blackburn, vice president of the Genealogical Society, explained part of the reason she finds the

cemetery tours so fascinating is her family has deep roots in the county, with her forefathers having settled in the area before the founding of the United States.

"A cemetery puts you in a certain place at a certain time," Blackburn said.

The next meeting of the Genealogical Society is set for May 2 at 2 p.m. at Citizens Library. Another cemetery tour is planned for October.

**Cemetery Tour Explores Passage of Time**  
Observer-Reporter-April 5, 2015 Edition

#### **Lincoln Bank Sues Marianna Borough**

The Lincoln National bank of Avella, has filed a suit against the borough of Marianna to recover \$2,500, alleged due on a promissory note, dated at Marianna on October 2, 1913, and signed by J. R. Wilson, clerk, and T. N. Hough, burgess. It is averred that said note was duly presented for payment and payment duly demanded of the defendant, but payment thereof was refused and that the borough has continued to refuse to pay the note or any part thereof. In addition to the sum of \$2,500, interest on the sum is claimed from October 2, 1913, and also \$2.10 protest fees.

**Avella Lincoln Bank Sues Marianna Borough  
The Burgettstown Call- March 26, 1914 Edition**

# Extensions bring water to rural areas

## \$9.8M project complete

By NATALIE REID MILLER  
Staff writer  
nmiller@observer-reporter.com

AVELLA - Water has played a crucial role at the oldest known site of human habitation in North America.

More than 16,000 years ago, Paleo Indians, small groups of nomadic people, camped at the site of Meadowcroft Rockshelter and Historic Village, leaving behind 20,000 artifacts in the form of stone tools, ice-age fire pit remnants and pottery fragments. The rock ledge overhang, formed by the waters of Cross Creek, served as an ideal temporary home for the hunters and gatherers, providing shelter, an accessible fresh water supply and a plentiful source of plants and animals for consumption.

"Water has been a big part of 16,000 years of human presence on this piece of property. Reliable water is a need that transcends the span of time," said Meadowcroft director Dave Scofield. "As crucial as water is to us today, it was even more so to the first people in North America, using the water from Cross Creek to survive and build a better life for their families."

Fast-forward thousands of

**“RELIABLE WATER IS A NEED THAT TRANSCENDS THE SPAN OF TIME.”**

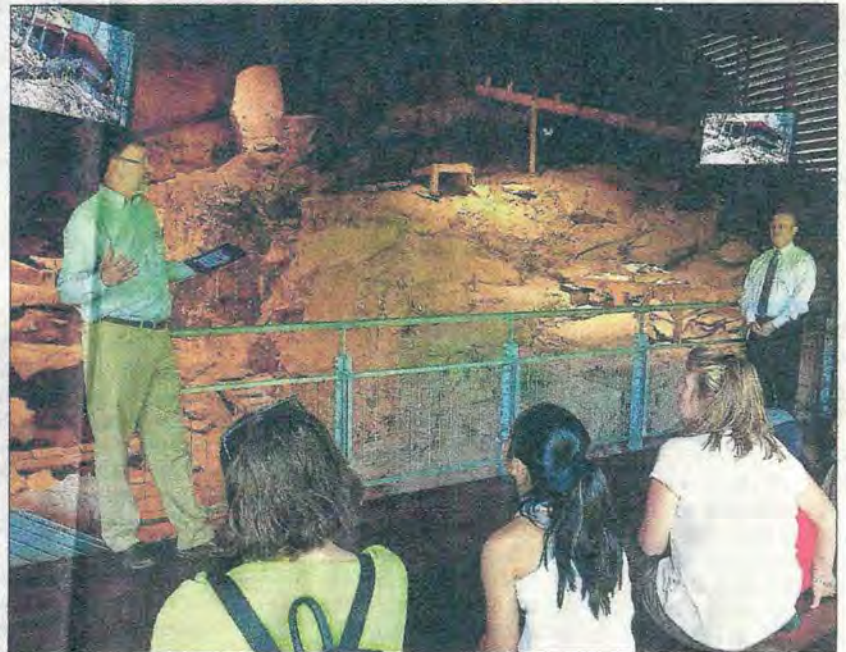
**DAVE SCOFIELD,  
DIRECTOR OF  
MEADOWCROFT  
ROCKSHELTER AND  
HISTORIC VILLAGE**

years. Beginning in the 19th century, the residents of nearby rural areas relied on springs and wells as their primary water source, tapping deep into the earth's water tables.

Now, water can be accessed with a simple turn of the spigot.

A \$9.8 million Pennsylvania American Water extension project is complete, providing water to 230 households in Amwell, Avella, Buffalo, Burgettstown, Cecil, Chartiers, Jefferson, Mt. Pleasant, North Strabane and Smith townships, and organizations like Meadowcroft and Mel Blount Youth Home near Taylorstown.

The project includes 82 new fire hydrants, a Claysville wastewater plant upgrade and a booster station in Amwell Township that provides



NATALIE REID MILLER/OBSERVER-REPORTER

Jimmy Sheridan, right, Pennsylvania American Water vice president of operations, looks on Friday as Meadowcroft director Dave Scofield, left, gives a tour of the museum's Rockshelter, part of a celebration of the completion of 15 water line extension projects in Washington County.

sufficient pressure to higher-elevation homes.

"Water coming out of our treatment plants provides confidence in fire prevention," said Jimmy Sheridan, Pennsylvania American Water vice president of operations.

Sheridan, fellow employees and community members celebrated the project's completion Friday at Meadowcroft, taking a tour of the

Rockshelter with Scofield.

The water company secured low-interest financing from Pennsylvania Infrastructure Investment Authority to install 19 miles of pipe.

"Pennsylvania American Water is proud to supply quality, dependable water service to these communities, which previously suffered with unreliable wells, springs and cisterns for drinking

water," Sheridan said.

Before the project, Meadowcroft, in its 46th year of operation, used three wells for its water supply. Last year, 17,000 people visited the museum. With that number continuing to rise, the wells were not sufficient.

"There is a great demand for water in rural areas," said Scofield. "We are fortunate to have this project happen."

**\$9.8M Project Complete-Extensions of Water to Rural Areas  
Observer-Reporter-June 13, 2015 Edition**

# THE ENDANGERED FARM

An organic and historic dairy farm in Avella faces the risks of longwall mining

BY VICTORIA BRADLEY | PHOTOGRAPHY BY ADAM MILLIRON

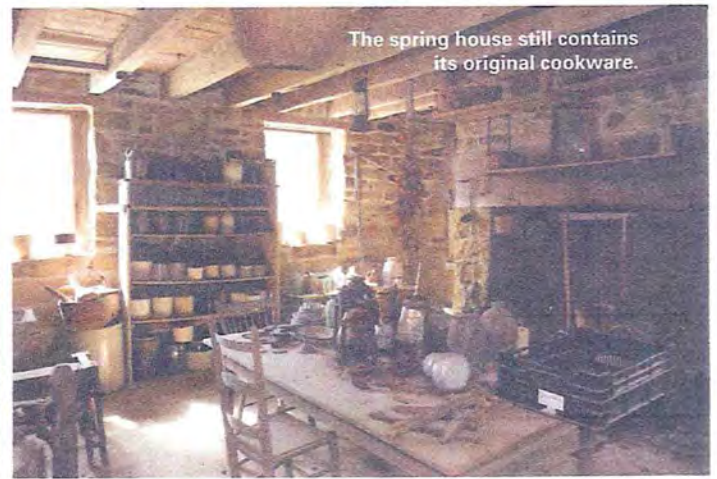




Longwall mining could sink this house four to six feet.



Manchester-Farms is home to eight historic buildings.



The spring house still contains its original cookware.

The entire farm could go under. Literally. The mineral rights for the 400-acre Manchester-Farms in Avella were sold back in 1917, and Alliance Resource Partners, of Tulsa, Okla., are getting ready to apply for the permit to start longwall mining for coal under all but three of those acres. This technique of extraction sinks the land four to six feet. “With longwall mining, everything above it collapses,” says Steve Magan, the farm’s partner and manager. “We lose our water, we lose our buildings, we lose everything.”

In effort to protect the land and to raise awareness, the National Historic Trust named Manchester-Farms one of the 11 most endangered properties in America, after a nomination from Preservation Pennsylvania. The list is annual and showcases architectural, cultural, and natural heritages that are in danger of damage or destruction. In the Trust’s history, they’ve only lost eight of the 200

properties that they’ve marked and rallied around.

The National Trust is campaigning for alternative mining techniques: traditional room-and-pillar mining would both leave the land and its buildings intact. These were the methods utilized in Somerset, Armstrong, and Indiana counties. However, a representative from the Pennsylvania Coal Association said that longwall mining is more economical.

Pennsylvania is the epicenter for longwall mining, and preservation has not been on the forefront of priorities. In 2000, a historic Spanish revival home in Greene County was lost to subsidence from CONSOL Energy’s longwall mining. The Department of Environmental Protection’s latest report indicates that 38,256 acres were mined in Pennsylvania between 2003 and 2008, a split between room-and-pillar and longwall mining. The latter was responsible for 94 percent of the damage: 456 structures,



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Steve Maga, Danielle Magan with baby Maxwell, Hugh Manchester, Margie Manchester, Joe Pagliarulo, Marcus Pagliarulo, Joan Manchester.

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683 wells, and 55 streams. Worse, the report has been deemed incomplete.

The Citizens Coal Council says that the mining practices not only destroy the land and the homes on it, but they also violate state constitutions. The group calls longwall mining "blatantly ruinous" and sites Act 54, which was altered in 1994: "Prevention of damage from mine subsidence" was edited to "restoration of damage...."

Margie is an eighth generation Manchester. The farm has been in her family for 214 years, and the land is populated with eight historic buildings, including a three-story brick colonial home, built in 1805, a sheep barn, a still house (dating back to 1773), a spring house, a carriage house, a tool house, a coal/wood shed, and a bank barn, and a granary and crypt.

In the spring house, there are still pots, pans, and jars next to a large hearth. There's a cheese press and a stone-watering trough, with the inscription B. Manchester AD 1818. Outside is a wheel on which a dog used to run, activating a butter churn inside the spring house (like a hamster wheel).

The history of the old buildings remains intact. There are 19th-century sewing patterns and looms. There are letters and

notes, serving as journals and marking major historical events. The same tools that were used to mold the bricks for the houses and chop the wood are still on the property. They could give tours to the public, "if we weren't so busy on the farm," Magan laughs.

Joe Pagliarulo and Margie Manchester took over the farm in 2005. The couple lived in Connecticut, but moved to ensure that the farm stay in the Manchester family. Pagliarulo, who knew nothing of farming, called PA Farm Link, who put him in touch with Magan.

Magan grew up in Wilkesburg and studied at an agricultural institute in Wisconsin. He moved into the tenant house (built in 1920) and started working the land by himself, suggesting ways to streamline the operation as he saw them. He describes the process of bending down to clean and milk each cow before the "New Zealand-style Swing Parlor" was instated, with a walkway down the center of the barn, low enough so that the cows are at eye level.

"We're milking about 75 cows an hour with the new system," Magan says. "We used to be here for three and a half hours, morning and night."

He laughs and admits that the old method

did proffer him six-pack abs. "But we haven't missed a day of milking since we started, in May of 2006."

The farm produces 200 gallons per day, and, as of this year, the milk is available at Whole Foods Market, Giant Eagle Market District, McGinnis Sisters, and many other local stores.

They're the only organic milk operation in the Pittsburgh region. They nod to larger operations, such as Horizon and Organic Valley, with whom they used to partner.

"We have since gone on our own to eliminate that middle man," Magan says. "Our margins become so small that it's just not feasible anymore."

Pagliarulo explains the margin deficit: "Back in the 1960s, if you bought a gallon of milk for a dollar, 50 cents went back to the farmer. Today, 30 cents goes back to the farmer, so you've lost a 20 percent margin there. And you know what? If we were making that extra 20 percent, we wouldn't be

**TEXT "PLACES" TO 25383 TO DONATE \$10, WHICH WILL GO TOWARD SAVING HISTORIC PLACES THROUGH NATIONAL TRUST OUTREACH PROGRAMS.**

searching for greener pastures."

They're actually the only dairy operation in five counties. "We struggled," Magan says. "We have to provide storage for all of our corn. That's a lot of infrastructure. If you're working in an organic community, you can share a truckload of corn. There's a lot less overhead. There's a network. It would be great to have one of the local farmers, raising the alfalfa and corn for us. They're just not here."

Part of the reason why organic growing practices haven't caught on is because they're very labor intensive. "Just to give you an idea," Steve says, "when we plant a five-acre corn field, it takes us six passes just to get the crop in the ground, and then two to three passes after that for cultivation. So we're passing over that same five acres nine times, and then we harvest. My neighbor does it once, and then they call AGWAY, and they come out and spray, but you're dealing with herbicides and pesticides and genetically modified seeds. We can't do that."

Ironically, the farmers still have their minds on longevity. They believe that their farm will survive through the season and will be passed over by the mining corporations. "People are becoming more educated, more interested, more concerned," Magan says. "You'll see."

**Manchester-Farms, 52 Manchester Lane, Avella. 203.209.6386. manchester-farms.com.**

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## **COAL WASHER PLANT IS LOCATED AT AVELLA**

**Site Location is Changed Owing to  
Failure to Get Title to  
Original Ground**

Operations have been started preliminary to the erection of a coal washing plant near Avella. Work of grading for the siding from the P. & W. Va. railroad is under way by the Pittsburgh Terminal Coal Co.

Originally it was planned to build the plant near the West Middletown stop on the Wabash line. Unable to get a clear title, the Taplin interests changed the location and it will be erected on ground owned by the Pittsburgh & Youghiogheny Coal Company and the Pittsburgh Terminal Coal Co.

The new site is located just on the outskirts of the town of Avella, one mile from the railroad station there.

The steam shovel which had commenced operations on the first proposed site was moved last week to the new location and it is understood work will be rushed with all possible speed.

Practically all the coal mined in this district will be washed at the plant, it is believed, as washed coal finds a market more readily than that which is dumped on cars as it comes from the tipples with most of the slate and slack removed.

Employment will be given to additional men during the construction and others when the plant is completed.

# Kickstarting an expansion

*Avella native turns to crowdsourcing site for his growing cheesecake business*

By MICHAEL BRADWELL  
Business editor  
mbradwell@observer-reporter.com

Jason Ortity is having success shrinking the traditional cheesecake into a 2-inch-diameter "Teasecake," a miniature version that offers people an opportunity to indulge in a somewhat less guilty pleasure.

The small-is-beautiful dessert idea, which is taking root at area school and church fundraisers, as well as weddings, is creating a need for more baking space for Jason's Cheesecake Co.

Ortity, 29, an Avella native who lives in Bridgeville, is seeking financial assistance from Kickstarter, a Web-based company that is the world's largest funding platform for creative projects. Kickstarter is one of several sites specializing in "crowdsourcing," or raising funds online.

Currently, Jason's Cheesecakes – he also offers several full-sized versions in multiple flavors – are made in rented space in Ambridge, where the company has been based since its founding in April 2012.

The business, which includes Ortity and another baker, also has a staff of seven contracted salespeople who sell the Teasecakes to groups holding fundraisers.

The sales staff has been plying a 200-mile area in Pennsylvania and West Virginia with growing success.



Jim McNutt/OBSERVER-REPORTER

**Margaret Ortity and her grandson, Jason Ortity, owner of Jason's Cheesecake Co., pose in front of the former gas station owned by his late grandfather, John Ortity, on Cross Creek Road near Avella. Jason hopes to convert the vacant building into a commercial bakery for his growing business.**

"It's a great little market," Ortity said. "The whole idea is to grow the business and bring more people on."

After earning a degree in sports management from Robert Morris University and a master's degree in business administration from Stetson University in Florida, he worked in financial services and for a small consulting firm before spending more than four years in relationship banking and treasury func-

tions at PNC Bank.

But he heeded a calling to start a business that involved food for a couple of reasons.

"To me, baking and cooking is very therapeutic," Ortity said.

The urge to create with food also runs in his family, he added, noting that his grandparents Joe and Candy Caruso owned and operated Caruso's, an Italian restaurant in Wellsburg, W.Va., for many years.

It was there that as a boy he cut his teeth in the restaurant

business, helping out in the kitchen.

The other side of his family had a small business, as well.

The gas station where he hopes to relocate the cheesecake business, at 97 Cross Creek Road near Avella, was owned and operated for 30 years by his paternal grandfather, the late John Ortity.

"The entrepreneurial spirit is in the blood," Ortity said.

While acknowledging that he needs more space for baking, he also likes the fact that,

unlike a restaurant, where ingredients have to be kept in inventory at all times, the cheesecake business, based on pre-sales, doesn't require long-term storage.

"I don't have to store anything," he said, explaining that he only purchases ingredients for orders that will be baked from scratch and delivered immediately.

Like a lot of small business owners, Ortity acknowledged that it's difficult, particularly in the slowly recovering economy, to raise money to expand an operation.

The project was set in motion to help keep the legacy of Jason's grandfather alive by using the building where he started his business in the early 1960s.

Ortity said his long-term vision for the business is to launch Jason's Cheesecake operations across the Midwest.

While his plans for expansion are definitely skewed toward increasing production efficiency, he also plans to include a small retail operation that he said will encourage people to drop by, listen to music and enjoy cheesecake and coffee.

The bulk of the project is construction related to converting the building into a bakery.

His Kickstarter campaign, which has a video explaining his business, seeks \$45,000, including \$10,000 in equipment such as ovens, sinks, re-

frigeration, food processors, prep tables and a cash register; \$7,000 for permits and tap-in fees; and \$25,000 in construction and renovations, including a new exterior facade, paint, ceiling, HVAC, bathrooms and glass doors.

As of Friday, just nine supporters had contributed a total of \$655 to the project, which was launched Oct. 30 and ends Nov. 30, but Ortity remains optimistic.

"A lot of projects don't get funded until the last week," he said.

But like any good business owner, he has a Plan B and Plan C if the Kickstarter funding isn't met.

He's talked with a building owner in Avella about the possibility of moving to a 2,500- to 3,000-square-foot space.

He also has an option of relaunching the Kickstarter campaign after a brief hiatus, or contacting the U.S. Small Business Administration for a loan if his revenue continues to grow.

He may pursue yet another avenue for growth, Ortity said.

"I've been looking for investors if all else fails," he said.

*For more information on Jason's Cheesecake Co., including videos, access [www.jasonscheesecakecompany.com](http://www.jasonscheesecakecompany.com). For information about ordering, call 724-252-BAKE (2253).*

**Kickstarting an Expansion**  
**Observer Reporter-November 18, 2013**



DAVID SINGER/OBSERVER-REPORTER

Officials walk down Wylie Avenue toward planned picnic areas and walking trails in a park slated to open in Independence Township. The 40-acre park will be built over 10 years.

# New park in works for Avella

By DAVID SINGER  
Staff writer  
dsinger@observer-reporter.com

AVELLA – A dream may be coming true for Avella residents as Independence Township supervisors unveiled plans to build a 40-acre park over 10 years.

“This was the dream of former supervisor Frank Longovich, but the funding sources are now available that we can finally do something. We’re doing the six phases in steps based on the availability of funds.

By fall next year, we’re hoping for at least the first phase, if not most of the second phase, to be complete,” Supervisor Tom Jennings said.

Permitting and construction is scheduled for February.

The park is situated along Independence Road and slated to have sports fields, courts, picnic areas, sledding hills and walking trails, in addition to an amphitheater, playgrounds and an ice skating rink.

The feature-rich park plan was the result of polling students in Avella Area School District and ongoing conversations with steering committee members.

“We need a place for everyone to be – for the kids and community to enjoy out-

door activities and nature,” said committee member Hope Thomas.

“I’ve lived here my whole life. This was supposed to happen in the ‘70s. There’s nothing for people to do here. So once we have this, it’s going to be an asset to this community,” said Supervisor Lou Brandenburg.

“It’s just something that had fallen through the cracks. We were aggressive this time, but we were careful to have the funding sources in place before moving forward,” Supervisor Joyce McKenzie said.

Phase one – with picnic areas and walking trails costing \$191,000 – is fully funded, according to Jennings, and grants and natural gas impact fee monies were key.

“We received \$100,000 from the local share account (from gambling revenues) for this year, a state Department of Conservation grant worth \$76,800, and private matching funds with it; then \$25,000 in impact fees we put toward phase one.

... Phase two is 30 percent funded with carryover from that, and about \$55,000 in donated materials and services,” Jennings said.

“We’re hoping that as people see what this park is becoming, that they become more engaged and we may get more pri-

## Park plan

Phase 1: Small picnic grove areas and walking trails. \$191,000

Phase 2: Large picnic areas, pavilions and ice skating rink. \$509,000

Phase 3: Sledding hills and additional trails. \$131,000

Phase 4: Core area with main parking lot, baseball and soccer fields. \$1 million

Phase 5: Restrooms, concessions, support structures; basketball courts. \$1 million

Phase 6: Amphitheater, drop-off areas. \$418,000

vate donations,” Jennings said, “and because of the topography, and the location, this is right in between a bunch of housing developments – their property values will increase because of the park.”

“I think it’s going to be a gem of this area that will draw families here,” said Jim Pashek, who is leading engineering and design. “Places like this become a social gathering place to experience nature, bond with your neighbors, and for kids to learn gross motor skills.”

**New Park in Works for Avella**  
Observer-Reporter-October 28, 2015 Edition

**Drowned in Reservoir.**

Miss Agnes Huth, 21 years old, of Crafton was drowned in the West Penn reservoir near Bavington about 6 o'clock Wednesday evening while wading in the water. The body was recovered shortly afterward. The water company immediately started pumping water from wells to supply local consumers until the reservoir water is thoroughly sterilized. The water from the dam is shut off.

# The preservation of an old log house

By Kathryn Campbell Siasor  
For The Enterprise

From out of the past....

A familiar sight to travelers along Old Route 22, Bavington, until nearly 20 years ago, was a desolate-appearing structure dubbed "The old house on Windy Hill." Built in 1824 by John Coventry, the house's early occupants were well aware that it was constructed of huge logs. As the years passed, someone had the foresight to know that unless the logs were protected, time would take its toll. Thus it was covered and re-covered with various exterior materials, until it was eventually forgotten that underneath the sheeting, tar-paper and insulbric, was an original log house.

Known by later residents of the area as the Henry Doehre house, it was dismantled in 1975 and removed to Robin Hill Park, Moon Township. Members of the Old Moon Township Historical Society bought the house at that time, to be rebuilt into a meeting and exhibit place and as a memento to the pioneer past. Little did they know that with the removal of the first log from the square, problems would beset them. As it was loosened from the crumbling mortar, the ravages of time and weather raised an ugly head and the log broke in two. Each end dangled helplessly from the ropes of the crane.

Bill Vogel of Moon Township was one of the workers who was present as the house was being razed. He also had a hand in rebuilding it at its present location in Robin Hill Park, Moon Township, near the Pittsburgh International Airport. He recalls today that many of the logs had rotted and were in various stages of deterioration, so that only enough good material was salvaged to build a one-story cabin. The project required seven years and took its toll in the way of frazzled nerves, but Old Moon Township Historical Society members are proud of the heritage they have gained.

John Coventry was born in County Donegal, Ireland, in 1750. He came to America in 1775. Joining the Sixth Company of the Sixth Battalion of the Lancaster County Militia, he fought in the Revolution against the British. He was wounded severely, losing a leg, and was discharged from Valley Forge. He was fitted with an artificial leg, after which he began his search for his wife, who had gone into hiding from the British. He was finally successful and some months later, after the birth of their first child, Robert, in 1781, they made their way across the Allegheny Moun-



**THIS LOG HOUSE** stood in Bavington for more than 150 years, until it was removed log by log in 1975.

tains on foot to their new home in Hanover Township, Washington County, on a Revolutionary Land Grant.

During this rugged journey, John carried a churn and all their possessions, and his wife carried the baby. Seven children were born to the couple during the next few years.

John was not only a farmer, but also a weaver. And as most pioneers of that day he was also a builder. He built a crude log cabin, later building a more substantial one, known in those early times as the Coventry house. It was later purchased by Henry Doehre, whose name it carried until more recent times.

John's son, Robert, and a daughter, Martha, known to the family in later years as Aunt Pattie, lived in the house for many years, probably until Robert's death in 1865. Aunt Pattie, born in 1796, died in 1873. Neither were married.

John Coventry built the first school in the area near Old Steubenville Pike in Hanover Township. It was not far from the log house, and later residents of the house, including today's Filipponi family of Slovan, attended school

there in the 1920's. The Filipponi twin girls, Gina and Dina, were born there, and their older sister, Mary Filipponi DiOrto, has memories of both the house and the school. Parts of the school remained on the site until 1930.

The Coventry family walked to Burgettstown to attend church services, a distance of three to four miles. John died at the age of 95 in 1845, and he is buried in the old United Presbyterian graveyard atop the hill overlooking Burgettstown. All of the hundreds of acres of Coventry farmland were eventually divided and sold, the final parcels being purchased in 1940 by Harmon Creek Coal Company.

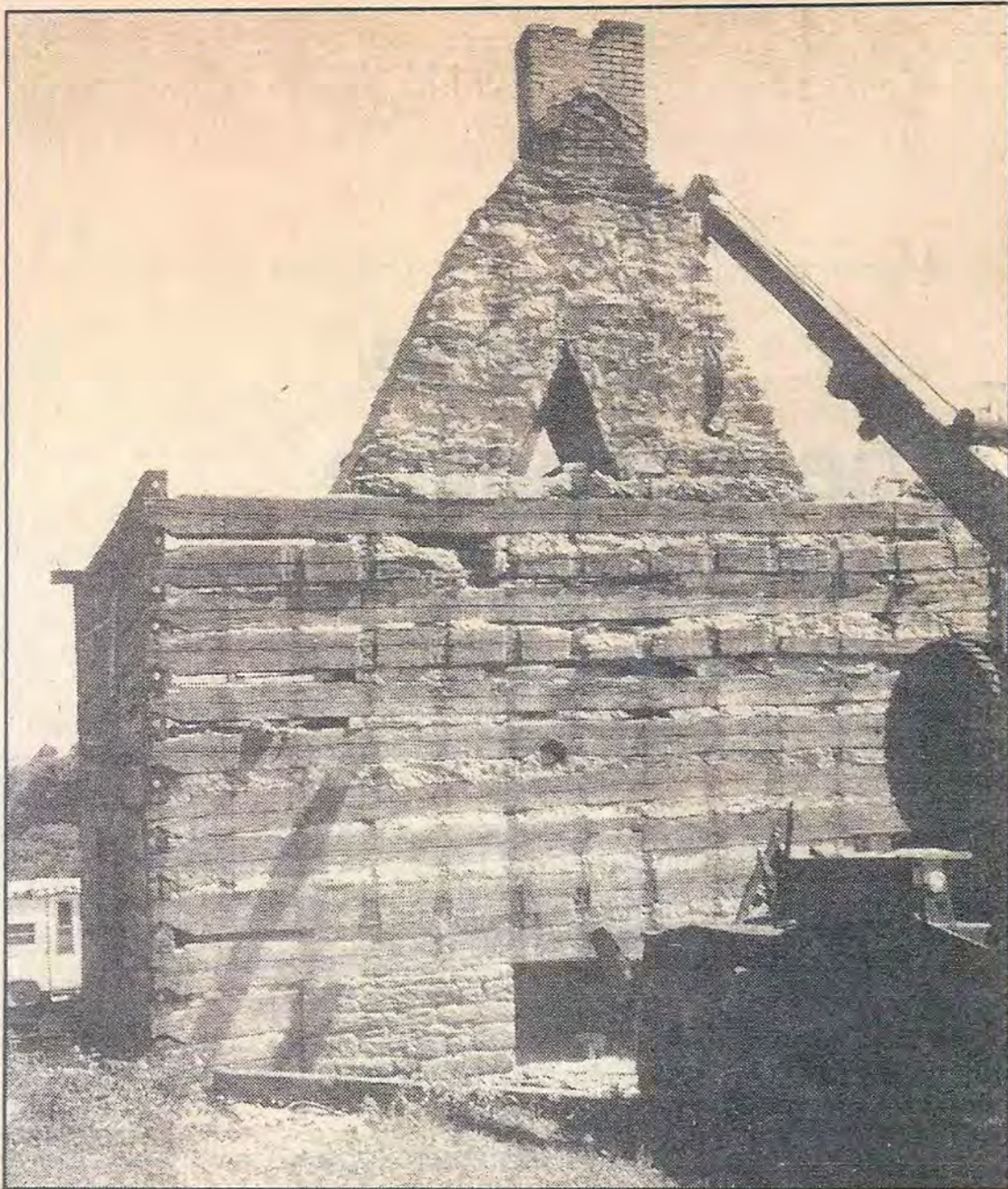
Miss Helen Coventry, late of Crafton, was a great-great-granddaughter of John Coventry. During her later years she was extremely interested in the family's history, the log house and in the restoration of the burial grounds of her Revolutionary ancestors in Burgettstown. In the Bicentennial year of 1976, she was happy with the efforts of local Eagle Scout Troy Cain in the cleanup of the cemeteries on the hill. Had she known of the efforts of Jerry Stiffler, local Commander of the

Burgettstown American Legion, who, in November 1992, made a gallant attempt to rectify the neglect suffered by the graveyards over the years, she would have been overjoyed.

It is not known when the iron fence around five of the Coventry graves was erected in the Old United Presbyterian lot atop the hill. This apparently was an attempt by the early family to control the desolation that was destined to beset the entire graveyard. Although John Coventry and his wife, Martha Brown, their son, Robert, daughter, Martha, and Jane Coventry are all laid to rest within this enclosure, the ravages of time have played no favorites. Until Mr. Stiffler's crew, and others who gave freely of their time and efforts, made their way into the overgrown neglected burial grounds of Burgettstown's forefathers, even the iron fence was difficult to find.

But, thanks to members of the Old Moon Township Historical Society, the old log house on Windy Hill will remain in Robin Hill Park as a memento the life-threatening struggles of pioneer John Coventry.

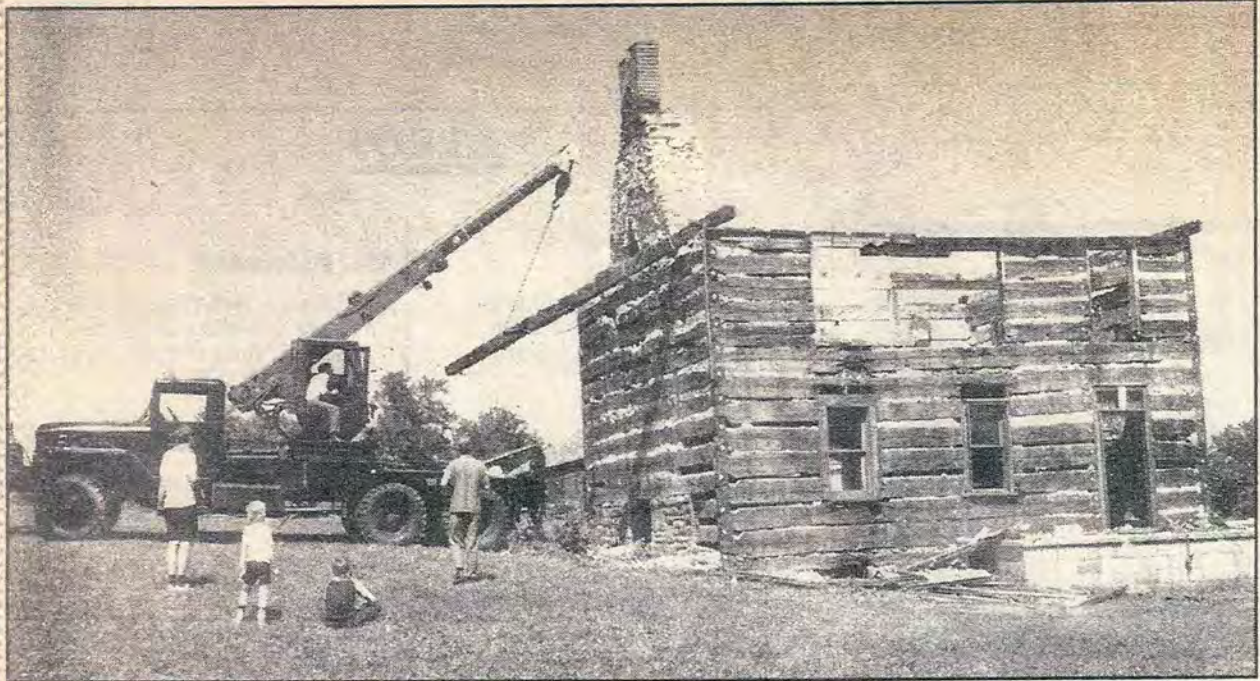
**John Coventry-Log House (pg. 1)  
The Preservation of an old Log House  
The Enterprise-March 2, 1994 Edition**



**THIS VIEW OF** the west side of the house shows the unique A-line inside stone chimney, the bottom of which nearly covers the entire wall.

**John Coventry-Log House (pg. 2)  
The Preservation of an old Log House  
The Enterprise-March 2, 1994 Edition**





**THE CRANE DANGLES** the first log from the square.



**THE LOG CABIN** as it stands in Robin Hill Park, Moon Township. (This picture courtesy of Bill Vogel, whose hands helped to dismantle, later to rebuild, the log house.)

**John Coventry-Log House (pg. 3)  
The Preservation of an old Log House  
The Enterprise-March 2, 1994 Edition**

## **Abstracts of the Washington Reporter 1817-1820**

### **Monday, January 3, 1820**

**1302.** A Valuable farm for sale. The subscribers offer for sale a farm situated in Smith's township, Washington county, on the forks of Raccoon creek, containing 340 acres, 95 cleared, 15 of which are good bottom meadow, 40 more may be made; on this farm there are two square log houses and a kitchen, two cabin houses, a large double barn, two large stables and shed, a still house, there are two orchards and two sugar camps, also several coal banks and stone quarries. The turnpike road leading from Pittsburgh to Steubenville Passes through it-it is an excellent stand for either a tavern or store. It is 22 miles from Pittsburgh, 22 from Beaver, 20 from Georgetown, 16 from Steubenville, 22 from Charleston, 20 from Washington, 18 from Canonsburgh, and 4 from Burgettstown. It is contiguous to several merchant mills, meeting houses, &c. the land is first quality and in point of situation is excelled by none. It will be sold low for cash. Any person wishing to purchase can know the terms by applying to the subscribers on the premises.

**/s/Henry & T. P. Bevington**



**Valley of Big Raccoon Creek below Bavinton, PA showing the old Grist Mill**  
*Courtesy of Roy H. and Olive Scarem*



**August 13, 1896 Flood-Little Raccoon Creek about one mile from east from Bavington Valley**  
*Photo Courtesy of Roy H. and Olive Scarem*



**1896 Flood-Bridge and mill dam on Big Raccoon Creek, Bavington, PA**

*Photo Courtesy of Roy H. and Olive Scarem*



**August 13, 1896 Flood-Little Raccoon Creek about half mile from east from Bavington Valley**  
*Photo Courtesy of Roy H. and Olive Scarem*

**Bavington, PA photos  
are a gift to  
The Fort Vance Historical Society**

***In loving memory of  
Roy H. and Olive Scarem,  
dedicated by their loving  
children, grandchildren and  
great-grandchildren***

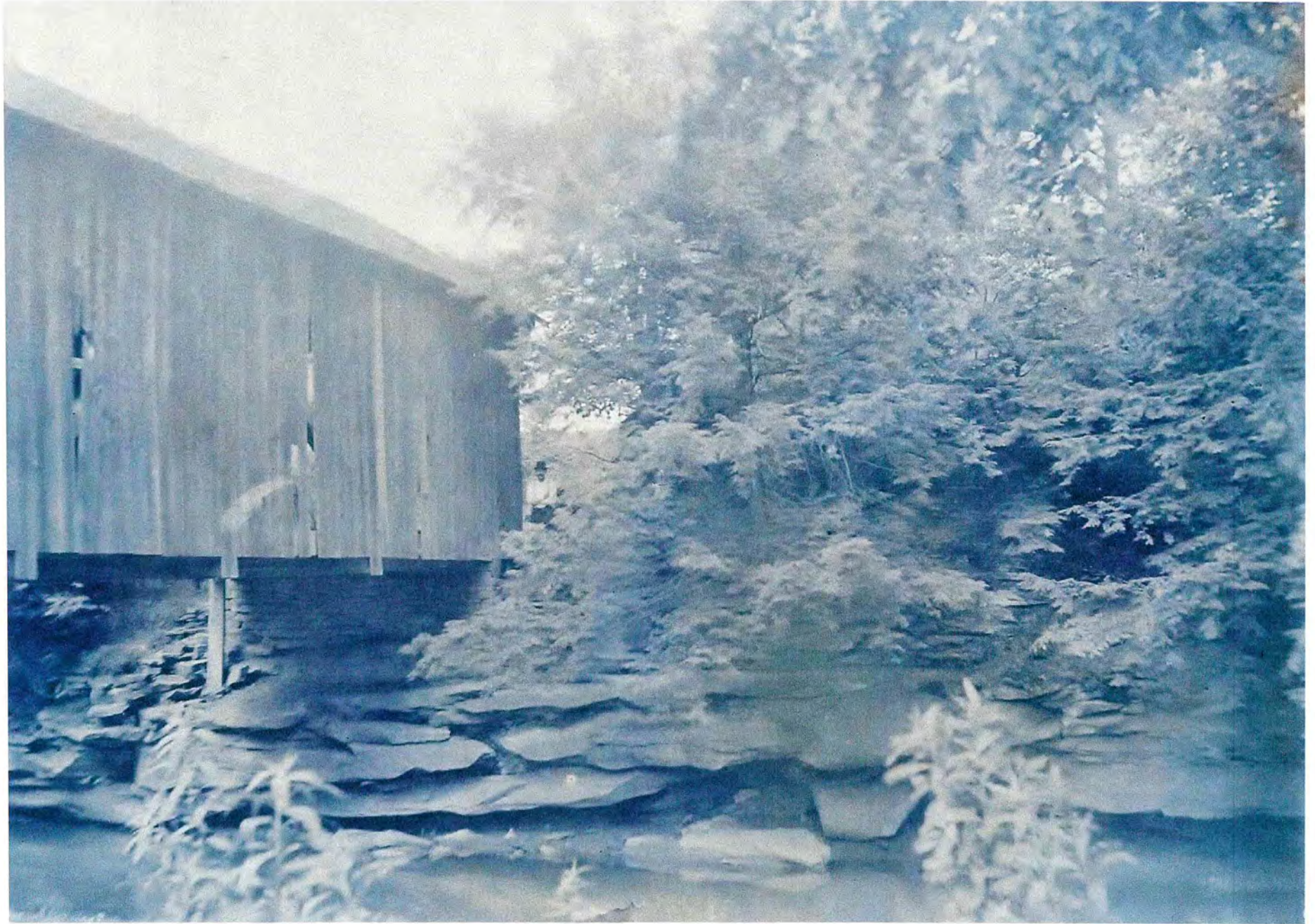


**Belle Boles & Gourley's Old House**  
**Bavington Road**





**Scene from Bavington, PA looking toward Murdocksville, PA.**  
*Photo Courtesy of Roy H. and Olive Scarem*



**Old Covered Bridge at Bavington, PA showing Jim Bable, “Old Fox Hunter and Trapper”.**  
*Photo courtesy of Roy H. and Olive Scarem*



**Bridge at Dick Donaldson Farm over Raccoon Creek-Bavington, PA.**  
*Photo Courtesy of Roy H. and Olive Scarem*



**Bavington, PA**

*Photo courtesy of Roy H. and Olive Scarem*



**Pittsburgh and Steubenville Pike, half mile east of Bavington, PA**  
*Courtesy of Roy H. and Olive Scarem*



**Little Raccoon Valley-Bavington, PA**  
*Courtesy of Roy H. and Olive Scarem*

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Roy H. and Olive Scarem,  
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## **Freedom-Valvoline Lays Pipe Lines To Bavington and Claysville**

Approximately twenty miles of five inch welded pipe is being laid by Freedom Valvoline Pipe Lines from Burgettstown to Bavington and from Burgettstown to Claysville to replace old three & four inch lines, which, for the past 15 years, have been carrying oil to Freedom refineries.

New right-aways from land owners had to be secured before operations began the first of January. The company expects to complete the project during the early part of the summer. At present about 20 men are on the job with Elmer Reed as superintendent. The work is being done by the Harford Construction Company of Emporium. Portions of the pipe lines are being laid underground where farmers expect to continue cultivating the soil; otherwise the line is laid on the surface.

**Freedom Valvoline Lays Pipe Lines to Bavington and Claysville  
Burgettstown Enterprise-January 23, 1947 Edition**



## **Abstracts of the Washington Reporter 1817-1820**

### **Monday, January 3, 1820**

**1301.** Stray Bull. Came to the plantation of the subscribe, living in Smith's Township, near Hunter's mill, on Raccoon creek, some time in August last, a brindled bull, supposed to be 2 years old against spring, no ear marks. Entered on the township clerk's book. The owner is desired to come, prove property, pay charges and take him away. /s/**James BARTON.**

## **Abstracts of the Washington Reporter 1817-1820**

### **Monday, January 3, 1820**

**1302.** A Valuable farm for sale. The subscribers offer for sale a farm situated in Smith's township, Washington county, on the forks of Raccoon creek, containing 340 acres, 95 cleared, 15 of which are good bottom meadow, 40 more may be made; on this farm there are two square log houses and a kitchen, two cabin houses, a large double barn, two large stables and shed, a still house, there are two orchards and two sugar camps, also several coal banks and stone quarries. The turnpike road leading from Pittsburgh to Steubenville Passes through it-it is an excellent stand for either a tavern or store. It is 22 miles from Pittsburgh, 22 from Beaver, 20 from Georgetown, 16 from Steubenville, 22 from Charleston, 20 from Washington, 18 from Canonsburgh, and 4 from Burgettstown. It is contiguous to several merchant mills, meeting houses, &c. the land is first quality and in point of situation is excelled by none. It will be sold low for cash. Any person wishing to purchase can know the terms by applying to the subscribers on the premises.

**/s/Henry & T. P. Bevington**

## **BERTHA**

At the head of the Harmon Creek valley about three miles east of Hanlin Station, and just over the line in Smith Township, lay another farm whose owner, John Dinsmore, also demanded and got a station of the railroad on his farm. The station was located at the western end of a tunnel built through the divided ridge and was named Dinsmore in his honor.

In the small settlement was a depot, a telegraph office, a store and a post office.

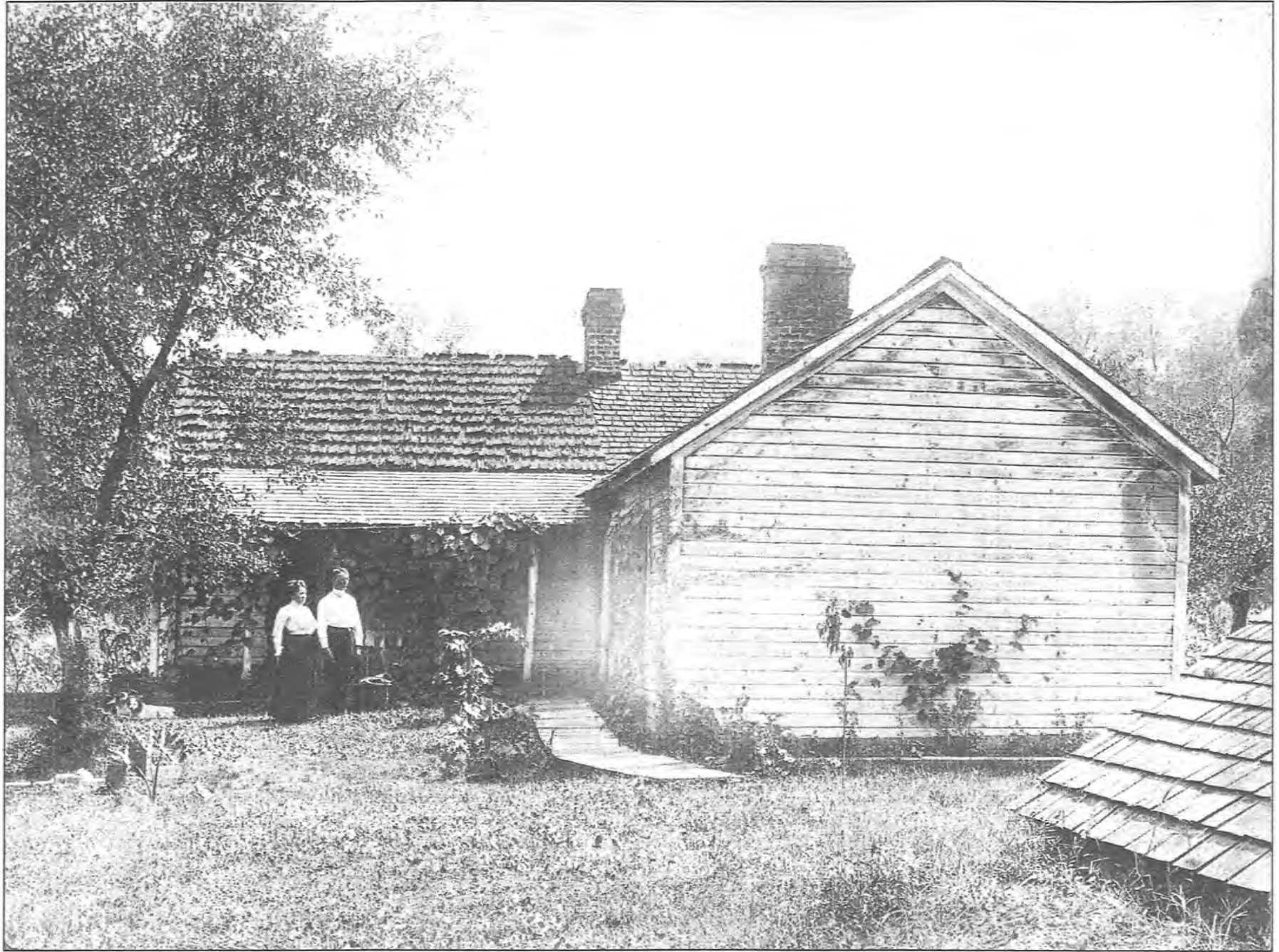
The coal mines opened at this point early in the century by the Jones interest of Pittsburgh caused quite a change in the community. Two mines of the Bertha Coal Company opened here, named for two of Mr. Jones' daughters, Jean and Bertha. The Jean mine closed in 1928, the Bertha mine continuing a few more years.

The mine settlement became known as Bertha, and the name Dinsmore was dropped. A post office, a company store and a school were maintained until the closing of the mines, when Bertha rapidly became a "ghost" town.

### **Bertha Mine**

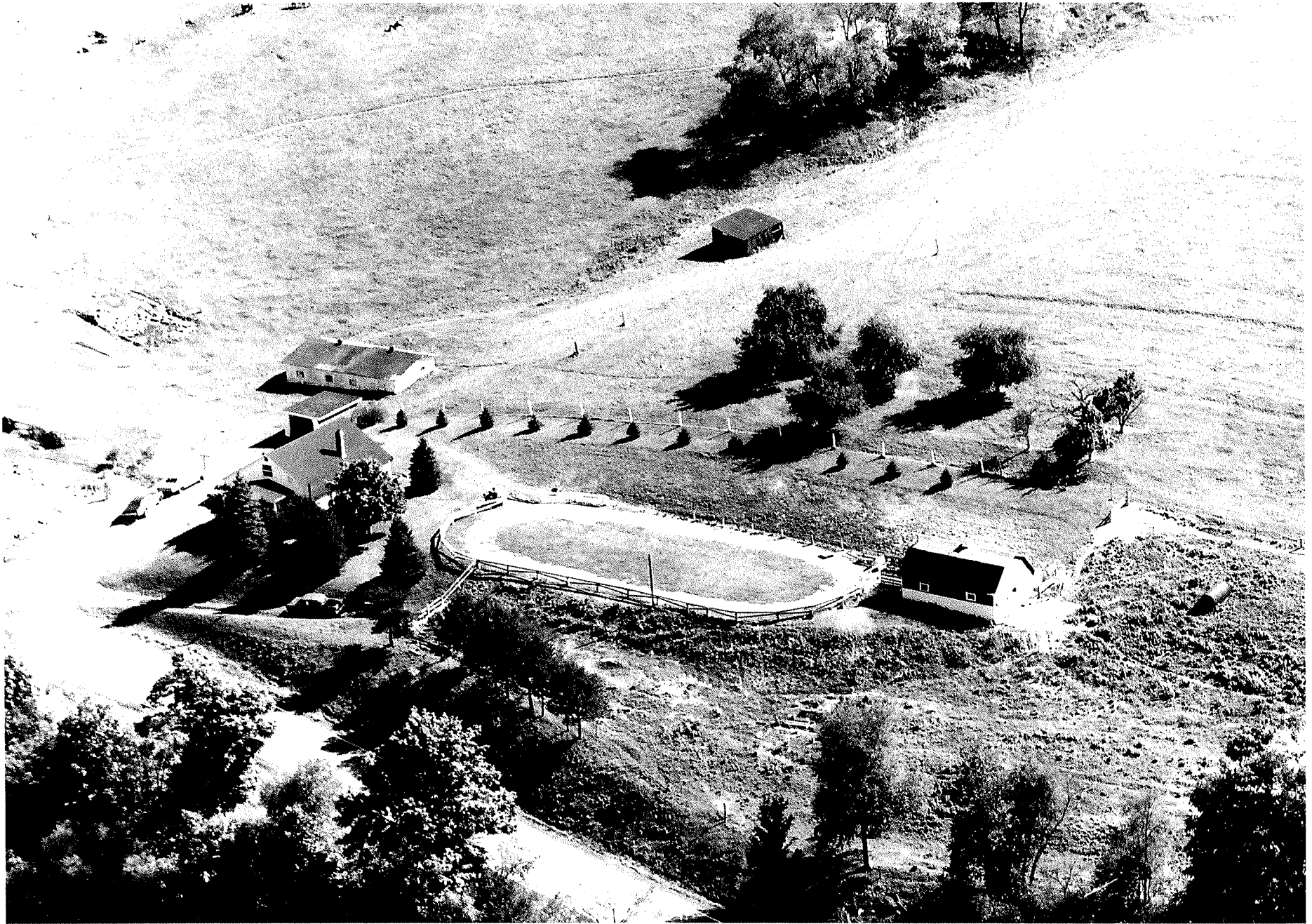
**Burgettstown Enterprise-Unknown Edition**

*Courtesy of Fort Vance Historical Society*



**Poor House-Brooke County, WV**

*Courtesy of Fort Vance Historical Society*



**Ariel view of the Home of Ed and Juanita Ralston-Bulger, PA**

*Fort Vance Historical Society*

**EVERYTHING  
YOU WANTED TO KNOW  
ABOUT YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD  
BUT WERE AFRAID TO ASK**

**Bulger, PA**

**By Robert Bednarzik**

**Urban Sociology 316  
April 12, 1973**

## INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this paper is to present a residential neighborhood that I know well in terms of urban sociological characteristics. Some of the characteristics elaborated include spatial organization, socioeconomic description, topography, life-style, social changes, and future directions.

Maps, charts, tables, and pictures are used to aid the reader in better understanding the narrative portion of the paper. Socioeconomic information about the neighborhood residents was obtained by interview and it is presented in tabular form in the appendix. Where feasible, comparisons were drawn between the residential neighborhood in question and prominent urban-sociological theories, especially in area of spatial organization and housing.

## LOCATION

Bulger is located in a rural area of Washington County, Pennsylvania. The main accesses to the town are Noblestown Road and the Penn Central Railroad. Bulger with an estimated population of eight hundred is twenty-five miles southwest of Pittsburgh and twenty miles east of the West Virginia Panhandle- both large steel producing areas.

The neighborhood on which I shall concentrate is bound to the south by Grant St. (also known as Noblestown Road) and to the north by the Penn Central Railroad. To the east and west the obvious boundaries of perpendicular streets were chosen. The neighborhood (hereafter referred to as Lincoln St.) consists of twelve families, plus a barber shop, a beauty shop and a post office.

Bulger attained the status of town upon the completion of the Panhandle railroad in 1865, when it became an important stop on the line. So the major reason for its location was the non-social variable of being along a transportation route. Thomlinson made the point that nonsocial variables play a major role in influencing the ecological distribution of people.

As our interstate highway system improves, the railroad declines in importance, especially in the area of commuter service. In the late 1800's, Bulger thrived as an important dairy area. Large volumes of milk and cheese were shipped by rail to the Pittsburgh market. In later years the coal industry utilized the trains for shipments also. Unfortunately, Bulger is without a major highway implying a severe handicap for fostering industrial growth especially since trains no longer stop at the town station.

If one relates this to what Christaller termed economic distance (i.e. the primary element in the case of spatial structure is distance and the cost of overcoming it), then one must conclude that Bulger has failed to grow significantly because of the high economic cost of transportation.

#### FRINGE COMMUNITY

Bulger could be classified as a fringe community in that it's character is a mix of urban and rural characteristics. Some of the inhabitants work in the city and others on farms. The houses would be considered rural in style-wooden framed and shingled. Taking Lincoln St. as an example: All of the houses are rural in style, but none of the residents work on a farm.

Social relations are strongly rural in pattern, but there are a few young adults that could be classified in an urban social pattern. These patterns will be considered more extensively in



the section on social organization. Finally, cities usually contain more people in the prime of life, whereas, rural communities contain more old and very young people; and the inhabitants of Bulger fall mainly in the latter category. In summary, the community exhibits a mix of rural/urban characteristics implying a fringe classification.

#### SOCIAL AREA ANALYSIS

Considering Shevky's social area analysis, Lincoln St., which is fairly representative of the whole community, would be low/middle in urbanization, medium for social rank and not considered segregated.

The following figures for the residents of Lincoln St. were tabulated: one woman - one child relationship; 35.3 percent of working women, and 83.3 percent of single-family dwellings. These three figures yield a low/middle rank on Shevky's index of urbanization. To arrive at an index of social rank, occupational status, education, and income must be considered. The data for the families of Lincoln St. indicate that the residents are middle income, blue collar with a standard median educational attainment implying a middle class social ranking. Since the segregation index is based on the proportion of persons in highly isolated population groups and isolated groups are not prevalent on Lincoln St., segregation by Shevky's index does not exist.

#### OTHER FACTS

Washington County was the smallest available census area that included Bulger. Washington County has a population of 217,271- a 3.6 percent increase over 1950. This is not a very significant increase and through my observations over the years, I would say that Bulger has had roughly the same percentage growth rate in

population. The percentage of urban and rural residents is 41.2 percent vs. 58.8 percent respectively, with 55.2 percent rural nonfarm.

The population of Washington County is evenly divided between males and females; but the rural areas contain more females than do the urban areas. The Negro population of Washington County is rather small in percentage terms compared to the national figure. Only 4.2 percent of the county residents are Negro and from observation, this figure is comparable to Bulger as a whole, but none of the residents of Lincoln St. are Black.

The age distribution of Washington County is very similar to that of the U.S. plus they have an identical median age of 32 years. If a population pyramid were constructed for the people of Lincoln St., the bulge would be slightly above the middle indicating a slightly older population as the median age of 35.4 years would verify. *Handwritten: 32.1*

The median education in years for Washington County is 9.4 which is identical to the one for the residents of Lincoln St. However, a significant point is that in Washington County, 9.0 percent of the people have completed less than 5 years of school and 34.4 percent have completed high school or more. Where as on Lincoln St., the figures are 18.0 percent and 59.0 percent respectively implying the residents are at the extremes of educational attainment.

#### SPATIAL ORGANIZATION REGION

The Ohio Valley originally correlated somewhat to Christaller's hierarchical arrangement of urban places. Keeping in mind that Christaller never claimed his system exactly reproduced an existing urban network, refer to map number two in the appendix. The

outlying cities - Washington, Steubenville, etc. correspond to Christaller's District cities, and the smaller cities - Canonsburg, Aliquippa, etc. - that are closer to the center (Pittsburgh) are similar to Christaller's county seats. Since the larger cities east of Pittsburgh, such as Wilkensburg and New Kensington were relatively much smaller in the late 1880's - they grew as suburbs as Pittsburgh expanded in an easterly direction - one can conclude that the turn of the century the Ohio Valley fits into the Christaller arrangement.

Bulger would have originally corresponded to the market town. As mentioned previously, it was once primarily a dairy area for the Pittsburgh market. Over time, as technology advanced, the central market place could draw from more distant places; hence, the death of the market town. This adds another ingredient for the waning of Bulger.

Regional spatial organization has had an impact on Lincoln St. in other ways. The Ohio River is the dominant physical aspect attracting numerous steel mills to its banks implying an influx of predominately blue-collar workers. The mills location - between 15-40 miles from Bulger - plus the unavailability of public transportation, results in the residents commuting to work or to a nearby town by car. This fact is indicated in table one which shows that all of the employed residents of Lincoln St. use their car to get to work.

#### SPATIAL ORGANIZATION - TOWN

Bulger does not readily fit any of the spatial theories, but it approximates the mold of Davies's surface feature approach. The pre-existing railroad renders "the" most important determinant of the actual locale and shape of the town. The first houses

in the town were built on Lincoln St. which is adjacent to the railroad tracks. In later years when the coal industry prospered, company houses were constructed near the tracks in the northeastern section of town.

The railroad has also affected the neighborhood through noise, dirt and as a physical barrier to expansion in a northerly direction. The most profound influence has come from the railroad bridge that connects the westend of Lincoln St. with a secondary blacktop road leading to an acid dumping area. The bridge (pictured in appendix) which is about seventy-five feet above the tracks is old and creaky. The acid dump requires that heavy trucks use the bridge. Since school buses also use the bridge, a conflict developed in that the residents feared for the safety of their children if the bridge should collapse from the continual usage by the heavy trucks. Finally, the neighborhood organized a petition that would permit the trucks to cross the bridge only when they were empty; requiring them to use a roundabout route otherwise.

Other noteworthy aspects are the location of the central business district (CBD) which in this instance is one large store, selling everything from gas to baby bottle nipples, and a second aspect is the absence of sidewalks in town. The CBD is located less than a fourth of a mile from Lincoln St., but owing to the lack of sidewalks, nobody walks to it, they drive. This has implications on the relationship between the residents of Lincoln St. and the CBD. Since the residents of these two neighborhoods do not come into contact with each other as much as they would if sidewalks existed, their alliance is not as strong as it might be.

## SPATIAL ORGANIZATION - NEIGHBORHOOD

First of all, if trying to contrast Bulger to a pre-industrial city, European city, Latin American city or the like, no clear-cut comparison can be made. However, if forced to make a comparison, Bulger contrasts somewhat to a Latin American city. This is especially true of Lincoln St. because of its age in that the older sections of the community indicate that the town was originally planned - partitioned into 45ft. by 150ft. lots. Besides planning, another reason for my comparing the town to a Latin American city is the salient fact that it is difficult from the outside of the homes to distinguish between the stylish fashioned ones with all the modern conveniences and those that are of poorer quality.

The size of the lots just mentioned has implications on the neighborliness of the people. Since most of the homes are situated on one lot, they are very close together. This fact is evidenced by the friendliness of adjoining neighbors. Yards are used as a place where both adults and children can relax and enjoy themselves implying a more intense pattern of neighborhood socializing in the warmer months through yard work, barbecues, and the fact that many neighbors still hang their clothes out to dry on wash day.

Although the town was planned, it was planned prior to the auto age. The original streets were designed for the horse-drawn carriage, but have gradually widened eating away resident's lots, leaving no room for sidewalks. Originally, every convenience was within walking distance including the school, grocery store, post office, and other retail and service establishments. This spatial arrangement is still apparent to a degree today and presents some

interesting thoughts.

In the center of Lincoln St. is the post office, beauty shop, and barber shop. Since there is no house to house mail delivery, everyone in the neighborhood walks to the post office to check mail daily. This fact is readily noticeable by the cordiality of the entire neighborhood. This is especially true during warmer weather when people are sitting on their porches (which face the street) and passers-by stop to chat for a few minutes.

#### HOUSING

The homes, most of which are owned by their occupant, are predominantly two-story plus a few three-story dwellings. The average age of the houses in the neighborhood is eighty-six years and all of them have been built prior to 1923. For the most part, the houses are in the low/medium price range depending upon the extent owners have kept them up.

Gan's notion that neighborhoods of low/median/priced housing are usually less homogeneous than those with expensive dwellings does not hold true for Lincoln St. Primarily because Gan's supposition is based upon the assumption that low/medium priced housing attracts younger families who are just starting out and will be moving to a higher priced housing area rather quickly. This idea is negated on Lincoln St. because although the houses are in the low/medium price range, they are not owned or occupied by young people in general. This fact is probably true of most small towns; therefore, one could conclude that Gan's suppositions are more applicable to urbanized places.

Relating Hoover and Vernon's theory of the evolution of housing in stages to the structures on Lincoln St. yields only a partial analogy. The residential development in single-family

houses (stage one) is clearly evident in the neighborhood. But the substantial new construction, especially of apartments, has not occurred. One might conclude that either the evolutionary process has not begun yet or that the houses on Lincoln St. have skipped stage two. It appears that stage two has been passed over because there are indications that Lincoln St. is about to move into the downgrading stage (three) in which old housing is adapted to greater density usage. The three story dwellings have been sought by a local contractor for renovation into apartments. This same contractor has purchased other old buildings in other parts of town and converted them into multifamily dwellings.

#### SEGREGATION

In an earlier discussion concerning the spatial effects of the railroad, it was mentioned that in the early 1900's the coal industry flourished and developed around the railroad in the northeastern section of town. This leads to the discussion of segregation by income groups.

In an earlier day, the coal industry was like one big family as the company provided all the needs of its workers - housing, stores, etc. as well as a job. After the industry died and left the area, many of its workers left with it, leaving their homes behind. These abandoned houses belonged to the coal companies and were of little value to them now implying very little incentive for the companies to maintain them. As a result the houses became run down and their owners were willing to sell them for a minimal price. Consequently, low income farmhands and unskilled factory workers both black and white moved into that section of town.

This situation has had an impact on Lincoln St. in that the

children of lower income families tend to remain in the area, whereas the children of middle income families of Lincoln St. are more inclined to settle elsewhere. As a result, over time the income differential has decreased as those with a higher probability of earning a higher income have migrated from the neighborhood and those whose income is relatively lower have moved into the neighborhood.

#### SOCIAL UNIT

The Dictionary of Sociology defined a neighborhood as " a small community, characterized by limited area and highly developed personal, face-to-face relation". Lincoln St. fulfills this definition in all respects. The people have enough in common to be denoted as a community; it is small in area; and social relations are on a face-to-face basis. However, this definition of a neighborhood is just as applicable in defining the whole town. The town itself is small in area, personal social relations prevail community-wide, and everyone certainly has enough in common.

When residents are asked where they are from, they invariably say Bulger and not a particular street. There is also a feeling of cohesion in the community brought about through activities in the church. Seventy-five percent of the families on Lincoln St. have, at least, one member belonging to a local church oriented society. One could conclude that the community is more of a viable social unit than the neighborhood.

#### SOCIAL AND ORGANIZATIONAL LIFE

Since we can talk in terms of the community being the viable social unit, socializing in Bulger takes on many forms, such as, informal social gatherings consisting of reunions of local kinship-based clans, showers (baby and wedding), and the unexpected



social "drop-in". Of course, there is a wide range in the social participation of individuals. Some socialize in a very limited way with relatives or a few close friends. Still others do their socializing entirely outside the community with friends and relatives in other places. There are those, too, who prefer their privacy and isolate themselves from all such contacts.

The social gatherings do not randomly include anyone who wishes to participate in them. Patterns of exclusion and preference tend to bring together the like-minded. It is a feature of Bulger, however, that such social distinctions are rarely noticed and never verbalized.

Like other small rural communities, Bulger must face the classic problem of preserving individual privacy in the face of a high valuation on neighborliness. The impression of community warmth which is given by the free exchange of greetings and the easy way "everybody gets along with everybody else" has its counterpart in the absence of privacy implied by the factor of gossip. The observer who has been in the community for a length of time realizes that everybody really is not neighborly - that some people have not talked to each other for years. However, defamatory remarks are never made in public situations, only in interpersonal situations.

Since these statements are hidden, it is difficult for the observer to believe the statement "everybody knows everything about everybody else". It develops that the statement is true only to a degree: while one learns intimate and verifiable details of people's private lives, these never become the subject of open public discussion.

However, because gossiping occurs in small closed circles and concerns those not present, it seldom hurts anyone. In a way, then, it is true that "everybody knows everything about everybody else", but because of the way the information is learned, it does not affect the interpersonal relations of people to any great extent.

In Bulger, there is not much participation in a variety of voluntary groups, but this is characteristic of a rural way of life. Urbanites meet one another in highly segmented roles. Thereby they are dependent upon more people for the satisfaction of their life needs implying a greater association with organized groups. The contacts of the city may be face-to-face, but they are nevertheless impersonal as opposed to the personal relationship that exist among the people of Bulger. Although the local residents do not come in contact with very many people on a daily basis, the contacts that are made are of a primary nature; whereas those contacts are apt to be secondary for urbanites.

#### CONCLUSION

Bulger is an excellent example of the fact that traditionally great sociological differences between large city and small town is now diminishing rapidly as unsophisticated small towners become urbanites by proxy through modern communication and transportation. In 1950, only nine percent of rural workers in U.S. worked in manufacturing, five percent in trade and finance, and six percent in services; whereas in Bulger, a rural area by census definition, the 1972 figures for the residents of Lincoln St. were considerably higher in all three categories.

Bulger is once again on the threshold of growth. The population of the Pittsburgh area is rising and spreading westward

seeking undeveloped, inexpensive land areas for settlement. Growth forces are also coming from the expanding Pittsburgh International Airport with its growing demand for labor.

In summary, available land, employment opportunity in the vicinity and its proximity to a large metropolitan city are all factors for the potential growth of the community.

## INTERVIEW

Following is a list of questions that I asked each family that resides on Lincoln St.:

1. What is the approximate age of the house in which you reside?
2. How long have you lived in your present establishment?  
If the answer to question (2) was not "all of my life", then I asked the following question:
3. Where did you live prior to moving into your present establishment?
4. What is the age of each person living within the household?
5. How many people in the household are employed and where are they employed?
6. How far must those who are employed travel to work and by what means of transportation do they utilize?
7. To what voluntary organizations do members of the household belong?
8. How do members of the household spend their leisure time?
9. What was the highest level of education attained by each member of the household?

Finally, I just talked to the people about the neighborhood in general. How it has changed over the years and what lies ahead. Has anything interesting been happening in the neighborhood lately and so forth.

SUMMARY OF TABLE

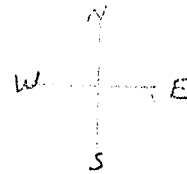
1.	Average age of house in neighborhood . . .	86 yrs.
	Note: all the houses were built prior to 1923.	
2.	Percentage of single-family dwellings . . .	83.3%
3.	Average number of years people have been living in neighborhood . . .	28 yrs.
4.	Average number of people in each household . .	4
5.	Median age of neighborhood residents . .	35.4 yrs.
6.	Percentage of neighborhood residents 16 yrs. old or over employed . . .	52.5%
	a. Percentage Blue collar . . .	76.2%
	b. Percentage White collar . . .	23.8%
	c. Percentage of working woman . . .	35.3%
7.	Average number of miles that one must drive to work	16.1
8.	Median number of school years completed for those 25 years old and over . . .	9.4
	a. Percentage that have completed less than 5 yrs. of school . . .	18.0
	b. Percentage that have completed high school or more . . .	59.0
9.	Child to women ratio . . .	1.06

FAMILY	AGE OF HOUSE IN YRS	# of YRS. living in house	# of people in household	# of people in H.H. Employed	distance travel to work	Method of transportation to work	Education Attainment in yrs.	AGES OF household members		Voluntary organizations	LEISURE TIME	OCCUPATIONS Reported
1.	100	5	4	2	15 5	CAR	12 12	30 5 26 3	A+R SOCIETY JUNIOR WOMANS	HORSE RACING DRIVE-IN	STEEL MILL, P/T school bus DRIVER	
2.	80	21	4	2	15 18	CAR	12 12 6 17	55 26 53 23	LADIES Aux. A+R SOCIETY	ANTIQUE hunting SPORTS Reading	STEEL MILL, SECRETARY	
3.	100	33	3	1	18	CAR	12 12 12	60 37 55	A+R SOCIETY	T.V.	ROAD SUPERVISOR, TAVERN OWNER	
4.	75	40	4	1	17	CAR	2 12 12	66 23 27 2	NONE	PLAYING GUITAR	STEEL MILL	
5.	100+	47	2	2	25 17	CAR	12 6	66 52	NONE	T.V.	POST OFFICE, HOSPITAL ATTENDANT	
6.	100	55	2	0	0	-	8 7	70 65	LADIES Aux	T.V. TRAVEL	RETIRED TAX COLLECTOR	
7.	50	50	3	3	17 25	CAR	8 8 12	63 24 60	Pigeon Club LADIES Aux A+R SOCIETY	T.V.	BARBER, HOSPITAL ATTENDANT, CHEF	
8.	60	29	8	4	15 5 5 15	CAR	3 9 3 11 12 13 12 15	83 45 16 71 21 13 46 18	LADIES Aux BOY SCOUTS A+R SOCIETY	T.V. SPORTS	SEARS, CATERING, P/T DRAFTING P/T BAG-BOY	
9.	100	15	3	2	35 18	CAR/ bus	12 12 12	52 20 52	Young Democrats A+R SOCIETY	Reading ANTIQUE hunting HORSE RACING	STEEL MILL P/T Babysitting	
10.	70*	30	7	2	20 17	CAR	2 8 12 9 5 12 10	80 22 49 17 20 44 20	NONE	T.V.	STEEL MILL HOSPITAL ATTENDANT RETIRED CARPENTER	
11.	100	2	3	1	18	CAR	12 12	24 1 23	VFW A+R SOCIETY	Working on car	SERVICES (AIR PLANES)	
12.	100	9	5	1	18	CAR	12 12	36 2 2 32 5 2	A+R SOCIETY	Talking	STEEL MILL	

TABLE 1. - NEIGHBORHOOD FACTS

NOTE: H.H. - household  
A+R - Altar and Rosary Society

MAP OF  
LINCOLN ST. and AREA



WOODED AREA

PASTURE LAND

(PROPOSED-SIGHT FOR HOUSING DEVELOPMENT)

ROUTE 22  
5 MILE

HOMES

HOMES

TO  
ACTO  
DUMP

5  
10

BRIDGE

R.R.

TO  
PITTSBU

To Comp  
housing  
AREA

SCHOOL  
BUS STOP

BEAUTY  
SHOP



POST OFFICE

HONOR-ROLL

HOMES

LINCOLN ST.

TAVERN



BACER  
SHOP

TO BURGESS TOWN  
(POP 4000) 5 MILE

GRANT ST.

HOMES

HOMES

Wooded AREA

TO Midway  
(Pop 2000)  
3 MILE



CATHOLIC  
CHURCH

GENERAL  
STORE AT

4GE STORY DWELLING - ○

3D STORY DWELLING - ○  
ETC

2B STORY DWELLING - ○

1TH SINGLE STORIES

TRACED

AVED ROAD

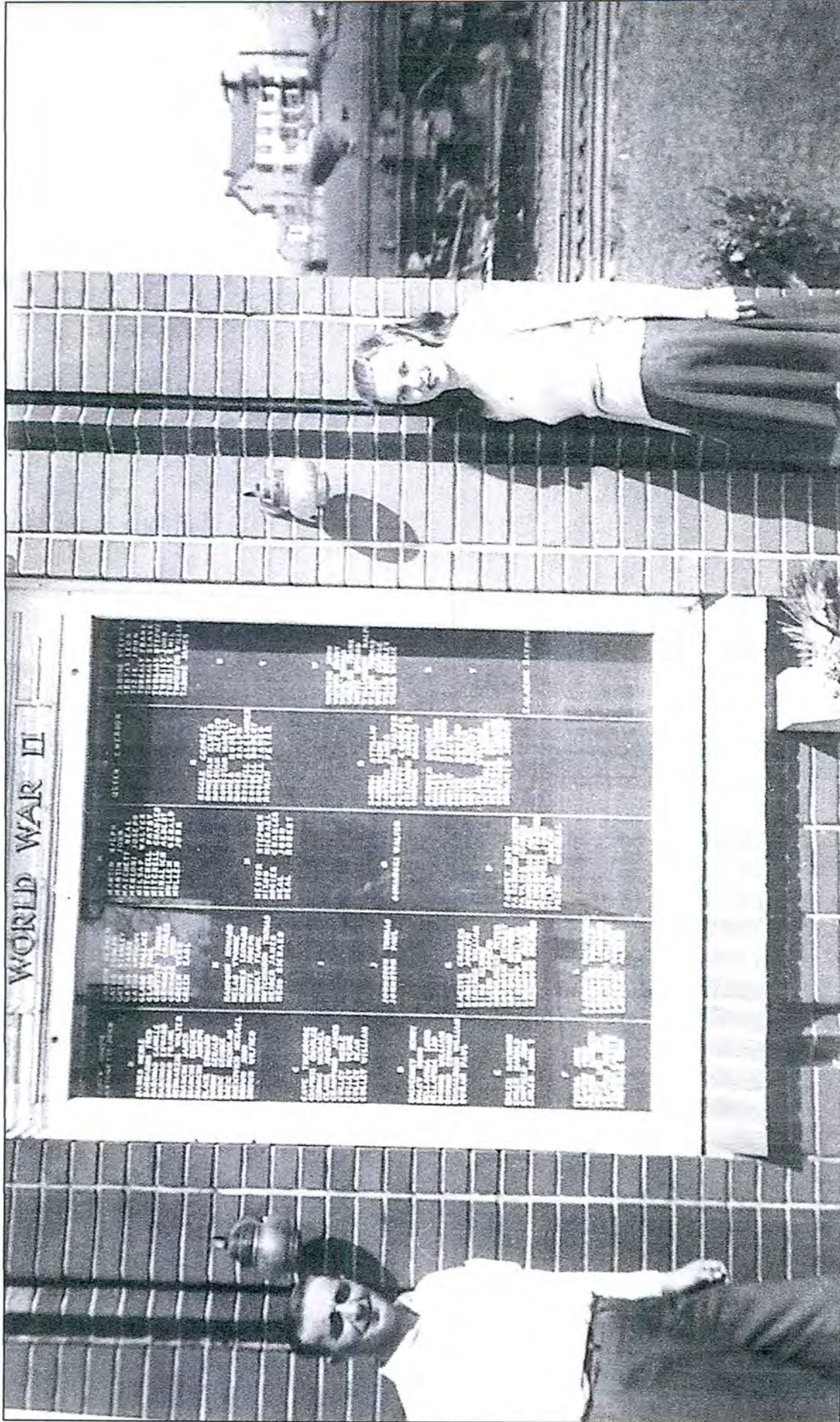


**Bulger Honor Roll-1945**

Bulger, PA

*Fort Vance Historical Society*





### **Bulger Honor Roll-1945**

Bulger, PA

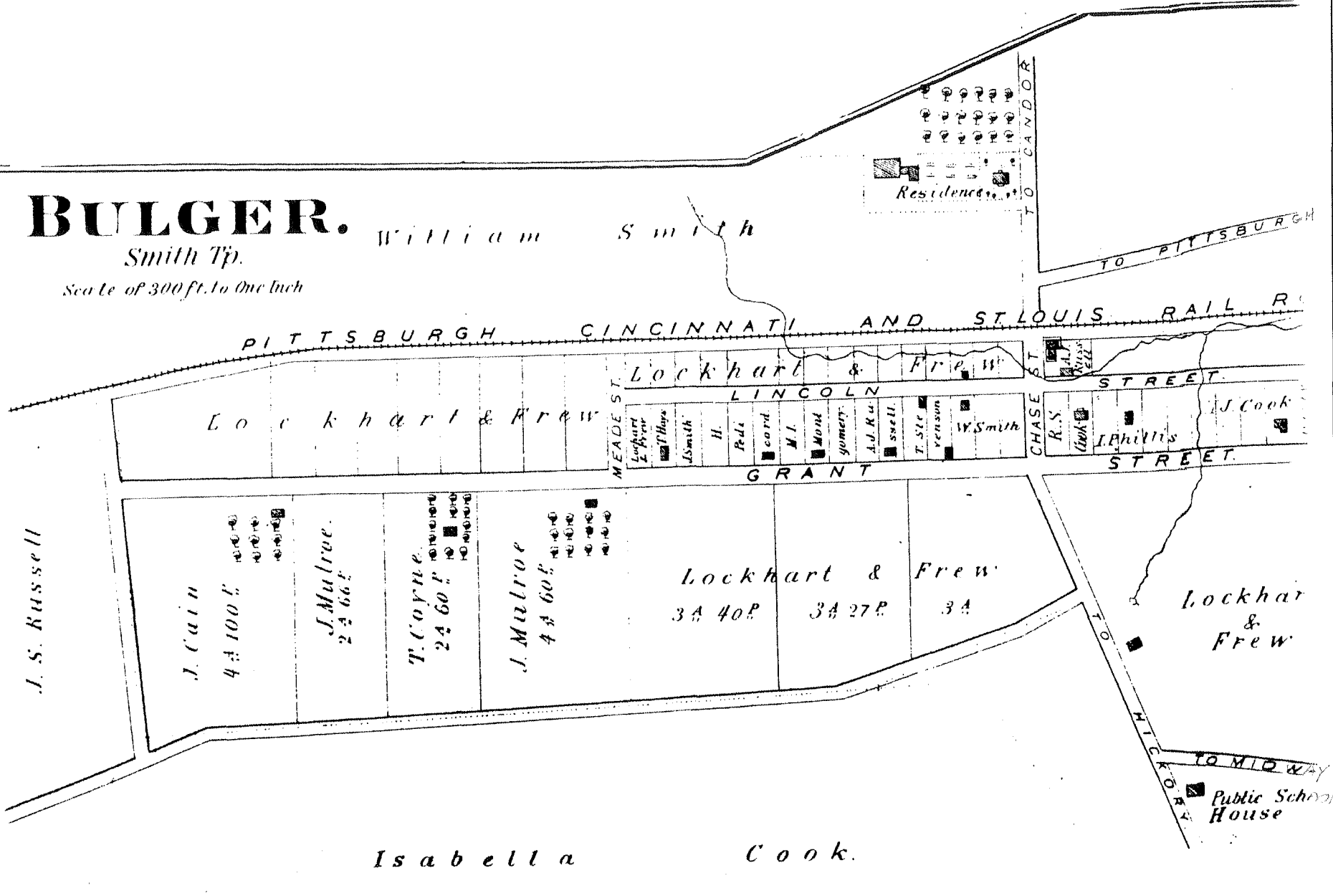
*Fort Vance Historical Society*

# BULGER.

Smith Tp.

Scale of 300 ft. to One Inch

William Smith



Isabella

Cook.

Bulger-Washington County, PA -Caldwell Atlas 1876

Fort Vance Historical Society

# Map of early Warrantees

Those of John Allen and Abraham

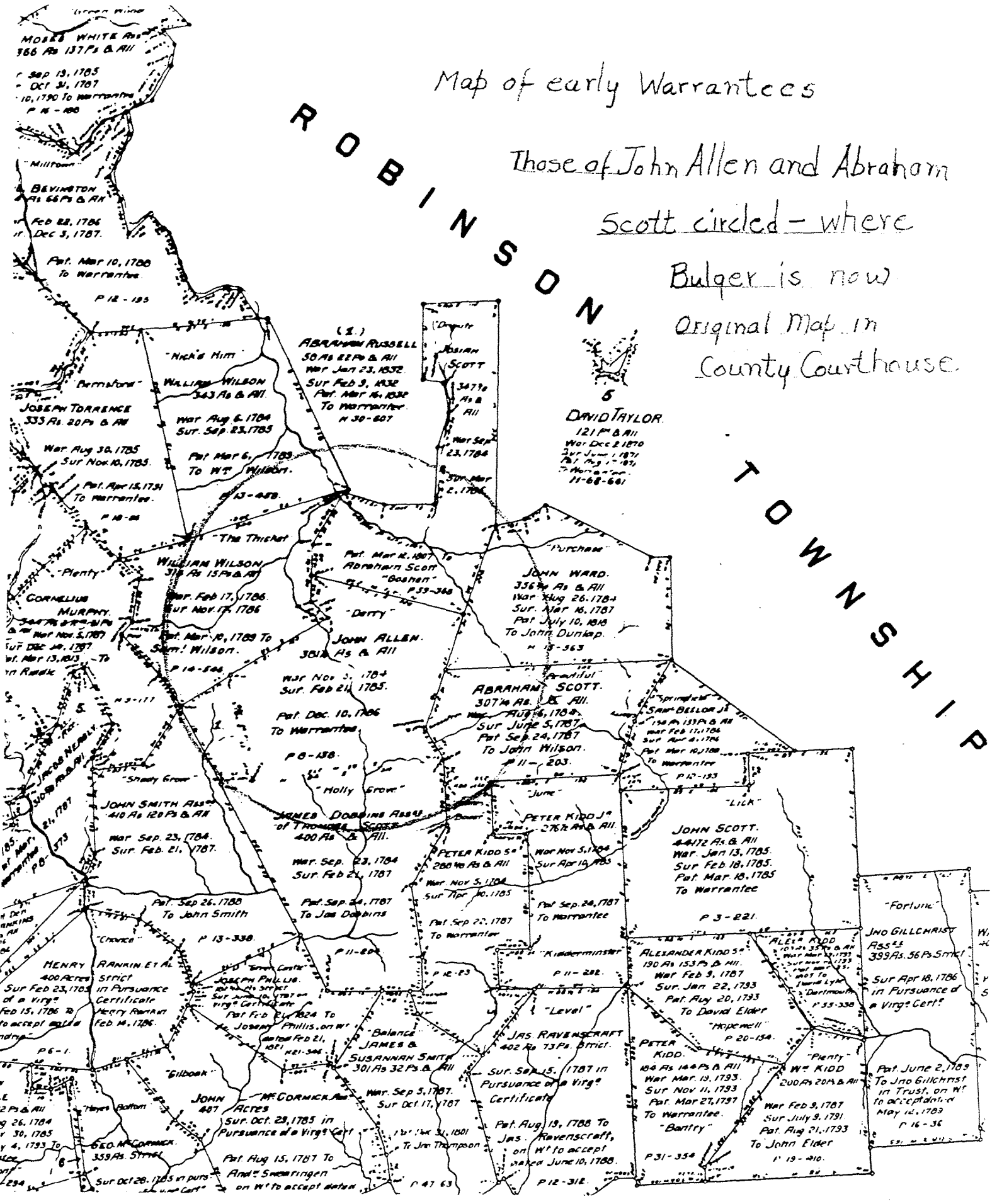
Scott circled - where

Bulger is now

Original Map in

County Courthouse.

ROBINSON TOWNSHIP



MORRIS WHITE AS  
366 AS 137 Ps & All  
Pat Sep 13, 1785  
Pat Oct 31, 1787  
10, 1790 To Warrantee  
P 16 - 100

MILL POND  
BEVINGTON  
AS 66 Ps & All  
Pat Feb 22, 1786  
Pat Dec 3, 1787

Pat Mar 10, 1780  
To Warrantee  
P 12 - 183

JOSEPH TORRENCE  
333 AS 20 Ps & All  
Pat Aug 30, 1785  
Pat Nov 10, 1785

Pat Apr 15, 1791  
To Warrantee  
P 18 - 28

CORNELLUS MURPHY  
347 AS 20 Ps & All  
Pat Nov 5, 1787  
Pat Dec 10, 1787  
Pat Mar 13, 1788  
To Warrantee

JOHN SMITH AS  
410 AS 120 Ps & All  
Pat Sep 23, 1784  
Pat Feb 21, 1787

HENRY RANKIN ET AL  
400 ACRES STRICT  
Pat Feb 23, 1785  
Pat Feb 15, 1786  
Pat Feb 14, 1786  
To accept

JOHN SCOTT  
4412 AS & All  
Pat Jan 13, 1785  
Pat Feb 18, 1785  
Pat Mar 10, 1785  
To Warrantee

ALEXANDER KIDD  
130 AS 153 Ps & All  
Pat Feb 5, 1787  
Pat Jan 22, 1793  
Pat Feb 20, 1793  
To David Elder

PETER KIDD  
104 AS 144 Ps & All  
Pat Mar 19, 1793  
Pat Nov 11, 1793  
Pat Mar 27, 1797  
To Warrantee

JOHN SCOTT  
200 AS 20 Ps & All  
Pat Feb 9, 1787  
Pat July 9, 1791  
Pat Aug 21, 1793  
To John Elder

JAS RAVENSCRAFT  
402 AS 73 Ps & All  
Pat Aug 19, 1788  
Pat on W to accept  
taken June 10, 1788

JOHN SCOTT  
301 AS 32 Ps & All  
Pat Sep 5, 1787  
Pat Oct 17, 1787

JOHN SCOTT  
301 AS 32 Ps & All  
Pat Sep 5, 1787  
Pat Oct 17, 1787

JOHN SCOTT  
301 AS 32 Ps & All  
Pat Sep 5, 1787  
Pat Oct 17, 1787

JOHN SCOTT  
301 AS 32 Ps & All  
Pat Sep 5, 1787  
Pat Oct 17, 1787

(2.)  
ABRAHAM RUSSELL  
50 AS 22 Ps & All  
Pat Jan 23, 1832  
Pat Feb 3, 1832  
Pat Mar 14, 1832  
To Warrantee  
N 30 - 607

JOHN SCOTT  
347 AS & All  
Pat Sep 23, 1784

DAVID TAYLOR  
121 AS & All  
Pat Dec 2, 1870  
Pat June 1, 1871  
Pat Aug 17, 1871  
Pat Mar 2, 1784  
11-66-661

ABRAHAM SCOTT  
307 AS & All  
Pat Aug 6, 1788  
Pat July 5, 1787  
Pat Sep 24, 1787  
To John Wilson  
P 11 - 203

ABRAHAM SCOTT  
307 AS & All  
Pat Aug 6, 1788  
Pat July 5, 1787  
Pat Sep 24, 1787  
To John Wilson  
P 11 - 203

PETER KIDD  
268 AS & All  
Pat Nov 5, 1784  
Pat Apr 19, 1785  
Pat Nov 5, 1784  
Pat Apr 19, 1785

JOHN SCOTT  
4412 AS & All  
Pat Jan 13, 1785  
Pat Feb 18, 1785  
Pat Mar 10, 1785  
To Warrantee

ALEXANDER KIDD  
130 AS 153 Ps & All  
Pat Feb 5, 1787  
Pat Jan 22, 1793  
Pat Feb 20, 1793  
To David Elder

PETER KIDD  
104 AS 144 Ps & All  
Pat Mar 19, 1793  
Pat Nov 11, 1793  
Pat Mar 27, 1797  
To Warrantee

JOHN SCOTT  
200 AS 20 Ps & All  
Pat Feb 9, 1787  
Pat July 9, 1791  
Pat Aug 21, 1793  
To John Elder

JNO GILCHRIST  
359 AS 56 Ps & All  
Pat Apr 18, 1786  
in Pursuance of  
a Virge Cert

JNO GILCHRIST  
359 AS 56 Ps & All  
Pat Apr 18, 1786  
in Pursuance of  
a Virge Cert

JNO GILCHRIST  
359 AS 56 Ps & All  
Pat Apr 18, 1786  
in Pursuance of  
a Virge Cert

**Bulger Post Office  
Washington County, PA.**

<b><u>Postmasters</u></b>	<b><u>Appointment Dates</u></b>
James Russell	February 10, 1869
Andrew J. Russell	February 12, 1872
Joseph Aiken	January 4, 1905
Thomas L. Hermes	June 15, 1916
Cora M. Winters	April 20, 1918
Besse Aiken Acting Postmaster	December 31, 1925
Besse Aiken, Postmaster	June 1, 1926
John Darras	January 23, 1935
Margaret Darras	May 18, 1936
Geno M. Dellapino Acting Postmaster	February 10, 1966
John Antonetti	July 23, 1968
Patricia W. Fratini Officer-in-Charge	March 26, 1980
Alan C. Henderson Officer-in-Charge	May 13, 1980
Patricia W. Fratini	September 6, 1980

## A Partial List of Teachers at Bulger School from 1873-1953

W. T. Slater	Rhea Munger
Lizzie Hoffman Smith	Mary Anderson
O.T. Cook	Helen Ballard
Mattie Campbell	Wilbert Welch
C.J. Vance	Otto Kraeer
John F. Vance	Josephine Morgan
Kate Hammond Campbell	Margaret Ballard
Anna Hickman	Marie Montgomery
A.P. Dennis	Louise Yolton McCullough
A.J. Smith	Thelma Culley Fliton
Nettie George Wallace	_____McConnell
Hattie Donaldson	Clair Jackson
William Melvin	Betty Aver
Charles Briceland	Betty Reynolds Culley
Anna Vance	Robert Smith
Hallie Criss Taylor	George Love
R.R. Stevenson	Golda Daudet Spillane
John E. Brown	Luella Kaste
Kate Geary	Ruth Cooley
Brilla Lyon	H.E. Reynolds
H.G. Noah	Elizabeth King
Lillian Pyle	Margaret Ralston
Laura Sprowls	Evelyn Danielson
Elizabeth Stephenson	Charles Burns
Sam Neil	Dorothy Inglefield Axtell
Bessie Wilson	Yvonne Helas
Clarence Cowden	Estelle Bunerman Phillips
Eva Heinrich	Nina Kenny
Edith McElhaney	Emma Jane Lawson Miller
Georgine Holmes	Luella Felch
Margot Holmes	Frances Farner
Mary Ralston	Maxine Moore

**Bulger Post Office**  
**Business Listing from 1915 Farm Directory**  
**Living in Smith Township, Washington County, Pa.**

J.M. Aiken	Postmaster
O.V. Aiken	Farmer
Meda Angelo	Lumberman
G.L. Antill	Farmer
Leon Champion	Miner
Martin Davin	R.R. Employee
J. Dyrras (Darras)	Storekeeper
M.M. Green	Laborer
A.B. Hobbs	Miner
William Johnson	Manager
Earl Jones	Farmer
Mrs. K. Jones	Farmer
Theodore Jones	Farmer
John Kane	Farmer
Casper Kahn	Dairyman
Mark Kelso	Farmer
M.A. Kelso	Farmer
Emma Love	Housekeeper
R.O. Love	Farmer
J.S. Martin	Farmer
William Moore	Farmer
E. Pontia	Dairyman
August Ray	Miner
E.M. Rimesel	Carpenter
Charles W. Robertson	Fireman
W.H. Robertson	Farmer
John Rommes	Farmer
A.J. Russell	Retired
C.K. Russell	Farmer
D.M. Russell	Farmer
James C. Russell	Farmer
W.S. Russell	Farmer
Jessie Ruth	Farmer
M.J. Stiffler	Laborer
Edward Simpson	Farmer
E.B. Smiley	Farmer
Sylvenus Sponaugle	Farmer
Minnie Stiffler	Housekeeper

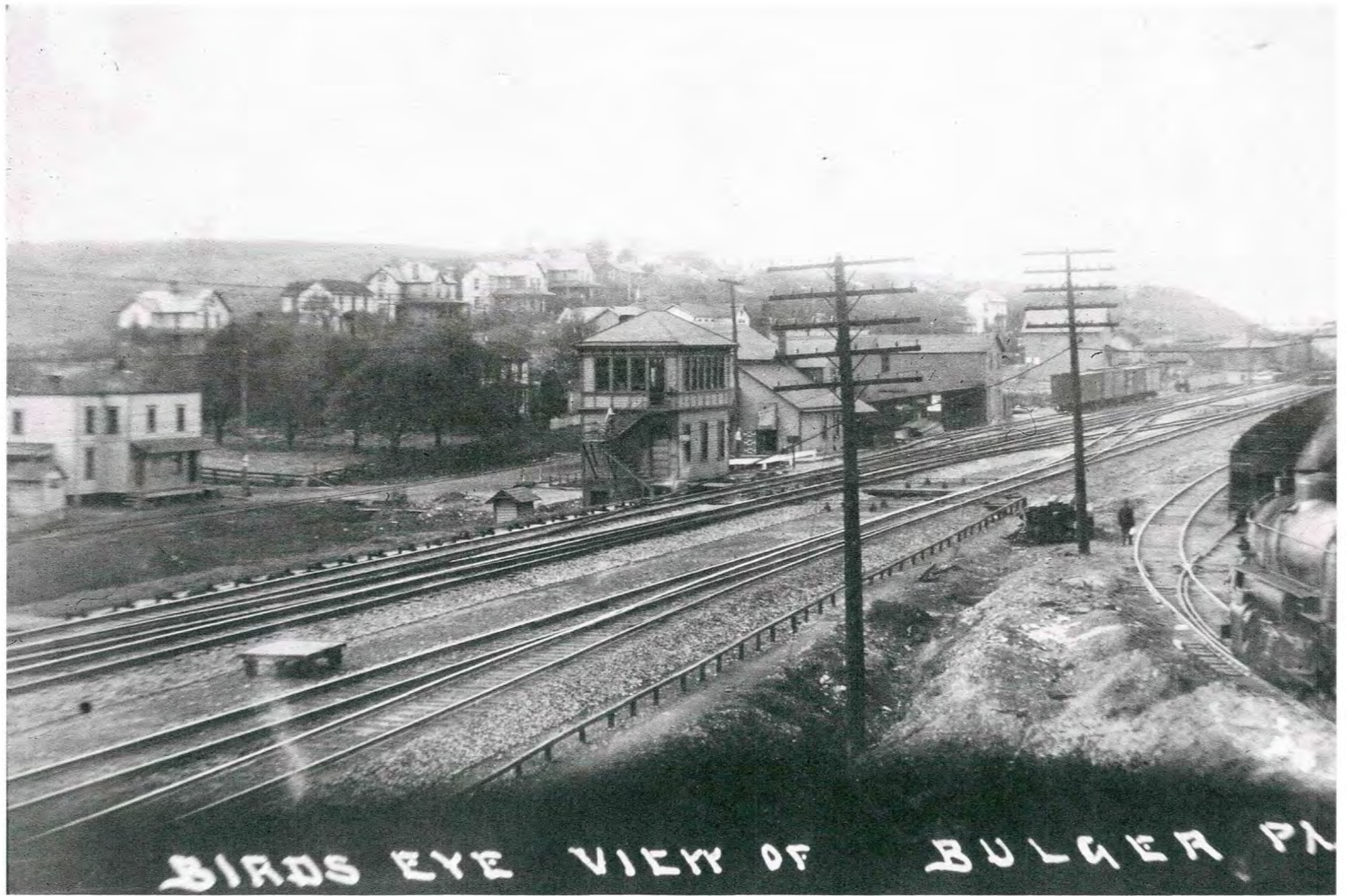
**Bulger Post Office**  
**Business Listing from 1915 Farm Directory**  
**Living in Robinson Township, Washington County, Pa. (pg. 1)**

Aaron Atin	Pumper
George Atin	Farmer
Margaret Atin	Housekeeper
G.M. Babel	Carpenter
J.R. Baily	Farmer
Anna Beck	Housekeeper
R.M. Beck	Truck Gardner
I.D. Bigger	Farmer
S.W. Bigger	Farmer
F.D. Bridges	Farmer
T.O. Bridges	Farmer
William Bridges	Farmer
E.S. Bruce	Oilman
Howard Campbell and O.C.	Miner
George Cleek	Truck Gardner
William Cook	Miner
T.M. Cullen	Farmer
Samuel Douds	Laborer
W.A. Dearolph	Farmer and Pumper
William Donaldson	Farmer
Charles Dougherty	Carpenter
Louis Dufour	Farmer
Nicholas Dufour	Farmer
Dufour Brothers	Farmers
William Dunbar	Farmer
L.K. Eldor	Farmer
Walter Elliot	Well Driller
M.B. Ferguson	Farmer
H.M. Glass	Farmer
R.J. Glass	Farmer
S.J. Glass	Farmer
W.B. Glass	Farmer
Glass Brothers	Farmer
Jacob Glassor	Retired
Charles Griffith	Foreman at gas wells
George Hall	Farmer
Joseph Hays	Farmer
Rev. R.D. Hays	Minister
Robert Hays	Farmer
Williams Hays	Farmer
W.V. Hays	Farmer
Hays and Sons	Farmers

**Bulger Post Office**  
**Business Listing from 1915 Farm Directory**  
**Living in Robinson Township, Washington County, Pa. (pg. 2)**

Charles Hissey	Farmer
H.L. Johnson	Farmer
Elizabeth Jones	Housekeeper
G.T. Jones	Farmer
Amy E. Kerr	Teacher
Gene Kerr	Teacher
Rev. G.W. Kerr	Minister
John Kerr	Sail inspector
Margret Kerr	Teacher
Martha Kerr	Teacher
Mary W. Kerr	Teacher
Harry Lester	Fruit grower
R.M. Martin	Farmer
Mrs. E.S. Matchett	Housekeeper
J.A. Matchett	Farmer
W.J. King	Farmer
C.R. McClutcheon	Blacksmith
A.R. McClurg	Merchant
O.J. Neal	Farmer
August Nerurgold	Laborer
T. Noga	Miner
Tona Petrie	Farmer
Joseph Pointer	Laborer
James Richards	Miner
David Richey	Laborer
Robert Richey	Laborer
Jesse Ritchie	Laborer
Morgan Ross	Carpenter
Joseph Shemick	Farmer
Sarah Smith	Farmer
A.M. Smyers	Pumper
J.E. Smyers	Field Foreman
Joseph Taylor	Farmer
C.R. Tilton	Farmer
Elizabeth Tovience	Housekeeper
William Vanorden	Farmer
Anthony Warnor	?
J.A. Witherspoon	Farmer
A.C. Whitlach	Farmer
J.R. Wilson	Farmer
Isaac Wyke	Farmer
Lee Wyke	Tool dresser
D.K. Yolton	Merchant

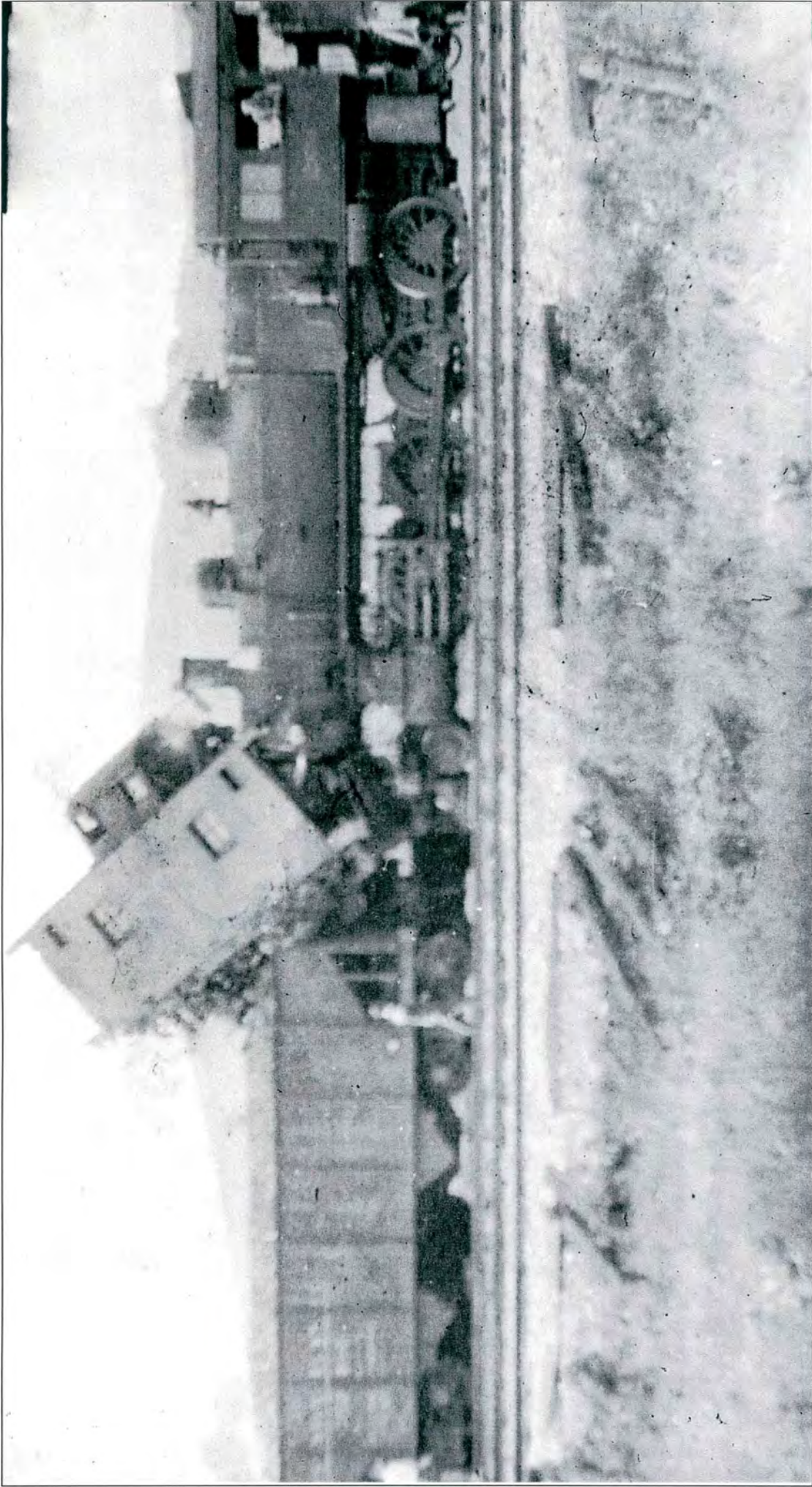




**Bulger Railroad Yard**



**Bulger Train Station  
Bulger, PA**



**Bulger Train Wreck-Unknown Year  
Bulger, PA**

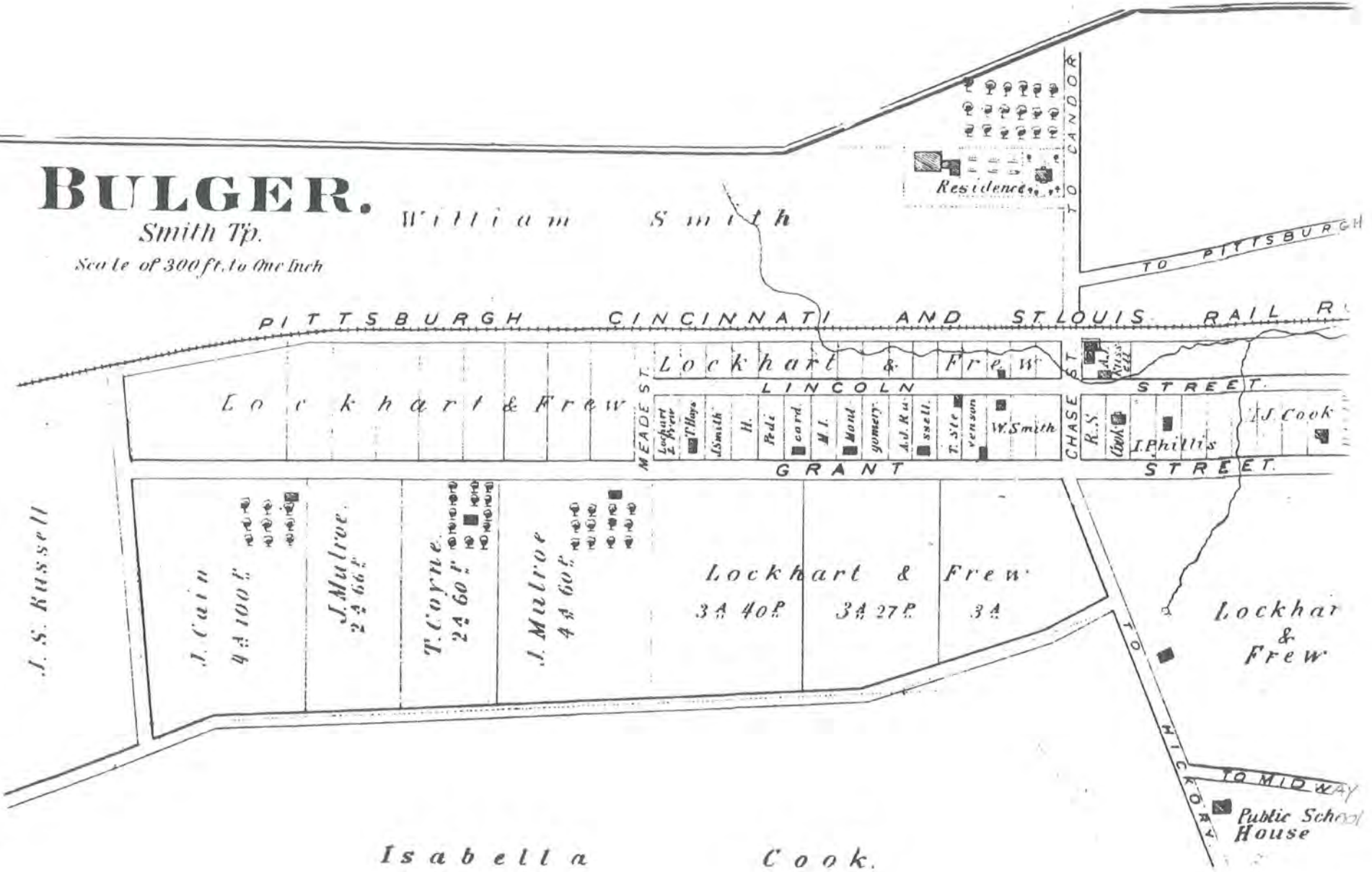
# Bulger, Smith Township, PA-1876 Caldwell Atlas Map

## BULGER.

Smith Tp.

Scale of 300 ft. to one inch

William Smith



#### ACCOUNT BOOK SHOWS PRICES 100 YRS. AGO

Earl Smiley of Bulger brought in an old account book the other day that really makes one marvel at the progress of humanity in the last hundred years. The book was originally the property of John Russell of Bulger who recorded accounts for the decade 1840 to 1850. Seventeen pounds of flour in 1841 cost twenty-five cents; a pound of coffee could be bought for twelve and one half cents and eleven pounds of bacon was sold for thirty seven and one half cents.

But prices in those days were high in relation to the wages paid. A man earned fifty cents a day for shearing sheep; seventy-five cents a day for putting up hay; forty cents a day for hauling coal and one dollar and twenty-five cents a day for making 200 fence rails.

**Account Book from 1840-1841**  
**Burgettstown Enterprise-July 1, 1948 Edition**



## Bulger man rebuilds past for the future

By Judy Chestnutt  
The Record-Enterprise

Bill Kerekes thinks it would be exciting to enter the next millennium living in a house that is more than 200 years old.

But there's something more special to the particular house Kerekes wants to be living in by the year 2000.

He still has to finish building it.

In 1995, Kerekes bought the former Phillis farm log house that used to be in Cherry Valley. He immediately tore it down - log by log - with a crane and dump truck, numbering each piece with a metal tag.

He stored the logs in sheds on his property in Bulger where he has been rebuilding the house with the help of a friend, Brian Ebel of McDonald.

Growing up in Bulger, Kerekes always knew of the Phillis farm.

In 1980, he heard James Creehan of Bethel Park bought the old house with the intentions of restoring it. For the first time in seven generations, the house was out of the Phillis family.

A remodeler by trade, Kerekes was

disappointed with that news. In the back of his mind, he always wondered how he would fix the house if given the chance.

"You always have a pipe dream, you know," he said.

A few years later, he read in the former Enterprise newspaper the Creehan family decided the house was in worse shape than they thought and couldn't restore it.

After Kerekes asked what the family intended to do with the house, he agreed to a trade. He would do remodeling work on one of the Creehan's homes in exchange for the old Phillis log house.

"I like old-time stuff," Kerekes said. "I work with wood, and I thought I could do something with it."

Kerekes always wanted to build his own house. That's why, after he got married, he bought land in Bulger and put a mobile home on it.

"I bought this property and mobile home with the idea of one day building something here," he said. "But, never in my wildest dreams did I think it would be that log house."

Kerekes said he wouldn't be able to afford the project if he wasn't a remodeler. A few friends and his son,



**CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT:** BEFORE IT WAS torn down, this is how the c Phillis farm house looked. DURING THE SECOND stage of rebuilding, the founda- tion has been set and the walls formed. WITH THE SECOND story added, si rounded by plywood, this is how the house looks today.

Jason, help him out.

Before he tore down the house, Kerekes made several sets of blue prints so that he could rebuild it as close to the original as possible.

One side of the house had caved in through the years. The house had an addition that was added about 100

years after it was originally built.

Because he wanted to use as mu original wood as possible, Kerek swung the addition around to the si of the house that had caved in.

"Someday, I hope to get it into 1 historical books," he said.

**Bill Kerekes Rrebuilds Phillis Log House for his Own  
The Enterprise-November 12, 1997 Edition**



**Location of former Railroad Tunnel  
Bulger, PA**



**Merloni's Store near Bulger Train Station**





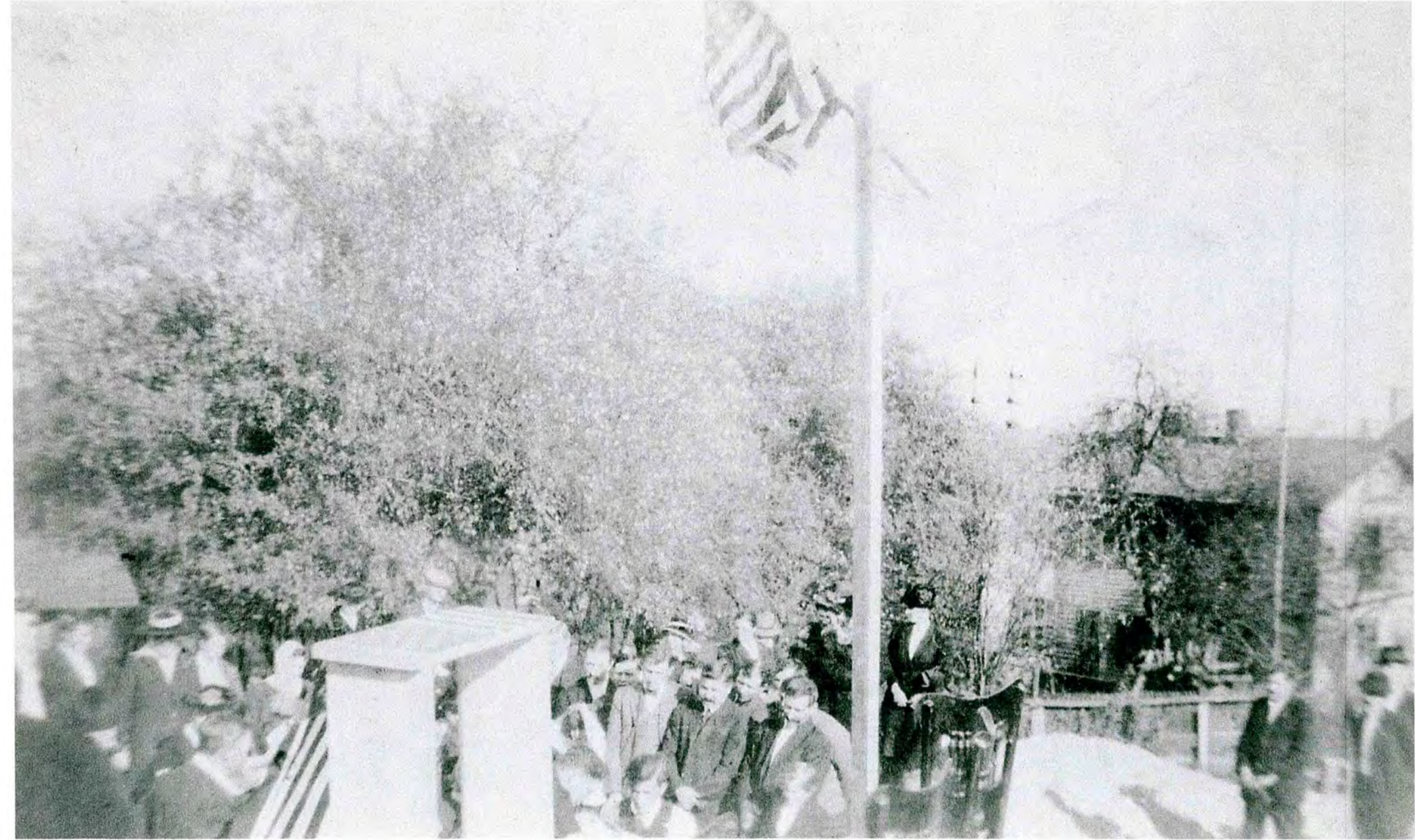
## Mike Nixon Bids For Demie Nomination For U. S. Congress



Michael Nixon, Bulger representative in the Pennsylvania Assembly pulled a surprise move late Tuesday final day for filing at the State capitol, when he threw his hat into the ring for the Democratic nomination for Congress in the Washington-Greene County districts. He had previously filed his intention to seek a second term as assemblyman. Nixon will have for his opponent the present incumbent, Dr. Morgan of Donora.

This leaves the representative field for First District Washington county candidates to Michael Kusturiss, Canonsburg; John McCarrell, Washington; Peter Luongo, Washington and Theodore Holmes, Washington, all Democrats. Republicans filing for the two seats from the first district were Richard G. Miller, Jr., Attorney of Washington and John Mazza, Houston, a former house member.

There will be two candidates for the Republican nomination for Congress: John J. Cairns, Jr., Roscoe and Frank J. Lubozynski of Houston.



**Groundbreaking of St. Ann's Church- Bulger, PA**



**Groundbreaking of St. Ann's Church- Bulger, PA**





1879

ME

Grundy Court Studio  
Cecil M. Johnson

POSTED  
June 9  
EDITORIAL AUDITING DEPT.

Pa

*[Handwritten scribble]*

Spec. Hear.  
JUN 3 1928

The mine & town of  
BULGER. Most of  
the house has been  
abandoned. The smoke  
from the burning  
mine waste, or "red dog" \*

7-711

5485

### Registrar Reports On Births and Deaths

Miss Ann Ackleson, registrar of Vital Statistics for Burgettstown, Smith, Jefferson and Hanover townships reports a total of 98 deaths and 166 births registered with her department in this area for the year 1942. These statistics represent deaths and births which occurred in the homes of the area. Deaths and births occurring in hospitals are registered direct. Seven new arrivals have been registered with Miss Ackleson so far this month.



# The Old Foot Bridge AT BURGETTSTOWN

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HOW often, O, how often,  
In the days that had gone by,  
I had stood on the bridge at midnight,  
And gazed on the moon and sky.

How often, O, how often,  
I had wished that the ebbing tide  
Would bear me away on its bosom  
O'er the ocean wild and wide.

—Longfellow.



**Post Card of the Foot Bridge-1907  
Burgettstown, PA**



THE OLD FOOTBRIDGE AND ELM  
AT BURGETTSTOWN

**The Old Foot Bridge**  
Connecting Center Avenue with Downtown Burgettstown

# Going Strong Since 1878

## HAS BEEN IN HANDS OF FIVE OWNERS

### Depressions Have Come and Gone With Only Slight Effect On Pioneer Paper

The Burgettstown Enterprise, one of the oldest weekly newspapers in Western Pennsylvania, today celebrates the 55th anniversary of its founding, its origin having been under inauspicious circumstances in the year 1878, and its birthplace South Burgettstown, now, and for many years a part of the borough of Burgettstown.

The founder was J. Peter Donan, a son of Dr. William Donan, the second medical practitioner to locate in Burgettstown. Mr. Donan conducted the publication until late in 1882, when he sold the newspaper and equipment to Riddle Allen, who for a short time had operated another newspaper in the town, the Burgettstown Call, and the papers were combined under the name of the Call. In 1889 Mr. Allen sold out to J. Howard Cramer. Mr. Cramer changed the name of the paper back to its original title, the Enterprise. The plant was destroyed by fire in 1889, and at that time the present brick building in which the paper is published, was erected. In 1908 Mr. Cramer sold out to a stock company, the Enterprise Publishing Co.

In 1914 the stock company was dissolved and the business was acquired by Lewellan H. Fullerton, who had been an employee in the organization of the stock company. Mr. Fullerton sold the paper, plant and real estate to the Maureys in February, 1931. E. B. Maurey taking charge as editor and manager. Mr. Maurey came to Burgettstown from Coraopolis where he had held an editorial position with the Coraopolis Record for six years. Previous to that he had been in the newspaper business in various parts of the country for many years.

Insofar as records are available, it appears the Enterprise, under one name or another, has been published without interruption every week since August, 1878. The paper has never suspended or missed an issue, according to records which are incomplete on account of files having been burned in the fire of 1889.

Evidence abounds tending to show

that at various periods during the past 55 years the old paper has been "hard put" to keep going in the face of panics and depressions, which have been many, particularly prior to 1890. But, the storms have been weathered, somehow, and in the past three years, when the difficulties have been greater than ever, and business has been at a low ebb, the resources of the publication have not been particularly strained, and the paper has been able to carry on without more difficulty than inability to provide much work for men of the printing craft.

The people of the Burgettstown district have liberally supported the Enterprise. Many subscribers remain on the lists who began with the first issue, 55 years ago. Many subscriptions are paid in advance away into the next 10 or 12 years. Very few subscribers are delinquent for more than a fraction of a year. The business interests of the town and countryside also have been liberal with advertising and printing patronage. There have been numerous times when nine or 10 people were employed in the mechanical department. The paper has been largely patronized by the agriculturists of the surrounding area, and the present and former owners of the paper have always taken much interest in the affairs of the farmers and made every effort to advance the best interests of the farmers and dairymen of the district.

The present owners of the Enterprise are gratified to be connected with an institution of such age and of such excellent reputation. The paper has been kept clean through all the years and at no time has sensationalism in any form been permitted. There has been some opposition and a little competition at various times, but the Enterprise always has been able to keep on going strong.

The management thanks the people of Burgettstown for splendid cooperation and support during the past two years. It is hoped, however that the next two years may be better.

**Burgettstown Enterprise 55 Years Old Today**  
**Burgettstown Enterprise-March 2, 1933 Edition**

## **Facts about the Burgettstown Enterprise**

- First paper was published in 1878, located in South Burgettstown
- At one time, one of the oldest Weekly Newspapers in Western PA
- J. Peter Donan, founder. Owner from 1878-1882
- In late 1882, Donan sold newspaper and equipment to Riddle Allen, who owned another newspaper in town, the Burgettstown Call. The papers were combined under the name of the Call.
- In 1889, Riddle Allen sold the newspaper to J. Howard Cramer. Mr. Cramer changed the name back to its original title, the Enterprise Publishing Company.
- In 1889, the plant was destroyed by fire. At that time, the present brick building was erected.
- In 1914, the stock company was dissolved and the business was acquired by Lewellan H. Fullerton, who had been an employee of the company.
- In February 1931, Lewellan H. Fullerton sold the paper, plant, and real estate to E.B. Maurey.
- According to records available, the Enterprise, under one name or another, has been published without interruption every week since August 1878. The paper has never missed or suspended or missed an issue, according to the records that are incomplete. Records are incomplete on account of files having been burned in the fire of 1889.
- There were numerous times when 9 or 10 people were employed in the mechanical Department.

**Burgettstown Enterprise is 55 Years Old Today  
Burgettstown Enterprise-March 2, 1933 Edition**



Intersection of Bridge Street and the new highway.



Creating access road in front of Charles Pappas Apartments.

**John L. Brunner Memorial By-Pass**  
**1973 Photos, Burgettstown, PA**

*Courtesy of Fort Vance Historical Society*



Remnants of Linn Lumber Yard on the left.



Railroad Freight Station on the right.

**John L. Brunner Memorial By-Pass**  
**1973 Photos, Burgettstown, PA**

*Courtesy of Fort Vance Historical Society*



**Anthony Filipponi's Furniture Store.**

Located adjacent to the Washington National Bank, Anthony Filipponi built the building on 1921.

*Courtesy of Fort Vance Historical Society*

## Borough Council In Regular Session

Burgettstown Borough Council held its regular meeting Monday night in the Borough Building, with John M. Maroni presiding.

Other Councilmen present were Ralph Ciabattari, Paul Morgan, Deane Bertrand, Robert Shaffer, Alex Stetar and Thomas McGraw.

Ciabattari reported that the traffic light proposed for the intersection of Main and Market Streets has been approved by the District Office at Uniontown and has been forwarded to State Highways Headquarters at Harrisburg for approval.

Bertrand, as chairman of the Council Finance Committee, called for a meeting Sunday, November 10, at 6 p.m., for the purpose of beginning work on preparing the tentative 1969 budget.

Morgan told Council that the West Penn Power Company is continuing to check the local situation involving loss of power. He said he hoped for a more complete report at a future meeting.

Approved by Council was a recommendation by Council and Mayor Charles N. Cunningham, Jr., that no left turns be permitted at the intersection of Main Street and Main Street Extension during peak traffic hours of the day. A movable sign will be posted at this intersection, and the "no left turn" policy will be in effect at the discretion of the police department.

Also approved was a policy limiting parking in loading zones on Main Street to a ten-minute period.

A note of thanks was extended by the Councilmen to all the Auxiliary Police in the Borough who helped with the patrolling on Halloween night. Mayor Cunningham reported that this year's event was the best yet conducted here.

Some discussion was held concerning new state legislature and its effect on the borough's police force, with solicitor John L. Brunner leading the discussion. Action on the matter was tabled until more study is made.

Also tabled was a matter concerning the borough garbage dump, which may be moved to an area in Jefferson Township. Garbage Collector George Ratkovitch will be asked to attend the next Council meeting.

Free parking during the Christmas week was again voted by the Borough Fathers. The free parking period for borough shoppers will extend from 8 a.m. December 16 to 8 a.m. December 26.

Police report was approved as follows: tickets issued 69; tickets paid 41; tickets in process of collection 28; parking tickets \$41; meters, \$293; fines and overloads, \$730; total \$1,064.

Bills in the amount of \$7,498.93 were approved for payment as funds become available.



## **C. D. Head Attends National Meetings**

Richard M. Johnson, Burgettstown Borough Director of Civil Defense, has returned from a Midwinter Conference of the United States Council of Civil Defense held March 17-20 at Washington, D.C.

Johnson also attended a Region Two Conference March 21-22, also held in the capital.

Delegates from all 50 states were represented at the Midwinter Conference. Seven states and Washington, D.C., were represented at the Region Two meeting.

The local C.D. head reported he has taped about 540 minutes of the proceedings at both conferences.

Heading the program were key personnel from the Office of Civil Defense, located at Olney, Maryland.

At the Region 2 meetings, the delegates were split into various groups for workshop sessions, concerning all phases of Civil Defense activities.

Johnson reported a wealth of information had been obtained from the conferences.

**Civil Defense Head Attends National Meeting  
Burgettstown Enterprise-March 27, 1968 Edition**

*Courtesy of Fort Vance Historical Society*



**George and Mary Pyle Family Home**  
Corner of Church Street and Kerr Street, Burgettstown, Pa  
*Courtesy of Fort Vance Historical Society*



**Looking up Maple Avenue towards Archer Lane, Burgettstown, PA (1895-1900).** The house on the left is Stevenson's in 1980's. It is remembered as Frederick's House, on the extreme right, McBride's, later Kimberland Dairy. Note the boardwalk and lamppost. Katherine Pyle's mother, Mary McCluskey Pyle is riding in the sleigh.

*Courtesy of Fort Vance Historical Society*

## COUNCIL MEETS

A resolution commending James F. Hillman for his gift of the Community Park was passed by the members of the Burgettstown Borough Council at a meeting on Monday, August 6.

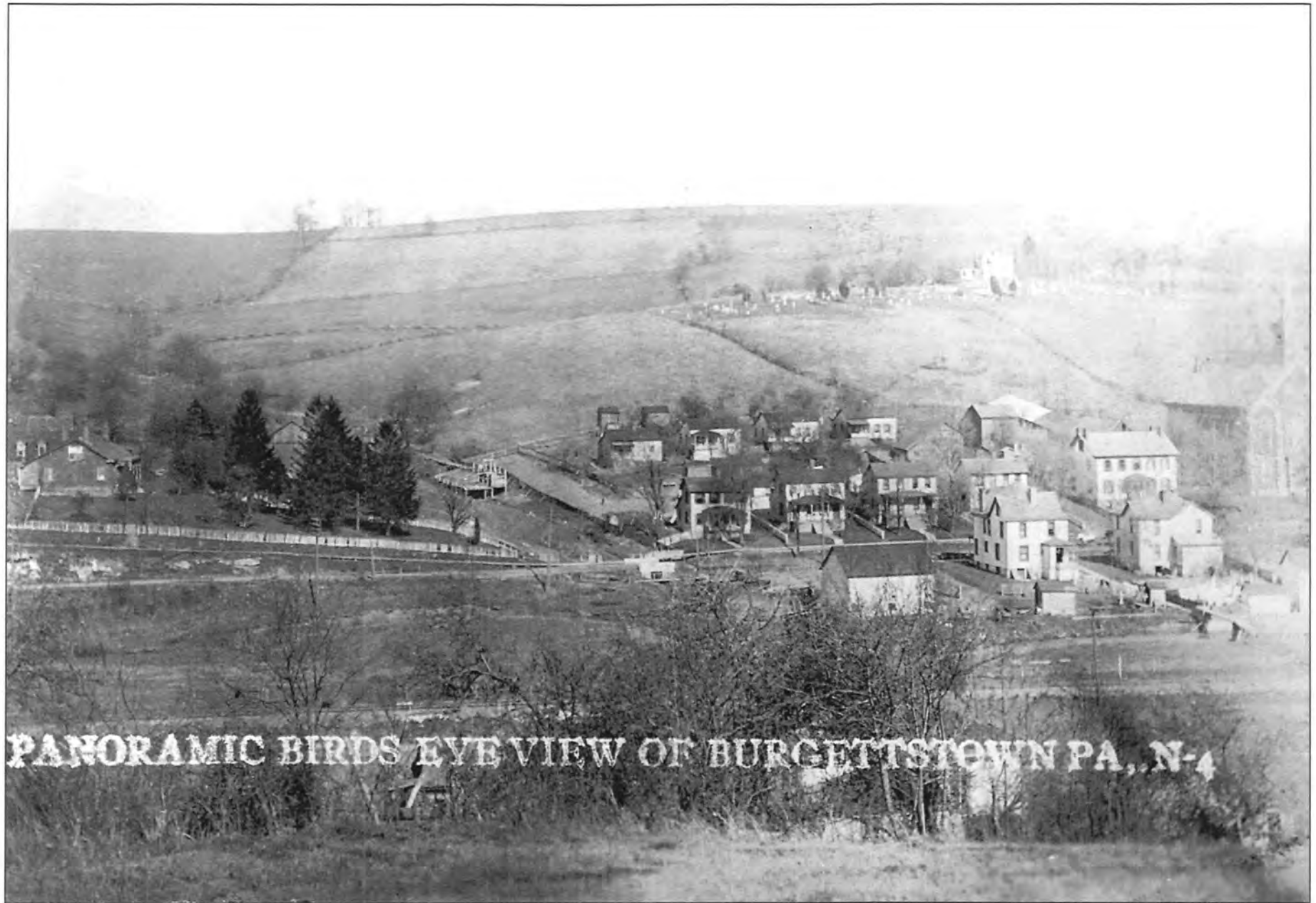
Business concerning the borough maintaining a road built this summer by R. W. Simpson and J. F. Craig was referred to a committee for further discussion. The road would accommodate future residents who will build on or near the lots recently purchased by Craig and Simpson at the rear of the Edwin McFarland property. Running parallel to Center Avenue the 20 foot road extends from Tope to Elm street and will eliminate the necessity of using Elm street in winter as a means of getting to the houses at the top of the hill.

Council will also investigate the ownership of an alley at the rear of Pompe's restaurant, the matter having been brought to their notice by Fred Vietmier of South Burgettstown.

V

## Council Meets

***Resolution Commending James F. Hillman***  
**Burgettstown Enterprise-August 9, 1945 Edition**



**Early Panoramic View of Burgettstown, PA**

L-R: Home of Reverend Fredericks, Thomassy Mine, South Main Street, Hood's Row, and Presbyterian Church.

*Courtesy of Fort Vance Historical Society*

# Face-Lifting At Burgettstown



MAN-MADE LAKE. This view shows just a small portion of the 12-acre lake near Burgettstown that was made by leveling off coal-stripping spoil

banks. Now it is stocked with fish, and anglers have several piers like this one from which to fish. The lake is in the game propagation area,

and its shoreline has been planted with food-bearing trees and shrubs to provide plenty of feed for many varieties of wildlife.



Mr. Hillman

**W**HAT can be done with the ugly spoil banks of strip mines?

That question has popped into the minds of thousands of motorists driving by unsightly mounds of shale, rock and clay which clutter some of Western Pennsylvania's loveliest landscapes. One corporation that has the answer is the Harmon Creek Coal Corp. Conservation-minded James F. Hillman, its president, didn't like what he saw 10 years ago when he inspected the firm's vast coal stripping operations near Burgettstown, 22 miles southwest of Pittsburgh. Here is what has happened since.

A reclamation project got underway in 1944 and the same giant earth-moving machinery that stripped off the earth to expose the coal, was used in leveling and contouring 50 acres. These were seeded with various grasses, and 14,500 trees were planted. Landscape archi-

ects advised using red pine, white pine, black locust and black walnut.

The following year 175 acres were leveled—10,500 trees and 5200 shrubs planted. Each succeeding year more land was reclaimed, re-shaped and re-planted. The seedlings were obtained from commercial nurseries, but four years later Harmon Creek Coal Corp. hired Winfield R. Allison, a forester. One of his first tasks was to build a nursery to supply hundreds of thousands of trees and shrubs, and to take charge of the extensive landscaping operations.

Today the residents of Burgettstown and nearby communities have a 2000-acre park at their back door. They enjoy a 12-acre lake stocked with black bass, blue gills, channel catfish and some trout. Hills once gutted by strip mining are now beautified by 586,000 trees and

shrubs carefully chosen for seasonal coloring and suitability.

Another feature of the reclamation project is the 76-acre Burgettstown Community Park. Mr. Hillman hired Landscape Architect Ralph Griswold, former Director of Parks for the City of Pittsburgh, to plan its features. There are wooded groves sheltering picnic tables, outdoor ovens, shelter houses, a modern concrete swimming pool. Other facilities include a softball field, swings, slides, shuffleboards, tennis and basketball courts. There is a baseball field with dugouts and clubhouse.

No tax is needed to support the park and its administrative board is made up of civic leaders who serve without pay.

There is, also, a 1900-acre game preserve, stocked annually with more than 600 pheasants raised at

By William Faust

**Face-Lifting at Burgettstown (Pg. 1)**  
**The Pittsburgh Press-October 10, 1954 Edition**

*Courtesy of Fort Vance Historical Society*



**WADING POOL.** Lifeguard Mary Penaglis supervises the small fry as they play in the small pool. There is, of course, a larger pool for adults, and a nominal charge is made for salaries of lifeguards, other personnel.



**FAMILY OUTING.** Residents living near Burgettstown don't have far to go to enjoy the great outdoors and a picnic lunch such as this one. There are plenty of tables and shelters at the park.



**NURSERY SEEDLINGS.** Wade Van Kirk and Winfield B. Allison, park forester, look over some young seedlings that will soon be ready for transplanting. All trees and shrubs are selected for usefulness and beauty.



**MODEL ENTHUSIASTS.** This is one hobby that requires plenty of space, and this field was especially reserved for model airplane fans to try out their speediest motor-driven planes.

the park's own pens. These are released in time for the hunting season. To feed the increasing number of birds and animals now moving into the park, narrow strips of land are planted in corn, sunflowers, buckwheat, sorghum and millet.

But the reclamation project is by no means finished. Landscaping and strip mining are going on continuously. Now, as in past years, operators of earth-moving machinery sort the good earth from the clay and slag, and this is used to top-dress areas where coal has been removed.

It is estimated there is sufficient coal in the tract to keep the stripping operation active for more than 20 years. When that time comes residents of Smith Twp., Langeloth, Cherry Valley, Atlasburg, Slovan, Raccoon, Bulger, Harmon Creek and Burgettstown will live in one of the most picturesque sections of Western Pennsylvania.



**TYPICAL SPOIL BANK.** Scenes such as this one are repeated hundreds of times in Western Pennsylvania. But the land can be reclaimed, made even more beautiful than it was originally by extensive landscape operations such as those of Harmon Creek Coal Corp. which converted 2000 acres into a park.

tiful than it was originally by extensive landscape operations such as those of Harmon Creek Coal Corp. which converted 2000 acres into a park.

**Face-Lifting at Burgettstown (Pg. 2)**  
**The Pittsburgh Press-October 10, 1954 Edition**

*Courtesy of Fort Vance Historical Society*



**1950 Flood-Valvoline Oil Company**  
Burgettstown boundary towards Joffre, PA  
*Courtesy of Fort Vance Historical Society*



## History of Burgettstown Post-Office

The Burgettstown post office was established April 25, 1810 and began to operate Jan. 1, 1811.

Postmasters who have served the office:

Thomas Miller was the first, 1811. M.S. Stevenson, 1920; S.J. Perry 1821; David Bruce 1822-1830; Dr. Stephen Smith 1830-1934; Jess Spencer 1934-1864; Leander A. Robb; Samuel P. Wilson, 1866-1874; David W. Fry and John W. Fry.

The above office located in what is now known as the Old Town or South Burgettstown.

The Pennsylvania Railroad was started in 1852-53 and completed in 1865 and the new town or the part "Down by the Station" was laid out in 1854, and called Abilene and lot number 6 in this plan is the location of our new post office today.

The post office in the new town was established April 1, 1870 under the name Cardville. James A. Galbraith was the postmaster and J.D. McCabe the assistant. In about one week after the office went into effect, Mr. McCabe received a commission as postmaster. Successors of Mr. McCabe were J.C. Ralston and George M. Miller.

In 1883 the post office department abolished the post office in the Old Town, known as Burgettstown and changed the name of the office known as Cardville, to Burgettstown, Pa.

It being known to a few of the patrons of the office in the Old Town that it was to be abolished, and effort was made to retain it, but it was too late; however they succeeded in having an office established under the name of South Burgettstown to go into effect as soon as the old office was abolished. Postmasters in the South Burgettstown office were J.W. Fry, W.P. Scott, W.B. Porter, Forbus Ferguson, 1914-1916, Mabel Todd 1916 to about 1920 when village delivery service was installed from the Burgettstown office at which time the South Burgettstown office was abolished.

The first postmaster in the new town after its change from Cardville to Burgettstown was George Miller. And his successors were as follows: R.T.C. Stephenson, S.F. McClure, E.K. McFarland 1896, J.T. Patterson who died in office was succeeded by his daughter Nora Patterson, E.G. McGregor, J.F. Shillito, D.V. Hays, J.F. Scott, Wayne Culley and Ralph L. Bell, 1936.

Burgettstown's office is the second class and boasts of serving a population from 25,000 to 30,000 which includes in addition to the Boro of Burgettstown, parts of Smith Twp, Cross Creek Twp., Jefferson and Hanover Townships.

The personnel of the office at the present time are in addition to the postmaster J.H. Stewart, senior clerk; Howard R. Dunbar clerk; Miss Naomi B. McPeake clerk; Frank L. Taucher clerk; G. Edward Bish carrier, Shirley T. Bruce carrier; Clyde Bigger carrier; Charles E. Murphy, carrier R.D. 1; George W. Pyle, carrier R.D.2; Albert R. Rosey; carrier R.D. 3; John L. Culley, carrier R.D. 4; H.A. Hitchcock

Mail messenger and Richard Rosey, special delivery messenger.

Post Office Site

(In the heart of the Bituaimous Coal Region)

The land on which Burgettstown is situated was located by Sebastian Burgett, a native of Germany who migrated to this country sometimes before 1773. The land was taken up on a Virginia Certificate about 1780 and in later surveys and patents the tract was known as "West Boston".

The site of the New Post office building dates back to February 1, 1736, when the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania conveyed the land by warrant to one Thomas Whitaker. At that time it contained 411 acres and 119 perch; usual gold and silver ore rights were reserved by the Commonwealth. The site remained the property of the Whitaker clan until about 1843 when the Deacon Whitaker laid out a plan of lots known as "Abilene". During the years from 1854, the site of the new post office was owned by Robert Fay, Adeline Pyle, John C. Fulton and his heirs, Robert Ferguson, J.L. Proudfit, George Stroud, Lewis Baker, George Perritte sheriff, Samuel Hindman, James Gillespie, Nancy Walker, and Dr. W. E. Dickson. On November 17, 1949, Dr. W. E. Dickson and Walter A. Fulton passed title of the site to the United States.

Thru the efforts of our Congressman, the honorable Charles I. Gauddis, the sum of \$75,000 for a new post office at Burgettstown was allocated by an act of Congress, Aug. 25, 1937.

The plans specifications of the new building were prepared by the Federal Works Agency, Public Buildings Administration, and Washington D.C.

Office of the Secretary of the Borough Council of  
the Borough of Burgettstown  
JOHN M. SCOTT, Secretary

Burgettstown, Pa., January 10 - 1913.

NOTICE OF ASSESSMENT FOR STREET IMPROVEMENT

TO David Pettibone

You are hereby notified that an assessment of the cost of the improvement of a part of Center avenue, beginning at the east property line of lot of A. C. McClure and extending westwardly to the west property line of lot of Mrs. E. P. Linn and Nannie Moore and a part of Main street, beginning at the south property line of the Burgettstown National Bank and extending to the inter section of said Main street with Center avenue consisting of the grading, curbing and paving of said street, has been filed with the undersigned, secretary of the said borough of Burgettstown, Washington County, Pennsylvania, your ratable proportion of which (calculated by the foot front rule) as the owner of lot situate on the East side of Center Ave street and abutting thereon 81.1 feet, is One hundred Seventy nine (\$117.<sup>91</sup>) Dollars.

If the amount so assessed as your share of the cost of said improvement be not paid within thirty (30) days hereof, this assessment will be placed in the hands of the borough solicitor for collection in accordance with the provisions of the Act of Assembly of May 12th, 1911, P. L. 288, under which Statute the said improvement was made. Assessment if payable to John M. Scott, borough secretary, at the Burgettstown National Bank.

The improvement of said street was done in accordance with the said Act of Assembly and in accordance with an ordinance approved July 11th, 1912, recorded in the ordinance book No. 1 at page 78 and 79, being ordinance No. 42 and No. 43, said grading, curbing and paving being done by contract awarded after competitive bid had been duly advertised for and received. Said improvement was completed on December 17, 1912.

The cost of said improvement of a part of Center avenue and a part of Main street under said contract was as follows: Grading, 2463.6 cubic yards at 38c per yard, \$936.16.8; curbing 4208 lineal feet at 42c per foot, \$1,767.36; cement culverts, 28.3 cubic yd. at \$9.00 per cubic yd., \$254.70; paving with 196,100 vitrified paving bricks at 14.50 per thousand, \$2,852.95, 4737 square yards of paving at 85c per square yard, \$4,026.45; street drainage (including sewer inlets, pipe, catch basins etc.) \$106.67. Total cost, less grading \$9,008.13, grading paid by the borough Total number of feet of real estate adjoining on part of said streets so improved 2083 feet. Borough's share of total cost, less grading, (one-third) plus intersecting Streets and Alleys and Bridge approach \$3,439.39; abutting property owner's share (two-thirds) 5561.70. Cost per front foot to property owner 1.4415.

WITNESS my hand and the corporate seal of the borough of Burgettstown this 10 days

January 1913.

John M. Scott  
Borough Secretary



**Notice of Street Assessment for Street Improvement (pg.1)  
Center Avenue, Burgettstown, PA to David Pettibon-January 10, 1913**

*Courtesy of Fort Vance Historical Society*

## ROADS APPROVED

The grand jury on Saturday approved the two pieces of road in which the citizens of this community are so strongly interested. The roads approved are: Burgettstown-Bulger, 14,920 feet, estimated cost \$54,525; Midway-Primrose, 10,545 feet, estimated cost \$38,124. A number of citizens went before the grand jury on Friday and made a plea for the approval of these roads.

In the interests of the Burgettstown-Bulger and the Midway-Primrose roads the Panhandle section was represented almost 100 strong. This large number was made up of delegations from Midway, Primrose, McDonald, Burgettstown and surrounding communities. That these two pieces of highway are important was impressed upon the grand jury. The two pieces of road are a part of the main highway from McDonald to Burgettstown. There is a small piece of road, between these two pieces, which when approved and improved, will make a continuous improved road from Burgettstown to McDonald. Engineer George Chaney stated there was a bad grade on this piece of road lying between. There has been considered the improving of a different route to avoid this grade. The route would be northwest from Midway, over a short piece of improved highway there, and thence west and south to the Burgettstown-Bulger stretch of highway.

Those who spoke for the Burgettstown-Bulger road were J. V. Stevenson and R. H. McCartney. The wonderful growth of the Burgettstown section was called to the attention of the grand jury and the importance of having an improved highway from Burgettstown to McDonald, where it would connect up with the Allegheny county improved system of highways. It was shown that the increase in the population of the Burgettstown section was rapid, due to the American Zinc & Chemical Co. plant, located there, as well as mines and other industries. Within the past two or three years new towns have sprung up, such as Eastonville, Atlasburg, Langeloth, etc. There is a stretch of improved highway running north from Burgettstown toward Florence, and one south toward Crosscreek. The highway, however, before the grand jury parallels the Panhandle railroad and extends northeast to-

wards McDonald. The distance proposed to be improved is 14,920 feet, and the estimated cost is \$54,525.

Spokemen for the Midway-Primrose road were R. R. Cummins, S. D. Rankin, J. V. Stevenson and August Valentour. There is an improved road from McDonald to Primrose, but from Primrose to Midway, it was shown by these men, the road is in very bad shape. There are times in winter, it was stated, when it is impassable. It traverses a thickly populated section, and since the railroad company is rigidly enforcing the law against trespassing on its right of way, this road becomes a more congested highway for pedestrian traffic. It would give that community an outlet, over an improved road, to other systems of improved roads. Midway is almost shut off from McDonald during the winter, by reason of this bad road. There are improved roads out of Midway and Primrose. The length of the road proposed for improvement is 10,545 feet, and the estimated cost \$38,124. Attorney R. G. Miller, representing the Carnegie Coal Co., Pittsburg Coal Co. and John A. Bell, all large tax payers, spoke in behalf of the roads. Others also gave their reasons, favorable to the improvement.

The delegation who was before the grand jury in the interest of the roads leading from Primrose to Midway and from Burgettstown to Bulger was composed of the following persons:

Midway—J. A. Matchett, R. M. Donaldson, James Wilson, D. G. Bamford, C. R. Ballard, A. A. Taylor, J. M. Raab, Rev. E. D. Miller, A. Chambon, F. C. Sawhill, J. E. Kraeer, T. E. McLaughlin, H. Quinet, J. M. Davidson, J. M. Wallace, J. B. Wallace, Rev. J. F. Pry, Robert Dowler, R. R. Cummins, J. M. Fairley, Alex. Burkett, Robert Cummins, W. M. Cummins, Dr. W. C. Wolford, Fred Fine, W. F. Nash, Alphonse Raab, Antony George, G. Verzeese.

McDonald—H. F. Humphries, J. J. Charlier, B. M. McCartney, A. Valentour, Edward McDonald, S. H. Pyles, Will Lockhart, F. I. Thomassy.

Raccoon—J. B. Phillis, Rev. J. V. Stevenson, A. C. Proudfit, Dr. W. L. Scott, Charles Morgan.

Burgettstown—T. V. Lee, R. H. McCartney, W. L. Doumont, J. P. Linn, M. W. Scott, Edwin McFarland, J. M. Martin.

Bulger—A. J. Russell, J. M. Aiken.

## Interest In Proposed Bond Issue

The proposition to have constructed a comprehensive system of state, county and township roads in Washington county from funds to be realized from a bond issue to be authorized by the voters is rapidly taking form.

It is proposed by the backers of the project to reassure the voters that for every dollar expended on these roads one hundred cents of value will be received.

Second, that the roads agreed upon for improvement will be improved with absolute fairness to every section of the county.

Third, that the roads will be built which will outlive the bonds.

This will be accomplished through a committee composed of three representative citizens of the county. These men will be selected by representatives of the townships and boroughs of the county at a meeting to be held in the Public Meeting room of the court house at 11 o'clock a. m. on Friday, February 16. These men will serve without pay and will be empowered to employ an engineer to pass upon the specifications for roads and to see that said specifications are complied with by the contractors.

The commissioners and the controller are to be asked to recognize these men and work with them and assurance has been given that these officials will agree to do so.

Every citizen will be welcomed at the meeting February 16. Men opposed to the proposition, as well as men who favor it, are invited to attend. It is hoped that every township and every borough will be represented by at least ten men.

The men who are backing this plan are citizens of Washington county, they are taxpayers. Some are farmers, some are townsmen. They are practical, successful men. They say the time will come when one will be proud to say he was one of the men who favored the construction of a system of roads from money secured through a bond issue.

It is hoped that a large number of citizens from this community will attend the meeting on Friday. Those going from Burgettstown can leave here on the 8:46 train Friday morning and be in Washington in time for the meeting.

## Roads Approved

Burgettstown Call-February 15, 1917 Edition

Courtesy of Fort Vance Historical Society

## THIEVES BUSY HERE TUES. NIGHT

Up until noon Wednesday, local police officers had found no trace of the thieves who committed a series of robberies in Midway and Burgettstown on Tuesday night. Linn's Lumber office was broken open and the locks on two safes jimmied. The thieves made off with \$35 in cash, although papers, etc. were not disturbed. Linn's reported \$150 damages to the safes.

The same gang is believed to have stolen a Ford automobile earlier in the evening from William Carns on the Hickory road. This automobile was abandoned, after it had been driven through Inglefield's yard on Church street and across the raised walk, until it almost catapulted down into the street. Some time during the night a new 1940 Ford car was stolen from the garage of C. W. Glessner on Dinsmore avenue, leading officers to believe that the thieves abandoned the Carns car after they got lost up on the hill and then stole the Glessner car to make their getaway, after robbing the Linn office.

That the thieves were evidently looking only for cash is indicated by reports of several robberies in Midway which happened during Tuesday night and were committed presumably by the same gang. The Davidson and Son general store reported \$18.25 stolen from a money sack hidden under the counter and 14 or 15 cartons of cigarettes. The A. and P. store at Midway reported the theft of 41 cartons of cigarettes and that the safe had been tampered with but no money missing. The Midway station was broken into and the safe tampered with but no money was missing.

**Thieves Busy Here Tuesday Night**  
**Burgettstown Enterprise-January 25, 1940 Edition**

# Burgettstown Will Be Site Of Facility

## Union Electric Expanding Forging, Melting Operations

Union Electric Steel Corp. today announced plans to build a five-million-dollar plant in the Harmon Creek Industrial Park near Burgettstown.

The Pittsburgh firm makes forged hardened steel rolls for the steel and non-ferrous industries.

The plant will occupy a 25-acre site and house steel melting, forging and annealing facilities.

R. H. Gallagher, vice president of the firm, said hardening and machining operations will be continued at the firm's plants in Carnegie and Tessenlerlo, Belgium.

The new plant will include an electric furnace using new techniques to refine steel electrode material into high-purity ingots.

The forge shop will contain 3000-ton pull-down type forging press together with new forge and annealing furnaces, cranes and other equipment.

The plant site was selected through the efforts of James F. Hillman, president of the Harmon Creek Coal Corp., and the Area Development Department of West Penn Power Corp.

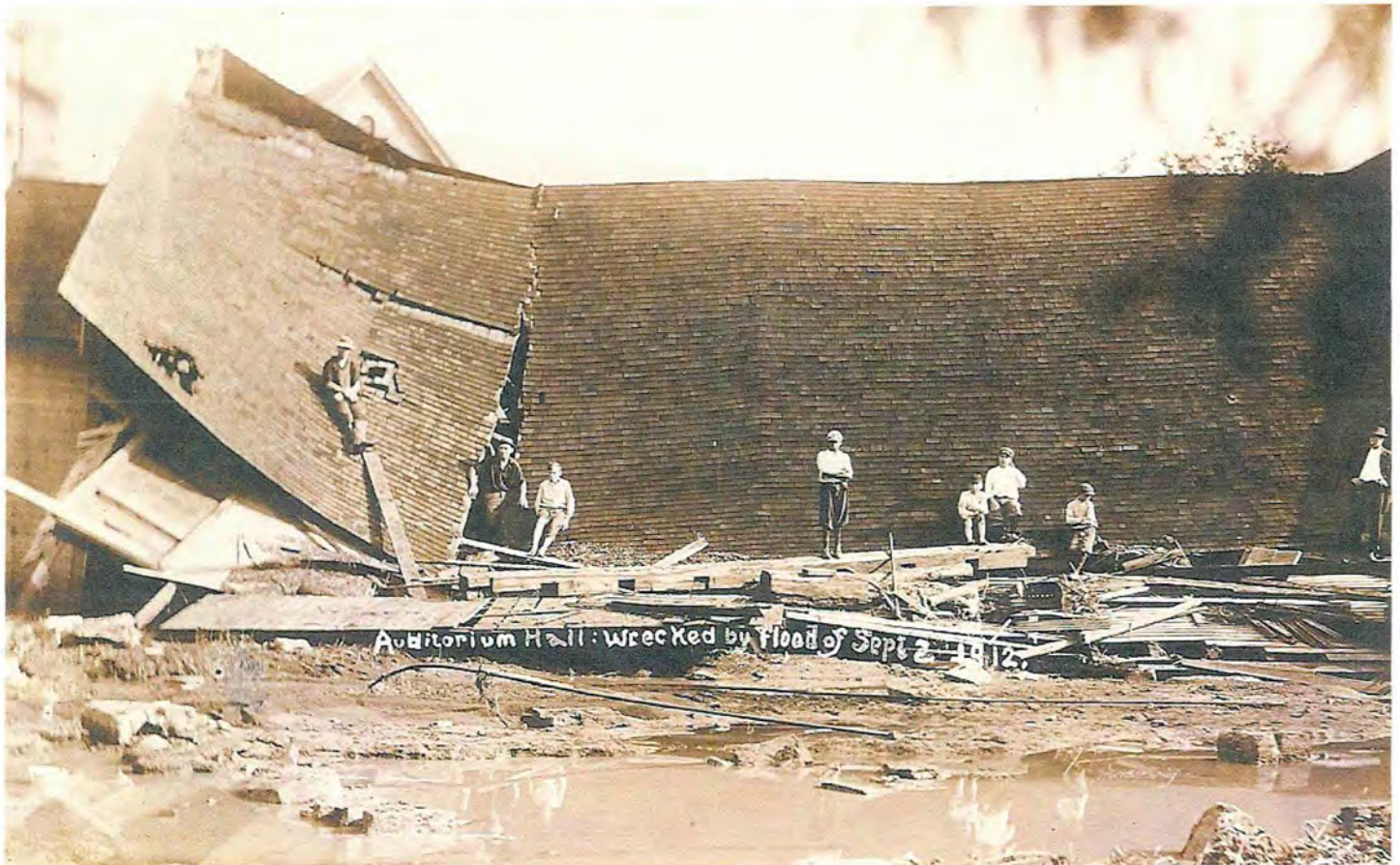
The site is on reclaimed strip-mined land restored by Harmon Creek. It is largely forested and contains ample recreation facilities, a factor which entered into the company's decision to locate there.

**District to get \$5 Million Steel Plant**  
**The Pittsburgh Press-January 12, 1965 Edition**

# **Burgettstown Area**

**Flood of  
September 2, 1912**

*Fort Vance Historical Society*



**Auditorium Hall-Burgettstown, PA  
Wrecked by September 2, 1912 Flood**

*Fort Vance Historical Society*





The Second United Presbyterian Church is in the background.  
The church location later became Petrucci's Market.



**Auditorium Hall-Burgettstown, PA  
Wrecked by September 2, 1912 Flood**

*Fort Vance Historical Society*



**Wrecked by September 2, 1912 Flood**

*Fort Vance Historical Society*



**Blacksmith Shop Demolished  
Wrecked by September 2, 1912 Flood**

*Fort Vance Historical Society*



**Railroad Tracks Destroyed Near Shady Avenue Bridge  
Wrecked by September 2, 1912 Flood**

*Fort Vance Historical Society*



**Shady Avenue-Burgettstown, PA  
Wrecked by September 2, 1912 Flood**

*Fort Vance Historical Society*



© Undoing the Work of the Flood in Burgettstown Pa.  
The Position Marked A; Original Location of  
Railroad which was carried to across  
creek to extreme right at "B"



Destruction of Tippie at Pittsburg-Erie Coal Mine by  
flood of Sept, 2, 1912. Burgettstown, Pa.

**Wrecked by September 2, 1912 Flood**  
*Fort Vance Historical Society*



**Colliers, West Virginia**  
**Wrecked by September 2, 1912 Flood**  
*Fort Vance Historical Society*

## **Early Schools of the Burgettstown Area**

### ***Key facts about our schools***

The Burgettstown School was originally No. 1 but after the borough was established in 1881, this number was given to the Tenan School, built in 1881 or 1882 and located near the Tenan farm a little to the northwest of Burgettstown.

No. 2 was Plum Run located in the valley of that stream and on the old road to Eldersville about one and one-half miles west of Burgettstown.

No. 3 was Cinder Hill about one and one-half miles northeast of Burgettstown near the farm owned in later years by Andrew Proudfit. The site is now within the stripped-over lands of the Harmon Creek Coal Co.

No. 4 Point Pleasant was on the eastern side of Raccoon Creek and just short distance upstream from Bavington.

No. 5 the Russell School near Bulger, was the last Smith Township's one-room schools to be closed which was done at the end of the 1927-1928 school term. Sara McNall Purdy was the last teacher in this building.

No. 6 Midway, was located in the eastern end of the township near the old location of the Center U. P. Church. But as the population in the part of Midway which was Smith Township increased, the school was moved to that place and eventually other rooms were added making it a grade school and finally being taken over by Midway when it became a borough in 1903.

No. 7 Farrar, near Cherry Valley, became in time the Cherry Valley grade school.

No. 8 Cooke, was near the Cooke farm on present Route 18 south of Atlasburg. The old frame building was built in 1860's was used until 1912 when the brick building, still standing, was built and used until this school was closed.

No. 9 the "Yellow: School at present Slovan.

No. 10 might have been named: "Controversy". This school was authorized by an act of the State Legislature in 1849 against the wishes of the school board and these men would have nothing to do with the new school, so they resigned in a body as a protest against the affair. The court appointed a new school board, and school was held in this building until about 1858.. The 1861 map of Washington County shows that this school was located on the hill above Burgettstown and just east of the old U. P. Church. Now the location of the U.P. Graveyard.

No. 11 was formed by resolution of the school board in 1853. The school, once known as Mud Hollow from its location, was later moved onto land of John L. Proudfit near Raccoon Station and it was then known as Oak Hill. After No. 10 disbanded, No. 11 took the number 10 and was ever afterward known by that designation. So it is generally regarded that Smith Township had only ten district schools.



## **Borough Council To Share In Regional Sewage Study Costs**

**By Jim Dallara**

Burgettstown Council last Monday night adopted a resolution committing the borough to a proportionate cost of a regional sewer feasibility study.

The engineering company of Metcalf and Eddy has proposed to provide a strategy report on the feasibility of sewerage for several municipalities in northern Washington County.

According to George E. Martin, chairman of the Burgettstown-Smith Township Joint Sewerage Authority, the \$75,000 cost will be borne through a \$25,000 state grant, \$25,000 raised from the private sector and \$25,000 from participating municipalities.

Sewerage is vital for the area's anticipated growth due to expansion of the Greater Pittsburgh International Airport. The feasibility study has been endorsed by officials of the Airport-West Council of Governments and the 22 West Progress Group.

Council member Settimio Carnali, who also serves as COG vice president, estimated the borough's share of the feasibility study cost at \$5,000.

The resolution was adopted by a unanimous vote of the six council members in attendance: President Barbara Williams, Carnali, Richard Alvarez, Phillip Esno, Kathryn Blehi and Dean Allison. Councilman John Panconi was absent.

Council adopted another resolution requesting the COG to make application for state funding of a study on the feasibility of combining police forces of Burgettstown Borough and Smith Township.

In other business, council:

- Agreed to share work involved in shoring up a road in the borough that is deteriorating above underground posts, provided the property owner constructs an adjoining retaining wall.

- Received a committee report that a zoning variance request of Mrs. Clarence Cecchini, 6 West Pittsburgh St., was approved with no objections.

- Purchased a 1985 Ford one-ton dump truck from Dellaria Ford Lincoln Mercury, Burgettstown, for \$5,600. Allison voted "no" on the motion, stating that installation of a snow plow should have been included in the advertising specifications.

- Accepted Mayor Dan Johnson's police report for June, indicating a total of \$1,123 in revenue.

- Held an executive meeting to discuss police personnel.

## BORO FATHERS TAKE OATH OF OFFICE

J. G. Scott, Council President and J. W. Welch, High School Principal, retired as members of Council at the organization meeting held in the Borough building on Monday evening. E. C. Carmichael resigned a two year term to accept election to a 4 year term. Mathew W. Murphy, Superintendent of Climax Molybdenum Co. was appointed a member of Council to fill a two year term for the vacancy caused by Mr. Carmichael's resignation.

Burgess A. O. Hindman, recovered from a recent illness was present to administer the oath of office to members elect Dwight N. Cook, E. C. Carmichael and William P. Miller.

The new Council then organized and made the following appointments:

President-Ellis Foster  
Vice President- William P. Miller  
Secretary- W. J. Whalen, Jr.  
(annual salary of \$350)  
Treasurer- James J. Reed  
(annual salary of \$125)  
Solicitor- I. C. Bloom  
Street Commissioner- Harry Ritchey  
(annual salary of \$2100)  
Chief of Police-Sam Powell  
(annual salary of \$2100)

—v—

## **BORO PLAYGROUNDS OPEN MONDAY A. M.**

The Burgettstown playground will open Monday, June 2 for the annual summer session. The playground is sponsored jointly by the Burgettstown School Board and the Burgettstown Council with direct control vested in the Playground Committee composed of W. J. Whalen, Jr., President, representing the Council; Bradley Stevenson, treasurer, representing the School Board; and H. L. Tennyson, vice president.

The committee has elected J. R. Canning and Virginia Forsythe as co-directors of the playground for the coming session. This is the first season for Miss Forsythe and she is in charge of all activities for girls. The committee now feels that the playground will accommodate girls on the same basis with boys.

Tentative plans call for a Basketball and Mushball League for both boys and girls. The Boys Basketball League and the Girls Mushball League will operate in the morning. In the afternoon the Girls Basketball League and the Boys Mushball League will operate. These two activities are the only two leagues planned at present but the following forms of recreation will function during the entire day: Horseshoes, Table Tennis, Swings, See-Saw, Sandbox, Combination See-Saw—Merry-go-round for youngsters, Badminton and Volleyball.

# At library

## Video on boro to be screened

"Burgettstown," a 30-minute video documentary produced by Greg Scheer and Dan Morrison, will be screened at the Burgettstown Public Library on Wednesday, June 28, at 7 p.m.

Production of the documentary began in April 1994. It was first broadcast on PCTV, Channel 21, in Pittsburgh on May 16, 1995, and will continue to be broadcast through June.

The documentary, which was shot on location in Burgettstown, attempts to portray the history, life, people and inner workings of a small, western Pennsylvania town. Consisting mainly of interviews with townspeople, the documentary presents a mosaic of a distinctive people and their views of the town they love. Among the many people interviewed are A.D. White, John Weidert, Charles Stadelman, Tony Valenti, Dan and LaVerne Johnson, Caesar Grossi and Ron DiOrio.

The documentary was produced using equipment from PCTV, Channel 21, under the auspices of the Rascals, Rogues and Rascallions (RR&R), a fraternal society dedicated to exploration and discovery. In what is called a Rascal's Challenge, the RR&R sends its members out to discover curious and interesting stories which lie hidden below ordinary-looking surfaces. Greg Scheer was sent to discover what could be found in Burgettstown, and he took Dan Morrison along as his assistant.

Greg Scheer and Dan Morrison were both impressed by what they found in Burgettstown. Scheer, a Pittsburgh-based composer and choir director, was particularly pleased to get to know Caesar Grossi, whose sacred and secular compositions span a number of decades and styles, and to learn the Burgettstown Polka, which is played by the John Tasz Band. Morrison, a professor of philosophy at Carlow College, was delighted by John Weidert's folk philosophy and Ron DiOrio's extraordinary wit.

**Burgettstown Boro Video to be Screened  
Burgettstown Enterprise-May 1995 Edition**

## WILL NOT NEED HELP SENATOR IS ADVISED

Burgess Cassidy Wires Davis That  
Borough is not in Need  
of Federal Assistance

Burgess R. C. Cassidy last week received a telegram from United States Senator Davis asking if the borough of Burgettstown will need the help of the Federal government to take care of unemployment cases.

The burgess laid the matter before the members of the borough council, and it was decided that the borough would be able to take care of local needs for the present, at least. It was suggested, however, that the serious conditions prevailing in the surrounding mining area be outlined to the government. The telegram to the burgess read:

"Inasmuch as it may become my duty to vote on direct relief bill, will appreciate your advising me whether the resources of Burgettstown are, or may become so exhausted as to compel your calling on the Federal government for assistance in properly providing the necessities of life for residents of your city throughout this year because of unemployment."

Burgess Cassidy replied as follows: "Answering your wire, please be advised, that in my judgment the resources of the borough of Burgettstown are not likely to become so impaired as to compel calling on the Federal government for assistance to provide the necessities of life throughout the year because of unemployment. The foregoing is intended as specifically of the borough of Burgettstown, and not in anywise with reference to the outlying townships bituminous mining sections, in which great want apparently prevails, and it is quite likely that the Federal government will be called upon and should give adequate relief."

**Burgettstown Borough will not need Federal Assistance  
Burgettstown Enterprise- January 14, 1932**

## BOROUGH AND TOWNSHIP BOARDS ACCEPT TAX PLAN

Officials of the Borough and School District of Burgettstown, and the road supervisors of Smith township were the first of the County's taxing authorities to notify County Treasurer C. W. Tope that they have decided to accept 1939 legislation abating penalties and interest on delinquent taxes.

Local taxes delinquent for years prior to 1939 may be paid in five equal annual installments. The first payment may be made August 1 but under another homerule provision of the act local authorities may extend the payment date to November 1.

### TOWNSHIP BOARD ACCEPTS

At a meeting of the Smith township school board on Tuesday evening the directors voted to accept provisions of this act.

The Washington National Bank was named depository for the district's funds. Tax Collector Boyd was empowered to make current tax collections in four installments, 25% before Oct. 1, Dec. 1, Feb. 1, and April 1. August 28 was named as the opening date for school.

The board adjourned to meet again Friday evening, to continue with discussion of business.

Penalties and interest will be abated on taxes delinquent for 1934 and prior years, but penalties only would be abated on more recent delinquencies.

The legislation prohibits sheriff's sales for delinquent taxes before August 1. Properties owing taxes for 1934 and prior years must be sold then for taxes, unless local authorities adopt the abatement legislation and the owner pays the first 20 per cent of the delinquencies prior to the deadline fixed by the taxing officials.

Benefits available under the legislation regardless of whether 1939 taxes are paid but will be lost to property owners failing to pay their current taxes for the four succeeding years on time or neglecting to meet the installment payments of delinquencies when due.

Distressed property owners who have failed to keep up installment payments under previous abatement statutes may resume payments under the law legislation.

**Borough and Township Boards Accept Tax Plan  
Burgettstown Enterprise-July 13, 1939 Edition**

# BOROUGH DADS WILL SPONSOR SIDEWALK PLAN

The Borough Dads in regular session on Monday evening discussed at great length a proposed N. Y. A. project to build new and repair old sidewalks in Burgettstown. Engineer Berkemeyer outlined a plan to Council for sidewalk improvement as an N. Y. A. project whereby property owners can either build new sidewalks or repair old sidewalks for just the cost of materials, the labor to be furnished free by a project.

Mr. Berkemeyer told council he estimated the cost of materials for building new sidewalks at 15 cents a square foot. Property owners who expect to participate in this project can either buy materials through council, cash in advance, or purchase their own material.

Council approved plans for the Project and will proceed with securing such a project if enough property owners are interested. Property owners who desire to participate in the project should notify Secretary W. J. Whalen, Jr. before June 1st.

Borough Treasurer James J. Reed was authorized to borrow \$3000 from the Washington National Bank for current expenses for a period of 60 days.

Bids for a new borough truck were opened and the contract was awarded to the McCormick Motor Company for a 95 horse power chassis to be used with the old borough truck bed, at a cost of \$469.29, including the old truck.

Frank Pappas, who is repairing the Borough building was present with paint samples and Councilmen decided on an antique brown trim for the borough building.

A request from representatives of the Burgettstown Volunteer Fire Department that Council purchase badges for the Firemen to wear on their uniforms, at a cost of 90c each was tabled.

Members of the Board of Health Rev. Father McCashin, Dr. A. O. Hindman and Messrs F. I. Scott, L. E. Foster and Samuel DeWalt were present to protest Harrisburg interference with the Home Rule of the Board of Health. Father McCashin, as spokesman for the group declared that inasmuch as the local board has in its membership a qualified and competent physician, he believed that this Board is capable of enforcing sanitary laws and guarding the Health of the townspeople, without Harrisburg interference. The Board was given a vote of confidence by the Borough Dads and full control of the hiring of health officer and secretary was turned over to this body.

**Borough Dads Will Sponsor Sidewalk Plan  
Burgettstown Enterprise-May 9, 1940 Edition**

**BOROUGH FOR YEAR ENDING JANUARY 1, 1932  
STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS OF BURGETTSTOWN**

Account of C. L. Westlake, Tax Collector

**DEBIT**

By Uncollected Tax 1927 .....	\$ 322.77
By Uncollected Tax 1928 .....	278.82
By Uncollected Tax 1929 .....	471.40
By Uncollected Tax 1930 .....	1,158.29
By Tax Duplicate 1931 .....	22,428.06
By Cash due Treasurer 1930 .....	536.00
By Penalties due Treasurer 1929 .....	7.88

Total \$25,203.22

**CREDIT**

To Cash paid Treasurer 1929 .....	59.15
To Cash paid Treasurer 1930 .....	851.14
To Cash paid Treasurer 1931 .....	17,358.91
To Uncollected Tax 1927 .....	322.77
To Uncollected Tax 1928 .....	274.62
To Uncollected Tax 1929 .....	412.25
To Uncollected Tax 1930 .....	843.15
To Uncollected Tax 1931 .....	4,213.68
To Abatement 1931 .....	855.47
To Penalties Due Treasurer 1929 .....	7.88
To Cash Due Treasurer 1928 .....	4.20

Total \$25,203.22

**STATEMENT OF ACCOUNT OF  
C. W. Davidson, Treasurer, Burgettstown Borough**

**DEBIT**

To Collector 1931 Tax .....	\$12,729.87
To Collector 1930 Tax .....	851.14
To Collector 1929 Tax .....	59.15
Liens paid by County Treasury office as collected....	122.36
Foreign fire insurance collected by State Treasurer....	523.78
Pole tax by S. W. Penn Pipe Line Co. to June 30-32 .....	10.25
Pole tax by West Penn Power Co. to June 30-32 .....	62.25
Pole tax by Bell Telephone Co. to June 30-32 .....	45.25
Office site rental E. McFarland to June 30-32 .....	25.00
Election room rental .....	5.00
Printing ordinance refund by Bell Telephone Co. ....	20.85
Motor parts refund .....	68.00
Workmen Compensation insurance refund .....	7.28
Burgettstown Volunteer Fire Dept. 1/2 of fire hose bill	318.50
Broken window refund .....	2.00
Board of Health collections for weed cutting assess- ments .....	8.00
Fire call to Johnson property Cross Creek .....	100.00
Fire call to Slovan .....	125.00
Fines by W. B. Culley .....	56.00
Fines by W. G. Shillito .....	95.00
Fines by R. C. Cassidy .....	21.00
Fine forfeit .....	5.00
Jail fee for outside prisoners collected by Burgess ...	66.00
Transient merchant license fee collected by Burgess ...	7.00
Dance license collected by Burgess .....	13.00
Pool table license collected by Burgess .....	5.00
Pool table license paid to Treasurer direct .....	13.98
Gasoline tank removal H. Povero .....	7.60
Opening sewer S. Pusateri .....	3.00
Sidewalk repairs E. Carson .....	4.40
Sidewalk repairs J. R. McNary .....	4.56
Balance on hand December 30th, 1930 .....	3,889.89

Total Receipts \$19,275.11

**CREDIT**

By Water .....	\$ 1,601.28
By Gas .....	159.80
By Electric .....	2,628.53
By Solicitors retaining fee .....	200.00
By Attorney fees & expense in legal proceedings ...	300.00
By Burgess salary .....	200.00
By Secretary salary .....	100.00
By Auditor's salary .....	15.00
By Collector's Commission .....	423.62
By Engineering .....	218.00
By Police salary .....	1,500.00
By Street Commissioner salary .....	1,500.00
By Treasurer's Commissions .....	338.98
By Extra Police hire .....	311.25
By Board of Health Secretary salary .....	120.00
By Health officer salary & fees .....	212.50
By Janitress salary .....	21.00
By Awards granted for damages .....	1,798.85
By Convention expense .....	311.85
By Workmen Compensation insurance .....	149.95
By Building insurance .....	131.25
By Truck insurance .....	268.53
By Collectors bond premium .....	37.50
By Freight and express .....	156.24
By office supplies .....	15.30
By truck hire and labor for clean up day & weed cutting .....	75.00
By printing .....	179.30
By supplies and labor painting parking & safety lines	160.57
By parking & speed signs .....	103.06
By special lighting & decoration labor & supplies ...	87.71
By property supplies for maintenance .....	96.53
By fire hose .....	637.00
By gasoline, oil, etc. for trucks .....	97.44
By repair parts & labor for motor equipment main- tenance .....	237.39
By labor for street repairs & maintenance .....	278.16
By material for street repairs & maintenance .....	831.07
By sewer repairs & maintenance .....	15.47
By association dues .....	12.00
By officer expense for serving subpoenas .....	14.35
By filing liens .....	33.25
By Borough bulletin .....	12.00
By prisoners food .....	1.35
By Foreign Fire Insurance paid to Relief Association	523.78
By Tax refund to Frank Krosevitz & wife .....	2.80
By Balance on hand December 31, 1931 .....	3,157.45

Total \$19,275.11

**DEBT FUND**

**DEBIT**

To Collector 1931 tax .....	\$ 4,629.04
Balance December 31st 1930 .....	199.58

Total \$4,828.62

**CREDIT**

By Bonds Paid, series of 1914 Nos. 45-46-47-48 .....	\$ 2,000.00
By Bonds Paid, series of 1922 Nos. 3 .....	1,000.00
By Interest on bonds .....	1,086.25
By State tax on bonds .....	84.08
By Balance on hand December 31st, 1931 .....	658.29

Indebtedness of Borough \$4,828.62

Outstanding Bonds 1914 series .....	\$6,000.00
Outstanding Bonds 1922 series .....	12,000.00

Total \$18,000.00

We, the undersigned Auditors of the Borough of Burgettstown, Washington County, Pennsylvania, have this 15th, day of February 1932, audited the accounts of C. L. Westlake, the Tax Collector, and C. W. Davidson, Treasurer of the Borough of Burgettstown, Washington County, Pennsylvania, and find them correct as above stated.

Lee R. McKinney  
James J. Reed  
Wert A. McIntyre  
Auditors

**Burgettstown Borough for year ending January 1, 1932**

**Burgettstown Enterprise-February 25, 1932**



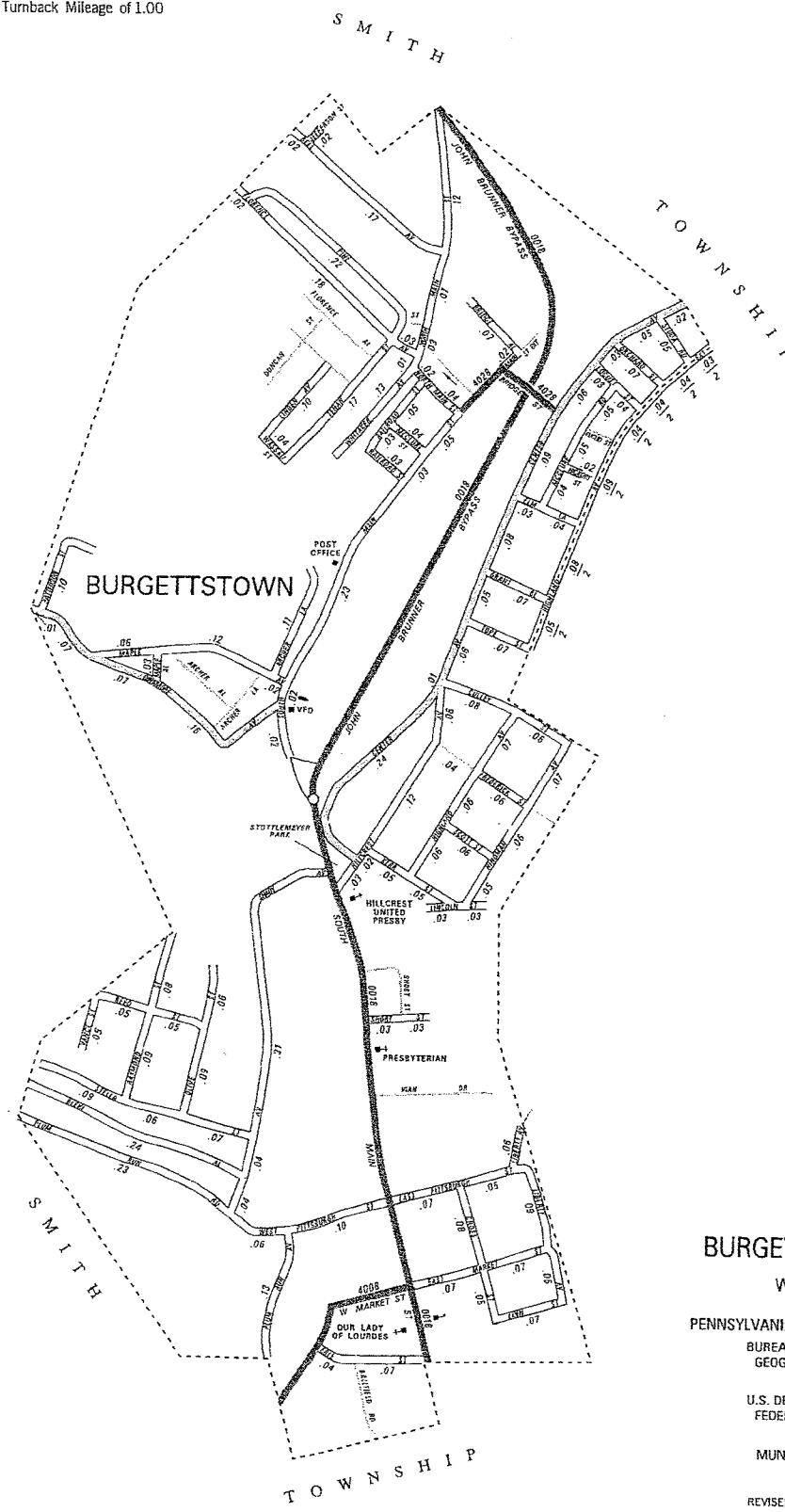
TOTAL MILES  
 Borough Road System 7.92 \*  
 State Highway System 1.62  
 Total 9.54

\* Includes ACT 32 Turnback Mileage of 1.00

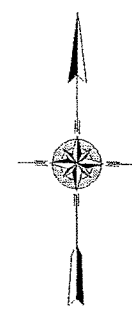
POPULATION 1,576  
 (2000 Census)

LEGEND

- LIMITED ACCESS HIGHWAY
- STATE ROUTE AND NUMBER ON BOROUGH STREET
- STATE MAINTAINED BRIDGE ON BOROUGH STREET
- BOROUGH STREET NAME AND SEGMENT LENGTH IN MILES
- TURNBACK BOROUGH STREET
- BOROUGH ALLEY
- OTHER ROAD
- RAILROAD
- STATE BOUNDARY
- COUNTY BOUNDARY
- TOWNSHIP BOUNDARY
- CITY BOUNDARY
- BOROUGH BOUNDARY
- MUNICIPAL BUILDING
- SPLIT MILEAGE BETWEEN MUNICIPALITIES
- SCHOOL, COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY
- POINT OF INTEREST

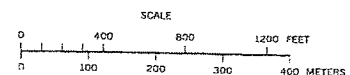


- ARCHER LA
- BELL AV
- BIRCH AL
- BRIDGE AL
- CENTER AV
- CROSS ST
- CULLEY ST
- DINSMORE AV
- ELM LA
- ERIE ST
- FREDERICK ST
- GRANT BL
- HICKORY ST
- HIGHLAND AV
- HIGHLAND AV EXT
- HINDMAN AV
- KERR ST
- LIBERTY AV
- LINCOLN ST
- LINDEN AV
- LINN ST
- MAIN ST
- MAPLE AL
- MAPLE AV
- MARKET ST
- MCCLURE RD
- MCCLURE ST
- OLIVE ST
- PINE ST
- PITTSBURGH ST
- PLUM RUN AV
- PLUM RUN RD
- RAILROAD ST
- RAYMOND ST
- SCOTT ST
- SHADY AV
- SHORT ST
- STELLA ST
- STORA RD
- TERAN ST
- TOPF ST
- VANCE ST
- WHITAKER AV
- WAGESAU ST



BURGETTSTOWN BOROUGH  
 WASHINGTON COUNTY

PREPARED BY THE  
 PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
 BUREAU OF PLANNING AND RESEARCH  
 GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION DIVISION  
 IN COOPERATION WITH THE  
 U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
 FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION  
 AND  
 MUNICIPAL SERVICES DISTRICT 12-0  
 MUNICIPAL CODE 62 404  
 REVISED PER FORM 990 DATED 10-25-06



CREATED BY D1 3-17-06 REVISED 11-17-06 12-13-06

TYPE 55 MAP BURGETTSTOWN BOROUGH WASHINGTON COUNTY PENNSYLVANIA

**ORDINANCE NO. 128**

Prohibiting parking on certain streets and portions of streets in the Borough of Burgettstown, and providing penalties for violation thereof.

The Town Council of the Borough of Burgettstown in the County of Washington, Pennsylvania, does ORDAIN:

Section 1. That parking of any nature shall be prohibited at all times on both sides of the street along Main Street from a point at the intersection of said Main Street with Bridge Street in said Borough to a point on said Main Street at the intersection of Main Street and an alley between the McCurdy Building and Smith Hotel Building.

Section 2. That parking of any nature shall be prohibited at all times along the Eastern side of Main Street in said Borough from a point at the intersection of Main Street with Church Street, along Main Street in a Southerly direction of distance of 100 feet.

Provided that the violation of either Section of this Ordinance shall be punishable by a fine of not less than \$1.00, nor more than \$10.00, or not more than 10 days imprisonment for each offense.

All prior Ordinances and Enactments of any nature inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed.

ORDAINED AND ENACTED into an Ordinance this 4th day of February, 1935.

D. C. DOWDEN,  
President of Council

Attest:  
W. J. WHALEN, JR.  
Secretary

EXAMINED AND APPROVED by me this 4th day of February, 1935.  
J. A. McKENZIE,  
Burgess.

ORDINANCE NO. 129

Fixing the salary of the Chief of Police of the Borough of Burgettstown and the method of payment thereof.

The Town Council of the Borough of Burgettstown, in the County of Washington, Pennsylvania, does ORDAIN:

Section 1. The salary of the Chief of Police of the Borough of Burgettstown shall be fixed at \$1800.00 per annum, beginning the first day of February, 1935, and the said salary shall be payable in monthly payments of \$150.00 per month; provided that the Chief of Police shall pay out of said salary any and all traveling expenses incurred by him in the line of duty, and expenses for the upkeep and repair of any vehicle used by him.

Section 2. That the said Chief of Police may be discharged upon 30 days' notice of intention to do so.

All prior Ordinances or Enactments of any nature inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed.

ORDAINED AND ENACTED into an Ordinance this 4th day of February, 1935.

D. C. DOWDEN,  
President of Council

Attest:  
W. J. WHALEN, JR.  
Secretary

EXAMINED AND APPROVED by  
me this 4th day of February, 1935.  
J. A. McKENZIE,  
Burgess.

## PREDICTS FEWER FIRES IF FINES ARE HEAVIER

Department of Forests and Waters  
Says Fewer Incendiary Fires  
Are Easily Possible

George H. Wirt, chief of the Bureau of Protection, in the Department of Forests and Waters, says that if more severe punishment were meted out to "firebugs" after they are convicted in court there would be fewer incendiary fires.

He blamed the present number of man-made forest fires in a large measure upon the "leniency" of the local courts shown in the few convictions that are obtained.

"If the courts would exert their influence in fire cases the firebug, except where there is a mental defect, would soon disappear," said Wirt.

"Most discouraging of all, however, is the case in which a conviction is obtained, and the culprit is released upon payment of costs which do not begin to cover the loss. Court sentences must have a 'sting' in them or they are ineffective."

Wirt pointed to a recent case in Berks county where a "firebug" was convicted of setting fire to a plantation which destroyed 1900 trees. He was released upon payment of a fine of \$490 which was less than 26 cents a tree.

"There is a statute law," said Wirt, "which imposes a fine of \$25 upon anyone stealing a tree, or disfiguring as much of it as a single branch.

"In cases of fire, the trees are not only totally destroyed, but other plant life as well, and yet the cost as in the Berks case was only 26 cents per tree instead of \$25. There isn't any justice in that."

**Predicts Fewer Fires if Fines are Heavier**  
**Burgettstown Enterprise-June 4, 1936 Edition**

## **Burgettstown**

It was about 1780 or possibly a year or so earlier that Sebastian Burgett came to Washington County and settled on the land where Burgettstown now stands. He built a house near the site of the Robert Scott home of later years and erected a blockhouse. There was Indian activity at the old blockhouse. When his son, Boston Burgett, erected a new house years later and moved the blockhouse across the street, tomahawk and bullet marks were visible on the logs. The old blockhouse was used as a cowshed until it was struck by lightning and burnt. Sebastian Burgett, who operated a mill on Raccoon Creek, was killed while hauling new machinery from Pittsburgh to his mill in 1789. The wagon upset and Burgett was caught beneath the load.

The original town of West Boston, named after Boston Burgett was first laid out in January 1795 by Peter Kidd, surveyor for George Burgett, another son of Sebastian; this plot never recorded and would have contained 56 lots. Another plot contained 94 lots. A post office was opened on January 1, 1811 with Thomas Miller, first post master.

Panhandle Railroad was completed in 1865. The town of West Boston was some distant from the railway. Another post office was established and was called Cardville and Cardville railroad station.

In 1879 the plan was known as Burgettstown, there were 45 lots, with a railroad depot, a freight house, a turntable, and engine house. West Boston was known as the Old Town.

### **Indian Mounds**

A small Indian mound is located near the new bank building. The field on which it stood was used for agricultural purposes consequently the mound became reduced in size after each year's cultivation.

### **Burgettstown Grist Mill**

The present mill is the third one on the same location. The first was built by the Burgetts in 1783 and was run by water power. In 1808 they sold it to Roland Rogers. It is fair to believe he built the second mill; then steam powered was introduced. The third proprietor was Freegift Crawford, who bought it in 1834 from the heirs of Rogers. Mr. Crawford sold it to T.J. Patterson in 1851. Patterson sold it 1852 to Thomas J. Crawford, son of

Freegift Crawford, sold to Vance and Anderson in 1855. Present owners erected a new mill in 1857. Joseph Jackson sold to Donald Crane in 1870. Mr. Crane and Sons were owners until 1893. James M. Stephenson and William Stephenson were owners until October 1894. In 1895 they made complete change replaced the engine. The saw mill connected with the flour mill was dismantled.

### **The Tannery**

George Day erected a tannery here in 1792. His successors were Elijah Ramsey, Mr. Standish, Milo Laughlin and John Larcom. The two houses of Samuel J. Ghrist and the meat shop of John A. Russell are located on the tannery property.

### **Merchants**

David Bruce from Scotland, first merchant and also wrote poetry. Early merchants were Robert Boland, Robert Richie, St. Clair Sutherland and James Briceland.

### **Taverns**

Taverns were opened in many proprietors in 1796 and closed. In 1825 there were five taverns.

### **Nail Factory**

A nail factory was in operation in 1810. It was located on south side of Pittsburgh Street on the Francis Hood property.

### **Pottery**

John Franks owned a pottery near head of Pittsburgh Street in 1820. Wilt brothers last to operate pottery.

On March 23, 1881, then a borough charter was granted.

The rural carriers in 1898:

Burgettstown: W. M. McCullough, W. B. Porter, Richard Hill, C.A. Bowser

Florence: T.C. Graham, Alex Hanlin

Hanlin Station: Charles W. Scott, Robert Stevenson, James Hanlin

Independence: Sheldon Perrin, O.G. Sechrist

# Burgettstown

BURGETTSTOWN, Pa. — The comeback trail looms bright for this Washington county town—which has taken several stiff body blows. Not the least of them was the abandonment of the American Zinc and Chemical Company plant at Lange-loth.

Few small towns can take the loss of a plant employing 1000 persons without feeling it, and Burgettstown was no exception when the zinc and chemical plant—its chief industry—was pulled suddenly from under it.

“Ghost town” fear took a good hold for a while and optimists were few, but those few seemingly have beaten the “down” feeling and the “ups” are now in the saddle.

## Leading Comeback Procession

A revitalized Greater Burgettstown and Smith Township Industrial Association is leading the comeback procession. The towns of Slovan, Atlasburg, Langeloth and others in Smith Township are grouped for the campaign. Eugene Tucci, Slovan auto dealer, is president of the association, sparked by business people as well as by Delbert Malone and the local Lions club.

Burgettstown gets its name from Sebastian Burgett, a native of Germany who emigrated to America with his wife, two daughters and a son to settle in Berks county. Mrs. Burgett died within a short time and Mr. Burgett moved to Robbstown—now West Newton—where he met and married Roxanna Markle.

In 1785, Sebastian Burgett surveyed and



By William A. White

Press Staff Writer

patented a 329-acre tract which he called West Boston, and here on Raccoon Creek at the present site of Burgettstown he built a grist mill.

## First Victim of Traffic

Four years afterwards, in 1789, Sebastian Burgett became the first victim of a highway accident in Southwestern Pennsylvania. Planning enlargement of his mill, he drove to Pittsburgh for a load of castings. On the return trip over a rough road through the forest, his wagon was upset when he was within two miles of home. His crushed body was found under the castings.

Roxanna Burgett remained here and mothered the five children born of her union to Sebastian as well as the three from his first marriage. In January, 1795, her stepson, George Burgett, had a town laid out, retaining the name of West Boston.

David Bruce, storekeeper at nearby Bavington, bought the first lot and moved his store and family here the same year.

A new town sprang up a mile north of the original town when the Pittsburgh & Steubenville railroad was projected in 1854. It was called Abeline. Subsequently the road became the Pittsburgh, Cincinnati, Chicago and St. Louis Railroad (today's Pan Handle) and a postoffice, called Cardville, was established in 1865. This town quickly became a prominent stock, wool and grain market and one of the biggest shipping points between Pittsburgh and Columbus.

In March, 1781, after four years of effort by citizens, the borough of Burgettstown was chartered, taking in the old and new sections. C. M. Elder was the first burgess.

Burgettstown

William A. White-Unknown Date



Unknown Artist



Marsha Pavan & Mary Brunner

Fire hydrants painted for the Centennial





Dave Pusateri



Kay Studa

Fire hydrants painted for the Centennial



**Burgettstown Chamber of Commerce**

# Burgettstown Community Is In Critical Defense Area

Washington County, a part of the Pittsburgh district, is in a "critical defense" area, delegates attending a regional conference on Civil Defense were told last Friday at California State Teachers College at California.

The government disclosed that 193 cities are rated as probable targets of atomic attacks. Pittsburgh was listed, including Allegheny, Beaver, Washington and Westmoreland Counties with a combined population of 2,213,236.

Legislation pertaining to Civil Defense in the state, county and municipality, and duties of civil defense units were discussed at the regional Civil Defense Conference held at California State Teachers College.

Representatives, totalling 75, were present from Allegheny, Beaver, Washington, Greene, Fayette, Westmoreland and Somerset counties. Washington County and more than 40 of its Civil Defense personnel attended. Present from Burgettstown was Chief of Police, Henry Vega, Earl Pefrucci, Jack Noy, head of Civil Defense in Smith township and Henry Pirih from the Climax Co.

Dr. Richard Gertsell, State Director of Civil Defense, presided at the morning and afternoon sessions.

In discussion of Civil Defense legislation a pertinent question was whether auxiliary police can make arrests when they see persons violating rules during an alert. Dr. Gertsell announced that the State Council of Civil Defense will decide the issue within the month.

Col. Edward Feather, training officer of the State Council, announced that training classes are

in session through December at Slippery Rock State Teachers College. Ogontz Training Center, State Teachers College at Lock Haven and that other training courses can be set up in this area where there is a demand for instruction. The courses are on rescue work, wardens duties, welfare work organization and operation for department stores and hotel operators, building control, transportation and traffic, organization and operations for clergy and church institutions.

Mrs. Kwen Zahrfos, head of the State Welfare Service of Civil Defense, discussed the part women play in the program as to mass feeding, registration, caring for children and coordination of the Red Cross work.

Capt. Emmett Donovan, Harrisburg, of the Pennsylvania State Police, who is on special security assignment for the State Civil Defense, talked on the use of auxiliary policemen during an alert. He also announced training schools for auxiliary policemen and that plans are being made to hold these classes at Washington, Burgettstown, Canonsburg, Charleroi and East Bethlehem Township.

It is the aim of the State Council to train 100,000 auxiliary policemen. The course includes eight three-hour sessions.

County municipalities represented at the conference were: Burgettstown, California, Charleroi, Canonsburg, Claysville, Elco, Roscoe, Ellsworth, Finleyville, Long Branch, Marianna, Monongahela, New Eagle, North Charleroi, West Brownsville, Stockdale, Washington, South Franklin, Amwell, Carroll, Smith, Union and Somerset Townships.

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**PUBLIC PRESENTATION OF PARK TO THE COMMUNITY  
WILL BE MADE AT 11 O'CLOCK. ALL FACILITIES ARE FREE**

**Outdoor Recreation Center Covers 72 Acres Woodlands**

The formal public presentation of the Burgettstown Community Park and Pool for the pleasure and use of residents of this district will be made at the pool on Wednesday, July 4th at 11 o'clock. James F. Hillman, President of the Harmon Creek Coal Corporation will make the presentation to the members of the permanent Board of Directors, Rev. W. J. McCashin, President; W. P. Miller, Vice President; Lee R. McKinney, Secretary-Treasurer and Thomas C. Linn and W. J. Whalen, Jr.

A community picnic and Fourth of July Observance is planned for the opening day of the park. Following a brief

presentation ceremony, the pool will be opened and the facilities of the picnic grounds placed at the disposal of those present. All facilities of the Park, containing 72 acres, will be entirely free and for the use of the public, with the exception of pool privileges. Season tickets at reduced rates because of the advanced season will be placed on sale on July 4th.

The board of Directors announces the following personnell will be in charge of park operation: Miss Ann McGregor, Park Manager and First Life Guard; Jack Miller, Assistant life guard; Mary Lee Puckett, cashier and Mary Plaza, refreshment stand clerk.

Although completion of many park projects will be delayed this year, many facilities will be ready for use on opening day. Water, state tested for purity has been piped from a well on the Harmon Creek Coal company's property to the pool and for fountains about the picnic grounds. Six ovens, picnic tables and chairs have been completed, and the park shelter is under roof. Recreational facilities will include see saws and swings for the children, two mushball diamonds and shuffleboard courts for others.

The Burgettstown Business Men's Association, American Legion and other civic organizations of the Community plan to participate in opening day ceremonies at Burgettstown's fine new park, made possible by the Harmon Creek Coal Corporation.

## Swimming Class At Pool For Beginners

Burgettstown Community Park opened Saturday, June 5, with Mr. and Mrs. Michael Bihum being the purchasers of the first season tickets.

Jack Miller, life guard, announces a beginners' class in swimming which will start at once. Children wishing to have instruction should be present Monday through Friday from 12 until 1 o'clock. Parents are requested to cooperate in sending their children at these hours.

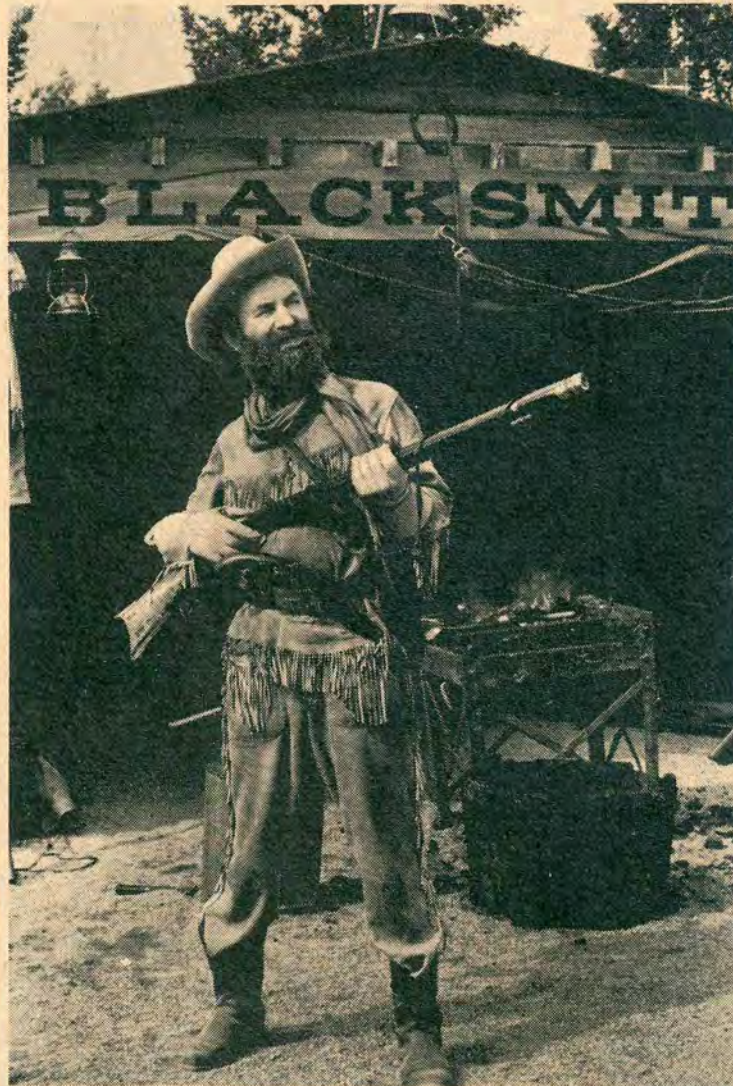
Reservations for the shelter house are pouring in and dates for parties there should be made at once. Call 3696 for reservations.

Ilde Zamberlan, who is in charge of the girls' bath house, reports that two young girls had to be reminded to remove shoes before entering the pool Saturday.

Gerald Mann is seriously concerned over Director "Chuck" Mulholland's ability to remove the first joint of his index finger.

Among visitors at the pool Saturday were the William Craigs and Alfred Christy's and some of the Highland avenue young people as well as a host of others not acquainted with the pool personnel.

## Western Troupe to be Featured at Community Picnic August 15 - 16



Steve Tomasic and his famous Wagon Train Pioneers will be on hand for the annual Community Picnic Saturday and Sunday, August 15 and 16, it was announced today.

Stage coach and Conestoga wagon rides to the Community Park will be free of charge to young and old. Other old vehicles of the Tomasic collection will be on display and in use as part of the celebration, including a surrey with the fringe on top.

Details of the group's Park appearance and the program to be offered will be announced by the committee next week.

The rough and ready Tomasic troupe has recently appeared at Fort Ligonier and is scheduled into Kennywood Park on August 20. They have added color and action to festivals, centennials and fairs for the past ten years, including the Allegheny County Fair and the Pittsburgh Bicentennial.

## Playground Season To End Aug. 24 40 Attend Picnic

Six felt letter B's were awarded to children of the vicinity at the playground picnic held at the Community Park last Friday. The boys receiving letters on a basis of points for winning various activities were Mike Harick, 125 points; Wayne Stewart, 90, and Dick Clark, 25. The girls receiving letters were Joan Collins, 90 points, Patty Ivery, 60, and Phyllis Gray, 42.

Points were given for diving, swimming and ducking contests in the pool and for standing broad jump, for hitting a mushball for distance and in foot racing.

Additional prizes were awarded for games. Dick Stewart won a puzzle for a bean-guessing contest. Veronica Urbany received a drawing book for a bean target toss. Eleanor Reed was given a piggy bank for a foot race, and Bobby Ann Taylor won a toy Scottie dog for the O'Leary ball bouncing contest.

About 40 children participated in the events. The playground will close on August 24.

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## **Seek Director For Activities At Community Park**

Members of the Board of Trustees of Burgettstown Community Park will meet this week to make plans for the formal opening of the park and swimming pool on Saturday, June 5, the day after schools in the district close for summer vacation.

Rev. W. J. McCashin, President of the Board announced that applications for the position of Park Manager and Athletic Director will be received. Bob Canning, U.H.S. Coach who held this position last year will not be available since he plans to spend the summer in Missouri visiting relatives.

The park is in tip-top shape for the summer season and it is expected that many thousand adults and children will take advantage of the many fine recreational and out door sports and swimming that will be available.

Harmon Creek Coal Company has recently planted over \$2000 evergreens to form a border along the outer rim of the park facing on the Bavington road.

**Seek Director for Activities at Community Park  
Burgettstown Enterprise-May 13, 1948 Edition**

## Swim Pool Tickets Now On Sale

Burgettstown Community Park swimming pool season tickets are now on sale at local stores in the area. The pool will open on Memorial Day, Wednesday, May 30 at 1 p.m.

Season tickets may be purchased at the following stores:

### BURGETTSTOWN

Petrucci's News Store, Petrucci's Market, Filippini Superette, Bendick's Market and the Burgettstown Enterprise.

### LANGELOTH

E & O Confectionery and Vallina's Market.

### SLOVAN

R. Filippini & Sons Market and P & G Chevrolet Garage.

### ATLASBURG

McCullough's Store and Blue's Market.

### JOFFRE

Deliere Texaco Service.

### BULGER

Leunis & Hermes.

### MIDWAY

Pfau's Service Store.

### BAVINGTON

Prado's Store & Carl Sabatasse Market.

### FLORENCE

Farm Restaurant.

### FRANCIS MINE

Joe Fuller Store.

### AVELLA

Spataros' Market.

**Swim Pool Tickets**  
**Burgettstown Enterprise- May 30, 1962 Edition**

## **Gala Water Show Slated For Park Pool On Sunday**

Charles Mulholland, Burgettstown Community Park manager, announces a gala water extravaganza to be presented in the Park pool on Sunday afternoon, June 24.

Featuring district mermaids and mermen, the program will include swimming races, diving exhibitions and a Water Follies festival.

Opening the afternoon's performance will be a series of swimming races: (1)-Forty Yards free style for ages 12-14, 14-16, 17 and over. (2)-24 yards backstroke for ages 14-16, 17 and over. (3)-24 yards breast stroke for ages 14-16, 17 and over. (4)-24 yards side stroke for ages 14-16, 17 and over. (5)-Floating for ages 12-14. (6)-Bobbing for ages 10-12. (7)-Distance underwater for ages 10-12, 12-14, 14-16, 17 and over. (8)-12 yards free style for ages 10-12.

Individual Diving will have 10 divers going out after honors.

Partner Diving will show four divers battling for top recognition.

The Water Follies presentation will show performers in three scenes: Comedian divers, Mermaid acts and a huge Water Show.

## Many Activities Scheduled On 4th Of July At Burgettstown Community Park

Fun for the entire family will be the main program at Burgettstown Community Park next week on Wednesday, July 4. Park Manager Dom Astorina announced this week that the park will open from 10 a.m. until 9 p.m. on the Fourth.

Highlighting the day's events will be presentation of swimming certificates to community youngsters who have passed Beginning and Intermediate Swimming tests. Certificates will also be awarded for Junior and Senior Life Saving.

Beginning at 10:30 a.m., the park staff assisted by extra helpers will hold field and track contests and games with prizes for all age groups. Included in the events will be a balloon breaking race, sack race, father and son three-legged race, and baseball throw. The gals can participate in an egg toss contest, life saver game and paper bag busting contest. There will be many free prizes for winners to be highlighted by a watermelon eating contest at 2 p.m.

The park has ordered 1,000 pounds of prime Georgia watermelons for the watermelon eating contest. There is no charge to enter the games and special events.

At 12 noon the American Red Cross will present a water show that will include a demonstration of Life Saving techniques. Disrobing in the water, tired swimmers carry, rescuing a struggling victim and artificial respiration will be demonstrated. Also to be shown will be the five phases of beginning swimming.

American Red Cross Summer Water Program instructors taking part in the demonstration are Frank Cargiene, director, J. Scott Luppino, assistant director and the following water safety aides: Janet Boling, Ellen Quirk, Mack Haning, Dave Brock and Jim Markel.

**Many Activities Scheduled on 4<sup>th</sup> of July at Community Park  
Burgettstown Enterprise- June 28, 1962 Edition**

*Second Annual Community Picnic  
Scheduled Sunday, August 18*

Burgettstown Area's Second Annual Community Picnic will be held at Burgettstown Community Park on Sunday afternoon, August 18 beginning at 1:30 p.m.

Leading off this year's picnic will be an exhibition baseball game starring top teams in the Li'l League. At 3 p.m. there will be a band concert followed by a water show at 4 p.m. A brief speaking program will be held from 4:30 p.m. followed by a picnic supper.

Local families are invited to bring their basket picnics. It is also suggested that families planning a picnic bring their own folding table and chairs. Honored guests will be served a buffet picnic lunch in the shelter house.

This year's picnic will again see Philip Arnone's band give a one-hour concert from 3 p.m. to 4 p.m. The band, members of the Canonsburg AFL Musicians local, are planning a light concert of summertime favorites. Present plans call for 30 musicians to play.

The Burgettstown Area Water Clowns will present a bigger and better water show than last year according to a spokesman for the group. In addition they are planning a penny-dive for the kids and a watermelon polo tilt.

Co-chairmen of the Community Picnic are Eugene Vosburg, publisher of the Enterprise and James Riddile, president of the Burgettstown Lions Club. Mrs. Margaret Latella is secretary and Robert Tidball, treasurer. Mrs. Josephine Gilliland is in charge of arrangements for the picnic buffet for honored guests. Decorations will be by Sara Orga and Anna Lee. Hulick. Mrs. George Bish is in charge of invitations.

**Second Annual Community Picnic  
Burgettstown Enterprise-August 8, 1963 Edition**



**Front Row, L-R:** Rinda Yukevich, John Zuccaro, Sue Kidd, Dorcia Yukevich, Frank Spatharos, Eddie Roberts, Denise Smith, Christina Campa, and Benita Campbell. **Second Row;** Flossy Sendora, life guard, Charles Kreszock, Blase Kowalski, Dan Kowalski Darla Kidd, Debbie Cunningham, Susan Rhinehart, Kermit Kowalski, Harry Russell, Mark Mungello, Larry Williamson, Ardie Roberts, and Dom Astorina, manager. **Third Row,** Phil Eaton, life guard, Susan Robinson, Cynthia Pappas, Patty Riddle, Elizabeth King, Kathleen Kophazi, Elizabeth Kophazi, Cathy Smalley, and Kriss Riddle.

**Swimming Classes Conducted by Red Cross at Burgettstown Community Park**  
**Burgettstown Enterprise-July 13, 1961 Edition**

## Swimming Classes Conducted By Red Cross At Burgettstown Community Park



Twenty-eight students of the beginners' swimming class held at the Burgettstown Community park received certificates upon completion of the three-week course Friday, June 30.

Park Manager Dom Astorina reported daily lessons were conducted by the local life guards in conjunction with the program of the American Red Cross.

Another class, for intermediate age group, consisted of in-

struction in the fundamentals of life-saving. This group received certificates also.

Members of the swimming class are pictured as follows:

First row, left to right: Rinda Yukevich, John Zuccaro, Sue Kidd, Dorcia Yukevich, Frank Spatharos, Eddie Roberts, Denise Smith, Christina Campa, and Benita Campbell.

Second row: Flossy Sendora, life guard; Charles Kreszock,

Blase Kowalski, Dan Kowalski, Darla Kidd, Debbie Cunningham, Susan Rinehart, Kermit Kowalski, Harry Russell, Mark Mungello, Larry Williamson, Audie Roberts and Dom Astorina, manager.

Third Row: Phil Eaton, life guard; Susan Robinson, Cynthia Pappas, Patty Riddile, Elizabeth King, Kathleen Kophazi, Elizabeth Kophazi, Cathy Smalley and Kriss Riddile.

(Cindrich photo)

**Swimming Classes Conducted by Red Cross at Burgettstown Community Park**  
**Burgettstown Enterprise-July 13, 1961 Edition**

## **110 Children Attend Swim Classes At Burgettstown Park**

Swimming lessons for Raccoon Valley area children have started at the Burgettstown Community Park pool. Miss Ellen MacDonald, Executive Secretary of the Washington County Chapter American Red Cross reports that approximately 110 children attended the opening day lessons on Monday, June 11.

Classes will be held daily, Monday through Thursday from 12 noon until 1 p.m. The lessons will continue for three weeks ending Thursday, June 28. There is no charge for the lessons. Red Cross instructors and Burgettstown Park lifeguards present the swim instruction as part of the Red Cross Water Safety Program.

Included in the program are classes for beginners intermediate swimmers and Junior and Senior Life Saving. The instructors request that children be at least seven years old.

Frank Cargiene of Canonsburg is the program director. He is assisted by Scott Luppino also of Canonsburg. Local lifeguards helping with the instruction are Charles Farulli, James Spanogians and Raymond Simpson.

**110 Children Attend Swim Class  
Burgettstown Enterprise- June 18, 1962 Edition**



GRADISON AUTO BUS COMPANY

**special bus schedule to and from**  
**BURGETTSTOWN COMMUNITY PARK**  
 MONDAYS THROUGH FRIDAYS

LEAVE		LEAVE PARK	
Langeloth (Eddies)	11:30	To Slovan, Atlasburg and Langeloth	4:20
Atlasburg (Blues)	11:50		
Slovan (P. & G. Market)	11:55	To Raccoon, Bulger and Cherry Valley	5:10
Slovan (Yadricks)	12:00		
Burgettstown (Pompes)	12:05		
Burgettstown Bus Station	12:10		
Arrive at Park	12:20		
<hr/>		<hr/>	
LEAVE		FARES	
Bulger (Pratas)	11:45	one way	round trip
Cherry Valley corner	12:00	Atlasburg	20c 25c
Raccoon (Delieres)	12:15	Slovan	15c 20c
Arrive at Park	12:30	Langeloth	15c 20c
		Burgettstown	10c 15c
		Raccoon	15c 20c
		Bulger	20c 25c
		Cherry Valley	20c 25c

## Officials Inspect Park Development

James F. Hillman, President of the Harmon Creek Coal Company and Carl Ackley, Architect from the firm of Ackley, Bradley and Dav, Architects and Engineers of Sewickley were in Burgettstown on Monday, to make a tour of inspection of Burgettstown's Community Park and Swimming Pool which is being developed by the Harmon Creek company on Bavington Hill. Mr. Hillman stated that the pouring of concrete for the pool proper has been completed and that construction on the bath houses will begin very soon. The Company plans to have the Park in readiness for use by early summer.

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## Major Pool Repairs Delay Park Opening; Grass Is Cut Ready For Park Picnics

Charles Mulholland, who begins his 12th year as manager of the Burgettstown Community Park announces that the Park Board of Trustees hope to open the park officially between June 10 and 15. Grass is being cut and the park put into shape generally for picnics this week. Delay of the opening has been caused by major repairs to the swimming pool. However, the board has made arrangements to put the pool in tip-top shape with a major repair expenditure of \$5,000.00. Work on the pool was delayed by inclement late spring weather and work on the repairs could not be started until April. A complete new system of piping in all lines and drains in both adult and baby pools is being installed, which also means a new concrete job for the lips and aprons of both pools. The bath house roof will be repaired and the entire place painted.

Members of the park board, who are supervising the repairs are Thomas C. Linn, president; Earl Petrucci, secretary - treasurer; Charles Mulholland, manager; also Robert Stottlemyer and Vance Lee.

Mulholland will have for his assistant this year, Dominick Astorina. Park personell has been selected as follows: refreshments, Frances Melnyk, Frances Antonetti and Charles Farulli; bath house, Wilma Toth and Renna Malone; life guards, Phil Eaton, Thomas Garcy, Floryan Sendora and Paul Morgan; caretaker, Tom Skof.

Lessons for beginners in swimming will be given to children 6 years of age or over by the life-guards, starting about June 22.

The repair program in effect at the park will also include repair of the roadways and fences.

**Major Pool Repairs Delay Park Opening;  
Grass is Cut Ready for Park Picnics  
The Burgettstown Enterprise-June 20, 1960 Edition**

## New Bus Schedule For Community Park

Because of an apparent lack of interest in certain communities, the bus schedule to the Community Park has been revised and will become effective next Monday.

Jim Matalik, Park Recreation Director, said only the communities of Burgettstown, Atlasburg and Bulger had shown any real interest in taking advantage of the free transportation. Many times, he said, the buses would arrive at the Park nearly empty.

The new schedule will provide pick-up at Raccoon, Bulger, Cherry Valley, Atlasburg, Slovan and Erie Mine every Monday and Wednesday, and pick-up at Langeloth and Burgettstown every Tuesday and Thursday. Francis Mine and Avella will be scheduled at the Community Park every Friday.

The schedule for pick-ups will be as follows:

Raccoon 10 a.m., Bulger 10:10 a.m., Cherry Valley 10:15 a.m., Atlasburg 10:25 a.m. and Slovan and Erie Mine at 10:30 a.m. The buses will arrive at Langeloth at 10 a.m. and at Burgettstown at 10:10 a.m. Bus time at Francis Mine will be 10:45 a.m.

The buses will leave the Community Park for home destinations each day at 4 p.m. Avella will provide its own transportation.

A full schedule of activities is slated at the Park, Matalik said, including Little League baseball, basketball or volleyball, girls' basketball and swimming.

**New Bus Schedule for Community Park  
Burgettstown Enterprise-June 24, 1964 Edition**



**Long Line of Eager Swimmers waiting for the Pool to Open  
Burgettstown Community Park-Unknown Year**

## Council Appoints Committee To Consider Extending Borough Limits; May Include Harmon Creek and Land Near Hindman Avenue 7-10-47

The enthusiasm of Burgettstown business men who have aligned themselves to promote a "Greater Burgettstown Community" swept through the Burgettstown borough council chamber Monday evening when Property Owner Charles Scott and Borough Solicitor Edward Sciamanna made suggestions for extending Burgettstown lines to include not only the Harmon Creek district, for some time under discussion, but also land southeast of town beyond Hindman avenue.

Councilmen, eager to go along with the new movement to make Burgettstown a thriving community, were of the opinion that a project to extend borough limits should begin immediately. A motion made by Wayne Culley and seconded by Jame Longo provided that a committee begin work on the project at once.

The tentative plan is to make the future line run on the north side of town from the Harmon Creek residential section, which would be included in the borough to Center avenue, near the Wray property up the hill toward the water tank, there to join a line running eastward from the south to include land beyond Hindman avenue extension.

But the future of the Burgettstown community lies not only in an extension of the borough's boundaries, councilmen realize. The present community must be made attractive to industry and to possible future residents.

One of the greatest problems facing Burgettstown council is the question of sewage disposal. At present councilmen believe that present the quantity of acid emptied into Raccoon Creek from the American Zinc and Chemical Company insures the sanitary condition of the water. With the acid flow stopped, an acute problem in sanitation will have to be met at once by borough council and Smith township supervisors. Councilmen agreed at the Monday evening meeting that a special session should be held in the near future with Smith township supervisors to discuss the future conditions of Raccoon Creek.

### Sewer Report Heard

Particular problems concerning sewers in the borough were discussed. The sewer committee reported that Paul Heitzenrater, investigator for the state, had recommended that a storm sewer be placed on Shady avenue to service property owners living beyond the Friday property to Stella street. The sewer committee together with property owners is meeting sometime this week for laying necessary arrangements for laying the sewer.

J. O. Fredericks was again present at the Monday evening meeting to urge that some action be taken to eliminate the sewage hazard near his property.

Running from the Frederick's property to the creek is a sewer which has been closed by the filling in of the creek near the Cappazoli garage. The State Department of Forests and Streams was notified by council of the sewage menace, but to date no action has been taken to eliminate the condition. A motion was made by Councilman Wayne Culley to run levels from the end of the existing sanitary sewer at the Tope and Mungello properties so that some method may be devised for the laying of a new sewer to eradicate the menace. Council also agreed to write the Department of Forests and Streams for information concerning its action.

Bids were submitted by the Black Top Paving Company at Donora and the Russell Supply Company at Bridgeville for oiling the unpaved streets in Burgettstown. Black Top Paving Company was granted the bid at 10.5 cents per gallon.

At the suggestion of the Borough Solicitor Edward Sciamanna the borough fathers voted to investigate the possibilities of taking out public liability insurance. Wayne Culley W. P. Miller and Harold Malone were appointed to do the investigating.

Council agreed to accept a simplified accounting system prepared for Burgettstown Borough by the Economy League. Representatives Gibson, Fox and Mawhinney of the Economy League were present at the July 7 meeting to explain the system.

The burgess reported collecting \$120. from those fined for drunkenness, disorderly conduct and illegal parking. A similar report was made by Chief of Police Sam Powell but included an additional \$15.00 collected at Square Whalen's office.

# Council Covers Large Volume Of Business At Regular Monthly Meeting

The Burgettstown Borough Council met in regular session Monday evening at 8 p.m., in the borough building with the following present: Joseph Cunningham, J. R. Canning, Monte L. Scott, H. L. Buckwalter, George Wagner, Solicitor E. V. Sciamanna, Phil Gray, Clair Martin, street commissioner, Dena Taucher, J. J. Reed.

President Cunningham, called the meeting to order and Mr. Reed, in the absence of secretary Mrs. Roberta Hemphill, read minutes of the last meeting. A correction was added to the minutes, requested by Mr. Gray, that the poll of votes regarding the payment of expense for added police protection, be recorded.

Mrs. John Hallahan of Dinsmore ave., appeared before Council to make arrangements for payment of borough taxes. She requested a lower assessment for her property and was informed by the solicitor that this is done through the County Commissioners' office.

Eugene Petricca, of Burgettstown Farm Supply, was present to request exemption from the borough mercantile tax since most of his business is from out of town. Council explained to Mr. Petricca that an exemption could not be made since his business is located within the borough.

A representative of Penn Toro, Incorporated of Pittsburgh, J. W. Westhead, sales engineer, attended the meeting to explain in detail to council members the operation of a power vacuum street sweeper. The machine is priced at approximately \$2,155 and can sweep streets clean at the rate of three miles per hour. Mr. Martin requested the matter be turned over to the street and property committees to arrange specifications for the advertising of bids. The motion was seconded by Mr. Scott.

Rennison Malone of the fire Co., presented a diagram of the proposed addition to the building and only one correction was made in the location of an entrance. The building committee will secure an estimate of labor and material expense to be submitted to Council.

The following bills were read and approved for payment with all current bills in a motion by Mr. Gray and seconded by Mr. Wagner: Margaret Walton, watching fire and police telephone, \$9.90; National Stores, purchasing of 2

Main street extension should be made a "one way" street, thereby eliminating left hand turns off Route 18 for south-bound traffic. Council members agreed this left hand turn is hazardous in view of the railroad crossing since there are times when an auto waiting for north-bound traffic to cease in order to make a left hand turn, holds up other cars following, on and above the railroad crossing. If during this time, when traffic is held on the crossing, a train should approach and close the gates, it would prove a very hazardous situation.

Council members stated this situation also exists for north bound traffic waiting to make a similar turn above the crossing to Florence and Whitaker avenues and Tenan street. To remedy this situation, council agreed to request the aid of a safety traffic engineer to make a complete survey of that area.

Police Chief Vega was given permission to return several parking meters for repair. A motion by Mr. Scott and seconded by Mr. Wagner, was made for completion of a sewer needed near the P. J. McMahon property, South Main st. at an estimated cost of \$600.

Solicitor Sciamanna submitted a brief report taken from the Borough code, Section 1125, outlining the Burgess' power to hire extra police protection. The code stated Mr. Canning was within his rights if an emergency condition existed at the time.

Mr. Canning reported to council the amount of \$20 was due Police Chief Vega for the purchase of a siren for the police car. Buckwalter motioned that Vega be reimbursed for this amount, seconded by Scott. Mr. Buckwalter also made a motion that the extra siren owned by the borough be donated to the fire company, seconded by Wagner.

The placing of "no parking" signs along North Main street and "stop signs" on Highland and Hindman avenues were left to the judgment of the police department. Canning requested approval from council to purchase a box of shells for police target practice and the request was granted. "No parking" signs along Whitaker avenue have been posted temporarily for a try-out period before a resolution is adopted. Canning also

presented a diagram of the proposed addition to the building and only one correction was made in the location of an entrance. The building committee will secure an estimate of labor and material expense to be submitted to Council.

The following bills were read and approved for payment with all current bills in a motion by Mr. Gray and seconded by Mr. Wagner: Margaret Walton, watching fire and police telephone, \$9.90; National Stores, purchasing of 2 flags, \$23.30; Center Amoco Service Station, fire dept., \$9.72; hydrant rental, \$660.00; E. Allison, \$53.10; Lawson & Dallaria, \$1.50; American LaFrance Company, \$13.59; Burgettstown Farm Supply, \$242.42; Commonwealth of Pennsylvania-compensation insurance, \$265.88; Scott Service Company, \$8.83; Bell Telephone Company, fire company, \$6.25; borough, \$16.75; Union Coal Company, \$19.26; Frank Pappas & Sons, \$5.60; Commonwealth Sanitation Company, \$6.19; street lights, \$347.43; Whalen Welding Machine Shop, \$39.00

Burgess Canning made the following police report for March: fines and arrests, \$50; overloads, \$75; pin ball and pool table licenses, \$35; parking tickets, \$30; meters, \$230.50; making a total of revenue, \$420.50. During March, 46 parking tickets were issued; 20 by Vega and 26 by Malone. Acceptance of the police report was made in a motion by Mr. Gray, seconded by Mr. Martin.

Mr. Reed read a letter from the Pennsylvania railroad stating that the smog condition near Center ave., station had been eliminated.

A resolution was approved by Mr. Gray and Mr. Martin that the secretary contact Senator Lane to tell him Council is in favor of passing Bill 344 in the state legislature concerning fuel reimbursements.

George Hanna was present to inquire on what action had been taken for the installation of a sanitary sewer on Culley street. After much discussion, the men were informed a meeting with borough engineer, George Ames, will be called within a week to make arrangements for its installation.

Clair Martin reported that due to rain, work has not been started on planting of trees along the creek banks. Mr. Gray motioned that council make the street laborers available to chairmen of the creek beautification committee for tree planting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Wagner. Mr. Martin was informed by the solicitor that tax liens and mercantile tax notices have been issued.

Mr. Gray, chairman of the proposed playground project to be jointly sponsored by the borough council and school board reported arrangements can be made for leasing of a lot at the rear of Westminster Presbyterian church. In a resolution by H. L. Buckwalter and Phil Gray, the committee was given authority to arrange details for the lease.

George Wagner reported that many streets within the borough, as yet have not been named. Council agreed to erect signs after Mr. Wagner submits a report of unnamed streets at the next meeting.

Mr. Buckwalter told council that a parking meter should be installed on Main street extension near the State Liquor Store as there appears to be ample space for one. He also stated that the

Wagner.

The placing of "no parking" signs along North Main street and "stop signs" on Highland and Hindman avenues were left to the judgment of the police department. Canning requested approval from council to purchase a box of shells for police target practice and the request was granted. "No parking" signs along Whitaker avenue have been posted temporarily for a try-out period before a resolution is adopted. Canning also reported that recommendations have not been received for the vacancy on the Board of Health. Stray dogs has been an increasing problem and the Burgess was authorized to request the aid of a county officer for the disposing of such animals at a future date. Council approved two weeks vacation for policemen, the time to be optional.

Mr. Canning suggested to council that all candidates for the office of council be invited to attend meetings to become familiar with proceedings. Council agreed and extends an invitation to candidates to attend any future meeting. Mr. Cunningham will contact candidates. Adjournment was made at 11 p. m.

## RELIEF WORKS CORPS REDUCED FOR COUNTY

Increased Demand for Employables  
Causes Dismissal of Large  
Group of Relief Workers

About a dozen persons who have been for a long time employed as investigators or clerical workers in the administration of direct relief in the Washington-Greene area have been dismissed in the last month, it was reported last week by Area Administrator Arno S. McClellan.

The dismissals, he states, are the most recent of many that have been made to reduce the administrative personnel because of the decline in the number of direct relief cases. By August 15th, McClellan states, the two-county staff will number 91 clerical workers, investigators and supervisors, the lowest total in several years.

The largest staff ever employed in the district was several years ago when 297 were at work administering both direct and work relief; since that time work relief has been taken over by the WPA organization and only direct relief is now handled by the office headquarters by McClellan.

"We are retrenching as fast as the case load drops," McClellan said in a statement.

For the third time within a month, issuance of direct relief has been stopped at Washington, as throughout the State, due to exhaustion of State funds. Relief orders that normally would have been mailed out last week, amounting to about \$4,000, have not been issued and all orders henceforth will be held up until cash for relief is made available by the State Legislature.

Last week 47 persons took an examination to qualify as relief investigators. The test was given in the Washington high school to make new eligible list, from which persons will be called when vacancies occur.

**Relief Works Corps Reduced for County**  
**Burgettstown Enterprise-August 13, 1936 Edition**



## COUNCIL HEARS PLEAS OF UNEMPLOYED MEN

Representatives of Unemployment  
Committee Visits Council  
Seeking Relief

A large number of men and women of Burgettstown, Slovan, Avella and the surrounding local area, forming a parade, marched to the Burgettstown municipal building on Monday night and sought admission to the council chamber to present certain demands, to the town law makers. Five of the delegation finally were admitted and given an opportunity to speak.

E. F. Movrich of Slovan, the principal spokesman for the visitors, delivered a carefully worded address to the council, outlining the poverty and distress of many unemployed mine workers of the district. He charged that a number of unemployed were being discriminated against by agents of certain charitable organizations and asked that all be accorded equal rights in the distribution of charity funds.

He also presented a typewritten copy of certain "demands" which he said would be made upon municipal, county, state and Federal governing bodies. The demands, in brief terms, are as follows:

Immediate relief for unemployed and backlisted miners by a donation of \$150 to married men and \$50 to single men; further donations of \$15 per week to married men, with \$3 per week additional for each dependent, and \$10 per week to single men; free food, shoes, clothing and transportation to the schools for children of unemployed men; free gas, light, heat and rent and no evictions of unemployed. Also, demands are made for free milk for children, play grounds and protection on the streets for children; social insurance from the government; no wage cuts and a 7-hour day with no reduction in wages.

The members of council gave close and uninterrupted attention to the main speaker and to four others who spoke briefly. Following their remarks President F. H. Illig told the visitors that the council had no jurisdiction in the matter of school transportation and that the council was without funds or authority to comply with any of the demands made by the delegation. He promised, however, to seek the advice of the borough solicitor and ascertain if the council would be in a position to do anything for the unemployed men in the near future.

Members of the council expressed sympathy and deplored the fact that due to so many calls for aid all local charity funds had long since become exhausted and the people of the community generally had given about all they could to help those in trouble. All stated an entire willingness and wish to help the unfortunate people, but pointed out they were but servants of the people in the handling of the public money and that the money derived from taxation barely met the urgent needs of the town for necessary expenses, many needed improvements being held up by the need of funds.

The visitors were orderly and conducted themselves properly at all times. Just what action may at some future time be taken by the council is a matter that will have to be determined by conditions, largely of a financial nature, it is assumed. The people of the town regret the great suffering among many unemployed men and their families and are doing as much as they can to relieve the situation. But the calls have been many, extending over a long period and nearly everybody is in almost the same situations.



**Burgettstown Easter Parade-1955**

*Courtesy of Fort Vance Historical Society*

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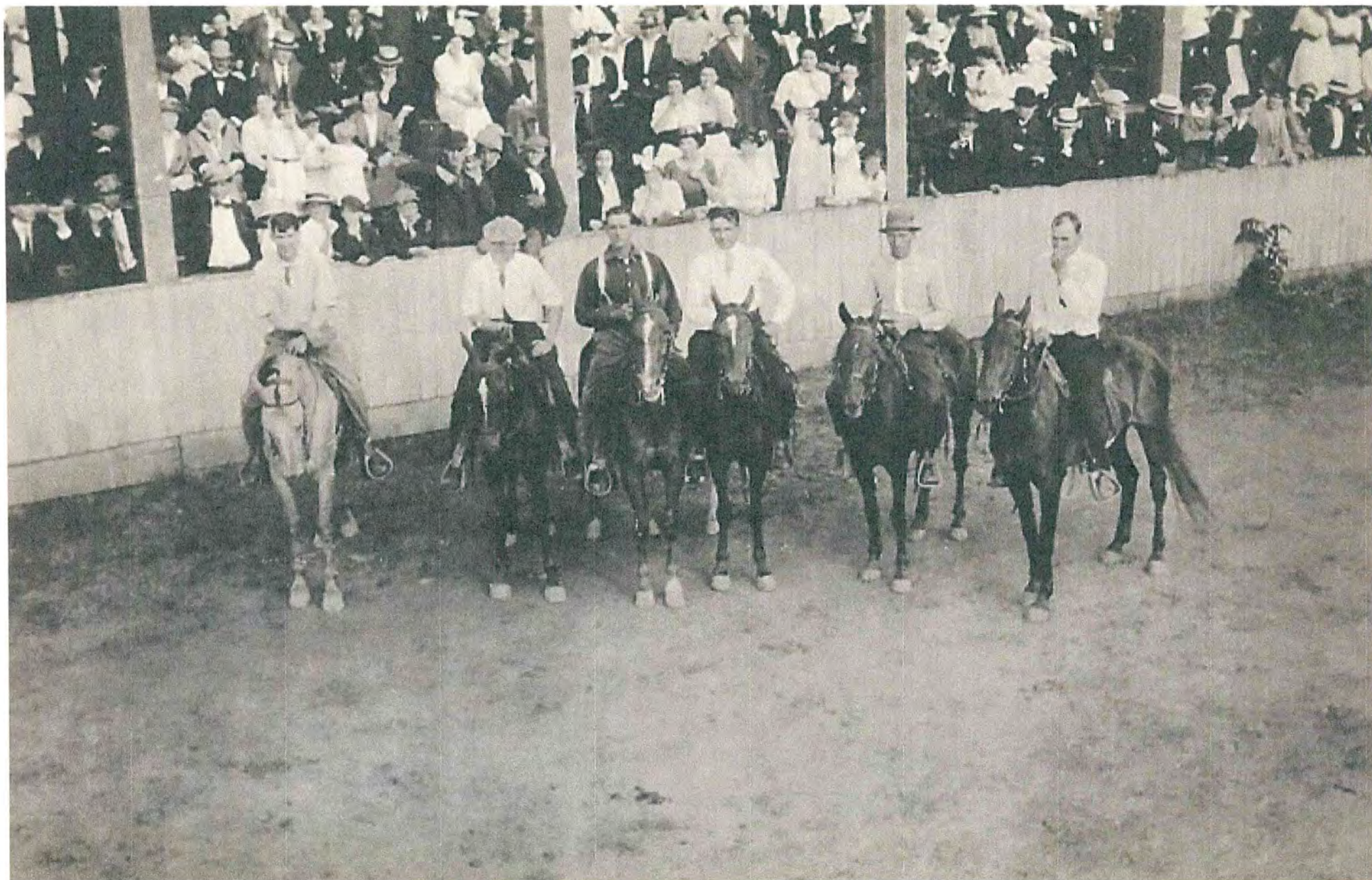
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**BURGETTSTOWN, PA.**



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**Unknown, Unknown, Unknown, W.F. Core, Harry Fullum, Noah**  
**Burgettstown Fair Grounds Grandstands-July 4, Abt. 1910**

# Citizen Submits Proposal 10-13 For Big Flood Memorial

Suggests Council Place Tablet for  
Commemoration of High Water  
of September, 1912

The Enterprise is in receipt of a letter from a prominent citizen urging that a date, which seems to be important in the history of the town, be commemorated by the placing of a tablet on the new bridge. The matter is brought to the attention of the newspaper in order to get a slant on public opinion before a petition is made to the borough council. The letter follows:

"As we are about to have a new and permanent improvement in the town, in the way of a modern concrete bridge on Main street where the street crosses Raccoon creek, immediately below the junction of Turkey creek (Dinsmore branch) in the borough, would it not be well for the City Fathers to take action to have cast a metal tablet in commemoration of the great flood of September, 1912, to be built in the abutment wall, with the date thereon and place in a position to indicate the height of the flood waters at its crest, as it swept irresistably down the valley and through the town on that memorable occasion?

"This terrible night of September 2, 1912, was by far the most outstanding demonstration of the power of nature ever witnessed in the Raccoon Valley since the advent of the white man in the western wilderness. And an indelible record of its power and scope should be established while yet reliable evidence of the catastrophe may be obtained from living witnesses."

The letter is printed verbatim it came to the Enterprise. This the first the present publisher ever heard of a disastrous flood in the valley, although the sudden, and sometimes rather high, rises of Raccoon creek have been noted.

It perhaps would be well for readers to confer with members of the council with a view to commemorating an interesting feature of history. An inexpensive bit of bronze could be placed on the bridge, and would last many years.

**Citizen Submits Proposal for Big Flood Memorial  
Commemoration for High Water of September, 1912  
Burgettstown Enterprise-October 13, 1932 Edition**

# STORM'S DEATH TOLL 36 IN THREE STATES

Rain and Wind Sweep Western  
Pennsylvania, Eastern Ohio,  
and West Virginia.

LOSS WILL TOTAL MILLIONS

Pittsburgh Struck by Cloudburst and  
City Is Flooded—Sleeping Fam-  
ily Drowns In House.

Special to The New York Times.

PITTSBURGH, Penn., Sept. 2.—No storm since those preceding the Johnstown flood ever wrought such damage to life and property in the district surrounding Pittsburgh as did the downpour which lasted until early this morning from early last night. The storm-swept area included Western Pennsylvania, with Eastern Ohio and a large part of the Panhandle district of West Virginia.

From fragmentary reports sent in from various points to-night it is known that at least thirty-six are dead and many more are missing. The number may be increased, as many of the remote hamlets in the Western Pennsylvania and West Virginia mountain districts will not be heard from for days.

Added to the list of fatalities late to-night are ten foreigners at Colliers, W. Va., bringing the list there up to eighteen; three at Burgettstown, Penn., bringing the list there up to four, and one at Woodlawn, Penn., near this city.

For nearly seven hours the rain fell in torrents. Cloudbursts filled fertile valleys with raging rivers, which annihilated crops and carried away bridges and railroad tracks. Lightning struck in scores of places. Quiet streams rose in an hour to become roaring agents of destruction. Railroad traffic practically stopped and wire traffic was paralyzed throughout most of the region.

Colliers, West Va., is practically wiped out. Cherry Valley, Penn., is in ruins. The towns of Avella, Cannonsburg, Washington, Burgettstown, and a dozen smaller places in the extreme western end of this State are inundated to-night. At New Philadelphia, Steubenville, and other Ohio towns near the Ohio River the damage wrought was heavy.

The Panhandle Division of the Pennsylvania Railroad ceased train operations today. Fourteen miles of track were washed away near Colliers. Three bridges were carried downstream. For miles along Raccoon Creek the roadbed is submerged. It will be a fortnight before traffic can be resumed here.

## Ball Team Is Stalled.

The Pittsburgh baseball team, coming from Cincinnati last night, was stalled at Coshocton, Ohio, and tried to detour by way of Orrville, over the Fort Wayne Division, but it was impossible to get the team to Pittsburgh before nightfall, and the two games with the Chicago Cubs were called off.

Late this afternoon a freight train on the Wabash jumped the track five miles north of Wellsburg, West Va., and the entire train rolled into Cross Creek. A late report says the engineer swam ashore, but that the fireman and a brakeman are missing.

Washington County, Penn., also reports property damage that will exceed \$2,000,000. Thousands of sheep and cattle were drowned in the fields. Washington is the greatest wool-growing community east of the Mississippi River. The streams throughout this county and in Greene County to-day were clogged with the bodies of sheep. Hundreds of the animals not yet sheared were soaked with rain, and, being too heavy for their own legs, were swept into the raging streams.

Pittsburgh was lashed by a fierce storm throughout the night. The play of lightning and the crash of thunder were continuous for hours. Street car traffic stopped shortly after 2 o'clock this morning because of broken wires and flooded streets. Five inches of rain fell during the night, a record in this district. Hundreds of belated trolley passengers spent the night in the car barns into which the trolleys were run for shelter.

Wire communication between Pittsburgh and the country to the southwest is only fragmentary. Telegraph companies have big corps of men working on the lines thrown down by the storm. Telephone communication is practically stopped. The Pennsylvania Railroad late this afternoon sent 1,000 men into the Panhandle district to rush the repair work between here and Wheeling, West Va.

The Monongahela and Allegheny Rivers are near the flood stage, and consequently the Ohio is overflowing its banks at many points west of Pittsburgh.

The known dead so far are Cook White, a farmer of Burgettstown, Penn.; Mr. and Mrs. George Gillespie and four children of Cherry Valley, Penn.; Mrs. John Thorley, and an unidentified man, wife, and three children of Colliersville, West Va.; Amelia, John, and Grace Crow, brother and sisters, of Avella, Penn., and Eli Hancock of Cannonsburg, Penn.

## Sleepers Drown in House.

Cherry Valley, a mining town on the banks of a creek, was flooded within half an hour after the rain began to fall. Foundations of houses were undermined and they toppled over into the flooded streets. The Gillespie family was asleep and did not hear the shouts of warning. They were drowned in the house, and the bodies of the children were found on the little bed in their room, the mattress floating in four or five feet of water.

Cook White, who was a farmer in the outskirts of Burgettstown, heard the sound of the flood and hastened to his stable to save his horse. He was drowned, and a son who went to his rescue was swept away, but, catching the branches of an overhanging tree, drew himself to safety.

Chartiers Creek overflowed its banks at Cannonsburg and swept through the town, flooding the railroad and trolley tracks, and many of the streets. A number of houses were tilted with water, but the residents had received ample warning and hastened to places of safety. Eli Hancock, who lost his life, had turned back to recover some valuable papers.

Continued on Page 2.

# STORM'S DEATH TOLL 36 IN THREE STATES

Continued from Page 1.

He was seen to enter the front door as the house collapsed.

An unidentified boy fell into the flood when the porch of a house where he had taken refuge went down, and although scores of persons attempted to save him he was swept away. A number of children in the community are also among the missing.

Many houses in Cannonsburg, undermined by water, collapsed to-night. A spectacular feature was the wrecking of a large store. The water seemed to push the foundations together like a jack-knife and the building dropped with a thud. At East Cannonsburg the flood water caught families suddenly and it was necessary to remove them to safety by aid of small boats.

Prompt action on the part of the Pittsburgh-Buffalo Coal Company brought the lives of 400 miners out of the flood's path. When the water was seen to be gaining headway, whistles were blown calling the surface men to the office. Quickly they notified the men beneath the earth. Men on horseback rode down a narrow valley and warned the families of the miners. To-night all seemed to be accounted for, but there is some doubt as to this.

At Avella, Washington County, three children of Henry Crow were drowned. The house was situated near a little stream which rose so rapidly that it undermined the building, and when it collapsed Mrs. Crow was badly injured. Crow hastened to her rescue and saved her, but before he could return for the children they were swept away.

## Flood of 1912

New York Times-September 3, 1912 Edition

Fort Vance Historical Society

## TOWN HAS NO COUNCIL DUE TO RESIGNATIONS

Four members of the Burgettstown Borough Council deserted the ship in mid-stream on Monday evening, leaving the town without a Councilmanic body for the first time in its history.

President D. C. Dowden was not present at the session, and the regular meeting was presided over by Councilman John L. McGough. The regular order of business was taken up with Councilmen W. R. Shiner, A. C. Seagle, W. W. Lyon, J. G. Scott and J. H. Rankin and Borough Secretary W. J. Whalen, Jr., in their places. Minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved and current bills were read and ordered passed for payment.

The next proceeding was the reading by the secretary of the resignation of President D. C. Dowden as a member of the Council. On motion of Councilman Lyon, seconded by Councilman Rankin, the resignation was accepted. Councilman Seagle then presented his resignation, which, on motion of Rankin and Lyon, was accepted.

Following came the resignation of Councilman Lyon, who stated that on account of his removal from the borough he could not serve longer. His resignation was accepted on motion of Messrs. Scott and Rankin. W. R. Shiner then presented his resignation, which was acted upon by the three remaining members of the body, but as by this time there was no quorum it seems Mr. Shiner's resignation could not be passed upon without a question as to the legality of the action.

In no case except that of Councilman Lyon was any reason given for the action of the retiring Councilmen. Individuals decline to make any statements for publication, but it appears

there has been considerable friction in the Council since the first of the year over the appointment of the borough policeman. At the meeting of Council in April the officer was discharged, but no successor was provided for and Burgess J. A. McKenzie reappointed the incumbent. The Burgess made no recommendations, but held the present officer on duty pending further action of the Council.

A special meeting of Council was held Thursday night of last week to fill the police vacancy, but no action was taken, and in the meantime the officer has continued to serve. There was at one time a general charge of inefficiency made against the policeman, but nothing specific developed and no action taken except that to dismiss the officer.

The situation is somewhat complicated. I. C. Bloom, Borough Attorney, is not quite sure whether three members can function as a Councilmanic body. If they can, these members can fill the vacancies without recourse to the Courts; if not, it will be necessary for the Burgess to apply to the Courts to have the places filled.

Apparently, this is the first case of the kind to happen in Washington county, or anywhere else so far as authorities consulted have any knowledge, and it is problematical what the outcome may be.

It is generally regretted that the Councilmen named should take the action they did. They have given of their time and energy to take care of the needs of the borough, and at no time have any complaints been heard regarding their official conduct. Under their administration there has been a decrease in taxes and public affairs have been taken care of satisfactorily.

\* \* \*

Health Officer Sam DeWalt reports for the year 1940, a total of six quarantines in the Borough — 5 scarlet fever, including one now in effect, Jessie Orrick, 11 Main street; 1 mumps and 1 measles. There's little enuf contagion in our midst, thank goodness, 'cept for the sniffle-sneeze-it bugs, who are reported marshalling an army beyond count. Practically everybody and his brother either has it or is coming down with it.

\* \* \*



QUOTES LOCAL HISTORY  
IN CLAYSVILLE PAPER

An interesting item bearing upon the history of Burgettstown appeared in the Claysville Recorder in its issue of April 24th. The Recorder is edited and published by James L. Melvin, a former resident of Burgettstown, who is perhaps well known to many local people. The item follows:

"It was 50 years March 23d since Burgettstown was incorporated into a borough by the court at Washington. It was the 12th borough of the county, the first five being by legislative enactment. In the first nine months of its incorporation there were thirteen deaths, six of them from scarlet fever. In the fifty years scarlet fever's ravages have been reduced a lot."

It is gratifying to note that there has been a wonderful improvement in health conditions in the borough in the last half-century. While the population has largely increased, disease has become an almost negligible factor, at least in the way of scarlet fever and other such former malignant ailments. The doctors have added much to the life and happiness of the people.



HONOR ROLL

[Illegible text in three columns on the Honor Roll sign]

# Jottings

HEADLINES FROM THE  
BURGETTSTOWN ENTERPRISE  
DURING THE YEAR 1942

**JANUARY**—John M. Scott is named chairman of the Tire Board; Organize Auxiliary for Red Cross; Smith Twp. forms Home Defense Group; Friday club collects books for soldiers; Bulger women form "Purl Harder" Knitting club.

**FEBRUARY**—Draft Board has "R" Day; B.V.F.D. Members Complete Red Cross Instructor's Course; First Blackout, Feb. 17; Women organize Legion Auxiliary; Ration Tire Recaps; Lincoln Club Drafts Gen. Martin as Candidate for Gov. of Penna.; Sons of Italy buy \$1925 War Bonds.

**MARCH**—Legion collects scrap metal; State engineers view proposed landing field at Harmon Creek.

**APRIL**—Register for sugar; Zinc employes raise Minute Man Flag; Pvt. Geo. Loraski, 1st war casualty; Name Victory Garden Chairmen; Climax Builds \$200,000—550 ft. smoke stack.

**MAY**—Steve Krznovcke Cited at Pearl Harbor; 3rd "R" Day Held; Sheriff Williams Heads USO Campaign for \$63,000 in Co.; Warren Ager reported missing.

**JUNE**—Eli Valdich Reported Miss-

ing; Lt. Ed. Hughey broadcasts from London; John Boris Wounded in Java Sea; Women Score Perfect in Blackout Test Driving; Air Raid Officers get Badges; Tag Day for Russian Relief.

**JULY**—Call Volunteers to Man Air Observation Posts; Slovan V.F.D. Dedicates Service Flag; Donald and Leonard LeCouvre Missing in Action in Philippines; Blackout Driver Fined \$25; Service Flag Raised at Atlasburg.

**AUGUST**—Junior Women collect funds for Burgettstown Honor Roll; Raccoon Dedicates Service Flag; Zinc Plant Builds \$450,000 Waelz Reclaiming Plant; Bulger Raises Service Flag.

**SEPTEMBER**—Catholic School opens; Scrap and Junk Rally nets 229,000 pounds; Louis Louvin Killed in Action; Ens. Mike Saska Crashes to Death; Sergt. John Melvin Drowns at Ft. Bragg; Burgettstown Dedicates Honor Roll; Marino Resigns and Prado Elected Pres. of Smeltersmen.

**OCTOBER**—Climax wins Army-Navy E Award; Keith Theatre Sells \$50,000 war bonds in 1 week; Zinc Plant Modernizes Acid Dept.; Ration Rubber Boots; Frank Spatharos receives letter from Gen. MacArthur; Merchants sell bonds; Benny Navage is reported Missing; Gabriel Sharkey wounded in Solomons; Bert Russell Succeeds J. C. Wolfe on Draft Board.

**NOVEMBER**—Gen. Martin Elected

Governor; Ration Gasoline; Schools collect 502 tons scrap metal; Burgettstown Organizes Service Club.—mlv.

—v—

Dear Editor:

Here is a little poem that was composed during the last blackout . . . it looks good to us and we thought that perhaps you would enjoy it too.

"Be still and know that I am God"  
The silence said to me,  
This busy world had run so fast,  
It had no time for Thee.  
The silence brought Thy glory out,  
The stars, the moon, the trees;  
The night lark as she flew on high  
In wafted summer breeze.  
The fireflies their light they threw  
Like fairy flashlights, gay;  
Showing us God all nature rules,  
And no man's law obeys.  
"Be still and know that I am God",  
We bow in reverence, Lord;  
The young, the careless, old and sick  
Thy mercy doth employ.  
We thank Thee for this "blackout"  
hour  
Where silence reigns supreme,  
And where Thy power reaches out  
Touching hearts, unseen.  
We thank Thee for this "blackout"  
hour  
Where we commune with Thee,  
The hour that man had made for  
power  
But brought us back to Thee.  
—by F.W.

**Jottings-Headlines from the Burgettstown Enterprise During 1942  
Burgettstown Enterprise-December 24, 1942 Edition**

# Breakfast with Santa at Kids Center

BURGETTSTOWN — Dozens of children lined up to give their Christmas wish list to Santa Claus Saturday at the Burgettstown Kids Center.

The center's annual Breakfast with Santa is held the first Saturday after Christmas each year, and the event

includes a meal, a craft and a chance to visit with the jolly old elf. Each child received a coloring book and crayons from the kids center.

Local photographer Audrey Shaw has worked with the kids center for several years to provide

no-cost portraits of the children with Santa.

Mary Ann and John Demczak portray Mrs. Claus and Santa Claus, and also provide gifts of their own for those children attending.

"We love having all the kids here," said Jim

Reedy, kids center director. "We love everyone bringing their kids in to see Santa. Everyone has a good time and has fun with their friends. It's just a good, wholesome activity to bring the community together."



Summer Wallace-Minger

**BREAKFAST WITH SANTA** — Santa Claus greets several children shortly after arriving at the Burgettstown Kids Center Saturday for the center's annual Breakfast with

## LANE IS MARKED OUT FOR LOCAL AUTOISTS

Regulations Adopted for Efficient  
Traffic Handling at  
Busy Corner

A white line has been painted along North Main street from the Peoples National Bank to the Pennsylvania railroad crossing at the top of the grade, and signs, "Keep to the Right," placed at each end of the section of street. On Wednesday morning Chief of Police J. E. Dowden was on the scene at an early hour and during the day gave considerable time and effort to the task of keeping motorists in the straight and narrow way.

Conditions at this busy corner usually are bad under the best circumstances. The intersection of two busy streets in the heart of the business section makes for much vehicular and pedestrian traffic during the greater part of the day, and narrowness of streets adds to traffic hazards. In the past there has been a great deal of parking on both sides of the streets and largely without regard to the location of fire plugs, established lines or nearness of corners.

Continued complaint has been voiced to members of the Borough Council and the head of the police department regarding parking violations and dangerous practices of motorists. This has led the Council to issue instructions to the police to enforce the provisions of present ordinances dealing with the question. And, supplementing existing regulations, it is expected Council will at the next monthly meeting establish some new regulations which will limit the time of parking in certain localities.

**Liquor Stores Report.**

Reports by the State Liquor Control Board of business handled in the county for the first nine months of the year indicate that the Burgettstown store sales amounted to \$13,725.06. Sales for September were reported as \$4,389.42 at the Burgettstown store.

# Burgettstown Named In Honor Of First Settler, Sebastian Burgett

## German Native, Moved to West From Berks County

By KAY RYALL

...ington County there's a little German town that boasts much of its former days—Burgettstown. It has a richer historical background than some of our largest cities. Burgettstown was founded on which the town stands was first claimed for settlement by Sebastian Burgett, native of Germany, who came to this country in the middle 1700's with his wife and three children, settling in the town. While living there his wife died and left to his care two young boys and a daughter, Agnes. He moved to West Virginia some time before 1773 and married Roxanna Markle. His name was changed as early as 1780 in connection with the Virginia certificate. George McCormick, Henry Rankin and others whose land ad-

...n is made in the old records of the fact his warrants were in Virginia certificate, but the copy was never found. One of the warrants that was surveyed and patented later was known as "West of the River" and contained 339 acres, granted in 1785. On this tract Sebastian Burgett built a mill on the banks of Raccoon Creek. In re-entrenching the mill in 1789 he needed castings to complete his work and went to Pittsburgh. Returning through the woods over rough ground in two miles of home, the wagon was upset. Burgett fell from the wagon and was killed. Burgett's house stood near the Robert Scott place. The "old house" was called, stood for many years nearby. When Sebastian Burgett married the second time, he built a new home-land house was moved across the street to serve as a cow-shed. Bullet marks were still visible on it. Finally lightning struck and destroyed the place completely.

George Burgett, in behalf of himself, Phillip, his brother, and his sister, entered into an agreement with Roxanne, the second wife of Sebastian Burgett, providing that 400 acres of the estate be set off for a mill property be retained by George. The tract on which the mill was known as "Radius," containing 297 acres, patented in 1804. The remainder of the tract was divided among her children. A son, Isaac, a hatter by trade, lived in Natchez, where he lived and died. Andrew kept his share of the rights of the others. A recent report for the West Boston tract states that letters of administration were granted George Burgett in trust of the heirs of the

### YOUR NEIGHBORS

deceased Sebastian Burgett in 1797. On this tract George Burgett laid out a town. One Peter Kidd was surveyor. Fifty-six lots were laid out. At that time the only place of business shown on the town plan was a grist mill one David Bruce had built on the first lot purchased in the town. He had lived for some time at Bavington, where he operated a drygoods store.

Bruce, a native of Scotland, moved to Maryland with his father in 1784. It is not known when he settled in Bavington and opened his store. He moved to Burgettstown in 1795 and lived there until his death. He was administrator of several estates and postmaster of the town.

In 1801 another portion of the village was laid out in lots. Among the purchasers was one George Day. He received his lot in 1789 and built the first tannery in the little settlement. In 1796 he opened a tavern. Rowland Rogers was licensed to keep a tavern in 1803. In 1808 he purchased three lots and 11 acres of ground from the mill property and privileges from George Burgett, and became the town miller, serving as such from that time until its sale to Freegift Crawford. There were many other taverns that were famous stopping places for early day travelers.

One George McKeag, a school teacher, lived there before 1799. He

sold his property to Kidd. Thomas Thompson was the town tailor in 1800.

THOMAS MILLER, son of Samuel Miller of Hickory was a resident of the town before 1810 and kept a tavern. Later, he was captain of a company of soldiers organized during the War of 1812.

About 1820 a pottery was owned by one John Franks. Later it was secured by a man named Hunter, who sold to Robert Brown. The latter, in 1838, sold to John P. Woods, who operated until 1859, when it was discontinued and dismantled.

About 1820 a woolen mill was built by George Graham. It burned shortly afterward. From the earliest times a public well had been in use by the townspeople. It stood in the center of the street, and became such a nuisance that in 1830 the well was filled up.

Alexander Kidd, a son of William, lived in Burgettstown, opposite the Cross Keys tavern. He was a carpenter. In 1823 he was a captain of the Burgettstown Volunteer Rifle Company. Twelve years later, he was elected a justice of the peace.

A brick house was erected by the townspeople about 1834 for church and school purposes. The school directors of Smith Township were

## Mills, Taverns of District Were Famous for Many Years

under obligation to keep it in repair. School was taught first about 1796 or 1799 by Mr. McKelg. He afterward held classes in a house on land owned by Professor S. C. Farrar and John Farrar.

The first land for school purposes was leased by George Burgett to David Bruce, Robert Boland and James Willey, trustees of the Burgettstown school. The school was on ground donated for that purpose by Dr. Stephen Smith. Church services were held there by the various denominations until their own buildings were constructed.

In 1837 the town included a hotel, two stores, a blacksmith shop, a postoffice and a hat store, in addition to numerous homes. Mail was received twice a week by a carrier. The Burgettstown postoffice was established in April, 1810. Thomas Miller was the first postmaster.

THE new part of town grew up many years later. It is about a mile north of Old Burgettstown. Together, they were incorporated as the Borough of Burgettstown, largely because of the projected construction of the Pittsburgh and Steubenville Road.

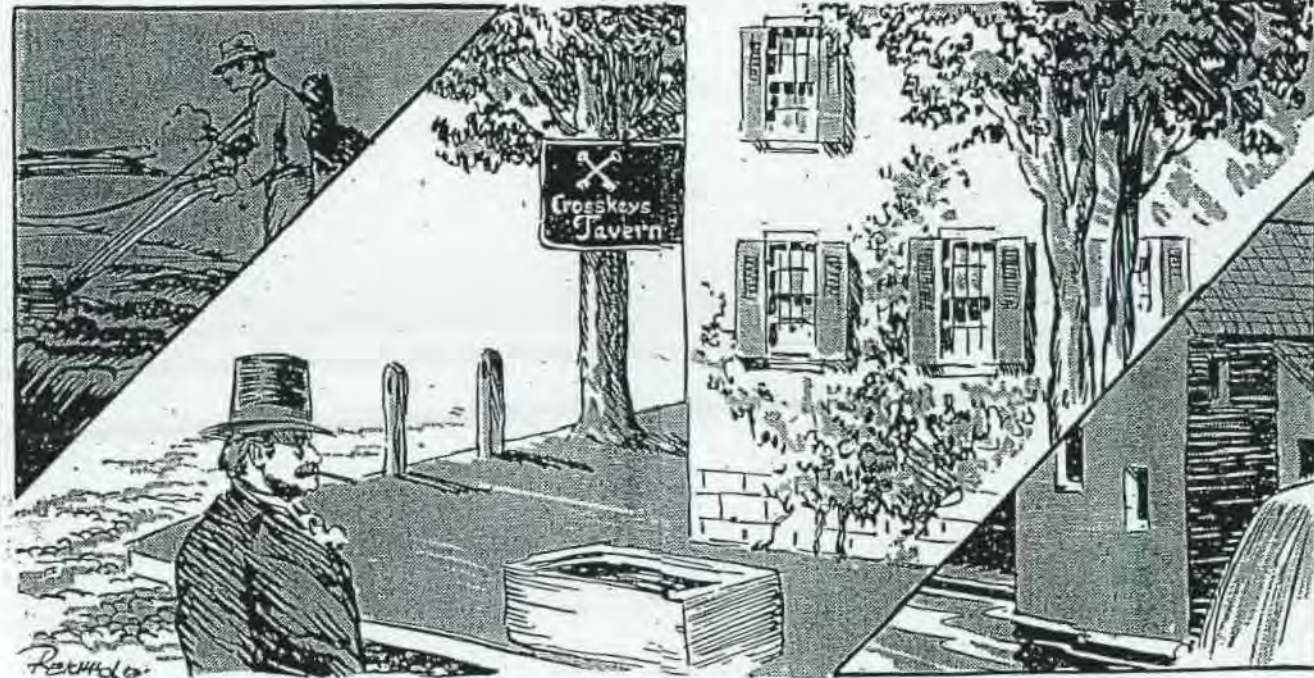
The road project was urged in 1852. Two years later the new town north of Old Burgettstown was laid out and called "Abeline." It was located on land owned by one Deacon Whitaker. Except for surveying nothing was done until the near completion of the Pennsylvania, Cincinnati and St. Louis road in 1865. In 1864 A. S. Herryhill started a store. In the following spring a station and depot were opened.

At a meeting of the citizens of Burgettstown in 1877 steps were taken to incorporate as a borough. In 1881 the new borough had its birth, with C. M. Elder as burgess.

The first physician, it is believed, was Dr. Ebenezer Jennings, a descendant of the Puritans, but a native of New Jersey. He purchased a small farm two miles east of Burgettstown, where he practiced until his death. Through his arduous labors in the General Assembly in 1806 he secured passage of a bill providing for the vaccination of the poor.

In 1845 a petition was sent to the Presbytery of Washington for the organization of a church at Burgettstown. It was refused. An appeal was taken to the synod at Wheeling, which granted the request. Rev. Joel Stonerod was elected pastor.

The Center United Presbyterian Church was organized in 1859. R. C. Cassidy is burgess today. Other borough officers include Fred Illig, president of council; C. W. Davidson, secretary; L. E. Foster, Edward Caldwell, Andrew Miller, Oscar Jackson, W. R. Allison and S. C. McCalmont, members of Council.



Sebastian Burgett's farm, the famous old Cross Keys Tavern, Burgett's mill—these are but a few of the places that surrounded the

Burgettstown of a former day. The artist's conception of these once famous places appears above.

**AN ORDINANCE  
REGULATING TRAFFIC IN  
AND CERTAIN USES OF THE  
STREETS AND HIGHWAYS OF  
THE BOROUGH OF BUR-  
GETTSTOWN.**

Be it enacted and ordained by the Borough of Burgettstown and it is hereby enacted and ordained by the authority of the same, That it shall be unlawful for any person, firm or corporation, whether principal or agent, to violate or fail to comply with the following regulations pertaining to traffic in and certain uses of the highways of the Borough of Burgettstown, or to be a party thereto under the penalties herein provided:

SECTION 1. There shall be a one hour parking limitation between the hours of 7:00 A.M. to 6:00 P.M., daily on the East side of Main street from the intersection of Main street Extension to railroad crossing.

There shall be no parking at any time on the West side of Main Street from the intersection of Main Street Extension to the alley running parallel with the railroad.

SECTION 2. There shall be no parking on the West side of Main Street beginning at the Borough line going South on Main Street, a distance of 125 feet from said line.

There shall be no parking on the East side of Main Street beginning at the Borough line going South on Main Street.

SECTION 3. There shall be no parking on the West side of Main Street beginning at the intersection of Bell Avenue and Main Street going North on Main Street, a distance of 100 feet.

SECTION 4. The area North of Main Street from the intersection of Main Street and alley on West side of Citizens National Bank on the side facing bank, going East to the alley adjoining Biddle Hotel shall be and is to be known as a loading zone and to be used as such only.

SECTION 5. All vehicles hitherto permitted to park on the West side of Main Street shall be changed to permit parking on the East side of Main Street, beginning at a point on Main Street known as the Rotta Building and going South along Main Street to a point known as the Borough Building.

SECTION 6. There shall be no parking on either side of Center Avenue for a distance of 100 feet, said point to be measured from the intersection of Main Street and Center Avenue.

SECTION 7. Any violator of the aforesaid sections of this Ordinance who is convicted before the Burgess or a Justice of the Peace, to be subject to a fine of \$1.00 and costs for the first offense, \$2.00 and costs for the second offense, and \$5.00 fine and costs for the third or more offenses in a six month period and in default of fine and costs to be sentenced to the Washington County



**PLAYGROUND OPENS**

**MONDAY, JUNE 3**

Members of the Playground Committee, Messrs Tennyson, Whalen and Stevenson held a meeting recently and officially declared Monday, June 3 as the opening date for the Burgettstown Playground. Football Coach Robert J. Canning will again act as supervisor of play in charge of the grounds and will conduct organized play periods five days a week from 9 to 4 o'clock, excepting Saturday and Sunday.

Members of the committee have applied for an N. Y. A. project, which will give work to several high school boys, to act in the capacity of assistant supervisors and to grade additional playground areas.

The committee made plans to install a drinking fountain on the grounds for use by the children. The playground is financed by a grant of \$250 from both the school board and the borough council.

## THE POLICE WHO HELPED WITH THE PARTY



In this photo, the Enterprise camera shows you the Burgettstown Auxiliary police who functioned so splendidly and handled the crowd at the park and the vast array of automobiles, with efficiency and ease.

First row, left to right, John Ceresa, Ed Krzeczowski, Sara

Proudfit, Virginia Stewart, Lillian Bernola, Ruth Bland, Anna Lee Hulick, Ted Testa. Second row H. Vega, chief, R. M. Johnson, Ralph Scott, George Bish, George Smith, James Riddle, asst. chief, Eto Maroni and Tony Yacoviello.

**The Police Who Helped with the Party  
Burgettstown Enterprise-1966**

# Burgettstown residents tracing their roots

As time goes on and people get older, they seem to express more interest in not only their family roots but in the beginnings of their places of residence. This is true of the people of Burgettstown as well as the surrounding towns and villages. Burgettstown was at one time noted as being situated on the Panhandle Railroad about 27 miles west of Pittsburgh by rail and "25 by wagon road."

Settlements were made in the north end of Washington County before the Revolutionary War. In 1783 there were three log cabins in the old town. Burgett's flouring mill was completed that year. George Burgett laid out a town on the north side of West Boston with Peter Kidd as surveyor Jan. 27, 1795. The town was called West Boston. In 1860 the population did not exceed 250. The selling of town lots and the erection of buildings began after the railroad was completed in 1865. A new town was begun nearly a mile north of the old one. The two towns were incorporated March 23, 1881. The main street was then known as Washington Street.

By careful scrutiny of newspapers of the times, much information may be gleaned. The following news items and ads are taken from "The Enterprise" of Dec. 24, 1902. "Exchange Hotel, Burgettstown, Pa., William Cole, Proprietor. Boarding by the week, day



**KATHRYN SLASOR**

or meal. Stabling and feed for horses. Rates moderate." (This building later became known as the Smith Hotel, on the "round corner.")

"J.Z. McBride, dentist, Burgettstown, Pa. Office near north end of iron bridge."

"Dr. L.V. Marquis, dentist. Painless extraction. Enterprise Building, third floor front."

"Miller and Miller, Barbers. Post Office building, Burgettstown. Below station. Correct styles. Razor honing promptly attended to."

"S.B. Lyons Restaurant, near station, Burgettstown, Pa. Meals at all hours. Ice cream parlor attached. Ice cream and lunches furnished to order."

"Witherspoon and Patterson Insurance. General fire insurance agents. Principal office, Burgettstown. Branch office, Bavington. Losses adjusted promptly."

"Ewing and Morgan (successor to W.A. Purdy) Livery and feed stable. First class rigs at all times, day or night. Good accommodations for teams. Horses cared for and boarded. Burgettstown."

"Linn Bros. Burgettstown, Pa. J.P. Linn, W.B. Linn, R.F. Linn. Rough and dressed lumber. All kinds of building materials."

Among the news columns: "Don't forget the farmers' institute to be held in Auditorium Hall on Friday and Saturday of this week. There will be five sessions - a fine program has been arranged."

"Elder now has his store complete, ready to furnish man or boy with anything he needs to wear, from head to feet."

"The Ladies Aid Society of the First Presbyterian Church of this place have had the auditorium of that church plumbed and lighted with two beautiful chandeliers of 20 lights each and two jets at the rear of the pulpit of three lights each; also the vestibule and the pastor's study. Thompson and Co. of Pittsburgh had the contract."

"On the main line (of the Panhandle Railroad) a gang of men are putting up a concrete retaining wall five feet above ground and about four feet thick, on the south side of the tracks east of the station. This is to hold up the earth for the third track."

(Slasor is a special correspondent with the *Pennsylvania Focus*.)



**MAIN STREET** - The main street of Burgettstown, once known as Washington Street, has quite a history.

Contributed

# Burgettstown settles lawsuit with former police officer

By AARON J. KENDEALL  
Staff writer  
akendeall@observer-reporter.com

BURGETTSTOWN – Burgettstown Borough settled a federal lawsuit filed by former police officer Derick Atif Dayoub for \$11,000 according to an agreement signed June 2.

The agreement was released Tuesday after the *Observer-Reporter* filed a Right to Know request with the borough. Terms of the settlement released the municipality and former police chief George Roberts from any further legal liability in the case. The municipality also agreed to pay Dayoub's court costs.

Burgettstown officials said they could not comment on the settlement due to a nondisclosure agreement.

Dayoub was working as a part-time Smith Township officer when he was arrested for allegedly assaulting two men in separate incidents while on duty in 2009. He was also a

part-time Burgettstown officer at the time.

In a civil lawsuit filed in federal court in 2012, Dayoub claimed he was arrested without probable cause through a conspiracy that included the borough of Burgettstown, Roberts, former Washington County district attorney Steve Toprani, former county chief detective Michael Aaron, McDonald police Officer William Nimal and Washington County. Court documents indicated the arrest stemmed from a feud between Aaron and former Smith Township supervisor Joe Murray.

Toprani later dismissed the charges.

The lawsuit claimed Aaron, who was working as a McDonald police officer at the time of the arrest, disliked Dayoub in part because of his Syrian descent.

The most recent settlement does not release any of the other parties named in the suit and the case is still pend-

ing in federal court.

Smith Township suspended Dayoub for undisclosed reasons during the board of supervisors' meeting in February. Smith Township Police Chief Bernie LaRue accepted his resignation during a private disciplinary hearing in March. Township supervisor Tom Schilinski said the resignation had nothing to do with the civil case.

In June, Toprani, Aaron and the county asked Washington County Court to unseal evidence from a 2009 grand jury proceeding investigating Smith and Burgettstown police departments in which Dayoub was a witness. Toprani and Aaron argued the testimony would help them fight the federal case, in which Dayoub is asking for \$75,000 plus punitive damages.

Burgettstown has since disbanded its police force. In December 2012, the borough gave a five-year extension to the McDonald department for police coverage in the municipality.

**Derick Atif Dayoub**

**Burgettstown Settles Lawsuit with Former Police Officer  
Observer-Reporter-August 10, 2013**

# Burgettstown to Celebrate With Big Fourth Program

## Fourth of July to be Red Letter Day in History For Folks of the old Home Town

The eagle will scream in Burgettstown as never before on the Fourth of July, a large number of prominent citizens backing the movement for a celebration that will appeal to every resident of the community. The celebration will be held on the Burgettstown fair grounds, and will open with a baseball game at 10 o'clock in the forenoon, between Burgettstown Community team and Charleroi Whippets.

Promptly at 1 in the afternoon the fun will start in a blaze of joy. There will be many contests and stunt performances, and many valuable prizes will be awarded. The prizes will consist of foodstuffs, meat, toilet preparations, clothing sundries, gifts galore for men, women and children, and all will have opportunities of winning something handsome. More than \$500 worth of prizes have been donated. The second ball game will be called at 3, p. m. standard time, the same teams playing.

Track events, in charge of Ernest Williams, include 100-yard dash for boys under 16; 100-yard dash for boys over 16; 50-yard dash boys 12 years and under; 50-yard dash girls, free for all; 440-yard dash boys under 16 and boys over 16; 50-yard dash girls under 8 and boys under 8.

Novelty races, in charge of Wm. J. Pyle: Egg-spoon for girls under 16, sack races for boys and girls, three-legged race, potato race free for all. Bicycle races in charge of Glenn Nicholls: 1-3 mile for boys and girls under 16. Horseshoe pitching, in charge of W. G. Cramer. Nail driving contest for ladies, sack races and three-legged races and a pie-eating contest, for girls, in charge of Postmaster W. M. Culley.

All persons desiring to engage in any of the contests should immediately get in communication with the committee member named in each event in order that programs may be prepared and ready. Entrants must be listed prior to the day of the celebration.

The community committee is composed of the following: Chairman, Dr. G. L. McKee; secretary, J. C. Wolfe; treasurer, L. Caplan. Chairmen of committees are: Publicity, Austin Studa; solicitation, Glenn Nicholls; music, R. M. Boyd; program, Dr. W. S. Clark. Those in charge of activities of program are listed above.

The celebration on a large scale of the glorious day has been made possible through the splendid cooperation and donations of the following: Cash donations—E. Denny Brown, Malone & Nicholls, Dr. A. O. Hindman, Gus Barbush, Chas. Westlake, John M. Scott, W. B. Culley, Lee & Wilson, P. C. Biddle, L. H. Mitchell, Linn Bros., H. B. Pyle, Tony Fazio, W. F. Scott, C. N. Cunningham, Taucher Tire Shop, Boyd Sloan, Burgettstown Dairy Co., Greensburg-Connellsville Coal & Coke Co., W. M. Fulton, C. S. McCormick, J. DeOrio, John Stebe. Tickets donated by H. A. Scott, Chevrolet dealer.

Merchandise and prize articles donated by: Ben Repole, Tony Pascarella, Tony Boni, Sam Broida, L. H. Leopold, Victor Cenis, A. & P. Tea Co., (Burgettstown), A. & P. Tea Co., (South Burgettstown), Capital Restaurant, Trimmer's Drug Store, G. E. Thomassy, Bloom's, John Panconi, W. R. Shiner, F. S. Wray, Ken's Newsstand, Burgettstown Enterprise, I. B. Sacks, Burgettstown Hardware Co., Bender's Pharmacy, D. Horovitz, H. A. Stype, Ligonier Supply Co., A. Katzenmeyer, D. Petrucci & Son, P. H. Butler Co., A. Filippini, Joe Bella, A. Longo & Son, Leona Rotta, Jacob Rotta, Cramers Print Shop, Enterprise Garage, G. Sciamania, Steve Surba.

Admission charges have been set very low on account of dull times. General admission will be 25 cents; children under six years free; over six years 10 cents. There will be no charge for automobiles entering grounds and no charge for parking. It is expected that three prizes will be awarded in each contesting event.

The committee has held several meetings and the details are not quite complete. Further reports will be given next week and will include any donations or other matters that may not appear in this report.

## **B.V.F.D. STREET FAIR TO BE HELD JUNE 25 TO 28**

Members of the Burgettstown Volunteer Fire Department held a Fish Fry in the Borough building on Monday evening and made final arrangements for their annual street fair and parade, which will be held June 25 to 28.

Lester Neale and Boyd Sloan, co-chairmen for the street parade reported that 48 fire companies have accepted an invitation to march in the street parade on Friday evening, June 27.

It was announced that all Firemen are to report for duty at the Parking Lot on Saturday, June 21, to assist in erecting stands for the street fair. On June 23, a special meeting will be held to discuss the routing of traffic on Parade night and to appoint committees to handle this detail of the Fair.

## **\$45,000 Fire at Burgettstown**

The McDonald Fire Department responded to an alarm from Burgettstown at here o'clock Wednesday morning to assist the Burgettstown Fire Department fight a fire in the Smith Hotel near Burgettstown Station. The interior of the hotel was destroyed and the Panconi building adjoining was damaged. The total loss is placed at about \$45,000, partially covered by insurance. Six roomers in the hotel were forced to flee in their nightclothes. The fire thought to have started in the barber shop in the Panconi building, and then spread to the Panconi fruit store, destroying the greater part of the structure. From the Panconi building the flames spread to the Smith Hotel. The hotel building housed a barber shop, a Butler store manage by Arthur FRANZ of Venice, Bloom's Department and the Wray Shoe Store. Panconi's loss is estimated at \$13,000, and Smith's loss in the hotel alone is reported as \$20,000. The Butler Store loss is placed at \$1,000 and the Tucci Barber Shop is placed at \$500. The loss to Bloom and Sons and the Wray Shoe Store, were damaged was chiefly by water and smoke, was not determined. The Burgettstown Fire Department responded promptly and placed four streams of water on the burning structure. For a time, fire threatened to destroy the whole business block and spread across the street. The McDonald Fire Department materially aided the Burgettstown Fire Fighters.

**McDonald Record-January 23, 1931 Edition**

*Fort Vance Historical Society*



**1914 Smith Hotel-Main Street, Burgettstown, PA**

W.G. (Bud) Shillito, seated (wearing a straw hat), R.C. Cassidy, standing on the right.

*Notice: the street is not paved, further up the street is Adam Katzenmeyer Jewelry Store. A shoe store and a barber shop.*

*Fort Vance Historical Society*





### Main Street, Burgettstown, PA

*1927, Progress was starting to appear in the new Business Section of Burgettstown. The two private homes were removed to build the Keith Theatre. Iron work for the theatre can be seen in the background. The Keith Theatre building later known as McCoy's Furniture Store.*

## CANNING EXPOUNDS RACCOON VALLEY'S SOCIAL STANDARD

Following is the text of Burgess J. R. Canning's address given at the Memorial Day ceremony Monday afternoon at the Honor Roll and War Memorial, Main street:

"We are gathered here to honor Those Who Died, that we who live may do so in peace and in a Democratic way.

A year ago we gathered here for the same purpose, and a year hence we will repeat the operation. What do we do the other 364 days in the year to perpetuate the cause for which these men made the supreme sacrifice?

Lets take a brief inventory of what we have done in the past: Raccoon Valley composed of all the towns in Smith Twp., and Burgettstown has gone from a rich industrial area to one that is sick and feeble. We have only two industrial operations that employ more than 100 people each. Our rich source of labor supply is migrating rapidly to areas of employment. Store rooms, buildings and houses are standing empty. Business is on the downgrade and due to get worse. Our social standard is being lowered as our good stock of laboring people are moving nearer to their jobs. This is the picture of what we have done in the past to protect the very thing for which these men gave their life.

If they could see our situation as it is today, I doubt if they would be very proud of what we have done.

Now—what are we going to do to correct this situation in the future? Are we big enough to put our personal desires to the side, throw off our selfish attitudes and join hands in one solid block to do a job that will require the help of everyone and the criticism of none. It is time to eliminate the saying of "WHAT are THEY doing?" or "WHAT have THEY done?" Now is the time to say "What are WE doing" and "What are WE going to do?"

We have an organization which is in its first year of existence that has dedicated itself to this job. In its first year they have done a tremendous job, but they have only scratched the surface. The big job is in front of them. I am speaking of the Raccoon Valley Chamber of Commerce. I feel that if our district is to improve—this organization is our last hope.

They have secured pledges of \$20,000 over a 3 year period from people in this district who still have faith. This money along with the dues from Membership is to finance a full time office and man for Industrial Planning & Development.

The Committee has recommended a man for this position whom they feel will do the job. Now what does this mean to you? It means this—The Raccoon Valley Chamber of Commerce needs every gainfully employed person in the Raccoon Valley as a member. Individual Memberships are ten dollars per year—83 1/3c per month for a cause to improve and protect our very homes. How much of a sacrifice is this to you compared to the sacrifice of these men who died for their Raccoon Valley?

83 1/3c per month—compared to death. Will we do the job? Or have these men died in vain?"

**Canning Exbounds Raccoon Valley's Social Standard  
Burgettstown Enterprise-June 2, 1955 Edition**



**Fire next to Figley's Feed Store**  
**Notice the "Speed Limit 35"**  
**Center Avenue, Burgettstown, PA**  
*Courtesy of Fort Vance Historical Society*



**Dorothy and Mildred Luttrell with their Great Aunt Ghrist.  
Center Avenue, Burgettstown, PA**

*Courtesy of Fort Vance Historical Society*



**Center Avenue, Burgettstown, PA**

**Front Row, L-R: ? Scott and Austin Studa.**

**L-R: Lucille Culley Welch, Emma Cox Westlake, and Pamela Scott**

*Courtesy of Fort Vance Historical Society*

## FLORENCE AVE. SEWER JOB TO START AT ONCE

Burgettstown Council began the new year by approving extensive improvements at the adjourned meeting in the Borough Building on Monday evening and made plans to begin sewer improvements on Florence avenue, totalling \$30,947, at once.

The building of sanitary sewers on Florence avenue will be a continuance of the Federal project started here two years ago, and which has resulted in the installation of sanitary sewer over a large area of streets. Councilmen expect to use relief labor for the job, by securing a Federal grant of \$22,150, making the cost to the Borough for materials and supervision, \$8,797. The project, it is understood is to be completed in four months.

The Morris-Knowles Engineering company of Pittsburgh has been given the contract for the job with Mr. Berkemeyer as resident engineer. The contract calls for the construction of sanitary sewers on Florence avenue by the removal of present surface and sidewalk, trenching, laying pipe, construction of manholes, replacing surface and walks and performance of other incidental labor. The job will use 3500 feet of eight inch sewer pipe and 1800 feet of 6 inch sewer pipe.

The break down of the \$22,150 federal grant will be as follows: \$15,421, common labor; \$7,363, intermediate labor; \$1637, skilled labor \$810, supervision; \$319, equipment and \$200, incidentals.

Inasmuch as the Borough has \$1860 in materials and supplies left over from the former street sewer job, now completed, the cost will actually be \$6,937.

Council also approved an additional project to build sewers at the rear of the properties of W.W. Stewart, Wilbur Welch and J.O. Fredericks, thus completing sewer lines on Center avenue.

The Budget was placed on file for inspection by local interested citizens, before adoption. Estimated receipts were placed at \$25702.60 and estimated expenditures for 1940 at \$25,527.00. The first reading of the ordinance, placing the millage at 12 mills, same as last year was heard. The first reading of an ordinance setting salaries was heard as follows: police, \$150 mo.; street commissioner, \$125 mo.; secretary, \$300 per year; solicitor, \$300 per year; Burgess, \$300 per year and treasurer, \$100 per year.

Bids were opened for repairs for the Borough building, and the job was given to Frank Pappas on his price of \$269.02.

President of Council Gregg Scott appointed the following committees to serve this year:

Street: E. Munger, S. G. Nicholls, C. R. Wade.

Light and Water: C. R. Wade, E. Munger, G. A. Westlake.

Sewer: Harry McCormick, S. G. Nicholls, Wilbert Welch.

Police: S. G. Nicholls, G. A. Westlake, Harry McCormick.

Finance: E. Munger, G. A. Westlake, Wilbert Welch.

Property: Wilbert Welch, C. R. Wade, Harry McCormick.



**Looking toward Maple Avenue, from Main Street, Burgettstown  
About 1900**

*Fort Vance Historical Society*



Main St. Burgettstown Pa.

### Main Street, Burgettstown, PA

**1927, Progress was starting to appear in the New Business Section of Burgettstown.**

*Two private homes were removed from the end of the street to build the Keith Theatre. Iron work for the theatre can be seen in the background. The Keith Theatre building later known as McCoy's Furniture Store.*

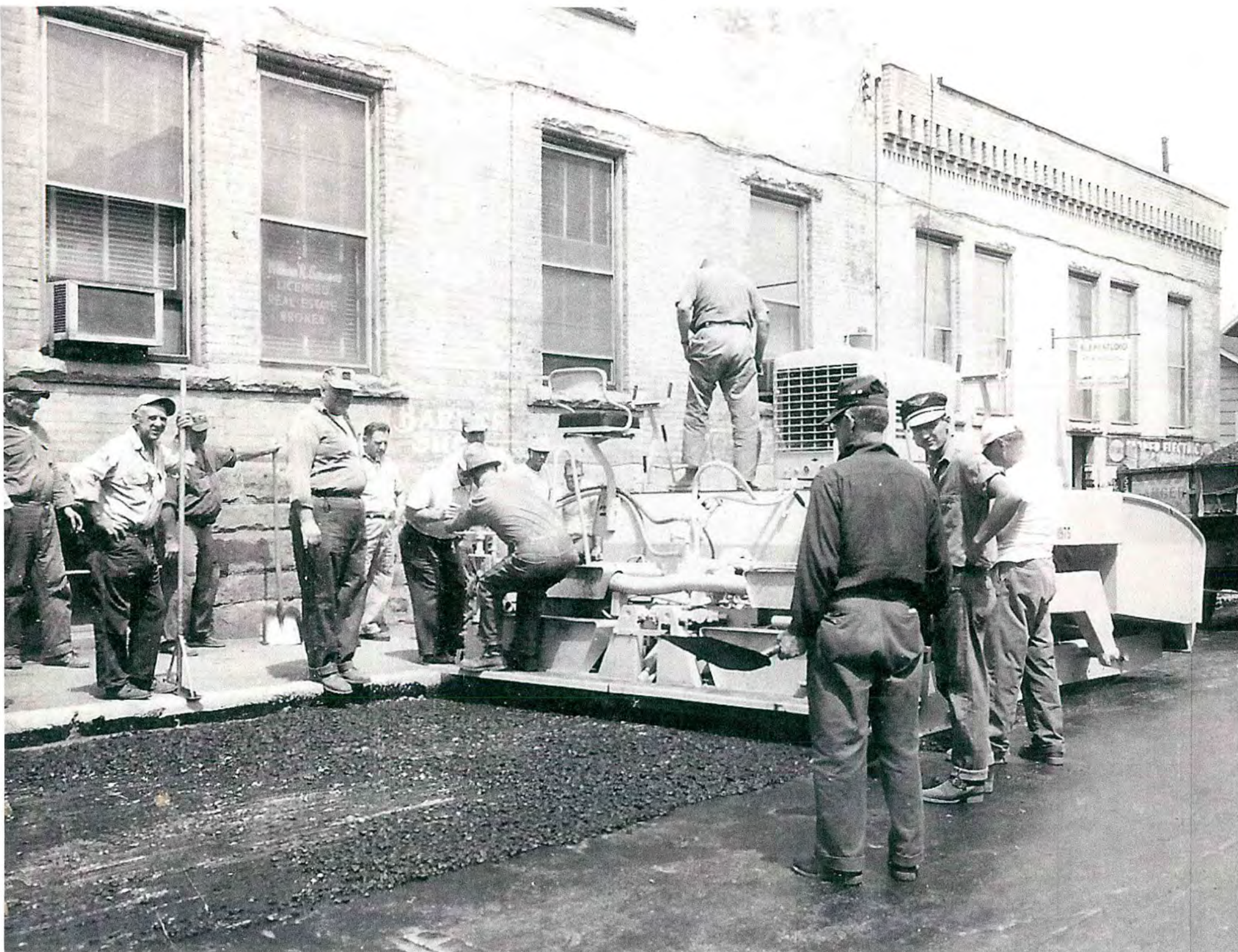




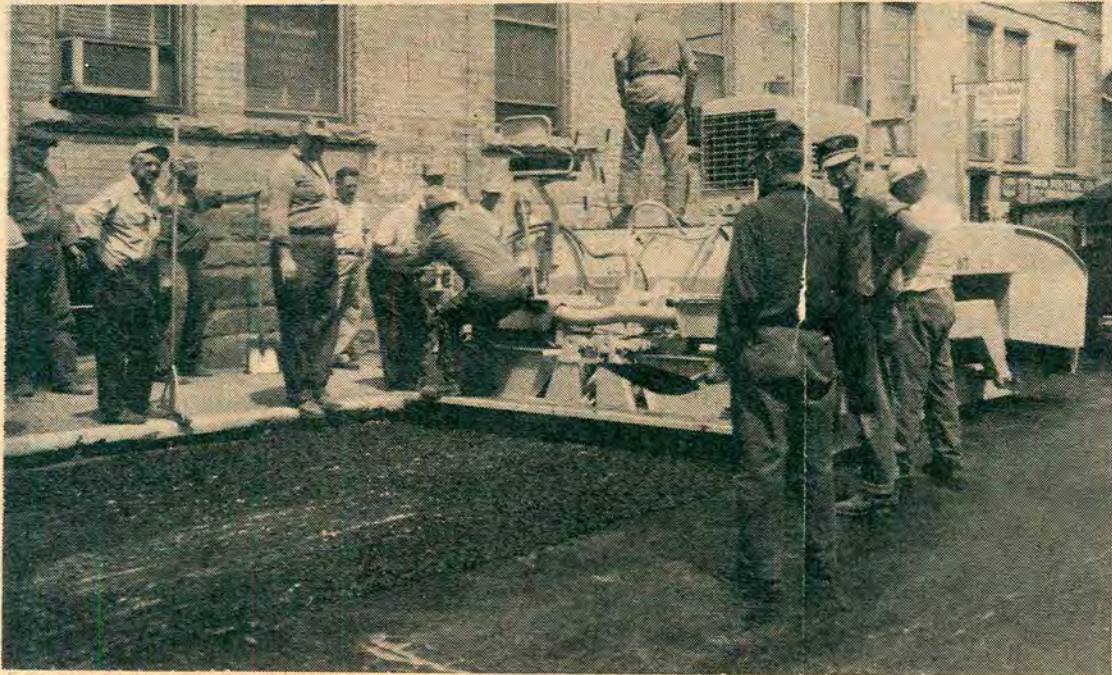
## Main Street 1927

This was Main Street in Burgettstown as it looked 65 years ago. The photo was supplied to this newspaper by Charles Lawson.

**Main Street, Burgettstown, PA-1927**  
**The Enterprise-Unknown Edition**



## New Paver Provides Boro Street Surface



(Enterprise photo)

Local highway chief Walter Lonick is shown above with county and state highway officials and workers when the first layer of asphalt is placed upon Main street extension Monday afternoon.

The huge machine doing

the bulk of the work is a brand new \$45,000 paver getting its baptism in Burgettstown. The state officials were on hand to watch the new piece of equipment perform.

Shown here is a layer of base or "binder" being placed upon the old road bed. A finer grade of as-

phalt was placed upon this base and then rolled to form the new road surface.

The re-paving project on Main street extension and Bridge street will particularly benefit motorists in the winter, when the bricks on the road had created hazardous driving.

**New Paver Provides Boro Street Surface**  
**Burgettstown Enterprise-August 12, 1964 Edition**



CENTER AVE  
EDGETTSTOWN PA

N02



**South Main Street, Burgettstown, PA**

The paving of Main street was completed Saturday and is in fine shape for the fair. Rinehart Bros., of East Liverpool, Ohio, had the paving contract, and their work has been satisfactory in every particular. H. S. Rinehart, who was here much of the time, and all the men in charge were above reproach, and we have heard many words of praise from our citizens as to their honest workmanship, and their courteous and accommodating manner.

**Paving of Main Street**  
**The Burgettstown Call-September 30, 1915 Edition**

## PITTSBURGH STREET 50 YEARS AGO

To many "old timers" in Burgettstown "Pittsburgh Street" suggests the neighborhood of the Malones, the Richeys, the Leopolds, the Kaisers, the Booths, the Ottos, the Novosols and the Boyds. These were the families who 50 years ago could have honestly boasted that they lived in the oldest part of town, for in 1797 George Burgett and Peter Kidd, surveyor, laid out the first lots on Pittsburgh Street and numbered them 1 to 22.

But boast, Pittsburgh Street residents did not, for 50 years ago they were too busy to think much about the history of their own little roadway.

The kids especially were living in a world they had created for themselves. In those days there were no Little Leagues or activities devised by grown-ups for their children. Instead, the youngsters played "Drop Three" under the street light at the corner of Main and Pittsburgh Streets, or they used the spot as a base in playing "Go, Sheepy, Go." (The latter game began just after supper and by nightfall the "sheep" might have wandered as far away as Raccoon or Cherry Valley.)

On rainy days the boys appropriated Henry Leopold's barn where they could have a good game of marbles and, of course, Lew's horse and wagon were an added attraction.

There seemed to be more boys than girls on Pittsburgh Street in the Twenties, maybe because some of them were banded together into a gang -- Don and "Gates" Malone; their Malone cousins, Austin and "Renny;" Henry Pavan; Albert and Cline Otto; Bill Weaver (just around the corner on Main Street); and Bill Castner, who wandered up from Market Street. There were baseball and football games between this crowd and the Granish Hill boys who met them on the flats behind what is now "Renny" Malone's house.

There were girls, too, of course: Catherine Boyd, Nedra Richey, Elizabeth and Rosie Novosol, Helen, Hazel and Edna Kaiser, Grace and Evelyn Booth and Irene Malone.

Sled-riding in winter was especially fun, for the track sometimes started at the Brockman house on the hill, curved around the

Presbyterian Cemetery, extended almost the length of Pittsburgh Street to the bridge. (A guard usually stood at the Main Street intersection.)

In summer, boys of all ages congregated on Stool's Corner. If the conversation got a little too exciting Henry Stool was bound to appear at the door of his confectionery and ice-cream parlor to disperse the crowd.

Besides Henry Stool there were other "grown-ups", some who seemed to the small fry quite elderly: Miss Mary Scott, "Ma" Ringler, Miss Lizzie Leopold and Dolly Seabright, who baked mouth watering cookies for Leopold's Bakery.

Then there was Henry and Hector Pavan's father, who took some of the boys hunting for greens "coming spring." He made dandelion wine and cooked all sorts of delicious dishes when the boys' friends came for supper.

Men of the neighborhood, if they were lucky enough to have a job, worked hard for a living. Vance Malone hung wallpaper or did carpentry when he wasn't working the Zinc Plant. Earl (Spike) Malone was a machinist, first for McCabe, later for Snyder Malone and Glenn Nichols who had a shop at the lower end of Pittsburgh Street. Mr. Otto owned a tin shop; Mr. Novosol was a contractor; Harry (Tink) Richey was a carpenter and eventually the Borough Street Commissioner.

Some of the houses of Pittsburgh Street have now disappeared. After all, they were built in the early 1800's when the town was new. Others have been so renovated that their original owners, if they came back today, would never be able to recognize them.

Times have changed to be sure, but the warm feeling for Pittsburgh Street still exists in the hearts of those who knew it in the Twenties.

#### **Reforestation Planned.**

Washington county will take a leading part in the work of reforestation this spring, according to announcement from Harrisburg. During the present month trees for planting will be sent out as follows: Justus Mulert, Burgettstown, 50,000; W. S. Van Gorder, Bridgeville, 14,000; Jefferson Gas Coal Co., 5,000; West Penn Water Co., 5,000. In several other localities a considerable number of seedlings will be planted.

**Reforestation Planned**  
**Burgettstown Enterprise-April 1931 Edition**



# SMALL VOTE IS CAST BY CITIZENS OF TOWN

In spite of the fact that there were several rather heated controversies among members of the Democratic party, and considerable effort made to get out the vote of all parties, less than 33 per cent of the registered vote of the borough was polled at the primary election on Tuesday.

Last fall, when the last registration figures were available, there were in the borough 669 Republicans, 602 Democrats, 66 Non-Partisan, 4 Socialists and 2 Prohibitionists—total 1340. At the primary Tuesday there were 284 Democratic and 155 Republican votes cast, a total of 439; not quite 33 1-3 per cent of registration.

An interesting feature presented was the appearance in the contest of three Burgettstown men for the office of State Assemblyman: Dr. A. O. Hindman, incumbent member; Justice of the Peace W. J. (Bush) Whalen, Jr., Democrats, and former Postmaster Wayne M. Culley, on the Republican ticket. The Democratic contest was between Dr. Hindman and Squire Whalen, Hindman winning out by 16 votes. Mr. Culley had no opposition, and received 139 of the 155 votes polled.

The vote in the borough was as follows:

<b>President</b>	
Roosevelt, D. ....	261
Breckenridge, D. ....	6
Borah, R. ....	87
Landon, R. ....	23
<b>State Treasurer</b>	
Ross, D. ....	204
Thompson, R. ....	80
Pinola, R. ....	56
<b>Auditor General</b>	
Roberts, D. ....	176
Zimmerman, D. ....	37
Sweeny, R. ....	133
<b>Delegates to National Convention</b>	
Alfred H. Sweet, D. ....	166
A. G. Braden, D. ....	144
W. L. Cowell, D. ....	82
John L. Stewart, R. ....	84
La Fayette J. Lamar, R. ....	15
Cleve Murray ....	49
John S. Rodgers, R. ....	22
Edward Martin, R. ....	90
William J. Kyle, R. ....	9
D. Glenn Moore, R. ....	1
<b>Alternate Delegates to National Convention</b>	
A. L. Phillips, R. ....	135
Jane Sayers, R. ....	126
Floyd W. Patterson, D. ....	132
John McNaughton, D. ....	143
Stanley Granger, D. ....	82

<b>Representative in Congress</b>	
John C. Judson, R. ....	139
Lee B. Schoener, D. ....	17
Luther M. Blackburn, D. ....	21
Chas. I. Faddis, D. ....	123
Morgan Henderson, D. ....	65

<b>Member of State Committee</b>	
Kerfoot W. Daly, R. ....	128
C. S. Warne, D. ....	119
J. K. Smith, D. ....	88

<b>Representative in The General Assembly</b>	
Wayne M. Culley, R. ....	139
Wray G. Zelt, Jr., R. ....	118
Earl L. Easterbrook, D. ....	4
John E. Brown, D. ....	54
Floyd O. Vance, D. ....	3
Paul J. Pettit, D. ....	4
W. J. Whalen, Jr., D. ....	137
James H. Douglas ....	5
Russell Marino, D. ....	40
A. O. Hindman, D. ....	153
J. D. Polen, D. ....	25
Preston K. Hammers, D. ....	1
George H. Alderson, D. ....	2
W. D. Brightwell ....	7
Earl T. Vensel, D. ....	4

<b>Chairman County Committee</b>	
Earl B. Amos, D. ....	127
R. R. Chapman, D. ....	109

<b>Member County Committee</b>	
J. E. Dowden, D. ....	125
John McKenzie, D. ....	109
May Stottlemeyer, D. ....	128
Roxie Weaver, D. ....	3
Olive Bell, D. ....	1
W. B. Culley, R. ....	139
Mrs. Bertha McCormick, R. ....	119

Up to the time the forms of this issue of the Enterprise were closed no definite county or state election figures obtainable. From scattered returns of a few districts in the county it appeared R. R. Chapman of Hickory would defeat County Commissioner Earl B. Amos for chairman of the Democratic County Committee; also that Dr. A. O. Hindman of Burgettstown would carry the district for the Legislature by a small plurality. Congressman Faddis appeared to have difficulty in carrying his own county, but Washington county seemed to have given him a large lead, making his re-nomination almost certain. It appears that Earl Easterbrook of Washington has defeated John E. Brown of Hickory for the Democratic Legislature nomination. Brown is one of the present members from this district.

In the State, it appears President Roosevelt polled an enormous vote, and that Senator Borah, on the Republican ticket, was a favorite. Breckenridge, the opposer of the President, did not do much damage.

## Truck Slices Power Pole ——— Result No Power For Hours



The community was without electric power last Thursday morning for a period of hours because a truck sliced off two power line poles near Scott's Service Station. The Enterprise photographer caught Manager H. J. DeBolt inspecting the work of repair crews at the scene of the mishap.

**Truck Slices Power Pole on South Main Street- Burgettstown, PA**  
**Burgettstown Enterprise-September 16, 1954 Edition**  
*Fort Vance Historical Society*

## **POLICE SET SPEED TRAP ON CENTER AVE.**

Defender of the peace of this Community and foe of erratic speeding drivers, Chief of Police Sam Powell this week issued an ultimatum, where by he hopes to curb speeding on Center avenue.

With the re-surfacing of this link of State highway No. 18 practically completed, Chief Powell has reasons to believe that Center avenue will become the favorite boulevard of fast drivers. He expects to establish a speed trap on Center avenue and with the aid of deputy officers, to enforce a speed limit of 25 miles per hour. Speedsters who are caught will be subject to fines of \$10 to \$25 and run the risk of losing driver's license.

Clinton William Gilkey of Follansbee was hailed before Squire Whalen by Chief Powell on Friday, charged with disorderly conduct on Center avenue. He was fined \$25.

Kenneth C. Wilson of Ingram was arrested on Main street by Chief Powell on Tuesday, August 6, charged with driving while intoxicated and having no driver's license. He was given a hearing before Squire Whalen and held for Court under \$500 bond. He was fined \$12.25 for having no license. His companion on the escapade, Mabel E. Lewis, also of Ingram and holder of a driver's license was arrested and fined \$25 for permitting Wilson to drive while intoxicated. She was also fined \$5.00 for being drunk and disorderly.

**Speed Trap on Center Avenue  
Burgettstown Enterprise- August 8, 1940 Edition**

## Tornado Raises Havoc In Area



The severe storm warnings posted here last week brought back memories of scenes such as the one above. This was the Pappas Lumber Yard, which was destroyed by a flash tornado early Tuesday, September 2, 1947.

The swift and deadly windstorm, leaving in its wake desolation, disaster and death, cut a swath 100 feet wide from Eldersville to South Burgettstown. Two aged men were killed in their beds.

In addition to the destruction at the Pappas Lumber Yard, the Nichols Machine Shop was struck down. Damage was estimated at more than \$100,000.

The storm, which spent itself rather quickly, started in the hills at Eldersville, tore through South Burgettstown, where several homes were badly damaged, took off over the hill above the old First Presbyterian Church cemetery, carrying with it a porch from the Paul Smith residence, and blew itself out in Cherry Valley and Raccoon, where it destroyed the Barish home.

In addition to homes being demolished, cattle and livestock were destroyed; orchards, groaning with a heavy autumn apple crop, were literally uprooted and carried away in the wind; potatoes were sucked out of the ground; corn and grain fields, laden with a summer harvest; were flattened; trees and telephone poles were sheared off, as with a scythe; and windows in dozens of homes that lay in the path of the whirlwind were shattered.

A car parked in front of Brosky's Restaurant had its window open not more than an inch. No other windows were rolled down. After the tornado, a large piece of slate, 10 inches in diameter, was found on the car seat. Neighbors were astonished that such a large piece of material could have been blown through the narrow slit of open window.

**Tornado Raises Havoc in Area**  
**Burgettstown Enterprise-September 1947 Edition**

**Main Street, Burgettstown about the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.**



**This photo was taken looking down from the railroad. The two houses at the end were the homes of Mrs. Margaret Hayden, the mother of the late Mrs. Charles F. Barr, and that of Mrs. Elizabeth Bradley whose only son was killed in the Civil War. In his memory, the bell in Hillcrest Presbyterian Church was purchased and his name, William S. Bradley, the Burgettstown Sons of the Veterans Camp No. 96.**



A scene on Bridge Street,  
Burgettstown, about 1900. (Loaned by Katherine Pyle)

**A scene from Bridge Street, Burgettstown, PA**  
**Burgettstown Enterprise-June 30, 1976 Bicentennial Edition**

*First Vance Historical Society*



The winter scene was taken from near Hillcrest UP Church, Burgettstown, looking down the hill toward Main. These buildings stood where the recently dedicated Stottlemeyer Park is located. Far right is the frame Methodist Church where folks of that faith met from 1871 to

1885. It would be approximately where Petrucci's Market now stands. Second from right was the McMurry Drug Store. The McMurry house was next. The building on the left is unidentified. The picture was taken around 1900. (Loaned by Katherine Pyle)

**View of Main Street from Church Street, Burgettstown, PA  
Burgettstown Enterprise-June 30, 1976 Bicentennial Edition**

*Fort Vance Historical Society*



**Looking toward Maple Avenue, from Main Street, Burgettstown  
About 1900**

*Fort Vance Historical Society*



## ***Coming Into Its Own***

After a lapse of many years, Burgettstown is coming into its own in the way of recognition in a political way. During the past 50 years or more the town has bowed humbly before the "up river" towns and Little Washington when it came to filling county and state offices.

Many years ago the late William G. Shillito was elected a County Commissioner. Two years ago Dr. A. O. Hindman was elected a representative in the Assembly at Harrisburg. These are the only two instances in the memory of man when Burgettstown was permitted to have a citizen fill an office outside his own baliwick.

The candidacy of C. W. Tope for the office of County Treasurer is a source of gratification to this newspaper. For many years the Enterprise has supported the candidacies of various men for various county and state offices, regardless of the political affiliations of the candidates. In matters of this kind the Enterprise is interested in its own town, rather than the "up river" towns and Little Washington.

The offices have been filled too long with men from certain sections, while other sections were left out in the cold. The habit became pretty bad in Washington county. A small group, constituting a sort of mutual admiration society, has consistently held the offices in the face of all opposition and in sublime indifference to what the people thought of such action.

Things are different now. Burgettstown is coming into its own. The election of Mr. Tope as County Treasurer will go a long way toward getting the old home town on the map, and keeping it there, but a good, heavy vote in the borough and in the home area is needed for emphasis.

During the primary campaign we said: "A vote for Tope is a vote for Burgettstown." At the coming election on November 5th a vote for Tope will mean even more.

Loyal citizens are urged to vote for the prestige of their town!

**Burgettstown-Coming Into Its Own**  
**The Burgettstown Enterprise-October 30, 1935 Edition**

## **The Big Fire of 1895**

### **The Enterprise-December 5, 1895 Edition**

Friday morning, Nov. 29<sup>th</sup>, Burgettstown was visited by the most disastrous fire in the history of the town. A detailed account of this occurrence may be stale reading to citizens of the town and immediate vicinity, but it is the duty of THE ENTERPRISE to record it for the information of its readers at a distance and also as an important event in local history.

The fire originated in W.E. Lowe's barbershop. How it started is not definitely known. Mr. Lowe left a gas jet burning the evening before, as was his custom, and the gas was also burning in the stove, but from all the information we can get neither was turned on very strong, and the ceiling was protected from the jet by a tin shield. At about 4:45 a.m. J.G. Shane, who watches and keeps up fires in the Burgettstown Accommodation, passed the barber shop on his way to wake the crew of the accommodation. He noticed nothing unusual. Returning 15 minutes later he discovered the room full of flames and smoke. The blaze was too strong for him to subdue himself, and he immediately ran to his engine and gave the alarm by blowing the whistle. Within two minutes several citizens were on the ground but the fire had gained too much headway and they devoted themselves to saving adjoining property. Those who first saw the fire say that it seemed to have started at the eastern edge of the ceiling of the shop, which was wood. From the barber shop the fire communicate to the harness shop of Cyrus McCreary on the western side and under the same roof. These shops belonged to Burgettstown National Bank. McCreary's shop was ablaze in a few minutes, and in very little time that it takes to tell it both shops were a mass of ruins, and the Masonic Hall on the west side, belonging to J.L. Patterson, and the old bank building on the east side, belonging to the Burgettstown Bank, were on fire. The Hall was occupied on the first floor by A.E. McCabe, grocer; Thos. Forsyth, merchant tailor, and J. A. MacKenzie, musical instruments; on the second floor by Richard Vaux Lodge 454, R & A.M., the Burgettstown Council Jr. O.U.A.M., and Joseph Armstrong, insurance agent. The bank building was occupied by Isaac Fleming as a dwelling and restaurant. It was soon seen that neither of these buildings could be saved, and the volunteer fire brigade which by that time numbered several hundred, devoted itself to try to save adjoining buildings and property contained in them. A bucket line was formed to the creek, people carried water from the neighboring wells and cisterns, and others stationed themselves on the threatened buildings, covering the exposed surfaces with salt and blankets, throwing water on them. The next building to go was Dr. R.W. Riddle's stable at the rear of the Hall, then his coal house, and then his office caught fire, and it was only by the most strenuous efforts that the latter was saved. Within fifteen minutes after the Hall caught fire, a volume of flames rolled across the 30-foot street on the west side and enveloped the long frame building of B.F. McClure & Bros., occupied by them on the first floor as a hardware and implement store, and on the second floor by the ENTERPRISE-CALL office. This was soon a mass of flames and the heat was intense. This was the critical point. The men were beginning to get control of the fire on the east and south, and if McClure Bros.' stable could be saved it could be checked on the west. For half of an hour everybody was in suspense, and men never put in better work than did those who so earnestly tried to save their neighbor's property. We said men, but women should be included, for they were there and helped nobly. On all sides of the fire men were fighting it with energy of desperation. A great deal depended on their efforts. If the fire broke out again on the east or south side it meant the probable destruction of the that portion of town between the railroad and the creek, and on the west, at least five more dwellings would have gone and three or four more sheds. Within an hour and a quarter after the fire first broke out McClure's building had fallen in, and all danger to neighboring property, under the favorable condition of the weather, was over. However it was a narrow escape. Dr. Riddle's residence and office, McClure's stable, Armor & Linn's warehouse and J. E. Fulton's feed store were all badly scorched. The old frame building of A.S. Berryhill, occupied by Thos. Russo, was in great danger, and the fact that the old bank building was saved it, and consequently that whole end of town. A fire engine was sent for to Steubenville, but before it got here the fire was under control and the order was countermanded. Several men has their faces and hands blistered and their clothing burned.

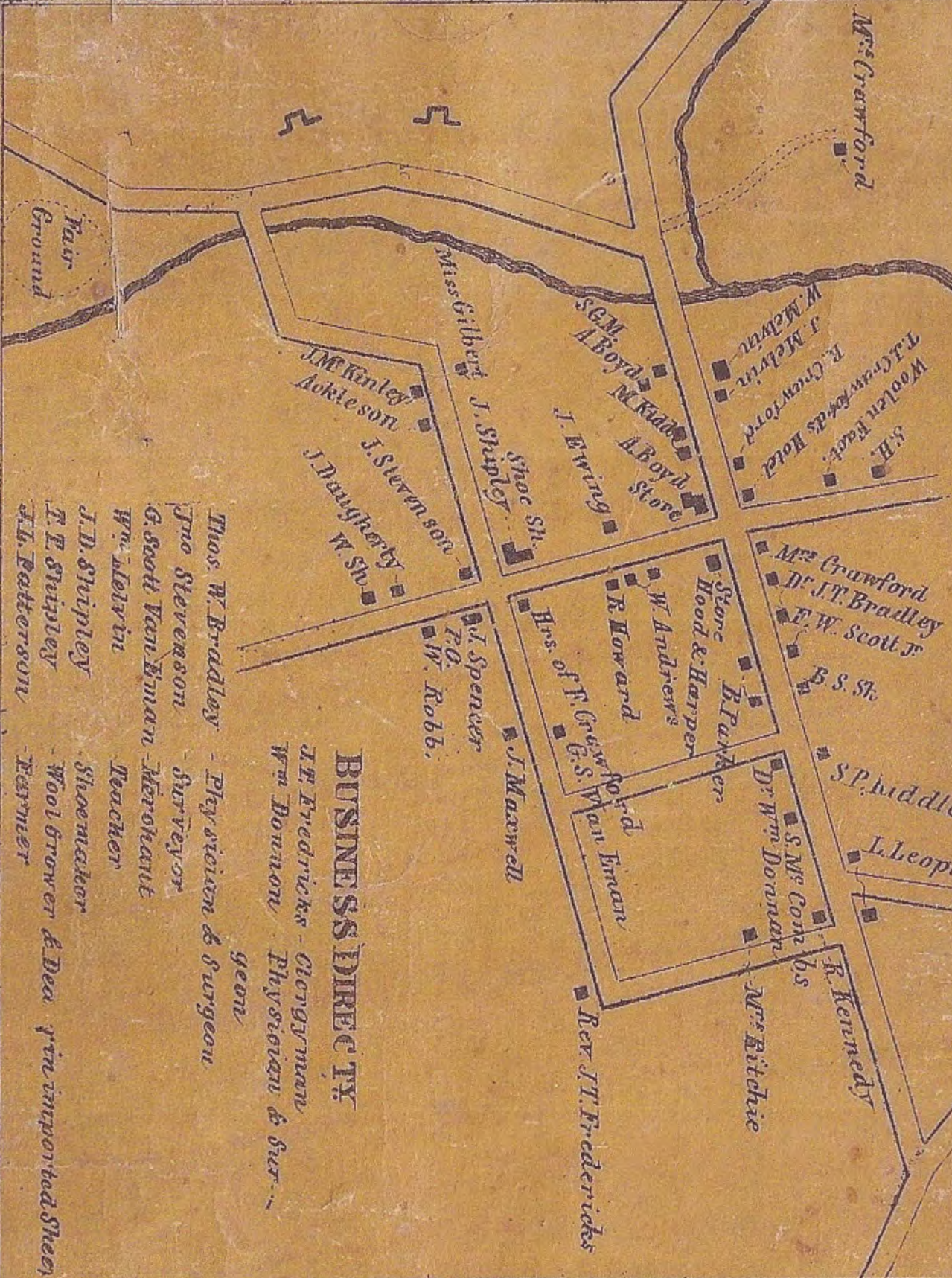
So rapid was the fire that comparative little of the movable property was saved. Following is a list of the loses as nearly we can ascertain them; Burgettstown National Bank, on old bank building, \$2,300, insurance \$1700; on shops, \$800, insurance \$300, J.L. Patterson, on Masonic Hall, \$3,500; insurance \$2,500; W.E. Lowe, on barber shop, \$250; covered by insurance, Cyrus McCready, harness and saddle stock, \$500; no insurance. A.E. McCabe, groceries, \$800; insurance \$500. Thomas Forsythe, tailoring stock, \$150: no insurance. J.A. MacKenzie, musical merchandise and sewing machines, \$150; no insurance. Jos. Armstrong office furniture, \$75; no insurance. Richard Vaux lodge, \$650; insurance \$500. Jr. D.U.A.M., \$350; no insurance. Isaac Fleming, household furniture \$650; insurance \$500; restaurant and confectionary stock, \$500; insurance \$300, Dr. W.V. Riddle, stable, coal house, damage to house and office, &c., \$500; no insurance. B.F. McClure & Bro., store building, hardware, sewing machines, implements, etc., \$8,000; insurance \$4,700. The ENTERPRISE-CALL plant was worth over \$3,200.

***Compliments of the Fort Vance Historical Society***

# BURGETTS TOWN.

Sarsher

Presb. Ch.

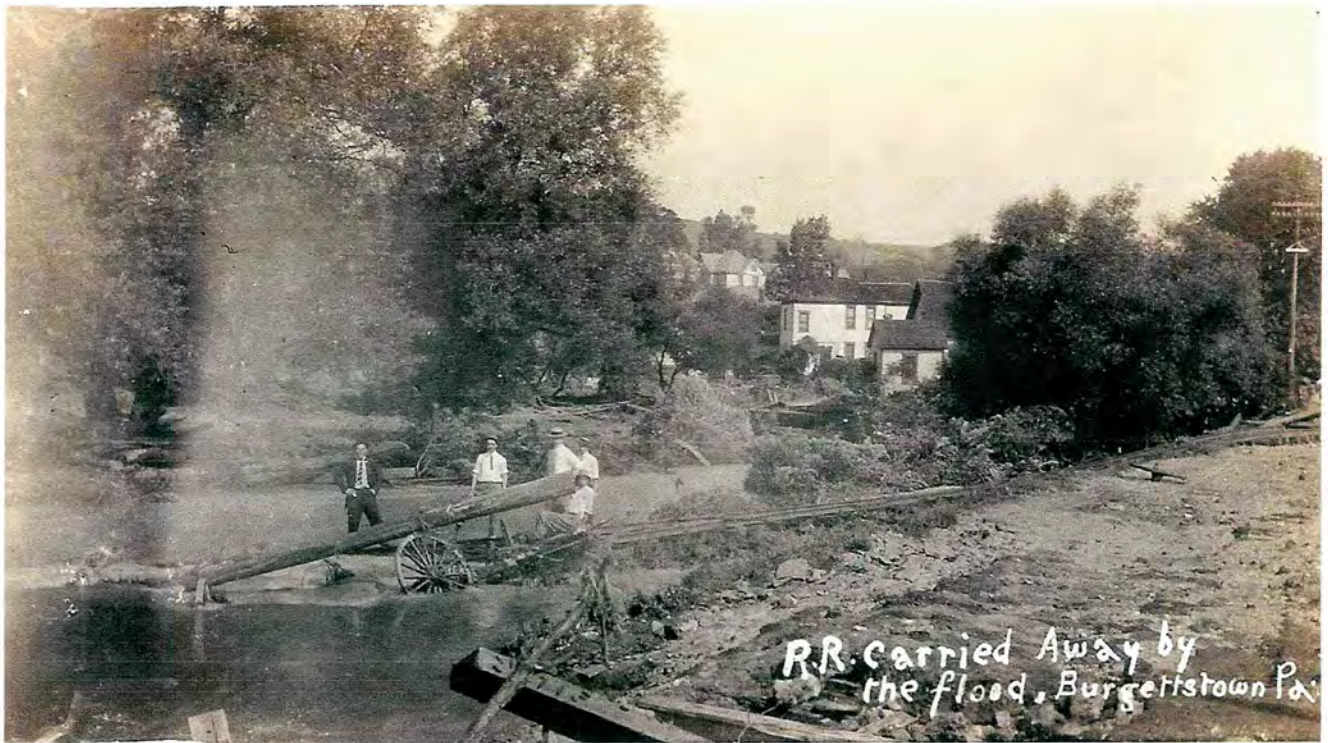


## BUSINESS DIRECTORY

J.T. Fredericks - Clergyman  
 Wm. Donnan - Physician & Surgeon

Thos. W. Bradley - Physician & Surgeon  
 Jno. Stevenson - Surveyor  
 G. Scott Van Emman - Merchant  
 Wm. Melvin - Teacher

J.D. Shipley - Shoemaker  
 T.E. Shipley - Wool grower & Dealer in imported Shies  
 A.L. Patterson - Farmer



Approximate location of the creek is behind Family Dollar.  
A couple of hundred feet from the Shady Avenue Bridge location.



The debris behind the white house is of the Shady Avenue bridge.

**Flood of 1912-Main Street, Burgettstown, PA**

*Fort Vance Historical Society*



Felch Bros.  
Burgettstown, Pa.  
Clearing up Wreckage: Flood of Sept. 2, 12.

**Felch Brothers-Burgettstown, PA**  
**Flood of September 2, 1912**  
*Fort Vance Historical Society*



**Mary Ann Theatre and Central Lunch, later known as Pack's Restaurant  
1950 Flood**

*Courtesy of Fort Vance Historical Society*



**Green's Towing setting the Boro's 2018 Christmas Tree  
Located in the traffic island near Petrucci's**

*Courtesy of Fort Vance Historical Society*



## Parking Meters Go Into Operation For First Time On Saturday Morning; 84 Are Installed



Shown above are Chief of Police Henry Vega and President of Council George Wagner inspecting the parking meters which are being installed along Burgettstown's Main street. Eighty four meters were placed this week, beginning at the Louder home, corner of Market and South Main street and proceed along the right hand side of the street up to the post office where they switch to the left hand side and are placed at car intervals from there to the Caplan Auto Parts Shop on North Main street.

The parking meters will be placed in operation for the first time on Saturday morning, charges will be 1c for 12 minutes and 5c an hour. Monthly reports of the moneys received from the meters will be published in the Enterprise.

Mr. Vega stated that any person found tampering with the meters in any way will be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law. Persons guilty of parking violations will be charged one hour for the first offense and \$1 for the second offense. All stalls will be plainly marked at each meter.

**84 Parking Meters Go Into Operation**  
**Burgettstown Enterprise-May 11, 1950 Edition**

8. The real property which is the subject of this Agreement is described as follows:

ALL that certain lot or parcel of ground situate in the Borough of Burgettstown, Washington County, Pennsylvania, bounded and described as follows:

BEGINNING at a post near the southern line of the P.C.C. and St. L. R.R. right of way; thence South 37-1/4° West, 40 feet to a post on the 16 foot public alley; thence South 48-1/2° East by line of said alley, 95 feet to a post; thence North 37-1/4° East, 40 feet to a post on corner of lot of Burgettstown National Bank; thence North 48-1/2° West, 95 feet to the place of beginning.

The said lot is part of Lot No. 3 in the Plan of Lots of the Town of Abilene, now the Borough of Burgettstown,

UNDER AND SUBJECT to such exceptions, reservations, conditions and covenants as are contained in the chain of title.

BEING a part of the same conveyed by Russell Marino, Clerk of Orphans' Court of Washington County, Pennsylvania, to Wayne M. Culley and Stella H. Culley, his wife, dated June 13, 1968 and of record in Deed Book 1280, page 776. The said Wayne M. Culley predeceased his wife, Stella H. Culley, leaving her seized in fee simple absolute of the aforesaid property by operation of law.

UPON which is erected a two story frame dwelling with two storerooms and two apartments.

---

Partial deed from the purchase of Culley building on Railroad Street, Burgettstown, Pa. to the Fritch Family.

**"The said lot is part of Lot. No. 3 in the Plan of Lots of the Town of Abilene, now the Borough of Burgettstown."**

# Annual Clean-Up of Town Will Soon Face Citizenry

Close Approach of Spring Brings  
Forth Realization That  
Town Needs Care

While the winter season, now rapidly waning, has not been as severe as many winters of the past, a lack of carefulness among the people has resulted in the town becoming somewhat soiled and sordid in appearance. There are large accumulations of tin cans, junk and debris of all description lying in the byways and alleys. Vacant lots look unsightly; Raccoon creek is full of litter, and all about may be seen evidences of untidiness.

Burgettstown is too important a place to be permitted to fall into a condition that borders on ugliness. The majority of citizens are proud of their town and want to see it made and kept a clean, pretty town. In order to have a clean town it is necessary for the people to be clean. It is quite true that any town is likely to get into a rut of uncleanness during a winter season, when it is not always easy to dispose of rubbish, but there are certain limits beyond which it would seem it should not be necessary to go in the way of carelessness.

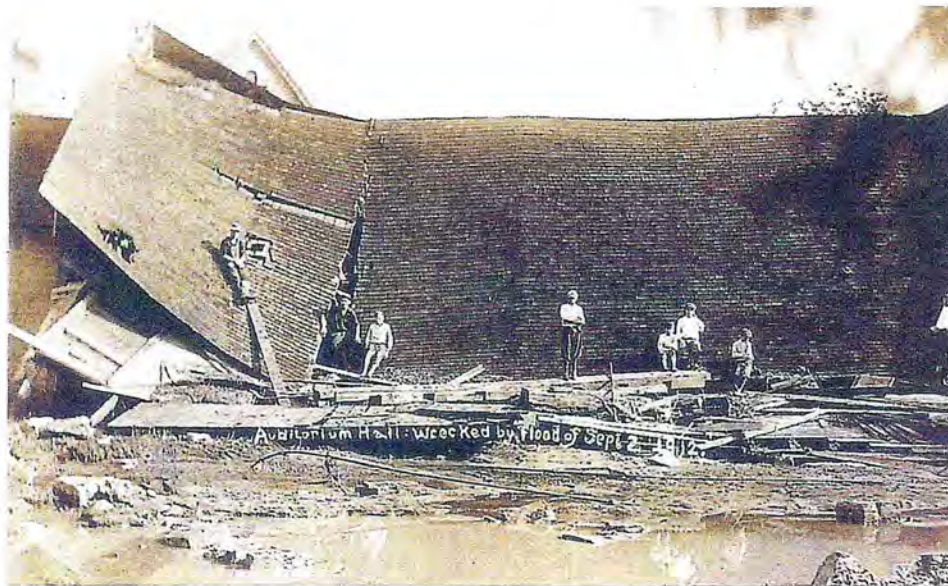
One of the first things to impress a stranger entering the borough limits is the general appearance of run-down dilatoriness and want of cleanly progressiveness. Narrow streets, with unclean sidewalks, mud and grime, with side vistas of tin cans, bed-springs and other trash is far from indicative of the town spirit. But the whole thing looks bad. With a little care the streets and surroundings could be made attractive, and it would require but little effort to avoid having the town adversely criticised.

It is understood the borough authorities will in the near future supervise and assist the citizenry in a spring clean-up campaign. This campaign should be begun at once by the citizens, and a good start made by the time the general work is undertaken by the borough.

From now on property owners should endeavor to clear up litter of all kinds and remove it to a suitable place for disposal. Ash piles and junk piles should disappear before the advent of the growing season when grass needs an opportunity to grow.

Starting in at once, it will not be difficult to get the ill-looking spots put in order, and as there is an abundance of man power available it should not be difficult to make the town shine before many days pass. The job is up to the people. Public sentiment should take hold and get things moving.

**Annual Clean-up of Town Will Soon Face Citizenry**  
**Burgettstown Enterprise-September 12, 1931 Edition**



## Auditorium Hall

Built in 1845, the hall was first used as a church. The original building was located inside the cemetery lot on the hill on East Pittsburgh Street. The original size was 52 x 45 feet in size and cost \$1300. The church was enlarged in 1860 and again in 1868. The building was used as a church until 1874, when Hillcrest Church was built.

In 1875, after the completion of the new church, the old frame building was moved in its entirety to the present day site across from Petrucci's IGA and Family Dollar.

The building was used as an auditorium and town hall. Other businesses included a dance hall and auto-motion picture shows.

The building was destroyed in the flood of September 2, 1912.

#### **More Road Construction.**

Work on new road improvement projects is under way between Francis mine and Hanlin station, and between Burgettstown and Bavington. On the latter road about four miles of improvement is to be made. Construction is of native stone broken to cover six inches of depth, with a covering of screenings rolled in and the application of an oil top dressing. A considerable number of men will find employment on these jobs.



## **Burgettstown, PA**

*Courtesy of Fort Vance Historical Society*

## COUNCIL AGREES TO COAT BOROUGH STREETS WITH 8,000 GALLONS OIL

To alleviate the dust problem in the Borough, members of Council voted to advertise for bids on 8,000 gallons more or less of MC-1 road oil, applied and delivered, at their regular meeting Monday night in the Borough building. It was agreed to adjourn this meeting until Thursday, August 13, at 8 p.m. when the bids will be opened. Oil will be placed on streets this month.

The dust problem on Maple avenue was called to the board's attention by Oscar Harbaugh and Stanley Grabsky who appeared at the meeting. The motion to purchase oil was made by George Wagner, seconded by Eugene Petrucci.

The gentlemen from Maple avenue also informed Council of sewer problems in that locality, after which Clair Martin motioned that the sewer committee meet with the engineer and make a survey of Maple avenue to determine what costs will be to install a sanitary sewer there. The motion was seconded by H. L. Buckwalter.

Mr. McGraw of South Main and Pittsburgh streets made a complaint due to lack of parking space at his home faced by parking meters and sided by "no parking" signs. To relieve this problem on that corner, a motion by Clair Martin was passed to remove two parking signs on the south side of East Pittsburgh street, at the McGraw property.

A bid for 5,000 gallons more or less of BM-1 asphalt was accepted at 21c per gallon from the Russell Supply Company. The motion was made by Martin, seconded by Phil Gray.

Collection of delinquent mercantile tax was left to the discretion of the financial committee-Councilmen Wagner, Gray and Martin, who will meet with the solicitor and decide what measures will be taken.

Another guest at council was Dr. Glenn M. Roberts who explained to the board that some parking privilege should be extended doctors, who are always on call for emergency cases.

Dr. Roberts' request made quite an impression on the borough fathers. This was due to an emergency call which interrupted his plea and sent him to Slovan where he delivered a 7 lb. 1 oz. boy to Mr. and Mrs. Jack Lewis, 20 minutes later.

The borough fathers discussed the problem and agreed to extend parking privileges to doctors by installing a sign, "Doctor Emergency", on the sun visor inside physicians cars.

Three bids were received for the job of extra duty policeman, submitted by: Mike Robb, William Hampson and Paul Smith. A motion was passed to accept Mr. Robb's application.

Work on the scout hut, which is being reconditioned for use as a school for mentally retarded children, was reported on by Phil Gray. Additional funds were requested to complete repairs and Mr. Martin motioned that \$350 be appropriated, seconded by Mr. Petrucci.

The following police report for July was read by Mr. Cunningham, in the absence of Burgess Canning.

Parking tickets, \$56; total overload fines, \$300; disorderly conduct, \$5; drunk and disorderly, \$20; parking meters, \$191; totaling \$572. Vega issued 12 tickets and Malone issued 36 tickets.

## BOROUGH DADS WILL SPONSOR SIDEWALK PLAN

The Borough Dads in regular session on Monday evening discussed at great length a proposed N.Y.A. project to build new and repair old sidewalks in Burgettstown. Engineer Berkemeyer outlined a plan to Council for sidewalk improvement as an N.Y.A. project whereby property owners can either build new sidewalks or repair old sidewalks for just the cost of materials, the labor to be furnished free by a project.

Mr. Berkemeyer told council he estimated the cost of materials for building new sidewalks at 15 cents a square foot. Property owners who expect to participate in this project can either buy materials through council, cash in advance, or purchase their own material.

Council approved plans for the Project and will proceed with securing such a project if enough property owners are interested. Property owners who desire to participate in the project should notify Secretary W. J. Whalen, Jr. before June 1st.

Borough Treasurer James J. Reed was authorized to borrow \$3000 from the Washington National Bank for current expenses for a period of 60 days.

Bids for a new borough truck were opened and the contract was awarded to the McCormick Motor Company for a 95 horse power chassis to be used with the old borough truck bed, at a cost of \$469.29, including the old truck.

Frank Pappas, who is repairing the Borough building was present with paint samples and Councilmen decided on an antique brown trim for the borough building.

A request from representatives of the Burgettstown Volunteer Fire Department that Council purchase badges for the Firemen to wear on their uniforms, at a cost of 90c each was tabled.

Members of the Board of Health Rev. Father McCashin, Dr. A. O. Hindman and Messrs F. I. Scott, L. E. Foster and Samuel DeWalt were present to protest Harrisburg interference with the Home Rule of the Board of Health. Father McCashin, as spokesman for the group declared that inasmuch as the local board has in its membership a qualified and competent physician, he believed that this Board is capable of enforcing sanitary laws and guarding the Health of the townspeople, without Harrisburg interference. The Board was given a vote of confidence by the Borough Dads and full control of the hiring of health officer and secretary was turned over to this body.

**Borough Dads Will Sponsor Sidewalk Plan  
Burgettstown Enterprise-May 9, 1940 Edition**



# The Borough Primary Vote

Due to strenuous efforts on the part of followers of various candidacies a heavy vote was polled in the borough on Tuesday and the election board was kept busy until 7 o'clock Wednesday morning tabulating the ballots. The results were as follows, eliminating a large number of ballots cast for various persons whose total vote amounted to only two or three:

<b>Republican Ticket:</b>		<b>School Director (6 Years):</b>	
<b>Judge of Supreme Court:</b>		J. Clarence Wolfe ..... 207	
Woodward .....	83	C. W. Tope .....	55
Drew .....	307	Stanley Gleason .....	97
<b>County Commissioner:</b>		W. E. Dickson .....	270
King .....	9	W. J. McCashin .....	114
Walker .....	253	<b>High Constable</b>	
Underwood .....	87	J. E. Dowden .....	24
O'Neil .....	76	<b>Judge of Elections:</b>	
Farrar .....	48	Thomas F. Nichols .....	372
J. Elmer Johnston .....	285	<b>Inspector of Elections:</b>	
R. C. Buchanan .....	31	Ann Ackleson .....	380
J. Willis Martin .....	16	<b>Democratic Ticket</b>	
<b>County Treasurer:</b>		<b>Judge of the Supreme Court:</b>	
Albert L. Berry .....	51	Charles F. Uhl .....	27
John J. Curran .....	68	James B. Drew .....	59
C. E. Carothers .....	382	<b>County Commissioner:</b>	
<b>District Attorney:</b>		W. A. Barnes .....	101
John C. Judson .....	86	J. W. Manon .....	41
Warren S. Burchinal .....	315	Harry V. Day .....	27
<b>Clerk of Courts:</b>		<b>County Treasurer:</b>	
William D. Davies .....	389	John L. Post .....	92
<b>Prothonotary:</b>		<b>District Attorney:</b>	
Ernest T. McNary .....	397	J. R. Irwin Knox .....	86
<b>Register of Wills:</b>		<b>Clerk of Courts:</b>	
Robert J. Coulson .....	392	Stephen M. Byers .....	79
<b>Coroner:</b>		<b>Register of Wills:</b>	
William B. Baker .....	386	C. W. Tope .....	67
<b>Director of the Poor:</b>		<b>Coroner:</b>	
James B. Wray .....	393	Frank B. Briggs .....	85
<b>County Surveyor:</b>		<b>County Surveyor:</b>	
Alexander L. McVicker .....	83	J. Harold Chapman .....	80
George S. Chaney .....	309	<b>Council (4 Years):</b>	
<b>Council (4 Years):</b>		A. R. Miller .....	83
W. M. Agnew .....	120	W. R. Allison .....	85
T. A. Howe .....	190	S. J. McCalmont .....	61
S. J. McCalmont .....	234	G. S. Walters .....	73
A. R. Miller .....	273	<b>Auditor (6 Years):</b>	
George Hannan .....	266	R. D. Stottlemeyer .....	94
<b>Auditor (6 Years):</b>		<b>School Director (6 Years):</b>	
W. A. McIntyre .....	113	C. W. Tope .....	43
Lee R. McKinney .....	205	Stanley Gleason .....	56
T. E. Dunbar .....	51	J. Clarence Wolfe .....	92
		W. J. McCashin .....	7
		W. E. Dickson .....	21
		<b>High Constable:</b>	
		E. Dowden .....	11
		<b>Constable:</b>	
		E. Dowden .....	8
		<b>Judge of Elections:</b>	
		W. W. Stewart .....	100
		<b>Inspector of Elections:</b>	
		F. I. Scott .....	97

**BOROUGH FOR YEAR ENDING JANUARY 1, 1932  
STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS OF BURGETTSTOWN**

Account of C. L. Westlake, Tax Collector

**DEBIT**

By Uncollected Tax 1927 .....	\$ 322.77
By Uncollected Tax 1928 .....	278.82
By Uncollected Tax 1929 .....	471.40
By Uncollected Tax 1930 .....	1,158.29
By Tax Duplicate 1931 .....	22,428.06
By Cash due Treasurer 1930 .....	536.00
By Penalties due Treasurer 1929 .....	7.88

Total \$25,203.22

**CREDIT**

To Cash paid Treasurer 1929 .....	59.15
To Cash paid Treasurer 1930 .....	851.14
To Cash paid Treasurer 1931 .....	17,358.91
To Uncollected Tax 1927 .....	322.77
To Uncollected Tax 1928 .....	274.62
To Uncollected Tax 1929 .....	412.25
To Uncollected Tax 1930 .....	843.15
To Uncollected Tax 1931 .....	4,213.68
To Abatement 1931 .....	855.47
To Penalties Due Treasurer 1929 .....	7.88
To Cash Due Treasurer 1928 .....	4.20

Total \$25,203.22

**STATEMENT OF ACCOUNT OF  
C. W. Davidson, Treasurer, Burgettstown Borough**

**DEBIT**

To Collector 1931 Tax .....	\$12,729.87
To Collector 1930 Tax .....	851.14
To Collector 1929 Tax .....	59.15
Liens paid by County Treasury office as collected....	122.36
Foreign fire insurance collected by State Treasurer....	523.78
Pole tax by S. W. Penn Pipe Line Co. to June 30-32 .....	10.25
Pole tax by West Penn Power Co. to June 30-32 .....	62.25
Pole tax by Bell Telephone Co. to June 30-32 .....	45.25
Office site rental E. McFarland to June 30-32 .....	25.00
Election room rental .....	5.00
Printing ordinance refund by Bell Telephone Co. ....	20.85
Motor parts refund .....	68.00
Workmen Compensation insurance refund .....	7.28
Burgettstown Volunteer Fire Dept. 1/2 of fire hose bill	318.50
Broken window refund .....	2.00
Board of Health collections for weed cutting assess- ments .....	8.00
Fire call to Johnson property Cross Creek .....	100.00
Fire call to Slovan .....	125.00
Fines by W. B. Culley .....	56.00
Fines by W. G. Shillito .....	95.00
Fines by R. C. Cassidy .....	21.00
Fine forfeit .....	5.00
Jail fee for outside prisoners collected by Burgess ....	66.00
Transient merchant license fee collected by Burgess .....	7.00
Dance license collected by Burgess .....	13.00
Pool table license collected by Burgess .....	5.00
Pool table license paid to Treasurer direct .....	13.98
Gasoline tank removal H. Povero .....	7.60
Opening sewer S. Pusateri .....	3.00
Sidewalk repairs E. Carson .....	4.40
Sidewalk repairs J. R. McNary .....	4.56
Balance on hand December 30th, 1930 .....	3,889.89

Total Receipts \$19,275.11

**CREDIT**

By Water .....	\$ 1,601.28
By Gas .....	159.80
By Electric .....	2,628.53
By Solicitors retaining fee .....	200.00
By Attorney fees & expense in legal proceedings ...	300.00
By Burgess salary .....	200.00
By Secretary salary .....	100.00
By Auditor's salary .....	15.00
By Collector's Commission .....	423.62
By Engineering .....	218.00
By Police salary .....	1,500.00
By Street Commissioner salary .....	1,500.00
By Treasurer's Commissions .....	338.98
By Extra Police hire .....	311.25
By Board of Health Secretary salary .....	120.00
By Health officer salary & fees .....	212.50
By Janitress salary .....	21.00
By Awards granted for damages .....	1,798.85
By Convention expense .....	311.85
By Workmen Compensation insurance .....	149.95
By Building insurance .....	131.25
By Truck insurance .....	268.53
By Collectors bond premium .....	37.50
By Freight and express .....	156.24
By office supplies .....	15.30
By truck hire and labor for clean up day & weed cutting .....	75.00
By printing .....	179.30
By supplies and labor painting parking & safety lines	160.57
By parking & speed signs .....	103.06
By special lighting & decoration labor & supplies ...	87.71
By property supplies for maintenance .....	96.53
By fire hose .....	637.00
By gasoline, oil, etc. for trucks .....	97.44
By repair parts & labor for motor equipment main- tenance .....	237.39
By labor for street repairs & maintenance .....	278.16
By material for street repairs & maintenance .....	831.07
By sewer repairs & maintenance .....	15.47
By association dues .....	12.00
By officer expense for serving subpoenas .....	14.35
By filing liens .....	33.25
By Borough bulletin .....	12.00
By prisoners food .....	1.35
By Foreign Fire Insurance paid to Relief Association	523.78
By Tax refund to Frank Krosevitz & wife .....	2.80
By Balance on hand December 31, 1931 .....	3,157.45

Total \$19,275.11

**DEBT FUND**

**DEBIT**

To Collector 1931 tax .....	\$ 4,629.04
Balance December 31st 1930 .....	199.58

Total \$4,828.62

**CREDIT**

By Bonds Paid, series of 1914 Nos. 45-46-47-48 .....	\$ 2,000.00
By Bonds Paid, series of 1922 Nos. 3 .....	1,000.00
By Interest on bonds .....	1,086.25
By State tax on bonds .....	84.08
By Balance on hand December 31st, 1931 .....	658.29

Indebtedness of Borough \$4,828.62

Outstanding Bonds 1914 series .....	\$6,000.00
Outstanding Bonds 1922 series .....	12,000.00

Total \$18,000.00

We, the undersigned Auditors of the Borough of Burgettstown, Washington County, Pennsylvania, have this 15th, day of February 1932, audited the accounts of C. L. Westlake, the Tax Collector, and C. W. Davidson, Treasurer of the Borough of Burgettstown, Washington County, Pennsylvania, and find them correct as above stated.

Lee R. McKinney  
James J. Reed  
Wert A. McIntyre  
Auditors

**Burgettstown Borough for year ending January 1, 1932**

**Burgettstown Enterprise-February 25, 1932**

## BURGESS GETS LETTER FROM 'TOUR' VISITORS

Chamber of Commerce of Steubenville  
Expresses Appreciation for  
Courtesy to Tourists

An expression of appreciation from the Steubenville Chamber of Commerce has been received by Burgess C. Cassidy in connection with the "good will tour" of Steubenville business interests which banquetted and gave an entertainment here on September 16th.

This expression came to the burgess in the form of a letter from W. A. Mills, manager of the Steubenville organizations. The letter follows:

"Dear Burgess Cassidy:

"Members of the Steubenville Goodwill Party have asked me to express their appreciation for the courteous reception accorded them by citizens of your community during their visit to Burgettstown.

"The 1931 tour was, without a doubt, the most successful tour ever staged by this organization. No small credit for this success is due to the hospitality shown by citizens of the communities visited.

"Mr. Bower, chairman of the party, desires that I express his personal appreciation for your cooperation.

Will you extend to Mr. Barr, members of the Board of Education, the clergyman who gave the invocation and other members of the reception committee that cared so well for our reception, an expression of this appreciation?

"William A. Mills, Manager."

**GOOD WILL TOURISTS  
ARE COMING TO TOWN**

**Business Interests of Steubenville  
On Tour of "Good Will" to  
Be Here Next Week**

A "Good Will" tour of a group of business men of Steubenville, under the management of the Chamber of Commerce of the neighboring city, is scheduled to make a stop in Burgettstown on Wednesday evening of next week. More than a hundred representatives of the various lines of trade of Steubenville will be in the party.

The program arranged for the evening covers a dinner to be served in the First Presbyterian church by the ladies of the congregation and a minstrel and vaudeville entertainment to be given by the tourists in the Union high school auditorium. The dinner will be served at 6 o'clock and the entertainment will be held at 8 o'clock. The show will consist of an old time minstrel and variety performance and a magician will be featured. There is no admission fee charged for the entertainment. Tickets for the dinner may be obtained from the ladies of the First Presbyterian church.

The object of the good will tour is to get the business people of the two communities better acquainted; to learn something about other towns and at the same time promote the interests of Steubenville insofar as they do not conflict with local interests. The occasion affords an opportunity for old friends to renew friendships and for strangers to become acquainted.

Burgess R. C. Cassidy will head a special reception committee and will deliver an address of welcome at the dinner. As members of the committee the burgess has selected the following: Dr. W. S. Clark, Dr. A. O. Hindman, Rev. W. J. McCashin, Rev. P. S. Sprague, Prof. C. F. Barr, J. M. Scott, E. Denny Brown, E. B. Maurey, C. W. Tope, I. C. Bloom, R. M. Boyd, W. F. Scott, Mrs. Jean A. Smith, Miss Willa Smith, Mrs Hope G. Haines. Mrs. Haines is scheduled to sing at the assembly.

**Good Will Tourists are coming to Town**

**Business Interests of Steubenville on Tour of "Good Will" to be Here Next week**

**Burgettstown Enterprise-September 10, 1931 Edition**

## BUY ACROSS THE COUNTER IN BURGETTSTOWN

When you buy across the counter in the stores of Burgettstown, you are using good business judgment. Why? There are many good reasons, but the following are the most important:

You can actually see the goods with your own eyes, feel them with your fingers, and know that the goods are just what you require before accepting.

You can buy what you want at the price you want to pay. You are not obliged to accept "something just as good," for you are in a position to compare values and make your own selections first hand.

When you trade in Burgettstown you are helping your friends to help you. And there is no finer thing in life than neighborly cooperation. It always pays—in happiness and satisfaction as well as in dollars and cents.

Decide today that in the future you will give the home business man at least the first chance to serve you in your requirements; and thus help to keep your dollar circulating in Burgettstown, where it will do the most good.

Every business man whose advertisement appears in the Enterprise today is extending his personal invitation to have you take advantage of his particular service.

Read the ads, even to the smallest, and note that every necessity for comfort and happiness may be had without leaving the gates of Burgettstown.

**Buy Across the Counter**  
**Burgettstown Enterprise-May 28, 1931 Edition**

#### **Park Workers Report.**

More than 100 ex-service men, most of whom were in over-seas army uniforms, thronged the streets of Burgettstown on Saturday while awaiting truck transportation to the new National Park project near Frankfort Springs where they will be engaged in a long-time job of park construction. The men represented both Spanish-American and World War service men, and came from many parts of the state. These men will form the nucleus of the force that will be used to work on the park building at camps located on Routes 18 and 168, about two miles northwest of Frankfort Springs, and about 11 miles from Burgettstown.

## CENSUS 2500

THE BOROUGH OF BURGETTSTOWN CAN BOAST A POPULATION OF AN EVEN 2500 RESIDENTS, SO SAYS MRS. MAE STOTTEMEYER, OFFICIAL CENSUS TAKER WHO COMPLETED THE 1940 CENSUS FOR THIS COMMUNITY ON MONDAY AFTERNOON. MRS. STOTTEMEYER ONE OF THE FIRST IN THE COUNTY TO REPORT TO DISTRICT HEAD-QUARTERS, USED 22 DAYS IN TAKING THE CENSUS OF THE TOWN.

BURGETTSTOWN'S GROWTH APPEARS TO BE SLOW BUT SURE. THE 1930 CENSUS FIGURES WERE 2290 RESIDENTS.



**Center Avenue, Burgettstown, PA**  
*Courtesy of Fort Vance Historical Society*



## CHANGE GRADE AT RACE ST. BRIDGE

Suspending rules and regulations for an emergency, members of Borough Council on Monday evening, ordered three readings of an ordinance to raise the grade of Race street and unanimously passed it. Quick action was requested by the State Highway department, as plans are progressing for the building of a new bridge on Race street at the foot of the Lange-loth hill.

Burgess Bender reported the collection in fines and permits of \$53.50 for the month of April and \$65.00 for the month of May.

Chairman Munger of the Street committee was ordered to contact officials of the State Highway Department and to request cooperation in the elimination of the bad corner at Dinsmore avenue turn. Numerous complaints have stamped this corner as both a pedestrian and automobile hazard and steps will be taken to widen and improve it.

John Orrick of South Main street was again present to register another complaint on conditions adjacent to his property, opposite the Lynch Service station, where Raccoon Creek will soon undermine the highway. The secretary was ordered to contact the State Highway to request cooperation in straightening the creek, inasmuch as this section of Main street is also part of Route 18.

W. C. Culley was present and was granted permission to connect with the Highland avenue sewer. Mr. Culley expects to construct a residence property on Hindman avenue and also requested a street grade. The street committee was ordered to establish a street grade for Hindman avenue, between Lincoln avenue and Culley street.

Recommendation by the West Penn Power company that six new street lights be placed on South Main street was tabled.

President of Council, J. G. Scott reported on the Civilian Defense Program and outlined plans for a local unit. Mr. Scott and Secretary Whalen attended a meeting on Home Defense at Harrisburg recently, as representatives of the Borough Council. No action was taken, after Mr. Scott's report.



STAN DIAMOND / THE OBSERVER-REPORTER

## **Landscape by committee**

Through efforts of a self-appointed three-person beautification committee and 30 other community members, a \$6,000 fountain, surrounded by a landscaped area, in the town triangle at the south end of Burgettstown was unveiled Memorial Day. June Mancinelli and Charles Lawson planned and organized fund-raisers, including bake sales, to make the fountain possible. The triangle area was created several years ago when the four-lane Burgettstown bypass was constructed on Route 18, which is the main street through town.

**Charles Lawson Memorial Park**  
**Observer-Reporter-June 19, 1999 Edition**

# Citizen Submits Proposal 10-13 For Big Flood Memorial

Suggests Council Place Tablet for  
Commemoration of High Water  
of September, 1912

The Enterprise is in receipt of a letter from a prominent citizen urging that a date, which seems to be important in the history of the town, be commemorated by the placing of a tablet on the new bridge. The matter is brought to the attention of the newspaper in order to get a slant on public opinion before a petition is made to the borough council. The letter follows:

"As we are about to have a new and permanent improvement in the town, in the way of a modern concrete bridge on Main street where the street crosses Raccoon creek, immediately below the junction of Turkey creek (Dinsmore branch) in the borough, would it not be well for the City Fathers to take action to have cast a metal tablet in commemoration of the great flood of September, 1912, to be built in the abutment wall, with the date thereon and place in a position to indicate the height of the flood waters at its crest, as it swept irresistably down the valley and through the town on that memorable occasion?

"This terrible night of September 2, 1912, was by far the most outstanding demonstration of the power of nature ever witnessed in the Raccoon Valley since the advent of the white man in the western wilderness. And an indelible record of its power and scope should be established while yet reliable evidence of the catastrophe may be obtained from living witnesses."

The letter is printed verbatim it came to the Enterprise. This is the first the present publisher ever heard of a disastrous flood in the valley, although the sudden, and sometimes rather high, rises of Raccoon creek have been noted.

It perhaps would be well for readers to confer with members of the council with a view to commemorating an interesting feature of history. An inexpensive bit of bronze could be placed on the bridge, and would last many years.

**Citizen Submits Proposal for Big Flood Memorial  
Commemoration for High Water of September, 1912  
Burgettstown Enterprise-October 13, 1932 Edition**

## *Coming Into Its Own*

After a lapse of many years, Burgettstown is coming into its own in the way of recognition in a political way. During the past 50 years or more the town has bowed humbly before the "up river" towns and Little Washington when it came to filling county and state offices.

Many years ago the late William G. Shillito was elected a County Commissioner. Two years ago Dr. A. O. Hindman was elected a representative in the Assembly at Harrisburg. These are the only two instances in the memory of man when Burgettstown was permitted to have a citizen fill an office outside his own baliwick.

The candidacy of C. W. Tope for the office of County Treasurer is a source of gratification to this newspaper. For many years the Enterprise has supported the candidacies of various men for various county and state offices, regardless of the political affiliations of the candidates. In matters of this kind the Enterprise is interested in its own town, rather than the "up river" towns and Little Washington.

The offices have been filled too long with men from certain sections, while other sections were left out in the cold. The habit became pretty bad in Washington county. A small group, constituting a sort of mutual admiration society, has consistently held the offices in the face of all opposition and in sublime indifference to what the people thought of such action.

Things are different now. Burgettstown is coming into its own. The election of Mr. Tope as County Treasurer will go a long way toward getting the old home town on the map, and keeping it there, but a good, heavy vote in the borough and in the home area is needed for emphasis.

During the primary campaign we said: "A vote for Tope is a vote for Burgettstown." At the coming election on November 5th a vote for Tope will mean even more.

Loyal citizens are urged to vote for the prestige of their town!

## ASK COUNCIL TO SPONSOR N. Y. A. PROJECT

Burgettstown may have the services of unemployed young men and women gratis for Community projects under the N. Y. A., members of Borough Council were told Monday evening at an adjourned meeting. Floyd Rector, representative of the National Youth Administration made suggestions to Council for using a number of these young people on local projects, such as recreation grounds, tennis courts, or playgrounds. Council must furnish tools and supervision. N. Y. A. youth are paid \$18.24 for a 48 hour month. Such employment is open for young people between the ages of 18 and 25, whether relievers or not. The matter was discussed at length by the Borough Fathers, but no action was taken.

Engineer Berkemeyer presented a report from District Engineer Morgan of the State Department of Health, who had investigated plans for the Florence Avenue sewer project and had recommended that sewage must be turned into Raccoon Creek and not Harmon Creek, as previously planned, in order that the project receive state approval.

Council then heard the third reading of a new ordinance for the Florence avenue sewer, which was unanimously passed. Contract for materials and sewer pipe was awarded to Frank Pappas, low bidder in the sum of \$1026.85. The Pappas contract specifies that Kaul Clay Products will be used. The new Florence avenue sewer ordinance is advertised in today's Enterprise. Mr. Berkemeyer reported that he expected to begin construction on the sewer on March 20.

**Ask Council to Sponsor National Youth Administration Project  
Burgettstown Enterprise-March 14, 1940 Edition**

## COUNCIL MEETS

A resolution commending James F. Hillman for his gift of the Community Park was passed by the members of the Burgettstown Borough Council at a meeting on Monday, August 6.

Business concerning the borough maintaining a road built this summer by R. W. Simpson and J. F. Craig was referred to a committee for further discussion. The road would accommodate future residents who will build on or near the lots recently purchased by Craig and Simpson at the rear of the Edwin McFarland property. Running parallel to Center Avenue the 20 foot road extends from Tope to Elm street and will eliminate the necessity of using Elm street in winter as a means of getting to the houses at the top of the hill.

Council will also investigate the ownership of an alley at the rear of Pompe's restaurant, the matter having been brought to their notice by Fred Vietmier of South Burgettstown.

V

## Council Meets

*Resolution Commending James F. Hillman*  
Burgettstown Enterprise-August 9, 1945 Edition

## COUNCIL ORDERS POLICE DELIVERY OF SEWER BILLS

Acting upon Attorney Bloom's ruling that "public safety is paramount to property rights", the Borough Fathers will place a street light on the Dinsmore avenue curve-corner, contrary to the wishes of property owners in that section. This action was voted at the Council meeting on Monday evening, after Counsellors Bloom and Yard, Councilman Nicholls and Street Commissioner Ritchie had journeyed to Dinsmore avenue to view the curve, and also investigate complaints received to the effect that property owner, Mrs. Criss had placed an iron pole, filled with cement on the corner of her property to discourage trespassers, and had thereby created a street hazard. The street committee was instructed to repair the guard rail at this point and to request the state highway department to put up warning signs, as this curve is considered one of the most dangerous to motorists within the Borough limits.

The aging conflict between John Muscaro and the West Penn Water company was again aired at this session. Mr. Muscaro, who has been vainly trying for some time to receive the benefits of piped water, was present and asked Council to instruct the Water company to pipe water into the alley near Bell avenue to his property. The Water company, to date has refused to do this, because of a ruling it received from the Public Service Commission to the effect that this alley has been considered a private thoroughfare. The service commission recommended that Mr. Muscaro dig his own trench and that the water company supply the pipe, but to date the Muscaro residence is without benefit of piped water. Council has taken the stand that inasmuch as Mr. Muscaro had 30 days after the last hearing to file a new petition, over a year ago this question is now between Mr. Muscaro and the West Penn Water Company.

Secretary Whalen reported that notices on sewer assessments are ready for delivery to property owners this week. Council decided to have members of the Borough police force deliver the notices in person to property owners and to make affidavit after they are accepted. Property owners will be allowed a period of 30 days to pay these assessments, after which properties so affected will be liened upon and will be obliged to pay the assessment, plus the fee for liening and interest.

Bills in the sum of \$1814 were read and approved for payment, but inasmuch as Treasurer Reed's report showed a balance of \$77 in the Borough coffers, payment will be deferred until Council can borrow \$3000 from the Washington National Bank to pay current bills. This amount will be borrowed for a period of 60 days, at which time, current taxes will be paid in, and the treasury replenished.

J. O. Fredericks was present to request that Council install a fire plug in front of his property in Center avenue. This matter of a fire plug in this locality has been a moot subject for some time past, because of a lack of right of way. Council instructed the secretary to notify the Water company to report at the next meeting on a proposed right of way for the placing of the water line to the proposed fire plug.

## COUNCIL ORDERS POLICE DELIVERY OF SEWER BILLS

Acting upon Attorney Bloom's ruling that "public safety is paramount to property rights", the Borough Fathers will place a street light on the Dinsmore avenue curve-corner, contrary to the wishes of property owners in that section. This action was voted at the Council meeting on Monday evening, after Counsellors Bloom and Yard, Councilman Nicholls and Street Commissioner Ritchie had journeyed to Dinsmore avenue to view the curve, and also investigate complaints received to the effect that property owner, Mrs. Criss had placed an iron pole, filled with cement on the corner of her property to discourage trespassers, and had thereby created a street hazard. The street committee was instructed to repair the guard rail at this point and to request the state highway department to put up warning signs, as this curve is considered one of the most dangerous to motorists within the Borough limits.

The aging conflict between John Muscaro and the West Penn Water company was again aired at this session. Mr. Muscaro, who has been vainly trying for some time to receive the benefits of piped water, was present and asked Council to instruct the Water company to pipe water into the alley near Bell avenue to his property. The Water company, to date has refused to do this, because of a ruling it received from the Public Service Commission to the effect that this alley has been considered a private thoroughfare. The service commission recommended that Mr. Muscaro dig his own trench and that the water company supply the pipe, but to date the Muscaro residence is without benefit of piped water. Council has taken the stand that inasmuch as Mr. Muscaro had 30 days after the last hearing to file a new petition, over a year ago this question is now between Mr. Muscaro and the West Penn Water Company.

Secretary Whalen reported that notices on sewer assessments are ready for delivery to property owners this week. Council decided to have members of the Borough police force deliver the notices in person to property owners and to make affidavit after they are accepted. Property owners will be allowed a period of 30 days to pay these assessments, after which properties so affected will be liened upon and will be obliged to pay the assessment, plus the fee for liening and interest.

Bills in the sum of \$1814 were read and approved for payment, but inasmuch as Treasurer Reed's report showed a balance of \$77 in the Borough coffers, payment will be deferred until Council can borrow \$3000 from the Washington National Bank to pay current bills. This amount will be borrowed for a period of 60 days, at which time, current taxes will be paid in, and the treasury replenished.

J. O. Fredericks was present to request that Council install a fire plug in front of his property in Center avenue. This matter of a fire plug in this locality has been a moot subject for some time past, because of a lack of right of way. Council instructed the secretary to notify the Water company to report at the next meeting on a proposed right of way for the placing of the water line to the proposed fire plug.



#### **County Fixes Street.**

The small strip of Bridge street which covers the approach to the bridge from the interesection of Center avenue was repaired by county employees last week. The repairs consisted of an application of paving composition of tar and limestone screening, tamped into holes and ruts in the roadway. The job was well done and much improvement has resulted.

# Early Town History Recalled by Resident

Correspondent Supplies Information  
of Pioneer Days That May be  
New to Readers

In response to requests for historical data dealing with the early days of the town of Burgettstown, the Enterprise has received an interesting letter from a resident subscriber who is perhaps more familiar with the town's history than any person now living. Several extracts from the letter have been used for this article, and more will be used from time to time as opportunity offers.

There were three log cabins in the "old town" (South Burgettstown) in 1783. At present the date of their erection cannot be found, but these cabins were the start of the local community. In that year the Burgett flour mill was completed.

Sebastian Bourget was the founder of the town. His name was originally Burkit, it appears, but was transformed into Burgett by his Scotch-Irish contemporaries. The Christian name, Sebastian, pronounced "Seebastian," likewise was changed until he became generally known as "Boston Burgett." Part of the town at one time bore the name of "Boston," erroneously imitating the Christian name of the founder.

Sebastian Burgett brought the equipment for his flour mill from somewhere east of the mountains. On his last trip he was crushed to death underneath his wagon which upset on the road when he was within about a mile of his wilderness home. His body was interred in the old United Presbyterian cemetery on the hillside east of the Catholic church.

A son, George Burgett, laid out a town on the north side of the "West Boston" patent, (part of South Burgettstown,) in 1795, and called the place "West Boston." This was the first village in what later became Smith township. Peter Kidd was the surveyor who plotted the village.

At about the same period there were three log cabins in the northern part of the town. One was located where the Fulton garage stands; one was on the present site of the Stievenart residence, Whitaker street, and the third was located about opposite the feed store of B. B. Figley & Son, Center avenue.

While the younger Burgett named the town "West Boston," it seems the pioneers never took kindly to that designation and insisted upon calling the place Burgettstown.

**Early Town History Recalled by Resident  
Burgettstown Enterprise- July 13, 1933 Edition**

## EASTER BUNNY PARADES BEFORE 1,200 IN BURGETTSTOWN



**Easter Bunny Parade before 1,200 in Burgettstown (pg. 1)  
Burgettstown Enterprise-April 7, 1955 Edition**

Over 1,200 people took advantage of the beautiful spring day last Saturday afternoon and met Mr. E. Bunny when he came to Burgettstown. Leading the Easter parade were floats by Nap Motor Sales and Burgettstown Farm Supply. Music for the occasion was furnished by the Union High School band.

In the picture below, Linda, Barbara and June Boyer, of Florence, step up and meet Mr. Easter Bunny. The committee for the parade, made up of Burgettstown businessmen, reports that over 900 children visited with the Easter Bunny.



**Easter Bunny Parade before 1,200 in Burgettstown (pg. 2)  
Burgettstown Enterprise-April 7, 1955 Edition**

## The End Of An Era



The end of an era took place in Burgettstown last week with the razing of the foot bridge linking Center Avenue with Main Street.

The old bridge was ordered

useless by PennDot officials in the construction of the Route 18 Bypass.

In the picture above, Burgettstown Street Commissioner Kenneth Scott continues with the razing project, while Councilman James Repole looks on.

(Enterprise photo)

**The End of an Era-Foot Bridge Razed  
Burgettstown Enterprise-May 19, 1979 Edition**

# ENGINEERS REPORT TO BOROUGH FATHERS ON W.P.A. SEWER WORK

Morris Knowles, Incorporated, engineers, have submitted a comprehensive report on sewers completed in Burgettstown on March 19, 1940 under authorization of ordinances enacted April 11, 1928 and February 5, 1940. These sewers include all those installed east of Raccoon Creek and that on Main street west of the Creek, as follows: Erie street district; Main and Race street district; Lincoln avenue district; Main street district and Center avenue district extension.

In the construction of the Lincoln avenue sewer, the lateral to Short street on Highland avenue extended was omitted. Also, in the Center avenue district the sewers on Euclid street, and on McClure street from Euclid to Hickory street were not constructed.

The installation of the sewer on Main street, west of Raccoon Creek, necessitated removal of the sidewalk and its reconstruction, certain sections of the brick walk were replaced with concrete. This was done under individual arrangements with certain of the property owners and the additional cost is not included with that of the sewer.

A new concrete curb was constructed on Main street, following the installation of the sewer. The cost of the curb has been set up separately.

In addition to the sanitary sewers referred to, storm drains were constructed on Erie street west of South Main street to the Pennsylvania railroad right of way and on Center avenue from Elm Lane to an existing drain at the street south of Elm Lane. Two street inlets were placed at the intersection of Elm Lane and Center avenue and connected to discharge into the new storm drain.

#### Data on Cost

A summary of the cost to the Borough according to our records is as follows:

Sanitary Sewers, \$15,795.19.  
Storm Drains, \$1,437.63.  
Concrete Curb—Main street, \$2,723.91.  
Concrete Sidewalk, Main street \$105.82.  
Total—\$20,062.55.

The above does not include the cost of the comprehensive report and general plans of sanitary sewers and storm drains for the Borough which was \$750; nor the cost of preliminary work done on the proposed new sidewalk construction on Church avenue, which was \$250.

The cost of the sanitary sewers constructed, itemized by districts and divided to show the cost of the lateral and outfall sewers in each instance, is given in the following tabulation. Because of the common outfall sewer, the Erie Street and the Main and Race Street districts have been combined.

The Federal expenditure for the

under contract; the lumber used for shoring and for form-work; the tools, equipment and supplies purchased; and miscellaneous costs. No salvage value has been allowed for lumber or for tools, equipment and supplies, but it has been estimated that 70 percent is chargeable to the work completed as of March 19, 1940 and that 30 percent of each remains available and either has been or will be used on subsequent sewer construction and included in the cost of such work.

(Editor's Note—The itemized statement of cost of work, referred to in the above paragraph is on file with the Secretary of Borough Council, W. J. Whalen, Jr. and may be studied by any taxpayer who desires to delve further into the unit cost of the work).

#### Construction Statistics

A statistical summary of the sanitary sewers and storm drains laid and the appurtenances constructed, together with the new concrete curb and sidewalk installed, is given in the following tabulation. This statement does not include reference to the street pavement and sidewalks which it was necessary to remove and relay in constructing the sanitary sewers and storm drains.

Lateral Sewers—8" — 7,184.4 Feet  
Outfall Sewers —  
8" to 12" — 1,746.6 Feet  
House Connection—6" — 1,493.3 Feet

Total Sanitary Sewers  
6" to 12" — 10,424.3 Feet  
House Connections — 148 Number  
Manholes — Sanitary  
Sewers — 53 Number  
Head Walls for  
Outfall sewers — 3 Number  
Storm Drains — 10" to 24" — 692 Feet  
Sub Drains — 4" to 6" — 112 Feet  
Street Inlets — 5 Number  
Manholes — Storm  
Drains — 2 Number  
Concrete Curb —  
Main Street — 1,264 Feet  
Concrete Sidewalk —  
Main Street — 104 Sq. Yd.

#### Borough Audits

The audit of the Borough accounts for 1938 and 1939 shows a total cost for W.P.A. projects of \$21,872.83, exclusive of the original comprehensive report on the sewerage system. Our records of cost, referred to herein, as adjusted to reflect the total at the end of 1939, indicate the cost of the sewers and storm drains constructed to have been \$19,719.54. A comparison of the two figures indicates the audit to be \$2,153.29 in excess of our records of cost and to include costs chargeable to W.P.A. work other than sewer construction.

Because of this difference, a study has been made of the 1938 and 1939 audits in an attempt to reconcile working papers used in preparing the

## Engineers Report to Borough Fathers On W.P.A. Sewer Work

Location	Lateral	Outfall	Total
	Sewers	Sewers	Cost
Erie St. and Main and Race St. Districts	\$2,910.31	\$1,199.37	\$4,109.68
Lincoln Avenue District	779.50	744.94	1,524.44
Center Avenue District	5,835.34	1,678.31	7,513.65
Main Street District	2,126.41		2,126.41
Center Avenue Extension	521.01		521.01
<b>Total Sanitary Sewers</b>	<b>\$12,172.57</b>	<b>\$3,622.62</b>	<b>\$15,795.19</b>
Storm Drains			1,437.63
Concrete Curb—Main Street			2,723.91
Concrete Sidewalk—Main Street			105.82
<b>Total</b>			<b>\$20,062.55</b>

work through W.P.A. grants, according to records, amounts to 80 percent of the total cost, and the contribution by the Borough to 20 percent, as shown in the following tabulation.

Original W.P.A. Grant	\$65,778.90
Supplementary W. P. A. Grant	16,546.00
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>\$82,324.90</b>
Unexpended —	
March 19, 1940	2,337.37
<b>Total W.P.A. Grant</b>	<b>79,987.53</b>
<b>Borough Contribution</b>	<b>20,062.55</b>

**Total Cost** \$100,050.08  
An itemized statement of the cost of the work to the Borough as of March 19, 1940, is given in Table 1 which is attached hereto. There are 33 items listed and five groups of cost applying to these. The first of the five groups is the original estimate, which was revised as of June 1, 1939 to include additional work authorized by Council. The second group gives the total expenditures by the Borough as of March 19, 1940; the third group, the cost of materials used by the Borough on work other than the sewer project; the fourth, an inventory of material not used as of March 19, 1940; and the fifth, the cost applicable to the sewerage projects authorized under the two ordinances referred to herein, the total of which is \$20,062.55.

It will be noted, from Table 1, that four of the items are given in summary form. These include the items with our records of cost as presented herewith. However, the pipe purchased locally rather than

audits were not available and it has not been possible to effect a complete reconciliation of the two figures. The audits, as adjusted, show a total cost as of December 31, 1939 which is \$248.20 in excess of our records of cost. The results of the attempted reconciliation are as follows:

Borough Audits—	
1938 and 1939	\$21,872.83
Deduct W.P.A. refund of Engineering Costs	\$1,222.50
Engineering Cost Chargeable to Florence Avenue Project	906.98
Engineering Cost Chargeable to Church Avenue Sidewalk	250.00
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>\$19,493.35</b>
Add cost materials purchased in 1939 but paid for in 1940	715.76
	\$20,209.11
Deduct cost of materials purchased for sewer project but used by Borough for other purposes	241.37
<b>Borough Audits Adjusted</b>	<b>\$19,967.74</b>
Engineer's Record of Cost adjusted to reflect total at end of 1939	\$19,719.54
<b>Difference not reconciled</b>	<b>\$ 248.20</b>

(Continued on page two)

## Engineers Report to Borough Fathers On W.P.A. Sewer Work

**ENGINEERING CO.  
REPORTS TO COUNCIL  
ON SEWER PROJECT**

(Continued from page 1)

**Data on Property Served by Sewers**

The ordinances authorizing construction of the sewers and referred to herein, state as follows:

"SECTION II. That the construction thereof be and is hereby assessed against the properties fronting on or adjacent to the same on the foot-front rule; provided that where any corner property has already paid for a sewer line on the whole of one side, it shall be left to the discretion of Council as to assessment on other side."

A list of the properties served by the sewers constructed has been prepared and is presented herewith in Table 2. The name of the property owner is given together with the location of the property and the frontage in feet.

In certain instances the sewer as constructed serves property on one side only; in others the sewer provides facilities for property located on both sides. In Table 2, under the heading "Foot Frontage", there are two columns of figures given with the headings "One Side" and "Two Sides". This is to provide for the two conditions described.

Where the sewer was installed in the rear of the properties, the "Foot Frontage" as given refers to the width of the lot facing on the street rather than the width adjacent to the sewer in the rear. For example, in connection with the Lincoln Avenue District lateral sewer, there is a block of six properties served, which have total frontage along Lincoln Avenue of 285.3 feet, while the total width along the alley in which the sewer is located is 331.20 feet. The frontage given in this case is that along Lincoln Avenue or 285.3 feet. Also, in this District, the depth of the school property adjacent to the sewer is 143.5 feet, while the frontage of the property along Main street is 276.4 feet. In this instance,

the frontage given is that along Main Street, or 276.4 feet.

In the case of corner lots which have sewers both along the front and side, the "Foot Frontage" given in the Table is that for the front line of the lot only. For example, the properties at the corner of Hickory Street and Center Avenue have a front width of 50 feet and a depth of 120 feet, and there are sewers located both in the front and along the sides of the lots. The "foot frontage" in each case is given as 50 feet.

With a few exceptions, as noted, all property dimensions have been obtained from deeds. Where the deeds were not available, measurements were made in the field.

On Center Avenue, in the area between Elm and Tope Streets, there is a sewer on Center Avenue serving the houses located on the east and a sewer in the rear along the railroad right-of-way serving the houses on the west. In this and similar instances, the frontage of the properties served has been given under the heading "Two Sides", the situation being equivalent to properties served on each side of a street even though two sewers are required.

**Assessment of Costs**

The summaries of the "Foot frontage" for the properties listed in Table 2 are as follows:

District	FOOT FRONTAGE		
	Two Sides	One Side	Total
Erie—Main and Race St. Districts	1,787.97	370.55	2,158.52
Lincoln Avenue District		728.60	728.60
Center Avenue District	2,807.59	863.70	3,671.29
Main Street District		666.15	666.15
Total ordinance of April 11, 1938	4,595.56	2,629.00	7,224.56
Center Avenue Extension constructed under ordinance of Feb. 5, 1940		218.0	218.0
Total	4,595.56	2,847.00	7,442.56

Ignoring the condition of whether the sewer serves property located on both sides, or on one side only, the total "foot frontage" is 7,442.56. The cost of the construction authorized by Ordinance of April 11, 1938 amounted to \$15,274.18, and the cost

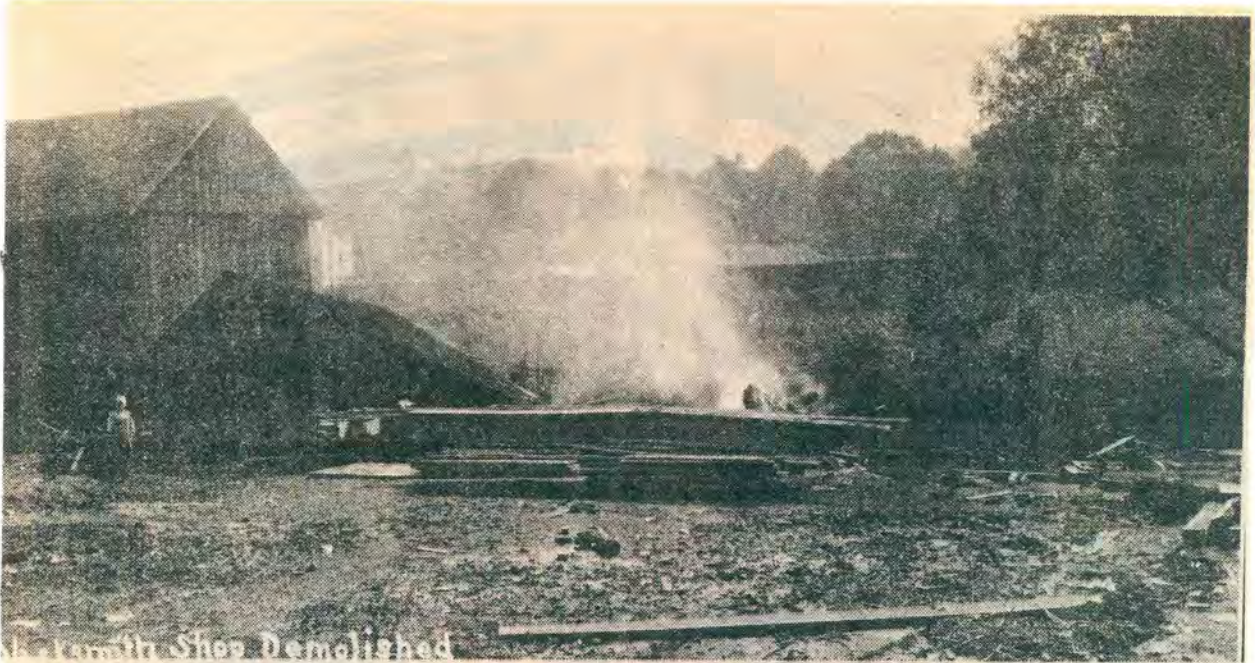
of the Center Avenue Extension was \$521.01, making a total cost to the Borough of \$15,795.19 for the installation of sewers to serve all of the property listed. Dividing the total cost by the total "foot frontage" of property served, gives a cost of \$2.12 per front foot for all sewers constructed. Similarly the costs for the first four districts listed above and for the Center Avenue Extension are \$2.11 and \$2.39 per front foot, respectively.

The above costs per front foot include the total cost to the Borough both of lateral and outfall sewers in each instance except for the Main Street sewer where an existing outfall was available. Whether or not it is desired to include the cost of the outfall sewers in the assessment against the property served and whether the Borough is to assume a certain proportion of the cost per front foot, are matters for the consideration of Council. In this connection, attention is called to the fact that the cost to the Borough of the sewer construction, because of Federal aid through W.P.A. grants, is probably in the neighborhood of one-third of what the cost would have been if constructed under contract. Also, the outfall sewers installed serve not only the property

connected or to be connected to the present lateral sewers, but will provide for additional lateral sewers if and when they may be constructed. Respectfully submitted, Morris Knowles Incorporated, Per H. P. Best, Borough Engineer

**Engineers Report to Borough Fathers  
On W.P.A. Sewer Work**





### ***The Flood In Burgettstown***

A blacksmith shop was demolished by a flood on Sept. 2, 1912, in Burgettstown. The scene above is pictured on a postcard that is the property of Donnie M. Grey, Burgettstown, R.D. 1.

**The Flood in Burgettstown-1912**  
*Courtesy of Donnie M. Grey*  
**Burgettstown Enterprise- January 6, 1988**



Most Slovenians who came to this country were from what is now the Slovenian Republic of Yugoslavia but was then the Austrian province known in English as Carniola. The Carniolians or Slovenians called this province Kranj, and so when they came to this country they called themselves Granish, and what are now Slovenian clubs used to be known as Granish clubs. This club in Bishop, Pennsylvania, still has the old sign.

## Slovenian-Americans

The Slovenians are a South Slavic people who have lived for more than 1200 years in the hilly and mountainous areas of what is now northwestern Yugoslavia. Slovenia is bordered by Italy and Austria and was under Germanic domination from the time of the Emperor Charlemagne until after World War I, when it joined with Croatia, Serbia and several small provinces to form Yugoslavia, the Land of the South Slavs.

Slovenians were somewhat oppressed by their Austrian rulers and were largely restricted to peasant occupations. Yet, benefitting from the high cultural standards of the Austrian Empire, Slovenian villagers had a high literacy rate and many were avid readers. They thus presented the unusual picture of a largely peasant people who maintained their folk customs but also adapted to modern life. Yet the Slovenians could not avoid the economic distress that was attacking Central and Eastern Europe, and the dramatic lowering of infant mortality led to crowding on the already small farms. Many Slovenians emigrated in order to earn and save enough money to buy large farms.

Around the end of the nineteenth century, many young Slovenian men left their native province. Very few of them sold their land, and many of them were soon sending large sums of money home. Perhaps half of them returned to Slovenia, with their goal accomplished, but the other half remained in the United States.

Although a number of Slovenians went to Illinois, Minnesota, and elsewhere, most came to Ohio and Pennsylvania, which still have the majority of Slovenian-Americans. Cleveland is the largest center of their culture in this country.

Slovenians coped well with the new American environment. They learned English quickly and formed organizations to provide mutual help. The chief of these were the KSKJ, the Grand Carniolan Slovenian Catholic Union, founded in 1894; the American Fraternal Union, founded in 1898; and the SNPJ, the Slovene National Benefit Society, founded in 1904, which is today the largest, owing to mergers with smaller societies.





# Granish Hill

“The reason they came is so that their offspring wouldn’t have to go to the coal mines...But they finally had to go to the mines because they couldn’t get jobs elsewhere.”

Mrs. Evelyn Stetar, her mother and friends reminisce at her home on Granish Hill, Burgettstown. Seated from left to right are Mrs. Mary Vajentic Gosteau, Mrs. Hannah Vietmeier and Miss Jennie Ferbezar; with her back to the camera is Mrs. Anna Laurich Kiss. Mrs. Evelyn Stetar is not shown.

**Hannah Vietmeier:** I was born in Bino Loka in 1903. My family died when they were young and I had to live with Grandmother. Grandmother didn’t want to work over there no more so she came to the United States. Then they brought me here in 1911. That article there (“Golden Anniversary at Granish Hill”) tells how we came to Burgettstown.

**Jennie Ferbezar:** Our fathers worked in a coal mine in Westmoreland County. The reason they came is so that their offspring wouldn’t have to go to the coal mines. I can remember my dad saying, “I don’t want my boys to go to work in a coal mine.” But they finally had to go to the mines because they couldn’t get jobs elsewhere. Later they got jobs with American Zinc and the Climax Company. It was safer and healthier and it paid better too.

## Slovenian Weddings

**Hannah:** When I got married, the band played in front of the church. But they wouldn’t allow them in the church; they had to be on the road.

**Evelyn Stetar:** But your wedding lasted three days, didn’t it?

**Hannah:** I got married on Thanksgiving Day. The wedding went on till Sunday. With a barrel of wine – we made a barrel of wine – and some nut rolls and chicken and ham and that was it.

**Hannah:** They made the wine that year. It was red wine. I still remember it was New York Concord.

**Jennie:** When the bride comes home from church, after she’s married, you greet them with pots and pans, and you bang the lids; I remember that now; we were children.

**Evelyn:** Well, Maria here, when she got married, that’s what we did. The men didn’t let ‘em up the street.

**Jennie:** Oh yeah, they tied a rope across the street.

**Evelyn:** And Ray had to give money for a bottle of whiskey. Sure, I remember. And the kids; they threw pennies out to us kids and we scrambled around to get all those pennies.

**Jennie:** This is when we were little. I forgot all about that.

**Evelyn:** And then we would go and we would bang some more and they’d have to give us some more pennies.

**Jennie:** The reception was at the bride’s home. They just had one room set up to eat, upstairs in the bedroom, and dancing downstairs. They were afraid to dance upstairs because the floor might not hold them. We danced down in the basement. They always had an accordion. Nobody had

a band at weddings. They couldn’t afford it.

I can remember them throwing the pillow. They had a pillow dance. They’d throw it in front of someone and they’d kiss and then they’d dance. And then they’d throw it at someone else.

**Hannah:** First, the bride and groom. They’d throw it in front of them first.

**Jennie:** But the main thing was when the bride and groom came they ate a big dinner, then they danced and drank. And they’d break glasses for good luck when they’re eating.

**Hannah:** At the weddings and other times we’d drink slivovitz – that’s our whiskey name. It’s made from plums, and that’s why they call it slivovitz. And all I know about the wine is that red wine. I never even saw any other kind.



Stage curtain in the Slovenian Club in Burgettstown.

“Well, one thing my mother always did and we still do: we leave one light burning in the house somewhere all Christmas Eve. That’s the way they did it in Europe, and my mother always had one light on somewhere.”

**Jennie:** We used to have grape arbors; almost everybody had their own grapes to make wine.

**Evelyn:** We still have the thing that turns round and round and made the juice.

**Jennie:** The wine press; Mr. Taucher made my dad’s.

**Hannah:** One year we made slivovitza. This man brought us plums. There was so much plums that year. But we didn’t have a still, so my husband said – I wasn’t even married to him then, I was just going with him – he said, “I know where they make it all the time – that’s their business.” So, he had a truck, and I went with him for a ride. We went one way into Burkland mine, but he was afraid to come home the right way, so he took the back roads. It was raining and muddy and we got stuck. We got stuck by a farm called Harris’ farm. And I got out of the truck, and Joe was trying to push the truck, and he couldn’t, and I seen this man coming. He had apples in his hand, and I thought he had a gun. I was hollering, “Mr. Harris, please don’t shoot him, don’t shoot him.” And he says, “With what, an apple?”

**Evelyn:** Did you make it again after that

time?

**Hannah:** Never no more than that. I’ll never forget that.

**Jennie:** That’s the trouble with our people. They were afraid to do anything like that.

#### Holidays

**Jennie:** St. Joseph’s Day is a big thing.

**Evelyn:** That’s March 19th.

**Hannah:** They used to have parades, and then we’d go to church and they’d have a market outside like we have here, and they sold stuff. And after that everybody went to a gostilna – a tavern – where we’d get something to eat and drink. I can remember we always had chicken noodle soup and chicken, potatoes, and salad, and ham, and Slovenian klobase. That’s what we had for all holidays.

**Jennie:** For Easter we always had ham and klobase saved from butchering the pigs in the fall.

**Evelyn:** Hard boiled eggs and horseradish, always a must. And potitsa.

**Jennie:** And my mother always made krofe. That’s like a doughnut; and then you’d split them and put the ham in.

**Hannah:** My mother made zeludatz. After

we butchered pigs, we’d take the stomach from the pig, and we washed it good, turned it upside down, and then smoked it, and then filled it up with eggs and bread and ham, and baked it in the oven. That had to be for Easter.

**Question:** Did you also make that krvava klobase (blood sausage)?

**Jennie:** Yes, that was for the winter months. We generally had it for Christmas.

**Evelyn:** My mother kept it up in the attic on a stick.

**Hannah:** They’d take a pig’s head and lungs and liver and we’d cook all that. Take all the meat off the bones, and then cook so much rice, and put the seasonings in there, and there has to be so much blood. At Christmas nowadays there isn’t anything different. We’re all Americans now.

**Evelyn:** Everybody bakes, they’re busy. Everybody intermarried with all kinds.

**Jennie:** Well, one thing my mother always did and we still do: we leave one light burning in the house somewhere all Christmas Eve. That’s the way they did it in Europe, and my mother always had one light on somewhere.



“They used to have parades...” Brass bands, like this one from Burgettstown, were popular in the ‘20’s and ‘30’s.

## 6•SOUTHWESTERN PENNSYLVANIA

out to us kids and we scrambled around.

**JENNIE:** This is when we were little. I forgot about that.

# Golden Anniversary at Granish Hill

Courtesy of the Burgettstown Enterprise.

On July 4, 1915, ten families and their 56 children arrived by train at the Burgettstown station at 2:30 in the afternoon to make their new homes in Burgettstown.

This event was vividly recalled by several members of the Slovenian Women’s Lodge, who attended a meeting at Granish Hall recently.

A little over fifty years ago, Domenick Vajentic, Sr., who lived and worked in the coal mines in a town called Adamsburg, Pennsylvania, decided that he didn’t want his children to grow up to work in the coal mines as he did. He gathered many of his friends together who had migrated from Austria to Adamsburg and he discovered that many of them felt the same way. At that time ten families decided that they would search for a new place to make their home, and find a place they did. They bought ten lots in a site that is known as Granish Hill, in South Burgettstown, and hired a contractor called Mr. Woodrow to build ten homes.

They brought with them all their personal belongings, including

several domestic animals and everything was transported in a box car. Listed among their belongings were two cows, two little pigs, one cat (which no one claimed) and twelve dogs.

When the box car was finally opened, all twelve dogs got loose and many people living in town thought that a dog show had come to town.

After everyone and everything was rounded up, they made their way to their new homes, all tired and excited with the trip behind them and the dream of seeing their new homes for the first time. But to their disappointment only three homes were completed, which meant that several families had to double up for several months until the other seven homes were finished.

Thanks to the thoughtfulness and kindness of their new neighbors, the women did not have to prepare the evening meal because Mrs. E. Scott and her daughter, Elizabeth Biddle, had prepared a meal for all the newly arrived neighbors, providing an opportunity for every one to get acquainted.

## TOWN HAS NO COUNCIL DUE TO RESIGNATIONS

Four members of the Burgettstown Borough Council deserted the ship in mid-stream on Monday evening, leaving the town without a Councilmanic body for the first time in its history.

President D. C. Dowden was not present at the session, and the regular meeting was presided over by Councilman John L. McGough. The regular order of business was taken up with Councilmen W. R. Shiner, A. C. Seagle, W. W. Lyon, J. G. Scott and J. H. Rankin and Borough Secretary W. J. Whalen, Jr., in their places. Minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved and current bills were read and ordered passed for payment.

The next proceeding was the reading by the secretary of the resignation of President D. C. Dowden as a member of the Council. On motion of Councilman Lyon, seconded by Councilman Rankin, the resignation was accepted. Councilman Seagle then presented his resignation, which, on motion of Rankin and Lyon, was accepted.

Following came the resignation of Councilman Lyon, who stated that on account of his removal from the borough he could not serve longer. His resignation was accepted on motion of Messrs. Scott and Rankin. W. R. Shiner then presented his resignation, which was acted upon by the three remaining members of the body, but as by this time there was no quorum it seems Mr. Shiner's resignation could not be passed upon without a question as to the legality of the action.

In no case except that of Councilman Lyon was any reason given for the action of the retiring Councilmen. Individuals decline to make any statements for publication, but it appears

there has been considerable friction in the Council since the first of the year over the appointment of the borough policeman. At the meeting of Council in April the officer was discharged, but no successor was provided for and Burgess J. A. McKenzie re-appointed the incumbent. The Burgess made no recommendations, but held the present officer on duty pending further action of the Council.

A special meeting of Council was held Thursday night of last week to fill the police vacancy, but no action was taken, and in the meantime the officer has continued to serve. There was at one time a general charge of inefficiency made against the policeman, but nothing specific developed and no action taken except that to dismiss the officer.

The situation is somewhat complicated. I. C. Bloom, Borough Attorney, is not quite sure whether three members can function as a Councilmanic body. If they can, these members can fill the vacancies without recourse to the Courts; if not, it will be necessary for the Burgess to apply to the Courts to have the places filled.

Apparently, this is the first case of the kind to happen in Washington county, or anywhere else so far as authorities consulted have any knowledge, and it is problematical what the outcome may be.

It is generally regretted that the Councilmen named should take the action they did. They have given of their time and energy to take care of the needs of the borough, and at no time have any complaints been heard regarding their official conduct. Under their administration there has been a decrease in taxes and public affairs have been taken care of satisfactorily.

## HEALTH BOARD HOLDS UP FLOR. AVE. SEWER JOB

Plans for the immediate construction of sanitary sewers on Florence avenue by W. P. A. project struck a snag at the regular meeting of Borough Council on Monday evening when Mr. Best, representative of the Knowles Engineering Company reported that L. S. Morgan of the State Department of Health had advised that the Florence avenue sewer must be extended to Raccoon Creek. Original plans were to empty into Harmon Creek near the Pennsylvania railroad trestle. Mr. Best estimated that the additional cost of the project would be \$1500 for 600 feet of cast iron pipe.

Councilman McCormick made the motion and was seconded by Councilman Nicholls that the proper ordinance and right of way be secured to extend the Florence avenue sewer to Raccoon Creek, if the Sanitary Water Board refuses permission to empty into Harmon Creek, according to present plans.

The matter was referred to Solicitor I. C. Bloom for an opinion.

Bills totalling \$776.25 were read and approved for payment.

George Kelly, world war veteran with defective sight and who must walk with the aid of a cane appeared before Council and asked that a guard rail or cover be placed over the sewer at the right of the pedestrian walk between Main street and Center avenue at the rear of the E. B. Maurey property.

Mr. Kelly stated that he had fallen into this pit twice and that it formed a dangerous hazard for pedestrians and was in his opinion unsanitary as well as dangerous. Inasmuch as said pit is on the property of the Pennsylvania railroad the matter was referred to the property committee to be taken up with railroad officials.

Council approved the recommendation of the Board of Health and appointment of Dr. Audley Hindman to succeed his father as a member of that Board for a period of five years, effective as of January 1940. W. R. Allison was appointed to the Board to fill the unexpired term of Samuel DeWalt, recently appointed health officer, to serve until January 1, 1944.

Secretary W. J. Whalen reported that N. Y. A. had requested employment for a number of young men on street cleaning or sidewalk projects. The Borough must furnish tools and liability insurance and will receive the labor free of charge. Mr. Whalen was instructed to request a representative of the N. Y. A. to attend the next meeting and present his conditions.

An adjourned meeting of Council will be held on Monday evening, March 12 at which time it is expected that a contract will be let for the Florence avenue sewer project.

HELP BURGETTSTOWN BUSINESS MEN TO HELP YOU

Everybody will agree that a man succeeds and prospers only when he spends less money than he receives in a given period of time.

Let us apply this great economic test to the situation in Burgettstown: The business men of this town have invested—and continue to invest—their money in stocks of goods brought here to the very doors of residents to meet daily needs.

Through the pages of the Enterprise they advise readers of their ability to serve this community, and therefore deserve the reader's patronage. The more they are patronized, the more funds they can invest in larger stocks and new lines.

Read the Enterprise ads regularly and save money by trading at home.

**Help Burgettstown Business Men to Help You**  
**Burgettstown Enterprise-August 20, 1931 Edition**



-- Post-Gazette Photo

## Ceiling Unlimited

Robert Taylor, and his son, Bobby, 8, of Castle Shannon, make ready to launch their radio-controlled model airplane during yesterday's opening-day flights of the

Greater Pittsburgh Arcs at Hillman Field near Burgettstown, Washington County. Club members will display plane-building and piloting skills each Sunday at the field, with the public invited to watch. Planes are flown at various times in the afternoon.

**Ceiling Unlimited**  
Post Gazette-April 4, 1966 Edition



## HOME TOWN MENACED BY DEPARTING DOLLAR

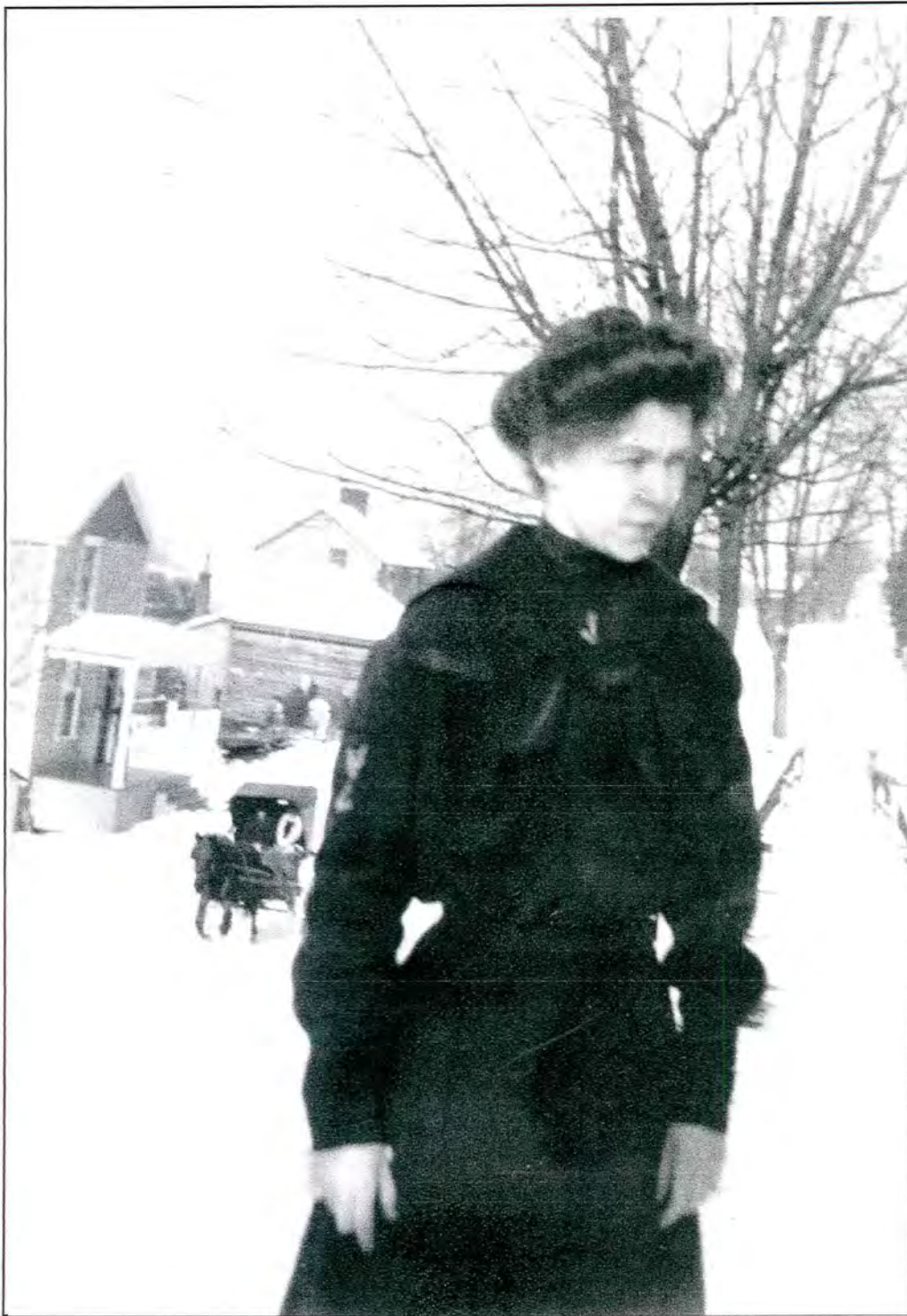
Money Sent Out of Town is Drain  
on Resources of the People  
and Entire Community

An invasion by an enemy often is no more a menace to a community than the exodus of citizenry or the taking away of the means of support of the people of the community. Draining the resources of a town is a menace that must be safeguarded against, and the good people of Burgettstown are urged to make 1936 a banner year in conserving the town's resources by doing all possible buying from local dealers.

"Departing dollars" have left in their wake many wrecks of formerly prosperous towns, until today the public wealth tends to concentrate in larger cities at the expense of the smaller towns throughout the land. As a matter of self-protection "home-town" people should exercise the greatest care in permitting the town's money to be taken to other places. Every dollar kept in Burgettstown works for the welfare of the community, and earns dividends which go to support the local institutions.

The influence of the town's dollar is not to be measured by the purchasing power represented in the hundred cents of its intrinsic value—it stands for the perpetuation of the community. It is the heavy investment of the bank, the stores, the offices and the other business concerns of Burgettstown that keeps the town prosperous by reason of keeping values on a high level. Each business institution is connected by close bonds with the educational, religious, fraternal and social prosperity of all the people and these institutions, all along the way from the business to the social, endure and progress.

"Departing dollars" should be watched closely in order that as many as possible may be held in check to work at home for the welfare of the home town.



### **Church Street, Burgettstown, PA**

Mary McCluskey Pyle is standing in front of her home that is located on the corner of Church Street and Kerr Street. The square building that the sleigh just passed is the Burgettstown jail. The building was used as the jail until it burned down on Christmas Eve, 1917.

*Fort Vance Historical Society*

James G. Dunbar, of Pittsburg, visited his mother and brother over Sunday. Mr. Dunbar says he has not given up the matter of trying to have the Allegheny county industrial school locate here, and thinks the prospects are now brighter than ever. The commissioners have rejected the Thorn Hill site, and it is believed they will now turn their attention to the Burgettstown location.

**James G. Dunbar-Seeking Industrial School Move to Burgettstown  
Burgettstown Herald-November 30, 1910 Edition**

## LANE IS MARKED OUT FOR LOCAL AUTOISTS

Regulations Adopted for Efficient  
Traffic Handling at  
Busy Corner

A white line has been painted along North Main street from the Peoples National Bank to the Pennsylvania railroad crossing at the top of the grade, and signs, "Keep to the Right," placed at each end of the section of street. On Wednesday morning Chief of Police J. E. Dowden was on the scene at an early hour and during the day gave considerable time and effort to the task of keeping motorists in the straight and narrow way.

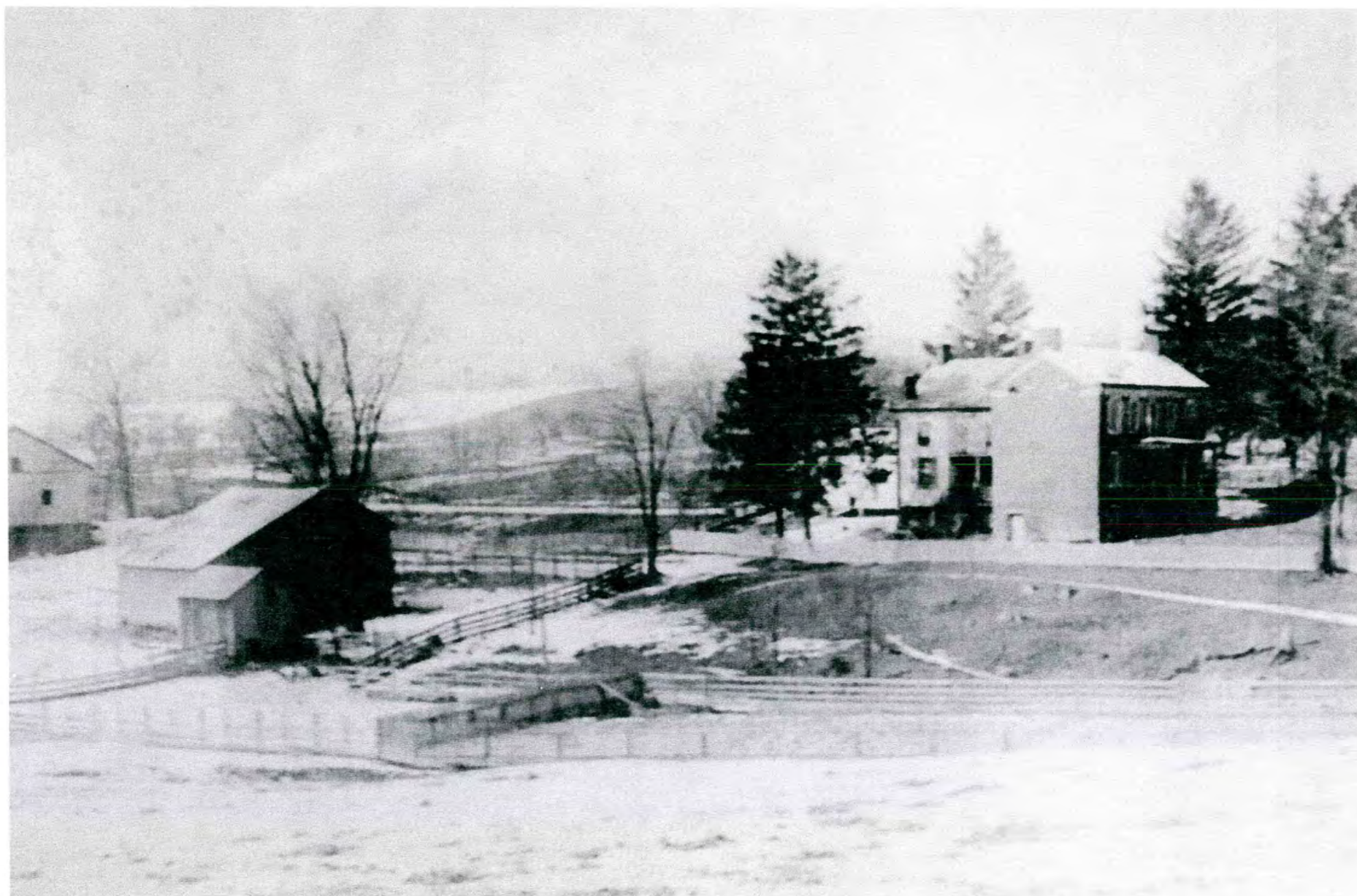
Conditions at this busy corner usually are bad under the best circumstances. The intersection of two busy streets in the heart of the business section makes for much vehicular and pedestrian traffic during the greater part of the day, and narrowness of streets adds to traffic hazards. In the past there has been a great deal of parking on both sides of the streets and largely without regard to the location of fire plugs, established lines or nearness of corners.

Continued complaint has been voiced to members of the Borough Council and the head of the police department regarding parking violations and dangerous practices of motorists. This has led the Council to issue instructions to the police to enforce the provisions of present ordinances dealing with the question. And, supplementing existing regulations, it is expected Council will at the next monthly meeting establish some new regulations which will limit the time of parking in certain localities.

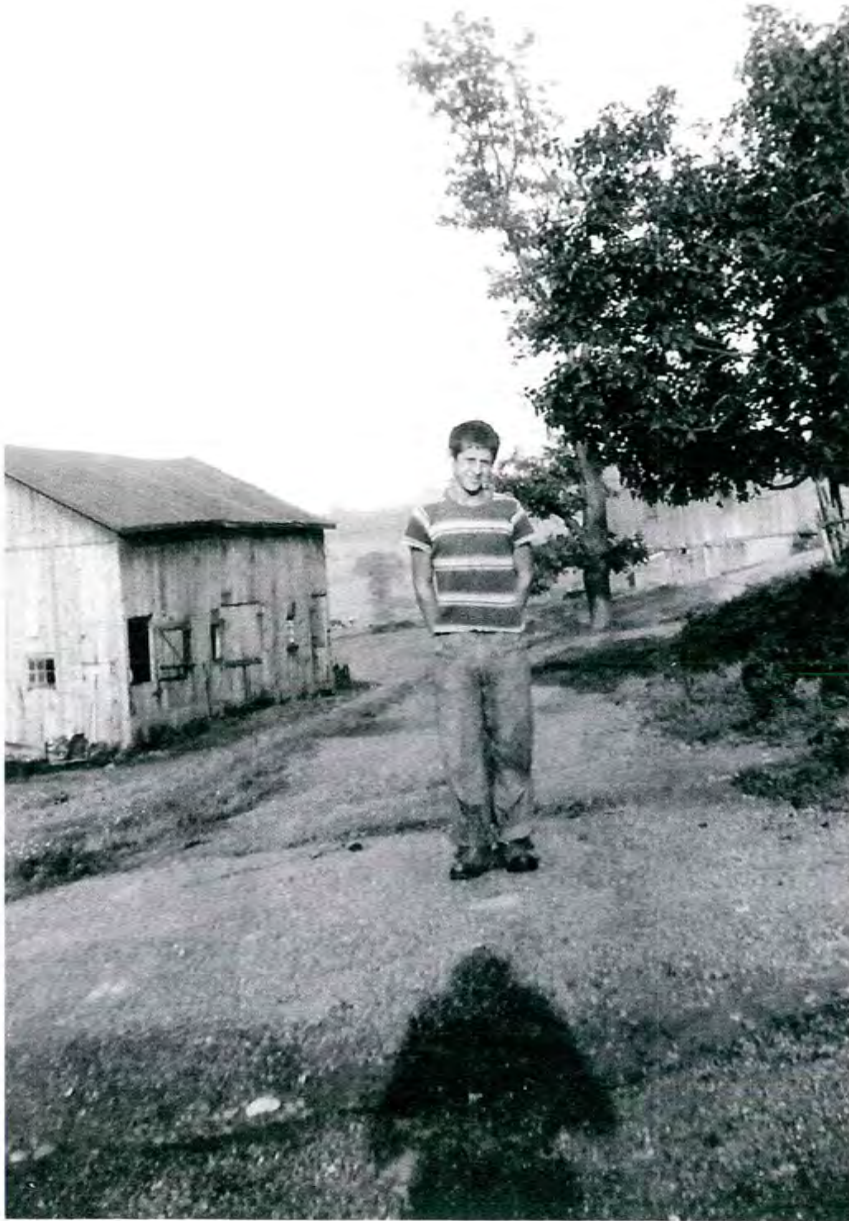


**Lounder's Restaurant-1949**  
**South Main Street, Burgettstown, PA**

*Fort Vance Historical Society*



**Farm on Lee Road, Burgettstown, PA**  
**Rented by Ludwig Jerbic**



**Jim Sentipal**



**Ludwig Jerbic**

**Farm on Lee Road, Burgettstown, PA**

## MAIN STREETERS PETITION COUNCIL FOR SIDEWALKS

Lack of sidewalks on the south side of Main street, in the vicinity of the new Burgettstown postoffice building was pointed to as a pedestrian hazard by property owners in that section, Monday night, who appeared before Council to again request that sidewalks be laid. James Longo and Ben Repole, property owners, called to Council's attention the fact that many children use this thoroughfare to and from school and that the lack of sidewalks formed a road hazard both for the children and for motorists.

The matter has been before Council many times before, and no definite action has been taken. The matter was referred to the Street Committee with instructions to secure costs on filling and concreting a four foot walk a report to be made at the next meeting of Council.

E. S. Wheeler and Sam Broida, representing the Lions club was also present to ask that Council build a road to the Scout Hut, which is to be built by the Lions club and the Friday club in the Linn plan of lots. These gentlemen stated that it is the intention of the sponsoring organizations to turn the lot and hut over to the Borough to make the building tax free, but with the condition that it be used as a recreation center for the Community's boys and girls. Funds are now being solicited to build this Hut. President of Council J. G. Scott appointed a committee, composed of Messrs Munger, Welch and Nicholls to meet with the Scout committee and report at the next meeting.

The first reading of the ordinance on Pin Ball and Music Box machines was heard. This ordinance, effective on November 1, provides for a license fee of \$25 on pin balls and \$15 on music boxes.

Samuel DeWalt, health officer, was present and led a spirited discussion concerning open sewers in use in the Borough. The particular sewer under discussion was the open sewer that crosses Center avenue and runs across the Tope property. Mr. Tope has made complaints to the Borough concerning this sewer and wants this nuisance eliminated. The matter was referred to the health committee of Council for further investigation.



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**Main Streeters Petition Council for Sidewalks  
Burgettstown Enterprise-August 21, 1941 Edition**

## Then

*Not much has changed along Main Street in Burgettstown since the top photo was taken in 1912.*

*Made by the Austin photography studio in Steubenville, Ohio, and sold as a postcard, the photo shows Burgettstown Presbyterian Church and three houses to the south. There are few differences in the photo taken recently:*

38



STAN DIAMOND / O-R

## and now

*More utility poles with many wires; some superficial changes to the porches and fronts of the houses; and a new, perhaps less impressive, steeple on the church.*

*The late Jane Rudowicz, who owned the postcard, emigrated from Poland in 1911 with her family and settled in Burgettstown. She said her family and other Polish immigrants attended this church before a Catholic parish was established in the town.*

**Main Street, Burgettstown-Then and Now**  
**Living in Washington County- November/December 2007 Edition**

## MATERIAL IS PURCHASED FOR STREET REPAIRING

Council Plans Improvements Far as  
Funds are Available at  
Present Time

At a monthly meeting of the borough council held in the council chamber of the municipal building on Monday evening, authority was given for the purchase of a small amount of composition material to be used in the repairing of a number of bad spots in various paved streets of the borough. The work contemplated is not extensive, but will provide for taking care of the need for smoothing out rough places, filling up holes and ruts and putting several sections of roadway in better order. Lack of available funds seemingly prevents much street improvement that might be attempted were conditions better.

The meeting was lengthy, the work of the session not being finished until midnight. There was considerable time spent in discussing the question of the adoption of daylight saving time in the borough, but while the councilmen expressed themselves as agreeable to either standard of time being used locally, they were not inclined to go so far as to pass any formal resolution one way or the other.

Following a discussion, the police committee was instructed to inspect all sidewalks and to bring to the attention of property owners any repairs needed. Inasmuch as property owners, individually, are responsible for accidents, personal injuries or damages caused by faulty sidewalks, it is suggested that owners see to the repairing of defective walks before the councilmanic committee takes action, which, undoubtedly, would add considerably to the expense.

Mrs. Ada Smith of Center avenue and J. F. Evans of Dinsmore avenue presented a matter in connection with zoning conditios to the coucil. They were promised that an investigation would be made and the matter given further attention.

The president, F. H. Illig, presided over the meeting and the following were in attendance: Councilmen S. J. McCalmont, E. C. Caldwell, L. E. Foster, O. W. Jackson, W. R. Allison, A. R. Miller and Secretary C. W. Davidson.

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## MORE PARKING LAWS ENACTED BY COUNCIL

Local Lawmakers Ban Parking Autos  
on Either Side Street Between  
Hotel and Bridge Street

Under an ordinance which passed third and final reading at the monthly session of the borough council, held in the municipal building on Monday evening, parking of motor vehicles will be prohibited on both sides of Main Street between the alley south of the Smith hotel building and the intersection of Bridge street, at the Faulkner building. The ban in this area covers all hours.

Also passing third and final readings were ordinances fixing the salary of the chief of police at \$150 per month, and the granting of a monthly donation of \$10 to the Junior Women's Club for the purpose of aiding in the maintenance of a free public library in the borough. The three ordinances were passed unanimously, after some discussion of each measure. The ordinances, in their complete form, appear in another part of this issue of the Enterprise.

After considerable discussion it was decided upon unanimous vote to purchase a motorcycle for the police department. Chief Powell briefly addressed the council on the subject, and several of the councilmen spoke on the question. While the question of the expense troubled the councilmen, it was fully agreed that a great need for this equipment for the police department exists. It was pointed out by several members that the increased efficiency of the police system by the use of an up-to-date means of transportation about the borough would in all likelihood offset the expense incurred, which is not great.

The matter of enforcement of the old curfew law was given thoughtful consideration. The secretary was instructed to ascertain from the telephone company if arrangements could be made to have the test sounding of the fire whistle made at 9 p. m. instead of at noon, or have an additional signal sounded in the evening. Pending information from the telephone authorities no further action will be taken.

Discussion of numerous matters respecting affairs of the borough regular routine business and the authorization of payment of current bills concluded the work of the meeting.

President D. C. Dowden presided over the session and the following were in attendance: Secretary W. J. Whalen, Jr., Councilmen S. J. McCalmont, A. R. Miller, W. R. Allison, J. G. McGough, J. Harry Rankin, A. L. Seagle; Burgess J. A. McKenzie and Chief of Police M. J. Powell.

# 'Mosquito haven'



JIM McNUTT/OBSERVER-REPORTER

Burgettstown resident Harry Sabatasse is concerned that an area along Route 18 outside Burgettstown makes for a great breeding ground for mosquitoes. A state official who toured the site said there are no issues.

## *Burgettstown man fears possible breeding ground*

By TESSA IGLESIAS  
Staff writer  
newsroom@observer-reporter.com

A Burgettstown resident is concerned about a “mosquito haven” in an area near Harmon Creek.

“I’m concerned about my family and friends and loved ones about possibly getting bit by one of the mosquitoes,” Harry Sabatasse said Monday.

“I think the Department of Environmental Protection is lax on taking care of their job.”

After watching the news and hearing about deaths from diseases linked to mosquito bites, Sabatasse is worried the area is at risk of being a hazardous zone. The area is part of state game-lands No. 117.

Sabatasse has contacted state Sen. Camera Bartolotta,

R-Carroll Township, state Rep. Jason Ortity, R-South Fayette, and Washington County Commissioner Diana Irely about the issue.

Bartolotta and Ortity sent officials to check the area.

“We’re engaging the Department of Environmental Protection, and we’re engaging the Pennsylvania Game Commission to come and take a look and see what, if

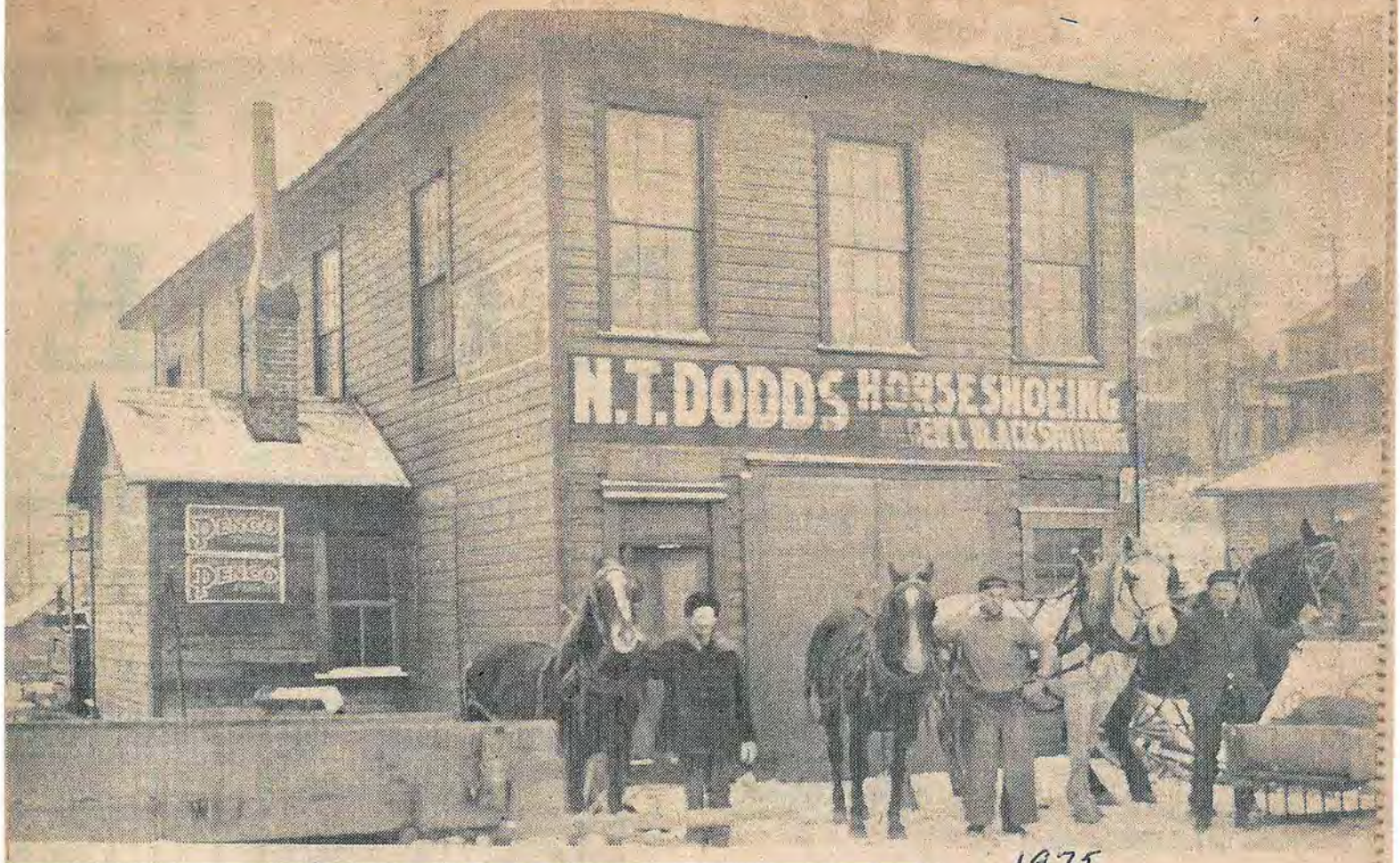
anything, can be done,” said Will Thomeier, Bartolotta’s district director.

Irely’s office was able to get in contact with Brian Diehl, the DEP’s West Nile virus coordinator for the Southwest region of Pennsylvania, who in turn toured the area.

Diehl found no mosquito issues or concerns, and has no recommendations for the site.

**Mosquito Haven**  
**Observer-Reporter-May 24, 2016 Edition**

## THE OLD SMITHY OF 60 YEARS AGO



1915

It was over 60 years ago when this photograph was taken at a blacksmith shop in Burgettstown.

Perhaps you can recognize the building. Up to its final days, it was the residence of Albert Tony on Bridge Street.

But 'way back when, as you can tell by the sign, it was used for blacksmithing and horseshoeing.

The smith, pictured in the center, was N.T. Dodds, father of William Dodds, of Langeloth.

At the left is John Sylvan Brunner, who was a farmer in Jefferson Township. He is pictured with his sleigh and team of horses. Mr. Brunner was the grandfather of Rep. John L. Brunner, of Burgettstown.

The gentleman at the right is unidentified.

The Center Avenue railroad station is pictured at the right.

**Old Smithy of 60 years Ago  
N. T. Dodds-Horseshoeing and General Blacksmithing  
Burgettstown Enterprise-1975**

## NEW COUNCIL FORMED BY ADVICE OF COUNSEL

Business of Municipality Once More  
Functioning With Full Force  
of Law Makers

The Borough Council of Burgettstown again is functioning as a complete organization after a short period of inactivity due to the summary resignations of a majority of the members of the local law-making body.

At a meeting of the Council held in the municipal building on Monday evening the Borough Attorney, I. C. Bloom of Washington, a native and former resident of Burgettstown, advised the three remaining members of the old Councilmanic personnel that they could legally appoint a member and proceed to elect a full organization. This action was followed and resulted in the election of four new Councilmen—W. R. Jackson, succeeding A. L. Seagle; W. A. Richey, succeeding W. W. Lyons; R. G. Russell, succeeding W. R. Shiner, and E. Munger, succeeding D. C. Dowden.

J. G. Scott was elected president of the Council, succeeding D. C. Dowden, who had held the office for several years, but was among the group recently resigning. W. J. Whalen, Jr., was re-appointed Borough Secretary and Charles W. Davidson, a former secretary, was elected treasurer. I. C. Bloom was re-appointed Borough Solicitor.

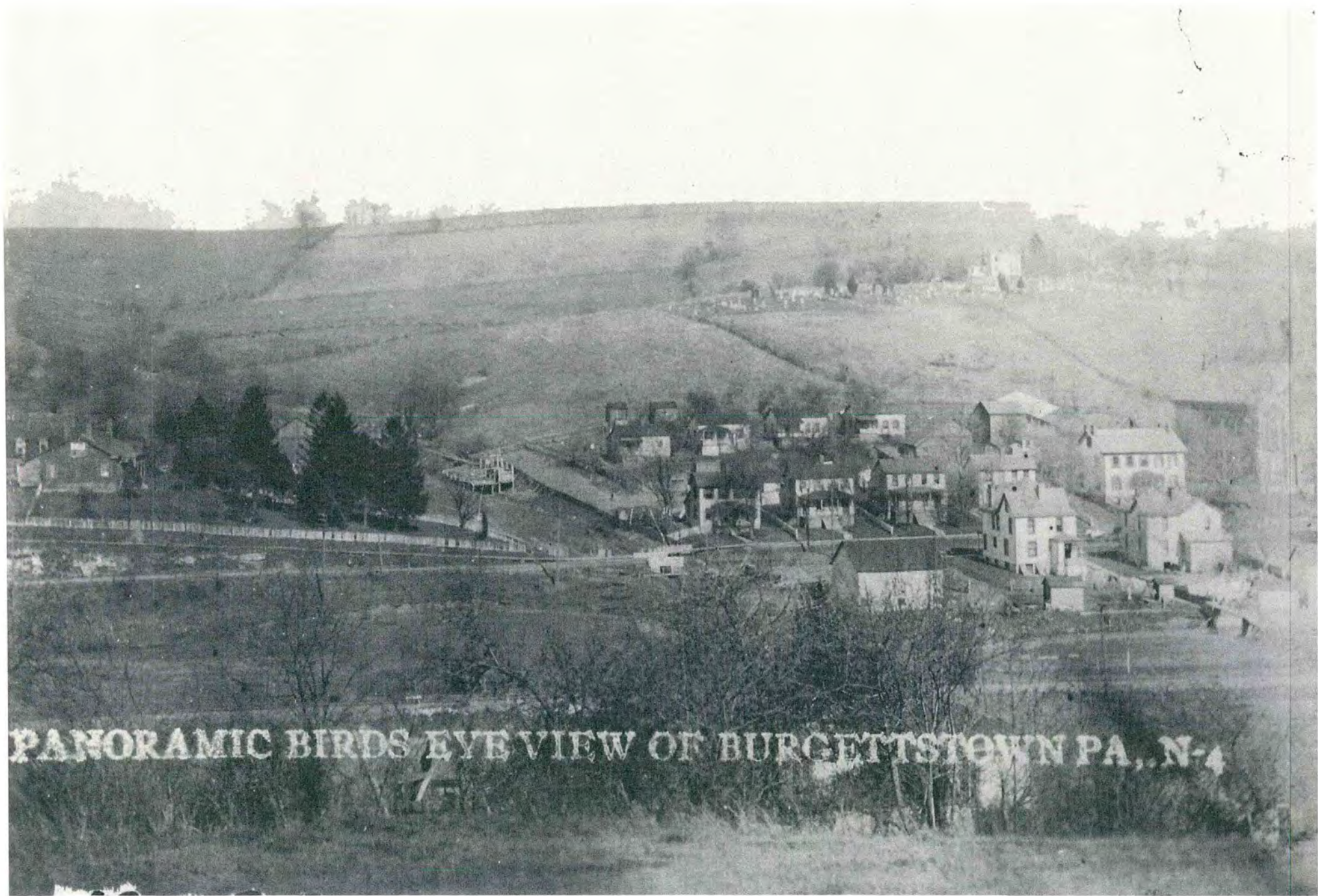
Samuel Powell was elected borough policeman. He had been dismissed by the old Council and was reinstated by the Burgess when the Council became impotent by reason of the resignation of four members. Powell has been employed for the remainder of the calendar year at a salary of \$150 per month.

No other business was transacted at the session, and as the hour was late at the conclusion of so much action the meeting was recessed and will reconvene on Friday evening, June 12th, at 8 o'clock.

The new Council wishes the statement made that visiting citizens are not only welcome at the Council meetings, but are urged to attend them and bring to the meetings any matters which may be of interest or importance to the community.

**New Council Formed by Advice Counsel  
Burgettstown Enterprise-June 4, 1936 Edition**





PANORAMIC BIRDS EYE VIEW OF BURGETTSTOWN PA., N-4



### ***Burgettstown Back When***

**This photo “Panoramic Bird Eye View of Burgettstown” was taken in 1910 or 1911.**

**The photo shows Burgettstown’s Main Street from the hillside opposite the Westminster U.P. Church.**

**The old graveyard on the hillside may be plainly seen, along with Paul Smith house nearby.**

**Notice the old country mine that has been closed many years and was located just off Main and Short streets.**

**These pictures are from the albums of C. W. Glessner, of Tampa Florida, a former resident of Burgettstown.**

# People Make Mistake In Knocking on Town

## Driving Business Away From old Home Town Brings Hardship to Many Community Residents

Recently four men parked an automobile near Lyon's restaurant on North Main street and inquired of a Burgettstown man where a good hotel could be found, as they desired lunch. The citizen took it upon himself to advise the strangers that there was not a good hotel in town and that they had better drive on to Washington.

Quite naturally the visitors entered their automobile and drove away. The town lost probably two or three dollars that would have been spent here, but, worst of all, the town figuratively "got a black eye," for the reason that these men undoubtedly will tell others to avoid Burgettstown along about meal time. This is the worst blow that could be inflicted upon any town, and just at this time, particularly, Burgettstown can ill afford this sort of advertising.

The facts in the case are that Burgettstown has as good hotels and eating places as any town, large or small, in the country. Biddle's hotel

12-1-32

is a real hotel, in addition to having a lunch counter; Hemphill's hotel has long been noted for excellent meals and pleasant accommodations; the Lyon's restaurant is well appointed in all particulars and practically anything in the way of well-cooked food may be procured there; the Capitol restaurant is operated by a genial young man and numbers among his customers many of the best people in the local territory. There are other good places where food and room accommodations may be had, with the greatest courtesy and at reasonable charges.

The hotel and restaurant people of Burgettstown are reliable, courteous people and good citizens. No adverse criticism can honestly be directed against any of them. And no citizen need feel ashamed to direct inquirers to any of the local hotels or restaurants. A reasonable man should be ashamed to drive trade away from the town in the manner indicated.

**People Make Mistake in Knocking on Town**  
***Driving Business Away from old Home Town Brings Hardship to Many***  
**Burgettstown Enterprise-December 1, 1932 Edition**

#### PETTY THIEVERY IN TOWN

Local and state police and County Detectives are investigating a series of petty thievery which occurred here last week.

Union Lunch restaurant, owned by Mary and Jennie Ferbezzar was robbed late Wednesday evening when thieves took money from pin ball and cigaret machines, canned goods, silverware and meat from the refrigerator. The robbery occurred after 10:30 p.m. when the restaurant was closed and was discovered when the owners reopened at 7 a.m., Thursday.

Friday evening, the Kucher-Saska VFW was entered and cash taken from a "recreation fund" which was kept in a cigar box under the counter. The amount has not been determined.

Bernola's Restaurant was pilfered Oct. 3, and a large amount of food was taken from a 23 cubic foot deep freeze, also cash from vendor machines.

## PITTSBURGH STREET 50 YEARS AGO

To many "old timers" in Burgettstown "Pittsburgh Street" suggests the neighborhood of the Malones, the Richeys, the Leopolds, the Kaisers, the Booths, the Ottos, the Novosols and the Boyds. These were the families who 50 years ago could have honestly boasted that they lived in the oldest part of town, for in 1797 George Burgett and Peter Kidd, surveyor, laid out the first lots on Pittsburgh Street and numbered them 1 to 22.

But boast, Pittsburgh Street residents did not, for 50 years ago they were too busy to think much about the history of their own little roadway.

The kids especially were living in a world they had created for themselves. In those days there were no Little Leagues or activities devised by grown-ups for their children. Instead, the youngsters played "Drop Three" under the street light at the corner of Main and Pittsburgh Streets, or they used the spot as a base in playing "Go, Sheepy, Go." (The latter game began just after supper and by nightfall the "sheep" might have wandered as far away as Raccoon or Cherry Valley.)

On rainy days the boys appropriated Henry Leopold's barn where they could have a good game of marbles and, of course, Lew's horse and wagon were an added attraction.

There seemed to be more boys than girls on Pittsburgh Street in the Twenties, maybe because some of them were banded together into a gang -- Don and "Gates" Malone; their Malone cousins, Austin and "Renny;" Henry Pavan; Albert and Cline Otto; Bill Weaver (just around the corner on Main Street); and Bill Castner, who wandered up from Market Street. There were baseball and football games between this crowd and the Granish Hill boys who met them on the flats behind what is now "Renny" Malone's house.

There were girls, too, of course: Catherine Boyd, Nedra Richey, Elizabeth and Rosie Novosol, Helen, Hazel and Edna Kaiser, Grace and Evelyn Booth and Irene Malone.

Sled-riding in winter was especially fun, for the track sometimes started at the Brockman house on the hill, curved around the

Presbyterian Cemetery, extended almost the length of Pittsburgh Street to the bridge. (A guard usually stood at the Main Street intersection.)

In summer, boys of all ages congregated on Stool's Corner. If the conversation got a little too exciting Henry Stool was bound to appear at the door of his confectionery and ice-cream parlor to disperse the crowd.

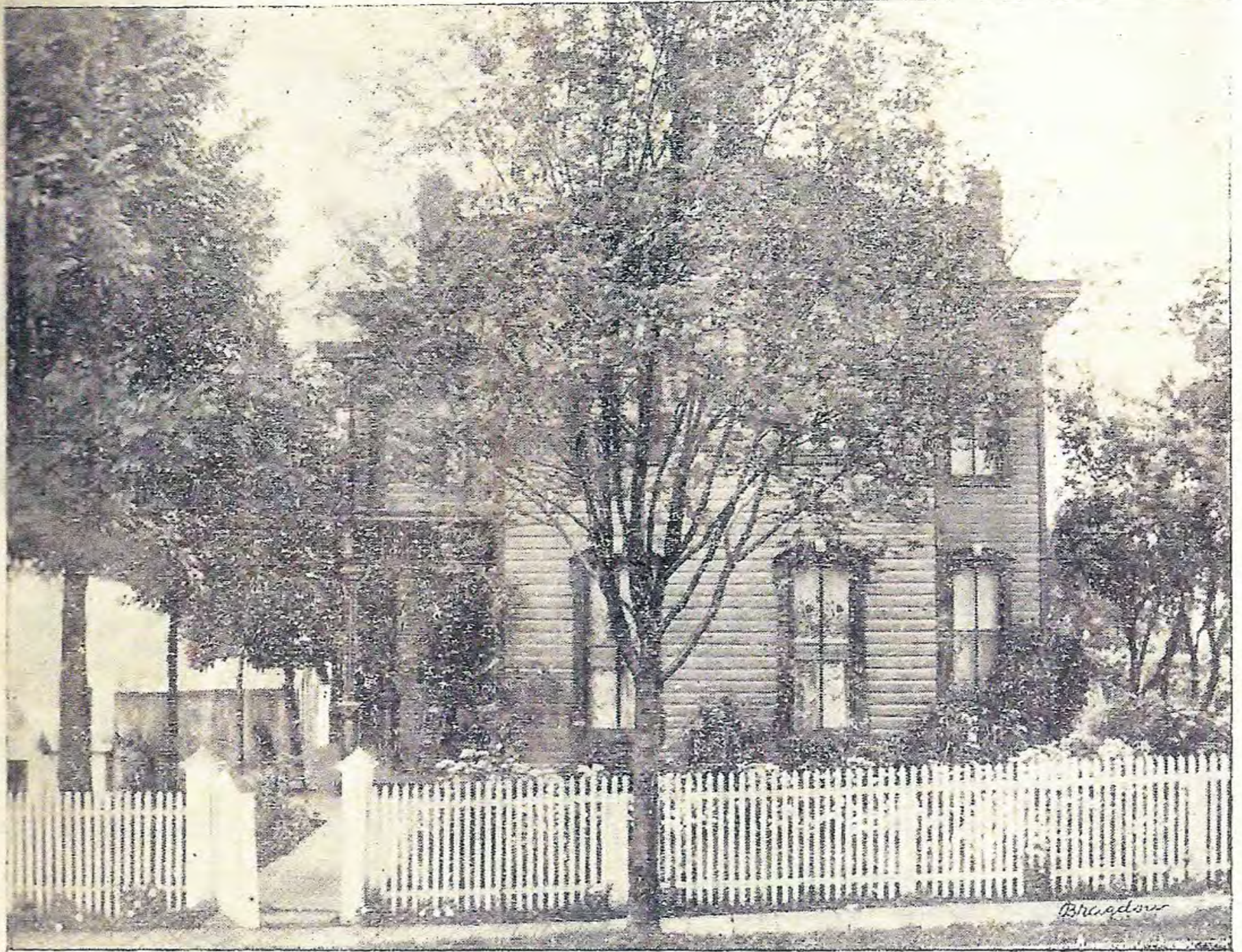
Besides Henry Stool there were other "grown-ups", some who seemed to the small fry quite elderly: Miss Mary Scott, "Ma" Ringler, Miss Lizzie Leopold and Dolly Seabright, who baked mouth watering cookies for Leopold's Bakery.

Then there was Henry and Hector Pavan's father, who took some of the boys hunting for greens "coming spring." He made dandelion wine and cooked all sorts of delicious dishes when the boys' friends came for supper.

Men of the neighborhood, if they were lucky enough to have a job, worked hard for a living. Vance Malone hung wallpaper or did carpentry when he wasn't working the Zinc Plant. Earl (Spike) Malone was a machinist, first for McCabe, later for Snyder Malone and Glenn Nichols who had a shop at the lower end of Pittsburgh Street. Mr. Otto owned a tin shop; Mr. Novosol was a contractor; Harry (Tink) Richey was a carpenter and eventually the Borough Street Commissioner.

Some of the houses of Pittsburgh Street have now disappeared. After all, they were built in the early 1800's when the town was new. Others have been so renovated that their original owners, if they came back today, would never be able to recognize them.

Times have changed to be sure, but the warm feeling for Pittsburgh Street still exists in the hearts of those who knew it in the Twenties.



D. M. PRY'S RESIDENCE.

Near Main Street and Bell Avenue  
Burgettstown, PA

# Reduced Tax Millage Set By Town Council

## Practice of Rigid Economy Results in Dropping One Mill on Year's Taxes

The monthly meeting of the borough council, held in the municipal building on Monday evening, was devoted largely to the consideration of the budget of the coming year's expenditures, and the councilmen worked until a late hour in the transaction of necessary business. After the most careful analysis of the situation and by the introduction of many methods looking toward rigid economy, it was found the tax rate for the current year could be reduced to 14 mills, a drop of one mill over last year.

In order to keep the millage at an exceptionally low figure, and make the reduction which has been made, it is demonstrated that economy practiced by preceding, as well as the present councilmen, has made it possible for the borough to keep free of debt and meet emergencies such as the present depression with favorable reaction toward the taxpayers. Burgettstown borough is in much better condition than similar boroughs, and beyond the bonded debt is unencumbered.

Among other matters acted upon at the council meeting were the approval of recommendations of the Board of

Health for the appointment of the Rev. W. J. McCashin to succeed himself as a member of the health organization, and the re-appointment of Chief of Police J. E. Dowden as health officer, at the former salary of \$15 per month. Routine business, payment of bills on hand and the consideration of minor questions concluded the work of the session.

President Frederic H. Illig presided over the meeting and the following councilmen were present: Oscar Jackson, E. C. Caldwell, George Hannan, L. E. Foster. Borough Secretary C. W. Davidson and Borough Solicitor I. C. Bloom were other officials present. The chief of police, street commissioner and two citizens attended the meeting.

Taxpayers should appreciate the fact that taxation has been lowered through processes of difficulty, and unreasonable demands for the expenditure of money during the depression should not be made upon council. The budget provides only for work of absolute necessity. Citizens generally should co-operate with the councilmen in keeping costs to a minimum.



## ***Remember When?***

The Jack Stiffer apartments and plumbing shop. This was a familiar scene in Burgettstown almost 50 years ago. The photo was taken by Peter Biny.

**Remember When? Jack Stiffer Apartments and Plumbing Shop  
Burgettstown Enterprise-July 18, 1990 Edition**



# Residents oppose addition to Scout hut

By Jim Dallara  
Editor

A petition bearing signatures of 51 residents opposed to planned expansion of a Scout hut in Burgettstown was presented to Borough Council on Monday, July 10.

Mark Sarracino of Hindman Avenue, the area where the Scout hut is located, said people living there do not favor an addition to the building and fear increased traffic on the street may be a result.

"We want to maintain the area as it is presently zoned — R-1, residential,"

Sarracino told the council.

John Panconi, who has been working for improvements to the old building in conjunction with the Burgettstown Lions Club, told Sarracino the project is still in the planning stage.

Panconi reported the Lions are willing to contribute \$75,000 toward renovation of the building, and said a committee of council members, local Boy Scout leaders and borough residents may be formed to manage operations of the facility. He said federal or state funds may be sought for the project.

The Scout hut and three lots of property were donated to the borough many years ago by the late Edward Hamilton. The deed directs that the building is to be used by Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts as long as it exists.

Councilman Charles Stadelman suggested that Sarracino or others in the area who signed the petition should get involved in the project by serving on the operations committee.

"Every time we try do something around here, whether it be the Scout hut or a uni-court, this is the type of reaction

we get," Councilman George Ankley said in response to the petition.

In other business, Panconi reported his committee will interview three applicants for a part-time police position in Burgettstown.

Mayor Ray Malone's police report for June indicated 458 hours worked, 61 complaints received with 30 criminal arrests, 51 traffic citations and \$2,201.42 in revenue.

Richard Alvarez, who chaired the meeting in the absence of President Settimio Carnali, expressed a concern over the con-

dition of Dinsmore Avenue, a state road that is showing signs of sinking. Some remedial work has been done by state highway workers, he said. Alvarez said he will recommend that school buses be rerouted over Maple Avenue until such time as Dinsmore Avenue is permanently improved.

Alvarez also reported that pier inspections have been completed on the Shady Avenue bridge.

Council voted to withhold full payment to DataPlan Inc. until a complete set of borough street maps has been received by borough officials.

**Residents Oppose Addition to Scout Hut**  
**The Enterprise-July 19, 1995 Edition**

# A trip back in time to Burgettstown's beginnings

Burgettstown was named for the German immigrant, Sebastian Burgett, who came here about 1780 and took up land patented to members of his family in two tracts, West Boston, 329 acres and Radius, 297 acres.

The Burgett mill was located where West Pittsburgh Street crosses Little Raccoon Creek, (near today's Pappas Lumber Company).

Sebastian Burgett was killed in an accident on Sept. 4, 1789. He was bringing a load of castings from Pittsburgh. The wagon on which they were loaded upset in crossing a log and he was crushed beneath it. A fort also had been built on Burgett Land, and a graveyard on the hill overlooking Burgettstown was used for members of the family and a few neighbors.

The town was laid out by George Burgett and was called West Boston. It grew slowly until the Panhandle Railroad went through in 1865. It then expanded north and south, businesses opened and it boomed into a thriving town. The Burgettstown Call was started in 1879. The editor was M. R. Allen, who published the weekly newspaper. The subscription rate was 50 cents a year, in advance. The following are some of the businesses in Burgettstown as early as 1884:



**KATHRYN SLASOR**

"W. W. Latham, Auctioneer. All kinds of property. Charges reasonable. Patronage solicited. Burgettstown."

"O. O. Bow, Barber. Shaving and hairdressing done in the best of style. Next door to Central Hotel. Burgettstown."

"Exchange Hotel. Near Depot. Wm. Cole, Proprietor. Burgettstown. Stabling for horses."

"Wilson's Family Sugar Cured Hams. Whole or sliced to suit customers. Leaf lard a specialty. Near depot. John Falconer."

"Burgettstown Hotel. Has been newly furnished. Boarding and lodging by the day, week or meal. Charges moderate. Levi Caldwell, Burgettstown."

"Steam Dentistry. All nervous persons should take Dr. Harper's Anaesthetic. There is no pain and no nervous shock. Teeth filled.



Contributed

**TURN OF CENTURY** - Here's a shot of Main Street early in the 20th century.

Artificial ones inserted of the best material. Office days Monday, Friday and Saturday. J. T. Harper, Burgettstown."

"New livery stable. We would respectfully inform the citizens of Burgettstown and vicinity that we have opened at Burgettstown in the J. B. Tenan building a new livery, feed and sale stable.

The entire outfit of barouches, carriages, horses, harness, saddles and bridles are new.

Double and single driving teams and saddle horses. Light and heavy draught. Yours respectfully, T. A. Miller and T. J. Boyd."

S. S. Perrine, dealer in groceries, confectionery, provisions, vegetables, etc. Creamery butter on hand. Burgettstown."

"Wm. Brinner has a large assortment of dry goods, notions, groceries, provisions, confectionery, glassware, Queensware and school books. Near depot."

"R. H. Black and Bro. granite and marble monumental works. Wheeling. J. J. Ranking, Burgettstown agent."



Contributed

**DECADES PAST** - A&A Men's Shop, Shaffer's Drugs and Burgettstown Hardware were just a few of the businesses that lined Main Street in decades past, when a dozen eggs sold for 55 cents.

aurora australis.

The government astronomers of Australia thought it was the presence of aqueous vapors in the higher strata of the atmosphere.

Meteoric dust was another explanation. Another theory was that it was volcanic dust in the upper atmosphere, thrown out in the great eruptions in Java and elsewhere the previous August.

Whether this unusual crimson glow was ever explained or not, is not known to this writer. Various accounts say it was visible for several months. Further research on the "Cloud Glow" reveals the following:

"The theory which finds the most acceptance is that of the volcanic dust in the upper atmosphere, thrown out in the great eruptions in Java. So great was the mass of matter that intense darkness covered the land and sea at noonday for many miles around. Krakatao is a volcanic island situ-

ated in Sunday Strait halfway between Sumatra and Java, two of the Indonesian Islands. One of the world's worst disasters occurred in August 1883 when this volcano erupted.

Much of the island was blown away, and a huge tidal wave washed over the shores of the nearby islands.

This caused the death of about 36,000 people. For a year afterward, volcanic dust floated about this region.

The reflection of the sun on this dust could be seen as far way as London; and the dust in the upper atmosphere traveled around the world many times before it settled."

(Part of the above information is taken from the World Book Encyclopedia. Slasor is a special correspondent for the Pennsylvania Focus. She also wrote the story below about the oldest businesses in Burgettstown.)

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**Scenes From Burgettstown Community  
Park To Open Saturday, June 3**



**Scenes from Burgettstown Community Park to Open Saturday, June 3  
Burgettstown Enterprise-June 1, 1950 Edition**

## **Burgettstown**

It was about 1780 or possibly a year or so earlier that Sebastian Burgett came to Washington County and settled on the land where Burgettstown now stands. He built a house near the site of the Robert Scott home of later years and erected a blockhouse. There was Indian activity at the old blockhouse. When his son, Boston Burgett, erected a new house years later and moved the block across the street, tomahawk and bullet marks were visible on the logs. The old blockhouse was used as a cowshed until it was struck by lightning and burnt. Sebastian Burgett, who operated a mill on Raccoon Creek, was killed while hauling new machinery from Pittsburgh to his mill in 1789. The wagon upset and Burgett was caught beneath the load.

The original town of West Boston, named after Boston Burgett was first laid out in January 1795 by Peter Kidd, surveyor for George Burgett, another son of Sebastian, this plot never recorded and would of contained 56 lots. Another plot contained 94 lots. A post office was opened on January 1, 1811 with Thomas Miller, first post master.

Panhandle Railroad was completed in 1865. The town of West Boston was some distant from the railway. Another post office was established and was called Cardville and Cardville railroad station.

In 1879 the plan was known as Burgettstown, there were 45 lots, with a railroad depot, a freight house, a turntable, and engine house. West Boston was known as the Old Town.

### **Indian Mounds**

A small Indian mound is located near the new bank building. The field on which it stood was used for agricultural purposes consequently the mound became reduced in size after each year's cultivation.

### **Burgettstown Grist Mill**

The present mill is the third one on the same location. The first was built by the Burgetts in 1783 and was run by water power. In 1808 they sold it to Roland Rogers. It is fair to believe he built the second mill; then steam powered was introduced. The third proprietor was Freegift Crawford, who bought it in 1834 from the heirs of Rogers. Mr. Crawford sold it to T.J. Patterson in 1851. Patterson sold it 1852 to Thomas J. Crawford, son of

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Freegift Crawford, sold to Vance and Anderson in 1855. Present owners erected a new mill in 1857. Joseph Jackson sold to Donald Crane in 1870. Mr. Crane and Sons were owners until 1893. James M. Stephenson and William Stephenson were owners until October 1894. In 1895 they made complete change replaced the engine. The saw mill connected with the flour mill was dismantled.

### **The Tannery**

George Day erected a tannery here in 1792. His successors were Elijah Ramsey, Mr. Standish, Milo Laughlin and John Larcom. The two houses of Samuel J. Ghrist and the meat shop of John A. Russell are located on the tannery property.

### **Merchants**

David Bruce from Scotland, first merchant and also wrote poetry. Early merchants were Robert Boland, Robert Richie, St. Clair Sutherland and James Briceland.

### **Taverns**

Taverns were opened in many proprietors in 1796 and closed. In 1825 there were five taverns.

### **Nail Factory**

A nail factory was in operation in 1810. It was located on south side of Pittsburgh Street on the Francis Hood property.

### **Pottery**

John Franks owned a pottery near head of Pittsburgh Street in 1820. Wilt brothers last to operate pottery.

On March 23, 1881, then a borough charter was granted.

The rural carriers in 1898:

Burgettstown: W. M. McCullough, W. B. Porter, Richard Hill, C.A. Bowser

Florence: T.C. Graham, Alex Hanlin

Hanlin Station: Charles W. Scott, Robert Stevenson, James Hanlin

Independence: Sheldon Perrin, O.G. Sechrist

# Sidewalk Questions Decided by Council

Orders Issued for Borough Workers  
to Proceed With Sidewalks  
on October 15th

The regular monthly meeting of the borough council was held in the municipal building on Monday evening. President F. H. Illig presided and all members were in attendance. A small number of citizens were present as visitors, some of whom presented petitions in regard to a matter pertaining to a sewer connection. The discussion developed the fact that the matter did not come under the jurisdiction of the council.

The main discussion of members was in relation to the building of sidewalks in certain parts of the borough. Secretary C. W. Davidson stated that notices had been mailed to all property owners concerned outlining the ordinance requiring sidewalks to be constructed by property owners, with the notification that in the event such property owners failed to begin the work of construction by October 15th the borough would proceed with the work on a basis of assessing costs of construction, plus 10 per cent, against the owners of property whereon walks are constructed.

It was decided by the council that this work of sidewalk construction be started in accordance with the notices, on October 15th by borough employees, in all places where property owners have at that time still neglected to comply with the terms of the sidewalk ordinance.

A representative of the Bell Telephone Co. was present in connection with the request of the company for permission to install conduits along certain streets. An ordinance covering the proposal passed first and second readings at the meeting.

A few other matters of minor importance and the payment of approved bills for wages, materials, etc., completed the work of the session.



# Walk Building Costs On Property Owners

Erroneous Impression Current That  
Costs of Construction are  
Paid by the Borough

Since the agitation for the construction of sidewalks in various parts of town has been occupying the public mind and the attention of the borough council, it has developed that there is some misunderstanding regarding just where the costs are placed in sidewalk building.

Ordinance number 35, passed by the local council on January 12, 1908, provided that all sidewalks were to be constructed by the borough and when completed to be turned over to property owners who were required to maintain such walks. Many persons are under the impression that this ordinance is still in effect, which is incorrect.

On November 3, 1924 ordinance 76 was passed by the council, and was approved by Burgess W. S. Clark, providing, among other things, the following:

"Section 3. After the enactment of this ordinance all sidewalks within the borough of Burgettstown shall be graded, constructed, laid, re-laid and repaired by the owner or owners of lots fronting thereon."

This ordinance has not been abrogated insofar as the matter of taking care of costs of sidewalk construction is concerned. As the law now stands it is obligatory on property owners to construct sidewalks on locations in front of their lots when so directed by the town authorities. In the case of failure to do so, the law provides the borough may proceed with construction, charging the costs thereof, plus 10 per cent, to the property owner or owners.

In view of present conditions many people believe that civic pride should influence property owners to build sidewalks without being compelled to do so by the authorities. Many express the opinion that the people will be willing to co-operate with council in making the streets safe for travel and bringing about needed improvements.

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**Walk Building Costs on Property Owners**  
**Burgettstown Enterprise-September 24, 1931 Edition**

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**Sidewalk Questions Decided by Council  
Burgettstown Enterprise-October 8, 1931 Edition**

# Remembering the Smith Hotel on Main Street

The blissful days of relaxing and chatting with neighbors on the veranda of the Smith Hotel in Burgettstown are gone.

The building was erected in 1874 by John Orr Lee and known as the Exchange Hotel until he sold it to William Cole in 1883, the latter to take possession on April 1 of that year.

James E. Smith, of the Elderly area, became the proprietor on Sept. 5, 1906. By 1910, according to the newspapers of that day, the hotel corner was attracting much attention.

"S. B. Lyon is opening a restaurant in the basement of the Smith Hotel."

"A new brick crossing is being laid from the Burgettstown National Bank to the Smith Hotel."

"A team tied at McClure's hardware took fright at an auto turning the corner at Smith's Hotel, hit the curb and fell."

Many of today's residents of Burgettstown and the surrounding vicinity remember clearly the events of yesteryear concerning one of the town's early landmarks.

"The Smith Hotel was a showpiece in 1929," Arlene Ellsworth Lido said. "My Mom and Dad stayed in it overnight when we

moved from Illinois by mules and wagon. My Dad stabled the mules in the Livery Barn across the street."

Once settled in their room for the night, Arlene, as a little girl, could see through an opening from a door that was ajar.

She remembers the beautiful wide stairway that was an outstanding feature of the Smith Hotel. Arlene in later years operated a variety store in a part of the building. From 1961 to 1969, she and her husband sold jewelry, toys, gifts and automotive articles as well as a large assortment of other items.

One of Helen Wiegmann Martin's most vivid memories of the old hotel is also the stairway.

"It was wide, like the ones you see in the big department stores," she recalls.

Helen was one of several teenagers from Eldersville to "stop in" at the hotel after a social function at the high school. The young people had gone by horseback from Hanlin and caught the train to Burgettstown.

"Uncle Jim Smith was so good to us," she remembers. "Come on over," he would tell us. "You can wait here for the train."



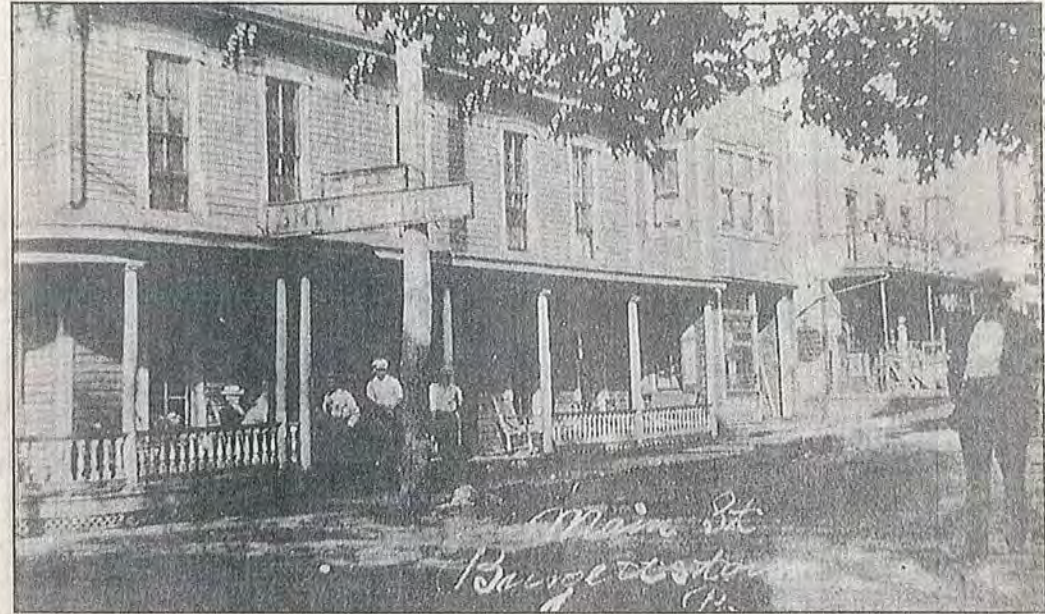
**KATHRYN SLASOR**

The train, in this case, was usually The Bummer, the last train to Hanlin Station that night. After the ride to Hanlin, the young folks picked up their horses from Grover Fulton's Livery Stable and headed up the long hill to Eldersville.

"We had lots of fun in those days," she said, smiling. "the Smith Hotel meant a lot to a lot of people."

Ann Mullen, from Midway, has some very pleasant memories of the Smith Hotel. "I was a waitress there for 12 or 13 years," she recalls.

"There was a big dining room on the first floor and a beautiful restaurant downstairs. It had a big kitchen and nice tables and chairs. People came in and ate. The waitresses and cooks



**GOOD OLD DAYS** – The Smith Hotel on Main Street, Burgettstown, in an undated photograph.

worked hard, but everyone was so kind."

Lido Petrucci recalls that his family's store was at one time next door to the Smith Hotel.

"It was a top-notch hotel,"

Lido says, "the Hilton of the day. The clientele was the best."

Other businesses located nearby.

"There was Shiner's Market, Trimmer's Drug Store, I.B.

Bloom on the other corner, and Squire Culley's tailor shop," Lido recalls.

(Slasor is a special correspondent for the Pennsylvania Focus.)

Contributed

# Smith Hotel thriving business at turn of century

Burgettstown's location on the Panhandle Railroad made it a busy place in early days. As soon as the railroad went through in 1865, businesses sprang up as close to the depot as possible.

Those who advertised in local newspapers, both before and after 1900, listed their locations "near the depot." This was a big drawing card. Many businesses crowded together, their storefronts lining the dirt walkways between them and the depot.

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**KATHRYN SLASOR**

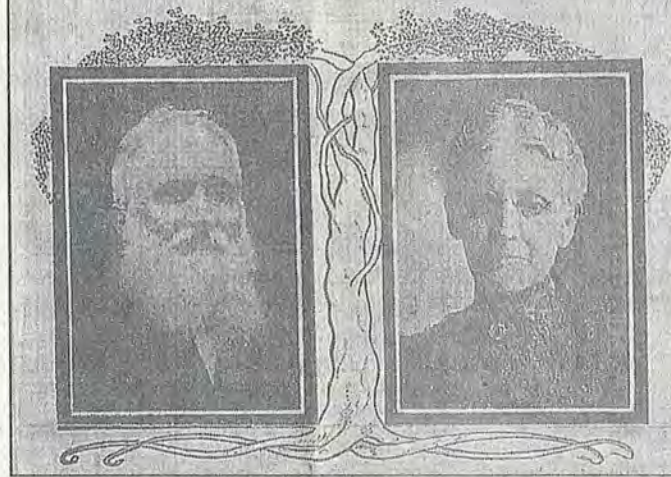
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Alexander Smith was also the father of one other son and two daughters by a former marriage. One of these daughters married

Mr. and Mrs. Alexander Smith Celebrate the Fiftieth Anniversary of their Marriage



Contributed

**GOLDEN YEARS** — The Smiths celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary way back when.

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Fulton; Mary, who married Frank Russell, from whom the Barr Russell family descends; Willa, who married Perry Biddle; James C., who married Mary E. Noble, later, Mary Mandell; Mabel, who married Jack Evans; and Thomas, who never married.

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It was this James E. Smith who is still remembered fondly by families of today. He was the last owner of the Smith Hotel at the corner of "Main and Short Main," in Burgettstown. Known by his many friends as Jim, he is also remembered as a familiar face at Biddle's Restaurant along Old Route 22, east of Florence.

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(Slasor is a special correspondent to the Pennsylvania Focus.)

#### **Hotel Nearing Completion**

Work on the rebuilding of portions of the Smith Hotel which was badly damaged by fire about five weeks ago, is progressing rapidly. It is expected completion will be reached and the building be ready for occupancy early next week.

## HONOR BANQUET HELD FOR TOWN HOTEL MAN

Landlord Smith Given Surprise  
by Group of Friends and  
Business Men

A large group of local friends of Landlord James E. Smith of the Smith Hotel, gathered at the newly rehabilitated hotel on Friday evening of last week to pay a tribute of friendship to the proprietor of the hostelry which recently was partially destroyed by fire. The function was in the form of a complimentary banquet and was a complete surprise to Mr. Smith. The testimonial was arranged by a number of friends as a token of esteem.

A total of 31 guests was registered. Among those were local business men and close personal friends. Dr. A. O. Hindman, Burgettstown medical practitioner, served in the capacity of toastmaster and filled his office with eminent satisfaction. Others present included: W. A. Reed, J. A. McKenzie, J. E. Smith, Burgess R. C. Cassidy, W. F. Scott, William Gillingham, L. H. Fullerton, R. M. Boyd, Isaac Stone of Weirton, Lloyd Davies, Elice Foster, Art Franz, John Duncan, Vance Hays, Frank Wray, Dr. R. F. Davidson of Hickory, C. W. Davidson, J. L. McGough, J. M. Pyle, F. G. Smith, D. J. Coulter, R. W. Stottlemeyer, Dr. W. S. Clark, John Scott, John Walker, Benny Kobe, John M. Scott, A. J. Cassidy, A. M. Carlisle and Clark Smith.

In the nature of an old time "house warming," the banquet proved a most enjoyable one, with the finest of fellowship prevailing. Entertainment was furnished by the grandchildren of Mr. Smith. Brief talks were made by most of those present, expressing their appreciation.

While his hotel was being repaired, Mr. Smith resided with his daughter, Mrs. Perry Biddle, of the Biddle Hotel Main street.

**James E. Smith, Proprietor of Smith Hotel**  
**Burgettstown Enterprise- March 26, 1931 Edition**



**1914 Smith Hotel-Main Street, Burgettstown, PA**

W.G. (Bud) Shillito, seated (wearing a straw hat), R.C. Cassidy, standing on the right.

*Notice: the street is not paved, further up the street is Adam Katzenmeyer Jewelry Store. A shoe store and a barber shop.*

*Fort Vance Historical Society*



# Remembering the Smith Hotel on Main Street

The blissful days of relaxing and chatting with neighbors on the veranda of the Smith Hotel in Burgettstown are gone.

The building was erected in 1874 by John Orr Lee and known as the Exchange Hotel until he sold it to William Cole in 1883, the latter to take possession on April 1 of that year.

James E. Smith, of the Eldersville area, became the proprietor on Sept. 5, 1906. By 1910, according to the newspapers of the day, the hotel corner was attracting much attention.

"S. B. Lyon is opening a restaurant in the basement of the Smith Hotel."

"A new brick crossing is being laid from the Burgettstown National Bank to the Smith Hotel."

"A team tied at McClure's Hardware took fright at an auto turning the corner at Smith's Hotel, hit the curb and fell."

Many of today's residents of Burgettstown and the surrounding vicinity remember clearly the events of yesteryear concerning one of the town's earliest landmarks.

"The Smith Hotel was a show-piece in 1929," Arlene Ellsworth Fritch said. "My Mom and Dad stayed in it overnight when we

moved from Illinois by mules and wagon. My Dad stabled the mules in the Livery Barn across the street."

Once settled in their room for the night, Arlene, as a little girl, could see through an opening from a door that was ajar.

She remembers the beautiful wide stairway that was an outstanding feature of the Smith Hotel. Arlene in later years operated a variety store in a part of the building. From 1961 to 1969, she and her husband sold jewelry, toys, gifts and automotive articles as well as a large assortment of other items.

One of Helen Wiegmann Martin's most vivid memories of the old hotel is also the stairway.

"It was wide, like the ones you see in the big department stores," she recalls.

Helen was one of several teenagers from Eldersville to "stop in" at the hotel after a social function at the high school. The young people had gone by horseback from Hanlin and caught the train to Burgettstown.

"Uncle Jim Smith was so good to us," she remembers. "Come on over," he would tell us. "You can wait here for the train."



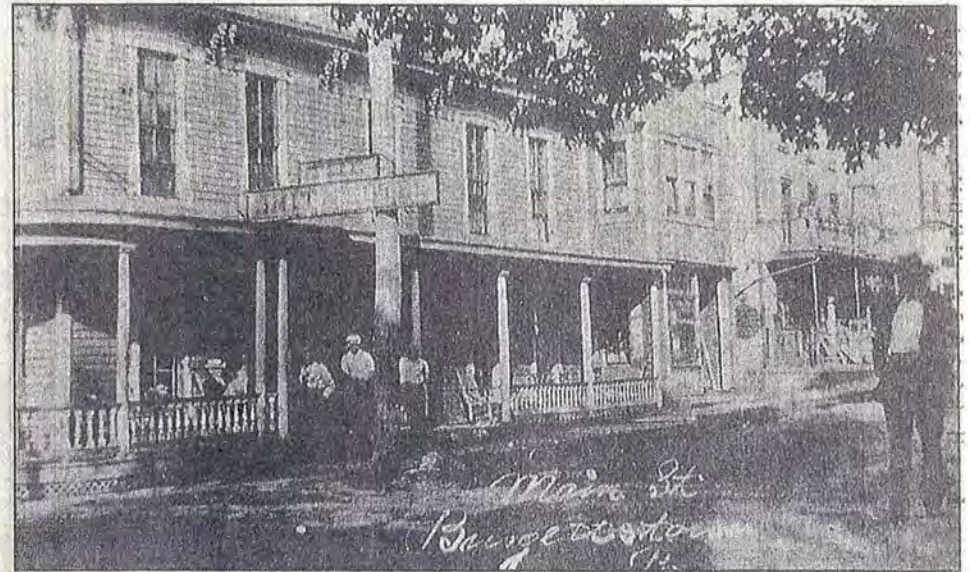
**KATHRYN SLASOR**

The train, in this case, was usually The Bummer, the last train to Hanlin Station that night. After the ride to Hanlin, the young folks picked up their horses from Grover Fulton's Livery Stable and headed up the long hill to Eldersville.

"We had lots of fun in those days," she said, smiling. "The Smith Hotel meant a lot to a lot of people."

Ann Mullen, from Midway, has some very pleasant memories of the Smith Hotel. "I was a waitress there for 12 or 13 years," she recalls.

"There was a big dining room on the first floor and a beautiful restaurant downstairs. It had a big kitchen and nice tables and chairs. People came in and ate. The waitresses and cooks



**GOOD OLD DAYS** - The Smith Hotel on Main Street, Burgettstown, in an undated photograph.

Contributed

worked hard, but everyone was so kind."

Lido Petrucci recalls that his family's store was at one time next door to the Smith Hotel.

"It was a top-notch hotel,"

Lido says, "the Hilton of the day. The clientele was the best."

Other businesses located nearby.

"There was Shiner's Market, Trimmer's Drug Store, I.B.

Bloom on the other corner, and Squire Culley's tailor shop

Lido recalls.

(Slasor is a special correspondent for the Pennsylvania Focus.)

**Remembering the Smith Hotel**  
**Pennsylvania Focus-October 9, 1999 Edition**

# Smith Hotel thriving business at turn of century

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*(Slasor is a special correspondent to the Pennsylvania Focus.)*

**Smith Hotel thriving Business at the Turn of the Century**  
**Pennsylvania Focus-October 16, 1999 Edition**

## 75 Years Of Service As Hotel Owners To Be Ended In Area By Smith Family



by Katherine Pyle

Jimmy Smith told me a few weeks ago that he had finally decided to sell Biddle's Restaurant on Route 22 and move to Florida. Jimmy's decision to sell conjured up in my mind not only a flood of happy memories about dining at Biddle's but it set me to thinking of the Smiths and the former Smith Hotel on the corner of Main Street. When Biddle's is sold the transaction will terminate 75 years of service by the Smith family as hotel owners in this community.

It was in 1908 that James E. Smith, a farmer from Eldersville, and his wife, Ada Wright Smith, purchased a hotel in Burgettstown, the building which remains on the corner across from McCoy's, now owned by Dr. Glenn Roberts.

Just when this building was constructed is difficult to ascertain, but it was evidently intended for a hotel and its first proprietor seems to have been David Smiley, grandfather of Elizabeth Wagner of Highland Avenue. The Smileys operated the hotel until 1872 when they sold to John Orr Lee and C. W. Fulton. A picture of the Fulton Hotel appears in Caldwell's Atlas of 1876 but has little resemblance to the present building. Lee and Fulton sold to William and Mary Cole who in turn sold to the Smiths. J. E. Smith remained owner until his death on the age of 80 in 1941.

The building at the right is the Smith Hotel as it appeared in the early days of this century. On the curving veranda local townspeople sometimes gathered to rest or pass the time of day. (Photo courtesy of Charles Lawson.)

Those of us who recall the exterior of the hotel in Burgettstown when it was owned by the Smiths remember the wide curving veranda with its rocking chairs. It was there that some of the town's most illustrious characters rocked away and passed the time of day whether they were residing at the hotel or not.

Mr. and Mrs. Smith were the parents of several children; three sons, Fred, Thomas and James, and three daughters, Mary, Willa and Mabel. During the Thirties Willa Smith Biddle and her husband, Perry, managed the hotel. It was at this time that part of the building housed businesses, Shiner's Meat Market, Horovitz' Beauty Parlor, and Kenny Smith's News Store, for instance. Mrs. George Swanik, recalling these days when she was employed at the hotel, remembers that the rooms were always occupied usually with employees of the American Zinc or of the highway department. The restaurant and the bar in the basement were the meeting place of many of the young men in town.

In 1937 Perry and Willa Biddle began construction of a large home on land they had bought from the Strouds on Route 2; but in 1938, only a year later, Perry Biddle died. It was 1 year before Willa Biddle converted the residence into a motel and the three car garage into cabins. The Biddle more opened for business in 1950. Meanwhile the Smith heirs sold the Burgettstown Hotel building to Gus Barbush who in turn sold to Dr. Roberts in 1956. The building has since been used as offices, stores or apartments.

Jimmy Smith was born in the old bank building across the street from the Smith hotel. He was the son of James C. and Mary Noble Smith. Seventeen months after his birth Jimmy's mother died and he went to live with his uncle and aunt, Perry and Willa Biddle.

Jimmy grew up in Burgettstown and graduated from Burgettstown High School. He attended Valley Forge Military School at Wayne, Pa., and then began working with his father at Gulf Oil in Pittsburgh. In 1943 he returned to Burgettstown to manage the hotel for his aunt, who continued to rent part of the building from Gus Barbush. Jimmy was manager until 1950 when he became partner to his aunt in the Biddle Motel business.

At its height Biddle's served meals from 7 a.m. until 10 p.m. every day. All the cabins were rented as well as the upstairs rooms of the residence. When the new highway was built several years ago only dinners were served, and the cabins were rented as permanent dwellings on a monthly basis.

During his heyday Biddle's entertained travelers from many parts of the United States. Louis Hayward, the movie actor, was one of the most illustrious of the guests. In 1950, during the great snow, 24 persons took refuge at Biddle's. Among them was the United States ambassador to France, his wife and daughter. Recalling this incident, Jimmy Smith remembers how they all scurried to find rooms and bedding for the guests and how his Aunt Willa contrived to stretch the Thanksgiving Day turkey over several days.

On another occasion Jimmy recalls rushing a woman who was about to have a baby from the motel to the Weirton General Hospital.

Numerous organizations in the tri-state area have scheduled parties at Biddle's, and the dining room has been the scene of many wedding receptions, one for 100 guests. The homey atmosphere and gracious service, along with excellent food, have made Biddle's a favorite dining place, particularly on Sundays.

Helen Sedlak of Slovan holds an important niche in the history of the restaurant. Helen began working for the Biddles at the hotel in Burgettstown and transferred to the restaurant on the highway in 1950. She assisted with the meals and then after Mrs. Biddle could no longer work in the kitchen, Helen became the chief cook.

On September 3, 1977, Willa Biddle died, leaving Jimmy to carry on the business alone. This winter he has gradually disposed of many of the furnishings including a few of the antiques which once graced the Smith Hotel in Burgettstown. It is with regret that local people will see Jimmy leave the community. He will be remembered for his outstanding courtesy and his loyalty he has held toward his family business.

75 Years of Service as Hotel Owners to be Ended by Smith Family  
Burgettstown Enterprise-Unknown Edition

# Burg, Smith officials expect development with sewers

By Bridgette B. Nofsinger

The Record-Enterprise

Republican and Democrat officials temporarily put aside their political differences and agreed about at least one thing on July 30.

"When you build it, they will come," was the attitude they shared at the Burgettstown-Smith Township Joint Sewage Authority ground breaking ceremony.

Approximately 50 people gathered for the occasion at an old railroad station located just off of Route 18. The property is owned by Jim Bongiorno and construction crews have already begun work on the area's first sewer lines.

Residents and business owners who have been channeling sewage into septic tanks and Raccoon Creek will soon benefit from a public sewage system.

Sewage authority manager, Chuck Cunningham, said construction will be scattered to make the transition as smooth as possible.

"If everything goes well, the project should be complete in one year," he said.

Cheryl Cook and Dick Mansfield from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, as well as State Sen. J. Barry Stout, state Rep. Victor Lescovitz and Washington County commissioners Diana Irely and J. Bracken Burns each took a turn at the podium to address the crowd.

Burns rallied the group with statistics showing a consistent stream of growth in Washington County. He said the sewage project was a positive economic indicator that new businesses and home buyers will come into the area.

"The sun is shining," he said. "The economic decline is over."

An air of optimism wafted through the crowd during the ceremony as forecasts of economic development and prosperity continued.

The 42-mile sewer line will cost sewage recipients \$800 to tap into. The cost of the project, estimated at \$20 million, has been offset by grants and loans from the Rural Utilities Service.

The authority will repay RUS over a 40-year span with a 4.5 percent interest rate.

The RUS will help people in financial distress to pay for their tap-in fees.

Lescovitz urged taxpayers to focus on the future of what the system will bring to the area rather than dwell on what it costs in the present.

He also congratulated George Martin for his persistence on the sewage authority for almost 30 years.

Martin, who has served as the president of the Burgettstown-Smith Township Joint Sewage Authority for 15 years and has been a member of the board since its inception in 1972, is largely responsible for its success today.

"This is a big day for the eight towns and villages that make up this area," Martin said.

He thanked each of the current authority members as well as recognized those whose eyes did not live to see their work come to fruition.



**BURGETTSTOWN-SMITH TOWNSHIP** Joint Sewage Authority held a ground breaking ceremony on July 30 at an old Railroad Station now owned by Jim Bongiorno.

**Burgettstown and Smith Twp. Officials Expect Development with Sewers**  
Record-Enterprise-August 5, 1998 Edition

**STATE CLINIC FOR  
VENERAL DISEASES TO BE  
HELD IN McCURDY BLDG.**

Miss Elizabeth Bloom, public health nurse was in Burgettstown this week arranging for the opening of a State Clinic for the treatment of Venereal Diseases, which will be conducted every Tuesday afternoon from 2 to 5 p. m. in the second floor front, of the McCurdy Building on Main street, over the Core Drug Store. The clinic is being transferred to Burgettstown from the Firemen's hall in Slovan, because of the more central location for the district. Miss Bloom is in need of two gas stoves to heat the offices. Anyone willing to donate used stoves for such a purpose should contact Miss Bloom in the McCurdy building.

Dr. A. W. Hopper, State Medical Inspector for Washington and Greene County will supervise the operation of the clinic.

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# Stottlemyer Park awaits November 2076

Stottlemyer Park on Main Street in Burgettstown was the scene of much excitement 23 years ago when the bicentennial time capsule was buried. The photos at right show what the little spot on the sloping hillside looks like now.

A once-in-a-lifetime event took place Nov. 11, 1976. A 34 by 18 by 10-foot box was buried with arrangements from Lee Funeral Home.

Articles were placed in the box that would be representative of life in the Burgettstown area in that year. Businesses, organizations and schools were invited to place their memorabilia in the capsule before it was buried.

Even though it will be our grandchildren's grandchildren who will open the box, little ones present were told, "Try to remember this day in history." It's not probable that anyone who witnessed the impressive ceremony in 1976 will be around to see the box opened 100 later. But anything is possible.

With advances being made every day in the many fields of science, and 23 of those 100 years already absorbed into eternity, who of us is to know what the span of life will be before the time capsule matures in 2076.

The year 1976 was probably the most eventful one within the memory of today's population. "The United States of America" we had now been called for 200 years. Each town and village



**KATHRYN SLASOR**

celebrated in its own way, with the same pride as if it were a big city or metropolis.

Burgettstown was no exception. Throughout the year, residents worked together to help carry out ideas of total strangers from across town. People served on committees who had never served before.

The town was spruced up with red, white and blue paint, even on the garbage cans and the fire plugs. With the late Kay Studa as bicentennial chairman, workers of all ages pulled together.

From youthful junior historians under the leadership of the late Regina O'Hern, who planted 180 trees along the bypass, to senior citizens who raised their voices in a community choir, the byword on all lips was, "Patriotism."

Festivals, dances and parades were held with much hilarity. Old buildings were propped up and re-roofed. Girl and Boy Scouts, school kids, veterans, businessmen and



Contributed

**PARK MONUMENT** - Bicentennial monument in Stottlemyer Park, Main Street, Burgettstown.

politicians joined to blow up balloons, plant flowers, paint signs, decorate windows, set up booths, wave flags, build floats and march in the parade.

Stottlemyer Park was born of the bicentennial. Named for the beloved elementary teacher, Robert Stottlemyer, the tiny parcel near the former school building comes alive each spring when the 13 flowering crabs burst into full bloom.

The trees represent the 13 original colonies. They were dedicated, along with the new flag pole and flags by the late John L. Brunner. The American Legion and the Veterans of Foreign Wars took an active part in

the dedication ceremony.

The late Eugene Vosburg cranked up the presses and put out a special bicentennial edition of the 100-year-old hometown newspaper.

The townships of Cross Creek, Independence and Jefferson pooled their forces in the museum atmosphere of Meadowcroft Village and celebrated together in tri-township fashion. Bicentennial signs were displayed at the portals of each community in the Raccoon Valley, no matter how small, announcing their importance to the world.

The Fort Vance Historical Society reprinted Caldwell's



Contributed

**BURIED TREASURES** - Time capsule is buried just outside the circle of flags.

County Atlas as a bicentennial effort.

Hanover school students planted extra trees on Arbor Day that year. Girl Scouts from Eldersville honored their scout leaders, Betty Bailey's, with an exceptional treat. The churches held special services throughout the year, proclaiming not only a message from a higher being, but their pride in the freedom that permitted them to do so.

The night sky was ablaze with a spectacular display of fireworks for the occasion of July 4, the actual birthday of the nation.

By Nov. 11, the year was

closing out, and much of the flag-waving, sign-painting, tree-planting and balloon-blowing had stopped. All that remained now was the burying of the time capsule. This was done amid a large crowd of cheering onlookers.

Human nature being what it is, many people have laid aside the zeal with which they celebrated during that year. But the opening of the time capsule will renew the fervor to a much later generation. And it is only 77 years until we can dig up that box.

(Slasor is a special correspondent with the Pennsylvania Focus.)

## STREET NAMES MIXED SINCE CHANGES MADE

Much Misunderstanding In Regard To  
Proper Names of Several  
Streets of Borough

The Enterprise office is located on Washington Street, but it seems few persons know this or they ignore the fact. Washington street from end to end is commonly called Main street, and there are so many sections of "Main Street" it is almost impossible to describe a location in the central part of town.

H. E. Rhodes writes the Enterprise in connection with street names, a part of his letter reading: "Several years ago the streets were renamed. High street was changed to Highland avenue and Church street was renamed Church avenue. You invariably call Church avenue, Church Street. I like to know streets by their proper names."

Mr Rhodes is absolutely right, and the editor of the Enterprise, who is still almost a stranger in the community, is glad to have information in the matter. Upon investigation, the question of the incorrect name of Washington street developed, and it appears streets should be listed correctly about as follows:

Florence avenue from the borough limits to the Pennsylvania railroad crossing; Main street from the crossing to the Peoples National Bank; Washington street from that point to South Burgettstown; Main street extension from the Peoples National Bank to the intersection of Center avenue near the P. R. R. freight station.

It seems difficult to discover why the street on which the Enterprise office is located should be called Main street when all deeds for property on the thoroughfare refer to the sites as located on Washington street.

It is suggested that the borough council give the matter attention and make an authoratative declaration. Streets should be given their proper names or officially changed if any reasons for a change exist.



## **Teenage Canteen Finds New Home**

After many months searching, the teen canteen which represents 150 teenagers between 12 and 16, has secured a home for its recreational activities.

Arrangements have been made to lease the basement floor of the Burgettstown Hotel building on Main street. In addition to its central location, the new home will provide ample space for a group of the canteen's size.

A special meeting has been called by the supervisor, Mrs. Jane McDonald, to be held in the American Legion meeting hall Thursday evening, June 2, at 8 o'clock. At this time, the new home will be under discussion.

Mrs. McDonald states that public support will be solicited in the forthcoming months to aid the canteen in their redecorating project. A senior group of teenagers will be organized to include those who are over the present 16 year age limit.

# THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

Events of the Long Ago From  
Enterprise Files and  
Other Sources

In the review of local history this week, the incorporation of Burgettstown as a borough is partly covered. Also a brief biographical sketch of the pioneer medical practitioner is given:

At a meeting of the citizens of Burgettstown, held pursuant to notice, at the town hall in March, 1877, for the purpose of taking measures for the erection of the borough of Burgettstown, to be composed of Old Burgettstown and Cardville, D. S. Walker was chosen chairman and F. McFarland secretary. After discussion, Finley Patterson, J. L. Patterson and M. W. McMurray were appointed a committee to take the initiatory steps to procure the incorporation of the proposed borough.

This committee never reported, no meeting was called, and the subject was held in abeyance till July, 1880, when another meeting was called, and J. L. Patterson, J. L. Proudfit, S. J. Ghrist, William Melvin, J. P. Donnan, H. B. McMurray and M. R. Allen were appointed to secure a survey and present the proper petition to the court.

This committee performed their duties, and on the 8th of December, 1880, gave notice that application would be made to the Court of Quarter Sessions of Washington county at the January term, 1881, "to incorporate the village of Burgettstown, including that portion thereof which lies at and around Burgettstown Station." The grand jury passed favorably upon the petition on the 12th January, 1881, and the court confirmed the action on the 23d of March following, and further provided that a special election be held at the town hall, April 5, 1881, for the election of borough officers, at which time the following were elected:

Burgess, C. M. Elder; councilmen, Dr. W. V. Riddle, B. F. McClure, S. J. Ghrist, W. H. Witherspoon, J. P. Donnan and W. S. Fulton; school directors, R. T. C. Stephenson, W. P. Vance, William Melvin, James Carnahan and William Blair; auditor, T. L. McClelland; assessor and constable, W. M. McMurray.

Upon the organization of council, J. P. Donnan was chosen president, and the following appointments were made: M. R. Allen, clerk; J. L. Patterson, treasurer; John Hemphill, street commissioner; W. M. McMurray, collector.

The first practitioner of medicine in this section of the county of whom anything is known was Dr. Ebenezer Jennings, a son of the Rev. Jacob Jennings. He was a descendent of the Pilgrims, but a native of New Jersey, where his father lived and practiced as a physician until he was licensed by the Reformed Dutch church and received by the Presbytery of Redstone April 17, 1792, at which time the Rev. Jacob Jennings removed to Dunlap's Creek, Fayette county; his two sons, Obediah Jennings (later known both as a lawyer and divine) and Ebenezer, the one above mentioned coming with him.

He studied and practiced medicine in the east, and soon after coming to this county settled in Smith township, and resided at the house of Judge James Edgar for some years. Upon his marriage he purchased a small farm about two miles east of Burgettstown, from where he continued to practice until his death.

He was elected a member of the General Assembly in 1806-7, and during the first year of his residence at the capitol he became interested in the treatise of Dr. Jenner on vaccination, and at the close of the term visited Philadelphia, obtained some virus, and on his return vaccinated his own children and others. On his return to the legislature in session, by arduous labors he procured the passage of a bill providing for the vaccination of the poor. His health became impaired by his exertions, and although renominated for another term he declined, and on the 21st of November, 1808, he died, aged thirty-three years, beloved and respected by all.

## This Week in History

Events of the Long Ago From Enterprise Files and Other Sources

Incorporation of Burgettstown-Brief Sketch of the Pioneer Medical Practitioner

Burgettstown Enterprise-June 18, 1931 Edition

# Tom Custer Lived In His Brother's Shadow

B-2

OBSERVER-REPORTER, WASHINGTON, PA. — Wednesday, January 25, 1978

Most everyone is familiar with the final chapter in the career of General George Custer.

His defeat at the Little Big Horn wiped out several members of the Custer family and made George a legend on thousands of beer advertisements.

Yet few people know, or even care, that his younger brother Tom was one of a few military men to win the Congressional Medal of Honor on two separate occasions. Admittedly, the medal was easier to win in those days but he did win them.

Thomas W. Custer was a second lieutenant in the 6th Michigan Cavalry when he was twice decorated but on the infamous day of June 25, 1876, he was a captain commanding Troop C of the 7th Cavalry.

Back in 1865, Lt. Custer jumped his horse across the enemy barricades at

## Jim Moore

News Editor



Sailor's Creek and captured the Rebel colors. Such action automatically brought the Congressional Medal of Honor.

The following week, at Namozine Church, Lt. Custer accomplished the same feat and was again awarded the nation's highest combat decoration.

Lt. Custer was rightfully proud of his medals and wore them at formal occasions. However, his older and higher-ranking brother didn't much care for the diverted attention.

In a letter to his wife, Gen. Custer noted with a touch of acid that Tom "appeared at mess last evening with both his baubles." —

Capt. Tom, who was noted for mistreating Indian prisoners and shooting U.S. Army deserters, suffered a horrible death at the Little Big Horn. His body was badly mutilated and the warrior who killed him, Rain-In-The-Face, cut out Custer's heart and ate it.

Not only did George and Tom Custer die in the massacre, but another

brother, Boston, a civilian packmaster; a nephew, Antie Reed and a brother-in-law, Lt. James Calhoun also were killed by the Indians.

Tom's remains were laid to rest at Fort Leavenworth, Kan., in 1877 and General George's remain were taken to the U.S. Military Academy in West Point.

Speaking of little known facts about General Custer, how many of you knew that his mother was a Burgettstown native?

Old "yellow hair" was born in 1839 in New Rumley, Harrison County, Ohio to Emanuel Henry Custer and his second wife, the former Maria Ward Kirkpatrick.

Mrs. Kirkpatrick, a widow, already had three children of her own. It was said that General Custer inherited his mother's physical characteristics.

Tom Custer Lived in His Brother's Shadow  
Observer-Reporter-January 25, 1978 Edition

# Queer Idea Prevails On Crossing Topics

Unconfirmed Rumor to Effect That  
Old Railroad Crossing Will  
Not be Eliminated

Further activities of highway engineers in the vicinity the past week has led to a great deal of conjecture on the part of citizens, and various rumors which have been keeping the town more or less agog on the topic of expected changes in highway routes and the elimination of the North Main street railroad crossing.

It is very unlikely any person has any definite information on the subject of the elimination of this crossing. Old residents state that every year for the past 20 years or more surveys have been regularly made, and each year there has been talk of tunneling under the railroad to eliminate the grade crossing. So far the talk never got beyond the stage of discussing the presence of engineers and their travels about town measuring and setting up marks.

At the present time there are some peculiar slants to some of the ideas back of the talk. One rumor is to the effect that highway route number 18 is to be carried down Main street extension to a point near the Linn Brothers lumber yard, and a tunnel constructed under the railroad there, the road to strike the regular route of 18 at the borough line on the Florence road.

Included in the rumor mentioned is the idea that the crossing on North Main street is not to be eliminated; but that the present street arrangement is to be maintained for the benefit of town vehicular and pedestrian traffic, the tunnel to be used by through traffic.

Just what benefit such an idea would be to the town appears uncertain. If an additional route is required it might as well be by way of Midway, where a tunnel under the railroad already is provided. But, if the North Main street crossing is fenced or otherwise closed there is apt to be strife from business interests located on the north side of the tracks and the large population residing in that part of town.

There is much involved in the question of eliminating the crossing that it would appear very unlikely anything at all will be done, unless route 18 is made to pass under the tracks at the present crossing, with a cut of some 18 or 20 feet below present street levels. This would mean heavy property damage to stores and other property in the vicinity.

If it becomes evident that changes are to be made it is a foregone conclusion there will be violent opposition on the part of citizens to almost any plan that is advanced. The town was laid out on the assumption that the population probably never would exceed 200 or 300, and the possibility of such contraptions as automobiles never entered the heads of the good old brothers who saw no special harm in a few grade crossings as long as the cows could be kept away from them.

**Queer Idea Prevails on Crossing Topics**  
**Burgettstown Enterprise-May 1, 1935 Edition**

## URGENT NEED IS FELT FOR COMMUNITY HALL

Town Handicapped by Want of Place  
Where Public Assemblages  
May be Held

From time to time the Enterprise receives communications from residents regarding a town hall project, and the need of such a building has been particularly stressed during the past week. In a letter a citizen says there are a number of community activities which could be held during the coming winter season if a building were available. Among other things the communication states that the older people of the town would like to hold an occasional dance or get-together meeting of some sort.

It is quite true the churches have provided a place for many functions, but as the Enterprise correspondent points out, a church hardly would be the place for a dance, even under the most favorable conditions. Nor does a church very well suit for the "smokers" and other meetings occasionally held by men. The borough building is not well suited to indiscriminate gatherings, either. The building serves well for certain purposes, but it is essentially not a place that could be adapted to the needs of a community center.

Burgettstown is lame in this respect, there is no use denying. Other far less important towns have their community centers, Y. M. C. A. organizations or other havens for social and community activities. These social centers are big things in the affairs of the towns. Burgettstown should not be behind in the matter.

Recently the Auditorium Theatre property was placed on the market by Dr. A. O. Hindman, the owner. This building is approximately 60 by 100 feet in size and could be put in order at no great expense. It is unlikely that the price of the property would be prohibitive, and the good doctor is a public spirited citizen to whom it is believed a community center proposition would appeal strongly, and thereby bring the question of cost to a minimum.

There probably are other places that might be available for the purpose. The Enterprise is not fully advised as to what properties might be in line for consideration. But it seems a pity that a large and excellent building, which could be used as a town hall, a factory, a wholesale house or other paying enterprise, should remain vacant and of no benefit to the town.

Citizens again are urged to voice their sentiments in regard to the establishment of a community gathering place. There are many who would be glad to join in the movement to provide the people with quarters for town assemblies and activities.

**Urgent Need Felt for Community Hall**  
**Burgettstown Enterprise-October 15, 1931 Edition**

## Joseph Vajentic To Replace Malone On Borough Council

Joseph Vajentic of Market st. was elected to replace Harold Malone as a member of Burgettstown Borough Council at a regular meeting of council Monday evening.

Three other nominees were considered for the office in addition to Mr. Vajentic: Charles Scott, Glenn Nicholls and J. O. Fredericks.

Harold Malone's resignation was accepted by council members with regret. Mr. Malone resigned because he no longer lives within the borough.

The Pennsylvania Railroad will be notified to remove slag and railroad ties which obstruct a natural stream flowing between the Yukevich and Sloan properties on North Main street. For several weeks the water has been backing up so that it creates both a health menace and considerable inconvenience to the North Main street property owners.

Complaint was also made to council members about trains on the Pennsylvania Railroad ejecting soot and dirty water within the borough limits. Cars washed by local garage owners were recently showered by the dirty water so that rewashing jobs were necessary; numerous housewives have reported damage to clothing hung out to dry; merchants in town report show windows speckled by the released water and soot.

The State Highway Department will be warned by the secretary of council to consider making appropriations for the maintenance of Florence avenue, now being used as a detour, or the avenue will be closed by September 15.

Council agreed to put in a storm sewer on Hindman avenue upon the request of property owners in the district. The sewer will run near the McHenry property toward the scout hut. The sewer committee believes that the sewer will be a permanent one not likely to be changed in the event of future street improvement.

The sewer committee agreed to study sewage possibilities on Center avenue near the home of Mrs. Grace McCurdy Russell and in South Burgettstown near the Harry Ritchey property.

Council was asked to consider the raising of a sidewalk on South Main street between the Durst property and Erie street. Contact will be made with property owners in the district.

Council agreed to approve the appointment of a health officer and secretary of the Board of Health providing the board of health qualifies the applicant for the position in accordance with state regulations.

Burgess L. E. Foster reported \$100 collected in fines and forfeits with an additional \$30 collected by Squire Whalen. According to the police report the itemized account is as follows: five for drunkenness and disorderly conduct, \$30; disorderly, \$18; one for truck overloading, \$25; one operating a disorderly house, \$25; fines for visiting a disorderly house, \$18; three parking violations, \$3; one jail fee, \$1; one speeding violation, \$10. Total, \$130.

Harry Rankin, recently elected by the Board of Health as secretary and health officer, turned over to council \$22.60 collected for weed cutting.

# At library

## Video on boro to be screened

"Burgettstown," a 30-minute video documentary produced by Greg Scheer and Dan Morrison, will be screened at the Burgettstown Public Library on Wednesday, June 28, at 7 p.m.

Production of the documentary began in April 1994. It was first broadcast on PCTV, Channel 21, in Pittsburgh on May 16, 1995, and will continue to be broadcast through June.

The documentary, which was shot on location in Burgettstown, attempts to portray the history, life, people and inner workings of a small, western Pennsylvania town. Consisting mainly of interviews with townspeople, the documentary presents a mosaic of a distinctive people and their views of the town they love. Among the many people interviewed are A. D. White, John Weidert, Charles Stadelman, Tony Valenti, Dan and LaVerne Johnson, Caesar Grossi and Ron DiOrio.

The documentary was produced using equipment from PCTV, Channel 21, under the auspices of the Rascals, Rogues and Rascallions (RR&R), a fraternal society dedicated to exploration and discovery. In what is called a Rascal's Challenge, the RR&R sends its members out to discover curious and interesting stories which lie hidden below ordinary-looking surfaces. Greg Scheer was sent to discover what could be found in Burgettstown, and he took Dan Morrison along as his assistant.

Greg Scheer and Dan Morrison were both impressed by what they found in Burgettstown. Scheer, a Pittsburgh-based composer and choir director, was particularly pleased to get to know Caesar Grossi, whose sacred and secular compositions span a number of decades and styles, and to learn the Burgettstown Polka, which is played by the John Tasz Band. Morrison, a professor of philosophy at Carlow College, was delighted by John Weidert's folk philosophy and Ron DiOrio's extraordinary wit.

**Video on Boro to be Screened  
The Enterprise-June 21, 1995 Edition**



## **1950 Flood**

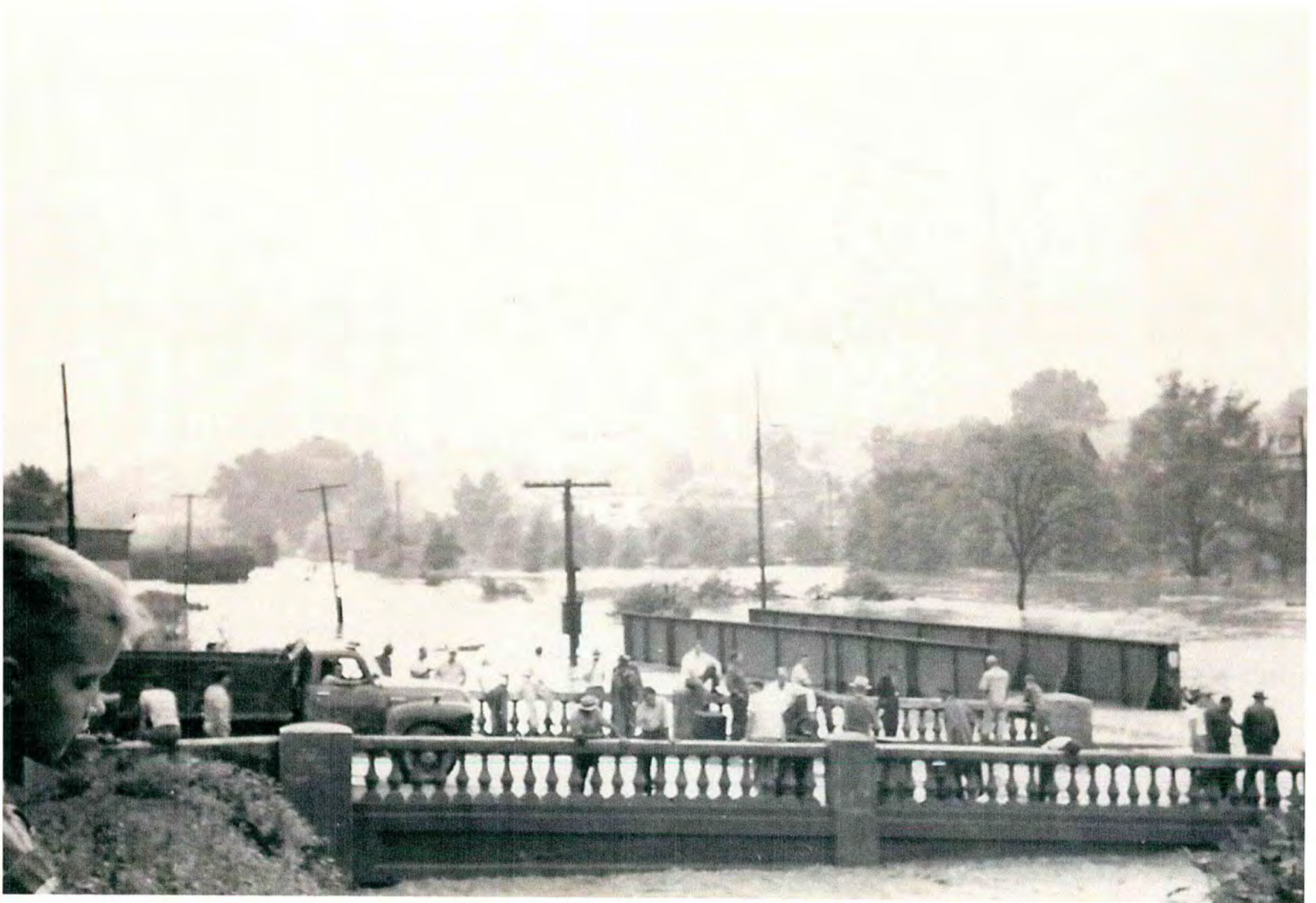
**View from Main Street to Center Avenue, Burgettstown, PA**

*Courtesy of Fort Vance Historical Society*



Partial View of Burgettstown, Pa.





**1950 Flood-Center Avenue Bridge  
Burgettstown, PA**

*Courtesy of Fort Vance Historical Society*



**Center Avenue, Burgettstown, PA**  
*Courtesy of Fort Vance Historical Society*

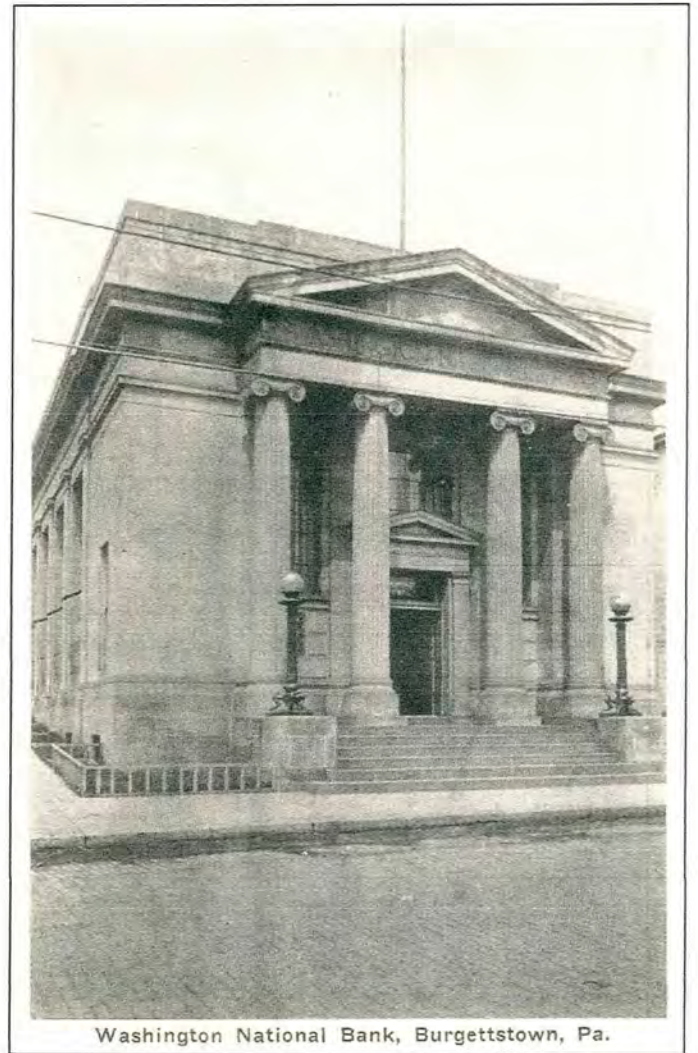
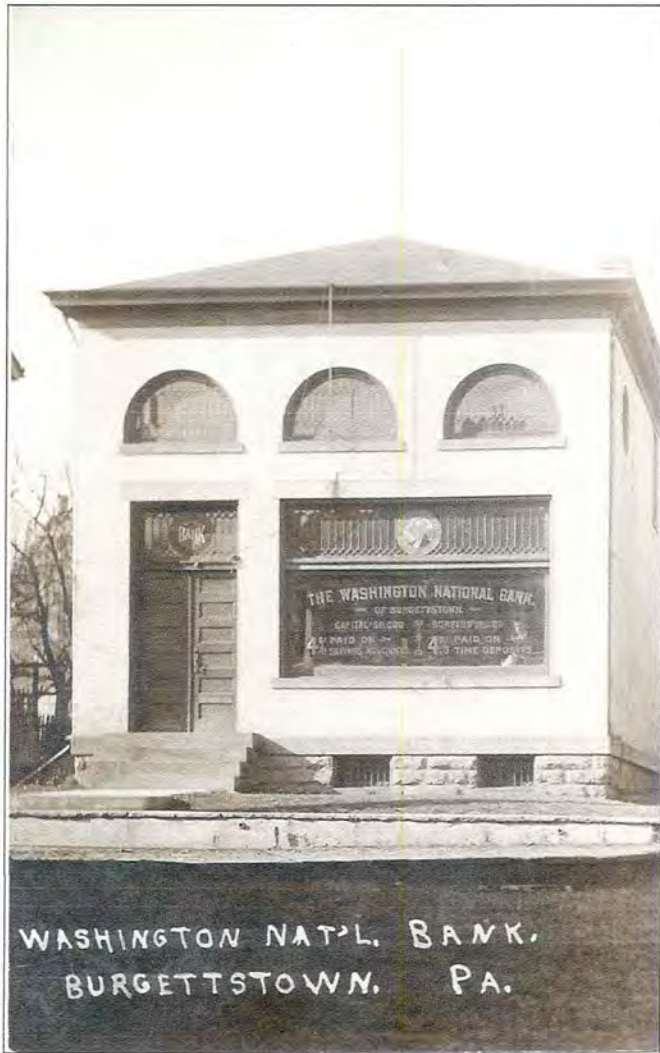


The winter scene was taken from near Hillcrest UP Church, Burgettstown, looking down the hill toward Main. These buildings stood where the recently dedicated Stottlemeyer Park is located. Far right is the frame Methodist Church where folks of that faith met from 1871 to

1885. It would be approximately where Petrucci's Market now stands. Second from right was the McMurry Drug Store. The McMurry house was next. The building on the left is unidentified. The picture was taken around 1900. (Loaned by Katherine Pyle)

**View of Main Street from Church Street, Burgettstown, PA  
Burgettstown Enterprise-June 30, 1976 Bicentennial Edition**

*Fort Vance Historical Society*



### **Washington National Bank Main Street, Burgettstown, PA**

The building on the left, is the first building of the Washington National Bank, Now the Burgettstown Hardware. The one room building was built in 1903. In 1910 to 1912, additions were made, making it a three story brick structure with lodge rooms and offices. This building was used until the new bank building was built next to it and completed in 1921. The bank operated as Washington National Bank until November 1947, when it became Citizen's National Bank of Washington. In, 1948, it became known as the Burgettstown office of Mellon Bank. It is now operated as Citizen's Bank.

## WHAT DO YOU REMEMBER?

January 2, 1946

To the Editor  
Burgettstown Enterprise  
Burgettstown, Pennsylvania

Recently published letters by Reverend Walter Kennedy (we called him "Deacon") and C. H. Russell, under your "What do you remember?" column have stirred recollections to the point of submitting my contribution.

The reference to Isaac Fleming's liberality with candy reminds me of the assortment of penny candies that were displayed in and on the showcase that occupied the space immediately to the left, after passing through the entrance to Henry McMurray's drug store. On top of the show case there were fish bowl jars of small licorice (cylindrical shapes about 1-8 x 12) and red drops, served in little glass cylinders, hardly large enough to hold an English walnut; also Boston Baked Beans (small peanuts covered with a glaze of brown candy) served from a receptacle shaped like a bean pot; then a jar of mixed (peppermint) and pink (wintergreen) lozengers. The last mentioned was the candy which my father always carried in the coat tail pocket of his Sunday coat, and stealthily distributed to the family during church service, sometime before the benediction - pink to the women and children, and tongue-stinging peppermint to the men.

Inside the drug store case there were: "chicken feed" (buttercorn); licorice "shoe lace"; coconut drops (3 for a cent); marshmallow bananas; nigger babies, and larger chocolate covered cream dolls, in whose "tummy" you might find a penny carefully wrapped in wax paper - and get your money back!

How hard these pennies were to earn! For an empty pint bottle, if immaculately clean, Mr. McMurray would pay three cents. Many such bottles we retrieved from spots like the narrow space between "Math Scott's furniture and "Pat" Vance's hardware stores, and if of old vintage perhaps, painstakingly cleaned with water, soap, and shot.

Mr. Russell's mention of the whittled box (honor seat over the cellar door) in front of the drug store, recreated that object very vividly in my memory; also the steps outside the building, to the room upstairs where Annie Vance for a time taught Number 1 Grade

Our class (1905 - graduating Estelle Patterson, Jennie Pettibone, Clara Hill, Clara Johnson, Shirley Bruce, Bill Fitzgibbon, and myself) witnessed from Grade 2 of the old school building, which faced south and occupied the north half of the present campus, the completion of the new building (present grade school). The front of the new and the east side of the old were naturally in very close proximity for a while, before the old was finally removed. From my desk in Room 2, there was the ever present distraction of watching through the windows, the carpenters at work, and I well recall the day Bill Smith (the "Cabbage" of Mr. Russell's list of nicknames) returned my smile with a "wink". Then in that old building, upstairs in Mr. Baker's room, after classes had been dismissed for the day, I had the satisfaction of seeing the red-headed Shirley boy (the "Copper" of Mr. Russell's list) receive retribution for the black eye he gave me in settling my quarrel with brother Clark Shipley.

Reverting to the box in front of the drug store, I am reminded of the old building across the street, which housed the "walking machine," and the spot where Bill Nesbit (deceased) and I found an old mowing machine which we sold to a junk dealer for the astounding price of \$1.00. Can anyone tell us what that building housed and furnish the details of the "walking machine" story? My information is that the principles of that invention now find a counterpart in the latest designs of mining shovels and dredges.

Respectfully yours,  
Paul W. "Grinnie" Lyon  
8 Bae Mar Place  
Wheeling, West Virginia.

**What do you remember?**  
**Burgettstown Enterprise-January 2, 1946**

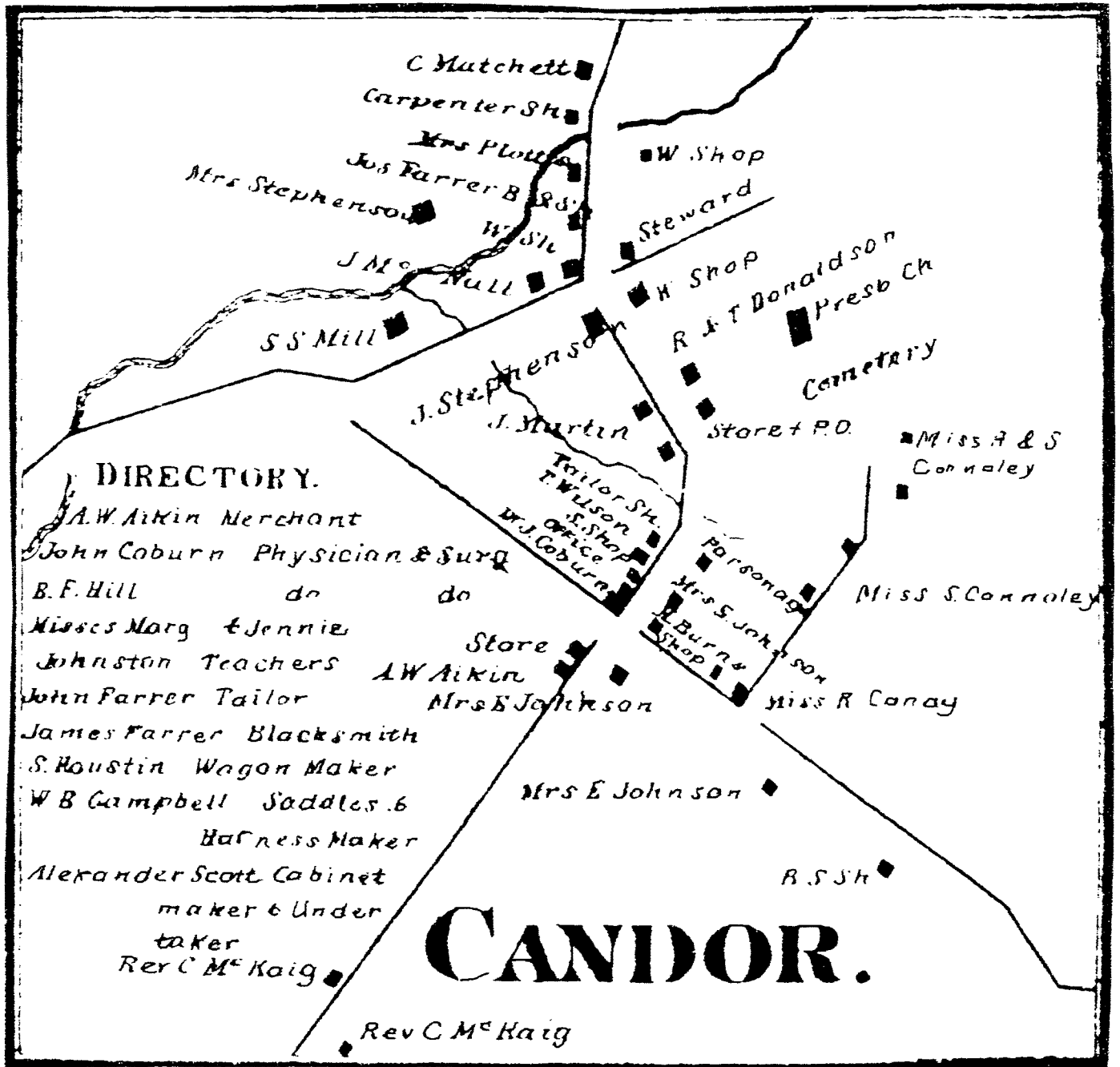
Listed are the names of those whose  
"Roots" are on Granish Hill, Burgettstown, PA.  
Recorded-1981 by Rosemary Orenchuk

Hilda Lounder Montequin & family-8 Linn Avenue, Burgettstown, PA  
Frank & Mitzi Lounder Lawrence & family-28 Stella Street, Burgettstown, PA  
Emil & Marge Lounder & family-11 Charles Street, Burgettstown, PA  
Ed & Rose Lounder & family-529 Main Street, Burgettstown, PA  
Marie Lounder (Anthony) & family-440 S. Main Street, Burgettstown, PA  
Ann Lounder (Rudy) & family-19 Linn Avenue, Burgettstown, PA  
Hannah Pompe Vietmeier & family-Market Street, Burgettstown, PA  
Mary Vajentic Gosteau & family-E. Market Street, Burgettstown, PA  
Hanna Vajentic Lawrence & family-47111 Betty, Utica, Michigan  
Virginia Bendick & family-4 Biscayne Drive, Slovan, PA  
Robert & Nancy Pompe-R.D.#2, Burgettstown, PA  
Henry & Joan McClements & family-R.D, #1, Hickory, PA  
Gerald & Judy Pompe Prado & family- 205 Overlook Drive, McMurray, PA  
Serverio Godish & family-1 East Market Street, Burgettstown, PA  
Al & Dorothy Hribar Batic & family-14 Linn Avenue, Burgettstown, PA  
Charles & Martha Hribar Macek & family-264 Beech Street, Muse, PA  
Ann Hribar Hayes-1304 Courtland Road, Weirton, WV  
Joe & Charolette Pintar Wos & family-17 Linn Avenue, Burgettstown, PA  
Ann Vajentic (Rudy) & family- 2 Hindman Avenue, Burgettstown, PA  
Joe & Sue Vajentic-117 Eastern Heights, Elyria, Ohio  
Tom Vajentic family-Box 343 Barton Road, Apalachia, NY  
Anna K. Vajentic c/o JoeVajentic  
Rick & Judy Vajentic & family-Box 62 Montrose, Iowa  
Ed Gruber-22 Linn Avenue, Burgettstown, PA  
Virginia Gruber Montequin & family-5 Biscayne Drive, Slovan, PA  
Louise Gruber Ozenbaugh & family-Main Street, Slovan, PA  
Alex & Margaret Gruber Rencheck & family- 8 W. Pgh. Street, Burgettstown, PA  
Bill & Mary Gruber Thornburgh & family-1331 Carroll Drive, Aliquippa, PA  
Dorothy Gruber Dalesio & family- 3210 Juanita Street, Aliquippa, PA  
Elmer & Rose Gruber Herda & family-Clearwater, FL  
Mary Klemencic & family-135 Broadway, Ridgecrest, CA  
Mike & Frances Antoncic Zakrejsek & family-3207 Cleveland Ave., Aliquippa, PA  
Bill & Mildred Capozzoli & family-166 Walnut Street, Burgettstown, PA  
Paul & Lillian Kurtz Bozic & family-59 Hindman Avenue, Burgettstown, PA

Steve Kurtz family-R.D. #4, Burgettstown, PA  
Martin Kurtz family-R.D. #4, Burgettstown, PA  
Marge Kurtz Bloesel & family-225 Alice Street, Pittsburgh, PA  
Anthony & Mary Kurtz Dwozecki & family-124 Pine Avenue, Weirton, WV  
John & Anna Mae Kurtz Jonezak & family-198 Gilson Avenue, Weirton, WV  
Andy Shuble-P.O. Box 237 Marco Island, FL  
Frank Shuble family-80 Pleasant Manor, Ridge Manor, FL  
Tony Shuble family-Georgetown, PA  
John & Cassie Shuble family-Burgettstown, PA  
Louis & Jennie Shuble Karish & family-1902 Johnstown Avenue, N. Braddock, PA  
Tony & Mary Shuble Rozonec & family-1163 Taylor Avenue, N. Braddock, PA  
Ann Shuble Barber & family-431 Guy Street, Jeanette, PA  
Ruth Vincent-12 Linn Avenue, Burgettstown, PA  
John and Mary Delfrate & family-FL  
Dom & Marge Bongiorno & family-FL  
Rose Pompe & family-Weirton, WV  
Frances Laurich Montequin-10 Linn Avenue, Burgettstown, PA  
Joe & Ann Laurich Kiss & family-40 E. Market Street, Burgettstown, PA  
Andy & Shirley Laurich & family-Box 144 McDonald, PA  
Frank Laurich family-428 First Avenue, Elwood City, PA  
Antoinette Laurich & family-Atlasburg, PA  
Mary Suder Farulli & family-Market Street, Burgettstown, PA  
Frank & Hilda Suder Kranak & family-23 Market Street, Burgettstown, PA  
Ann Suder Branyon & family-Lemoyne, PA  
Fannie Sage & family-5 East Market Street, Burgettstown, PA  
Ferbezar-Mary, Elsie, Jenny-3 East Market Street, Burgettstown, PA  
Joe & Josephine Ferbezar-1015 Henry Street, Langeloth, PA  
Catherine Ferbezar-3 East Market Street, Burgettstown, PA  
Frank & Frances Ferbezar Korosec-365 Main Street, Burgettstown, PA  
Tony & Brinky Kucic-Burgettstown, PA  
John & Mary Senchur Tomasco & family-Monaca, PA  
John Odioso & family-944 East End Avenue, Burgettstown, PA  
Walter & Victoria Senchur Baker & family-R.D. #2, Burgettstown, PA  
Stanley Mozina & family-23 Cross Street, Burgettstown, PA  
John & Frances Mozina Precopia & family-1252 Cook School Rd. Bridgeville, PA  
Marshall & Helen Mozina Nunez & family-24 Linn Avenue, Burgettstown, PA  
Moxie Leskovich-12 East Market Street, Burgettstown, PA  
Tom & Bobbie Jo Leskovich-Highland Avenue, Burgettstown, PA  
Mr. & Mrs. John Leskovich-525 Hite Road, Cheswick, PA

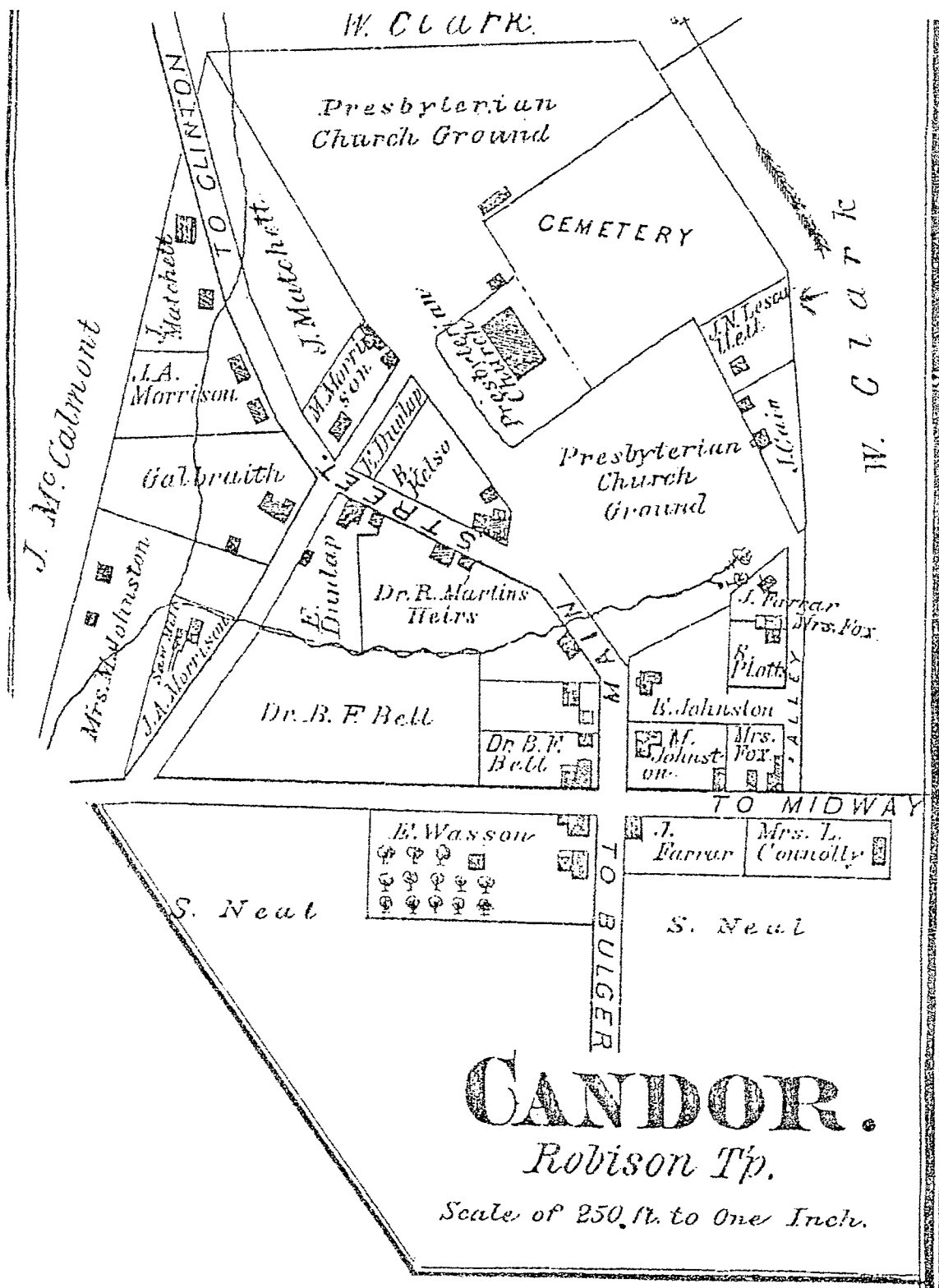


Mary Richey & family-Market Street, Burgettstown, PA  
Agnes Bertovich & family-43 East Market Street, Burgettstown, PA  
Henry & Eva Bruno & family-19 East Market Street, Burgettstown, PA  
Joe & Mary Alvarez & family-21 East Market Street, Burgettstown, PA  
Bill & Mary Ann Gilbert & family-16 East Market Street, Burgettstown, PA  
John & Monica Reynolds & son-18 East Market Street, Burgettstown, PA  
Dennis and Cindy McClain & son-2 East Market Street, Burgettstown, PA  
John & LuAnn Gasprini & son-12 East Market Street, Burgettstown, PA  
Chuck & Punky Havelka & family-Market Street, Burgettstown, PA  
Olga Buritz & family-1231 Greentree Road, Pittsburgh, PA  
Joe & Mildred Markulin-17308 Hull, Detroit, MI



1861 Business Map of Candor, PA  
 Unknown Date

Fort Vance Historical Society



**Map of Candor, PA**  
**Unknown Date**

Fort Vance Historical Society

# Cardville.

## CARDVILLE POST OFFICE.

- A. S. Berryhill, dealer in groceries, confectioneries, drugs, &c.  
C. C. Barr.  
J. Butler.  
J. Barton.  
J. G. Bridges.  
H. Conrod.  
C. M. Elder, merchant tailor. Clothes and gents' furnishing goods.  
W. S. Fulton & Co., dealer in staple and fancy goods, clothing, cassimeres, gloves, hosiery, notions, boots and shoes. Also dealer in all kinds of building lumber, door, sashes, &c.  
P. Gilbert.  
J. T. Harper.  
T. Hays, proprietor of the Cardville brick yard.  
T. Hood.  
R. Hill.  
S. Harris.  
O. Kennedy.  
R. Kay.  
C. Kline.  
S. B. Jacobs, proprietor of shaving and hair dressing saloon, next door to Exchange Hotel. Nativity, Pa. Settled, 1846.  
W. S. Lee, proprietor of Cardville livery, feed and sale stable, also undertaker. I keep constantly on hand, and am prepared to furnish coffins of all descriptions. All orders will receive immediate attention. give us a call.  
McClintoch & McBride, manufacturers and dealers in double carriages, park phaetons, doctors' phaetons, buggies and spring wagons, farm wagons of all kinds and all our work is done in the latest style. All repairs done promptly. Call and examine our work.  
William McNary, proprietor of Starr Hotel.  
Robert Neely, real estate, dealer and wool agent.  
J. Neely.  
J. L. Patterson, banker and justice of the peace. Nativity, Washington Co., Pa. Settled, 1824.  
M. R. Parks, carpenter, contractor and builder.  
J. C. Ralston, manufacturer and dealer in boots, shoes, and gaiters, which I will retail and furnish at wholesale cash prices. Findings always on hand.  
T. T. Shipley, retired farmer.  
J. H. Sterling, dealer in watches and jewelry. Keeps constantly on hand all kinds of watches and clocks. Repairing done of all kinds.  
M. Shane.  
C. Spencer.  
H. Stephens.  
J. Shaw.  
J. B. Scott, carpenter and contractor.  
J. Robison.  
Dr. W. V. Riddle, physician and surgeon.  
John Woodburn, retired.  
T. F. Woodburn. Nativity, Pa. Settled, 1858.

**Caldwell's Illustrated Combination  
Centennial Atlas of Washington County, Pennsylvania  
By J. A. Caldwell-1876**

## A Turn Of Century

# Cardville Was Once Thriving Area Town

Today, it seems few people realize a populous, thriving town by the name of Cardville existed less than a century ago in Smith township, Washington County.

Maps of the area directly after the Civil War disclose Cardville was a large-lettered post office at that time. It abounded with flourishing businesses and was surrounded by well-kept and prosperous farms.

Cardville was established shortly after the beginning of the 19th century. It was a prominent stop on the Pan Handle Railroad.

One of Washington County's prominent bankers of that early day had his place of business in Cardville. He was J. L. Patterson, who came to Cardville in 1824. He was active in Washington County politics and served as a justice-of-the-peace in addition to his banking business.

The Exchange Hotel in Cardville was one of the area's widely known hosteleries and enjoyed a large trade from travelers on the Pan Handle Railroad.

Cardville had another widely known hostelry. It was the Starr Hotel, of which William McNary was the proprietor. It too benefited considerably from travelers on the railroad.

A large mercantile establishment was maintained here by W. S. Fulton and associates who handled a comprehensive line which extended from groceries, hardware and clothing to lumber and builders supplies, and was rated as one of Washington County's prominent business firms of the period.

W. S. Lee operated a large livery stable and sales barn, dealing extensively in selling and trading horses.

A jewelery store was operated by J. H. Sterling — a name that was especially adapted to the jewelery trade!

One of the town's principal manufacturing industries — and one which offered the principal opportunities for employment of local labor — was the carriage and wagon manufacturing establishment of McClintock & McBride. The firm specialized in manufacturing high quality buggies, phaetons, wagons and other horse-drawn conveyances.

Excellent shipping facilities afforded by the Pan Handle Railroad made it possible for the McClintock & McBride firm to ship products of their manufacture to customers far and wide. At the time, the nameplate of this firm on any conveyance they manufactured was regarded as a hallmark of quality.

Today, old buggies and horse-drawn phaetons are much sought after by collectors of Americana — and when one is found bearing the trademark of McClintock & McBride, the excellence of its original craftsmanship is evident.

Brick manufacture was an important industry in Cardville. Here, too, the Pan Handle Railroad offered shipping facilities close at hand, enabling the Hays Brick Works to woo customers among the contractors and builders in distant places as well as the local and near local trade.

Cardville was a center for buying and shipping wool. It was a thriving business, for

thousands of sheep were raised and sheared on surrounding farms. Robert Neely was a dealer in wool and acted as buying agent for manufacturers. He also conducted an extensive real estate business.

There were many other smaller businesses in Cardville in the days when soldiers returned to their homes from fighting in the Civil War.

It seems odd that a town so well established and prominent in the economic life of Washington County as Cardville was less than a century ago, should today be so largely forgotten. — By S. M. HOUSE

**Cardville was named after William W. Card who was Superintendent of Steubenville Division of Pittsburgh and Steubenville Railroad. The P&S was one of the corporate predecessors of the PCC & St. L which became the PRR. When railroad was first through Burgettstown it was the P&S. Cardville post office remained for a few years, after the town of Burgettstown was incorporated in 1881.**

## A Turn Of Century

# Cardville Was Once Thriving Area Town

Today, it seems few people realize a populous, thriving town by the name of Cardville existed less than a century ago in Smith township, Washington County.

Maps of the area directly after the Civil War disclose Cardville was a large-lettered post office at that time. It abounded with flourishing businesses and was surrounded by well-kept and prosperous farms.

Cardville was established shortly after the beginning of the 19th century. It was a prominent stop on the Pan Handle Railroad.

One of Washington County's prominent bankers of that early day had his place of business in Cardville. He was J. L. Patterson, who came to Cardville in 1824. He was active in Washington County politics and served as a justice-of-the-peace in addition to his banking business.

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**Cardville Was Once Thriving Area Town  
(Later known as Burgettstown)  
Unknown Newspaper Account**

**CEDAR GROVE**  
by A.D. White

Cedar Grove is another village in the local area which must now be classified as a former mining town. Located on the west branch of the North Fork of Cross Creek in Cross Creek Township, a town has been located here since the opening of the town in 1906.

The mine and village were located on a part of the former Robert Perrine Farm. A fine picture of the old brick house, still standing, and of the barn on this farm can be seen on page 169 of Caldwell's 1876 Atlas of Washington County. This has always been one of the fine homes of the area. Now owned and occupied by Frank Marois and family, at the turn of the century, this farm was the home of John R. Studa, who sold it in 1902 and moved to Burgettstown. His home here was the buff brick-veneer house which stands just a few doors south of the present Westminster (or old First) United Presbyterian Church in the "old town."

The Washington County Coal Company was organized in 1905 and opened the Cedar Grove mine the following year. Eighty-five acres of the old Perrine Farm, lying west of the public road, was purchased by the company for their mine and camp. The remaining part of the farm of 58 acres was owned for many years by J.W. Gillespie, farmer and stock dealer, and this is the property now owned by the Marosi family.

When the town was started following the opening of the mine, the Post Office was given the name, Studa, in honor of J.R. Studa. But the popular name of the town has always been Cedar Grove, so-called, no doubt, because of a few straggly evergreen trees, possibly cedars, which grow out of the steep banks of the creek in this locality. The writer has a personal recollection about these evergreens: This is my Christmas story!

When I was teaching at the Slovan School during the term 1922-23, as Christmas time approached, we began thinking that we wanted a tree for the school room. Commercial trees were not plentiful then, so most Yuletide trees were cut in the "wilds" if any could be found there. So I conceived the idea of sending a boy on the train from Slovan to Cedar Grove to get us a tree. So, one morning, the boy was given a hatchet and a one-way train fare to Cedar Grove. He was to get a tree (if he could), carry it to the end of the improved road at the foot of the hill west of Cross Creek Village where I was to meet him in my Model T car during the noon hour and bring him and the tree back to the school. When I arrived at the designated place, the boy had just arrived, dragging a good-sized tree. Where he had gotten the tree I will never know, but he told me that he found a nice tree and had started in to cut it down when a lady came out of her house and told him he couldn't cut a tree in her yard. The boy then moved on; but anyway he got the tree, we took it to the school, and I think we all had a Merry Christmas. The boy in this story was Mike Boller, now a prominent resident of Langeloth. I hope that he reads this story and recalls the incident!

The mine opened at Cedar Grove was a "drift" mine, sloping toward the west. Part of the coal owned by the company lay in Cross Creek Township, but most of it was over the township line in Jefferson. In order to get the coal to market, a railroad line, financed largely by local capitalists and known as the Pittsburgh and Cross Creek Railroad, was built from Avella to the tippie at Cedar Grove. Since the Valley is very narrow along much of this route, it was necessary to construct expensive bridges and cross the creek at several points. Also, the meandering of the stream whose course had to be followed resulted in a very crooked line of railroad. However this line was used until September, 1912, when the very destructive flood over the Labor Day week-end swept the various valleys of Cross Creek and completely washed out this railroad line. It was never re-built. The steel beams on the railroad bridges on this line lay there until the time of World War I when they were removed and sold for scrap, but several of the old concrete abutments can still be seen, mute reminders of this old railroad.

Following this disaster, which caused the Cedar Grove mine to suspend operations, the Pennsylvania Railroad was prevailed upon to extend its branch line from Langeloth to Cedar Grove and when this was completed, production of coal at the mine was resumed.

The first operation company here ran into financial embarrassment when the bank with which they did business closed about 1909. This resulted in this mine's being taken over by the Verner Coal Company, which operated it until the organization of the Carnegie Coal Company by John A. Bell. This company then purchased the Cedar Grove mine and operated it until it was closed in the 1940's.

Like most mining towns, upon the closing of the mine, local re-habilitation became necessary also at Cedar Grove. Some families left there without employment moved to other mining camps, but many of these people literally had "no place to go," so they bravely stayed on. Many bought the former company houses and made them into comfortable homes, and then went out to seek work wherever they could find it.

The Cross Creek Township School District always maintained an elementary school at Cedar Grove until the formation of the jointure which resulted in the present Avella School District, whose schools the children of present-day Cedar Grove now attend. In its hey-day, the coal company established a fine community building in Cedar Grove, but since the company has been inoperative, the community center also has ceased to exist.

Next - Francis Mine, Bertha and Hanlin Station

## Cedar Grove

By A.D. White-Burgettstown Enterprise-December 1967 Edition

## CHAPTER III.

### The Cedar Grove Community

As a center of concentrated population, this Community is one of the "younger" in the Cross Creek Country, since in earlier times, it was distinctly a rural community consisting of a number of good farms. As the area was being settled, members of the Wells Family came here and took up most of the land in the Community. Richard Wells took a tract of over 300 acres, located very near to the site of the present Village of Cedar Grove. Adjoining his land to the southwest, James Wells had a tract of 222 acres and next to this was the land settled by Captain Thomas Wells, who settled on 299 acres. The Wells Family were large landowners throughout the Cross Creek Country and we shall speak of them again as we write of the Avella Community.

Soon after the close of the Revolutionary War, in the 1780's, Peter Perrine came into the community, purchased some land from one of the Wells men, and located upon the property now occupied by the Village of Cedar Grove and also on the property now owned by Mr. and Mrs. Frank Marosi. Mr. Perrine was the first of three generations of this Family to occupy this fine property lying in the valley of the North Fork of Cross Creek. During his life-time, he was engaged in clearing the forests from his land and in preparing



it for cultivation and for raising sheep and cattle, an industry which he began, but which was carried on more extensively by his son, Isaac Perrine, and by his grandson, Robert Perrine. The specialty of these men was the breeding and raising of fine wool sheep. After Robert Perrine became owner of this farm, he went to the State of Vermont where he bought the best sheep obtainable and brought them to this farm to improve his own flocks. Mr. Perrine was able to sell many of his sheep for three hundred dollars and more for each animal, and some he sold for as much as one-thousand dollars. The sale of fine wool from his sheep was also a source of great profit to Mr. Perrine.

Some time, probably around 1850, Robert Perrine erected the fine brick house on his farm, which is still the home of the Marosi Family. He had good barns and sheep houses on his farm, too, but these were torn down when the mine camp was built for the Cedar Grove Mine, and the barn which stood near the brick house burned down several years ago.

The fourth generation of the Perrine Family could not carry on the operation of the farm here, so at Robert Perrine's death in 1895, the farm was sold to Mr. John Studa. Mr. Studa was born in one of the stone houses over the hill south of Rea Cross Roads, his parents being German immigrants. He was an excellent farmer, also conducted a dairy and had some very good horses on his farm. He would have carried on the farm here much as the Perrines had done if he had not had the chance to sell his farm at a much better price than he had paid for it.

In 1902, Mr. Studa received an offer from the Washington County Coal Company for the purchase of 85 acres of his land, this lying west of the public road which runs through the farm. This company wanted the land for the purpose of opening a coal mine at this place. The remaining part of the farm, lying east of the public road was bought by Mr. James W. Gillespie, a farmer and stock dealer who then occupied the land for quite a number of years. When the mine camp was settled here, Mr. Gillespie found it profitable to open and conduct a butchering business for the town and adjoining communities, and this he carried on during the rest of his life.

In the early years of this century, the Wabash Railroad was being built down the Cross Creek Valley through Avella. In order to get the coal from the new Cedar Grove Mine to market, it was necessary to build a branch railroad from Cedar Grove Mine to Avella to connect there with the Wabash. A small group of local men who had about the same time sold their coal to various coal companies, and having money to invest, decided to build this branch railroad. By the time the Cedar Grove Mine was opened in 1906, the branch railroad had been built down the North Fork and was ready to haul out coal as it was produced at the new mine.

The opening of this mine created the need for miners, so the coal company built houses for them and the miners and their families moved in. The mine and camp here were given the name

"Cedar Grove," this name probably coming from the fact that a few straggly "pine" or cedar trees grew along the creek banks at this place. But when the Post Office was established for the town, it was discovered that there was another Cedar Grove somewhere in Pennsylvania, so the Post Office was given the name of Studa in honor of Mr. John R. Studa. Over the years, as long as the Post Office was maintained there, the town went by both names, but in later years, only the name Cedar Grove has been used.

Since the so-called Pittsburgh vein of coal at this point was not far under the surface of the ground, it could be reached by a "slope" entrance instead of a vertical shaft such as is required for greater depths of the coal vein. Sometime after the mine was opened, the Washington County Coal Company sold the mine to the Verner Coal Company, and still later the Carnegie Coal Company operated the mine.

In early September, 1912, a disastrous flood on Labor Day weekend swept down the valley of Cross Creek and its tributary streams and did a great deal of damage. Several persons were drowned at Avella, bridges were washed out on the roads and the railroads and general destruction was wrought on all low-lying lands. In this disaster, the branch railroad between Cedar Grove and Avella was completely destroyed. The valley of North Fork is narrow, and the railroad

had to built close to the Creek, and at many places bridges had to be built to cross the Creek, so this short-line railroad was very vulnerable to the ravages of this flood. The company of men who had built this line could not afford to rebuild it, so the Cedar Grove Mine had to close down for quite some time. All that can now be seen of this little old railroad are a few of the bridge abutments which are still standing where the railroad crossed the Creek at various points.

After many months of being without a railroad outlet, arrangements were made with the Pennsylvania Railroad Company to extend a branch line from Langloth to Cedar Grove, and when this was completed, the mine was able to reopen. The mine then continued to operate with more or less regularity and a considerable amount of coal was taken from it. On October 18, 1939, the tippie burned and while some coal was mined after that time using temporary loading facilities, yet the mine was doomed and soon had to close. Some of the people here, left without employment, moved to other mining communities but many of the families bought the houses and some land from the coal company, remodeled the houses into modern homes and then sought employment in nearby mines or in other industry.

# Bigger, better channel to control erosion

## Old Cedar Grove waterway washed away by unusually strong rainstorms

By Patrick Ponticel  
For The Enterprise

A man-made rock channel designed to prevent erosion during rainstorms was ripped apart two years ago during a rainstorm in the Cedar Grove area.

Now, the damaged 600-foot section of the channel has been reconstructed. Work on the \$130,000 project in Cross Creek Township was recently completed, according to Tom Sierzega, district conservationist with the federal Soil Conservation Service.

The reconstructed waterway is designed to withstand a 100-year storm, Sierzega said. The old one was designed for a 25-year storm.

The September 1990 storm that wrecked the channel and caused major flooding at various points in the Cross Creek watershed was the second 100-year storm of the year in Cedar Grove.

As its name implies, storms of such severity can be expected only once every century. Two of them in one year proved too much for the channel.

"There were six-inch rains there in July," Sierzega explained. "At the time, the ground was saturated, so the next storm really ripped down through there. Both storms exceeded the 100-year storm."

"Much of the old rock was just washed away. There were boulders half the size of a car that just disappeared."

Because the rocks that lined the channel were washed away during the storm, the channel's bed also was exposed to the rushing water. According to Sierzega, as much as 12 feet of sediment was washed



A BACKHOE OPERATOR works on a rock channel designed to control erosion in the Cedar Grove area of Cross Creek Township.

away in some places.

Whereas rocks no larger than eight inches in diameter were used in the first project, rocks as large as 18 inches in diameter are being used for the reconstruction. That, plus the fact that the waterway was widened and deepened, makes it a stronger channel, according to

Sierzega.

Construction of the channel was part of a \$450,000 project, funded by Soil Conservation Service, for elimination of hazards associated with an abandoned deep mine in Cedar Grove. The project involved sealing the mine entrance, leveling 24 acres of unsightly mine waste

piles and construction of the rock-lined channel. The overall goal of the project was to reduce acidic discharge from the mine into the North Fork of Cross Creek.

Storm water runoff used to carry large amounts of acidic particles from the mine waste piles into the North Fork. The leveling

of the piles and construction of the rock-lined channel combine to reduce the amount of acidic particles carried off the site in storms, Sierzega said.

In addition, the project eliminated high walls at the border of some Cedar Grove residents' backyards. An old trestle also was removed as part of the project, and wetlands were established to help cleanse acidic discharges. The area was vegetated afterward.

The project was sponsored by Cross Creek Township and the Washington County Conservation District, but it was paid for entirely through the Soil Conservation Service's Rural Abandoned Mine Project. The Washington branch sponsors one or more such projects annually — designing them, bidding them and supervising the work. The Cedar Grove project was rather large in comparison to others, Sierzega said.

The Washington branch's only other RAMP project scheduled for 1992 is in Bentleyville and involves closing a mine opening and redirecting drainage from the mine.

Sierzega said the RAMP program is funded through a levy imposed on current coal operators at the rate of 15 cents per ton of coal from deep mines and 35 cents per ton from surface mines. The RAMP program was established under the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977.

More than \$1 billion has been collected but remains unappropriated by Congress, Sierzega said.

Anyone who owns mine lands that were abandoned before 1977 can qualify for 100 percent funding for a RAMP project.

Old Cedar Grove Waterway washed away by unusually Strong Rainstorms  
The Enterprise-July 8, 1992 Edition



**CLEARVIEW ACRES IS** located along Cedar Grove Road, just outside Eldersville. The home of William and Juanita Doak and family, Clearview witnesses the birth of nearly 100 Black Angus calves each spring.

By **Kathryn Campbell Slasor**  
For The Enterprise

The William Doak family does not need to ask the recently popular question, "Where's the Beef?" In the form of 200 head of registered Black Angus cattle, beef roams the pasture fields along Cedar Grove field in Jefferson Township, where the Doak family has lived for nearly 40 years. Pasture, including that on their own farm, and that rented from neighbors, totals about 400 acres.

Clearview Acres is a family business, from 93-year-old Grandpap Dale Doak to grandsons Michael and Nathan, age 18 and 16. The entire family is grieving over the loss of Grandma Elizabeth Doak, who passed away in February at

nearly 91 years of age. Bill and Juanita arrived in Eldersville on July 4, 1955. Bill's parents followed them about 15 years later, placing a mobile home on the farm that Bill and Juanita had formed from some frontage acres of the Mary Inhat farm. The elder Doaks' influence and interest in the farming operations have been vital to the family business. Grandpap still drives the tractor to cut hay, and he helps in countless chores around the farm.

As the years passed, more acres were added, buildings and barns came into being, and another farm, that of the late Cree and Mary Stroud, was purchased, this time by the younger members of the family, Rose Ann and Duane, in 1977. They thus became partners with their father in raising Black Angus

cattle.

Another son, Larry, spent two years in the service, six months of this time in Germany. He has been under VA care since 1970. One of his chief chores is to keep the grass cut on their spacious lawn. He is also his mother's main source of help with the household tasks and cooking. Duane's wife, Joyce, mother of Michael and Nathan, cares for her home, assists with the calves when she is needed and keeps the family in touch of the outside world by her work with the Band Parents' Association. She is the current president.

The Black Angus cattle business begins on May 28 of each year, when the four bulls are placed in four pasture fields with four herds of cows. By the first of March the

**Doak's Clearview Acres (pg. 1)**  
**Beef Patties-from Pasture to Concession Stand**  
**The Enterprise-July 5, 1995 Edition**

*Courtesy of Fort Vance Historical Society*



**YOUNG CALVES RELAX** with their mothers in the open field.

following spring, calves begin to arrive, numbering usually around 95 to 100. An occasional set of twins is born, which totally confuses the mother. The task ahead for Bill, Rose Ann and Duane is to teach the cow to count to two, so that she will feed both babies! This is one reason that someone must be with the mothers most of the time during calving season. If the cow does not understand that she has two babies instead of one, she will not own the second one. Either it must be bottle-fed, or it will die. The calving season runs 24 hours per day. Bill, Rose Ann and Duane keep watch on a rotation basis, spotting any trouble before it starts. Many of the cows need human assistance in giving birth. Young heifers especially must be watched closely.

Corn silage is fed automatically

in the fields, as is the hay. All of the feed is raised by the Doaks. A number of silos are filled each fall to provide feed over the winter months. Sometimes the cows are given an extra treat — ground oats on their silage!

The Doaks began in the cattle business in 1973, with 16 heifers bought in Kansas. Juanita nearly gave up the business the first day — the cattle truck arrived when she was home alone. The driver held little pity for a lone woman and opened the endgate. Sixteen heifers exited the truck as Juanita held her breath. As if by pre-arranged signal, the entire herd walked in orderly fashion in the field. She closed the gate, and the Doaks were in business!

Twenty two-year-old heifers with calf at side are sold from the

farm each year. Yearlings sold for butchering number also about 20. The animals are taken to Lansing Valley Packing, in Ohio, for butchering. The meat is then hauled to Cook's Meats, in Jewett, where it is custom wrapped and frozen. Juanita does the delivering herself, nearly every day. She has steady customers who have bought Doak beef for many years. At least 2,000 pounds of ground beef, as well as halves, quarters and whole, must reach the customers in good order.

This year Juanita picked up another order — a concession stand in Altoona. The Horseshoe Bend Festival plans to sell hamburgers to the tune of 600 pounds of Doak ground beef from the B & C Boxcar! And Juanita will deliver it!

**Doak's-Clearview Acres (pg. 2)**  
**Beef Patties-from Pasture to Concession Stand**  
**The Enterprise-July 5, 1995 Edition**

*Courtesy of Fort Vance Historical Society*



**Srender Mine**  
**Located between Cedar Grove and Avella, PA**



# Veterans from Cedar Grove Community

## World War I

George Butcher  
Harry Dunkle  
Yustin Kyluck  
Victor Martinelli

William Deer  
Clyde Fullum  
Joseph Martinelli

Joseph Donovan  
Martin Gustafson  
Merle Martinelli

## World War II

Josephine Donovan Baker  
Theodore Charnik  
Michael Cruny  
Willam Duch  
John Fusarelli  
Bernard Lis  
Elmer Peterson  
Robert Polloack  
Charles Starinsky

Edith Clark Jones  
Charles Cruny  
Tony Cruny  
Joseph Donovan, Jr.  
Moynelle Holloway  
Michael Lis  
Steven Petka  
Stanley Sarniske  
James Sutherland

Joseph Bartanus  
Joseph Cruny  
Walter Duch  
George Fotovich  
Nicholas Kolesar  
Charles Peterson  
John Pollack  
Stanley Smitney  
Edward Wheeler

## Korean Conflict

Glenn Butcher  
James Cline  
Ignatius Yonis

Leo Donovan  
Clarence Cruny  
Joe Martinelli, Jr.

Edward Charnik  
Wayne Peterson

# 'Totally different phenomena'

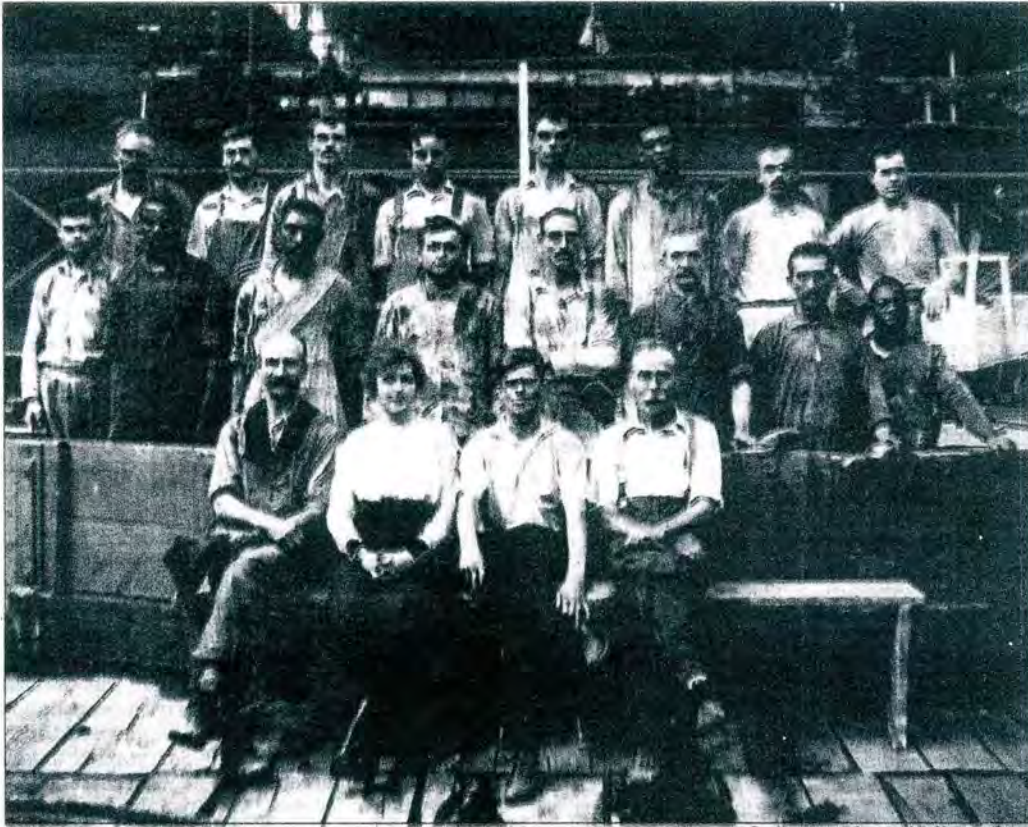


PHOTO COURTESY OF CHARLEROI AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Workers at a Charleroi glass factory pose for a photo in 1910. The borough was originally designed to meet the needs of the glass industry.

## *Charleroi's rapid rise to be topic of meeting*

By SCOTT BEVERIDGE  
Staff writer  
sbeveridge@observer-reporter.com

Property in Charleroi was marketed block by block to different ethnic groups as the borough developed rapidly around a giant glass factory more than a century ago.

As a result, each block had its own ethnic hotel, bakery, cigar shop, shoe store and confectionery, said Terry Necciai, a Philadelphia architect who prepared Charleroi's nomination to the National Register that was approved in 2007.

"If you were paying attention, the language on the signs kept changing as you went along," said Necciai, who will speak in Monongahela next

week about Charleroi's rise and how it related to its neighboring towns.

Developer M.J. Alexander began marketing the borough March 4, 1890, and, within a year, he had to lay out a second set of 1,000 lots because they were selling quickly, giving the town the nickname "Magic City."

Several board members of Alexander's company died within two years, requiring him to reorganize before using the same pattern to develop Monessen and Donora in 1897 and 1900, respectively, Necciai said. He also developed Jeannette in Westmoreland County, similarly around a glass factory

"Charleroi is a totally dif-

ferent phenomena. It got so big, so fast. It was like an accordion. It spread out without a core."

Industrialists created Charleroi Plate Glass Co. to compete with Pittsburgh Plate Glass, but the company quickly failed while experiencing labor unrest. There were, however, other glass works in the town, including the MacBeth-Evans Glass Co., businesses that located near places where natural gas was discovered.

John K. Tener, who would go on to serve as governor of Pennsylvania, was brought to Charleroi in 1891 to work at First National Bank, and he quickly formed a local chamber of commerce and a

company to build the original Charleroi-Monessen Bridge.

"He recognized the stores were more important than the glass industry," Necciai said.

At its peak, Charleroi had one of the highest retail sales per capita in the state.

Alexander went on to develop 15 more towns, using the Charleroi pattern.

"It sounded as if Charleroi was his biggest success," Necciai said.

Necciai will speak at a joint meeting of the Monongahela and Charleroi area historical societies at 7 p.m. Nov. 21 in First Presbyterian Church, Sixth and Chess streets, Monongahela. The event is free and open to the public.

**"Totally Different Phenomena"-Charleroi  
Observer Reporter-November 14, 2013**

## CHERRY VALLEY AND RACCOON by A.D. White

When we speak of Cherry Valley, we mean a town, not a vale, and the place is named for a family, not a fruit or a tree-----all of which may sound very confusing----but we shall try to explain.

Actually there is a Cherry Valley; at least Cherry Run, which rises near the Ft. Cherry High School in Mt. Pleasant Township, flows through a beautiful valley, long known by the name, and this stream joins Raccoon Creek about a mile above the town of which we are writing. On the headwaters of this stream, back in 1774, Thomas Cherry, an English immigrant, made a settlement, built a log cabin, and later the same year erected the fort which bore his name. So the prominence of this family here in early times gave the name, Cherry Run, to this stream, and eventually to the valley and finally to the town.

The town itself was a product of the development of the coal industry here. But even before the present town was founded, there was a Post Office bearing the name, Cherry Valley, which was kept at Smith's Store, a mile up the valley and almost on the line between Mt. Pleasant and Smith Townships. This store, kept by Ebenezer Smith, was an important trading point for many years before the turn of the century.

The oldest house in the town of Cherry Valley is a stone house to which a frame addition was made in the early 1900's. This house, the home of Mr. and Mrs. John Bank, is believed to be nearly 190 years old, having been built probably in the 1780's by James Leech on his tract, Leitchfield, soon after he came into this country. Near his home, on the Creek, Mr. Leech erected a mill. And Hoagland's Fort must have been nearby supposedly on land belonging to Joseph Keys.

Another ancient house nearby is the old brick house on the Farrar farm, which may have been built when the White Family, ancestors of the Farrars, owned the property. They had a White Mill where the creek flowed through their property. Judge Farrar married Phoebe White of this family and in time the farm passed to their family and it is still owned by the Farrars.

Cherry Valley, the mining town as we know it, came into being around the turn of the century when three mines of the Pittsburgh and Eastern Coal Company were opened on the former Keys and Scott farms. The coal from these mines was shipped to a market on a branch railroad built up Raccoon Creek from the main line at Burgettstown. These mines operated with a large production until 1927, since which time they have been closed and the tipples removed. Although former mining towns in this part of Washington County are numerous, yet Cherry Valley did not become a "ghost town" as so many other such towns did. The two dozen or so large double houses built here many years ago by the coal company for leasing to the miners are nearly all now privately owned and they have been made into attractive two-family homes. In addition to these, quite a number of other fine modern homes have been built in and near the original village, so the town presents a pleasing appearance.

There is no Post Office here now, the residents being served by Rural Route No. 3 out of Burgettstown Post Office. The Cherry Valley School is no more, all students now attending the Burgettstown Area Schools. The Raccoon Elementary School in this system is located about two miles down Raccoon Creek from Cherry Valley. Only the Catholic Church, a mission of Our Lady of Lourdes Church in Burgettstown, remains of the community's public institutions.

Far down the valley near the junction of Raccoon Creek with its West Branch lies the town of Raccoon, which because of its location on the main line of the Panhandle Railroad, had a good start as a village before the coal industry developed. The location of the old Whitestone Coal Works on the Simpson farm a short distance east of Raccoon Station helped the economy of the community, and this was advanced further when the Raccoon mine of the Sanford Coal Company was located here. These mines have disappeared, too, and the dairy industry which used to ship so much milk from Raccoon Station now uses other transportation for its product. So, the residents of another town have had to seek employment elsewhere, but the town of Raccoon still lives on. Although the Post Office here carried the name Raccoon in earlier years, it has been known in recent years as Joffre.

An incident, or accident, in this community many years ago is still recalled by the oldest residents. This was one which resulted in the death of Mr. and Mrs. Carroll A. McBride at the old Raccoon Railroad Crossing. Having recently been married, on November 16, 1896,

Carroll A. McBride and his wife, Elsie Bell Stephenson McBride, had just gone to housekeeping on his father's farm in Robinson Township. On Sabbath morning, December 11, they had left their farm home to attend church at Burgettstown, and were driving there in a one-horse sleigh.

The fast mail train west was running late that morning, and as the young couple were well bundled up on account of the extreme cold, they did not hear the train approaching. This was a dangerous crossing with very poor visibility to the east, and as the young couple reached the tracks the train struck their sleigh right where they were sitting. Their bodies were carried one hundred feet or more down the tracks by the fearful impact, and, needless to say, both were instantly killed. Strange to relate, the horse was not injured the slightest. A double funeral service was held for the unfortunate young couple and just four weeks from the day of their wedding, they were laid side by side in a single grave in the Cemetery at the old Robinson U.P. Church.

As a result of this accident and several more very narrow escapes, this grade crossing was eliminated and an "arch" was substituted at this crossing at Raccoon.

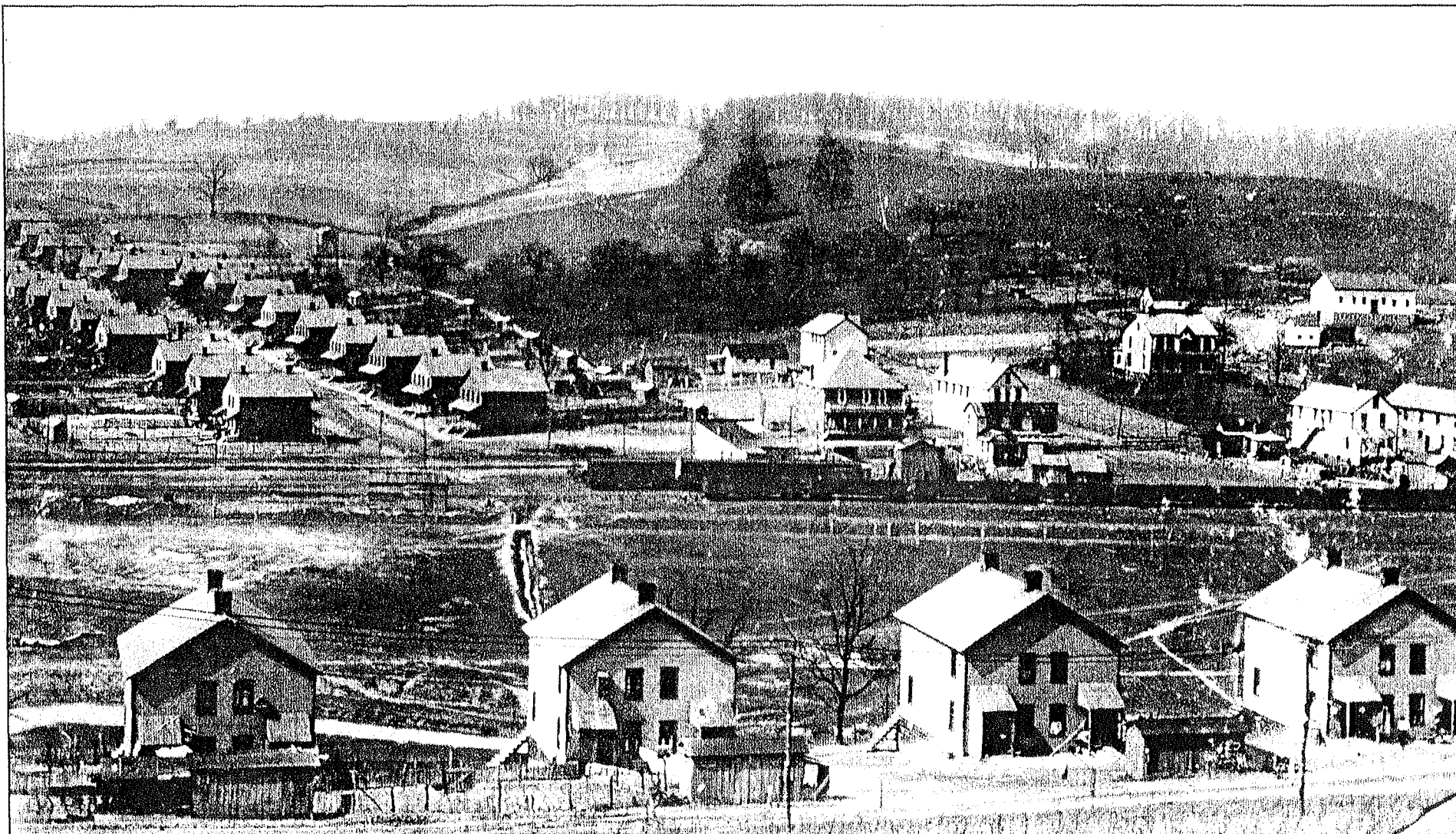
Next--Langloth.

## CHERRY VALLEY MOTORISTS WANT THIS ROAD REPAIRED



The Enterprise photographer took this picture of the stretch of Cherry Valley road (or lack of it) that is causing much concern on the part of residents in that section. The red dog road leading to Cherry Valley, about one mile from the Raccoon concrete highway, is in a precarious condition, and residents have termed it unsafe for motor vehicles. They will attend a mass meeting in the Owls Club on Monday evening, June 2 to discuss ways and means of getting the road repaired. The stretch in question is state highway road, and the state highway department is said to be responsible for its' upkeep. Holes in the road, so residents state, were caused by heavy coal trucks from the Penowa mine, but since the mine has worked but a few days since the first of the year, the coal company does not accept responsibility for its' upkeep. Residents were made more aware of the hazards last Sunday night when fire trucks were hampered in attempting to reach the Hodges residence, which was destroyed by fire.

**Cherry Valley Motorists want this Road Repaired  
Burgettstown Enterprise-May 29, 1952 Edition**



## How green was the valley

This "panoramic birds eye view of Cherry Vally Pa." is from the late 1800s or the early 1900s, accord-

ing to Emma Lukon of Burgettstown, who submitted this photograph. It was given to her by her late

mother-in-law, Mrs. Mary Lukon.

Cherry Valley, PA  
Late 1800's or early 1900's

*Announcing the Grand Opening of*  
**MAYER'S GARDENS**

Cherry Valley, Pa.  
(Located at the old school house grounds)

**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 11**

with  
DANCING  
to the music of

**THE STREAMLINERS BROADCASTING ORCHESTRA**

(Polkas and Popular Dances)

Dancing 8 to 12 o'clock

---

Open every evening including Sundays  
Refreshments and juke box dancing every evening

**Popular Orchestra Every Saturday Night**

---

Admission 75c — Tax Inc.

**COME & BRING YOUR FRIENDS**

---

**Announce Opening Of  
Mayer's Gardens At  
Cherry Valley**

Joseph Mayer of Cherry Valley announces the grand opening of Mayer's Gardens located at the old school house grounds on Friday evening, October 11, with dancing to the music of the Streamliners Broadcasting Orchestra from 8 to 12 o'clock.

The building was torn down and recently rebuilt and beautifully decorated with a light blue and white color scheme. Ice cream and soft drinks are sold. The Gardens are open every evening including Sundays with juke box dancing nightly except Saturday nights when popular orchestras will be scheduled to play for the dancing.

Mr. Mayer is married to the former Ann Kzyck. They are the parents of two children, Robert, 9, and Shirley Ann, 7.

**Announcing the Grand Opening of Mayer's Gardens**  
Burgettstown Enterprise-October 3, 1946 Edition



### **The Smith Family**

L-R: Mary L. Smith (1846-1928), Ebenezer Smith (1816-1881),  
Margaret Lyle Smith (1821-1886), Sarah Margareta "Gret" Smith (1850-1927).

Ebenezer Smith was the proprietor of the Smith General Store  
in Cherry Valley, Washington County, PA in the 1850, 1860, 1870, and 1880's.

The Teapot is 14 feet in diameter and approximately 14 feet high.

History of "The World's Largest Teapot" 1938 The Chester Teapot was constructed by William "Babe" Devon.

The Teapot started its life as a gigantic wooden hogshead used for a Hire's Root Beer advertising campaign.

Devon purchased the barrel in Pennsylvania and had it shipped to Chester where it was set up on Carolina Avenue, which is also State Route 2.

A spout and handle were added at this time and the wooden barrel was covered with tin to form the teapot's shape.

A large glass ball was placed on top to make the knob of the "lid". The Teapot stood in front of Devon's pottery outlet store. Local teenagers were hired to run a concession and souvenir stand which was set up inside the Teapot.

#### 1947 -Late 1960's

After being closed for two years during World War II when gas rationing caused a decrease in traffic and thus visitors to the Teapot and Devon's pottery business were sold to Mary Wucherer and Rhelda Cain in 1947. Food was once again sold out of the Teapot until the late 1960's when that became unprofitable. It was at that time that the Teapot was used to sell lawn and garden items as well as china and novelty pieces.

#### 1971

The Teapot was sold to Cecil and Alice Fletcher. The Teapot had been painted blue and white by this time. The Fletchers continued to sell pottery and other gift items from it for many years before they finally closed the business and shut down the Teapot.

#### 1984

The Teapot sat abandoned in place until 1984 when C&P Telephone purchased the land it was on. The main building of the old business was demolished and the Teapot itself was in danger of being scrapped. Geneva Hill, a Chester native, brought citizens to action in helping to save the Teapot from destruction.

#### 1987

C&P Telephone offered to donate the Teapot to the City of Chester. A restoration committee was formed by Councilwoman Anne Ford who polled town residents on their feelings about the Teapot. The town overwhelmingly approved the restoration of the Teapot and fund-raising plans were made. The Teapot was moved to various places in Chester while the \$3000 required to restore it was raised. Repair work eventually began on the floor and roof joints.

The exterior tin of the Teapot

was also sandblasted for cleaning, but it caused wrinkling in some places. As this repair work continued, problems with the State Highway Department and various townspeople caused much debate on where the Teapot should be permanently located.

The debate drug on and the Teapot endured a number of years of bad weather which created new problems for it. At this point, Ford's committee was disbanded and further restoration attempts were halted.

#### Early 1990

The Chester City Council votes to provide funds toward the restoration of the Teapot after Councilman Frank DeCapio offered to take responsibility for its rehabilitation.

The Teapot was moved to a location adjacent to the Jennings Randolph Bridge Ramp, a heavily trafficked area at the junction of State Route 2 and U.S. Route 22. The property and a fence were donated by the State. A concrete pad for the Teapot to sit on was donated by the Tri-State Pottery Festival Association.

Through the spring and summer of 1990, retired general contractor Sayre Graham, Mayor Roy Cashdollar, and other volunteers finished the Teapot's restoration. Graham removed the old dilapidated tin and replaced it with a rolled roofing tin which basically duplicated the original. Vinyl was placed in between the widths of tin in order to help

with expansion and prevent wrinkling. The doors and windows from the concession stand days were reframed and sealed shut. The floor and many of the wooden staves of the frame were replaced as well.

A new spout was cut from plywood using the original as a pattern, and it along with the original handle were covered with new tin and placed back on the Teapot. The roof had been replaced during the previous restoration and was still in good shape.

The original glass ball which had served as the knob of the Teapot's "lid" was long gone and up to this point, a gold-painted basketball had taken its place. A new plastic ball was obtained to replace it.

The Teapot was painted back to its original red and white colors late in the summer. The grounds around the Teapot were also landscaped. The Teapot was officially dedicated at a ceremony held in Chester's community center on October 12, 1990.

*(Information compiled from: Jourdan, Katherine M. "Another Roadside Attraction: The Chester Teapot." Goldenseal, Vol. 17, No. 1: Spring 1991.)*

## Facts about the World's Largest Teapot in Chester, WV

Fort Vance Historical Society





## Where was Chidester's Mill?

By Kathryn Campbell Slasor  
For The Enterprise

Heath Timothy Hoberek, two years old, is shown above with his great-grandfather, Archie J. McFarland, who lives next door to Raccoon Elementary School on Cherry Valley Road. Mr. and Mrs. McFarland enjoy entertaining the little one, who cannot reach the top of the old mill stone where it is mounted in the McFarlands' front yard.

Research has as yet failed to turn up the name of the old grist mill of which this stone was a vital part several generations ago. It is known that a family by the name of Chidester at one time had built a mill on Raccoon Creek. This family name is all but forgotten in today's conversations and can barely be found in old local and county history books. Also known is the fact that an old mill once existed near the bridge that crosses Raccoon Creek almost directly across the road from Raccoon School, and the yard of the McFarland family where this stone may be seen from the road. Whether or not this mill was the Chidester mill has not been

documented. The area where the bridge crosses Raccoon Creek was known in recent years as the Keyes farm.

The name Chidester is mentioned in relation to the Bonnymeade Farm, owned by the Farrar family, and today by John and Helena Tomn, on Cherry Valley Road. John, the oldest son of James and Margaret Conier Simpson, married an Elizabeth Chidester probably around 1800. John had been born in 1780. He and Elizabeth migrated to Belmont County, Ohio.

Also a Chidester is named on the patent map of Fayette County, Pennsylvania, in the year 1818 — "warranted to William Chidester."

But who built Chidester's Mill? And where did he build it? And is this a picture of the stone burr that helped grind grain for Mr. Chidester and his neighbors?

Heath Timothy's parents are George and Deborah Scruppi Hoberek. His grandparents are Carol and Dave Scruppi. Great-grandparents, the McFarlands, are retired, she as a cook and he as an employee of Universal Cyclops. Mr. McFarland is a descendant of President James Buchanan.

**Where is Chidester's Mill**  
**The Enterprise-October 26, 1994 Edition**

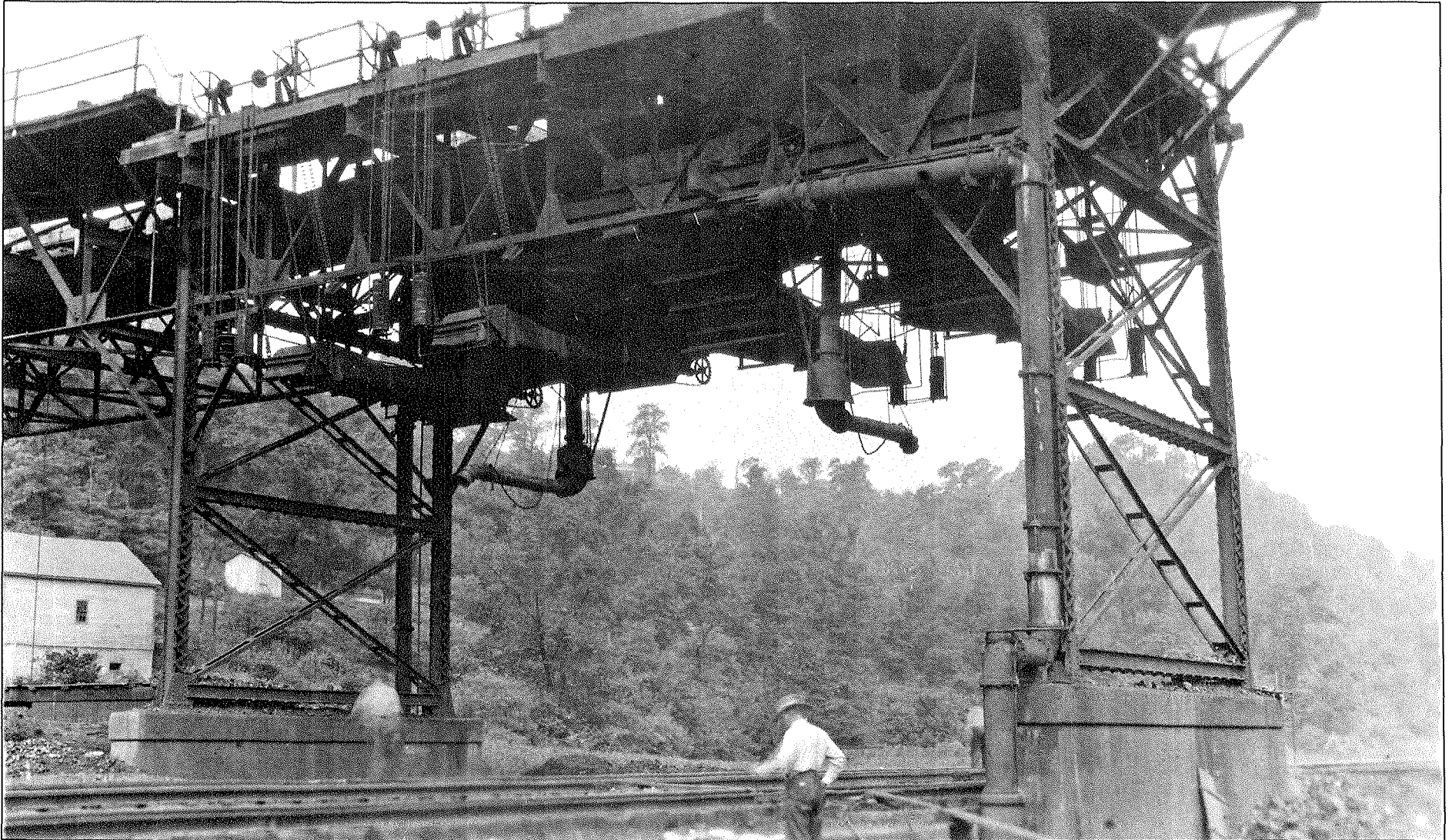
*Courtesy of Fort Vance Historical Society*

**Photos  
Colliers, WV  
Railroad**



**Collier, WV-Railroad Office Building**

*Courtesy of Fort Vance Historical Society*



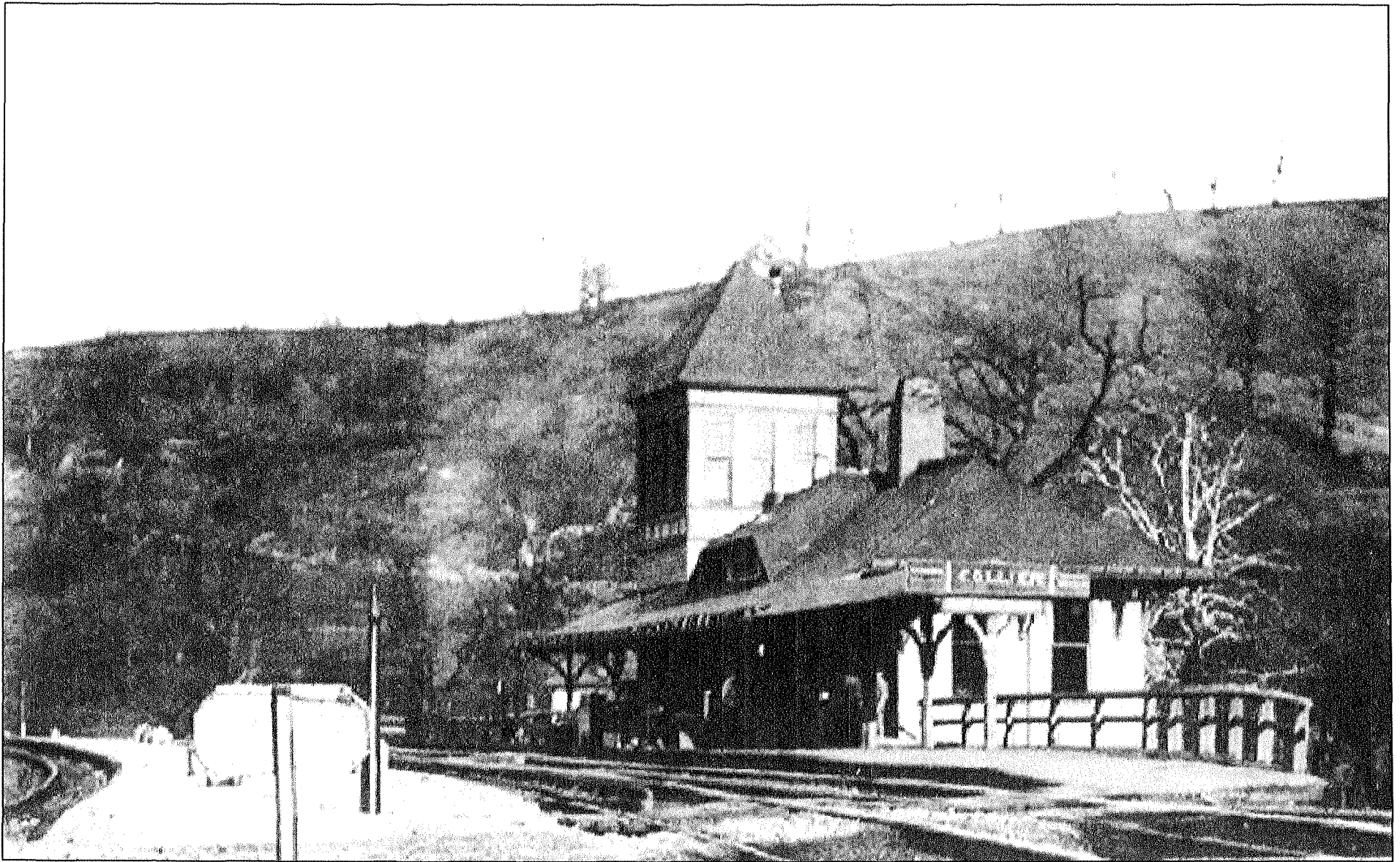
**Collier, WV- Coal Dock**

*Courtesy of Fort Vance Historical Society*



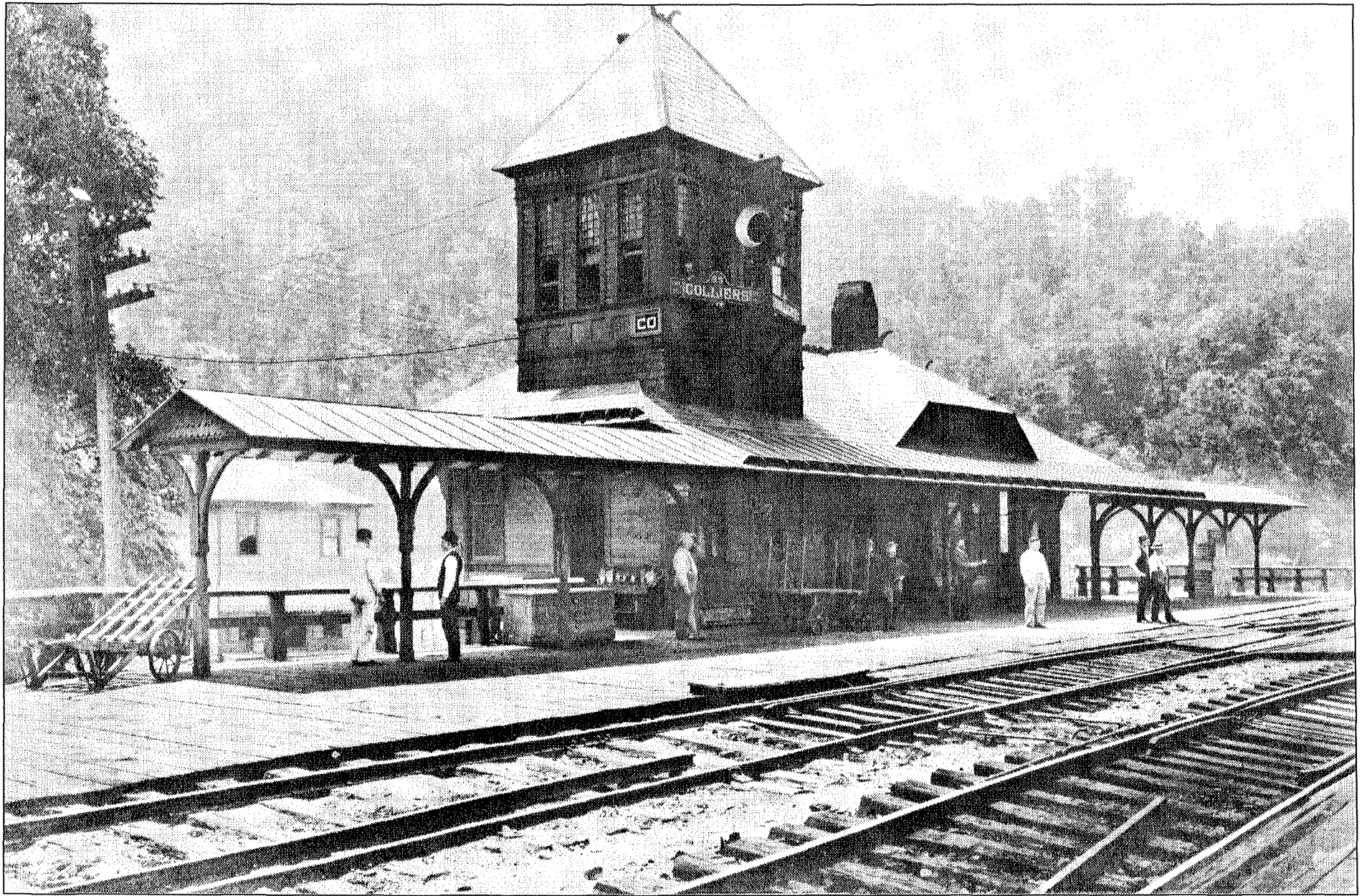
**Collier, WV-Water Towers**

*Courtesy of Fort Vance Historical Society*



**Collier, WV-Train Depot-1911**

*Courtesy of Fort Vance Historical Society*



**Collier, WV-Train Depot-1892**

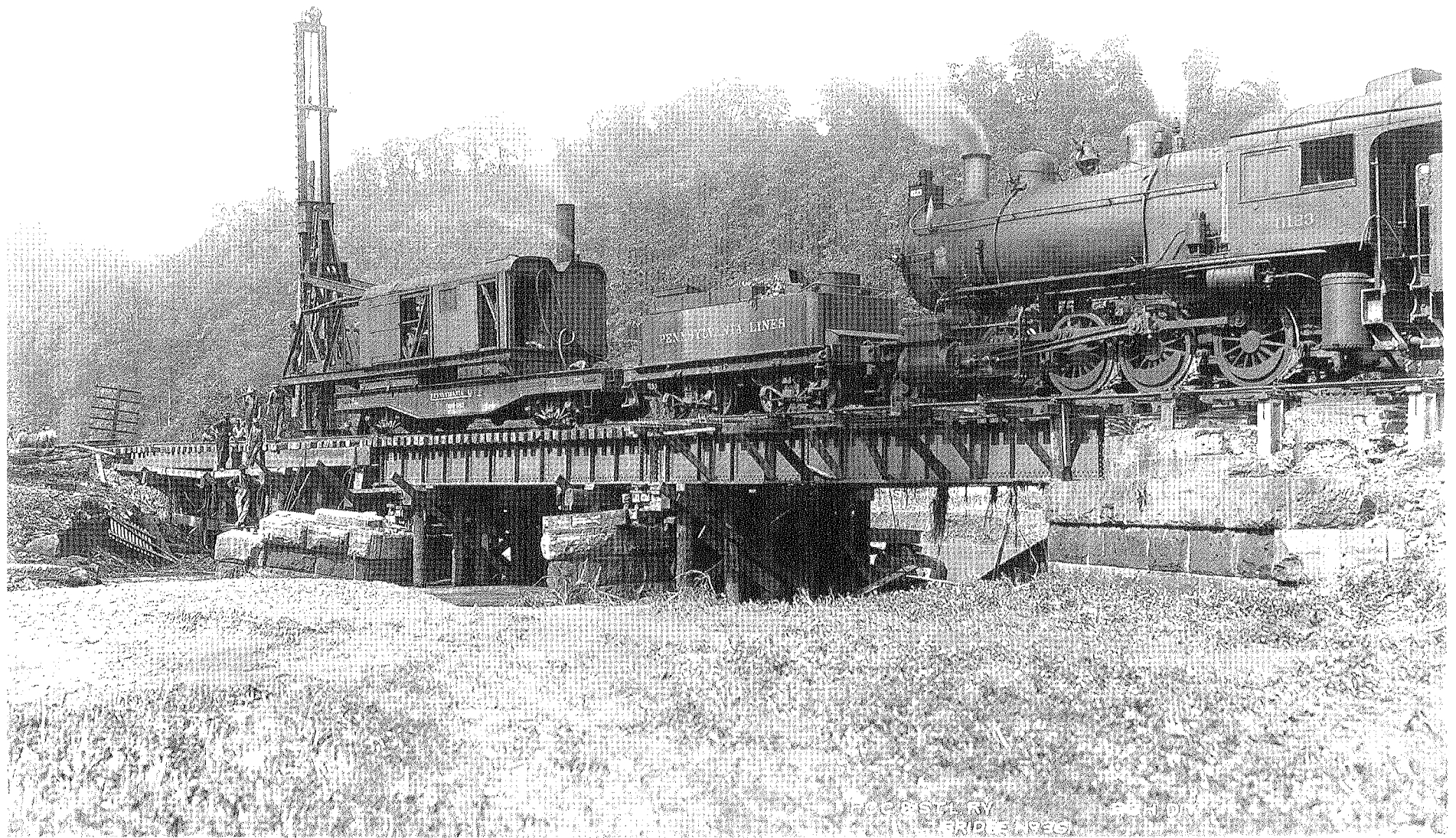
*Courtesy of Fort Vance Historical Society*



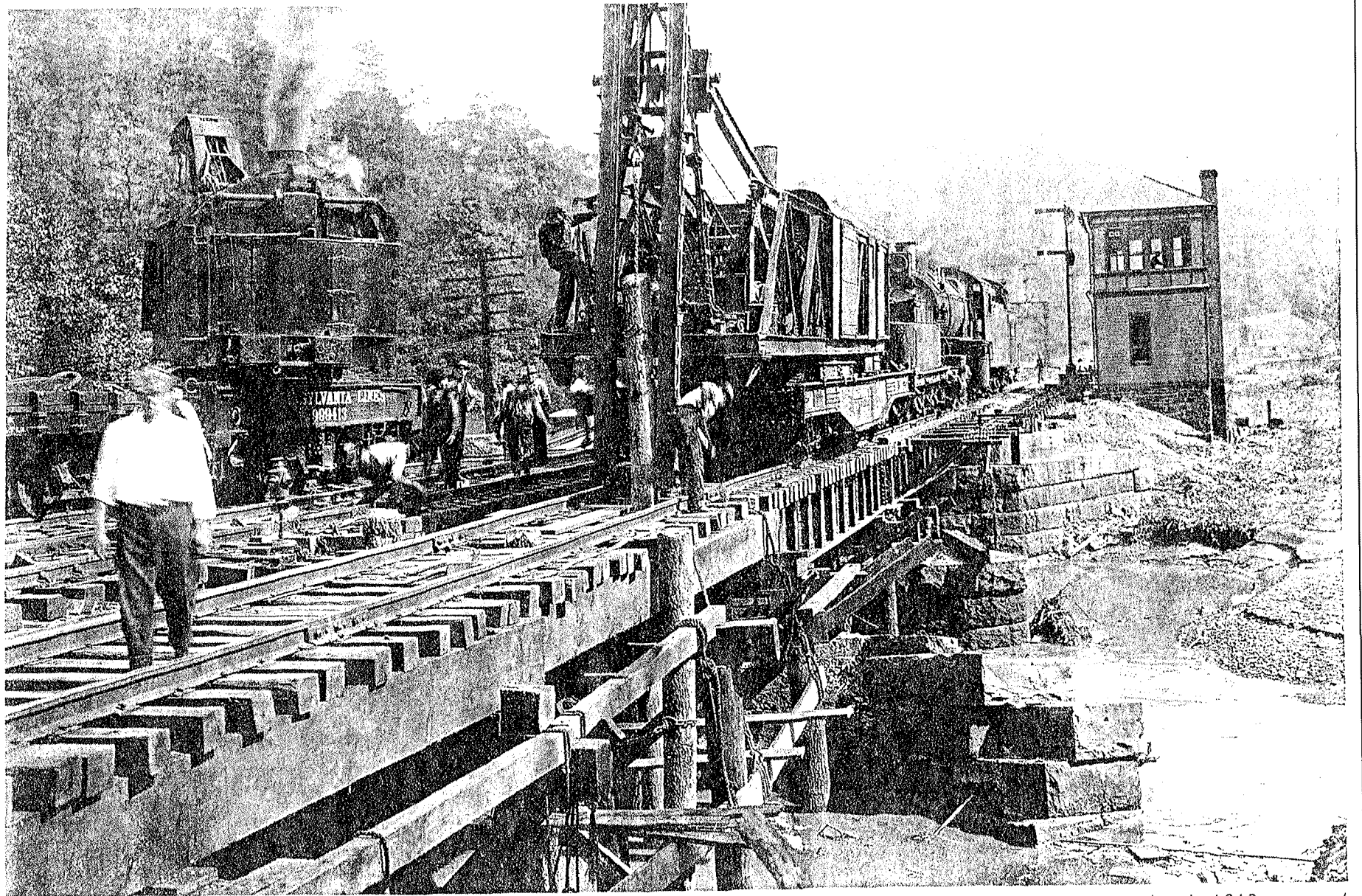
**Flood of 1912**

*Courtesy of Fort Vance Historical Society*



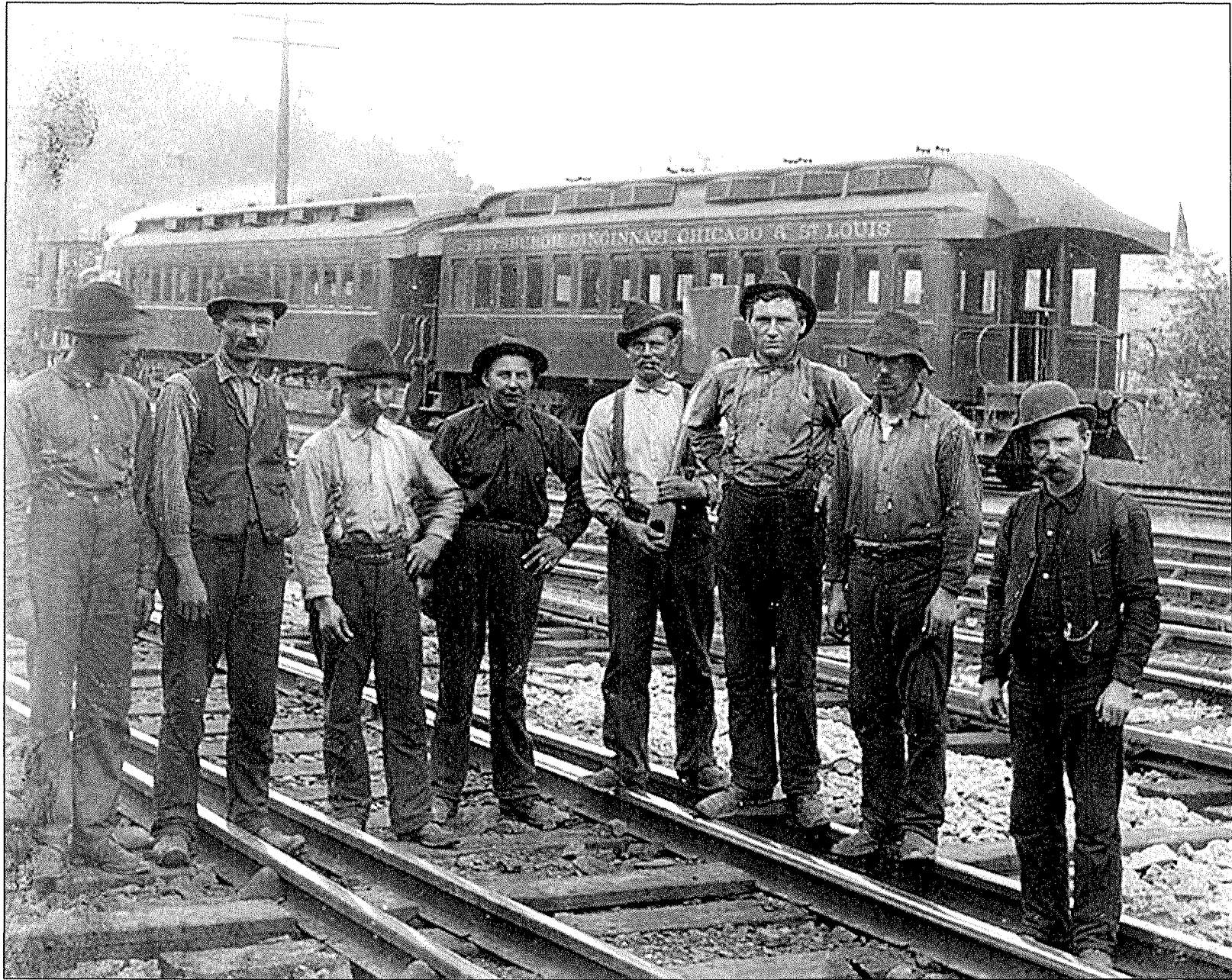


*Pennsylvania Lines H6A #8123 and pile driver #999482 at work on PCC&St.L Bridge #36 on September 6, 1912. The view is westward, on the south side of the bridge, Collier, W. Virginia.*  
*(Robert L. Johnson collection)*



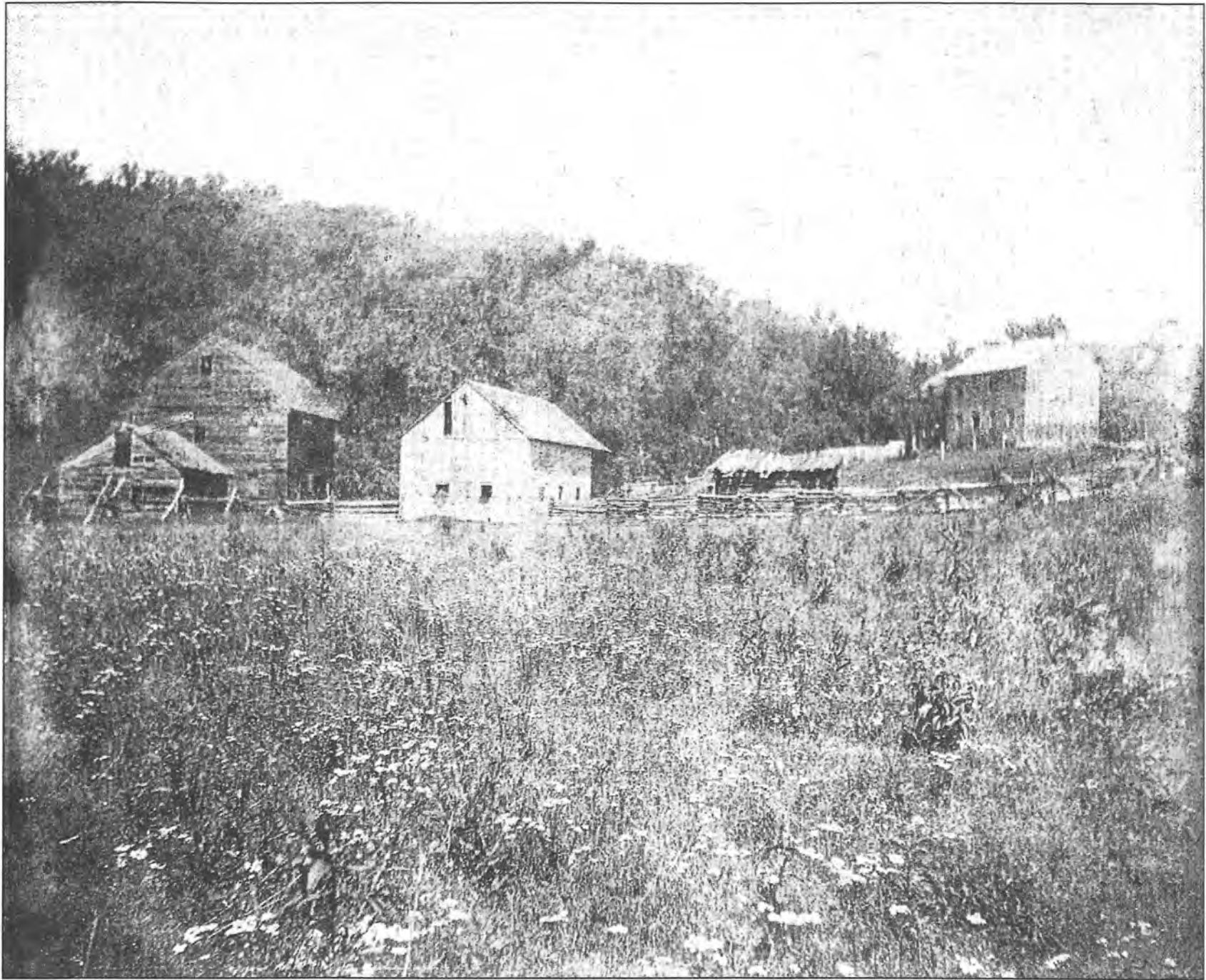
At "CO" Tower, Collier, W. Va. the track maintenance crew is restoring bridge and track after a cloudburst on the night of September 1, 1912 converted Harmon Creek into a raging river, destroying or damaging the railroad that stood in its path. This is bridge #36. View looking east on south side, Sept. 6, 1912. "CO" was later renamed "State Line."

(collection of James J.D. Lynch, Jr.)



**Collier, WV-Pay Car Workers**

*Courtesy of Fort Vance Historical Society*



**Craighead Mill and Farm**

*Courtesy of Fort Vance Historical Society*

#### Seek to Save Academy.

Action, which it is hoped will lead to the preservation of the old Cross Creek Academy building was taken at a meeting of alumni and former students of the academy and high school held in the Community building at Cross Creek last Wednesday night. A committee was named to conduct a campaign for funds to restore the structure and also preserve it for future generations. Members of the committee are: Walter C. Lee, Cross Creek; Mrs. Clara Rea, Rea; Miss Bessie Donehoo, Cross Creek; Robert C. Cassidy, Burgettstown; Rev. Joseph Dunbar, Colerain, O.; Dr. A. O. Hindman, J. Leroy Lee, Burgettstown and A. D. White, Hickory.

**Seeking to Save Cross Creek Academy  
Burgettstown Enterprise-May 8, 1935 Edition**

## Cross Creek Graveyard

The first interment in the old Graveyard was that of an unnamed child of David and Sarah Vance who had fallen into an open fire and was so severely burned that its death came as a result. This was in early 1779. A council was held with the neighbors and friends as to where they would bury the child, when it was agreed to inter it in the woods up where they were going to build the church. Curiously enough, the first interment in the new Cemetery at Cross Creek was of a Vance child, Jessie Emily Vance, daughter of Leander and Anna Vance, in January 1891.

There has been discovered about one thousand that are buried in the Cross Creek Graveyard, but have not got the one-half that are interred. The inscriptions of the headstones have been written down but the dust of many others reposes here.

Buried are 47 Revolutionary Soldiers, including one nurse: 13 Indian Fighters and 24 who served in the war of 1812 with the British. Many of these markers are deteriorating and require some searching so it was determined to put all their names on one Memorial to be put in front of Cross Creek Graveyard, across from the Church and near the road for all to see. It is believed that the Memorial was unique to Washington County at the time.

There is a stone across from the church dedicated to James Simpson 1750-1819 who was among the first settlers and James Simpson 1824-1902 who was a farmer-Historian. James Simpson was the original compiler of the History of the Cross Creek Graveyard and The Cross Creek Cemetery which was originally compiled in 1894.

The Cross Creek Cemeteries stone that is also across the street from the church was given in memory of Leonard Lyle Cooke showing the 1779 and 1890 dates of establishment for each cemetery. Mr. Cooke was outstanding in his service to both the Cemeteries and the Church serving on both boards for many years. Mr. Cooke born 1911 and died 1983 is buried in the new cemetery.

The Memorial Keystone Arch was built in the early 1940's. It was built by the men of the community who cut the stones by hand and hauled them to the site. Charles Schulte still living in the community was a very big contributor to the building of the arch. The plaque in the center of the arch reads in memory of the illustrious dead of our community, and in honor of our living heroes who have defended us in all wars. This tablet is solemnly and respectfully dedicated in the year of our Lord. 1954

## CROSS CREEK CEMETERY

Established 1890

The new Cross Creek Cemetery was established in 1890. Ironically the first interment in the new Cemetery was of a Vance child, Jessie Emily Vance, daughter of Leander and Anna Vance, in January 1891. Sadly there were 5 others died before her and were buried at other locations, but when the new cemetery was available they were re-interred to Cross Creek. One was also a child that died of scarlet fever on 9/29/1889 who was the son of Leander and Anna Vance.

The Cemetery at Cross Creek to date has 738 burials. We are striving to keep the Cemetery in good maintenance condition. It is directly north of the old Cross Creek Graveyard which has been closed to burials.

The Cross Creek Graveyard and Cemetery are about a mile south of the sight of Fort Vance. Many of the names of the buried are ancestors of the people buried in the old Graveyard such as Marquis, Vance, Lee and many, many others.

The Graveyard and Cemetery were being mowed but was suffering form other maintenance. Many stones were in need of repair, weeds and trees out of control, garbage thrown over the hill, etc. We have since been under a restoration to open wooded areas and general clean-up. It may take many years to complete.

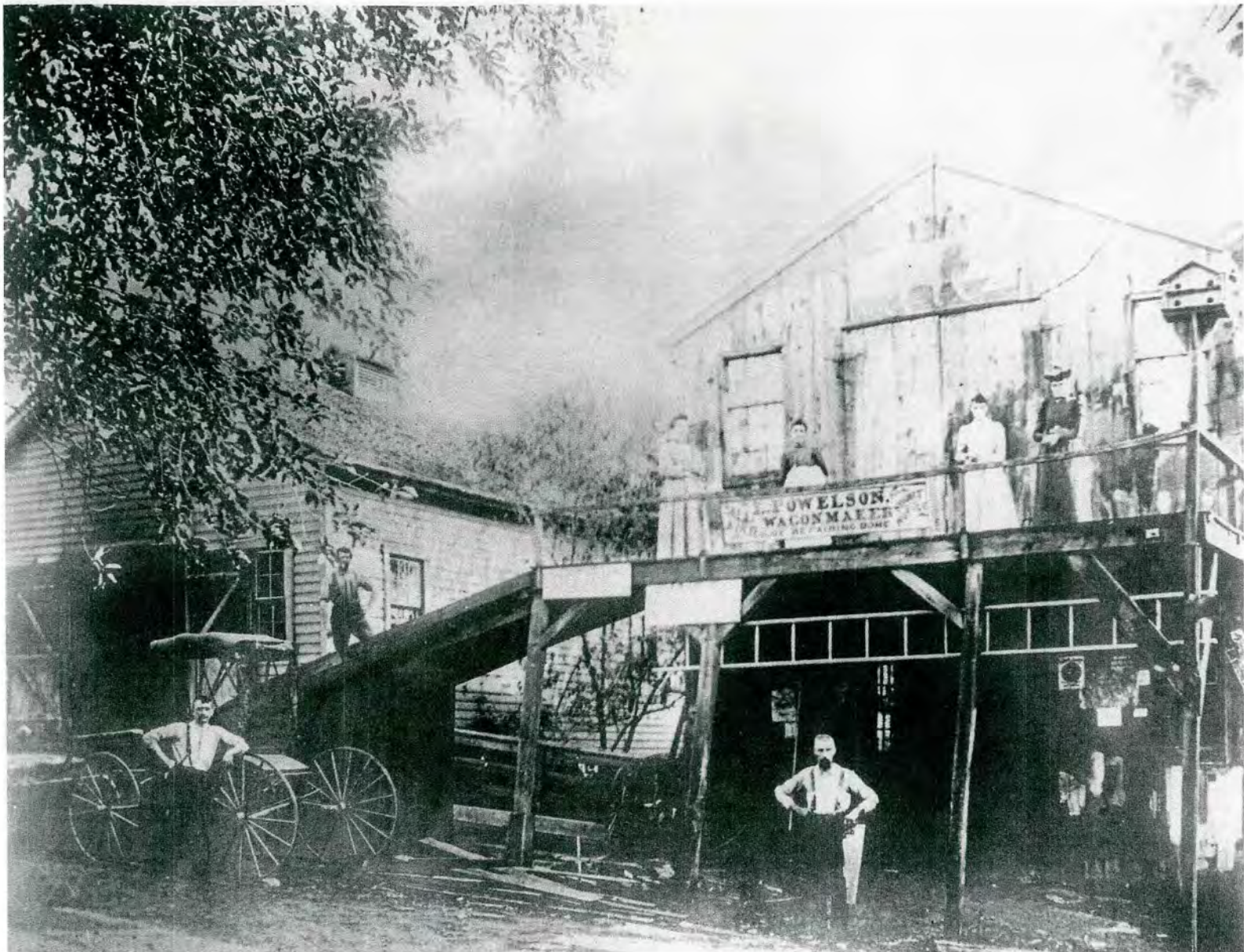
# Hot Shot:

Tom Gazvoda of Canonsburg took this photo of the new fishing dock at Cross Creek County Park that is accessible from the entrance off Route 844 in West Middletown.



**Cross Creek County Park  
Observer-Reporter-May 20, 2015 Edition**





### **Powelson Buggy Shop**

**This buggy shop stood on the property of Wayne Cook.**

The buggies were built on the bottom floor and then the buggies were moved up the ramp to be painted.

The building burned in 1906 or 1907.

**Balcony, L-R:** Laura Powelson (Pettit), Lib Scott, Maggie Rob, and Della Powelson.

**Ramp:** Thomas Hindman. **Front:** Lewis Powelson. **Near buggy:** Jim Crower.

*Fort Vance Historical Society*



**Cross Creek Honor Roll  
Unknown Year**

## **Abstracts of the Washington Reporter 1817-1820**

### **Monday, January 24, 1820**

**1333.** Stray Cow. Came to the plantation of the subscriber living in Cross creek Township Washington county, about the first of December, a rd cow, about five or six years old, no marks. The owner is desired to come forward, prove property, pay charges and take her away./s/**Peter PERRINE.**

## Listings for Washington, Pennsylvania

[Back to Map](#)

### **CROSS CREEK TOWNSHIP**

**28 CLARK AVENUE**

**AVELLA, PA 15312**

**724.587.3442**

### **CROSS CREEK TOWNSHIP**

**By Kathryn Campbell Slasor**

A close look at the background of Cross Creek Township reveals the names of numerous energetic men of vision - men whose names, due to that vision, have lived on the pages of written history for nearly two and one-half centuries.

As early as the mid seventeen hundreds, a man who could neither read nor write, saw the need to lay claim to the attractive hills, valleys and streams of more than two thousand acres of virgin soil. This man was Alexander Wells. Many of these two thousand acres became Cross Creek Township. The final boundaries of this Wells territory were set on June 16, 1853, when Jefferson Township was formed as a separate entity, and Cross Creek Township took its present form.

The stream of Cross Creek with its North, South, and Middle Branches, as well as its smaller tributaries, fans out to keep the area well-watered for farm purposes. In early days, one branch alone was large enough to turn the wheels of the mill built by Alexander Wells, then to carry to market by flatboat the grain that was subsequently ground by the great burrs of this mill.

Shrewd planning on the part of Alexander brought to him the best uses possible of the waterways he harnessed for himself. No neighbor could intrude upon his right to use the stream for his mill only.

However, Alexander Wells had no way of knowing that just beyond the horizon lingered a rival for land and waterways with the potential and intent to dispute the Wells supremacy. The opposing force was in the form of the Patterson family whose strength and influence held a far-reaching effect on the future of Cross Creek Township.

Following a serious dispute with his father over a girl he intended to marry, young James Patterson, that day in 1728, flew into a rage and left his homeland of Ireland for America, never to return. He came as far west as Lancaster County, bought a large tract of land, fought the Indians, married a widow name Mary Montgomery, and raised a family of ten children.

This James Patterson died in 1792 at the age of 84 years. It was not until the next generation that Cross Creek Township or even Washington County, would lay out the welcome mat to a Patterson.

As the generations passed, it was evident that the Pattersons were here to stay. As they migrated westward, they bought and improved the farms, raised large flocks of sheep, built grist mills, and boated flour down the waterways, eventually intermarrying with their original rivals - the Wells family.

The Patterson family, as did that of Alexander Wells, and other pioneers of Cross Creek Township, suffered untold hardships on their journeys through life. Babies died without a chance for life, and women died leaving large families of motherless children. Occasionally an epidemic of scarlet fever or other dread disease swept through the family, snuffing out three or four young lives and leaving heartaches.

Yet, life went on. These hardy pioneers built forts, continued to erect homes, mills, schools, stores and churches. William Patterson, in 1794, built a massive stone house that housed the next six generations. One son, Thomas, built a fulling mill for the finishing of cloth, as well as the huge grist mill that stood on the bend at the foot of the hill and operated for one hundred thirty years.

James Patterson opened a store near the mill. So great was his love of the store business that it was said that if James stayed overnight in a place, he would have a store started before morning. One of the Patterson stores was located on the flat near Cedar Grove. It was later owned and operated by the George Wiegmann family until it burned about the year 1898.

This store carried all manner of dry goods, groceries, hardware, boots, notions, candies, tobacco and cigars. Goods were freighted from the East over the National Pike to Washington, then to Patterson Mills. What an exciting time it must have been when the wagons arrived loaded with store goods.

Memories of the Wells Mill and Store site were revived many years later when the Romano Depaoli family opened a store at the Old Mill Crossing. This would be remembered as the spot where David Wallace Patterson, veteran school teacher of fifty years, his team and buggy, were swept away in the flood waters of Cross Creek in the year 1919.

With the coming of the Campbells and the Browns, the stream of Cross Creek took on greater importance. Settlers realized that this fairly wide stream split the valley so that homes and gardens could be accommodated on both sides. Even though the townships of Cross Creek and Independence each claimed a side, the town of Avella grew, and small businesses flourished. It mattered not on which side of the creek they built.

Many stores of note were operated by the families of Spataro, Falleroni, DiNardo, Debelak, Scouvert, Thompson, Shanks, Plummer, and countless others throughout the years. A funeral home, lunch counters, hot dog shops, barber shops, a creamery, a lumber yard, shoe repair shops and a bowling alley have come and some gone, but all left their marks in Avella.

The men of vision in the early days of Cross Creek Township knew without taking much thought that education was of the utmost importance. They knew they must establish schools, and this they did when they first stepped into the territory.

Before there was time to erect a building for educating the children, classes were taught in houses on farms. As early as 1782, school was held in the old log church at Cross Creek Village and at such places as the Wells Fort.

Prior to the year 1800, primitive schools began to spring up in a wide area. Teachers, though untrained, did their utmost to impart to their students the basics of an education. Although scarcely believable, one teacher in 1804 was unable to write. He not only taught other basic subjects, but taught writing by using brass plates.

In 1834, subscription schools supported by parents became obsolete and a system of district schools was organized. Cross Creek Township had ten such one-room institutions of learning: Nosco Hall, Bunker Hill, Cemetery, White Oak, West Point, Willow Valley, Bushy Rock, Beech Knob, Limestone Lane, and Buckeye Valley.

The ultimate in halls of Higher Learning came in the year 1828, with the establishment of the Cross Creek Academy. The name of the beloved Dr. John Stockton will forever be remembered for his unselfish work with the Academy. Thirty ministers of the Gospel have gone forth into the world from this revered institution.

The earliest church in Cross Creek Township was established by the Presbyterians in Cross Creek Village. The fifth building of this old congregation stands yet today, (2005) and still serves as the house of worship. Rev. Joseph Smith was the first minister to receive a call. The year was 1779. One year prior to this time, the first gospel sermon ever heard in the entire region was preached under an oak tree outside the gate of Vance's Fort, not far from Cross Creek Village. It is believed that the religious enthusiasm generated by this first sermon was the impetus for the eventual founding of this venerable first church in the township.

Other churches that began in various years and are yet spreading their influence are Avella Presbyterian, Pentecost Lutheran, St. John's Byzantine, and St. Michael's Roman Catholic. Beginning in 1864, a Lutheran minister preached in the school house at Pattersons Mill. An Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church was later built there and continued for many years.

Although churches, schools, businesses and other institutions make a community what it is, the greatest resource any area possesses is its people. In the early days, in addition to the aforementioned Wells and Patterson pioneers, many other brave souls set forth across the Alleghenies seeking a better life. Among the long list of those earliest settlers can be found the names of John and Thomas Marquis, Captain John Johnston, Henry Graham, William Reynolds, Joseph Reed, James Marshall, Thomas Bay, Jacob Buxton, and Hugh Lee. Were all the stories of bravery and hardship related of those whose names appear in this extensive roster, not even then would it begin to give a picture of the sacrifices of those who should be remembered forever.

In addition to those first settlers, others also left their mark for good in Cross Creek Township, including James Simpson who gave to the world an accounting of much of the history of the area which is known today. An infinitesimal number of these persons could be included in this account. Since that is not feasible, the names of a few whose accomplishments and service to the area are worthy of note are Mucci, Avella, Kanstrip, Geresti, Hoop, Rohr, Sutherland, Caverzan, Ruschell, DeFilippis, Paris, Ragan, Cindrigh, and countless others. For such a small area as the township of Cross Creek encompasses, it has a proud legacy indeed.

website design by [Digital Greys](#) © 2016

**CROSS CREEK AUDITOR'S REPORT  
JAN. 1, 1980 to DEC. 31, 1980**

**GENERAL FUND**

<b>RECEIPTS:</b>	
Taxes	\$82,658.12
Other Revenue	119,886.48
Non. Revenue	0.00
Cash Balance Jan. 1, 1980	158.38
Investments	13,977.63
<b>Total Receipts, Cash &amp; Investments</b>	<b>\$216,680.61</b>

<b>EXPENDITURES:</b>	
Governmental Exp.	\$186,938.44
Non Governmental Exp.	2,191.70
Cash Balance Dec. 31, 1980	875.32
Investments	26,675.15
<b>Total Exp., Cash &amp; Investments</b>	<b>\$216,680.61</b>

**SPECIAL REV. FUNDS (Stret Lights & Hydrant)**

<b>RECEIPTS:</b>	
Taxes	\$4,381.07
Cash Balance	2,980.36
<b>Total Receipts &amp; Balance</b>	<b>7,361.43</b>

<b>EXPENDITURES:</b>	
Governmental Exp.	4,029.10
Cash Balance Dec. 31, 1980	3,332.33
<b>Total Exp., &amp; Balance</b>	<b>7,361.43</b>

**STATE FUND**

<b>RECEIPTS:</b>	
Interest	\$440.35
Grants	25,662.38
Cash Balance Jan. 1, 1980	5.83
Investments	151.19
<b>Total Receipts, Cash &amp; Investments</b>	<b>\$26,259.75</b>

<b>EXPENDITURES:</b>	
Governmental Exp.	\$26,141.44
Cash Balance Dec. 31, 1980	1.09
Investments	117.22
<b>Total Exp., Cash &amp; Investments</b>	<b>\$26,259.75</b>

**REVENUE SHARING**

<b>RECEIPTS</b>	
Interest	\$254.23
Grants	15,082.00
Transfers from other funds	3,545.00
Balance Jan. 1, 1980	4.39
Investments	2,684.74
<b>Total Receipts, Cash, &amp; Investments</b>	<b>\$21,570.36</b>

<b>EXPENDITURES:</b>	
Governmental	0.00
Non Governmental (Transferred to other funds)	20,875.79
Cash Balance Dec. 31, 1980	1.92
Investments	692.65
<b>Total Exp. Cash &amp; Investments</b>	<b>21,570.36</b>

**SINKING FUND**

<b>RECEIPTS:</b>	
Transfer from other funds	\$17,330.79
Expenditure	17,330.79
<b>Balance Dec. 31, 1980</b>	<b>\$4.99</b>

**AUDITORS:**

Mary Ann Dhayer · Mildred Underwood · Hazel O'Donnel

**Cross Creek Twp. Financial Statement-1980  
Burgettstown Enterprise-March-18, 1981 Edition**

**CROSS CREEK IS SUED  
BY RECEIVER OF BANK**

Harry G. Wilson, receiver for the Lincoln National Bank of Avella has filed two suits totaling \$55,000 against Cross Creek township in the Federal court at Pittsburgh.

The suits are an attempt to collect two loans to the township made, Wilson alleges, after supervisors of the township authorized the loans.

The bank closed February 26, 1931, on orders from the board of directors. Wilson was appointed receiver by the Comptroller of Currency.

Wilson named the supervisors as J. E. Ranft, J. W. Gillespie and J. E. Adamson. He claims the bank made two loans to the township, one July 2, 1930, for \$35,000 and another December 1, 1930, for \$20,000. Wilson claims the supervisors authorized the loans after the bank closed. Wilson charges he attempted to collect the loans and payment was refused.

**Cross Creek Twp. Is Sued by Receiver of Avella Lincoln Bank  
Burgettstown Enterprise-September 10, 1931 Edition**



**GRAND JURY INDICTS  
MEN OF LOCAL AREA**

L. M. Irwin, former cashier of the Lincoln National Bank of Avella, which closed its doors several months ago, was indicted by the Washington county grand jury on a charge of embezzlement on Thursday of last week.

The indictment contained 39 counts. The charges were brought against the former banker by the road supervisors of Cross Creek township. Irwin had been the treasurer of the township board at one time. His trial is set for the February term of court.

Veterans of the Early American Wars who are buried in

Cross Creek Graveyard

War of the Revolution

Jonas Amspoker  
Benjamin Bebout  
James Boggs  
Abraham Berkaw (Brokaw)  
Charles Campbell  
John Campbell  
William Campbell  
James Cook  
Robert Curry  
John Dagon  
John De France  
James Edgar  
James Fleming  
Robert Fleming  
John Gardner

Moses Hays  
Thomas Hays  
Henry Graham  
John Johnston  
Peter Linville  
Aaron Lyle  
David Lyle  
John Lyle  
Adam Martin  
John McCalmont  
Robert McCready  
John McKibben  
Samuel McKibben  
Hughes Newell  
William Patterson  
Stephen Perrine

Samuel Ramsey  
James Reed  
Joseph Reed  
William Rennolls (Reynolds)  
Andrew Ritchie  
James Stephenson  
John Stephenson  
John Stevenson Sr  
John Stevenson Jr  
John Sutherland  
Isaac Van Ordstrand  
Joseph Vance  
William Vance  
Moses Wallace  
John Wilkin

Margaret Andover, Army Nurse

War of 1812

Aaron Buxton  
Walter Craig  
Abraham Croner  
Robert Campbell  
Joseph Corbin  
Paul Cummins  
Archibald Curry  
Robert Curry, Sr

James Edgar  
Humphrey Fullerton  
Robert Futhey  
John Griffin  
Hugh Lee  
Moses Lyle  
David Paschal  
James Patterson

William Russell  
John M Smith  
Jessee Spencer  
Thomas Stephenson  
James Stephenson  
John Vance  
William Vance  
John Marquis

Indian Wars

Jacob Buxton Sr  
Jacob Buxton Jr  
Christopher Bable  
Thomas Crawford

Robert Curry Sr  
Thomas Griffith  
James Henwood  
William Marshall

John Marquis  
Samuel McKibben  
William Stephenson  
John Stephenson

*Completed*  
*July 18, 1988*

GEORGE WASHINGTON CHAPTER - SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION  
47 REVOLUTIONARY SOLDIERS BURIED IN CROSS CREEK CEMETERY

LAST NAME	1ST NAME	RANK	BORN	DIED	GRAVE MARKER	SPOUSE MAIDEN NAME	1ST NAME	BORN	DIED
AMSPOKER	JONES		1740	1796	YES				
ANDOVER	MARGARET	NURSE	1743	1849	NO				
BEBOUT	BENJAMIN		1759	1858	YES	MORLETT (MARLETT)	HANNAH	1764	1830
BOGGS	JAMES	CAPT	1730	1805	YES	BROWN	SARAH	-?-	1819
BROKAW (BERKAW)	ABRAHAM		1728	1810	NO				
CAMPBELL	CHARLES		1751	1819	YES	RANKIN	ABIGAIL		
CAMPBELL	JOHN		1744	1807	YES	HAMMOND	MARY	1753	1817
CAMPBELL	WILLIAM		1739	1802	NO	EVANS	ELIZABETH		
COOK	JAMES	CAPT	1757	1830	YES	(1ST) GARRATT (2ND) MC COMBS	ESTHER MATILDA	1744 1777	1793 1833
CURRY	ROBERT		1754	1838	YES	MC KEEN	ISABEL	1760	1856
DAGON	JOHN				NO				
DE FRANCE	JOHN		1760	1838	NO	(1ST) GIBBON (2ND) RAMSEY	JANE MARTHA		1774 1856
EDGAR	JAMES		1745	1814	YES	(1ST) SMILEY (2ND) STEVENSON	MARTHA MARY	1736 1738	1783 1806
FLEMING	JAMES		1760	1830	YES	GLENN	JANE		
FLEMING	ROBERT		1706	1802	YES		JANE (JANNETT)	1710	1805
GARDNER	JOHN		1757	1821	YES	CLARK	ELIZABETH	1758	1855
HAYS	MOSES		1760	1837	YES	PETERSON	JEMIMA	1765	1837
HAYS	THOMAS		1745	1828	YES		MARY	-?-	1790
HENERY (HENRY)	GRAHAM		1740	1827	YES		MARY	1744	1814
JOHNSTON	JOHN	CAPT	1721	1821	NO		MOLLY	1760	1855
LINVILLE	PETER		1749	1834	NO				
LYLE	AARON		1759	1825	YES	MOORE	ELEANOR	1758	1849
LYLE	DAVID		1761	1791	NO				
LYLE	JOHN	CAPT	1752	1826	YES	HAYS	ELIZABETH	1756	1849
MARTIN	ADAM		1746	1816	NO				
MC CALMONT	JOHN		1745	1817	YES	LIVINGSTON	MARY	1748	1814
MC CREADY	ROBERT		1752	1846	YES	LEVINS	ANN	1759	1836
MC KIBBEN	JOHN				NO				
MC KIBBEN	SAMUEL		1759	1836	YES		MARY	1760	1835
NEWELL	HUGHEY		1744	1810	YES				
PATTERSON	WILLIAM	CAPT	1732	1818	YES	(1ST) SCOTT (2ND) BROWN	ROSANNA ELIZABETH	-?- 1747	1769 1826
PERRINE	STEPHEN		1759	1847	YES	WORTMAN	ANNA MARY	1772	1861
RAMSEY	SAMUEL		1753	1813	YES				
REED	JAMES		1766	1817	YES	REED	ELIZABETH	1774	1858
REED	JOSEPH		1757	1832	NO	REED	AGNES	1770	1813
RENNOLLS (REYNOLDS)	WILLIAM		-?-	1800	NO				
RITCHIE	ANDREW		1753	1838	YES	CAMPBELL	ANN	1755	1834
STEPHENSON	JAMES		1738	1813	NO	MC KEEVER	RACHEL	-?-	1788
STEPHENSON	JOHN		1746	1821	YES	HUSTON	MARGARET	1755	1839
STEVENSON	JOHN SR.		1729	1819	YES	MC COMBS	JANE (JEAN)	1735	1821
STEVENSON	JOHN JR.		1761	1847	YES	MC COMBS	MARY	1761	1834
SUTHERLAND	JOHN		1751	1842	YES	NORRIS	SUSAN	1758	1835
VAN ORDSTRAND	ISAAC		1757	1834	YES		ANN	1770	1810
VANCE	JOSEPH	COL	1750	1832	YES	(1ST) (2ND) (3RD) MOORE	ANNE MARY	1751 1783	1788 1851
VANCE	WILLIAM	MAJOR	1718	1788	YES	WILKERSON	MARY		
WALLACE	MOSES		1730	1792	NO				
WILKIN	JOHN		1756	1818	YES	(1ST) ARMITAGE (2ND) EDGAR	REBECCA CATHERINE	-?- 1766	1787 1841

The Men's Community club of Cross Creek will present the "Watermelon Minstrel" in the Cross Creek Presbyterian church Friday evening, March 31 at 8 p. m. Proceeds from the minstrel show will be used to develop the Community Recreation Center in Cross Creek. The center is open each week day evening from 7 to 11 p. m., and there are games and entertainments for adults and children of all ages, such as ping pong, dart ball, etc.

Howard Dunbar, well known postal employee will serve as interlocutor for the show which is being directed by Mrs. Casey Rankin and Mrs. Ellis Zellars. Jane McCreery will be pianist.

Featured numbers on the program will be:

"Polly Wolly Doodle by the chorus and L. Rankin.

"Dark Town Strutters' Ball"-Girls' Quartet.

"April Showers"-O. Jay Walker and chorus.

"Old Black Joe"-John Lee and chorus.

"Lil' Liza Jane"-Bill Farner and chorus.

Selection by male quartet.

"What Did Delaware?"-chorus

"Shortnin' Bread"-Pete Malone and chorus.

"Spike Jones' Specialty" Jack Angerman.

"Bee Song"-chorus

Selection by male quartet.

"Oh Susanna"-finale by entire chorus.

The cast for the show will include: Interlocutor-Howard Dunbar.

Endmen - Sam Findling Jay Walker, Lee Rankin, Bill Farner, Jim O'Donnell, Burns Lee.

Oddman-Don Townsend.

Chorus-Don Townsend, Bill Rankin, Mick Findling, Dick Lee, Pete Malone, Ellis Zellars, Maynard Rea, Fred Walker, Casey Rankin, Bob Collett, Harlon Bell and David Brown.

Pianist-Jane McCreery.

Girls' Quartet - Ruth Dunbar, Ruth Huber, Marilyn Smith and Martha June Zellars.



Pictured above are: Howard Dunbar, Interlocutor, 2nd row—Jay Walker, Jack Angerman (student pastor) and Bill Farner.



Brick house in Cross Creek Village, built circa 1800.  
The home of Rev. John Stockton, D.D.



Lee Family Farm-Cross Creek, PA

**18 Acres and 41 Perches of Land For Sale !**

The land is situated in Cross Crack town-  
ship, one mile north-east of Patterson's  
Mills, Wash. Co., Pa.

The improvements are a

*Two Story Log House,*

LOG STABLE, GOOD ORCHARD,

AND VINEYARD,

and a never-falling spring of good Water.

THOMAS ANDREWS,  
Patterson's Mills, Pa.

4-9

**GOOD GAS STRIKE ON  
FARM AT CROSS CREEK**

CROSS CREEK—A good gas strike was made on the Samuel S. Dunbar farm here. An open flow of 500,000 cubic feet is reported with pays in the Big Injun, Berea and Hundred Foot sands. Another location will be made on the lease, which contains 100 acres.





## A stone from Pattersons Mill

**By Kathryn Campbell Slasor**  
For The Enterprise

A life of sweet retirement, has this old millstone, as it nestles during the entire spring, summer and autumn months in the roadside flower garden of Mrs. Carrie Paris, of Cedar Grove, Cross Creek Township, near Avella.

The grain-grooved stone probably helped to grind for dozens of farmers in the Pattersons Mill area from the year 1794, when the mill was built, until its demise many years later.

It is believed by some of the older residents that the mill operated until the destructive floods of the year 1912. Situated as they were along streams, the mills were the first catastrophies of such flooding.

Thomas, son of settler William Patterson, built the mill the same year he erected the huge stone house that stood until a few years ago.

Several generations of Pattersons lived there for nearly two hundred years. The mill was a grist and flour mill.

History has it that General Thomas Patterson himself tied together rafts laden with flour ground at the mill, and accompanied his precious load down Cross Creek, into the Ohio and Mississipp-

pi rivers, to his destination of New Orleans.

The stone was found by Emanuel Paris and his crew who were working on the water line in the Pattersons Mill area. The line was being extended to Cedar Grove.

In digging under the road, the stone was discovered and preserved by Emanuel and his wife, Carrie, who still lives on the bend in the Cedar Grove Road. Emanuel passed away in 1989.

The stone was found around 1974. Since Carrie and Emanuel owned the former James Patterson farm when the stone was uncovered, it seemed that the stone had found a permanent home in the Paris yard next to the road.

Carrie has a colorful assortment of perennials inside the split rail fence where the millstone is mounted. All summer long, the colors change, as one flower has its season, and fades away to make space for another of a different hue.

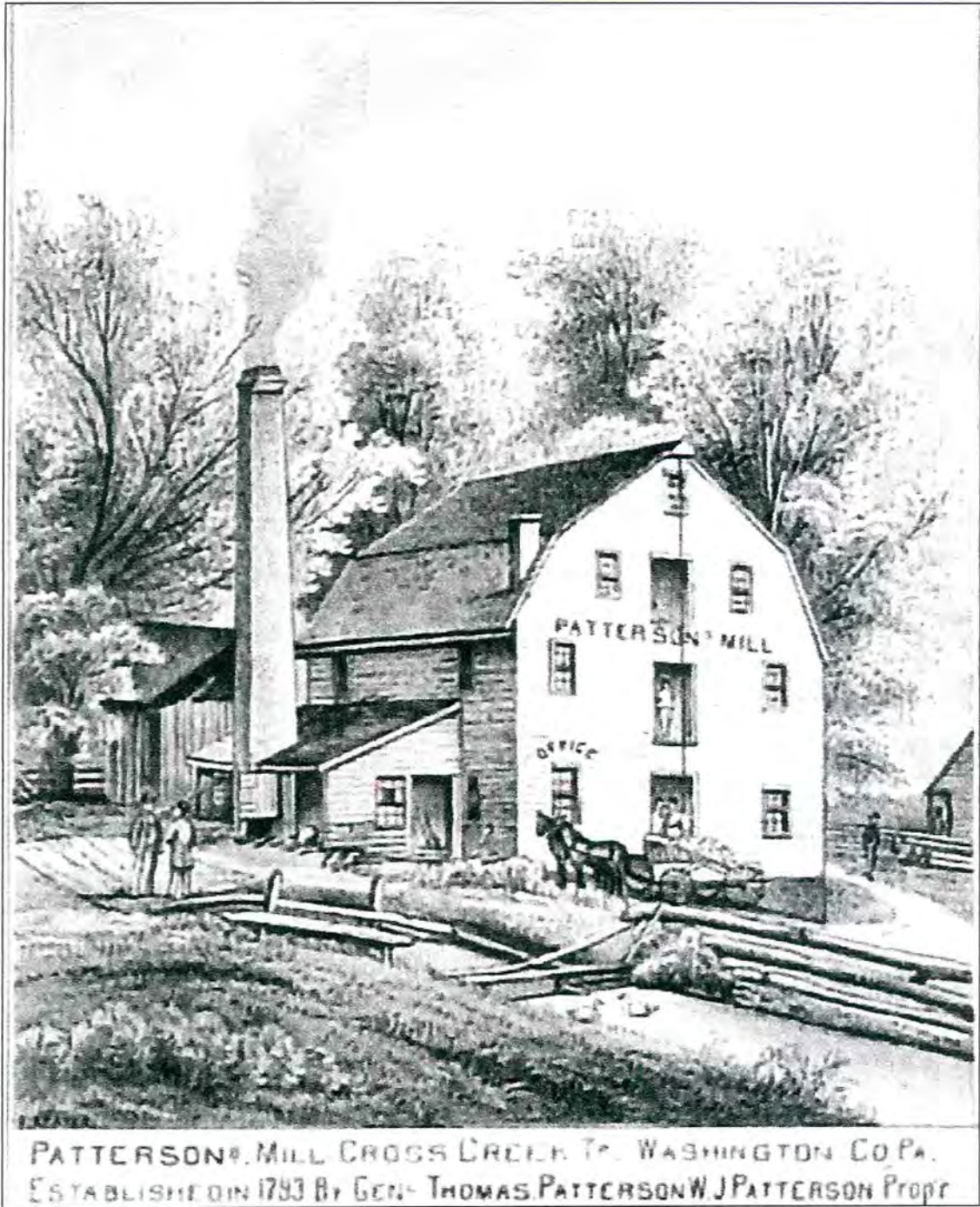
Thus the area around the stone is ever changing. Flowers include Evening Primroses, Veronica, Lupine, Peonies, Lamb's Ear, Daisies, Iris, Day Lilies, Oriental Poppies, Candytuft, Snapdragons and others.

Burgettstown Enterprise  
December 7, 1994 Edition



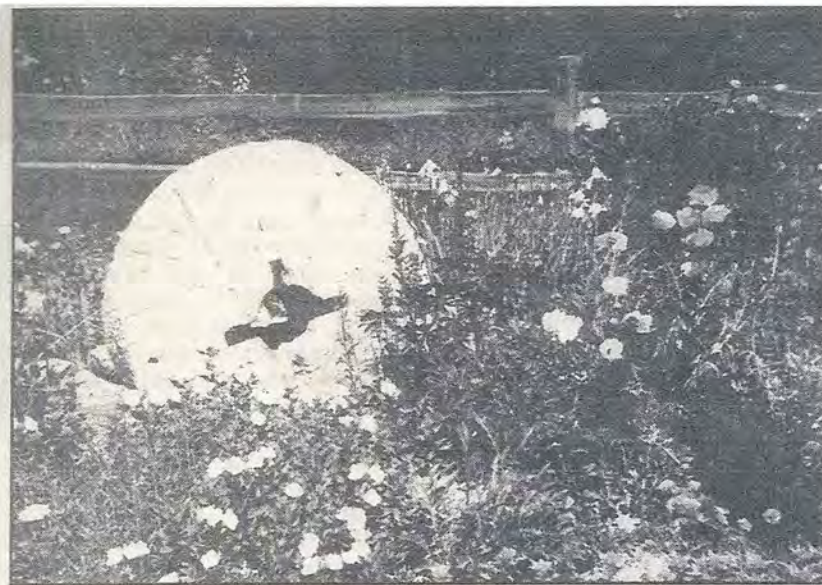
**Pattersons Mills-circa 1920**

*Fort Vance Historical Society*



**Pattersons Mill**  
**Caldwell Atlas of Washington County**

*Fort Vance Historical Society*



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**Pattersons Mill**  
**The Enterprise-Unknown Edition**

*Fort Vance Historical Society*



**Pattersons Mills Post Office-1899**

Notice the canceled stamp.

*Fort Vance Historical Society*

# Cross Creek

By William A. White

Press Staff Writer

CROSS CREEK, Pa.—The name of this small community in Washington County not far from Burgettstown, as might naturally be suspected, comes from a creek.

The stream flows through Cross Creek Township, wends its way to the Ohio River near Wellsburg, W. Va. But a creek that empties into the river from the Ohio side opposite the local stream's juncture really provided the name.

Presumably when settlers were defying Indians to make homes in this area over 175 years ago the stream at what is now Wellsburg was referred to as "the creek across," and from this the name Cross Creek was derived.

Cross Creek Township took the creek's name when it was erected, and when a little settlement grew around historic Cross Creek Presbyterian Church here, it also took the name.

**So a creek, a township, a town settlement and a church all owe their names to a creek and an expression.**

## Widely Known for Turkey Dinners

The Cross Creek Presbyterian Church, somewhat of a community gathering spot as well as a place of worship, is widely known for chicken and turkey dinners held annually. They are held each Spring and Fall—turkey in Spring, chicken in Fall, according to Mrs.



H. S. Lee, whose late husband's ancestors helped pioneer the community.

Few churches in Western Pennsylvania are older than Cross Creek Presbyterian. Founded by Scotch-Irish, it was a log structure in 1779, but religious services were being held before that at Vance's Fort, a mile away from here. The fort was a shelter and protection for settlers when Indians were on a rampage.

No minister preached here before 1778, when Rev. James Powers delivered a sermon under an oak tree near the fort. Sermons of Rev. John McMillan, "Apostle of the West," are said to have inspired the building of the first church in 1779.

A farmer, Robert McCready, Scotch immigrant who fought for the Colonies in the Revolution, is credited with having selected the site for the church and with driving the first stake for the original log building.

## Church Site Sold for \$16

The six-acre plot on which it was located—and it is still at the same spot—was sold to the congregation for \$16 by Henry Graham and his wife in 1895, or at least this is when the sale was recorded.

Rev. Thomas Conboy Jr. is minister of the congregation, now in its fifth church. The present one was built in 1867, is a two-story brick with the first floor given over to Sunday school, dinners, a Grange and other community gatherings.

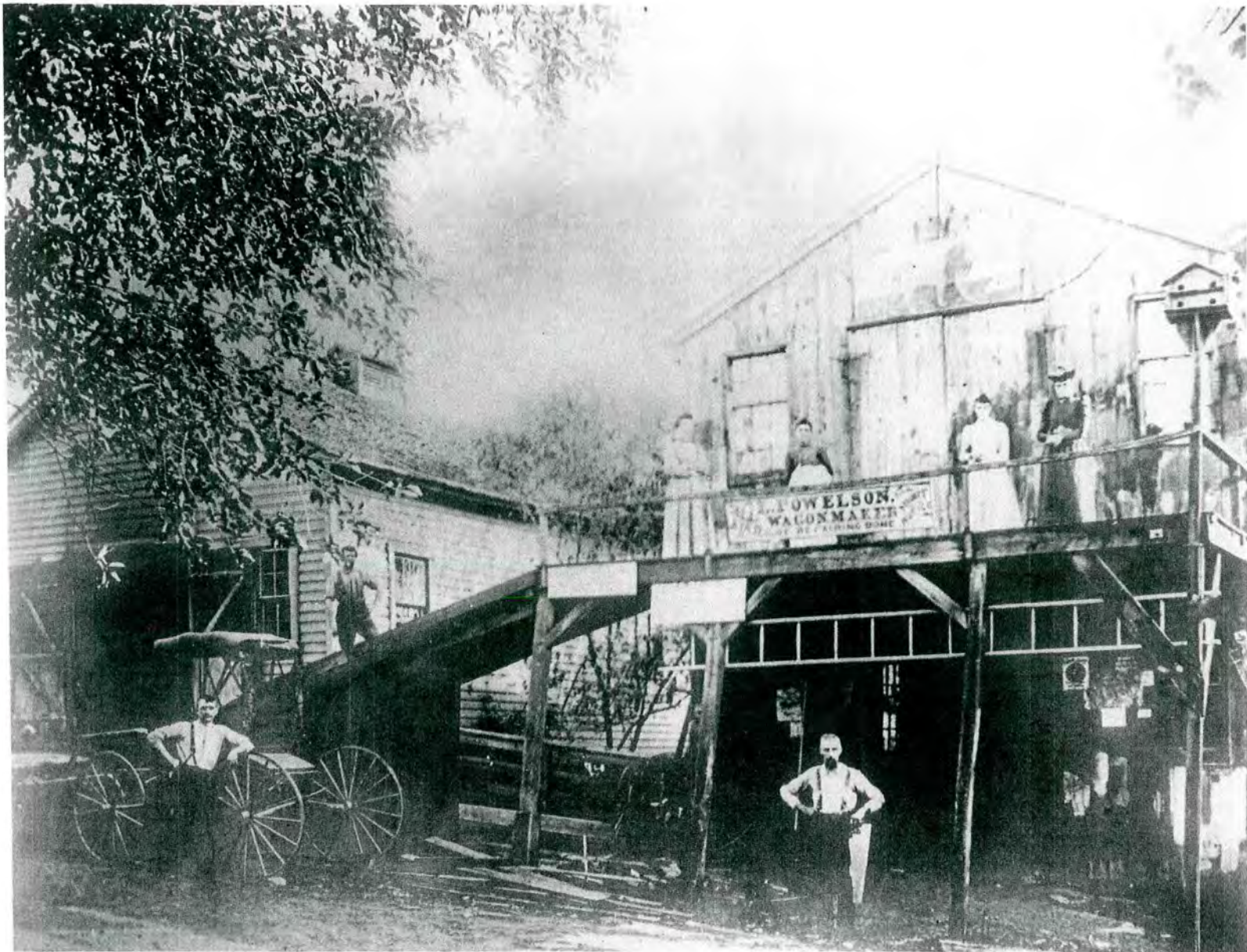
The community has a small postoffice, local businesses. But largely it is a community of homes, most of them old but modernized, built around a church on a road off Route 28 going to Avella.

Cross Creek makes no elaborate claims to fame, but it has a historic background few places boast.

Cross Creek, PA  
Pittsburgh Press-Unknown Date



**Rural Delivery-Cross Creek, PA**



### **Powelson Buggy Shop**

**This buggy shop stood on the property of Wayne Cook.**

The buggies were built on the bottom floor and then the buggies were moved up the ramp to be painted.

The building burned in 1906 or 1907.

**Balcony, L-R:** Laura Powelson (Pettit), Lib Scott, Maggie Rob, and Della Powelson.

**Ramp:** Thomas Hindman. **Front:** Lewis Powelson. **Near buggy:** Jim Crower.

*Fort Vance Historical Society*



L. S. Saxton called with us last week.

How will this do for corn weather, ye calamity howlers?

Since Dr. S. J. Hindman has located in Colliers he has put two undertakers out of business.

James Freshwater had a dog to hang itself last week. The hot weather and thoughts of rabbies no doubt unhinged it's mind.

The Campbell reunion passed off pleasantly, harmoniously, sumptuously, oratorically, musically and otherwise. The most exciting event on the day of the reunion was a horse race between Amaziah Dornan and Thomas Ralston. When Amaziah heard Thomas coming at a rattling clip the fire of youth began coursing through his veins like cider through a straw (with a boy at t'other end) and he applied the spur with so much vigor that he more than held his own to a finish.

They are going to fix up the Ryland mill at Colliers station in first rate condition with full roller process. It will be a stock company. They have issued 3,500 in stock; about 3,000 of the same have already been taken up. It is a good location <sup>carry</sup> <sup>to</sup> would think it better stock <sup>to</sup> <sup>be</sup> <sup>than</sup> either bank or railroad. The old millers used to do well by taking the tenth bushel, and now with increased facilities for grinding, they gobble the sixth bushel and look cross-eyed at your sacks.

Nick Hindman sold the dam of Minnie McGregor (214) with foal at foot for \$225. He offered her three years ago for \$15, but Minnie was practically in obscurity at that time. However, Nicholas is too good a diplomat to be hammering iron. He went up to the party he sold to and whispered in his ear, "I should have \$300 for this mare, but you let me name the colt and you can have her for \$225." The party snapped up the bait like a rock bass. We will see if the President will not send him as minister plenipotentiary to China. He does not coincide with McKinley's political views, but he would not allow so trivial a thing to interfere when he comes to weigh his true worth. Nick would make those pig tails think we were letting them down easy with the indemnity we ask. IMP.

**BASS SEASON JULY 10  
AT DINSMORE DAM**

The opening day of bass season at Dinsmore Reservoir will be July 10 beginning at 8 a.m. D.S.T. Following, the hours will be 4 a. m., until 11 p.m. D.S.T., unless scheduled otherwise, in which case notices will be posted indicating the change.

A limited number of permits will be available, and applications should be made at the Langeloth Water Company's filtration plant located near Bertha Station on the Burgettstown-Hanlin road. In order to avoid disappointment, it has been suggested not to delay making application until the last day before the opening of the season.

**Bass Season at Dinsmore Dam  
Burgettstown Enterprise-July 1, 1948**

# One Shot, Six Captured in Raids By Police Force on Three Stills; Wounded Man Taken After Escape

## Eastonville Is Scene of "Mountain Thriller."

### GANG BROUGHT TO PITTSBURGH

One man was shot and seriously wounded and six others were arrested by the police of Burgettstown, in a series of sensational raids at Eastonville, Pa., on three illicit stills Sunday night, it was learned last night, when the six prisoners were turned over to the Federal authorities here.

The wounded man, Joe Akson, 23 years old, escaped at the time the raid was made on a shanty where, the police say, he and Youa Iszyatish were conducting a still, and, though wounded severely in the hip, was not found until early yesterday morning, weak from the loss of blood, in the office of Dr. J. Hill at Cherry Valley, four miles from Eastonville. He had awakened the physician and requested aid. After notifying the police authorities, Dr. Hill sent the man to a Pittsburgh hospital, where he is under guard.

The five other men who are either charged with operating illicit stills or accused of "bootlegging," are John Cindric, Ivan Krostlec, Louis Prech, Joe Milanvich and Mike Milter. All were remanded, along with Iszyatish, to the county jail last night and will be arraigned before Federal Commissioner Roger Knox at 11 o'clock this morning. The six men held here and Akson, the wounded prisoner, are Croatians.

#### WOUNDED MAN ESCAPES.

The raids were planned by Chief of Police Joseph Neib of Burgettstown. With Patrolmen F. R. Crawford and William Schneider, Chief Neib swooped down upon a still alleged to have been operated by John Cindric and Mike Milter, on the Duncan farm, and also the one said to have been operated by Louis Prech and Joe Milanvich on an adjoining farm. At both places the officers found hundreds of gallons of raisin mash and much moonshine whisky ready for sale, and in one instance, bottled and corked. The prisoners were placed in jail and the still and other material seized as evidence.

Moving toward the Easton farm, the raiders approached a shanty in which Akson and Iszyatish were believed to have their still. Entering the shanty unexpectedly, the officers surprised both men. Iszyatish was overpowered, but, according to the officers, Akson showed fight, and succeeded in escaping. He was followed by Chief Neib, and when the fleeing moonshiner refused to halt, the chief opened fire from his revolver. Akson was seen to leap into the air after one shot, but continued running, and disappeared a few seconds later in a dense thicket. The officers searched the rest of Sunday night but failed to find him, and he was next heard of at the office of Dr. Hill, four miles distant, early yesterday morning.

#### BIGGEST STILL YET.

Three informations, according to the Federal officers, will be preferred against the seven men, charging the operation of illicit stills and "bootlegging."

The still conducted by Akson and Iszyatish is said to be the largest and most up-to-date yet unearthed in the campaign against illicit distillers in the Pittsburgh district.

The officers described it as a 50-gallon affair, and asserted that more than 400 gallons of mash, ready for distillation, together with scores of gallons of the finished moonshine whisky, were found in the shanty.

Special agents of the department of justice today are expected to investigate a large amount of foreign-language pamphlets and literature found on the prisoners. In an effort to determine whether it is Red propaganda.

## Harmonists' patriarch dies in unique town

By Len Barcoucky  
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

Journalist Sara Jane Clarke provided one of the last written descriptions of George Rapp when she reported on the Harmonist town of Economy in the summer of 1847.

The German-born Rapp had led members of the communitarian Harmony Society on their multiple treks from Europe to three different locations in the New World. The last town Rapp founded, Economy, on the banks of the Ohio River, is part of present-day Ambridge.

"The Patriarch, Rapp, is still living and, with his quaint garb and flowing white beard, is a most respectable and Abrahamish-looking personage," she wrote in a story that appeared Aug. 9, 1847, in *The Pittsburgh Daily Gazette*. Clarke, who grew up as the daughter of a doctor in nearby New Brighton, wrote under the pen name Grace Greenwood. Her story about "The Economites" first appeared in a women's magazine called "The Home Journal."

"He must be very old, and has been quite famous in his time," she wrote. "I believe Byron speaks of him somewhere."

In his epic poem, "Don Juan," Lord Byron devoted two dozen lines to "Rapp the Harmonist" who "embargo'd marriage in his harmonious settlement ..."

Byron's reference was to the Harmonists' practice of celibacy, which flowed from their belief that they must keep themselves pure in preparation for the imminent return of Jesus. "In this unique town, though there is much industry, there is no bustle," Clarke wrote. "All is order and quietness, almost Sabbath-like repose."

She attributed that quietness to the "peculiar regulations of the society" that translated into a scarcity of children. "We hear not the musical laughter and prattle of childhood — nor the blow-

ing of penny trumpets, nor the beating of tin drums."

Clarke observed good and bad from that policy. "There are no dances and frolickings of youths and maidens on the village green, and no happy young bridegroom may be seen sitting in his porch, serenely smoking his meerschaum."

But neither were there drunkards or shrews. "In the chill night, no injured wife wanders without, flying from the brutalities of inebriated manhood — and

within no poor fellow is remorselessly [criticized] for the day's offenses."

No sooner had Clarke's story appeared than the *Gazette* reported cataclysmic change to the communal society. "George Rapp died at Economy" the newspaper reported on Aug. 11.

While the story said he was nearly 92 and passed away on Aug. 9, the commonly accepted date for his death is Aug. 7 at age 89.

"His influence was of no common kind, and exerted as it was, produced no common result," the *Gazette* story said. "What the effect of his death may be with the community among whom he presided, remains to be seen."

While they waited for the return of Jesus, society members continued to operate and invest in a variety of successful businesses, including railroads and oil drilling. Over the decades, however, Harmonist membership became smaller and smaller. It dissolved in 1906 when the last trustee sold off its remaining assets.

Much of what was the village of Economy is now part of a national historic district in Ambridge. About six acres that include many of the most significant Harmonist buildings are part of a state historic site operated by volunteers.

*Len Barcoucky: lbarcoucky@post-gazette.com or 724-773-0184. See more stories in this series by searching "Barcoucky" and "Eyewitness" at post-gazette.com.*



George Rapp

# BASKET PIC-NIC.

M

The pleasure of your Company is respectfully solicited at a PIC-NIC, to be held on Thursday, June 19, 1862, at

Stevenson's Grove, near Eldersville.

PLEASE ASSEMBLE AT TEN O'CLOCK, A. M.

## COMMITTEE:

Mr. D. C. McCuen,  
Y. J. Walker,  
S. Stevenson,  
J. Bell,  
W. Wheeler,  
Geo. Stevenson,  
R. Glenn,  
W. Pollock,  
Jas. Walker,  
J. Dean,  
W. A. Gibson,  
Jas. Anderson,  
J. Van Nordstrand,  
L. M. Steen,  
W. H. Lawrence,  
W. E. Steen,  
J. Wilson.

Miss Mollie Robinson,  
Nellie Cosgrove,  
Mannie Crall,  
Mollie Stevenson,  
Jemima Wells,  
Lizzie Porter,  
Lind Scott,  
Sallie Brown,  
Mollie Cassidy,  
Mantie Hooker,  
Ellen McCuen,  
Mollie Steen,  
Hannah E. Walker,  
Lizzie Steen,  
Annie Gardner,  
Annie Walker,  
Cynthia Porter.

Announcing the  
**GRAND OPENING FRIDAY, JANUARY 11**

of the

**ELDERSVILLE AUCTION COMPANY**

Roy E. Meadows, Manager

in the

**GOLDEN HORSESHOE BARN**

Follow the signs— $\frac{1}{4}$  Mile Off the  
Eldersville-Follansbee Road

NEW and USED MERCHANDISE  
FURNITURE — TOYS — APPLIANCES

*We sell on consignment*

Auction Sale Every Friday Night — 7 to 12

J-10, 17

**Eldersville Auction Company**  
**Burgettstown Enterprise-January 3, 1957 Edition**

## Eldersville Grads Meet Again

About 75 former students and teachers of the old Eldersville Normal School established 60 years ago, attended a reunion Saturday at McDonald where old friendships were renewed. Officers were elected and it was decided to hold another reunion June 20, 1941. Officers elected were: President, Mrs. Kathryn Geary Wood, of McDonald; secretary, Sara Pettibon, of Midway and treasurer, Mrs. Anna Pyle Malone, of Sewickley.

Eldersville Normal School flourished from the year 1881 to 1914 when it was discontinued. The last teacher was Eliza Scott, now of Steubenville, a well known historian. Mr. Scott was present at the meeting Saturday and gave a short talk in which he stated that such events as reunions of this kind always brought forth many pleasant surprises such as he had on Saturday in meeting many of his former students and friends. "Eldersville Normal School still lives," he said, "its influence being felt all over the country as the students and teachers who attended there scattered to many distant points, even foreign lands."

Mrs. Adda Stevenson, president of the reunion committee, was in charge of the program and she was ably assisted by Mrs. Reva McCracken Saxton, Mrs. D. C. Brown and others.

Following the lunch, Mrs. Mayme Ferguson Weir sang several solos. Group singing from sons of Stephen Foster was directed by Mrs. Kathryn Woods.

Among the former teachers present Saturday were Attorney N. R. Criss, of Pittsburgh, now a member of the Pittsburgh School Board and also solicitor for the Pittsburgh district; Rev. J. C. Carpenter, now of Crafton, and Eliza Scott of Steubenville. A letter was read from Edna Fulton Wyeth, Clearwater, Fla., a former student.

Many former students present failed to register. Those registering follow: Edna E. McCracken, Burgettstown R.D. 2; Mrs. W. S. Lowry, Mrs. Bess Ringler Huffman, Wellsburg, R. D.; Mrs. Martha Sanders Fowler, Wellsburg; Martha McCorkle McClurg, Imperial; Ada Dowden McGregor, Washington; Mrs. Winifred McCleary Baker, Washington, R.D. 4; Nettie Snodgrass Baker, Clinton, R.D. 1; Myrtle Moore, McDonald; Mrs. Kathryn Geary Woods, McDonald; Laura L. Pettibon, Sara Pettibon, Midway; Mrs. Jessie Brown Vance, Independence; Mrs. Anna Sutherland Irwin and R. L. Irwin, Avella; Mrs. Nettie Cooper Brown, McDonald; Mrs. Dora Smith Bowers, Wilkinsburg; Mrs. Adda Stevenson McEwen, McDonald R. D.; Mrs. Effie Noah Welch, Slovan; Anna Pyle Malone, Sewickley; Mary McCarrell, Florence; Blanche Fullerton, Brooklyn, N.Y.; Mrs. Rena McCracken Saxton, New Wilmington; Mrs. Flora Milligan, Sewickley; J. E. Campbell, Alwilda Campbell, Samuel S. Campbell, Avella; Mr. and Mrs. N. R. Criss, Pittsburgh; Rev. and Mrs. J. C. Carpenter, Crafton; Miss Mary M. Criss, Mrs. Hallie Criss Taylor, Eldersville; G. C. Melvin, Burgettstown; W. S. Pyle, Derry; Mrs. J. L. Anderson, Crafton; Mrs. Alice Wells Hawk, Carnegie; Mina Miller, Mrs. Georgianna McNary McMillan, Bridgeville; E. F. Westlake, W. P. Wilson, Washington. Among the guests registered who were interested in the normal school were W. N. Campbell, Haida Campbell, Corapolis; Sara Reed, West View; F. E. McClurg, Imperial; Miss Lizzie Murchland Mrs. Ardythe Trimmer, McDonald; Sara Bell Hanlin, Weirton; Helen Jane Ralston, Burgettstown; William Erb Mrs. James Weir, Mrs. Holley, Mrs. J. G. Scott, Mrs. Blanche Malone, no address.

## Eldersville Grads Meet Again

Burgettstown Enterprise-June 26, 1941 Edition

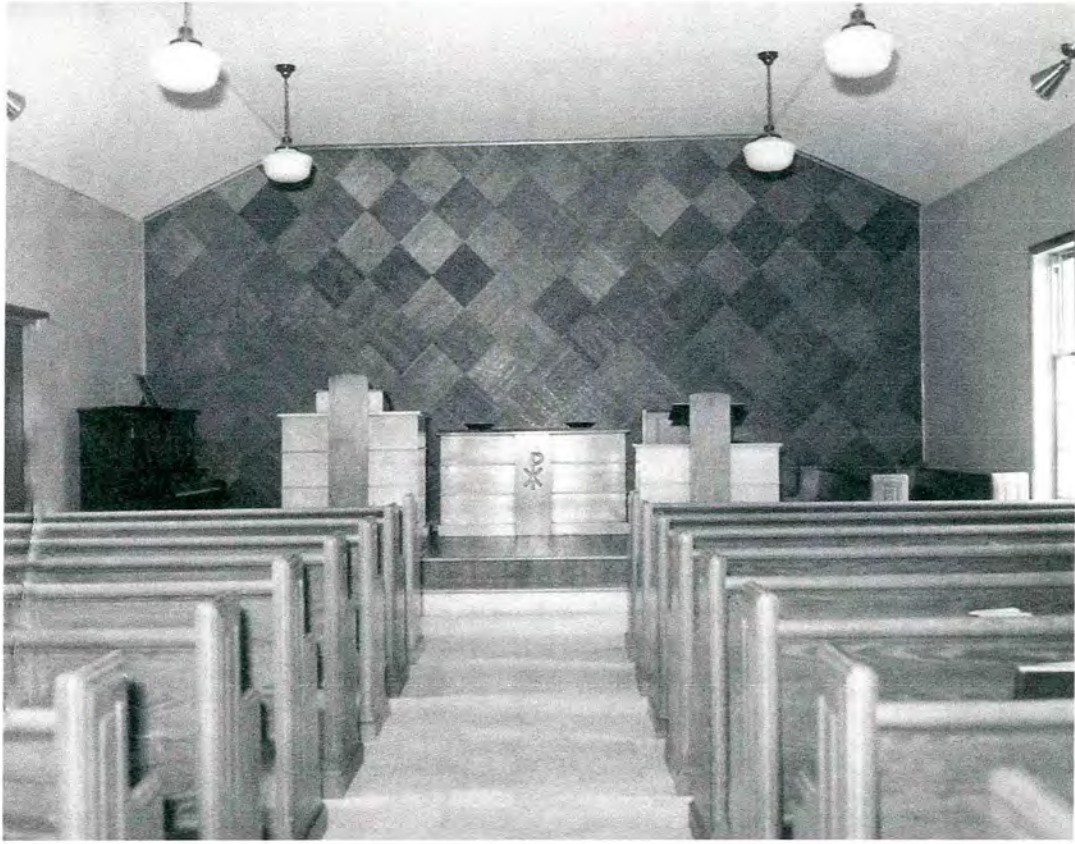


**James A. Scott and Issacc Cartmer, Eldersville, PA**





**Eldersville United Methodist Church**  
**Eldersville, PA**



**Eldersville United Methodist Church  
Eldersville, PA**

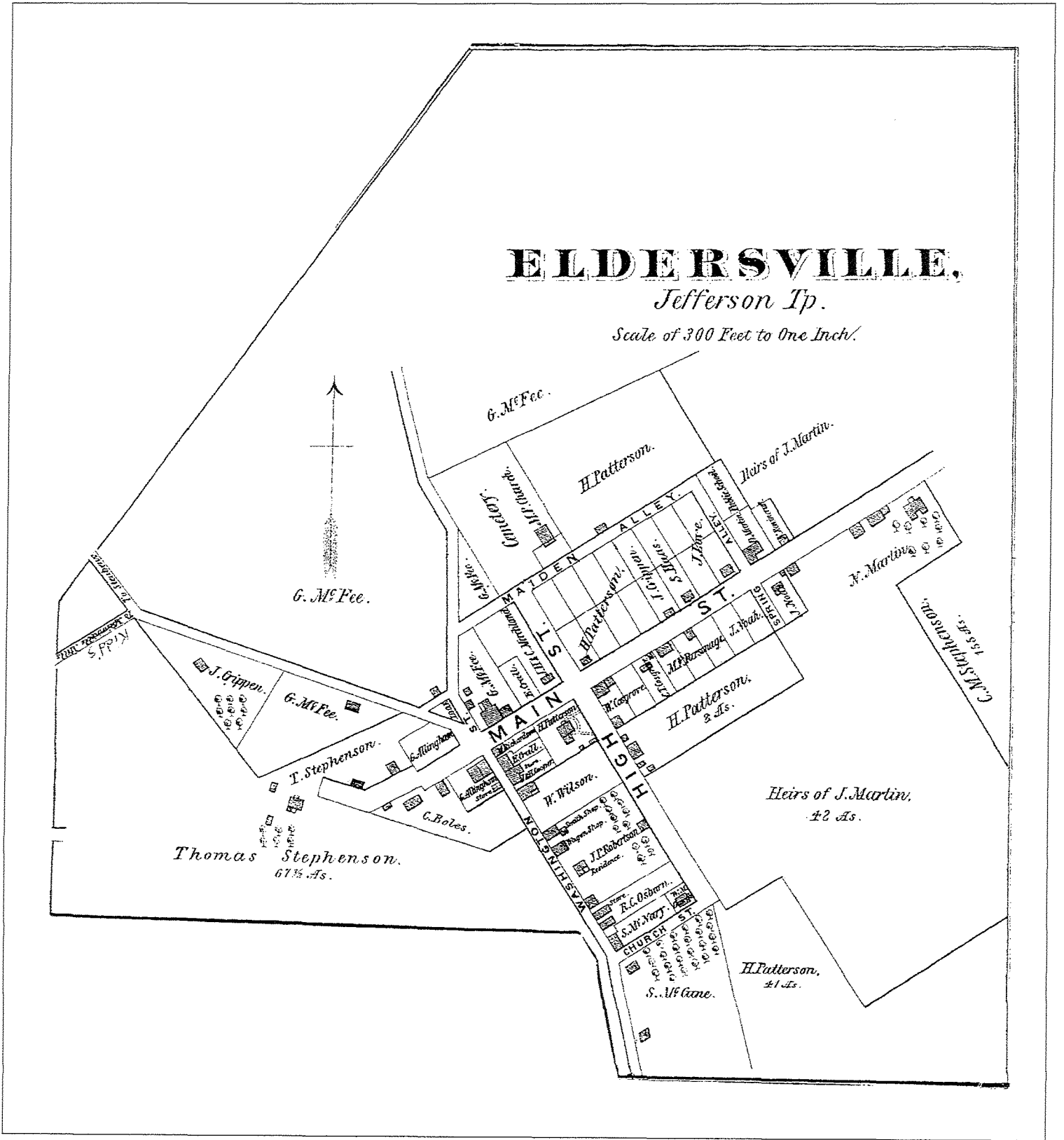


**Kidd's Mill**  
**Girls from Pittsburgh pose in front of hotel, circa 1900**

# ELDERSVILLE,

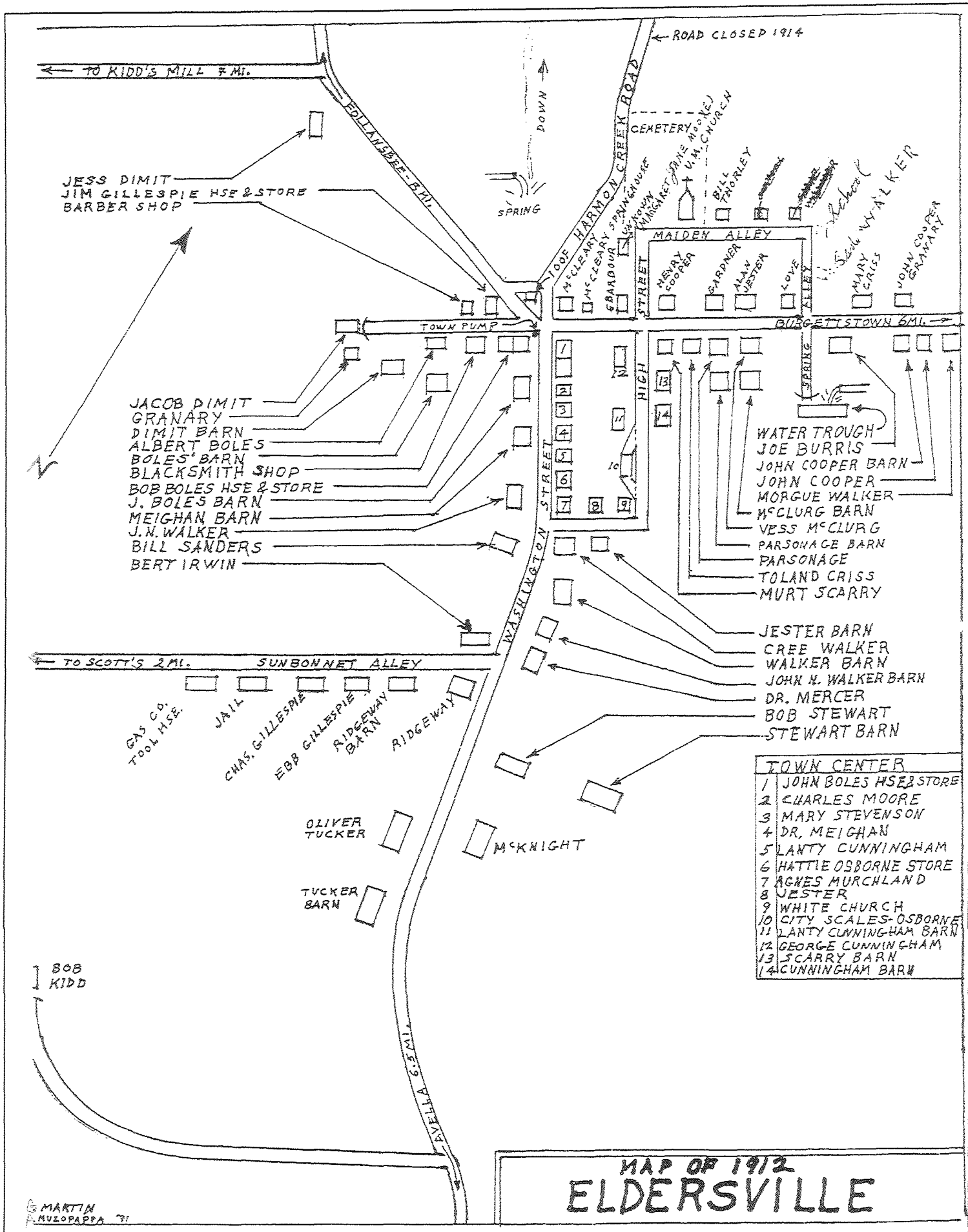
Jefferson Tp.

Scale of 300 Feet to One Inch.

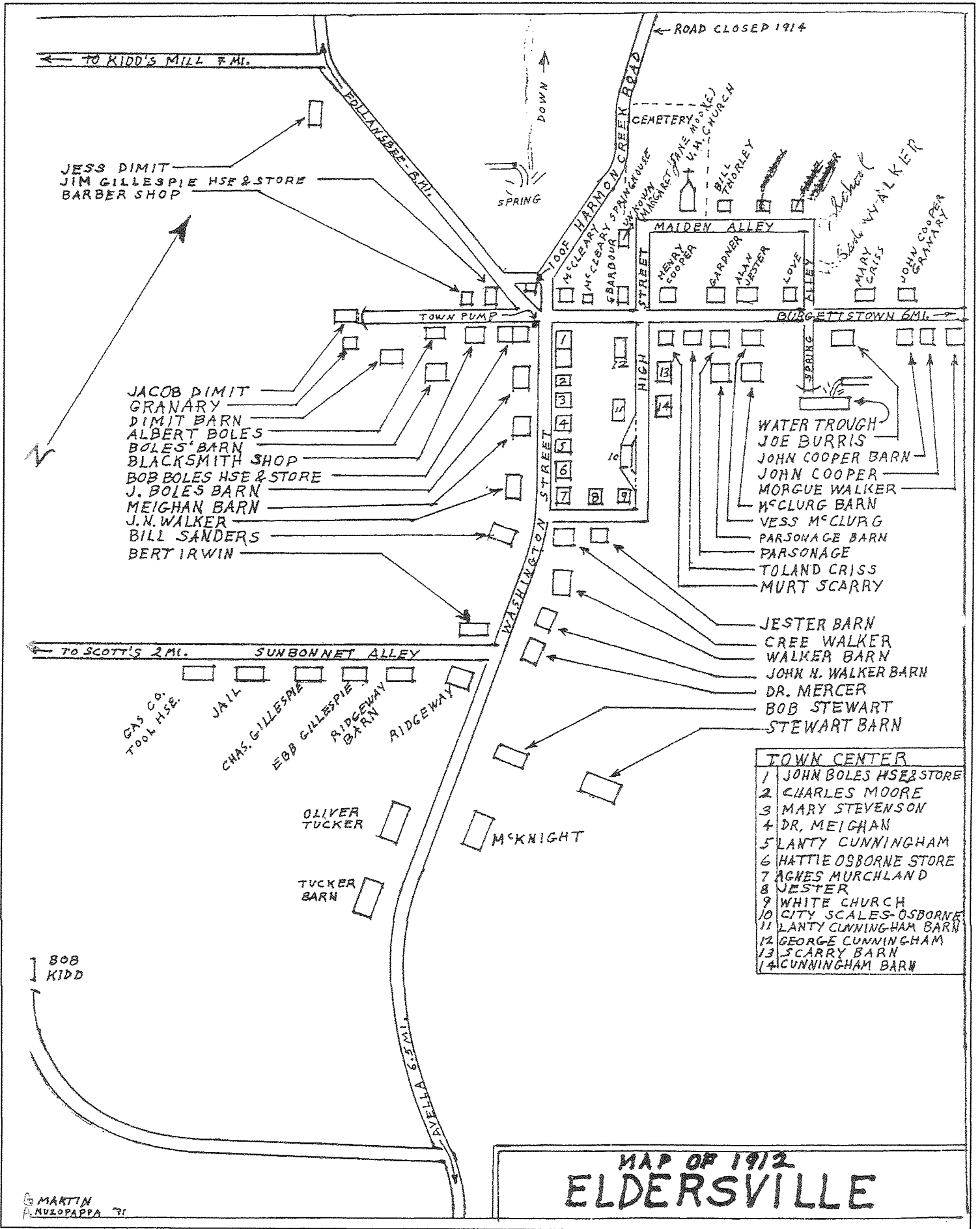


Eldersville Map

Courtesy of Jefferson Township History Society



Courtesy of Fort Vance Historical Society



Courtesy of Fort Vance Historical Society



1947 Tornado-Eldersville, PA



September 1947 Tornado-Eldersville, PA





September 1947 Tornado-Eldersville, PA



1947 Tornado-Eldersville, PA

## THE VILLAGE OF ELDERSVILLE

(Copied from a history of Washington County, published 1880-1883)

The land in this (Jefferson) township upon which Eldersville has been built was originally owned by Thomas Ward. He took up a tract of four hundred acres, which was surveyed September 15, 1784, and again March 7, 1785, and a patent granted April 6, 1792, under the title of Ward's Ward." In September, 1814, the plat of the village was laid out and surveyed by James Henry for Thomas Ward, and the first name given to the place was Wardsville.

Fifty-three lots were laid out, and the first store was built in the year the village was platted, John Miller being the proprietor. The tavern was kept by Thomas Elder, who purchased two acres of land of Ward. The old tavern building has but recently been torn down.

Thomas Elder's tavern license extended from 1809 to 1818, and through him the name of the village was changed from Wardsville to Eldersville.

The place now contains two churches, three stores, a hotel, a post office, two blacksmith shops, and a hall.

The post office was first established at Eldersville during the administration of President Jackson, George Elliott receiving the appointment of postmaster. He was followed by Andrew Cassidy, and James Patterson. Hugh Patterson was appointed during the presidency of Harrison, John Ellingham served under James K. Polk, and Hugh Patterson again under Zachariah Taylor. Then came George Hopkins, William Cosgrove, Thomas Cosgrove, Margaret Moore, and Robert Osborne, who have officiated as postmasters in the order given, Mr. Osborne at present holding the office.

For the space of three years the office at Eldersville was discontinued, but upon the completion of the Panhandle Railroad, it was re-established, and for the last four years a daily mail has been run. The merchants in Eldersville at the present time are J. and H.C. Cooper, A.C. Osburn, and George Ellingham.

On May 24, 1872, a lodge of Odd Fellows was instituted at Eldersville, in Jefferson township, called Cynosure Lodge, No. 805, with Dr. J.S. McCarroll as Noble Grand. In 1876 this society, in conjunction with the society of Grangers and a few private individuals who took shares in the project, built a town hall at Eldersville, at a cost of one thousand dollars. The upper rooms were fitted up for the use of the orders, and the first floor was converted into a large hall for public purposes. The present officers of the Odd Fellows Lodge are James Martin, N.G.; G.C. Miller, V.G.; Albert Elliott, Secretary; David Martin, Jr., Treasurer. The lodge now comprises forty-five members, and is in a very flourishing condition.

The Patrons of Husbandry are represented in Jefferson township, owning a part interest in the town hall at Eldersville. Under a dispensation granted August 13, 1874, the Jefferson Grange, No. 34, was instituted, the charter being received November 24, 1874, William L. Archer, Master.

## JEFFERSON TOWNSHIP SCHOOLS

(Copied from a History of Washington County published 1860-1863)

The history of the early schools of the territory now within the limits of Jefferson township is largely embodied in that of Cross Creek township, of which Jefferson was at one time a portion. A Mrs. Laird, in 1795 or 1796, taught a school in her own house on what was then known as the Robb farm, now owned by the estate of John Lee. There was a Mr. Creighton who about that time followed teaching. A school was taught in 1811 in an old log cabin in the Miller district, and situated on the waters of Cross Creek, down on the bottom by the creek, on the site of the log house afterwards built by Frederick Cline, now standing there unoccupied.

The teachers were John Neager, Richard Freeborn, and Andrew McCullough. Later a school was taught on the McCrea Hill, the property now owned by George Cunningham. The first frame school building was built in the township in 1813, on the west side of a branch of Cross Creek, upon land now owned by Hampton Walker, but then the property of Mrs. Jane Smith, a widow. This house remained in use until the enactment of the school law in 1834, and in the first year of its occupancy (1813) Mr. Israel Bebout, at present a resident of Cross Creek township, was a student within its walls. Among the teachers in this school were Andrew McCullough, who taught three years, Elder McDermott, who taught two years, and Cornelius Barber, who also was an instructor for two years.

James Campbell, son of Launcelot Campbell, of Smith township, taught several terms in Lee's school house, beginning in 1820. He was considered a good teacher, but teaching and study brought him to an early grave. Among the first terms taught by ex-superintendent Douthett, of Allegheny County, was one at the same place. The Hon. Robert Curry, of the Nebraska State Normal School, taught his first term in Jefferson township.

The first school buildings in Jefferson township erected under the school law of 1834 were at Eldersville and in the Melvin district. School districts were then formed throughout the township and numbered as follows; Miller District, No. 1; Melvin, No. 2; Eldersville, No. 3; Coles' No. 4; Lee, No. 5; Gardner, No. 6.

In the year 1863 the schools in the township numbered six, the teachers employed were six, with an aggregate enrollment of two hundred and fifty-six pupils. The amount of tax levied for school purposes was \$385.42; State appropriation, \$92.30; and the expenditures for the year, \$887.18.

In 1873 there were six schools in the township, six teachers were employed and two hundred and ten scholars in attendance. The amount of tax levied was \$1439.57; State appropriation, \$155.62; amount received from other sources, \$1533.82; and the amount expended during the year, \$1493.38.

In 1880 the districts in Jefferson township were six, the number of teachers six, and two hundred and ten pupils' names were enrolled. School tax levied was \$1167.31; amount received from the State, \$208.32; from all other sources, \$1663.03; and the total expenditures for the year were \$1410.85.

## PHYSICIANS OF JEFFERSON TOWNSHIP

(Copied from a History of Washington County published 1880-1883)

Concerning the early practice of medicine within the limits of what now comprises Jefferson township but little is known at the present time. Tradition however, informs us that the first settlers were principally of Irish and New England extraction, and that they carried with them to their new homes in this township many of the peculiar and superstitious ideas of their ancestors.

Probably owing to the sparseness of population and consequent difficulty of obtaining qualified medical aid, they relied to a great extent on their own efforts for treatment, and this treatment was generally administered by the most illiterate portion of the community, such as old ladies and men who were considered incompetent to pursue any other vocation. Many of those ancient pretenders of medical knowledge claimed supernatural powers to overcome disease. Witchcraft and enchantment entered largely into their practice. The seventh son or daughter was considered qualified by nature for medical practice. Laying on of hands, uttering senseless words to the sun, blowing breaths on sick persons, and many other foolish thoughts were called into action in this dreadful fight of our ancestors with disease.

Others relied on what were supposed to be more potent remedies - poultices made from black catskins, brains of black chickens, dried and pulverized snakes, potatoes carried in the breeches pocket, liquefied fishing worms, oil of white dogs, etc., covered themselves with glory by discomfiting the enemy disease, and, strange to relate, tradition has handed down from father to son those superstitious vagaries, and few of our most illiterate population at this late day. The onward march of knowledge was not long in expelling those foolish ideas of our fathers, and as early as 1790 or 1792 they began to realize the necessity of medical aid based on the higher plane of educational qualification, but as there was no resident physician prior to 1810, they were compelled to look abroad for that aid. Amongst those non-resident physicians, eminent in their day, who are entitled to honorable notice, and who labored in this region between 1790 and 1810 are ~~xxx~~ the following: Dr. John Cuthbertson, of Hopewell; Rev. Joseph Doddridge, M.D. of Wellsburg, W. Va.; Edward Smith, M.D. of Franklin, Va.; \_\_\_\_\_ Adams, M.D., of West Middletown, Pa.; Dr. Perry, of Burgettstown, Pa.; and Drs. McClain and Pittszer, of Flornace, Pa.

In the year 1810 two physicians located in or near the present site of Eldersville and opened offices here, but time has erased their names from the memory of the oldest inhabitants, at least so far as the writer can discover, and almost their memory; the only trace left is the recollection of our older inhabitants bearing their parents refer to the year 1810 as the year when the doctors first settled in Eldersville.

In the year 1817, Dr. David Pierce opened an office and practice here. In 1819 he removed three miles west of town, purchased the property now owned by W. Wells, and continued the practice of medicine with honor and distinction until death called him from the field in the year 1842. His remains rest in the village cemetery, and a plain marble slab perpetuates his vocation and the date of his death.

Dr. W. English in 1826, but only remained a few years, hence little is known concerning him at the present day.

Dr. McCabe settled here in 1837, and remained a short time, and has been lost sight of since his removal.

## Physicians (continued)

Dr. H.K. McClelland commenced the practice of medicine in Eldersville in the year 1842, and was eminently successful. As a practitioner he was bold and fearless, and always expressed his convictions plainly, regardless of feelings or results. He succeeded in amassing considerable wealth. His qualifications were of the highest order, and he made himself felt in the affairs of both State and church. He died in September, 1860, and his remains rest in the cemetery at Cross Creek village, this county.

Dr. Chalmers settled here A.D. 1848, and remained a number of years, but failed to secure a very large practice, and has long since removed to some other field of labor.

Dr. J.K. McCurdy settled here in 1855. He afterwards removed, but returned at the close of the war, and continued practice until 1872. He is now a resident of Cardville, this county.

Dr. J.L. Ray settled in Eldersville A.D. 1861, entered the army as assistant surgeon in 1863, returned to Eldersville and resumed practice in 1865. He removed to Cross Creek village in 1869, where he died in 1872.

Dr. A.C. McCollough commenced practice here in 1861, removed from here to Wellsburg, W. Va., in 1868, and from there to Newark, Ohio, in 1874, where he continued practice until his death in 1879.

Dr. J.W. Donan located here in 1872, and practiced until 1875, and then removed to South Pittsburgh, where he is now pursuing the vocation of his profession.

Dr. J.F. McCarrell located in the village of Eldersville A.D. 1865, and has continued the practice of medicine until the present time, and is at this time (Feb. 22, 1882) the only resident physician within the limits of Jefferson township.

# Eldersville, PA-Civil War

Aljo, Joshua  
Andrews, Abraham  
Andrews, Pete  
Barbour, Abraham, Jr.  
Boles, Francis Moore  
Cassidy, William Bramwell  
Corbin, Joseph A.  
Crall, William T.  
Cune, Franklin C.  
Dagon, Jacob  
Dimit, Elias  
Elliott, George  
Elliott, John  
Elliott, Thomas  
Faren, Brian  
Ferguson, James  
Freshwater, Archibald  
Freshwater, Daniel  
Freshwater, Robert Campbell  
Gardner, David. R.  
Gardner, John  
Gillespie, Andrew  
Gillespie, James  
Gillespie, James W.  
Gillespie, John D.  
Hanlin, David  
Hanlin, William  
Hayes, Thomas Clifford  
Hooker, George H.  
Jones, David  
Kelly, James  
Kelly, John  
Kelly, Thomas  
Klein, John Rinehart  
Klein, John Wilhelm  
Love, John  
Martin, David  
Martin, Hugh Lee  
Martin, James L.  
McCuen, Thomas  
McCurdy, Dr. James Kennedy  
Melvin, Samuel Jones  
Metcalf, Edward  
Metcalf, Norris  
Noah, James L.  
Noah, Samuel  
Osborn, Robert C  
Parks, John  
Ray, Dr. J. L.  
Reed, George Andrew  
Riddle, Robert  
Robertson, Lycurgus  
Schaffer, Charles  
Scott, Cassidy  
Scott, Samuel  
Scott, William  
Shields, Robert  
Smith, James  
Smith, Thomas J.  
Stephenson, Thomas J.  
Stevenson, Samuel  
Stockton, William A. F.  
Walker, William H. H  
Wheeler, Ulysses  
Wright, Darius  
Wright, Isaac  
Wright, Silas  
Wright, Thomas J.

## Still Destroyed In Eldersville Raid

A 500 to 600 gallon capacity homemade "Kentucky" type still was destroyed in a raid by constables Mike Robb of Smith township and Art Smith of Avella Tuesday afternoon, March 17, at 1:30 o'clock.

This long-forgotten type equipment was set up on the Victor DeFelice farm at Penowa, Jefferson township, five miles south of Eldersville.

When officers approached the farm, they nabbed James Hudson, R. D. 2, Avella, who just finished making a "run" of the corn liquor. The still was built with copper sides and a wooden top and when the "brew" was in the cooking process, oil torches were used for heat.

Constable Robb filed information before Squire E. A. Gillespie of Eldersville for a search warrant and for the arrest of Hudson.

Upon his arrest, Hudson, who leased the farm from Mr. DeFelice of Weirton, W. Va., explained that he was employed by an accomplice, supposedly of Aliquippa, who owned the machinery. Police are searching for the accomplice who escaped from the scene in a manner which Hudson described—"went with the birds."

Hudson has been released on \$1,000 bail until his appearance in court. The officers confiscated 20 gallons of liquor in the raid. Later, Robb, accompanied by County Detective Joseph Sobansky, returned to destroy the still.



# BASKET PIC-NIC

*M*

*The pleasure of your Company is respectfully solicited at a PIC-NIC, to be held on Thursday, June 19, 1862, at*

**Stevenson's Grove, near Eldersville.**

PLEASE ASSEMBLE AT TEN O'CLOCK, A. M.

## COMMITTEE:

Mr. D. C. McCuen,  
Y. J. Walker,  
S. Stevenson,  
J. Bell,  
W. Wheeler,  
Geo. Stevenson,  
R. Glenn,  
W. Pollock,  
Jas. Walker,  
J. Dean,  
W. A. Gibson,  
Jas. Anderson,  
J. Van Nordstrand,  
L. M. Steen,  
W. H. Lawrence,  
W. E. Steen,  
J. Wilson.

Miss Mollie Robinson,  
Nellie Cosgrove,  
Mannie Crall,  
Mollie Stevenson,  
Jemima Wells,  
Lizzie Porter,  
Lind Scott,  
Sallie Brown,  
Mollie Cassidy,  
Mantie Hooker,  
Ellen McCuen,  
Mollie Steen,  
Hannah E. Walker,  
Lizzie Steen,  
Annie Gardner,  
Annie Walker,  
Cynthia Porter.

Herald pr., Steubenville, O.

## Basket Pic-Nic

*M*

*The pleasure of your Company is Respectfully solicited at a PIC-NIC, to be Held on Thursday, June 19, 1862, at*  
**Stevenson's Grove, near Eldersville**  
**PLEASE ASSEMBLE AT 10 O'CLOCK, A.M.**



**Issacc Cartmer, Eldersville, PA**



**Christmas in the Village-1988**  
**Eldersville, PA**



Cheryl Ford, Debbie Carter, and Susan Bartoletti



Patty Findling and Susan Bartoletti

**Christmas in the Village  
Unknown Year**

# Christmas in the Village of Eldersville

Eldersville will host its 28th annual Christmas in the Village Craft Festival from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Nov. 6-8.

The patriotic theme is "Home for Christmas," with the village decorated in red, white and blue.

Festivalgoers will get a chance to walk around the historic village to visit each location for crafts and food. There will be more than 50 crafters, plus a variety of homemade meals and food items, including kettle corn at the fire hall and a chili cook-off at the Methodist church.

In addition to the Jefferson Township Fire Department and Auxiliary, Eldersville Methodist Church and Christmas in the Village, other participating nonprofits include the Jefferson Township Historical Society and Cornerstone Mennonite Church and School.

Breakfast with Santa Claus will be held at 8:30 a.m. Nov. 7 at the fire hall, and children can visit with Santa and Mrs. Claus Saturday afternoon and



Children take a ride on the handcrafted Village Express Train during last year's Christmas in the Village Craft Festival.

all day Sunday at the grade school. There also will be a children's tent with free activities and a playground operated by the staff of Burgettstown Community Library.

A handcrafted wooden Village Express Train will be free for children to ride, and horse-

drawn carriage rides will be available for a nominal fee.

The parade, which begins at noon Nov. 7, will feature fire trucks, the Burgettstown High School band, dance teams, Scouts, floats, antique automobiles and horse.

There also will be a photo

contest and children's art display in the grade school, a Mountain Men Encampment and an Alpaca exhibit with wool products and an Alpaca to pet and feed.

For more information, visit [www.christmasinthevillage-pa.com](http://www.christmasinthevillage-pa.com).

**Christmas in the Village of Eldersville**  
**Observer-Reporter-October 22, 2015 Edition**



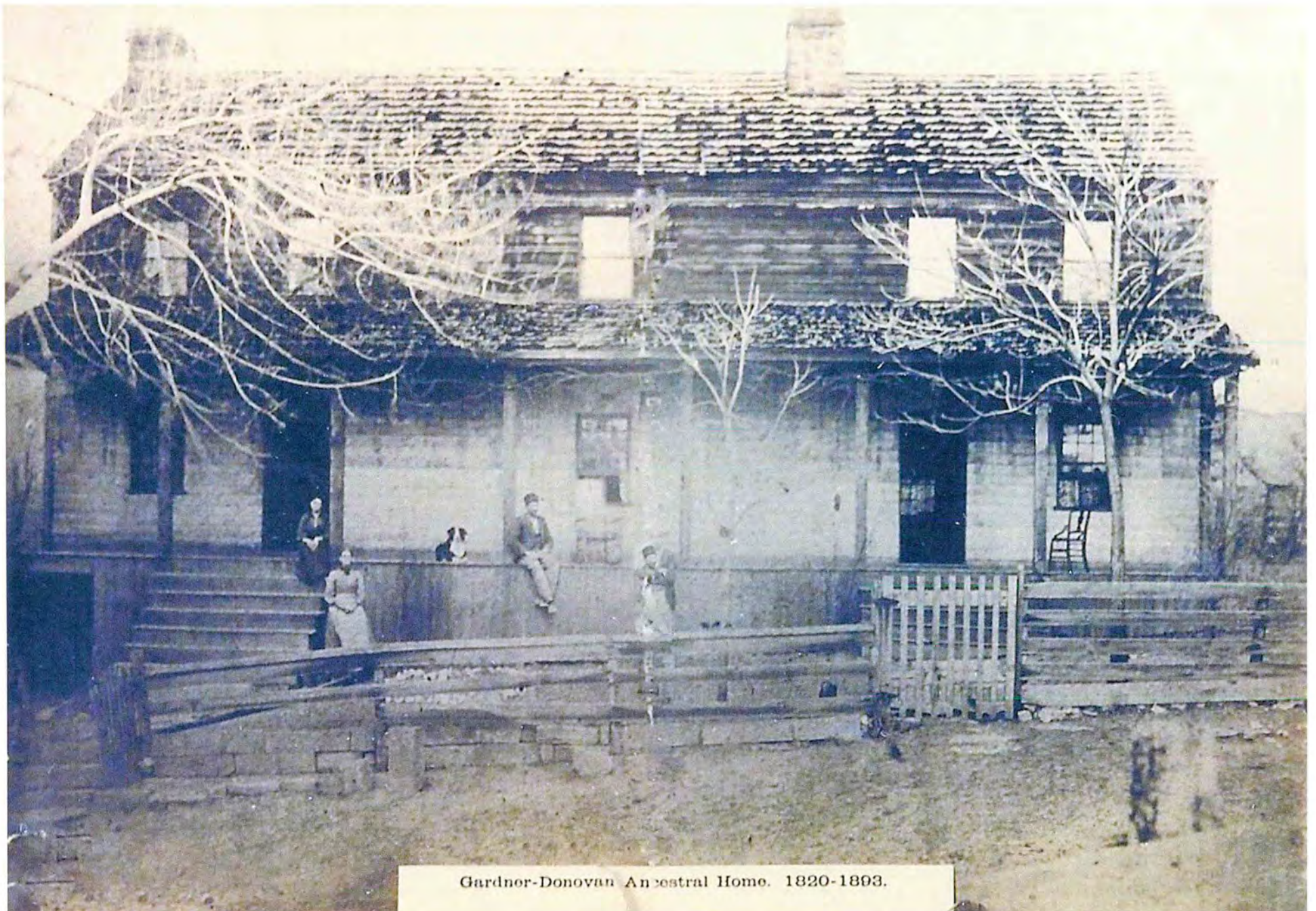
**Christmas in the Village**  
**The Enterprise-November 25, 1992**



## It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas

Mother Nature added special effects to the fifth Christmas in the Village at Eldersville. This extra Christmas scene was the result of a heavy snow squall that took place during the annual event. The snow did not deter this couple from leaving Centennial Hall to visit other craft items on display in the area.

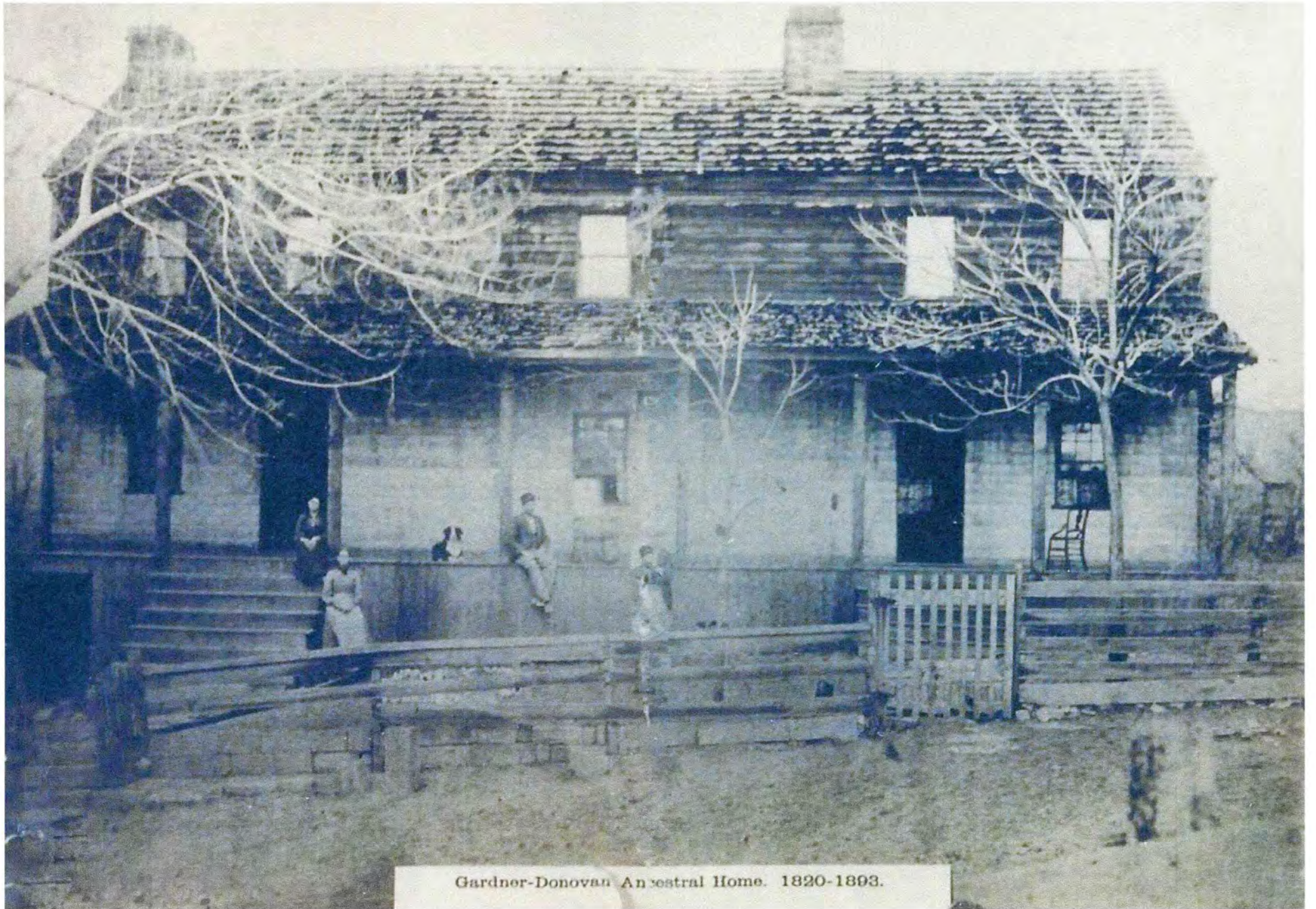
**Christmas in the Village**  
**The Enterprise-November 25, 1992**



Probably the first Greathouse Castle. Built in 1820 by David Gardner for his wife, Nancy Donovan Gardner, to replace a log house. David was the son of John and Elizabeth Gardner, the home of Mr. and Mrs. Alan Gould now (1994) stands here. Jefferson Twp., Washington County, PA.

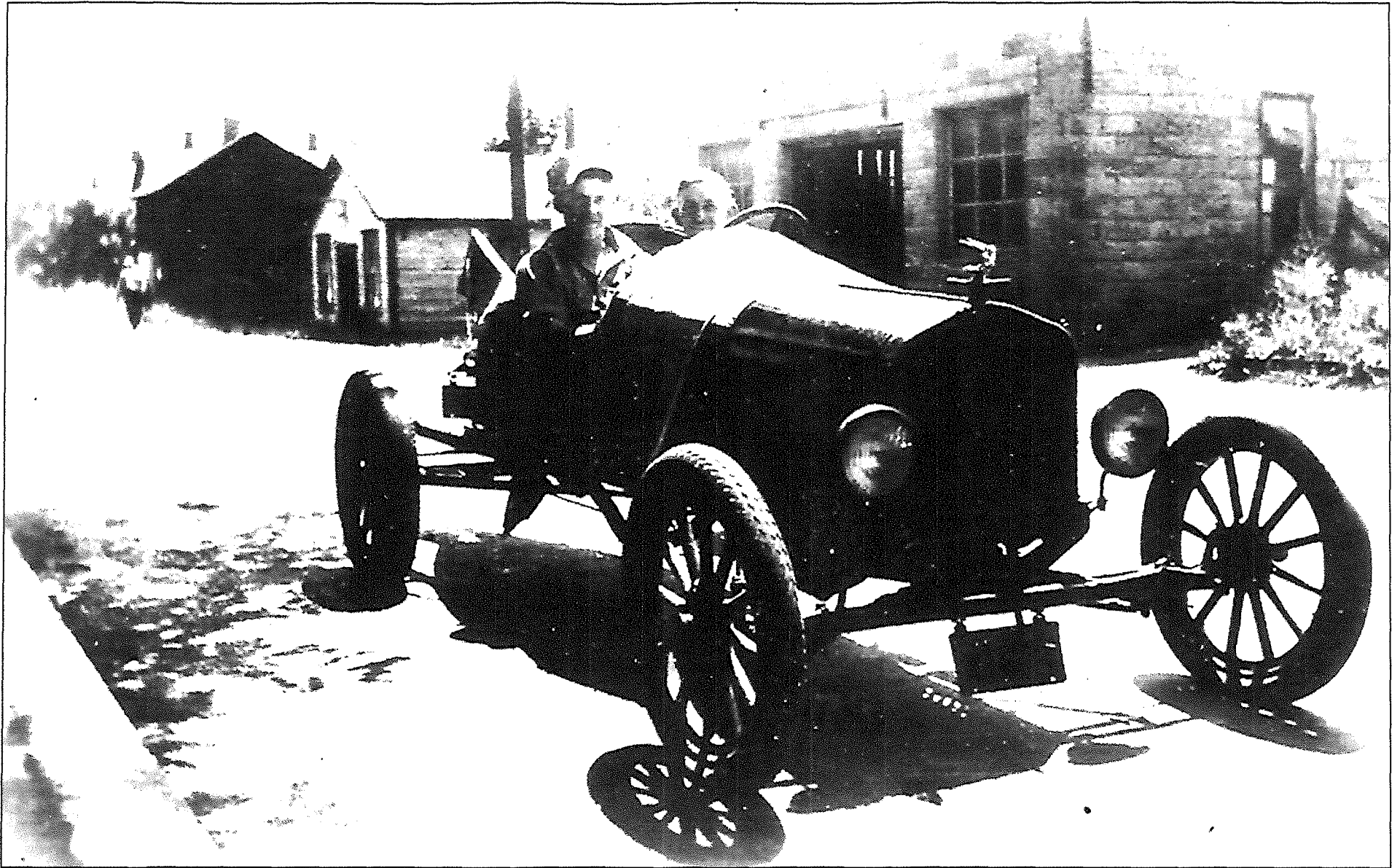
*Fort Vance Historical Society*





Gardner-Donovan Ancestral Home. 1820-1893.

**Gardner-Donovan Ancestral Home  
1820-1893**



**Gaylord Martin and Paul Weigmann go for a ride**

*Courtesy of Fort Vance Historical Society*

# FOR SALE

9 Eight-room HOUSES with tile foundations.

6 Four-room HOUSES with tile foundations.

1 Large STORE BUILDING with tile foundation.

Located at Eldersville, Pa. All to be razed and  
----- removed from property. -----

See W. J. Whalen, Jr. or

Burgettstown, Pa.  
Phone 6501

Edward Hamilton

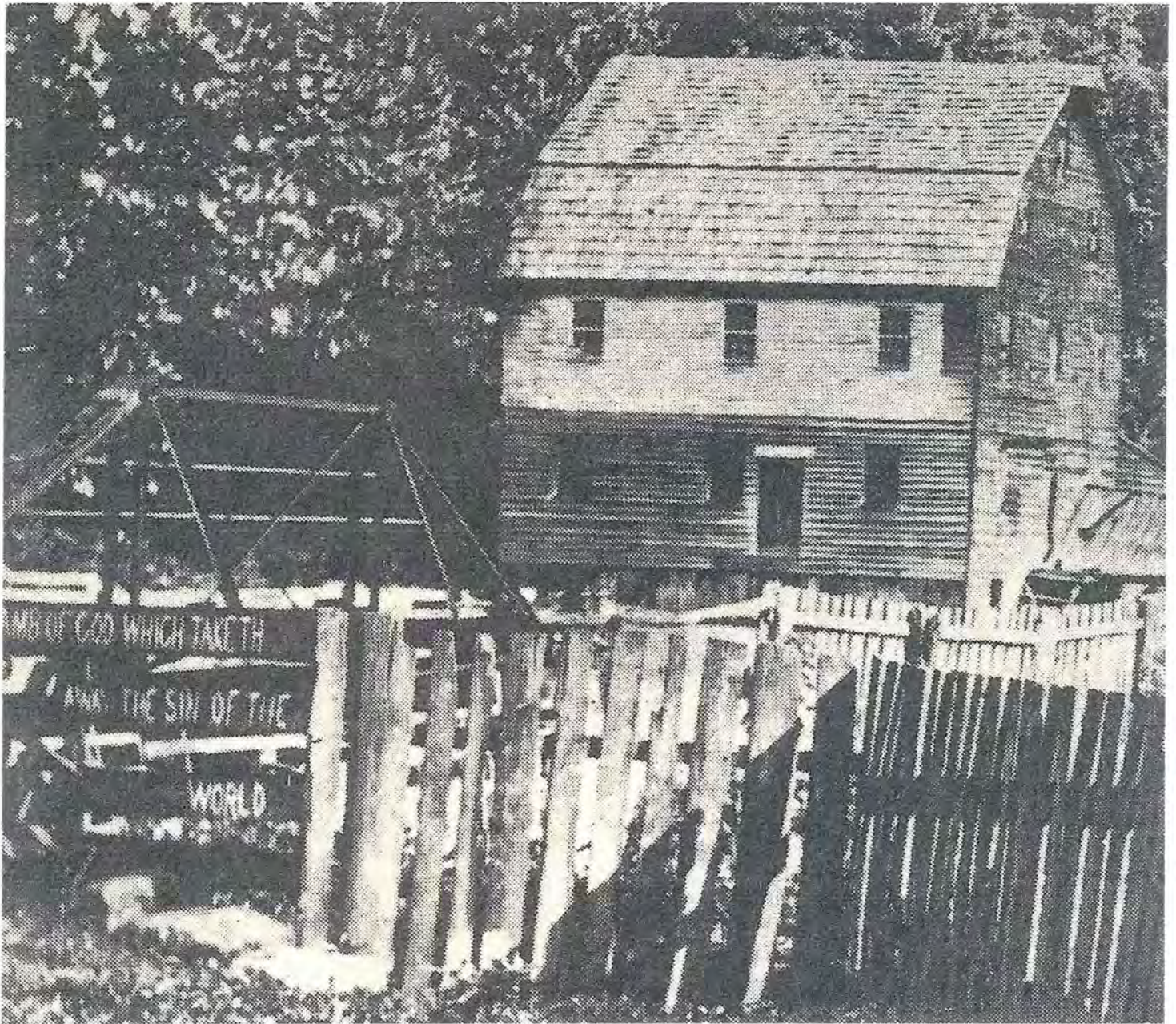
Burgettstown, Pa.  
Phone day 542—night 4351



**Panoramic view of Kidd's Mill**

**Boarding house on the lower right. The picket fence and bridges were washed out during the 1912 flood.  
Stables and outbuildings in the foreground.**

*Fort Vance Historical Society*



### **Kidd's Mill**

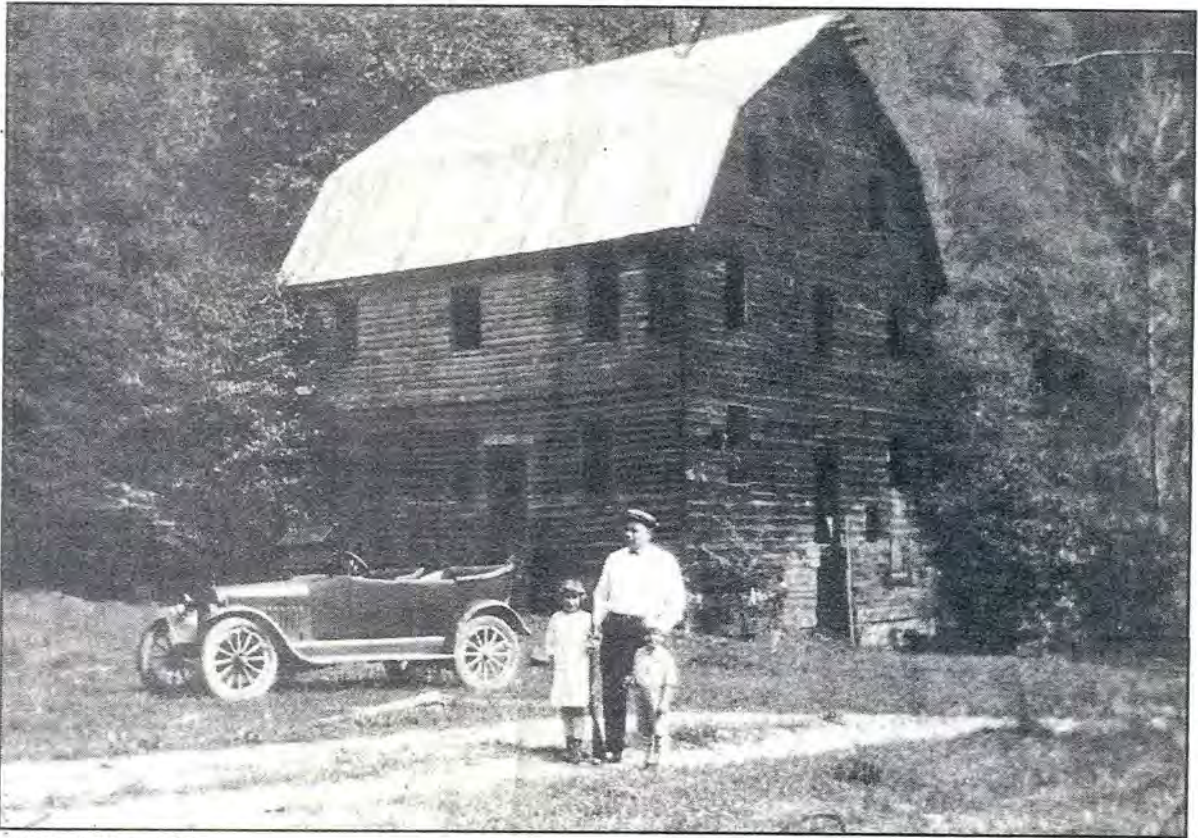
**Taken before the flood of 1912 washed the fence away.  
Burgettstown Enterprise-June 30, 1976 Bicentennial Edition**

*Fort Vance Historical Society*



**Kidd's Mill**  
**Abandoned but still standing, July 4, 1925**  
**Burgettstown Enterprise-June 30, 1976 Bicentennial Edition**

*Fort Vance Historical Society*



Kidd's Mill in 1925

## Kidd's Mill nature, history tour set

By Kathryn Slasor  
For The Enterprise

The history and nature tour that has been known for the past several years as the "Kidd's Mill Walk" will take place in the Jefferson Township area on Saturday, May 7. Anyone wishing to visit the secluded spot on Scott's Run should meet at the Eldersville United Methodist Church at 10 a.m.

The actual grist and sawmill that was built in the valley of Scott's Run in 1825 has not operated since the flood of 1912. All buildings, including the mill, have been removed, leaving only impressions in the ground and a few bricks and stones that reveal where life was once very active. A hotel boarding house operated in the valley from about 1880 to 1910. Working girls from Pittsburgh spent a series of two-week vacations in the area dur-

ing the summer months. Several met young men of the surrounding farmlands and married them, settling nearby to raise their families.

The Pine Grove Presbyterian Church stood on the hillside near the creek and closed about 1886. It also is only a notation on pages of local history.

The tracks of a mine railroad, built by John A. Bell in 1921, were removed in the past several years, leaving a scar of a railroad bed down the valley from the Bologna Coal Mine. It is down this old path that walkers will make their way, probably on foot, as only a tractor or a four-wheel-drive vehicle could navigate the area.

The absence of habitation in the valley for the past three generations is compensated by the nostalgia of learning of its importance to the ancestors of today's Jefferson Township citizens. Nature is at

its best at Kidd's Mill, with flowering trees and spring flowers blooming in their season. Thus the tour Saturday will be a combined history-nature walk.

Leaders will be Carl Patsche, Bob Irwin and Albert Miller. Patsche, a biology teacher at Weir High School, will explain the habits of birds and wild animals that inhabit the valley, and he will point out various trees, flowers and plants. Irwin will tell of the history of the mill and its occupants, which were his ancestors, the Kidd family. Miller will tell the history of the Pine Grove Church and will thrill the walkers with some Indian lore of which he is familiar.

Walkers are advised to wear boots for crossing Scott's Run, as all bridges were washed out in 1912. They should also wear suitable clothing for the weather of the day.

### Kidd's Mill

The Record-Enterprise-Unknown Edition

*Fort Vance Historical Society*

# Fall walk taken to Kidd's Mill

## Many stops will highlight this trip to the past

By Kathryn Campbell Slasor  
for The Record-Enterprise

A highlight of this fall's "Walk To Kidd's Mill" will be a brief non-denominational church service at the site of the Pine Grove Presbyterian Church. The church closed its doors to worshippers of this isolated Jefferson Township valley more than a century ago.

The service will be led by direct descendants of the church founders, dating back to 1849, and the owners of the grist and sawmill built in 1825.

A caravan will leave the corner area of Eldersville at 1:30 p.m. on Oct. 15.

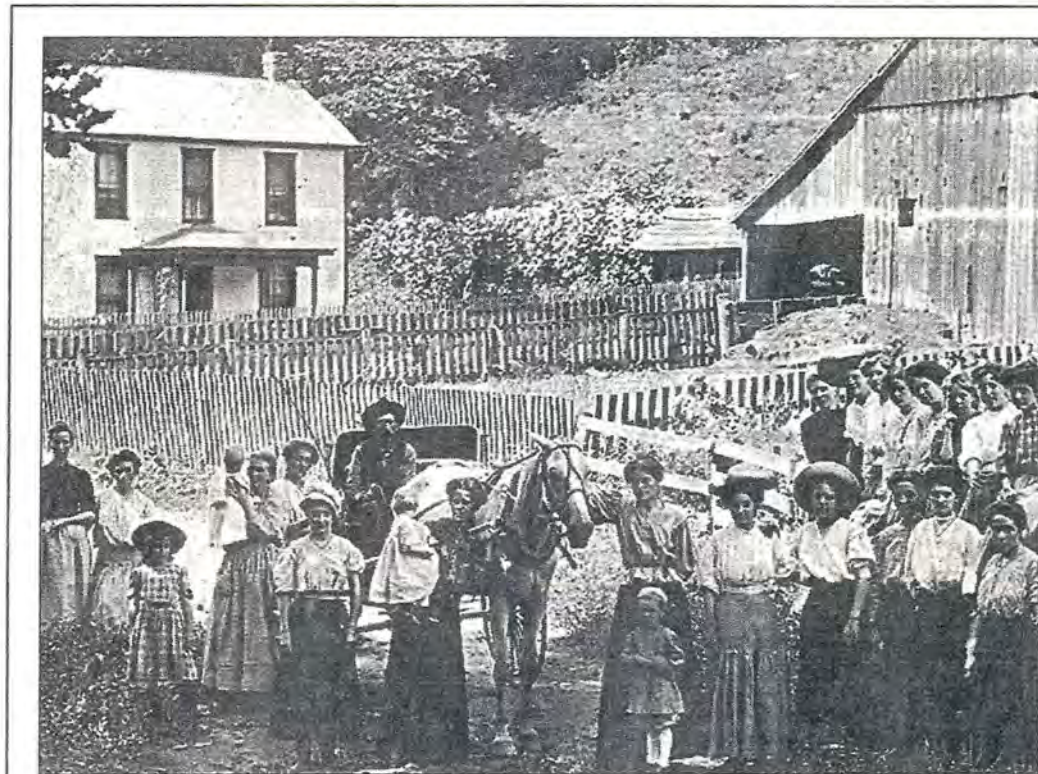
The caravan will go as far as the old mine and tipple area. The walking trail will begin at the edge of the woods and follow the ties of the old railroad track, more than a half mile to the Kidd's Mill site.

Other attractions will be Hiskus Jump, where an Indian story will be narrated, and the hollow sycamore tree with its special tale.

Visitors may walk into the tiny foundation of the big house which served as a hotel for working girls from Pittsburgh.

Stories will be told of this unique phase of life at Kidd's Mill.

Remnants of the mill, the mill-race and the dam will be re-discovered by those who ford the stream of Scott's Run and tramp through the wide valley that is walled in by the surrounding



GIRLS FROM PITTSBURGH pose at the hotel at Kidd's Mill, circa 1900.

high hills. Wildlife and trees and other aspects of nature will be noted.

The sand bank of the railroad trestle will be crossed in order to reach the spot where the Pine Grove Church stood until 1886. The afternoon's activities will close with the church service.

This fall walk will be similar to the spring walks that have been annual events since about 1981. They are geared to history, nature and nostalgia. They are not sponsored by any group or organization and all are welcome.

Leaders and speakers for the

Sunday afternoon of turning back the hands of time will be Albert Miller, Carl Patsche, Paul Chilensky and Robert Irwin.

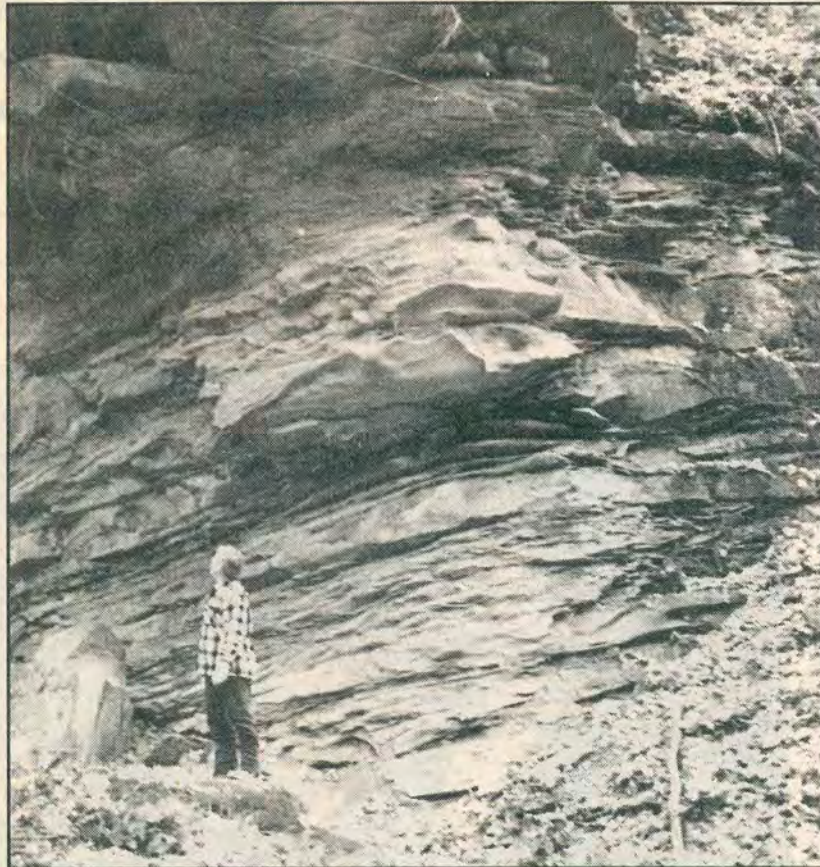
Numbers to call for information are: 947-3229; 587-3520; 304-723-0139 and 614-282-1766.

### Kidd's Mill

The Record-Enterprise-Unknown Edition

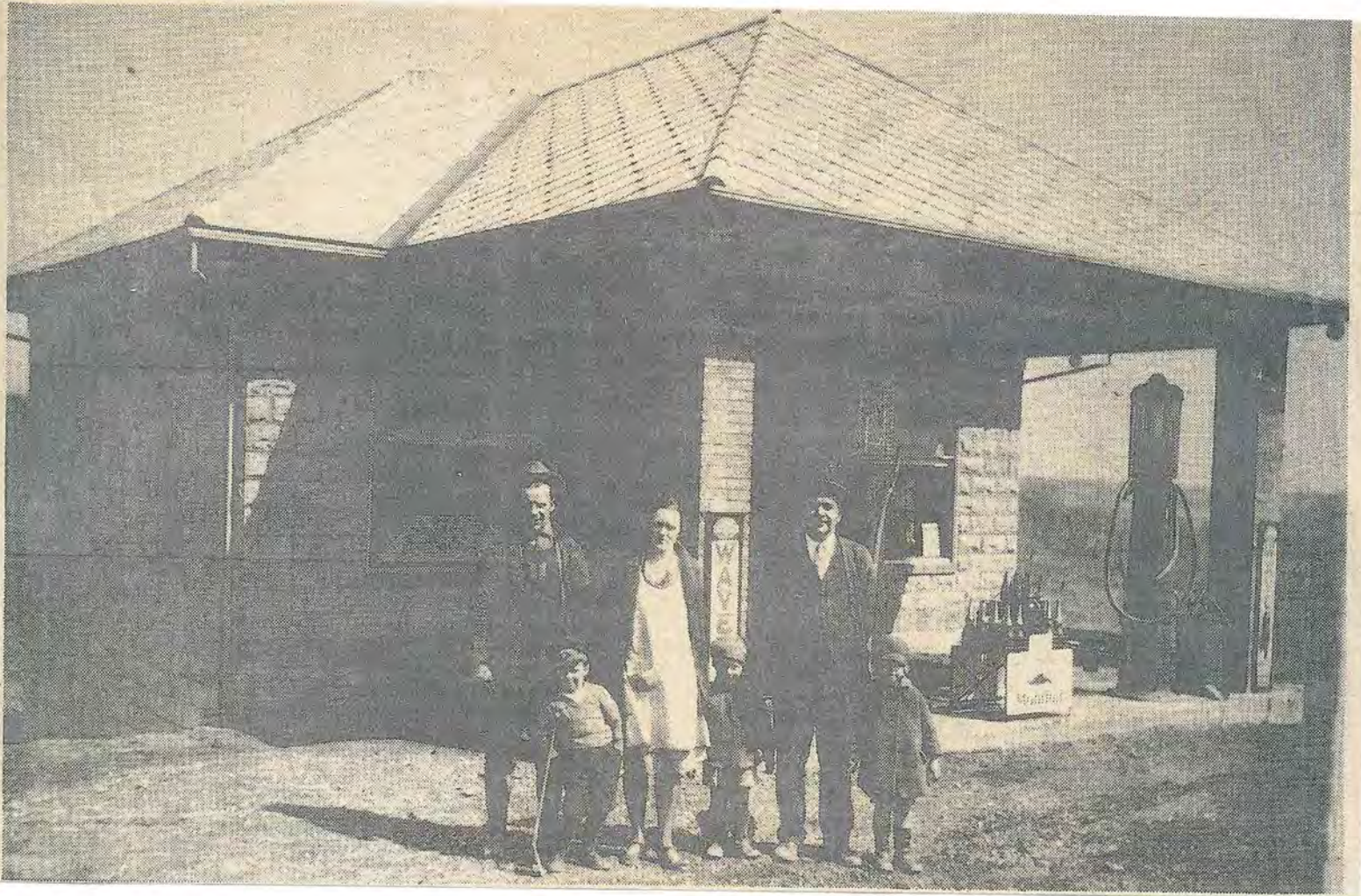
Fort Vance Historical Society





**HISKUS LEAP OF** Indian lore near Kidd's Mill. Carl Patsche is contemplating the climb up the near perpendicular rock where in Indian days, the redmen chased a man by the name of Hiskus (spelling uncertain) over the cliff. Hiskus decided to risk death by leaping over, rather than to be tomahawked and scalped by the savages. He lived to tell it!

**Kidd's Mill  
March 1995**



This was the early days of the Robertson Fruit Farm on Eldersville Road, taken approximately 1930. Edward "Bud" Robertson, today owner of the business, and president of the Burgettstown Lions Club, can be seen leaning on the crutch in the front row between his mother and his late father. His grandfather, the late Alva Robertson, is on the right between Bud's cousins, Bill McCaffery and Mary McCaffery Rujak. The Robertson family began retailing apples around 1915, and built a small roadside stand in 1925 when the "new" road was laid from the West Virginia line to Burgettstown. The building shown in the picture is the second to be constructed, and has since been incorporated into the modern facility of today. (Loaned by Robertson Fruit Farm)

**Robertson Fruit Market**  
Eldersville, PA  
Abt. 1930



TWO OF THE children who died in 1885.



TWO OF THE children who died in 1885.



THE TWO OLDEST of the second family, Oscar and Ida.

## Six little graves in Eldersville are remembered again

By Kathryn Campbell Siasor  
For The Enterprise

Remember the story of "The Silence of Six Little Graves" that appeared in this column May 4, 1994?

The six children of William K.

and Emma Gardner Truax had died within a month's time in the year 1885, in a diphtheria epidemic. All are buried in the Eldersville Church Cemetery. The children were Walter E., one year old; Earl A., age four; Freddie W., seven; Harry E., nine; Clara B., age ten;

and Lydia, age sixteen. A year and a half after the six silent little graves became a chapter in the history of Eldersville, another son was born to William K. and Emma. Oscar died in 1966 at age 80. The second child of the second family was Ida Ann Truax, who married

M.A. Cheesebrough and who lived to be nearly 98, having passed away in 1986. The third was W.M. Truax, who died in 1984 at the age of 90. The fourth child of the second family is Viola Truax Cassidy, who lives today in Meadville at the age of 99, the only surviving member of

the family of William K. and Emma Gardner Truax.

Shown here are four of the children who died in 1885, unidentified as to names, as no one is alive today who can distinguish one from another.

Shown in the third picture are

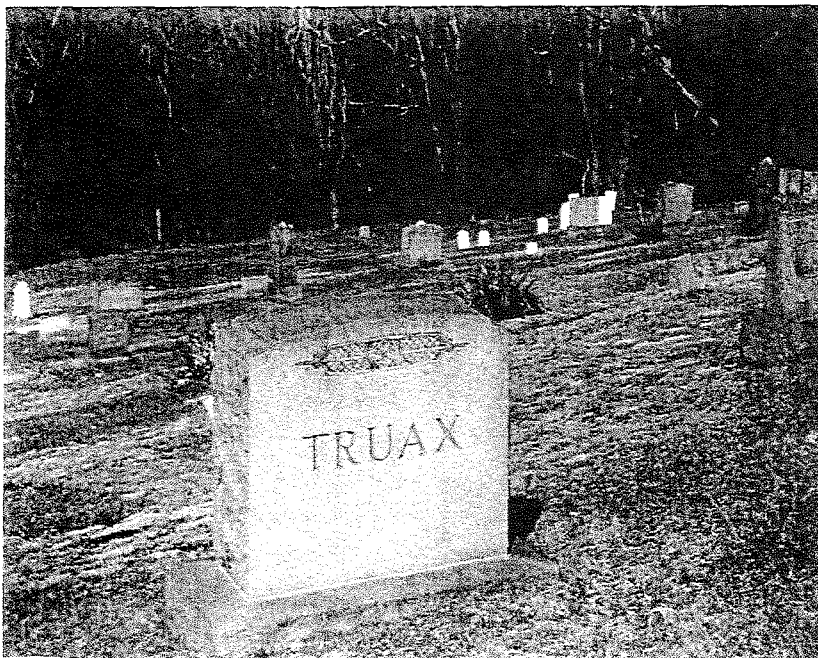
the two oldest of the second family, Oscar and Ida.

All are full brothers and sisters, with a tragic gap between the oldest six and the four who followed.

(Pictures courtesy Viola Gillespie)

Six Little Graves in Eldersville are Remembered Again  
The Enterprise-Unknown Edition

***Lest***  
***We***  
***Forget***



**Dedicated to those in attendance at the “New Beginning” of the  
FORT VANCE HISTORICAL SOCIETY, June 20, 2009.**

***The Tale of Eldersville’s Diphtheria Epidemic  
In the year of 1885***

**Research & Story by June Campbell Grossman**

# *Lest We Forget*

## **The Tale of Eldersville's Diphtheria Epidemic of 1885**

by June Campbell Grossman

For the Jefferson Township area of Washington County, Pennsylvania, it was definitely one of the greatest tragedies of all time. Most of us are aware that one of the greatest losses a person can experience is the loss of a child. In the early days of the nation before medical science had produced vaccines to protect against horrible diseases, or antibiotics to cure them after a person was afflicted, there was little hope of avoiding a plague, once it showed its ugly head in any given vicinity.

This author's most vivid childhood memory is of a dark day in August when she was eleven years of age. A car drove up the long driveway to the old farmhouse. It was loaded with relatives, including Grandma Campbell. But the first look into the window at that grandmother's appearance was a total shock. They had come to report that a thirteen year old cousin of the author had attended a scouting trip at which he had drowned in Slippery Rock Creek. Two of the scouts had entered a forbidden area of the water, and when the scout master heard their screams, he immediately saw that he could save only one of them. He chose the one closest at hand, while Earl, the author's cousin, slipped into the treacherous water and on into the Great Beyond. Until Earl's parents each died some 50 plus years later, the grief of this loss was evident in their faces, in the way they walked, and in every manner of movement they experienced during that half-century of tragic, left-over life.

Cemetery listings and old tombstones still reveal plagues of great proportion that took some unsuspecting households by surprise, often killing two or three, and on more rare occasions, more than three, from a single family. But the following story is the most tragic ever reported in the greater Eldersville area.

Their home was on Creek Lane, just behind the later well-known Robertson Fruit Farm. The parents were William Kennedy Truax and his wife, Emma. Emma was a Gardner by birth with a long, wonderful lineage going back to the first John Gardner who had served in the Revolutionary War prior to coming to this area. They were married young, and six children eventually blessed their lives. But in 1885, a menace known by the common man as black-tongued diphtheria, struck the area, leaving in its wake the devastation of death.

It has been nearly 125 years since that unbelievable plague left William and Emma in total despair. In searching for more accurate information about this incident, the author was amazed at a total dearth of facts. Not one trace of a preserved newspaper clipping, an obituary, a sympathy note, or even the listing of the month of the year in which it occurred has been found. Was it too tragic to believe it was true? Was it too difficult to even give information for the writing of an obituary? Or were these paper treasures worn to nothingness by the touches and the kisses of these parents who were left behind? We shall never know.

The day the old farmhouse caught fire from a misplaced spark in the chimney, he was there. Come to think of it, I do not know how he found out about it so fast. (Those were the days before telephones were prevalent.) But before the smoke had cleared, he and Marion Butler appeared on the scene to add their assistance to that of the neighbors who were getting everything under control. But that wasn't all. The next day when we were faced with the task of cleaning the soot-filled carpet and walls, the two appeared once more, this time armed with the necessary equipment, and were soon down on their hands and knees, scrubbing with the rest of us.

I do not know what year he "retired". It was probably when I was quite young, but I am certain that those retirement years were filled with a busier schedule than when he was farming. If it were summertime, he alternated between mowing grass - other people's, that is - and hoeing gardens. He mowed the lawns of every widow, widower, or disabled person in Eldersville. He did their odd jobs for them - like driving them to the grocery store, getting their mail at the Post Office, or moving something that needed moved. His chief occupation was taking the sick to the doctor's office or visiting them when they were hospitalized. Then in his *spare time*, he cut all of the grass at the cemeteries, and did the trimming around the headstones. Then in the wintertime, he took up with the snow shovel where he had left off with the lawnmower.

At church, he was not only a trustee and a decision-maker, but he was also a "doer". And he was a "fixer" who knew the best way anything could be fixed. As time passed, he stepped down from his positions on the Official Board, but he never stopped being a "doer". In church, as in everything else, he was always there. He was blessed with a beautiful bass voice which he used for probably 70 years in the church and in the grange. He had a great sense of humor and loved a good laugh. He was a regular attendant at the Tuesday night Odd Fellows in the old I.O.O.F. Hall and he loved dartball and all of their other activities.

Even as teenagers, we gravitated toward him at a social meeting, usually managing to eat refreshments at his table. It was fun to be with him. He never complained and he never offered advice unless we asked for it. He could be counted on to participate in any of the zany games or original "plays" we were always writing. He would dress up in any old costume we might concoct for him and carry off his role with finesse and originality. Our favorite times were when he would adlib his part so that Helen Ryan, who was always part of every performance, would give the audience a look of absolute horror and then pretend that she was fainting. Bill would have already managed to move himself very close to her, so that when she allowed herself to "pass out", he was right there to catch her before she hit the floor. Then to the roaring laughter of the entire crowd, he would carefully carry her out the door with great charm and over-acting - to the total delight of all of us who were present. No matter how many times Bill changed the script to insert this little personal favorite of his, we reacted as if we had never seen it before. Knowing him was one of life's greatest joys.

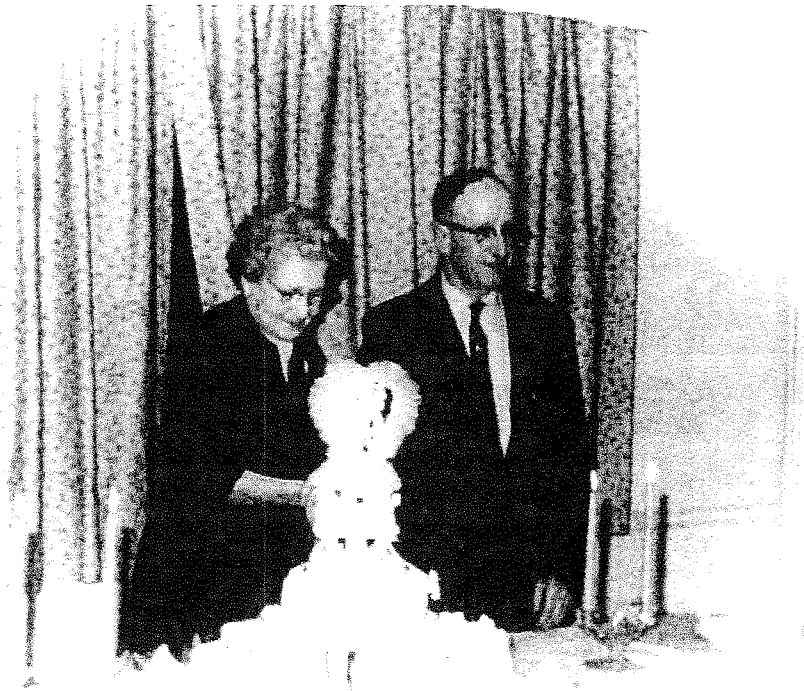
He was not overly sentimental, but we all loved him dearly, and we knew that he loved us.

his side in reverence and in awe as if they could not quite accept his passing. For if Bill were not around, who could be counted on? He had always been there.

The next day dawned bright and beautiful. True to his request of years before, Bill's favorite poem was read by the minister at his eulogy. But although we loved him, we could not carry out his last request: "May there be no sadness of farewell when I embark". We tried to celebrate his life, but his death was too real and poignant.

Later, we followed his body to its last resting place. Inside the old Bethel Church he helped to preserve, we sat on the ancient pews with the soft summer breeze on our saddened faces. We listened to the old familiar words, "Ashes to ashes....." Then we committed his body to the warm earth. And with hearts strangely comforted, we left him there. We would each go his own way to pick up the pieces of life where we had dropped them. For life does go on.

But now, when there is a gathering of happy friends with fun and music and laughter, or when there is work to be done, or a burden to be borne - the gentle, kindly man who was always there, will be gone. It is, indeed, the end of an age. Life will never be quite the same again. Bill Truax has crossed the bar.



### **To Link Follansbee with Eldersville**

Wellburg, W. Va., March 23.—In the county system of roads financed by the \$800,000 bond issue which Brooke county approved some months ago, a road will be built from Follansbee to Eldersville, Washington county, Pa. The road will be along an entirely new right of way.

Trouble has been met in securing the ground for the road free of damages. A number of the farmers who will be most benefited by the highway refuse to sign releases, and as a result condemnation proceedings have been begun in the county court here. Notice has been given to the following landowners and tenants to appear in court April 5 to show why their land should not be condemned: A. L. Carter, John Brown, Robert Patterson, Patterson heirs, W. H. Boyd, W. F. Poole, Andrew Murthland and Albert Holly.

The county expects to secure possession of the required right of way, 40 feet wide, within 60 days. The road will probably be of brick.

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**Road to Link Follansbee with Eldersville**  
**Burgettstown Call-March 29, 1917 Edition**





## As busy as bees

**By Kathryn Campbell Siasor**  
For The Enterprise

The yellow jackets have been busy in Eldersville this past year. At least one colony of them outdid itself just in building its home.

This nest was found hanging from the rafters of the wash house to the rear of the old house where the late Merle Thorley lived for many years. It is the largest ever seen by some of the residents of Eldersville, and has been placed on exhibition in Heritage Hall, the home of the Jefferson Township

Historical Society. The picture shows some damage done to the nest by the opening and closing of the door into the building.

A little research reveals that both yellow jackets and hornets will build nests such as this. Or they may choose a hole in the ground that has been dug out by gophers or field mice.

Hornets and yellow jackets are related. Both make their nests of paper, and are considered the world's first paper makers. The paper is made by chewing wood and plant fibers. Yellow jackets

produce a finer paper than hornets.

The nests have several stories of cells inside a thick paper covering. The one in this picture contains seven stories. It was removed from where it had been securely fastened at the request of the Edward Smith family, owner of the building. It has been sprayed with clear resin for preservation.

The Historians hope that the nest's former occupants do not decide on a Homecoming next summer!

(Story and picture courtesy Robert Irwin, Eldersville)

**Eldersville-Yellow Jacket Nest**  
**The Enterprise-February 1, 1995 Edition**

### **To Link Follansbee with Eldersville**

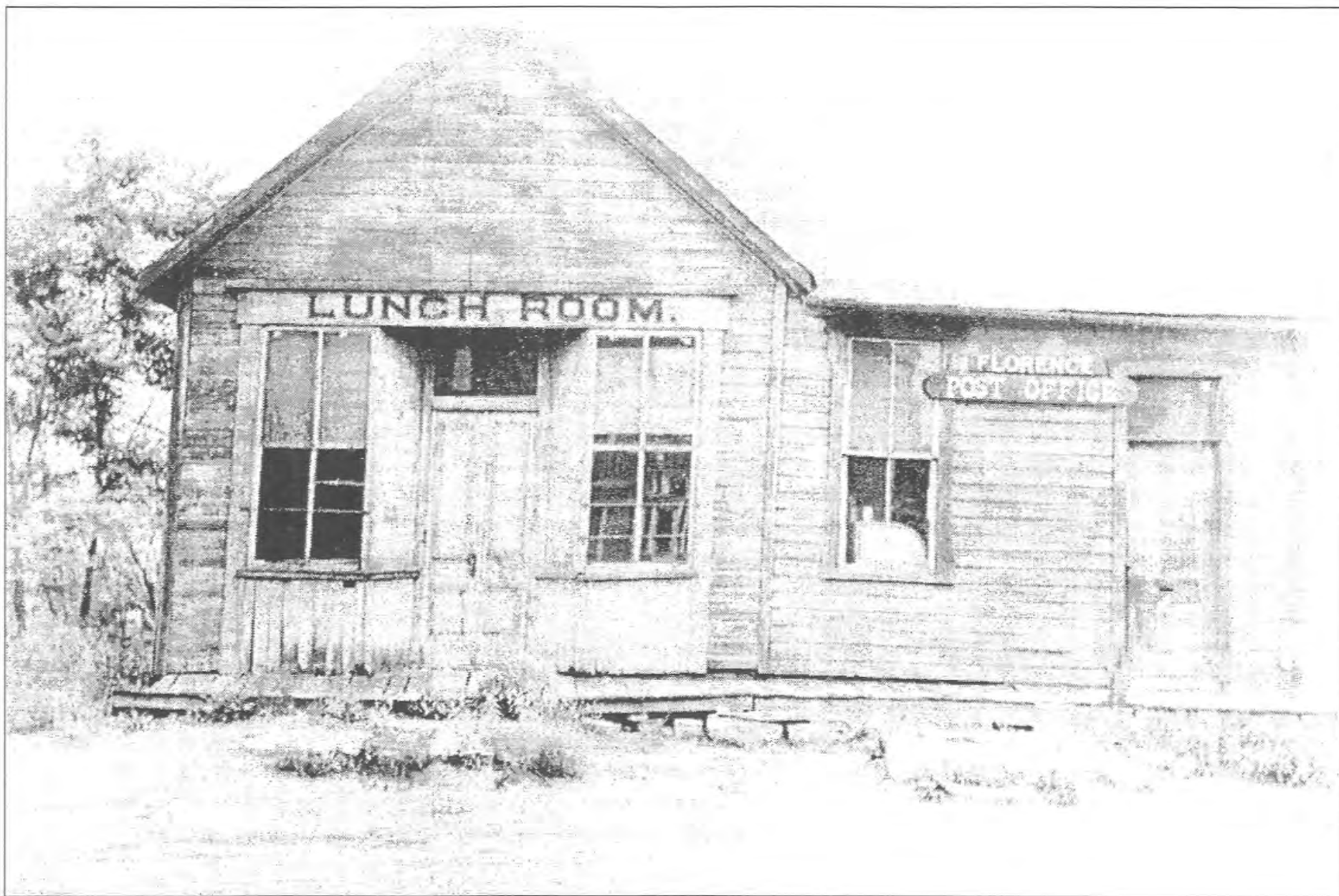
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**Road to Link Follansbee with Eldersville**  
**The Burgettstown Call-March 29, 1917 Edition**



**Florence Lunch Room and Post Office**  
**Unknown Year**

*Courtesy of Fort Vance Historical Society*

The Pittsburg and Steubenville turnpike road was built across Robinson, Smith, and Hanover townships, a distance of twelve miles being in this county. This was an improved road for its day and such townships as Brice Landing, Cross Roads (now Florence) and Paris flourished during the boom period of the stage coach travel over this route between Pittsburg and Steubenville. The construction of the road was authorized by an act of Legislature passed March 3, 1818, and on March 26, 1821, the Legislature authorized the governor to subscribe \$12,000 to the stock of the company on behalf of the state.

About \$30,000 was raised from the sale of stock and the road, after many delays and financial troubles, was completed in March 1822. Travel over the road was very heavy until 1855, but with the completion of the Panhandle railroad from Pittsburg to Steubenville in 1861 the travel ceased.

It is interesting to note in connection with this road that one of the first through telegraph roads followed its route, but it was abandoned before 1860. Toll was removed from the road many years ago.

**The Pittsburg and Steubenville Turnpike**  
**History of Washington County by Earle R. Forrest-Volume I**  
**Copyright, 1926**

*Courtesy of Fort Vance Historical Society*

**FLORENCE COLDEST SPOT  
IN WASHINGTON COUNTY**

Washington county temperature for last Thursday varied in many localities, but was uniformly below the zero mark.

A compilation of reports for the county showed that at Florence the lowest temperature was recorded, 28 degrees below zero.

The temperature for various points in the county for Thursday morning was reported as follows:

Florence—28 below.  
Coon Island—25 below.  
Pigeon Creek Valley—23 below.  
Amity—20 below.  
West Alexander—20 below.  
Prosperity—18 below.  
Burgettstown—16 below.  
Bentleyville—18 below.  
Monongahela—14 below.  
Washington—17 below.  
Charleroi—15 below.  
Donora—13 below.  
Avella—16 below.  
Cross Creek—14 below.  
Canonsburg—15 below.  
Paris—20 below.  
McDonald—15 below.  
California—18 below.  
Cherry Valley—16 below.  
Hickory—18 below.

In the territory from Frankfort to Hookstown reports indicate various readings of thermometers showing an average low of 23 below zero.

**Florence Coldest Spot in Washington County  
The Burgettstown Enterprise-January 29, 1936 Edition**



**Hanover Volunteer Fire Department Women's Auxiliary  
Members-Wanda Perkins, Dorothy Bennett, Rachel Perkins**



**Hanover Volunteer Fire Department  
First Florence Fire Truck and Firemen' Festival-August 28, 1993**

#### FLORENCE MINE INSPECTED

A Federal coal mine inspector endorses several recent safety improvements at the 1,300-ton-a-day National Steel No. 3 mine, four miles west of Florence, and recommends further safeguards in a report released today by the Bureau of Mines. Operated by Mike Starvaggi, this strip mine employed 35 men when Robert T. Davis reinspected it in July.

Summarizing recent improvements, Inspector Davis commended insulating the body of the explosives truck and using a tarpaulin to cover the explosives, frame-grounding the switch boxes and electric equipment in the repair shop, guarding the air-compressor belt drive in this shop, and keeping a stretcher with the first-aid materials near the pits.

As further safety aids, Inspector Davis proposed effective frame-grounds for hand-held electric tools, railings along two walkways, further safeguards for some mechanical equipment, including efficient warning devices for the shovels, splints and blankets with the first-aid material near the pits, and the wearing of protective hats, footwear, and goggles by those employees needing them.

Two draglines and two shovels were used to remove overburden on three shifts a day, and coal was loaded with one shovel one shift a day. A new dragline was recently put into operation, and a new boom was on order, the inspector reported. Horizontal and vertical boreholes were drilled in the overburden, and charged and blasted with 40-percent dynamite.

**Florence Mine Inspected**  
**Burgettstown Enterprise-August 26, 1948 Edition**

## FLORENCE

by A.D. White

Seldom does one rural township have within its borders two towns with such high-sounding names as does Hanover Township, with its Florence and Paris. But this Florence is in no sense of the word a great art center, nor is Paris a fashion center as is its great name sake, the capital of France. But these two towns are "old" as smaller towns of the Burgettstown Area go, so they will be considered next and in order in this series.

Florence was first known as Mount Bethel when a small village of that name was plotted in 1814 by James Proudfoot (Proudfit) on his tract of land, a part of the patent known as "Guadeloupe." This tract was taken up by Samuel Johnston, probably the earliest land-holder in his immediate neighborhood. On a very near adjoining tract James Briceland, in 1813, had opened a tavern at the "Cross Roads" at the intersection of the Pittsburgh-Steubenville Pike with the Washington-Georgetown Road, at the location which is the present intersection of Routes 18 and 22. Mr. Briceland, too, plotted a "town" and the two villages, Mt. Bethel and Briceland's Cross Roads, gradually merged to become known by late 1823 as the village of Florence.

Because of its location at this busy intersection, the town grew and prospered, and like most country towns of that day, Florence assumed considerable commercial importance. The first store was opened by a Mr. Anderson, a tannery was operated by James Allison; Benjamin McKindrich had, of all things, a silver-plating establishment, and several physicians were, in turn, located here ministering to the health needs of a considerable territory.

The first Post Office at the "Cross Roads" was a box nailed to a white oak tree where mail carriers on the two traffic routes through the town could leave mail for exchange, and where the residents could leave and pick up such mail as came into the early community. But by 1818 a regular Post Office was established and Moses Bradford was the first Postmaster. This office was continued until very recent years when the town became a part of one of the rural routes out of the Burgettstown Post Office. The residence and tavern-stand of James Briceland was still standing until recent years, having been used for a long time as a store building, but it has now been torn down.

Florence had a newspaper, the "Enterprise," for a few years beginning in 1845, but this publication lasted but a short time. Beginning in 1858, a fair was held for a number of years on a Fair Ground, shown on an 1861 map just a little southeast of the village. This appears to have been started as a competitor of the Burgettstown Fair which began holding exhibitions in 1856, but after holding only a few sessions, the Florence Fair began to languish and soon was discontinued.

The first Presbyterian Church in this area was located at "King's Creek" about four miles northwest of Florence, but in 1798 it was moved to the cross roads and was known for many years as the Cross Roads Presbyterian Church, until assuming the name Florence in recent years. The first building of the congregation at this point was of logs, but three later buildings, of brick, have been erected here. The first of these was destroyed by fire in 1845 and was rebuilt the same year; the second also destroyed by fire, in 1963, was replaced in 1965 by the present ornate and modernistic building which was dedicated on June 27, 1965.

Adjoining the old grounds of the Presbyterian Church here is the historic Florence graveyard, where many of the "rude forefathers of the hamlet sleep" including the early preacher, the Rev. Elisha McCurdy and his wife, his "praying elder" Philip Jackson and members of many of the pioneer families of this section of country.



Briceland's Cross Roads as it appears today, 150 years after James Briceland opened his tavern stand at this point in the present busy town of Florence.

Florence has always had one of the public school buildings of Hanover Township until the consolidation of the township's schools and the erection of the new Hanover Township School building half-way between Florence and Paris. At one time the Florence Academy and a Rural Female Seminary ministered to the higher educational needs of this area.

The commercial importance of Florence was maintained at a high level until the building of the Panhandle Railroad between Pittsburgh and Steubenville in the 1860's diverted most of the traffic from the "Pike" to the steel rails. With this development, the town of Florence receded to the status of a small, quiet country village. But it was due to come back as a place of importance with the building of modern roads, and today the cross roads at Florence sees more traffic in one hour than it once saw in several days, as busy Routes 18 and 22 carry an increasing number of cars, buses and trucks.

The development of the coal resources of Hanover Township by the process of so-called strip mining has made this town and the surrounding area a busy place in recent years. But the coal industry also has begun to recede somewhat and when the coal has all been mined out, other industries will have to be sought to maintain the importance of the place.

At the "Cross Roads" there is now located a fruit market; on opposite corners are competing service stations; both east and west of the town are excellent eating places catering the the needs of the traveling public. What effect the re-location of Route 22 to a point somewhat to the south will have on the village remains to be seen, but it is hoped that this town, so important in the life of Hanover Township for so many years, will not be too adversely affected.



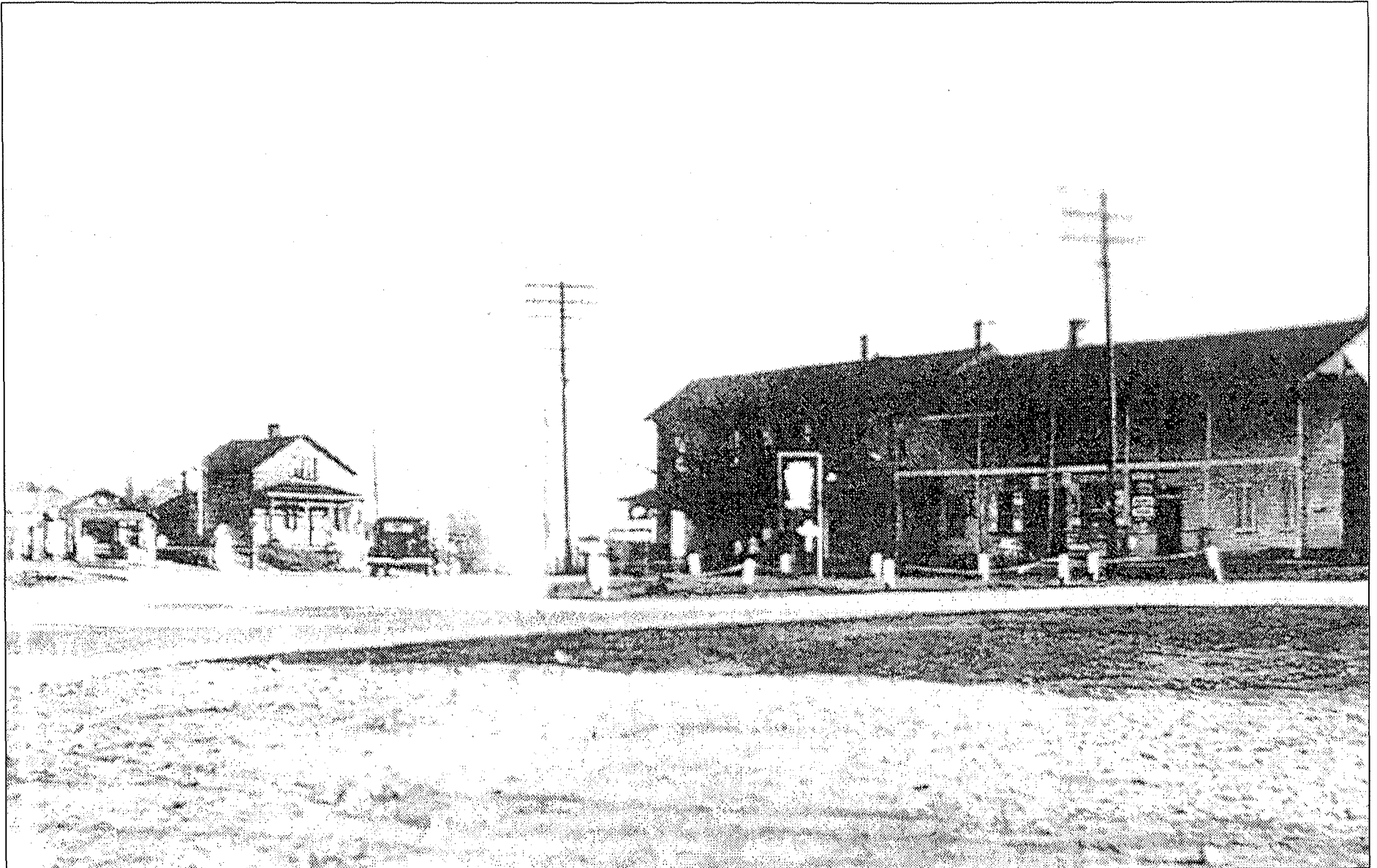
#### LIGHTNING FREAKS

Or two evenings last week Florence vicinity was visited by electric storms, severest of the year.

The barn owned by the Stewart family of near Purdy school house, was struck by lightning and entirely destroyed by fire. The stock sheltered in the barn was saved but the hay and grain were all destroyed. Mr. Stewart had just finished haying that afternoon with full mows. There was some insurance.

The garage or stable owned by the McCausland Estate in Florence was struck by lightning doing little damage, but caused the death of the favorite dog which was chained near by. The current followed the wire to the chain causing instant death.

—V—



**Florence Intersection of Rt. 18 and Old Rt. 22**  
**Unknown Date**

*Courtesy of Fort Vance Historical Society*

FLORENCE, PA. WASHINGTON, CO.

*Jerome Potts*



**Florence, PA 1911**  
**Looking towards Burgettstown, PA**

# Why Florence?

FLORENCE, Pa.—If any person knows the story behind the name of this crossroads village in Washington County let him come forward and enlighten me and the people who live here.

Any person who has driven U. S. Route 22 a few miles west of where it separates from U. S. 30 near Imperial has come through here. It has been a crossroads village since the early settlers moved in.

Today a traffic light hangs at the crossroads — where 18 crosses 22. Go south four miles and you'll be in Burgettstown. Go north about the same distance and you're in Frankfort Springs.



But you can go farther than these towns on Route 18—north to Lake Erie at Girard, south to the West Virginia line near Garrison, in Greene County.

Originally the land here was owned by Samuel Johnston under a Virginia grant, which he gave the name "Quadelope." Thomas and James Briceland came from Ireland, bought 100 acres and established a hotel on the busy Steubenville Pike. The road, now Route 18, crossed the Pike then as it does now and the place became known as Briceland's Crossroads.

## First Called Mt. Bethel

Thomas Briceland moved to Canonsburg in a few years, became a member of the first vil-

By William A. White

Press Staff Writer

lage council there in 1802. In 1814 James Briceland and Moses Proudfoot laid out a village plot here and called it Mt. Bethel, likely from a hill that is one of the high spots of Washington County.

In 1823 the name was changed to Florence. Just why no person seems to know. Five years before that, in 1818, a Post Office had been established here, but whether as Mt. Bethel or Florence only search through musty files in Washington, D. C. would reveal.

## Big Mail Box on White Oak Tree

Before there was an established Post Office villagers set up their own—a big box nailed to a white oak tree, where an infrequent postman deposited what he had for the town. First person arriving after the postman apparently delivered what was there.

In its heyday Florence was a flourishing place. There was a newspaper, the *Florence Enterprise*; the "Rural Female Seminary," with a student body of 40, and the *Florence Academy*, for boys, with about 70 students.

Four Livingston brothers, each of whom had a large farm, gathered flour, pork, wool and other farm products in the area with four and six-horse teams, disposed of them at the store of their father, Thomas Livingston. The business had no accounting system and after the father died in 1849—at the age of 94—it took 25 years to settle the estate.

The Presbyterian Church here dates back to the old King's Creek Church, in existence in 1785, which moved here in 1798. The present building was erected in 1847 after fire had destroyed its predecessor.

Rev. Elisah McCurdy, pioneer man of religion, was called here in 1799, served until 1835. He and his wife are buried in the historic cemetery behind the church.

Florence, PA  
Pittsburgh Press-Unknown Edition



**Jesse Ramsey Home  
Torn down for the Rt. 22 Interchange, Florence**



**Sinclair Neal**  
1814-1891

**Susan Neal (Sister)**  
1822-1918

**Mary Ann Neal (Sister)**  
1829-1904

**Raccoon Church Cemetery-Candor, PA**

*Courtesy of Fort Vance Historical Society*

## Steamboat 'Round the Bend

By James F. Mullooly

BY JAMES F. MULLOOLY

Florence, Pennsylvania, was once known as "Briceland's Cross-Roads", and is the oldest village in that portion of Washington County. James Briceland, who afterwards kept the recently razed stage-stop in Washington, Pa., known as the Auld House, was one of the founders of present day Florence. Thus for many years it was known by the name of its early resident.

"Briceland's Cross-Roads" was once an important village before the coming of the Panhandle Division of the Pennsylvania Railroad in the southern portion of Hanover Township. Located at the junction of the Pittsburgh - Steubenville turnpike and the Washington-Georgetown road, the "Cross-Roads", or Florence was a teeming community in the days of the stage-coach. At one time it had a newspaper, an academy, a female seminary, a tavern, an annual fair and many business houses.

The Florence Academy was opened in 1832 by a Robert Fulton, and the rural Female Seminary welcomed young ladies of the section for the first time in 1835. Headmistress Mrs. Paul and a Miss Cutter were the first faculty members.

A small newspaper called the Florence Enterprise was published in the year 1845, and an Agricultural Society was formed to promote exhibitions in 1856.

As mentioned previously, the entrance of the Iron Horse into the lower portion of the area changed the picture mightily where Florence was concerned. Today it is a rather meek and unpretentious hamlet compared to its pre-Civil War status.

The historic and quaint Cross-Road's Presbyterian Church is located at Florence. It was organized originally at King's Creek, in 1786, but the location was changed to its present site just west of the signal light on Route 22, in the year 1796.

Among early pastors were the



**PISTOL BALL MARKS—**  
The headstone of Captain John Bavington in Cross-Roads Church cemetery at Florence still retains evidence of a duelist's skill. In the upper right hand corner can be seen the two pistol ball marks that struck it in 1811.

Ens. Richard L. Hobbs

well-known Elisha McCurdy, who was installed in June of 1800, the Rev. Daniel Deruelle in 1836, Rev. William Burton in 1838 and many other active ministers who helped guide the spiritual welfare of the bustling cross-roads community before its decline.

On August II, 1811, in the city of Pittsburgh, two officers had a dispute, and they resolved to settle their troubles by fighting a duel (it was the fashion at that time). It was planned that the contest should take place in the then state of Virginia, now West Virginia.

One of the parties had traveled ahead of the other on the old Pittsburgh - Steubenville pike, and had gotten as far as Briceland's Cross-Roads during

the first day on the road.

Early the next morning, the officer arose and decided to practice a bit in the churchyard of the Presbyterian Church. One or two of the shots struck the headstone of Captain John Bavington, a Revolutionary War veteran, and the two indentations can be seen to this day.

That same day his antagonist left Pittsburgh, but when he got as far as the old North Star hotel, he was thrown from the sulky he was riding in, and had his leg broken. The crippled officer was taken back on a litter to Pittsburgh and the duel was called off.

As for the headstone of Captain Bavington, it's still there today to verify the story. . . . On June 20, 1810, Captain John Bavington had attempted to cross the Ohio River at Kelley's mouth of Harman's Creek) with a wagon loaded with whiskey and flour, along with four horses.

Suddenly, when halfway across, by the action of the stamping of the horses hooves, one of the floor boards came loose, the boat filled with water and sank. And Captain Bavington, after braving the rigors of the American Revolution, met a water death in company with the ferry man.

When the bodies were found, Captain Bavington had his whip firmly grasped in his hand. A determined soldier to the end. The depth of the Ohio at this point did not cover the bows of his wagon.

Altho' the church building itself recently burned, the visitor to the Florence area will find the historic markers of the Cross-Roads cemetery extremely interesting. And if you look deep enough into the sod below the headstone of Captain Bavington, you just MIGHT find the misshapened lead balls that indented the upright plate.

**Florence, Pa was once Known as Briceland's Cross Roads**

*Courtesy of Fort Vance Historical Society*



**Billy Clelland's Store-Florence, PA**





**EZ Pickin's-Florence, PA**

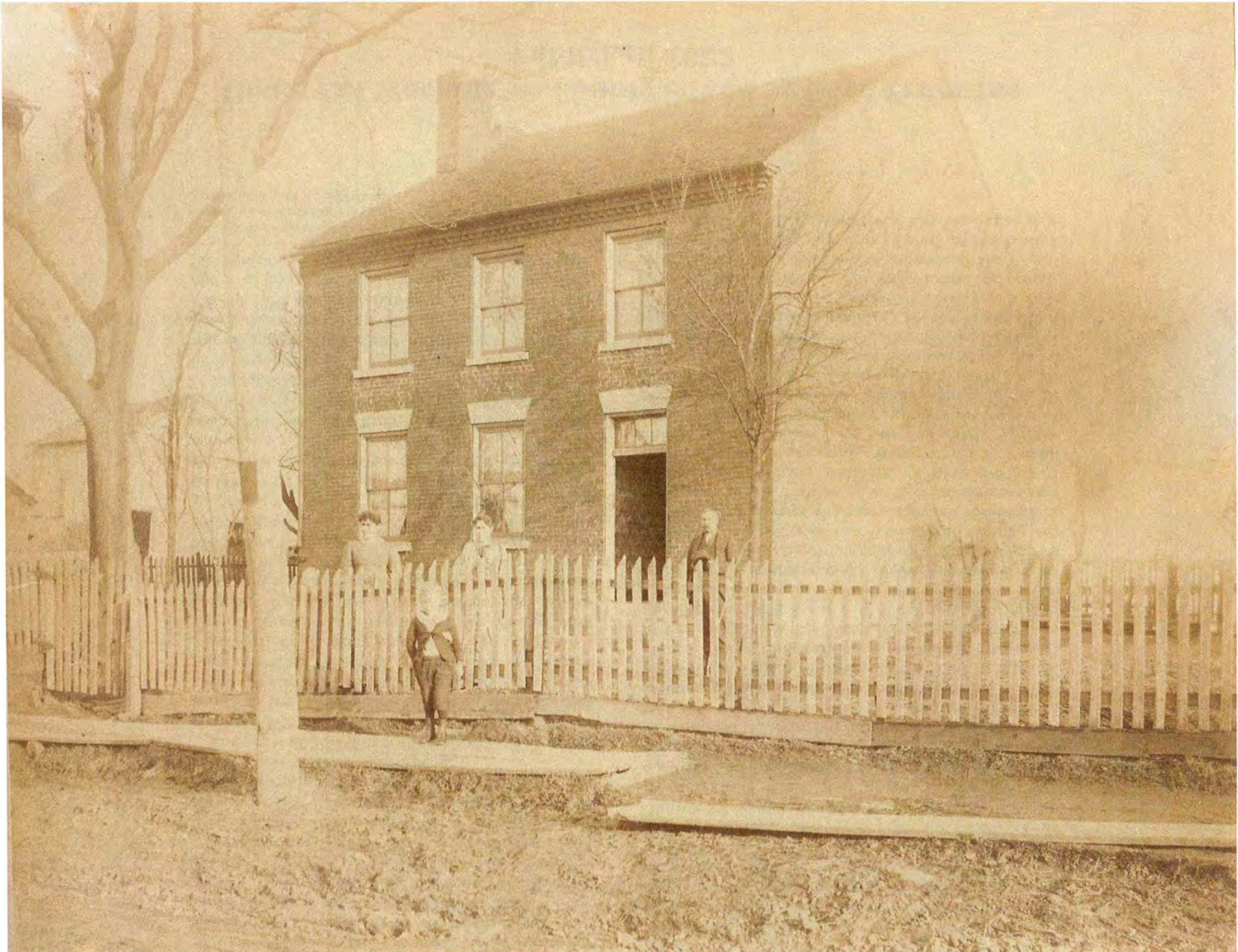


**Farm Restaurant-Florence, PA**



**Farm Restaurant –Florence, PA**  
**Owners-George Diacopolis, Gus Cassionis, and Mike Schooles**

*Fort Vance Historical Society*



**Florence Girls Academy**  
Located next to the Florence Presbyterian Church Cemetery  
Florence, PA



**Florence Girls Academy**  
**Located next to the Florence Presbyterian Church Cemetery**  
**Florence, PA**

FLORENCE ACADEMY next claims attention. It was located in the village of Florence, formerly known as Briceland's Cross-Roads, in the northern part of Washington County. It was preceded, and perhaps suggested, by an excellent select school for young ladies, founded by the venerable Rev. Elisha McCurdy, pastor of the Presbyterian Church there, in 1832, and conducted for four or five years with fine success by Mrs. Rachel Lamdin, a lady of superior scholarship and tact as well as of devoted piety. The average number of pupils in that school was about thirty or forty, and its effect was very marked in the mental, moral, and religious culture of the young ladies of the neighborhood.

The spirit of liberal education, thus fostered, led to the establishment, in 1833, of the academy. Its first principal was Mr. Robert Fulton, a former student and teacher in Washington College, and a relative by marriage of Mr. McCurdy. After a brief experiment he erected an academy building in the village, on a site conveyed by the trustees of the Presbyterian Church. But the title proving defective he surrendered the property, upon remuneration, to the same trustees, and took possession of the building on Mr. McCurdy's farm, which until then had been occupied by Mrs. Lamdin's seminary. Mr. Fulton was the sole proprietor and head of the academy until 1839, three or four years subsequent to Mr. McCurdy's resignation of his charge because of advanced age, and his consequent removal to Allegheny City. Having meanwhile received a licensure to preach, he disposed of his interests at the end of six years to take charge of an academy and church at Ashland, Ohio, where he subsequently died. During most of these years he was very efficiently assisted in the instruction by Mr. James Sloan, a graduate of Jefferson College, of the class of 1830, who was afterwards both a teacher and pastor at Frankfort, and later still for many years the worthy and successful pastor of the Presbyterian

<sup>1</sup> An accurate list of the sons of this academy and that of West Alexander is not in the power of the writer, and therefore none is attempted. Very many of them are well known.

Church of Pigeon Creek, in the Presbytery of Washington. Dr. Sloan departed this life in 1871, in Monongahela City. For the last two years of his term Mr. Fulton had for his assistant his nephew and former pupil, Mr. Samuel Fulton, an alumnus of Washington College, of the class of 1836, who still survives, though lately compelled by broken health to resign his charge as pastor of the Great Valley Presbyterian Church, in Chester County, Pa.

Mr. Fulton's successor as principal was the Rev. William Burton, also pastor of the Presbyterian Church of Florence. Messrs. John Rierson, John Russell, John Kerr, and James G. Ralston successively acted as assistant teachers. Mr. Kerr, after much service in the gospel ministry, is still a respected member of the Presbytery of Blairsville, and Mr. Ralston rose to distinction as the founder and head of a prosperous female seminary at Norristown, Pa., having before his death worn the titles of D.D. and LL.D. Messrs. Joseph Sheets, John A. Smith, and George W. Miller quickly followed in their order as principals, all of them being alumni of Washington College, of the respective classes of 1839, 1840, and 1845. The last named was subsequently the very successful principal of the academy at Carmichael's, Pa., and is now a prominent member of the Washington County bar.

The palmy days of the academy were embraced in the period of Mr. Fulton, when there was an average attendance of seventy students. Within the fifteen years of its existence, many were trained in it who afterwards rose to more or less distinction. In the want of a catalogue, memory supplies the names of the Rev. Messrs. Alexander Swaney, D.D., James D. Mason, D.D., David R. Campbell, D.D., William M. Robinson, David P. Lowary, and others of the sacred calling; Prof. Cochran, of Oberlin College; Drs. Joseph Rodgers and Thomas M. C. Stockton, and John Fulton, John McCombs, Caleb J. McNulty, and William Johnson, attorneys. The last two acquired prominence in Ohio, the former as a member of the Legislature of that State, and also as clerk of the United States House of Representatives, and the latter as a member of Congress.



FLORENCE, PA.—M. E. Church.

**Florence Methodist Episcopal Church  
Florence, PA**



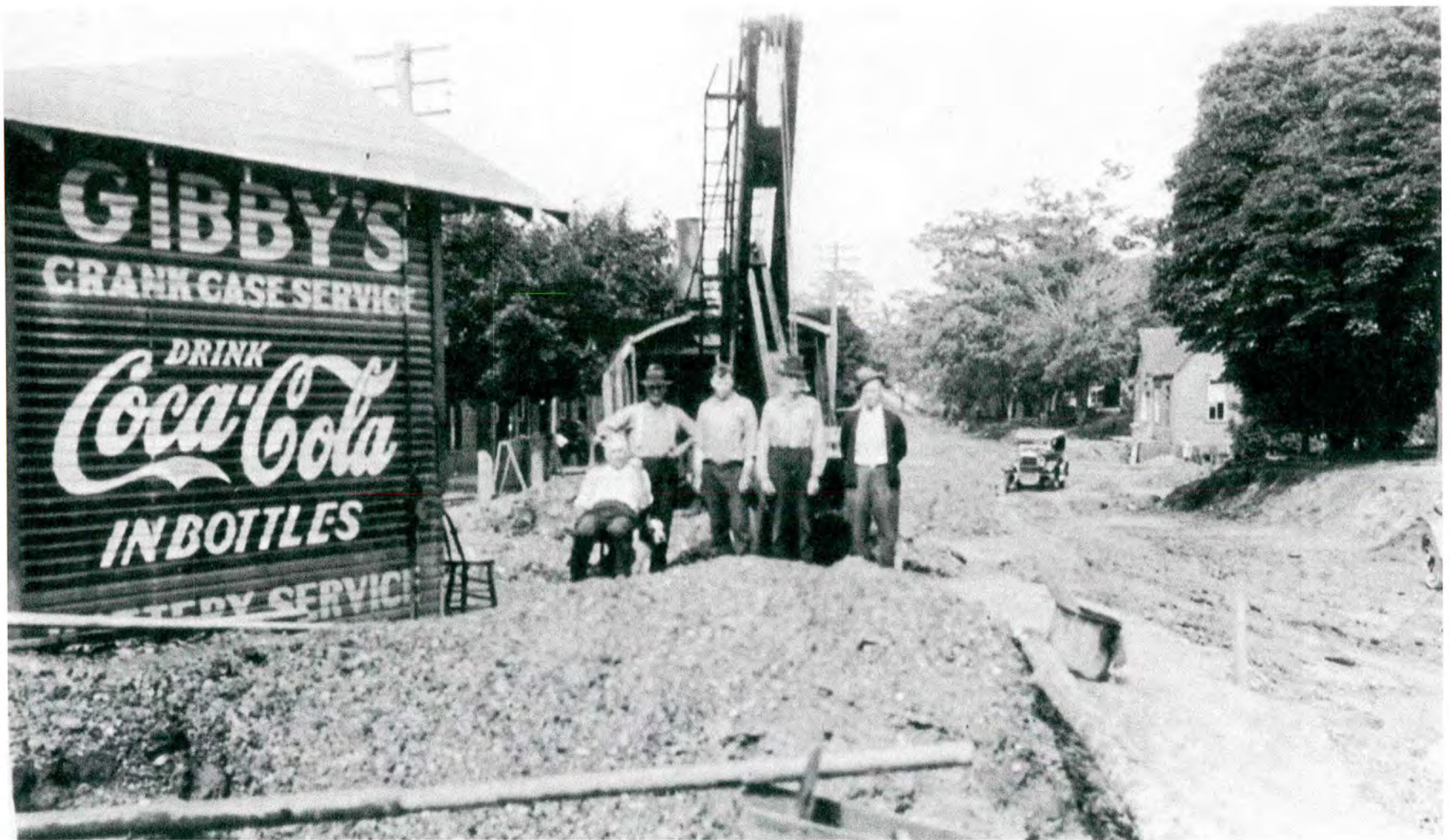
FLORENCE, PA.—M. E. Church.

**Florence Methodist Church  
Florence, PA**





**Florence Presbyterian Church**  
*Church was destroyed by a fire-February 1963*



**Jim Gibson Filling Station**

**Located at the corner of Rt. 18S and Rt. 22 E**

*At the right of the photo, behind the big tree is where EZ Pickens would eventually be built.*

**Florence, PA-Summer of 1928-1929**



Steam shovel in operation at the corner of Rt. 18 South and Rt. 22 East  
Looking towards Rt. 22W (upper left) and Rt. 18N (upper right)



**Jim Gibson, Owner of the Filling Station  
Florence, PA-Summer of 1928 or 1929**

**BUSINESS DIRECTORY.**

J. P. Caldwell Minister  
B. Livingston & Bro. Merchants  
James McCarroll - Surgeon & Physician  
Wm. J. Cool - Merchants Tailor  
Alex. Scott - Wagon Maker  
A. S. Berryhill - Grocer

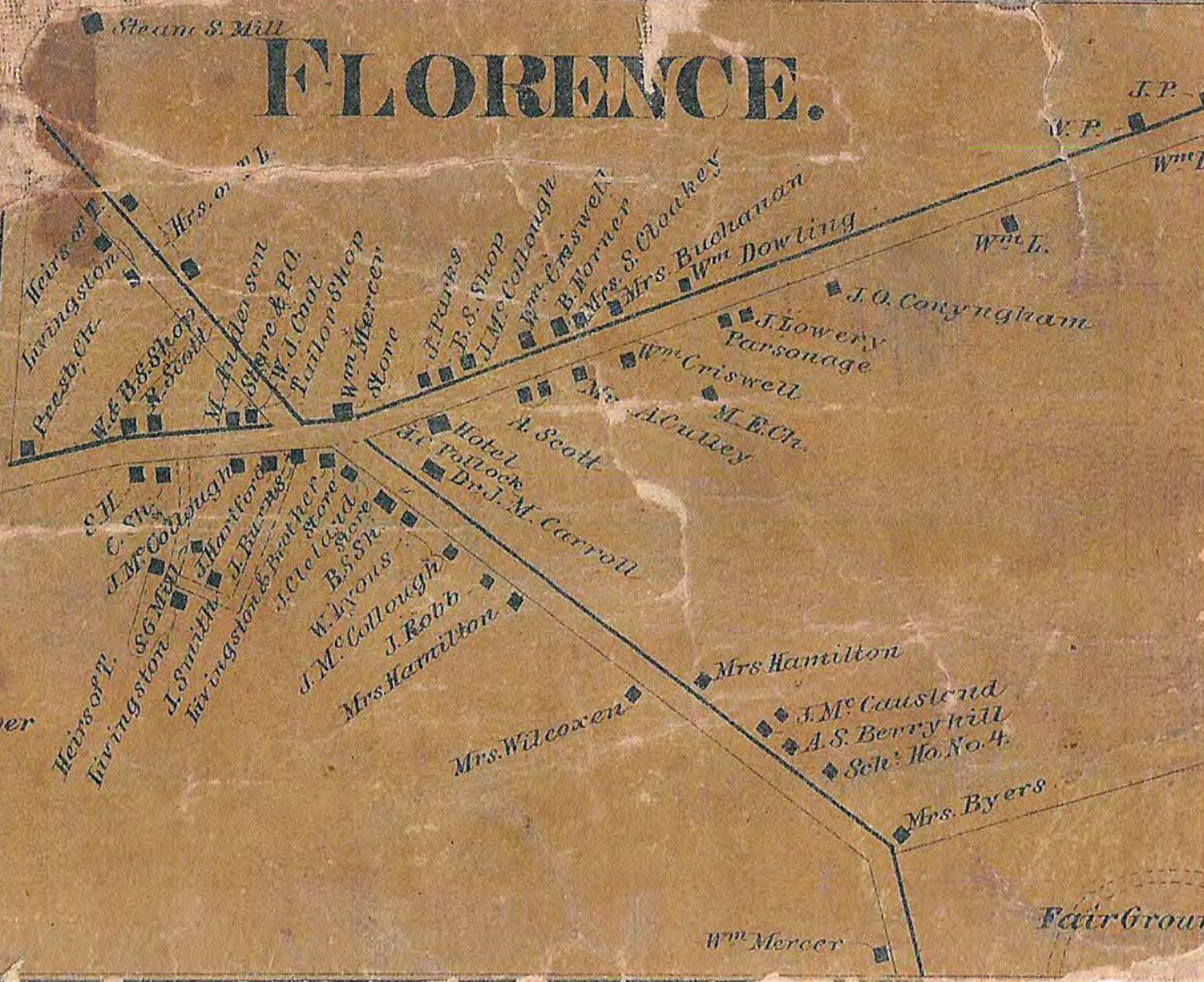
Stenn - Eye and Dentist  
J. D. Campbell - Teacher  
J. C. Fallock - Hotel Keeper  
Wm. Dornan - Prop<sup>r</sup> of Hotel

P. Teel  
R. G. S.  
E. Jameson  
S. Miller  
P. G. S.  
E. McCracken  
J. McClelland  
Miss R. Smith  
Mrs. X. Walker  
J. V. Wilcox  
Wm. S. S.

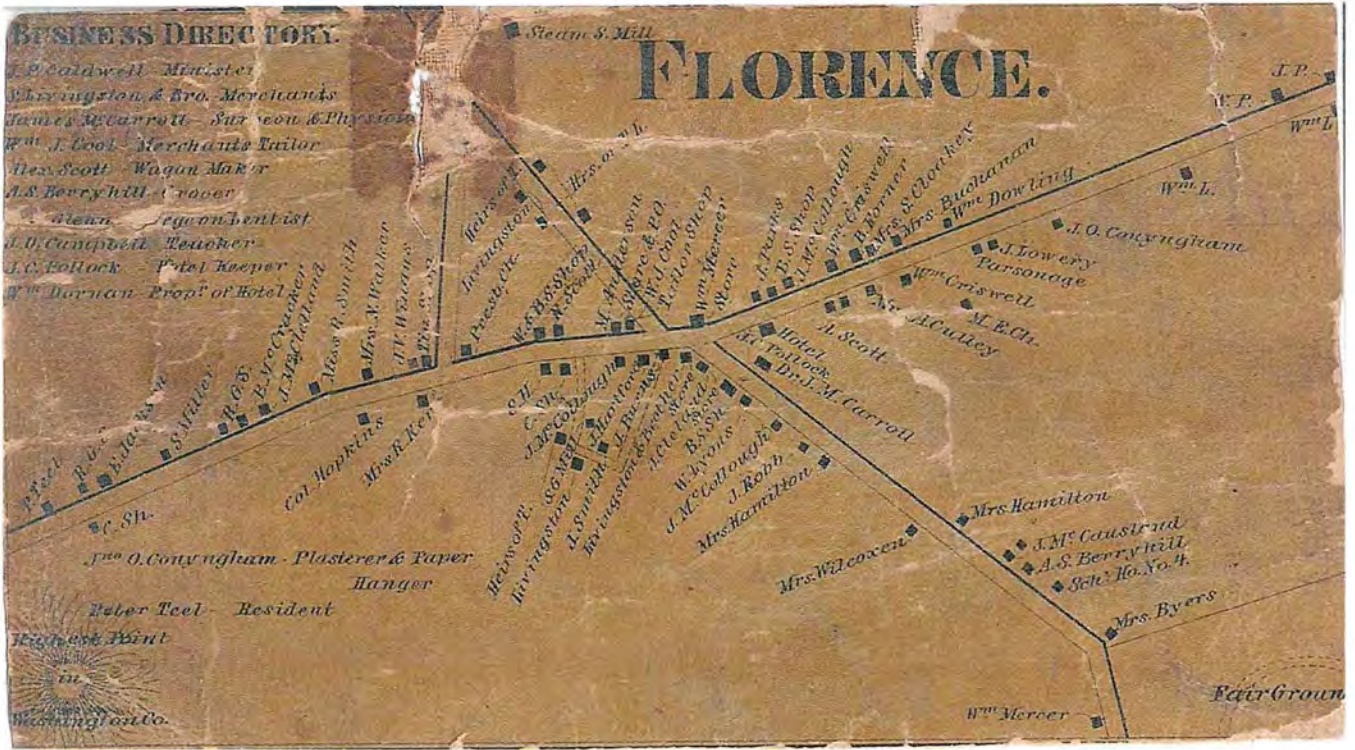
C. Sh.  
Jno O. Conyngham - Plasterer & Paper Hanger  
Peter Teel - Resident



# FLORENCE.



**Florence, PA  
Business Directory**



# Florence Business Directory

(Believed to be from 1861)

- |                                  |                                |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| <b>J. P. Caldwell</b>            | <b>Minister</b>                |
| <b>S. Livingston &amp; Bros.</b> | <b>Merchants</b>               |
| <b>James McCarroll</b>           | <b>Surgeon &amp; Physician</b> |
| <b>Wm. J. Cook</b>               | <b>Merchant Tailor</b>         |
| <b>Alex Scott</b>                | <b>Wagon Maker</b>             |
| <b>A.S. Berryhill</b>            | <b>Grocer</b>                  |
| <b>Wm. &amp; R. S. Glenn</b>     | <b>Surgeon &amp; Dentist</b>   |
| <b>J. D. Campbell</b>            | <b>Teacher</b>                 |
| <b>J. C. Pollock</b>             | <b>Hotel Keeper</b>            |
| <b>Wm. Dornan</b>                | <b>Prop. Of Hotel</b>          |

## Abstracts of the Washington Reporter 1817-1820

### Monday, September 20, 1819

**1169.** A lot of ground belonging to Mosses PROUDFIT, in Briceland's Cross roads, containing 1 acres and 1 ½ perches, more or less, fronting on the Pittsburgh and Steubenville road, and adjoining lands of James PROUDFIT, James SIMONTON and MCCONNELL, on which are erected one frame house 25 by 36 feet, two stories high. Seized and taken in execution at the suit of James **BRICELAND**.

### Monday, October 25, 1819

**1203.** Public notice is hereby given to the stockholders in the Pittsburgh and Steubenville Turnpike Road Company, that an election will be held at the house of Alexander MCFARLAND, on Monday the 22<sup>nd</sup> of November next, at 10 o'clock, A. M. for the purpose of electing one president, one treasurer, and eight managers, to conduct the affairs of the company for the ensuing year. /s/ **James BRICELAND**, Treasurer. Oct. 22.



Partners, L-R: George Diacopoulos, Gus Cassionis, and Mike Schooles  
**Farm Restaurant Open new Hickory Room**  
**Burgettstown Enterprise-Unknown 1966 Edition**

## Farm Restaurant Opens New Hickory Room



Farm Restaurant partners George Diacopoulos, Gus Cassionis and Mike Schooles have announced the opening of an all-new "Hickory Dining Room" at their restaurant near Florence on U.S. Route 22.

Grand Opening for the Hickory Room was held Sunday.

The new room will enable the restaurant to accommodate groups of up to 100 persons, for activities including business men's luncheons and dinners,

meeting, sports banquets, card parties, wedding and anniversary dinners, birthday and reunion dinners and social club dinner meetings.

**Farm Restaurant Open new Hickory Room  
Burgettstown Enterprise-Unknown 1966 Edition**



#### **Celebration for Florence.**

The people of Florence and vicinity will join with the Florence baseball team in an old-time celebration of the Fourth of July. A baseball game in the forenoon and one in the afternoon, in both of which contests Florence will cross bats with the Paris A. C. team, catching a greased pig, various races and many sports will mark the celebration. A large committee of Florence citizens is hard at work promoting a big day for their community.

**Florence- Fourth of July**  
**Burgettstown Enterprise- June 25, 1931 Edition**

**HIGHWAY TO FLORENCE  
MAY OPEN THIS WEEK**

Route No. 18, between Burgettstown and Florence, will be opened to traffic about August 8, state highway department officials state a few days ago.

The last of the concrete on the small section of highway, which has been under repair for weeks, was poured Friday and unless there are further complications the road will be ready for travel late this week.

Citizens of the district commenced to complain about the prolonged detour weeks ago and numerous petitions were sent to the highway department to have a short temporary detour constructed about the section under repair. Such a detour was made and its use permitted for a few days and then closed.

Persons residing within a few miles of Burgettstown, who had to make daily trips, have been forced for weeks to travel to Florence by way of Bavington over the detour, a distance of eight miles.

The section of Route 18 which has been under repair since early in June is approximately 200 feet in length. A slide occurred and the section had to be entirely rebuilt. A loose stone drainage system was also constructed to prevent future slides.

# Site of old village now houses fast food

One cold, long ago day in January, a small scattered group of men, clad in warm but bulky clothing, slowly trudged their way through snow-covered fields toward a narrow deep-rutted road. Upon reaching it, they walked until they reached a huge old white oak tree, where they stopped and chattered among themselves.

After a while, a vehicle approached. The driver distributed an assortment of papers among the men. He then deposited the remainder in a clapboard box that had been nailed to the tree. After an exchange of greetings, the vehicle moved on. The men departed, going their separate ways, happily clutching their treasures.

The year was 1811. The place was Bricelands Crossroads, later to become known as Florence, Pa.

The narrow road with the deep ruts was the present Route 18, the ruts having been made by the Conestoga wagons and the horses. The road forming the "crossroad" later became known as Old Route 22.

Among these early pioneer settlers could have been your great-grandfather and mine. They had just made their twice-weekly trip to the "Post Office" where the postman, on his way from Georgetown to Washington, deposited the scant supply of mail for the small communi-

Florence was first known as Mount Bethel, plotted in 1814 by James Proudfit, from his patent, "Guadeloupe."

Nearby was Samuel Johnston's tract. He was probably the earliest landholder in the neighborhood.

An adjoining tract was that of James Briceland, who, in 1813, opened a tavern at the "crossroads." Mount Bethel and Briceland's Crossroads merged in 1823 to become Florence, so named by Thomas Livingston, due to his admiration for Italy and the city there by the same name.

This Thomas Livingston was a son of the original Thomas Livingston who crossed the Allegheny Mountains in the 1790s.

The Livingston families owned five farms at one time, averaging 160 acres each. They established a store in about 1811 or 1812, so that emigrants going west could "stock up," promising to return later and make payment. Most of them never returned.

The farmers, wool growers and gristmill operators did a flourishing business at Briceland's Crossroads. Wool was hauled in Conestoga wagons to Boston, the wool market of the country. Wool was also shipped to New Orleans by flatboat, then on to England.

Florence boasted a store, a tannery, a silver plating estab-



**KATHRYN SLASOR**

The post office opened in 1818, with the clapboard box nailed to the old oak tree serving for a number of years.

Florence also had a newspaper beginning in 1845. The village held a country fair at one time.

Today, the little country village has again returned to just that — a little country village.

The days of the Conestoga wagons have gone.

The ruts over which they ran are now hard-surfaced highways, crossing at the same spot where James Briceland was such a familiar figure.

And instead of a tannery and a silver plating business, are a modern Stop-and-Go market on one corner, and the modest little drive-in restaurant, E-Z Pickins, across the way.

The proprietor of this delightful little eating establishment is Bernie Ramsey. Bernie is the nephew of



Chuck Sau

**DRIVE-IN DIRECTIONS** — E-Z Pickins is the place to stop for hamburgers, hot dogs — and local directions.

1959.

Gus was a leading citizen of the Burgettstown area, having first-operated Repole Bros. Furniture and Appliance Store on Main Street.

Active in community and civic affairs, Gus was deeply mourned at his passing in August 1970.

Bernie became owner upon the death of his uncle, for

age of 12. Bernie's brother, Jerry, works for him in the business.

His mother, Jennie Repole Ramsey, may also be seen behind the little window where customers stop to buy their hamburgers, fries, hot dogs and soft drinks.

Travelers "passing through" will remember not only the luscious food treats, but the cour-

tions. Standing as it does at the crossroads, it is the logical spot to stop for directions.

Motorists will ask, "Which way to Mountaineer Park?" "How do we get to Meadowcroft Village?" or "Do you know anything about the local covered bridges?" And they usually do.

(Slasor is a special correspondent for the Pennsylvania

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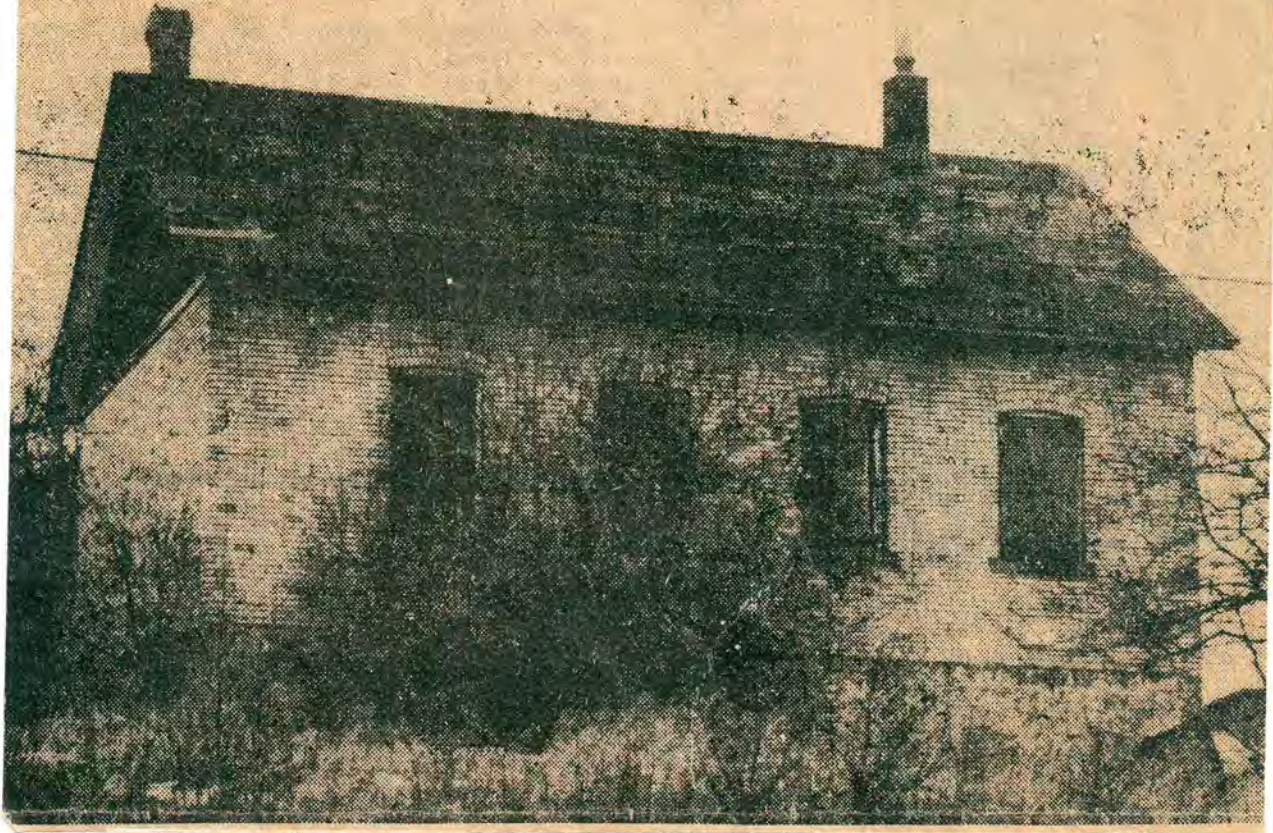
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## Francis Mine Church Experiences Year Of Growth



Anyone who would take time out to visit the little Church of Christ in Christian Union at Francis Mine would find it difficult to believe that the building was once an abandoned schoolhouse. He would also be surprised to learn that its congregation has witnessed a revival possibly incomparable to any other in the Burgettstown Community during the past year.

Begun as a mission in 1956 under the guidance of Rev. Lee Speer, the church experienced a decade of growing activity, but upon the minister's retirement due to ill health, the attendance began dwindling so that at a service on the first Sunday of January, 1978, only three people showed up for worship. At the service this past Christmas there were 81 and the Sunday School enrollment now totals 48. Forty or fifty people normally appear for mid-week prayer service, and 58 young people took part in Bible School last summer. A bus now travels to Paris and Langeloth to transport those who wish to attend Sunday service.

The building itself has undergone amazing changes during the last year. Both the exterior and interior have been painted. New red and black wall to wall carpeting has been laid. The basement and porch acquired cement floors, and walks were constructed about the building. Insulation was added to the new wing.

If one were to ask Tex Strothers to what he attributes the growth of the church he would probably respond that it was the will of the Lord. Strothers, however, has led the congregation in its services for the last year and promoted many of its projects. Over \$4,000 and innumerable hours of labor have been contributed by the members to renovate the building and to buy the bus.

Born in Salem, West Virginia, Strothers came to Pennsylvania in 1962; then moved to Burgettstown in 1971 where he now operates the A-1 Pest Control, Inc. At one time he was affiliated with the Church of the Nazarene but later joined the Church of Christian Union. His hopes are high for expanding the Francis Mine Church. "This year," he says, "we'd like to buy another bus and increase our membership still further." He and his wife Brenda and their family live on McClure Avenue.

Rev. Lee Speer, to whom the

church owes its origin, still loves to recall his early experiences with the congregation. He came here from McDonald after becoming acquainted with the community by preaching at the Church of Christ on Shady Avenue. He noticed the abandoned schoolhouse at Francis Mine and dreamed of the possibilities of turning it into a Sunday School. For a year he held services in a rented house at Francis Mine; then he and his little band of followers purchased the schoolhouse and renovated it for worship purposes. Rev. Speer has many happy recollections of conducting the Francis Mine Community Church as it was then called. He recalls how a new roof, new windows and a new furnace were added to the building, and he remembers how people brought pennies and nickels to speed up the work of the Lord. He is delighted to know that once more the little church is growing.

Revival services are scheduled to begin February 12 with Rev. Drexel Baker from Weirton, a pastor of the New Cumberland Church of the Nazarene, as a speaker.

**Church of Christ in Christian Union**  
**Burgettstown Enterprise-February 7, 1979 Edition**

## FRANKFORT SPRINGS ACADEMY

EDITED BY ANNA M. CROUSE

Frankfort Springs Academy had its beginning, May 1, 1834, when Dr. James Sloan and Thomas Nicholson entered an agreement to build and to conduct an academy for a period of eight years, and to share the expenses and the profits. Dr. Sloan was pastor of the Presbyterian Church and Mr. Nicholson was the first superintendent of the Beaver County Schools. Paden Moore later pastor of the Swan Indiana Presbyterian Church was a teacher. The Academy was open to male students, and its main objective was to prepare teachers, but its students could readily enter the junior class of the best colleges of the day. The scholastic and moral standards were high. Saturday was set aside as a day of prayer and conference by teachers and students alike. It was presented at the 1910 reunion by Thomas Bigger. Letters from the three surviving members, Warren S. Dungan, M. L. Miller and Dr. Reed were read by Archie D. Dungan.

In 1847 the Academy closed and the building became a private residence.

A second building was erected in 1871 at a cost of \$2,500. It was legally incorporated on October 1, 1871. Its objective was the education of young men and women in the languages, the useful arts, and sciences.

It numbered among its founders; J. J. Carothers, Samuel Bigger, Rev. A. O. Rochwell, Dr. W. M. McElwee, John Stevenson, James Morrison, John McCollough, H. B. McCreary, Thomas Nicholson, Rev. J. S. Purdy, Thomas Bigger, Robert Ramsey, William Frazer, William McCollough, Samuel Leeper and Henry Lance. The first seven composed the board of trustees. Mr. J. H. Veasey, principal; W. F. Purdy, assistant principal; Mrs. Veasey and Miss Inez Brenneman, teachers. Mr. Veasey left to enter the Seminary and Mr. Stewart became principal.

William McKirahan, Joseph Miller, Mr. McCune, James McKirahan, Mr. Sharp, Mr. Haggerty, Mr. Kirpatrick, Mr. Snyder, James L. Leeper, Miss Lizzie Nevin, and Miss Carrie Harsha were the teachers. Student assistants were Joseph M. Swearingen, Miss Anna McClurg, W. C. Yolton, William Reed, Henry Burns, Ellis Bigger and Frank Reed. After the Academy closed, the building was sold at the Sheriff's sale to satisfy a claim of William Ewing.

Dr. S. H. Leeper was instrumental in arousing interest in the reopening of the Academy. A committee was appointed to solicit funds to purchase and furnish a building. James Hood, W. M. Frazer, and W. O. Gilliland drew up the constitution. The Academy reopened April 17, 1895. J. Mont Travis was principal; E. S. Brenneman, F. S. Springer, W. L. Moors, and Miss Mamie Keefer were teachers. This faculty, with exception of Miss Keefer was succeeded by G. B. Lewis, principal; Miss Winetta Huss, Mrs. Lewis, and Miss Anna Cowen, teachers. E. G. McKibbin and Miss Gertrude Thomas were in charge of the school year, 1897-1898. G. B. Seville taught the fall term of 1898, and was succeeded by R. W. Walker, who was assisted in the spring term by his sister Miss Margaret S. Walker. Mr. Walker resigned to enter the Seminary and Edwin G. Frazer was principal for two years. Miss Bertha Graham taught music and J. Alvin Campbell and D. Chalmers Fulton assisted in the spring term. Later A. A. Knowlton, E. E. Bovee, E. H. Pratt, Mr. and Mrs. S. B. Fonner, Miss Nannie Ullom, and Miss Garret were teachers.

Again the Academy closed but reopened in 1909, as the result of a conversation between Dr. W. R. Thompson and Joseph W. Leeper, who was told that the building was available. Dr. Thompson found the teachers and students. A. M. Lange was principal for one term and was succeeded by Miss Hibbitt Coventry whose sudden death ended her services. H. B. Hutchman and James A. Bell succeeded her. Miss Anna M. Crouse assisted in the spring term.

High Schools had opened in the surrounding larger towns, the attendance dropped and the Academy was closed permanently.

*course &* Ralph Cooley, Edwin G. Frazer, W. J. L. McCollough, Ira F. Leeper, Charles Anderson, Anna Coventry, Earl H. Frazer, Wylie Saxton, Guy Yolton, Roy Yolton, Warren Saxton, Isabelle Shannon, Laura Stevenson, Estella Cooley, Anna Crouse, Clarence R. Frazer, Alvin Campbell, Charles Clutter, Alex. M. Cross, Edith Crouse, Chalmers Fulton, Armour Inglefield, Carl Rice, Edna McCoy Ethel Arnold Jennie Campbell, Melvin Hood, and Nelle Kerr were among those completing the college preparatory course and were graduated from the Academy after it was reopened in 1896.

A. D. Dungan, principal and Miss Anna M. Crouse, assistant, conducted a summer school preparatory and refresher course for teachers in the building after the Academy closed.

Rev. E. R. Welch was principal of the high school which offered a three year course, but that was discontinued after a time.

This very brief factual account of the Academy does not touch upon the most important features of its existence, and that was its influence upon the lives of the students nor the great contribution by the faculty and the students to the American way of life, for that can not be measured.

This abbreviated account of the history was published in The Burgettstown Enterprise, June 22, 1910, after the 1910 reunion and The Sesqui-Centennial Edition of The Beaver Times, August 11, 1950.

## The Frankfort Springs Hotels

James Dungan started to build a three story hotel, May 7, 1835, at the southern end of Frankfort, because of the over crowd in the "Frankfort House" at the Mineral Springs. It was finished and ready to open in July 1836.

It was later called the Vance Hotel after the property was transferred to Andrew Vance and then to his daughter, Mary I. Vance. It had been told that the Vance's continued to rent rooms, one being a doctor, and also served meals. Annie McHough may have helped with the meals. I have a picture of Mary Vance sitting on the front porch of the hotel.

Margaret Devitt Ingelfield once told me that when she walked to Frankfort around 1912 for her piano lessons from Helen Yolton, that she would walk up to see Mary as she knew she would always get a large delicious cookie from her. Mary died in 1925.

Justus Mulert received the property from Mary Vance estate in the early 1930's. After his son Carl Mulert received the property he divided the building into three apartments. The south end was made of wood with four rooms on the first floor and two unused rooms on the second story. The Wayne Lyons family moved to the apartment in 1935 and remained there until 1944 when they moved to the McCullough place on the hill west of Frankfort Springs. Howard and Hazel Burd lived in that section from 1944 until 1961. Tom and Shirley Smitsky lived there from 1961 through 1966. T that time there was no one living in the other two apartments and the building was demolished the following year in 1967 by Carl Mulert.

The middle apartment was made of brick and contained one very large kitchen and one other room on the first floor. There were two useable rooms on the second floor. The Hunter Stephens family lived in this middle section from 1935 until 1948 when they bought the Marshall Burd property. Marshall and Marie Burd with their three children, Charles, Dorothy, and Kenneth moved to the middle apartment. The Burd family remained there until 1957 when they bought the McHugh property. John and Mary McCabe with their



## The Frankfort Springs Hotels

daughters Shirley and Judi were the last family to live in the middle apartment. From 1957 to 1964.

The north end of the large brick hotel contained a kitchen and living room on the first floor and two bedrooms on the second. There were many small families in and out of this small apartment. Some being, Audley and Dorothy Keifer-John and Betty Findling (John Findling built stairs to the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor) - John and Mary McCabe with daughters, Shirley and Judi (1952-57) -Raymond and Julia Stephens-Mae and Marian Long. Also Don and Goldie Cummings before the Keifers.

The large brick hotel with a front and back porch across the length of the building and a wooden section attached once was a very popular vacation attraction and a Land Mark for many people traveling through the borough. Those by gone days are gone and so is Frankfort Springs hotel.

There was another hotel in the middle of the borough called Butz's Hotel. They also rented rooms to travelers and served meals. When Joseph Butz sold to Charles Kraft in 1904 they continued for some time to serve dinners, especially on Sundays. That former hotel is now the property of Ray and Mary Crawford.

July 2000

Main Street, Frankfort Springs, PA



L-R: Fred Thornburg and his son Chuck

## FACTS ON FRANKFORT COME FROM MISSOURI

Former Frankfort Springs Resident  
Writes Interesting Letter  
On Name of Town

The Enterprise is in receipt of a letter from Mrs. Agnes M. Bryte, of Versailles, Mo., a former resident of the Frankfort section, relative to the proper name of Frankfort. A part of the letter follows:

"I saw in the Enterprise where a sign directing tourists to Frankfort has the name spelled 'Frankford.'

"When a postoffice was established there, the office and village were called 'Frankfort Springs,' the name being in honor of a small fort built early in pioneer times by a settler named Frank.

"There was a meeting of citizens called for the purpose of giving the village a name, and at this meeting it was agreed to call the place 'Frankfort Springs,' in order that the name would not conflict with Frankford, a town near Philadelphia, Pa. Letters not having 'Springs' included in the address frequently went to Philadelphia, and eventually would be returned, marked 'Try Beaver Co.'

"I remember once, on a dark, rainy night, a stranger came in the store to get warm. He said he had driven his team many miles, and supposed he had yet many miles to go in looking for the home of Robert McHugh, of Frankford. He took out a piece of paper, and we discovered the McHugh in question lived near at hand. I said, 'we will have to quit going by addresses on envelopes. We all live about eight miles from the addresses put on envelopes.'

"Persons interested in naming the town were Eastern people, among whom were the Dungans and Roberts family. The Dungans came from Philadelphia about 150 years ago. My grandparents, Levi and Mary Dungan, located a few rods from where the town is. My great grandfather, Richard Roberts, came from Virginia about 130 years ago.

"Mrs. Andrew Stevenson and I can well remember when we, as small girls, heard grandfather tell of the meeting at which Frankfort Springs was given its name."



**Frankfort Springs Hotel**

*Courtesy of Fort Vance Historical Society*



**Frankfort Springs Hotel, late 1890's  
Frankfort Springs, PA**



THE FIRST BIG VENDUE AT FRANKFORT

**The First Big Vendue at Frankfort Springs**  
**Burgettstown Enterprise-September 6, 1933 Edition**



The mineral springs in what is now Raccoon Creek State Park began attracting visitors to the area in the 1700s. The folks above were there in 1895. The Frankfort Mineral Springs Hotel, in the background, burned in 1932. The photo belongs to W.J. Steen of Mt. Lebanon, whose parents and sisters are in it.

## Bowlers, Bustles And Blue Jeans



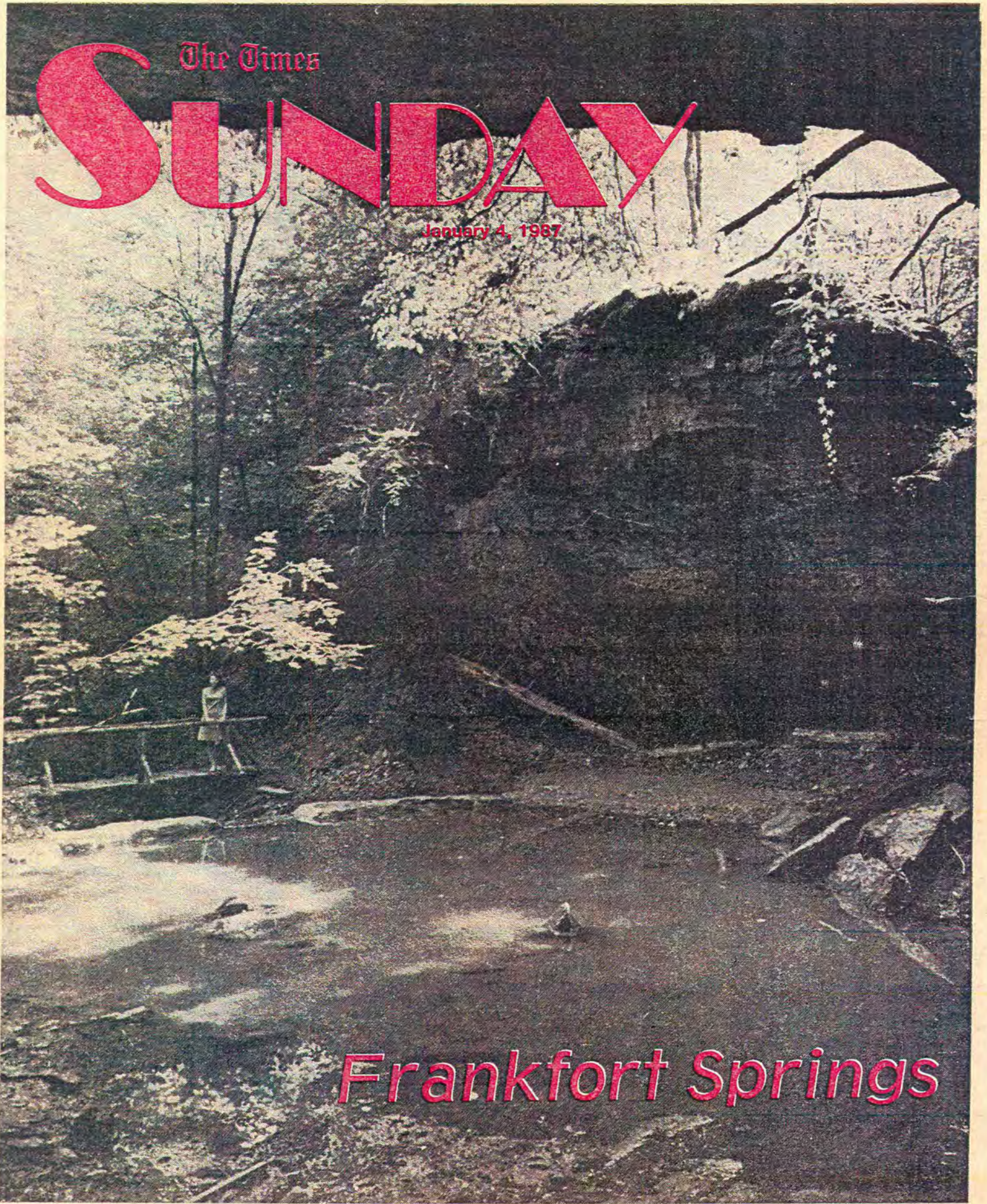
At the grotto where the mineral waters flow into hollowed stone, the Gay Nineties crowd, above right, was fond of gathering, just as the contemporary youngsters, below right, got together for an outdoor ecology class. The cyclists in the above photo may have ridden the whole 30 miles from Pittsburgh.

The Times

# SUNDAY

January 4, 1987

Frankfort Springs





## Cover Story

# The golden days of Frankfort Springs

By Karen Ferriek-Roman

Times Staff

Virginia Beach, Fort Lauderdale, Acapulco, Frankfort Springs. Resort towns all. Frankfort Springs? In Beaver County? Population 187?

Take a walk back to 1790, when Edward McGinnis bought 12 acres of land, including mineral springs that he found "healing to his ailment." The water eventually would draw people from Pittsburgh, Steubenville and Wheeling and become the spot where high society would mix and mingle. It would be Western Pennsylvania's most famous resort for about a century, through the Civil War until about 1900, according to information from the Beaver County Historical Research Center, Carnegie Free Library, Beaver Falls.

Eventually, the hotel at the mineral springs would become a restaurant, a convalescent home, then stand empty. A fire that would destroy the building in the 1930s would be its final blow.

"I think the total interest died down ... It became a lost cause," says Edwin W. Devitt, 81, of Hopewell Township. Devitt, a past president of the Mill Creek Historical Society, and his brother, Harold, grew up in Hanover Township, near the mineral springs, which have been a part of Raccoon Creek State Park for more than 40 years.

A short climb up a path off Route 18 in Hanover Township, just beyond the park office building, leads to the former 2½-acre resort complex.

The only remaining structure is the foundation of a three-story guest cottage, constructed in the early 1800s. Stone, quarried locally, was used to build the first floor; the upper floors were wood frame. Intended as a separate guest cottage, the building later became a manager's residence, a store, a barbershop and finally, a bottling house for the spring water, says a history book published by the state park.

The upper floors of the cottage were lost in a fire in the early 1900s, the book says. But only a portion of the stone walls had collapsed by the late 1960s, when restoration began. Funded by the late Thomas Walker of Sewickley, the restoration turned the dilapidated building into a museum by 1972. Now, though, the rooms of stone and massive hand-hewn beam supports sit vacant because funding is no longer available to staff the museum, says Don Cramer, park foreman.

Just behind the cottage was the Frankfort House, a sweeping 110- by 43-foot hotel-dining room. The first building of the resort complex, it was constructed by McGinnis in the 1790s, with large porches on the first and second floors and private entry to each room, like hotels today.

All that remains of its former grandeur are seven supports for the porch, the tallest of them knee-high, and a pile of brick and stone rubble.

Across the road from the hotel ruins and cottage once stood a dance hall. A path nearby eases into a ravine, where mineral water still flows from shale and sandstone rocks. The iron- and sulphur-filled water stains the wall of the grotto with bright orange. Its residue streaks a catchbasin, trough and a settling pond, where spring water mingles with water from an unnamed creek.

The creek water tumbles from falls across the grotto, which have been reduced by cave-ins since the glory days of the spa. A wooden railing

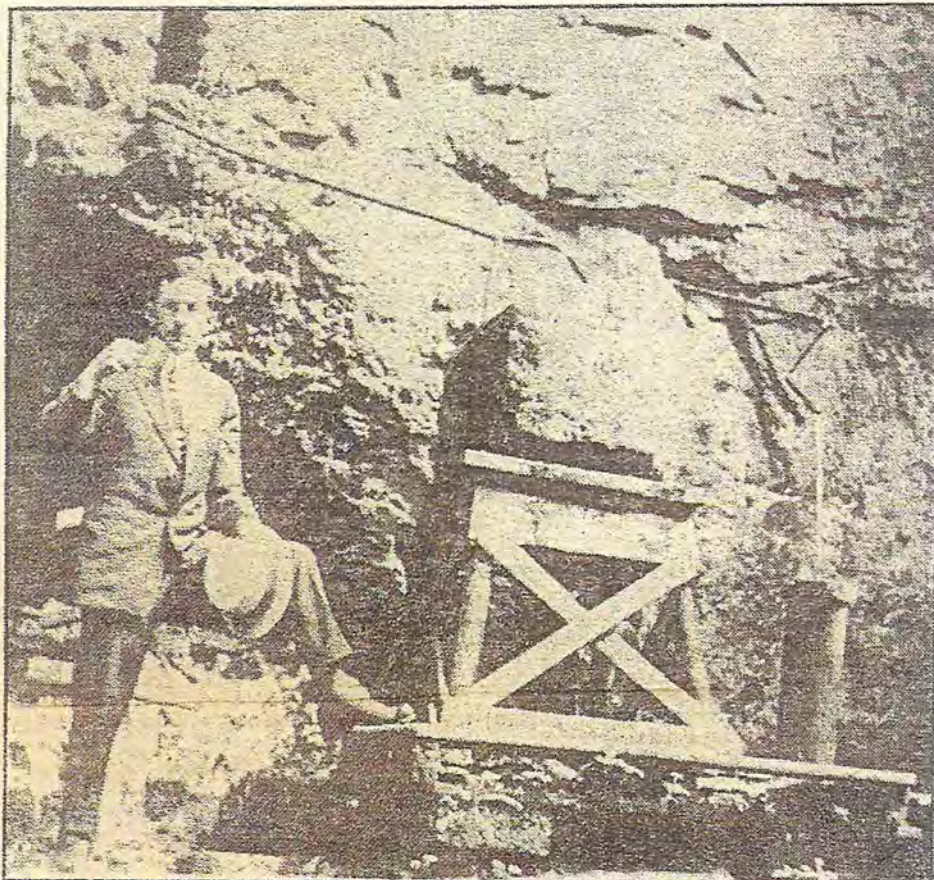


Photo courtesy of Arnold McMahon

Harold Devitt, about 29 years old, holds a glass of mineral springs "cheer" in this picture, circa 1912. He lived in Pittsburgh, but spent time in Hanover Township, visiting with his brother, Edwin, and his parents.

hugs the settling pond, which still is contained by original stonework, Cramer says.

Workers are constructing bridges across the flowing rill; the project will continue through the spring, says Larry Hoffman, park superintendent. Bridges built during the restoration of the cottage were destroyed in the aftermath of a storm in 1980.

Devitt didn't witness the heyday of the spa, but remembers livery service from Burgettstown to the springs in the years before the automobile.

The spa is where Jessie Fulum of Hanover Township saw her first car, a two-seater with no doors on it. Mrs. Fulum's recollections of the Frankfort Mineral Springs resort date back 69 years, when she was a 10-year-old girl and her mother did the laundry, cleaning and cooking at the hotel.

Her mother worked at the hotel from May to Labor Day for about 50 years, Mrs. Fulum remembers, earning \$1.50 a day, \$2 plus tips on Sunday. On Sunday, the hotel would serve about 200 people — with no leftovers, Mrs. Fulum says.

Occasionally, Mrs. Fulum ate in the second dining room with the dozen or so hotel employees. She remembers "garden vegetables, and plenty of them" — potatoes, turnips, onions, all grown at the resort, and her favorite, green beans cooked with ham. Country butter,

dressed and live chickens and milk were bought from the Lou Elder farm next door.

Even after the hotel closed, the resort was known for its food, especially chicken dinners served on Sundays. In those years, as during its heyday, the Springs also were known for their elegance; going there was a dress-up event.

"Oh yes, there's rich people came up there," says Mrs. Fulum, recalling men in frock-tail coats and tight-fitting leggings. Then, an overnight stay cost a quarter a night; meals cost another quarter, according to the state park book.

Dances were held every Friday in the pavilion, which featured a boardwalk overlooking the springs. Mrs. Fulum remembers the music of the bass, fiddle, guitar and mandolin. "If I were old enough, I could have been playing for them," says Mrs. Fulum, a multi-talented musician.

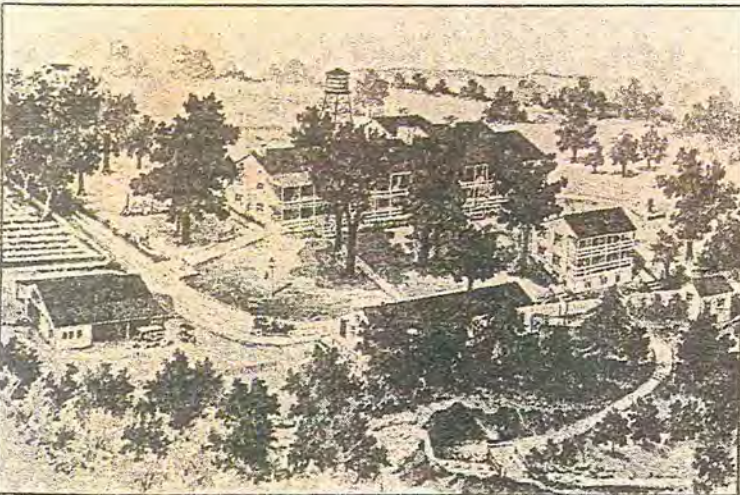
The elegance of the spa is described in a quotation in the state history book about the Springs: "Here silks and satins were worn and poke bonnets tied down with colored picot edged ribbons and adorned with plumes of many colors. The Springs were gay with the latest patterns from New York, the porches filled with pretty maids and ladies embroidering.

"At candle-lighting," the passage continues, "the brass sticks from the old corner-cupboard were lighted in the long ballroom and to the



An undated picture of Frankfort Springs Inn, which was located on the hillside above the mineral springs.

Photo courtesy of Arnold McMahon



A general view of the mineral springs complex in its heyday. The spring is at the lower right.

Photo courtesy of Raccoon Creek State Park

violin strains the polka and the Virginia reel were performed with graceful bows and turns ... when the grandfather clock at the foot of the ballroom sounded the stroke of eleven, all lights were snuffed from the candles and the merriment ceased."

While dancing was a highlight, it wasn't the only activity at the resort. One advertisement for the resort proclaims, "Country streams for fishing, beautiful drives through rural scenery, tennis court, dancing pavilion, croquet grounds, swings and straw rides. Good garden, abundant table, home cooking."

A newspaper clipping from 1931, after the demise of the hotel and at about the time the springs were taken over by the National Park Service, referred to rowdier times in the pastoral setting. It called the resort "a natural antidote for the habitual use of extremely plentiful whiskey and a universal resort for the grizzily morning after an under-the-table contest, for rheumatism

and many of the aches and pains to which pioneer flesh is heir."

But Mrs. Edward Campbell of Sewickley, niece of the late Thomas Walker, remembers hearing about more sedate outings there.

"It was a great place to go ... It was a very, what we would say quiet, way of doing things," Mrs. Campbell says.

Although many of the activities were planned for adults, Mrs. Campbell says she is sure her uncle played croquet, rode horseback and played tennis — though it was frowned upon by his parents, who considered golf and tennis games for the idle rich.

"He evidently remembered it as a good memory ... so that's why he was interested in preserving it," Mrs. Campbell says.

The trip to Frankfort Mineral Springs was a vacation based on the idea that "taking the air and the water" would be healthy.

"It was a great thing in his day," Mrs.

Campbell says. "That was quite a trip in those days, with a horse and buggy." Later, the Walker family would make its yearly pilgrimage to the springs by touring car, she says.

The Walkers drank the spring water, like other hotel guests. After the demise of the hotel, before Walker died at age 93 six years ago, Mrs. Campbell remembers visiting the springs, walking the paths there with her uncle. She remembers looking at the springs, but refraining from a taste. "It didn't look so attractive," she recalls.

Mrs. Fulum agrees. In the 79 years she has lived near the springs, she's never taken a sip of the water that used to draw so many people.

"I don't know what it tastes like," she says, almost wistfully. "They said it was awful good." But to the uninitiated, the spring water tastes like well water in need of softening.

Many of the hotel guests believed the water was good for their health. "Some would be sick, and they'd come out there to rest up and kind of take a vacation, that's all," Mrs. Fulum says. "But the ones that were really sick didn't like it. They said there was too much noise."

When Mrs. Fulum was a child, a man staying at the hotel offered her 50 cents to draw a pitcherful of water from the springs. "I said OK," Mrs. Fulum says. Then she walked down the hill, "I looked down in there [the grotto] — it was dark, with the water dripping down. I said I wasn't going back there and drew well water. And he didn't know any difference."

In 1899, Dr. James Cook analyzed water from one of the seven springs. He wrote that it flowed at 500 to 600 gallons an hour at a constant temperature of 58 degrees. His analysis showed high content of sulphur, calcium and salts. "This water," he wrote, "has been found beneficial in anemia and rheumatic conditions."

"I guess they thought in those days anything that didn't taste good was medicinal," says Marie McElhaney, Moon Township, with a laugh. Mrs. McElhaney, 80, was raised as Marie Miller, the daughter of a Hookstown country doctor.

Although she forgets how many springs were active when she was growing up, Mrs. McElhaney does recall, "All had a different mineral content, which is very unusual."

Now, three springs, one next to another, are active, says Anthony Longo, superintendent of the park rangers. Although no staffer at Raccoon Creek State Park could recall a recent chemical analysis of the water, Longo says he believes the content of the water has changed over the years.

"The water changed, or otherwise, we'd have another White Sulphur Springs, W.Va.," Longo says.

But others, like Devitt, believe the automobile, the development of new resorts on the East Coast and the passage of time took its toll on the popularity of the Springs.

Also, in more recent years, doubt has been cast on the health effects of the springs. An article in the county historical research files, written in 1974, declares, "Although for nearly a century the springs were noted for their healing effects, in reality, its value as medicine was extremely limited. It had, probably, more effects as a psychological cure for psychosomatic illness."

"Mostly, what made them better was resting and enjoying themselves," agrees Margaret Ross of Rochester, retired Beaver County director of historical research.

Especially after the turn of the century, the springs were falling out of favor as a resort, Mrs. McElhaney remembers. Then, local people turned to bottling the water. Although Mrs. McElhaney never recalls a bottling works, she says, "maybe somebody took it on to bottle the water."

Devitt is hard-pressed to remember many locals being as enthusiastic about the water as the out-of-towners. "Local people, I don't think, were quite as gullible as those who journeyed from farther away," he says.

Gaps in the memories of older residents leave gaps in the history of the springs resort. The area's elders recall the water being bottled after the turn of the century. Agnes Dungan Kreutzberg of Chester, W.Va., whose ancestors were the first settlers in Beaver County and owned land adjacent to the mineral springs, remembers orphans being brought from Pittsburgh to the fresh air of the springs resort in its declining years.

Both she and Mrs. McElhaney recall that the resorts were vacant for some time, then turned into a convalescent home by Dr. Franklin D. Kerr, a retired South Heights doctor, in about 1905 or 1910.

Kerr's home operated successfully for a few years, Mrs. McElhaney says. But its popularity was its downfall. It was such a pleasant place to stay that people kept wanting to bring their children. "It just got so popular it got out of hand; they couldn't keep up with it," Mrs. McElhaney says.

During the World War I years, the hotel closed. After the war, several groups tried to make a go of the old hotel, but it had been vacant for some time when it burned in the 1930s, the area's older residents recall.

The Vance Hotel, which has been built in the town of Frankfort Springs to accommodate the overflow of guests from the resort hotel, burned in the 1960s. And the town, which once enjoyed the trade brought by resort guests, never progressed much.

But even after the hotel's fiery demise, the springs were an attraction of sorts. Devitt and McElhaney recall. Says Devitt, "Even after the hotel burned down completely, I vividly remember people would journey there on Sundays and holidays to drink the water and picnic under the trees."

In the 1980s, that still is happening. In the summertime, Cramer says, about 100 visitors stop at the springs each day.

Many of them still are out-of-towners. "This is somewhere close in Beaver County that is a historical site that not that many people are aware of," says Nancy Shaffer of Independence Township, a volunteer with the park's Wildflower Preserve.

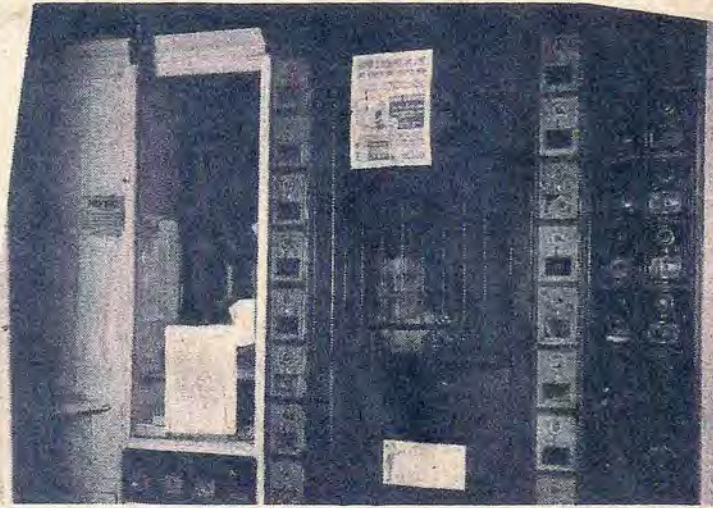
And, to many of the visitors, the springs are still a good watering hole.

Within the last six years, Cramer has seen 75- and 80-year-olds pushing shopping carts full of empty plastic milk bottles down the path to fill them with spring water.

This fall, Shaffer and Art Witt, another volunteer at the Wildflower Preserve, conducted a nature walk along the springs for a wedding party.

The walk ended with a toast of bubbly — spring water, not champagne.

## Hanlin Station Post Office to Close



Mrs. Mazie Fulton smiles for the Enterprise photographer from the window of the Hanlin Station Post Office, where she has served as Postmaster for nearly

twenty-five years. This Friday, she will close the window for the last time, with business being transacted in the future at the new Paris rural station.



This Enterprise photo shows the Hanlin Station Post Office as it stands today. Government business has been transacted in this tiny room for the past forty years.

The end of an era will come to tiny rural area of Hanlin Station, in Jefferson Township, on Friday evening, August 14, 1964. When Mrs. Mazie Fulton, Postmistress, closes the door to the Post Office for the last time. At the close of business on that day, the Hanlin Station Post Office will cease to exist as such, and will be re-located in Paris. The Hanlin route will be transferred to Burgettstown as a Rural Route 4.

With the closing of the office will also come the retirement of Mrs. Fulton, who has served as Post-mistress since February 1, 1940. She succeeded her father, F.M. Barber, who operated the Post Office for the previous fifteen years. For the past forty years, it has been located in the same building, now owned by Walter Jones. Prior to that time, it was located across the road near the railroad.

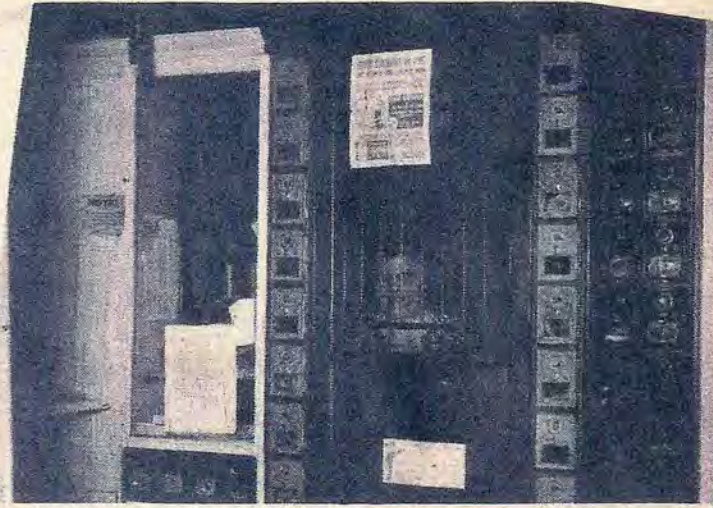
The tiny hamlet of Hanlin Station, where once local dairymen met the early morning train with horse drawn vehicles loaded with milk for shipment to Pittsburgh, where school teachers and other Pittsburgh-bound passengers boarded one of ten daily trains, is now quiet and inactive, with only an occasional train passing through, whose passengers and crew are unaware of its existence, as the train hurries on to Pittsburgh.

All mail is now delivered by truck, with two deliveries daily, at 8:15AM and 4:30 PM. The last pouch was hung in 1951.

Mrs. Fulton was born on the site where the post office now stands, and has lived all her life within a half mile of the location. She received her education at Hanlin, Burgettstown and Steubenville Business College, graduating from there in 1918. She is a member of the Eldersville Methodist Church, and Missionary Circle Two. She has seen many changes in both post office and in rural surroundings, during her years of service in the area.

When asked her plans for the future, after twenty-four years in the post office, Mrs. Fulton says she will be happy to have more time to spend at home with her husband, G.S. Fulton, and enjoy the company of their son, Bill, his wife Betty, and their six granddaughters, Cindy, Kathy, Mary Jo, Cheryl, Theresa, and Rita, and last, but not least, the long awaited grandson, Billy Jr.

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### ROAD TO HANLIN STA. TO BE RESURFACED

The Pennsylvania State Highway Department is surveying the road from Burgettstown to Hanlin Station with the expectation of resurfacing it with black-top as soon as funds are available. Survey work has also begun on the road between Burgettstown and Florence (Route 18) for a resurfacing job as soon as funds have been received. In the event that Route 18 will be under improvement, the Bavington Road will be maintained as a detour, Louis Forsythe, of the State Highway Department at Washington has announced.

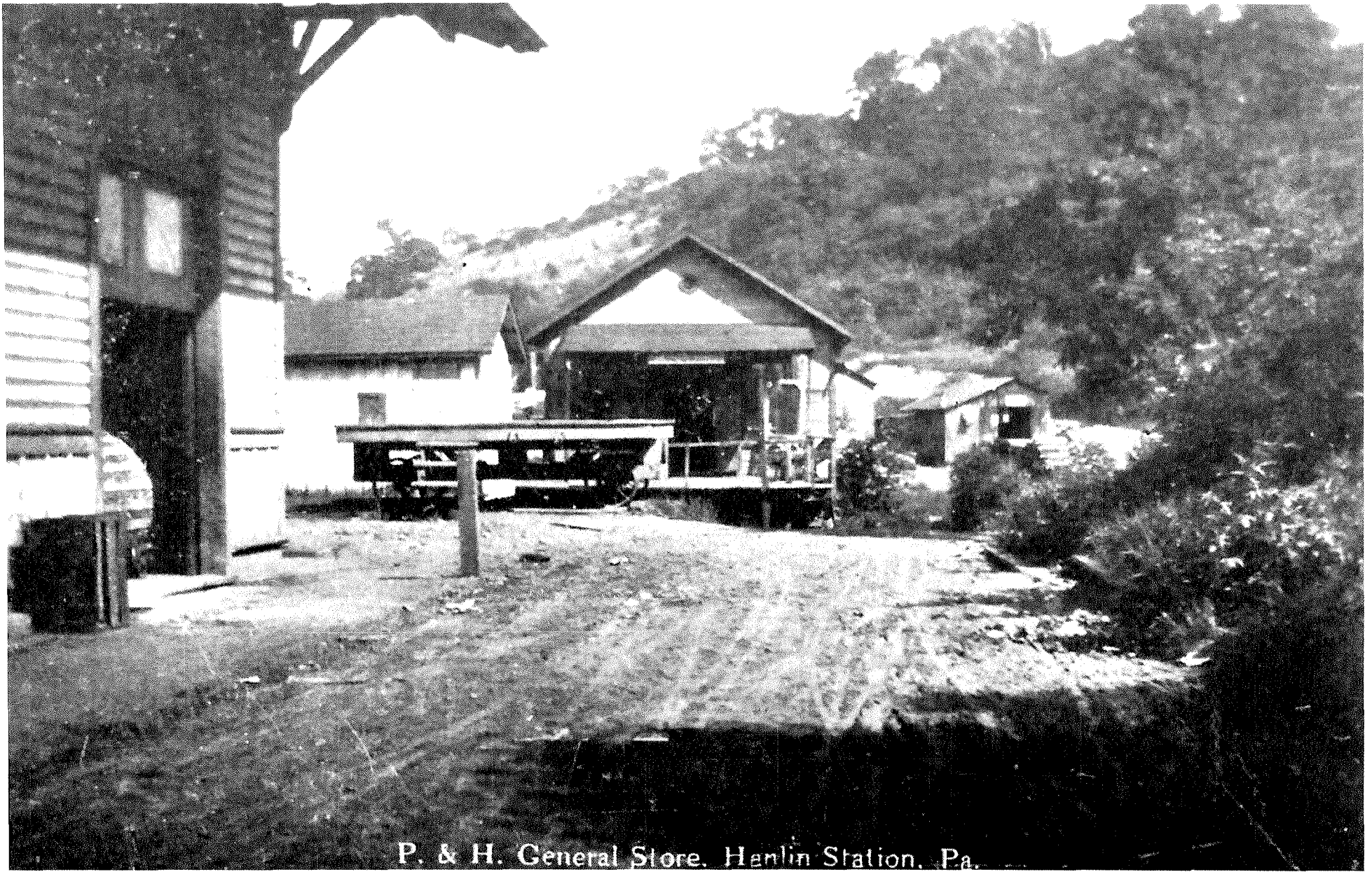
## **COW AFFLICTED WITH RABIES SHOT AT HANLIN STATION**

Arthur Smith, Bureau of Animal Industry officer reports a case of rabies in a two year old gray Guernsey cow, owned by Harold Cline of Hanlin Station, R.D. 1, this week. Three persons, who were exposed to the disease, Mr. Cline, Kenneth Watson and Mrs. Mary McFeeley, have been given serum and are under a physician's observation. The cow was killed by Mr. Smith and settlement for damages in the sum of \$60 has been paid by the Department of Agriculture.

Mr. Cline purchased the cow from Mrs. McFeeley about a month ago. It showed symptoms of a sickness last week end and the owner called in Dr. E. H. White, Hickory veterinarian, who reported the case as rabies. Residents in the Hanlin Station district are advised to be on the lookout for stray dogs, as the animal is believed to have been bitten by an unknown dog, afflicted with rabies.

Mr. Smith also reports a bad killing of sheep at Avella last week. Twelve sheep, owned by J. M. Painter of Avella, R.D. 2, were killed by a collie dog owned by Enrico Capposetti, Avella baker. The dog was killed at the scene by Officer Smith and settlement of damages was made by the owner to Mr. Painter.

Mr. Smith announces that he will begin a house to house check up of all dogs in Burgettstown, Smith, Hanover, Jefferson and Robinson township on August 18. Persons harboring unlicensed dogs will be subject to a fine of not less than \$5.00 nor more than \$100 and 30 days in jail or both. Mr. Smith advises that dog owners should secure licenses at once the fee being \$1.10 for a male dog and \$2.10 for a female dog. He is issuing this warning in order to save dog owners from the penalties imposed by the state for such offenses.



P. & H. General Store. Hanlin Station. Pa.

**P & H General Store and Train Station- About 1900**  
Hanlin Station, PA



P. & H's Residence, Hanlin Station, Pa.

**P & H Residence-Hanlin Station, PA**



Arch, Hanlin Station, Pa.

**Arch-Hanlin Station, PA**  
**Published by Parkhill and Hanlin-About 1900**



# Hanover officials to consider new site for tank farm

By **EMILY PETSKO**  
Staff writer  
[epetsko@observer-reporter.com](mailto:epetsko@observer-reporter.com)

A Marcellus Shale water recycling company is eyeing a new site for a frack water tank farm in Hanover Township.

Unlike Hydro Recovery's first contentious application for the facility, the company's second conditional use application was met with no opposition from residents in attendance at Thursday's public hearing in the municipal building.

The difference was a matter of distance. The Blossburg-based company withdrew its application in February for a 20-acre plot in Florence between Old Steubenville Pike and Route 22 after residents argued it was too close to their homes and the township park.

Now, Hydro Recovery



Eric Kann, project manager of Hawbaker Engineering, gave a presentation Thursday on Hydro Recovery's conditional use application for a recycled frack water facility in Hanover Township.

EMILY PETSKO / OBSERVER-REPORTER

hopes to build the facility on Route 18 across from Pepsi-Cola Roadhouse, which is farther from residents' homes. Township supervisors plan to vote on the conditional use application at their next regular meeting at 7 p.m. April 17.

Company officials said the new proposed site would allow the company to avoid truck traffic issues that were anticipated for the Florence location. Residents living on Steubenville Pike worried about the potential dangers of 150 trucks traveling their street daily. Trucks would instead access the new proposed site from Route 18.

The proposed facility would include six double-containment storage tanks capable of storing up to 2.2 million gallons of water each. The frack water would be treated, recycled and sent via trucks back

to well sites to be used again in the hydraulic fracturing process. No water would be discharged.

During the hearing, residents asked questions about the company's protocol for rejecting trucks that contain unsuitable levels of radiation. A company official said the facility would not accept water into the facility that exceeded the allowable amount of radiation.

Supervisors said they would likely add a condition to the application that would require Hydro Recovery to notify the state Department of Environmental Protection if that occurred.

If the application is approved, Hydro Recovery must apply for a PennDOT highway occupancy permit and other necessary permits in order to proceed with the facility's construction.

**Hanover Officials to Consider New Site for Tank Farm**  
**Observer-Reporter-April 4, 2014 Edition**

'WE WANT TO BE SAFE IN OUR NEIGHBORHOODS. EVERYBODY HAS THAT RIGHT.'

# Hanover residents express concern



EMILY PETSKO / OBSERVER-REPORTER

Pam Chappell of Hanover Township points to the site on Steubenville Pike where an access road would be constructed if township officials approve a conditional-use application by Hydro Recovery to construct a facility to recycle frack water. At right, Chappell put a sign in her front yard to appeal to supervisors to vote down a proposed facility for recycling frack water.

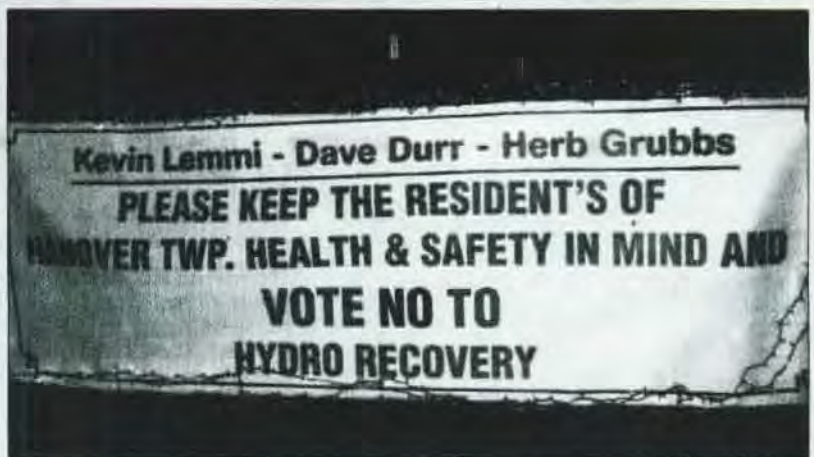


PHOTO COURTESY OF PAM CHAPPELL

## Possible frack water-treatment facility raises alarm for locals

By EMILY PETSKO  
Staff writer  
epetsko@observer-reporter.com

FLORENCE—Five hundred seventy-eight yards. That's the distance from Pam Chappell's home in Florence, Hanover Township, to the site of a proposed tank farm that would process and recycle frack water.

Step by step, Chappell measured the distance with a rangefinder— from her picnic table to her grape arbor and from there to Golfland on

Route 22, which Chappell said is roughly 200 yards from the proposed industrial site.

Chappell and a dozen of her neighbors said the short distance from the proposed water-treatment facility to their homes and township park is cause for concern.

Township supervisors could vote to approve or deny the site application as early as Feb. 20 after a public hearing is held at 6:30 p.m. at the municipal building.

Hydro Recovery LP, based in Blossburg, needs township approval to construct six double-containment tanks capable of storing as much as 12 million gallons of liquid waste altogether.

The company has a sales agreement for 20 acres of industrial-zoned land between Old Steubenville Pike and Route 22 that is currently owned by The Buncher Co., a Pittsburgh real estate group.

If the site application is

approved, Hydro Recovery truck drivers would transport flowback and produced water from gas well pads to the Hanover Township facility. The facility would then treat and recycle the water, and it would be transported back to well sites to use in the hydraulic fracturing process.

The liquid waste also could contain frack sand, boring fluids from pipeline construction and stormwater collected in

an operator's secondary containment, according to information provided by Hydro Recovery.

The company would construct a new 2,500-foot access road about 100 feet east of the existing Golfland entrance, which would be widened by about 60 feet.

Hydro Recovery estimates it would bring in an average of 150 trucks per day, operating around the clock.

Please see Frack, Page A2

# Frack

Continued from Page One

The site would include six truck bays, with secondary containment to load and unload liquid waste, at the south end of the property between the facility and Route 22.

Teresa Irvin McCurdy, Hydro Recovery government and public relations manager, said trucks could come into Hanover Township from any distance, but "economically we found most of the trucking will be within 60 miles to reduce trucking cost."

Chappell said increased truck traffic would be her greatest fear. She said Pittsburgh doctors told her her father, a truck driver, died from environmental cancer caused by diesel exhaust fumes.

"I feel like I'm basically being pushed out of my home that my parents left me," Chappell said. "I'm 44 years old. I was raised here."

Chappell mailed letters to township residents urging them to speak out and attend the upcoming public hearing, which was continued from a hearing last month.

She also posted a large, lighted sign in her front yard addressed to township supervisors Kevin Lemmi, David Duerr and Herb Grubbs, calling on them to "vote no to Hydro Recovery."

Some residents have questioned why the company isn't considering land in the Starpointe Business Park, which is farther from residential properties.

Grubbs, Ted Shiska and Brian Beyerbach, members of the township planning commission, agreed at last month's meeting that the water-treatment facility should be located at Starpointe.

However, they also recommended seven conditions for supervisors to impose if they approve the facility at the Florence site.

These included stipulations on the access road entrance; updating signs and traffic signals in Florence; ensuring plans are reviewed and approved by the township engineer and Hanover fire department; and ensuring the township receives inspection reports from the state Department of Environmental Protection.

Grubbs, who is both a supervisor and planning commission member, said Tuesday "there's been a lot of stuff tossed around, but nothing solid."

He said supervisors will listen to residents' concerns at the public hearing and consider setting rea-



The access road for a proposed frack water recycling facility in Hanover Township would be across from Hanover Acre Apartments on Steubenville Pike, which are owned by Cyndy Triebisch of Smith Township.

**"I FEEL LIKE I'M BASICALLY BEING PUSHED OUT OF MY HOME THAT MY PARENTS LEFT ME. I'M 44 YEARS OLD. I WAS RAISED HERE."**  
PAM CHAPPELL,  
HANOVER TWP. RESIDENT

sonable conditions.

McCurdy said Hydro Recovery still has an open dialogue with Starpointe, but the company "would have to access Starpointe by way of the Steubenville Pike; therefore, the same trucking issues may still arise."

She said the topography at Starpointe would also create challenges because more earthwork would need to be done.

Dan Reitz, executive director of the Washington County Council on Economic Development, said Hydro Recovery is still participating in discussions regarding the potential site at Starpointe.

"We put together a site toward the back of the (industrial) park away from residential areas," Reitz said, adding that from that location, residents would "never even know it's there."

Reitz said the land is already zoned for special use, and he doesn't envision it would be difficult to have the company's application approved for Starpointe.

McCurdy said Hydro Recovery previously applied for a zoning variance on a lot across from First Niagara Pavilion, which "would have eliminated the trucking problem by keeping trucks on Route 18," but it was denied by the township.

The proposed access road



Hanover Township residents Dawn Paden, left, and Barbara Zianni are shown at Pam Chappell's home, where they recently discussed their opposition to the proposed Hydro Recovery facility.

to the Florence facility would be across from Hanover Acres, a 16-unit apartment development owned by Smith Township resident Cyndy Triebisch.

Triebisch said she would worry about the safety and health of her tenants if the facility is approved.

"The layout of the land is not conducive to this type of business," Triebisch said. "The safety and health primarily are the key right there."

"The noise, the smell... the toxins that are being brought in, the continuous running of the company... With all those trucks, I'm so concerned because it's near the entrance to our apartments, and I'm concerned for everybody's safety."

Hydro Recovery officials said the water treatment process does not produce vibration, noise or smells, and would not adversely affect the wetlands near the proposed site.

Company representatives also stated the tanks would be

designed to hold 110 percent of the largest tank's capacity in the event of a spill.

McCurdy said about 2 jobs would be created a full operation of the facility. The company operated two facilities since 2011 in Tioga County, where it stored 10 million gallons of untreated and treated brine water.

Hydro Recovery "has met and exceeds state Department of Environmental Protection requirements," according to the company.

Township resident Dawn Paden said she and her neighbors are not opposed to development, but she wants supervisors to consider another location for the Hydro Recovery facility.

"We're going to have activity, and we understand that, we do," Paden said. "Just don't believe the site they've chosen is going to be safe for us... We want to be safe in our neighborhood. Everybody has that right, and I believe that company is going to take that away from us."

**FINANCIAL STATEMENT  
HANOVER TOWNSHIP  
1978**

<b>RECEIPTS:</b>	<b>General Fund</b>	<b>Liquid Fuels Fund</b>	<b>Revenue Sharing Fund</b>	<b>Park Board Account</b>	<b>Manpower Special Project</b>	<b>Totals</b>
Real Estate Taxes	\$ 201.50					\$ 201.50
Real Estate Transfer Taxes	8,892.60					8,892.60
Earned Income Taxes	76,867.58					76,867.58
Licenses & Permits	3,722.00					3,722.00
Fines	9,881.08					9,881.08
Interest & Rents	2,798.75	\$ 592.84	\$ 49.42			3,441.01
Grants & Gifts	42,013.77	54,223.56	12,658.00		\$24,474.35	133,369.68
Miscellaneous	4,146.01	1,829.41			313.74	6,289.16
Transfer from Other Funds				\$5,482.00*		5,482.00
5 Year Loan (pur. of equip)	80,620.00					80,620.00
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>\$229,143.29</b>	<b>\$56,645.81</b>	<b>\$12,707.42</b>	<b>\$5,482.00</b>	<b>\$24,788.09</b>	<b>\$328,766.61</b>
<b>Balances, Jan. 1, 1978</b>	<b>13,925.04</b>	<b>9,463.11</b>	<b>146.15</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>23,534.30</b>
<b>Receipts &amp; Balance</b>	<b>\$243,068.33</b>	<b>\$66,108.92</b>	<b>\$12,853.57</b>	<b>\$5,482.00</b>	<b>\$24,788.09</b>	<b>\$352,300.91</b>
<b>EXPENDITURES:</b>						
Administration	\$ 23,358.76			\$1,642.00		\$ 25,000.76
Tax Collection	4,771.19					4,771.19
Municipal Buildings	6,275.30				\$ 2,000.00	8,275.30
Police Protection	63,593.73					63,593.73
Fire Protection			\$ 1,000.00			1,000.00
Building Regulation	1,678.37					1,678.37
Sewers, Engineering Services	6,000.00					6,000.00
Snow Removal		\$12,061.00				12,061.00
Snow Removal, Equip. Purch.			1,178.28			1,178.28
Highway Maintenance	20,512.94	53,915.03			17,072.71	91,500.68
Highway, Major Equip. Purch	31,530.00					31,530.00
Parks & Recreation	18.00		5,207.99			8,275.68
Employee Taxes & Benefits	12,578.22				2,900.68	15,478.90
Insurance	17,984.36					17,984.36
Miscellaneous	12.18				250.69	262.87
Transfers to Other Funds	4,982.00		500.00			5,482.00
Refunded to County					2,564.01	2,564.01
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$193,295.05</b>	<b>\$65,976.03</b>	<b>\$ 7,886.27</b>	<b>\$4,691.69</b>	<b>\$24,788.09</b>	<b>\$296,637.13</b>
<b>Balances, December 31, 1978:</b>						
Checking	683.28	132.89	4,967.30	790.31	0.00	6,573.78
Savings, Special Purpose	49,090.00					49,090.00
<b>Total Expenditures &amp; Balance</b>	<b>\$243,068.33</b>	<b>\$66,108.92</b>	<b>\$12,853.57</b>	<b>\$5,482.00</b>	<b>\$24,788.09</b>	<b>\$352,300.91</b>

Auditors: Betty Lemmi  
Mantzel Bucey  
Robert Pulice

**Hanover Township-1978 Financial Statement  
Burgettstown Enterprise-February 21, 1979 Edition**

*Courtesy of Fort Vance Historical Society*

# Hanover Township proposes subdivision

By AARON J. KENDEALL  
Staff writer  
akendeall@observer-reporter.com

Hanover Township supervisors proposed a new subdivision ordinance during Tuesday's meeting.

The new ordinance would replace a previous version ratified in 1991. It contains changes to the approval process for minor subdivisions and land developments, new rules for private streets and regulations for fire protec-

tion. The full document is available at the Hanover Township municipal building, and a public hearing will be held at 7 p.m. Sept. 5 before the township meeting.

The new rules would streamline the process for minor subdivision and land development approval, making it a one-step process. Currently, approval for subdivision and land development requires a pre-approval process. Minor

subdivisions are defined as having three or fewer one-family homes on a given plot of land. All homes have to be along an approved township road.

Minor land developments are those disturbing less than one acre.

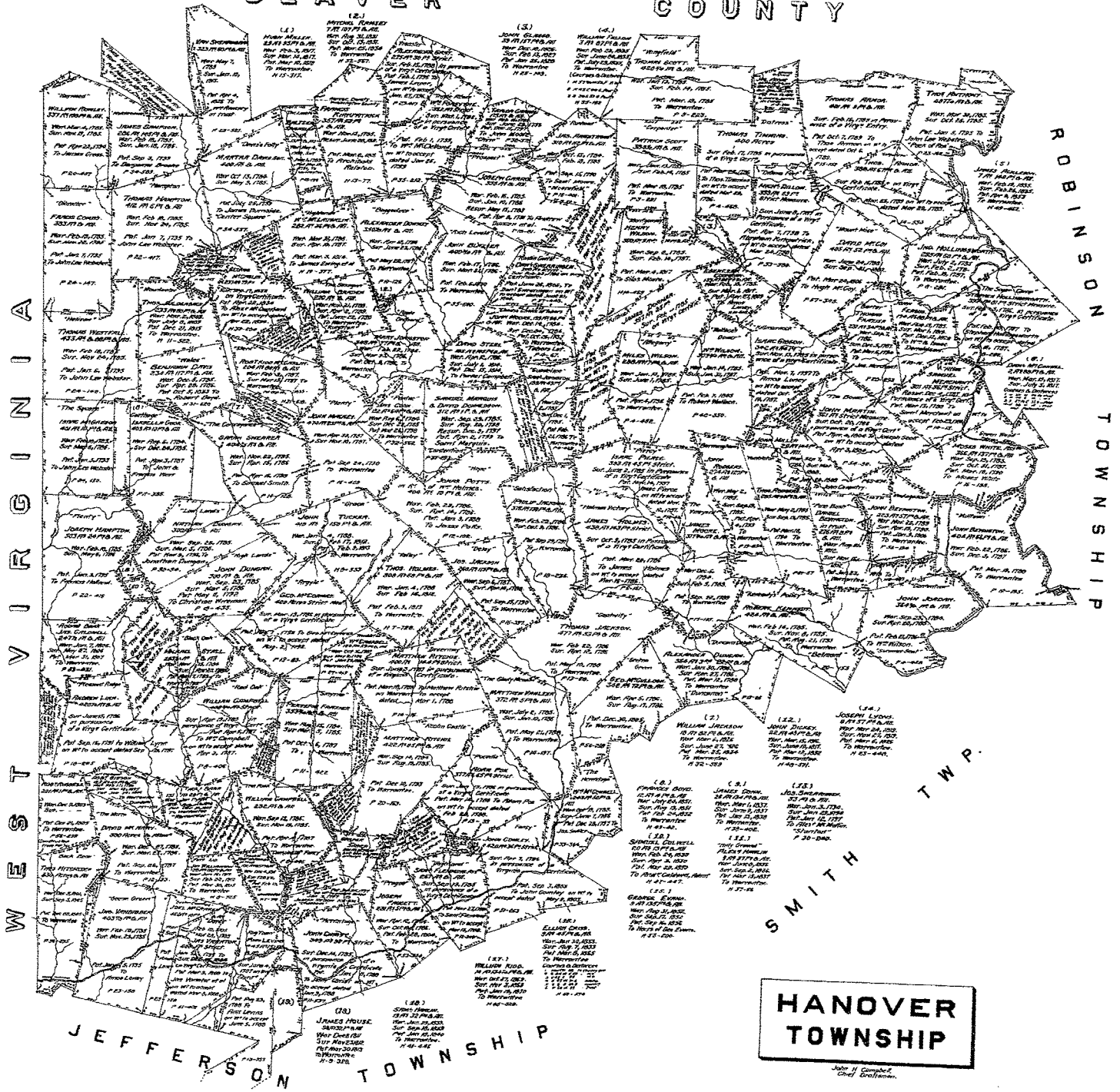
The ordinance also restricts the expansion of existing private streets and limits the number of homes allowed on those roads to three. It sets a minimum

width of 50 feet and absolves township responsibility for maintenance and the posting of signs.

Major land developments would require fire protection measures under the new ordinance, including hydrants and sprinkler systems.

Fire hydrants would be mandated within 500 feet of buildings, and all access roads would have to be able to handle fire trucks.

# BEAVER COUNTY



**HANOVER TOWNSHIP**

In testimony that the above is a correct and true copy of all the books of land records in the Township of Hanover and County of Washington, that the warrants, surveys and patents have been respectively set forth in this book, and also corrected from said compared with the original books remaining on file in the Department of Internal Affairs of the State of Virginia, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of said Department to be hereunto affixed at Washington, the eleventh day of September, A.D. 1922.



Jas. F. Woodard  
Secretary of Internal Affairs

15 - 10 - 1.

**15**



Hanover Township, Washington County, PA-1856

## **Early Schools of Hanover Township**

### ***Key facts about our schools***

Old maps of Hanover Township for 1861 and 1876 show that the municipality had as many as 14 rural schools during those years. While numbering of all these schools does not appear in later records, the following seem to be about the way these schools were identified, many of these schools being named also for the adjacent landowners. They were:

No.1 Coventry, east of Florence

No. 2 Dillo, on Fort Dillo Run in the northeastern part of the township.

No. 3 Sturgeon, on Route 18 between Florence and Frankfort.

No. 4 Florence at this village; later a three room school.

No. 5 Hamilton, halfway between Florence and Paris.

No. 6 Boyd, on the hill above Aunt Clara's fork of King's Creek.

No. 7 Boyce, near Hanlin Station.

No. 8 Fulton, location not identified.

No. 9 Purdy, probably named for the Rev. J. L. Purdy and located near his home northwest of Florence.

No. 10 Paris, located at that village; later a graded school.

No. 11 Miller, on a branch of Harmon Creek in the southern part of the township.

Two other schools named in later lists are not identified by number: Rock School closed in 1917 and Beech Grove closed in 1923. Upon the completion of the Hanover Consolidated School in 1952 all outlying schools were closed and all pupils were and are transported to that central location. Other districts of Washington County had their own system of naming and numbering schools, nearly all having both a name and number.



## **Hanover Township (pp. 802-811)**

### **History of Washington County, Pennsylvania\***

Hanover is the extreme northwestern township of Washington County, having the county of Beaver and the State of West Virginia, respectively, for its northern and western boundaries. On the east it is bounded by Robinson and Smith townships, and on the south by Smith and Jefferson townships. The only streams of any size or importance belonging to Hanover are Raccoon and Harman's Creeks, which respectively mark parts of the eastern and southern boundaries of the township, and King's Creek, which flows in the southwesterly course across the northwestern corner of Hanover.

The territory now forming the township of Hanover was originally embraced in Smith township, and so remained for five years after the erection of the latter, Hanover being erected a separate township in 1786. On the 17th of January in that year a petition of certain inhabitants of Smith township praying for a division of that township was presented to the Court of Quarter Sessions. The petition was granted by the court, and the action confirmed by the Supreme Executive Council on the 2d of September in the same year. The part of the township set off by this division was named Hanover, and embraced the territory lying north of Harman's Creek and Brush Run to the Ohio River, bounded on the east by Raccoon Creek, and west by the Virginia line. The line dividing the township from Cross Creek and Smith townships ran up Harman's Creek to its source near the old McCurdy farm; thence across the ridge to the head-waters of Brush Run; thence down the run to Raccoon Creek. The village of Florence was in Smith township until the action of court on the 11th of March, 1830, by which the territory south of Brush Run and the heads of Harman's Creek and north of the present line of Hanover and Smith was attached to Hanover. Two years after Hanover became a township, the erection of Allegheny County, Sept. 24, 1788, took a large portion of its territory, after which this township embraced the following: "Commencing at the intersection of the Ohio River with the State line; thence south along the State line to Harman's Creek; thence up the creek to its source, across the ridge to the headwaters of Brush Run, down the run to its mouth, and down Raccoon Creek to White's Mill; thence northwest in a straight line to the Ohio River and the State line, it being the place of beginning." It so remained until the 24th of March, 1800, when the erection of Beaver County took all that portion of territory north of the line at right angles from White's Mill on Raccoon Creek. An addition was made to its territory March 30, 1830, by order of court, which embraced the land north of Smith township as at present.

In April, 1793, a petition (indorsed "a petition for Riche township"), and signed by William Ferguson and twenty-three others, "Inhabitants of Smith and Hanover townships," was

1787. Reed sold it the same day to Matthew Welch, and it is still owned by his son, M. R. Welch. Another sale from the "Johnston Hall" tract was of one hundred acres to John Montgomery, Aug. 24, 1787, and another hundred acres (same date) to John Dodd; this being adjoining lands of James Edgar and David Hays, in Smith township. And on the same date Johnston sold one hundred acres to Job Stout, adjoining lands of John Moore, James Dornan, Isaac Pierce, Philip Jackson, and William Runnell. This last-named sale was from the "Guadeloupe" tract, and on it the village of Florence was afterwards laid out.

On the "Mill Town" tract Mr. Johnston built a mill, and Oct. 12, 1785, he sold the mill property to Humphrey Montgomery. Mr. Montgomery received the deed for this land, Jan. 2, 1795, from Andrew Swearingen and John Hutchinson, "Assignees of the estate of Samuel Johnston." He had become heavily embarrassed in his pecuniary affairs, and from this time his name disappears from the records of township and county. Samuel Johnston was a man of excellent abilities, and was prominent in that section of the country from his first appearance in 1795. He was nominated and elected with James Edgar as a justice of the peace for Smith township at the first election after the formation of the township. At the same time when he was confirmed by the Supreme Executive Council (Aug. 23, 1781) as justice of the peace he was appointed and confirmed by that body as a justice of the peace of the Court of Common Pleas and of the Orphan's Court of the county. None of his descendants are now living in Hanover township or vicinity.

Alexander Duncan emigrated from Lancaster to Washington County, and located a tract of land in Smith township. His sons were Daniel and John. Daniel was killed by a tree falling upon him during a heavy storm. John Duncan married Elizabeth Moreland. He was ordained an elder in the Three-Spring Church in 1803. His residence was near the present town of Florence. His living children are James, Daniel, and Susan (Mrs. Culley), who is now living in Florence in her eighty-second year.

James Proudfoot emigrated from York County in the year 1782, and settled in what is now Hanover township. On the 8th of December, 1787, he purchased one hundred acres of Job Stout. This was a part of the tract "Guadeloupe" patented by Samuel Johnston, and the same land now owned by James Proudfoot, grandson of the elder James. The farm lies near the town of Florence, and adjoining Philip Jackson.

James Proudfoot, the pioneer, was an elder in the Cross-Roads Presbyterian Church, and justice of the peace for thirty-four years. He married Jane Wallace, of Hanover township, and lived on the homestead all his days, and died May 2, 1856, aged ninety-six years, leaving many descendants.

Nathan Dungan took out a warrant for a tract of land, which was surveyed to him on the 14th of June, 1785, called "Amity," which contained three hundred and fifty-one acres. It was patented April 25, 1788. The family were settlers in the county before its erection. Levi Dungan was a collector in 1781, then of Smith township, now Hanover. He kept tavern

seventeen years of age, at the time of an attack by the Indians, about the year 1778. She later was owned by a man of the name of Pierce. A daughter was born to her on Raccoon Creek, who was sold when about ten years of age to Daniel Swearingen, who lived about four miles from Paris. She lived to be upwards of eighty years of age. Her mother had been married to three different husbands, all slaves, two of whom were sold and sent South and one died. She was the mother of eight children. Thomas Armor lived on the tract which he settled upon in 1776 until his death in June, 1826. His sons were William, John, Thomas, and James. His daughters were Nancy and Mary. William came into possession of one hundred and forty-four acres adjoining Raccoon Creek. Nancy became the wife of Benjamin Bubbett, and received one hundred and fourteen acres of the home tract. He was justice of the peace for many years, and an elder in the Robinson United Presbyterian Church. John received one hundred and forty acres, on which he resided. Mary, wife of James Thompson, came into possession of one hundred and fourteen acres on Dillow's Run. Thomas inherited one hundred and forty acres, lying principally in Beaver County. James inherited one hundred and eighty-four acres, the remainder of the home tract. The family is numerous in the township, and the original lands are still in possession of some of them. A large tract of land in Robinson and Hanover townships was taken up by one Hollingsworth. Isaac and William Donaldson, natives of Ireland, purchased a portion of the tract, part of which is now owned by Andrew B. Donaldson, a grandson of William Donaldson. William Elder occupies the part on which Isaac settled, and is owned by the heirs of Richard, son of Isaac. On a portion of the Hollingsworth tract Joseph Scott settled, and built a mill in this township near Bavington. He had two sons, Benjamin and Joseph. On the 17th of July, 1835, Joseph sold to Robert Withrow, and he to Richard Donaldson. The mill was in operation till about 1879, being then owned by James Donaldson. John Travis came from Ireland shortly after the Revolution, and bought a farm on one hundred and fifty acres of John Sherrard in Dunbar township, Fayette County. In 1798 he purchased a farm about a mile and a half east of the cross-roads, on one of the branches of Raccoon Creek, where he settled. He was an elder in the Laurel Hill congregation, and was chosen an elder in the Cross-Roads Church, formerly King's Creek Church. He became insane while living in Dunbar township, but had entirely recovered before removing to this place.

For many years after he settled on Raccoon all went well with him, but after a time his son Samuel, who was a trader down the Mississippi, having returned from a remarkably successful trip by way of New Orleans to Havana, Cuba, where he sold his cargo of flour at \$25 per barrel, induced his father to risk property in his hands belonging to minor heirs to fit him out on another trip to the same place in the expectation of making a fortune. The trip was made and the flour sold in Havana as advantageously as before, but in New Orleans, when on his way home, the son fell in company of gamblers, and was by them robbed of the entire proceeds of the voyage. Knowing that this would be the ruin of his

certain mark by which the boy could be recognized, and by that means he was rescued and restored to his friends." Robert Wallace, Jr., who was taken captive by the Indians, as above narrated, married Miss Mary Walker and settled in Robinson township, where they lived and died. Joseph and Robert Wallace, of that township, are his descendants. The tract "Wallace's Bower" has been divided, a portion belonging to Robert Wallace has long since passed to others, and is now owned by John B. Burns. Mrs. Culley, of Hanover, is also a descendant of Robert Wallace.

Adam and Andrew Poe were emigrants from New England, and came to this county at the same time as did Philip Jackson, Robert Wallace, and others. They located tracts of land for which they were granted Virginia certificates. The tract Adam selected was surveyed Jan. 13, 1786, and was named "Poeville." It contained three hundred and seventy-seven acres, adjoining lands of Matthew Ritchie, Isaac Miller, and John Comly. The tract selected by Andrew was surveyed Feb. 15, 1786, was named "Poe Wood," and contained three hundred and thirty-three acres. This was adjoining land of Robert Laughlin and William Matthews. They also owned a tract of land prior to this time in Smith township, where they lived at the time of the burning of the Wallace cabin. That tract they sold to Arthur Campbell. Adam and Andrew both sold their farms in this county, and moved to Ohio and West Virginia.

The brothers Andrew and Adam Poe were men remarkable for their personal prowess,-- powerfully built, active, and fearless,-- and they enjoyed great renown among the borderers as among the bravest and most successful of fighters in the Indian hostilities that were carried on along the Ohio River frontier from 1777 to 1784. Many accounts of their remarkable adventures in Indian fighting are found in the annals of frontier warfare.

Augustine Moore came to this county about 1790, and settled on a tract of land about one mile north of Florence, part of which tract is now owned by the heirs of John McConnell, whose wife was a daughter of Moore. He lived and died on the farm, leaving children, of whom John emigrated West; William became a pilot on the river, and died at Wellsville, Ohio; Ellen, who became Mrs. McConnell, now ninety-six years of age, lives with her son-in-law, S.D. Lockhart, near Paris; Rebecca married Gilbert Cool, and settled in Robinson township, where they lived and died. Another daughter became the wife of Charles Hoey, and settled in Ashland County, Ohio, where she died. They were cousins of the late Hon. John L. Dawson, of Fayette County, and relatives of the Swearingen family.

William McConnell came to this county about the year 1784, and located a tract lying on the waters of Harmon's Run, containing two hundred and forty-three acres. It was named "The Hermitage," and at that time was adjoining lands of John Stone and George McCullough. On the 24th of February, 1795, he purchased two hundred and fifty-seven acres of William Campbell, part of a tract of four hundred acres patented to Campbell April 5, 1787. Later he purchased one hundred and five acres of the heirs of William Bay adjoining

emigrants bound for Kentucky, and was killed by Indians while on his way there.

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The first store in the town was kept by a Mr. Anderson. A tannery was soon after established by James Allison. Benjamin Kindrich opened a silver-plating establishment. William Mercer also kept a store here many years ago. In 1825 Dr. Day was a practicing physician in Florence. He was succeeded by Drs. Scott, Sutherland, Smith, Makakey, Cunningham, McDowell, Bradley, Anderson, McCoy, Carroll, Graham, and McCarroll. The first post-office in this section was a white-oak tree a short distance below Florence, on which was nailed a clapboard box, in which letters and papers were placed by the postman, who passed through the town from Washington to Georgetown. About 1818 a post-office was established in the town, and Moses Bradford was the first postmaster. He was succeeded by John Mitchell in 1822. William L. Robb was in office in 1833; John K. Norton from 1835 to 1837; Charles Calhoun in 1838. The succeeding postmasters have been William L. Robb, O.P. Walker, William Criswell, Samuel Livingston, Joseph Bell, W.J. Cool, and Dr. G.S. Graham, who is the present incumbent. The residence and tavern stand of James Briceland is still standing, now owned by John Dennis. In the year 1845 a small newspaper was established called the Florence Enterprise. It lasted but a short time. An agricultural society was established in 1858, and a fair held that year. This was continued for several years. It was known as the "Florence Agricultural Association." The third annual exhibition was

brick church was then erected, which was destroyed by fire on the 23d of September, 1845. The present church edifice was erected in the fall of the same year.

Presbyterian Graveyard.-In this old ground, located at Florence, many of the old settlers in this section of country were buried, among them the following: David Jackson, died Feb. 13, 1802, in the 53d year of his age; Mary McFarren, died Nov. 29, 1817 in the 61st year of her age; Sarah McCurdy, wife of the Rev. Elisha McCurdy, died Oct. 26, 1818, in her 48th year; Jane McFarren, died Sept. 25, 1820, aged 68 years; Daniel McLoud, died Jan. 29, 1829, in the 82nd year of his age; John Barton, died Feb. 22, 1838, aged 82 years; Daniel McConnell, died Jan. 31, 1843, aged 70 years; John McConnell, Sr., died April 11, 1879, in his 95th year; Benjamin Scott, died Sept. 20, 1877, aged 85 years. The Rev. Robert Fulton, who founded the Florence Academy in 1832, died Aug. 20, 1842, in Wellsburg, Va., in the 38th year of his age, and was buried here.

The Rev. Elisha McCurdy was buried here, and the following is inscribed upon his tombstone:

"In memory of the Rev. Elisha McCurdy, Late Pastor of the Congregation of Cross Roads. Born October 15th, 1763. Licensed June 24th, 1799. Ordained and Installed Pastor June, 1800. A Pastor 35 years and minister of the Gospel 46 years. Died July 22d, 1845. He took an active part in the great revival of 1802, and was distinguished for his zealous labors in the cause of Indian Missions."

Florence Academy.-This institution was founded by Robert Fulton in 1832, and first located in a house now the residence of Alexander Scott. Soon afterwards a brick building was erected for its use on the lot of ground belonging to the Presbyterian Church. Mr. Fulton's proprietorship continued till the year 1839. A more extended account of this academy will be found on pages 452, 453 of this work, in the educational chapter contributed by the Rev. James I. Brownson, D.D.

The "Rural Female Seminary" was in existence in Florence in September, 1835. It was then in charge of Mrs. Paull, governess, and Miss Cutter, teacher. Neither the date of its establishment nor the period of its continuance is known.

Murdochtown is situated on Raccoon Creek, at the point of intersection of the lines of Washington, Beaver, and Allegheny Counties. Five townships (Hanover and Robinson in Washington County, Independence and Beaver in Beaver County, and Finley township of Allegheny County) all corner here. The land at this place was originally owned by John White, and from 1780 to long after 1800 the place was known as White's Mill. A grist- and saw-mill is now owned here by John Withrow. The town was named after James Murdoch, who was an early settler here, and is said to have been the first postmaster. The place now contains nine dwellings, a school-house, post-office, store, blacksmith-shop, wagon-shop, and shoe-shop.

Paris.-This little town is situated in the western part of the township. It was laid out by Samuel Hill and Richard Ward. The latter built the first house in the town, in which he kept a tavern to accommodate travelers on the Pittsburgh

Presbyterian meeting-houses that were built west of the mountains." The house stood exactly on the State line, the preacher being in one State and the congregation mostly in the other. No provision was made for heating the house for many years. On great occasions the society held services in a grove, a tent being erected for the preacher, and the congregation were seated upon logs. After many years a stove was allowed to be put up in the church, and on a cold winter's day the stove was heated so hot that it set the church on fire. All saw the danger, but the old men could not put the fire out, and the young men wanted to see it burn. One old man rose and said, "Young men, will you sit and see the house of God burn down?" This appeal, with a few urgent remarks from Mr. Buchanan, incited the young men to activity, and with snow the fire was finally put out. This building remained in use until after 1843, and under the ministrations of the Rev. Mr. Galloway a new brick meeting-house was erected at the east end of the village of Paris, south of and on the Pittsburgh road, where it is still standing and in use.

Methodist Episcopal Church.-This church, whose place of worship is the "Tucker Meetinghouse," was organized in 1824, by the Rev. Thomas Jamison. The original members were John Tucker and his wife, Jonathan Tucker and wife, James Jackson, and Elizabeth and Jane Hanlin. A small class had been formed previous to this time, and meetings were held in the house of Jonathan Tucker. A lot of land was purchased of John Tucker, situated on the Pittsburgh and Steubenville turnpike midway between Florence and Paris, and a stone meeting-house was built, which has been in use to the present time. The society have now under consultation the proposition to erect a new building in place of the present one. The ministers who have been in charge since 1828 to the present time are named below, viz.:

David Merryman, Jacob Young, William Hanlin, George McKaskies, Hiram Gilmore, ----- McMahon, John Spencer, Richard Armstrong, Wesley Smith, George L. Sisson, ----- Swaney, Simon Locke, G. Foster, Charles Thorn, John P. Kent, Israel Dallas, Harvey Bradshaw, Elisha P. Jacobs, Ebenezer Hays, W.P. Blackburn, C. Jackson, J. Gibson, J. Boggs, Joshua Munroe, John Gregg, R. Jordan, G. Jones, G.A. Lorrian, ----- Dorsey, J. Wright, David Hess, L. Dales, George B. Hudson, D.A. McCreedy, A.J. Rich, ----- Burbuage, James Turner, George Dunlap, S.H. Nesbit, Warner Long, James Hollinshead, M.B. Pugh, J.L. Stiffy, J. Kesler, J.J. Hays, J. Kesler, A. Baker, P.M. Hudson, I.N. Boyle, J.V. Yarnell, J. Jones, J.M. Maver, C. McCaslin, W.P. Blackburn, J. Williams, W. Gamble, G.A. Sheets, M.M. Sweeney, E. Jones, E. Taylor, A.V. Galbreath, G. V. Hudson, D.K. Stephenson, M.S. Kendig.

In the graveyard of the Tucker Church are found inscriptions to the memory of the following-named persons who were buried there, viz.: John Tucker, died April 6, 1831, aged one hundred years; Henrietta Tucker, died Nov. 29, 1833, aged ninety-six years; Edward Shipley, died April 6, 1817, aged eighty-three years; Martha Ralston, died July 1, 1839, aged seventy-three years; Elizabeth Miller, died July 4, 1846,



William L. Robb, April 14, 1840.  
John McCullough, March 29, 1870.  
Benjamin Bubbett, April 14, 1840.  
Samuel Martin, March 29, 1870.  
John McCullough, April 15, 1845.  
John McCullough, Jan. 28 1874.  
Benjamin Bubbett, April 15, 1845.  
Samuel Martin, May 24, 1874.  
Walter Buchanan, April 11, 1848.  
John McCullough, March 17, 1875.  
John McCullough, April 9, 1850.  
Oliver P. Shields, March 10, 1876.  
Walter Buchanan, April 13, 1853.  
Alex. McConnell, March 14, 1877.  
John McCullough, April 10, 1855.  
H.A. Jackson, March 25, 1878.  
Walter Buchanan, April 13, 1858.  
Francis Finnegan, March 25, 1878.  
John McCullough, April 10, 1860.

\*Boyd Crumrine, "History of Washington County, Pennsylvania with Biographical Sketches of Many of Its Pioneers and Prominent Men" (Philadelphia: L. H. Leverts & Co., 1882).  
Transcribed by Priscilla Corbett of Abington, PA in June 1998.  
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## **Hanover Township (pp. 802-811)**

### **History of Washington County, Pennsylvania\***

Hanover is the extreme northwestern township of Washington County, having the county of Beaver and the State of West Virginia, respectively, for its northern and western boundaries. On the east it is bounded by Robinson and Smith townships, and on the south by Smith and Jefferson townships. The only streams of any size or importance belonging to Hanover are Raccoon and Harman's Creeks, which respectively mark parts of the eastern and southern boundaries of the township, and King's Creek, which flows in the southwesterly course across the northwestern corner of Hanover.

The territory now forming the township of Hanover was originally embraced in Smith township, and so remained for five years after the erection of the latter, Hanover being erected a separate township in 1786. On the 17th of January in that year a petition of certain inhabitants of Smith township praying for a division of that township was presented to the Court of Quarter Sessions. The petition was granted by the court, and the action confirmed by the Supreme Executive Council on the 2d of September in the same year. The part of the township set off by this division was named Hanover, and embraced the territory lying north of Harman's Creek and Brush Run to the Ohio River, bounded on the east by Raccoon Creek, and west by the Virginia line. The line dividing the township from Cross Creek and Smith townships ran up Harman's Creek to its source near the old McCurdy farm; thence across the ridge to the head-waters of Brush Run; thence down the run to Raccoon Creek. The village of Florence was in Smith township until the action of court on the 11th of March, 1830, by which the territory south of Brush Run and the heads of Harman's Creek and north of the present line of Hanover and Smith was attached to Hanover. Two years after Hanover became a township, the erection of Allegheny County, Sept. 24, 1788, took a large portion of its territory, after which this township embraced the following: "Commencing at the intersection of the Ohio River with the State line; thence south along the State line to Harman's Creek; thence up the creek to its source, across the ridge to the headwaters of Brush Run, down the run to its mouth, and down Raccoon Creek to White's Mill; thence northwest in a straight line to the Ohio River and the State line, it being the place of beginning." It so remained until the 24th of March, 1800, when the erection of Beaver County took all that portion of territory north of the line at right angles from White's Mill on Raccoon Creek. An addition was made to its territory March 30, 1830, by order of court, which embraced the land north of Smith township as at present.

In April, 1793, a petition (indorsed "a petition for Riche township"), and signed by William Ferguson and twenty-three others, "Inhabitants of Smith and Hanover townships," was

1787. Reed sold it the same day to Matthew Welch, and it is still owned by his son, M. R. Welch. Another sale from the "Johnston Hall" tract was of one hundred acres to John Montgomery, Aug. 24, 1787, and another hundred acres (same date) to John Dodd; this being adjoining lands of James Edgar and David Hays, in Smith township. And on the same date Johnston sold one hundred acres to Job Stout, adjoining lands of John Moore, James Dornan, Isaac Pierce, Philip Jackson, and William Runnell. This last-named sale was from the "Guadeloupe" tract, and on it the village of Florence was afterwards laid out.

On the "Mill Town" tract Mr. Johnston built a mill, and Oct. 12, 1785, he sold the mill property to Humphrey Montgomery. Mr. Montgomery received the deed for this land, Jan. 2, 1795, from Andrew Swearingen and John Hutchinson, "Assignees of the estate of Samuel Johnston." He had become heavily embarrassed in his pecuniary affairs, and from this time his name disappears from the records of township and county. Samuel Johnston was a man of excellent abilities, and was prominent in that section of the country from his first appearance in 1795. He was nominated and elected with James Edgar as a justice of the peace for Smith township at the first election after the formation of the township. At the same time when he was confirmed by the Supreme Executive Council (Aug. 23, 1781) as justice of the peace he was appointed and confirmed by that body as a justice of the peace of the Court of Common Pleas and of the Orphan's Court of the county. None of his descendants are now living in Hanover township or vicinity.

Alexander Duncan emigrated from Lancaster to Washington County, and located a tract of land in Smith township. His sons were Daniel and John. Daniel was killed by a tree falling upon him during a heavy storm. John Duncan married Elizabeth Moreland. He was ordained an elder in the Three-Spring Church in 1803. His residence was near the present town of Florence. His living children are James, Daniel, and Susan (Mrs. Culley), who is now living in Florence in her eighty-second year.

James Proudfoot emigrated from York County in the year 1782, and settled in what is now Hanover township. On the 8th of December, 1787, he purchased one hundred acres of Job Stout. This was a part of the tract "Guadeloupe" patented by Samuel Johnston, and the same land now owned by James Proudfoot, grandson of the elder James. The farm lies near the town of Florence, and adjoining Philip Jackson.

James Proudfoot, the pioneer, was an elder in the Cross-Roads Presbyterian Church, and justice of the peace for thirty-four years. He married Jane Wallace, of Hanover township, and lived on the homestead all his days, and died May 2, 1856, aged ninety-six years, leaving many descendants.

Nathan Dungan took out a warrant for a tract of land, which was surveyed to him on the 14th of June, 1785, called "Amity," which contained three hundred and fifty-one acres. It was patented April 25, 1788. The family were settlers in the county before its erection. Levi Dungan was a collector in 1781, then of Smith township, now Hanover. He kept tavern

seventeen years of age, at the time of an attack by the Indians, about the year 1778. She later was owned by a man of the name of Pierce. A daughter was born to her on Raccoon Creek, who was sold when about ten years of age to Daniel Swearingen, who lived about four miles from Paris. She lived to be upwards of eighty years of age. Her mother had been married to three different husbands, all slaves, two of whom were sold and sent South and one died. She was the mother of eight children. Thomas Armor lived on the tract which he settled upon in 1776 until his death in June, 1826. His sons were William, John, Thomas, and James. His daughters were Nancy and Mary. William came into possession of one hundred and forty-four acres adjoining Raccoon Creek. Nancy became the wife of Benjamin Bubbett, and received one hundred and fourteen acres of the home tract. He was justice of the peace for many years, and an elder in the Robinson United Presbyterian Church. John received one hundred and forty acres, on which he resided. Mary, wife of James Thompson, came into possession of one hundred and fourteen acres on Dillow's Run. Thomas inherited one hundred and forty acres, lying principally in Beaver County. James inherited one hundred and eighty-four acres, the remainder of the home tract. The family is numerous in the township, and the original lands are still in possession of some of them. A large tract of land in Robinson and Hanover townships was taken up by one Hollingsworth. Isaac and William Donaldson, natives of Ireland, purchased a portion of the tract, part of which is now owned by Andrew B. Donaldson, a grandson of William Donaldson. William Elder occupies the part on which Isaac settled, and is owned by the heirs of Richard, son of Isaac. On a portion of the Hollingsworth tract Joseph Scott settled, and built a mill in this township near Bavington. He had two sons, Benjamin and Joseph. On the 17th of July, 1835, Joseph sold to Robert Withrow, and he to Richard Donaldson. The mill was in operation till about 1879, being then owned by James Donaldson. John Travis came from Ireland shortly after the Revolution, and bought a farm on one hundred and fifty acres of John Sherrard in Dunbar township, Fayette County. In 1798 he purchased a farm about a mile and a half east of the cross-roads, on one of the branches of Raccoon Creek, where he settled. He was an elder in the Laurel Hill congregation, and was chosen an elder in the Cross-Roads Church, formerly King's Creek Church. He became insane while living in Dunbar township, but had entirely recovered before removing to this place.

For many years after he settled on Raccoon all went well with him, but after a time his son Samuel, who was a trader down the Mississippi, having returned from a remarkably successful trip by way of New Orleans to Havana, Cuba, where he sold his cargo of flour at \$25 per barrel, induced his father to risk property in his hands belonging to minor heirs to fit him out on another trip to the same place in the expectation of making a fortune. The trip was made and the flour sold in Havana as advantageously as before, but in New Orleans, when on his way home, the son fell in company of gamblers, and was by them robbed of the entire proceeds of the voyage. Knowing that this would be the ruin of his

certain mark by which the boy could be recognized, and by that means he was rescued and restored to his friends." Robert Wallace, Jr., who was taken captive by the Indians, as above narrated, married Miss Mary Walker and settled in Robinson township, where they lived and died. Joseph and Robert Wallace, of that township, are his descendants. The tract "Wallace's Bower" has been divided, a portion belonging to Robert Wallace has long since passed to others, and is now owned by John B. Burns. Mrs. Culley, of Hanover, is also a descendant of Robert Wallace.

Adam and Andrew Poe were emigrants from New England, and came to this county at the same time as did Philip Jackson, Robert Wallace, and others. They located tracts of land for which they were granted Virginia certificates. The tract Adam selected was surveyed Jan. 13, 1786, and was named "Poeville." It contained three hundred and seventy-seven acres, adjoining lands of Matthew Ritchie, Isaac Miller, and John Comly. The tract selected by Andrew was surveyed Feb. 15, 1786, was named "Poe Wood," and contained three hundred and thirty-three acres. This was adjoining land of Robert Laughlin and William Matthews. They also owned a tract of land prior to this time in Smith township, where they lived at the time of the burning of the Wallace cabin. That tract they sold to Arthur Campbell. Adam and Andrew both sold their farms in this county, and moved to Ohio and West Virginia.

The brothers Andrew and Adam Poe were men remarkable for their personal prowess,-- powerfully built, active, and fearless,-- and they enjoyed great renown among the borderers as among the bravest and most successful of fighters in the Indian hostilities that were carried on along the Ohio River frontier from 1777 to 1784. Many accounts of their remarkable adventures in Indian fighting are found in the annals of frontier warfare.

Augustine Moore came to this county about 1790, and settled on a tract of land about one mile north of Florence, part of which tract is now owned by the heirs of John McConnell, whose wife was a daughter of Moore. He lived and died on the farm, leaving children, of whom John emigrated West; William became a pilot on the river, and died at Wellsville, Ohio; Ellen, who became Mrs. McConnell, now ninety-six years of age, lives with her son-in-law, S.D. Lockhart, near Paris; Rebecca married Gilbert Cool, and settled in Robinson township, where they lived and died. Another daughter became the wife of Charles Hoey, and settled in Ashland County, Ohio, where she died. They were cousins of the late Hon. John L. Dawson, of Fayette County, and relatives of the Swearingen family.

William McConnell came to this county about the year 1784, and located a tract lying on the waters of Harmon's Run, containing two hundred and forty-three acres. It was named "The Hermitage," and at that time was adjoining lands of John Stone and George McCullough. On the 24th of February, 1795, he purchased two hundred and fifty-seven acres of William Campbell, part of a tract of four hundred acres patented to Campbell April 5, 1787. Later he purchased one hundred and five acres of the heirs of William Bay adjoining

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The first store in the town was kept by a Mr. Anderson. A tannery was soon after established by James Allison. Benjamin Kindrich opened a silver-plating establishment. William Mercer also kept a store here many years ago. In 1825 Dr. Day was a practicing physician in Florence. He was succeeded by Drs. Scott, Sutherland, Smith, Makakey, Cunningham, McDowell, Bradley, Anderson, McCoy, Carroll, Graham, and McCarroll. The first post-office in this section was a white-oak tree a short distance below Florence, on which was nailed a clapboard box, in which letters and papers were placed by the postman, who passed through the town from Washington to Georgetown. About 1818 a post-office was established in the town, and Moses Bradford was the first postmaster. He was succeeded by John Mitchell in 1822. William L. Robb was in office in 1833; John K. Norton from 1835 to 1837; Charles Calhoun in 1838. The succeeding postmasters have been William L. Robb, O.P. Walker, William Criswell, Samuel Livingston, Joseph Bell, W.J. Cool, and Dr. G.S. Graham, who is the present incumbent. The residence and tavern stand of James Briceland is still standing, now owned by John Dennis. In the year 1845 a small newspaper was established called the Florence Enterprise. It lasted but a short time. An agricultural society was established in 1858, and a fair held that year. This was continued for several years. It was known as the "Florence Agricultural Association." The third annual exhibition was

brick church was then erected, which was destroyed by fire on the 23d of September, 1845. The present church edifice was erected in the fall of the same year.

Presbyterian Graveyard.-In this old ground, located at Florence, many of the old settlers in this section of country were buried, among them the following: David Jackson, died Feb. 13, 1802, in the 53d year of his age; Mary McFarren, died Nov. 29, 1817 in the 61st year of her age; Sarah McCurdy, wife of the Rev. Elisha McCurdy, died Oct. 26, 1818, in her 48th year; Jane McFarren, died Sept. 25, 1820, aged 68 years; Daniel McLoud, died Jan. 29, 1829, in the 82nd year of his age; John Barton, died Feb. 22, 1838, aged 82 years; Daniel McConnell, died Jan. 31, 1843, aged 70 years; John McConnell, Sr., died April 11, 1879, in his 95th year; Benjamin Scott, died Sept. 20, 1877, aged 85 years. The Rev. Robert Fulton, who founded the Florence Academy in 1832, died Aug. 20, 1842, in Wellsburg, Va., in the 38th year of his age, and was buried here.

The Rev. Elisha McCurdy was buried here, and the following is inscribed upon his tombstone:

"In memory of the Rev. Elisha McCurdy, Late Pastor of the Congregation of Cross Roads. Born October 15th, 1763. Licensed June 24th, 1799. Ordained and Installed Pastor June, 1800. A Pastor 35 years and minister of the Gospel 46 years. Died July 22d, 1845. He took an active part in the great revival of 1802, and was distinguished for his zealous labors in the cause of Indian Missions."

Florence Academy.-This institution was founded by Robert Fulton in 1832, and first located in a house now the residence of Alexander Scott. Soon afterwards a brick building was erected for its use on the lot of ground belonging to the Presbyterian Church. Mr. Fulton's proprietorship continued till the year 1839. A more extended account of this academy will be found on pages 452, 453 of this work, in the educational chapter contributed by the Rev. James I. Brownson, D.D.

The "Rural Female Seminary" was in existence in Florence in September, 1835. It was then in charge of Mrs. Paull, governess, and Miss Cutter, teacher. Neither the date of its establishment nor the period of its continuance is known. Murdochtown is situated on Raccoon Creek, at the point of intersection of the lines of Washington, Beaver, and Allegheny Counties. Five townships (Hanover and Robinson in Washington County, Independence and Beaver in Beaver County, and Finley township of Allegheny County) all corner here. The land at this place was originally owned by John White, and from 1780 to long after 1800 the place was known as White's Mill. A grist- and saw-mill is now owned here by John Withrow. The town was named after James Murdoch, who was an early settler here, and is said to have been the first postmaster. The place now contains nine dwellings, a school-house, post-office, store, blacksmith-shop, wagon-shop, and shoe-shop.

Paris.-This little town is situated in the western part of the township. It was laid out by Samuel Hill and Richard Ward. The latter built the first house in the town, in which he kept a tavern to accommodate travelers on the Pittsburgh



Presbyterian meeting-houses that were built west of the mountains." The house stood exactly on the State line, the preacher being in one State and the congregation mostly in the other. No provision was made for heating the house for many years. On great occasions the society held services in a grove, a tent being erected for the preacher, and the congregation were seated upon logs. After many years a stove was allowed to be put up in the church, and on a cold winter's day the stove was heated so hot that it set the church on fire. All saw the danger, but the old men could not put the fire out, and the young men wanted to see it burn. One old man rose and said, "Young men, will you sit and see the house of God burn down?" This appeal, with a few urgent remarks from Mr. Buchanan, incited the young men to activity, and with snow the fire was finally put out. This building remained in use until after 1843, and under the ministrations of the Rev. Mr. Galloway a new brick meeting-house was erected at the east end of the village of Paris, south of and on the Pittsburgh road, where it is still standing and in use.

Methodist Episcopal Church.-This church, whose place of worship is the "Tucker Meetinghouse," was organized in 1824, by the Rev. Thomas Jamison. The original members were John Tucker and his wife, Jonathan Tucker and wife, James Jackson, and Elizabeth and Jane Hanlin. A small class had been formed previous to this time, and meetings were held in the house of Jonathan Tucker. A lot of land was purchased of John Tucker, situated on the Pittsburgh and Steubenville turnpike midway between Florence and Paris, and a stone meeting-house was built, which has been in use to the present time. The society have now under consultation the proposition to erect a new building in place of the present one. The ministers who have been in charge since 1828 to the present time are named below, viz.:

David Merryman, Jacob Young, William Hanlin, George McKaskies, Hiram Gilmore, ----- McMahon, John Spencer, Richard Armstrong, Wesley Smith, George L. Sisson, ----- Swaney, Simon Locke, G. Foster, Charles Thorn, John P. Kent, Israel Dallas, Harvey Bradshaw, Elisha P. Jacobs, Ebenezer Hays, W.P. Blackburn, C. Jackson, J. Gibson, J. Boggs, Joshua Munroe, John Gregg, R. Jordan, G. Jones, G.A. Lorrian, ----- Dorsey, J. Wright, David Hess, L. Dales, George B. Hudson, D.A. McCreedy, A.J. Rich, ----- Burbuage, James Turner, George Dunlap, S.H. Nesbit, Warner Long, James Hollinshead, M.B. Pugh, J.L. Stiffy, J. Kesler, J.J. Hays, J. Kesler, A. Baker, P.M. Hudson, I.N. Boyle, J.V. Yarnell, J. Jones, J.M. Maver, C. McCaslin, W.P. Blackburn, J. Williams, W. Gamble, G.A. Sheets, M.M. Sweeney, E. Jones, E. Taylor, A.V. Galbreath, G. V. Hudson, D.K. Stephenson, M.S. Kendig.

In the graveyard of the Tucker Church are found inscriptions to the memory of the following-named persons who were buried there, viz.: John Tucker, died April 6, 1831, aged one hundred years; Henrietta Tucker, died Nov. 29, 1833, aged ninety-six years; Edward Shipley, died April 6, 1817, aged eighty-three years; Martha Ralston, died July 1, 1839, aged seventy-three years; Elizabeth Miller, died July 4, 1846,

William L. Robb, April 14, 1840.  
John McCullough, March 29, 1870.  
Benjamin Bubbett, April 14, 1840.  
Samuel Martin, March 29, 1870.  
John McCullough, April 15, 1845.  
John McCullough, Jan. 28 1874.  
Benjamin Bubbett, April 15, 1845.  
Samuel Martin, May 24, 1874.  
Walter Buchanan, April 11, 1848.  
John McCullough, March 17, 1875.  
John McCullough, April 9, 1850.  
Oliver P. Shields, March 10, 1876.  
Walter Buchanan, April 13, 1853.  
Alex. McConnell, March 14, 1877.  
John McCullough, April 10, 1855.  
H.A. Jackson, March 25, 1878.  
Walter Buchanan, April 13, 1858.  
Francis Finnegan, March 25, 1878.  
John McCullough, April 10, 1860.

\*Boyd Crumrine, "History of Washington County, Pennsylvania with Biographical Sketches of Many of Its Pioneers and Prominent Men" (Philadelphia: L. H. Leverts & Co., 1882).  
Transcribed by Priscilla Corbett of Abington, PA in June 1998.  
Published in June 1998 on the Washington County, PA USGenWeb pages at <http://www.chartiers.com>.

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# AUDITORS' REPORT

## 1954 AUDITORS REPORT OF HANOVER TOWNSHIP

From first Monday in January 1954 to first Monday in January 1955

Cash balance at beginning of year—

Cash in bank, Securities and Reserve .....	\$12,837.60
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>\$12,837.60</b>

### RECEIPTS

Taxes collected in cash during the year .....	8,654.21
<b>Real Estate and Per Capita</b>	
Taxes collected on old Duplicates during year .....	1,013.59
Am't rec'd from county on unpaid Taxes or Liens Filed .....	394.85
Am't rec'd from other sources (a) to (i) Form 905 .....	25,352.96
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>\$35,415.61</b>

### EXPENDITURES

General Government .....	\$ 1,608.56
Protection to Persons and Property .....	1,631.44
Highways .....	24,106.70
Miscellaneous .....	484.94
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>\$27,831.64</b>
Cash balance at end of year .....	\$13,918.57

### RESOURCES

Cash and Securities and Reserves .....	\$20,421.57
Due from Tax Collector .....	1,793.08
Due from County on Taxes returned and Liens filed .....	1,108.44
Value of Township Machinery and Township Buildings .....	2,130.00
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>\$25,453.09</b>

Assessed Valuation of the Township—\$1,523,805.00

Published in accordance with Section 547, Act 567—Approved July 10, 1947 P. L. 1481

Signed  
Mantel K. Bucey  
Roy M. Saxton                      Auditors

**Hanover Twp. Auditors' Report**  
**Burgettstown Enterprise-January 27, 1955 Edition**

**FINANCIAL STATEMENT  
HANOVER TOWNSHIP - WASHINGTON COUNTY  
1980**

	GENERAL FUND	LIQUID FUELS FUND	REVENUE SHARING FUND	PARK BOARD ACCOUNT	SINKING FUND	TOTALS
<b>RECEIPTS:</b>						
Real Estate Taxes	\$27,350.96					\$27,350.96
Earned Income Tax	97,915.24					97,915.24
Licenses & Permits	3,035.00					3,035.00
Fines	5,651.86					5,651.86
Interests & Rents	1,206.53	\$1,077.47			\$359.47	2,643.47
Grants & Gifts	14,518.13	62,375.58	14,868.00			91,761.71
Miscellaneous		180.27		\$99.20		279.47
Miscellaneous Non-Revenue Receipts	10,094.45					10,094.45
Transfers from other funds				2,500.00	19,000.00	21,500.00
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>\$159,952.17</b>	<b>\$63,633.32</b>	<b>\$14,868.00</b>	<b>\$2,599.20</b>	<b>\$19,359.47</b>	<b>\$260,412.16</b>
<b>Balances Jan. 1, 1980</b>	<b>564.61</b>	<b>5,166.75</b>	<b>3,423.76</b>	<b>616.03</b>	<b>2,187.09</b>	<b>11,958.24</b>
<b>Receipts &amp; Balances</b>	<b>\$160,516.78</b>	<b>\$68,800.07</b>	<b>\$18,291.76</b>	<b>\$3,215.23</b>	<b>\$21,546.56</b>	<b>\$272,370.40</b>
<b>EXPENDITURES:</b>						
Administration	\$14,686.08			\$3,168.07		\$17,854.15
Tax Collection	2,912.14					2,912.14
Municipal Building	4,270.07					4,270.07
Police Protection	53,021.20					53,021.20
Fire Protection			\$1,000.00			1,000.00
Building Regulation	1,790.54					1,790.54
Health & Sanitation	4,825.00					4,825.00
Highways	5,325.71	\$67,550.86	11,255.40			84,131.97
Employee Taxes & Benefits	8,690.61					8,690.61
Insurance	19,252.42					19,252.42
Transfers to other funds	19,000.00		2,500.00			21,500.00
Interests paid on loans					\$3,362.51	3,362.51
Principal paid on loans					16,124.00	16,124.00
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$133,773.77</b>	<b>\$67,550.86</b>	<b>\$14,755.40</b>	<b>\$3,168.07</b>	<b>\$19,488.51</b>	<b>\$238,734.61</b>
<b>Balances Dec. 31, 1980 -</b>						
<b>Checking</b>	<b>2,743.01</b>	<b>1,249.21</b>	<b>36.36</b>	<b>47.16</b>	<b>2,060.05</b>	<b>6,135.79</b>
<b>Savings</b>	<b>24,000.00</b>		<b>3,500.00</b>			<b>27,500.00</b>
<b>Total Expenditures &amp; Balance</b>	<b>\$160,516.78</b>	<b>\$68,800.07</b>	<b>\$18,291.76</b>	<b>\$3,215.23</b>	<b>\$21,546.56</b>	<b>\$272,370.40</b>

**Hanover Twp. Financial Statement-1980  
Burgettstown Enterprise-March-18, 1981 Edition**

### **Game Land Deed is Made.**

The development of the movement for a game refuge in Hanover township, is shown by a deed that has just been left for record at the County Recorder's office at Washington. By the deed the Harmon Creek Coal Corporation transfers to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania two tracts of land in that township, one containing 1,350 acres and the other 959 acres. The consideration stated is \$6,928.

**Game Land Deed is Made**  
**Burgettstown Enterprise-March 25, 1936 Edition**

At the intersection of Pittsburgh-Staubenville Pike and Georgetown-Washington Road once was a busy little village known as Bricelands Crossing. The village is still there and is still busy in a different way. Its name has been changed a number of times. It is located in the extreme northwest corner of Washington County and is surrounded by rolling hills and fertile farmland. Its chief businesses were at one time taverns, blacksmith shops and wagon and buggy outlets. Its post office was a hollow oak tree. The village is known today as Florence, Hanover Township.

The center of social and religious life is Florence Presbyterian Church. Surrounding the church buildings that succeeded each other through the years from 1798 to 1963 is the historic graveyard whose graves hold forever the secrets and mysteries of unknown and forgotten pioneers of the past. With the passing years, names, faces and deeds have slipped unnoticed into the vast sea of oblivion.

Prior even to the earliest dates of the church at Florence was the forerunner, a tiny log building known as King's Creek, located three miles distant. This first little house of worship was erected in 1786 on five acres of ground donated by Robert Kidd McCausland, on a trail leading north to the Ohio River in the direction of New Cumberland. This small congregation buried its dead at this location, now overgrown and barely recognizable as a cemetery. It moved worship services to Crossroads in 1798.

Names in the King's Creek location include McCausland, McCracken and Bilderback. On the roster of the graveyard at Florence are names such as Moore and McConnell. It is with names such as these that reminiscences of Hanover Township might begin.

Eleanor Moore was born June 28, 1787, near Uniontown, Fayette County, the daughter of Augustine Moore. In 1790, her parents gathered together as much of their farming implements as were readily portable and moved to Hanover Township, taking up several hundred acres of land. Augustine Moore was of Irish extraction and was related to the poet, Thomas Moore. His father had come over with some of the Cecils early in the 18th century and settled on the eastern shore of Maryland, where he soon established himself as a planter. He was among the earliest of the Maryland slave holders, and at his death transmitted to his three sons, John, Thomas and Augustine, a large number of slaves and several hundred acres of land. Augustine died

May 10, 1815.

Eleanor married John McConnell, a hard-working blacksmith, and moved with him to a little house which he had prepared about three miles west of Florence. The house was located on the land upon which her husband had been born Dec. 19, 1784. Their first house was a rude log cabin, but it was the highest type of elegance in those days and was envied by many youthful couples of the community who were less fortunate.

Returning from his shop one day, the young husband found not only his elegant frontier house but all the outbuildings in ashes, and his wife not far away in tears. His first thought was that it was the work of some predatory savages who inhabited that section of the country at that time. But he was soon informed that the fire had crept up from a nearby clearing. The buildings were all consumed before assistance could arrive.

He built another house for them, and for the next 60 years put out houses as the exactions of civilization demanded. The last house built stood on an eminence "commanding a view of three states, a half dozen counties and a score of townships." The locations of six different houses could be found within a radius of a few hundred yards.

He gave his children all the educational facilities of the time, and he himself bought largely and judiciously of the books to be had in those days. He died April 11, 1879, at the age of 95, within sight of the place of his birth and the scenes of his youth and his honorable old age. His wife had been his faithful helper and companion.

John McConnell had been elected ruling elder of the Crossroads Presbyterian Church on Feb. 20, 1853. He was also a trustee and a Sabbath school teacher for many years. (History of the Presbytery of Washington, 1889, Philadelphia)

John and Eleanor Moore McConnell had been blessed with 11 children, some of whom had been laid to rest in infancy, in obscure cemeteries common to those days. From early life he had worked at his trade, that of blacksmith. He was also a great agriculturist, and is said to have built the first frame barn in Washington County. The nails with which it was put together he made himself.

John got his fuel from what was known as "surface coal." When this became scarce, he began to dig for it, and thus is alleged to have opened the first coal pit in Washington County.

He was an abolitionist and often had invited black people to his



**WHEN TREES AND SHRUBS** shed their leaves, the old graveyard takes on a different appearance. Small fieldstones placed at the ends of graves may be located in early spring or late fall.

table. They always enjoyed the greatest hospitality while in his home.

Eleanor Moore McConnell died March 9, 1888, age 100 years, eight months and 11 days. She had been a member at Crossroads for 85 years. Both are at rest in the Florence graveyard.

Among the 11 children of John and Eleanor Moore McConnell was Elizabeth, who was born Feb. 11, 1820, and who, in 1847, married (?) Johnston at Cambridge, Ohio. Mr. Johnston lived only nine years after their marriage and left her with three small children. She always maintained she did not believe in "second love" and declined all offers of marriage after her husband's death.

An article published in the Washington *Observer* on March 13, 1907, reveals a little of the lifetime of this remarkable lady, Elizabeth McConnell Johnston. She was still living at this time, but it is believed that she died shortly thereafter. The article reads in part:

"When the school children of Washington County are being taught to read the poems of Thomas Moore and sing the popular songs of Betsy Ross and the first flag, few of them are aware that there is within the limits of this town a woman who belongs to the same families as both these famous persons. The woman has for more than 15 years been a resident of Washington. She is Mrs. Elizabeth Johnston, who lives with her son, A.J. Johnston, at 40 Ruple Avenue. She is now in her 87th year. With the exception of two weeks' illness a few months ago, she has never been sick enough to prevent her from going about a day in her life.

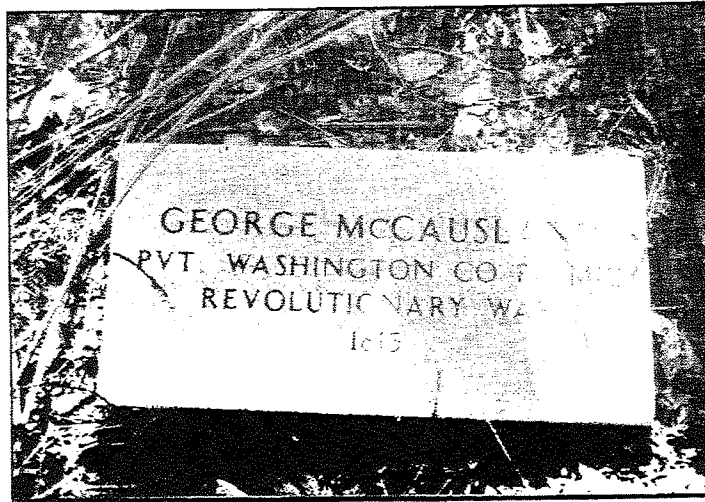
"She walks well without a cane,

gets up early in the morning, has a remarkable appetite, reads readily without glasses and stands almost erect, her shoulders stooped only slightly by her age. Within the last two or three years she has become deaf, but she is still able to talk fluently. She has been for 52 years a widow, and she is the mother of three children. She has been a hard worker and for 50 years has been connected with the Presbyterian Church, being at the present time (1907) a member of the Third Church, of Washington.

"She can trace her family connection back to the time when her paternal grandfather came to America before the Revolution. Her grandmother's name was Ross, a daughter of William Ross of Philadelphia, close relative of Betsy Ross. She has had relatives in every war that has been fought in America. Two of her grandmother's brothers fought in the Revolution, and several of the connection took an active part in the War of 1812. Her only brother was a surgeon in the Civil War.

"She has a very retentive memory and can relate many interesting incidents connected with the early history of Washington County. She remembers the building of the Court House before the erection of the present structure. She told in an interview of coming to Washington 70 years ago, and drove by horse team to Pittsburgh long before any railroad was built.

"She was born on the farm on which her grandparents had settled, and she attended the schools such as existed in that day. Her father (John McConnell) was a great reader, and she had access to his library. After her husband's death, she went back to her old



**SOMEONE REMEMBERED!** And placed a stone for Revolutionary War soldier George McCausland, who died in 1815.



**GRACE CASSIDY AND** Katherine Pyle have just emerged from the wooded area that conceals the graves of some of the forefathers of Hanover Township.

home and took care of her aged father and mother for 18 years for the remainder of their lives. She enjoys telling stories to her grandchildren when they return from school in the evening, stories told to her as a girl by her mother (Eleanor Moore McConnell).

"Mrs. Johnston remembers stories told to her of the Whiskey Insurrection, the Battle of New Orleans, several Indian wars, the Burr conspiracy, the building of the National Pike, the construction of the Erie Canal and the financial

crashes of 1819 and in 1837."

No one living today (1994) could remember Elizabeth McConnell Johnston or her parents, John and Eleanor Moore McConnell. The lives of these pioneers have been only a short, heartwarming chapter in the reminiscences of Hanover Township, Washington County, Pennsylvania.

(Acknowledgment to Floyd and Leona Snyder of Florida, formerly of Colliers, for access to the *Observer* story of Mrs. Johnston.)





**AS A SHROUD** in the wilderness, this grave marker stands neglected and forgotten in the Old Kings Creek Graveyard off Purdy Road in Hanover Township. When the foliage is green, it is nearly impossible to locate this and the other few remaining grave stones that date possibly to the mid-1790s.



**THE TRAGIC SCENE** the night of Feb. 26, 1963, when the Florence Church that most of today's residents remember burned to the ground. A modern edifice was completed two years later.

**Reminiscences of Hanover Township long ago-From out of the past.... (Pg. 4)**

**The Enterprise-April 12, 1994 Edition**

*Courtesy of Fort Vance Historical Society*

# Hanover Twp. Residents Have Change Of Heart About Star Lake

By Patrick Pontice

In just a little over a month, the popularity of Star Lake Amphitheatre has surged to the point where only a handful of Hanover Township residents are still giving it bad reviews.

Judging from the remarks of residents at Thursday night's meeting of the Hanover Township Board of Supervisors, Star Lake — warts and all — is the pride and joy of the community.

Sue Kennedy of Paris was cheered when, referring to the 375 youngsters employed at Star Lake, she said, "This is the first time in 31 summers that I've seen kids with money in their pockets and dignity on their faces. I've never seen that before."

Only a month ago, waves of angry Hanover residents descended on the supervisors to complain about an array of problems that were unleashed during the amphitheater's opening weekend: severe vehicular traffic congestion, dangerous pedestrian traffic, parking and noise, among other things.

Since then, it appears, operators of Star Lake have been able to remedy many of the initial problems. But while the majority of residents commended Star Lake for addressing these problems, several homeowners took the manager of the Pittsburgh area's largest showplace to task for allowing music and profanity to escape the boundaries and the amphitheater and invade their homes.

"My five children shouldn't have to listen to those words," said Rick Cumpston about foul language used by performers. "Why do my children have to listen to something that you wouldn't allow your children to hear?"

Wilson Rogers, general manager of Star Lake, responded by saying he was sympathetic to such concerns. However, he noted, it would be an infringement of performers' First Amendment rights to censor what they say. Rogers added he took personal exception to insinuations by some residents that because he cannot prohibit performers from using profanity, he has a lower standard of decency.

Cumpston said the solution to the profanity and noise problems can be solved simply: by turning the volume knob down.

Like the profanity issue, Rogers

explained, the solution to noise is not that simple. It's the performer who controls the volume knob, not the amphitheater, he said. And although the amphitheater is obligated under township law to limit volume levels to an average of 65 decibels at the home nearest the amphitheater, that requirement applies only when certain meteorological conditions are present.

Those conditions were not present the night of the Motley Crue concert, when the decibel reading hit 73 be-

cause of heat and high humidity, factors that allow sound to carry further.

The amphitheater has taken several measures costing a few thousand dollars to reduce the noise problem a bit, Rogers said. Redirecting speakers has helped temporarily, and a sound consultant is working on other measures.

Moreover, Star Lake will try to incorporate into its contracts with performers a provision calling for lower volume levels.

# AUDITORS' REPORT-1955

## HANOVER TOWNSHIP ROAD SUPERVISORS Washington County, Pennsylvania

From first Monday in January 1955 to first Monday in January 1956

Cash balance at beginning of year ..... \$13,918.57

### RECEIPTS

From current year taxes ..... 9,935.19  
Prior year taxes ..... 870.83  
County on unpaid taxes on liens filed ..... 270.22  
Amount received from other sources (a) to (i) form 905 ..... 14,259.24

TOTAL ..... \$25,335.48

Total receipts and balance ..... \$39,254.05

### EXPENDITURES

General Government ..... \$ 1,447.75  
Protection to persons and property ..... 1,424.50  
Highways ..... 23,778.00  
Miscellaneous ..... 509.42

TOTAL ..... \$27,159.67

### RESOURCES

Cash and Securities ..... \$18,954.38  
Due from Tax Collector on unpaid duplicates ..... 2,577.12  
Due from county on taxes returned or liened ..... 395.37  
Due from rental on machinery ..... 17.50  
Value of township machinery ..... 2,115.00

TOTAL ..... \$24,059.37

Assessed Valuation of Township—\$1,510,625.00

Number Assessed for Per Capital Tax—1099

Victor Wright—Roy M. Saxton, Auditors  
M-8

# AUDITORS' REPORT

HANOVER TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT  
WASHINGTON COUNTY, BURGETTSTOWN, PA.  
FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 1965

## REVENUES:

Beginning Cash Balance .....	\$ 16,914.38
Local Sources .....	107,000.37
State Sources .....	175,678.32
Miscellaneous .....	200.86
 Total Receipts .....	 \$299,793.93

## EXPENDITURES:

0100 Administration .....	\$ 18,314.65
0200 Instruction .....	100,253.27
0400 Health Services .....	2,039.47
 0500 Transportation Services .....	 49,986.82
0600 Operation of Plant .....	11,111.14
0700 Maintenance of Plant .....	1,188.22
0800 Fixed Charges .....	7,465.94
1200 Capital Outlay .....	7,212.00
1300 Debt Service .....	16,486.33
1400 Outgoing Transfers .....	84,612.26
Total Expenditures .....	\$298,670.30

Cash on Hand and in Bank - June 30, 1965 \$ 1,123.63

A.L. Stormwind, Certified Public Accountant

**Hanover Twp. School District-Auditors Report  
Burgettstown Enterprise-November 10, 1965 Edition**

## **Supervisors Sign Papers For Cable TV In Hanover**

The Hanover Township supervisors Thursday night signed a contract with Anchor Communications to provide the main portion of the township with cable television.

The contract with Anchor is for 20 years, with an option for an additional 10 years.

Although no company representative was in attendance for Thursday night's meeting, it was stated at a previous meeting that construction may be completed this fall.

A public hearing was set for Thursday, June 16, at 7 p.m. to consider a zoning change requested by Ronald Stein in an area along Route 18 just north of Florence.

The area is bordered by an RB zone. Stein wishes to move his feed store in Burgettstown to the Florence site. The five acres he wishes to change to zoning are presently in an R-1 district.

In other business, the supervisors considered the McCutcheon subdivision and approved it with the stipulation that the proper egress on Route 18 be marked on the mylar.

Bids for a front loader and scrap items were opened. Only one bid for the front loader, from Richard Patterson for \$600, was received. The bid was rejected as being too low for this type of equipment. Bids will be readvertised.

Patterson's bid of \$35 for the scrap items was accepted.

**Hanover Supervisors Sign Papers for Cable TV  
Burgettstown Enterprise-May 25, 1988 Edition**

*Courtesy of Fort Vance Historical Society*

BASKET PIC-NIC.



The pleasure of your Company is respectfully solicited at a Pic-Nic to be held at T. C. Hunter's Grove, near Hunter's Mill, on Harmon's Creek, Washington Co., Pa. on

TUESDAY, JULY 1, 1862.

Please assemble at 10 o'clock, a. m.

COMMITTEE.

- |                      |                        |
|----------------------|------------------------|
| Mr. John Hays.       | Miss Mollie E. McNary. |
| " George Teaman.     | " Maggie Crawford.     |
| " S. F. Arnold.      | " Nannie Sturgeon.     |
| " J. Worstell.       | " Jane Fullerton.      |
| " James McArell.     | " Kate Smith.          |
| " G. S. Vaneman.     | " Mollie Butteross.    |
| " T. Bavington.      | " Hannah Caldwell.     |
| " James McConnell.   | " Mollie Robinson.     |
| " Wm. Polock.        | " Nannie Crain.        |
| " Phil. Buchanan.    | " Cynthia Fortson.     |
| " Wm. Handin.        | " Hannah J. Lee.       |
| " David McCune.      | " Rachel Butler.       |
| " Lysander Steen.    | " Mattie Wagoner.      |
| " William Lee.       | " Sarah J. C.          |
| " Samuel McCough.    |                        |
| " Leander Robertson. |                        |

Carr's Steam Press print.

Basket Pic-Nic

The pleasure of your company is respectfully solicited at a Pic Nic to be held at T.C. Hunter's Grove, near Hunter's Mill on Harmon's Creek, Washington Co., PA on Tuesday, July 1, 1862

# Plans Are Advanced For Campaign To Build 14 Dams For Flood Control In Harmon Creek Water Shed

Plans for a concerted campaign to achieve construction of a series of 14 earth-compacted dams in the 25,000 acre Harmon Creek Watershed were arranged at a meeting held recently in the Weirton City Building.

The watershed drains an area of 25,000 acres extending from the Ohio River, through Brooke County and into Washington County.

Cost of constructing the proposed eight dams in Washington County and six in Brooke County was estimated at \$1,127,00.

## Easements Local Duty

The federal government would pay the entire cost of engineering, designing and construction phases of the flood-control project, but local authorities would be responsible for obtaining easements from owners of properties on which the dams are to be located. The governments also would be responsible for maintenance of the dam system for a period of 50 years.

The procedure for development of a project of this type was outlined by Alfred Millender of Morgantown, leader of watershed planning in West Virginia for the U. S. Soil Conservation Service. He was assisted by Encil Brohard of Wellsburg, soil conservationist for Hancock and Brooke counties.

Four committees were appointed at the suggestion of Mr. Millender and these will function until the program is com-

pleted. The functions and duties of these committees - steering, land treatment writing and education - publicity - were reviewed by Mr. Millender. A series of meetings will be held after the first of the year.

Edward Sikora, chairman of the original easement committee, reported that owners of properties on proposed dam sites have indicated their willingness and desire to cooperate in granting rights-of-way to the Conservation Service. Since the City of Weirton has budgeted no funds for easements, the committee hopes to obtain the easements without charge. National Steel Corp. and Starvaggi Enterprises own properties on which half the sites are located.

Five of the Brooke County dams will be built in the Colliers district and the sixth one at the Cove Police Lodge, just above the Quonset hut. It will impound five acres of water and will be 17 feet deep at the dam.

The Burgettstown committee has been inspecting sites in this area and proposed dams are to be located at Eldersville, Harlin Station, Harmon Creek at Goodwill-Dinsmore, the old railroad station in Hanover township, Ward's Run, Hanover township, Harlin Hollow, Hanover township and Paris Run in Jefferson township. A survey is being made and the cost estimated for building the above dams.

Mr. Millender pointed out that the owners of land on

which dams are constructed have the privilege of using the impounded waters for fishing and recreational purposes on a private basis. However, should these owners want the water level raised beyond government specifications to create a larger lake, the government will approve the project and pay half the cost but the area would have to be open to the public.

Mr. Millender said he expects the "work plan" for the project to be completed by next July.

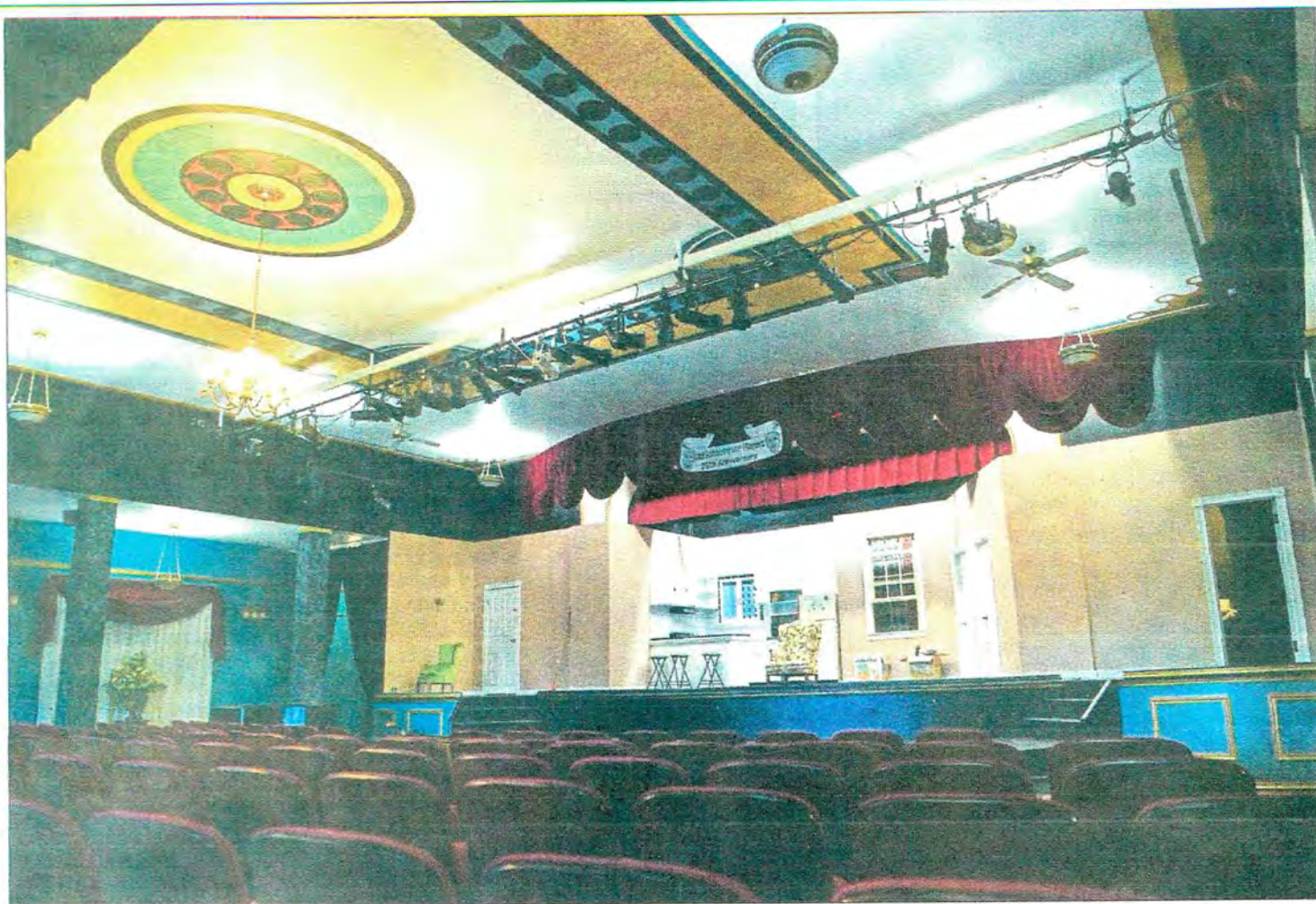
The "writing committee," which will work on the accomplishment phase of the work plan, is comprised of Mr. Rowland, chairman, and Shirley Murchland.

Named to the land treatment committee were Mr. Brohard, chairman; Oliver Johnson, Earl Johnson, Charles A. Freshwater and Glen E. Montgomery. They will select measures to go into the work plan, such as contour farming, strip cropping, ponds, establishing hay land or pasture land, and providing better vegetative cover to prevent soil erosion.

Appointed to the Steering committee were Mr. Leach and Mr. Kelly, co-chairmen, Pete Reitter, Wesley W. Robinson, Robert Thompson and C. R. Cattrell. To the education-publicity committee Carl Swift, chairman, Robert W. Fair, Stan Scott, Wayne VanDine, Mrs. Cleo Johnston.

**Plans are Advanced for Campaign to Build 14 Dams For Flood Control in Harman Creek Water Shed**  
**Burgettstown Enterprise-January 12, 1961 Edition**

*Courtesy of Fort Vance Historical Society*



HOLLY TONINI/OBSERVER-REPORTER

Renovations inside the Old Schoolhouse Players theater are nearly complete as they prepare for Opening Night of "Things My Mother Taught Me."

# Ready for its close-up

## OSP raises the curtain on updated theater

By NATALIE REID MILLER  
Community editor  
nmiller@observer-reporter.com

The Bud Allison Auditorium, home of the Old Schoolhouse Players (OSP), is getting a literal floor-to-ceiling makeover just in time for opening weekend.

New seats upon new platforms, paint, carpeting, and a light booth will be ready in time for a Friday reopening.

"We're blessed so many people

came in to help," said Cindy Berg, OSP artistic director. "Volunteerism is a powerful thing."

With the closing of their holiday show, "A Winnie the Pooh Christmas Tail," on Dec. 10, members got to work on extensive renovations of the theater, located inside the Mount Pleasant Township Community Center.

"A lot of people helped us tear down," said Berg. "We sold the old seats, so we disassembled them and

had them all stacked in 45 minutes." Painting the ceiling, however, was a much more time-consuming endeavor.

"We're renting the scaffolding, so we had a deadline. But it took about a month plus another week of work," said Berg, who did a large portion of the painting, changing the color from a hard-to-match pink to white. The art deco details of the space have been left intact.

Berg's husband Wayne led the

teams of volunteers who worked on the renovation, expected to total \$65,000. OSP, which formed in 1992, collected donations and held fundraisers to cover the entire cost.

OSP rents the theater from the community center.

"They've allowed us to make a lot of renovations," Wayne said.

The center, originally Hickory High School, was built in 1914. In 1990, the unused building was

See OSP, Page B2

**Old Schoolhouse Players Renovations (pg. 1)**  
**Observer-Reporter-March 14, 2018 Edition**

*Courtesy of Fort Vance Historical Society*



# OSP

Continued from Page B1

purchased by Mount Pleasant Township for \$1, and work began to convert it into a space for the community. Now, in addition to OSP, it houses a day care, offices for Intermediate Unit 1, dance and music classes, Western Pennsylvania Railroad Society, Mount Pleasant Township Historical Society, and an event space that can be rented.

"We're grateful to be here, in a building that was saved from the wrecking ball," said Berg.

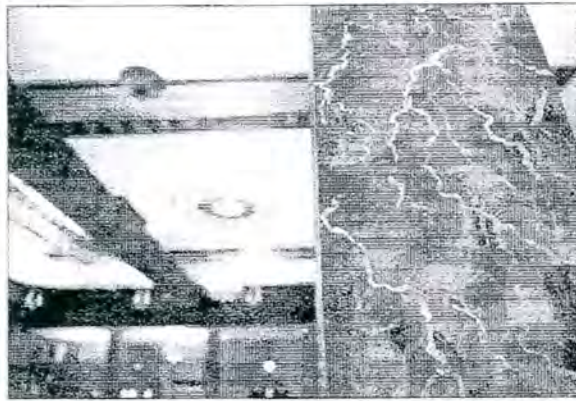
Berg, a retired drama teacher from Canon-McMillan School District, said the board has been planning renovations for many years. The group had already replaced old drapes and added a second tier to the stage.

A campaign to replace audience seating was successful, and the new seats are wider, more comfortable, and are off-set, allowing for optimal viewing. When renovations are complete, the theater will be able to seat about 220 people.

OSP produces five to six shows a year. As artistic director, Berg assembles a list of possible productions for the season, keeping in mind what audiences want to see. Once it has been narrowed down, members vote on the final selection.

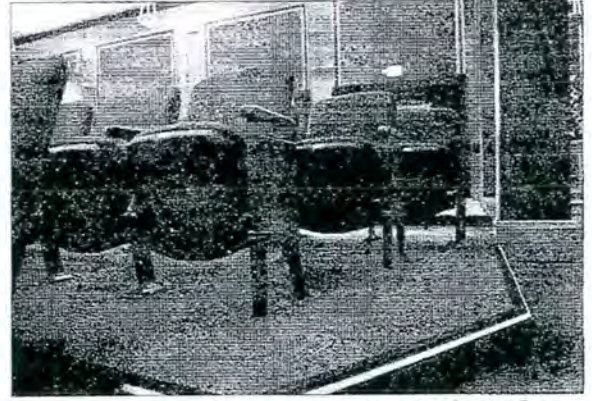
About 25 people are involved in smaller productions, while musicals involve 40 or more.

"We like to include at least



HOLLY TONKIN/OBSERVER-REPORTER

Little details, such as paint effects to mimic marble, were used to update the theater.



HOLLY TONKIN/OBSERVER-REPORTER

New seating with old-style details and a lighted strip for safety



NATALIE REID MILLER/OBSERVER-REPORTER

From left, Jack Okarma, Brian Kadlecik and Wayne Berg construct a platform in the Bud Allison Auditorium in Mount Pleasant Township Community Center.

one show with children, and this year we have two," Berg said. "We like to do shows that appeal to children, so fam-

ilies are able to see live theater affordably."

Operating on box office sales, the theater has a tight

budget, but Berg is proud of OSP's product.

"So many people think, 'Oh, it's only community the-

ater.' I used to tell students, 'I don't want to hear that it's only a high school production. You give the best you can possibly give,'" she said. "We try to make it feel as professional as we can with our budget, and try to be very polished."

The season starts with "Things My Mother Taught Me," a new romantic comedy, that runs Friday through Sunday and March 23-25. Future productions include "Roald Dahl's Willy Wonka," "Shrek the Musical," "Dearly Departed," and "The Christmas Schooner."

Final touches were being done in the theater early this week, but Berg was confident audiences would be pleased with all of the renovations.

"It's been such a group effort," she said. "We're really proud of the results."

The theater is located at 20 Wabash Ave., Hickory. For more information, visit [www.osptheater.com/](http://www.osptheater.com/).

Old Schoolhouse Players Renovations (pg. 2)  
Observer-Reporter-March 14, 2018 Edition

Courtesy of Fort Vance Historical Society

# It's all about apples



KATE ROUPE/OBSERVER-REPORTER

Lois Toomey of Hickory peels Ginger Gold apples for the Hickory Apple Festival that will take place Saturday and Sunday. More than 1,800 apple pies are made for the festival, along with apple crisp, dumplings, cake and other goodies.

## *Hickory festival this weekend at Mt. Pleasant fire hall*

By DAVID SINGER  
Staff writer  
dsinger@observer-reporter.com

The core of the Hickory Apple Festival is no doubt the tasty treats made from the namesake fruit.

Organizers planted in kitchens over this past week hope those unfamiliar with the annual celebration will sow a new tradition this weekend as chain saw sculptors, bands and crafters vie to be the apple of any newcomer's eye.

More than 1,800 apple pies made over four days are among the offerings awaiting visitors Saturday and Sunday at Mt. Pleasant Township fire hall. And it's all thanks to volunteers.

"Doughers, rollers, fillers, crimpers and bakers - we have a whole assembly line just for pies," said Kathy Farmer, an

organizer and volunteer for the past 25 years. "What's special about this festival is there are no outside vendors. Everything is homemade."

"We have a central group of about 75 volunteers that make this happen," she said. One of them is her husband.

"When this thing started, we had people donating already-made pies. They didn't seem to realize what this festival was about, because, well, we took the blackberry pies just the same," Gary Farmer said.

Blackberry and apple may also be smartphones, but volunteers haven't been phoning it in. Calculate this on a Blackberry device: 130 bushels of Ginger Gold apples from Dawson's Orchards (Gary said they've dealt with the Enon Valley orchard since 2010, and the

Ginger Gold holds up best in pies); 2,300 jars of apple butter; 75 pans of apple crisp; and 14 large sheets of apple cake. It all adds up to a sweet time.

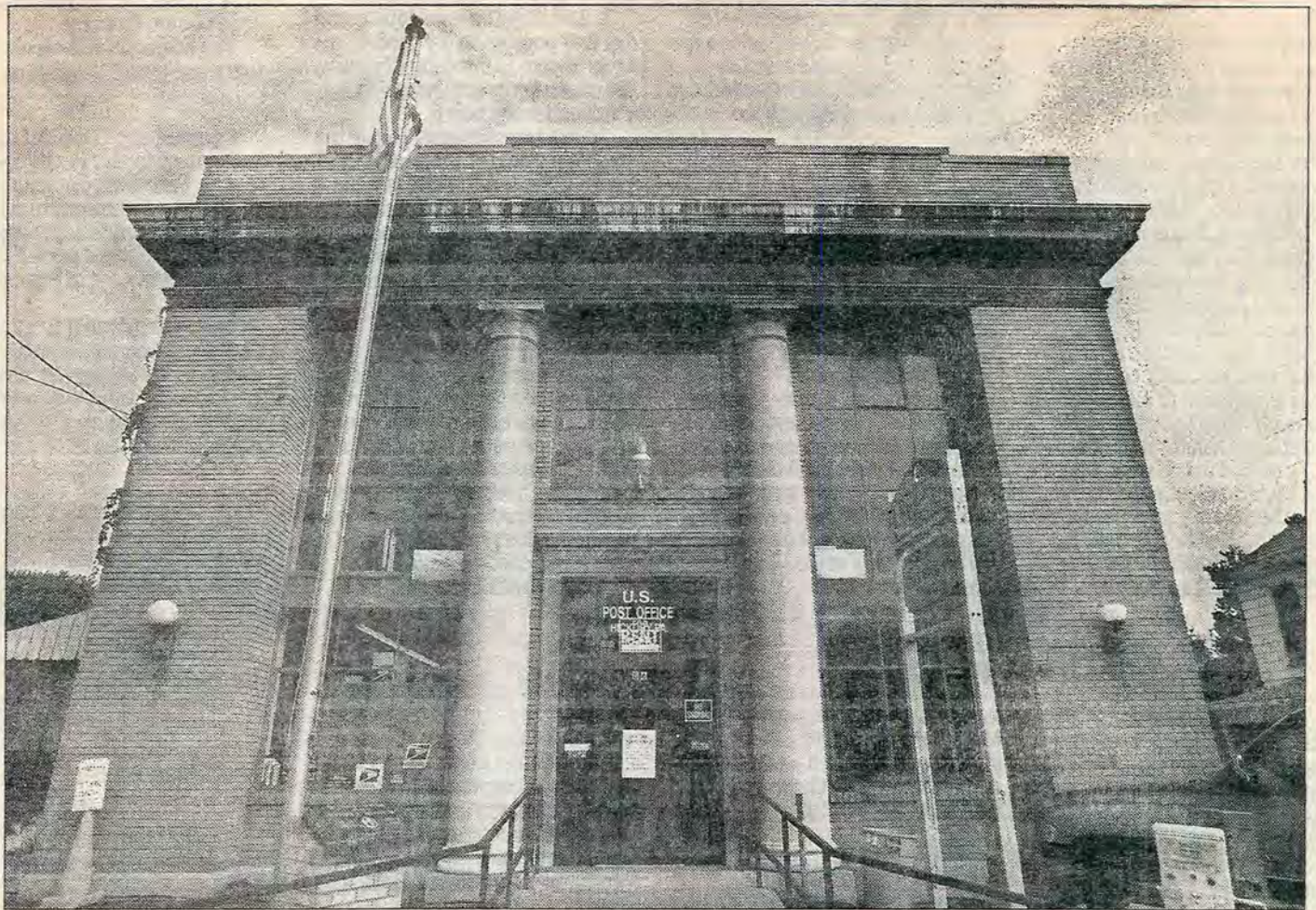
"We don't advertise that goodie, the apple cake," said Kathy Farmer.

"But it's moist and delicious," baker Rita Bongiorni said of the cinnamon-infused cake. Those favoring savory over sweet can chow down on homemade barbecue chicken, roasted pork sandwiches and other fare.

Entertainment starts Saturday at 10 a.m. with the Fort Cherry Band followed by Banjo All Stars and the Jason Craig Band, as well as the Mon Valley Cloggers and apple pie eating contests at 3 p.m. Admission is free and all food purchases benefit Mt. Pleasant Township Volunteer Fire Company.

**HICKORY APPLE FESTIVAL: SATURDAY AND SUNDAY, MT. PLEASANT**

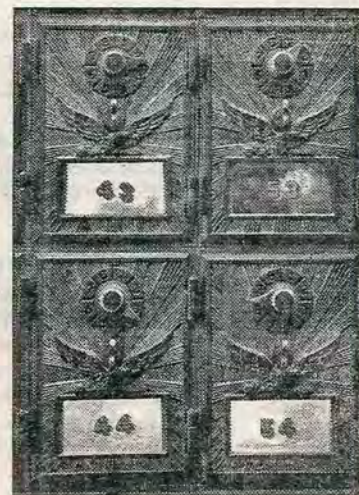
**Hickory Apple Festival**  
**Observer-Reporter-October 2, 2015 Edition**



Bob Donaldson/Post-Gazette photos

The Hickory Post Office has outgrown its quarters in the charming old Allison Building, **above**, and is moving to a new facility with five times more space. **Below**: The old building's mailboxes are bronze.

# Hickory replaces its old post office after 65 years



Hickory Replaces its Old Post Office after 65 Years (pg. 1)  
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette-August 29, 1999 Edition

By Judy McMaster Descutner

**W**hen the Hickory Post Office opens its new facility tomorrow, the doors will have closed on an office that served the citizens of the town and surrounding area for more than 65 years.

The Allison Building, a charming two-story structure, has become too small for the local postal office, so the facility is moving to larger quarters farther west on Route 50, near the intersection with Route 18 in Mount Pleasant Township.

The new post office will encompass 3,178 square feet, more than five times the space in the Allison Building. It will offer off-street parking and 24-hour lobby service. Postmaster Cheryl Loffert is excited about such conveniences as modern electrical wiring and air conditioning that were lacking in the old building.

For many Hickory residents the change is bittersweet. Some have enjoyed coming to the old post office for many years. It has been a place to visit with neighbors and exchange news.

Peter Darragh, an attorney whose office is the lone remaining business in the Allison Building, said he'll miss the post office. Its doors closed for good yesterday.

"I loved the post office. This one has a lot of charm, but they just ran out of space," Darragh said. "They have a beautiful new facility."

The Farmers National Bank, a prosperous Hickory institution that had outgrown its space across Main Street, built the copper-corniced structure in 1927. The bank closed in May, 1931, when the board of directors feared more withdrawals than cash on hand.

After the liquidation of the bank, Willard K. Allison Sr. purchased the building and relocated his hardware store to it. In March, 1934,

Allison was appointed postmaster of Hickory and the post office was moved into the building.

His son, Willard K. "Bud" Allison Jr., assumed the responsibility of postmaster April 30, 1960, and served until December, 1989. Bud Allison, who died in 1995, was a



Hickory Postmaster Cheryl Loffert is excited about the new facility's modern electrical wiring and air conditioning, two things that were lacking in the Allison Building. The new building, on Route 50 at Route 18 in Mount Pleasant Township, opens tomorrow.

much-loved member of the Hickory community. A memorial in his honor stands in front of the Allison Building.

Bud Allison's widow Betty said the moving of the post office from the Allison Building ends a long history of service to the community.

"My husband and father-in-law worked in the Hickory Post Office for a total of 64 years. That's quite remarkable. When my father-in-law was postmaster, there were 240 families in Hickory and Westland. The salary was \$1,000 a year."

As Hickory has grown, mail delivery has expanded and now 800 addresses are served by the post office. Loffert was hired as a clerk in 1985 by Bud Allison. She too feels ambivalent about leaving the Allison Building.

"This is a great old building. It just does-

n't meet current needs," Loffert said.

Inside the old Hickory Post Office, the mailboxes are bronze and there is elaborate oak woodwork. In the rear of the building, the teller windows from the bank are still in place.

Darragh said he is uncertain of the future of the Allison Building, but Betty Allison doesn't want to see it demolished. She said she will try to find a business to rent the space, and will consider selling the building.

"I would like to see it benefit the community, maybe to have it be a place for kids to go," she said. "I'm willing to listen to ideas."

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*Judy McMaster Descutner is a freelance writer.*

**Hickory Replaces its Old Post Office after 65 Years (pg. 2)**  
**Pittsburgh Post-Gazette-August 29, 1999 Edition**

# Serious horsepower



PHOTOS BY BARBARA S. MILLER/OBSERVER-REPORTER



Standing with their Belgian draft horses are, from left, George Rice, Anthony D'Alessandro, Angela Rice, Linda Rice, Dominic D'Alessandro, Adam Lohr and Milton Rice. Top left, Belgian draft horses Jim and Charlie, full brothers, were born at an Amish farm in Camden, Mich. At left, Linda Rice holds a vintage photo in front of her favorite artwork of a team of draft horses that hangs in the dining room of her Mt. Pleasant Township home. Hames, the supports attached to the collar of a draft horse, adorn the frame.

## Locals 'pulling' for equine team as Pa. Farm Show marks centennial

By BARBARA S. MILLER  
Staff writer  
bmiller@observer-reporter.com

As we open a door to our vehicle, settle into the driver's seat and turn the key in the ignition, we likely give little thought to the origin of the word "horsepower," a measurement of engine performance.

However, as the owner of a team of draft horses, Milton Rice contemplates the power of the equine every day.

"Delvin Miller started out down at the Burgettstown Fair," Rice said of the legendary harness-racing driver, a statue of whose horse, Adios, stands sentinel at the entrance to The Meadows Racetrack & Casino. Around his farm in rural Mt. Pleasant Township, Rice recalls "they used to race to see who could get to the Hickory store the fastest."



BARBARA S. MILLER/OBSERVER-REPORTER

Milton Rice looks at a scrapbook containing highlights of the history of horse-pulling in Washington County.

Rice, 82, first traveled to the Pennsylvania Farm Show in Harrisburg in 1950 when he was a member of Future Farmers of America at Hickory High School, and he visited the show and exposition off

and on since. He and his family will be cheering on his pair of Belgian draft horses next week at the centennial farm show in Harrisburg.

"America was built with draft horses," Rice said. "The

pride of every family farm was their team of horses."

The horses Jim and Charlie, with Rice's son, George, at the reins, will arrive in Harrisburg Monday for the horse-pulling event Tuesday. A list of entries shows they are the only Washington Countians registered.

"There's no way we could go to the farm show without George," Rice said. "He drives them. It's a family effort. We're lucky the farm show still supports horse pulling. At one time, we had 10 to 20 horse-pulling farms in Washington County."

The exhibition of horsepower is the third-most popular attraction at the farm show, Milton's wife, Linda, said, citing Pennsylvania Cable Network as her source.

"There were years Washington County would have

10 entries in the farm show," Rice said. J.H. Eckels of Marianna and his son, William Eckels; George Porter of Washington, a former East Washington police officer; and Vance Litman of Claysville were well-known for their participation.

"Me and Linda spent a lot of effort. We had Vance listed in the Hall of Fame for horse pulling at the farm show," Rice recalled.

"It's going to fade away in 20 years," mused Linda Rice, who said horse pulling is no longer appearing on the schedules of the Jacktown, West Alexander or Greene County fairs. "Of course, everyone has tractors. Before tractors, everybody had horses. They couldn't afford to buy tractors."

Please see Farm, Page B3

# Farm

Continued from Page B1

Milton Rice is superintendent of horse pulling contests at the Washington County Fair, and the Rices are members of Washington County Horse and Mule Association, among other organizations.

Jim and Charlie, the gentle giants, are from Camden, Mich., where they were born and worked an Amish farm. The Rice family has owned Jim for 2 1/2 years. Brother Charlie rejoined his full brother eight months ago.

"It started out as a hobby and now it's a vice," Milton Rice said. "Instead of going to Disney World, we went and bought horses."

Together, the team weighs 4,500 pounds and they started out moving a sled loaded with more than their weight – two-and-a-half tons. The competition calls for the addition of 1,000-pound increments until the team can't budge the load 27 1/2 feet.

Lightweight teams weigh 3,325 pounds and under. Horses weighing in at more than that are part of the heavyweight division.

Twenty-two pairs of lightweights and 14 pairs of heavyweights have entered the farm show competition.

The horses don't just waltz onto a trailer and into the farm show arena. George Rice works them at the Rice farm so they build both muscle and stamina.

Will Nichols, Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture spokesman, likened types of pulling competitions to the difference between power lifters and those whose strength is designed for endurance.

"There are two types of harness horses – those that

give it a good heave and then the wagon will be rolling and you're fine, and the pulling horses, who are pulling plows and pulling logs out of forests. They keep dealing with it and they just can't let up.

"It's just one of the initial differences you start to realize between the two. If you're going to be good, you have to specialize."

Pulling competitions aren't the only events for the big equines, bred during the medieval period to carry knights and kings wearing heavy armor. In the halter show for draft horses, judges will be evaluating the animal's shape and structure, known as "conformation," in various draft horse breeds, choosing the best stallion, mare, gelding and overall supreme champion.

For those unfamiliar with draft horse events, Nichols asked those who enjoy watching dog shows to think of it in terms of those who compete to be best of breed to canines who vie in agility contests or diving to retrieve.

"Usually, it's a different set of horses (in the halter show) from those who compete in the pulling world, where you want to see who can pull the sled the furthest," Nichols said.

At the 100th farm show, the butter sculpture was unveiled Thursday. Pennsylvania dairymen say they will introduce a new milkshake flavor today and the judging of various competitions will take place. The supreme champion draft horse is scheduled to make its debut.

Opening ceremonies are scheduled for 10 a.m. Saturday featuring the state police mounted drill team in the large arena. At the same time on the main floor, the blue-ribbon apple pie contest will take place on



George Rice and the team of Belgian horses work out last week to gear up for Farm Show competition.

PHOTO COURTESY OF ANGELA RICE

the Good Foods stage, followed by the Pennsylvania Preferred cookie, brownie and bar cookie contest, wine competition, chocolate cake contest and best "blended burger."

Nichols said in 1917, the "Pennsylvania Corn, Fruit, Vegetable, Dairy Products and Wool Show" was held in a building owned by Emerson Brantingham farm implement manufacturer, an entity

that became part of Case. Four other locations listed in a 1919 program included Chestnut Street Hall, Board of Trade Building, the Senate Caucus Room – where the Pennsylvania Poultry Association met – and Cameron Hall.

R.L. Munce of Canonsburg in 1918 was listed as treasurer of the Pennsylvania Breeders' and Dairymen's Association. In 1920, James M. Paxton of Houston was elected as a rep-

resentative of the Washington County Agricultural Society. No representative for Greene County was listed, but W.F. Holtzer of Greensburg was the delegate from Westmoreland County.

Paxton was a member of the standing committee on livestock.

"In 1925 there were 15 locations across Harrisburg that you had to go to find events," Nichols said.

**Milton Rice-Serious Horsepower (Pg. 2)**  
**Observer-Reporter-January 8, 2016 Edition**



**Pictured are Sam Thompson, Frank Tucci, Dave Mader, and Hank Beharry.  
Meadowbrook Golf Course, Hickory, PA. The photo most likely taken in the 1950's.**

*Courtesy of Fort Vance Historical Society*

## Abstracts of the Washington Reporter 1817-1820

### Monday, May 19, 1817

**157.** Farm For Sale. Will be sold at private sale, One Hundred Acres of Land on the head waters of raccoon Creek, 2 ½ miles from Hickory, 5 from Burgettstown, on which is a good dwelling house, a double barn and out buildings-60 acres of clear land, five of which is good bottom meadow, and a considerable more may be made. If the above land is not sold before the 10<sup>th</sup> day of June, it will be exposed to Public Sale, on the premises, on said day, with other property, such as grain in the ground, horses, cows, sheep, hogs, farming utensils & household furniture. Terms will be known on the day of sale by/s/**Thomas GILLASPIE.**



## HOME COMING SERVICE AT PROSPECT CHURCH

Langeloth Pastor Preaches Sermon  
at Mt. Prospect Church  
This Evening

Plans for a Homecoming Day are being made by the Mt. Prospect United Presbyterian Church at Thomas, of which the Rev. H. Glenn Stephens is pastor. Next Sunday, will be known as Homecoming Day, when all former members and friends of the congregation are invited to return and attend the services, which will be marked by special features.

Communion will be observed at the morning worship period, and at the evening hour, the sermon will be delivered by the Rev. John S. Stoner, of Los Angeles, California, a former pastor of the congregation. The Rev. Mr. Stoner and family are spending their vacation with Pennsylvania friends.

Preparatory services to communion will be held in the church on Thursday and Friday nights, the sermon on Thursday evening to be delivered by the Rev. George U. Martin, of Langeloth, and the speaker on Friday night will be the Rev. Dr. H. Ross Hume of the Canonsburg United Presbyterian Church.

Many persons of Burgettstown and vicinity are planning to attend the Homecoming services at the old church and meet the Rev. Mr. Stoner who is well known throughout the local territory. The church is located near the forks of the road, at the Hickory intersection of route 18.

**Mt. Prospect Homecoming Service  
Burgettstown Enterprise-July 30, 1931 Edition**

## HICKORY

by A.D. White

Hickory, the writer's home town, is one of the older towns of the area, having been established in the early years of the nineteenth century. James Ross, the first settler here, died before title was completed to the land on which he had located, so it was patented to his executors, John Ross and John Shannon, and the tract was therefore called "Executorship" and it contained 302 acres. Andrew McCown purchased 100 acres of this land and opened a tavern, and, in 1797 offered lots for sale. There is no record of any sales until February 8, 1803, when William Hammond and Richard Donaldson each bought lots and other sales soon followed.

The earliest name of this town was Hickory Tavern, and to this name there is a story: A company of axemen, cutting a road from Well's Mill on Cross Creek (at present Avella) to Canon's Mill on Chartiers Creek (at Canonsburg), reached the highest point in this area at noon on a certain day. They paused to eat their lunches here and an abandoned sled was used as a table. The meal being finished, one of the workmen pulled down a branch from a nearby hickory tree, attached the sled to it and then allowed it to return to its original position. Here the sled hung for several years. From this incident the place was called "Hickory Tavern," and when a tavern was located here a bit later, it took this name, which also became the name of the hamlet when a store, blacksmith shop and a few houses were added. However in some old records and an older maps the name, "Mt. Pleasant" also appears, and this name was given to the township when it was erected in 1806.

An Associate Presbyterian (Seceder) Church was established here as early as 1795 and it remains as the Mt. Pleasant United Presbyterian Church. The Mt. Prospect Presbyterian Church, founded in 1825, is located a mile and a half west of the village. An Evangelical Lutheran Church was established for German families in the area in the late 1800's but this congregation has been discontinued and the building erected has been torn down.

Hickory's Post Office, carrying the present name, has been located here since about 1830.

Hickory is an unincorporated town of about 250 families, and is a fine residential village which is spreading slowly on all sides into the surrounding countryside. Its residents, consisting of many professional people and skilled artisans, as well as retired people, find employment in Washington, Canonsburg, Bridgeville and Langeloth, as well as in Pittsburgh and its many suburbs. The town is surrounded by fine farming land on which the industries of dairying and beef cattle husbandry are predominant. Some sheep are still kept on the hills of Mt. Pleasant Township.

Since the coal veins here are far below the surface, mining has been confined to the lower parts of the township, with mining towns being located at Westland and Southview.

Early settlers in the area, in addition to James Ross, were the McGugins, Rankins, Campbells, Lyles, McCalmonts, McCarrells, Achesons, Hughes, Simpsons and many other families. Descendants of most of these pioneer families still live in the township.

Another early land-holder was General George Washington, who held title to 2,813 acres in the eastern part of the township. This was patented to him by the Colony of Virginia on July 5, 1774. Following the close of the Revolutionary War, General Washington visited this land on September 20, 1784. In his journal for that date he names the settlers who had "squatted" on his land and he describes the improvements which they had made. He dined at the David Reed home and then, in a meeting with the settlers, offered to sell the land to them, but at rates which they considered exorbitant. Having thus failed to deal with them, most of the settlers were evicted and the land was sold to others. At the present time, this "Washington Land" is divided into about fifteen fine farms, one of which is the former McBride farm, now the Peter Pan Horse Farm, near the Fort Cherry High School Building.

Outlying schools in the rural areas and at the mining towns in the township have been closed and the former Mt. Pleasant Township High School building at Hickory is now an elementary school in the Fort Cherry School System to which Mt. Pleasant Township now belongs.

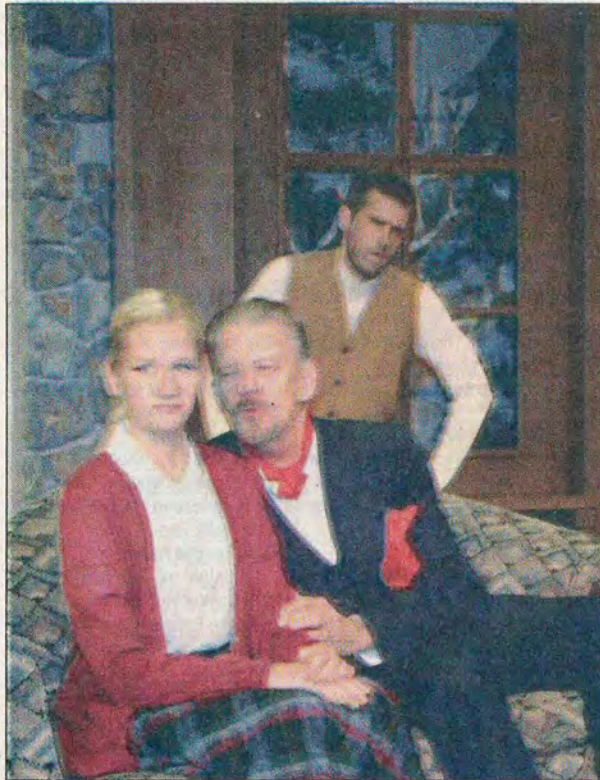
# OSP to perform '1776'



The Old Schoolhouse Players will present the musical "1776" at 7:30 p.m. July 10, 11, 17 and 18 and 3 p.m. July 12 and 19 at Bud Allison Memorial Auditorium, Mt. Pleasant Township Community Center, Hickory. Admission is \$17 for adults, \$14 for senior citizens and students and \$8 for children 12 and younger. Discounts are available for groups of 10 or more. Reservations are recommended by calling 724-344-7467 or visiting [osptheater.com](http://osptheater.com). Shown in a scene from the production are, seated, Bob Anderson as Benjamin Franklin, and standing, from left, Jesse Warnick and Dana Dalesio as John and Abigail Adams and Erin Bock and Drew Kramer as Martha and Thomas Jefferson.

**The Old Schoolhouse Players to perform '1776'**  
Observer-Reporter-July 8, 2015 Edition

# 'The Mousetrap'



The Old Schoolhouse Players will present Agatha Christie's "The Mousetrap" Oct. 10-12 and Oct. 17-19 at the Mt. Pleasant Township Community Center, 20 Wabash Ave., Hickory. Friday and Saturday show times are 7:30 p.m., and Sunday show times are 3 p.m. Reservations are recommended. Call 724-344-7467 for tickets and information, or visit [www.osptheater.com](http://www.osptheater.com). Rehearsing a scene from "The Mousetrap" are, seated, Sarra Zimmerman as Mollie and Warren Ashburn as Mr. Paravicini, and standing is David Craft, who plays Giles.

**Old School House Players**  
**Observer-Reporter-September 30, 2014 Edition**

**Telephone Officers Named.**

Stockholders of the Hickory-Woodrow Telephone Company have decided to continue the management of the company with nine directors. V. M. Paul was reelected and R. S. Rankin and John Y. Dinsmore elected as director in place of John C. Johnston and Joseph Carlisle. The directors reorganized by electing James McGuigin president; David McPeak, vice president; Vincent Paul, secretary and W. Lee Cowden, treasurer. Other members of the board are Samuel Harbinson, J. Ard Cowden and Logan Combs.

#### Hookstown Improvement.

Expansion and improvements to the amount of \$25,000 are comprehended in plans for the Hookstown fair grounds for the present season, officials of the fair association report. A three-acre lake, swimming pool and dancing pavilion are among the improvements under way. The Beaver county fair and many other exhibits are held at the Hookstown fair grounds.

## Hookstown Free Fair Now In Progress

The fourteenth annual free Hookstown Grange Fair will be held August 24 to 27 at the Grange located one mile north of Route 30 on Route 168. Farm crops, fruits, vegetables, livestock, 4-H work, canned and baked goods and fancy work will be on display.

On Thursday the fair will recognize the work of 4-H club members with a large portion of the exhibit hall and cattle barn devoted to displaying their accomplishments. The day will begin with judging of livestock, the Beaver County 4-H Dairy Calf Round-Up being an important part and in the afternoon there will be a Tractor Driving Rodeo for 4-H members. In the evening there will be a pony pulling contest followed by a style show by the 4-H girls highlighted with the crowning of 4-H Queen and King of the Hookstown fair.

Friday there will be judging of horses followed by a horse show in the afternoon and evening directed by the Hookstown Saddle Club. Saturday morning and afternoon will highlight the horse pulling contest.

**Hookstown Free Fair Now in Progress**  
**Burgettstown Enterprise-August 25, 1960 Edition**

## Hookstown

In 1800, when Beaver County was established, a settler, reportedly from Maryland, named Matthias Hock, was already living in the "south side" of the new county at a place he called "Hook's settlement." He had been there at least since 1797, and probably longer. Land from two original (1800) townships, Hanover and Second Moon, was taken to form Greene Township in 1812. A little settlement which would eventually bear his name.

In 1818, a post office was established here with Joseph McFerran the Postmaster; "Hookstown at that time," according to one account, "probably consisted of a cross roads, a mill, a couple of houses and Mr. McFerran's store." Variousy called "Newton" and "Nineveh," with "Moscow" reportedly suggested as well, the town was listed as "Hookstown" in Harris's 1837 Directory, and described as "an industrious, flourishing village" with a grist and saw mill run by R. & D. Wright, "Also 2 tanneries; 2 smith shops; 1 wagon maker; 2 tailors; 2 hatters & c." Matthias Hock had died in 1836, but when the borough was incorporated by an act of the



legislature dated April 18, 1843, this name "Hookstown" won out over its competitors.

The little town with its mill and stores served the farmers in surrounding Greene Township. In 1844 a select school was opened here by the reverend J. P. Moore. In 1845, what came to be known as "Hookstown fever" (probably typhoid) struck the new borough. Lingered several months at Hookstown, the disease afflicted 86 of the 350 residents, killing at least eight, including two doctors.

A United Presbyterian church was established in 1846 by the Reverend Thomas Calahan. Hookstown members of the Mill Creek Presbyterian Church, wishing a more convenient place to worship, established their own place to worship, established their own Presbyterian Church in Hookstown in 1854. One of their members was Dr. Milton Lawrence, who had come to Hookstown in 1826 and at various times served as Beaver County Prothonotary and Associate Judge.

In August 1862, a company of men was raised for Union Army service in Hookstown and the surrounding vicinity by the Reverend Marcus

from 1859-1867. Harry J. Boyde remembered that "at the time of enlistment one hundred men...marched into the Hockstown Church, signed the roll and pledged themselves to the defense of the Union." "He who doeth all things well," Ormond said, "was pleased to assign to us the letter H," and the company raised served through the war as company H, the 140th Pennsylvania Infantry.

By 1870, Hockstown's population was 259. A directory published in Calwell's Atlas in 1876 listed J.B. McCready as the "Proprietor and Miller of Hockstown Grist and Saw Mills," Thomas Swearingen as a druggist and storekeeper and J. C. Armstrong as "Hawker and Peddler."

(The Weyand and Reed Directory that same year listed the later gentleman as "huckster.") In 1886 the Mill Creek Agriculture Associates was formed. The Associates, according to Bausman's 1904 history, "holds its annual fairs at Hockstown. These fairs are largely attended by the citizens of the whole county."

The population of this country village remained remarkably stable until very recent years. In 1900

before; in 1970, it was 276; unfortunately there has been a small decline in population with the 1990 census showing Hookstown with a population of 169. The Hookstown Grange Fair, (although actually located in bordering Greene Township) is still held each year in August and has expanded to such a degree that it is attended by citizens from all over Beaver County as well as neighboring states.

## Italian Women's 19th Anniversary Marked

The nineteenth anniversary of the Italian Ladies Benefit Society, Slovan, was celebrated with a banquet in the Italian hall Sunday evening, Jan. 9. The 93-member enrollment was represented with 70 women in attendance.

Beautiful decorations in a pink and white color scheme enhanced the hall. Lovely floral centerpieces from the tables were sent to hospitalized members, Mrs. Mae Abate and Mrs. Argie Braninin, patients in Washington hospital; and to Mrs. Hannah Vietmier for her excellent catering work. Mrs. Vietmier is a patient in Mercy hospital. Each member was presented with a corsage from hostesses Mrs. Mary Sams and Mrs. Elizabeth Bertini.

The program began with a Pledge of Allegiance, singing of America, grace by Mrs. Eugene Tucci, president, and prayer by Mrs. Louise Zuccaro, vice president.

A brief history of the Society was recalled by the secretary, Mrs. Angeline Sprando. Only retiring officer of last year's cabinet is Mrs. Alice Tenaglia as treasurer. Mrs. Beatrice Vladich will assume those duties. Mrs. Antoinetta Gesmondi, Slovan, retains the longest membership in the Society and was sent a gift in her absence from the banquet.

To conclude the affair music was furnished by a local trio and the women sang Italian folk songs.

Arrangements were in charge of the officers: Mrs. Tucci, Mrs. Zuccaro, Mrs. Sprando, Rose Albano, Stella Amistadi and Mrs. Tenaglia.

**Italian Women's 19<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Marked**  
**Burgettstown Enterprise-January 6, 1955 Edition**

# High winds destroy Jefferson Twp. barn, shed

By KATHIE O. WARCO  
Staff writer  
kwarco@observer-reporter.com

David Bertovich looked out the window of his home on Bethel Ridge Road in Jefferson Township at 7:50 p.m. Tuesday and watched as branches from pine trees blew past.

"Things just didn't look right," Bertovich said. "Within 15 or 20 seconds, the wind was done."

And so was a dairy barn near the home of his mother, Catherine Bertovich, on the other side of the road. It had stood on the family's 240-acre farm for about 160 years. Also swept away by the wind

was a shed on the property.

"It lifted the roof right off," Bertovich said. "Part of the barn came down in the middle of the road."

Bertovich's brother-in-law, Randy Wargo, said he looked out about the same time from his home down the road to see the cows in the field running away from the barn.

"When he saw them run, he knew something was up," Bertovich said. "Then he saw the barn blown apart by the wind."

See Winds, Page A2

## VIDEO ONLINE

[www.observer-reporter.com](http://www.observer-reporter.com)



CELESTE VAN KIRK/OBSERVER-REPORTER

David Bertovich stands next to the family's barn that was destroyed by strong wind shortly before 8 p.m. Tuesday. A machine shed also was destroyed on Bethel Ridge Road near Avella.

## Winds

Continued from Page A1

Bertovich's wife, Linda, said she watched as the machine shed was destroyed.

"The lightning was so bad, it lit up the sky," she said.

David Bertovich said the destruction of the property was stressful for his mother. She and her late husband owned the farm for 60 years.

The barn, which had been used as part of his father's dairy operations, most recently housed machinery and hay. Bertovich said everything inside the structure

was intact. Linda Bertovich said the barn was well-maintained, recently getting a new roof, doors and paint.

While he is looking at a major cleanup, David Bertovich said he is just grateful no one was injured and their homes were not damaged. His mother told him the wind rattled the back door of her home.

Several large pine trees also were uprooted and others snapped off. A high-lift was brought in to remove the debris from the barn from the road and lift the fallen trees in the area.

Brady Mermon, who is a township supervisor as well as chief of Jefferson Volun-

teer Fire Department, said it took him 20 minutes to get to the fire station after the storm hit because he had to stop along the way to remove trees and other debris.

"I have been a firefighter for 49 years and never saw it like this," Mermon said. "For whatever reason, Bethel Ridge seemed to have gotten it the worst."

A roof built a month ago on a garage on Bethel Ridge also was blown off, Mermon said.

Mermon said firefighters checked all of the roads in the township to make sure they were passable before finishing up for the night.

"I've never seen it like this,"

he said Wednesday afternoon.

Lee Hendricks, a National Weather Service meteorologist in Pittsburgh, said the destruction of the barn resulted from a downburst, a localized area of damaging winds caused by air flowing out of a thunderstorm. He said the event was recorded at 8:05 p.m. in an area about two miles south of Eldersville and occurred as a line of squalls passed through the area in advance of a cold front. Another line of high winds blew through the area Wednesday morning as the cold front passed, and Hendricks said gusts as high as 52 mph were reported.



CELESTE VAN KIRK/OBSERVER-REPORTER

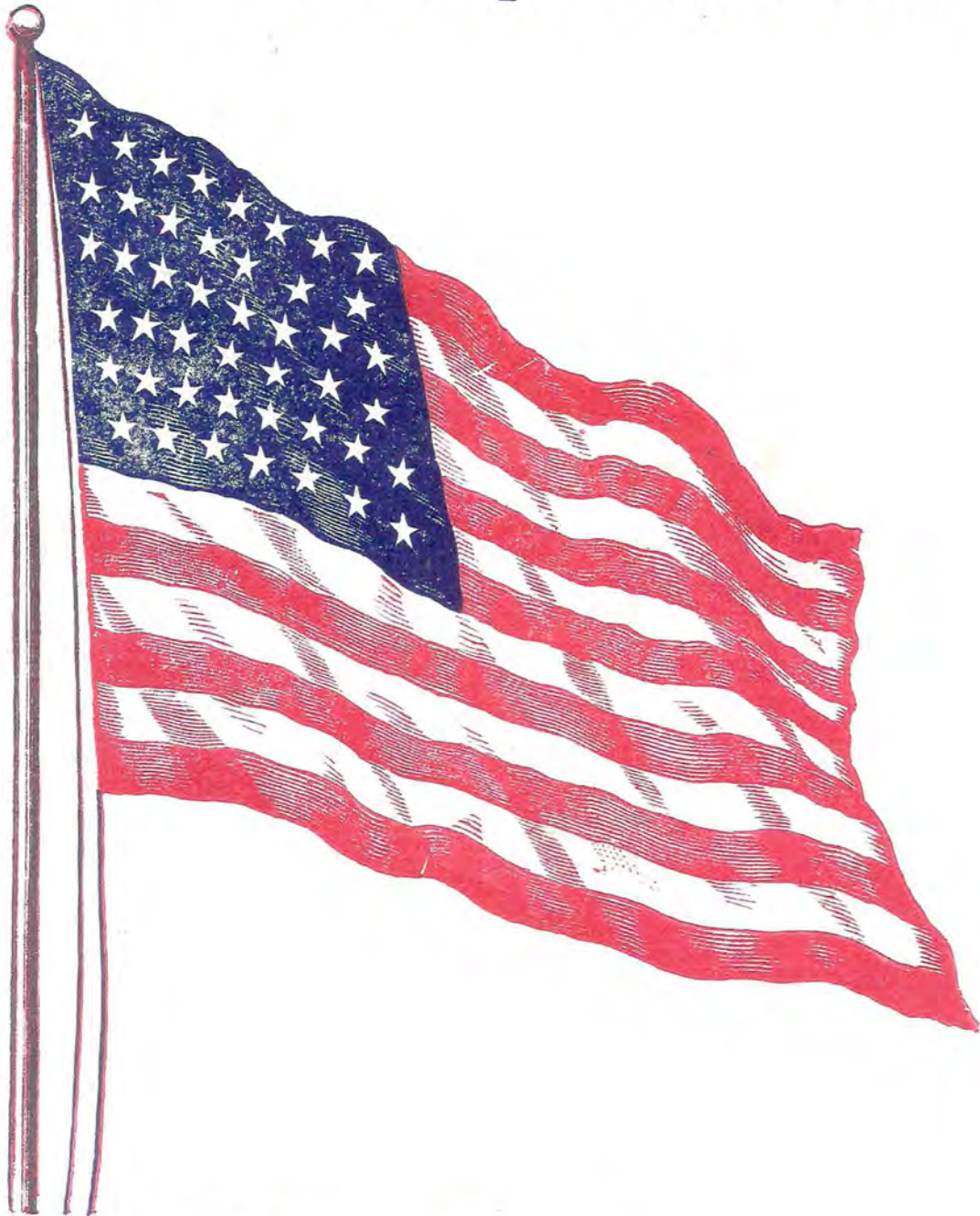
A barn was flattened by high winds Tuesday night along Bethel Ridge Road in Jefferson Township.

**High winds destroy Bertovich barn and shed**  
Observer-Reporter-April 5, 2018 Edition

Courtesy of Fort Vance Historical Society

# DEDICATION

## Jefferson Twp. Honor Roll



Eldersville, Penna.  
Sunday, July 18, 1943

# Jefferson Township Honor Roll

RONALD BROWN	WILLIAM LEE JACKSON	JOHN PARFENICK
GEORGE BAKER	WILLIAM S. JACKSON	FRED REESE
DALLAS BOYCE	MIKE KRANAK	P. ROTUNDI
NICK BERTOVICH	JOHN KORODY	ROBERT ROTUNDI
JULIUS BONAZZA	ALEXANDER KENNEDY	JENINA ROTUNDI
DONALD BROWN	JOSEPH KENNEDY	JOSEPH ROTUNDI
THOMAS BERTOVICH	LAWDEN KENNEDY	ANDREW ROTH
RUSSELL BENNETT	GEORGE KOPA	JOHN ROTH
ALFRED BROWN	JOHN KOPA	MIKE ROTH
JAMES BROWN	JOHN KOLTICK	WILFRED RODGERS
ROBERT BROWN	FRANK KRANAK, JR.	JOHN ROLLAGE
GEORGE W. BUTLER	MIKE KLEM	JOHN REVAY
JACOB BAKER	NICK KRAMER	MIKE REVAY
EARL BONDY	VINCENT KOTOUCH	MARTIN REVAY
SEYMER COX	JOHN KORPUS	JOHN RUTICH, JR.
JOHN CHARLIER	CHESTER KOWALSKI	FRANK RESNIK
MIKE CHUPA	ANDREW KOPA	JOHN REARDUN
HAROLD CHUTES	CHARLES KOPA	CHARLES SUGICK
MARION COBBS	ARTHUR LaPOSTA	LEONARD STONE
WILLIAM DONALD COX	ROBERT LaPOSTA	JOHN SABBATH
WILLIAM CUNNINGHAM	HARRY McDONALD	IGNACE SULTIE
JOHN CHILINSKY	WILLIAM MATRAS	JOHN SAVER, JR.
STEVE CHUBERKO	CARL McGINNIS	ELMER SAVER
JOSEPH DUCOIT	CHARLES McGINNIS	FRANK SUGICK
ANTONIO DIBACCO	PETER McMAHON, JR.	ROBERT STEWART
JAMES DONATI	JOHN MARTIN	WOODROW STROPE
MIKE DROSS	MIKE MEHOLLIC	WILLIAM THOMAS
JOHN DRAKE	ORRIN MILLER	HAROLD TAYLOR
WALTER DOBINSKI	DELVIN MILLER	CLYDE TRUAX
JOHN DROSS	EDWARD MUSKOVICH	EDWARD WELSH
M. J. DELLENBAUGH	EDWARD McCORMICK	ANDREW WARGO
SAM ELICH	JACK MILTON	PAUL WARGO
GENE FOSTER	NICHOLAS NEGRA	OTHO WELLS
JAMES FIAZZA	JOSEPH J. OPALENICK	CARL WELLS
WILLIAM FODOR	FRANK OLA	RALPH WELLS
CHARLES GRIGAS	RUSSELL ORENCHUK	LESTER WINLAND
JOHN HASPEL	NICK PLESKA	CHARLES WELSH
WILLIAM HASPEL	DONALD PATRINO	HOWARD WILLIAMS
WILLIAM HOLLOWAY	MATTHEW PUSKARICH	RICHARD WILLIAMS
MOYNELLE HOLLOWAY	JOHN PUSKARICH	RAY WHEELER
ANDREW HOLLOWAY	JOSEPH PUSKARICH	MICHAEL YUROSKO
JAMES HARSHALL	STEVE PUSKARICH	JOHN YUROSKO
RICHARD HARMATH	FRANK POLLACK	GEORGE YANICH
PHILIP HARRIS	JOHN PROFELI	STEVE YANICK
RAY L. IRWIN	JAMES PETREL, JR.	ANTHONY ZICK
EDWARD JACKSON		JOSEPH ZDYBICKI

# PROGRAM

AMERICA ----- Song by the Assembly

## FLAG RAISING AND SALUTATION

### INVOCATION

SONG ----- By the Girls' Chorus

Composed of young women from Bethel and Eldersville

PRESENTATION of ARMBANDS to OBSERVATION POST OBSERVERS

By ELMER HILL, Chief Observer for the District.

SONG ----- By the Girls' Chorus

ADDRESS ----- REV. JOSEPH ZEZZO

PRESENTATION of GOLD STAR MEDAL ----- W. J. LONG

District Commander of the American Legion

Presentation made for the Burgettstown Post No. 698 to kin of George Yanick, Aviation radioman 3-c U. S. N. who was reported killed December 3, 1942 as the result of an airplane crash into the sea. His body was recovered and is interred in the locality of his death.

FLAG DRILL ----- Eldersville Girls

STAR SPANGLED BANNER ----- By The Assembly

### BENEDICTION

§

### OBSERVATION POST AWARDS

HELEN RYAN	EMILIE PASTOR	H. SULLENBERGER
GEORGE PARR	JOSEPH SUGICK	GAYLORD MARTIN
EDWIN SAVER	SARAH BUTLER	IDELL WIEGMANN
EMMA NEELY	MERLE THORLEY	HARRY DAVIDSON
HOWARD NOAH	EUGENE MARTIN	HOMER DAVIDSON
IRENE BROWN	HELEN MARTIN	DOROTHY BUTLER
REED BROWN	WILLIAM KIDD	VERNON WIEGMANN
C. STROUD	ELEANOR TRUAX	VAL JEAN DAVIDSON
M. O. BUTLER	WILLIAM FULTON	CARMEN WIEGMANN
CLYDE MELVIN	ILAH McCAFFERY	CLIFFORD GILLESPIE
PEARL MELVIN	E. A. GILLESPIE	ELEANOR THOMPSON
HELEN BOLES	BETTY DAVIDSON	ESTELENE CUNNINGHAM
RAYMOND KIDD	PAUL WIEGMANN	



# \*\*\* JEFFERSON TOWNSHIP HONOR ROLL \*\*\*

Ronald F. Brown  
George L. Baker  
Mike P. Kishak  
James Cox  
Gene Foster  
Dallas M. Bruce  
John Korody  
James J. Pazzo  
John Haspel  
William L. Harrod  
Alexander Kennedy  
Lawden Kennedy  
Joseph Kennedy  
Fred Reese  
Robert LaPosta  
Richard O. Williams  
James Petzel  
William Matras  
Oliver Wells  
Carl D. Wells  
Ralph Wells  
Richard Hornath  
Nicholas Keza  
Joseph Zaluski  
Maurice Meehan  
Dan Pattenick

H. I. McDonnell  
Michael Turaska  
John Ingosko  
Carl McGinley  
Charles McOrmsie Jr.  
William Fedor  
Charles Buglich  
Rick Bernevlch  
Walter Dobinski  
Dana Miller  
Echvin Miller  
Ray L. Irwin  
Andrew Smith  
John Roth  
Michael Roth  
John Chikensky  
Edward W. Jackson  
William L. Jackson  
Thomas Kerpich  
Anthony J. Zick  
George J. Clealick  
Frank Ch  
John Kearden  
Robert Stewart  
Lester Binland  
Arthur LaPosta

Edward With  
Peter McMahon Jr.  
Joseph Dacot  
Andrew Warqo  
Paul Wang  
Michael Klem  
Inacer G. Sallie  
Shura Bonazza  
Rick Plesha  
T.A. Redonda  
Joseph Redonda  
Robert Redonda  
James J. Redonda  
John Sabbath  
John Kollick  
Leonard Stene  
George Kapa  
John Kapa  
Andrew Kapa  
Charles Kapa  
Frank Kapa  
Charles Kowalski  
Andrew J. Holloway  
William Holloway  
Bernelle Holloway  
William Thompson

Ronald Chute  
Mike Chute  
Mike Keres  
Marie Keres  
John Keres  
George W. Butler  
Marjorie J. Dehonbaugh  
Rick Kramer  
John Kollage  
Arthur D. Kocog  
Edward Muskovich  
Joseph Puskatich  
John Puskatich  
Steve Puskatich  
Matthew Puskatich  
Ray Wheeler  
James Donah  
Russell Orzechuk  
Frank Kuzak Jr.  
Donald Estine  
Russell Bennett  
Mike Gross  
John Gross  
William G. Jackson  
Charles M. Cornick  
John Patek

John Charley  
James Marshall  
Eric Baker  
Walter Kozlarski  
Harold Lunden  
James Pawa  
Allen Pawa  
Robert Pawa  
John Puskatich Jr.  
John Puskatich  
Bernard Williams  
Charles Gagnon  
Frank Kollick  
William Cunningham  
Charles Kerpich  
Robert Kerpich  
George Kerpich  
Frank Kerpich  
John Kerpich  
John Kerpich Jr.  
John Kerpich  
Frank Kerpich  
William Kerpich  
Donald Kerpich  
William L. Cox  
Philip Kerpich

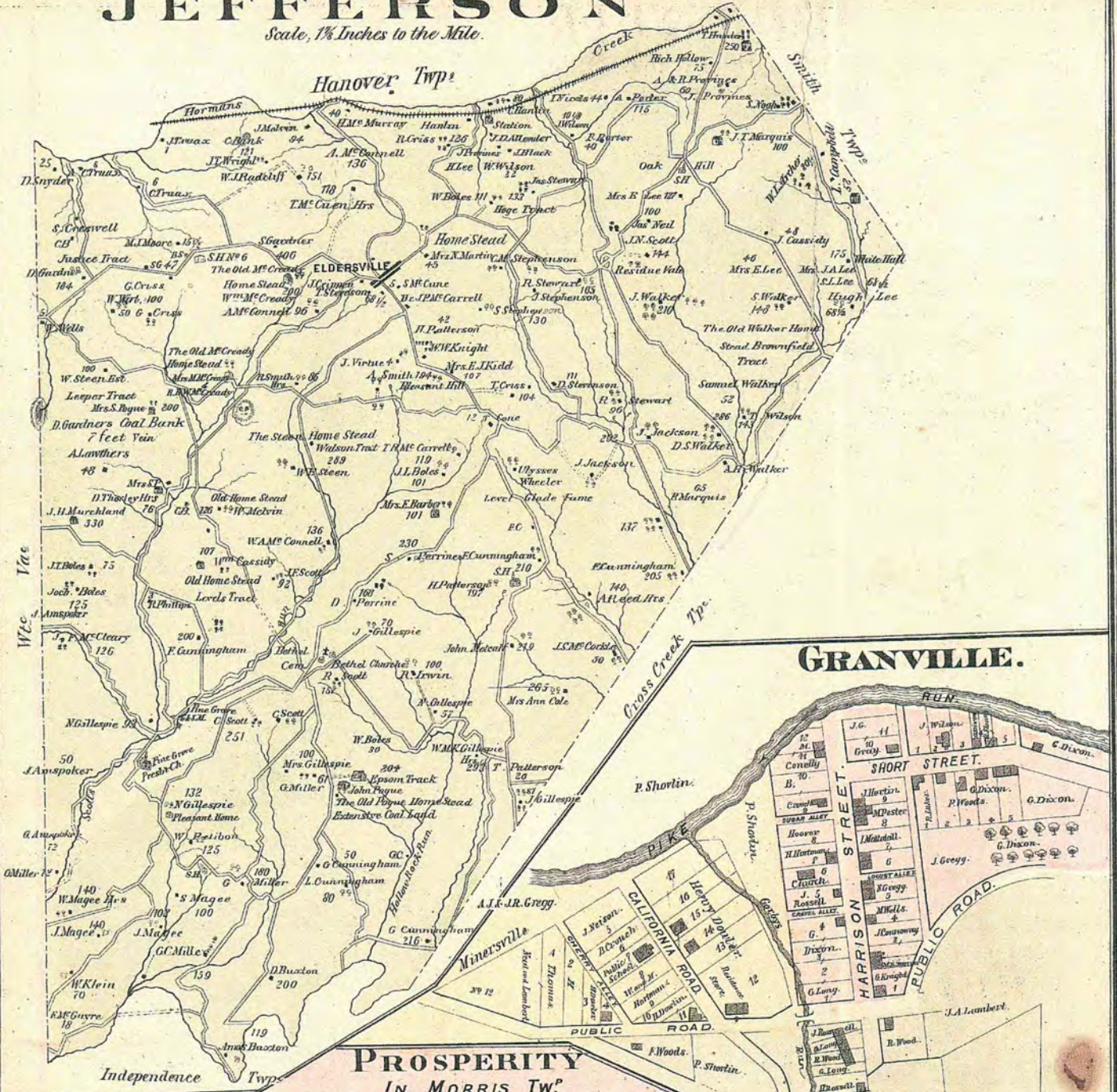
Building Committee; P. V. Weigmann, E. A. Gillespie and P. G. Stewart  
Dedication Com. ;Mrs. J. Zezzo, Mrs. M.O. Butler, Mrs. Dale Weigmann, P.V. Weigmann, Wm. Truax, M.O. Butler

Enterprise Press, Burgettstown, Pa.

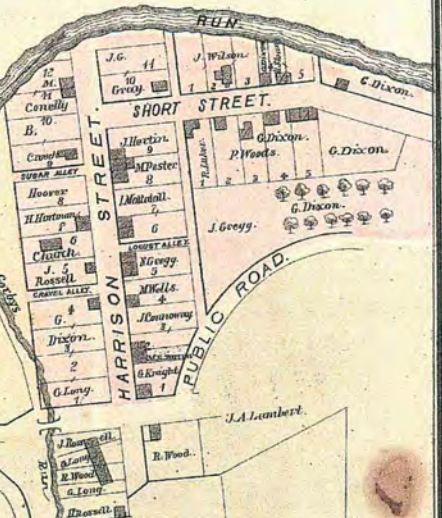
# JEFFERSON

Scale, 1/8 Inches to the Mile.

Hanover Twp.

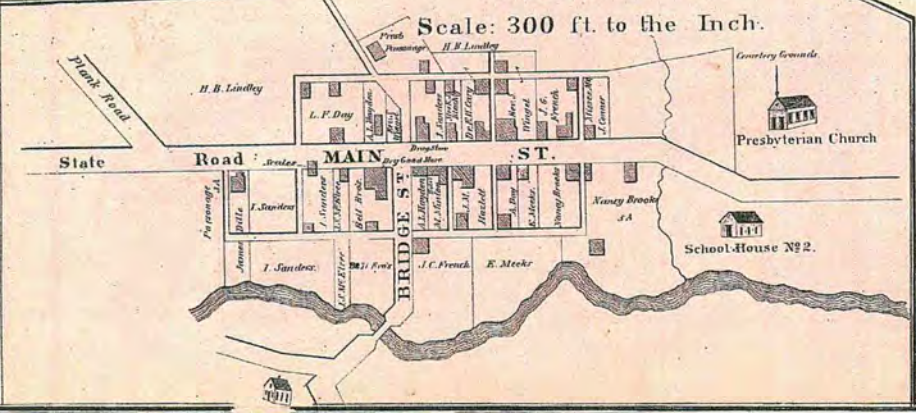


## GRANVILLE.



## PROSPERITY IN MORRIS TWP.

Scale: 300 ft. to the Inch.





**THE MOORE FARM**

# History of Moore farm

The Moore farm was located on the Scott Run Road, three miles south east of Eldersville, in Jefferson Township.

The Moore farm was built by James Thomas Boles. George Moore had a productive farm from 1907-1921. Later, his son, Gould, received possession of the farm but, due to health reasons, it was sold to a coal company.

At the age of 17, Gould taught at the Miller School. The money he earned allowed him to attend the Penn State Agriculture School.

The fields were fenced, possibly to rotate pasture and tillage. There was a small orchard and a variety of fruit trees were planted along fence rows. Part way to the house stood a large oak tree. In the fall, the ground was covered with acorns.

A number of large trees such as hickory, walnut, oak, locust and maple were in sections of the farm. Maple trees were mainly planted for their sap,

then, made into syrup. In one of the hollowed stumps, a goose laid and hatched her eggs.

The buildings were painted white. The most unusual building was the smokehouse. Its purpose was to smoke and cure pork meat. A small fire pit was built a short distance from the smokehouse and a large pipe was placed between the fire pit and the smoke-house.

The smoke-house was vented and the smoke would fill the building and exit through the vents. The meat was hung high on rafters. It usually took about two weeks to cure the meat.

After the farm was sold, the Moore families moved to Ohio.

Other families who lived on the Moore farm were Campbell, Chilensky, Puskarich and Gillespie. Due to strip mining, the buildings were sold and razed. Lumber from the house was used to build another home near Eldersville. The barn was dismantled and reconstructed near



**George and Betty Moore**

Rea Station.

*This was submitted by Paul A. Chilensky of Steubenville, formerly of Burgettstown.*

**History of Moore Farm**

**The Record-Enterprise-March 5, 1997 Edition**

## JOFFRE NEWSSTAND

Mrs. Ruth "Holly" Malone, of Joffre, has taken over the business of the Joffre Newsstand, effective January 1, 1957. She replace William Phillips who recently retired as the Joffre Postmaster. Mrs. Malone reports that business will be handled the same as it was under the Phillips management.

**Joffre Newsstand-Mrs. Ruth "Holly" Malone  
Burgettstown Enterprise-January 10, 1957 Edition**



## 200-year-old house torn down

**By Katherine Pyle**  
Staff Writer

The brick house recently owned by Mr. and Mrs. Robert Cassidy III, but built by James Stephenson in the 1790's near the present Raccoon-Cherry Valley Road, has finally been torn down after being vacant for a number of years. The bricks, according to the Cassidys, had evidently not been sufficiently fired, for they were slowly crumbling to dust, making restoration almost an impossibility. A number of hand-hewn timbers, 26 feet in length, have been salvaged from

the house, and a few of the bricks have been saved as tokens for the Cassidy family who lived there. Also kept were the iron S's that held rods which supported the house and were visible from the yard. "We didn't find any money behind the mantels," Mrs. Cassidy laughingly remarked.

Stephenson, who came to this area from Pigeon Creek, also established a grist mill on Raccoon Creek, which has long been gone.

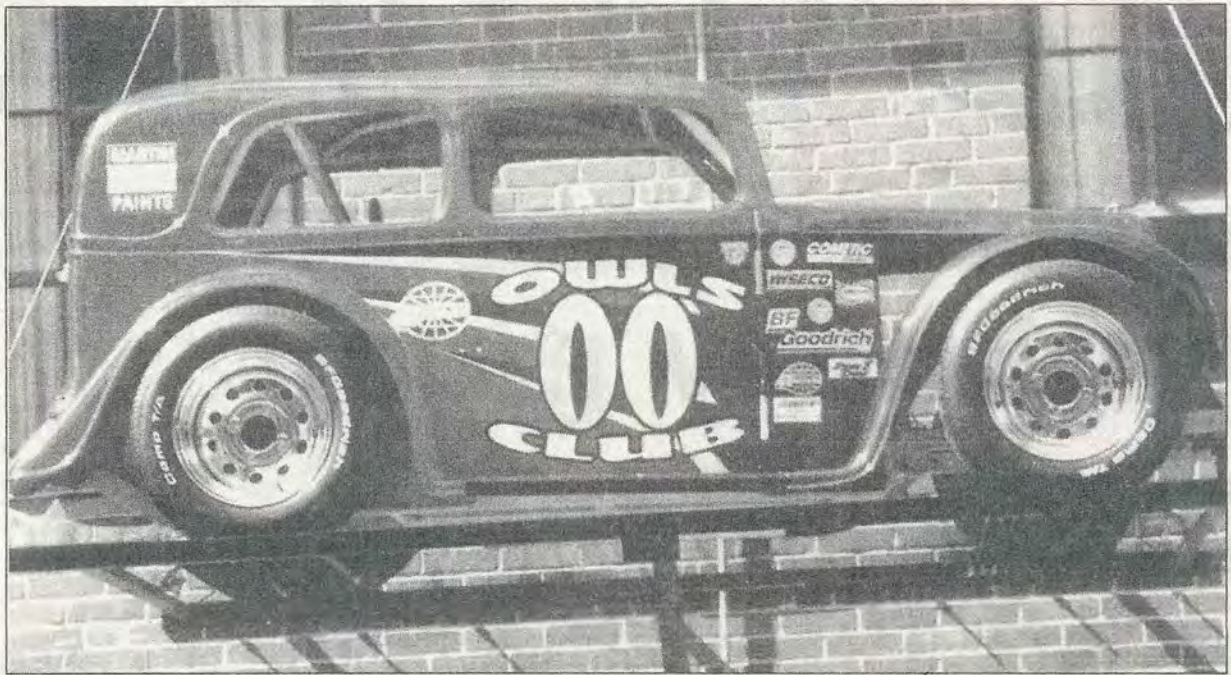
The recent dwelling was known for years as "the Mansion House," a term not uncommon in the early days for homes larger than the small log houses of the late 18th

and early 19th centuries.

James Stephenson and his wife Jane Vance Stephenson raised a family of eight in the house.

In 1805-1807, Stephenson was a member of the House of Representatives of the State of Pennsylvania. When Stephenson died in 1846 at the age of 73, the house became the property of his son John, who sold it to John Armstrong. Later it was owned by John Keyes. Thomas P. Weaver, a relative of the Keyes family, and his wife Roxe Weaver owned and occupied the house in the 40's and 50's. It was eventually sold by Mrs. Weaver after her husband's death to R.C. Cassidy.

**200 Year Old House Torn Down**  
**The Enterprise-January 22, 1992 Edition**



**THIS CAR ONCE** raced at a Charlotte, N.C. track.

## Joffre club has 'racy' mascot

**By Bridgette B. Nofsinger**

The Record-Enterprise

Members of the Owl's Club in Joffre have taken their love for racing to a new level.

Literally.

A bright blue and red race car, that once gripped the asphalt, now gracefully hangs from the front of the Owl's Club building in Joffre.

A nationally recognized social club, member activities center around race car driving.

"The inside of the club is decorated with car parts and autographed helmets and shirts from Nascar drivers," said secretary and treasurer Greg Jones.

To keep from getting bored last winter, the 125

member organization held its own Daytona 500.

"We cut out cardboard cars and raced around a track, with our legs tied together," Jones said.

In fair weather, however, the group frequently travels to North Carolina to watch the scaled-down versions of 1930s and 40s cars speed down the track.

Bill Paniaha, whose father is the president of the Owl's Club, works at the Charlotte-based race track. The car that now hangs from the Joffre building, was once raced there.

"Billy rebuilt it and did all of the custom paint work," said Jones. Green's Towing helped to elevate the car to its two-story status, he added.

The Owl's Club, with a 35 percent female membership, has been in existence for 65 years.

**Joffre Owl's Club has 'Racy' Mascot**  
**The Record Enterprise-October 1998 Edition**

## Smith Twp. School Directors Go To Harrisburg Monday To Sign Contracts For Joffre School

William P. Miller, Supervising Principal of the Burgettstown and Smith township schools has received official word that the money is now available for the building of the new school at Raccoon. Mr. Miller received a letter on Friday from R. C. Barton, Executive Director of the Pennsylvania Public School Buildings Authority that the project has received final state approval which gives the Smith township Board of Directors the green light for early construction of this school.

The board held a special meeting Friday evening at which time the members signified that they were in unanimous ac-

cord as to the provisions that must be met for the professional agreement with the state. The members have accepted an invitation to go to Harrisburg on Monday, June 2 for a meeting at 1:30 with the state authority to sign this agreement.

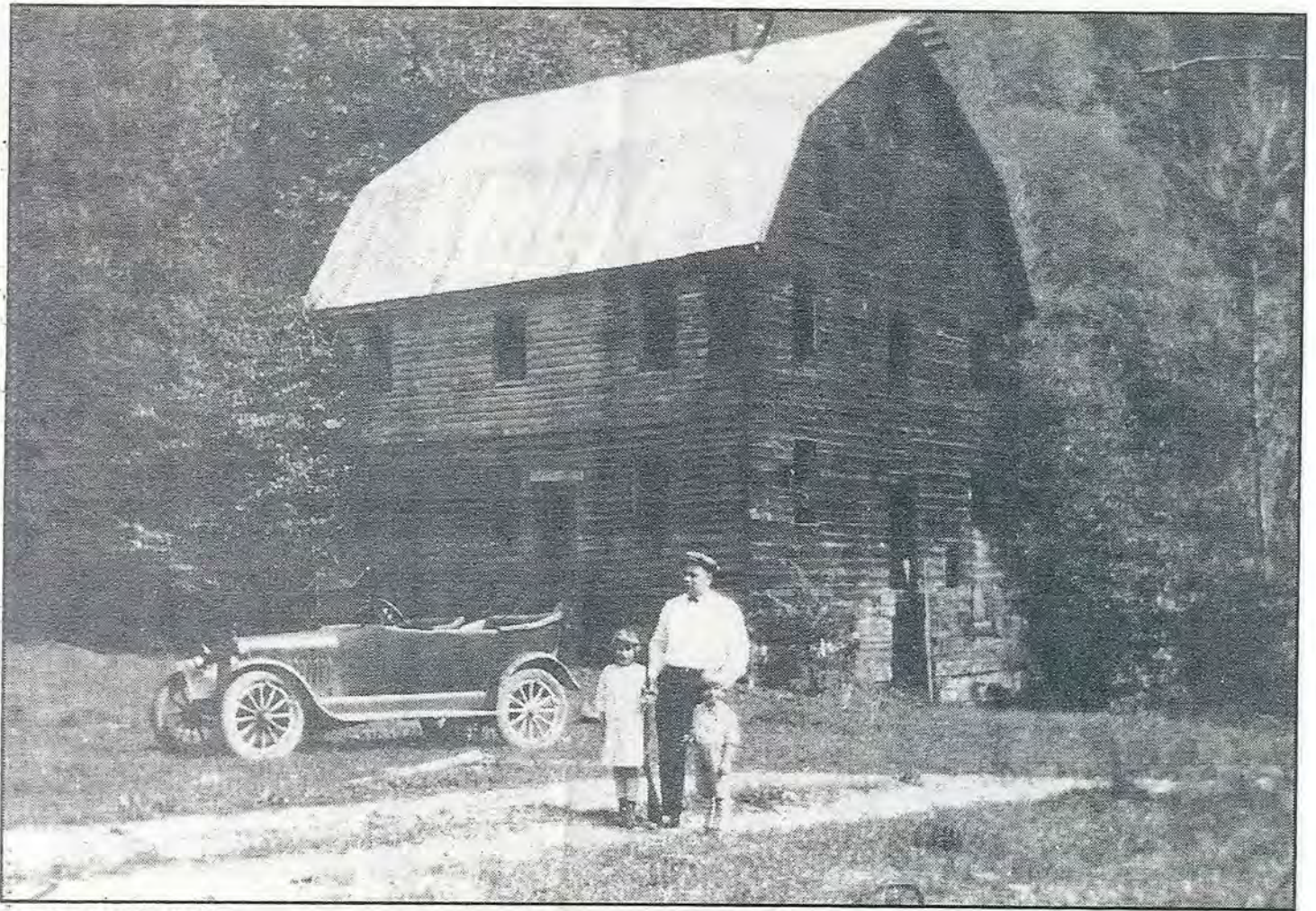
Members who will attend this meeting are the President, Arthur Florio, Secretary Ermil Caleffie, Carl Latella, John Zelenko, Geno Bianchi, Alban Dalverny and Joseph Bertovich, Superintendent of Schools Miller, Solicitor George Hanna and Arthur Tennyson, the Architect.

The board agreed to give President Florio and Secretary Caleffie the right to act in their behalf to enter into the contract with the School Building Authority and the Architect. They also agreed to turn the title to the land over to the School Authority for the period of the amortization.

The new school at Raccoon will be constructed at an estimated cost of \$396,252.00 and will be a one story brick building, containing 10 classrooms, teachers' room, health room, separate gymnasium and cafeteria.

The next step in the project will be the advertising for bids for a contractor for the building. The school directors believe that it will be possible to start actual construction at an early date.

**Smith Twp. School Directors go to Harrisburg Monday  
to Sign Contracts for Joffre School  
Burgettstown Enterprise-May 29, 1952 Edition**



Kidd's Mill in 1925

## Kidd's Mill nature, history tour set

By Kathryn Slasor  
For The Enterprise

The history and nature tour that has been known for the past several years as the "Kidd's Mill Walk" will take place in the Jefferson Township area on Saturday, May 7. Anyone wishing to visit the secluded spot on Scott's Run should meet at the Eldersville United Methodist Church at 10 a.m.

The actual grist and sawmill that was built in the valley of Scott's Run in 1825 has not operated since the flood of 1912. All buildings, including the mill, have been removed, leaving only impressions in the ground and a few bricks and stones that reveal where life was once very active. A hotel boarding house operated in the valley from about 1880 to 1910. Working girls from Pittsburgh spent a series of two-week vacations in the area dur-

ing the summer months. Several met young men of the surrounding farmlands and married them, settling nearby to raise their families.

The Pine Grove Presbyterian Church stood on the hillside near the creek and closed about 1886. It also is only a notation on pages of local history.

The tracks of a mine railroad, built by John A. Bell in 1921, were removed in the past several years, leaving a scar of a railroad bed down the valley from the Bologna Coal Mine. It is down this old path that walkers will make their way, probably on foot, as only a tractor or a four-wheel-drive vehicle could navigate the area.

The absence of habitation in the valley for the past three generations is compensated by the nostalgia of learning of its importance to the ancestors of today's Jefferson Township citizens. Nature is at

its best at Kidd's Mill, with flowering trees and spring flowers blooming in their season. Thus the tour Saturday will be a combined history-nature walk.

Leaders will be Carl Patsche, Bob Irwin and Albert Miller. Patsche, a biology teacher at Weir High School, will explain the habits of birds and wild animals that inhabit the valley, and he will point out various trees, flowers and plants. Irwin will tell of the history of the mill and its occupants, which were his ancestors, the Kidd family. Miller will tell the history of the Pine Grove Church and will thrill the walkers with some Indian lore of which he is familiar.

Walkers are advised to wear boots for crossing Scott's Run, as all bridges were washed out in 1912. They should also wear suitable clothing for the weather of the day.



# **Zinc Manufacture in the Pittsburgh District**

**The Iron Age**  
May 13, 1915

*Courtesy of  
Fort Vance Historical Society*

# Zinc Manufacture in the Pittsburgh District

The Plant of the American Zinc & Chemical Company at Langeloth, Pa.—Employees' Houses with Special Features of Construction

In April, 1913, through the efforts of Ralph Cooke, industrial agent of the Pennsylvania Lines West, the American Zinc & Chemical Company, an identified interest of the American Metal Company, New York, secured about 900 acres of ground two miles south of Burgettstown, Pa., on the main line of the Pittsburgh, Cincinnati, Chicago & St. Louis Railroad. Of this, 400 acres located on the crest of a hill and admirably adapted for the purpose, was set aside for a plant for the manufacture of spelter and its by-products, sulphuric acid, while about 500 acres located just west of the plant site were reserved for the building of a new town for employees to be named Langeloth, in honor of a chairman of the board of the American Metal Company, who died less than a year ago.

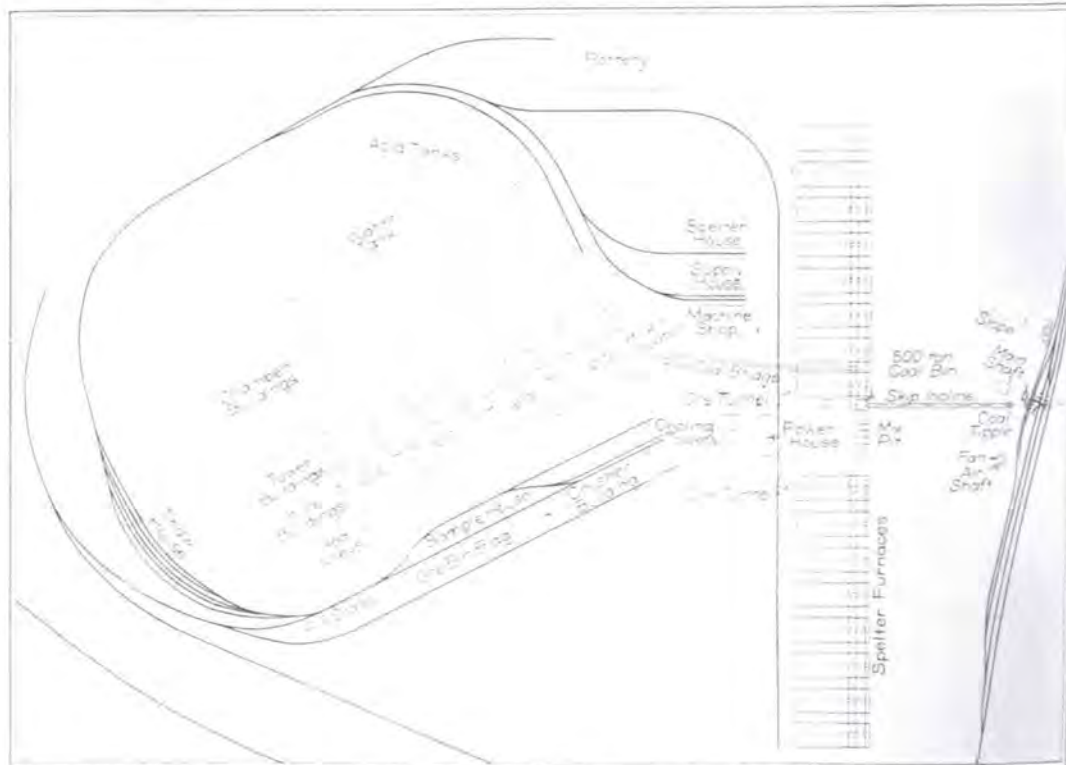
Active work on the plant was started in June, 1913, and in a little more than a year the first unit was finished and put in operation. The ground plan, as shown in an illustration, gives an idea of the general layout of the plant, but it should be



Ore Bin and Crusher Building

Tower Building  
Roasting Furnaces

noted that only one unit has been completed. The three units to the left are prospective, while that to the extreme right is finished and in operation. There are direct sidings from the main line of the Pennsylvania Railroad, also from a branch line



A General Map of the New Spelter Plant at Langeloth, Pa.

of that road, running from Burgettstown to Paterson mills, while the company itself has built a main service standard gauge line, which completely encircles its plant and also numerous switches connecting different departments.

In order to obtain a supply of pure water essential to its purposes, the company built a concrete dam just south of its works on its own property. This has a capacity for storing 15,000,000 gal., the reservoir being supplied by natural water sheds and springs. From this reservoir the water is pumped by centrifugal and plunger pumps through a 12-in. cast-iron pipe water line to a steel tank, built by the Des Moines Bridge & Iron Works,

pany. The mine is located near the smelter and the coal is delivered from the tippie to a steel incline, the cars being electrically hauled up this incline to a 500-ton steel storage bin. From a bridge under this bin, the cars are loaded by gravity and hauled by electric motors over steel bridges to bins located in different parts of the works. All the coal mining is done by machines, and in addition to the main hoisting shaft there is a slope entrance built of concrete, 8 ft. high, leading into the mines through which all supplies are taken and which is also used by the miners in going to and returning from work. The company has a supply of coal amply sufficient to meet its needs, when the four units of its plant

have been built, for many years to come. The company intends to market the lump coal and use its slack for smelting purposes.

The smelting plant is located on high ground, with a view to having better working conditions for the men. This necessitated a large amount of excavating and concrete work.

The different departments are so laid out that three additional units can be constructed without cramping or disturbing the operation of the present one. The present plant comprises a sample house, ore bin and crusher building; two roasting furnaces and their respective



Power House      Distillation Furnaces

Coal Tippie

with a capacity of 250,000 gal., and from this tank water is taken to all departments of the plant through 12-in. mains.

The coal supply is obtained from about 2500 acres of Pittsburgh seam coal owned by the com-



The Upper Picture Shows the Concrete Ore Bins and Ore Crusher Building. In the Lower Are Shown the Roasting Furnaces with the Chamber Acid Plant to the Left

sulphuric acid systems; four distillation furnaces; carpenter and machine shop; supply house; coal mines and pottery. Very economical methods are used to receive, handle and store the ores used in the manufacture of zinc, and which come almost entirely from Missouri and Wisconsin. The ore is received in 50-ton capacity steel cars, which are delivered to the ore bins by a switching engine. The cars are weighed and the ore is unloaded into deep concrete bins. These ore bins are 22 ft. high, 20 ft. wide and 70 ft. long, there being seven of them with room for 13 more, each having a storage capacity of 2000 tons. The building is equipped with a 10-ton Shaw traveling crane with grab bucket. The latter distributes and carries the ore to the mill, which is equipped for handling coarse and fine ores.

The ores are dumped on a grizzly, the fines passing through and the coarse going to a jaw crusher. They then enter a Ruggles-Coles cylindrical drier. From the drier the ore is elevated to the screens, with the oversize returning to the rolls. The drier gases are passed through a steel dust collector, and then discharged into the chim-

ney. Connected with the ore bin building is a sample room, in which samples of ore are taken from each car and treated by the regular processes in order to obtain a good average sample of the ore for assay purposes.



The Pottery Building

ney. Connected with the ore bin building is a sample room, in which samples of ore are taken from each car and treated by the regular processes in order to obtain a good average sample of the ore for assay purposes.

The roasting furnaces are of the Hegeler type, 20 x 80 ft., with modern improvements in both the furnaces proper and their machinery. Each furnace is double, seven hearths high, the dimensions of each hearth being 6 ft. x 20 ft., making about 6800 sq. ft. of hearth area. The large lower hearths are muffled. The interior arches have considerable spring and are built of tongue and grooved brick. A special brick is laid above each row of skewbacks to carry the weight of the rabble, which keeps it off the hearth, the latter can then rise and fall with the arches. The rakes are the usual style used in this class of roaster. An improvement in the rake rods is that they are jointed in sections thus allowing easy replacement of any part. The rods are drawn through the furnace by endless chains.

Each furnace is provided with a 9 x 15 gas producer with water cooled boshes, the fire gases being burned under the three lower ore hearths. Sirocco fans are used for furnishing air to the gas hearth and to the ore muffles. The waste heat gases pass through an air heater, which is composed of cast-iron "U" pipes, cold air flowing through in an opposite direction to the fire gases. The temperature of the fire gases entering the heater is about 800 deg. C. and hot air leaves at 400 deg. C. The hot air then passes through flues and enters the muffles through the middle wall. The use of pre-

#### THE SULPHURIC ACID DEPARTMENT

heated air gives good results in the matter of fuel economy. Fifty-five tons of ore are roasted per day, or 16 lb. per sq. ft. of hearth area, with a coal consumption of seven tons. The gases run 4 per cent. SO<sub>2</sub> by volume and reach the Glover tower at 380 deg. C.

Two buildings contain the sulphuric acid department, one known as the Tower building, 95 x 220 ft., and the other the chamber building, 138 x 440 ft., the former being all steel and brick and the latter steel construction. The roast furnace gases on leaving the furnace pass through a centrifugal dust chamber, 30 ft. in height and 20 ft. in diameter. The chamber has a hopper bottom so that dust can be drawn out into cars in an ore tunnel running underneath the roasting furnaces. The gases pass on to the Glover tower, which is 14 x 14 x 40 ft. in height and thence through 10 lead chambers, which have a space of 360,000 cu. ft. From the chambers the gases pass through three Gay Lussac towers which are 14 x 14 x 40 ft. All towers are packed with special chemical brick. Two hard lead fans are

used for forcing the gases through the towers and chambers. The acid is pumped to the tops of towers by means of acid eggs and compressed air. Large steel storage tanks are located convenient to railroad, and acid is loaded by gravity into tank cars.

There are four distillation furnaces, all of the Hegeler type, each containing 864 retorts of 8-in. inside diameter. The smelting capacity of each furnace is 20 tons. An improved Hegeler type of gas producer, 9½ x 22 ft., furnishes the necessary gas. The furnaces are placed parallel at 100 ft. centers, each building having a width of 70 ft., thus allowing ample space between furnaces for light and air. The building having been substantially built of steel, a sheet steel hood surrounds each furnace, thus affording extremely good ventilation for the workers. Counterweighted doors are used between hood and working floor after the campaign has been completed. The waste gases from the furnace pass through a 588 hp. Rust vertical tube boiler and thence to a Radial brick stack, 125 ft. high, built by the Heine Chimney Company of Chicago, with an inside diameter of 6 ft. at the top. Each boiler is equipped with a firebox for direct firing, in case of the shut down of a furnace.

Retort annealing kilns are placed at the end of furnaces. Down-draft kilns are used with flues connecting with the large radial stack. Each furnace is equipped with a No. 6 Sirocco fan of 27,000 cu. ft. capacity against a pressure of 5 in. of water. An air main extends longitudinally over the furnace with branch pipes leading to both sides of furnace, ports being between each section of 24 retorts. A particular feature of the furnace is the flat roof

arch laid at the same slope as the retorts. The buckstaves are connected with tie rods through springs, thus allowing for the usual expansion. The bottom of the buckstaves have ball and socket joints, allowing movement in any direction. Another variation from the usual custom is that a large pocket is directly under the furnace, allowing room for the accumulation of several days' residue. A tunnel under this pocket allows the easy removal of residue. This arrangement of tunnel and pocket eliminates all possibility of up-draft in front of the furnaces. Each gas producer has a massive reinforced concrete bin over it, capable of holding a 15-days' supply of coal, which is fed by gravity into the producer.

#### THE POWER PLANT AND POTTERY

The power plant is contained in a steel and brick building, 43½ x 120 ft., and is equipped with a General Electric 2000 kw. turbine and also with two Ingersoll-Rand air compressors. Alternating current is used throughout the plant. Steam for the power plant is supplied by waste heat boilers by an overhead line. The machine shop is a brick and steel building, 90 x 160 ft., to which special attention was paid in order to secure maximum light and ventilation. There are windows on all four sides of the machine shop building and also in the roof. The machine shop is equipped with a full line of iron working tools and at one end are located complete carpenter and pattern shops.

The pottery is a substantial brick and steel structure, 60 x 142 ft., conveniently arranged for building material. The drying rooms are located on both sides of a main alleyway. Another alleyway is at each end of the rooms, the latter being used for loading retorts and condensers into cars. The rooms are heated by steam pipes under grated floors, air being driven by a large Sirocco fan. The air from the rooms is taken out through galvanized air ducts. The clay is worked through the usual dry and wet pans. A Wettengel pug mill and hydraulic press are used for retort making and a Garrison machine is used for condenser making.

The company makes only two products, zinc and sulphuric acid, having a capacity of about 50 tons of zinc per day and about 100 tons of sulphuric acid. Its entire product is sold to domestic consumers but the company has made a few foreign shipments. The entire works were designed and built by N. L. Heinz, general manager. Mr. Heinz is also the designer and erector of the huge acid plant of the Duckton Sulphur, Copper & Iron Company, Ltd., of Isabella, Tenn., where blast-furnace gases are used. Archibald Jones is general superintendent and J. W. Geib, assistant superintendent.

#### THE TOWN FOR EMPLOYEES

When the works at Langeloth were established they were built on farm land and there was no means of taking care of employees of the company except in building houses for them. This was done, and the company has established, just west of the factory site, a new town known as Langeloth, where some 60 to 70 houses have been built and are occupied by its employees. Some new ideas in construction in the building of these houses were carried out. They are built of different designs so that there is no monotony in their appearance. A new feature in the detail of their construction is the use of sheet zinc placed outside the sheathing, instead of paper, thus affording a lasting material, which is windproof, vermin proof and damp proof. Tinning strips are nailed on the studding over the zinc sheets and metal lath outside of this, on which is

placed concrete stucco plaster. The houses are roofed with red slate imbedded and shingles which add much to their appearance. Some of the houses are five rooms and others seven rooms, and they are neat and equipped with modern appliances. Water is furnished from the company's own supply, and natural gas and coal are used for fuel. It is probable the company will build a large number of houses as soon as contemplated plant additions have been made.

#### Practical Co-operation in Foundry Work

The Philadelphia Foundrymen's Association held its monthly meeting at the Manufacturers' Club, in that city, Wednesday evening, May 5, having as its special guests the officers and members of the Associated Foundry Foremen of Philadelphia and vicinity. Paul E. Poindexter, of the reorganization committee of the Greater Chamber of Commerce of Philadelphia, addressed the meeting and after explaining the plans under which the new organization proposed to operate urged the foundrymen to become members.

William H. Barr, president of the Lumen Bearing Company, Buffalo, who is president of the National Founders' Association, made an interesting address on "Co-operation in the Foundry." It behooves every foundryman, he said, to devote time and energy to the betterment of working conditions. Something must be done to stimulate foundry labor, both skilled and unskilled. Manufacturers will have to deal in the next few years with a shortage of unskilled labor. The influx of foreign labor, following the war abroad, will be smaller. Foundrymen should look forward to this condition and prepare in advance. Methods and machinery should be installed to bring out maximum production with a minimum of labor. The installation of modern foundry equipment will go a long way toward solving the problem. Team work in daily foundry operation, not only in the individual organization, but also with associated foundrymen, will do much.

Reference was made to the constructive work of the National Founders' Association, particularly on lines of safety and sanitation. Hazards have been reduced, and the work has been made more agreeable. The standardization of goggles, leggings, foundry shoes, safety guards on machinery, etc., has aided materially in minimizing foundry accidents.

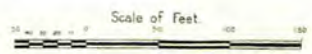
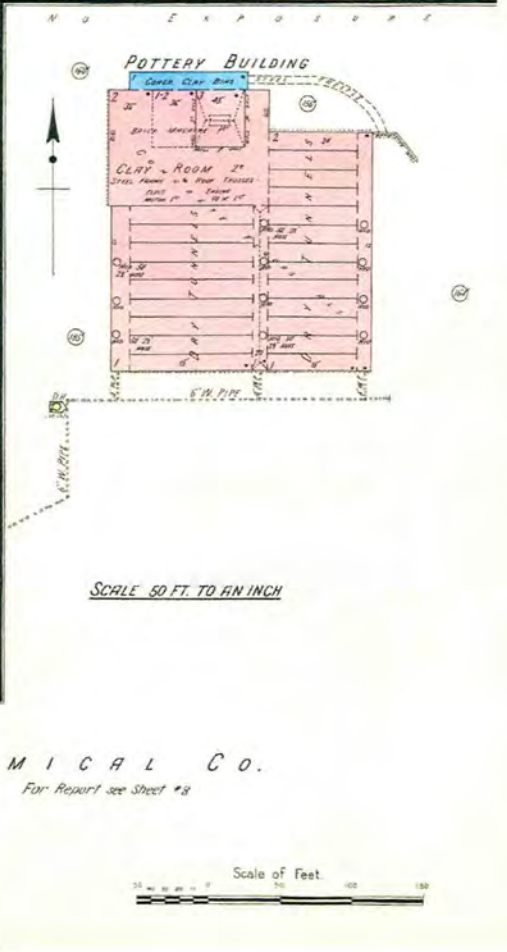
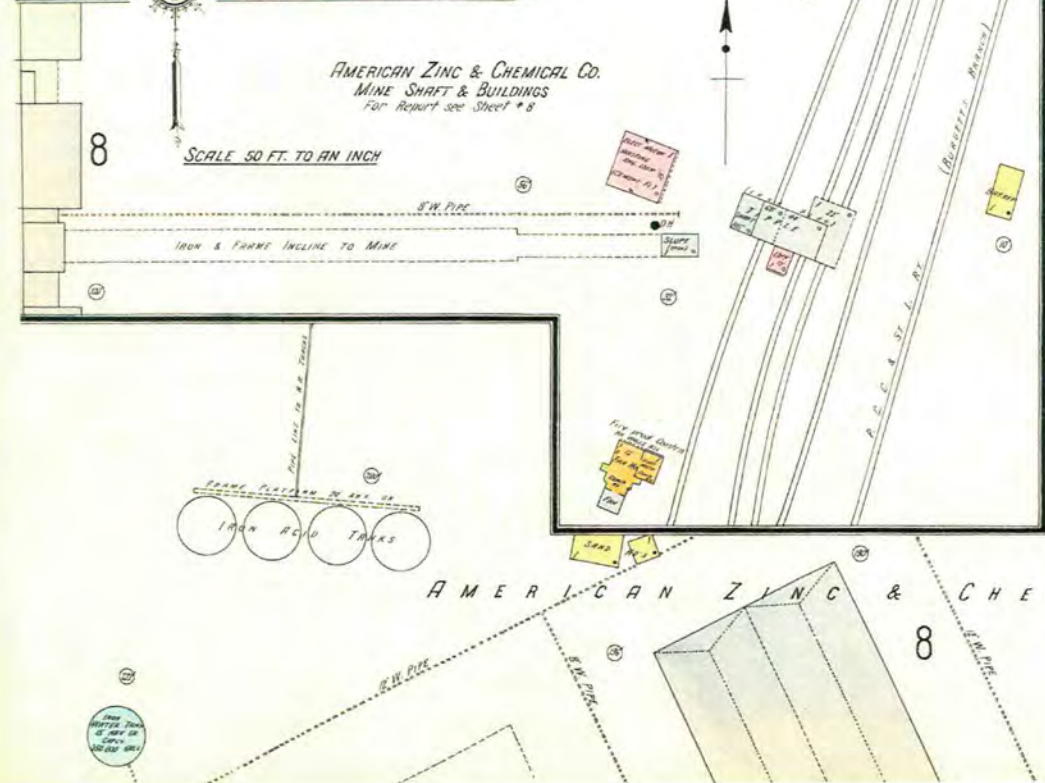
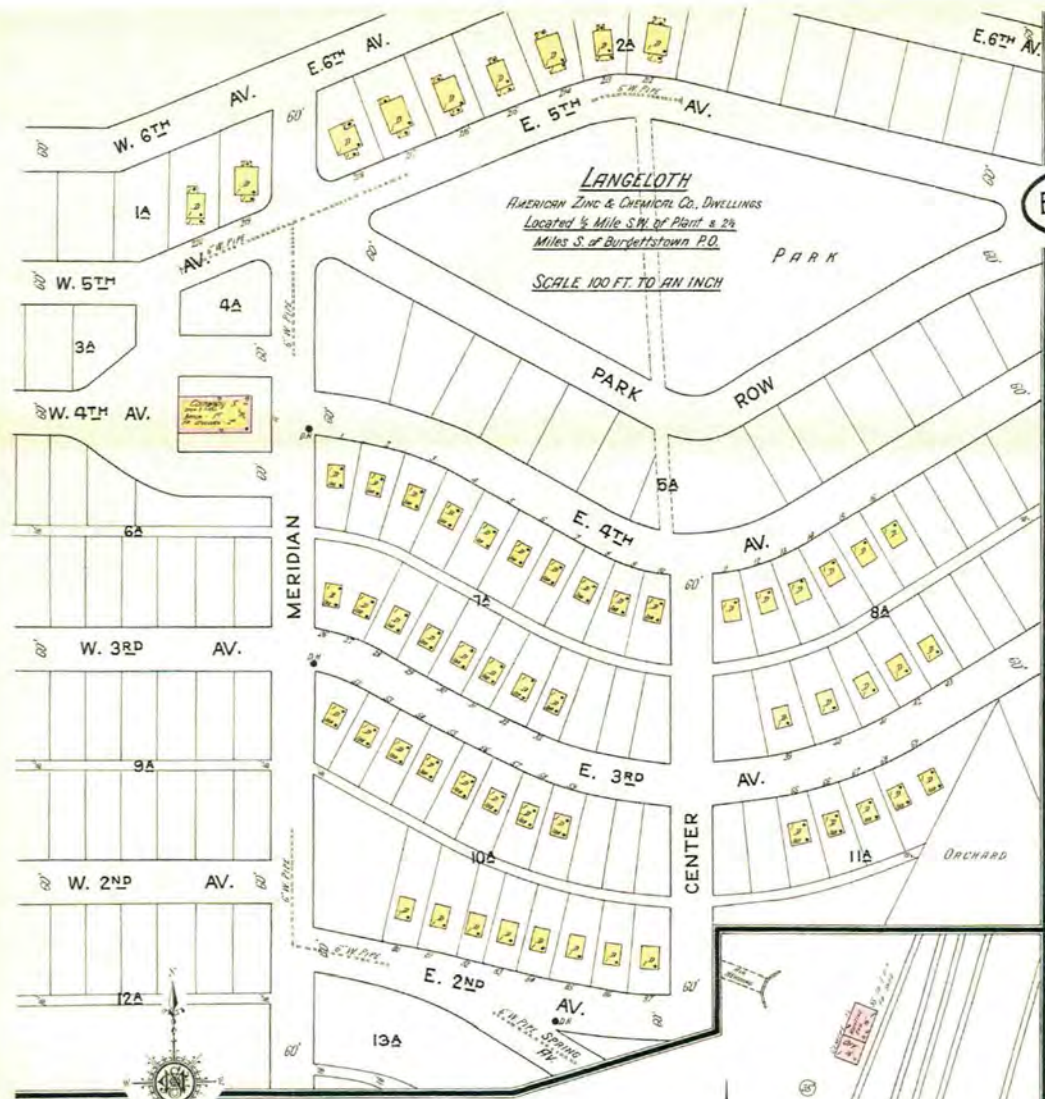
The treatment and education of apprentices were touched upon; also uniform legislation relating to the conduct of the foundry, maintenance of order in and about the foundry, the foundry store and scrap castings. Mr. Barr recommended closer co-operation between the shop foremen and the sales forces. Much can be accomplished by meetings of the department heads and sales forces. The game should be studied from all angles, so as to get out of the old low-capacity rut and build up a clean, profitable business on a sound basis.

Following the meeting a planked shad luncheon was served, at which informal addresses were made by various members and guests.

The Jeffrey Mfg. Company, Columbus, Ohio, announces the removal of its New York branch from 77 Warren street to 50 Dey street, adjoining the Hudson Terminal. In its new quarters the company proposes to carry the largest combined stock of its kind in New York City, consisting of power transmission machinery and elevating and conveying appliances. A large engineering and sales force will be maintained with ample facilities for handling promptly inquiries and orders. George H. Mueller, assistant sales manager of the Jeffrey Company, is the manager in charge of this office.

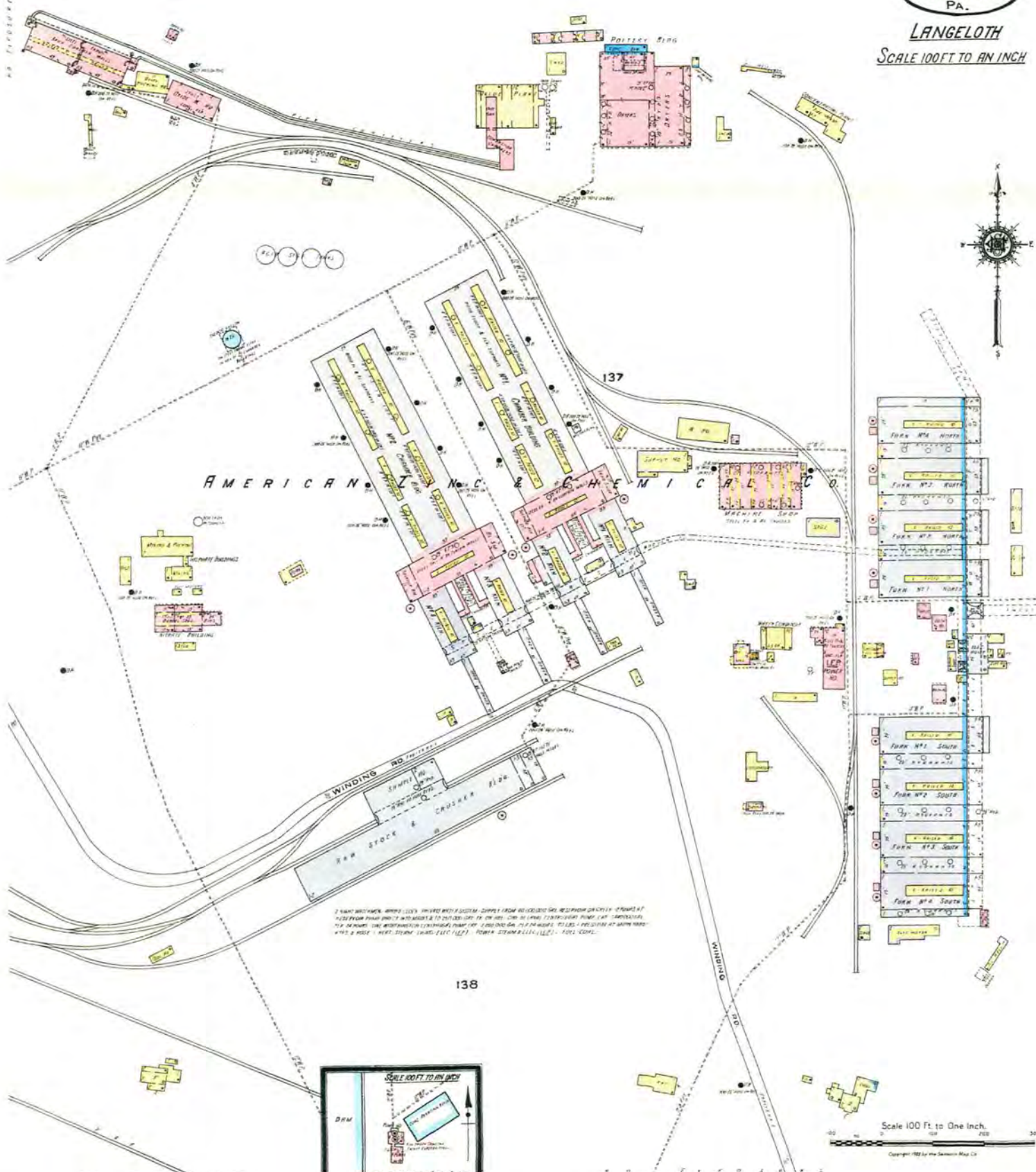
The steel plant of the International High Speed Steel Company at Rockaway, N. J., is nearing completion, and it is expected it will be in operation by the latter part of June. The product will be tool steels, alloy steels, high speed steels of various shapes, solid octagon and cruciform and hollow hexagon and round rock drill steels under the Bulldog brand.





JAN. 1925  
BURGETTSTOWN  
PA.

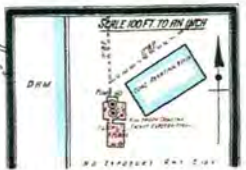
LANGELOTH  
SCALE 100 FT TO AN INCH



AMERICAN & CHEMICAL CO.

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Scale 100 Ft to One Inch.  
Copyright 1925 by the Langeloth Map Co.







**Fire of Unknown Origin Levels Ace Cleaning Plant**  
**Burgettstown Enterprise-February 12, 1953 Edition**

*Fort Vance Historical Society*

## FIRE OF UNKNOWN ORIGIN LEVELS ACE CLEANING PLANT



Enterprise Photo

Burgess Robert Canning and Ermil Caleffie, partners in the Ace Cleaning and Reconditioning plant look over the ruins of their Langeloth plant which was destroyed by fire early Monday morning. Athletic equipment from 25 Western Pennsylvania high schools, in the plant for reconditioning was destroyed in the fire.

### **Fire of Unknown Origin Levels Ace Cleaning Plant Burgettstown Enterprise-February 12, 1953 Edition**

*Fort Vance Historical Society*

# Langeloth Gives Plenty of Rent Trouble To Owner of Town With 250 Tenants



Sewage creeks run through town.



Langeloth children play on unmoved refuse.

## Former Company Village Is Chock Full of Problems

From the Post-Gazette Correspondent

LANGELOTH, April 2—"It's the big headache," the man who owns Langeloth, Pa., said—and many of the 250 families who live here feel the same way about him.

They're having rent troubles in this Barbusich's Washington county community, a former "company" town.

The 50-year-old Greek immigrant bought Langeloth about a year ago when the American Inc. and Chemical Company pulled stakes and moved out west.

### Tenants Start to Mount

He laid out a reported half-million dollars—mostly borrowed money. Then rents which had been kept amazingly low under company management, went up 50 per cent last July and now, he has another boost ready.

There are more than 250 small homes in Langeloth, three miles from Burgettstown, 35 miles from Pittsburgh.

Forty-five of them are small three-room affairs. About two dozen have more than five rooms.

### Plans for Renovation

The houses are run-down. Open ditches along unpaved streets carry away sewage. Some of the houses have bathrooms installed at the tenants' expense, others have outhouses.

Walls are rickety in many of



Gus' own "White House" shines out.



Gus, himself.

the homes. The whole town needs a thorough renovation.

Gus says he'll get around to the repair and remodeling work when the town starts putting it self on a paying basis. That means rent increases, and most of the citizens say they won't pay larger rents until they start getting more for their money.

The citizens of Langeloth, most of whom have found employment 12 to 40 miles away, have formed a Tenants' Committee to block Gus' latest attempts to boost rents.

The committee members agree that Gus once was held in high regard throughout the town. But now, and Gus knows it, his tenants carry open resentment. As he drove visitors over Langeloth's muddy roads, the exuberant Gus spoke to people by their first names.

### Wants That Roof Fixed

Some replied, others didn't and one man, Joe De Nuzzo

yelled, "Hey Gus, when the hell you going to fix my roof. It's leaking through plenty and the whole damned thing's going to come down one of these days."

Citizens say garbage hasn't been moved in eight months.

Rent advances Gus proposes go something like this: a four-room brick that used to rent for \$14.50 went up \$2 last July, and now Gus wants \$18.50 for it.

Another four-room brick that once cost \$12.50 went to \$15.00, and now \$18.50. Neither have berths.

### Widow's Case Stirs Town

One case, which has townsmen aroused, involves a widow, Mrs. Caterina Foradori, and her three children. According to former company policy, widows of employees got their rent free.

Gus has billed her for \$16 a month rent. It's a three-room frame house; shoddy, but neat really is. Mrs. Foradori says she justifiably low until one inspects offered to pay Gus "all I could,

afford," \$2 a month but he demanded more.

### Rent Demanded—or Else

Friends showed papers from Justice of Peace W. E. Whalen, Jr., Burgettstown, demanding payment of back rent; otherwise her furniture would be attached. Gus denies issuing the paper, but his policy towards widows is, "that property should pay its own way."

"I'm paying \$1,500 a month interest for this, and I owe \$11,000 in back taxes. Right now, I can't pay 11 cents," Gus complains.

He says the houses have to return an average of \$24 a month, and even with his latest proposed rent increase, he'll be getting only \$21.

The rent situation in Langeloth has two aspects, one of paper, and the other as the town rents seem unjustifiably low until one inspects the houses.

Langeloth Gives Plenty of Rent Trouble to Owner of Town with 250 Tenants  
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette-April 6, 1948 Edition

He Started with \$7 in His Pocket—

# 'Gus Th' Greek' Takes On a Town To Climax a Real Success Story

36 Years of Work  
Finally Pay Off

By EDWIN BEACHLER  
Pittsburgh Press Staff Writer  
BURGETTSTOWN, Pa., March 30—"Gus Th' Greek" has just completed the cleanest sweep since the invention of the vacuum cleaner.

Arriving here from Greece 36 years ago with just \$7 in his pocket, Gus Barbush went to work as a dishwasher in his Uncle Harry's restaurant.

Gus not only cleaned up the kitchen, but wound up today owning the town. Proof of this can be seen from almost any angle you care to look at it.

### Really Owns Town

He has the biggest country store in these parts, the biggest restaurant, a hotel building with a half-dozen stores . . .

And capping it all—in his latest venture he actually has bought a town!

That was the 390-acre company settlement of Langeloth, abandoned offspring of the American Zinc and Chemical Co. which is closing its plant two miles from here.

For a reported price of a half-million dollars, "Gus Th' Greek" got:

Two hundred sixty-one houses, the Langeloth Water Co., "Glory Barn" community hall, church, school, Scout hut, Sportsmen's clubhouse, park and everything else that went with the townsite.

### Gets \$200,000 Loan

To make the deal possible, the local bank gave Gus the largest single loan they ever advanced to an individual—an even \$200,000. That's how much confidence bankers have in him.

The stocky, 49-year-old businessman was the lowest of six bidders. But zinc company officials still gave him the keys to the town because:

- 1—They thought he understood local conditions best.
- 2—They felt it would be a happier arrangement for the people, already hard hit by loss of their major industry.

The wheels of the 34-year-old Langeloth plant are grinding to a complete halt April 15. This represents a loss of 800 jobs and \$9000-a-day payroll for the bustling little community of 3000 people (trading center for 20,000).

### Future Looks Dark

Dark clouds have hovered over Burgettstown for many years, threatening to turn it into a "Ghost Town."

The spectre was the result of obsolete equipment and processes in the zinc plant combined with a steady parade of labor troubles . . . slowdowns, absenteeism, featherbedding, a 108-day strike in 1946, and constant strike threats



GUS BARBUSH  
Now he's bought a town.

and water rates installed to meet costs (the company ran the town at a loss), it will be operated for the good of everyone.

"My plan is to run good town," the new boss of Langeloth said today, "improve church and community hall . . . Boy Scouts, anything else . . . make ball diamond, fix park . . . I'll do what I can, but get some money first. . . ."

"I don't want make very much . . . I want some place to spend it for Uncle Sam."

For a fellow who only spent six weeks in public school, Gus has a better philosophy than a lot of Ph.D's.

### "I Like to Gamble"

As he explained it: "I like to gamble—with \$7 (all he had when he came here) and 40 years work, what can I lose? I have fun . . . live good, many years."

Don't try to tell Gus this isn't the land of opportunity. He'll throw the facts of his life at you so fast you'll be knocked down with the first barrage.

"Never thought I could own town—but in this only country anything can happen," the dark, balding little man explained with a shrug.

In 1912 Gus arrived to "visit" his uncle. Only 14 at the time, he "found out this was good country for me." Except for nine months in Cleveland, to learn the butcher's trade, he stayed right here.

### No Time for School

After his start as dish-washer, he worked in a grocery—"too busy for

Purchase Brings Hope  
To Burgettstown

tell him to buy me out for married and children."

In 1918, he went to work as butcher in the "Langeloth Market." Ten years later, he was manager and in 1932 during the strike, the company tossed in the sponge.

### Cook Over Store

Gus took over and after a great struggle, turned it into one of the most modern country stores of its kind.

Selling everything from pork chops to ice boxes to fur coats. Gus even built an apartment in it for himself. That way he could work around the clock if necessary.

Three years ago, he bought the Biddle Hotel building here, leased the "Farm Restaurant" on the Steubenville Pike near Florence, and added property in Washington, Pa.

A few weeks ago he made a trip to New York to discuss buying the Langeloth townsite from the zinc company's parent, American Metals, Inc.

### Needed More Money

"They ask how much money I have . . . say 'you have to go home' when I tell them how much I can raise. . . They say 'get in better shape to talk' . . ."

"So, I see bankers at home . . . went to Washington (Pa.) with sweater, no tie, look like I don't have enough to eat. . . They want to know what's wrong with me . . . I show them all over town . . . they come to my store and we have smoke only I don't smoke."

That's how the deal was made. But for two weeks Gus said he didn't get much sleep. Which was no great novelty.

### Likes Autos

Gus has been riding fast since his arrival here—first on a pony he bought for \$17 in his third year. He had one of the first Model T's in town and today has built up to a fleet which includes a Cadillac, DeSoto, Chevrolet and two trucks.

But he's moving slowly in his plans for the town. Running a town is the biggest thing he's tackled yet. The major problem is to get it on an even keel.

Community buildings will be operated free of charge. But the company practice of free rent to widows and those over 65 will have to be suspended.

None of the houses will be sold for the present. Former company employes will get first chance to buy if this policy is changed, he said.

### Hope for Industry

While "Gus Th' Greek" won't officially take over until May 15, the town already is stirring with optimism. He's working with the Greater Burgettstown Community Assn. to interest a new industry to move into the empty Langeloth

Gus Barbush  
Pittsburgh Press-1948

Fort Vance Historical Society

VIEW OF LANGELOTH, PA., FROM THE WEST.



### The Town of Langeloth

A three panel postal card showing the town shortly after being built, 1914 or 1915.

In general the town was laid out in three sections. To the left is a section composed of brick buildings. The houses are in rows on numbered streets. The block in the middle picture are primarily cement stucco buildings on numbered avenues. The zinc smelter with its tall stacks can be seen on the horizon on the third panel. The end of the large building between the stacks and the water tower is the zinc oxide bag house which later was converted to part of the miner's hill. These, for the most part, were buildings with wooden siding.

In the center of the middle panel is the large Lolla Building, operated by Tony Lolla and his wife. It contained a combination of rental rooms and apartments. The row buildings just below the water tower for Fifth Avenue, where the administration personnel for the zinc plant and company owned mine lived. The home of the General Superintendent, and where Gus Barbush lived after buying the town, is not visible but is to the right of the large square home on the highest point in the picture.

I believe most of the building in the original town, except for the Lyric Theater, which was a wooden structure, and the railroad station are still standing.

In the whole picture starting at the left and going to the extreme right there are five oil wells with their wooden derricks. The wooden structure, housing the gas engine that ran the pump, can be seen for the well in the foreground of the third panel. There were many oil wells in the area and the sound of the pumping engines could be heard every morning.

Also, in the foreground of the third panel is the railroad bed and tracks. The railroad station had not been built at the time the picture was taken.

Message on the back of the post card, prepared by the Langeloth Board of Trade:

*"A beautiful place to live. An excellent location for manufacturing plants. **Langeloth, Washington County, Pennsylvania**, 30 miles west of Pittsburgh on the Panhandle Branch of the Pennsylvania Railroad. A new and modern industrial town, adjacent to large manufacturing plants and in the center of rapidly developing coal acreage. The town has beautiful homes, filtered water, complete sewage system with disposal plant, electric light, coal and gas in abundance, railroad facilities and fine passenger station."*

*Written by Henry Hellmers, 1990*

*Courtesy of the Fort Vance Historical Society*

## Awarded Diplomas From Valley Hospital



JUDY ANN BEE

Judy Ann Bee and Betty Mae Gallo were awarded diplomas from the Ohio Valley Hospital School of Nursing at graduation ceremonies held September 9 at Harding School, Steubenville, Ohio.

Miss Bee, a graduate of Weirton high school, is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin A. Bee, of R.D.1, Burgettstown. Miss Bee was a member of the Student Chorus for three years, a member of the basketball team, secretary of her freshman class and president of her senior class. She has accepted an



BETTY MAE GALLO

appointment as a staff nurse at the Ohio Valley Hospital in the operating room.

Miss Gallo, a graduate of Union high school, is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Arduin L. Gallo, of R.D.2, Burgettstown. She was a member of the Student Chorus for two years, treasurer of her freshman class, president of her junior class and treasurer of the student body in her senior year. She has accepted an appointment as a staff nurse on Third Women's Department of the Ohio Valley hospital.

**Judy Ann Bee and Betty Mae Gallo Awarded Diplomas  
Burgettstown Enterprise-September 16, 1964 Edition**



First Row, Left to Right: Brunner, A. Yazavec, Harrell, J. Clair  
Second Row: Ross, Campa, Kladakis, R. Clair

**Langeloth Basketball Junior Champs and Senior Co-Champions  
Burgettstown Enterprise-August 17, 1950 Edition**



# LANGELOTH BASKETBALL JUNIOR CHAMPS AND SENIOR CO-CHAMPIONS



1st row: left to right-Brunner, A. Yazavec, Harrell, J. Clair  
2nd row: left to right-Ross, Campa, Kladakis, R. Clair

**Langeloth Basketball Junior Champs and Senior Co-Champions  
Burgettstown Enterprise-August 17, 1950 Edition**



**Langeloth Scouts are Building a New Home**  
**Burgettstown Enterprise-September 28, 1944 Edition**

First Row, L-R: Assistant Scout Master Nick Suica, Scouts Reynolds, Wysocki, Fritchman, Andrews, and Scout Master Carmichaels. Second Row: Scouts Fulmer, Downer, Alexander, Cems, Dhans, and Alexander. Third Row: Scout committeemen Schulte, McClain, Beaumont, Dhans, Marino, and Scouts Alexander and Beaumont. Fourth Row: Scout committeemen Yazevac, Wysocki, F.H. Illig, General Superintendent of the American Zinc and Chemical Company, Gavortorta and Barbush.

Ground was broken in Langeloth last week for the new Boy Scout Home, which will be built at the rear of the Hamilton residence near the Union Park. A cement block and brick tile building, 21 x 60 feet is expected to be completed November 15. The foundation is nearly complete and construction on the building will begin soon. The Langeloth Scouts with the aid of the American Zinc and Chemical Company and Climax Molybdenum Company have purchased the portal school building from Smith Twp. School District and the lumber, door, sashes, and all available parts will be salvaged to be incorporated into the building. The plans call for a first assembly room, also quarters where the boys may study mechanical drawing and blue print reading.

The American Zinc and Chemical Company has donated \$2,000 in tools to the boys and in the basement of the new Scout Home a machine shop will be set up, where the boys may continue their studies in industrial art. The boys have raised part of the money for the building themselves by various projects and have assisted financially by the top two industries. Construction costs are estimated at \$2,000.

Langeloth Scout Committee are working with the boys to secure adequate new quarters, to encourage them to pursue useful hobbies in their leisure hours and to provide an attractive presentation center for them where they may give vent to their surplus energy in an approval manner.

**LANGELOTH BUILDS  
PERMANENT HONOR ROLL  
FOR MEN IN ARMED FORCES**

A lasting Honor Roll is being built in the park at Langeloth to honor the men from Langeloth and employes of the American Zinc and Chemical Company who are serving in the Global War. The labor is being furnished by the Company and material is being donated by the Smeltermen's Union. A sandstone case is being erected and the names of men in the service will be stamped in gold on a glass enclosed honor roll.

**SALE OF LANGELOTH COAL COMPANY TO G. C. & C. CO. IS ANNOUNCED. FUTURE WORK POLICY WILL DEPEND ON NEW MINE CONTRACT. MINE EMPLOYED 175 MEN**

Announcement was made today of the sale of the Lange and Coke Co. Charles B. Baton, president of the G. C. & C. loth Coal Company mine to Greensburg, Connellsville Coal Co. stadd that transfer to the new ownership will be made officially on July 8. Mr. Baton stated no decision as to future work policy at the mine has been made. The sale includes all coal rights to 1400 acres of deep fuel coal in Smith, Jefferson and Cross Creek Township.

This mine has been operated since 1913 by the Lange- loth Coal company, and in addition to serving as chief supplier of fuel coal to the American Zinc and Chemical Company, also sold coal to the Pennsylvania railroad and fuel coal to Pittsburgh industries. Tonnage was rated at 750 tons a day and prior to the present "vacation" period now in force, employed 175 men.

This mine, along with other

mines in the district is idle for the vacation period prior to the expiration of the U.M.W. of A. wage agreement. Future operation of the mine will probably be determined after a new miner's contract has been made.

**Sale of Langeloth Coal Company to G. C. & C. Co. is Announced. Future Work Policy will Depend on New Mine Contract. Mine Employed 175 Men. Burgettstown Enterprise-July 3, 1947 Edition**

## LANGELOTH GROUP CHAPERONS PARTIES FOR YOUNG FOLKS

Increasing interest is being shown in the summer activities of the Langeloth Community Amusement Committee, Mrs. V. M. Bruner, Secretary reports. Roller skating parties for small children are being held in the Community hall every Wednesday and Saturday from 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. and for the adults, on those nights from 8:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. A weekly dance is held each Friday evening from 8:30 p.m. to 11:30 p.m. These events are open to the public and the proceeds realized are being put into a fund to purchase Christmas gifts for Langeloth service men.

The parties are chaperoned by the following members of the Amusement Committee: Mrs. Louis Ceresa, Isabel Carmichael, Mary Garcia, Mrs. G.C. Winders and Mrs. Bruner.

Mrs. Bruner reports that Langeloth service men were sent 600 packages and 600 cartoons of cigarettes last Christmas time.

The Amusement Committee was originally organized to raise money to build a public swimming pool, but due to the war this project was shelved for the duration and the money already raised, some \$4000 has been invested in war bonds. The committee plans to proceed with the building of the pool after the war.

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#### **Pastor Submits Resignation.**

The resignation of the Rev. George Urquart Martin, for a long term of years pastor of the Community church at Langeloth, was submitted to the Session of Chartiers Presbytery held in the Peters Creek church at McMurray last week. The Langeloth pulpit will be declared vacant on April 28th, the Rev. Mr. Martin having accepted a call to the pastorate of the First United Presbyterian church at Detroit, Mich. The Rev. Mr. Martin has become a very impressive part of community life in and about Langeloth and Burgettstown and his leaving is viewed with deepest regret by members of his congregation and many friends around a wide area of the local countryside.

**Langeloth Pastor Submits Resignation  
Burgettstown Enterprise-April 17, 1935 Edition**



### Langeloth Community Church-May 1955

*Front Row, L-R: George Dold, Jerry Bailey, Allen Lee Davis, Anita Reynolds, Patty Muniz, June Lee Martinez, Alice Jean Alvarez, Ardie Gay Davis, Charlotte Boller, Judy Kuzior, Hazel Hall.*  
*Second Row, L-R: Dr. Thome, Charles Winders, Charles Abate Jr., Charles Caleffie, Lawrence Davis, Bill Buxton, Phoebe Suica, Carol Jean Gonzalez, Alice Marie Brunner, Dolores Vega, Jayne Lea Bable, Patricia Engle, Ruth Ann Mc Bee.*

# Langeloth community day July 26

The annual Langeloth Community Day will be held Sunday, July 26, beginning at noon. The public is invited to attend.

Oldtimers softball games will be the attraction from noon until 4 p.m., with T-ball youth baseball following.

Youth baseball games are scheduled from 5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m., 7-8 years old; 6:30-8 p.m., 9-10 years old; and 11-12 years old, 8-9:30 p.m.

In the hall there will be entertainment and a variety of homemade food and drinks for sale.

The International Button Box

Club from Canonsburg will be featured from noon until 3 p.m. Luanne's School of Dancing will perform the next hour. From 5 p.m. to 8 p.m., The Light Touch with Raymond and his violin will be on the stage, along with the Insana Sisters.

Skydivers will jump at 5 p.m.

Langeloth Community Day July 26  
The Enterprise-July 8, 1992 Edition





**American Zinc-Langeloth, PA**

## ORGANIZATIONS COOPERATE IN GALA PLANS FOR COMMUNITY'S FOURTH OF JULY CELEBRATION AT LANGELOTH

Celestine Marino, president of the Langeloth Smeltermen's Union, announces that he is securing one hundred per cent cooperation from Burgettstown Community in plans for a Patriotic Rally and Celebration on the Fourth of July. Local organizations in the district will march in a parade over the streets of Langeloth to the new Smeltermen's Community Hall where formal ceremonies will be held. The day's activities will start at seven a.m., with a Flag Raising ceremony. At two p.m., the parade will assemble at the Cinder road near the Climax plant and will proceed to the Hall. In the afternoon, Boy and Girl Scout Troops in this section have been invited to present a display of projects and to participate in contests, winners of such to be awarded fine prizes.

During the afternoon's program several prominent men from this section will be called upon. While plans for the speaking program are not completed, it is known that several speakers of merit will speak upon pertinent issues of local and national interest. At 7 p.m., the Flag will be lowered.

In the evening there will be a Community Dance for all, families are invited to attend the fete and to help make it a really Community affair. During the intermission, \$500 worth of Fireworks will be displayed. Contributions have been received by the Union from practically all the business men in this area to help finance the day.

On Saturday evening, June 28, the Union is sponsoring a dance in the hall with music by Stan Vinton. The proceeds will be added to the Community Swimming Pool Fund. The public is invited to attend.

**Organization Cooperation in Gala Plans for Community's  
Fourth of July Celebration at Langeloth  
Burgettstown Enterprise-June 26, 1941 Edition**

# Langeloth Playground Scene Of Many Activities

Each summer afternoon the playground at Langeloth comes alive with noisy, active children of the community who are bent upon utilizing every ounce of energy within their small bodies, in the least possible time. The adult bystander wonders if there will be no tomorrow, which must be the reason for the expounding of endless energy today, at the swings, slides, see-saws, climbs, and monkey bars.

This 150 by 125 foot playground was made possible by the Jacob Langeloth Trust fund, the income of which is used to provide play equipment and to make improvements to the Community Center. Gus Barbush, along with John McGregor of New York, are trustees for the fund, and make the purchases of the equipment. A few pieces are added each year, the latest being a set of double slides, baby swings, wading pool, and sand box.

The playground is open from 9 a.m. till dark. Mothers from the community accompany their children for an afternoon's play. On Sunday, groups from outlying districts arrive for a picnic, the crowd sometimes numbering 800 people.

Langeloth Townsite has a custodian employed to clean up after a long day of picnicing. The playground is covered with slag to alleviate any possible muddy condition as a result of rain.

Mr. Barbush has plans for the coming year, which include the clearing of the more wooded section of the 10 acres, and the addition of picnic tables and benches.



A continuous shower of water sprays down on these small fry who have donned their swim trunks and play suits for a bare-footed walk in the wading pool. This is a favorite spot in the playground where the youngsters may splash to their heart's content, get dripping wet from head to foot, and in only a few inches of water.



**Langeloth Playground Scene of Many Activities**  
**Burgettstown Enterprise-July 19, 1962 Edition**



LANGELOTH'S NEW POSTMASTER

We believe it will be news to most of our readers that R. C. Cassidy, of Burgettstown, has been appointed postmaster for the new town of Langeloth. Mr. Cassidy received notice last Thursday of his appointment, but his innate modesty has kept him from noising it around. The Call got next to it just a little too late for mention in the last issue, and having one of his old daguerreotypes lying around the office deems it fitting and proper to make especial mention in this issue, since no extra expense will be involved. A close observer will note that the picture is an old one, having been snapped before Mr. Cassidy had attained his second crop of luxuriant tresses; it is also larger than we would have preferred, but we guess it will answer the purpose.

Robert C. Cassidy (we have no idea what the "C." is for) is one of the very biggest men in Burgettstown—from the avoirdupois standpoint. He was born at a very early age at Patterson's Mills, and is said to have been a pretty child; but he

soon outgrew it. He stayed on the farm until he had attained his growth, and then immigrated to Burgettstown. That was more than a quarter of a century ago. For ten years he was engaged in the grocery business here, and we have heard his friends boast that he had more sand than any man in town. Then his passion for handling big money got away with him, and he spent the next ten years behind the bars—of the Burgettstown National bank. To this day Mr. Cassidy holds that the present flourishing condition of that institution is due to his untiring efforts while there. At the expiration of the second ten years Mr. Cassidy conceived the notion of putting the Pittsburg Life Insurance company on an even more substantial footing, and enlisted as a supervisor of agents. To hear Robert tell about it he has been wonderfully successful; so far as we know the company neither denies or affirms the statement.

Oh, yes, we almost forgot to say that Mr. Cassidy has held quite a

number of offices from time to time, and is still hanging on to some of them. For about ten years (that mystic ten again) he has been a member of our board of education (we understand he went in with a great deal of opposition and will probably go out without any.) He is also secretary of Richard Vaux Lodge, No. 454, F. & A. M., which office he has held for many years, and is treasurer of Burgettstown Lodge, No. 1145, I. O. O. F. He is a member of the Burgettstown grange, has attained the mysteries of the Grand Orient, and holds an appointment as notary public. In his youth he was baptized in the Presbyterian faith, but, as the little kid said, "it didn't seem to take."

On the whole, Cassidy isn't a bad sort of a fellow, and it's surprising how many friends he has. Every one of them, while congratulating him and commending the judgment of those who made the appointment, are wondering how he broke into a Democratic administration on a Republican and Bull Moose record.

**Robert C. Cassidy-Langeloth's New Postmaster**  
**The Burgettstown Call- March 26, 1914 Edition**

## SMELTERMEN PLAN COMMUNITY EVENTS

The Langeloth Smeltermen's Union has recently appointed a Recreation Committee to plan for Community entertainment. The purpose of the committee is to plan community social events so that the funds realized from such affairs may be used for Community improvement. The \$100 donation of the Union to the dental clinic was made possible by proceeds from a recent dance held.

C. M. Marino, president of the Union has been instructed to work with the committee, E. Nunez, chairman and Louis Ceresa, secretary-treasurer.

The first event planned by the newly formed committee will be a dance in the Community hall at Langeloth on Saturday evening, February 15. Music will be furnished by the Venny Burton orchestra, which broadcasts from W.J.A.S. Pittsburgh each week day at 5:30 p. m. The organization is non-profit and the patronage of the public will be appreciated.

9-26-  
1946

## JOINT ANNOUNCEMENT

WORK RESUMED ON MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, AT THE LANGELOTH PLANT FOLLOWING SETTLEMENT OF OUR THREE - MONTHS STRIKE. THE COMPANY HAS GRANTED AN ADDITIONAL TWO AND ONE - HALF CENTS PER HOUR ON ALL HOURLY RATES AND THE UNION HAS AGREED TO ADD AN ARBITRATION CLAUSE TO THE CURRENT LABOR CONTRACT. THE SETTLEMENT PROVIDES THAT MINOR REMAINING STRIKE ISSUES BE ARBITRATED BUT IT IS PROBABLE THAT THEY WILL BE COMPROMISED BEFOREHAND.

WE CONFIDENTLY EXPECT THAT WE WILL BE ABLE IN THE FUTURE TO AVOID THE MIS-UNDERSTANDINGS ON BOTH SIDES THAT RESULTED IN THE STRIKE AND TO MAKE THE PLANT A CONTINUING ASSET TO OURSELVES AND THE COMMUNITY.

**BY**

R. H. MEISENHOLDER  
GENERAL SUPERINTENDENT

**American Zinc & Chemical Company**

**BY**

M. NUNEZ  
PRESIDENT

**Langeloth Smeltersmen's Union No. 95**

#### Union Meeting Scheduled.

Prominent union leaders are scheduled to speak during the third annual picnic of Langeloth Union No. 95, of the International Union of Mine, Mill and Smelter Workers, which will be held at Langeloth, July 11th and 12th. Thomas Kennedy, Lieutenant Governor of Pennsylvania and secretary of the United Mine Workers; Philip Murray, or another member of the steel organizing committee; Louis Leonard, secretary-treasurer of the Amalgamated Association of Iron, Steel and Tin Workers, and Russell Marino of Washington, legislative candidate, are scheduled as speakers for Sunday, July 12th.

### *GOOD LUCK GUS!*

The Burgettstown Enterprise today extends hearty congratulations and wishes for success to Gus Barbush, buyer of Langeloth Townsite. Gus has proven himself, in the land of his adoption, as a worker for the good of this community and for its best interests. In order to accomplish his latest business venture, Gus was fully supported by the local bank, whose wider services are aptly demonstrated in this first large scale business deal, since the Citizens National Bank emerged as a Mellbank here.

Gus told the Enterprise that he hopes to fulfill the faith of Ben Zimmer and other top ranking American Metal officials in awarding him the bid for the property, with special consideration, over several other bids received.

He has the welfare of his town at heart, is a proven successful business man and hopes to maintain the townsite, even in improvement over former management.

He is laying great plans for the extension of the Langeloth Water Company lines to include Slovan homes.

Gus came to Burgettstown about 35 years ago from his native Greece and began his career as a butcher boy for his uncle Harry Barbush. He engaged in his own business, slaughtering and dressing cattle, later went into Langeloth Market as a butcher, by succeeding steps upward became manager and then owner of this large store. In recent years he reached out again and secured the Farm Restaurant, which he operates on Route 22.

He has always been cooperative and active in all community projects and has contributed much to the progress of the district. He is a successful business man, who deserves success in his newest venture.

**Good Luck Gus!**

**Burgettstown Enterprise-March 25, 1948 Edition**



## Gus Barbush Christmas "Zoo" Ready For Another Yule Season



Gus Barbush, of Langeloth, is shown as he pats one of his imaginary fishermen on the head, in anticipation of a "zoo" full of real animals scheduled to arrive at the Barbush Christmas display Wednesday. The fishpond scene can be seen on Gus' front lawn, and is one of the many attractions this year.

Gus uses his unusual display of 14,200 blue lights and the miniature zoo to benefit Children's Hospital in Pittsburgh. Last year he turned over \$10,-655.40.

Opening night for the year

will be Wednesday, December 10. Hopefully, by that time, nine animals not normally seen in this area will have taken up temporary headquarters across the road from Gus' house, so that children and their parents may drive or walk through and admire the displays. Animals will include a large and small bear, a cougar, two coyotes, two small lions, a leopard and a lynx.

Gus hopes everyone for miles around will come and enjoy his display and help his favorite charity.

1975

**Gus Barbush Christmas "Zoo"**  
**Ready for another Yule Season**  
**Burgettstown Enterprise-1975**

He Started with \$7 in His Pocket—

# 'Gus Th' Greek' Takes On a Town To Climax a Real Success Story

## 36 Years of Work Finally Pay Off

By EDWIN BEACHLER  
Pittsburgh Press Staff Writer

BURGETTSTOWN, Pa., March 30—'Gus Th' Greek' has just completed the cleanest sweep since the invention of the vacuum cleaner.

Arriving here from Greece 36 years ago with just \$7 in his pocket, Gus Barbush went to work as a dishwasher in his Uncle Harry's restaurant.

Gus not only cleaned up the kitchen, but wound up today owning the town. Proof of this can be seen from almost any angle you care to look at it.

### Really Owns Town

He has the biggest country store in these parts, the biggest restaurant, a hotel building with a half-dozen stores . . .

And capping it all—in his latest venture he actually has bought a town!

That was the 390-acre company settlement of Langeloth, abandoned offspring of the American Zinc and Chemical Co. which is closing its plant two miles from here.

For a reported price of a half-million dollars, "Gus Th' Greek" got:

Two hundred sixty-one houses, the Langeloth Water Co., "Glory Barn" community hall, church, school, Scout hut, Sportsmen's clubhouse, park and everything else that went with the townsite.

### Gets \$200,000 Loan

To make the deal possible, the local bank gave Gus the largest single loan they ever advanced to an individual—an even \$200,000. That's how much confidence bankers have in him.

The stocky, 49-year-old businessman was the lowest of six bidders. But zinc company officials still gave him the keys to the town because:

- 1—They thought he understood local conditions best.
- 2—They felt it would be a happier arrangement for the people, already hard hit by loss of their major industry.

The wheels of the 34-year-old Langeloth plant are grinding to a complete halt April 15. This represents a loss of 800 jobs and \$9000-a-day payroll for the bustling little community of 3000 people (trading center for 20,000).

### Future Looks Dark

Dark clouds have hovered over Burgettstown for many years, threatening to turn it into a "Ghost Town."

The spectre was the result of obsolete equipment and processes in the zinc plant combined with a steady parade of labor troubles . . . slowdowns, absenteeism, featherbedding, a 108-day strike in 1946, and constant strike threats



GUS BARBUSH  
Now he's bought a town.

and water rates installed to meet costs (the company ran the town at a loss), it will be operated for the good of everyone.

"My plan is to run good town," the new boss of Langeloth said today. "Improve church and community hall . . . Boy Scouts, anything else . . . make ball diamond, fix park . . . I'll do what I can, but get some money first. . . ."

"I don't want make very much . . . I want some place to spend it for Uncle Sam."

For a fellow who only spent six weeks in public school, Gus has a better philosophy than a lot of Ph.D's.

### "I Like to Gamble"

As he explained it: "I like to gamble—with \$7 (all he had when he came here) and 40 years work, what can I lose? I have fun . . . live good, many years."

Don't try to tell Gus this isn't the land of opportunity. He'll throw the facts of his life at you so fast you'll be knocked down with the first barrage.

"Never thought I could own town—but in this only country anything can happen," the dark, balding little man explained with a shrug.

In 1912 Gus arrived to "visit" his uncle. Only 14 at the time, he "found out this was good country for me." Except for nine months in Cleveland, to learn the butcher's trade, he stayed right here.

### No Time for School

After his start as dishwasher, he worked in a grocery—"too busy for

## Purchase Brings Hope To Burgettstown

tell him to buy me out for married and children."

In 1918, he went to work as butcher in the "Langeloth Market." Ten years later, he was manager and in 1932 during the strike, the company tossed in the sponge.

### Cook Over Stove

Gus took over and after a great struggle, turned it into one of the most modern country stores of its kind.

Selling everything from pork chops to ice boxes to fur coats, Gus even built an apartment in it for himself. That way he could work around the clock if necessary.

Three years ago, he bought the Biddle Hotel building here, leased the "Farm Restaurant" on the Steubenville Pike near Florence, and added property in Washington, Pa.

A few weeks ago he made a trip to New York to discuss buying the Langeloth townsite from the zinc company's parent, American Metals, Inc.

### Needed More Money

"They ask how much money I have . . . say 'you have to go home' when I tell them how much I can raise. . . They say 'get in better shape to talk' . . ."

"So, I see bankers at home . . . went to Washington (Pa.) with sweater, no tie, look like I don't have enough to eat. . . They want to know what's wrong with me . . . I show them all over town . . . they come to my store and we have smoke only I don't smoke."

That's how the deal was made. But for two weeks Gus said he didn't get much sleep. Which was no great novelty.

### Likes Autos

Gus has been riding fast since his arrival here—first on a pony he bought for \$17 in his third year. He had one of the first Model T's in town and today has built up to a fleet which includes a Cadillac, DeSoto, Chevrolet and two trucks.

But he's moving slowly in his plans for the town. Running a town is the biggest thing he's tackled yet. The major problem is to get it on an even keel.

Community buildings will be operated free of charge. But the company practice of free rent to widows and those over 65 will have to be suspended.

None of the houses will be sold for the present. Former company employes will get first chance to buy if this policy is changed, he said.

### Hope for Industry

While "Gus Th' Greek" won't officially take over until May 15, the town already is stirring with optimism. He's working with the Greater Burgettstown Community Assn. to interest a new industry to move into the empty Langeloth

Pittsburgh  
Press  
1948



THE CITIZENS OF BURGETTSTOWN  
 COULDN'T BELIEVE THEIR EARS WHEN  
 THEY HEARD THAT THE AMERICAN ZINC AND CHEMICAL  
 CO. WAS PREPARING TO SHUT DOWN THE ZINC PLANT AT  
 NEARBY LANGELOTH. THE PLANT EMPLOYED SOME 800  
 WORKERS ON A \$9,000-A-DAY PAYROLL. IT HAD BEEN  
 IN OPERATION CONTINUOUSLY FOR 34 YEARS, AND IT IS  
 REPORTED TO HAVE PUT OUT \$3,000,000 WORTH OF ZINC  
 AND ACID LAST YEAR. IT WAS THE MAIN SOURCE OF  
 INCOME FOR THE LITTLE "SOFT COAL CENTER." BUT  
 NOW, THE PLANT IS BEING ABANDONED. ONLY A  
 SKELETON CREW OF 100 REMAINS TO COMPLETE OLD  
 CONTRACTS AND DISMANTLING. THE PEOPLE ARE SAYING  
 THAT THE PARENT ORGANIZATION, THE AMERICAN  
 SMELTING CO., TIRED OF THE FREQUENT LABOR  
 DIFFICULTIES. SOME UNION MEMBERS AGREE THAT THEY  
 WENT TOO FAR IN THEIR DEMANDS. OTHERS CLAIM THAT  
 THE MACHINERY IS OBSOLETE AND WOULD COST TOO  
 MUCH TO RECONDITION. THEY ARE BLAMING THEMSELVES  
 AND EACH OTHER, BUT WHATEVER THE REASON, THE  
 PLANT IS DEAD AND THE POST-WAR BUBBLE HAS BURST

858711.....NEW YORK BUREAU  
 THESE TWO VETERAN EMPLOYEES HAD BEEN WITH  
 THE PLANT SINCE IT STARTED 34 YEARS AGO. THEY  
 ARE (LEFT TO RIGHT) JAMES C. SPANOGLANS, 51, AND  
EMANUIL J. PARIANES, 52. FOR THEM, THE POST-WAR  
 BOOM IS OVER.  
 NY-1-2-3 FOR MGS  
 CREDIT (ACME) 1/16/48 (MK)

**American Zinc-Plant Closing Press Release  
 January 16, 1948**



Langloth Factory and Mine  
Langloth Pa.

**American Zinc-Langloth, PA**

# ZINC PLANT FIRES FIFTH FURNACE RECALLS FIFTY MORE EMPLOYEES

Superintendent Frederick H. Illig announces the lighting of fires under the fourth Roaster Kiln today in the American Zinc and Chemical Company's plant at Langeloth and the resumption of operation in another block of furnaces. From forty to fifty former employes will be recalled to their jobs at the Zinc plant this week end, bringing production in the plant to above normal. Until the resumption of activity in the Fifth Furnace block, 490 men have been working steadily at the plant, and production has been normal.

Increased rush orders was given as the reason for this action at the Plant, which Mr. Illig stated had not used all five furnaces since 1938. Early resumption of firing in the sixth and last block is to be expected, and when such a move occurs will bring activity at the plant to peak production.

Climax Molybdenum Company was reported his week as hiring additional men to place in operation a second shift, in order to meet increased demands for Molybdenum.

Coal production in this section is reported to be picking up considerably. Harmon Creek Coal company reports that two shifts are now working full time at this shovel operation. Freight loadings on the Pennsylvania railroad from the Burgettstown district are reported to be steadily increasing.

**Zinc Plant Fires Fifth Furnace, Recall Fifty More Employees**  
**Burgettstown Enterprise-May 29, 1940 Edition**

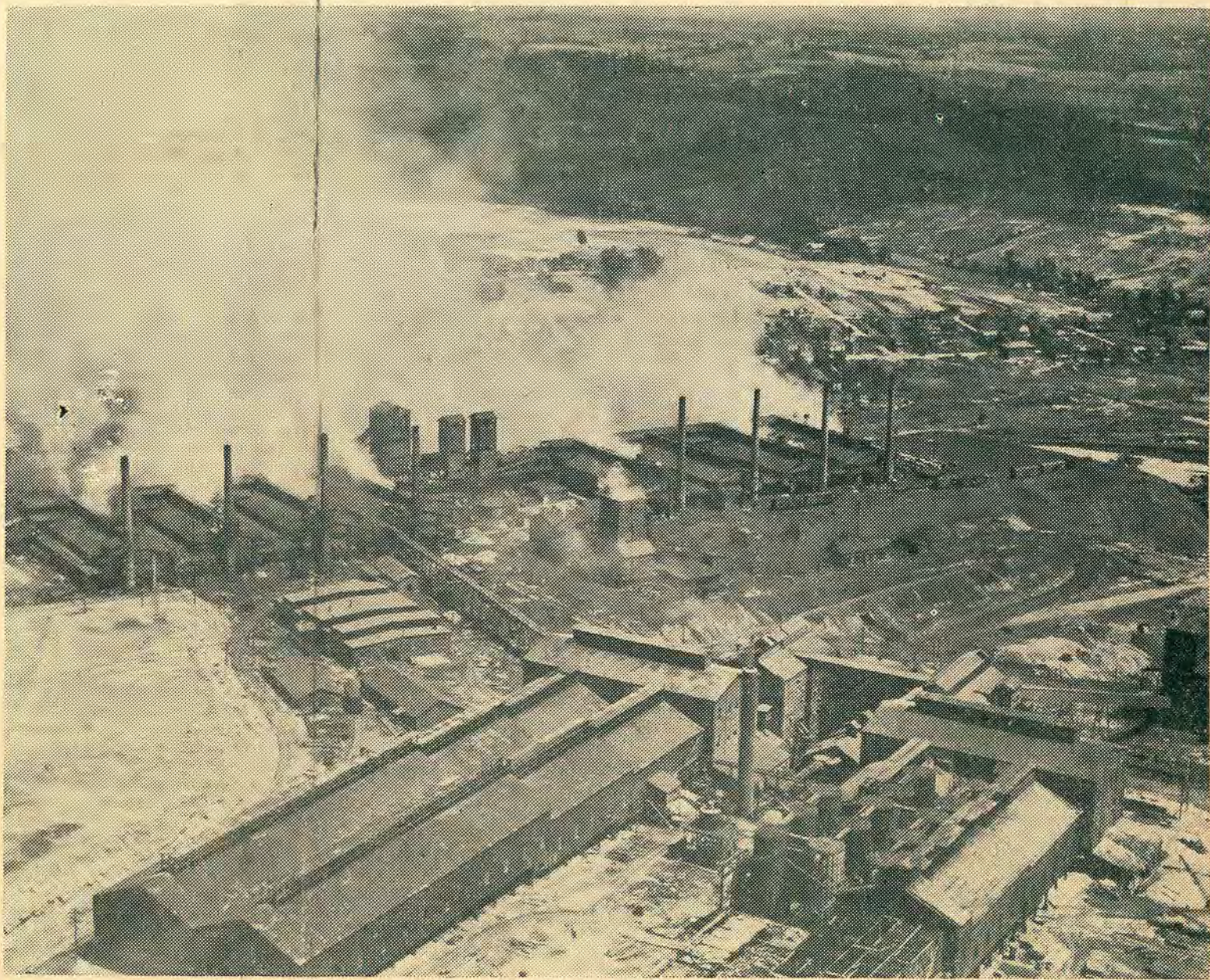
DRY RESERVOIR  
REDUCES OPERATION  
AT LANGELOTH PLANT

For the first time in a great many years, operations at the American Zinc and Chemical Company, particularly in the furnace departments were almost at a standstill because of the drought. The company's reservoir, which services the plant was empty and hundreds of fish died before the week-end rains came. The plant however, was able to resume full schedule after an auxiliary pipe line was run from the Climax reservoir, which is serviced by West Penn Water company.

The week-end rains filled the Avella reservoir which was also dry and caused great hardship to residents in that district because of lack of water. Water was trucked in from Washington. Avella schools resumed on Monday after being closed for one week because of the water shortage.

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# STRIKE-BOUND PLANT OF LANGELOTH AMERICAN ZINC & CHEMICAL CO.



—Photo by Coffey

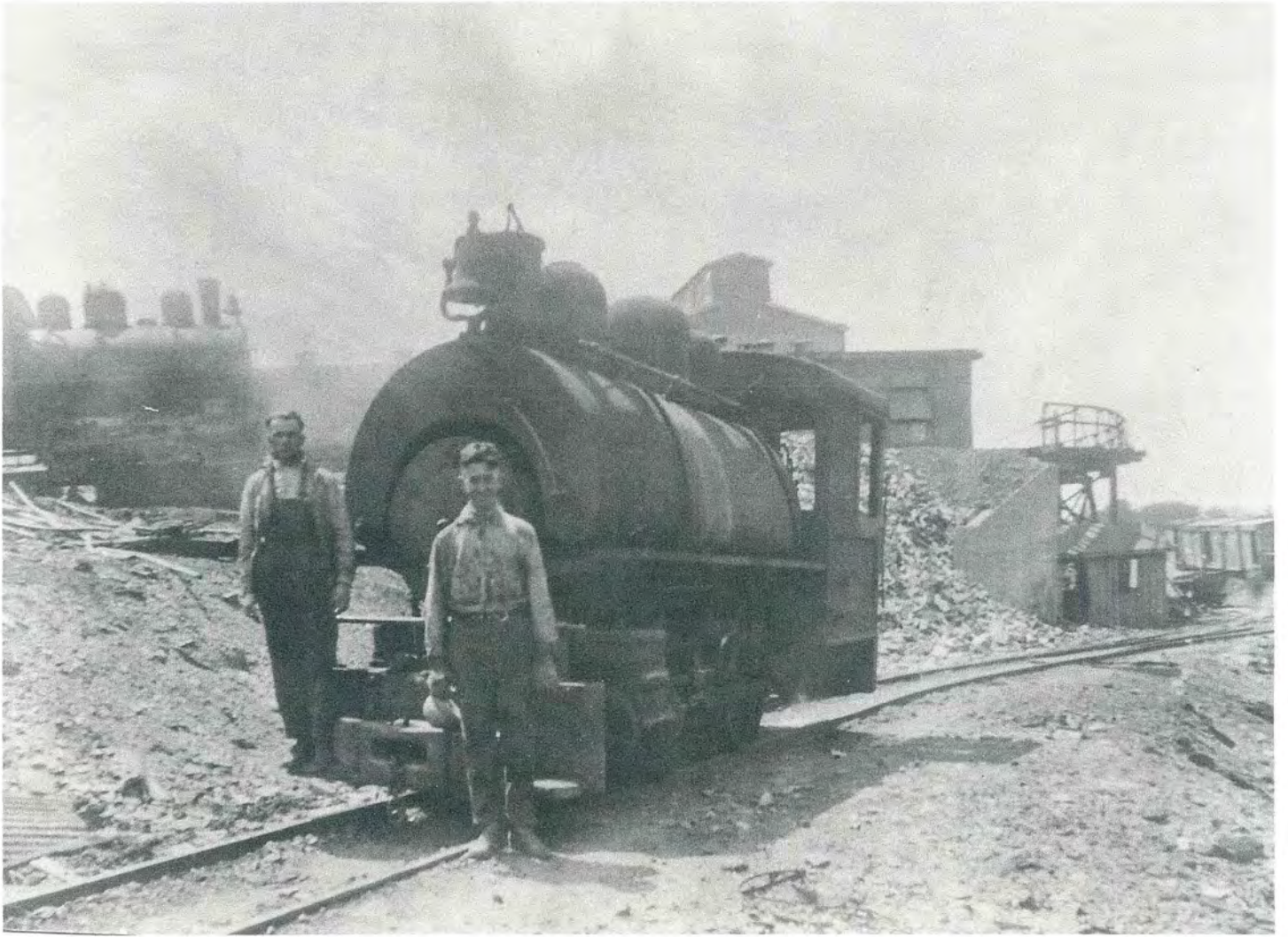
There is no smoke pouring from the seven giant chimneys at the American Zinc and Chemical Company's strike bound plant, such as the above photo shows during war time production days.

The dead lock between the Union Grievance Committee and officials of the American Metal Company held for the fourth week and negotiations remained at a stand still. Officials of the union maintain that they desire to deal direct with New York representatives of the Company, while the company policy as previously stated, seems to be the strike issues must be settled with their local representatives.

Vacation pay to employees was made this week, and it appears that this will be the final pay day for some time at the plant on the hill.

C. M. Marino, spokesman for the zincmen, recently returned from a conference with other Zinc unions at East St. Louis, told the Enterprise this week that arrangements have been made to carry the strike issues to Washington, D. C. He said that representatives of the Smelters' Union, C.I.O. and the Zinc Council which he heads, are contacting Congressmen and U. S. Senators, to protest selling of zinc from government stock piles to private industry. The Union maintains that by so doing the government is using the money provided by zincmen's war bonds against the zinc workers. He stated that zinc production is only about 56 per cent in this country and that while zinc prices have increased sharply and government subsidies hold, to permit the industry an even break with foreign ore, there is very little zinc available for post-war production. This is the reason, Marino stated, that John Q. Public has little or no chance of getting a new car this year, and the many other appliances and products that are badly needed.

## Strike-Bound Plant of Langeloth American Zinc & Chemical Company Burgettstown Enterprise-July 11, 1946 Edition



**American Zinc and Chemical Company**  
**L-R: Unknown and Charles A. Mader**



# LANGELOTH ZINC STRIKE ENDS. MEN GIVEN 2½c WAGE RAISE, TO FIRE FURNACES IN 10 DAYS

Members of the Langeloth Smelters' Union No. 95 at a special meeting in Illig Memorial Hall on Sunday afternoon, September 22 voted to return to work at the American Zinc and Chemical Company plant and to accept a wage increase of 2½ cents per hour. Thus ended a 108 day work stoppage at the hill plant that it is estimated cost 300 employees more than 700 dollars each in lost wages. Loss in payroll to the Greater Burgettstown Community is said to be more than one-half million dollars. It is estimated that the company will have to spend a half million dollars to re-condition the plant for operation, as there has been no maintenance since the fires were drawn on Friday, June 7.

The striking employees appear to be the greatest losers by the strike, since their payroll loss was not nearly offset by the \$20 unemployment compensation which they received for a period of about 6 weeks. It is estimated that the 2½c an hour gained, amounting to about 20c a day, cannot be absorbed by their pay checks under a period of about 120 months or 10 years.

As noted in an official statement released today, jointly by the Company and the Union, other matters at issue in the strike will be referred to arbitration.

When the strike was called the following points were in dispute:

1. A wage increase of 18½ cents per hour as of May 16, 1946.
2. An additional ½ man per furnace.
3. One additional man in the spelter crew.
4. An opportunity to talk about additional help for metal drawers when the increased work load makes it necessary.
5. Accusations that the Company refuses to bargain collectively.
6. Alleged efforts on the part of foremen to "undermine" the Union.
7. Alleged numerous violations of the contract by the Company by failing to maintain "the same working conditions and provisions as at present."
8. Payment of iron workers' rates to maintenance men when they do that type of work—the acid tanks in particular.

The 2½c wage increase granted, brings the total increase to 18½c an hour, this year, since a 16 cent raise was granted October 1945 re-troactive to August

This maintains the daily basic wage of the hilltop workers at a higher average than any other zinc plant in the United States, with the exception of the Donara zinc plant, a subsidiary of United States Steel.

R. H. Meisenhelder, General Superintendent stated today that he believes the hilltop plant can be readied for partial operation this week and that some of the furnaces will be fired within 10 days. Shortage of materials will somewhat hinder the re-conditioning operations and the scarcity of bricklayers is another obstacle to early operation. About 175 men were recalled to work last Monday but within 6 to 8 weeks it is believed that 24 hour operation can be resumed with a full quota of employees.

The fact that there exists today a 40,000 ton deficit in zinc production augurs well for full production at the hilltop plant. Another favorable sign for full production is the reserve metals stockpile for which the United States Government has earmarked more than one hundred billion dollars. Zinc is included in this reserve.

Manuel Nunez, machine shop employe and President of the Smelters' Union is in accord with Mr. Meisenhelder and Mr. Hershey that the remaining matters at issue other than the pay increase, can be satisfactorily settled by arbitration and that the hilltop plant can be operated at a profit both to the men and the company. Company officials have indicated a willingness to make broad allowances for the rent, insurance, and medical care indebtedness that has accumulated during the strike.

Settlement of the strike followed a meeting held in Washington, D. C. on Wednesday, September 18. This conference arranged by the Conciliation Service of the United States Department of Labor was attended by:

R. H. Meisenhelder, General Superintendent of the A. Z. & C. Co., D. G. Hershey, labor relations director; Atty. Charles Hamilton, Jr., a member of the firm of Sullivan & Cromwell of New York City, counsel for the American Metals Co., and

Ronald Haughton, chairman of a 3 man panel of the United States Conciliation Service, who had participated in previous negotiations held in Pittsburgh, also Judge Bell, a U. S. Attorney and

C. M. Marino, chairman of the strike committee, representing Union No. 95 and 10 members of the grievance and strike committee of the Langeloth Union. Mr. Marino and other members of the union had previously attended a convention of the International Mine, Mill and Smelter Workers in Cleveland, O. and

Messrs. Clott and Walkenshaw, Washington representatives of the Mine, Mill and Smelter Workers' Union C. I. O.

**Langeloth Zinc Strike Ends. Men Given 2 ½ Cent Wage Raise  
To Fire Furnace in 10 Days  
Burgettstown Enterprise-September 26, 1946 Edition**



**Climax Molybdenum, Langeloth, PA-Late 1960's or early 1970's**

*Fort Vance Historical Society*

## **Barry Alvarez, Ted Mervosh, Among Old Time Softball Players Set At Langeloth Sunday For Contest On Community Day**

University of Wisconsin head football coach Barry Alvarez and Col. Ted Mervosh are among the oldtime softball players returning to the area Sunday to play in a nostalgic game as part of the Community Day activities at Langeloth.

Others showing their intentions to again perform before the local population and coming from a distance include Jim Hanlin, Kelly Alvarez, Jesse Alonso and Dr. Pete Stracci.

Aemil "Birdie" Matalik, an original member of the Burgettstown softball league 34 years ago and still playing today, heads the list of greybeards. Others in the Birdie time frame attempting a comeback on the diamond for one more time include Moe Hall, Dave Markish, Art Roberts, Chuck Fletcher, Frank Paytors, Nick

Kusich and Kermy King.

Following is a list of promised players in the Oldtimers Game (many more are expected to appear):

Bill Gavazzi, Emil Stanish, Joe Pescho, Terry Dalverny, Bimbo Edwards, Mike Mirich, Snookie Bender, Bill Brunner, Eddy Williamson, Frank Delprato, Andy Kortyna, Cookie Matalik, Ken Gavazzi, Gary Gratchen, Wes Rankin.

Woody Alvarez, Mickey Trimarki, Jim Trimarki, Speedy Reed, Jim O'Donnell, Dick Anderson, Doug Caldwell, Greg Caldwell, Don McCalmont, Dave Markish, Jerry Gavazzi, Birdie Matalik, Terry Humberson, Ray Larkey, Buzz Vega.

Chal Mahoney, Rick Mahoney, Frank Richards, Rich Gibson, Rich Lounder, John Niedzialkia, Art

Roberts, Bob Kuzior, Chuck Fletcher, Merle Ayres, Frank Paytors, Bill Latkovic, Jim Matalik, Bill Ankley, Frank Lillard.

Mike Krynak, John Bianchini, Yummy Jobkar, Dennis Kinkela, Rich Maltony, Kermy King, Frank Lawrence, Paul Fuller, Jerry Maroni, Nick Kusich, Jack Babyak, Kite Harris, Don Resnik, Geno Borio, Mike Lis.

Skip Bundy, Ted Mervosh, Jim Hanlin, Jim Bish, Kelly Alvarez, Pete Stracci, Jerry Prado, Barry Alvarez, Wickie Brown, Jesse Alonso, Tom Alrutz, Bub Wiegmann, Moe Hall, Ray Walker, Fred Walker, Ron Cross, Ray Fratini, Mickey LaRocka, Ron Dellapina, Willie C. Lewis.

**Barry Alvarez, Ted Mervosh, Among Old Time Softball Players  
Set at Langeloth Sunday for Contest on Community Day  
Burgettstown Enterprise-July 25, 1990 Edition**



The picture above was taken in the Climax first aid room during the blood-typing process held September 30. Seated, left to right, are: Kay Kloppel, Office; Ida Smith, Washington Hospital; Patty Powell, Washington Hospital; Carl Bole, Sulfide Department, being typed and Judy Scruppi, Office. Standing, left to right: A. L. McCoy, Director of Safety and Security; Nick Harris, Roasting Department; Nicholas Hallahan, Shipping; Robert Dowler, Packing; Lester Lee, Slag Department; Frank Blank and Fritz Krieger, General.

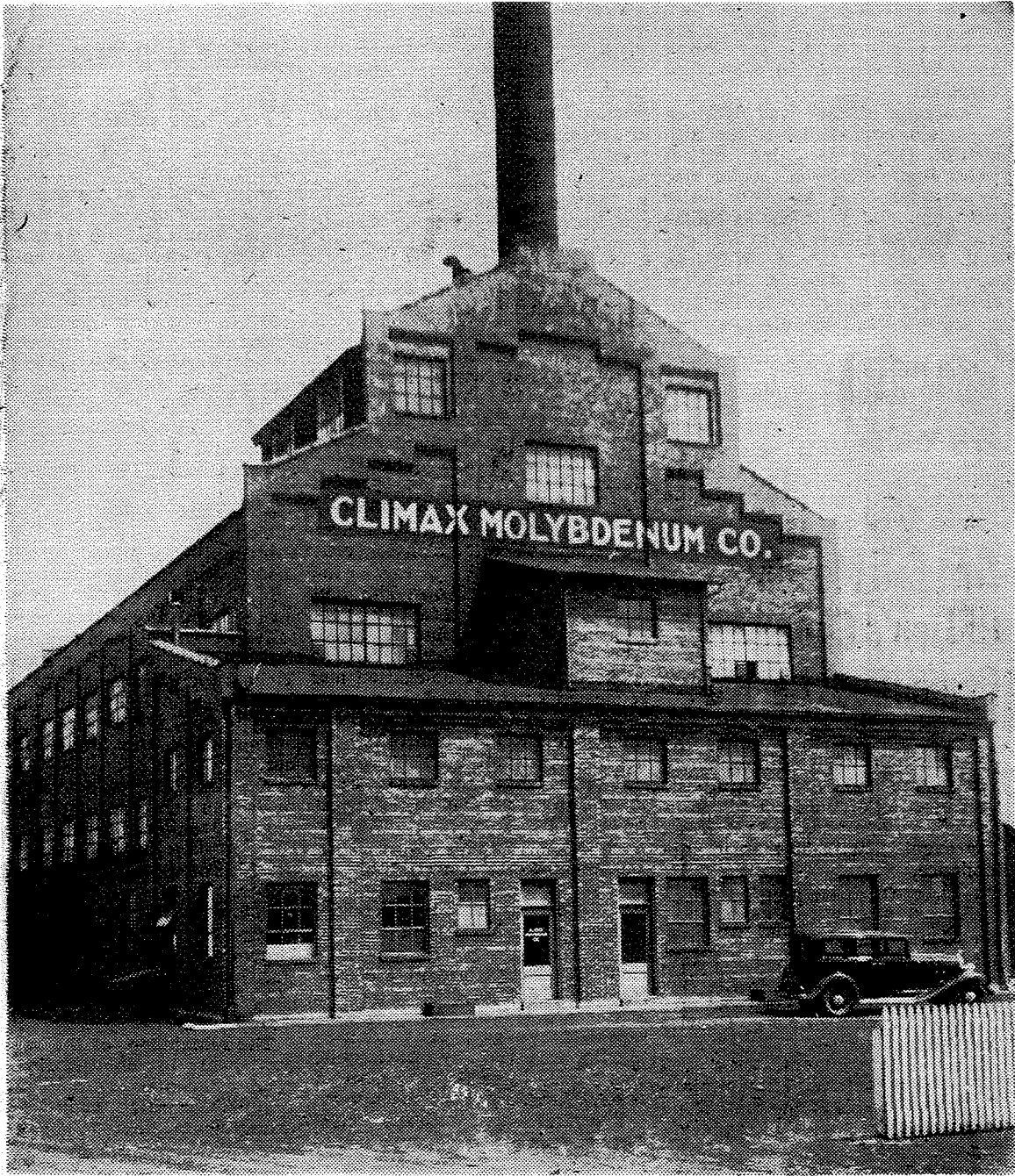
**Climax Employees are Blood Typed**  
**Climax News-Burgettstown Enterprise-October 29, 1953 Edition**



The picture above was taken in the Climax first aid room during the blood-typing process held September 30. Seated left to right are: Kay Koppell, Office; Ida Smith, Washington Hospital; Patty Powell, Washington Hospital; Carl Bole, Sulfide Department, being typed and Judy Scruppi, Office. Standing , left to right: Asa McCoy, Director of Safety and Security; Nick Harris, Roasting Department; Nicholas Hallahan, Shipping; Robert Dowler, Packing; Lester Lee, Slag Department; Frank Blank and Fritz Krieger, General.



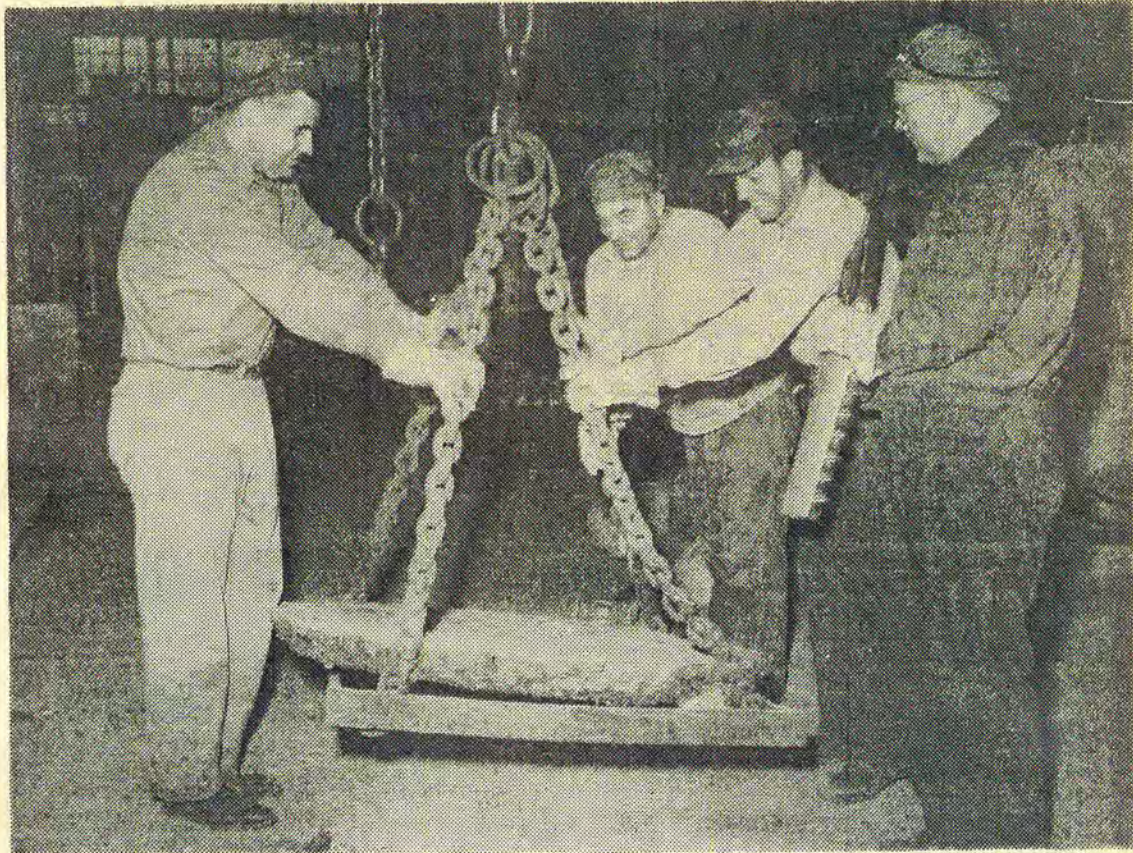
**Climax Molybdenum-Langeloth, PA**



The above picture, made from a glass plate by the late Peter Biny, for many years a Burgettstown photographer, shows the single building occupied by Climax about 1929.

**Climax News**  
**Photo of Original Building, circa 1929**  
**Burgettstown Enterprise-September 17, 1953 Edition**

# One Ton Button Readied For Crusher



One of the many steps in the processing of molybdenum to its usable form. Shown here is an alloy button, weighing approximately 2,000 pounds. Preparing to crush the button are, left to right; Frank Waltl, Thomas Dubich, Stanley Rozmus and Guthrie Ingram.

**Climax News**  
**One Ton Button Readied for Crusher**  
**Burgettstown Enterprise-November 19, 1953 Edition**



## **Strike Talks Continue; 3rd Quarter Report Shows Co. Earnings Up**

Efforts to end the deadlock in the Climax strike are continuing at the George Washington hotel in Washington, Pa. with meetings being held on Tuesday and Wednesday of this week. Talks are continuing on the major issue of production standards.

Meanwhile a financial report from Climax New York Office this week on net earnings for the first nine months of 1957 showed an increase of 18 cents per share. Earnings in 1957 per share are \$4.44 while 1956 earnings in the first nine months amounted to \$4.26 per share.

**Climax Strike Talks Continue**  
**Burgettstown Enterprise-October 31, 1957 Edition**

The Pittsburgh Press

# ROTO Magazine

Sunday, August 3, 1952



World's Tallest 'Barber Pole' See Page 2

## Climax

The Pittsburgh Press Roto Magazine-August 3, 1952 Edition

**T**HIS might be called the world's biggest "barber pole." Actually it is the super-colossal 503-foot chimney of Climax Molybdenum Co. at Langeloth—20 miles west of Pittsburgh. Tallest east of the Mississippi River, the stack of brick and concrete is just two feet shorter than the Cathedral of Learning and 52 feet shorter than Washington Monument. Beside it, the height of a man is insignificant, and it takes a second look to see the two workers climbing the towering giant in the photo.

Built eight years ago by Rust Engineering Co., the gigantic "barber pole" contains enough bricks to build 125 six-room homes, and enough concrete to pave their streets, sidewalks and driveways. The chimney weighs 32,000,000 pounds and rests on a 30-foot-thick foundation. Actually, there are two chimneys. The inner chimney is self-supporting and extends the full height. Its purpose is to protect the outer chimney from flue gases, while it in turn is protected by the outer chimney from wind and weather.

The chimney is protected by special lightning arrestors, and is equipped with warning lights and beacons for aircraft. It is painted in giant red and white bands for the benefit of daylight fliers, and for eight years has served as a landmark and beacon for aircraft.



Press Colorphoto by Stewart Love

## Climax

The Pittsburgh Press Roto Magazine-August 3, 1952 Edition

# DEP to host public hearing on Smith Township site

By EMILY PETSKO  
Staff writer  
epetsko@observer-reporter.com

The state Department of Environmental Protection will host a public meeting and hearing next Thursday at the Smith Township municipal building to discuss land in Slovan that formerly was the site of a zinc smelting facility.

The meeting will outline a proposed consent order and agreement with Cyprus Amax Minerals Co., which currently owns the prop-

erty. Company officials approached the DEP with a proposal to test for hazardous elements in the soil, such as lead, cadmium and arsenic. John Poister, spokesman for the DEP, said a soil sample could determine whether those elements are present.

"The purpose of the hearing is mainly to inform the community, the people who are affected, and let them ask questions," Poister said.

American Zinc and Chemical Co. operated a smelting facility there from 1917 to 1947,

**“ THE PURPOSE OF THE HEARING IS MAINLY TO INFORM THE COMMUNITY, THE PEOPLE WHO ARE AFFECTED, AND LET THEM ASK QUESTIONS. ”**

JOHN POISTER, SPOKESMAN FOR  
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

and no environmental emissions control laws were in place at that time. Emissions from the plant could have deposited metals in the soil of the surrounding area.

If contaminants are found in the soil, additional samples

would be taken in areas surrounding the plant. Then, the contaminated top layer of soil would be replaced at no cost to the property owner. The DEP would absorb the cleanup cost.

Poister said Cyprus, the successor company, wants

to ensure that the soil is safe, likely as a safeguard for possible future development of the property.

"What makes this interesting is the fact that they actually are trying to do the right thing," Poister said. "They want to clean this up."

Thomas Schilinski, chairman of Smith Township's board of supervisors, said he hopes the soil samples can be taken soon in order to promote growth in the future.

"It would be nice if we can get it cleaned up and possibly

put some industry in there," he said.

Neither Schilinski nor Poister knew the exact location of the property.

The hearing will be held at 6:30 p.m. inside the municipal building at 1848 Smith Township State Road, Slovan. Those who wish to present testimony or comments during the public hearing are asked to call Poister at 412-442-4203 to register. Residents also can sign up at the door prior to the hearing.

**DEP to Host Public Hearing on Smith Twp. Site**  
**Observer-Reporter-January 17, 2014, 2014 Edition**

# IT'S BEEN SOLD TO Ex-Dishwasher

## Langeloth People Look to Gus Barbush to Prevent Loss of Jobs and Homes

By Walter Lister Jr.

LANGELOTH, Pa., April 4.—Gus Barbush, who parlayed \$7, hard work, luck and friendship into a succession of booming enterprises, remains the most universally liked man in this town today, although he owns virtually all of it.

Sale of this 390-acre community came about last week after the American Zinc and Chemical Company, which built the town for its employees thirty-five years ago, decided to close its huge zinc and sulphuric-acid plant near by.

Purchaser of the town was Mr. Barbush, a most unlikely capitalist who has lived in Langeloth since 1918 and managed the town's general store for the last sixteen years. His bid, estimated at \$350,000 to \$500,000, was the lowest of several, but the company picked him as the best man.

"The company was very interested in this town," Mr. Barbush explained. "They know I'll take care of community affairs. They like me, too."

### Buys 261 Houses

For his money, \$200,000 of which was lent by a local bank, Mr. Barbush got 261 houses—one having fifteen rooms, others ranging from sturdy brick homes to sagging shanties—a Presbyterian church, the Langeloth Water Company, a boy scout hut, the Glory Barn community hall, a sportsmen's clubhouse and a small park.

The only properties not owned by Mr. Barbush are a school, an apartment house and a dozen homes which tenants bought from the zinc company years ago.

Some apprehension persists among the 900 residents of Langeloth. Men have had to find employment farther away at longer working hours. Now they look forward to higher rents and a charge for the water they used to get free.

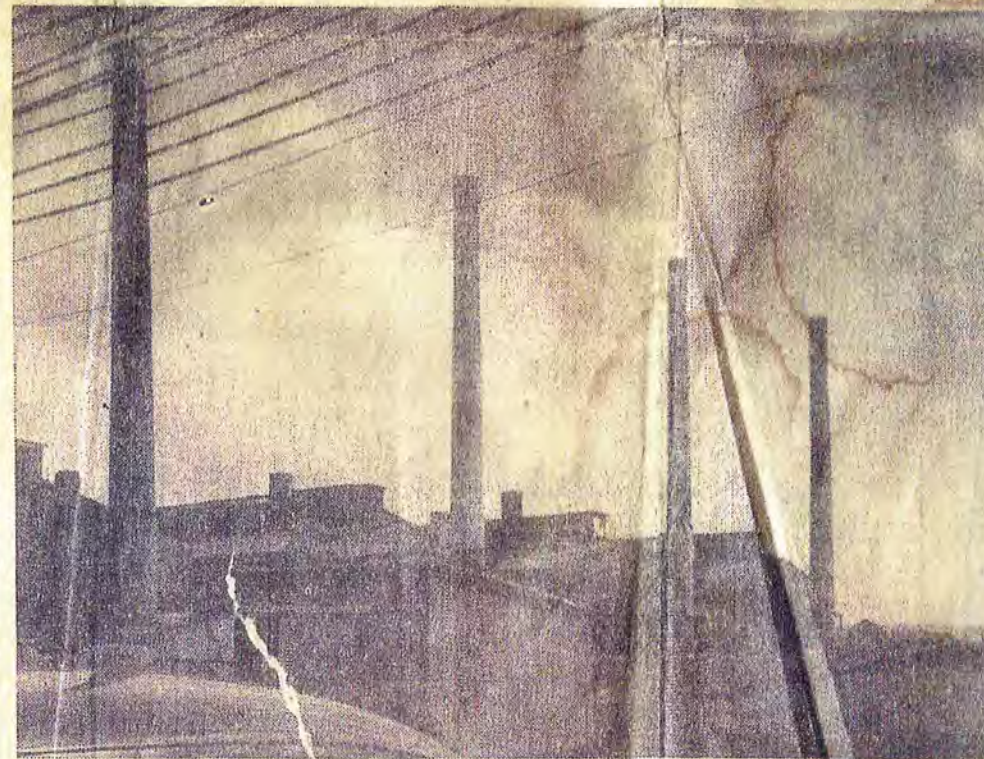
But the people have faith in their friend Gus. While news of his purchase surprised most of them, it has had a stabilizing ef-



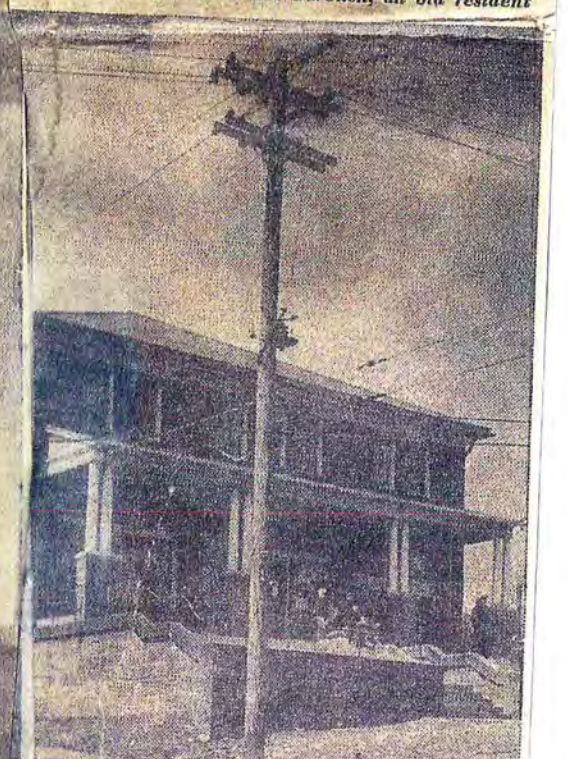
Gus Barbush



Langeloth, a 390-acre town built by the American Zinc and Chemical Co. Last week it was sold to Mr. Barbush, an old resident



Smokestacks of the company's sprawling zinc and sulphuric acid plant, which has been closed down



where Mr. Barbush started as a butcher in 1918

**Gus Barbush and His Town in Pennsylvania (pg.1)**  
New York Herald Tribune-April 5, 1948 Edition

### Invested His Money

With his money, he made more. "I would always invest," he said. "I never like to keep it in banks. I made some money on gas wells. Sometimes you have to be lucky, but it takes work."

Mr. Barbush worked eighteen and twenty hours a day to get ahead. He still puts in a full day at his store, where everything is sold from steak to fur coats. He started as butcher in the company's store in 1918, became manager ten years later and in 1932, when the zinc company was saddled with labor troubles and a depression, Gus took over the store.

Today the general store has several thousand customers in the heart of the soft coal area and does \$450,000 business annually. He also owns a prosperous restaurant, The Farms, on the Steubenville Pike, near Florence, Pa., and the Biddle Hotel building in Burgettstown.

Long in doubt, the future of Langeloth is still uncertain, but with Gus in charge the prospects are brighter than they have been since World War I, when the zinc company was one of the world's largest producers of that metal.

A war baby, the company nearly closed during the depression, but enjoyed a new life when World War II came. With peace came skyrocketing production costs, more labor trouble and an inability to compete with more modern methods of extracting zinc.

Almost all of its 800 employees have been discharged, and within two weeks its small sulphuric-acid operations will be concluded. This is a salvage job now, and one of the most important aspects is the good will of the townspeople.

If dissatisfied with what happens to Langeloth, named after a former president of American

vestment. The company ran Langeloth at a loss. Monthly rents range from \$8 for a four-room house up to \$30 for some six and seven room homes.

He expects an upward adjustment after he talks with the Washington County Tax Commissioner.

Typical residents are Mr. and Mrs. Edgar Lauderback and their four children. They have lived in their \$20-a-month brick house for seventeen years. Mr. Lauderback is now a day laborer in Coapolis, Pa., twenty-five miles northeast of Langeloth.

"It came as a shock," Mrs. Lauderback said, "when we didn't have a chance to buy the house. If rents were raised and we had to pay for the water—that would be terrible. But if a real estate company came in, that might be worse. I don't know. If I was to lose this place I believe it would break my heart."

Most palatial home in Langeloth is occupied by the superintendent of the zinc company, Ray Meisenhelder, and his wife. They and a half-dozen other families expect to move out, but the rank and file of the workers can't afford to move. They hope they can afford to stay.

Their best hope, of course, is that some large manufacturing company will locate in the 200 acres now occupied by the decaying zinc plant. Letters to Mr. Barbush in the last few days have included offers to establish an airplane factory, a toy industry, a giant potato farm and a wire mill.

Mrs. Concetta Lillo, who owns the three-story apartment building and was Mr. Barbush's landlady until he moved into rooms on the upper floor of his store, has an opinion of him that is echoed all over town.

"He's a good man," she said. "Too bad he hasn't a wife."

uneasy for about fifteen years.

In the town's one beer parlor yesterday a worker asked, "Did Gus ever do anything wrong around this community?" The men standing around shook their heads and testified to Mr. Barbush's good heart. "You got to give the guy credit," one declared.

### Letters From Women

Hundreds of letters have poured in since the town's sale was announced. Some were from cranks, some from business men interested in starting a new industry to replace the idle zinc factory and a few were from women wishing to meet Mr. Barbush, who is a confirmed bachelor.

Mr. Barbush has a sister in Weirton, W. Va., and two other sisters and three brothers "down in Greece." He owns a new Cadillac, but does not dress up to his income. His normal attire is an open shirt, gray sweater and baggy pants.

He is forty-nine. His name was spelled Burbakis when at the age of thirteen he arrived from Greece to visit his uncle, Harry Barbush, owner of a restaurant twenty-six miles west of Pittsburgh, in Burgettstown, Pa. That same year, 1912, the American Zinc and Chemical Company, a subsidiary of American Metals, Inc., in New York, started to break ground two miles south of Burgettstown.

Gus had \$7 in his pocket. He spent six weeks in school, then became a dishwasher for his uncle.

From dishwashing he became a grocery clerk in Cleveland and learned a butcher's trade. In 1916, the year the zinc plant began actual operations, Gus was making "pretty good money" trading in livestock. He was naturalized in 1917.

Metals, the union, a local of the United Mine Mill and Smelter Workers, affiliated with the Congress of Industrial Organizations, is believed capable of action against American Metals' operations elsewhere.

That certainly is one of the reasons the town was sold to Mr. Barbush. He, the company and members of the Greater Burgettstown Community Association are now looking for a new industry to provide jobs nearby for the former zinc workers.

Most of them are now employed thirty-five miles away in Aliquippa, Pa., at the Jones and Laughlin steel mill. Besides having a three-hour round trip, the Langeloth men must now work a full eight-hour shift. As zinc employees, they worked only three or four hours for eight hours pay—a condition peculiar to the zinc industry.

Mr. Barbush said he first thought of buying the town three weeks ago. He tells it this way: "I went to New York. They didn't tell me how much they want. I told them how much I got. They said, 'Not enough.' I went to my friend at the bank. Then when I went back to New York and told them what I had, they talked. Now the people feel good. Have a big celebration some day on account of this."

The loan was the largest ever made to an individual by the Citizens' National Bank in Washington, Pa. When Mr. Barbush—titleless as usual—parked his Cadillac outside the bank he didn't have a nickel for the parking meter.

Mr. Barbush has no immediate plans for the town. First, he wants to find out if it will be a good in-

## Gus Barbush Christmas "Zoo" Ready For Another Yule Season



Gus Barbush, of Langeloth, is shown as he pats one of his imaginary fishermen on the head, in anticipation of a "zoo" full of real animals scheduled to arrive at the Barbush Christmas display Wednesday. The fishpond scene can be seen on Gus' front lawn, and is one of the many attractions this year.

Gus uses his unusual display of 14,200 blue lights and the miniature zoo to benefit Children's Hospital in Pittsburgh. Last year he turned over \$10,655.40.

Opening night for the year

will be Wednesday, December 10. Hopefully, by that time, nine animals not normally seen in this area will have taken up temporary headquarters across the road from Gus' house, so that children and their parents may drive or walk through and admire the displays. Animals will include a large and small bear, a cougar, two coyotes, two small lions, a leopard and a lynx.

Gus hopes everyone for miles around will come and enjoy his display and help his favorite charity.

1975

**Gus Barbush Christmas "Zoo"**  
**Ready for another Yule Season**  
**Burgettstown Enterprise-1975**

# Gus Makes Good In Langeloth, Pa.—He Buys It!

## Ex-Butcher Who Came To U. S. 36 Years Ago With \$7 Discovers 'In This Country, Anything Can Happen'

LANGELOTH, Pa. [NEA] Gus the Greek was wearing an old grey sweater, his shirt was tieless and his pants baggy when he parked before the Citizens National Bank in nearby Washington, Pa.

At the moment, he didn't even have a nickel in his pocket for the parking meter.

But when he walked out he had just borrowed \$200,000 and bought a town.

And here in Langeloth, the future for everyone began to look brighter, because Gus the Greek—Gus Barbush who arrived in the U. S. 36 years ago with \$7 in his pocket—had just given the town a new lease on life.

Langeloth is the company town of American Zinc and Chemical Co., which is closing its mill and abandoning the community.

For a reported price of \$500,000—the lowest among six bidders—the company is turning over to Gus its title to 261 houses ranging from sagging shanties to a 15-room mansion, a church, a water works, a community hall, a sportsmen's clubhouse, a Boy Scout hut and a park.

The company finally accepted Gus' bid because it decided that he best understood local conditions and the people of Langeloth would rather have Gus for a landlord than some outsider.

"The company was very interested in this town," Gus says. "They know I'll take care of community affairs. They like me, too."

Gus knows Langeloth. He runs its general store where he does an annual business of \$450,000 in everything from pork chops to fur coats. He understands the pork chop

end of the business best—he started out in the store as a butcher, became manager and finally owner.

He also owns a prosperous restaurant near Florence, Pa., and a hotel at Burgettstown.

A few weeks ago, when he got the idea of buying Langeloth, he went to New York to talk to officials of American Metals, Inc., parent corporation of the zinc company.

"They ask how much money I have. Say 'you have to go home' when I tell them how much I can raise. They say 'get in better shape to talk.'

"So I see banker at home. Went to Washington with sweater, no tie, look like I don't have enough to eat."

He got \$200,000 — the largest single loan the bank ever advanced to an individual.

"Then I went back to New York and told them what I had. They talk. Now the people feel good."

Gus told the people of Langeloth that rents will have to be raised and water rates set, but the town will be operated for the good of everyone. The company operated the town at a loss, charged nothing for water and as little as \$8 a month for a four-room house.

"My plan is to run good town," Gus says. "Improve church and community house. Boy Scouts. Make ball diamond, fix park."

"I don't want to make very much. I want some place to spend it for Uncle Sam."

Gus is also looking for an industry to fill the void left by the zinc company. An airplane company, a toy factory and a wire mill have expressed interest in Langeloth's industrial plant. Hopes are higher today than any time since the company decided to move out.

As for Gus: "Never thought I could own a town. But in this country, anything can happen."



GUS BARBUSH: "I don't want to make very much."



The Town of Langeloth that Gus bought ranges from sagging shanties to a mansion



# Gus Makes Good In Langeloth, Pa.—He Buys It!

## Ex-Butcher Who Came To U. S. 36 Years Ago With \$7 Discovers 'In This Country, Anything Can Happen'

LANGELOTH, Pa. [NEA] Gus the Greek was wearing an old grey sweater, his shirt was tieless and his pants baggy when he parked before the Citizens National Bank in nearby Washington, Pa.

At the moment, he didn't even have a nickel in his pocket for the parking meter.

But when he walked out he had just borrowed \$200,000 and bought a town.

And here in Langeloth, the future for everyone began to look brighter, because Gus the Greek—Gus Barbush who arrived in the U. S. 36 years ago with \$7 in his pocket—had just given the town a new lease on life.

Langeloth is the company town of American Zinc and Chemical Co., which is closing its mill and abandoning the community.

For a reported price of \$500,000—the lowest among six bidders—the company is turning over to Gus its title to 261 houses ranging from sagging shanties to a 15-room mansion, a church, a water works, a community hall, a sportsmen's clubhouse, a Boy Scout hut and a park.

The company finally accepted Gus' bid because it decided that he best understood local conditions and the people of Langeloth would rather have Gus for a landlord than some outsider.

"The company was very interested in this town," Gus says. "They know I'll take care of community affairs. They like me, too."

Gus knows Langeloth.

He runs its general store where he does an annual business of \$450,000 in everything from pork chops to fur coats. He understands the pork chop

end of the business best—he started out in the store as a butcher, became manager and finally owner.

He also owns a prosperous restaurant near Florence, Pa., and a hotel at Burgettstown.

A few weeks ago, when he got the idea of buying Langeloth, he went to New York to talk to officials of American Metals, Inc., parent corporation of the zinc company.

"They ask how much money I have. Say 'you have to go home' when I tell them how much I can raise. They say 'get in better shape to talk.'

"So I see banker at home. Went to Washington with sweater, no tie, look like I don't have enough to eat."

He got \$200,000—the largest single loan the bank ever advanced to an individual.

"Then I went back to New York and told them what I had. They talk. Now the people feel good."

Gus told the people of Langeloth that rents will have to be raised and water rates set, but the town will be operated for the good of everyone. The company operated the town at a loss, charged nothing for water and as little as \$8 a month for a four-room house.

"My plan is to run good town," Gus says. "Improve church and community house. Boy Scouts. Make ball diamond, fix park.

"I don't want to make very much. I want some place to spend it for Uncle Sam."

Gus is also looking for an industry to fill the void left by the zinc company. An airplane company, a toy factory and a wire mill have expressed interest in Langeloth's industrial plant. Hopes are higher today than any time since the company decided to move out.

As for Gus:

"Never thought I could own a town. But in this country, anything can happen."



GUS BARBUSH: "I don't want to make very much."



The Town of Langeloth that Gus bought ranges from sagging shanties to a mansion

He Started with \$7 in His Pocket—

# 'Gus Th' Greek' Takes On a Town To Climax a Real Success Story

## 36 Years of Work Finally Pay Off

By EDWIN BEACHLER  
Pittsburgh Press Staff Writer

BURGETTSTOWN, Pa., March 30—"Gus Th' Greek" has just completed the cleanest sweep since the invention of the vacuum cleaner.

Arriving here from Greece 36 years ago with just \$7 in his pocket, Gus Barbush went to work as a dishwasher in his Uncle Harry's restaurant.

Gus not only cleaned up the kitchen, but wound up today owning the town. Proof of this can be seen from almost any angle you care to look at it.

### Really Owns Town

He has the biggest country store in these parts, the biggest restaurant, a hotel building with a half-dozen stores . . .

And capping it all—in his latest venture he actually has bought a town!

That was the 390-acre company settlement of Langeloth, abandoned offspring of the American Zinc and Chemical Co. which is closing its plant two miles from here.

For a reported price of a half-million dollars, "Gus Th' Greek" got:

Two hundred sixty-one houses, the Langeloth Water Co., "Glory Barn" community hall, church, school, Scout hut, Sportsmen's clubhouse, park and everything else that went with the townsite.

### Gets \$200,000 Loan

To make the deal possible, the local bank gave Gus the largest single loan they ever advanced to an individual—an even \$200,000. That's how much confidence bankers have in him.

The stocky, 49-year-old businessman was the lowest of six bidders. But zinc company officials still gave him the keys to the town because:

- 1—They thought he understood local conditions best.
- 2—They felt it would be a happier arrangement for the people, already hard hit by loss of their major industry.

The wheels of the 34-year-old Langeloth plant are grinding to a complete halt April 15. This represents a loss of 800 jobs and \$9000-a-day payroll for the bustling little community of 3000 people (trading center for 20,000).

### Future Looks Dark

Dark clouds have hovered over Burgettstown for many years, threatening to turn it into a "Ghost Town."

The spectre was the result of obsolete equipment and processes in the zinc plant combined with a steady parade of labor troubles . . . slowdowns, absenteeism, featherbedding, a 108-day strike in 1946, and constant strike threats



GUS BARBUSH  
Now he's bought a town.

and water rates installed to meet costs (the company ran the town at a loss), it will be operated for the good of everyone.

"My plan is to run good town," the new boss of Langeloth said today, "improve church and community hall . . . Boy Scouts, anything else . . . make ball diamond, fix park . . . I'll do what I can, but get some money first. . . ."

"I don't want make very much . . . I want some place to spend it for Uncle Sam."

For a fellow who only spent six weeks in public school, Gus has a better philosophy than a lot of Ph.D's.

### "I Like to Gamble"

As he explained it: "I like to gamble—with \$7 (all he had when he came here) and 40 years work, what can I lose? I have fun . . . live good, many years."

Don't try to tell Gus this isn't the land of opportunity. He'll throw the facts of his life at you so fast you'll be knocked down with the first barrage.

"Never thought I could own town—but in this only country anything can happen," the dark, balding little man explained with a shrug.

In 1912 Gus arrived to "visit" his uncle. Only 14 at the time, he "found out this was good country for me." Except for nine months in Cleveland, to learn the butcher's trade, he stayed right here.

### No Time for School

After his start as dish-washer, he worked in a grocery—"too busy for

## Purchase Brings Hope To Burgettstown

tell him to buy me out for married and children."

In 1918, he went to work as butcher in the "Langeloth Market." Ten years later, he was manager and in 1932 during the strike, the company tossed in the sponge.

### Cook Over Stove

Gus took over and after a great struggle, turned it into one of the most modern country stores of its kind.

Selling everything from pork chops to ice boxes to fur coats, Gus even built an apartment in it for himself. That way he could work around the clock if necessary.

Three years ago, he bought the Biddle Hotel building here, leased the "Farm Restaurant" on the Steubenville Pike near Florence, and added property in Washington, Pa.

A few weeks ago he made a trip to New York to discuss buying the Langeloth townsite from the zinc company's parent, American Metals, Inc.

### Needed More Money

"They ask how much money I have . . . say 'you have to go home' when I tell them how much I can raise. . . They say 'get in better shape to talk' . . ."

"So, I see bankers at home . . . went to Washington (Pa.) with sweater, no tie, look like I don't have enough to eat. . . They want to know what's wrong with me . . . I show them all over town . . . they come to my store and we have smoke only I don't smoke."

That's how the deal was made. But for two weeks Gus said he didn't get much sleep. Which was no great novelty.

### Likes Autos

Gus has been riding fast since his arrival here—first on a pony he bought for \$17 in his third year. He had one of the first Model T's in town and today has built up to a fleet which includes a Cadillac, DeSoto, Chevrolet and two trucks.

But he's moving slowly in his plans for the town. Running a town is the biggest thing he's tackled yet. The major problem is to get it on an even keel.

Community buildings will be operated free of charge. But the company practice of free rent to widows and those over 65 will have to be suspended.

None of the houses will be sold for the present. Former company employees will get first chance to buy if this policy is changed, he said.

### Hope for Industry

While "Gus Th' Greek" won't officially take over until May 15, the town already is stirring with optimism. He's working with the Greater Burgettstown Community Assn. to interest a new industry to move into the empty Langeloth

Pittsburgh  
Press  
1948



**LANGELOTH'S NEW POSTMASTER**

We believe it will be news to most of our readers that R. C. Cassidy, of Burgettstown, has been appointed postmaster for the new town of Langeloth. Mr. Cassidy received notice last Thursday of his appointment, but his innate modesty has kept him from noising it around. The Call got next to it just a little too late for mention in the last issue, and having one of his old daguerreotypes lying around the office deems it fitting and proper to make especial mention in this issue, since no extra expense will be involved. A close observer will note that the picture is an old one, having been snapped before Mr. Cassidy had attained his second crop of luxuriant tresses; it is also larger than we would have preferred, but we guess it will answer the purpose.

Robert C. Cassidy (we have no idea what the "C." is for) is one of the very biggest men in Burgettstown—from the avoirdupois standpoint. He was born at a very early age at Patterson's Mills, and is said to have been a pretty child; but he

soon outgrew it. He stayed on the farm until he had attained his growth, and then immigrated to Burgettstown. That was more than a quarter of a century ago. For ten years he was engaged in the grocery business here, and we have heard his friends boast that he had more sand than any man in town. Then his passion for handling big money got away with him, and he spent the next ten years behind the bars—of the Burgettstown National bank. To this day Mr. Cassidy holds that the present flourishing condition of that institution is due to his untiring efforts while there. At the expiration of the second ten years Mr. Cassidy conceived the notion of putting the Pittsburg Life Insurance company on an even more substantial footing, and enlisted as a supervisor of agents. To hear Robert tell about it he has been wonderfully successful; so far as we know the company neither denies or affirms the statement.

Oh, yes, we almost forgot to say that Mr. Cassidy has held quite a

number of offices from time to time, and is still hanging on to some of them. For about ten years (that mystic ten again) he has been a member of our board of education (we understand he went in with a great deal of opposition and will probably go out without any.) He is also secretary of Richard Vaux Lodge, No. 454, F. & A. M., which office he has held for many years, and is treasurer of Burgettstown Lodge, No. 1145, I. O. O. F. He is a member of the Burgettstown grange, has attained the mysteries of the Grand Orient, and holds an appointment as notary public. In his youth he was baptized in the Presbyterian faith, but, as the little kid said, "it didn't seem to take."

On the whole, Cassidy isn't a bad sort of a fellow, and it's surprising how many friends he has. Every one of them, while congratulating him and commending the judgment of those who made the appointment, are wondering how he broke into a Democratic administration on a Republican and Bull Moose record.

**Robert C. Cassidy-Langeloth's New Postmaster**  
**The Burgettstown Call- March 26, 1914 Edition**

**I**N the 1980s, plant closures are major news, but the story itself is not new. Out in the rural landscape of Western Pennsylvania, the remnants of many bygone industries tell tales of changed fortunes. For more than 15 years, we have been exploring these sites on foot, trying to understand the industrial culture created in the late nineteenth century, and ebbing now in the late twentieth.

We came upon Langeloth by surprise.

On a May afternoon, we parked our car in Burgettstown, 30 miles west of Pittsburgh, and started walking. Our immediate objective was a deserted mine site along the Conrail tracks a couple of miles west of town.

It was not pleasant walking. It was hot (October through April is the best season for hikers), and the railbed had been recently renewed with large-cut gravel — hard on the feet, even through vibram-soled boots. When we finally got there, we found that the mine site indicated on our topographic map was not only abandoned, it was obliterated. All that remained was a small brick building and a barren landscape recontoured by a bulldozer.

We swung up the hill, away from the tracks. On the other side, we found a huge pile of slate: the best visible evidence left of the mine we'd originally set out for. We circled the mound for a few minutes, taking pictures, then followed a country road for a mile or so, past farms and modest suburban homes, and climbed the hill into the little village of Langeloth.

So far the walk had been unspectacular and disappointing, though we paused to examine a deserted company store in Langeloth, and to admire, briefly, a modern hilltop plant that makes molybdenum, a metal used to harden steel.

From Langeloth, we headed down again, past a row of old-fashioned company houses (with the usual barrage of barking dogs) into the next hollow, where we knew there *had* to be an old mine. Still we couldn't find anything much — some coal dust and evidence of a few building foundations, but mostly weeds.

It was after we climbed the abutment of a railroad trestle and started east along the tracks that our "discovery" began.

The tracks were old but clearly still used occasionally. As we moved along, we could see a modern tippie and coal-sorter to our right: perhaps another small company processing the tailings of a mine. Up to our left were increasingly large slate dumps from an earlier operation.

We moved off the tracks and began to climb through the dumps. Gradually the panorama unfolded: first a set of concrete ruins, the foundations of a small building, then a series of concrete piers advancing up the hillside. Around us was a vast expanse of heaped slate, the remnants, we felt, of a large mining operation. The glare of the sun, now low on the horizon, made the piles incredibly black.

But we were still below the hilliest. When we reached the top, we were on a plateau. The scene that stretched out before us, two dozen acres across, looked like a capital city devastated in some ancient war. Or was a more apt image a German industrial site, circa 1945?

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David Demarest and Eugene Levy teach in the English and history departments respectively at Carnegie Mellon University.

## **Remnants of an Industrial Landscape**

**By David Demarest and Eugene Levy**

**Pittsburgh History, A Magazine of the City and Its Region-Fall 1989**

By David Demarest and Eugene Levy



Industrial Ruins, Langeloth, PA 1989

Strewn out ahead of us were house-sized chunks of concrete, mounds of brick and steel rails, steel beams tossed here and there. In a hillside to our left several tunnels, clogged with rubble, were dripping water. Two hundred yards straight ahead were the hulks of buildings: ragged roofs, broken windows, large saplings grown up through gaps in the walls.

Our assumption that this was a mine site quickly changed as we examined the rubble. The tunnels were too small and numerous to be mine entries. A series of large, rectangular concrete pits (now filled with water) evidently had been part of a yardrail system for unloading materials, but they had only slight resemblance to arrangements we'd seen at mines.

The most intriguing feature was a set of oven-like structures concentrated at the far side of the site, built into the rim of a man-made cliff. The ovens looked like broken towers. Circular window-like openings near their tops were ringed with decorative brick. Tunnel entries at their bases seemed designed, perhaps, for fuel. Around the ovens was debris of brick and broken ceramic materials glazed over from intense heat.

As we looked back across the bulldozed open stretches of the site (toward the towering smokestack of the modern molybdenum plant half a mile away), the desolation was complete — and, we could see, deliberate. Not only a bulldozer had done its work; dynamite had been applied to many of the structures. Three immense tanks sat smashed, like a row of hats hit on the crowns by a giant fist.

It was a weekday, during working hours, but no one was working here — not anymore.

The date we could find on ruined rail tracks, 1920, confirmed our sense that here was an industrial site that had had its heyday more than half a century ago. But what had it been?

We left the row of ovens and headed toward the town of Slovan in the hollow below, climbing through the rubble of huge concrete stanchions blasted down the hillside. At the foot of the hill we noted a small mine entry with "1914" pressed into the concrete above the portal. We crossed a right-of-way laid out for two sets of tracks. Rusted rails trailed off toward Burgettstown.

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Later we learned that the industrial bones we had stumbled across that warm spring day in 1980 were the remains of a zinc plant which had prospered in its time, then ceased to be, quickly and finally. *Zinc* in Western Pennsylvania? Not steel, not coal?

As we began to investigate, it grew clear that the forces that brought this strange monument to zinc into being and caused its end were the same forces that produced similar histories elsewhere in Western Pennsylvania, and more broadly throughout industrial America.

#### THE NEW ZINC SMELTER AT LANGELOTH

A new zinc-smelting works near Pittsburgh, Penn. is about to be put in operation. The plant is right over a coal mine which supplies the fuel. The gas producers, roasting furnaces and smelting furnaces are of the Hegeler type. The methods of handling materials in the works are chiefly mechanical. — *Engineering and Mining Journal*, Dec. 5, 1914

EXTRA —  
ZINC PLANT TO CLOSE  
STOP ORDER HERE TODAY

—*Burgettstown Enterprise*  
June 26, 1947

The American Zinc and Chemical Co., a subsidiary of American Metal (now Amax), came into being in 1914 for several reasons. It was accessible to a prime

zinc market. Only 30 miles from Pittsburgh, the new plant was even closer to the steel mills of the Ohio River Valley, which would use its product to galvanize steel. Transportation was convenient. The main trunk of the Pennsylvania Railroad passed through Burgettstown, just two miles away, and spur lines could be extended around the plant site to bring zinc ore in from Missouri mines and carry off finished slabs.

Most important, beneath the leveled hilltops on which the plant was built lay large coal deposits, the famous Pittsburgh seam: cheap fuel for the retort furnaces. The Langeloth works honored a basic axiom of heavy industry: Get as close to the energy source as possible.

Finally, there was the region's cheap immigrant labor, mostly Eastern and Southern Europeans, though, for particular historic reasons, zinc smelting also attracted Spaniards. On an adjoining hillcrest, American Zinc would build "Langeloth," a company town (named after Jacob Langeloth, chairman of American Metal) to house its workers.

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#### CAESAR PRADO — Spaniards in Langeloth

*Prado worked in the zinc plant from 1929 until a few months before it closed in 1947. In an interview at his home in 1981, we asked him about his family background.*

I was born here in this country, but my people came from Spain.

What happened is quite a story....

There was a zinc factory in northern Spain, and they went on strike. Of course, at that time you didn't talk about unionism in Spain. But, on their own, the men struck the damn plant. So they fired them all.

There was an English engineer who was in Spain, helping to take some of the bugs out of this plant, and he got to know some of the workers there. That engineer then came here to this country and helped put up a plant out west, near St. Louis somewhere, and he started looking for workers.

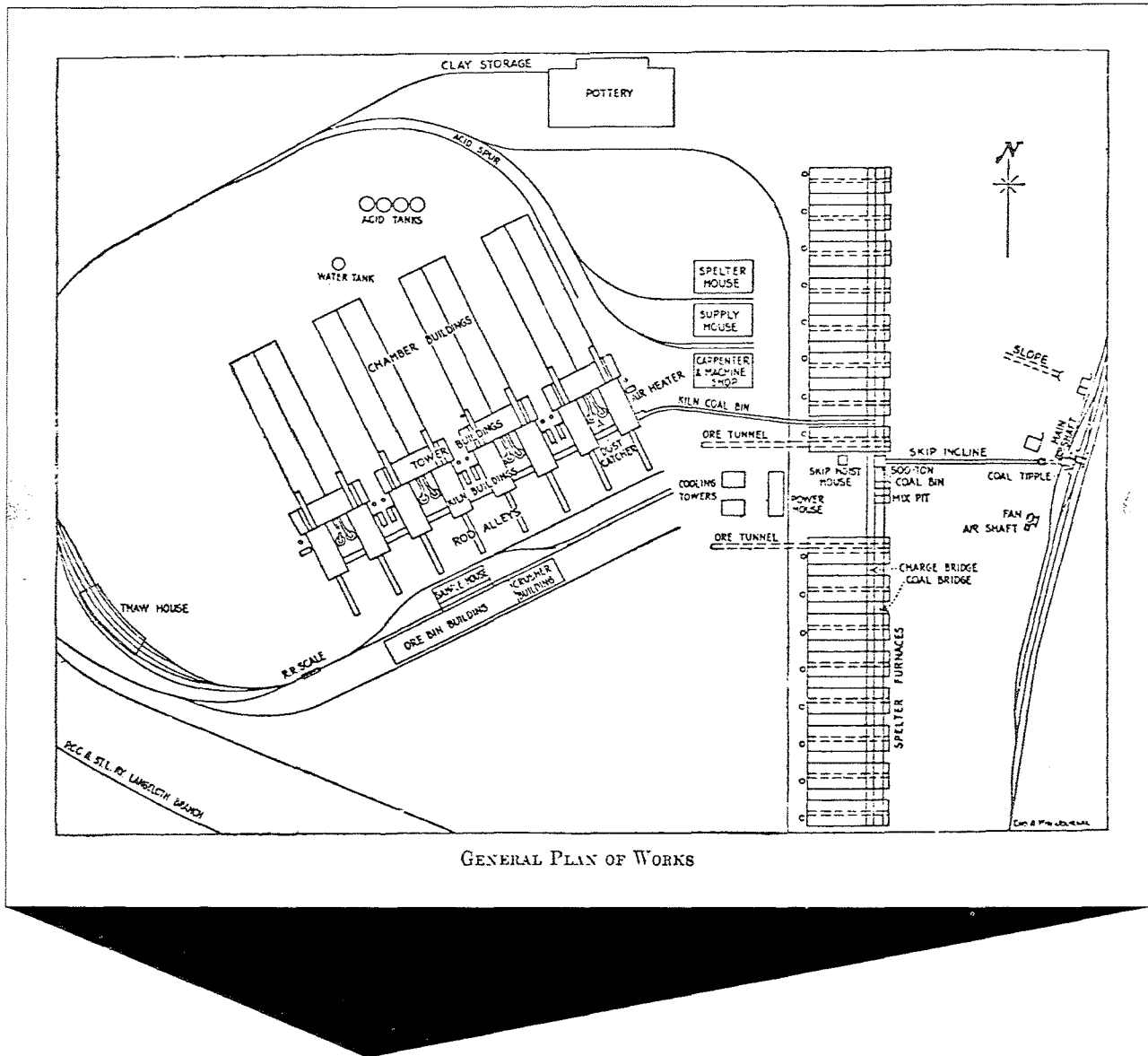
Now after those guys in Spain got fired, most of them went to Cuba to make their fortunes — it's a Spanish-speaking country. So this engineer went to Cuba and spotted them on the street, and after hellos, told them, "Hey, I'm down here looking for workers. You guys out of work?" He paid their fares to go to America, out west there.

So afterwards, after they got out there, they sent to Spain for more of their friends. That's how they all came. They put all these Spaniards on one furnace, and knowing the work the way they did, why naturally they outproduced the others.

Then they started drifting off. That's how we came here — we heard that Langeloth was opening up a zinc works.

The Spaniards more or less stayed together — they couldn't speak American. My mother couldn't say hello in American 10 years after she got here. She had been left a widow in East St. Louis, with three children. My oldest brother was 5 years old; I was 3; and my youngest brother was 18 months.

So that's when we came here. That was back in 1915 — I was born in 1912. So the plant must have opened in about 1914. We heard about it by word of mouth.



GENERAL PLAN OF WORKS

On our first visit, we had entered the plant site at its southwest corner. The plant's rail tracks seemed to begin where we were standing, and to move east. In fact, we were at the spot where zinc ore entered the site, shipped from the Midwest and later from South America via Baltimore. The roofs over the ore storage bins are now gone; some are filled with water; others are clogged by rubbish.

To extract the sulfur content, the ore was moved by conveyor belts across the plant yard to two roasting furnaces. Perhaps 70 feet high, these were composed of seven large hearths (each 6 feet by 80 feet) stacked one above the other. It was an "extraordinarily massive construction," according to a 1914 article in *Engineering and Mining Journal*.

Today, only the foundations, with their under-tunnels, exist. Imagining the massive roasters is an intellectual exercise. The three giant battered tanks we observed on our first visit were the sole remains of the operation that transformed the sulfur dioxide freed from the ore into sulfuric acid, the plant's most important by-product. Since the process used large lead-lined chambers, American Metal dismantled Langeloth's acid plant with particular thoroughness to salvage the lead. Today, even the tanks are gone, "victims" of soaring scrap prices.

The ore itself, reduced to zinc oxide, was moved from the roaster, by hopper



car, 100 yards farther east, then hoisted to a set of tracks that ran across the tops of Langeloth's eight distilling furnaces. For us, exploring the plant in the 1980s, it was this climactic step, the smelting itself, that most engaged us. Starting with our first visit we were intrigued by the architecture of the furnace area. The rubble of four wall-like structures stretches out from east to west, each about 90 feet long, about 100 feet between them. In the best preserved spots along the heat-scarred walls, the butt ends of large ceramic retorts are set on shelf-like ridges. The debris piled nearby is a blend of broken ceramics and hundreds of bricks, with a variety of names set in them, "St. Louis,"



"Laclede," "Phoenix."

We learned that the charred walls were the center walls of the furnaces. Ceramic retorts, about 5 feet long and 8 inches in diameter, were anchored in rows to both sides of these walls, suspended horizontally in a slight down-tilt, and supported at their front ends by a brick facade, where a conical ceramic condenser was attached during the smelting. On each side of the center wall, the retorts, stacked several rows high, were enclosed at the top by an arched brick roof. In effect, the furnace was a long tunnel.

At Langeloth, the smelting furnaces were located at the hilltop edge nearest the coal mine in the hollow below.

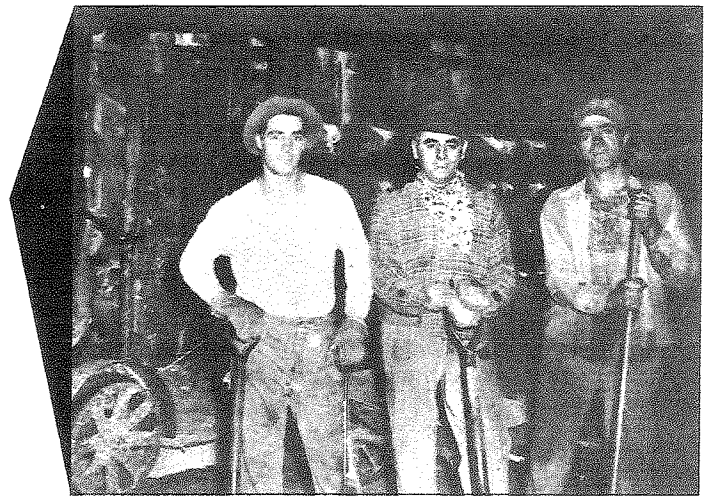
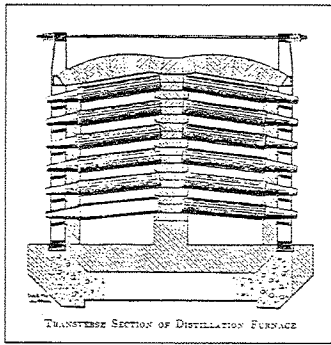
Hoisted on an incline several hundred feet long, the coal was converted into gas, combusted, and blown by fans down the length of the distilling furnaces. At either end of the units, tower-like structures (which we'd first thought of as ovens) were part of a continuous flue system that drove the ignited gas.

Much of the appeal of the site, for us, was aesthetic. We were struck by the beauty of the brick, whether strewn about in a rubble of many colors, or still set carefully in structures. Brick, an ancient building material, was the architectural staple of the industrial era. Brick is human sized, laid by individual workers. It suggests skill and craftsmanship. Even as we began to "read" the meaning of the furnace ruins, the statement made by the architecture stayed vividly in mind: Here was a technology intimately dependent on the activity of human workers.

According to ex-workers we talked to, the dozen or so men per shift who ran each furnace moved the materials by hand; they monitored the process — the temperature level, the readiness of the zinc for drawing — by eyesight, from experience. The tools they used were startlingly simple, designed with long handles to let the men stand back a few feet from the intense heat. Tools had graphic names: "charging scoop," "blow out hose," "connie boy's bumper."

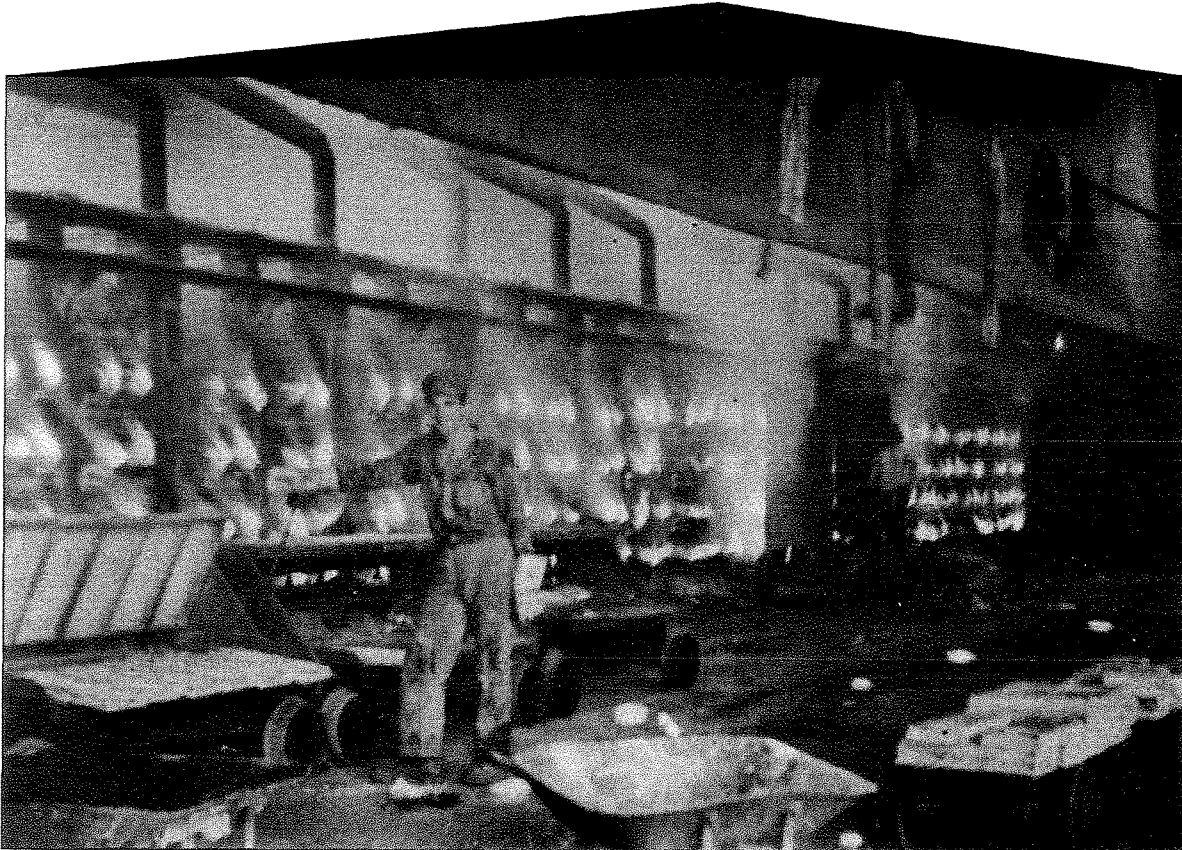
The work was heavy, hot and dirty, potentially dangerous. Emissions of sulfur and particulate made it, to some unmeasured degree, unhealthy. The zinc plant in Donora, some 40 miles away, built in 1916 and dismantled in the early 1960s, used the same technology as Langeloth and was a notorious polluter, but it was located in a river valley. Langeloth's hilltop site, open to the winds, may have helped, though nearby slopes still show the scars of chemical fallout.

Cacsar Prado, a young man when he worked on the furnaces, recalled his rapid heartbeat and the heaviness of his lungs at the end of the shift. He also



remembered running the half mile home from work, and feeling fine by the time he got there.

As the workers sweated through their clothes, they took off their shirts and hung them on pipes in the furnace shed. Prado told us that in hot weather, when they were finished for the day, the men would strip naked before walking across the plant yard to the shower building.



**CAESAR PRADO AND JOE ABATE** — “The beautiful part about the work up there...”

*Abate worked in the zinc plant from the early 1930s to its closing. Prado was an officer of the local union until the final months.*

*Prado:* The beautiful part about the work up there — those were the “good young days” for us — was that you had to be there at 4 o’clock....

*Abate:* That’s 4 o’clock in the morning — right after midnight: *that* 4 o’clock!

*Prado:* Right, because that’s when it was cool. Those furnaces were one solid damn wall of red hot fire. Five minutes after you started work, water was squishing in your shoes. You were soaked (that kept you from burning up too, which was good). The whistle would blow at 5, and we’d get the furnace ready to draw — tear it down, clean it out, and charge it back up. We’d do that in three and a half hours, and then we’d go home. So in effect we got paid for eight hours of work, and we worked maybe four hours. That wasn’t simply because the workers wanted it that way. It benefited the company. It gave them a longer smelting period. It was a 24-hour schedule, and if we took eight hours to charge the furnaces, let’s face it, they’d have only 16 hours to smelt that ore. They’d have to burn a helluva a lot of it, instead of taking it easy, cooking it. So it actually benefited them to have us finish in four hours: they’d have 20 hours in which to smelt that ore.

*Abate:* Most of the work was what we'd call piece work. It was "Do your job, and then get the hell out of here and go home, you're done." It would be nothing for four men to unload 200 ton of ore out of the boxcars, starting at 7, and be done by 11 or 12 o'clock in the morning. It would be nothing for the zinc loaders to load 200 or 300 ton of zinc from 5 o'clock in the morning till 10 o'clock. It was a good system, it worked.

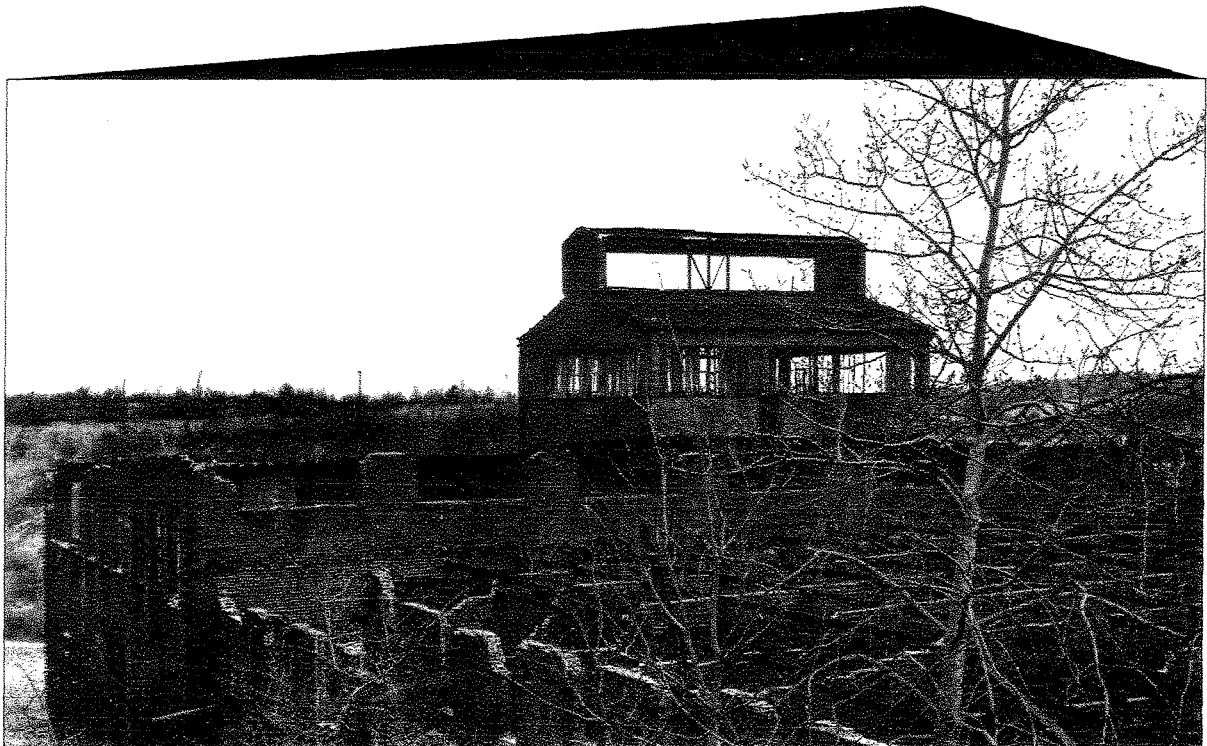
After the plant went down, four of us went down to Koppers in Monaca. We needed a job. I'll never forget it. They gave us, four of us, a 50 ton car of rock salt to unload. What did we know? It was our first day on the job. So we took our shovels, and at 10 o'clock we were done! They'd never seen anything like that. "Are you people crazy? This is a two-day job!" What did we know? So after the first wave went down there, they couldn't hire enough people from up here. After we worked there a little while, they had ways of slowing you down.

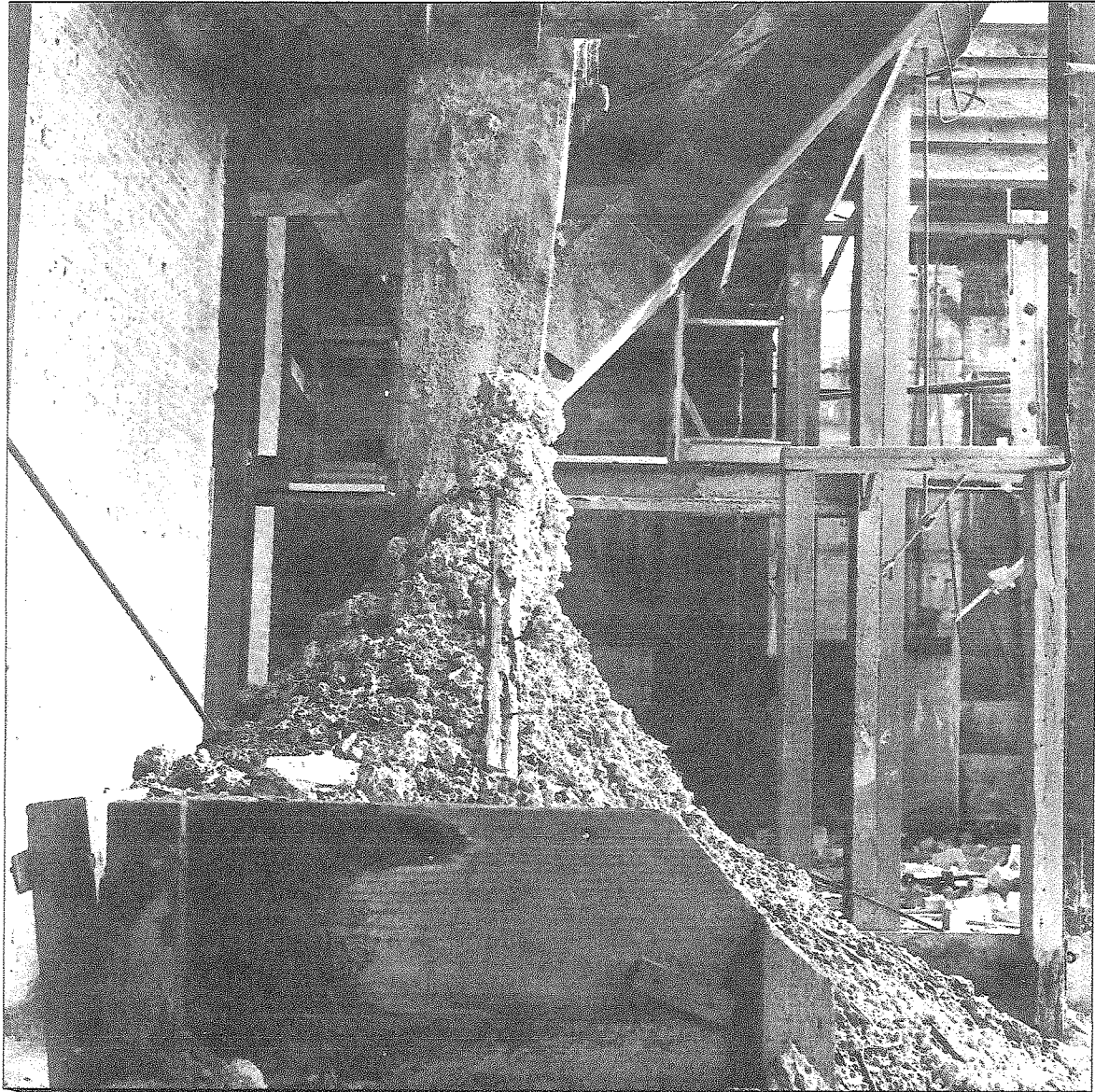


We returned to Langeloth a number of times, in all seasons. Once in January, with Caesar Prado as guide, we hiked the site during a heavy snow squall.

Weeks later, with a scattering of snow still on the ground, we explored for the first time the pottery, a now roofless brick structure, many of its floors fallen in — some of it (in 1989) partially torn down. The building's central space had evidently housed the ceramics workshop, where retorts and condensers were fashioned. On either side, in flanking wings, were storage chambers.

One spring in the early 1980s, we approached across the blue-green slag dump of the operating molybdenum plant and examined the pottery's innards at leisure. It had that strange look of suspended animation we'd seen at other abandoned plants and mines in Western Pennsylvania — as though work had stopped in the middle of a shift, and people had simply walked away.





A mound of clay stood under a chute, like a stalagmite. Nearby lay the bit of a large machine, used for boring out the retorts. In one of the side chambers, hundreds of finished condensers were heaped, some broken, where they had fallen when a floor above had given way. The pottery, showing the prominence of ceramics in the whole zinc smelting process, seemed to summarize the Langeloth operation. In a quite literal sense, it was *basic* industry: earthy, primary.

We also visited the village of Langeloth. Located on the hill ridge one-half mile north of the plant, it had been intended as a “model town” by founder Jacob Langeloth. During the zinc era, the company built the houses, supplied electricity from the plant, ran the water works, and supported the elementary school. Residents we spoke to recall the services as better than those in nearby towns. They remember the low rents and the company’s free supply of home improvement materials.

Langeloth’s neighborhoods divided ethnically. “English,” or “Americans” — the managers — had homes along the hill ridge on the north side of the main

street. "Biscuit shooters," workers who had migrated from Appalachia, lived across the street; next to them were a couple of blocks of Spaniards. Down the hill were Italians, Greeks and some Mexicans. Caesar Prado said there was a good deal of kidding between the groups, but they got along "like one big family."

The only retail outlet in Langeloth was the company store. The town was dry. There was a Protestant church; Catholics, the majority group, traveled to Burgettstown, two miles away. Workers who wished to buy or build homes lived in Slovan, in the hollow just east of the plant, where the population became predominantly Eastern European. Judging by the storefronts (some now closed) along its main street, Slovan was a more characteristic mill town than Langeloth. One old-timer told us, "It was like a frontier town. There were taverns up and down the street. It was open all night."

---

The zinc works at Langeloth operated for 33 years. Creating in mind's eye its technology, we had come to see it as typical of the Pittsburgh region's historic industries: labor intensive, and thus dependent on cheap labor; built literally on coal as the energy source.

On June 24, 1947, American Zinc and Chemical announced it was shutting down, and in the plant's closing, we found another typical story. Labor cost was one obvious element. The plant was unionized in the 1930s, and like workers in most of America's unionized industries, members of the Smeltersmen's Local 95 started a post-war push to improve wages and benefits. The company took the line that new wage demands and strikes would spell the end. When union and management could not agree on a contract in the spring of 1947, the company made its decision. Those who wished to blame the union for the Langeloth shutdown could, and did. One industry analyst summed up:

An example of the end result of super-unionism and low worker productivity is evidenced by the case of the zinc smelter located at Langeloth, Pennsylvania, which shut down operations permanently in December 1947. The damaging effect of compounded labor inefficiency had increased the cost of producing zinc to such an extent that this smelter could no longer sell its product at a competitive price. — C.M. Cotterill, "Technology and Logistics of Zinc Smelting," *Industrial Plant Location*, 1950.

But other factors may have been more decisive. The plant needed new investment for repairs, particularly in the acid facility, which had been badly damaged by use. More fundamentally, such evidence as we found (in the absence of detailed financial statements) suggests that the plant was never particularly profitable. It may never have achieved the market projected by its developers. The Depression went on for nearly one-third of the plant's life, and during that time the plant operated at only a fraction of capacity. Ex-workers recall how zinc slabs were stockpiled in nearby hollows until they loomed above the level of the plant itself, and then were sold immediately at the start of World War II. An ex-manager of American Metal, Erwin Weil, suggested to us in a phone interview that if not for the war, the plant would have been shut down sooner.

Langeloth's horizontal retort technology, developed in the 1870s, was also obsolescent. An electrothermic vertical retort furnace, offering better labor efficiencies, was installed by another company in nearby Monaca in the 1930s. By the 1940s, new plants built in America were using an electrolytic process. Situated in the northwestern states, these facilities could capitalize on cheap hydroelectricity. In the Southwest, even the old horizontal retort technology profited from cheap natural gas. Coal had lost its comparative advantage as a fuel. Moreover, in the West, the industry could often employ cheaper non-union labor.

In a front page editorial on June 26, 1947, the *Burgettstown Enterprise*

lamented the plant's closing in terms that have become familiar in northeastern America:

The die is cast! The dire threat that has been stifling trade and progress in this Community for a quarter of a century today becomes a fact.

When the powers that be of the American Zinc and Chemical Company announced to the salaried employees and members of the Langeloth Smeltermen's Union this morning at 10 o'clock that operations at the hill plant will be stopped and the plant dismantled ("in an orderly fashion, it is hoped") a blow was hurled at this community that it will be hard to recover from.

Pulling our biggest industry, employing a thousand men, and cessation of a payroll that ran well into the millions of dollars simply is verification of "scare" rumours that have stifled the community many, many years.

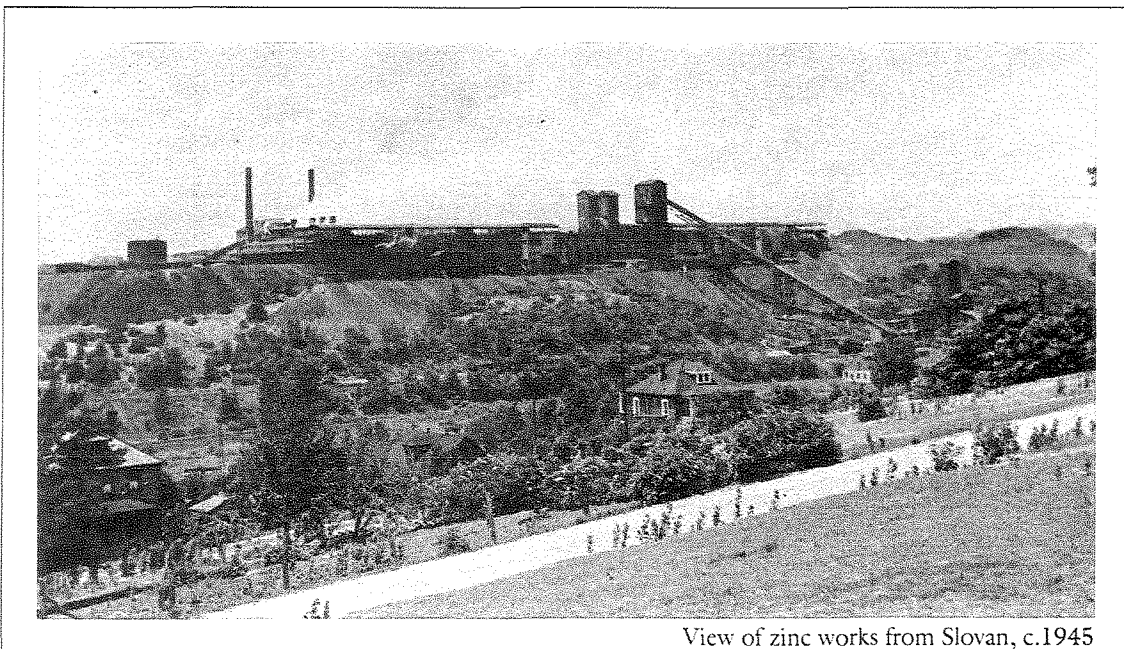
Today the bitterness seems gone. "It was a good company to work for" was the summary comment offered to us most often.

Langeloth still has the look of a rural village. The houses on its hill ridge, managers' homes in the zinc era, are well kept. The street grid slopes off into an undeveloped hollow — a railroad station was once there — then resumes on the hill to the south: Miners Hill, where the zinc plant's coal miners lived. Some of the houses on the lower slope and on Miners Hill are in disrepair, but in general the town is clean and pleasant.

Across from Climax Molybdenum, on the crest of the hill, is the house of Gus Barbush, the former operator of the company store. With the demise of American Zinc and Chemical, Barbush bought the Langeloth Townsite Co. and eventually sold off the former company houses to local residents. His own home, decorated in red, was once the residence of the zinc plant's superintendent. Barbush, a Greek immigrant who settled in Langeloth by 1920, died in Spring 1989, at age 90.

Caesar Prado and Joe Abate — our major sources of first-hand information — still live nearby. Retired from his own Burgettstown appliance business, Prado has a suburban home just outside of Langeloth. Abate, who managed the Robinson Township Municipal Authority for many years, is also retired and lives in a small house in Slovan — in fact, the house he was raised in.

Both men enjoy talking about the zinc works. ■



View of zinc works from Slovan, c.1945

## Caught in the Act

Held for court in default of bail in the amount of \$5,000, Chris Henderson, colored, and Fred Tara, white, both of Canonsburg, were brought to the county jail Sunday night. The men held in connection with the robbery of the Capazolli store at Langeloth Saturday night.

According to the story told of the affair, the two men entered the store at a late hour. One of them said he wanted to buy a pie and while it was being wrapped up for him, the other approached the clerk with a .44-caliber revolver leveled at his ear and demanded all the cash in the establishment. Fortunately, Capazoli had left the store with the greater part of the day's cash. The bandits got \$1.48 and nothing more.

Henderson and Tara then left the store and walked into the arms of two members of the state constabulary stationed in the neighborhood. The police had watched the whole proceeding through a front window and lost no time in corralling the offenders. Justice of the Peace Henry Tennyson heard the case and reached the \$5,000-bail-for-court decision.

The two men are believed to have been implicated in other robberies of the same kind in the vicinity of Canonsburg.—Observer.

## Caught in the Act

Robbery at Capazolli Store, Langeloth

The Burgettstown Call-September 30, 1915 Edition

## ORGANIZATIONS COOPERATE IN GALA PLANS FOR COMMUNITY'S FOURTH OF JULY CELEBRATION AT LANGELOTH

Celestine Marino, president of the Langeloth Smeltermen's Union, announces that he is securing one hundred per cent cooperation from Burgettstown Community in plans for a Patriotic Rally and Celebration on the Fourth of July. Local organizations in the district will march in a parade over the streets of Langeloth to the new Smeltermen's Community Hall where formal ceremonies will be held. The day's activities will start at seven a.m., with a Flag Raising ceremony. At two p.m., the parade will assemble at the Cinder road near the Climax plant and will proceed to the Hall. In the afternoon, Boy and Girl Scout Troops in this section have been invited to present a display of projects and to participate in contests, winners of such to be awarded fine prizes.

During the afternoon's program several prominent men from this section will be called upon. While plans for the speaking program are not completed, it is known that several speakers of merit will speak upon pertinent issues of local and national interest. At 7 p.m., the Flag will be lowered.

In the evening there will be a Community Dance for all, families are invited to attend the fete and to help make it a really Community affair. During the intermission, \$500 worth of Fireworks will be displayed. Contributions have been received by the Union from practically all the business men in this area to help finance the day.

On Saturday evening, June 28, the Union is sponsoring a dance in the hall with music by Stan Vinton. The proceeds will be added to the Community Swimming Pool Fund. The public is invited to attend.

**Organization Cooperation in Gala Plans for Community's  
Fourth of July Celebration at Langeloth  
Burgettstown Enterprise-June 26, 1941 Edition**



# The gang's all here at Vallina's in Langeloth

Anyone who would like to hear discussions of today's world problems (and leave with most of those problems solved) should join the group at Vallina's Market in Langeloth each morning.

True, the accommodations are not the greatest: The meeting time — 6:30 a.m. — is not conducive to large audiences, and the space for the meeting — the small aisle behind the meat counter — leaves a lot to be desired. It could be said, however, that the seating arrangement has improved considerably during the last few years.

In the beginning, seats consisted of orange crates and an assortment of boxes that usually got kicked around. Then someone suggested that they each bring a chair. This worked for a while, until storekeeper Johnny Vallina decided that the group of hometown retired neighbors was here to stay, so he bought six folding chairs that he can store out of the way, at 7:30 a. m., after the jolly group of men has gone home for breakfast.

Johnny's wife, Shirley, makes the coffee, which they all devour eagerly. Then everybody wants to pay for everybody, but Johnny and Shirley believe that the friendship of these happy gentlemen is worth more to them than anything money could buy.

This group shares a common bond of friendship. They observe each other's birthdays and anniversaries and other high points in their lives, with a cake that Shirley has baked for the occasion. When one is missing temporarily from the gathering due to illness, or when one is called away by death, all share the sorrow, so close is their bond.

Occasionally, one of them is away for quite some time.

Even though Cris Maropis lives in Texas, he is considered a member of the group. He arrives home in Langeloth each summer in time for Community Day. Chris spent 25 years in the



**KATHRYN SLASOR**

Coast Guard, retiring as chief warrant officer in 1974. He was educated in a number of schools and universities.

Pat Maropis is another who does not answer "present" for much of the year; He will return home from Greece in September.

Pete Maropis is semi-retired. For 47 years he has been manager of the All American Co. in Langeloth, well-known for its work with sports equipment.

Dr. Angelo Spanoglians, educated at the University of Georgetown Medical School, became Pennsylvania licensed in 1940, retiring in 1992.

"He is always late," quipped one of the others when Doc still had not arrived by 7 a.m.

"But we let it go because he gives us free medical advice," laughed another.

The group celebrated Doc's 88th birthday on June 15.

Dante Filipponi is a retired grocer. His father, Ralph, started in business 78 years ago, and Dante has been part of the business since his high school days. He was with the PX group for 25 years. His years number 45 with WGA.

Elmer Gilson is a retired painter, and has worked with paint and wall covering for more than 40 years. The Gilson family has always been well-known for its paint and wallpaper business in Burgettstown.

Frank Sprando spent many years in Chicago. He has worked in metal mechanics for 27 years. Following retirement from metal works, he became



Contributed

**COFFEE HOUNDS** — The early morning coffee group is a familiar site at Vallina's Market in Langeloth. Pictured, from left, are (front) Elmer Gilson, Pete Maropis and Dr. Angelo Spanoglians, (rear) Frank Sprando, Bill Buxton, Cris Maropis and Dante Filipponi.

associated with the Brach Candy Co.

Bill Buxton wandered in a little late for the meeting, but the others excused him.

"He hasn't been voted in yet," someone remembered, teasing him.

Bill retired after 44 years at Wheeling-Pitt Steel Corp.. He then worked for 10 years for the late Glenn Conklin at the service station at Langeloth. Bill said their motto at the station was, "We grease to please."

The last to arrive was Pat McGraw, who, most of the time, the others say, does not attend at all. Or he arrives late — in this case, too late for the group picture.

He is also excused by the others due to the fact he occasionally provides them with a delicacy from his garden, a recipe or a sample of his cooking. Being grand knight of the Knights of Columbus, Pat promotes activities for the family, the church and the community. He has been with the local high school for 38 years in the athletics department. While in the service, he flew 30 missions with the Eighth Air Force.

The group is still mourning the loss of a "charter member," Charles Havelka, who passed away recently.

Last but not least is Johnny Vallina, who has been absent from the group for several weeks. Johnny has been seriously ill and hospitalized for long periods of time.

Johnny Vallina began working with the late Gus Barbush, owner of Langeloth Townsite, when he was 9 years old. Gus hired him to deliver groceries, then taught him the butchering trade. He has been in the meat and grocery business every since.

He bought his present building from Otis Wilgocki 12 years ago. He previously "kept store" in an adjoining building for a total of 39 years, in business for himself. The first building, which was later torn down, he rented from Gus. It was about this time when Gus closed the big "company store," which stands today, empty, across the parking lot.

On Valentine's Day, 1950, Johnny and Shirley were married. By Thanksgiving, the first of their six children was born. The year 1950 is infamous in weather history as being "the year of the big snow."

That was the time when the stork decided to make a call. But all turned out well with the help of friends, strangers and police. They have since added



Contributed

**HAPPY HOSTS** — Shirley and Johnny Vallina are the unofficial hosts of the early morning coffee group, which meets at an early hour in a small aisle in their store, Vallina's Market in Langeloth.

10 grandchildren to the brood.

Shirley carried on her own business for 10 years, along with the work in the store and raising the children.

Her dress shop in her basement attracted much attention. She went to the big cities as a buyer, coming home laden with the latest fashions for the ladies.

For six years she also worked with home interiors. She and her friends shared much fun and companionship during her buying sprees.

Johnny is well-known for his love of sports. He talks every type of sports language, his specialty being soccer, with softball running a close second.

Meanwhile, as Johnny recu-

perates, his "early morning coffee group" continues daily with chatter and discussion of myriad topics but their concern for their host and friend is very real.

"We are the Langeloth Aborigines," quipped one of the fellows just as a lively session was breaking up. "We hope to expand our situations, win the lottery, become rich, give money to everyone who needs it, help the world become a better place ...," his voice trailing off as his departing friends pushed back their chairs, echoed his sentiments and nodded in agreement.

(Slasor is a special correspondent with the Pennsylvania Focus.)



**Daylight view of Barbush Home**



*G. J. Barbush*

**Gus. J. Barbush-Christmas Card 1972**



G. J. BARBUSH

Gus J. Barbush home-Christmas 1969



Gus J. Barbush home-Christmas 1974



GUS BARBUSH

Gus J. Barbush home-Christmas 1967



G. J. BARBUSH

Gus J. Barbush home-Christmas 1968

## LANGELOTH GROUP CHAPERONS PARTIES FOR YOUNG FOLKS

Increasing interest is being shown in the summer activities of the Langeloth Community Amusement Committee, Mrs. V. M. Bruner, Secretary reports. Roller skating parties for small children are being held in the Community hall every Wednesday and Saturday from 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. and for the adults, on those nights from 8:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. A weekly dance is held each Friday evening from 8:30 p.m. to 11:30 p.m. These events are open to the public and the proceeds realized are being put into a fund to purchase Christmas gifts for Langeloth service men.

The parties are chaperoned by the following members of the Amusement Committee: Mrs. Louis Ceresa, Isabel Carmichael, Mary Garcia, Mrs. G.C. Winders and Mrs. Brunner.

Mrs. Brunner reports that Langeloth service men were sent 600 packages and 600 cartoons of cigarettes last Christmas time.

The Amusement Committee was originally organized to raise money to build a public swimming pool, but due to the war this project was shelved for the duration and the money already raised, some \$4000 has been invested in war bonds. The committee plans to proceed with the building of the pool after the war.

## OAKDALE AND M'DONALD STREET RAILWAY COMPANY.

Date of charter: April 27, 1905.

## OFFICERS.

Name.	Official Address.
Edward McDonald, President, .....	McDonald, Pa.
Lillian Dunn, Secretary, .....	518 Fourth Ave., Pittsburg, Pa.
J. N. McDonald, Treasurer, .....	McDonald, Pa.
D. Brawdy, Superintendent, .....	"

## DIRECTORS.

Name.	Residence.
Edward McDonald, .....	McDonald, Pa.
Robert McAfee, .....	California Ave. and Antrim St., Pittsburg, Pa.
J. N. McDonald, .....	McDonald, Pa.
G. S. Campbell, .....	"

## GENERAL BALANCE SHEET, JUNE 30, 1908.

Assets.	Amount.	Liabilities.	Amount.
Construction and equipment, .....	\$330,251 76	Capital stock, .....	\$150,000 00
Other permanent investments as follows:		Current liabilities as follows:	
Stocks and bonds of other companies, .....	10,000 00	Loans and notes payable, .....	137,000 00
Current assets as follows:		Accounts payable, .....	9,019 83
Cash, .....	1,161 85	Private loans, .....	51,696 76
Undistributed account, .....	7,464 83	Surplus, .....	1,161 85
Total, .....	\$348,878 44	Total, .....	\$348,878 44

Oakdale and McDonald Street Railway Company-June 30, 1908.

*Courtesy of Fort Vance Historical Society*

## **McDonald Spring Festival Planned**

The McDonald Spring Festival committee will hold its next meeting on Thursday, May 26, at 7 p.m. in the council chambers of the McDonald Borough Building. The festival will be held Saturday, June 4, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the McDonald business district.

The festival will feature a bike decoration contest for children under the age of 12, a band, ethnic foods, flea markets, handmade crafts and prizes. A visit will be made from the McDonald Hamburglar and *Observer-Reporter's* ORPP. Pony rides will be given. A hat decorating contest for all ages will begin at noon.

One of the highlights of the festival will be a pet parade. Anyone interested in entering is asked to register his or her pet at the Critter Corner before June 1. Pets of all kinds are eligible to participate. The parade will begin at 12:30 p.m., between the Pittsburgh National Bank and the Union National Bank. Prizes will be awarded.

Additional attractions for the day will include a 3 p.m. performance by the Fort Cherry band, a 1 p.m. band concert, clowns, face painting, an F-16 fighter plane and more surprises.

The Spring Festival committee will be selling hats and chances on a microwave and quilt. The drawing will be held at 4 p.m. On the day of the festival, an information center will be located in front of Pittsburgh National Bank.

The table space deadline is June 1. Application forms are available at the following McDonald locations: Clayton's Dress Shop, Alco Auto Parts, Jay's Pizza Shop, NAPA Auto Parts, McDonald Pharmacy, McDonald *Record-Outlook* and the office of the borough secretary. Completed forms are to be returned to the McDonald borough secretary's office, located in the municipal building.

Table space may be reserved for \$5. Checks should be made payable to the McDonald Spring Festival.

Any donations from businesses would also be appreciated.

**McDonald Spring Festival Planned**  
**Burgettstown Enterprise-May 25, 1988 Edition**

*Courtesy of Fort Vance Historical Society*



**McDONALD BELGIUM CLUB MEMBERS IN THE EARLY 1900s**

**McDonald Belgium Club Members in the early 1900's  
Record-Outlook-July 16, 1986 Edition**





JON ANDREASSI/OBSERVER-REPORTER

Mt. Pleasant Township Police Chief Louis McQuillan answers children's questions about the duties of a police officer.

## Learning about 'real heroes'

### Police officers visit McDonald children's library program

By JON ANDREASSI  
Staff writer  
newsroom@observer-reporter.com

McDONALD - "What would happen if society didn't have rules or laws?" a visitor asked a group of children gathered recently at Heritage Public Library.

"The apocalypse!" rang out a small voice from among the youngsters participating in the library's summer reading program focused on everyday heroes in the community.

Mt. Pleasant Township Police Chief Louis McQuillan was on hand at a session several weeks ago to speak about what the duties of a police officer are, and what they do to enforce the law and keep citizens safe.

"It was nice to be invited down and deal with the kids to get the message across that police officers are good people and we're here to help them," McQuillan said.

McQuillan answered several questions after speaking, and finished by reading from a children's book. The response from the children was nothing if not enthusiastic.

"I grew up spending time in a library, and I still bring my kids to the library. So when you see kids that are willing to come here during their summer vacation and be excited about being in a library, excited about reading and also



JON ANDREASSI/OBSERVER-REPORTER

Robinson police officer Frank Bryan and his K-9 Sarik address the children participating in Heritage Public Library's summer reading program.

excited participating in the program... I think that's wonderful," McQuillan said.

The book McQuillan read from was called "Officer Buckle and Gloria," a story about a police dog that is perfectly obedient to her owner's commands, but often does silly things when he isn't looking. It served as a lead-in to the next guest, Robinson police officer Frank Bryan, who came with his K-9, Sarik.

He spoke about what the job of a police dog is, and even had Sarik demonstrate how he sniffs out drugs. For many kids, Sarik stole the show. Landen Snyder, an 8-year-old from Burgettstown, said Sarik was his favorite part of the day.

"He was soft and fuzzy," Snyder said.

Throughout the summer, more community heroes will read to the children, such as firefighters, members of the

military, and emergency medical professionals, according to the director of the library, Mary Duranti. Duranti was very pleased with the outcome of the day.

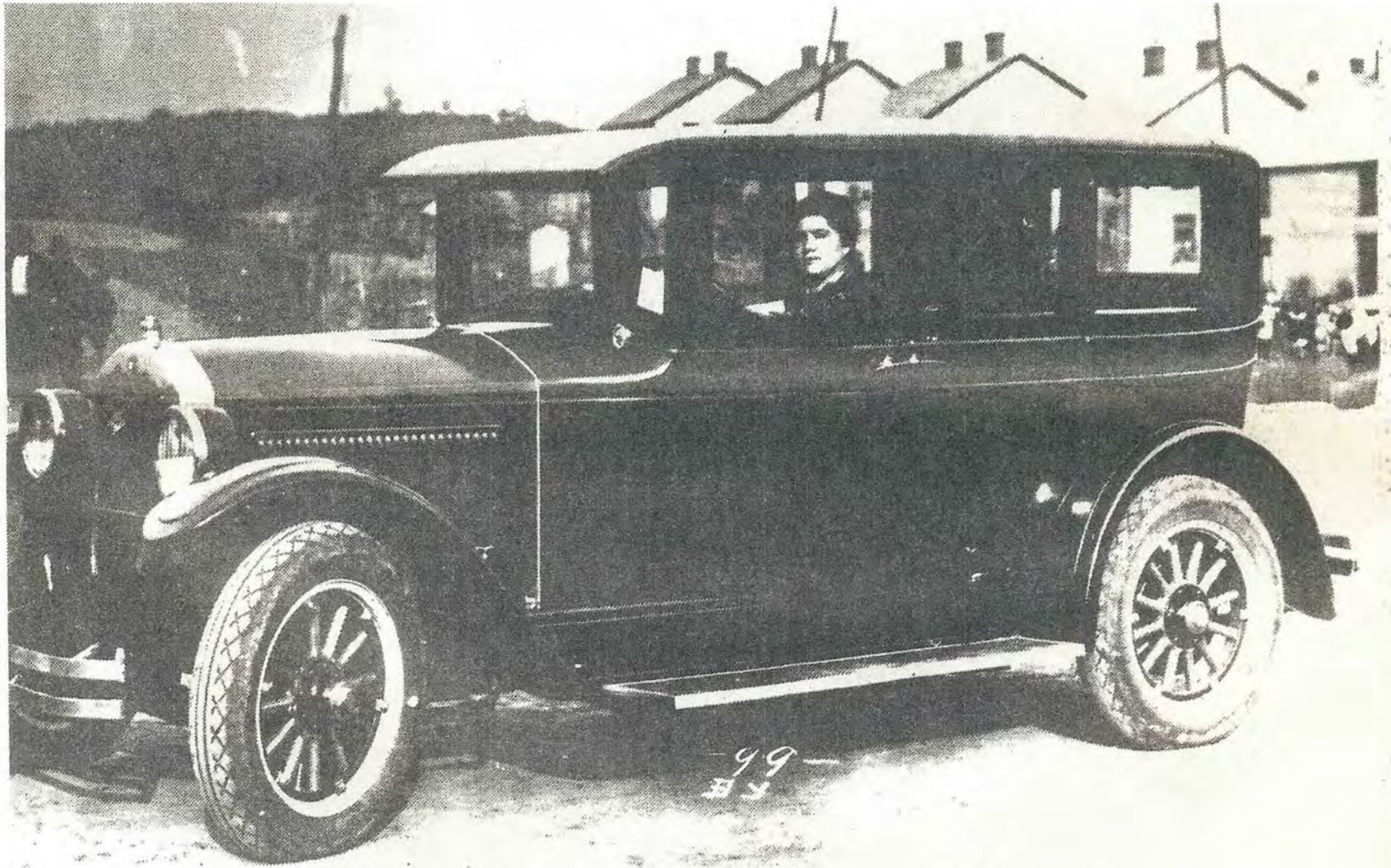
"The kids were really excited about meeting the K-9 officer, and I thought they were really well-behaved and very respectful," Duranti said. "They had a lot of good questions and understood why we need to have police officers, laws and rules."





MUNICIPAL BLDG.

McDONALD PA.



**MRS. DOUGAL RUSSELL** of McDonald posed in the latest model Hupmobile around 1926. Mrs. Russell was a saleslady for Frank Moretti of Bulger, who had the Hupmobile agency in McDonald.

**ONLY ONE TOWN VETOES  
SUNDAY MOVIE SHOWS**

McDonald was the only community in the county to defeat the Sunday movie referendum at the election on November 5th, official figures filed by the return board with the Prothonotary show.

In Bentleyville the movies won by three votes, in California by 60 and in Monongahela by 26. In all of the others of the 13 districts which voted on the question, Sunday movies won by substantial majorities. The official vote was as follows:

	Yes	No
Washington -----	5,291	4,584
Bentleyville -----	476	473
Canonsburg -----	1,748	1,424
California -----	473	413
Charleroi -----	2,461	1,313
Chartiers -----	872	637
Donora -----	1,887	1,019
East Bethlehem -----	1,055	547
Independence -----	403	298
McDonald -----	380	678
Monongahela -----	1,490	1,464
Smith -----	1,238	356
West Pike Run -----	617	315

# File Factory, McDonald, PA



People identified are from the Masquelier Family



McDONALD HIGH SCHOOL BAND ABOUT 1950.

*Continued from Page One*  
ceremony at Robinson Run Cemetery in South Fayette Township.

While the day is one to honor those veterans and their families who made the ultimate sacrifice, Saveikis said it is a national disgrace that homeless veterans live in the community.

"They are the ones who provided us with this country of liberty," Saveikis said.

Saveikis urged those gathered to support their local American Legion and Veterans of Foreign War posts.

"Help them out, even if it is just to buy a fish sandwich during one of their fish fries," the district judge said. "They are the fabric of support for our veterans."

Special recognition and a citation was given to 88-year-old Charles R. Smith Sr. of McDonald during the ceremony at the honor roll. Smith enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1943 after graduating from high school. Following basic and advanced training in heavy equipment, Smith was sent to the European Theater Oct. 14, 1944, and was attached to the 9th Air Force in the Battle of the Rhine and Central Europe.

Smith served in Germany, France, Italy, Holland, Switzerland, Luxembourg and Belgium. He received the Central European Medal with two bronze stars, the American Theater Service Medal, the Good Conduct Medal, the European Occupational Medal and the World War II Victor Medal with cluster.

## McDonald honors 'spirit of sacrifice'

### Ceremony marks Memorial Day

By KATHIE O. WARCO  
Staff writer  
kwarco@observer-reporter.com

The residents of McDonald and surrounding communities took time away from picnics and other plans for Memorial Day to remember the veterans who served in the military and to the ones who gave their lives for our nation's freedom.

"Today, we gather here to honor the men and women who sacrificed their lives in order that we may live with peace in freedom," said Patrick Powell, a member of McDonald Veterans Association during a ceremony Monday at the McDonald Honor Roll on East Lincoln Avenue outside the Ernest Phillips American Legion Post 485. The veterans association, which includes members of the legion as well as the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 587, sponsored the parade and ceremonies.

The Rev. Barry Givner, pastor of First McDonald Baptist Church, told those gathered that they were brought together in great and sacred trust.

"We are here to remember those who gave their lives in all that American stands for," Givner said. "We remember their spirit of sacrifice and valor."

District Judge Anthony Saveikis, whose area includes the Allegheny County section of McDonald, said the residents of this community continue to serve and bleed for this nation.

"We have some of the most



KATHIE O. WARCO/OBSERVER-REPORTER

Barbara Sarells, right, of the American Legion Post Ladies Auxiliary, and Jaymie Stevens, president of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Ladies Auxiliary, place a wreath at the veterans memorial in Robinson Run Cemetery near McDonald.



KATHIE O. WARCO/OBSERVER-REPORTER

McDonald Veterans Association stands at attention during the ceremony at Robinson Run Cemetery.

patriotic folks," Saveikis said to the group gathered for a

*Please see Spirit, Page A2*

## Obama pays tribute to fallen

By DARLENE SUPERVILLE  
Associated Press

ARLINGTON, Va. — President Barack Obama on Monday saluted Americans who died in battle, saying the country must "never stop trying to fully repay them" for their sacrifices. He noted it was the first Memorial Day in 14 years without U.S. forces engaged in a major ground war.

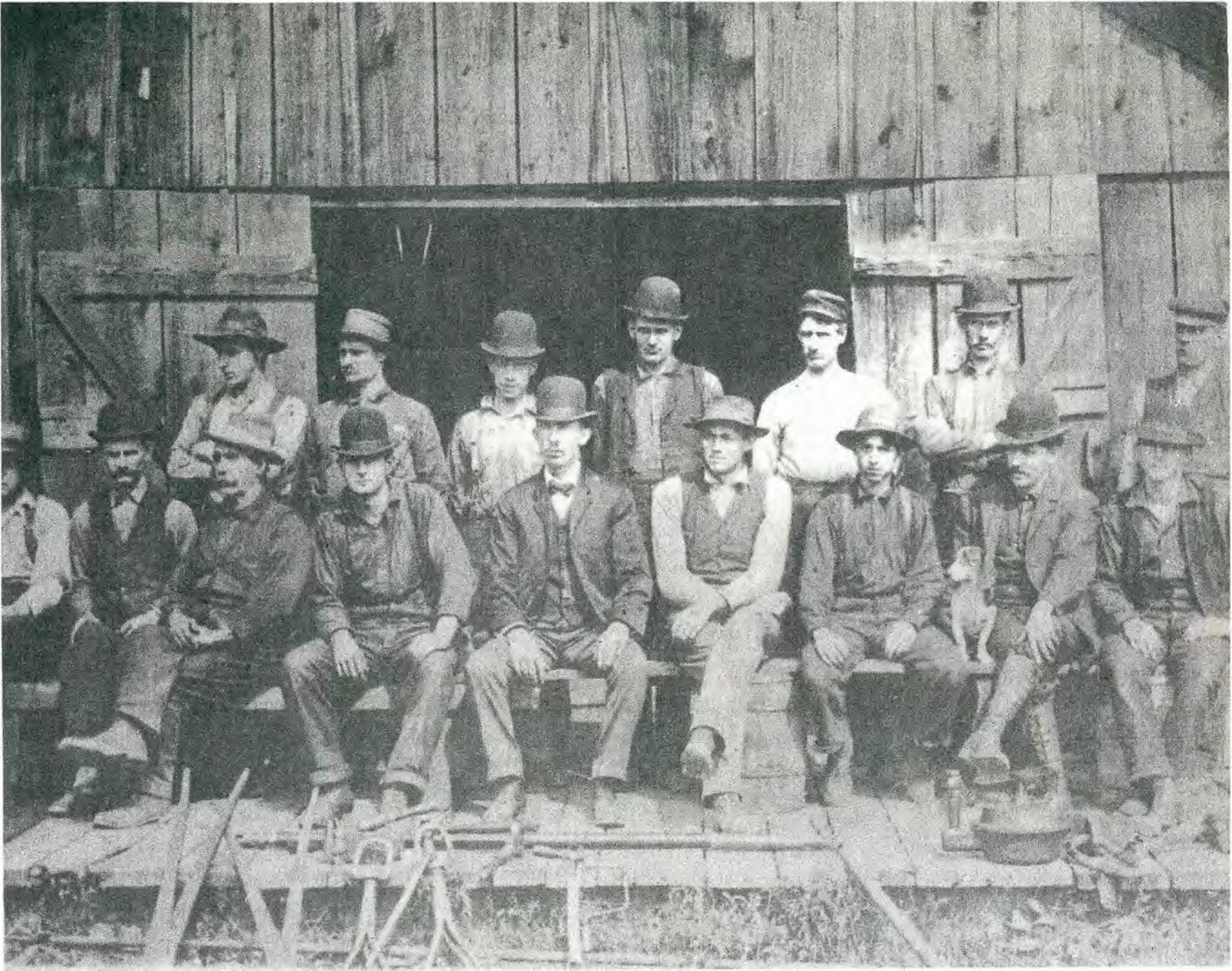
Speaking under sunny skies to some 5,000 people in an amphitheater on the hallowed grounds of Arlington National Cemetery, Obama said the graveyard is "more than a final resting place of heroes."

"It is a reflection of America itself," he said, citing racial and religious diversity in the backgrounds of the men and woman who paid the ultimate sacrifice to preserve "the ideals that bind us as one nation."

His appearance is an annual rite for presidents at the cemetery nestled among verdant hills overlooking the Potomac River. It came months after the end of the U.S. combat mission in Afghanistan, where the number of stationed troops was reduced to about 10,000 from a peak of more than 100,000.

*Please see Obama, Page A2*



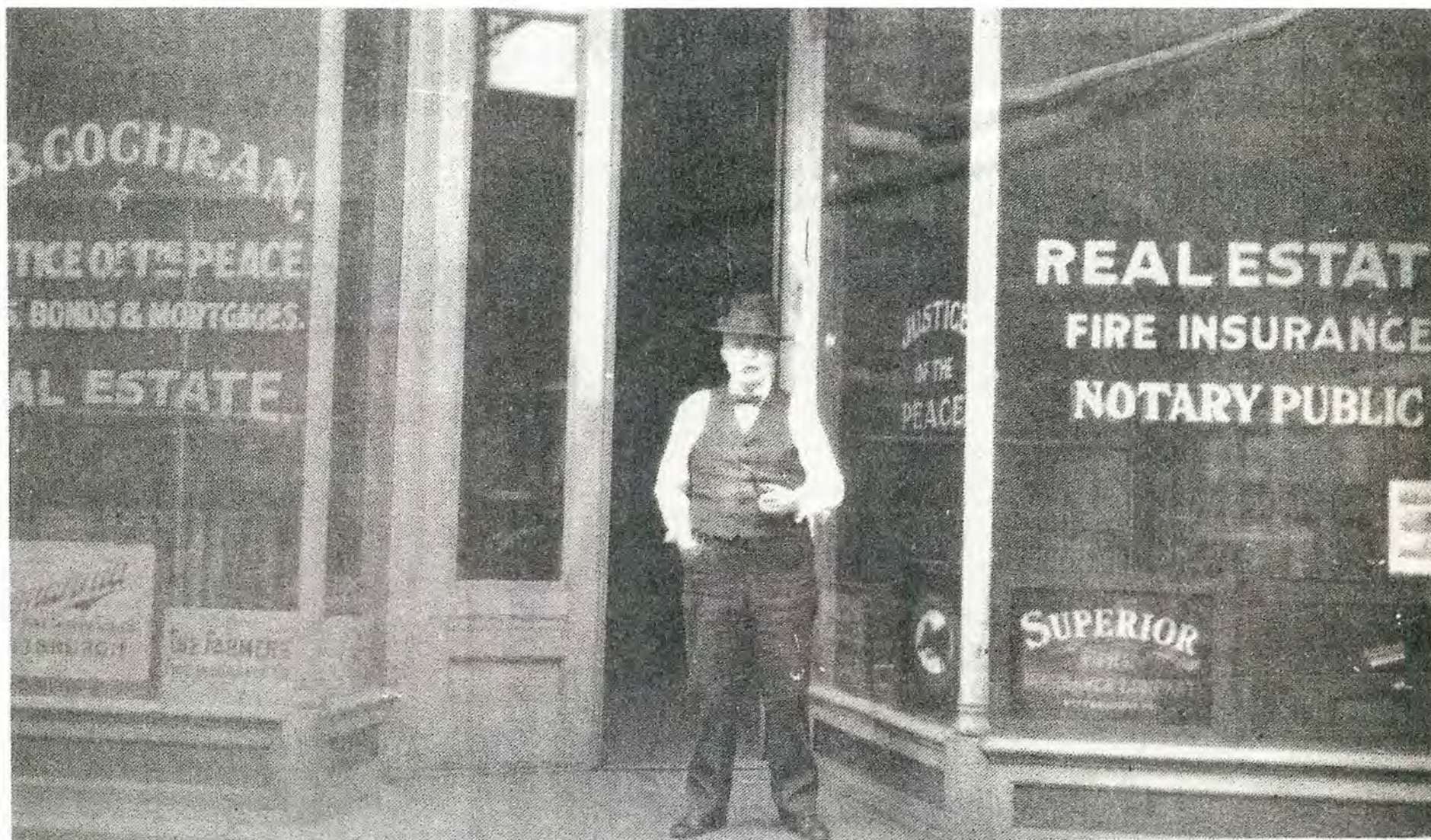


OIL WELL DRILLERS DURING McDONALD'S OIL EXCITEMENT AT THE TURN OF THE CENTURY.

**McDonald Record-Outlook, Centennial Edition-July 16, 1986**



**Porch Built by the Masquelier Brothers  
North Street, McDonald, PA**



**THE LATE "SQUIRE" A. B. COCHRAN** had his office on South McDonald Street in McDonald, the present site of Julio's Pizza Parlor, for 60 years during the first half of this century. Squire Cochran, who died in 1956, was the grandfather of current McDonald residents, Jane Lea Gibb and Robert Cochran.

### **Registration Dates Set For Midway Halloween Parade**

The Midway Halloween program has been scheduled for Halloween night, Thursday, Oct. 31. The parade will form at 5:30 p.m. in the parking lot of the United Presbyterian Church in Midway. Starting time for the parade is 6 p.m.

Toddlers through eighth graders are welcome to participate in the parade. All participants must register in advance to obtain their parade numbers.

Registration will be held at the Midway Borough Building from 6 to 8 p.m. Friday, Oct. 18, and from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 19.

A registration fee of six dollars per child is required for participants who live outside Midway Borough. Registration is free for residents of the area.

Members of the Midway Project Committee are canvassing door-to-door in the community for contributions of any amount to help purchase Halloween treats for the children. Committee members will have identification.

Following the Halloween parade, refreshments will be served at the VFW Hall in Midway. Costumes will be judged in various age groups and categories.

## **Midway Parade On Halloween**

The seventh annual Midway Halloween parade will be held Monday, Oct. 31, at 6 p.m.

The lineup will begin at 5:30 p.m. on Railroad Street. Children will be lining up according to age groups. The Midway Area Community Band, in costume, will play in the parade.

Registration will be held in the Midway Community Center on Friday, Oct. 14, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m., and Saturday, Oct. 15, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The Midway Project Committee has selected "Hoots, Haunts and Howls" as this year's theme.

Committee members will be collecting donations from Midway residents and merchants to be used to buy candy and cash prizes for the costume contest.

For more information, contact Betty Gay Linkish, 796-0075.

**Midway Halloween Parade**  
**Burgettstown Enterprise-October 19, 1988 Edition**

*Courtesy of Fort Vance Historical Society*

# The History of Midway, PA

**McDonald Record-Outlook  
July 16, 1986 Centennial Edition**

*Courtesy of Fort Vance Historical Society*

**The History of Midway**  
*MIDWAY IS MADE BOROUGH*  
*(McDonald Outlook)*  
*February 14, 1903*

In response to petition signed by a majority of the residents of the town, the court on Monday handed down a decree incorporating the Borough of Midway in Washington County. The court fixed March 10 as the day for holding the first election. David George was appointed judge of elections, James Martin and Richard Donaldson, inspectors of the election, and M. Girron, register assessor. The annual election will be held hereafter on the third Tuesday in February. The boundaries of the newly incorporated borough are as follows: Beginning at a point at an iron pin in the middle of "Dilly Road" thence by land of the Pittsburgh Coal Company north  $86\frac{3}{4}$  degrees east 1178 feet to a point; thence by land of Henry Eaton south  $63\frac{3}{4}$  degrees east 140 feet to a point on the western side of a 20 ft. alley; thence along the western side of said alley and by land of Henry Eaton north  $26\frac{1}{4}$  degrees east 522 feet to a point; thence by lands of Henry Eaton south  $63\frac{3}{4}$  degrees east 1016 feet to a pin in the center of a 60 ft. street; thence along the middle of said street south 1714 feet to a point; thence west 163.1 feet to an iron pin; thence crossing public road and running a little west of an old mill south 234.1 feet to an iron pin; thence north  $66\frac{3}{4}$  degrees west 527 feet to a point; then south 1 degree 21 minutes east 985 feet west 447 feet to a point; thence by lands of Campbell's heirs north  $57\frac{1}{2}$  degrees west 824 feet to a point; thence by land of James Bell north  $33\frac{1}{4}$  degrees east 1205 feet to an apple tree; thence by same north  $59\frac{3}{4}$  degrees west 1059 feet to a point; thence along the line of the "Old Dilly Road" north  $18\frac{1}{2}$  degrees east 1203 feet to an iron pin, the place of the beginning.

The new borough had 120 freeholders and was cut from Robinson and Smith Townships.

At the time the railroad was built thru Midway, the present water arch was used as the main thoroughfare from Candor to the Walnut Hill store, where most of the people of the Candor vicinity dealt. The bottom of the arch was covered with stones through which the water from the small branch of Robinson's Run flowed. The persons who traveled by foot made their way through by jumping the stones, and those buggies or wagons splashed through, in much the manner of fording a creek. Mrs. R.M. Donaldson reports

many enjoyable trips she had as a child when she splashed about in the stones as she went to the store.

At the same time, the small arch near the mill was built. The right-of-way which the Railroad Company needed, cut through a farm separating the farmer's house from his barn. The small arch was built to enable him to reach his barn. It was later widened to accommodate the narrow sidewalk which it now encloses.

In 1904, when the station house was moved to the present location, the railroad crossing was changed to run through the arch west of the depot.

### **Early History**

The earliest history available pertaining to the present Borough of Midway dated back 40 or more years before the outbreak of the Civil War, and many of Midway's present residents can trace their ancestors to the earliest of these settlers.

In the seventeen hundreds, the Iroquois, Shawnee, and Delaware Indians roamed this part of the county, although they were not to be so numerous here as in the Murdocksville and Bavington sections, due to the fact that they traveled upstream by canoe. Numerous of the early settlers built forts to which they would flee when necessity warranted.

Among the old forts in this locality were:

Allen's Fort, built before 1774 by John Allen, near the line between Smith and Robinson townships, in the vicinity of Beelor's Fort.

Beelor's Fort, built in 1774, by Captain Samuel Beelor. It was a two story log cabin which stood about 100 yards southwest of the Raccoon Presbyterian Church in Candor. Captain Beelor was one of the first settlers in Robinson, and the fort was frequently used as a refuge for the settlers of the region during the Indian raids.

Some of the earliest settlers using the fort for safety were James Clark, Matthew Bailey, Thomas Bigger, Joshua Scott, William Aten, Samuel Pollock, John Donaldson, Peter Alexander, William Kidd, John Witherspoon, James McBride, Alexander Bailey, Christopher Smith, James McBurney, and John Donaldson.

Cherry Fort which was built in 1774 by Thomas Cherry, an early settler in Mt. Pleasant township. It consisted of three log cabins, one 25 feet square, arranged in a triangular form and enclosed by a stockade. The largest house was two and one-half stories high and was built to withstand formidable attacks. Thomas Cherry was accidentally shot at the spring of 1775, and in 1782 his son, John was killed. He was buried beside his father in the Cherry



burial ground near the fort. The burial ground is still located on the farm, just below the house formerly owned by Ralph Cummins and owned by John Loffert. The fort was located just above the house and until the early nineteen hundreds, traces of it could still be seen.

McDonald's Fort, built by John McDonald in 1782. It was located on the present McDonald homestead at McDonald, the former home of the late Mr. Edward and Miss Jane McDonald and J.N. McDonald. The fort was located in the field between the present J.M. Lins home and the hedge fence which edges the McDonald home.

George Washington is said to have owned a parcel of land on the site of the former Ralph Cummins farm, and log cabin in which he resided was still standing as late as 1943.

Craig McDonald of Imperial, who formerly resided with the Cumminses, had a collection of 200 arrowheads which he found in the vicinity of Cherry for6t and Washington's home.

### **General History**

The borough of Midway is situated at the head of Robinson's Run on the boundary line between Smith and Robinson townships, and was formed from parts of both. It derived the name Midway from its location on the Pennsylvania Railroad, formerly the Cincinnati, Chicago, and St. Louis Railroad, 22 miles east of Steubenville, Ohio, and 22 miles west of Pittsburgh. It is also 16 miles north of Washington. For 40 years, or more prior to the Civil War, a village known as Egypt was located at this place.

In those days, a sawmill owned by Samuel Bell stood in the spot where the Dickson apartments, formerly Gillis' store now stands. The home of the owner stood nearby, the house and occupied by William Croner and occupied by John Mitchells. In the Bell family were Samuel Bell, his wife, a son James and a daughter Katie. In old Egypt, the oldest inhabitants before 1865 were the aforementioned Sammy Bell and his wife, Granny Bell. Mr. Bell in addition to running his sawmill with its perpendicular saw, as the neighbors required the sawing of logs from time to time, butchered an occasional steer. His services were required at the annual fall butchering by farmers for miles around. Granny Bell was highly skilled in the preparation and use of herbs and was often called upon in times of illness. She was called about frequently as Dr. John Coburn, a physician, who rode the country over from his location in Candor.

The tracts of land on which Midway is located were taken up by William and David Elder. The land was sold by the Elders to Samuel McFarland, who

sold it to Thomas Mitchell and Company. The plot was surveyed November 20, 1865, and was divided into 53 lots and four out lots. At that time the name was changed to Midway.

In the year 1865, the railroad was completed and began operations between Pittsburgh and Cincinnati, Chicago, and St. Louis Railroad. The station was first called Silverside and was located about 300 feet diagonally across from its present location. The first station was located in a large building where John H. Kennedy and his brother conducted a store and warehouse for grain. John H. Kennedy was also the first postmaster. This building burned in 1885. The station was then moved about 1,000 feet west, to the opposite side of the track, near the D.G. Bamford Milling Company. This station also burned. A fourth station was built in 1904 and was abandoned and was moved to the present location.

This section was opened up by the Pittsburgh and Steubenville and the P.C.C. & St. L. Railroad which was finished in 1865. In 1863, \$100 per acre for surface mostly underlaid with crop coal, was an enormous price. Walnut Hill mine (the entry to the mine was on the Midway-Bulger road where the old Fred Nourigat property is) and Midway Block Coal, were among the earliest mines in this section of the county, and T.B. Robbins and Thomas Taylor were among the pioneer coal operators.

F.L. Robbins, who built the house where Brown's live, was a son of T.B. Robbins and was trained by him in the business. He became the head of the largest scheme ever organized for holding and opening Washington County and all over Pennsylvania are largely due to the efforts of Francis L. Robbins. Even before the first indication of a boom in coal, he had laid plans to form a huge company.

The town of Midway has been largely kept up by the mines, and it is said that the best bituminous coal in Pennsylvania came from the old Walnut mine on the west end of Midway. The Robbins home was located about 500 feet west of the water arch on the south side of the railroad tracks. The Walnut Hill store stood near the tracks, a little further west.

In 1858, Egypt consisted of the mill, the Millers dwelling, on what is known as the Samuel Dunn place, Bell's saw and carding mill, across the stream from the grist mill with the Samuel Bell dwelling nearby. The old carding mill was a relic of the past as early as 1855. Fronting on the Candor road was a one-story Dwelling and storeroom owned by William Smith, auctioneer, father of the late Samuel Smith of McDonald. These comprised all the buildings in what is now the Borough of Midway, except three log houses and two tenant houses on the farms of Ephriam Johnston, William Connor, and Samuel McFarland.

The Ephriam Johnston was near the white school house and that of Samuel McFarland in Smith Township. The village remained in this condition until 1865, except for the adding of a house and blacksmith shop by Morgan Woodmansee. The house was occupied by the Prosper Pierrard family and the blacksmith shop stood where the late George Powelson's office stood. The building later became the office of the Justice of the Peace Howard Brabson.

Prior to the Civil War, a large three storied flour mill stood about 2,000 feet up Robinson's Run from the mill which was later owned by Paul Davidson. It was destroyed by fire about 1858 and never rebuilt. It is said that some boys were playing cards in the mill and left the lamp burning. The cobwebs blew against the lamp, causing the fire. The mill at that time was operated by Henry Abel, father of the late James Abel of Burgettstown. That was the third on that location destroyed by fire.

In 1870, another flour mill was built by George Peacher of Harpers Ferry. It stood on the flat in front of the property of Mrs. Violet Davis, and was operated by steam power. It had quite a number of owners. George Peacher sold the building to Thomas Mitchell; Mitchell, to John H. Kennedy; Kennedy to John Houtz; Houtz to Dr. McNulty, and Dr. McNulty, to Paul Davidson, the final owner. It ceased operations and for was used for various purposes. In 1908, it was torn down, and part of the lumber was used in the Sawhill garage.

In 1883, a grain elevator and flour mill with roller process was erected by F.L. Robbins and David G. Bamford. This mill was destroyed by fire in 1899 on the same location, replaced it. Through the years these mills were of the greatest convenience to the farmers by giving them a nearby market for their grain and a ready supply house for their flour and dairy feeds. The latest additions to the present mill were that of the new hamermill in 1950 and the molasses mixing equipment in 1952.

In 1869, George Campbell, father of the late Graham S. Campbell of McDonald, built and conducted the first hotel on the lot occupied by the railroad station. It burned in 1903. The house, later owned by the Fullertons, across from this site, was operated as a hotel by Mrs. Louella Baldwin, and was called the Wilson House. In 1922, Mr. and Mrs. Fullerton purchased it and operated it for seven years.

J. Burr Robins located in Midway and was largely interested in the coal operations in and adjourning it. His son, Francis L. Robbins, was trained in the business by his father and became one of the heads of the largest organizations of that time for opening coal lands in Washington County. Thomas Taylor was also interested in coal operations and became interested in oil developments. H. Eaton, an early and well-known justice of the peace,

was a son-in-law of Thomas Taylor, and was associated with him for some time in the mining industry.

Midway was incorporated into a borough February 9, 1903. The members of the first council were David G. Bamford, president; W.T. Kerr of Pittsburgh, well-known because of being the founder of Flag Day, was the first secretary; and the council members were F.C. Sawhill, R.M. Dickson and Eugene Wade. George H. Powelson was the first justice of the peace, and with the exception of four years when he served as postmaster, he served continuously in that capacity until his death, February 4, 1943.

Clyde Warnick of Philadelphia, who was born and raised in Midway, was the first employee of the borough. When he was twelve years old, he reported he earned \$12 per month traversing Midway each evening to light the gas street lights and making the rounds again each morning to turn the lights out.

### **Early Settlers**

Among the best known of the very early settlers in this village of Midway are the following:

J.S. Allison, general dealer, a native of Pennsylvania, settled in Midway in 1873.

S.F. Bell, retired, native of Washington County, settled in Midway in 1804.

S.K. Bradley, weigh master of the Walnut Hill Coal mines, native of New York, settled in Midway 1871.

S.H. Bell, shaving and hairdressing salon, native of Pennsylvania, settled here in 1875.

George W. Campbell, proprietor of Midway Hotel, settled here in 1826.

James Carothers, a Pennsylvania native, settled in Midway in 1841.

A.M. Dunlap, general dealer in all kinds of hardware and varieties, a native of Washington County, settled here in 1830.

John Devile, miner, native of England, settled here in 1861.

Benjamin Fairfax, employee of the coal works, native of Virginia, settled here in 1863.

Samuel Fielding, general dealer in lumber, contractor and house builder, a native of Pennsylvania, settled in Midway in 1870.

Justice Hess, general dealer in all kinds of merchandise, a native of Germany, settled here in 1871.

William S. Hughes, boot and shoe manufacturer and general dealer in newspapers and books, a native of England, settled here 1873.

William Harvey, engineer, native of Pennsylvania, settled here in 1856.

Charles Harvey, jobbing and farming, native of Virginia, settled here in 1848.

A. Halmar, meat dealer and buyer of cattle, native of Germany, settled here in

1871.

James Johnson, miller native of Virginia, settled here in 1875.

Reverend G.M. Kerr, pastor of the Raccoon Presbyterian Church, native of Washington County, settled here in 1843.

John Kennedy, proprietor of the Midway Valley Mill, manufacturer of flour, meal, and feed, also a dealer in grain, dry goods, shoes, notions, hardware, etc., freight, and ticket agent, postmaster, native of Washington County, settled in Midway in 1836.

R.V. Kennedy, general dealer in all kinds of merchandise, deputy postmaster, native of Pennsylvania, settled in 1871.

Thomas McCormick, coke burner, native of New York, settled in 1873.

D.C McCuen, general dealer in merchandise, native of Washington, settled in 1840.

A.J. Morgan, manufacturer of wagons and agricultural implements, native of Pennsylvania, settled here in 1859.

C.J. McNulty, physician and surgeon, office and residence on Second Street, native of Pennsylvania, settled in Midway in 1840.

Jonah Taylor, Midway Block Coal Company miner and shipper of gas, steam, and family coal, office at Midway, R.M. Ulph and Jonah Taylor, proprietors; native of Pennsylvania, settled here in 1874.

W.C. Campbell, owned 200 acres, farmer, stock raiser and breeder of sheep.

Joseph Wallace, farmer and wool grower, owned 126 acres, native of Pennsylvania, settled here in 1824.

S.J. McAdams, farmer and dairyman. Settled in Midway in 1851.

J.R. McBurney, farmer and stock raiser, owner of 115 acres, settled in Midway in 1830.

J. Hele, shoemaker, a native of Germany.

Thomas Donaldson, farmer and wool grower, owner of 163 acres and 150 sheep, settled in 1839.

Richard J. Donaldson, farmer and stock raiser, owner of 300 acres, native of Midway.

Richard Donaldson Sr., ex-member of Legislature, settled in Midway 1799.

William A. Dickson, farmer and stock raiser, owner of 175 acres and 170 sheep, settled in Midway in 1831.

James Closs, carpenter and builder, settled in 1829.

Henry Aten, teacher in public schools, settled here in 1848.

T.B. Robbins, coal dealer.

W.G. Winters, manufacturer of carriages and buggies, horseshoer, and blacksmith, settled in 1833.

J.S. McClusky, lumber dealer, settled in Midway in 1845.

John McCarty, farmer and wool grower, owner of 257 acres and 300 sheep, settled in Midway in 1810.

William Morris, farmer, native of Ireland, settled in Midway in 1851.

Sym Farrar, settled in Midway in 1840.

Samuel Cochran, farmer and wool grower, settled in Midway in 1843.

Simon Cherry, farmer and stock raiser, native of Ohio, settled in 1841.

Major James Crawford, farmer and stock raiser, settled here in 1810.

A well known figure in the early life and development, in addition to those already mentioned, was William Campbell, father of Anna Campbell McClusky, well known, for his ability to settle estates.

### **Churches in the Community**

The church on the corner of the crossroads stands for three of the most important phases of community life—the social intellectual and spiritual development of its people.

Within its hallowed precincts, the rich and the poor, the high and low meet on common ground and learn to share each other's joys and sorrows. It is the social center of the community, where people learn to mingle and cooperate and be friendly.

The accumulated knowledge of past ages has been preserved and transmitted to us by the way of the church and its religious institutions. The church pioneered in modern education, built great colleges and universities and works in full harmony with the schools in every community.

But the church performs its highest and holiest mission in the realm of the spirit. All its other services are contributory to the supreme end, that it may teach men to know God and love and serve Him. It opens up a vast new world of faith and hope and joy.

For many year before Midway was organized into a Borough, the churches played an important part in the life of the community. Three denominations began work here, and as a result of their efforts, there are three thriving churches namely, The Center United Presbyterian, the Midway Baptist and the Midway Methodist.

### **Center U.P. Church**

The Center United Presbyterian Church was organized by Reverend J.C. Campbell in March of 1859, with 53 members. Services were held in a barn on the J.C. Campbell farm. This barn was later owned by George Loffert. A new church was dedicated in February of 1860, with 65 members. Reverend D.S.

Kennedy became the first pastor on September 4, 1862, and served until October 25, 1872.

### **Midway Methodist Church**

The beginning of Methodism in Midway in the year 1874 was a venture on the part of Reverend J.E. Wright, who was preaching Noblestown and Fayetteville. Truly a venture in Methodism, for this part of Pennsylvania was settled almost exclusively of Scotch-Irish descent, who seemed to have brought with them all the combativeness for the Gospel of Truth, and for the Presbyterian form of religion usually ascribed to their nationality.

But with the coming of the railroads and the opening of the coal mines, a new class of settlers was coming in large numbers to find work in Midway. These settlers were of English and Welsh descent, and some, being Methodists, saw the opportunity and need of a church, for these Methodist families had been meeting in an old school house across the alley in the rear of the present church, with Reverend Wright preaching every two weeks. On February 1, 1874, a society was formed, consisting of 16 members. A special meeting was held after the service and a \$400 building fund was raised. In two weeks, four more, members were added, making 20 in all.

In early spring, lots were purchased for \$425 and the contract for \$3,000 was let for the building of the Methodist Church. The words "Your Light Shines," was on the charter.

Ministers come by appointment of the Pittsburgh Conference and serve from one to four years.

When the Church was built, it was built at street level, with a picket fence surrounding the lots. For the vestibule one entered a right or left side door, no front entrance or crossover at the back. Straight level floor, oil lamps at sides and center, two large round pot-bellied stoves at center sides furnished the heat. The styles for woman were shawls and capes. The men carried the lanterns which lighted the way for their families to follow to worship.

In 1904, Reverend Herbert Morris and trustees and other officials voted to remodel the church. Under the direction of one skilled worker, hours of labor were voluntarily given by old and young, and the job was completed.

In 1907, a house was bought from Lizzie and Ida Porter and with improvements being made from time to time, it has served the ministers as their parsonage home.

In 1932, officials voted to put a basement under the church. Today it serves the church and Sunday school for all social life. Much credit for the completion

of this project is due to the original Ladies Aid Society, the Women's Society of Christian Service and Wesleyan Service Guild.

The church has been struck by lightning on two occasions and has been afire twice.

### **First Baptist Church**

The beginning of the First Baptist church in Midway was started by the Reverend John Moses and his wife, with a group of earnest Christians who desired fellowship with God and their fellowmen. Worship was first held in the home and other buildings and continued until the church was built and was dedicated May 12, 1894. Reverend Mr. King was the first pastor of the church.

On October 9, 1886, Reverend Moses and his wife conveyed to Pittsburgh Baptist Association the plot of ground on which the church was built.

The Court of Common Pleas in Washington County was petitioned for a charter of incorporation. The charter contained seven points, and was witness and was witnessed May 24, 1911, by seven men. The seal of the Notary Public was placed on the certificate June 10, 1911, by, J.J. Charlier and was filed in the Courthouse, July 13, 1911. The decree of the court was handed down by J.A. McIlvaine, presiding judge, and on October 11, 1911, the Pittsburgh Baptist Association conveyed to the First Baptist Church the ground upon which the church was built.

From the time of the building and dedication of the church the members faithfully endeavored to pay off the debt, and on January 7, 1901, Reverend Mr. Moses forgave a note of \$500 to the church.

The vestibule was added to the structure at a later date to enable the worshippers to enter and leave the church more conveniently.

The first constitution was adopted March 29, 1911. A new constitution, prepared by Reverend George Headley, Jr., was adopted in 1952.

### **50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Service Held February 8, 1953 in Center Church**

In observance of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the incorporation of Midway into a borough, the general town committee and the church committee joined in planning a church service which was held at 7:30 p.m., February 8, 1953, in the Center United Presbyterian Church.

Reverend Charles W. Brown, pastor of the Second United Presbyterian church, Washington, was the guest minister, and spoke on "The Salt of the Earth" Midway Methodist Church pastor, Reverend Harold Jennings, was in charge of devotions, and Reverend J.S. Hite pronounced the benediction.



A brief history of the Center U.P. Church was given by John D. Bamford; the Midway Methodist Church by Mrs. Thomas Cole; and the Baptist Church, by C.F. Davidson. Special music was furnished by the combined choirs of the churches.

### **Business Establishments**

The first lumber yard office stood where Dickson's Hardware later stood and was owned and operated by Thomas D. and his brother, J.S. McCarty. The lumber stacks were on the site of Mrs. Mumper's home. In 1895, R.M. Dickson, J.M. Wallace and Mr. McCreedy purchased the business, the latter leaving the partnership in about one year. Dickson and Wallace then continued business until the death of Mr. Dickson, September 14, 1939, and the death of Mr. Wallace then continued, October 2, 1942. Joseph Wallace and William and Robert Dickson then operated under the same name until December 1, 1949, when William Dickson took over the hardware store and Joseph Wallace, the lumber yard.

About 80 years ago Morgan Woodmansee lived in a house where Prosper Pierrard later resided. His blacksmith shop stood where former Squire Powelson had his office-later the office of Justice of the Peace Brabson.

The Woodmansee had eight children. In 1868 John Lepro and his wife built the house in which Mr. Forest later lived.

The store of Justice Hess stood about where Burchianti's Clover Farm store stood, about as far back as 1877. Perhaps the largest store building in town was the large three-story building erected by James A. Bell on the spot where Alex Motte home later stood, south of the railroad and a little west of the mill. The store was operated by Adamson and McClellan and was later destroyed by fire.

James A. Bell was born February 8, 1844, in Ireland and on March 17, 1873, was united in marriage with Jame Major, in Ireland. They came to the United States in June of 1873, and after spending a short time in Steubenville, Ohio, they came to Midway where Mr. Bell worked in the mine until his health began to fail. In 1880 he opened a small grocery store in the house later owned and occupied by the J.R. Clarks. He later built a large three story building. The family was active in the Center U.P. Church. They were the parents of the following children: Minnie, David, William M., Bessie, M.N. Davidson A., Hugh W., John, who died in infancy, Mattie S., and John N. Bell.

J.M. Davidson and his son, Robert, started in the grocery business in 1908. Samuel H. Davidson joined the firm in 1918, and he and Robert operated the business after their father's death until 1935, when another brother, C.F.

Davidson, joined them. William Davidson entered the partnership in 1947. The store was later known as J.M. Davidson's Sons Triangle Store.

The first undertaker in Midway was James Maloney. In 1892 he sold his business to Thomas D. McCarty, whose death occurred in 1908. William Nash then became the undertaker and his death took place in November 1926. W.H. McNary then bought the business and his son operated it until 1931, when Edwin G. Wilson purchased it. Through all these years, the site of the funeral home was not changed.

Midway's only dentist was Harden Clark, D.D.S. A native of Wellsburg, West Virginia, Dr. Clark attended the public schools there and graduated from Wellsburg High School. He received his degree from the University of Pittsburgh Dental School in 1928. In February of 1929, he came to Midway and opened an office in the rooms formerly occupied by A.L. Russell, M.D. He remained in this location for about a year and then moved into the Raab Apartments and practiced there 12 years. In July, 1941, he built a home and office across the street from the old locations. His first patient was Matt Donavich of Midway.

The Raab Hardware Store was started February 13, 1901, when J.M. Raab and his brother, Frank, went into business together in the building in Washington Street which housed a number of apartments. J.M. Raab died in 1917, and Frank Raab and son Martin operated the business together until the death of the former in November of 1926.

Martin Raab the operated alone for three year and then became senior partner in the firm of Raab & Daudet, John Daudet being the other partner. Martin Raab's death occurred in September of 1934. Several years after his death, during which time Mr. Daudet carried on the business, the business was sold to A.D. Leech. It was later abandoned and the building was made into an apartment house.

A well known merchant in Midway was George McFarlane, who was born in Midway, March 25, 1872, a son of John and Susan Allen McFarlane. From 1890 until 1941, he operated a grocery and dry goods store in the building where the Wess Hotel was later located. His death occurred January 18, 1953.

John Kraeer, Sr., a native of Midway area, and one of the best known tanners, learned his trade as an apprentice and started for himself on April 23, 1895, in a shop on the lot where Pete Sergi's barber shop later stood. This shop was destroyed by a big fire in 1898. He then moved to a shop on the site of the Dickson apartments. He built and moved to his last location, adding a grocery store to his tin shop. At one time Mr. Kraeer employed eight men who

were kept busy making milk cans and other metal articles for the surrounding farmers.

M. Burchianti and his sister, Mrs. Fred Fini, opened a meat market and grocery store in 1913 in the building which was later home of Mrs. Townsend. In 1924 Mr. and Mrs. Burchianti purchased the meat market from Clarence McDowell and operated in the building which was later known as Ritchie Cake Shop. In 1932, they built and moved into their last location, merchandising meat only. They associated with the Clover Farm Stores in October 1934 and added a full line of groceries and produced. Prior to moving to their new building in 1932, the Burchiantis resided on the farm on the Candor road later owned and occupied by Lewis Cataneys.

The Midway National Bank began business April 4, 1903. D.G. Bamford was the bank president, and the directors were A.J. Russell, Richard Donaldson, Thomas R. Donaldson, R.M. Donaldson, K.N. McDonald, James Bell, R.M. Dickson, J.M. Wallace, and D.G. Bamford. The bank ceased operation in 1933, at the time of the Bank Holiday.

The first post office was located on the site of what was later the Dickson Hardware. It was later moved to a store on the site of the Sergi property. During that time that Thomas McLaughlin was postmaster, the office was moved to the site of the J.R. Hallman home. This building was destroyed by fire. The post office was then moved back to its former location on the Sergi property. It was later moved to the building later occupied by the Midway Mutual Telephone Company. In 1949 it was moved into a location in the Bank building.

The first postmaster was John Kennedy, who was followed by Henry Aten, J.S. McCarty, William Riggs, Samuel Williamson, William Parkinson, E.C. Donaldson, George Powelson, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas McLaughlin, Mrs. Rebecca Campbell, Mrs. A.J. Robinson, and Victor Lescovitz.

The Ohio Valley Gas Company owned a machine shop which employed about five men. It commenced supplying the town with gas about 1892, and its plant was located about where the J.N. Schwartz family later lived. It ceased operation about, and the town was supplied later by the Manufacturers Light & Heat Company, with offices in McDonald.

In the year 1908, the borough tax rate was 12 mills, the amount collected, \$2, 658.79 and the amount expended, \$765.99. The population rose from 1260 in 1900 to 1500 in 1908 and as given in the last census was 992. In the year 1950, the borough tax was 15 mills, the amount collected, \$6,414.76. The Total receipts were \$7, 835.08 and the total expenditures were \$9, 105.00. The assessed valuation of the Borough was \$336,945.00.

## **Schools**

At the time the town was incorporated, the borough purchased the interest of Robinson Township in the frame schoolhouse near the Center U.P. Church, known as the Red School. At the same time, they purchased the interest of Smith Township in the White School near where the old Ephriam Johnston house stood. The first high school was held in the "Red" schoolhouse and was later moved to the IOOF Hall. In 1927, it was moved into the building which later housed the Wallace apartments, where it continued for seven years. It was transferred into the new and present building in 1934, when the Red school was abandoned.

In 1909, the first class graduated from Midway High School. Norman Bell, son of James A. Bell, was the only graduate, and his brother James A. Bell Jr., was the principal. There were four students in the 1910 graduating class: John Ballard, Mary Croner, Mary E. Bamford, Myra Pyle (Culley). The graduating exercises were held in the Red School.

## **Police Force**

The police force in Midway in the early days of the incorporation consisted of the constable. Among the early constables were Samuel Williamson, Mr. Griffith, and Emile Charlier.

In 1928, Prosper J. Pierrard was elected to the office of high constable, this being the first year such an office existed. He served in this capacity for eight years. During the latter part of his term, William Bell was his assistant. Following Mr. Pierrard's resignation, Mr. Bell served two years, and Arthur Smith then served as constable. In 1944 Mr. Pierrard returned to the police force as Chief of Police. This was also the first time this position was filled. He served in this capacity until 1953, when he resigned. During his term as Chief of Police his assistants were William Bell, Thomas Cooper, and William Jordan.

Mr. Pierrard had an old constable's badge which belonged to the late Samuel Williamson and a set of handcuffs which were given to him by Mr. Griffith.

## **Midway Volunteer Fire Department**

One of the first organizations in the village was the Midway Volunteer Fire Department. Its early equipment other than the well-known "Bucket Brigade," was the hand pumper which was pulled by the firemen.

Some say it was in 1910, and some say 1912, that the first piece of mechanical fire equipment was purchased. It consisted of a hand drawn hose reel and pump and two hand drawn chemical units. The men ranged

themselves before it, taking hold of the long ropes with which it pulled. Eight men were needed to properly man the device. The pump operated on the same principal as the old fashion hand-car used on the railroad, the men shoving up and down on the wide handles. The men were able to pump up enough pressure to shoot a stream 70 feet. In 1925, the first motor truck was secured. This was four-tank chemical unit. In the winter of 1931, a power unit purchased. It carried 360 gallons of water and pumping equipment capable of Building up a pressure of 400 lbs. Twelve buckets and a 40-ft. hose connections to reach the water supply completed the equipage. This truck is still used as an auxiliary equipment.

John Williams was the first fire chief and, after many years of active service, he retired. Associated with him in the early days were William Cummins, A.A. Taylor, J.M. Davidson, and the late Dr. J.M. Moore.

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**McDonald Record-Outlook Centennial Edition**  
**July 16, 1986 Edition**

*Courtesy of Fort Vance Historical Society*

## ROADS APPROVED

The grand jury on Saturday approved the two pieces of road in which the citizens of this community are so strongly interested. The roads approved are: Burgettstown-Bulger, 14,920 feet, estimated cost \$54,525; Midway-Primrose, 10,545 feet, estimated cost \$38,124. A number of citizens went before the grand jury on Friday and made a plea for the approval of these roads.

In the interests of the Burgettstown-Bulger and the Midway-Primrose roads the Panhandle section was represented almost 100 strong. This large number was made up of delegations from Midway, Primrose, McDonald, Burgettstown and surrounding communities. That these two pieces of highway are important was impressed upon the grand jury. The two pieces of road are a part of the main highway from McDonald to Burgettstown. There is a small piece of road, between these two pieces, which when approved and improved, will make a continuous improved road from Burgettstown to McDonald. Engineer George Chaney stated there was a bad grade on this piece of road lying between. There has been considered the improving of a different route to avoid this grade. The route would be northwest from Midway, over a short piece of improved highway there, and thence west and south to the Burgettstown-Bulger stretch of highway.

Those who spoke for the Burgettstown-Bulger road were J. V. Stevenson and R. H. McCartney. The meritorious growth of the Burgettstown section was called to the attention of the grand jury and the importance of having an improved highway from Burgettstown to McDonald, where it would connect up with the Allegheny county improved system of highways. It was shown that the increase in the population of the Burgettstown section was rapid, due to the American Zinc & Chemical Co. plant, located there, as well as mines and other industries. Within the past two or three years new towns have sprung up, such as Eastonville, Atlasburg, Langeloth, etc. There is a stretch of improved highway running north from Burgettstown toward Florence, and one south toward Crosscreek. The highway, however, before the grand jury parallels the Panhandle railroad and extends northeast to-

wards McDonald. The distance proposed to be improved is 14,920 feet, and the estimated cost is \$54,525.

Spokemen for the Midway-Primrose road were R. R. Cummins, S. D. Rankin, J. V. Stevenson and August Valentour. There is an improved road from McDonald to Primrose, but from Primrose to Midway, it was shown by these men, the road is in very bad shape. There are times in winter, it was stated, when it is impassable. It traverses a thickly populated section, and since the railroad company is rigidly enforcing the law against trespassing on its right of way, this road becomes a more congested highway for pedestrian traffic. It would give that community an outlet, over an improved road, to other systems of improved roads. Midway is almost shut off from McDonald during the winter, by reason of this bad road. There are improved roads out of Midway and Primrose. The length of the road proposed for improvement is 10,545 feet, and the estimated cost \$38,124. Attorney R. G. Miller, representing the Carnegie Coal Co., Pittsburg Coal Co. and John A. Bell, all large taxpayers, spoke in behalf of the roads. Others also gave their reasons, favorable to the improvement.

The delegation who was before the grand jury in the interest of the roads leading from Primrose to Midway and from Burgettstown to Bulger was composed of the following persons:

Midway—J. A. Matchett, R. M. Donaldson, James Wilson, D. G. Bamford, C. R. Ballard, A. A. Taylor, J. M. Raab, Rev. E. D. Miller, A. Chambon, F. C. Sawhill, J. E. Kraeer, T. E. McLaughlin, H. Quinet, J. M. Davidson, I. M. Wallace, J. B. Wallace, Rev. J. F. Pry, Robert Dowler, R. R. Cummins, J. M. Fairley, Alex. Burkett, Robert Cummins, W. M. Cummins, Dr. W. C. Wolford, Fred Fine, W. F. Nash, Alphonse Raab, Antony George, G. Verzeese.

McDonald—H. F. Humphries, J. J. Charlier, B. M. McCartney, A. Valentour, Edward McDonald, S. H. Pyles, Will Lockhart, F. L. Thomassy.

Raccoon—J. B. Phillis, Rev. J. V. Stevenson, A. C. Proudft, Dr. W. L. Scott, Charles Morgan.

Burgettstown—T. V. Lee, R. H. McCartney, W. L. Doumont, J. P. Linn, M. W. Scott, Edwin McFarland, J. M. Martin.

Bulger—A. J. Russell, J. M. Aiken.

## Interest In Proposed Bond Issue

The proposition to have constructed a comprehensive system of state, county and township roads in Washington county from funds to be realized from a bond issue to be authorized by the voters is rapidly taking form.

It is proposed by the backers of the project to reassure the voters that for every dollar expended on these roads one hundred cents of value will be received.

Second, that the roads agreed upon for improvement will be improved with absolute fairness to every section of the county.

Third, that the roads will be built which will outlive the bonds.

This will be accomplished through a committee composed of three representative citizens of the county. These men will be selected by representatives of the townships and boroughs of the county at a meeting to be held in the Public Meeting room of the court house at 11 o'clock a. m. on Friday, February 16. These men will serve without pay and will be empowered to employ an engineer to pass upon the specifications for roads and to see that said specifications are complied with by the contractors.

The commissioners and the controller are to be asked to recognize these men and work with them and assurance has been given that these officials will agree to do so.

Every citizen will be welcomed at the meeting February 16. Men opposed to the proposition, as well as men who favor it, are invited to attend. It is hoped that every township and every borough will be represented by at least ten men.

The men who are backing this plan are citizens of Washington county, they are taxpayers. Some are farmers, some are townsmen. They are practical, successful men. They say the time will come when one will be proud to say he was one of the men who favored the construction of a system of roads from money secured through a bond issue.

It is hoped that a large number of citizens from this community will attend the meeting on Friday. Those going from Burgettstown can leave here on the 8:46 train Friday morning and be in Washington in time for the meeting.

## Roads Approved

Burgettstown Call-February 15, 1917 Edition

Courtesy of Fort Vance Historical Society



WASHINGTON ST LOOKING EAST  
MIDWAY PA

## Midway, PA

*Courtesy of Fort Vance Historical Society*

#### MIDWAY MINE INSPECTED

With the completion of several recent improvements, operating practices and conditions comply favorably with recognized safety standards at the Farrar and Nagode 1,200-ton-a-day Dickson mine, 1½ miles east of Midway, Pa., the Bureau of Mines announced today. The Washington County stripping operation had 38 employees when it was examined in July by Inspector W. G. Cooper.

Open oil containers have been removed from the tibble and electric light wires installed on insulators, handrails have been provided for walkways of pit equipment, and warning signs were posted at the explosives magazine, Cooper reported. He also cited the frame-grounding of the machine shop drill-press motor and guarding of the conveyor gear wheel and belt drives of the shaker screen.

Only a few supplementary measures were proposed by the inspector, who recommended safe storage of detonators, a warning signal for a pit shovel, and wearing of protective footwear by all employees and safety hats by those likely to be endangered by falling material.

**Midway Mine Inspected**  
**Burgettstown Enterprise-August 26, 1948 Edition**



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## MIDWAY

The final examination is on at High school this week.

Miss Elva McCarty, of Pittsburg, spent Easter at her home in this place.

Mrs. A. G. Miller was taken to Pittsburg last week for medical treatment.

H. Eaton, Esq., who has been ill for the past two weeks, is improving slowly.

Twenty-two persons were baptized at the Baptist church on Sabbath morning.

Roy Saxton, of Florence, was an over-Sunday visitor at the Robert Clelland home.

Mrs. Park, of Carnegie, visited at the home of her daughter, Mrs. A. G. Over, last week.

John Jones, who is working at Coshocton, Ohio, spent Easter with his family in this place.

Frank Holland is remodeling the house which he recently purchased from Dickson & Wallace.

Miss Sidney Finney, of Sheridan, was an Easter visitor at the home of her mother, Mrs. H. Finney.

John Cleland leaves today, Monday, for the west, where he will engage in the carpenter business.

Frank Wasson—Shorty the barber—of East Pittsburg, spent Sunday with his mother in Midway.

W. F. Nash, the undertaker, was called to Florence on Saturday on account of the death of Mr. Clutter.

Mrs. W. M. Barbour, who has been seriously ill for several months, is now able to be about again.

Miss Myrtle Moore closed her Taylorstown school last Thursday. This is her second term in the same school.

James McClelland, who has been confined to his home for some

## Birdseye View of Midway Borough (Taken in 1870)



MIDWAY  
by A.D. White

The early history of the present town of Midway is closely connected with the building of the "Panhandle Railroad." Although the work of building the Pittsburgh to Steubenville Railroad was contracted for as early as 1852, it was not until October, 1865, that the road was completed and the first train run over its entire length. Even upon the completion of the line, the financial troubles which plagued the road in its days of building were not over until May, 1868, when a consolidation of short lines formed the Pittsburgh, Cincinnati and St. Louis Railroad--then 193 miles long and running from Pittsburgh to Columbus, Ohio. Following the assurance of a real railroad through the community, in November, 1865, the town was plotted by Thomas Mitchell and Company, when 53 lots and 4 "out lots" were included in the plan. The new town contained land in both Smith and Robinson Township.

But this locality had an earlier history when the semblance of a town which existed here was called Egypt--but why! No one now knows. The few buildings which were here were so scattered that they could hardly be called a town; William Smith, an auctioneer, opened a store here as early as 1844; a thousand feet away was the Egypt flouring mill, which burned to the ground in 1858 when some boys were playing cards in the structure and left a lamp burning and cobwebs caught fire and the mill burned down. It was not replaced. Across the stream was the saw-mill of Samuel F. Bell. This was an old-up-and-down mill, which the boys said "went up in the forenoon and came down in the afternoon;" it moved so slowly. In addition to the saw-mill, Mr. Bell had here a carding mill and he was also an expert butcher, killing an occasional beef for local trade and being called on to help the surrounding farmers with their fall butchering each year. "Sammy" Bell's wife, "Granny" Bell, was renowned as a doctress among the people of the community; she was familiar with the use of herbs for treatment of illnesses and it was said that she was called into the homes of the people of the neighborhood almost as often as was a nearby physician.

Upon the plotting of the town, "Sammy" Bell purchased the first lot. In 1869, George W. Campbell, of the Cross Creek Township family of that name, came here and opened the first hotel in the new town. This he operated until his death in 1885. The hotel was located near the railroad station and it became a convenient stopping place for the traveling public who visited Midway. Upon completion of the railroad a station was established here and for a time it bore the name "Silverside," but when it was realized that this point was midway between Pittsburgh and Steubenville, being just 22 miles from each city, the name Midway was decided upon and this name the town still carries. But development of other types of traffic have reduced the need for a railroad station here, so it has disappeared and the long trains of the "Pennsy" which pass through Midway no longer stop here.

Midway became an incorporated borough in February, 1903. The town fathers began almost immediately to improve the streets and to provide other services to make the town a fine place in which to live. The two school buildings standing within the new borough's limits and belonging to the adjacent townships of Smith and Robinson were purchased and were utilized until the new high school building was erected in 1934. The borough school district became a component part of the Fort Cherry School System and the Midway School is now an elementary school in that unit.

Being surrounded by rich coal lands, Midway early became an important mining center. In early times coal was produced in the country "coal banks" and with the coming of the railroad more extensive mining began. Early operators close to the town were the Midway Coal Company and the Sharon Coal Company. Since the beds of coal were not far under the surface, later mining in the area has been by the "strip-mining" method. The largest and most important industry within the borough limits has been the grain elevator and mill developed in the 1880's as the Bamford Milling Company. This mill is now known as the Midway Milling Company. The Midway National Bank, established in 1903, has been discontinued.

Many prominent and capable physicians have ministered to the health needs of the people of Midway and the surrounding countryside. Perhaps the best known of these was Dr. Andrew Lyle Russell, who, in addition to his extensive general practice, also served as surgeon for a number of the coal-producing firms of the area. Dr. Russell also was a voluminous writer on local history and was the author of "The Freighter," a story of the days of the Whiskey Insurrection.

Churches in Midway are three established in comfortable new buildings: the United Presbyterian, Baptist and Jehovah's Witnesses, and the Midway Methodist Church which has renovated and enlarged its building in recent years. As one drives over the streets of the Midway of today, he finds a blend of the older type homes, still sturdy and comfortable, with the many modern homes which overflow into the adjacent townships in all directions. Midway has the appearance and reputation of being a good place to live.

Next - Hickory

## CONTRACTS ARE LET FOR ROBINSON SCHOOL

Two Burgettstown Concerns Given  
Contracts on New School  
Near Midway

The Board of Education of Robinson township, in session Friday of last week awarded contracts for an eight-room consolidated school building, to be erected on the Dickson ball field, near the Dickson school, north of Midway. The building is to be an eight-room brick structure.

The general contract was awarded to the Interstate Engineering Company, of Charlestown, W. Va., at their bid of \$22,997.

The wiring of the building is to be done by Earl Farner, of Burgettstown, for \$1,050.

The Columbus Heating Company, of Columbus, O., was awarded the heating contract, at a price of \$5,890.

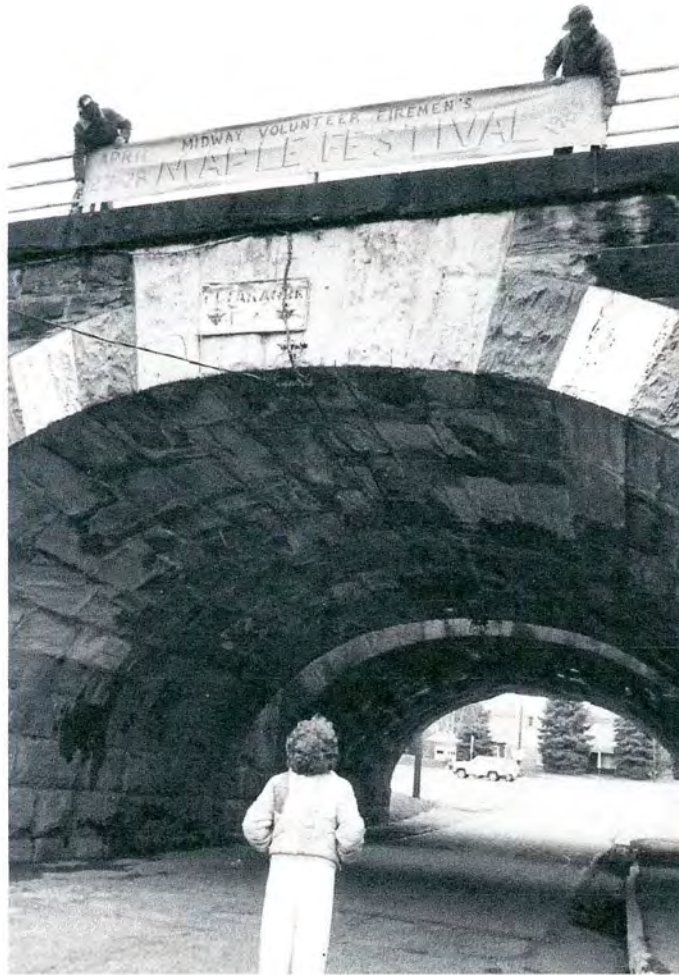
Plumbing will be done by W. E. Englefield & Son, of Burgettstown, whose bid was \$1,900.

It is planned to close all other schools in the building and to transport to the new school all pupils except those of the Rock Valley district, who attend the McDonald school.

It is expected that the building will be occupied by November 1st. Specifications call for completion of the contracts by October 15th. Work will be started at once.

# Crescent Roller Mill





**Maple Festival-Midway, PA  
April 27-28, 1985-Festival Dates**

## Notice of Incorporation.

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NOTICE is hereby given that application has been made to the Court of Quarter Session in and for the County of Washington, State of Pennsylvania, for the incorporation of the Village of Midway, under the name and title of "The Borough of Midway," to be erected from parts of the districts known as Robinson township and Smith township, in said county; that the petition has been presented to the Court, and is filed with the Clerk of the Court of Quarter Sessions; and that this application will be considered by said Court in the Court House in Washington, Pa., on Monday, February 9, 1903, at 10 o'clock a. m., this being the first day of the next succeeding term of Court.

BYRON E. TOMBAUGH,

Attorney for the Petitioners.

Washington, Pa., Dec. 22, 1902.

5267



Prospect St., Midway, Pa.

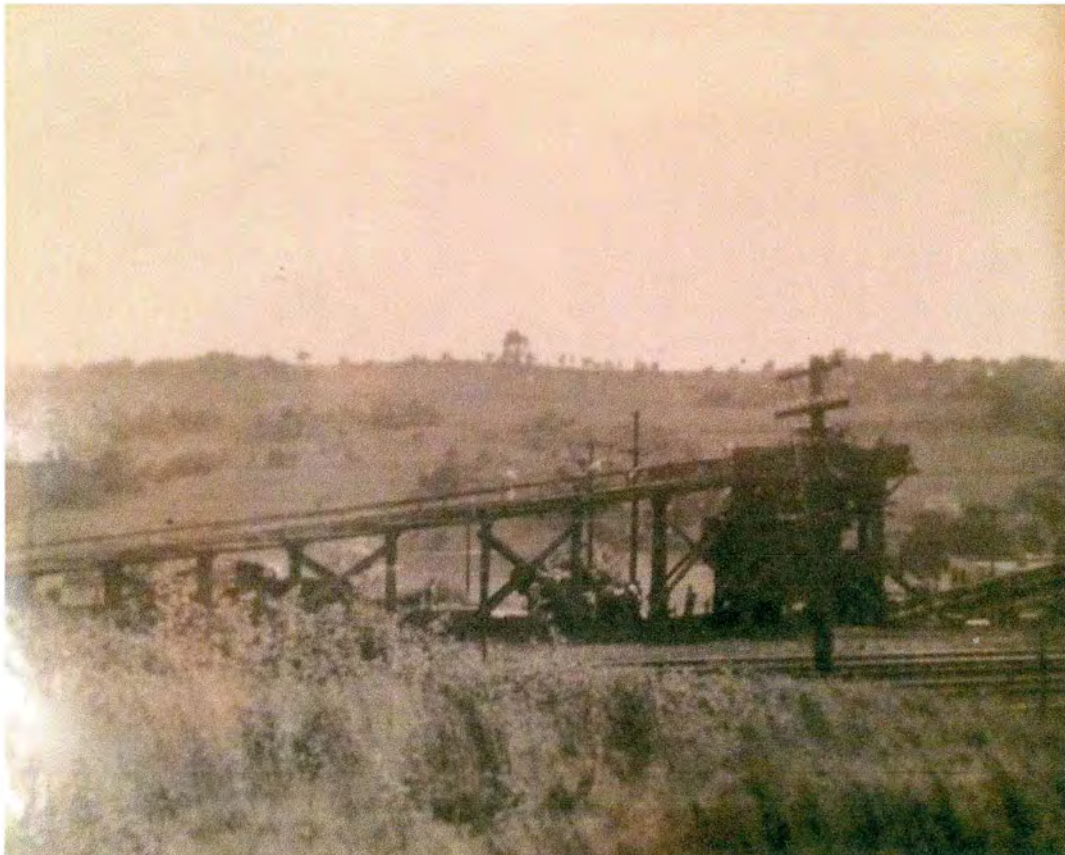
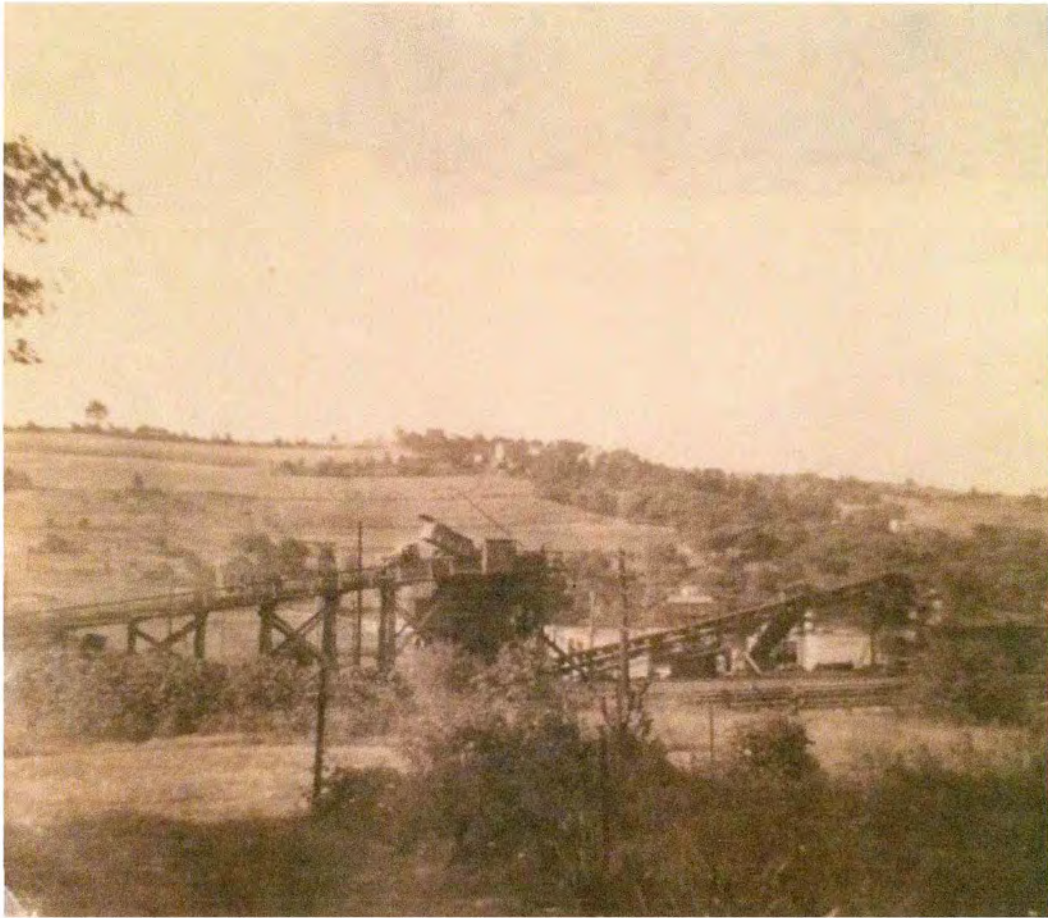
**Prospect Street, Midway, PA**



## **Veterans Day Parade In Midway**

A Veterans' Day parade will be held in Midway on Saturday, November 9, at 10:20 a.m. The parade will form at the old bank building in Midway. Services will be held at the honor roll at 11 a.m. Rep. John L. Brunner will be the guest speaker.

All organizations in the area are invited to participate.



**Views of Midway Coal Tipple**

# Written in stone

## Historic Monongahela Cemetery turns 150

By SCOTT BEVERIDGE  
 Scott Beveridge  
 sbeveridge@observer-reporter.com

MONONGAHELA – It would not be that unusual to bump into Pennsylvania State University's cherished mascot, the Nittany Lion, roaming around the moss-covered tombstones in historic Monongahela Cemetery.

The costumed character stopped by in 2004 to celebrate its 100th birthday at the grave of the man who created the mascot in a show of braggadocio during a 1904 away baseball game against Princeton University. And, the "lion" is due back in June to help the cemetery celebrate its 150th birthday.

"We had no idea there was a connection until that group of people showed up from Penn State," said John "Jack" Cattaneo, vice president of the cemetery's board of directors.

"That's when they divulged this relationship," he said. "We're very

proud."

The Nittany Lion was born April 20, 1904, when Harrison Denning "Joe" Mason of Monongahela was a freshman third baseman for Penn State and about to play an away game against Princeton.

While being given a tour of the New Jersey campus, one of the Princeton teammates pointed to the school's mascot, a Bengal tiger, "as an indication of the merciless treatment (Penn State) could expect to encounter on the field," a story about the exchange on Penn State's website indicates.

Mason responded by saying "we have a Nittany Lion that's never been beaten," while also making a reference to Mount Nittany, the region in central Pennsylvania where Penn State was established, said George

### VIDEO ONLINE

www.observer-reporter.com

Eckert, a member of the cemetery's anniversary committee.

Penn State went on that day to beat Princeton 8-1.

A few years later Mason wrote an unsigned letter to himself while he was the anonymous editor of the school magazine urging the student body to adopt the Nittany Lion as the official symbol of Penn State, Eckert said. The students followed Mason's lead and the creature first appeared in the school yearbook in 1908.

Mason went on to become a freelance newspaper writer in the Pittsburgh area and also worked in Ebensburg for the state Bureau of Highways before dying of a heart attack Oct. 9, 1948. He was then buried in a plainly marked grave under an old-growth oak tree in a family plot of graves.

"We are very proud to have the final resting place of Joe Mason," Cattaneo said.

This cemetery was organized in a town meeting on a Good Friday that fell on April 3, 1863, in response to rapid growth in this small city attributed to all the major, local wagon trails having passed through its downtown during America's Western Movement, Cattaneo said.

"All roads led through Monongahela," he said.

There is a popular myth that the



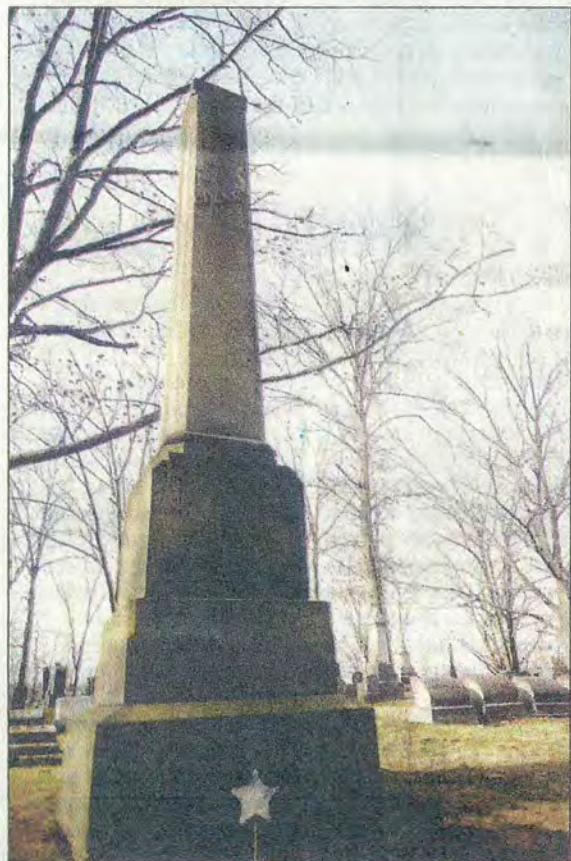
COURTESY OF MONONGAHELA CEMETERY

The Nittany Lion mascot of Pennsylvania State University makes a visit in 2004 to Monongahela Cemetery where the man who came up with the character's name is buried.

cemetery was created in response to an overriding number of Civil War deaths, he said.

"It's not true."

Please see Cemetery, Page.



KATIE ROUPE/OBSERVER-REPORTER

Lt. Henry Clark was buried in Monongahela Cemetery after he was fatally wounded during the Civil War on July 4, 1863.



KATIE ROUPE/OBSERVER-REPORTER

Monongahela Cemetery has a special section for Civil War veterans. Each headstone commemorates their service with an American flag, and the section is set apart by two Civil War cannons.

Historic Monongahela Cemetery Turns 150  
 Observer-Reporter-January 27, 2013



EMILY PETSKO / OBSERVER-REPORTER

From left, newly appointed Mt. Pleasant supervisor Dencil Backus spoke with attorney Charles Means, who drafted the conditional-use application document for the township, and Range Resources attorney Shawn Gallagher after a special meeting Friday.

## Mt. Pleasant agrees to Marcellus pad

By EMILY PETSKO  
Staff writer  
epetsko@observer-reporter.com

From freshwater impoundment to recycled wastewater tank farm, Range Resources can now make the conversion with Mt. Pleasant Township's approval.

After shooting down several proposals from the Marcellus Shale company in recent months, township officials reached an agreement regarding the Stewart impoundment during a special meeting Friday.

Supervisors Larry Grimm, Bryan Smith and Dencil Backus – who was recently appointed to the board after Arden McCartney resigned – unanimously voted to ap-

prove the conditional use application of an above-ground storage facility for recycled frack water with special conditions. The vote permits Range to convert the Stewart impoundment on Caldwell Road, which holds freshwater, into enclosed storage tanks capable of holding 10 million gallons of recycled water. The board rejected earlier Range proposals that also called for the closing of Carter impoundment and legal recognition of Cowden and Clingerman impoundments, all of which were contested by some residents.

Before making a motion to approve the Stewart tank pad, Backus addressed a formal

*Please see Agrees, Page A2*

## Agrees

*Continued from Page One*

motion made by Range attorney Shawn Gallagher asking Backus to recuse himself and abstain from voting. Backus criticized previous proposals submitted by Range regarding four water impoundments in the township.

Backus cited Section 603 of the Second Class Township Code, which states that a board member shall not be disqualified from voting on an issue “solely because the member has previously expressed an opinion on the issue,” either officially or unofficially.

“In the past, I have indeed expressed, on a number of occasions, a series of opinions about gas and oil related issues, but I have never made those statements in an official capacity and certainly not as a supervisor,” Backus said. “I fully understand that a township supervisor needs to make judgements based upon fairness, based upon good, honest evidence and the examination of those.”

In response, Gallagher said he believed Backus should not be permitted to vote because Section 603 only pertains to legislative action, not quasi-judicial decisions.

Regardless, the vote proceeded and Range representative Jim Cannon said he

was pleased with the result. “This is a step in the right direction,” said Cannon, manager of local government relations. Cannon said the company would review the eight conditions for the Stewart tank pad and decide how to proceed.

The document, drafted by attorney Charles Means, outlined eight conditions with which Range must comply, including regulations on odor, the removal of debris and waste, and dust abatement on the proposed access road. The previous access road would no longer be used. A chain-link fence at least eight feet high must be constructed around the pad site, tanks must be painted a color that blends in with surroundings and Range must screen the facility from properties on Quarry Lane.

Range is expected to reimburse the township for all fees, and Range must provide the township with a written lease specifically defining the leased site location prior to beginning construction. Lastly, Range must obtain a grading permit “if applicable and unless preempted or superseded by state or federal law.”

Smith felt relieved that the board had reached a consensus with Range regarding the Stewart impoundment. Smith said he hoped the township would continue to

ing three impoundments. “I think we’ve spent a lot of time and a lot of thought and a lot of sleepless nights,” Smith said. “I think we’re confident in the decision we made. I have a few more gray hairs over this.”

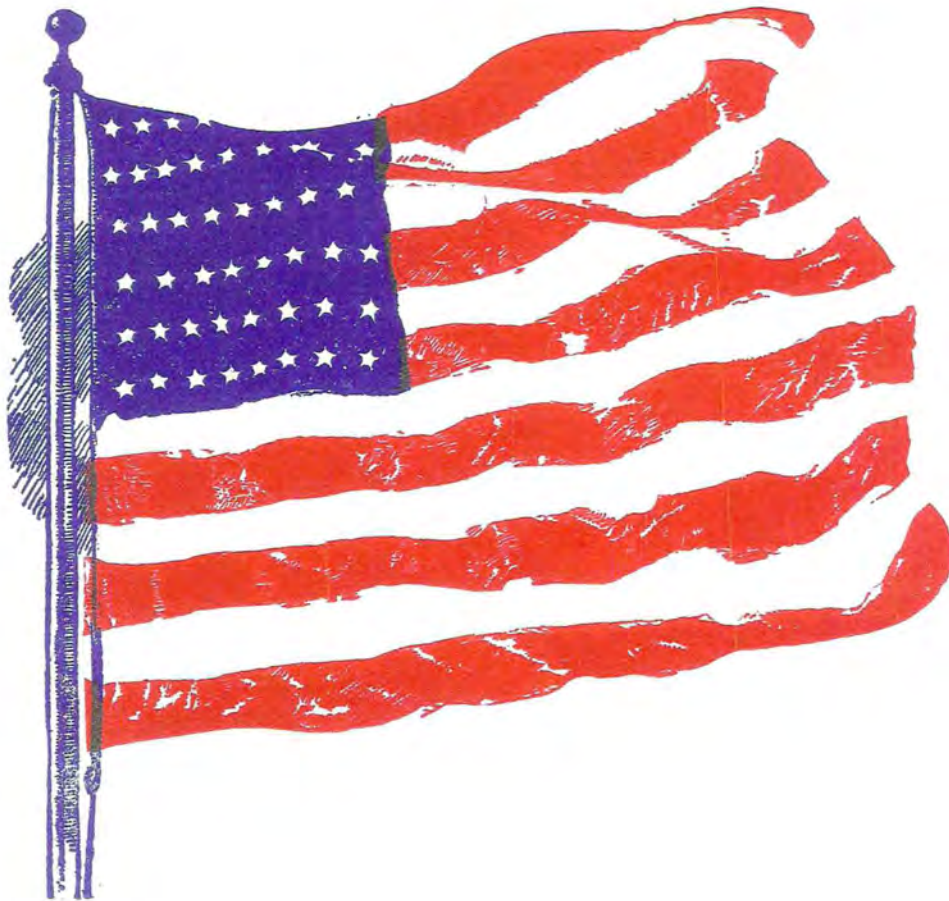
From the start, a group of residents urged township supervisors not to approve any measures that would allow continued operations of Range’s four water impoundments. Representatives from ten legal and environmental organizations sent a letter to supervisors and zoning board members prior to Friday’s meeting, urging them to vote down the proposal. The group based their argument on health and environmental concerns, potential changes in state oil and gas waste management laws and Range’s alleged violation of township zoning laws.

“Pollution events and problems at Range Resource’s Carter and other nearby impoundments serve as a cautionary tale for the residents of Hickory,” the letter read. “They clearly also do for the township, which correctly rejected Range Resource’s attempted ‘quid pro quo’ swap of one large-scale waste facility in an agricultural and residential area for another.”

The vote on Stewart impoundment was taken nearly a month after supervisors held a conditional-use hearing on the

# Dedication

## Mt. Pleasant Township Honor Roll



JULY 4, 1949, 10:00 A. M.  
MT. PLEASANT TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL AUDITORIUM  
HICKORY, PENNSYLVANIA

# Program

DEDICATION OF THE HONOR ROLL  
MT. PLEASANT TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL AUDITORIUM  
JULY 4, 1949, 10:00 A. M.

Invocation.....Rev. B. M. Wallace  
Mt. Pleasant United Presbyterian Church

Music.....Hickory Men's Community Chorus  
Mrs. Edward H. White, Accompanist

Dedicatory Address.....Roy I. Carson, Charleroi, Pa.  
Judge of the Court of Common Pleas of Washington County

Music.....Hickory Men's Community Chorus

Announcements

Un-veiling of the Honor Roll by Mothers of Service Men

FLOWER CEREMONY

In memory of the men who made the Supreme Sacrifice

Benediction.....Rev. C. S. Thomas  
Mt. Prospect Presbyterian Church

TAPS

John C. McIlvaine Post No. 902  
The American Legion of Houston

**ACKNOWLEDGMENTS:** The Mt. Pleasant Township Honor Roll has been erected through the combined efforts of persons from all parts of the township who have given freely of their time, talents and money for the success of the project. The Committees in charge desire to express appreciation for this help. Their appreciation is also expressed to those from outside our community who have helped with this project and in this dedication ceremony.

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## Honor Roll

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### IN MEMORIAM

BAWOLAK, STEVE	KARGLE, LOUIS	MORRIS, MICHAEL
DINSMORE, MALCOLM	KERSTEN, EARL	RAMACKER, HAROLD
DOTTS, CHARLES	MANION, JOSEPH	SCOTT, WAYNE
GORDON, DONALD	McDOWELL, JAMES	STORRICK, ROY
GOULD, GROVER	MERCIER, JOSEPH	WILLIAMS, JOHN
KAISER, ERNEST	MERIAGE, NICHOLAS	McANANY RICHARD

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# Honor Roll

Ahrns, Henry	Carl, Arthur	Dinsmore, Glen
Ahrns, Leonard	Carlisle, Robert	Dire, Albert
Alexander, Camille, Jr.	Carlisle, William	Dixon, Louis
Allison, Jay	Carter, Calvin	Doehre, Elmer
Alrutz, Ralph	Carter, George	Druga, Andrew
Anderson, Boyd	Casper, Julius	Druga, George
Antosh, Stanley	Cass, Charles	Druga, John
Arcure, Catherine	Cass, Harold	Druga, Joseph
Ashbrook, Merle	Cass, Joseph	DuBois, Amil
Atchison, Robert	Cenderelli, James	DuBois, Raymond
Atchison, Roy	Cherenko, Michael	Edward, L. G.
Atchison, Thomas	Chiff, Donald	Elder, Walter
Bartolich, Charles	Chiff, Earl	Engel, John
Bedillion, Glenn	Chiff, Jules	Fehl, Carl
Bedillion, John, Jr.	Christ, Robert	Fehl, Harry
Bish, William	Cogniet, Charles	Filius, Nicholas
Bitz, Frank	Cogniet, Norman	Findling, John
Boone, Lawrence	Cole, Clarence	Findling, Lester
Bower, James	Cole, Paul	Findling, Raymond
Bowland, Alex	Coleman, Harry	Finley, Cloyce
Bowland, Milford	Coleman, Paul	Finley, Wilford
Bowland, Ross	Conklin, Reed	Flon, Henry
Brady, Edgar	Cooke, Raymond	Frye, Albert
Brautigam, Clarence	Cornelius, Murray	Frye, David
Brautigam, Clyde	Cowden, Alvin	Frye, James
Brautigam, Earl	Cowden, Erwin	Frye, Leman
Brautigam, Elmer	Cowden, James	Frye, William
Brautigam, George	Cowden, John	Furlin, Louis, Jr.
Brautigam, Kenneth	Cowden, Lawrence	Gilbert, Eugene
Briggs, Robert	Cowden, Raymond	Gima, Andrew
Brindak, Andrew	Cowden, William	Gima, George
Brower, George	Crawford, Clarence	Gima, John
Brown, Frank	Criquellion, Elsie	Gima, Joseph
Brown, John	Criquellion, Julius	Gima, Michael (a)
Browning, William	Cummins, Roy	Gima, Michael (b)
Burgoon, Earl	Daley, Hugh, Jr.	Gordon, LaRoy
Butler, Thomas	Dami, Joseph	Graham, John
Byers, James	Davidson, Clyde	Grechnowsky, Nicholas
Cairns, Charles	Davis, Daniel	Greeley, Bernard
Caldwell, Donald	Davis, Richard	Greeley, Robert
Caldwell, James	Demnyan, Paul	Grivetti, Louis
Caldwell, John, Jr.	Dhans, Earl	Grivetti, Peter
Caldwell, Mildred	Dhans, Herman	Grivetti, Valentino
Campbell, Clark	Dias, Ralph	Gross, James
Campbell, George	Dias, William, Jr.	Growden, Donald

Growden, Merle  
Hainaut, Frank  
Haught, Dale  
Haught, Howard  
Haught, James  
Haught, John  
Haught, Wayne  
Hensel, Mary  
Hensel, Robert  
Hensel, Sheldon  
Hensel, William  
Herman, John  
Hete, John  
Hicks, Alfred  
Hicks, Glenn  
Hinerman, Melvin  
Hoop, George  
Hoop, Wendel  
Hoop, Willard  
Hulick, Elmer  
Hulick, John  
Hulick, William  
Hunter, Abraham  
Hunter, Samuel  
Jeffrey, Kermit  
Jemison, Joseph  
Johns, Alexander  
Kachnycz, John  
Kachnycz, Theodore  
Kalan, Joseph, Jr.  
Kaste, Kenneth  
Kendo, Leonard  
Kendo, Robert  
Kennedy, Clark  
Kennedy, Ralph  
Kerekes, William  
Kersten, Harold  
King, Floyd  
Kler, Joseph  
Klinsky, Alexander  
Klinsky, John  
Kraeer, Thomas  
Krese, James  
Kumer, Alex  
Kupstas, Joseph  
Lavine, George  
LaSavage, Michael  
Leibert, Joseph

Leibert, Leonard  
Lewton, William  
Libert, John  
Loffert, John  
Loffert, Robert  
Lugaila, John  
Lugaila, Michael  
Lyle, Donald  
Machek, Frank  
Machek, Ferd  
Machek, Vera  
Mahoney, Frank  
Mahoney, Victor  
Malone, LeRoy  
Maltony, Aldo  
Maltony, Cerafino  
Maltony, John  
Markish, John  
Markovich, John  
Marquis, Milton  
Marshall, Gerald  
Martin, Claire  
Martin, Donald  
Martin, Lester  
Matelliano, Frank  
Matelliano, Jules  
McAllister, Donald  
McAllister, Raymond  
McAllister, Willard  
McAnany, Howard  
McBride, Betty  
McBride, Harry  
McBride, John  
McCarrell, James  
McCarthy, Anthony  
McCartney, Charles  
McGugin, James  
Meneely, George  
Meriage, Lawrence  
Merigo, John  
Mgrdichan, Charles  
Mick, Stanton  
Michalka, Cyril  
Miholic, Frank  
Miller, Everett  
Miller, James  
Milligan, Samuel  
Morris, Andrew

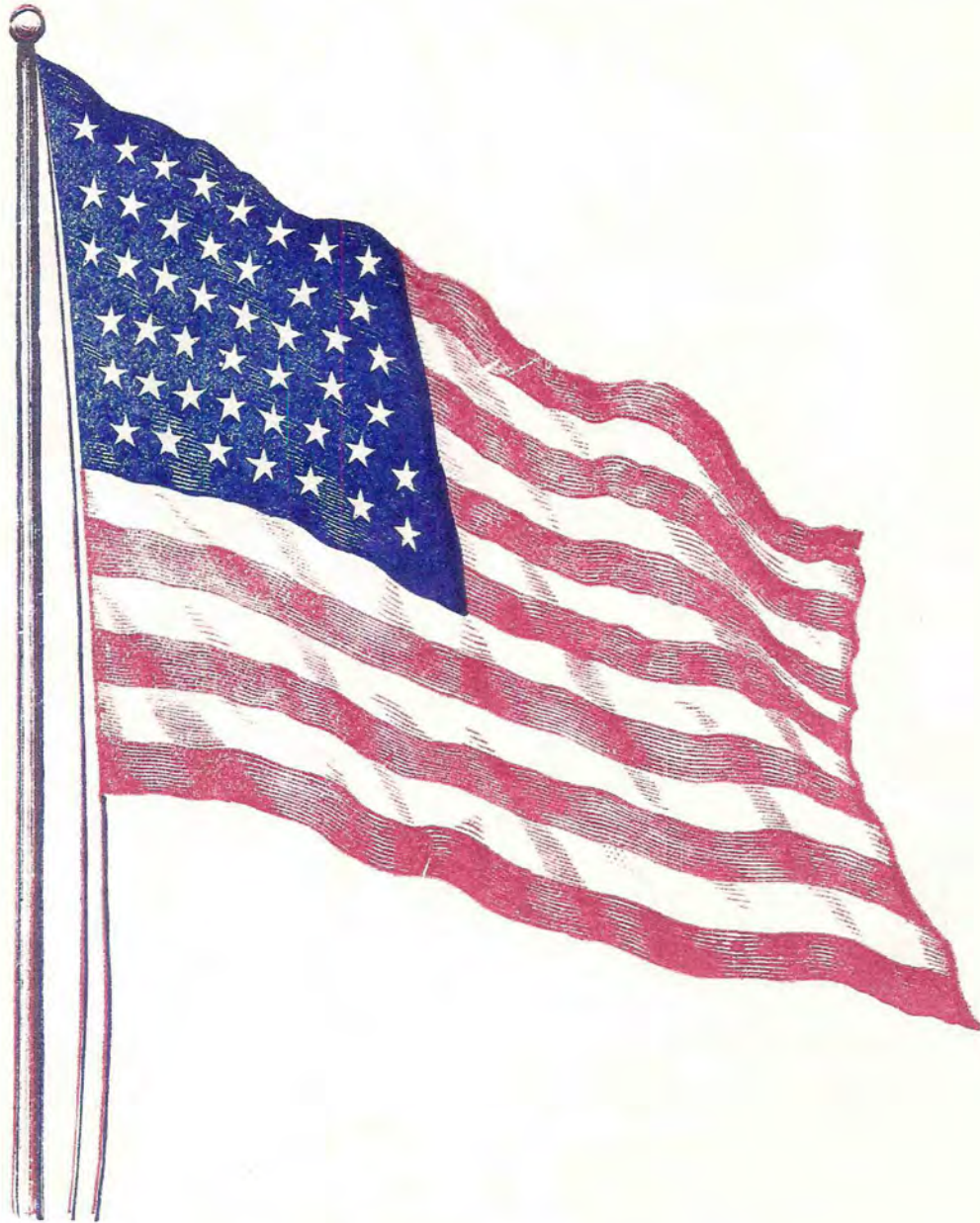
Morris, Charles  
Morrison, Glenn  
Moss, Harvey  
Mrenak, Edward  
Mulshen, Joseph  
Mulshen, Louis  
Myers, Thomas  
Neil, William  
Noble, James  
Novak, Edward  
Novak, Martha  
O'Bryon, Virginia  
Openbrier, Adolph  
Openbrier, Wililam  
Ozenbaugh, John  
Parks, Elden  
Partozoti, Albert, Jr.  
Partozoti, James  
Patnesky, Andrew  
Patnesky, James  
Patnesky, Joseph  
Patnesky, Philip  
Pattison, Samuel, Jr.  
Pawlosky, Frank  
Perenic, Fred  
Perenic, Joseph  
Piazza, Felix  
Pilkington, A. D.  
Plance, Edgar  
Plumeret, Seraphine  
Pollard, Glenn  
Prevost, Ronald  
Rargle, Louis  
Reboul, Felix  
Reedy, Lester  
Rettinger, Herbert  
Rettinger, Howard  
Rettinger, Leonard  
Rettinger, Wilbert  
Retzer, Walter  
Rockovich, William  
Rossi, Ernest  
Rupar, Emil  
Rupar, Frank  
Salansky, Alexander  
Salansky, Paul  
Salansky, Peter  
Salansky, William



Schmidt, Rudolph	Stamy, Abram	Vincenti, James
Schmidt, William	Stamy, Keller	Vincenti, John
Schmit, Albert	Stamy, Marshal	Vincenti, Joseph
Schmit, Reedy	Stanowski, John	Vincenti, Lawrence
Schweinebraten, Elmer	Staudt, David	Walchuck, George
Schweinebraten, Herbert	St. Clair, Martha	Walchuck, John
Scott, Paul	Stewart, Edward	Walchuck, Joseph
Scott, Walter, Jr.	Strain, George	Walker, Fred
Semple, John	Stumpf, Joseph	Walker, LeRoy
Sethman, Albert	Stumpf, William	Walker, Raymond
Sethman, William	Swartz, David	Walker, William
Shaffer, Clyde	Swartz, Louis	Warne, Theodore
Shannon, Paul	Swartz, Samuel	Washington, George
Shannon, Richard	Swihart, Rollon	Watson, Oliver
Sickles, Kenneth	Szczerbienski, Joseph	Weaverling, David
Sickles, Norman	Szczerbienski, Manuel	White, Albert
Sickles, Ralph	Tacchino, Louis	White, Alvin, Jr.
Silveus, Fred	Theiss, Charles	White, John
Simon, John	Theiss, Ernest	White, Robert
Simonelli, Albert	Todd, Robert	White, Robert R.
Simonelli, Jay	Tornabene, Guy	Wilkinson, Andrew
Simonelli, Joseph	Toth, Joseph	Wilkinson, Donald
Simpson, Alvin	Tozser, John	Wilkinson, Maxwell
Simpson, Denny	Trefnoff, George	Williams, Clifford
Simko, George	Tustin, Carl	Woods, James
Skrtich, John	Tustin, Clifford, Jr.	Woods, John
Skrtich, Samuel	Tustin, Donald	Wussick, Nicholas
Small, Alexander, Jr.	Tustin, Marshall	Yanosky, Charles
Smith, Arthur	Tustin, Woodrow	Yates, Paul
Smith, Robert	Tutin, Theodore	Yuhas, Joseph
Smith, Vance, Jr.	Ulanich, John	Yuhas, Steve
Snedeker, Andrew	Ulanich, Louis	Yuroskey, Albert
Snedeker, Donald	Urbanic, Frank	Yuroskey, Andrew
Snedeker, Samuel	Urbanic, Theodore	Yuroskey, John
Snedeker, Thomas	Valentine, James	Zapotosky, Charles
Speer, Lee	Vance, Robert	Zapotosky, John
Spillman, Russell	Vermeulen, Camille	Zarnick, Albin
Sray, John	Vermeulen, Clementine	Zemaitis, Charles
Sray, Thomas	Vermeulen, Herman	Zeno, Carl
	Vicker, Robert	

# DEDICATION

Mt. Pleasant Twp. Roll of Honor



HICKORY, PENNSYLVANIA

ARMISTICE DAY, NOVEMBER 11, 1943 - 10:45 A. M.

## MOUNT PLEASANT TOWNSHIP ROLL OF HONOR

Ahrns, Leonard	Filius, Nick	Machek, Ferd
Alexander, Camille, Jr	Finley, Cloyce	Machek, Frank
Allison, Jay	Finley, Wilford	Mahoney, Frank
Alrutz, Ralph	Foster, Theodore	Mahoney, Victor
Anderson, Boyd	Frye, David	Malone, Leroy
Antosh, Stanley	Frye, James	Maltony, John
Arcure, Catherine	Frye, William	Martin, Claire
Ashbrook, Merle	Gima, Andrew	Martin, Donald
Atchison, Robert	Gima, George	Marshall, Jerry
Atchison, Roy	Gima, John	McAllister, Raymond
Bartolich, Charles	Gima, Joseph	McAnany, Howard
Bedillion, John, Jr.	Gordon, Donald	McAnany, Richard
Bish, William	Gordon, Leroy	McBride, Harry
Bowland, Alex	Gould, Bud	McCarrell, James
Bowland, Milford	Graham, John	McCarthy, Anthony
Brautigam, Clarence	Greeley, Bernard	McCarthy, Charles
Brautigam, Clyde	Greeley, Robert	McDowell, James
Brautigam, Earl	Grivetti, Peter	McGugin, James, Jr.
Brautigam, Elmer	Grivetti, Valentino	McMurray, Cornelius
Brower, George	Hainaut, Frank	Meneely, George
Brower, James	Haught, Howard	Mercier, Joseph
Browning, William	Haught, James	Meriage, Lawrence
Caldwell, Donald	Haught, John	Meriage, Nick
Caldwell, James	Hensel, Mary	Mgrdichan, Charles
Caldwell, Mildred	Hensel, Robert	Mick, Stanton
Carl, Arthur	Hensel, Sheldon	Miller, Everett
Carlisle, Robert	Hensel, William	Miller, James
Cenderelli, James	Hete, John	Milligan, Samuel
Chiff, Donald	Hicks Alfred	Morris, Andrew
Chiff, Earl	Hinerman, Melvin	Morris, Charles
Chiff, Jules	Hoop, George	Morris, Mike
Christ, Robert	Hoop, Willard	Moss, Harvey
Cogniet, Charles	Hulick, Elmer	Mrenak, Edward
Cogniet, Norman	Hulick, John	Mulshen, Joseph
Cole, Clarence	Hulick, William	Mutton, James
Cole, Paul	Jeffrey, Kermit	Myers, Thomas
Coleman, Harry	Johns, Alex	Novak, Edward
Coleman, Paul	Kachnyez, Theodore	Novak, Martha
Conklin, Reed	Kalan, Joseph, Jr.	Openbrier, Adolph
Cooke, Raymond	Kargle, Louis	Parks, Elden
Cowden, James	Kaste, Kenneth	Partozoti, James
Cowden, John	Kencec, Nick	Patnesky, Andrew
Cowden, Lawrence	Kendo, Leonard	Pawlosky, Frank
Crawford, Clarence	Kennedy, Clark	Perenic, Joseph
Criquellion, Elsie	Kennedy, Joseph	Pilkington, A. D.
Criquellion, Julius	Kennedy, Ralph	Plumeret, Serephine
Cummins, Ray	Kersten, Earl	Pollard, Glenn
Daley, Hugh	Kersten, Fred	Prevost, Ronald
Dhans, Earl	Kersten, Harold	Ramacher, Harold
Dhans, Herman	Klinsky, Alex	Reedy, Lester
Dinsmore, Malcolm	Klinsky, John	Rettinger, Howard
Dire, Albert	Kraeer, Thomas	Rettinger, Herbert
Dixon, Louis	Kumer, Alex	Rettinger, Leonard
Doehre, Elmer	Laine, George	Rettinger, Wilbert
Druga, Andrew	LaSavage, Mike	Rupar, Emil
Druga, George	Libert, John	Rubar, Frank
DuBois, Amil	Lugaila, John	Salansky, Alex
DuBois, Raymond	Lugaila, Mike	Salansky, Paul
Edward, L. G. Eddy	Lyle, Donald	Salansky, William

# Acknowledgments

The erection of the Mount Pleasant Township Roll of Honor has been under the sponsorship of Hickory Lodge No. 125 Knights of Pythias of Hickory of which Dr. Edward H. White is the Chancellor Commander. Funds have been raised by donations solicited from residents of the Township.

The following committees have functioned in the work incidental to the undertaking:

Building Committee: V. M. Paul, Chairman, George Baker, J. E. McIlvaine, and Howard Caldwell.

Finance Committee: J. R. Henderson, Chairman, Dr. J. K. McCarrell, J. M. Frazier.

Active solicitation for funds has been made by the Girl Scouts of Hickory and the Boy Scouts of Westland.

Landscaping Committee: E. M. Phillips, Chairman, M. J. O'Toole, J. W. Alderson, S. L. McCalmont, Samuel Wilson.

Dedication Committee: A. D. White, Chairman, Robert H. Culley, C. S. Thomas.

Lettering on the Memorial has been done by Robert H. Culley of Washington

The participation of the American Legion Post of Burgettstown is under the direction of the Post Commander, C. L. Kirsch of Langeloth, Penna.

The Community Chorus is under the direction of Miss Della Colwes of Hickory.

The Hickory High School Band is directed by Mrs. Lourene Coulter Thompson, Supervisor of Music in the Mount Pleasant Township Schools.

Grateful acknowledgment is hereby extended by Hickory Lodge Knights of Pythias to all who have assisted in any way in the erection and dedication of this Roll of Honor.

§

(Mount Pleasant Township Honor Roll consists of residents of Mount Pleasant Township and members of Hickory Lodge No. 125 Knights of Pythias, regardless of residence.)

# PROGRAM

10:45 A. M.  
PATRIOTIC CONCERT.....HICKORY HIGH SCHOOL BAND

11:00 A. M.  
ONE MINUTE OF SILENCE IN COMMEMORATION OF THE ARMISTICE OF  
WORLD WAR I.

STAR SPANGLED BANNER .....BAND

FLAG RAISING AND SALUTATION:  
By THE BURGETTSTOWN POST NO. 698 AMERICAN LEGION OF PENNA.

INVOCATION .....REV. JOSEPH M. HOPKINS

SONG ..... COMMUNITY CHORUS OF HICKORY

INTRODUCTION OF THE SPEAKER ..... A. D. WHITE

DEDICATION ADDRESS: JOHN A. STOUPE OF WAYNESBURG, PENNA.,  
DISTRICT COMMANDER OF THE TWENTY-FIFTH DISTRICT, AMERICAN  
LEGION OF PENNSYLVANIA.

PATRIOTIC NUMBER .....BAND

SONG ..... COMMUNITY CHORUS OF HICKORY

SOLO: THE RECESSIONAL.....MISS RUTH TAGGART

LOWERING OF THE COLORS ..... AMERICAN LEGION

SONG: AMERICA .....AUDIENCE

BENEDICTION .....REV. C. S. THOMAS

§

Schmit, Reedy  
Schmit, Albert  
Schweinebraten, Elmer  
Scott, Paul  
Scott, Walter, Jr.  
Scott, Wayne  
Sempie, John  
Shannon, Paul  
Shannon, Richard  
Sickles, Norman  
Sickles, Ralph  
Silveus, Fred  
Simpson, Denny  
Simonelli, Albert  
Simonelli, Jay  
Skrtech, John  
Skrtech, Sam  
Small, Alex, Jr.  
Smith, Robert  
Snedeker, Samuel  
Snedeker, Thomas  
Sray, John  
Sray, Thomas  
Stamy, Keller  
Stamy, Marshall

Stewart, Edward  
Staudt, David  
Strain, George  
Stumpf, Joseph  
Swartz, David  
Swartz, Samuel  
Swihart, Rollon  
Szczerbienski, Joseph  
Szczerbienski, Manuel  
Tacchino, Louis  
Theiss, Charles  
Theiss, Ernest  
Tornabene, Guy  
Toth, Joseph  
Tozer, John  
Tustin, Marshall  
Tustin, Woodrow  
Tutin, Tony  
Ulanich, John  
Ulanich, Louis  
Urbanic, Frank  
Urbanic, Tony  
Valentine, James T.  
Vermeulen, Herman  
Vicker, Robert

Vincenti, John  
Vincenti, Lawrence  
Vincenti, Louis  
Vincenti, Raymond  
Vozel, John  
Walchuck, George  
Walchuck, John  
Walchuck, Joseph  
Walker, Fred  
Walker, LeRoy  
Walker, Raymond  
Walker, William  
Warne, Theodore  
White, Albert  
White, Alvin, Jr.  
Williams, Clifford  
Wilkinson, Andrew  
Wilkinson, Donald  
Woods, James  
Woods, John  
Yuhas, Steve  
Zapotosky, Charles  
Zarnick, Albin  
Zemaites, Charles  
Zeno, Carl

# Mt. Pleasant Yawns At Washington Sleep

By NOREEN HECKMANN

Washington County residents seem unimpressed that the father of the country once slept on their doorstep.

The fact that the first president fought a running legal battle for a tract in what's now Mount Pleasant Township has largely slipped from mind.

But in 1784 George was so enraged he might lose his 2,813 acres to 13 squatters that he reportedly loosed his tongue — and was fined five shillings, about \$1.25 — for swearing.

The only trace left of his fight are two roadside markers at an edge of his former estate.

"A lot of people don't know much about the Washington lands," said local historian Alvin D. White. "It's pretty much ignored."

Washington claimed the land under a patent granted by the colony of Virginia in 1774. In 1784 the Mason-Dixon line between Maryland and Pennsylvania was extended west of the Monongahela, settling a dispute with Virginia over which state Washington's grant was in.

Washington already owned his Mount Vernon estate, but he wanted to be in on the expected westward expansion.

He was too busy to trek to Western Pennsylvania himself. So he wrote to a friend, Capt. William Crawford, to start looking for 2,000 or more acres of good land.

There are hints that he may have hoped someday to move here.

"It will be easy for you to conceive that ordinary or even middling lands would never answer my purpose or expectations," Washington stated.

"No, a tract to please me must be rich, and, if possible, level."

Time has proved Crawford's selection to be everything Washington hoped for. The lush farmland is the richest and most productive in the county.

It's just over the Allegheny County line near Hickory, and the character of the tract has changed little in 200 years.

"I think George would find he could still produce some excellent crops if he were living here at the present time," White said.

White knows the Washington lands well. He's lived 83 years near the first president's old claim.

About 15 farms and houses dot the landscape where Washington hoped to settle in his old age, White said. The years have passed all but unnoticed, the silence of time broken only by the gurgle of a brook or hum of a tractor.

Gentle hills roll between glistening lakes and ponds. Ancient trees entwine the mystery of the years in gnarled branches.

The land is fruitful, bearing everything from corn to apples and walnuts.



In an age of exploitation, the absence of development adds a refreshing tranquility. There are no industries, or clusters of homes wedged on quarter-acre lots.

The only businesses are an orchard, a horse farm and a dairy farm.

Romantics say strip miners are afraid to ravage the pristine valley.

Neighboring Robinson Township has been turned into a moonscape by the miner's claws.

But practical Washington natives shrug off claims that the Washington lands are special. "There's no way a strip miner could get his teeth in this land. Why, the coal in these parts is about 325 feet below ground," White said.

A mine shaft in the south-east corner is the only evidence of man's greed. But even that has long been abandoned. The houses of the former miners are either boarded or the people who live in them work in Washington or Pittsburgh.

"It certainly has all the attributes George Washington wanted," White said. "This is some of the finest land, among the most beautiful places in the county."

Washington was equally in love with the picturesque acreage. "It is esteemed a valuable tract," he wrote in his diary on his first visit.

But he wasn't sure how to handle the squatters. He met them in the home of David Reed, centrally located on his property.

Washington insisted he had no desire to sell. But he reconsidered after hearing the men's "hardships, religious principles and unwillingness to separate or remove."

So he reluctantly offered to sell at 25 shillings an acre. The money was to be paid in three annual payments with interest.

The settlers argued they had neither the resources or inclination to meet these terms.

Washington, not used to being rebuffed, thundered at the settlers' refusal to get off his land.

With fire in his eyes and determination in his heart, he pulled from his pocket a long red silk handkerchief.

"Gentlemen," he exclaimed, "I will have this land just as surely as I now have this handkerchief."

With that, Washington slammed the door on the squatters and set out for court.

The settlers didn't have a chance fighting the hero of the Revolution. The court ruled in Washington's favor and said he could do what he wanted to the trespassers.

He had them evicted.

Ironically, for all his trouble, Washington never got to live on the land.

"His dreams of coming out here and making a second estate were extinguished when he was elected president," said White.

Washington got tied up in Philadelphia, tangled in politics and stuck in Mount Vernon. He never made it back to Washington County.

In 1796, he sold the tract as a whole to a Matthew Ritchie for the equivalent of \$12,000, or \$4 an acre. The sale netted Washington a hefty profit, especially since there's no indication he paid anything for the land.

Shortly after the purchase, Ritchie offered 13 farms for sale. But despite his claim that the "soil was of excellent quality, rich, level, well timbered and well watered," there's no indication he sold any of it.

In fact, at the time of his death, he still owed Washington's estate \$6,409.20.

The land was disposed of at a sheriff's sale in 1802 to Alexander Addison for \$60.

Addison parceled out the land and sold it to a number of farmers. Descendants of many of these property owners stayed for 100 years or more.

But now most of the old-timers are gone. Farms, on the average, have been in the hands of their present owners less than 50 years.

Those who moved to the Washington lands say they were lured by the beauty, fertility and location.

Few show anything more than a passing interest in Washington's former ownership.

"There are just too many distractions, that's all," White said. "People have enough to think about with their own lives, let alone the past."

Mt. Pleasant Yawns at Washington Sleeps  
The Pittsburgh Press-January 11, 1979 Edition

Courtesy of Fort Vance Historical Society



**Sycamore tree near Murdocksville, PA.-Circa 1950**

The tree is 35 feet in circumference at waist high. It is hollow and a team of horses can stand inside its trunk. The Pennsylvania Game Commission stated that this tree is the largest tree in the state. That is our good friend W.R. Allison, hunter and naturalist, standing where the trunk divides. Its limb spread is about 180 feet. This is in Washington County, about 10 miles from Burgettstown, PA.



**Three Arched Bridge, 1½ Miles West of Washington, Pennsylvania**

**National Pike Series-Benefit of National Pike Chapter of DAR  
Photos were taken in 1910 or Earlier**

This bridge over Chartiers Creek shows the substantial way in which these bridges were built over the small as well as the large streams. There are 24 bridges in Pennsylvania, 14 of which have been rebuilt or repaired. This bridge is about one-half mile west of the incorporated borough of West Washington. West Washington was formerly the ancient little village of Rankinville.





**Cumberland Road at Laboratory, 2 Miles East of Washington, Pa.**

**National Pike Series-Benefit of National Pike Chapter of DAR  
Photos were taken in 1910 or Earlier**

The village was named Pancake after George Pancake who kept the first tavern in this place. This village is also known by the name of Martinsburg. The classical name of the place however is Laboratory. On the north side of the road was formerly the famous "Martin" tavern erected in 1825. Two miles distant is Washington, Pa.



**Cumberland Road, at South Strabane, 5 Miles East of Washington, Pa.**

**National Pike Series-Benefit of National Pike Chapter of DAR  
Photos were taken in 1910 or Earlier**

This is another small hamlet or village situated on both sides of the "road." The handsome brick house is on the south side of the road is the private residence of Anderson Hootman.



**The Cumberland Road at the "Old Coulson Tavern" 4 Miles West of  
Washington, Pennsylvania**

**National Pike Series-Benefit of National Pike Chapter of DAR  
Photos were taken in 1910 or Earlier**

On the south side of the road a frame building formerly stood on the site of the present brick structure. This old tavern was familiar to the wagoners and stage drivers. It is now a private residence owned and occupied by E.G. Coulson.



**State Toll House, Near West Alexander, Pennsylvania**

**National Pike Series-Benefit of National Pike Chapter of DAR  
Photos were taken in 1910 or Earlier**

This is gate No. 6 and the last toll house in Pennsylvania on the Cumberland Road westward from Wheeling.



**The "Old Miller House" 5 Miles West of Washington, Pennsylvania**

**National Pike Series-Benefit of National Pike Chapter of DAR  
Photos were taken in 1910 or Earlier**

This is a well remembered and popular wagon stand situated on the north side of the road. The large wagon yard and the other necessary outbuildings, made it a favorite and satisfactory stopping place for the traveling public. It is now a private residence owned by James and John Wilson.



**The "S" Bridge, 6 Miles West of Washington, Pennsylvania**

**National Pike Series-Benefit of National Pike Chapter of DAR  
Photos were taken in 1910 or Earlier**

This is a large stone bridge over a branch of Buffalo Creek and is so named from its shape, which resembles the letter S. The bridge is in good repair and is one of the celebrated bridges on the road ranking closely to the "Little Crossing" Bridge (No. 20) and the "Big Crossings" Bridge (No. 32). In early times there was a tavern at either end of the bridge.



**Maiden Street, Washington, Pennsylvania**

**National Pike Series-Benefit of National Pike Chapter of DAR  
Photos were taken in 1910 or Earlier**

Washington is the largest town between Cumberland and Wheeling. (It is a dry town, in that no liquor can be lawfully sold in Washington.) It is the seat of Washington and Jefferson College one of the oldest and best known institutions west of the Allegheny Mountains. (The high standard of the work required and done at this institution in the East and West alike.) It may not be amiss to say that probably no other town of its size in the United States contains so many excellent school buildings, so many churches and so many miles of paved streets as does Washington, Pa. 14,349 feet of the Cumberland Road through this town has been paved by the borough.



**Main Street, Washington, Pennsylvania**

**National Pike Series-Benefit of National Pike Chapter of DAR  
Photos were taken in 1910 or Earlier**

The Cumberland Road follows the line of East Maiden Street to Main St., up Main St., to Chestnut St., westward. This is the business street of the town. On the west side of the street is the Court House which is said to be one of the finest, if not the finest, County Court House in Pennsylvania, and one of the finest in the United States. Many of the old tavern stands were located on this street.. (See Searight, *The Old Pike* 274-282, also Crumrine's *History of Washington County*, 493-496) Washington is on the main line of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad and the terminus of Chartiers.





**Cumberland Road, Looking East, at Glyde, 7 Miles East Of Washington, Pa.**

**National Pike Series-Benefit of National Pike Chapter of DAR  
Photos were taken in 1910 or Earlier**

This little village or hamlet cluster about it consists of a church, a post office and other improvements constituting the little village of Glyde. This romantic spot is situated a short distance west of "Egg Nogg" hill at a place called Glyde.



**The Old Kelly Farm, 6 Miles West of Washington, Pennsylvania**

**National Pike Series-Benefit of National Pike Chapter of DAR  
Photos were taken in 1910 or Earlier**

This old tavern, situated on the south side of the western end of the "S" bridge, has been owned by Kelly's for over a hundred years. This building is a type of many of the old taverns that accommodated the traveling public in their day. The outside appearance of these old tavern-stands was no index to the quality of entertainment they afforded. This tavern burnt down in Feb.1899. (On its site was erected the same year the present modern and beautiful structure now owned by Mrs. Sarah A. Exline.)



**Main Street, Claysville, Pennsylvania**

**National Pike Series-Benefit of National Pike Chapter of DAR  
Photos were taken in 1910 or Earlier**

Claysville was located on the line of the Cumberland Road which forms its Main Street. This town was named in honor of Henry Clay, the unrivaled champion of the road. Claysville was one of the stage stations. This town is 18 miles east of Wheeling and 6 miles from West Alexander. The town was laid out in 1817 and remained unincorporated till 1832.



**Vienna, Looking East, 3 Miles West of Claysville, Pennsylvania**

**National Pike Series-Benefit of National Pike Chapter of DAR  
Photos were taken in 1910 or Earlier**

This romantic little village or hamlet clustered about it is situated at the foot of a long hill midway between Claysville and West Alexander. The B. & O. Station at this place is called Vienna. The origin of the name "Coon Island" is somewhat difficult to ascertain. The first word of the name presumably accounted for, but an island has never existed here within the memory of the oldest citizens. This place was one of the regular relays for the express wagons.



Main Street, West Alexander, Pennsylvania

**National Pike Series-Benefit of National Pike Chapter of DAR  
Photos were taken in 1910 or Earlier**

West Alexander laid out in 1796, became one of the important points on this great thoroughfare and was made a borough in 1873. The original name of the community was "The Three Ridges." Other familiar names have been "Hard Scrabble," "Gretna Green," and Saint's Rest." Charles Hass laid out a number of lots in 1817, when the town received its first boom owing to the coming of the Cumberland Road. It was believed that all the towns upon this "Route" would become places of prosperity and importance. The two taverns, of which the "American Eagle" built in 1797 was probably the most celebrated, were patronized by the rival stage lines of the road. In 1831 a destructive fire destroyed a large number of the best buildings in the place. Less than one-half mile westward is the Pennsylvania and West Virginia boundary line. The Cumberland Road extends through Washington County a distance of 213,341 feet of which 20,354 have been improved and 5,700 feet are under contract. Washington Borough has paved 14,349 feet.



**Central Hotel, Scenery Hill, Pennsylvania**

**National Pike Series-Benefit of National Pike Chapter of DAR  
Photos were taken in 1910 or Earlier**

This is a large stone hotel, familiarly known as "Hills Tavern," situated on the north side of the road. It was in existence as early as 1794, and is now owned by Jacob Gerlein who is also proprietor of the hotel. In the palmy days of the road this tavern is said to have been the only stage house that was extensively patronized by the wagoners, due probably to the commodious and spacious yard in front of the hotel. This town was one of the principal points at which the stage coaches stopped during the "Star" days of the great thoroughfare.

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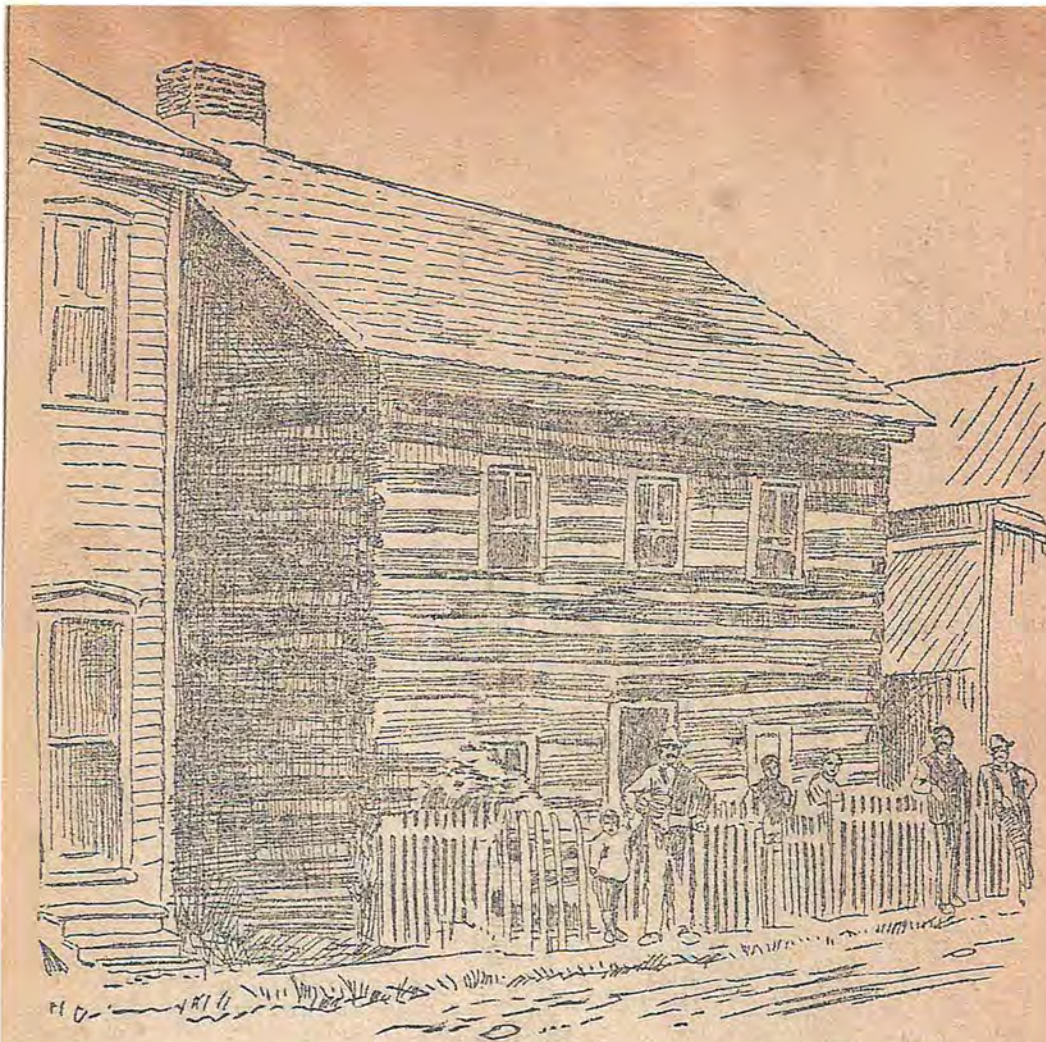
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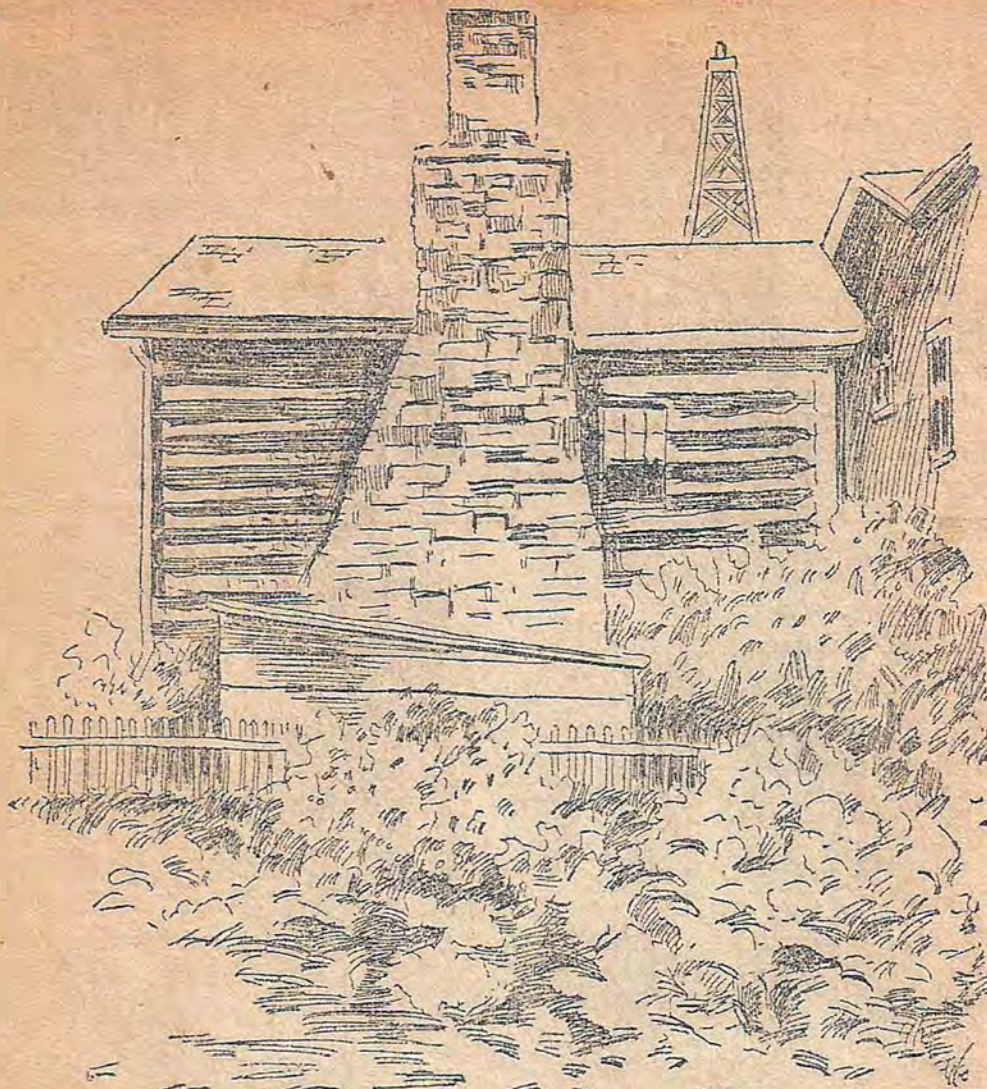
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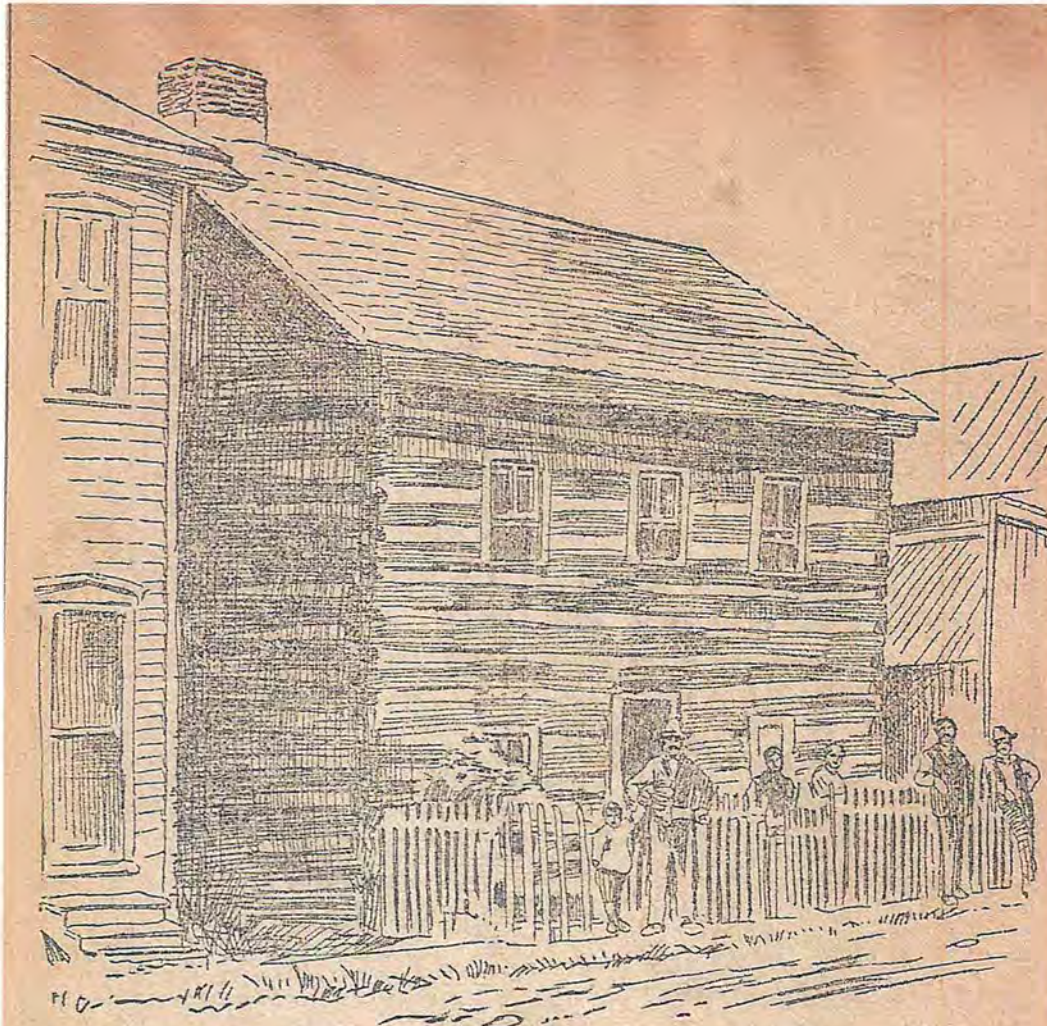
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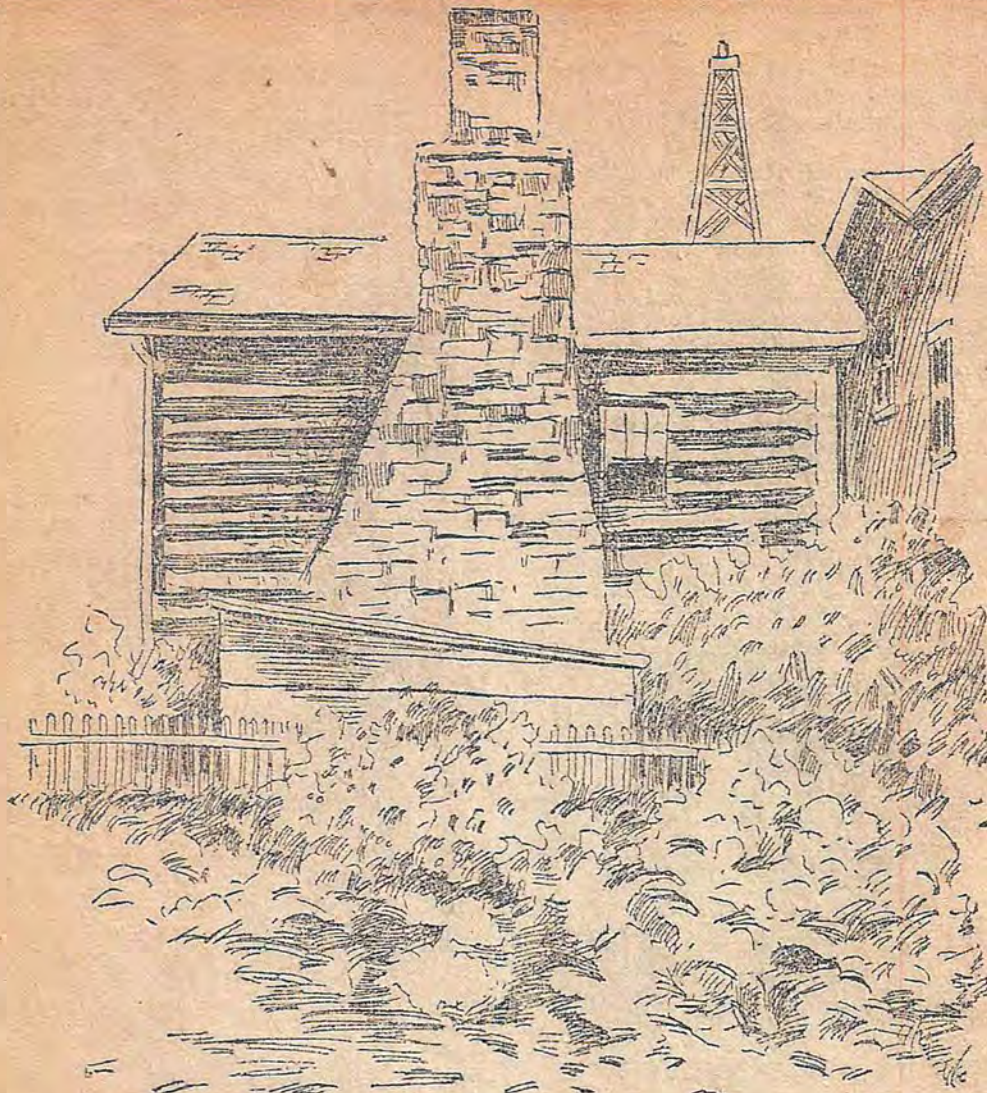
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E. Ralston is Ebenzer McCreedy Ralston. Many names are misspelled. Ex.OC. Hance is G. Plants  
 Partial Map of Northern Washington County, PA-1904

# Ohio River 'Old Hand' at Flooding

By MARY FLUHARTY  
The Intelligencer Staff

This winter is "old stuff" to Father Time.

Though there's a month's snow and ice on the ground, and despite blizzards and sub zero weather, there doesn't seem to be any real indication we are entering a modern "Ice Age."

Severe winter weather has hit the area many times before and floods are part of the long history of the Ohio Valley.

For example, on April 19-21, 1901 Washington County, Ohio, had a blizzard which brought 45 inches of snow. It centered on Watertown. In 1913, Ohio, Pennsylvania and West Virginia had a snowstorm and high winds on Nov. 7-11 which snarled communications. In 1918 Illinois, Indiana and Ohio had a heavy snowfall of 20 inches which paralyzed communications from Jan. 11-14.

It was on Nov. 23-28 in 1950 that a record snowfall of from 35 to 57 inches hit the area. It piled drifts and bottled up whole communities for days.

Plowing through records of the Environmental Data Service of the

U.S. Department of Commerce sheds light on blizzards and snowstorms. For example, on Feb. 19-24 New England had one of the first blizzards recorded in this country. The snowfall was from five to six feet in depth. The year — 1717.

In 1888, the Eastern seaboard took on a champion and lost. That blizzard simultaneously hit Boston, New York, Philadelphia and Washington, D.C., from Feb. 11-14. Seventh mile-per-hour winds brought 40-50 inches of snow and many lives were lost.

Since 1717, New England and the East have suffered through 24 snowfalls of blizzards, all new records, while the West and Midwest have had only 17.

Like everything else, there are degrees of blizzards. The Middle West was hit by an unforgettable one Jan. 10-12, 1975. It struck Iowa, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska and the Dakotas, and brought death to many people and animals. Damage to property ran into the millions.

Apparently, from reviewing the list of record-breaking storms during

more than 100 years, no section of America is immune. In that time the deep South has had two blizzards and the West Coast two.

After severe winters, floods follow many times. Three rivers in America are known for their "spring thaws," the Ohio, Missouri and Mississippi.

The Ohio, only one-third as long as the Missouri and draining the runoff from slightly more than one-third the square miles, has had only one less major flood than the Missouri which runs for 3,000 miles and drains 525,000 square miles.

It is the kind of country the Ohio, which starts at Pittsburgh and runs to Cairo, Ill., drains which makes the difference. There are countless small streams and the Allegheny and Monongahela rivers which join to form it at The Point in Pittsburgh. Each drains wide areas before they join the Ohio which drains 214,000 square miles.

Two kinds of flood are recorded in the U.S. — the "January thaw" which comes in spring and the early summer and fall floods from excessive rainfall. There have been more warm

weather floods, mostly in the West and areas West of the Mississippi, than there have been late winter and very early spring floods caused by melting snow and rain.

There have been 40 summer floods of major proportions and only 33 of the "thaw" variety.

The Ohio had its first flood "of note" in 1881 when 138 people lost their lives and damage reached \$15 million. The second, which gets little notice but did considerable damage, was in 1884. The 1913 flood came when the Ohio and Miami rivers went on a rampage in March. More than 700 persons lost their lives, 60,000 buildings were destroyed and damage reached \$180 million.

On March 17-24, 1936, the Ohio, Potomac, Connecticut and Merrimac rivers went on a spring spree and considerable damage was done by the following year was the greater catastrophe for the entire Ohio River area. It occurred Jan. 22, made one million homeless before its force was spent in the Mississippi, left 500 dead and did damage amounting to \$30 million.

February-March of 1945, "thaw months," saw the Ohio out of its banks again. Eighteen died. The loss of property was \$30 million. In March, 1963, the story was repeated — 26 killed, \$97 million damage. Dollar losses mounted 10 years later when the lower Ohio particularly was hard hit in flooding of the three big rivers. Loss of lives, 12, was lower than average but property damages soared to \$500 million. Only floods which did relatively minor damage have occurred since then.

If the awesome record of flood death and destruction indicates anything it is that the Ohio may flood

without other rivers being greatly affected, that flooding East of the Alleghenies from either rain or melting snow need not mean a flood for the Ohio, that even if every river West of the Mississippi pours flood water into the Mississippi, there may not be any reason for the Ohio to reach flood stage. But, it also means whatever lies in the hills above the Ohio River must come down eventually.

Down means down the Ohio, if it is rain or snow. That's the reason for the annual "flood watch" now going on everywhere "down river" from Pittsburgh.

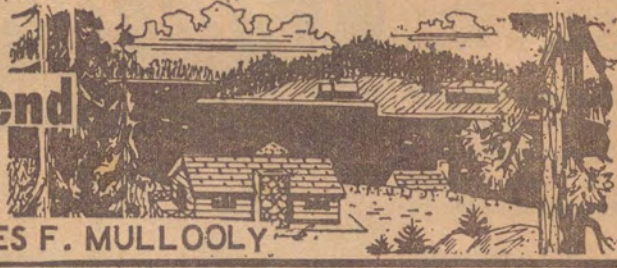
Ohio River 'Old Hand' at Flooding

The Intelligencer- Steubenville-Weirton Edition-February 7, 1977 Edition

Courtesy of Fort Vance Historical Society

Of People and Places in the Tri-State

## Steamboat 'Round the Bend



By JAMES F. MULLOOLY

### Pastoral Paris, Pennsylvania

Up in Hanover Township, Pennsylvania, just above Weirton, is the little village of Paris. Close to the West Virginia state line on the old Steubenville to Pittsburgh Pike, it saw more active days when there was an extensive number of industries in town; like a cabinet maker's shop, several wagon - building shops and a threshing machine factory.

But these have long disappeared, and the manufacture of threshing machines and furniture has left the scene. One wagonmaking center was located on the Pike at McConnell's farm, a mile east of Paris, but when the Pittsburgh and Steubenville Railroad was put through in 1865, heavy travel ceased on the pike and the wagon shop went out of business.

ALVIN McCABE used to con-

duct the general store, which had been operated in years past by his father, William McCabe. During the Civil War years, Will McCabe purchased a large part of the annual wood crop, another source of income for the Parisians of the Tri-State.

Paris had an Academy during the period when many of the ambitious villages encouraged the youth in their immediate neighborhoods by bringing instruction nearer the cluster of homes. The Academy Building, built of brick, stood on a knoll, in a pleasant location. The seat of learning's demise came about in or near the year 1880.

WHEN ONE speaks of Paris, he must also take in Hanover Township, an attractive neighbor of pastoral beauty adjacent to the bustling, industrial city of Weirton.

Hanover is situated in the extreme northwest corner of Washington County, Pennsylvania. Its boundaries are Beaver County on the north, West Virginia on the West, Harman's Creek and Smith Township on the south, and Smith Township and Raccoon Creek on the east. King's Creek and Brush Run rise in the center of Hanover Township and flow west and east respectively into West Virginia and Raccoon Creek.

It was on March 11, 1786, that Hanover Township was formed from part of Smith Township. At this stage of its formation, its boundaries were the Ohio River and Robinson Township on the north and east, Smith Township on the South, and Virginia (now West Virginia) on the west.

WHEN ALLEGHENY COUNTY was erected, September 24, 1788, Hanover lost a part of its territory. The northern part was cut off from Washington County to form a part of Beaver County, yet each county retained the name of Hanover for one of its townships.

On March 30, 1830, by order of the court, the land included between Brush Run and the present northern boundary of Smith Township was added to Hanover Township.

Besides the afore mentioned village of Paris, other hamlets in Hanover Township are Florence, Murdockville and Five Points.

# PARIS

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Paris sits high on the ridge between the deep valleys of Harmon Creek and King's Creek, and almost on the Pennsylvania-West Virginia state line. Its early importance depended upon its location on the Pittsburgh-Steubenville Pike, now known as Old Route 22.

In the 1880's there were only twenty-six homes in Paris. The building of the Panhandle Railroad in the 1860's boosted the economy with a station known as Paris Crossing. This was later closed and Hanlin and Colliers took its place.

Paris had one of Hanover Township's rural schools, which was closed in 1952.

Three Springs Presbyterian Church was located in the village, later becoming known as Paris UP Church. Also located here were a Seceder and an Associate Reformed Church, the two joining in 1858. Both had log churches for their first buildings. The Associate Reformed congregation was so located on the state line that the preacher stood in one state and the congregation was mostly seated in the other.

The United congregation erected the brick building on the south side of Main street, which until recently housed Long's Store and the Post Office.

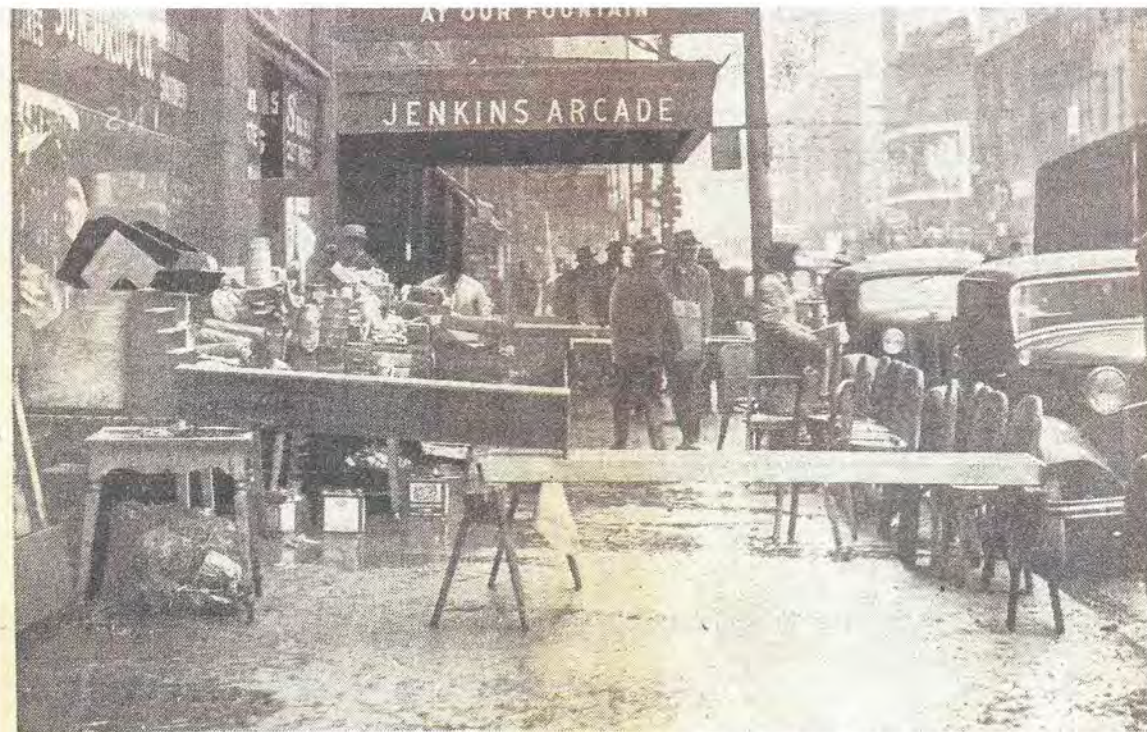
Those of Methodist inclination attended Tucker church, located between Paris and Florence.

With the development of the steel industry at nearby Weirton, the demand for housing spread into Paris, which has grown into a thriving residential vicinity.





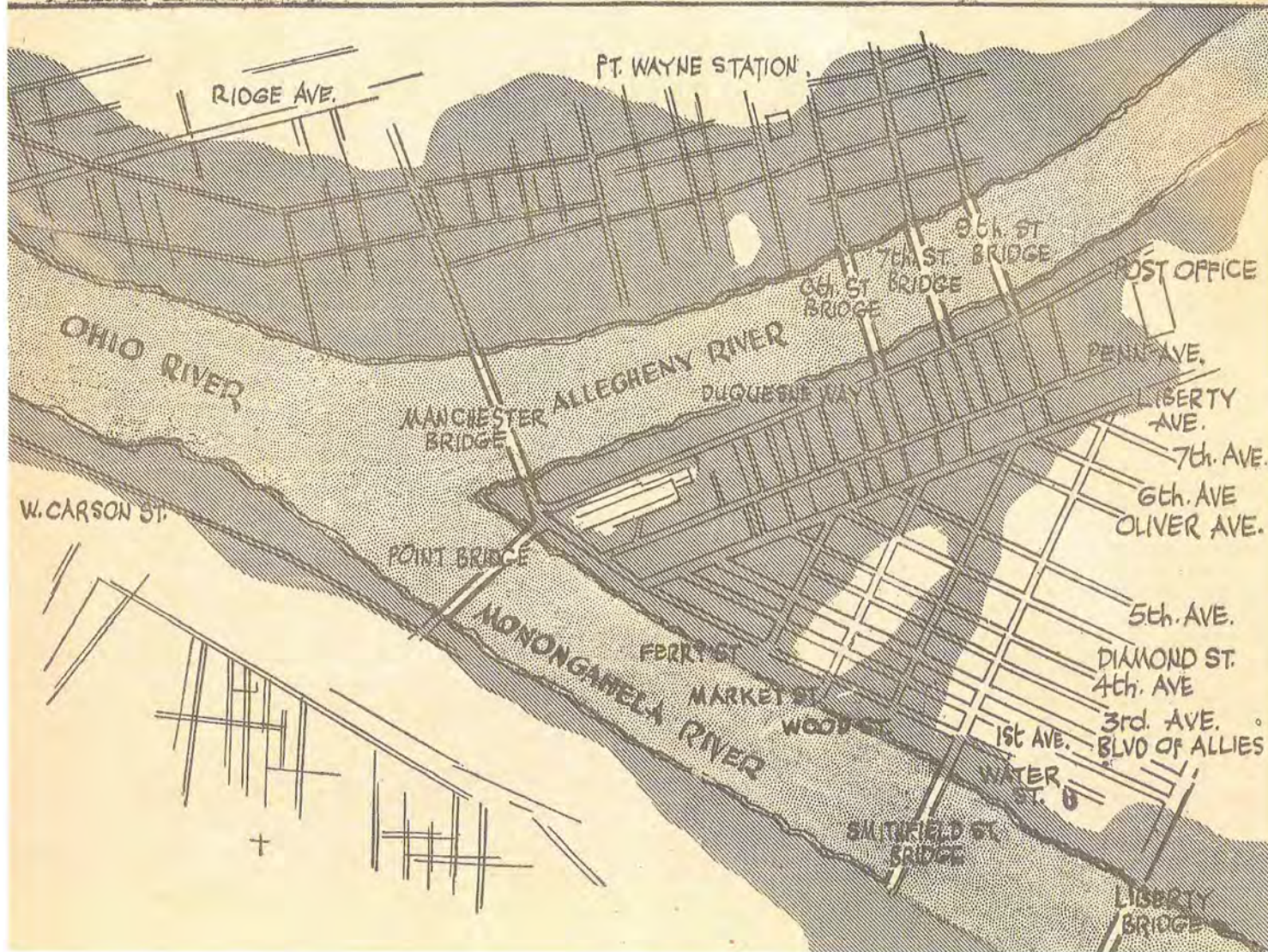
Eighteen inches below the balcony the flood water stopped in the Joseph Horne Company department store, leaving a water mark, on a level with the picture of Joseph Horne, as shown above.



Another picture of debris on Downtown streets is shown above. This photo was taken in front of the Jenkins Arcade on Liberty avenue. Water-soaked boxes and mud stained store fixtures taken from the Sun Drug Company in the Arcade are shown in the picture. Workmen are still busy clearing the mud from the downtown business houses.

## Pittsburgh Flood Scenes Post Gazette-March 23, 1936 Edition

# Here's Where the City Was Flooded



**Here's Where the City was Flooded**  
Pittsburgh Sun-Telegraph-March 29, 1936 Edition

*Fort Vance Historical Society*

## ROADS APPROVED

The grand jury on Saturday approved the two pieces of road in which the citizens of this community are so strongly interested. The roads approved are: Burgettstown-Bulger, 14,920 feet, estimated cost \$54,525; Midway-Primrose, 10,545 feet, estimated cost \$38,124. A number of citizens went before the grand jury on Friday and made a plea for the approval of these roads.

In the interests of the Burgettstown-Bulger and the Midway-Primrose roads the Panhandle section was represented almost 100 strong. This large number was made up of delegations from Midway, Primrose, McDonald, Burgettstown and surrounding communities. That these two pieces of highway are important was impressed upon the grand jury. The two pieces of road are a part of the main highway from McDonald to Burgettstown. There is a small piece of road, between these two pieces, which when approved and improved, will make a continuous improved road from Burgettstown to McDonald. Engineer George Chaney stated there was a bad grade on this piece of road lying between. There has been considered the improving of a different route to avoid this grade. The route would be northwest from Midway, over a short piece of improved highway there, and thence west and south to the Burgettstown-Bulger stretch of highway.

Those who spoke for the Burgettstown-Bulger road were J. V. Stevenson and R. H. McCartney. The meritorious growth of the Burgettstown section was called to the attention of the grand jury and the importance of having an improved highway from Burgettstown to McDonald, where it would connect up with the Allegheny county improved system of highways. It was shown that the increase in the population of the Burgettstown section was rapid, due to the American Zinc & Chemical Co. plant, located there, as well as mines and other industries. Within the past two or three years new towns have sprung up, such as Eastonville, Atlasburg, Langeloth, etc. There is a stretch of improved highway running north from Burgettstown toward Florence, and one south toward Crosscreek. The highway, however, before the grand jury parallels the Panhandle railroad and extends northeast to-

wards McDonald. The distance proposed to be improved is 14,920 feet, and the estimated cost is \$54,525.

Spokemen for the Midway-Primrose road were R. R. Cummins, S. D. Rankin, J. V. Stevenson and August Valentour. There is an improved road from McDonald to Primrose, but from Primrose to Midway, it was shown by these men, the road is in very bad shape. There are times in winter, it was stated, when it is impassable. It traverses a thickly populated section, and since the railroad company is rigidly enforcing the law against trespassing on its right of way, this road becomes a more congested highway for pedestrian traffic. It would give that community an outlet, over an improved road, to other systems of improved roads. Midway is almost shut off from McDonald during the winter, by reason of this bad road. There are improved roads out of Midway and Primrose. The length of the road proposed for improvement is 10,545 feet, and the estimated cost \$38,124. Attorney R. G. Miller, representing the Carnegie Coal Co., Pittsburg Coal Co. and John A. Bell, all large taxpayers, spoke in behalf of the roads. Others also gave their reasons, favorable to the improvement.

The delegation who was before the grand jury in the interest of the roads leading from Primrose to Midway and from Burgettstown to Bulger was composed of the following persons:

Midway—J. A. Matchett, R. M. Donaldson, James Wilson, D. G. Bamford, C. R. Ballard, A. A. Taylor, J. M. Raab, Rev. E. D. Miller, A. Chambon, F. C. Sawhill, J. E. Kraer, T. E. McLaughlin, H. Quinet, J. M. Davidson, I. M. Wallace, J. B. Wallace, Rev. J. F. Pry, Robert Dowler, R. R. Cummins, J. M. Fairley, Alex. Burkett, Robert Cummins, W. M. Cummins, Dr. W. C. Wolford, Fred Fine, W. F. Nash, Alphonse Raab, Antony George, G. Verzceese.

McDonald—H. F. Humphries, J. J. Charlier, B. M. McCartney, A. Valentour, Edward McDonald, S. H. Pyles, Will Lockhart, F. I. Thomassy.

Raccoon—J. B. Phillis, Rev. J. V. Stevenson, A. C. Proudfit, Dr. W. L. Scott, Charles Morgan.

Burgettstown—T. V. Lee, R. H. McCartney, W. L. Doumont, J. P. Linn, M. W. Scott, Edwin McFarland, J. M. Martin.

Bulger—A. J. Russell, J. M. Aiken.

## Interest In Proposed Bond Issue

The proposition to have constructed a comprehensive system of state, county and township roads in Washington county from funds to be realized from a bond issue to be authorized by the voters is rapidly taking form.

It is proposed by the backers of the project to reassure the voters that for every dollar expended on these roads one hundred cents of value will be received.

Second, that the roads agreed upon for improvement will be improved with absolute fairness to every section of the county.

Third, that the roads will be built which will outlive the bonds.

This will be accomplished through a committee composed of three representative citizens of the county. These men will be selected by representatives of the townships and boroughs of the county at a meeting to be held in the Public Meeting room of the court house at 11 o'clock a. m. on Friday, February 16. These men will serve without pay and will be empowered to employ an engineer to pass upon the specifications for roads and to see that said specifications are complied with by the contractors.

The commissioners and the controller are to be asked to recognize these men and work with them and assurance has been given that these officials will agree to do so.

Every citizen will be welcomed at the meeting February 16. Men opposed to the proposition, as well as men who favor it, are invited to attend. It is hoped that every township and every borough will be represented by at least ten men.

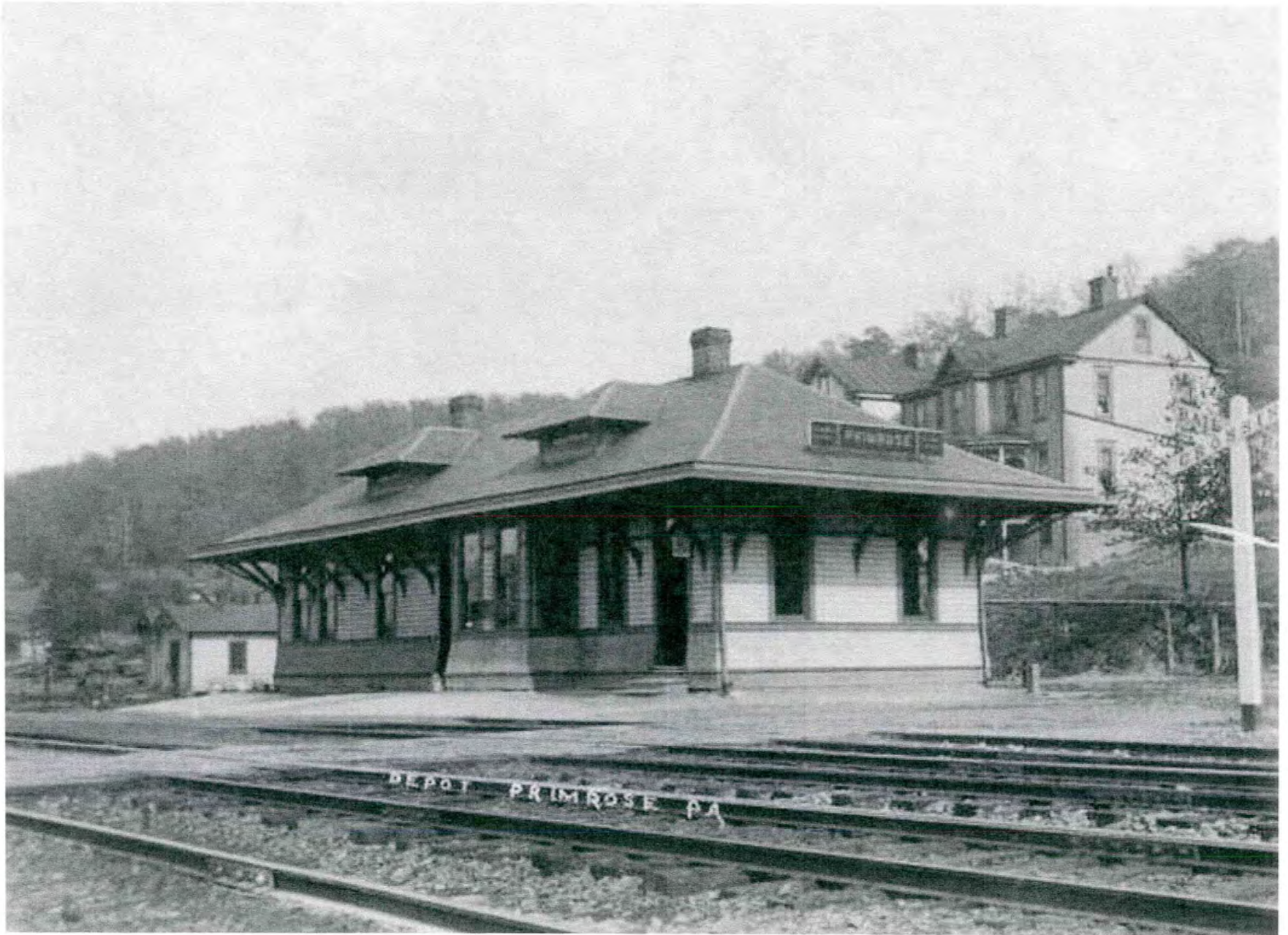
The men who are backing this plan are citizens of Washington county, they are taxpayers. Some are farmers, some are townsmen. They are practical, successful men. They say the time will come when one will be proud to say he was one of the men who favored the construction of a system of roads from money secured through a bond issue.

It is hoped that a large number of citizens from this community will attend the meeting on Friday. Those going from Burgettstown can leave here on the 8:46 train Friday morning and be in Washington in time for the meeting.

## Roads Approved

Burgettstown Call-February 15, 1917 Edition

Courtesy of Fort Vance Historical Society



**Primrose Depot**  
Primrose, PA



**Joffre (Raccoon)**  
**Large buildings on the upper right are school buildings.**

## **Raccoon Creek Park Improvement Planned**

The state will undertake an extensive rehabilitation program next year at Raccoon Creek State Park in Beaver County.

Improvement to the beaches and access roads will be made and a fish re-stocking program for the Park's two lakes and the up-stream watershed has been scheduled by the Pennsylvania Fish Commission. Both the fish program and the beach improvements will be carried out simultaneously in the fall of 1961 since the water level must be lowered for both programs.

The General State Authority has already entered into an agreement with an engineering company for the necessary planning in connection with the beach and road work.

**Raccoon Creek Park Improvement Planned  
Record Outlook-September 15, 1960 Edition**

# Reawood: entertainment center of a small world

By Kathryn Campbell Slasor  
For The Enterprise

"Do si do and promenade all!" barked the figure caller, who could have been Sam Vorhes, Dale Wiegmann or Harry McCreary. Couples swinging into action at the first squeal of Harry Buxton's fiddle could have included Viola Cheesebrough and Melburn Gillespie, Jane Lee and Harry Monticello, and Hazel Carter and Leonard Cooke. Married couples were not excluded, such as Gaylord and Helen Wiegmann Martin, who have celebrated nearly 69 years of marriage. And children were equally welcome, such as the time that Martha Miller brought a little niece all decked out in a Halloween costume appropriate to the occasion.

The setting for all of this hip-swinging and foot-stomping activity was the commonplace 40 by 80

ft. frame building, equipped with benches along the walls and lots of floor space in the center, known as the Reawood dance hall. Located along Route 50 halfway between the obscure villages of Rea and Woodrow in the late 1930s and early 1940s, this little alcove along the highway provided mirth and merriment for all ages, as square dancers and music lovers from near and far gathered for Friday evenings of good, wholesome country fun. A generator was the source of electricity before that modern convenience spread to the countryside.

"There were not many diversions back then," reminisces Hazel Cooke, "and everyone spent days in looking forward to dance night at Reawood. From far distances they came, good crowds to this respectable place of meeting friends and happily following the complex routines of the old-timer known as the Lancers, or skipping along arm in arm to the 2/4 beat of the

schottische." Hazel remembers the nostalgia with which dancers parted, with fervent anticipation of another dance the following Friday evening. Reawood was the only dance hall for community recreation in the area, and parents were willing that their children also participate in the family fun.

Reawood sat on approximately one acre of the Paul Ronyak farm bordering the highway, and nestled against the sloping bank of the Wabash Railroad at this location. An underpass provides access to the farm, now owned by Donald Carns. Reawood was built by Bill Marquis, of an old family in this neighborhood. Other names such as McCorkle, owner of much property at an earlier time, and Marshall, were prominent. The spot is designated as "Col. Marshall's Blockhouse" on the 1876 Cross Creek Township map in Caldwell's Atlas.

Don Carns bought the farm of 300 acres, a property that was over-

grown with brush and vegetation from years of neglect. His work has brought forth much improvement. Maxine Hughey is the owner of the Reawood acre, known today as 532 Avella Road. At one time three houses had been located on the farm. A huge stone barn remains, which Don is in the process of restoring.

Instead of dances, many who are familiar with Reawood will remember it for the roller skating activities it provided. For whatever reason it is remembered, Reawood memories will live in the hearts of those of its generation long after the last squeak of the fiddle and the final notes of the "Blackhawk Waltz" have faded into the sea of oblivion.

(Appreciation is extended to the numerous folks who helped supply information about Reawood. Does anyone have a picture of the hall?.)

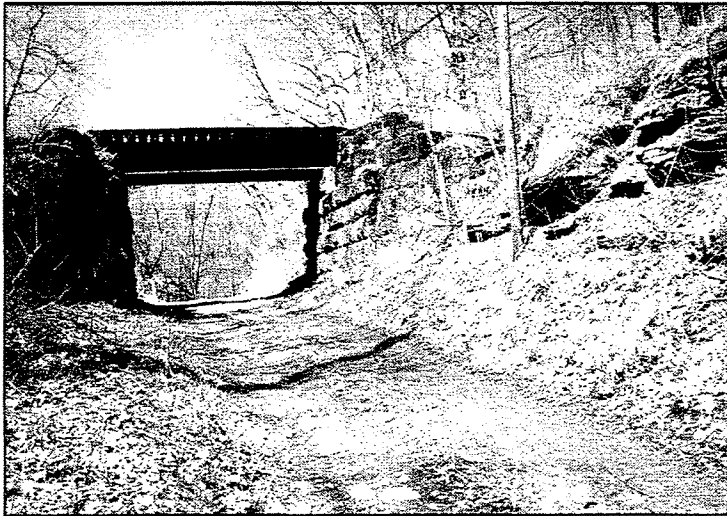
Reawood: Entertainment Center of a Small World (pg. 1)

The Enterprise-June 14, 1995 Edition

Fort Vance Historical Society



**THE CENTER COUPLE**, Helen and Gaylord Martin of Eldersville, are seen here doing a slow dance as they did at the Reawood dance hall more than 55 years ago. The picture was taken in August 1989. Gaylord is now 90 years old, and Helen is not far behind. Both still dance at every opportunity.



**THE WABASH RAILROAD** spans a nearly abandoned road leading to the Ronyak farm, between Rea and Woodrow, on Route 50. Just to the left of the underpass stood the Reawood dance hall of the 1930s and '40s.



**NEXT TO THE SKYLINE**, at the top of the picture, a train of the Wabash Railroad may rumble through on its way to West Virginia, Ohio, Indiana and points west. But the rattle of the train does not bother Megan Hughey or Michael West, cousins, as they pose on the steps of the old Reawood dance hall. The steps have been removed for the sake of preserving them. In the days of the Reawood dances, the steps faced the opposite direction and led in the back door, which would have been at the extreme forefront of the picture.



**MEGAN HUGHEY**, age 4½, and Michael West, age 3, are cousins. But they play together often on the site of the Reawood dance hall, where Megan lives with some of her family. The steps lead to nowhere now, but they once led to good times and much music and dancing, and sometimes roller skating, as quite a few folks from miles around remember.

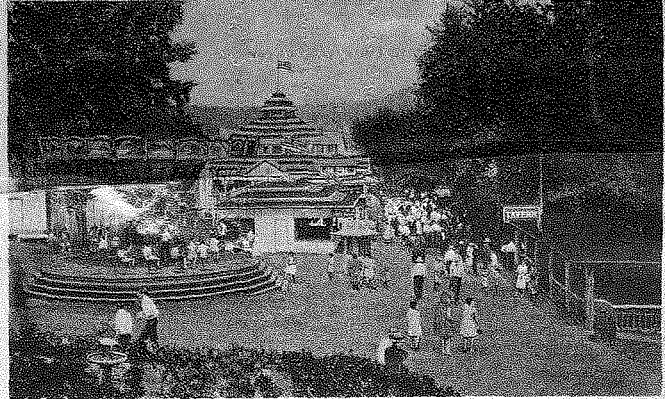
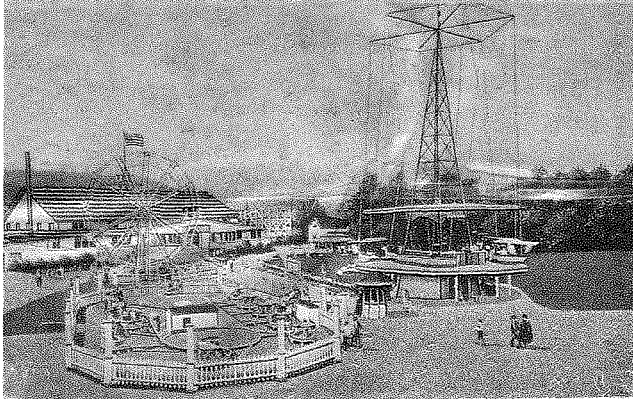
## Reawood: Entertainment Center of a Small World (pg. 2)

The Enterprise-June 14, 1995 Edition

*Fort Vance Historical Society*



# REMEMBER WHEN



## ROCK SPRINGS TOPICS

Weather Uninteresting

Published Every Now And Then For Recreation, Fun And Health

CHESTER, WEST VIRGINIA, THURSDAY, MARCH 23, 1933.

### Roller Club To Start

Manager Hy Ruhlman of New Rink Explains It

To belong to a lively Roller Club will add much to the enjoyment of Roller Skating. This is agreed by all those who have some time been members elsewhere, and now we are to have a Club in Rock Springs Rink.

The idea is simply an organization of Roller Skaters, managed by themselves, and having certain privileges in the Rink.

Among these privileges and advantages are a mailing list which members receive all announcements by mail at their homes and also a suitable emblem by which members recognize each other and with their membership card, will admit them for free skating on a selected evening each month.

Members will hold meetings and elect their own officers and arrange programs, etc. Manager Ruhlman will start the Club off and assist it to get organized and act for it until it can elect its own President. For particulars just ask Hy Ruhlman at the Rink.

"Courtesy Prevents Accidents." This slogan is used in some places as a traffic sign for Automobiles on the streets. It applies in a busy, lively Roller Rink.

SPECIAL—An additional two hundred pairs of Roller Skates will be ready for this week end—and next Ladies Nite will see no disappointments, even for late arrivals.

Mrs. Olive Knott can "remember when" Roller Skating was new at Rock Springs and when the old Rink had a big hall and when it was burned. She also remembers how to skate well—you should see her lead the Grand March with "Hy!"

### Skating Gains Popularity

New Section For Beginners

In addition to the hundreds of skates furnished by Hy Ruhlman, one can see many pairs of privately owned Roller Skates on the new Rink floor at every session.

These older skaters are all delighted with the opportunity to dust off the good old wooden rollers, oil up the long unused bearings and swing again into the graceful figures that the old timers can do so well.

And did you ever see so many learners! They also will soon be doing those long easy steps.

Every session brings out a larger and merrier crowd, and all are so pleased with the chance to skate on a spacious floor, and with the smooth running programs, that they find themselves reluctant to miss any evening during the week.

The newest addition to the Rink facilities is to be a railled off area for beginners. This will be at one end of the building and will not cut into the main floor at all. Work on this has been started, and it should be ready for this week end. This innovation will be welcomed by the beginners and the expert skaters alike, and will be a relief from any crowding on the main floor.

Manager Ruhlman and his assistants will continue to give free instructions, and to stress the importance of courtesy on the part of all skaters, but these things do not take the place of practice. The Rink Management is now providing the most approved facilities for the beginner to practice, and in a very short time they will get the needed balance and confidence and will gravitate to the main floor, of course.

### Next Week Program Filled

MONDAY, March 27.—Newell High School (Private Party.)

TUESDAY, March 28th.—Ladies Nite—2 Ladies skate on one ticket.

WEDNESDAY, March 29th.—Pottery Skating Party (Private Party.)

THURSDAY, March 30th.—Bon Bon Party for everybody, 7:30 to 10:30.

FRIDAY, March 31st.—School Nite. Admission and Skating for all school pupils, 20c.

SATURDAY, April 1st.—Afternoon session 2 to 4:30. Children free at door.—Evening session 7:30 to 11:00.

SUNDAY, April 2nd.—Afternoon session 2 to 4:30. Free door admission. Evening session 7:30 to 10:30. For Ladies—Free door admission with Coupon.

NOTE.—Every Monday and Wednesday is reserved for private parties.

### Skating Parties Announced

The open Mondays and Wednesdays at Rock Springs Rink are being booked in advance. Next week the Newell High School will have the first exclusive Skating Party on Monday and it is already reported that 60 couples will be on hand.

On the following Monday the Chester Chocolate Shop will have its first Roller Skating Party and Mr. Dorsel Lane reports that invitations are being accepted quickly so that April 3rd will be another big evening at the Roller Rink.

One of the Pottery Departments will have a party on Wednesday the 29th, so that it is certain there will be no dark nights in the Rock Springs Rink.

Manager Ruhlman says that many inquiries are coming in and he expects the open Mondays and Wednesdays will be booked ahead in a short time. He suggests that the various organizations interested in this splendid idea get in touch with him at once.

Can't keep a good skater down. Thayer McDaniels was recently "blown up" at the filling station, but is out again and "skating as usual."

Althea and Bernice and May came in a little late on Tuesday and didn't get skates their size, Manager Ruhlman says that won't happen again, no matter what time they come.

### PERSONALS

Hy Ruhlman leads a Grand March like a veteran—in fact he is one.

Its most amazing how many couples long ago married are regular Skating Partners—it seems to bring back "Old Times" for them,—just for instance the Jacksons and the Adams and the Ludwigs and the Walkers and the Walter Willison,—some of these skated here almost a generation ago.

You missed it if you missed last Tuesday Nite. While it stormed and blew outside 200 took part in the Grand March and the rest of the crowd looked on. That was some jolly party!

"Hap" Jackson, the old time war horse is back instructing after these many dull seasons without skating.

Pete and Buck are in a Skating Marathon—they haven't missed a session since the Rink opened and Bill Jordan is a good runner-up.

Roscoe Newell finds Skating more difficult now,—the new moustache seems to overbalance.

Little Dick Smith of Chester skates in all the school sessions. Dick is only seven and is little, but a stout heart makes up for the size.

And Jim Hocking sells the tickets with the same flourish he used to 20 years ago.

Marie and Virgil Conkle are a swell sister and brother team.

Plain Bob Brown is some fancy skater.

Here's to the Newlywed! She skates while Hubby Works.

Chuck and Doris—

Doris and Chuck— Why don't you break away and favor some of the others with your skating?

Joe Humes, who does the light fantastic on Rollers, is much in evidence when a waltz is played.

Jane and Jim seem to skate mostly together—Oh well, they make a nice couple.

Helen, who used to think she would rather dance than eat, now finds she would rather roller skate than dance.

Johnny Damms—he always smiles these days,—he's glad the good old healthy sport has returned to Rock Springs.

Jack Macdonald dishes out that refreshing Root Beer and Coco Cola like a Big Town Soda Boy. Not forgetting the Hot Dogs with all the trimmings.

**THIS COUPON**  
**AND Twenty Cents**

IS GOOD FOR  
**ADMISSION AND SKATING FOR ONE LADY**  
**Sunday Evening, March 26 or April 2**

Cut Out And Present At Box Office  
SKATING 7:30 TO 10:30

**Attended Picnic at Chester.**

The picnic held by members of Islam Grotto at Rock Springs park, Chester, W. Va., on Friday of last week was attended by Burgettstown people. All amusements were open, and the patrons were permitted free dancing in the afternoon. Swimming in the Crystal pool was favored by a large portion of the crowd. In the evening a dance was held at the Virginia Gardens, affording ample entertainment for all. Among those from Burgettstown were, Mr. and Mrs. William Pyle and daughters Louise and Paula, Miss Bernice Inglefield, Miss Betty Bingham, Mr. and Mrs. Thos. Linn and family and Miss Dorothy Farrar of Cherry Valley, R. M. Boyd and I. C. Bloom.

**Members of Islam Grotto at Rock Springs Park hold Picnic  
Burgettstown Enterprise-July 30, 1931 Edition**

# Historic Century Inn restored and reopened

By David Templeton  
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

So much American and local history went up in flames in August 2015 that what happened in February might seem miraculous.

Destroyed by fire in August 2015, the Century Inn not only has reopened in the village of Scenery Hill, Washington County, but it may look more original than it has in the past century or longer.

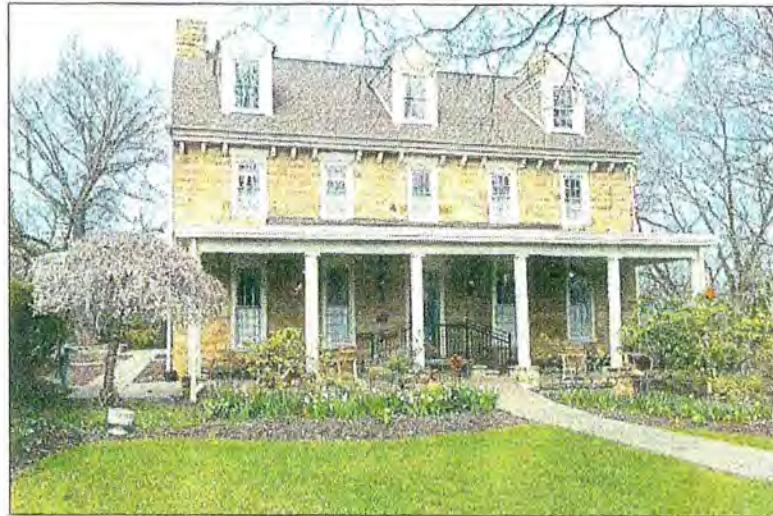
The only change necessary, for now, is the historical marker out front along Route 40. It proclaims that the inn has been in continuous operation since 1794. A 2½-year gap now exists between fire and restoration.

"One of the biggest issues was keeping the inn on the National Register [of Historic Places]," said owner Megin Harrington, who lives there. "All codes were followed and upheld. The registry wanted the front of the building to look exactly like it did before." And it does.

About midnight that Aug. 17, Ms. Harrington and her son Gordon escaped through black smoke just ahead of advancing flames, sparked by a utility room electrical malfunction. She was able to salvage one thing: the only Whiskey Rebellion flag known to exist.

The inn had served as a museum. Gone were original architecture, antiques, valuable artwork, framed historic photographs, tools, guns and glassware, including a priceless

## Destroyed by fire in 2015, the building is renovated in keeping with its legacy



Rebecca Droke/Post-Gazette

Megin Harrington, owner of the Century Inn, recently finished renovating after a catastrophic fire severely damaged the historic inn, pictured Wednesday. After the 2015 fire destroyed almost everything except the stone walls and a few wooden beams, Ms. Harrington updated the building with improved safety and fire protection while keeping the historic legacy of the inn, built in 1794.

1740s floor-to-ceiling highboy, a 1600s-era Welsh dresser and 20 embroidered 18th century samplers. Famous statesmen, heroes and presidents — possibly including George Washington and Abraham Lincoln

— had occupied those rooms and walked those floors.

The fire chief called it a sad night. Firefighters from 28 responding fire companies were seen crying. The county historical society director

said he felt "the same sickness in the pit of [the] stomach you feel when you find out a family member has passed away." Ms. Harrington — whose husband, attorney Gordon Harrington, died in an airplane crash in 1987 — lamented that she'd "let the building down" and said its future was uncertain.

But on a recent day, she was smiling broadly and proudly, with bright eyes and a whole new chapter to add to the inn's rich history.

It never dawned on her that the grand inn, restaurant, tavern and bed-and-breakfast couldn't be restored, she said. And over the past 2½ years that mission required solving architectural and budget puzzles along with nationwide searches to replace antiques and artwork.

Chimneys on each end of the inn have been rebuilt with original stone quarried from the 27-acre property. Inside are old-looking scraped hickory-wood floors. The woodwork looks original, as does the grand staircase and railing. Seven second-floor guest rooms maintain a frontier aura.

And the big stone step, worn down by inches during centuries of footsteps, remains in the doorway once separating the original 1788 building from the 1794 outbuilding housing the kitchen, necessary to open as an inn at the time when Washington was president and the Whiskey Rebellion was underway.

**Historic Century Inn Restored and Reopened (Pg. 1)**  
**Pittsburgh Post-Gazette - April 22, 2018 Edition**

*Courtesy of Fort Vance Historical Society*

The tavern still has its original ceiling beams, darkened by flames but fully restored and sealed. Two side-by-side chimneys are now exposed and serve to frame the Whiskey Rebellion flag.

The only difference is psychological. These floors, walls and the woodwork weren't there when Presidents James K. Polk and Andrew Jackson, and the Marquis de Lafayette and Henry Clay visited there. But it seems to maintain its historic relevance and mystique.

"I spent 44 years here and my three boys grew up here," Ms. Harrington said. "I wanted the feel of what we had before. We didn't perfectly duplicate it but it has the same feel. Gosh, it's so similar."

#### **Architectural puzzle**

Peter Margittai, who led the project, said it was a bit of a stretch for Peter Margittai Architect LLC, his South Side firm that specializes in adaptive reuse of buildings.

He acquired drawings of recent additions and "an incredible inventory" of photographs that showed architectural details. The primary goal was accurate restoration so it still qualified for the historic tax credit and met requirements of the National Register of Historic Places. To date, it has received Phase II approval for the tax credit, based on accurate restoration, Mr. Margittai said.

The project budget was limited to fire insurance proceeds and whatever else Ms. Harrington could afford. She said she sought no grants or outside financial help.

"The thing that struck me most, as bad as the building was, with the floor and back portion gone, was how well the masonry part of the building withstood the fire," Mr. Margittai said. Giant hand-hewn timbers that framed the building also were largely intact.

"We knew it could be done, and we knew it would be a real challenge to do the project justice. That was the challenge," he said, noting his goal of having people familiar with the inn questioning whether it had ever burned down.

The Waller Corp. of Washington, Pa., was the main contractor, with subcontractors who had experience in historical restoration.

Bradford Mooney of Heritage Restoration in Armstrong County, who does restoration work for Fort Ligonier in Westmoreland County, rebuilt and installed the front windows and door into the front stone wall that's 2½-feet thick. Accurate restoration of the front of the inn was a primary goal.

He said he used imperfect, wavy glass with bubbles he'd been collecting for more than 25 years for the windows, each with 12 panes of glass. His son, Drew, at Mooney's Custom Woodworking, built a hand-planed, raised-panel door in a style prevalent in the late 18th century, including accurate mullions and muntins separating the panes.

He aligned the door along

**Historic Century Inn Restored and Reopened (Pg. 2)**  
**Pittsburgh Post-Gazette - April 22, 2018 Edition**

*Courtesy of Fort Vance Historical Society*



Rebecca Droke/Post-Gazette

Megin Harrington in one of the newly renovated rooms of the inn, restaurant and tavern in Scenery Hill, Washington County.

the inside of the stone wall, rather than outside, as was done previously, for historical accuracy. Doors back then, Mr. Mooney said, opened inward as a welcoming gesture.

The cost of the hand-made door and windows, and installation, was about twice the cost of buying and installing modern doors and windows, which still represented a sizable discount he provided, given his eagerness to see the inn restored.

"They did a good job," Mr. Mooney said. "It needs to function in a way that guarantees its economic success. The most important asset is the outside appearance so that Scenery Hill saves its heritage. You don't create 18th century structures anymore. Once you lose them, they are gone forever." Bottom line, he said, "It easily could have been bulldozed."

#### Trim in time

F. DeFrank & Son Custom Cabinets Inc. of (Smock) Me-nallen Township, Fayette County, was hired to buy or manufacture what Mr. Margittai described as 3 miles of woodwork — crown molding, baseboard, chair rail, shoe mold (or quarter-round), railings and window casings,

among other architectural millwork that replicated original patterns, all in keeping with National Register requirements.

Dominic DeFrank Sr. said his company recovered burnt remnants of woodwork and set up knife-grinding equipment to replicate patterns for about 70 percent of the woodwork. He bought the other 30 percent of similarly patterned woodwork for use in more recent additions of inn.

"We pretty much were able to match what was there and fortunately we had really good information to follow including many photographs," he said.

All stonework had to be carefully cleaned to prevent damage, Mr. Margittai said.

Original mortar, with a high lime content that makes it softer, was carved out of the stone blocks and included in the new mortar. Accurately rebuilding collapsed chimneys with the original stone was a real puzzle. Mantels were destroyed but the mantel over the large, original kitchen fireplace was made with recovered wood planks.

"Interesting things that maybe the guests or others might not appreciate but were a challenge was how to get

more modern infrastructure into the building like this — a sprinkler system, for example — so you don't notice it," Mr. Margittai said. "We worked in close coordination with the subcontractors trying to make sure everything fit neatly in the building.

"The Harrington family has owned it for many decades and the children grew up in this building and it's an important part of their heritage, and this part of the country's history — and the entire country's — so we felt very honored to be part of it," he said. "We put a lot of pressure on ourselves to do as good a job as we could possibly do."

The interior now is upgraded with safety features making it more accessible for those with disabilities. Bathrooms have been fully upgraded and a long, internal stone wall has been stripped of paint, stains and grime, offering a welcome for patrons, including history buffs.

Ms. Harrington said she also traveled the nation to buy hundreds of pieces of artwork and 18th century antiques to refurbish the entire building. Her best luck occurred in auction houses and galleries in Charleston, S.C., and St. Louis. The inn also features artwork of noted Western Pennsylvania artists including Ray Forquer, John Yothers and Charles Pitcher.

Friends and Scenery Hill neighbors provided her with food and clothing after the fire and helped her throughout the project, she said.

"I lost everything. But this village is so wonderful in giving me help with this, and I think they felt the loss, too," she said. "I have memories of such wonderful things here but I now see a reason for this. It is safer and fresher and it feels good to be here.

"I'm not dwelling on sadness any more."

*David Templeton: dtempleton@post-gazette.com.  
Century Inn website at  
www.centuryinn.com.*

**Historic Century Inn Restored and Reopened (Pg. 3)**  
**Pittsburgh Post-Gazette – April 22, 2018 Edition**

*Courtesy of Fort Vance Historical Society*

# Restoration planned



SCOTT BEVERIDGE / OBSERVER-REPORTER

Restoration work is under way on the historic Beck-Ringland Tavern along Route 40 in Scenery Hill. Shown outside the building is Branden Allen, brother of the new owner.

## *Former Scenery Hill stagecoach stop to transform into eatery*

By SCOTT BEVERIDGE  
Staff writer  
sbeveridge@observer-reporter.com

SCENERY HILL – A Scenery Hill couple rescued an old stagecoach stop from condemnation along the National Road and have extensive restoration plans for the brick house.

Brian and Kathy Allen last month purchased the former Beck-Ringland Tavern, dating to 1800, in Scenery Hill and hugging the nation's first interstate highway known today as Route 40.

"The chimney was starting to fall," Brian Allen said Friday, as he and his brother Branden removed the building's rot-

**THE BUILDING'S ROOF WAS REMOVED BECAUSE IT POSED A SAFETY HAZARD AND NEEDED TO BE DEMOLISHED BEFORE CROWDS ARRIVE FOR THIS WEEKEND'S ANNUAL NATIONAL ROAD FESTIVAL, OWNER BRIAN ALLEN SAID.**

ting front porch roof in a steady rain.

He said the roof posed a safety hazard and needed to be demolished before crowds arrive in the North Bethlehem Township village for this weekend's annual National Road Festival.

It's unlikely the house had a front porch when it was opened as a tavern by James Beck, whose company, Kinkead, Beck & Evans was

under federal contract to construct portions of the then-toll road.

Beck sold the two-story building a year later to George Ringland, and it primarily served as a stagehouse for those traveling the road before trains and cars replaced horse-drawn coaches, according to "A Guide to the National Road," by Karl B. Raitz and George F. Thompson.

The authors noted the house has a "saltbox roofline atypical of the region." Such buildings have flat fronts and pitched roofs that slope in the rear.

Allen said "our dream for the building is a period eatery" serving casual dining and offering live music.

"We have a masonry company starting this summer to rebuild the open hearth and wall. A new roof will be coming in the spring of next year."

He said the lack of public sewerage in the town on the National Register of Historic Districts is holding back business opportunities.

**Former Scenery Hill Stagecoach Stop to Transform into Eatery  
Observer-Reporter-March 16, 2014 Edition**

## **Some of the Family Names of those who resided in Shintown**

Allen

Balog

Bergman

Cunningham

Devinski

Elich

Fleet

Fusarelli

Gevenosky

Godzin

Hamp

Kaminski

Kuzma

Lis

Little Joe

Madden

Matas

McFeeley

Noga

Orgavan

Sabat

Shields

Shimel

Tookas

Urban

Zimba

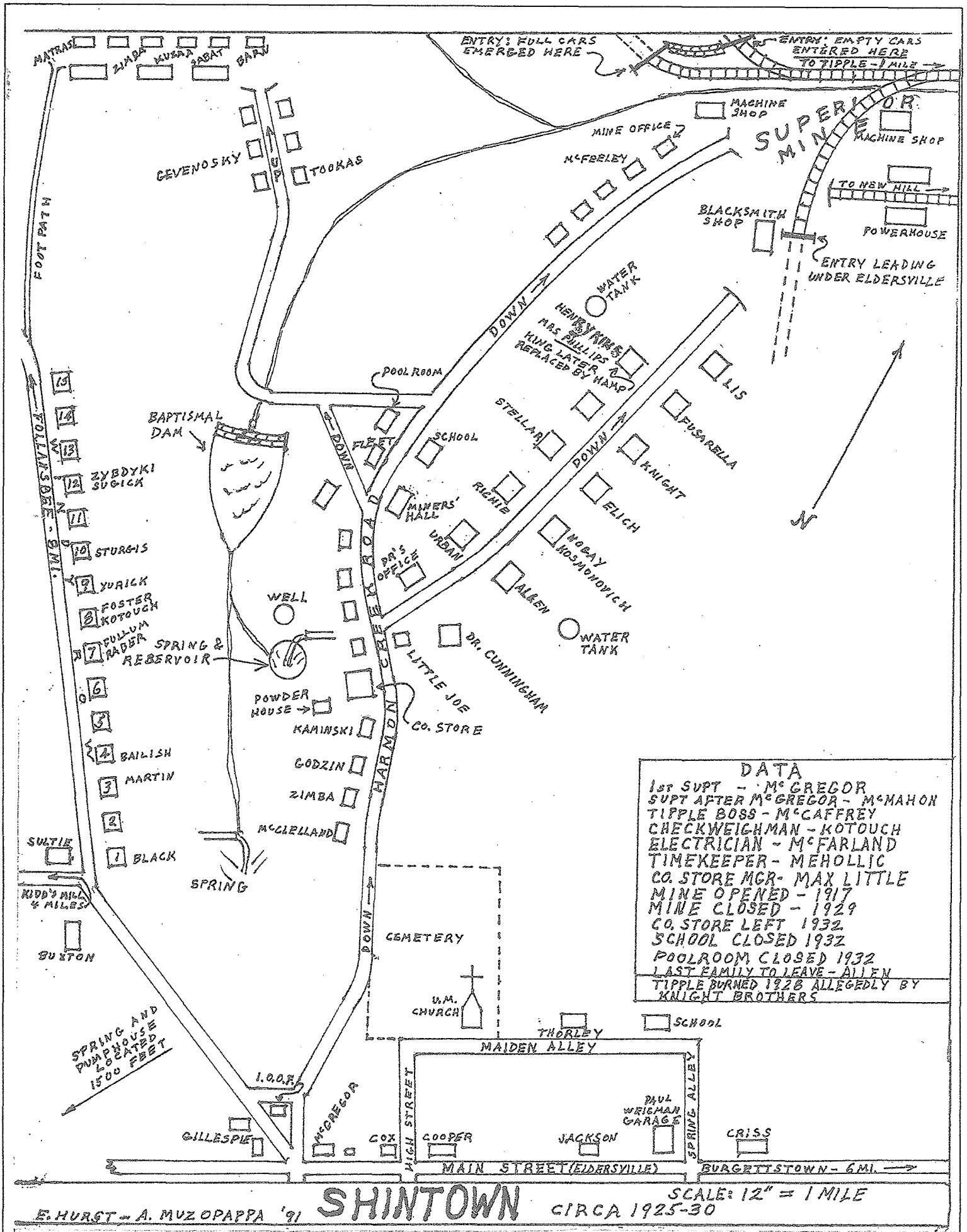




# Shintown

**A mining town once located near Eldersville, PA**

*Courtesy of Fort Vance Historical Society*

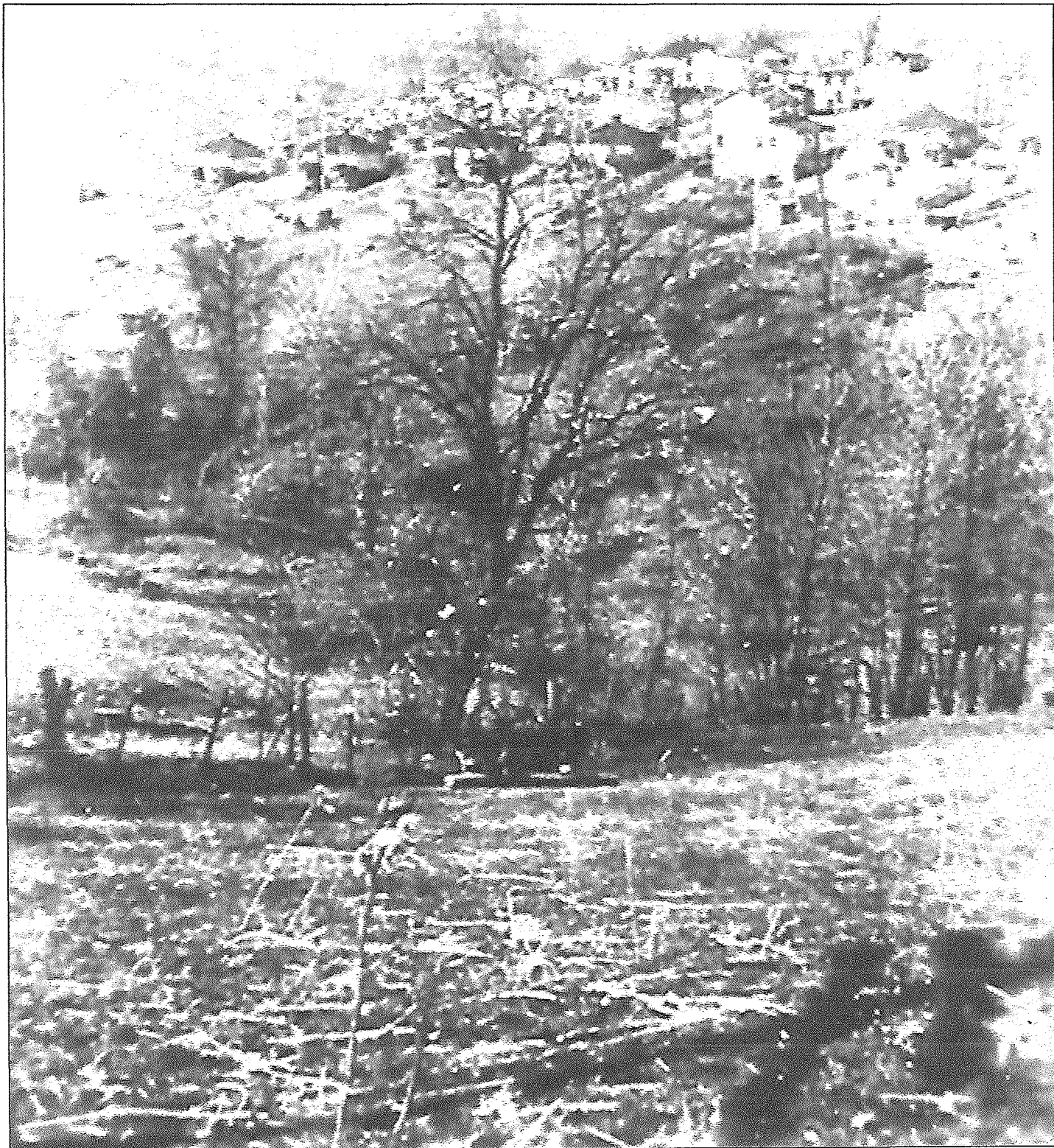




**Shintown-1917 (Eldersville, PA)**

John Cleland and Robert McFarland were contracted by the mine to build the town.

*Courtesy of Fort Vance Historical Society*



**Distant view of the town of Shintown (Near Eldersville, PA)**

*Courtesy of Fort Vance Historical Society*



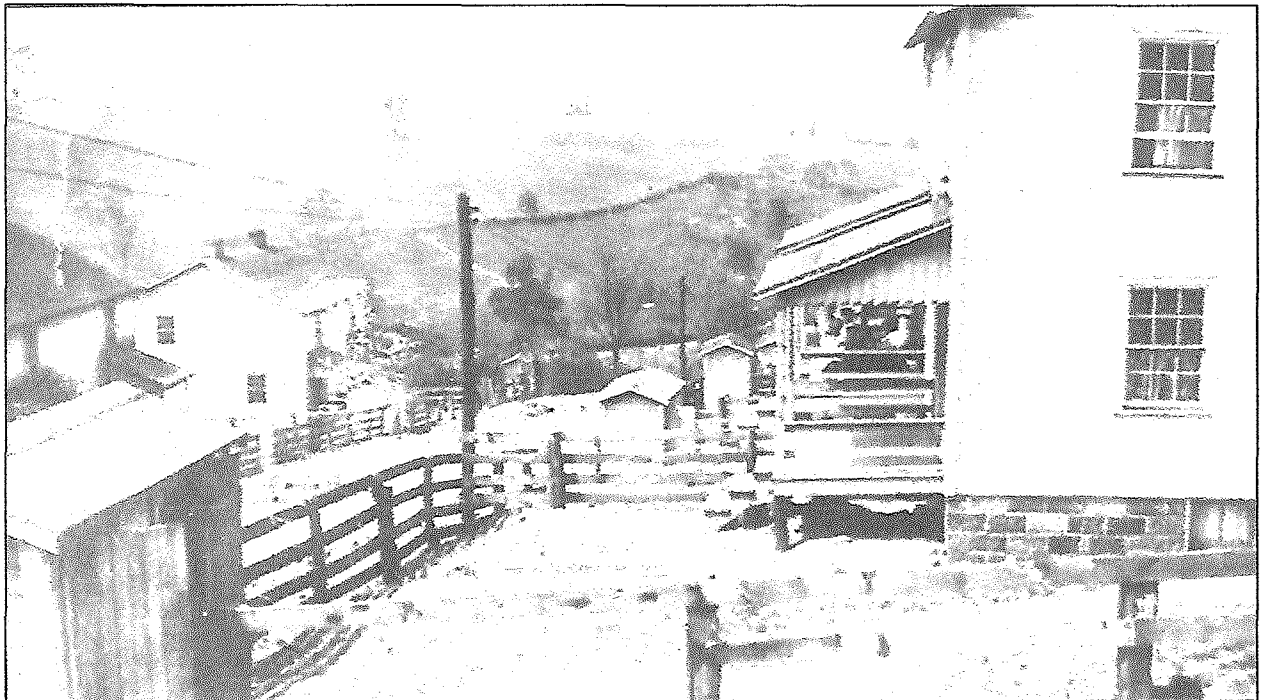
**Shintown-Close up of Ballfield**

*Courtesy of Fort Vance Historical Society*



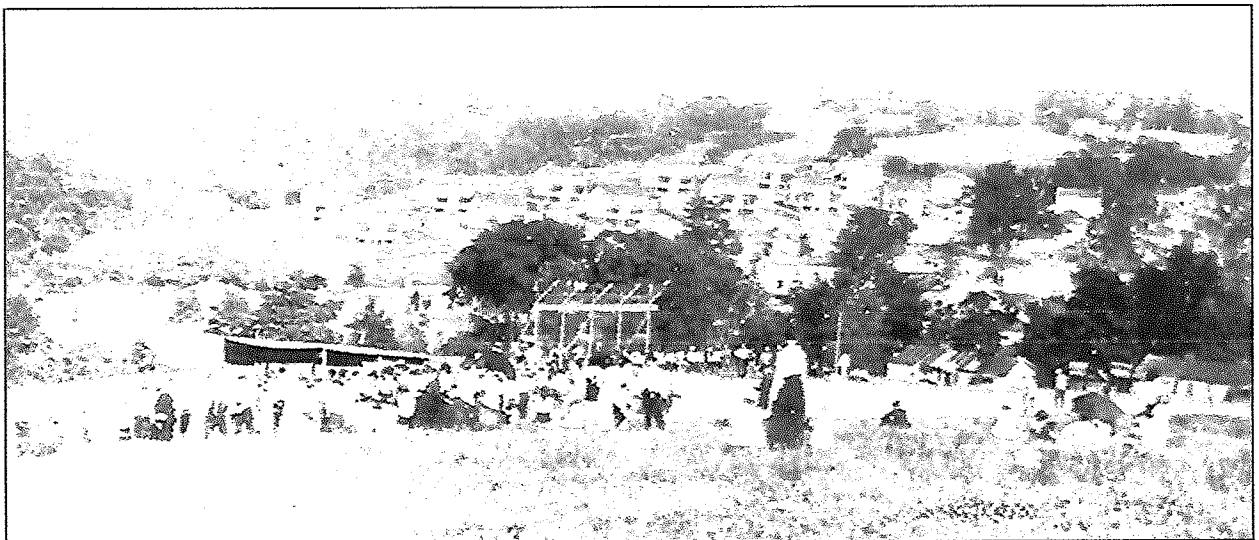
**Shintown Ballfield with the Town in the Background**

*Courtesy of Fort Vance Historical Society*



**Views of Shintown (Near Eldersville, PA)**

*Courtesy of Fort Vance Historical Society*



**Shintown Ballfield (Near Eldersville, PA)**

*Courtesy of Fort Vance Historical Society*



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Matas

McFeeley

Noga

Orgavan

Sabat

Shields

Shimel

Tookas

Urban

Zimba



**Shintown-Eldersville, PA**  
**John Cleland and Bob McFarland, Building Contractors**  
**Miners and Builders of the Shintown-1917**  
*Fort Vance Historical Society*

**FREE MATINEE SHOWS  
FOR SLOVAN THEATRE**

Beginning on Saturday afternoon, May 23rd, the management of the Slovan Theatre will turn the house over to the merchants and other business interests of Slovan, and on that day and succeeding Saturday afternoons until further notice, a free matinee will be given at 2:30 o'clock. The shows are being contributed by a number of business men of Slovan and are entirely free to the people of the entire community. Tickets of admission are required, but may be obtained from any sponsor of the matinees. Children under 16 years of age will not be admitted unless accompanied by an adult and no tickets will be given to children.

The sponsors of the movement for the Saturday afternoon free shows are as follows: A Horovitz Dept. Store, V. Testa, J. & M. Stebe, G. Sciamania & Sons, Serrini Barber Shop, L. Tomic, Fliton Barber Shop, Cappy Restaurant, John Kuntz, Philip Joseph & Bro., J. Cindrich & Son, Merved Barber Shop, G. Swanik, Borio Shoe Shop, J. Belosevic, Ralph Filipponi, Filipponi Bowling Alley, S. Horvatic, S. Zupan, S. Surba, Capozzoli Tri-State Produce Company, Tucci Garage, Sam. G. Milan Garage, Steve Dugas P. Raggi.

## SLOVAN CITIZENS SEEK PROJECT FOR CREEK JOB

Influential and prominent citizens of Slovan held an indignation meeting on Sunday afternoon to protest unsanitary conditions resulting from the overflowing of Raccoon Creek after the thaw of the heavy snows in February. As a result, a committee was named composed of John Kinkella, Steve Dugas, Dushan Nick-sick, Tony Plate and Charles Mader to contact various government agencies concerning a project for dredging, cleaning and straightening the creek to eliminate this nuisance in the future.

Rev. Father W. J. McCashin presided as chairman of the meeting and during the meeting a number of interested citizens were called to express their views concerning the possibility of securing such a project.

Dr. A. W. Hopper of Washington, district health officer for Washington and Greene Counties for the State Department of Health was present and recommended that a body of citizens organize themselves into a group to sponsor such a project. He said that such a project cannot be sponsored by the State Department of Health and that he understood the Works Project Administration was "thumbs down" on such a project. Inasmuch as Slovan is not an incorporated municipality, it is up to the citizens to assume the cost of tools and supervision needed for such a project. Labor can be secured free through work relief office at Washington, Pa.

Rev. McCashin as a representative of the Burgettstown Board of Health urged the formation of a Citizen's group to proceed with plans for a project. He stated that it was only an act of providence that had prevented an epidemic of disease as a result of filth of Raccoon Creek flood waters backing up into basements and homes in the Slovan area.

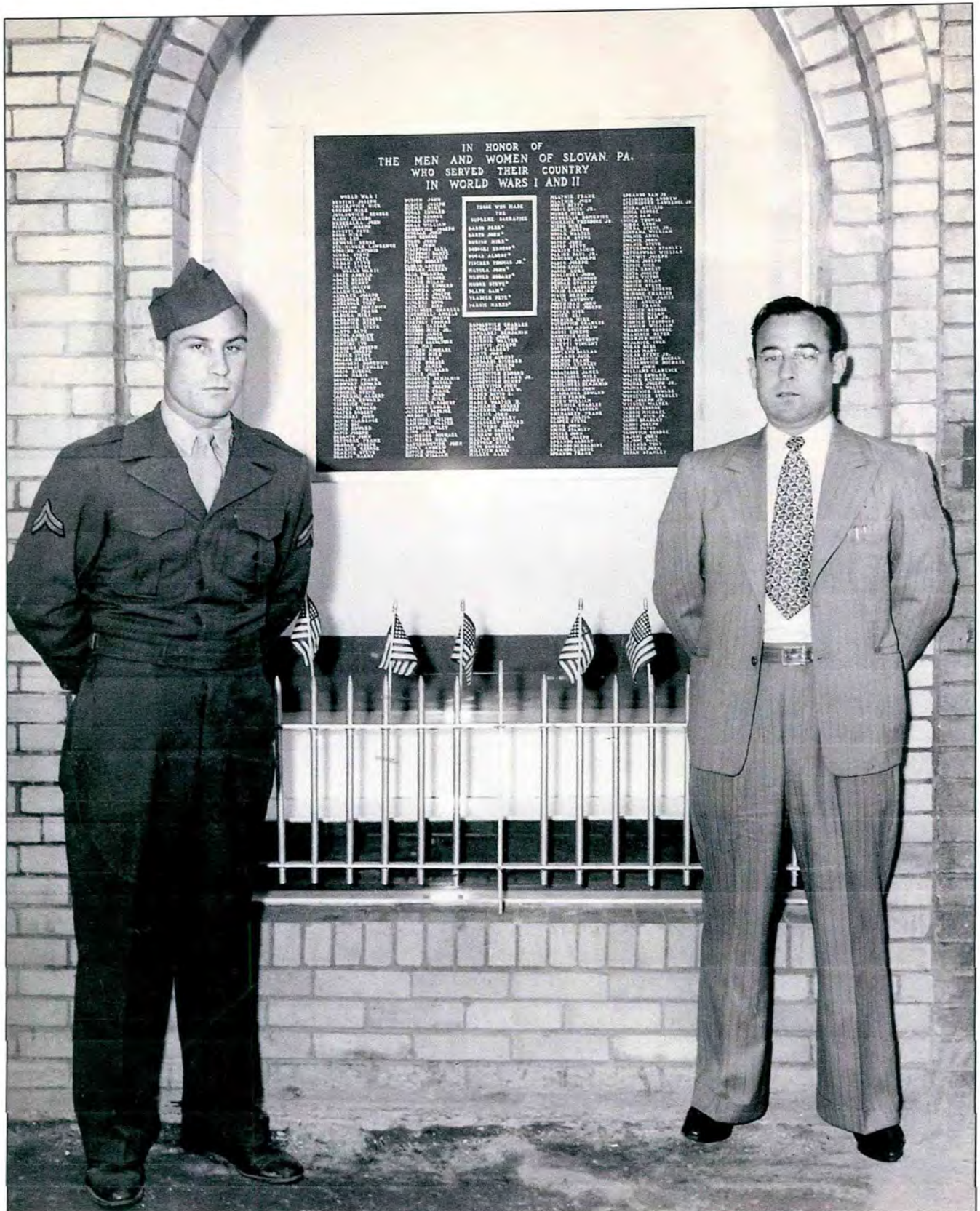
Councilmen McCormick and Nicholls were present and participated in the discussion.

Road Supervisors Dellapino and Wilson were present, but reported they were unable to assist, inasmuch as the Township cannot sponsor such a project. Assistant District Attorney George Modrack made a speech advocating the project.

Cost to the sponsoring group will include the cost of tools, supervision and 10c per man per week for compensation. The possible straightening of the creek channel and dredging of the creek bed was discussed at length. The committee named will contact state health officials and W. P. A. officials, also officials of the American Zinc and Chemical Company and the Pennsylvania Railroad to enlist their support in the drawing up of such a project, and will report to the citizens' group at an early date.

**Slovan Citizens Seek Project for Creek Job**

**Burgettstown Enterprise-March 14, 1940 Edition**



Joseph Abate, Commander of Slovan Veterans of Foreign Wars and Charles Abate, master of ceremonies at the Dedication Day dedication of the Slovan War Memorial, erected at the Slovan Volunteer Fire Department.

**Burgettstown Enterprise-June 2, 1949 Edition**

*Fort Vance Historical Society*

## **Dedication Program At Slovan, Monday**

Residents of Slovan dedicated a beautiful copper and bronze war memorial on Monday afternoon, made possible by the generosity of her citizens and organizations. Charles Abate, as master of ceremonies presided and Gold Star mothers unveiled the memorial. The memorial is inscribed with the names of the men and women of Slovan who served in the recent war.

The following program was carried out: Marshall, Comrade Couch, assembly call, Fred DeValkeneer and Charles Trinone, Star Spangled Banner, Union high school band, Officer of the Day, Joseph Abate, invocation, Rev. W. J. McCashin, unveiling of the War memorial, Gold Cross ladies, presentation of the War Memorial by members of the Honor Roll committee, acceptance, Joseph Abate, address, Peter Elish, address, William Porter, address, Rev. W. J. McCashin, placing of wreath Commanders Abate, Miller and Craig, pledge of allegiance, boy and girls scouts, closing prayer, Rev. McCashin, gun salute, firing squad, taps, Fred DeValkeneer and Charles Trinone.

**Honor Roll Dedication Program At Slovan  
Burgettstown Enterprise-June 2, 1949 Edition**

*Fort Vance Historical Society*

## SLOVAN MAN IS HELD FOR ALLEGED RACKET

Merchant of Neighboring Town is  
Arrested on Charges of  
False Pretense

The Washington Observer of Saturday says that after a search of 11 months county officers of Friday arrested Anthony Burke, merchant of Slovan, for an alleged racket in which he is said to have obtained hundreds of bushels of peaches from farmers by false pretense last September.

Five informations charging false pretense have already been filed against him by fruit growers of the district. Many others are expected to make charges when farmers learn of his arrest.

Burke was arrested several days ago by Constable Mike Robb of Slovan on information of desertion and non-support made by County Relief Investigator Joseph Mantia.

Farmers who made informations charging false pretense were J. L. Patterson, Buffalo township, claiming \$62.50 loss; Glenn Williams, Ginger Hill, \$15 loss; Robert Hamilton, Hopewell township, \$62.50 loss; Alice Batusick, Washington, R. D. 5, Canton township, \$24.75 loss and W. H. Shafer, Rea, \$20.

Burke will be arraigned before Alderman John F. Carmichael when the informations have been prepared, it was stated. Constable Clark Miller was in charge of the investigation.

According to Alderman Carmichael, Burke called at the farms with a truck and made arrangements to purchase large quantities of peaches. On leaving he would take away a truckload, promising to return for the remainder of his order and make payment, it was said. He never returned, it is alleged.

It is believed he disposed of the peaches through retail merchants.

**Anthony Burke, Slovan Man is Held for Alleged Racket**  
**Burgettstown Enterprise-August 13, 1936 Edition**

## **SLOVAN**

Born—To Mr. and Mrs. Benny Mader, a baby boy, on Sunday morning, at 6:00 a.m.

Mrs. Mary Robinson of West Brownsville, visited with her mother Mrs. Katheryn Holleck.

Steve Olzak, student at Dubuque college, Iowa, is spending his Christmas vacation with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Olzak.

Miss Anne Holleck of New Kensington, spent the week end with her parents here.

Miss Helen Boller and friends of Steubenville, O., spent Sunday with her parents here.

The Slovan Mission Sunday School presented a play on Tuesday night entitled "Santa Forgets The Smiths."

Mrs. Katherine Hollick motored to Camp Shelby, Miss., to visit her son Private Steve Hollick.

Theodore Nicksic is spending his Christmas vacation with his parents.

Mr. and Mrs. Mike Lengyel and Mrs. John Lengyel of Weirton, W. Va. and Private Andrew Lengyel of Mississippi, spent Saturday evening with Mr. and Mrs. Kluchanovich.

**Slovan**

**Burgettstown Enterprise-December 25, 1941**





Observer Photo

Members of the two families in the double house shown above were marooned for hours in their Slovan home. A rope was thrown to the house. In the early stage of the flood two men trying to reach the house were almost carried away by the torrent. In the picture, after water had subsided, man is shown making way to house with a bag of food. Ten or more youngsters were clamoring for food after being marooned for hours. Large arrow shows where water touched at high point. Smaller arrow points to man with food.

## **1950 Flood-Slovan Observer-Reporter**

*Fort Vance Historical Society*

# THUGS ATTACK FAMILY TO MAKE MONEY GRAB

Members of Horovitz Family Beaten  
and Robbed in Their Home in  
South Burgettstown

One of the boldest robberies ever perpetrated in Burgettstown was recorded on Thursday evening of last week when two masked bandits entered the home of Adolph Horovitz, 321 Main street, South Burgettstown, and after beating Mr. Horovitz and members of the household, robbed Mr. Horovitz of between \$300 and \$400 in money.

According to the police report, the two bandits entered the kitchen of the Horovitz home through a rear door, shortly after 8 o'clock in the evening. Florence Horovitz, a daughter, was in the kitchen at the time, while the parents were in the upper part of the house and a son, Harold, was in a room adjoining the kitchen. Frightened by the intruders, the young woman screamed, and Mr. Horovitz and Harold hastily ran to the kitchen.

They were met with revolvers thrust in their faces and a demand that Mr. Horovitz produce the money he had carried home from his store at Slovan. When the demand was not promptly complied with Mr. Horovitz was struck over the head with a gun, and Harold was kicked in the stomach by one of the thugs. Mr. Horovitz was forced to hand over the money he carried and the robbers beat a hasty retreat.

Mrs. Horovitz and daughter made their escape from the house and ran into the home of A. S. Fleming, near by, from where they summoned the police and a local physician.

Chief J. E. Dowden responded, and in a short time had called Constable John Kucera of Burgettstown, Constables Mike Robb and Andy Robb of Slovan, and two members of the State Police from the Washington barracks. The officers immediately began a careful search, and about midnight Constable Kucera arrested one of the bandits as he was about to force a motorist from his car near Bella's lunch room, with the presumed purpose of stealing the automobile.

This man was locked up and later identified as one of the robbers. The other made his escape through the Center avenue railroad yards. The man arrested gave a number of different names and claimed residence in various parts of the country. He was unknown in the local territory. Officers state he was an alcohol addict and had been drinking the fluid from canned heat. None of the money or any weapons were found upon his person.

**Thugs Attack Horovitz Family to Make Money Grab  
Burgettstown Enterprise-November 17, 1932 Edition**



**New Honor Roll**



**VFW Veterans at Parade Rest**

**Slovan VFW-Dedication of new Honor Roll**

**Dance at Slovan.**

A "Polish Hop" will be held by young people of Slovan in Palace hall Saturday evening, April 18th, with music by the Jolly Nighthawks. The public is invited.

**Dance at Slovan in the Palace Hall  
Burgettstown Enterprise-April 16, 1936**

# One Shot, Six Captured in Raids By Police Force on Three Stills; Wounded Man Taken After Escape

## Eastonville Is Scene of "Mountain Thriller."

### GANG BROUGHT TO PITTSBURGH

One man was shot and seriously wounded and six others were arrested by the police of Burgettstown, in a series of sensational raids at Eastonville, Pa., on three illicit stills Sunday night, it was learned last night, when the six prisoners were turned over to the Federal authorities here.

The wounded man, Joe Akson, 23 years old, escaped at the time the raid was made on a shanty where, the police say, he and Youa Iszyatish were conducting a still, and, though wounded severely in the hip, was not found until early yesterday morning, weak from the loss of blood, in the office of Dr. J. Hill at Cherry Valley, four miles from Eastonville. He had awakened the physician and requested aid. After notifying the police authorities, Dr. Hill sent the man to a Pittsburgh hospital, where he is under guard.

The five other men who are either charged with operating illicit stills or accused of "bootlegging," are John Cindric, Ivan Krostlec, Louis Prech, Joe Milanvich and Mike Milter. All were remanded, along with Iszyatish, to the county jail last night and will be arraigned before Federal Commissioner Roger Knox at 11 o'clock this morning. The six men held here and Akson, the wounded prisoner, are Croatians.

#### WOUNDED MAN ESCAPES.

The raids were planned by Chief of Police Joseph Nelb of Burgettstown. With Patrolmen F. R. Crawford and William Schneider, Chief Nelb swooped down upon a still alleged to have been operated by John Cindric and Mike Milter, on the Duncan farm, and also the one said to have been operated by Louis Prech and Joe Milanvich on an adjoining farm. At both places the officers found hundreds of gallons of raisin mash and much moonshine whisky ready for sale, and in one instance, bottled and corked. The prisoners were placed in jail and the still and other material seized as evidence.

Moving toward the Easton farm, the raiders approached a shanty in which Akson and Iszyatish were believed to have their still. Entering the shanty unexpectedly, the officers surprised both men. Iszyatish was overpowered, but, according to the officers, Akson showed fight, and succeeded in escaping. He was followed by Chief Nelb, and when the fleeing moonshiner refused to halt, the chief opened fire from his revolver. Akson was seen to leap into the air after one shot, but continued running, and disappeared a few seconds later in a dense thicket. The officers searched the rest of Sunday night but failed to find him, and he was next heard of at the office of Dr. Hill, four miles distant, early yesterday morning.

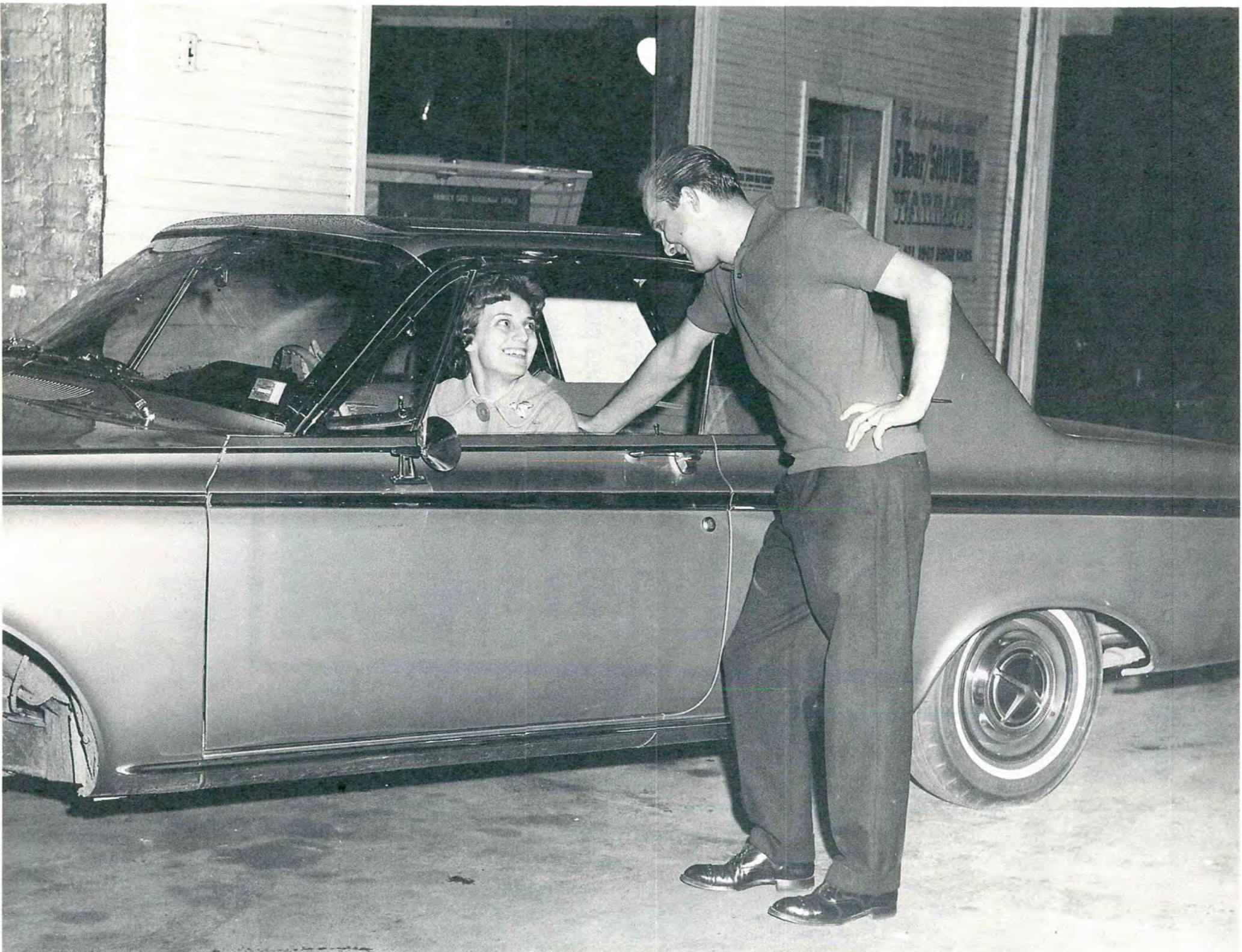
#### BIGGEST STILL YET.

Three informations, according to the Federal officers, will be preferred against the seven men, charging the operation of illicit stills and "bootlegging."

The still conducted by Akson and Iszyatish is said to be the largest and most up-to-date yet unearthed in the campaign against illicit distillers in the Pittsburgh district.

The officers described it as a 50-gallon affair, and asserted that more than 400 gallons of mash, ready for distillation, together with scores of gallons of the finished moonshine whisky, were found in the shanty.

Special agents of the department of justice today are expected to investigate a large amount of foreign-language pamphlets and literature found on the prisoners, in an effort to determine whether it is Red propaganda.





The David Scruppi's of Cherry Valley pose proudly with their new dependable '63 Dodge

**Smith Township car buyers  
who know style, performance,  
and prices are buying '63 Dodges**

It's not hard to find the best car for your money. Test drive them all. Compare the prices. You'll say what your neighbors are saying: "The car buy of the year is the '63 Dodge." All new, crisp, clean styling. Dependable performance from engineering that stresses long life for all parts and systems.

**SEE THE GREAT NEW DEPENDABLE  
DODGES FOR '63  
EUGENE TUCCI GARAGES**

*Your Local DODGE Dealer*

Main Street - Slovan, Pa. - Phone 947-9381

All '63 Dodges carry a 5-year or  
50,000-mile warranty on all major parts

**Eugene Tucci Garages  
Burgettstown Enterprise-October 11, 1962 Edition**

## IN THE MAIL BOX

Editor,  
Burgettstown Enterprise  
Burgettstown, Penna.

Dear Sir:

Please add the following item in your "To the Editor" column:

When are the citizens of Slovan, Pa., going to realize that every time they, their children, or members of their families approach the highway running through Slovan, they risk their lives?

When is the police force of Slovan going to realize that putting an end to this dare-devil speeding is also part of the job?

Why are we citizens paying taxes—to see our own people slaughtered? That's what it amounts to. Wake up, people? This is America! Speak your mind; you have the Federal Government behind you if you are right in your convictions.

If we cannot get the necessary protection from the local police force, let's appeal to Harrisburg, or even Washington, D.C. We will ask for State Patrolmen, if we must.

No, we have no walks for pedestrians, but that is no reason for aiming for wholesale massacres on the part of the drivers. We asked for sidewalks and what did we get? That's right, reddog that washes away with every heavy rain.

The next time you, fellow citizen of Slovan, pay your taxes, are you going to say, "Well, there goes \$5.14 to help kill my child, father, brother or sister?", or are you going to say, "This is a lot of money for a working man; I am proud to be an American and receive the blessings in this country. I'll see to it that this money is put into proper use." In what category do you belong?

A Citizen of Slovan

**Slovan-In the Mail Box**  
**Burgettstown Enterprise-August 21, 1941 Edition**





**Main Street, Slovan, PA**



**Main Street, Slovan PA**



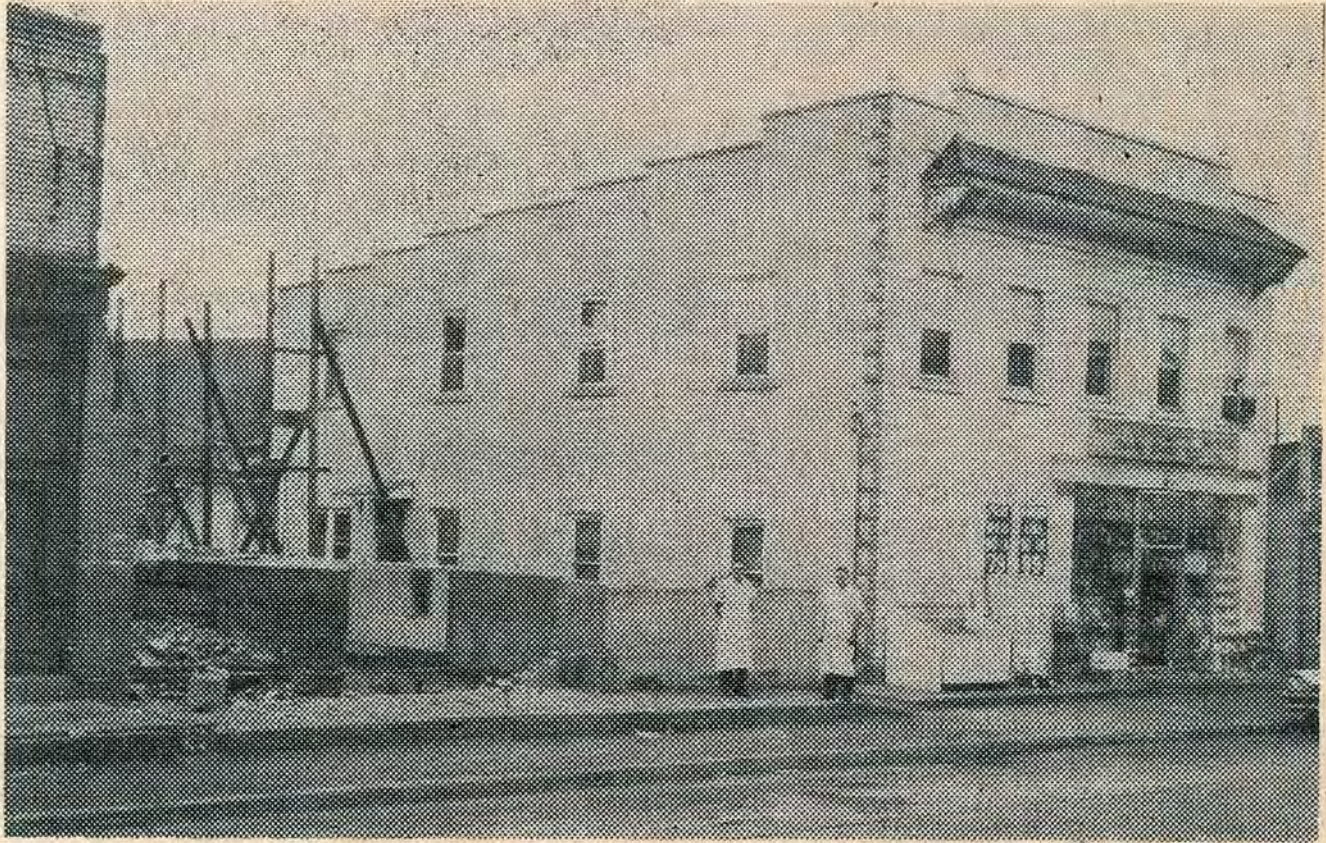
### **New Ambulance is Displayed at Slovan Open House**

**L-R: Paul Pakisz, Secretary, Edward Dugas, President of Slovan Ambulance Service, Edward P. Pfund, of Pfund Superior Sales Company, Bea Vladich, Secretarial Chairman, Representative John L. Brunner, Ralph Toerper, General Manager of Climax Molybdenum, and Louis C. Dugas, Treasurer.**

**Burgettstown Enterprise-March 24, 1965 Edition**

*Fort Vance Historical Society*

## Old Movie Building In Slovan To Be Razed



Bill and Dante Filipponi, co-owners of the Ralph Filipponi and Sons market, stand next to an old theater building they plan to tear down to provide more parking for their store on Main street, Slovan.

Located adjacent to the grocery store, this building was erected in 1918 as a theater by the father and mother of Donald D. and Anthony Mungello. The Filipponi's purchased it five years ago.

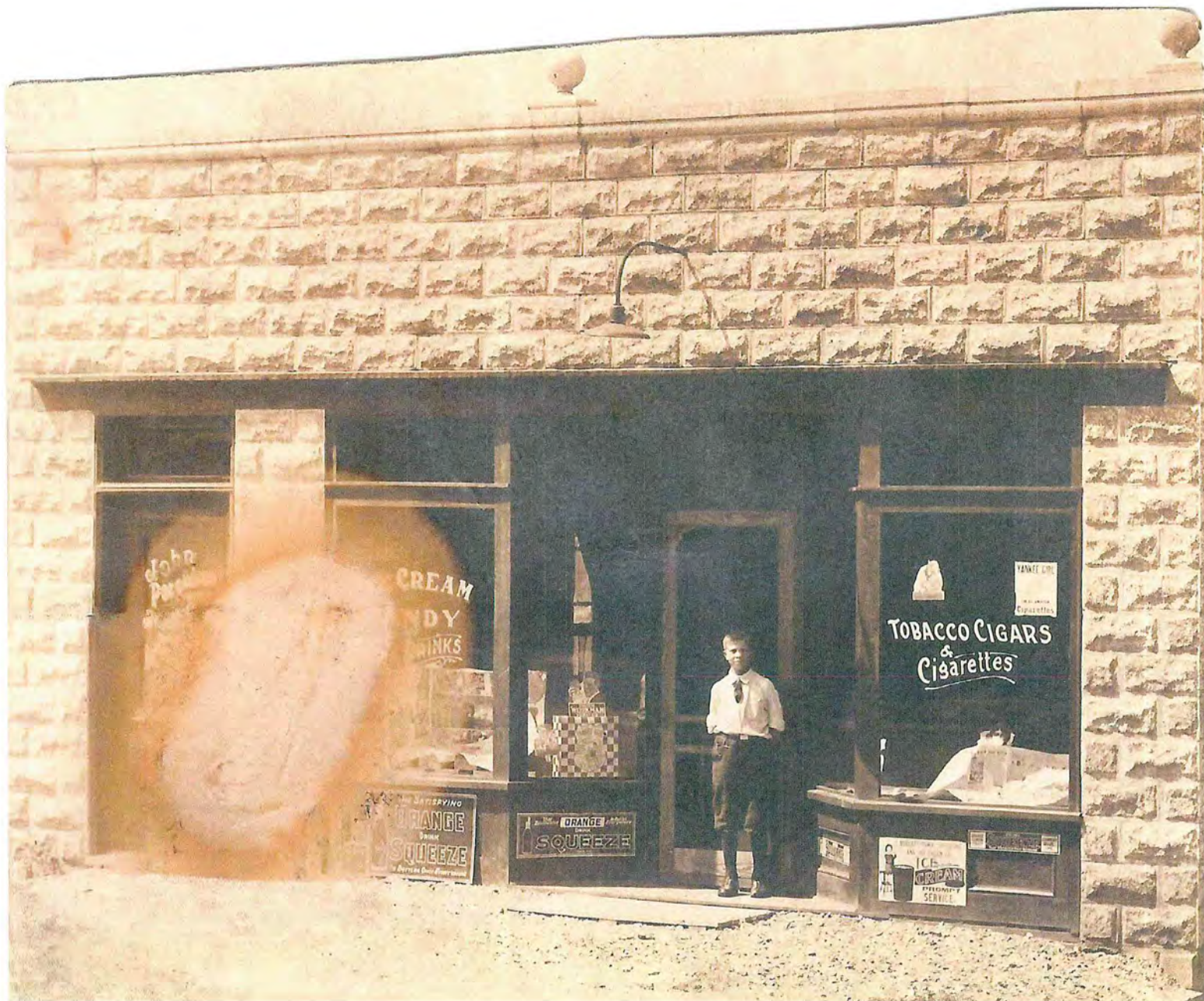
Filipponi's estimate that the space now occupied by the building will accommodate 25 cars. Access to another lot in the rear of the building will provide parking for another 50 cars. (Enterprise Photo)

**Penn Theatre Building in Slovan to be Razed**  
Burgettstown Enterprise-June 7, 1962 Edition



### **Penn Theater, Slovan, PA**

**The theatre was erected in 1913 and was torn down in 1962. The lot was used for addition parking for Filipponi's Grocery Store. Ralph Mungello was the owner of the Penn Theater.**



### **John Porchiran News Stand, Main Street, Slovan-About 1924**

**Young Joesph Porchiran is standing in front of his father's business. The store featured Union Workman Tobacco, Yankee Girl Cigarettes, and Orange Squeeze Soda, and Burgettstown Bottling and Ice Cream Co.**

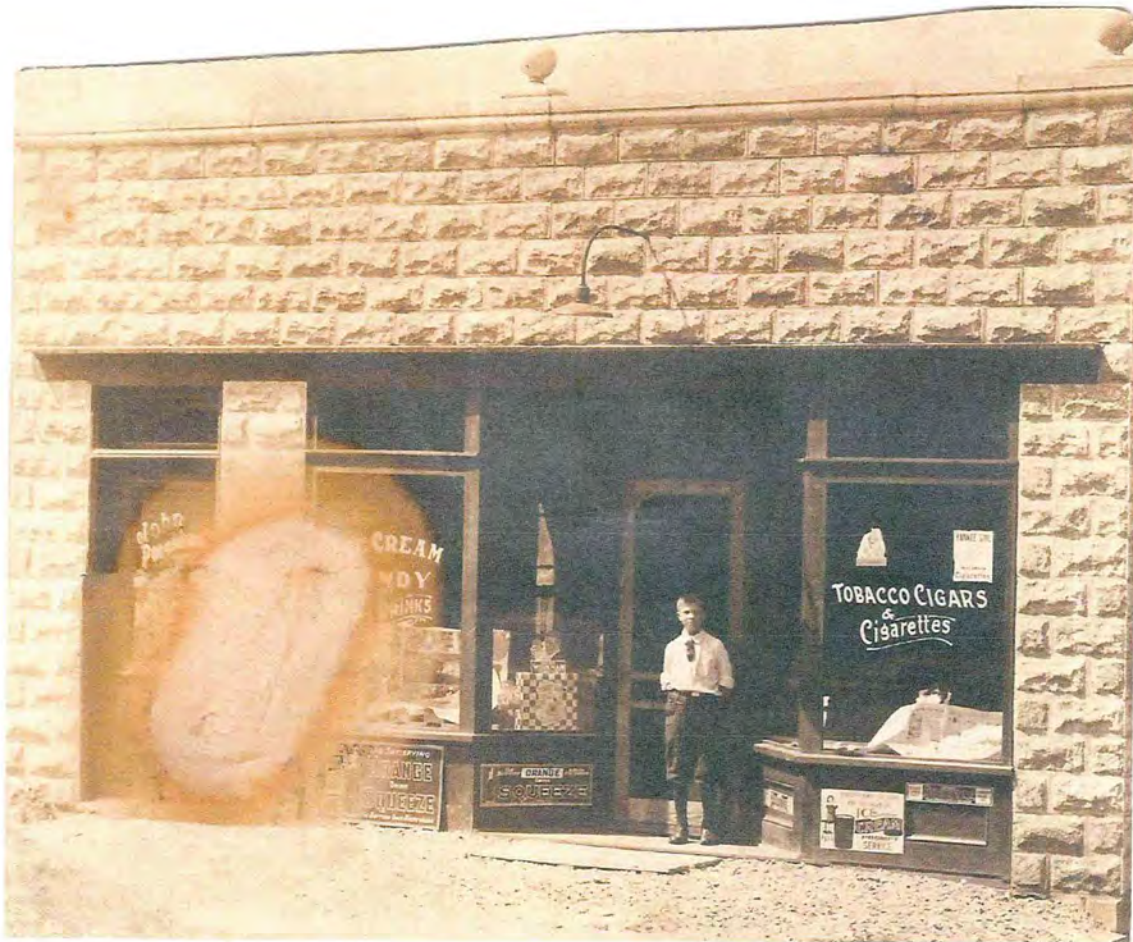
*Photo Courtesy of Lila Porchiran and Fort Vance Historical Society*



**John Porchiran News Stand, Main Street, Slovan, PA-1925**

**L-R: George Porchiran, Stella Porchiran, and John Porchiran**

*Photo Courtesy of Lila Porchiran and Fort Vance Historical Society*



Joseph Porchiran standing in front of John Porchiran News Stand-About 1924.



### **John Porchiran News Stand-Main Street, Slovan, PA-1925**

Interior photo of the family business. Left to right: young George is standing in front of the counter, his sister Stella and father John Porchiran are behind the counter.

*Courtesy of Lila Porchiran and Fort Vance Historical Society*



## SLOVAN RESIDENTS WANT RACCOON CREEK STRAIGHTENED. SPRING RAINS MENACE HOMES

Owen McGivern, acting chairman has called another meeting of Slovan citizens for Sunday afternoon at 3:30 p. m. in the Slovan Fire Department House. All organizations, societies and lodges are requested to send representatives as an effort will be made to arrive at some definite action in the campaign to have Raccoon Creek straightened, dredged and widened from the school house to the fair grounds.

Spring rains are causing havoc with the lowlands of Slovan and in many instances, gardens and cellars are flooded and made unfit for use. Every time it rains, a great deal of property is lost and a great deal of trouble is born by this particular section, and for sanitary reasons many Slovan citizens have been active in securing enough help from the County, Harrisburg township supervisors and officials of the American Zinc and Chemical Co., to raise \$10,000 to begin work on this project.

Members of the school board, township supervisors and Zinc officials have been invited to attend the next meeting.

By neighborhood solicitation funds have been raised to cover the expenses of a committee for a trip to Harrisburg to confer with Governor Martin, his secretary George I. Bloom and Senator Gourley in enlisting state aid for the project.



### **Joseph Slopek Brothers**

**Marie Slopek, woman sitting, Unknown, Julius Slopek, and Joseph Slopek, Unknown, and Unknown.  
Slopek Building-Slovan, PA**

## SMITH TWP. ROAD SUPERVISORS SPONSOR PROJECT

W. W. Lyons, Sanitarian under Dr. Hopper, state medical director of District No. 3, including Washington county, announced to the Enterprise this week, that the project for cleaning and straightening Raccoon Creek in the Slovan Area has been submitted under the sponsorship of Smith Township Road Supervisors T. W. Wilson and Leo Dellapina and just been approved. Work on this project is expected to begin at an early date.

In applying to the Department of Forests and Waters, Water and Power Resources Board for the project, the Supervisors set forth their purpose as follows: "to straighten the course of and deepen certain portions of Raccoon Creek, in along or across as it flows through Smith township particularly near the Slovan section at a point about two miles directly south of Burgettstown Borough and extending northwardly to said Borough line, all within Smith township, Washington county, and for the most part through property owned by the Burgettstown Fair Grounds Association. All possibilities of any damage have been avoided and releases secured prior to the beginning of work, for the purpose of establishing proper drainage to a group of Company houses adjoining said creek eliminating a present condition which results in unsanitary and unnecessary flooding of the cellars and homes in this district at each freshet preventing the flooding of the streets about said homes and over the State Highway route, thus causing additional unsanitary conditions, and enabling the Departments of Health to attempt to enforce reasonable environmental hygiene."

# THUGS ATTACK FAMILY TO MAKE MONEY GRAB

Members of Horovitz Family Beaten  
and Robbed in Their Home in  
South Burgettstown

One of the boldest robberies ever perpetrated in Burgettstown was recorded on Thursday evening of last week when two masked bandits entered the home of Adolph Horovitz, 321 Main street, South Burgettstown, and after beating Mr. Horovitz and members of the household, robbed Mr. Horovitz of between \$300 and \$400 in money.

According to the police report, the two bandits entered the kitchen of the Horovitz home through a rear door, shortly after 8 o'clock in the evening. Florence Horovitz, a daughter, was in the kitchen at the time, while the parents were in the upper part of the house and a son, Harold, was in a room adjoining the kitchen. Frightened by the intruders, the young woman screamed, and Mr. Horovitz and Harold hastily ran to the kitchen.

They were met with revolvers thrust in their faces and a demand that Mr. Horovitz produce the money he had carried home from his store at Slovan. When the demand was not promptly complied with Mr. Horovitz was struck over the head with a gun, and Harold was kicked in the stomach by one of the thugs. Mr. Horovitz was forced to hand over the money he carried and the robbers beat a hasty retreat.

Mrs. Horovitz and daughter made their escape from the house and ran into the home of A. S. Fleming, near by, from where they summoned the police and a local physician.

Chief J. E. Dowden responded, and in a short time had called Constable John Kucera of Burgettstown, Constables Mike Robb and Andy Robb of Slovan, and two members of the State Police from the Washington barracks. The officers immediately began a careful search, and about midnight Constable Kucera arrested one of the bandits as he was about to force a motorist from his car near Bella's lunch room, with the presumed purpose of stealing the automobile.

This man was locked up and later identified as one of the robbers. The other made his escape through the Center avenue railroad yards. The man arrested gave a number of different names and claimed residence in various parts of the country. He was unknown in the local territory. Officers state he was an alcohol addict and had been drinking the fluid from canned heat. None of the money or any weapons were found upon his person.

**Thugs Attack Horovitz Family to Make Money Grab**  
**Burgettstown Enterprise-November 17, 1932 Edition**

Phone 121

# THE SMITH HOTEL

J. E. Smith, Prop.

BURGETTSTOWN, PA.

## Blood Poison Recipe

$\frac{1}{4}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	one half lb. white lead
$\frac{1}{4}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	" " " Red lead
$\frac{1}{4}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	" " " Rosin
$\frac{1}{4}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	" " " Resinway
1		1. One pint linseed oil
		2. Two oz. Gum of Myrrh Pulverized

Simmer slowly for 10 hrs  
then set off the stove and  
add (2) two ozs. of Camphor  
and stir until cold.

7  
75V

**The Smith Hotel-Blood Poison Recipe**

Courtesy of Fort Vance Historical Society

## Smith Township Recreational Program

Junior Legion Baseball—Langeloth whipped Atlasburg, 5-3. Brunner, with 11 strikeouts, racked up the mound win over Yandrich. Abate clubbed a double and single in addition to getting a pair of walks to pace Langeloth. Brunner and Mitko rapped a two-bagger apiece. G. Murin performed ala Stanky for Atlasburg, getting three free tickets and a bingle in four trips. Staub and Diminski each singled.

Bulger tattooed Raccoon, 16-2. Testas, with 10 strikeouts, won the mound duel over Allison, who fanned 8. Allison doubled for the losers while Scopel carved out two walks. Penderville sparked Bulger's heavy artillery with 3 round trippers. Testas belted a home run and triple. J. Bianchi and Kargle collected a double apiece.

Slovan smashed Atlasburg, 14-5. Thomas paced the winners with a double and single, and whiffed 7 to gain the nod over Prezenkop. D. Esno and Vujanick aided the winners with a two-bagger each. J. Bodnor doubled and Walters singled for Atlasburg.

The Cherry Valley-Francis Mine ball game was rained out.

Girls Softball—Slovan, with Guiddy on the mound, defeated M. Blue and Atlasburg, 13-8. S. Mancinelli and F. Dugas sparked the Slovan defense while T. Dvorsak hammered out a pair of singles and McKee tagged one. D. Blue belted a triple and double, Mitchell and M. Petricca poked a double and single apiece, and B. Staub drilled out a pair of bingles, to star in the Atlasburg club parade.

Intermediate Basketball, Boys—Globosky, with 13 points, led the Atlasburg hoopsters to a 20-15 victory over Slovan. Kinkella's 9 points was high for the losers.

Bulger snowed under Raccoon, 67-7 with a terrific display of offense power. Romestan swished the cords for 40 points and high scoring honors. Dellara netted a 20 total. Raccoon scoring was divided between Maltony, Allison and Rose with 3-2-2 respectively.

Tentative plans have been worked out to conduct a track meet at the Slovan grounds, the morning of July 4th. All age groups from the entire Smith Township are eligible to compete.

**Smith Twp. Recreational Program**  
**Burgettstown Enterprise-June 21, 1951 Edition**

## Smith Twp. Authority Signs Contract For Water Lines In Slovan Francis Mine Atlasburg

Residents of Francis Mine, Slovan and Atlasburg, harassed for weeks in the prolonged dry spell, by a dwindling water supply from inadequate cisterns and wells, are one step nearer to having piped water into their homes as a result of the latest action of the Supervisors of Smith township and members of the Smith township Water Authority.

Attorney Edward V. Sciamanna and Steve Dugas, representing the Authority have returned from Philadelphia, where they met with bankers, engineers and representatives of the Bonding company to iron

out final details for the letting of the first contract. This contract in the sum of \$180,000 has been awarded to the Frank Manella Construction company of Pittsburgh, and provides for the laying of water lines in Francis Mine, Slovan and Atlasburg. The Authority expects to have this phase of the project completed within ninety days. The Authority is now working with the Smith township school board and property owners in the Raccoon-Cherry Valley section, to extend the project to that section, so that piped water can be made available to that area.

The entire project of the authority provides for the purchase of the Langeloth Water company from Gus Barbush, for the installation of water lines and meters to some 800 consumers and for the installation of a new 150,000 gallon water tank on Langeloth hill and for considerable improvements to the Langeloth water dam, source of supply for the Authority.

**Smith Twp. Authority Signs Contract for Water Lines  
in Slovan, Francis Mine, Atlasburg  
Burgettstown Enterprise-November 20, 1952 Edition**

## Smith Township Communities Hold Hallowe'en Parade

One hundred and eighty children of the Bulger, Raccoon, Midway and Cherry Valley community participated in the annual Hallowe'en parade held Saturday afternoon, Oct. 28, at 2 o'clock. The parade started at the Bulger Honor Roll and continued to the grade school grounds where judges, John Darras, Bulger; Charles Smith, Midway; and Americo Sella, Raccoon awarded prizes. First prize winner was Marille Shumaker, \$5, second prize, Bobby and Mark Hermes \$3; third prize, Charles Miller, \$2. Ten consolation prizes of \$1 were also awarded. Bags of candy were distributed to the children after the parade.

The event was sponsored by members of Skinner-Brun VFW Post No. 7218, assisted by the Ladies' Auxiliary of the post, President Irene Bianchi, Vincy Nencenoni, Louise Burchanti and Kathryn Welsh.

**Smith Twp. Communities Hold Hallowe'en Parade**  
**Burgettstown Enterprise-November 2, 1950 Edition**



# Deed,

This Indenture Made the *14th* day of November in the year  
nineteen hundred and forty-five (1945)

Between THOMAS T. ELLSWORTH and KATHARINA ELLSWORTH, his wife, of  
Smith Township, Washington County, Pennsylvania, - - - - -  
- - - - - grantors,

And JOSE FERNANDEZ and CELIA FERNANDEZ, his wife, of Smith Township,  
Washington County, Pennsylvania, - - - - - grantees

Witnesseth That in consideration of - - - - - ONE (\$1.00) and  
NO/100 - - - - - Dollars,  
in hand paid, the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged, the said grantors do hereby  
grant and convey to the said grantee s

All that certain tract of land situate, lying and being part in Cross-  
creek Township and part in Smith Township, Washington County, State of  
Pennsylvania, known as the farm of the late Allison Vance, deceased  
and bounded and described as follows to-wit:

BEGINNING at a stone, the corner of lands now or formerly  
of G. M. Cameron and Robert Lyle Jr; thence by the lands now or  
formerly of Robert Lyle Jr. aforesaid South  $88\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$  West two perches;  
thence by the same South  $6\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$  East 53.7 perches; thence by land now  
or formerly of Robert Vance South  $85\frac{3}{4}^{\circ}$  West 97.25 perches; thence  
by land now or formerly of W. Craig Lee North  $38^{\circ} 11'$  East 44.5  
perches; thence North  $65\frac{1}{4}$  West 51.5 perches; thence by the same South  
 $88\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$  West 174.7 perches; thence by land now or formerly of the heirs  
of Thomas Vance, deceased, North  $42\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$  East 80.7 perches; thence by  
the same North  $24\frac{3}{4}^{\circ}$  East 70 perches to the land now or formerly  
of John S. Vance; thence by the land now or formerly of the said John  
S. Vance South  $65^{\circ}$  East 145.3 perches; thence by the same North  $57\frac{1}{4}^{\circ}$   
East 80.2 perches; thence by land now or formerly of G. M. Cameron  
aforesaid South  $\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$  East 98 perches to a stone at the place of  
beginning containing 160 acres and 137 perches.

EXCEPTING and RESERVING however, from this conveyance all

prior conveyances as to right-of-ways made heretofore and also all the exceptions and reservations contained in prior conveyances.

Also excepting and reserving from this conveyance all the Pittsburgh or river vein of coal with mining rights as conveyed by J. D. Vance, et al., to J. B. Henderson by deed dated Dec. 18, 1911 in Deed Book Vol. 395, page 177.

BEING the same tract of land conveyed to Thomas T. Ellsworth et ux. by deed of Giovanni Bruschi et ux., dated June 15th, 1945, and recorded in the Recorder's Office of Washington County, Pennsylvania, in Deed Book Vol. 688, Page 599.

THOMAS T. ELLSWORTH and KATHARINA ELLSWORTH, his wife, - - - - -

Grantor's covenant that he will warrant \* generally the property hereby conveyed.

In Witness Whereof, said grantors have hereunto set their hands and seals the day and year first above written.

SEALED AND DELIVERED IN THE PRESENCE OF

J. M. Rosenberg

Thomas T. Ellsworth  
Katharina Ellsworth  
SEAL  
SEAL  
SEAL  
SEAL  
SEAL  
SEAL



Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, }  
County of Washington } ss:

On this 14th day of November A. D. 1945, before me, a Notary Public

THOMAS T. ELLSWORTH and KATHARINA ELLSWORTH, his wife,

and acknowledged the foregoing Deed to be their act and deed, to the end that it may be recorded as such.

Witness my hand and Notarial seal, the day and year aforesaid.

Gertrude S. Swallow

My Commission expires: May 1, 1947

\*NOTE—Insertion of word "Generally" effects a General Warranty Deed. Insertion of word "Specially" effects a Special Warranty Deed. Act of Assembly, Pennsylvania, April 1, 1909, Sections 4 and 5.

Certificate As To Residence.

The undersigned hereby certifies that the precise residence of the grantee herein named is/are as follows: 205-2nd Ave Longeloth  
Box 76



Bloom & Bloom  
By Madison C. England

520  
**Deeds**

From  
THOMAS T. ELLSWORTH et ux.

To  
JOSE FERNANDEZ et ux.

Dated \_\_\_\_\_ 19\_\_\_\_  
Recorded, Vol. \_\_\_\_\_ page \_\_\_\_\_

RECORDER OF DEEDS, MAIL TO:

NOV 14 1945  
WASHINGTON COUNTY  
RECORDED  
K.M.  
B.C.H.

BLOOM & BLOOM  
Smith, Bros. Co. Inc., Printers and Publishers  
205-213 Grant Street, Pittsburgh, Pa.

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, }  
County of Washington } ss:

Recorded on this 14th day of November  
A. D. 1945, in the Recorder's Office of the said County, in Deed  
Book Vol. 696, page 618.

Given under my hand and the seal of the said office.

William D. Smith  
Recorder.

## SMITH TWP. DEMS CAST WARY EYES at POLITICAL PLUMS

(Monday) Last day for filing petitions for the fall primary saw the County Court house swamped with would be office holders. Two clerks were occupied for the remainder of the week filing petitions according to districts.

From the scarcity of petitions filed by Republicans in this district, it appears that as far as Smith township is concerned, the G.O.P. continues on its cruise up Salt River. As near as can be determined, only two petitions were filed for township office by Republicans. They are Rena De Valkeneer of Joffre for Inspector of Election and Mike Robb of Slovan for Constable.

Democrats in the running will have plenty of competition. The rumor is current that office seekers are hiding behind every bush and tree in the township. The Tally for the Demies to date, appears to be:

Tax Collector—John Darras, Bulger; John Brager, Slovan; Alex Penderville, Bulger; Mary Danek, Joffre; Charles Abate, Slovan; John Harshall, Francis Mine; Andrew R. Samloff and John Zupan, Slovan.

Constable—John Kunkella, Slovan; John David Beacu, Bulger R.D. 3; Pet Cibinic, Bulger; Harry McClements and Mike Nicksick, Slovan.

School Director—Nell A. Christy, Joffre; C. M. Marino, Langeloth; George Swanik, Sr., Slovan; James ~~an~~ Atlasburg; Peter ~~J. L. Rail~~ George Hogan; Cae ~~is, Cherry~~.

Road Supervisor—Owen McGraw, Slovan; T. W. Wilson, Bulger, Charles Duffey, Atlasburg; Frank P. Daudet, Midway, George Swerkle and Walter Stanish.

Assessor—George E. Ray, Bulger; Anthony Kucera, Burgettstown, R. D. 3, and Victor Lescontz.

Justice of the Peace—Joseph Bertovich and Peter J. Secco, Burgettstown, R.D. 3.

Auditor—Louis Ceresa, Jr.

Inspector of Elections — Josephine Colesberry, Joffre.

Judges of Elections—Mary Gilbert, Joffre;

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School Director—Nell A. Christy, Joffre; C. M. Marino, Langeloth; George Swanik, Sr., Slovan; James F. Hill, Atlasburg; Peter J. Sciamanna, Slovan; Caesar Prado, and George Hayne, Langeloth, J. L. Pailis, Cherry Valley.

Road Supervisor—Owen McGraw, Slovan; T. W. Wilson, Bulger, Charles Duffey, Atlasburg; Frank P. Daudet, Midway, George Swerkle and Walter Stanish.

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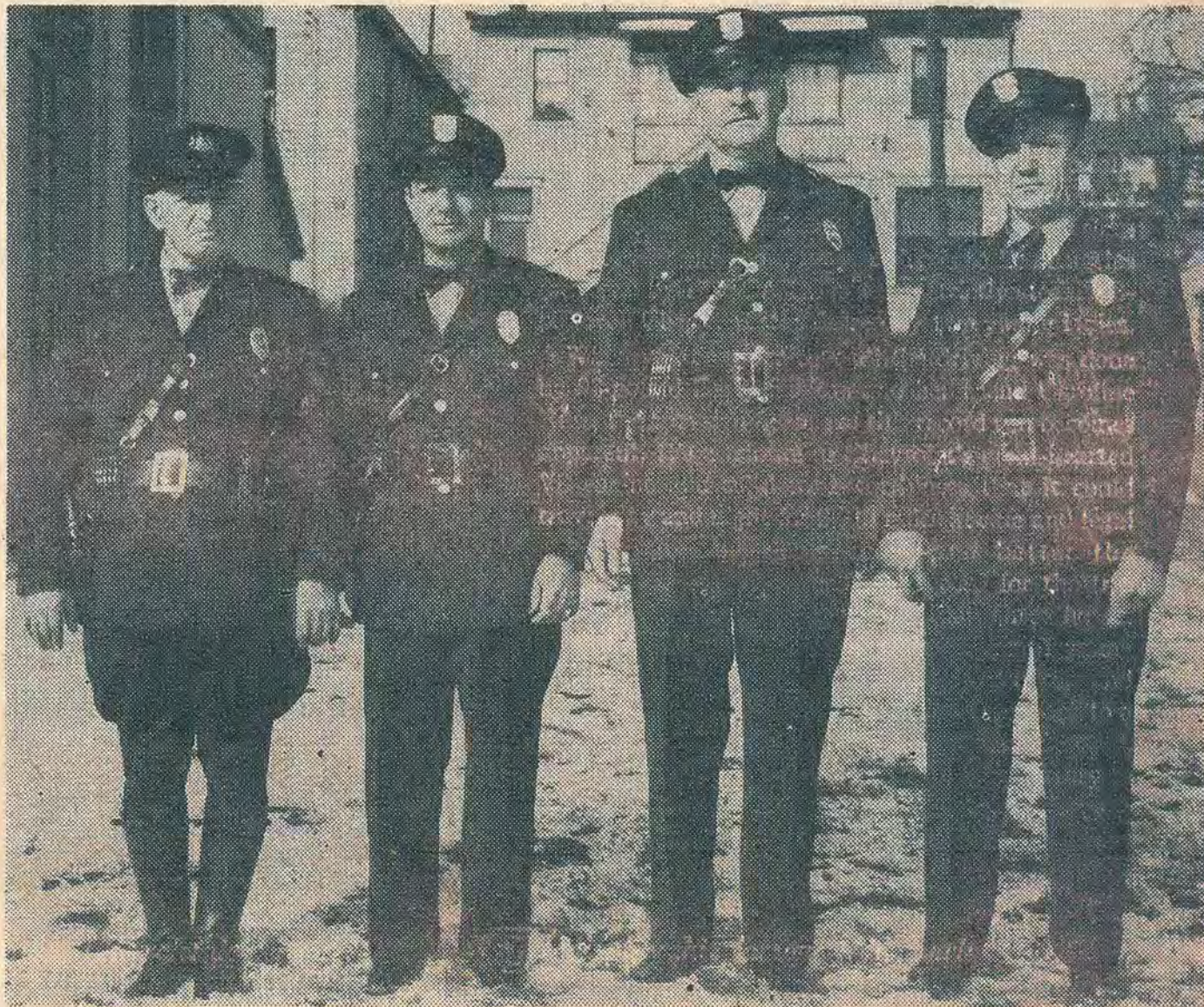
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Judges of Elections—Mary Gilbert, Joffre;

## SMITH TOWNSHIP HIRES THREE NEW POLICEMEN



Pictured above are the three new policemen recently sworn in by the Smith Township Board of Road Supervisors. They are dressed in the brand-new uniforms purchased this month. Supervised by Mike Robb, the three men were hired in an effort to curb some of the difficult traffic problems which have arisen in the township. Left to right, they are: Mike Robb, Jack Delprato, Walter Lonick and John Baronick.

**Smith Twp. Hires Three new Policemen**  
**Burgettstown Enterprise-November 29, 1956 Edition**

# S M I T H

Scale, 1/8 Inches to the Mile.





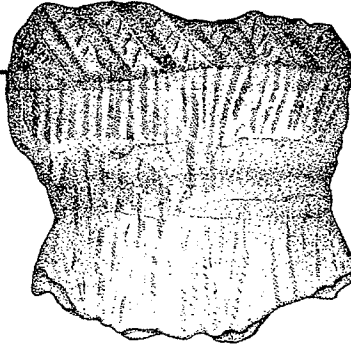
# Summer 1984 Field Training Program In Archaeology

J.M. Adovasio, Field Director

## EXCAVATIONS AT THE MOORE SITE (36WH38) AND THE PERSHINA SITE (36WH608)

All interested persons are encouraged to apply now to the University of Pittsburgh's 1984 Summer Field Training Program in Archaeology. This year the program focuses on excavations at two new sites in Washington County, Pennsylvania. The Moore site (36WH38) is a Late Prehistoric village of the Monongahela culture located in the Raccoon Creek drainage. Distinctive pottery from the site ties its aboriginal people to the nearby Scarem-Kramer site (36WH22), partially excavated by the University of Pittsburgh in 1982 and 1983. The placement of linear stamped motifs on the pottery from Scarem-Kramer and that of the known incised motifs from the Moore site are unique among other Monongahela sites in the Upper Ohio River Valley. Consequently, both sites may have been occupied by the same or similar aboriginal populations. The 1984 field work will test the validity of this presumed cultural relationship by examining the possibility that the Moore site may represent a "village removal" from the Scarem-Kramer site.

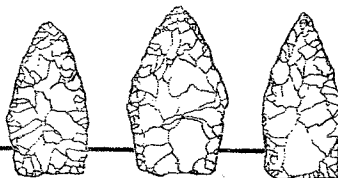
The Pershina site (36WH608), an open-air locality, has only recently been discovered. Among its artifacts are Miller lanceolate points, blade cores, and other lithics very similar to those from the middle and lower parts of Stratum IIa at nearby Meadowcroft Rockshelter. These early levels at Meadowcroft have been radiocarbon dated between 9350 ± 700 B.C. and 11,000 ± 375 B.C. and are among the oldest reliable dates in North America with such artifactual associations. The 1984 field work at the open-air Pershina site will explore these technological and possible cultural connections to Meadowcroft under the direct field supervision of J.M. Adovasio, director of the Meadowcroft Rockshelter work.



All interested undergraduate and graduate students are encouraged to apply for this exciting experience in uncovering the past. Qualified high school juniors and seniors also can apply and are encouraged to do so. Participants will be exposed to the latest methodologies in archaeology, geology, geomorphology, pedology, floral and faunal analysis, excavation techniques, field photography, mapping, and computer usage, plus a host of other techniques used in modern archaeological excavations.

Students in the Summer Field Training Program will learn techniques of open site excavation and will participate directly in the excavation, mapping, photography, and sampling techniques necessary to interpret the natural and cultural history of the sites. Students will also learn laboratory and analysis techniques through participation in the geo-archaeological field laboratory portion of the program.

In addition to excavations at these two sites, Summer Field Training Program students will participate in systematic surface collection and topographic mapping at another site (36WH351) which also has produced Miller Lanceolate points and other potentially early lithic artifacts in Washington County.



## COURSES AND CREDIT

Students with no prior field experience can register for Anthropology 135: Archaeological Field Training, for three, six, or nine credits. Students with prior experience should register for Anthropology 136: Advanced Archaeological Field Training, for three, six, or nine credits. Field time required of each student is proportional to the number of credits for which he or she registers. Application forms contain details.

To receive application forms explaining further details, peel off and mail one of the forms below:

I am interested in receiving additional information and application materials for the  
**1984 Summer Field Training Program in Archaeology.**  
Please mail to:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, and Zipcode \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone No. including area code \_\_\_\_\_

Deadline for return of completed application forms is  
Monday, June 11, 1984.

## ACCOMMODATIONS

A complete field camp near the sites with all necessary facilities will serve the 1984 field crew. Students need personal gear only.

## TUITION AND FEES\*

	Three-credit Option	Six-credit Option	Nine-credit Option
Undergraduate	\$240	\$480	\$ 720
Graduate	\$360	\$720	\$1,080

\*Applicable University of Pittsburgh fees not included. A variety of meal plans are available at reasonable extra cost. Application forms provide details.

## DURATION

The 1984 Summer Field Training Program will operate during the University of Pittsburgh's Summer Session of the 1983-84 school year. It begins Monday, June 18, 1984, and concludes on Tuesday, August 7, 1984. Required student participation time is proportionate to the number of credits for which you are registered and may not require your presence throughout the entire 7½-week period. Reasonable attempts will be made to schedule student field and laboratory hours around work and/or other necessary commitments.

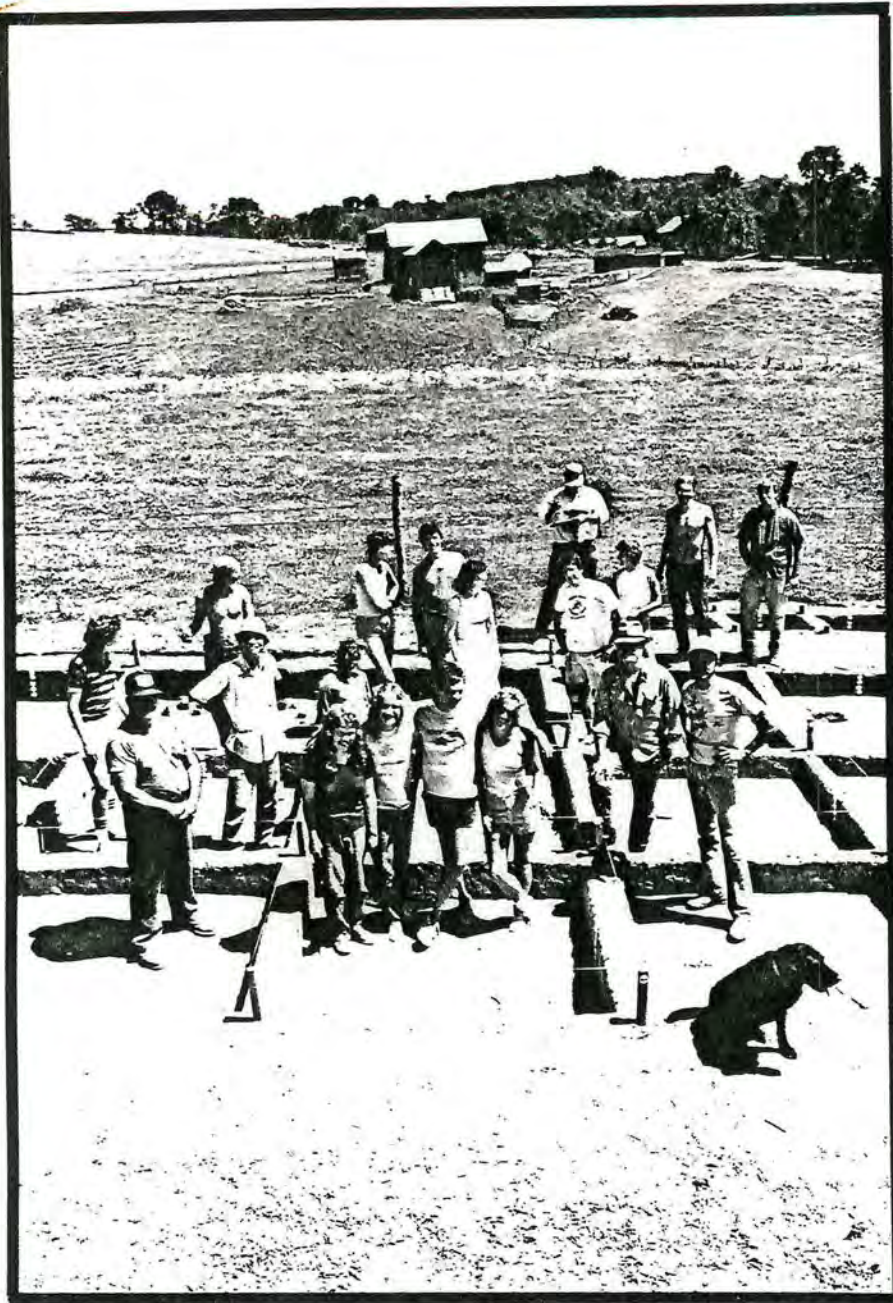
The University of Pittsburgh, as an educational institution and as an employer, does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, age, sex, or marital status, or handicapped status. This is a commitment made by the University and is incorporated into federal, state, and local laws and regulations. All university programs are administered through the Office of Affirmative Action, 150 Cathedral of Learning, University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, Pa. 15262. Dr. Margaret Bishop Coffey, Director. For more information, please call (412) 624-6350. Published in cooperation with the Department of News and Publications, P# 3682-384

# University of Pittsburgh

DEPARTMENT OF ANTHROPOLOGY

**The**  
**Moore-Olah Site**  
**University of Pittsburgh**  
**Summer 1987**  
**Field Training Program**  
**in Archaeology**

*Courtesy of Fort Vance Historical Society*



Mr. Olah -  
I stopped by to coordinate  
with you on the fencing  
of the site, etc. Could  
you please call me at  
648-7446 / 7447 when  
you get back?  
Thanks,  
Ed Siemon



P.S. I thought you  
might like a field school  
brochure. Also, there  
are some onion bulbs in  
the bag from Mrs Moore

# University of Pittsburgh

Summer 1987

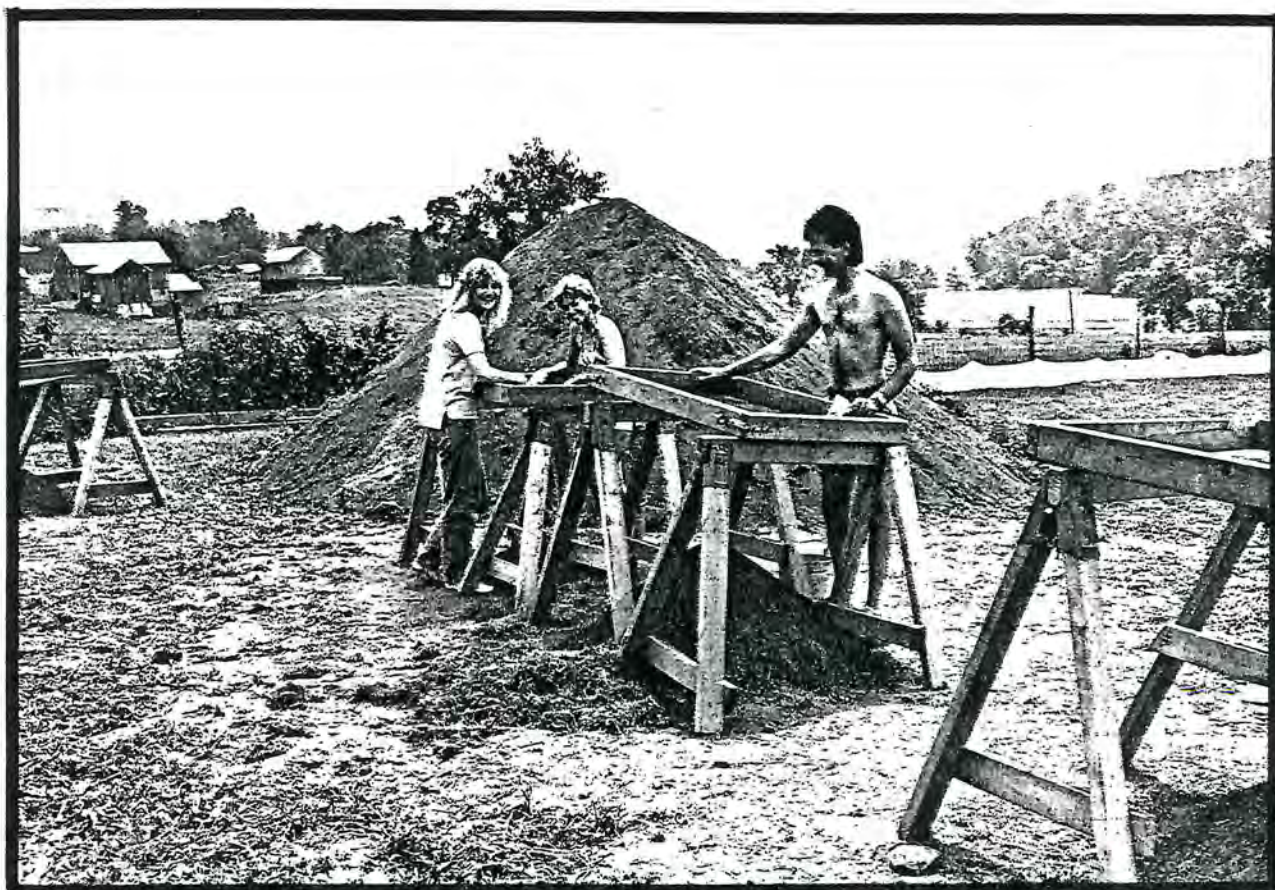
**Field Training Program  
in Archaeology**

The University of Pittsburgh's Summer Field Training Program in Archaeology will continue to excavate at the Moore-Olah site (36WH38) this season. The site and the Program are described below, and other information is also provided for you in this brochure. We look forward to seeing you this summer. Please contact Mr. Edward J. Siemon if you have any questions about the Program (412 - 648-7446 or 7447; no collect calls, please. Leave your name and phone number if you cannot reach him so that he can recontact you). Address any correspondence to Mr. Siemon, c/o Department of Anthropology, University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA 15260.

### THE MOORE-OLAH SITE

The Moore-Olah site (36WH38) is an aboriginal village of the Protohistoric time period located east of Atlasburg, in Washington County, southwestern Pennsylvania. It is 1,500 feet north of Raccoon Creek at the southern end of the Charles Moore Farm. The site is on a gentle slope that dips south and west toward Raccoon Creek.

Based on excavations at the site by Pitt in 1984-86 the "cultural stratification" of the Moore-Olah site, that is, the series of deposits built up by human occupation, is contained within three natural strata. A midden (dump), possible fire floors, fire pits, and refuse pits indicate that the site was occupied year-round during the Protohistoric period (late 16th century A.D.) by people of the local Monongahela culture. Based on archaeological evidence, the staples of the aboriginal diet included white-tailed deer, elk, cottontail rabbit, freshwater mussels, turtle, and hackberries.





Earlier field school work at the Moore-Olah site has shown that flaked stone tools were made there, and many archaeological "features" identified by field school participants reflect other aspects of prehistoric day-to-day life. Most of these features are related to prehistoric economy and subsistence.

Similarities in artifacts suggest that the people of the Moore-Olah site were related to or may actually have been the same people who lived at the nearby Scarem-Kramer site (36WH22), a smaller but more remote village. What factors may have caused the village to be moved, if it was, are questions that we will try to answer this summer.

In 1986, an extensive complex of overlapping fire pits, roasting pits, refuse pits, and other areas on the Moore-Olah site were excavated. Remote sensing techniques were used in areas north of the excavations. This summer, the excavations will open a new portion of the site that extends onto the Olah farm. Typical features that may be identified during this season include the village stockade, plaza area, and the remains of circular Monongahela houses. We also hope to define the eastern limits of the village.

### AREA ATTRACTIONS

Historical and archaeological attractions abound in the field school area. The nearest of these attractions is Meadowcroft Village, a reconstructed 19th century rural community. Other attractions include the Arden Trolley Museum, the David Bradford house, Devil's Den rock formation, Ginger Hill, Monongahela Aquatorium, archaeological sites in Moundsville, and of course, Meadowcroft Rockshelter. In addition to these sites there are also several areas for swimming, softball, hiking, and other recreational activities.

### AREA FACILITIES

The University of Pittsburgh's Archaeological Field Laboratory/Base Camp is located on the property of Mr. Albert Miller near Avella, Pennsylvania, just inside the entrance to the Meadowcroft Village Historic area. Avella is ca. 15 miles northwest of Washington, Pennsylvania, and includes two groceries, a hardware/lumber store, a laundromat, and two gas stations. Washington is a medium-sized city and the county seat of Washington County. It includes shopping facilities ranging from a mall to small, neighborhood groceries. Although we expect no serious problems, you will be glad to know that a major hospital and other medical facilities are available in Washington, and a medical clinic is only 3 miles south of the Moore-Olah site on Route 18. West Allegheny Hospital is also nearby.

The nearby communities of Erie Mine, Slovan, and Atlasburg are also service-oriented. They are ca. 10 miles northeast of the base camp and 1 mile north of the Moore-Olah site. These communities contain the same sorts of businesses found in Avella with the addition of a Mellon Bank branch office and drive-in theater. Other communities within a 30 mile radius of the base camp have stores, churches, gas stations, etc. These include West Middleton; Canonsburg; McDonald; Hickory; Houston; Burgettstown; Weirton, West Virginia; and Steubenville, Ohio.

### BASE CAMP FACILITIES AND MEALS

The base camp is maintained through the shared responsibility of the students and teaching assistants. It includes a permanent, 68-foot house trailer/laboratory and a supply shed. The house trailer is equipped with complete kitchen and bathroom facilities. Food for meals will be purchased with money collected weekly from each individual according to the meals she or he wishes to receive (weekly rates are: breakfast - \$5.00, lunch - \$12.50, dinner - \$12.50). A complete meal plan is \$30.00 per week. If paying on a daily basis, the meal plan is \$7.50 per day. (NOTE: Due to the difficulty of cashing checks and money orders in the field, cash payment for meal plans is preferred.) Portable toilets and showers are provided. For those staying at the camp, 10 feet x 13 feet Springbar tents are available. A number of motels are also located near Pittsburgh and Washington for crew members who may desire less pastoral accommodations. A parking lot for students and visitors is also available.

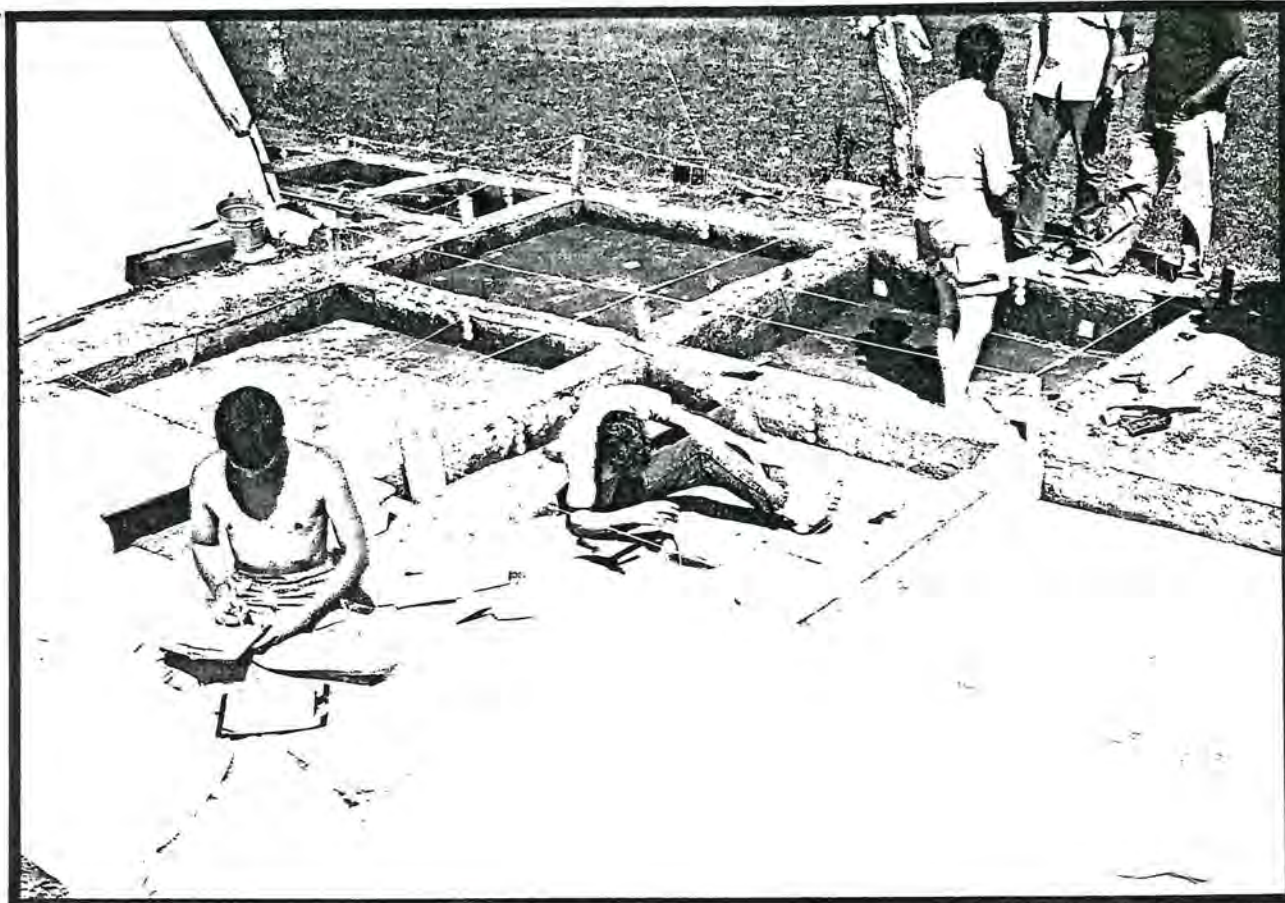
### WHAT SHOULD I BRING ?

Students should bring suitable personal gear including bedding and clothing for temperatures that will range from the low 40s to mid 90s Fahrenheit. Soap, toothpaste, towels, prescription medicines, and other personal hygiene items should also be brought. Coleman lanterns and flashlights are provided for each tent. Radios, additional lighting, etc. that you wish to bring should be battery operated. Electrical outlets are provided in the trailer. The Moore-Olah site is equipped with a crew shelter and toilet facilities. It is recommended that all crew members bring a hat and good quality sunscreen, plus treadless tennis shoes. Shelters are equipped with first-aid supplies for insect bites, minor cuts, etc. Students should inform the program staff at the time of their arrival of any allergies or other medical conditions.

### TRANSPORTATION

Transportation to and from the sites and the base camp will be provided in University field vehicles.





### WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Classes at each site will be conducted Tuesday to Sunday. Students are finished at noon on Sunday and should return by 7:30 a.m. the following Tuesday. A typical work day will begin with arrival at the site at 8:00 a.m. Crews will return to the base camp at 5:00 p.m. This schedule may change somewhat according to weather and the progress of the excavations. A crew rotation system is used so that one crew remains at the base camp to process incoming artifactual and geological materials while the other crew is at the site. The field and lab crews rotate periodically. All necessary archaeological equipment will be provided by the University of Pittsburgh; however, students and volunteers are welcome to bring their own cameras, etc.

### MAIL

Individuals can receive mail at the base camp using this address:  
 University of Pittsburgh Archaeological Field School  
 c/o Mr. Albert Miller  
 Meadowcroft Village  
 Avella, PA 15312

A phone will be available at the base camp for student use at personal charge.

### COURSE DESCRIPTIONS, CREDIT OPTIONS, AND COSTS

Archaeological Field Training is offered both as a basic course (Anthropology 135) and as an advanced course (Anthropology 136) for 3, 6, or 9 credits.



In **Basic Archaeological Field Training (Anthropology 135)** students will participate in excavations and laboratory work. Readings on the cultural affiliations of the site and on archaeological techniques will be provided. A final assignment will utilize information obtained from readings, lectures, and first-hand experience in excavating. Students also will be evaluated on how well they demonstrate an understanding of archaeological field techniques and participation in evening training sessions. No previous experience in archaeology is required.

Students should indicate on the application form that they have had previous archaeological experience in order to enroll in **Advanced Archaeological Training (Anthropology 136)**. Advanced students will also participate in excavations and lab work and will read the same articles used in Anthropology 135; however, advanced students will have greater responsibilities for feature excavation, note-taking, mapping, etc.

These courses are open to high school, college undergraduate, and graduate students. Credits are transferable to most accredited institutions, but students should check with their home institutions on this matter.

Tuition fees are as follows:

High school/undergraduate:	Pennsylvania resident:	\$104/credit
	Out of state:	\$208/credit
Graduate:	Pennsylvania resident	\$156/credit
	Out of state:	\$312/credit

The 3 credit option requires 15 full days of participation in the Field Training Program. The 6 credit option requires 30 full days of participation. The maximum 9 credit option requires participation in the full 7 1/2 weeks of the program. Reasonable attempts will be made to schedule student field and laboratory time around individual work and/or other class commitments.

The participation time for the 3 and 6 credit options can be extended over the course of the entire summer session or can be earned during consecutive days/weeks.

For students based at the University of Pittsburgh's Oakland campus, arrangements can be made for the student to accumulate the required archaeological laboratory experience on that campus. Partial days of work are not suggested except in special cases.

The University of Pittsburgh's Cultural Resource Management Program (CRMP) is currently involved in a number of Phase I (survey), Phase II (testing), and Phase III (full excavation) projects in the eastern United States. Field school participants who demonstrate excellence may apply for employment on future CRMP excavations.

DEPARTMENT OF ANTHROPOLOGY  
FIELD TRAINING PROGRAM IN ARCHAEOLOGY  
ANTHROPOLOGY 135 AND 136  
JUNE 19 - AUGUST 11, 1987

UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH  
INSTRUCTORS: J.M. ADOVASIO/  
EDWARD J. SIEMON

## SYLLABUS

### STUDENT OBJECTIVES

1. To learn professional archaeological field and laboratory techniques.
2. To gain familiarity with the Monongahela Indian culture represented at the Moore-Olah site. Readings and lectures will discuss Meadowcroft Rockshelter, cultural resource management, surveying techniques, prehistoric lithic and ceramic technology, remote sensing techniques, etc.

### GRADING

Final grades will be based upon:

1. Evaluation of each student's receptivity and internalization of presented concepts and information as demonstrated through field and laboratory performance.
2. A demonstrated understanding of assigned readings and lecture topics.
3. Completion of a term project. This will involve the design and theoretical implementation of the excavation of a site.

### BASIC COURSE SCHEDULE

- |           |  |
|-----------|--|
| June 19   | Leave Pittsburgh; set up base camp; general orientation to camp life and the archaeological site with a slide presentation; distribution and explanation of student's F-1 notes. |
| August 2  | Term projects and F-1 notes due.   |
| August 10 | Site and base camp clean up.   |
| August 11 | Return to Pittsburgh.  |

During the field season, a variety of field trips, lectures, and training sessions will be scheduled, depending on the availability of speakers, excavation requirements, etc. Tentatively, these sessions will include lectures by:

William C. Johnson, Ph.D. on Monongahela culture and ceramic technology.

J. M. Adovasio, Ph.D. on Meadowcroft Rockshelter.

William P. Athens on remote sensing and computer drafting and graphics.

Frank Vento, Ph.D. on geoarchaeology and soils analysis.

James P. Dwyer on cultural resource management.

Edward J. Siemon on lithic technology.

Anthony T. Boldurian, Ph.D. on lithic tool replication.

Ronald C. Carlisle, Ph.D. on historic archaeology.

Joseph Yedlowski on the use of the SET 10 and SDR2 field notebook.

Michael Hochrein on urban archaeology in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

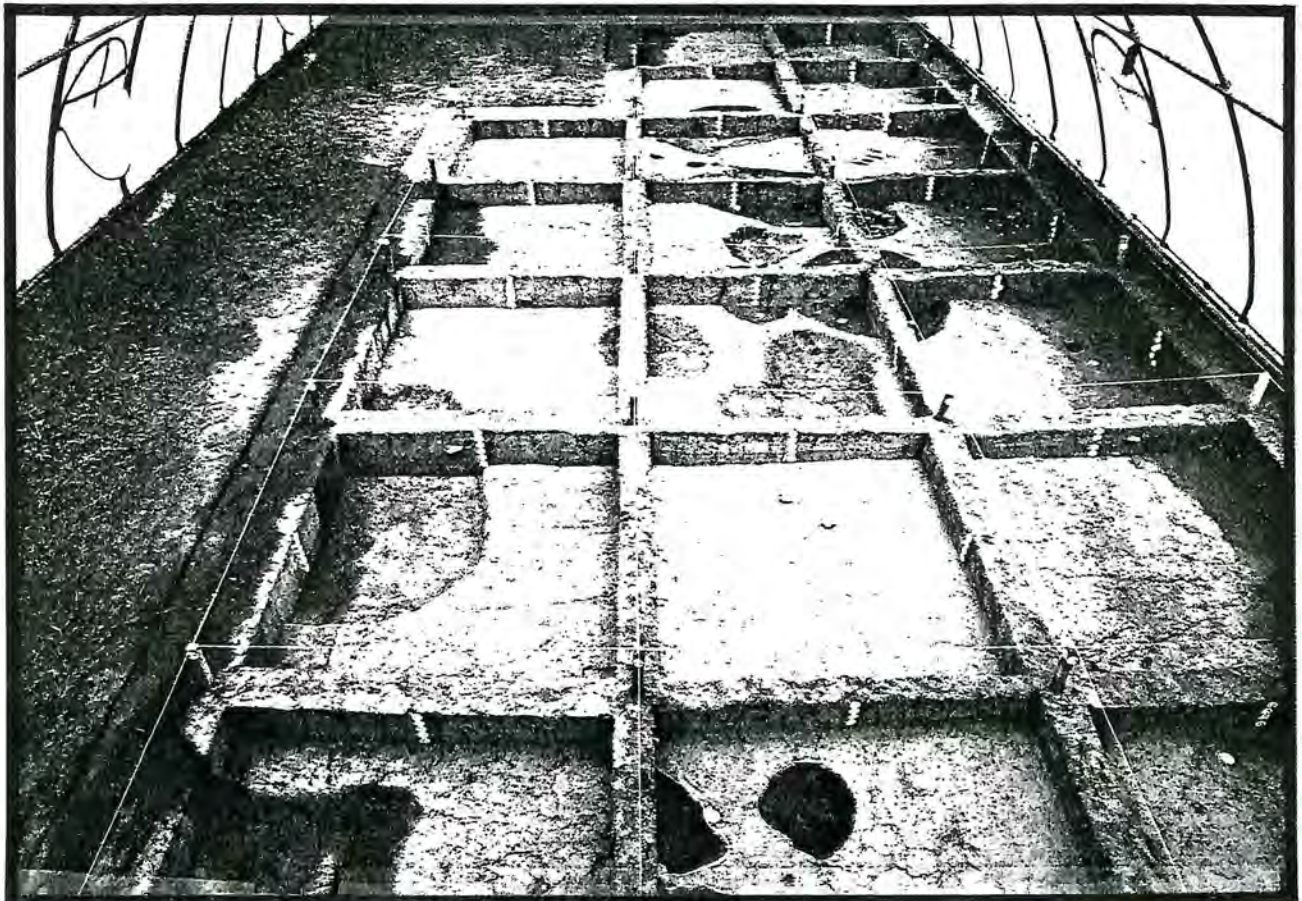
Training sessions will include:

University of Pittsburgh field excavation techniques.

Survey techniques including the use of pocket transit and alidade and plane table.

Data recording techniques including the use of standardized feature forms, mapping forms, photographic data forms, Cartesian and polar coordinate mapping techniques, etc.

The use and function of the Munsell soil color classification system.



The University of Pittsburgh, as an educational institution and as an employer, does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, ethnicity, national origin, age, sex, or marital, veteran, or handicapped status. This is a commitment made by the University and is in accordance with federal, state, and local laws and regulations. All relevant programs are coordinated through the Office of Affirmative Action, 159 Cathedral of Learning, University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA 15260: Dr Maryann Bishop Coffey, Director. For more information please call: (412) 624-6350.

## Smith Township Named In Suit

Smith Township is the defendant in a suit to recover \$23,994.12 by the Smith Township Municipal Authority.

The sum is the amount allegedly owed the authority for installation and maintenance of 61 fire hydrants in Langeloth, Francis Mine, Slovan and Atlasburg.

According to the complaint, the township and the Authority entered into a contract which provided that the Authority would install and maintain 65 hydrants and maintain them for a 40-year period. The annual rental to be paid by the township to the Authority was set at \$203.85 per hydrant.

The Authority claims that 29 hydrants were installed by January 15, 1953, 12 more by August 24, 1953, 13 more by September 1, 1953, and 7 more by January 1, 1954.

The \$23,994.12 bill was based on the yearly rental of each hydrant from the time of installation.

**Smith Twp. Named in Suit**  
**Burgettstown Enterprise-June 2, 1955 Edition**

# Smith OKs new power substation

By DAVID SINGER  
Staff writer  
[dsinger@observer-reporter.com](mailto:dsinger@observer-reporter.com)

SLOVAN – Greater demand on the power grid has FirstEnergy installing a new substation at 385 Harmon Creek Road. Smith Township supervisors unanimously approved Friday a conditional-use application for Allegheny Line Co., a FirstEnergy subsidiary, to proceed with its plans to build a three-acre pad on the 22-acre property.

"It's a static var compensator. Basically, this infrastructure allows us to bring existing lines to the transmission line, and prevent the system from getting too hot or overloading," said FirstEnergy science engineer Richard Miller.

Spokesman Todd Meyers said the project, which will cost "tens of millions," will start in late summer and hopefully finish before the end of 2016.

"This is not a small project. There are some midstream natural gas production facilities in the area, and though gas is in a bit of slump right now, that won't last forever.

"So we're preparing for increased demand in the future, as well as reinforcing the grid for 40,000 customers in Washington and Allegheny counties, he said.

The stipulations of the conditional-use plan, which was discussed at a March 17 public hearing, had 11 provisions, including requirements of cameras, police access, noise and light restrictions, installation of culverts along the road and a road bond agreement, which supervisors said had not been settled.

In other energy news, supervisors said they have yet to advertise public hearings for the Revolution natural gas cryogenic plant, which received conditional-use approval in February, and a gas-drilling project near Cherry Valley.

**Smith Twp. OK's New Power Substation**  
**Observer-Reporter-April 30, 2016 Edition**

## SMITH TWP. SUPERVISORS GET HIGHWAY FUNDS

Auditor General Warren R. Roberts has approved the payment of \$1,554,508.44 to the second class townships of the Commonwealth, under an Appropriation Act of 1939 amending the Furman act of 1937, which required the State Department of Highways to expend directly these moneys out of the Motor License fund on township roads in the particular counties.

Under the 1939 act, the unexpended balance of the Furman act was apportioned on a mileage basis to the various second class townships, and is being paid directly to the townships in two equal installments.

The payment approved represents the July first payment. Each second class township is receiving \$36.00 for each mile of township road. The money must be spent by the township Supervisors on roads and bridges.

To Washington County comes about \$35,000. The following second class townships received the amounts designated.

Cross Creek, \$799.20; Hanover, \$2,506.60; Jefferson, \$1,220.40, and Smith \$1,616.40.

Smith township supervisors have worked out a plan whereby they hope to reduce the tax millage in 1940, because of this state aid. The money received by the township will be spent on repairing about 45 miles of township roads this summer. First project of the supervisors is the tearing out of an obsolete wooden bridge near Joe Cairns at Midway. The bridge will be replaced by a 24" galvanized pipe for drainage outlet.

**Smith Twp. Supervisors get Highway Funds**  
**Burgettstown Enterprise-July 13, 1939 Edition**

## **Funds Sought For Cleanup Of Garbage Dump**

Smith Township's Supervisors told a group of Joffre residents Monday night they will apply for federal and state funds to clean up a growing garbage dump in their neighborhood.

Chairman Vince Gianfrancesco told the 10 property owners in attendance that Rural and Abandoned Mines Program (RAMP) funds will be sought for elimination of a dump located about a mile east of the old Raccoon railroad station and between the tracks and the road.

Gianfrancesco said application for funding will be made "immediately." He said the RAMP program has been responsible for funding the cleanup of other similar garbage areas in Smith Township.

In regard to the police department, the supervisors adopted a resolution endorsing a study, along with Burgettstown Borough, on the feasibility of a joint police force for the two municipalities.

Smith Township will participate in a strategy report for possible regional sewage in the area. In a unanimous vote of supervisors Gianfrancesco, Bob Fuller and Thomas Schilinski, a resolution was passed to share in expenses of the projected \$75,000 study. According to George E. Martin, chairman of the Burgettstown-Smith Township Joint Sewerage Authority, others passing a similar resolution are Burgettstown Borough, Cross Creek and Independence townships, and the school district.

In other business Monday night, the Smith Township Supervisors:

- Learned that Union Electric Steel Corporation and International Mill Service will be monitoring discharges into Burgetts Fork along Route 18 according to appropriate federal and state regulations.

- Voted to proceed with improvement work on existing asphalt roads in the township, pending a priority report from their engineer.

- Tabled action on a new agreement with the Jefferson County Cable TV Co. until it has been reviewed by solicitor Robert N. Clarke. "We're looking for better service, more stations and new cable lines," Gianfrancesco said.

- Began preliminary action on a new burning ordinance in Smith Township by approving required advertisement.

**Funds Sought for Cleanup of Garbage Dump**  
**Burgettstown Enterprise-July 11, 1990 Edition**



## **Pitt archaeologists wrap up excavation at Indian village**

ATLASBURG — University of Pittsburgh archaeologists ended their excavation of a Monongahela Indian village near Raccoon Creek in Atlasburg Tuesday but plan to continue next summer.

The excavation, which was part of a training exercise for archaeological students, was slated to be wrapped up at the end of this summer but the archaeologists have received permission to continue the dig on the Ernest Olah property next year.

The school have been excavating a section of the Lee Moore property for the past three years and have uncovered about 20,000 artifacts, including storage pits where the Indians threw their trash and fire pits where they cooked their food. The village dates from about 1,000 to 1,500 A.D.

This year, the group had been looking forward to uncovering huts where the Indians lived but Michael Hochrein, who is in charge of the dig, said they are still in search of them.

He said they did uncover about 5,000 artifacts this summer, including more elk and beaver remains and additional plants that can be added to what is known of the Indians' diet.

He said they have conducted tests on the Olah property and are very hopeful about the future excavation of that area. He said it should take three to five years to complete the dig.

"The land on the Olah property has not been disturbed by plowing or farming for a very long time," Hochrein said. "The artifacts we uncover should be intact."

**Pitt archaeologist wrap up excavation at Indian Village  
Observer-Reporter-August 14, 1986 Edition**

*Courtesy of Fort Vance Historical Society*

By Patrick Pontfice, Staff Writer

A Smith Township farm that has been plowed infrequently is proving to be fertile land for archaeologists.

Dr. James M. Adovasio, chairman of the anthropology department at the University of Pittsburgh, said the condition of artifacts left from the occupation of the area by the Monongahela Indian tribe are excellent.

Referred to as the Moore-Olah site, the village, dating back to the late 15th or early 16th centuries, is unique in another way, according to Adovasio. "It may be among the last areas ever occupied by the Monongahela," he said.

A third feature of the site is that it is one of the few representations of a transplanted population. According to Adovasio, the pottery uncovered at Moore-Olah is so similar to that found at a site eight miles away that it can be presumed the Monongahela relocated to Moore-Olah.

Excavations at the site from which the Monongahela relocated called Scarem-Kramer, were completed in 1983.

The reason for the relocation? Self-defense, Adovasio believes.

"All evidence indicates that from the 14th to the 16th centuries the Monongahela began occupying more peripheral and inaccessible areas," Adovasio said. "It seems there was a continuous search for more defensive positions."

The Iroquois Indians, Adovasio said, are believed to have eradicated the Monongahela tribe.

The "tens of thousands" of artifacts uncovered at the site — ceramics, stone tools and plant and animal material — support that theory, Adovasio said.

He said he was informed about the existence of the site by Albert Miller, who discovered the Meadowcroft Rock Shelter. A member of the Pennsylvania Archaeological Society, Miller said he used to hunt over the Moore-Olah site and knew it was of archaeological importance.

The site is located near Raccoon Creek and measures about two acres, with the main excavation area confined to an area about 100 meters by 300 meters. The village consisted of a series of houses in a circular pattern with a large cleared area in the center. The circular pattern and evidence of a palisade further reflect the Monongahela's defensive position.

Excavations have been carried out at the Moore-Olah site for the past four years, and likely will continue through next summer, according to Adovasio. He will direct a 10-week dig at the site beginning June 26.

Adovasio said the university has some of the most advanced equipment in the United States for analyzing artifacts. "We can extract just about everything" there is to know about an artifact, he said.

It will take another two years before a final report on the findings at Moore-Olah will be completed. A final report is also due out shortly on the findings of the excavation at the Meadowcroft Rock Shelter, although there have been numerous published articles about that project. Excavations there were completed in 1978.

Moore-Olah tribesmen may have used the Meadowcroft Rock Shelter as a camp on hunting expeditions, Adovasio said.

Adovasio was the first to speak at last week's conference on Native Americans in Southwestern Pennsylvania. His subject was the earliest human populations in the area. The conference was sponsored by the Washington County Historical Society at Washington & Jefferson College.

**Smith Township farm is terrific turf for Archaeologists**  
**Observer-Reporter-March 19, 1989 Edition**

*Courtesy of Fort Vance Historical Society*

# Ancient Monongahela Indian village attracting modern man to area site

By Melanie Mars, Staff Writer

A Monongahela Indian crouches on the banks of Raccoon Creek in northern Washington County. He waits silently for the right moment, his spear poised to throw.

A small rabbit darts from the underbrush, the spear hits its mark. The rabbit is still. The Indian emerges from his hiding place and takes his dinner back to the village.

The Indian roasts the rabbit in a fire pit. Then the bones are thrown carelessly in a pit nearby used for trash. After his hunger is satisfied, the Indian will rest in a nearby hut until the next day when he will go out to hunt again.

Thousands of years later, University of Pittsburgh archaeology students spend their summer near Route 18 in Smith Township digging in the soil for bits and pieces of debris from the small village where the Monongahela Indian lived and died. According to initial findings, the village dates from about 1000 to 1500 A.D.

The village, which is located on a small section of the Lee Moore farm in Smith Township near Raccoon Creek, is a relatively modern Monongahela Indian Village, according to Dr. James Adovasio, field director Pitt's training program.

The training program for future archaeologists or interested students runs throughout the summer with different groups of students. The students are housed in tents near the village.

The village, which encompasses about two-and-a-half acres of land, is smaller than earlier villages, notably the famous Meadowcroft Monongahela Indian village or a village near Connellsville which is currently being excavated, Adovasio said.

He added that the Connellsville site may yield more information, but the site in Smith Township may prove just as interesting.

The village is in an unusual area for the Indian tribe that once inhabited a large section of western Pennsylvania and a section of Maryland. The Indians generally built their villages near larger bodies of water and in more open areas.

Adovasio, who likened the Raccoon Creek site to a "backwoods area for the Indians," said the artifacts from the dig may give the scientists a better idea of what happened to a tribe that once populated such a large area.

"We have not been able to find any trace of the tribe after the year 1500 A.D. We have various theories about what may have happened to the tribe but nothing concrete," he said.

The village could have been a stopping point for the tribe before it went on to settle in another area, or it could have been the small section of one tribe breaking away from a larger tribe. The Indians could have felt threatened by another tribe, such as the Iroquois, and could have been trying to stay out of their way.

About the same time, 1000 to 1500 A.D., the Iroquois were making a stab

at becoming the dominant tribe in the area, Adovasio said. The Monongahela Indians could have felt threatened.

The Monongahela Indians have no known descendants. However, another theory is that they may have been absorbed by another tribe. Because there may have been changes in their style of art, living or clothing between the time they lived in the villages already discovered and when they united with another tribe, the scientists have been unable to discover a link or trace their descendants.

Another theory states the Indians may have been wiped out by the Iroquois.

The archaeologists, who oversee the excavations, are like detectives who put pieces of evidence from the past together to tell a story about life in an Indian village. They dig and sift through the soil slowly so as not to destroy what could turn out to be a piece in the puzzle. Each new fragment of pottery or animal bone brings a wealth of information to the trained person.

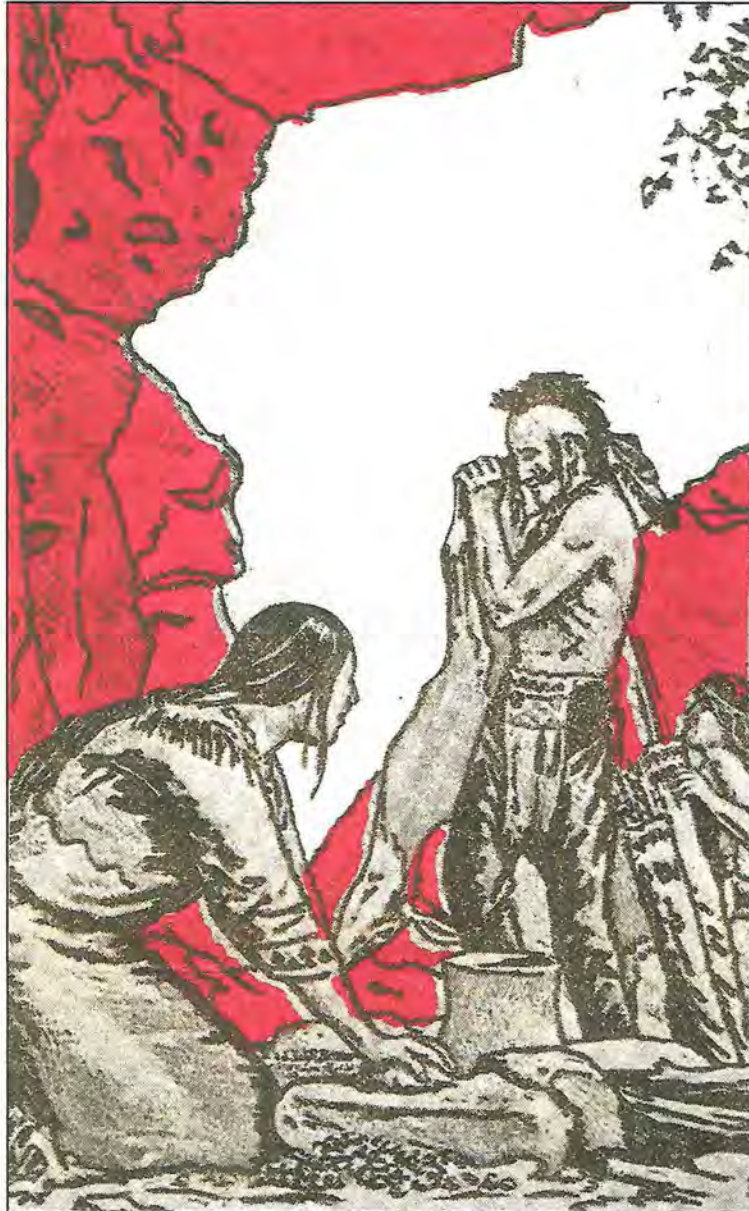
The work can be tiresome but the results are worth the hours and days spent sifting through the dirt for another clue, according to Michael Hochrein, who is in charge of the group excavating the area. An inexperienced person could destroy valuable artifacts.

"Because it is a training ground for future archaeologists, we are moving much slower than if it were a site staffed with professionals," he said.

The group has been working at the site for the past two years and has

**Pitt students dig Smith Township (Pg. 1)**  
**Observer-Reporter-July 6, 1986 Edition**

*Courtesy of Fort Vance Historical Society*



uncovered fire pits and trash pits left by the former inhabitants.

This will probably be the group's final year at the Lee Moore farm site. The first two years of work resulted in the discovery of 5,000 artifacts.

The trash pits are located within a few feet of the fire pits where the tribe roasted game and kept warm. The pits have provided a wealth of information to the scientists including the diet of a tribe, which could possibly provide a clue as to why it disappeared.

"We know that mainstays of their diet were rabbit, deer, turtle, raccoon, freshwater mussels, elk, and hackberries. It could be that they contracted a disease from what they ate," Adovasio said.

In addition to bones, broken pieces of pottery have been found in the trash pits. The pieces of pottery found can help the archaeologists discover whether or not the tribe was simply absorbed by another tribe.

The pottery contains a unique linear stamped motif. The decorations on the pottery link the tribe with another nearby site, the Scarem-Kramer site that was partially excavated in 1982 and 1983 by Pitt.

According to Hochrein, each tribe had its own distinctive way of decorating its pottery. If it were absorbed by another tribe, its way of making or decorating pottery would be incorporated into the new tribe.

This summer, the excavations will include a much larger area which may include the section of the village where the Indians built their huts.

In addition to the Moore site, the Perishina area may be excavated this summer. It is located three miles east of McDonald.

Archaeology has shown that flaked stone tools were made and resharpened at the site. There has been evidence of ground stone tool use at the area.

Washington County is one of the largest archaeological training grounds in the country.

**Pitt students dig Smith Township (Pg. 2)**  
**Observer-Reporter-July 6, 1986 Edition**

*Courtesy of Fort Vance Historical Society*

## ARA Grant Approval At \$550,000

It's now official! The Area Redevelopment Administration announced Saturday approval of a \$550,000 public facility grant to the Smith Township Municipal Water Authority for improvement of the water system.

The water distribution system will be extended into the communities of Cherry Valley, Raccoon, Bulger and Erie Mine and the present plant will be improved. Possible expansion of several industrial plants in the area may also be a result of the grant.

Formal announcement of the grant was received early this week by Steve Dugas, past president of the Water Authority. In a letter from Daniel L. Goldy, Acting Administrator of the Area Redevelopment Administration, U. S. Department of Commerce, Washington 25, D. C., Dugas was informed:

"I have this day authorized the Community Facilities Administration to extend grant assistance to the Municipal Authority to the extent of \$550,000 for the improvement and enlargement of the existing water facilities.

"I trust this assistance will make it possible to increase the industrial activity and promote the economic betterment of the community."

The letter was dated Saturday, April 21, 1962.

# **Smith Twp.**

**Crumrine**

**History of Washington County**

## **Smith Twp. (pp. 910-931)** **History of Washington County, Pennsylvania\***

By a provision in the act erecting Washington County, passed March 28, 1781, the trustees appointed to lay off the county into townships were required to have them laid out before July 1st of that year. This was accomplished, and the township of Smith was the last one set off of the original thirteen. It was so named at the suggestion of Judge James Edgar (one of the trustees), in honor of the Rev. Joseph Smith.

The original township was bounded on the north by the Ohio River, on the east by the townships of Robinson and Cecil, on the south by Hopewell township, and on the west by the State of Virginia. It retained this large extend of territory for five years only. On the 5th of January, 1786, the inhabitants presented to the Court of Quarter Sessions of the Peace held at Washington an application for a division of Smith township. This application was favorably considered, and a certificate was sent to the Supreme Executive Council, and read before that body March 8, 1786. No action was taken upon the subject until the 2d of September of the same year, when it was again brought before the Council and confirmed. By this action that portion of the territory north of Harmon's Creek and north of Brush Run to the Ohio River was set off and named Hanover township. The original line dividing these townships ran "up Harmon's Creek to the source near Steven Smith's (the old McCurdy farm), thence across the ridge to the head of Brush Run, and down the run to Raccoon Creek." On the 11th of March, 1830, by order of court, the territory north of the present line between Smith and Hanover, not included in above, was set off from Smith township and attached to Hanover. Upon the erection of Mount Pleasant township, May 12, 1806, a portion of Smith was set off to from its territory. The eastern line of Smith at that time extended from near the present north point of Mount Pleasant township southward along the west line of Chartiers township, passing through Hickory, to the north line of Cross Creek, about one mile and a half south of that town.

The present boundaries of the township are Hanover township on the west, north, and northwest, Robinson on the northeast, Mount Pleasant on the southeast, and Cross Creek and Jefferson townships on the southwest.

Following is a list of justices of the peace for Smith township<sup>1</sup> from its erection to the present time, viz.:

- Samuel Johnston, July 15, 1781.
- William M. Moore, June 7, 1830.
- James Edgar, July 15, 1781.
- John Smith, Dec. 17, 1836.
- James Edgar, Sept. 30, 1788.
- Ebenezer Robb, March 28, 1837.

John Riddle, March 4, 1796.  
 Joseph Campbell, April 14, 1840.  
 John Wilkins, May 31, 1803.  
 Alexander Kidd, April 14, 1840.  
 James Proudfit, March 11, 1809.  
 William Galbraith, April 15, 1845.  
 Robert Bowland, March 13, 1810.  
 John Ferguson, April 9, 1850.  
 Matthew Provines, De. 9, 1811.  
 John Stephenson, April 9, 1850.  
 William McCreery, Dec. 10, 1816.  
 John L. Proudfit, April 16, 1855.  
 James Keys, May 16, 1818.  
 John Ferguson, April 10, 1855.  
 James Leech, De. 5, 1818.  
 Samuel P. Riddle, April 10, 1860.  
 Robert Polkerson, Dec. 5, 1818.  
 John B. Hays, April 10, 1860.  
 James McFarren, Aug. 29, 1821.  
 Samuel P. Riddle, June 3, 1865.  
 Moses Stephenson, March 12, 1822.  
 J. L. Patterson, June 3, 1865.  
 Thomas Biggart, June 12, 1822.  
 Alex E. Walker, April 21, 1869.  
 Edward McDonald, Aug. 15, 1822.  
 Samuel P. Riddle, March 29, 1870.  
 Benjamin T. Bubbitt, Dec. 8, 1823.  
 James L. Patterson, Nov. 30, 1870.  
 David Miller, March 4, 1824.  
 James L. Patterson, Jan. 19, 1874.  
 John Buchanan, Dec., 13, 1824.  
 Samuel P. Riddle, Jan. 27, 1874.  
 Archibald Hunter, Feb. 14, 1825.  
 Samuel P. Riddle, March 17, 1875.  
 Ebenezer Boyce, Oct. 4, 1828.  
 George M. Tenan, March 16, 1876.  
 Alexander Kidd, Nov. 18, 1835.  
 John P. Wood, March 30, 1880.  
 William L. Robb, April 3, 1835.  
 Thomas W. Pedicord, April 9, 1881.

[From 1781 to 1787 the township of Smith was an independent election district. At that time the county was divided into six election districts, and this township became part of the Sixth District: another change was made in 1803. Changes in the boundries were frequent, and it has been impossible to follow them by township. Since the change in the constitution in 1838, the township has been an independent district.]

Settlements.--One of the earliest settlers of Smith township, but one of whom but little is known, was Henry Rankin. He was in nowise related to the Rankins who settled in the valley of Mount Pleasant. On the 15th of June, 1778, Henry Rankin and Alexander McBride purchased of George McCormick five hundred and sixty-four acres of land adjoining Nathaniel Patton, Boston Burgett, and Joseph Phillis. He took out a Virginia certificate for the land,



which was surveyed to him as "Chance" on the 23d of February, 1785, and patented Feb. 15, 1786. A small portion of this tract was sold by Henry Rankin to Thomas Miller Aug. 9, 1805.

The earliest record of a land title in Smith township is dated May 10, 1776, one hundred and eighty-six acres of land which was sold by William Crawford and Henry Houghland to Joseph Phillis, located on Raccoon Creek, "which lands the said William Crawford and Henry Houghland are entitled to by improvement, according to the custom of the country."

Arthur Campbell was a native of Ireland, who emigrated to America and settled near Winchester, Va. After remaining there a year or two he removed to Redstone Old Fort (Brownsville), and in looking over the country for land on which to settle he selected the tract in Smith township on which his grandson, John Campbell, now lives. It was owned by Andrew and Adam Poe, who both lived on the place at the time. Upon the purchase of the land of the Poes Mr. Campbell moved into the house occupied by them, which was built of hewed logs, one and a half stories in height. Arthur Campbell lived and died on the homestead, leaving five sons, William, John, Arthur, Robert, and Joseph, and three daughters, Nancy, Margaret, and Elizabeth. William, the eldest son settled in Jefferson County, Ohio, where his descendants still live. After the death of Arthur Campbell, Sr., the farm was left by will to John and Robert Campbell, the latter son of Arthur, by whom it was divided, John retaining the homestead, it being the north part, and is now owned by his son John. Arthur, another son of John, resides in Wisconsin, and a daughter, Margaret, is the wife of Allison Vance. Robert inherited the south side of the farm, and left three sons. Arthur and Ebenezer B. still live on the farm, and William, a third son, resides in California.

Arthur Campbell, Jr. had two sons, --Arthur, who settled in Jefferson township, on the Cassidy farm, and died there; Joseph studied medicine with Dr. McClean, of Florence, married his daughter, practiced medicine in Pughtown, and died in Eldersville. Nancy, a daughter of Arthur, died unmarried. Elizabeth married James Gobson, of Hanover township, and settled there. Margaret married Thomas Elder, the founder of Eldersville. Robert, son of Arthur Campbell, Sr., left three daughters. Ellen married John L. Proffit, Esq., of Burgettstown. Elizabeth died unmarried. Margaret married Samuel P. Wilson, and settled in Virginia. A James and a William Campbell lived where George and N. B. Campbell now reside, in Smith and Cross Creek townships, but were not related to the family of Arthur Campbell.

James Leech emigrated to this country from Ireland with his wife and three children, and settled first in Northampton County, Pa., and was in the Revolutionary war. At the close of the war he purchased land of Robert Walker, of Cecil township, under date of Feb. 11, 1782. A part of the deed is as follows:

"Unto James Leech, of the county and township aforesaid, lying and binding on the waters of Raccoon Creek, adjoining William Renkins on the one side and the Redefords [Rutherfords] on the other, James Stephenson and Henry

Hoglan and William Bashford, containing Three Hundred Eachers of land."

On the 22d day of February, 1786, he took out a warrant for the tract of land, which was surveyed June 30, 1786, under the name of "Litchfield," containing two hundred acres. This land is now occupied by his grandsons, Robert and Joseph P. Leech. On the 30th of November, 1802, he purchased the mill property on Raccoon Creek, containing one hundred and five acres, of John Wishart, with liberty to construct a dam farther up the creek and race-way to the mill though Wishart's land. In 1811 a road was ordered laid out from James Leech's mill to John Marshall's, in Cross Creek township. On the Litchfield tract he built a cabin, barns, and still-houses, about half-way between William Rankin's and where Robert's house now stands, and later built a larger house of hewed logs near the spring. He died in 1823, and was buried at Burgettstown. His sons were John, William, Thomas, Samuel, Robert, and James. John went to Ohio, and later to Putnam County, Ill. The rest removed to Cohocton, Ohio, except James, who remained on the homestead for a time. He married a daughter of John Wishart, purchased the property on the creek, where he lived and died. He served in the war of 1812 and was a justice of the peace of the township from Dec. 5, 1818, many years. He was the father of Joseph P. and Presley Leech. The property is now owned by Joel Case.

George McCullough with his wife and family emigrated from Little Britain township, Lancaster County, Pa., to Smith's township, and took out a warrant for a tract of land, which was surveyed to him by the name of "Gretna Green," a patent for which he obtained in April, 1785. He died in February, 1811, and left seven daughters and one son, the latter of whom died young. The name became extinct. The daughters married as follows: Christina married James Wilson, and emigrated to Trumbull County, Ohio, near the town of Poland (now Mahoning County); Betsey married Thomas McCullough, and went to the same locality; Jane married Joseph McNall, who resides in Finley township, Allegheny County, Pa.; Mary married James Brown; Margaret married James Tenan, of Smith township. They settled on the "Gretna Green" tract, having bought out the heirs. Sons of this union were George M. Tenan, Esq., and James B. Tenan, both residents of Burgettstown. James Tenan, Sr., emigrated from Londonderry, Ireland, to Washington County; married here and settled in Smith township, on land now owned by Andrew Proudfoot. His son, James Tenan, married Margaret McCullough, as mentioned above.

A tract of land was warranted to Abram Scott Sept. 23, 1784, situated on the waters of Raccoon Creek, adjoining Joseph Phillis, Henry Rankin, and William Thompson. It was surveyed on the 21st of February, 1787, to John Smith, as the assignee of Abram Scott, under the name of "Shady Grove," and contained four hundred and ten acres.

Mr. Smith purchased two hundred and ninety-nine acres, a part of a tract of land which was patented by Jacob Neusly March 21, 1787, containing three hundred and ten acres. This was also on the waters of Raccoon Creek, adjoining William

Thompson and Cornelius Murphy. On the 18th of February, 1794, Mr. Smith sold the two hundred and ninety-nine acres of the Neusly tract, and twenty-five of the "Shady Grove" patent to Andrew McClean. James McClean, the son of Andrew, was a bachelor; studied theology, and preached in the Presbyterian denomination, and lived on the homestead several years. The place is now owned by James Simpson. A part of the Smith tract was sold in 1792 to John Bell and John Patton. Bell sold to Thomas Miller Dec. 24, 1804.

Cornelius Murphy owned land adjoining John Smith. He had but one daughter, who married a man of the name Dodd, and removed to South Carolina. Squire John Riddle became the executor of Mr. Murphy after his death, and suits were pending for several years, the heirs of Mrs. Dodd claiming the property.

Among the officers who received grants of land for their services in the Dunmore was Lund Washington, a distant relative of George Washington. A patent of the State of Virginia, dated Nov. 20, 1779, was granted him by which two thousand acres of land were conveyed. This tract lay on the head-waters of the middle branch of Raccoon Creek, and in the townships of Smith and Mount Pleasant.

On the 8th of June, 1791, Washington sold three hundred acres to John McKibben. This tract is now owned by Charles Provines, the heirs of Ebenezer Smith, and the heirs of Robert Smith. On the 20th of January, 1792, Washington conveyed all of the remainder of the tract to George McCormick. In the deed to McCormick a statement is made concerning the large tract granted by the Virginia patent as follows: "Said to contain two thousand acres, but in fact only one thousand acres, and is bounded," etc. A part of this tract was sold by George McCormick, Feb. 7, 1792, to David Hays, who left it by will to his son, Joseph Hays. The latter conveyed it to Josiah Allen on the 3d of February, 1795, and two years later, May 4, 1797, Allen conveyed it to Robert Glass. Upon his death this portion of his estate fell to his son, Thomas Glass. He retained it till April 6, 1804, when he sold one hundred and fifty-nine acres of land to Samuel McFarlane. In this deed it is recited that it is part of the tract conveyed by the Virginia patent to Lund Washington. A small portion of the tract conveyed to McFarlane formed parts of two other tracts, one of which was patented to Thomas Edwards April 3, 1797, and the other to Andrew Swearingen Aug. 15, 1787.

Samuel McFarlane emigrated from Ireland to this country about 1800, and in 1804 made the purchase above mentioned, and on the 3d of September in the same year purchased one hundred and two acres of Ephraim Chidester. This tract was part of a tract patented to George McCormick Aug. 15, 1787. It was called "Hayes' Bottom," and contained three hundred and fifty-nine acres. McCormick sold it to David Hays September 13th the same year, and in June, 1797, the one hundred and two acres was sold to Ephraim Chidester. Samuel McFarlane settled upon the tract purchased of Thomas Glass, and where his youngest son, Thomas McFarlane, now owns. He lived here many years, and died at an advanced aged at the residence of his daughter in Cross Creek.

Of his children, William settled on a farm near his father's, and adjoining the Judge John Farrar farm, where he died. David studied theology, and became a Presbyterian minister. He settled first in Peoria, Ill., and later went to Santa Fe, New Mexico, San Diego, Cal., and finally to Iowa, where he served as a missionary among the Indians, and died there. Joseph went to California when the gold excitement was at its height, in 1849, and has not since been heard from. John removed to Ohio. Andrew settled at Cross Creek, and later moved to Burgettstown, where he still resides. Samuel located on a farm left him by his father in Robinson township, near the town of Candor, and now lives in Burgettstown. His son, J. F. McFarlane, is an attorney in Washington, Pa. A daughter of Samuel McFarlane, Sr., married Thomas Farrar, lived in Cross Creek many years, and moved to Peoria, Ill., and died at the residence of her daughter in that city in 1880.

James Edgar was one among the earliest settlers in what afterwards became the township of Smith, and he was for a period of thirty-five years one of the most respected citizens of Washington County. He was born in York County, Pa., on the "Slate Ridge," Nov. 15, 1744. His father's family emigrated from Pennsylvania to North Carolina, but he was never in the latter State, except on a visit to his relatives. He represented his native county in the Constitutional Convention of 1776. In the summer of 1779 he migrated west of the mountains and settled in what is now Smith township, Washington County. July 10, 1784, he warranted a tract of two hundred and seventy acres "on the waters of Raccoon Creek." surveyed to him Feb. 22, 1785. And on the 6th of September, 1787, he warranted another tract of one hundred and forty-two acres, surveyed to him Oct. 17, 1787, as "Nineveh." In November, 1781, he was elected with Col. John Canon to represent the county in the Supreme Executive Council of Pennsylvania, and in the same year was elected to the Council of Censors. In 1788 he was appointed associate judge, which position he held till disabled by infirmities which compelled his resignation. Dr Carnahan says of Judge Edgar,--

"This truly great and good man, little known beyond the precincts of Washington County, had a good English education, had improved his mind by reading and reflection, so that in theological and political knowledge he was superior to many professional men. . . . He lived in retirement on his farm except when the voice of his neighbors called him forth to serve the Church or the State. He was a ruling elder in the Presbyterian Church, and on one occasion addressed a congregation of at least two thousand people on the subject of the insurrection, with a clearness of argument and a solemnity of manner and a tenderness of Christian eloquence which reached the understanding and penetrated the heart of every hearer. The consequences was that few, if any, in his neighborhood were concerned in that affair."

Judge H. H. Brackenridge mentions Judge Edgar as follows: "He was an associate judge of Washington County, and a kind of rabbi in the Presbyterian Church in the

Western country. His head was prematurely hoary with prayers and fastings and religious exercises; his face thin and puritanical, like the figures of the old Republicans in the Long Parliament of England." He died June 8, 1814. The Reporter (of Washington, Pa.) in its issue of August 22d of that year, published the following obituary notice of him:

"Departed this life on the 8th day of June last James Edgar, of Washington County, Pa., in the seventy-first year of his age. The character of this eminent and respected patriot and father in the church is extensively known in our county and in the churches. He was a native of this State; in his early youth he hopefully became a subject of true religion; while young was chosen and ordained a ruling elder in the church, which office he continued to fill with good effect while able to act. In the year 1776 he was called into public life as a statesman, being chosen to the convention which formed the constitution of the State, after which time he was repeatedly chosen a representative in the Legislature from the counties of York and Washington. In later life he several years filled the office of associate judge of Washington County, until disabled by infirmity he resigned. Till his last he continued to manifest himself a sincere friend of the cause of Christ and of his country; was much engaged to promote the interest of the church and the good of the State. In his last long illness he bore his affliction with Christian patience, breathing the spirit of Christianity. His end was peaceful and quiet. The evening before his departure he, with considerable confidence, informed his family that he hoped to get his di-mission from the body that night; accordingly about three o'clock in the morning he resigned his last breath without a struggle or any indication of pain."

In the numerous lists of distinguished men who have been residents of Washington County, there are found none who bore a higher character or were more universally beloved and trusted than was Judge James Edgar.

On the 10th of May, 1776, a tract of land on Raccoon Creek, adjoining George McCormick, containing one hundred and eighty-six acres, was conveyed to Joseph Philles, in consideration of twenty pounds, by William Crawford and Henry Houghland, "which lands the said William Crawford and Henry Houghland are entitled to by improvement, according to the custom of this country."

On this land Joseph Philles lived and died, and his descendants still occupy the property.

John Riddle came from Pigeon Creek to this township about 1790, and settled near the Raccoon Railroad bridge, on the farm now owned by J. L. Patterson, Esq. Mr. Riddle was appointed justice of the peace March 4, 1796, and acted in that capacity till his death. His family consisted of six sons and four daughters. Samuel, a son of John Riddle, settled in this township; John settled in Jefferson; Samuel P., in Smith; Scott in Muskingum County, Ohio; James, in Virginia City, Nev., Robert, at Hanlan's Station, Hanover township; Dr. William V., in Burgettstown. Catherine became the wife of William Proudfit, and Sarah the wife of James Hays, both of Smith township.

David Hayes was a native of York County, Pa., and came out to this region of country about 1783, and took up several large tracts of land on the West Branch of Raccoon Creek. On the 13th of September, 1787, he purchased a tract of land which George McCormick patented the August previous as "Hayes' Bottom," containing three hundred and fifty-nine acres. A part of this Mr. Hayes sold to Ephraim Chidester in June, 1797.

David Hayes built his log cabin on the farm now owned by the heirs of James Stephenson, and where George Robb now lives. On this farm he lived and died. When he came to this country he had a large family, of whom several of the sons had taken part in the Revolutionary war, and a son, John, was killed in battle. The sons who came here were Moses, Thomas, David, Joseph, William, and James. Moses settled on one hundred acres of the home tract, and died there. Joseph Hayes, a son of Moses, inherited a part of the estate left by his father, and lived upon it during a long life, and died of paralysis Feb. 7, 1882, aged eighty-one years, and the farm purchased by David Hayes, Sept. 13, 1787, now passes into possession of the fourth generation. David Hayes, also a son of Moses Hayes, and brother of Joseph, married Martha Fulton, and now resided in the township. Alexander Hayes married Ann, a daughter of James Stephenson. Their sons, John B. and James B., live on part of the "Long Bottom" tract James Stephenson bought of Thomas Bay and left to his daughter Ann. Thomas, a son of David Hayes, Sr., removed to Jackson County, Ohio. William died in 1830, from an accident while mowing. James settled in Allegheny County. Eleanor, the only daughter of David, married James Todd, and settled in Allegheny County.

Joseph Vance came to Smith township from Winchester, Va., in 1774, and commenced to improve land where Presely Leach now lives, but William Crawford and Henry Houghland had a prior claim, and he abandoned it and took up the land now owned by Allison, Thomas P., and John S. Vance. He was prominent in all the various expeditions against the Indians, and built the stockade fort known for many years as Vance's Fort by early settlers. He was prominent in the Presbyterian Church at Cross Creek, a member of the Legislature in 1802-3. He lived to eighty-two years of age, and died March 6, 1832, and was buried at Cross Creek. He left six children. William, who inherited the homestead, was a captain in the war of 1812, a member of the Legislature of Pennsylvania in 1815-16. He married Rachel, a daughter of William Patterson, the first of that family to settle in the county. She was born June 3, 1778, and died Jan. 9, 1817, leaving five sons, Joseph, James, William P., Allison, and David, and four daughters, Cynthia, Elizabeth, Anna, and Rachel. On the 12th of June, 1818, William Vance married Hannah, the sister of his first wife, by whom he had two sons, Thomas and John Stockton, and three daughters, Mary, Caroline, and Celesta. His marriage to his deceased wife's sister gave rise to lengthy proceedings in the assemblies of the Presbyterian Church, which finally adjudged the marriage to be "Contra legem ecclesie." William Vance died April 8, 1856, aged eighty years. His widow Hannah died in 1880, aged

ninety-four years. His descendants still occupy the homestead.

Col. John Vance was the second son of Joseph Vance. He was colonel in command of the regiment that went to New Lisbon in 1812. He lived in this township all his life, and died Nov. 24, 1841, aged sixty-two years, and was buried at Cross Creek. He son Joseph was colonel of an Ohio regiment under Gen. Banks in the Rebellion, and was killed in the Red River campaign. Joseph, a third son of Joseph Vance, Sr., went to New Orleans, and was never heard from. Hannah Vance, a daughter to Joseph Vance, married ----- Patterson. Maj. William Vance came to this section of country soon after his son Joseph settled here. He located on land where John Easton now lives, on the valley road from Cross Creek to Burgettstown. A warrant was obtained later, and on the 4th of March, 1785, it was surveyed to him as the "Oat-Field," containing three hundred and seventy-eight acres. He was prominent in the organization of the Presbyterian Church at Cross Creek, a man of wide range of information and well-balanced mind. He died April 18, 1788, aged seventy years. Governor Joseph Vance, who was long a member of Congress from Urbana district, Ohio, and Governor of that State in 1836-38, was a grandson of Maj. William Vance. David Vance, a brother of Col. Joseph Vance and a son of Maj. William Vance, took out a Virginia certificate for land in 1780. This was surveyed to him as "the Corn-Field," containing three hundred and ninety-two acres, Dec. 10, 1786, adjoining John Marshall and William Campbell.

David Wilkin came to this county about 1786, and lived with his son John in this township. He died Oct. 2, 1793, aged sixty-two years. He left three sons, --John, William, and Thomas. John married for his first wife a lady of the same Armitage, by whom he had one son, David. He settled first in Burgettstown, and kept store there; then moved to Cross Creek, and built the first brick building in that town, now owned and occupied by Dr. John Stockton. Later he moved to Allegheny County, Pa., and died there. John Wilkin, after the death of his first wife, married Catharine, daughter of Judge James Edgar, by whom he had several children. James, one of the sons, was a blacksmith, and lived at Burgettstown a few years, and removed to Wayne County, Ohio, where he died. A daughter, Mary Ann Wilkin, now resides in Burgettstown, and is the only one living of six children. Stephen, a son of John and Catharine Wilkin, became a physician, and practices in the township, living on the farm owned by Clark and John Farrar. He married Sarah Van Emem, of the family who settled near Washington. Thomas, William, and John, also sons of John Wilkin, settled on the township, and died unmarried. Thomas was an elder in Cross Creek Church, and died in 1853, and John in 1858. Archibald married Jemima McElroy. He was a tanner, and lived in the township. Martha, a daughter of John, married Samuel Merchant, and settled in Buffalo township, where she died. John Wilkin, who married Catharine Edgar, after the death of Judge Edgar purchased of the heirs the landed estate. Here he lived till his death, Jan. 8, 1818, aged sixty-two years, and left it to his sons, John and Thomas, who later sold it

to Finley Scott, by whom it is now owned. William and Thomas Wilkin, sons of David and brothers of John, settled with their families at Sewickley.

Thomas Whittaker was a resident of this township before 1786. On the 21st of February of that year he took out a warrant for four hundred acres of land, which was surveyed to him by the name of "Slow and Easy." It was adjoining the "West Boston" tract, on which Burgettstown was laid out. On this farm he lived till his death in July, 1794. He left a widow, Elizabeth, and sons, Samuel, Eli, and Dacon, and daughters Ann (Mrs. Holmes), Mary (Mrs. Hall), Elizabeth (Mrs. Chamberlain), Sarah, Rachel, and Esther Whittaker. In the year 1806 two hundred acres of the farm was sold to Josiah Patterson, and upon the death of Mr. Whittaker the remainder of the farm was left to Samuel Whittaker, who in later years conveyed it to his son Dacon. It was inherited by his daughter, Mrs. G. N. Tenan, who now owns and occupies it.

Josiah Patterson emigrated from Path Valley, Cumberland Co., in 1806, with his wife and three children, ---Robert, Mary, and Elizabeth. He purchased two hundred acres of land of the estate of Thomas Whittaker, north of and adjoining Burgettstown. On this farm he settled and lived till his death in 1823, aged seventy years. His son Robert succeeded to the farm, and lived upon it till his death in 1861, aged seventy-six years. He was a surveyor by profession; a justice of the peace from Dec. 5, 1818, to 1834; an elder in the Presbyterian Church at Burgettstown, of which he continued a member during the remainder of his life. At his death the farm was left to his son, James L. Patterson, who lives in Burgettstown, and is prominent in the banking business. The children of Robert Patterson were James L., Mary (wife of the Rev. James T. Fredericks, of Burgettstown), Jane, the eldest child, who married Watson Allen, and as his widow married James Ewing, of Washington, Pa. Mary, daughter of Josiah Patterson, remained unmarried, and died in Guernsey County, Ohio, about 1876, aged eighty-four years. Elizabeth, another daughter, married Ebenezer Smith, and lived for a time in Burgettstown. She later moved to Guernsey County, Ohio.

John Wishart was a native of Ireland, who emigrated to this country, and settled in Waynesburg, east of the mountains. At the close of the Whiskey Insurrection he came to this section of country, meeting some of the soldiers on their return east. On the 16th of May, 1795, he purchased one hundred and five acres of land for three hundred and fifty pounds of Humphrey Montgomery, containing the mill built by Samuel Johnston, situated on what was known as the "Milltown" tract. Three days later, Mr. Wishart purchased of Gabriel Blakeney one hundred and seventy-three acres of land for three hundred forty-six pounds, "situate and lying on the waters of Raccoon Creek, adjoining lands of John McKibbin and lands formerly of John McCormick." This last tract was part of the land granted by Virginia patent to Lund Washington, Nov. 24, 1779, who sold to George McCormick, Jan. 20, 1792, and who February 27th of the same year sold to Gabriel Blakeney. On this tract had been an old



fort, known as Hoagland's Fort, which the Rankins, Buxtons, and others used as a place of protection. A school-house was erected on the hillside west of the fort. One William Loughrey was the teacher. John Wishart lived here till his death. A daughter of his married James Leach, who remained on the homestead. Other daughters married, and removed to Kentucky and Ohio. John, the only son, emigrated to Kentucky.

James Stephenson was the son of John Stephenson, who was a native of England, emigrated to this country in 1750, and settled near Chadd's Ford, on the Brandywine. At this place James Stephenson was born in 1773. Seven years later his father with family removed to Pigeon Creek (now Chartiers township), and settled and lived there till his death, in 1808. When James arrived at maturity he came to Smith township, and in the course of a few years purchased several tracts of land in different parts of the township. On the east branch of Raccoon Creek he erected a mill and built a house, where he lived, which became known as the Mansion House. He was a member of the House of Representatives of Pennsylvania in 1805-7. He married Jane Vance, a native of the township, by whom he had eight children, to whom he gave good farms. In 1802 he purchased two hundred acres of land of Thomas Bay. This tract was warranted by Mr. Bay, Feb. 25, 1785, and surveyed to him by the name of "Long Bottom, " four hundred and fourteen acres. This farm was given to his daughter Ann, who married Alexander Hays; their sons, John B. and James S. Hays, now own the property. Another tract of eighty-four acres, now owned by Matthew Welch, was left to a daughter Mary, who married W. P. Vance. Of two other tracts now owned by Samuel Ghrist, one of one hundred acres was left to Elizabeth, who married Samuel Ghrist; the other, also one hundred acres, was left to a son, Joseph Stephenson. Later he sold to his brother-in-law, Ghrist, and emigrated to Illinois. The mill property, containing sixty acres, was left to his son, John Stephenson, who sold to John Armstrong, and it is now owned by John Keyes. After the sale of the mill John moved to Burgettstown, where he died. His widow still resides there.

Another tract in Mount Pleasant township was left to his daughter Martha, who became the wife of James Rankin, Esq., and is still in her possession. Mr. Stephenson was a man of fine executive ability, and commanded the respect and confidence of all with whom he came in contact. In 1805 he was elected State senator, with Isaac Weaver, of Greene County, to represent the district, then composed of Washington and Greene Counties, and served in the years 1806-7, and was returned and served 1808-9. He lived many years after, and died at this mansion house in 1846, aged seventy-three years.

Matthew Welch emigrated from Ireland to this country about 1802, with his wife and a daughter Isabella, then an infant. He lived a short time at Lancaster, and in the spring of 1803 removed to this county. On the 26th of July in that year he purchased one hundred acres of land of Hugh Lee, it being part of one of the tracts patented by Samuel Johnston. Mr. Welch lived on this place the remainder of his

life, and died there at the age of eighty-four years. His widow lived a few years later, and died at ninety-two years. They left eight children. Isabella, the oldest daughter, married William Galbraith. They settled on the farm where a son, William R. Galbraith, now lives. Mrs. Galbraith is still living, at the age of eighty-two years. Nancy married Mark Stephenson, and settled in the township, where he still lives. Polly married William Campbell, and moved to Ohio. Margaret married Thomas McCorkle, of Cross Creek township. Eliza married Robert McBirney, of Robinson township. Rachel married Robert K. Scott. They now live on the tract of land patented for the heirs of Sebastian Burgett and named "Radius." Hannah married Matthew Welch, and they now live on a farm bought of William P. Vance, which was originally part of the James Stephenson lands. M. R. Welch, the only son of Matthew Welch, inherited the home farm, and still owns and occupies it.

A fort known as Allen's Fort was located near the line between Smith and Robinson townships, which the Baileys, Shearers, and others used as a place of security before the Beelor Fort was erected. It is possible that John Allen settled there prior to that time, but his name does not appear on a Virginia certificate as having lands under that title. He took a Pennsylvania warrant Nov. 5, 1784, which was surveyed to him by the name of "Derry," Feb. 25, 1785. He lived to an old age, and died there; married, but childless. The farm was left to a nephew, Moses Allen, who was not a thrifty man, and the farm passed to other hands. He moved to near Pittsburgh, where he kept a tavern, and there died.

John Ferguson, a native of Ireland, emigrated to this country in 1795, and settled in Lancaster County; married in the city of Philadelphia, and (in) 1798 came to Smith township and purchased ninety acres of John Bavington and settled upon it. On the 29th of December, 1813, he purchased eighty-nine acres of the administrators of John Bavington, adjoining William Brummer and Alexander Duncan, and on the 7th of February, 1818, he purchased of John Duncan one hundred and forty-four acres adjoining Jeremiah Andrews, James Moore, William Ferguson, and James Brown. This land was part of a tract which was patented by George Deed April 4, 1793, one-fourth of which was sold in 1797 to Abraham Crow, who sold to John Duncan March 7, 1816. John Ferguson died on the homestead in 1842, aged seventy-six years. His wife lived eight years later, and died in 1850, leaving three daughters and one son, John, who by purchase and inheritance obtained possession of the farm, and still owns it. Elizabeth married James Smith, and settled on an adjoining farm, now owned by John Culley. They lived there many years, and moved to Frankfort. After the death of Mr. Smith, his widow lived at the old homestead with her brother till her death. John Ferguson, the son of John, was a ruling elder in the United Presbyterian Church many years, and held the offices of school director and justice of the peace. He died at his residence Jan. 31, 1881, aged seventy-four years.

In the assessment-roll of the township for the year

1788, John Cook, Sr., is assessed on fifty acres, and John Cook, Jr., is assessed on personal estate. These two men were evidently married and settled. In the list of single men that follows is the name of James Cook, who is assessed on six hundred and forty-nine acres of land. A part of this tract, two hundred and fifteen acres, was a portion of a large tract of twenty-five hundred acres of land granted by Virginia patent to Robert Rutherford, and sold by him to Samuel and Robert Purviance on the 25th of April, 1782, and they by their attorney conveyed it to James Cook on the 8th of September, 1786. On the 7th of May, 1792, James Cook sold a portion to John Cook. James Cook died on the home farm and left three sons, David, Samuel, and Perry. David married, and his daughter married William K. Lyle. They lived on the homestead. Samuel was a bachelor, and died November, 1879, aged seventy-seven years, and William K. Lyle purchased his farm. Perry also married and lived on part of the farm. James Cook had four daughters. Julia married Col. James McDonald, of McDonald Station; Jane married Joseph Vance, and lived on the Vance farm, now owned by John Hemphill; Dorcas married Moses Lyle, of Mount Pleasant township; Matilda married David Gualt, of Cross Creek township.

John Proudfit emigrated to this county from York County, near Stewartstown, and settled in Smith township in 1806; married Elizabeth Lyle in 1809; remained in the township till 1815, when he returned to York County. In 1826 he again returned to the township, and settled adjoining the John Dinsmore farm. John L. Proudfit, of Burgettstown, is his son.

William McConnell was of Irish descent, and emigrated to this county when Burgettstown contained by the mill and the settlers' fort, known for a short time only as Burgett's Fort. He bought a farm, on the property of McCalmont. John McConnell was his son. William, a son, died at college. Three sons died in Ohio and Texas. Mrs. Blair, a daughter of William McConnell, is living in Hanover township at the age of ninety-two years. Aenath Blair is the only representative in South township.

On the 9th of February, 1787, William Kidd warranted a tract which was surveyed to him as "Plenty," and contained two hundred acres. He conveyed it by deed to John Elder, July 9, 1791, by whom it was patented Aug. 21, 1793. Upon the death of John Elder it was left to two daughters (one of whom married James Chamberlain). They sold the south half to Joseph Gladden, Jan. 26, 1829, and he to William Gladden in March, 1844. That part of the estate is now owned by William Campbell. The other portion passed through many hands, and is now part of the town of Midway, and part of the lands of the Walnut Hill Coal Company.

Burgettstown.---The land on which Burgettstown is situated was located by Sebastian Burgett, a native of Germany, who emigrated to this country with his wife and three children, and settled in Berks County, Pa. While living there his wife died, and left to his care two sons, George and Philip, and a daughter Agnes. He removed to near Robbstown (West Newton), Westmoreland Co., before 1773, where he soon after married Roxanna Markel. He came to this

part of the country and located upon a large tract of land, which later was secured to his heirs. His name is mentioned as early as 1780 in connection with the Virginia certificate of George McCormick, Henry Rankin, and others whose lands he joined. At this time also his own lands were taken up on a Virginia certificate, as mention is made of the warrants being based on the certificate, but the copy of the certificate is not found. One of the tracts that later was surveyed and patented was known as "West Boston," containing three hundred and twenty-nine acres, warranted September 20, 1785, and surveyed Oct. 29, 1785. On this tract Sebastian Burgett built a mill on Raccoon Creek, where the present mill stands. In repairing or enlarging the mill about the year 1789, he became in need of castings with which to complete his work, and went to Pittsburgh for them. While returning through the woods and over the rough roads, and when within about two miles of home, the wagon upset in crossing over a log, and he fell beneath the iron castings and was killed.

The Burgett house stood near the Robert Scott house, and the old fort, as it was called, was near it. This last stood many years, and later was partially covered with clapboards. Several years ago, when Mr. Boston Burgett built a new house, the old log structure was removed across the street, and was used as a cow-house. The tomahawk and bullet-marks were visible. It was finally struck by lightning and destroyed. The widow of Sebastian Burgett lived on this place many years with her children after her husband's death.

On the 28th of September, 1789, George Burgett, in behalf of himself, Philip, his brother, and Agnes, his sister, entered into an article of agreement with Roxanna, the second wife of Boston Burgett for herself and her children, John, Andrew, Mary, Isaac, Elizabeth, Sarah, and Boston Burgett, that four hundred acres of the estate of Boston (Sebastian) Burgett be set off to her. The mill property in retained by George. The tract on which the widow of Mr. Burgett resided was known as "Radius," containing two hundred ninety-seven acres, for which warrant was not obtained until July 17, 1880, and patent December 10th of the same year. It is recorded on a slab in the Burgett family burying-ground that Boston Burgett departed this life Sept. 4, 1789, in the fiftieth year of his age. His widow lived to be eighty-three years of age, and died Feb. 3, 1839. Mrs. Burgett sold ninety-two acres of the tract "Radius" to Benjamin Shipley Nov. 21, 1804. The remainder was divided between the children by the second wife, ---Isaac, Andrew, Elizabeth, Mary, and Boston. Isaac was a hatter by trade, and emigrated to Natchez, where he lived and died. Andrew kept his share, and purchased the rights of other heirs. His son, Boston Burgett, Robert Scott, and Mr. Morgan, now own it. Elizabeth (Mrs. Zachariah Linn) sold her portion to Freegift Crawford, whose daughter, Mrs. Dr. George W. Bell, inherited it. Boston Burgett studied medicine with Dr. S. J. Perry, of Burgettstown; removed from the township. Elizabeth (Mrs. Lynn), after the sale, removed to Millersburg, Holmes Co., Ohio. Mary married John Smith,

and settled in Liverpool, Columbiana Co., Ohio.

The patent for the "West Boston" tract recites the fact that letters of administration were granted to George Burgett, in trust for the heirs of the deceased Boston Burgett, and bear date March 28, 1797. On this tract George Burgett laid out a town, with Peter Kidd as the surveyor. The following is a copy of the writing that accompanies the plan:

"Raccoon Creek. The above is a draught of a Town laid off for Mr. George Burgett, called West Boston, on the west fork of Raccoon Creek, in Smith Township, Washington County, each lot containing one Rood, being eighty-two and one-half feet in front, and one hundred and thirty-two feet back, the course of the Main Street North 73 east.

"Laid off the 27th of January, 1795.

"PETER KIDD."

The draught contains fifty-six lots, No. 1 being on the north side of Main Street, west of the covered bridge (now owned by William Melfin), running west eleven lots, commencing opposite on Main Street with No. 12, running east to the creek to No. 22, inclusive. The remainder are in different parts of the town. At this time the only business place on the town plat was the grist-mill. David Bruce was the first to purchase a lot in the new town. He had lived for some time previous at Bavington, where he had a store. The first authentic account of his removal from Bavington to the new town is contained in an advertisement which appeared in the columns of the Washington Telegraphe, bearing date Dec. 22, 1795, and is as follows: "That he has moved his store from John Baventon's mill, upon Raccoon, to George Burgett's new town upon said creek. He is now opening at the above place a large assortment of dry-goods, etc."

David Bruce was a native of Scotland, and emigrated to near Bladensburg, Md., with his father, William Bruce, in 1784. The latter was associated with Matthew Ritchie as assignee of Barton Lucas for the sale of thirteen hundred and seven acres of land granted on a military warrant, and situated in what is now Mount Pleasant township. This land was partly sold by William Bruce and Matthew Ritchie, and the remainder by John Ritchie, son of Matthew, and his executor, and David Bruce, attorney for his father.

It is not known at what time he came to Bavington and opened a store, but in 1795 he moved to Burgett's Town, where he lived till his death. He was a bachelor, short in stature and thick set, with but one eye. In his leisure hours he was given to rhyming, and wrote many poems, which were published in the Western Telegraphe, over the signature of "The Scots Irishmen." They were afterwards gathered together and published in a volume by John Colerick, of Washington. Mr. Bruce was administrator and executor of several estates, postmaster of the town. He died in 1830, and was buried in the churchyard of the United Presbyterian Church. Mr. Bruce had accumulated considerable village property, in addition to that hereafter mentioned as purchased of Mr. Burgett. One lot No. 49, out-lot No. 1, fifty-five acres on the "West Radius" tract, sold by Mr.

Burgett to George Maxwell. This property is now mostly owned by M. M. Brockman, the Rev. John Hood, and the United Presbyterian society. Another tract of eighteen acres he purchased May 24, 1806. His books, manuscripts, and papers were placed in possession of a Mrs. Smith, who later moved into Beaver County.

On the 17th of May, 1797, George Burgett advertised to the purchasers of lots in the town of West Boston to "come forward for their deeds," and in the same advertisement he advertised the saw- and grist-mill for sale. Three days later, May 10th, the deed of Mr. Bruce was executed. The following is a list of lots sold by George Burgett, with the date of the deeds, to 1802. They were all subject to ground-rents: May 19, 1797, David Bruce, lot No. 1, 45 5s; Sept. 12, 1797, John Black, lot No. 5 \$5; Jan. 27, 1798, George Day, Jr., lots Nos. 28, 29, \$8; Feb. 21, 1798, James McConnell, lot No. 31, \$2; May 20, 1799, David Bruce, lots Nos. 25, 26, 27, \$15; ; lot No. 49, \$5. out-lot No. 1, two acres, \$13.50; Aug. 21, 1801, Thomas Ross, lots Nos. 4, 50, \$11; lots Nos. 42, 44, 45, \$12, each one-quarter of an acre; Aug. 19, 1801, James G. Ward, lot No. 20, \$50; Jan. 13, 1802, Robert McClelland, lots Nos. 39, 40, 41, \$10.

In March, 1801, Peter Kidd, surveyor, laid out another portion of West Boston into lots, the addition being beyond Water Street in lots from fifty-seven to eighty-two, and out-lots from the village from No. 1 to 12. Nos. 1, 2, 6, 7, 8, each contained two acres, Nos. 5, 9, 10, 11, each three acres, No. 4 two and a half acres, and No. 12 half an acre. The following names are of purchasers of lots of George Burgett, and are given in order of purchase: Daniel Gorman, Ezekiel Shipley, Richard Donaldson, Jacob Myers, Robert Bowland, Benjamin Shipley, Thomas Thompson, James Leech, George Maxwell, Andrew Stephenson, John Fulton, Margaret McDonald, John Yeamer, Samuel Hines, trustees of Burgettstown School, Rowland Rogers, James Wiley, William Lindsey, Robert Bowland, Jr., Roxanna Burgett, Allen Huston, John Rankin, Joseph Caldwell, Mary Sanderson, James Stephenson, James Brooks, George Hamilton, Moses Stephenson, Robert Ritchie, John Vance, and Joseph Caldwell. The last lots sold by him were on the 4th and 5th of June, 1810, to Joseph Caldwell, and consisted of lots 11, 12, 15, 38, and No. 12 of out-lots. About this time Mr. Burgett removed to Jefferson County, Ohio, and later to Richland County of the same State. George Day, who received his deed for a lot in 1798, was a tanner, and on his lot he had erected a tannery, before 1793, as it was assessed to him that year, which was kept in operation many years, and in 1796 he kept a tavern. Robert McClelland, who bought a lot in 1802, was also a tanner. On the 21st of January, 1808, Rowland Rogers bought lots 2, 3, and eleven acres of land, including the mill property and privileges; this he ran till the sale to Freegift Crawford. He was licensed to keep a tavern in 1803, and continued till 1815. On the 21st of January 1808, he purchased of George Burgett lots Nos. 2, 3, and eleven acres of land, including the mill property and privileges, and became the miller for the town from that time till the sale of the mill property to Freegift Crawford. Caleb Russell,

who owned land adjoining the town, bought lots in the town, and in 1804 opened a tavern, which he kept till his death in 1809. Margaret McDonald, on the 16th of August, 1806, purchased lots 34 and 35, built thereon a house, took out a tavern license, and opened a public-house in September of that year, which she kept till 1809. The next year she bought lots 36, 7 and 17. Joseph Caldwell also opened a tavern in 1806, which continued till 1815. George McKeag was a schoolteacher, and lived here before 1799 and bought lot No. 19 of some of the citizens, and on the 15th of October of that year sold it to Peter Kidd. Thomas Thompson, also a lot-owner from Mr. Burgett, was following the occupation of tailor in 1800. In 1807, Robert Rowland, David Bruce, Robert Ritchie, St. Clair Sutherland, and James Briceland were merchants. James Alexander, David Wigley, and Allen Huston were saddlers. Thomas Huston, Charles Henry, and Thomas Thompson were tailors. About 1808, Jesse Spencer and John Maxwell came to the town; they were hatters. Spencer lived where his daughter Cornelia now resides; Maxwell in a house by the coal bank. The tannery of George Day was carried on by Elijah Ramsey, \_\_\_\_\_ Standish, and last by Milo Laflin, under whom it was discontinued. He also carried on a shoe-shop. Alexander McCreedy was a shoemaker, and traveled around the country with his stock and tools and worked among the farmers. He also had a shop in town, where the wagon-shop now stands, south of John Nichol's house. Ebenezer boyce before 1828 kept a cabinet-shop.

Thomas Miller, son of Samuel Miller, of Hickory, was in the town before 1810, where he kept a tavern, and on the 1st of January, 1811, became the first postmaster of Burgettstown. He was a drover, and later bought a farm out of town. In the year 1819, when returning home from Philadelphia, where he had been with a drove of cattle, he was taken sick and died. He had resided for at time in Hickory, and kept a tavern in that place, and was captain of a company organized there for the war of 1812. They, however, saw no service. Mrs. John P. Woods, of Burgettstown, is the daughter of Thomas Miller.

About 1820 a pottery was owned by John Franks, later by Hunter, who sold to Robert Brown, who in 1838 sold to John P. Woods, by whom it was operated till 1859, when it was discontinued and dismantled. About 1828 a woolen-mill was erected opposite Dr. Connan's present residence. It was owned by George Graham, and was burned a short time after its erection. In 1833 a second one was built near where David Pry's store now stands. It is owned and was operated by the Parkers for many years, but is now idle.

In April, 1810, David Jones was a blacksmith, and advertised "to give six cents and one box of cinders for the apprehension of his apprentice, Samuel Fisher. He has blue eyes, gallows' look, and evil disposed." It is now shown that the reward was ever claimed.

A public well from an early time had been in used in the town in the centre of the street at the four corners. For some reason complaint was made concerning it to such an extent that the matter was made a subject of legislation, and on the 26th of April, 1826, an act passed the General

Assembly of Pennsylvania "that the public well at Burgettstown, in Washington County, in the public square, shall not be held a nuisance, but to remain the property of the inhabitants. On a petition of a majority of the taxable inhabitants to the Quarter Sessions for Washington County, setting forth that the same has become a nuisance, the judges may direct the supervisors of the town or of the township to remove the same." This well was filled up about 1830.

Alexander Kidd, a son of William Kidd, of Robinson township, lived in Burgettstown, on Lot No. 19, opposite of the "Cross Keys" tavern. He learned the trade of carpenter, married Mary, daughter of James Pyle, and settled in Burgettstown. In 1823 he was captain of the Burgettstown Volunteer Rifle Company. In 1835 he was elected justice of the peace and served several terms. He was active in the interests of the town and all public movements. He died Nov. 19, 1853. Mrs. A. J. Link and Miss Margaret Kidd, residents of Burgettstown, are his daughters.

The brick home now owned and occupied by Joseph Robinson was erected by the townspeople about 1834 for church and school purposes. The school directors of Smith township were under obligation to keep it in repairs. It was on ground donated for that purpose by Dr. Stephen Smith. Services were held therein by the different denominations until their respective churches were built, since which time and the building of the public schools it had been disused and was sold.

Dr. Donnan, one of the oldest residents of Burgettstown, gives the following description of the place as it appeared in 1837: A hotel was kept by Robert Bowlan where the building now stands on the corner of Main and Washington Streets, south of D. M. Pry's store. A store kept by Thomas Gormley was in the old Bowlan House. George and Thomas Shipley also had a store in the Brydges House. John and Andrew Provines kept a blacksmith-shop where James Carnahan now keeps. The post-office was at Jesse Spencer's hat-store, where his daughter, Miss Cornelia Spencer, now lives. Mails were received twice a week by the mail carrier from Washington to Georgetown.

The house of Andrew Burgett, where Robert K. Scott now lives, was a noted resort for travelers through that section. School was taught in the brick house now owned by Joseph Robinson. The woolen-factory (the second one) was then operated by Isaac Parker, and later by his son Benjamin. The pottery located above the present residence of Dr. Donnan was then run by Robert Brown. He sold it the next year, and opened a hotel at the Brydges House. Ebenezer Boyce was a justice of the peace (first elected in 1828); had his office in his house above Carnahan's blacksmith-shop. Denny Irons kept a hotel where Russell's store now stands. Lewis Leopold was a stone-mason, and is yet living. The grist-mill was then run by Thomas Crawford. Irwin Ackleson kept a tailor-shop in the Parker house, and John Stephenson in a house opposite Harper's dentist office. John Dougherty made and repaired wagons in the house now occupied by Mr. Morgan. Isaac Parker lived in the hewed log



house south of Mr. Hood's hotel, and which was torn down in November, 1831.

The Burgettstown post-office was established April 25, 1810, to take effect Jan. 1, 1811. Thomas Miller was the first postmaster appointed. His successors were and have been M. S. Stephenson, 1820; S. J. Perry, 1821; David Bruce, July 1, 1822, to July 1, 1830; Dr. Stephen Smith, July 1, 1830, to 1834; Jesse Spencer, 1834 to 1864; Leander Robb; Samuel Wilson, 1866 to 1874; David M. Pry; John W. Pry, the present incumbent.

Old Burgettstown contains at the present time three stores, one hotel, three churches, town hall, public school, post-office, printing-office, steam grist-mill, steam saw- and planing-mill, photograph gallery, two blacksmiths, livery-stable, wagon-maker, shoe-maker, two market-houses, three dress-makers and milliners, one dentist, and three physicians.

The new town which has sprung up (chiefly within the past fifteen years) on the line of the Pittsburgh, Cincinnati and St. Louis Railroad, about one mile north of Old Burgettstown, and which, together with the old town, has recently been formed and incorporated into the borough of Burgettstown, was started in 1854, as a result of the then recently projected construction of the Pittsburgh and Steubenville Railroad, the route of which was here identical with that of the present Pittsburgh, Cincinnati and St. Louis line, above mentioned. The project for building the road began to be strongly agitated and urged in 1852-53, and in 1854 the new town north of Old Burgettstown was laid out and called "Abeline." It was located on land owned by Deacon Whittaker. Except the survey of the town, nothing was done until near the completion of the Pittsburgh, Cincinnati and St. Louis Railway in 1865. In the latter part of 1864, A. S. Berryhill started a store, and in the following spring a station and depot was opened. J. L. Patterson was appointed station and express agent. A post-office was established in this year, 1865, designated as Cardville. The first postmaster appointed was John D. McCabe, who was succeeded by John C. Ralston and George M. Miller, the present postmaster. Business increased rapidly, and at present three large warehouses are carried on, and the place is rapidly increasing as a stock, wool, and grain market, and is now equal to any shipping point between Pittsburgh and Columbus. The new town contains at present four general-stores, a drug-store, two hardware-stores, a jewelry-store, two merchant tailors, boot- and shoe-store, variety store, furniture establishment, two blacksmith-shops, tin-shop, market, three wool- and grain-warehouses, a carriage-factory, harness-shop, livery-stable, lumber-yard, two hotels, a bank, railroad depot, express- and telegraph-office, post-office, printing-office, insurance-office, three millinery-stores, two sewing-machine agencies, two music dealers, two physicians, and one dentist.

The Burgettstown National Bank was organized on the 2d of March, 1872, under the name of the Burgettstown Savings-Bank, with the following-named directors: J. L.

Proudfit, J. L. Patterson, A. S. Berryhill, T. W. Bradley, and Robert Scott. J. L. Proudfit was elected president, and J. L. Patterson, secretary and treasurer. The bank had a capital stock of \$10,000, which was increased from time to time until it reached \$50,000, its deposits having reached \$100,000. The banking-office was in the grocery-store of A. S. Berryhill until the completion of the present banking-office in the summer of 1874. In the winter of 1878-79 the bank closed business for the purpose of reorganizing under the National Banking Law. This was accomplished Jan. 23, 1879. The property of the savings-bank was purchased, and the national bank was organized by the election of Directors J. L. Proudfit, W. L. Archer, C. Campbell, Samuel Scott, A. H. Kerr, J. C. Ralston, and J. P. Leech. The directors elected J. L. Proudfit president; W. L. Archer, vice-president; J. L. Patterson, cashier; and J. P. Kelso, clerk. The capital stock was \$50,000, which was increased in 1880 to \$80,000. The first discount day of the national bank was Feb. 20, 1879. The present amount of deposits is \$160,000. The present officers are J. L. Proudfit, president; W. L. Archer, vice-president; J. L. Patterson, cashier; J. P. Kelso, clerk; directors J. L. Proudfit, A. H. Kerr, C. Campbell, J. D. Leech, J. J. Carruthers, Samuel Scott, W. L. Archer.

Brough of Burgettstown.---At a meeting of the citizens of Burgettstown, held pursuant to notice at the town hall in March, 1877, for the purpose of taking measures for the erection of the borough of Burgettstown, to be composed of Old Burgettstown and Cardville, D. S. Walker was chosen chairman and F. McFarland secretary. After discussion, Findley Patterson, J. L. Patterson, and M. W. Murray were appointed a committee to take the initiatory steps to procure the incorporation of the proposed borough. This committee never reported, no meeting was called, and the subject was held in abeyance till July, 1880, when another meeting was called, and J. L. Patterson, J. L. Proudfit, S. J. Ghrist, William Melvin, J. P. Donnan, H. B. McMurray, and M. R. Allen were appointed to secure a survey and present the proper petition to the court. This committee performed their duties, and on the 8th December, 1880, gave notice that application would be made to the Court of Quarter Sessions of Washington County at the January term, 1881, "to incorporate the village of Burgettstown, including that portion thereof which lies at and around Burgettstown Station." The grand jury passed favorably upon the petition on the 12th January, 1881, and the court confirmed the action on the 23d of March, following, and further provided that a special election be held at the town hall, April 5, 1881, for the election of borough officers, at which time the following were elected: Burgess, C. M. Elder; Councilmen, Dr., W. W. Riddle, B. F. McClure, S. J. Ghrist, W. H. Witherspoon, J. P. Donnan, and W. S. Fulton; School Directors, R. T. C. Stephenson, W. P. Vance, William Melvin, James Carnahan, and William Blair; Auditor, T. L. McClelland; Assessor and Constable, M. W. McMurry. Upon the organization of the Council, J. P. Donnan was chosen president, and the following appointments were made: M. R.

Allen, clerk; J. L. Patterson, treasurer; John Hemphill, street commissioner; M. W. McMurry, collector.

Physicians.---The first practitioner of medicine in this section of the county of whom anything is known was Dr. Ebenezer Jennings, a son of the Rev. Jacob Jennings. He was a descendant of the Pilgrims, but a native of New Jersey, where his father lived and practiced as a physician until he was licensed by the Reformed Dutch Church and received by the Presbytery of Redstone April 17, 1792, at which time the Rev. Jacob Jennings removed to Dunlap's Creek, Fayette Co.: his two sons, Obadiah Jennings (later known both as lawyer and divine) and Ebenezer, the one above mentioned, coming with him. He studied and practiced medicine in the East, and soon after coming to this county settled in Smith township, and resided at the house of Judge James Edgar for some years. Upon his marriage he purchased a small farm about two miles east of Burgettstown, from where he continued to practice till his death. He was elected a member of the General Assembly in 1806-7, and during the first year of his residence at the capital he became interested in the treatise of Dr. Jenner on vaccination, and at the close of the term visited Philadelphia, obtained some virus, and on his return vaccinated his own children and others. On his return to the Legislature the next session, but arduous labors, he procured the passage of a bill providing for the vaccination of the poor. His health became impaired by his exertions, and although renominated for another term he declined, and on the 21st November, 1808, he died, aged thirty-three years, beloved and respected by all. He left property consisting of five hundred acres of land in Beaver County, eighty acres of land where he resided until a short time before his death, and one house and two lots in Burgettstown. His executors were Thomas Smith, Robert Bowland, and Obadiah Jennings. The property was left in trust with them for his three children, ---Maria, Samuel C., and Jacob, and provided for their education; and in case one or both of the sons desired a classical education, a sufficient amount to meet the circumstances was to be taken from the estate. Rev. Samuel C. Jennings, one of the sons, is now pastor of a Presbyterian Church in Allegheny County.

Dr. Thomas Hersey advertised in the Reporter (Washington) under date Feb. 10, 1812, that he "offers his professional services to the people of Burgettstown." He delivered an oration on the 4th of July the same year, at a celebration held in the town. How long he remained there is not known.

Dr. Samuel J. Perry was a resident of the town before 1821, as in that year he was postmaster, but little is known of him. At one time he lived where Dr. Harper lives, and later where Dr. Donnan resides. He died about 1830.

Dr. Stephen Smith came to Burgettstown about 1826. He succeeded David Bruce as postmaster in 1830. About 1832 he went to Florence, remained there till about 1840, and moved to Virginia. As a physician he was well and favorably known, and had a wide practice in the vicinity.

Dr. Mossman was a resident of the town five years prior to 1837, and in the spring of that year removed to

Peoria, Ill., where he lived for several years.

Dr. Joseph Campbell kept a drug-store in the old Bruce House, now William Melvin.

Dr. William Donnan, a son of the Rev. Alexander Donnan, born in Scotland, came to this country with his father in 1818, and in the next year settled at Hickory. He studied medicine with Dr. Stephenson in Canonsburg, and Dr. Hewitson, of St. Clairsville, Ohio; attended lectures at Jefferson Medical College, under Pros. McClelland, Pattison, Woods, and Reeves; commenced practice at Burgettstown in 1837, and has been actively engaged in the duties of his profession here from that time to the present.

Dr. T. W. Bradley studied medicine with Dr. P. H. McCullough, of Rumley, Ohio; graduated at Sterling Medical College, Ohio, in 1851; commenced practice in Florence in 1844, before graduation; came to Burgettstown in 1856, and has been in practice here from that time until the present.

Dr. G. W. Bell studied medicine with Dr. W. L. Wilson, of Beallsville; attended lectures in 1853 at Jefferson Medical College in Philadelphia; graduated in March, 1858; commenced practice in Burgettstown in 1854, and has remained there in practice to the present.

Dr. W. V. Riddle studied medicine with Dr. T. W. Bradley. In the winter of 1863-64 he attended lectures at Ann Arbor, Mich.; commenced practice at Candor in 1864; remained there about five years, and in 1869 removed to Pittsburgh. About one year later he removed to Burgettstown, where he commenced practice April 1, 1870, and has since remained there as one of the physicians of the town.

Dr. W. T. Miller was a medical student with Dr. M. R. Banks, at Livermore, Westmoreland Co., Pa., graduated at Cleveland, Ohio, in 1881, and in that year commenced practice in Burgettstown, where he is now located in the business of his profession.

#### NEWSPAPERS.

The Burgettstown Call, a five-column folio, fourteen by twenty inches, was established by M. R. Allen, as an independent journal. The first number was issued on Tuesday, Aug. 2, 1881, and was the first paper ever printed in Burgettstown. It now (February, 1882) has a circulation of seven hundred.

The Burgettstown Enterprise was started as a monthly journal in March, 1878, by C. Knepper, proprietor and business manager, and J. P. Donnan, local editor. It remained as a monthly until March 1, 1881, at which time it was changed to a weekly. At the time of the change, J. P. Donnan retired from the editorship and was succeeded by M. R. Allen. This paper was printed at Mansfield, Allegheny Co., from its commencement until Aug. 10, 1881, when it was printed at Burgettstown Station, as at the present time. It is now under the management of the Enterprise Publishing Company, J. H. Cramer, business manager. Its circulation is about six hundred and twenty-five.

Richard Vaux Lodge, No. 454, F. and A. M.--A charter having been granted to this society Dec. 1, 1869. the persons designated therein met on the 21st of January, 1870, and were regularly constituted as above named, and with the

following officers: G. T. McCord, W. M.; J. B. Hays, S. W.; R. T. C. Stephenson, J. W. The meetings of the society are now held in the town hall building. The membership is at present fifty-one. J. L. Scott, W. M.; William Melvin, Sec.

Cardville Lodge, No. 407, I. O. of O. F.-- The date of organization has not been ascertained. J. Z. McBride is the president Noble Grand, and A. J. Smith the secretary. The meetings of the society are held in the town hall buildings.

Burgettstown Grange, No. 480, P. of H.--Organized December, 1874. J. B. Hays, W. M.; W. K. Lyle, Overseer; O. R. Cook, Lecturer; R. C. T. Stephenson, Sec.; Members, J. C. Shipley, R. Campbell, John Russell, William Proudfit, Robert Vance, M. L. Cook, Andrew Boyd, John Vance, J. M. Stephenson, W. T. Shipley, A. J. Link, W. O. Stephenson, J. B. Hawley, Ladus C. W. Stephenson, E. A. Proudfit, Mary Hugo, O. A. Stephenson, Mrs. W. K. Lyle, E. V. Shipley, Kate E. Cook, E. B. Russell, M. H. Shipley, M. J. Vance, Andrew Proudfit, John Dimmet, Samuel Pyle, William Dunbar.

Presbyterian Church of Burgettstown.-- The people of this vicinity in sympathy with the Presbyterian faith were members of the Cross-Roads Presbyterian Church (now Florence). The first action taken in reference to the organization of a society at this place is found on record in the minutes of the Washington Presbytery bearing date Dec. 30, 1828, as follows:

"A memorial was presented by the inhabitants of Burgettstown and vicinity, praying the appointment of a committee of this Presbytery to confer with a committee of the Ohio Presbytery respecting the propriety of forming a congregation near the aforesaid village. On motion resolved that the petition in the memorial not be granted. Dr. A. Wylie and Mr. McCluskey were appointed to embody the reasons which influenced the Presbytery in passing the above resolution and to transmit them to the people."

No further effort seems to have been made for many years towards the permanent establishment of a Presbyterian Church in this immediate locality. In the year 1845 a Presbyterian church edifice was erected on the hill where the cemetery now is, in connection with the congregation of Florence, then under the pastorate of the Rev. Joel Stoneroad. Agreeably to a resolution of the citizens of Burgettstown and vicinity, an application was made to the Presbytery of Washington at its meeting at the Forks of Wheeling on the first Tuesday of October, 1849, praying for an organization of a congregation at Burgettstown, which petition was not granted. A complaint against which action was taken by Robert Patterson and others to the Synod of Wheeling, which met at Steubenville on the third Tuesday of October, 1849, at which time and place an order for organization was granted. The Rev. Joel Stoneroad was appointed by the Presbytery of Washington to organize the congregation. Having assembled for that purpose in the 18th of October, 1849, an organization was effected by the reception of sixty members, all of whom were members of the congregation of Cross-Roads (Florence). The following were elected elders: Thomas Thompson, Robert Patterson, John S.

Lamb, William Cunningham, and John Moore. On the 4th of April, 1850, a call was extended to the Rev. James P. Fulton, of the Presbytery of Ohio, which was accepted. The Presbytery of Washington met at Burgettstown on the 1st of October, 1850, and on the next day the Rev. James P. Fulton was ordained and installed pastor of this congregation. He remained in charge until the spring of 1857, when he sent in his resignation, which was accepted.

The Rev. James T. Fredricks preached his first sermon at this place on the second Sabbath of February, 1858. On the 28th of April he received and accepted their call. He was ordained and installed on the 26th of October following, and from that time to the present has been the pastor. The first church edifice was enlarged in 1860, and again about 1868. In 1873 the present brick structure was erected, sixty by ninety, with a seating capacity of eight hundred, and at a cost of \$25,000. The highest membership at any one time has been four hundred and forty-five; its present membership is three hundred.

A Sunday-school was established before 1840, and the church was the outgrowth of it. Robert Patterson, an elder in the Cross-Roads Church, was for many years superintendent, and others were connected with him. D. M. Pry, and elder in the Burgettstown Church, was a very successful superintendent for ten or twelve years. J. L. Patterson now presides over the school. It contains at present two hundred pupils. The elders since the first day have been S. P. Riddle, Josiah Scott, W. W. Van Emen, Finley Scott, John L. Proudfit, J. L. Patterson, John L. Rankin, D. M. Pry, W. W. Riddle, W. McFarland, A. E. Walker. The present elders are J. L. Patterson, J. L. Rankin, and D. M. Pry.

This church has been one of the most successful in Western Pennsylvania. There have been but two communions under the pastorate of the Rev. J. T. Fredericks in which some accessions have not been received. Within the last ten years four hundred and forty have been received into the church.

Burgettstown United Presbyterian Church.--- The congregation now known as the United Presbyterian Church of Burgettstown, Pa., belonged originally to the Associate Presbyterian branch of that church. It is now impossible to fix the date of its organization, if indeed it was ever formally organized. But it first appears as a congregation about the year 1800, at which time it was supplied with preaching, in connection with the congregation of Hickory, by the Associate Presbytery of Chartiers. Rev. (afterward Dr.) William C. Brownlee took charge of it in connection with Hickory about the year 1809. This pastorate continued about three and one-half years, when he left of Philadelphia, and afterwards removed to New York, where he united with the Dutch Reformed Church. The next pastor was Rev. Alexander Donnan, from Ireland, who had charge of it in connection with the congregation of Hickory at a salary of \$500 from June 1, 1818, to June 6, 1840. He relinquished at that time the charge of Burgettstown to give his whole time to Hickory. The congregation continued without a pastor

until 1845, when the Rev. Robert J. Hammond, who had been settled in Albany, N. Y., became their pastor, at a salary of \$350, which was afterwards increased to \$400. He resigned and was released in the year 1857. The Rev. S. H. Graham, the next pastor, commenced his labors among them in April, 1862, and was ordained and installed their pastor August 12th of that year. In 1868, Mr. Graham accepted a call from a congregation in New York and was released. In the same year the Rev. John Hood accepted their call and became their pastor. The pastorate continued until April, 1878, when he resigned and was released. The present pastor, D. W. Carson, was installed in October of that year.

The first elders whose names appear on the roll of the session (though without record of the time of their election or installation) are John Coventry, William Baily, from York County, Pa., Joseph Philles, William Donaldson, from Ireland, Nathan Porter, William Smith, James Brown, James Leech, and James Keys. In 1819, John McBurney, A. Hunter, and Robert Harvey were ordained as elders. In 1837, Joseph McNary, William Wilson, Samuel Livingston, and Joshua Pyles. In 1839, William Galbraith, Sr., William Caldwell, and James McCalmont. In 1851, Samuel B. Shillito and John Ferguson. In 1863, Robert Scott and James McNary, who were received from the congregation of Mount Vernon at its dissolution, were chosen and installed, together with John Keys, William H. Witherspoon, M. R. Welsh, and W. R. Galbraith, who were also ordained at the same time. The session at present consists of John Ferguson (died February, 1882), Robert Scott, W. R. Galbraith, W. H. Witherspoon, and M. R. Welsh; Mr. John Keys, who is still a member, having resigned on account of bodily infirmities.

The earliest roll of members extant, though it is without date, numbers sixty-two members, with the following family names: Andrews, Brown, Cavert, Coventry, Donaldson, Ferguson, Keys, Leech, Nelson, Philles, and Smith. The roll of members in 1876 numbered two hundred and twenty. In consequence of some difficulties in which the congregation became involved through a heavy debt contracted in building a new house of worship, quite a number of members left about that time. These difficulties were also the occasion of the resignation and release of Mr. Hood in 1878. The present membership is two hundred and fifteen. The first house of worship, like that of all the churches in the same region at the same time, was a cabin of unhewed logs seated with slabs. During the summer season the congregation usually worshipped in open air, a wooden tent serving as a pulpit for the minister. On the 13th of October, 1826, Robert Coventry, Robert Tenan, and Thomas Philles, trustees of the Associate Congregation of Burgettstown, purchased one acre and one hundred and twelve perches of land of James Miller, it being "a lot of land on which a church is erected." In 1845, the date of Mr. Hammond's settlement, a neat and substantial frame building, fifty-four by forty-four feet, and sixteen feet in height, was erected at a cost of \$1040 in money, besides the lumber from the old building. This building was located about a half a mile east of the village. It was afterwards moved into the village. In 1873

the present house was erected, at a cost of about \$27,000.

Methodist Episcopal Church.---For many years the people of this place who inclined to the Methodist belief were dependent upon occasional visits from the preachers of the Florence Circuit. At first services were held in the old wollen-factory. After the brick school-house was built services were held with more frequency, and in later years with regularity. In the summer of 1872 the society erected a church edifice at a cost of fifteen hundred dollars. They now have forty members, and are connected with the Midway and Noblestown charge. A list of the pastors who have served in this connection will be found in the Methodist Church of Midway, Robinson township.

Centre United Presbyterian Church.--- This church edifice is situated in the southeastern corner of Smith township. It was organized in May, 1859, by Rev. J. C. Campbell, who was appointed for the purpose of Chartiers Presbytery. The elders elected at the organization were Jacob George, Thomas Stevenson, John Campbell, and John D. Reed. The first trustees were Robert McBurney, Jabob George, and John Campbell. At the organization there were fifty-eight members, fifty-three being received on certificate and five on examination. They held their services for a time in Mr. John Campbell's barn, but soon prepared for building a church. At a cost of two thousand five hundred dollars they built a frame church forty-six by sixty feet, which was finished and occupied the first time on the third Sabbath of February, 1860. On the 28th of January, 1862, they called Mr. D. S. Kennedy to become their pastor. He was installed and ordained on the 4th of September, 1862. This relationship continued ten years and six months, closing on the 13th of October, 1872. On the 10th of June, 1861, Mr. Robert McBurney and William Keys were ordained and installed as ruling elders. Mr. James McCalmont was added to the eldership Jan. 23, 1863. Fourteen persons in all have been elders here. At present there are six, viz., William Berry, James McCalmont, W. C. Aiken, J. G. Wilson, William A. Dickson, and J. S. Epsey. The present pastor, J. B. Waddell, is the second whom the congregation has had. He preached his first sermon at Center on the first Sabbath of January, 1873. He was called on the 30th of January, 1873, and took charge of the congregation, May 1, 1873, and still continues pastor. The congregation now numbers one hundred and fifty-three members; has a Sabbath-school of over one hundred scholars, and owns a parsonage with ten acres of land, worth four thousand dollars.

The original ground for church and graveyard was donated by Mr. John Campbell. His son, William C. Campbell, afterward gave some additional ground for the graveyard, but this too is now filled with graves, and the trustees have recently bought more land from Mr. W. C. Campbell.

Mount Vernon Associate Reformed Church.--- A society formed of people of this denomination was organized in 1829 in the southwestern part of the township, on the line between Smith and Mount Pleasant. In 1832 a brick edifice fifty by fifty-six feet was erected on land of James Leech.



The society worshiped here under the ministrations of the Rev. S. Taggart until the formation of the United Presbyterian denomination, when the society went down and the church building was sold in 1859 to J. P. Leech, who now owns it.

Schools of the Township.1---The earliest school taught in the township was at the close of the Revolutionary war by William Lowrie, a surveyor and a soldier of that war, on that part of the Rankin tract owned by the estate of Andrew McFarland, within the present limits of No. 7 District. Mr. Lowrie died in Beaver County, Pa.

[1By William Melvin.]

A surveyor named Sinclair taught some time before 1800 within the limits of No. 3, as it stood previous to June, 1881. Mr. Sinclair's name is found in the early land records. The names of James Cresswell, Robert Colvill, and Nathaniel Jenkins appear on the assessment-roll of the township in 1796 as teachers. Where they taught is not known.

A school was taught in Burgettstown in 1798-99 by George McKaig. He afterwards taught (in 1803) in a house standing in land now owned by Prof. S. C. And John Farrar. John Burnett taught in No. 4 in 1806, on land owned by John Ferguson, Esq. John Smith taught in 1806. In 1807 the teachers were William Grant, James Lee, George McKaig, Henry Robinson, and John Smith. Mr. Smith taught on the Rankin tract.

In 1808, Henry Robinson taught on land of Jesse Campbell, now owned by Pressley Leech in No. 8. Dr. Joseph Campbell taught in 1808 on land of Capt. John B. Hays in No. 2. He also taught in the same place in 1812. John Crooks and John Vasbinder were teachers in Burgettstown before the school law of 1834 went into operation. The schools and their teachers previous to the time that the free school system went into operation were as follows: Burgettstown, Henry Robinson, Robert Patterson, Anthony Gallagher (1817), Mr. Hatch, Mr. Tellfair, Dr. Joseph Campbell, Rev. Joseph McLain, Rev. Foster, Samuel Douthett and his sister, and Mr. Brakeman; Miss Potter, afterwards the wife of Dr. Marshall. Hamilton, Washington Carter, Sallie Taylor, Miss Sibella Galbraith (afterwards the wife of Rev. Middleton), Dr. Sweeney, Houston Walker and Joseph Buchanan. Two schools were frequently in operation at the same time. Henry Robinson taught fourteen years in all in Burgettstown.

At the house on Capt. J. B. Hays' farm, resides Dr. Campbell, were William Conynghan (1817) and Anthony Gallagher. At the Kerr school, on land of James Kerr, now owned by John Dinsmore, George Cunningham (supposed to be the first or among the first), Samuel Douthett, Sr., Aaron Aten, William Haney, Levi Hays, Samuel Dickey, Solomon Spindler, and the late Rev. Alexander McCarrell, D.D., of Claysville, Pa. A house stood on land now owned by John Vance in No. 3. John Matthews is the only teacher reported, and he was among the early teachers; he taught Latin and other high branches.

In No. 10, on land now owned by Isaac Simpson, John McCreary taught in 1825. Other teachers were Reuben Rich,

James Hays, Thomas Clelland, and James Hoge. At the Cross-Roads, near the same place, Henry Robinson and Adam Rankin are reported. In No. 7, in addition to those reported, was Mr. Shellcock, who taught before 1812. The late William Galbraith, Esq., began to teach in 1817, and quit about 1840. Most of his teaching was in No. 7. He was reported as one of the best in his time. He was one of the examiners after the school law went into operation.

In the house that was built in 1825 on land of Joseph Vance, now Samuel G. Scott's, in No. 9, John Stephenson, John Crooks, Nathaniel Wilson, T.T. Camby, John Hartry, and Dr. Joseph Campbell. In a house that was on a farm now owned by John L. Proudfit, Esq., near school No 10, John Stewart, Nancy Bert, C. Shepherd, Tillie White, William Pyles, Ann Pyles, and Sylvester Robb. Other teachers, whose places of teaching are not mentioned, are David Hays, Robert Lee, David Galbraith, Hugh Barton, James Geary, and James Hays. Henry Robinson's teaching extends from 1807 until some time in 1842. In 1841 he taught in No. 8. His last term was in the Rankin district, Mount Pleasant township. Dr. Joseph Campbell's teaching extends through a period not quite so long, being from 1807 until 1837. He practiced medicine part of the time. William Galbraith's extends from 1817 until about 1840.

There are many teachers, no doubt, who deserve honorable mention, but they do not appear to be remembered to be handed down to succeeding generations.

The first land leased for school purposed was by George Burgett to David Bruce, Robert Boland, and James Wiley, trustees of the Burgettstown school, and their successors for the uses of said school a lot of ground No. 45, in the town of West Boston, bounded by Liberty Street and a lot of Joseph Caldwell, dated April 23, 1807. The house is now occupied by Mr. John Divitt. A lot of ground was leased by Dr. Stephen Smith in Burgettstown, on Washington Street (now Main), for church and school purposes. The house is brick, built in 1834 by Edward Downing, of Hickory. School closed when the house was needed for preaching. When the county commissioners were holding their triennial assessments appeals they were asked to contribute for the building; they did so, and gave their days' wages. The house is now owned and occupied by Mr. Joseph Robinson, an nephew of Henry Robinson, the teacher.

Much interest was manifested in the cause of education, and when the location of school buildings is asked for, you are told that one stood here, and one there, etc., all over the different portions of the township. If buildings used for school purposes were restored, Smith township would be thickly dotted with school-houses.

Smith township accepted the school law in the year of its passage, though there was considerable opposition to accepting its provisions. A part of the opposition was by men who were in favor of education, but were opposed to the policy of the immediate construction of new houses. On the day appointed to vote on its adoption the voters assembled in Burgettstown. The day being wet, and no room in the town large enough to hold them, they went to the covered bridge

at the foot of Pittsburgh Street, near the steam-mill; all favorable to the law went to one end of the bridge, and those opposed went to the other. Robert Patterson, Esq., the leading spirit in the movement, and one of the early teachers heretofore mentioned, was the first president of the new school board, and Nathaniel Hunter the first secretary. Mr. Hunter was the last survivor of the original board, dying in 1879 in Jefferson County, Ohio.

Directors previous to 1843 were Robert Patterson, Esq., Nathaniel Hunter, Hon. James Keys, Jesse Spencer, Alexander Kidd, John Neal, Garrett Van Eman, Thomas Bavington, David Cook, Alexander Hays, Joseph McNary, James Dunbar, and Isaac Morgan. No others were reported. Robert Patterson Esq., was president in 1840; Garrett Van Eman was treasurer in 1837; John L. Proudfit, Esq., collector, and Alexander S. Berryhill, treasurer, in 1840. Isaac Morgan was treasurer at one time.

The township was divided into nine sub-districts. The log edifices then in use gave way to neat frame buildings, excepting in Nos. 1 and 7, where brick houses were built. From the school reports it appears that the free-school system did not go into effect immediately upon its adoption. In the State superintendent's report for the year ending Dec. 31., 1836, Smith township is credited with eight schools, and having received from the State appropriation \$209.76 for 1836-37, and \$99.48 for former years, but nothing for the county or district, and the schools not reported in operation. The \$99.48 received must have been a part of the first State appropriation, distributed Jan. 12, 1835.

In the report for Dec. 31, 1837, eight schools are reported and one required. Three months taught; teacher, seven male and one female; salary of males, \$20 per month; females, \$14 per month; scholars, male 152; female, 136; cost of instruction, 54 cents. Receipts, district tax, \$459; State appropriation, \$732.97; county \$355; \$462 spent for instruction; three houses, \$225. In the report for the year ending Dec. 31, 1838, the report for Smith township is not complete. Four schools are reported, seven houses in use, and two required. Receipts, for buildings, \$644.70; from State appropriation, \$322.19; county, \$117.41; district, 185.10. The nine houses were all built previous to 1840. No. 1, Burgettstown, was built, as before stated, in 1834. Houston Walker, afterwards a minister in the Secession Church, taught the first school (a select) in it. The house was conveyed to the directors, they keeping it in repair, but the prior right to occupy it for church purposes was retained. James Logan taught two public terms in it in 1838 and 1839, and is probably the first of the public school teachers in Burgettstown. In 1865 the school was graded. Mr. and Mrs. Van B. Baker were the teachers. But one teacher was employed in 1866.

In 1868 a two-story frame of four rooms was built, and the school was permanently graded, George T. McCord, principal, and Miss Kate Ghrist (now Mrs. J. R. McNary, of Smith township), assistant. In 1869 another department was added, H. S. Phillips, principal, and Miss Carrie A.

Brockman (now Mrs. Robert E. Hill, of East Liverpool, Ohio) and Miss Sarah Hays, assistants. The fourth department was added in 1875, William Melvin, principal, and Misses Mary Bingham, Eva Simmons, and Mattie Fleming (now Mrs. D. F. Enoch, of Pittsburgh, Pa.), assistants.

No. 2 school-house was built in 1836 by George Miller, on land of John Proudfit, now owned by his son, Robert F. Proudfit. It was generally known as Hays school-house. The house previously used was the Kerr school-house. James Fulton was the first teacher. About the year 1852 the house was moved to a location on the Burgettstown and Eldersville road, on a farm of Robert Campbell, now owned by his son, Arthur Campbell. Miss Eliza Ann Pyles was about the first teacher at the new location. In 1864 the location was again changed and a new house built on the same farm a few rods west of the old house. Van B. Baker taught the first term in the new house.

No. 3, now known as Cinder Hill, was built in 1837, on land of William Wilson, now owned by his son, William E. Wilson. The house used until it was ready was on land of James Rankin, now owned by John Vance. Andrew Vance taught the first term in the new house. His son John taught one term in it shortly before the civil war. A new house was built by James Seawright on the original location in 1868. It is the only house standing on the original location.

No. 4 was built by James Dunbar on a twenty-one-year lease, on land of Thomas Bavington, now owned by D. S. McBride. A new house was built in 1863, on land of Robert Coventry, now owned by Dr. William Donnan, of Burgettstown.

No. 5 was built by James Dunbar, on land of John S. Russell, now owned by his son, D. A. Russell. The house used until it was ready was on land of John Stephenson, now owned by William S. Russell. The first teacher, or among the first, in the new house was John H. McCombs, now practicing law in Ashland, Ohio. In 1866 a new house was built on the same farm near the old one. In 1873 a larger house was built near Bulger, on land of Lockhart and Frew. William T. Slater taught the first two years in the new house.

No. 6 was built on land now owned by William C. Campbell. The house previously used until it was ready is not reported to the writer. (In fact he failed altogether to get any information on the early schools and teachers in that locality.) In 1873 the location was changed, and a new house built in Midway, on a lot obtained from Mrs. Stephen Arnot. In 1878 an additional room was built, and the school graded. James C. Wilson, principal, and Miss McClure, daughter of Robert McClure, deceased, assistant.

No. 7, a brick house, was built by Andrew Bruce, on land of Samuel Farrar, now owned by Wiley Stevenson. The house used was on the site on which the brick was built. William Galbraith was the first teacher. After teaching one month he was obliged to quit, the scholars becoming sick. It is supposed the house was occupied too soon. The bricks were burnt in 1866, and a new house built on land of the late Judge John Farrar, now owned by his sons, Prof. S. C. And John Farrar. Mr. L. McCarrell taught the first term in the new house.

No. 8 was built by George Miller, on a lease obtained from William Stephenson, now owned by his grandson, Robert T. C. Stephenson, of Burgettstown. William Thompson taught the first term in No. 8. It is now used as a dwelling-house. The house used until No. 8 was ready was on land of Samuel Cook, now owned by William K. Lyle. The old house is used as a tenant-house. The location was changed and a new house built in 1860 on land of John Sturgeon, now owned by his heirs. Miss Sarah K. Lyle taught the first term in it. The house is now known as Cook's school-house.

No. 9 was built in 1837 by James Dunbar, on land owned by James Stephenson (miller), now owned by Matthew Welch. It was known as Russell's school-house. John Galbraith taught the first term in No. 9. Before No. 9 was built a house heretofore mentioned as being built in 1825 on land of Joseph Vance, now Samuel G. Scott, was used. The house of 1825 was bought by Mrs. Jane Perry (colored) and removed to her lot adjacent to Burgettstown, and is now occupied as a dwelling by her. The location of No. 9 was changed in 1862, and a new one built on land of Joseph Vance, now owned by his brother, John S. Vance. M. R. Allen, now editor of the Call, taught the first school in the new house. The old No. 9 school building was brought to Burgettstown, and is now owned and occupied as a dwelling by John Pry.

The 10th District was organized by act of Legislature by reason of opposition to a new district. The township board immediately resigned, and the court appointed six new directors, who levied and collected the tax. The act was afterwards repealed. The new school district, organized about the year 1849 as No. 10, was formed of parts of 2 and 3. Matthew W. Galbraith taught the first term in the old Kerr school-house; the next year a new one was built a few rods from the old one on land of Thomas C. Arnold, now owned by Finley Scott. George M. Tenan taught the first term in the new house. By resolution of the board May 29, 1858, it was resolved not to open No. 10 the coming year. The records do not show that a school was ever again conducted in that house under the control of the Smith township board.

No. 11 was formed by resolution of the board Sept. 17, 1853, from parts of Nos. 1, 5, 7, and 9. A house was built on land of James Fulton in 1854. Samuel G. McFarland taught the first term in the new house. It was known as No. 11 until No. 10 was disbanded. In 1869 the location was changed and the house moved to land of Thomas Houston, now William and Samuel Pyles, near the old mill-dam. It was known then as the Mud Hollow school-house. In 1876 the location was again changed and a new house built on land of John L. Proudfit, Esq., a few rods north of Raccoon Station. R. P. Stevenson was the first teacher in the new house.

After the incorporation of Burgettstown as a borough, New No. 1 was formed from parts of Nos. 1, 2, and 3, June, 1881, and a new house was built on land of George M. and James B. Tenan. Miss Bessie, daughter of James M. Stevenson, is teaching the first term.

James Fulton, a native of New York, taught in Nos. 1, 2, and 7. He was the most successful teacher of his time, commanding fifty per cent. more wages than any other

teacher. His methods were far in advanced of the times. His reputation as a teacher spread far and wide, many patronizing him from a distance. He was the first to introduce the "object method." Many of his old pupils still remain in the township, and give him credit of being their best teacher. Like all leaders of reform, he had his enemies. He was called a Yankee, and his methods "new-fangled." He died on his farm near Wabash, Ind., after 1837. Other teachers were James Logan, Abel T. Richards, Miss Mary Ann Vincent (now the relict of John S. Russell), Ann McDermont, Miss Nancy Jane Cunningham (now the wife of A. H. Duncan, of Smith township, was in charge of Burgettstown school in 1846-47), John Stevenson, Esq., Samuel Shillits, George M. Tenan, Esq., Hon. Joseph Hays, George Jardine, M. W. Galbraith, John B. Phillis, William W. Van Eman, William H. Hammond, James E. Stevenson, ex-County Superintendent Dickson, of Allegheny County, taught four years in No. 4; Miss Christiana Johnson (now the wife of H. Elliott McBride, of Allegheny County, Pa.), William P. Montgomery, Samuel L. Farrar, R. P. Allen, Miss Nancy McNary, afterwards the wife of Eli Marques, of Cross Creek township (Mrs. Marques died a few years ago), Misses Mary and Maria Raybuck; John H. Johnson, who taught twelve years at Cook's beginning 1861 and ending 1875; Miss Jane Ann Cook (now the wife of W. K. Lyle, of Smith township), William S. Fulton, R. P. Stevenson, S. E. Provines, S. C. Farrar, Miss Carrie A. Brockman, Misses Agnes and Clara Keys, William Melvin had charge of the Burgettstown school five years, a period longer than that of any other since the adoption of the school law. Misses Eva Simmons and Mattie Fleming each were assistants five years in the Burgettstown Union school.

Among the native teachers of Smith who became prominent abroad, James E. Stevenson was principal of Second Ward school, Allegheny city, some eighteen or twenty years ago. Rev. Samuel G. McFarland, D.D., now minister of education in Siam; Hon. Joseph Hays, for several years principal of the Temperanceville schools, now South Side, Pittsburgh. William P. Montgomery has for the last fifteen years been teaching in Allegheny City, from April, 1873, until July 1874. In July, 1874, he was elected principal of Irwin Avenue school, Second Ward, Allegheny City, which position he still holds (January, 1882).

Miss Carrie A. Brockman was for seven years on of the assistants in the East Liverpool, Ohio, schools; about five years of that time she was second assistant. She resigned her position in 1881, and married Robert E. Hill, of that place. Alexander White is noted as an academic teacher. Robert P. Stevenson for the last four years has been teaching in Robinson township, Allegheny Co., Pa.

Since the great light of education first shone in No. 7 it is but just to say that she has produced more prominent educators than any other district in the township. Of those mentioned as becoming prominent abroad, James E. Stevenson, Rev. Samuel G. McFarland, S. Clarke Farrar, and Alexander White were born within her limits. William P. Montgomery received a part of his education in No. 7. Robert Curry,

since deputy State superintendent of public instruction of this State, and now principal of the Nebraska State Normal School at Peru, spend a part of his youthful days within her borders, his parents residing on the farm on which the first school was taught.

Three of the Burgettstown principals went "up higher." George T. McCord was afterwards principal of the Second Ward schools of Allegheny City for several years. W. C. Lyne, after leaving Burgettstown, went to Washington, Pa., and from thence to the Sixteenth Ward, Pittsburgh. Thomas B. McCain is now in -----Ward, Wheeling, W. Va.

The first teachers' institute in the township was held Dec. 4, 1858. The directors by resolution, Nov. 27, 1858, agreed to allow teachers two days in each month for township institute. Members of the board at that meeting were John L. Proudfit, Esq., president; John P. Wood, Esq., O. P. Cook, M. I. Montgomery, and James L. Patterson, secretary. Messrs. Proudfit, Wood, and Patterson are still living.

In 1864 the school board issued bonds and sold them, to provide money to pay volunteers to fill the township's quota of troops. These bonds were signed by John Ferguson, Esq., president and James L. Patterson, Esq., secretary.

The present teachers of Smith township are, in No 1, Miss Bessie Stevenson; No. 2, Miss Ella Riddile; No. 3, Miss M. Ethie Brimmer; No. 4 Wm. F. Morgan; No. 5, Miss Kate Hammond; No. 6, Henry Aten, principal, and Mill Willa Cook, assistant; No. 7, Miss Mattie Campbell; No. 8, Frank M. Magill; No. 9, Wm. Melvin; No. 10, J. B. Lyle.

The following is the rank of Smith as regards wages: For the year ending June, 1872, Smith stood third; in 1873, second; in 1874, third; in 1875, first; in 1876, second; in 1877, first. A chilling blizzard swept over the school finances of Smith in June, 1877, and the thermometer placed her No. 10 for the year ending June, 1878. Boroughs are excluded in making out the above rank. The wages have been advanced the last two years. It is just to say that the names of but few teachers appear on the records until 1869. The records are very imperfect from 1853 to 1869. No records found previous to 1853.

By act of incorporation, March 23, 1881, Burgettstown became a separate school district. At an election held in town hall, April 5, 1881, Wm. Melvin, Wm. P. Vance, Robert T. C. Stephenson, and James Carnahan were elected. Four were ties, viz.: C. C. Campbell, Wm. Brimmer, Wm. Blair, and Joseph A. Rogers. On June 6, 1881, the four who were elected met in the Union school building and effected an organization by electing Robert T. C. Stephenson president, and Wm. Melvin secretary. Messrs. Campbell and Brimmer not appearing to draw lots, as the law provides, the board appointed Wm. Blair and Joseph A. Rogers, who were present, members to fill the vacancy. The teachers for the first term in the borough are C. J. Vance, principal, and Misses Agnes Keys, Libbie McCarrell, and Alice Stevenson, assistants.

Bavington.---The town of Bavington is situated in the northeast part of Smith township, near the mouth of the east branch of Raccoon Creek. It is located on a tract of land which was warranted to John Bavington on the 22d of

February, 1786, and surveyed to him Dec. 3, 1787, as "Mill Town," containing four hundred and four acres. Soon after the purchase he built a grist- and saw-mill, which did the grinding for many mile around. He built a cabin on the hillside, about one quarter of a mile east of the village. Later he built the house now owned by D. S. McBride, where he lived until his death in 1810. David Bruce opened a store at the mill before 1795, as in December of that year he advertised in the Western Telegraphe that he had removed his store from Bavington to George Burgett's "new town." He was succeeded by others. John Bavington, on the 10th of June, 1810, left his home for Steubenville, Ohio, with a four-horse-wagon load of whiskey and flour. When crossing the Ohio River at Kelly's Ferry, near the mouth of Haman's Creek, the stamping of the horses loosened the planking of the bottom of the boat, which filled with water and sank. Capt. Bavington and the ferryman were both drowned. His body was recovered, brought home and buried at the Cross-Roads (now Florence). He left a widow, Ruth, and five sons, Daniel, Charles, Henry, Thomas, and John, and several daughters. His widow and eldest son Daniel were administrators of the estate, and the property was divided; Daniel obtained the homestead and mill property. Later he sold the mill property to James Clark, and went to Illinois. Charles assisted to the purchase of the mill property near Murdocksville, lived there for a time and emigrated to Ohio. Henry lived and died here comparatively young. Thomas received the east portion of the home farm, now owned by D. S. McBride. In later years he kept a public-house at Bavington, and died there. John received his portion of the estate in money, and emigrated to Oregon. Of the daughters, Polly married Matthew McBride and settled at Canonsburg; Nancy married Matthew Hartford, a millwright, who built the Bavington mill; Betsey married Harvey Peterson; they settled at Bavington, and both died there. One daughter married a Mr. Burns, another a Mr. Backhouse; both removed to Allegheny County, where they lived and died. On the 21st of August, 1812, Daniel Bavington took out a warrant for a tract of land, which was surveyed to him as "Pine Bush," and contained two hundred and seventy-six acres. It was adjoining the "Milltown" tract. One hundred and sixty-four acres of "Pine Bush" was conveyed to Nathan Kimble by Daniel and Ruth Bavington on the 30th of October, 1813. In December, 1812, Daniel Bavington was licensed to keep a tavern. He continued about three years, when, upon his removal to Illinois, his mother, Ruth Bavington, opened the tavern. She was succeeded by her son Thomas. The family of Bavington are now entirely extinct in the township.

James Donnan, about the year 1812, kept store in the house now occupied by John Witherspoon. At the time the Pittsburgh and Steubenville pike was built, about 1819 or 1820, William Moody kept a store in town, and was the first postmaster. He was succeeded by John White, David McBride, John McElroy, Robert McAyreal, Charles McElroy, John McBride, Dr. James McCarroll, John Witherspoon, Joseph Hunter, James McBride. In 1856 the office was removed to Abijah Smith's store, west of the creek, and in Hanover township adjoining



the town. It remained there but one year, and was restored to the town. John Witherspoon became the postmaster. He was succeeded by Dr. James K. White, and later by William Donaldson, who is the present incumbent. The Bavington mill passed from James Clark to William Clark, who sold it to D. G. McBride. It is now owned by Edward Hindman, by whom it is run as a grist- and saw-mill.

Dinsmore.---On the completion of the Pittsburgh and Steubenville Railroad through the township in 1865, this place was made a station and given the name Dinsmore. A depot, telegraph-office, post-office, and store were soon established. The postmasters who have held office from the first are as follows: John Pry, John M. Smith, J. W. Ralston, J. P. Cline, and William Provines, the present incumbent.

Bulger.---This settlement is a station on the Pittsburgh, Cincinnati and St. Louis Railway, about three miles east from Burgettstown, and was made a station on the completion of the Pittsburgh and Steubenville Railroad in 1865. It was laid out on the Alexander Donnan tract, but at the time belonged to John Woodburn. It contains a depot, store, cheese-factory, and several dwellings. The store is kept by A. J. Russell. The cheese-factory is controlled by a company under the name of "The Cheese and Butter Association," with the following officers: Thomas J. Ackleson, president; George Hoffman, secretary; and A. J. Russell, treasurer. Substantial buildings were erected, and business commenced July 1, 1881. About one thousand cheeses of the average weight of thirty-three pounds were manufactured in the first four months. Milk is shipped from this station to Pittsburgh.

The mines of the Whitestone Coal-Works are located about half-way between Bulger and Burgettstown. A few dwellings are erected in the vicinity. A post-office was established a few years since at Cherry Valley, on the line between Smith and Mount Pleasant townships. Ebenezer Smith was the postmaster, and the office was kept at his store. Upon his death the office was discontinued.

Union Agricultural Association.---At the expressed desire of many agriculturists in this portion of the county and adjoining townships in Allegheny and Beaver Counties, and in the northern part of West Virginia, it was decided to organize an agricultural society. Prominent in the movement were Thomas Vance, of Cross Creek; W. P. Vance, now of near Elizabethtown, Hardin Co., Ky.; and John B. Philles, merchant, of Burgettstown (recently deceased at Cairo, Ill.). To this end a meeting was held in Burgettstown in the month of February, 1856, at which time an organization was effected by the election of the following officers: President, Joseph Vance, of Smith township; Vice-Presidents, William M. Lee, Cross Creek; James Rankin, Mount Pleasant; Holland Scott, Robinson; Thomas C. Hunter, Hanover; and William P. Vance, Smith; Directors, J. N. Scott, Jefferson; David Gualt, Lysander Patterson, J. S. Duncan, Thomas Vance, Cross Creek; O. P. Cook, J. L. Proudfit, Smith; James Hughes, John Symington, Mount Pleasant; Milton Miller, James Walker, William Van Ostrand, Jefferson; and James McCalmont,

Robinson; Recording Secretary, Samuel G. Scott, Smith; Corresponding Secretary and Treasurer, John B. Philles, Smith.

At a meeting of the association held March 23, 1856, it was resolved to hold an exhibition in the month of October following. A committee was appointed to select a suitable site for the purpose, another to solicit subscriptions in the different townships, and another to frame a constitution and by-laws. On the 26th of April one hundred and sixty-seven names were reported as members of the society, and at a meeting in May two hundred and ninety-eight additional names were reported. On the 3d of June the same year the committee on site made a report, which was accepted, and they were discharged. Another committee was appointed. On the 24th of June the committee on the time for holding the fair reported Wednesday and Thursday, October 8th and 9th, as the most suitable time for holding the exhibition, which report was accepted and adopted. Two days later at a meeting of the society the constitution and by-laws were read, amended, and adopted. On the 12th of August the committee on site reported that Mrs. Freegift Crawford offered the society a site free of charge, provided the fence the society erected should be left on the ground when they should cease to hold their fairs on the site, which arrangement was accepted and concluded on the 23d of August, 1856. A fence and temporary buildings were erected, and the first exhibition of the society was held at the time and place appointed. The receipts of this exhibition were \$620.40; premiums paid out, \$340.

Exhibitions were held on these grounds until 1860, and on June 2d of that year nine and a half acres of land were leased for ten years of B. G. Burgett, at the expiration of which time additional ground was added, and it was released for ten years, and again, Feb. 11, 1780 (1880?), was leased for ten years. At the present time the company have inclosed seventeen acres. The grounds were fenced and permanent buildings erected the first year the society came into possession of the grounds, and fairs have been held there continuously. No account was kept of the amount of voluntary contributions for erecting fences, grading the tract, and other work.

The cost of rent of fair grounds from the first year (1856) to the present time has been \$3350; repairing grounds, \$2500; music, \$2140; buildings, halls, stalls, etc., \$9690; printing, \$2187; amount of money paid for premiums from the first, \$24,000. Receipts from entries and tickets, \$49,832.34. The receipts from the fair held Oct. 4, 5, and 6th, 1881, was \$2165.10.

The territory that is now included in the limits of the association from which officers are elected are the townships of Smith, Hanover, Robinson, Cecil, Mount Pleasant, Chartiers, North Strabane, Cross Creek, Buffalo, Hopewell, Independence, and Jefferson of Washington County; the west part of Allegheny County, the south part of Beaver County, and Brooke and Hancock Counties, W. Va.

The following is a list of the officers of the society:

Presidents.---John Vance, 1856-57; James McCalmont, 1858; John N. McDonald, 1859-60; William Lee, 1861; James Donaldson, 1862; William M. Lee, 1863; D. S. Walker, 1864; Samuel McGill, 1865; A. D. Burns, 1866; Thomas McCorkle, 1867; James Donaldson, 1868; S. B. Campbell, 1869; J. B. Hays, 1870; William L. Archer, 1871; M. H. Borland, 1872; R. S. Cook, 1873-74; James Donaldson, 1875; A. E. Walker, 1876; W. B. Moorhead, 1877-78; William L. Archer, 1879-80; William C. McFarland, 1881.

Secretaries.---Samuel G. Scott, 1856; John P. Woods, 1857; James L. Patterson, 1858; John Stephenson, 1859-60; John P. Woods, 1861; William Melvin, 1862; John P. Woods, 1863-80, inclusive; William Melvin, 1881.

Present officers: President, Wm. C. McFarland; Vice-Presidents: R. H. Brown, W. S. Bailey, A. H. Walker, D. S. Fulton, S.H. Cook; Managers, R. S. Cook, John S. Lee, Symington Farrar, R. Y. Meloy, John A. McCalmont, Hon. G. Y. McKee, D. S. Taylor, Jr., David McNary, Wm. McBurney, S. S. Campbell, Matthew Berry, Samuel Bigger, R. K. Scott, S. W. Lee, Wm. Hanlan, S. G. Cunningham, R. S. Caldwell, S. C. Gist, W. H. McKee, David Bradford; Secretary, Wm. Melvin; Treasurer, C. J. Vance; Chief Marshal, W. L. Archer.

#### BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES.

##### JUDGE JOHN FARRAR.

Judge John Farrar was born in Mount Pleasant township, Washington Co., Pa., Jan. 7, 1818, and died at his residence near Burgettstown, Pa., Jan. 6, 1875. He was the eldest son of Samuel Farrar and Jane Simanton.

[The lineage of these families given elsewhere in this volume.]

His early education consisted of that afforded by the common schools of that day, but he was possessed of a taste for literature and a thirst for higher education so strong that some years after arriving at maturity he studied the Latin and Greek classics, higher mathematics, and some of the natural sciences. In 1840 he was married to Miss Phebe White. For several years after this he engaged in farming, teaching school during the winter. Farming was a very discouraging business during those years famous for "hard times," so the young farmer, having a knowledge of the mercantile business, obtained while employed as a clerk previous to his marriage, forsook the fields and embarked in the store business, which he continued for a decade. During the first part of this period he strongly contemplated studying a profession,<sup>1</sup> and at one time took initiatory steps to his end, but the claims of a wife and young children depending upon him for support caused the final abandoning of this intention.

[<sup>1</sup>Theology.]

Young Farrar's attention was attracted to politics by the famous campaign of 1840, when he cast his first Presidential vote for William Henry Harrison. In the great political questions that agitated the country after the Mexican war he took a deep interest, and from that time hence forth was a close student of national questions.

He removed with his family to Rock Island County, Ill., in 1853.

During the Presidential campaign of 1856 political excitement ran high in that land of Lincoln and Douglas, the champions of the opposing parties. Although a quiet farmer at the time, Farrar's zeal overcame his native modesty, and he mounted the stump in his own county for John C. Fremont and anti-slavery. Returning to his native county in 1857, he engaged in mercantile business in Burgettstown for several years.

At the breaking out of the Rebellion party hostility in this region became so bitter as to rupture society, churches, and families. Men engaged in business depending on the patronage of a community generally either kept their lips sealed or exercised great caution in expressing themselves on the questions that were distracting the country, lest their business should suffer. Contrary to this rule, and in opposition to the advice of his warmest friends, John Farrar, eminently a man of strong convictions and fearless of consequences when duty directed, was outspoken in his zeal for the cause of the Union, as well as in his denunciation of its enemies North and South.

In 1866 he was elected to the office of associate judge for a term of five years. When he entered upon the duties of this office a system of granting licenses to sell intoxicating liquors existed, under which it was a very easy matter to obtain a license, and as a consequence almost every village and hamlet in the county was afflicted with drinking-houses. Always having been a warm advocate of the temperance cause, he immediately went to work with his characteristic zeal to correct the evil, taking a firm and resolute stand against all licenses applied for under the then existing laws. Ere the close of his term of office, with perhaps two exceptions, not a drinking-saloon or bar-room remained. It was thus largely through his influence that Washington County was elevated to her present honorable and noble position on this question.

Notwithstanding the frequent and perhaps true assertion that ardent temperance men invariably suffer at the polls, he was elected a member of the State Legislature in 1874, when a number of other and honorable candidates of the same party from the same county were defeated. But death came, and he was carried to his grave the same week that he was to have taken the oath of office. His cherished wife died nearly five years previous to this.

It was, however, as a Christian gentleman that Judge Farrar was best known and most esteemed. In early manhood he became a member of the Presbyterian Church of Raccoon, next a teacher in the Sabbath-school, and then its superintendent, and ever afterwards connected with and working in the Sabbath-school in some way.

Soon after settling in Illinois he gathered together and established a flourishing Sabbath-school, from which soon resulted the organization of Beulah Church of the Presbytery of Rock River. In this church he was a ruling elder until his return to Pennsylvania, after which he served in this capacity in the church of Burgettstown, Pa., and in Raccoon Church until the close of his life.

Socially, he was gifted with a rare combination of

qualities, easy, graceful manners, fine conversational powers, and a warm, generous, and sympathizing nature. Regarding no one, however poor and ignorant, as beneath his notice. Nor looking up to any, however wealthy and aristocratic, as above him, he was claimed alike by the high and lowly as a friend.

The universal esteem in which he was held is manifest from the positions he occupied at the time of his death. Filling honorable and responsible offices both in the Church and in the State; chosen to the one by the voice of the members of the church of his childhood, and to the other by the voice of the citizens of the county of his nativity, are facts that make an eulogy of words superfluous.

His family consisted of a daughter and five sons, viz., Mary L., now Mrs. Billingsly Morgan, of Canonsburg, Pa., S. Clark, for many years a principal of the Second Ward schools, Allegheny, Pa.; Preston W., physician in Nevada City, Iowa; John, a farmer, residing at the old family homestead; Watson W., a clerk in the Treasury Department at Washington, D. C.; and George W., merchant, at Braddock's, Pa.

J. L. PROUDFIT.

David Proudfit and his brother Robert, natives of Scotland, emigrated to America about the year 1759, and settled in York County, Pa. Two of their brothers, Andrew and James, had preceded them to this country. Andrew, who was a shoemaker, had settled in York County, and James, who was a minister in the Associate Reformed Church, had settled in Lancaster County. David and Robert were farmers. The former married Nancy Livingston, by whom he had eight children,---John, Robert, Andrew, James, Elizabeth, Nancy, Mary, and Jane.

John Proudfit was born in York County, Pa., in 1776. He settled in Smith township, Washington Co., Pa., in 1806, where, in 1809, he married Elizabeth Lyle. They lived in Washington County until 1813, when they removed to York County, where they lived fourteen years, when they returned to Washington County, and again settled in Smith township, where they died. Their children were David, John L., James K., Eliza J., Nancy, Robert F., Cinderella, William, Andrew, and Eleanor K., all of whom are living except David, James K., and Nancy.

John L. Proudfit was born in Smith township, Washington Co., Sept. 3, 1812, and the following spring went with his parents to York County, Pa., where he remained until he was fifteen years of age, when he returned with them to his native township. He received a district school education, and labored with his father upon the farm until after he was twenty-one years of age. He married Eleanor Campbell, of Smith township, June 9, 1841. She died Aug. 4, 1866, leaving three children, ---Elizabeth, the wife of W. A. P. Linn, of Shippensburg, Cumberland Co., Pa.; Jane A., the wife of Dr. W. P. Taylor, of Noblestown, Allegheny Co., Pa; and Martha E., the wife of John Moore, of Smith township, Washington Co., Pa.

John L. Proudfit was married to his second wife, Mrs. Nancy Byers, whose maiden name was Duncan, Dec. 24, 1867. In

the spring of 1867 he removed from his farm in Smith township to Burgettstown, where he now has his residence. He still superintends the work upon his farms lying near the town. Since the organization of the National Bank of Burgettstown he has been its president. He was at one time captain of the Burgettstown militia; has held the office of justice of the peace and other important local offices. He was for many years a member of the Presbyterian Church, an elder in the same, but is now a communicant of the United Presbyterian Church. In his youthful days he underwent all the trials and hard knocks of poverty, and from them he can turn his eyes to his present prosperity with the reflection that to himself and his own exertions he owes it all.

\*Boyd Crumrine, "History of Washington County, Pennsylvania with Biographical Sketches of Many of Its Pioneers and Prominent Men" (Philadelphia: L. H. Leverts & Co., 1882).

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# Error found in Smith Twp. denial of landfill plans

By GIDEON BRADSHAW

Staff writer

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A Washington County judge ruled Smith Township supervisors' uncertainty about the impact of a new landfill in Bulger for Marcellus shale drill cuttings and other non-hazardous residual waste on the surrounding area wasn't sufficient reason to deny the facility owner's application.

Judge Michael Lucas rendered the five-page decision July 13, remanding the matter to the township and instructing officials to consider whether MAX Environmental Technologies' conditional-use application "should be subject to reasonable conditions, and if so, imposing such conditions."

MAX, which early in 2017 was bought by private-equity firm Altus Capital Partners, sought Smith officials' nod to build a new, roughly 21-acre landfill at the former

JUDGE LUCAS FOUND THE TOWNSHIP MADE AN 'ERROR OF LAW' WHEN IT REJECTED THE APPLICATION ON THE BASIS THEY WERE UNABLE TO DETERMINE IF MAX'S OPERATIONS WOULD DETRIMENTALLY IMPACT THE HEALTH, SAFETY AND GENERAL WELFARE OF THE PUBLIC.

Mill Service disposal site, which first became operational in 1958.

The Green Tree-based company appealed in December after supervisors voted 3-0 in November to deny the application.

Lucas found the township made an "error of law" when it rejected the application on the basis they were "unable to determine if Max's operations would detrimentally impact the health, safety and general welfare of the public."

As part of its plans to open the new landfill and build a treatment facility,

MAX plans to seek permission from the state Department of Environmental Protection to accept waste containing technologically enhanced naturally occurring radioactive material, or TENORM – which is often present in oil and gas waste – at the new landfill.

Many from the Bulger area raised questions and objections to that aspect of the company's plans during the proceedings. A crowd of roughly 40 people attended the Nov. 16 voting meeting.

Lucas' order noted the landfill is allowed as a conditional use in the industrial

zoning district where MAX has its facility.

Citing case law, the judge said if a use is "permitted by the classification legislatively created," it "is presumptively consistent with the health, safety and welfare of the public."

Those objecting must therefore meet the burden of showing "the proposed use would have a detrimental impact on the health, safety and welfare of the public," according to the order.

"The objectors testified to a variety of concerns and questions regarding the acceptance of TENORM into the facility ...," Lucas continued. "However, the testimony does not show that the site would have an impact beyond that normally associated with any other landfill accepting residual waste."

Materials on MAX's website give a multi-year timeline for obtaining needed permits from the state Department

of Environmental Protection. The company doesn't expect the new landfill to become active until 2020 or 2021.

One of the 32 conditions supervisors considered placing on their approval before denying MAX's plans would have required the company to provide at least 30 days' notice before any DEP hearings and public-comment periods to allow township officials and those living nearby to weigh in on the plans.

It is unclear if either side will appeal Lucas' ruling.

Township solicitor Michael Cruny said the "board has not yet made a decision" on its next move, and any action would have to be voted on at a public meeting.

MAX's attorney, Sandy Garfinkel, said the matter is still "pending litigation."

"We're not in a position to comment," Garfinkel added.

The next regular township meeting will be Aug. 20.

**Error found in Smith Twp. denial of Landfill Plans**

**Observer-Reporter-July 20, 2018 Edition**

*Courtesy of Fort Vance Historical Society*

## **Funds Sought For Cleanup Of Garbage Dump**

Smith Township's Supervisors told a group of Joffre residents Monday night they will apply for federal and state funds to clean up a growing garbage dump in their neighborhood.

Chairman Vince Gianfrancesco told the 10 property owners in attendance that Rural and Abandoned Mines Program (RAMP) funds will be sought for elimination of a dump located about a mile east of the old Raccoon railroad station and between the tracks and the road.

Gianfrancesco said application for funding will be made "immediately." He said the RAMP program has been responsible for funding the cleanup of other similar garbage areas in Smith Township.

In regard to the police department, the supervisors adopted a resolution endorsing a study, along with Burgettstown Borough, on the feasibility of a joint police force for the two municipalities.

Smith Township will participate in a strategy report for possible regional sewage in the area. In a unanimous vote of supervisors Gianfrancesco, Bob Fuller and Thomas Schilinski, a resolution was passed to share in expenses of the projected \$75,000 study. According to George E. Martin, chairman of the Burgettstown-Smith Township Joint Sewerage Authority, others passing a similar resolution are Burgettstown Borough, Cross Creek and Independence townships, and the school district.

In other business Monday night, the Smith Township Supervisors:

- Learned that Union Electric Steel Corporation and International Mill Service will be monitoring discharges into Burgetts Fork along Route 18 according to appropriate federal and state regulations.

- Voted to proceed with improvement work on existing asphalt roads in the township, pending a priority report from their engineer.

- Tabled action on a new agreement with the Jefferson County Cable TV Co. until it has been reviewed by solicitor Robert N. Clarke. "We're looking for better service, more stations and new cable lines," Gianfrancesco said.

- Began preliminary action on a new burning ordinance in Smith Township by approving required advertisement.

**Funds Sought for Cleanup of Garbage Dump**  
**Burgettstown Enterprise-July 11, 1990 Edition**



**University of Pittsburgh's**  
**Archeological Dig**  
**of the**  
**Moore-Olah Site**

**Smith Township, Washington County, PA**

*Courtesy of Fort Vance Historical Society*

## Ancient Monongahela Indian village attracting modern man to area site

By Melanie Mars, Staff Writer

A Monongahela Indian crouches on the banks of Raccoon Creek in northern Washington County. He waits silently for the right moment, his spear poised to throw.

A small rabbit darts from the underbrush, the spear hits its mark. The rabbit is still. The Indian emerges from his hiding place and takes his dinner back to the village.

The Indian roasts the rabbit in a fire pit. Then the bones are thrown carelessly in a pit nearby used for trash. After his hunger is satisfied, the Indian will rest in a nearby hut until the next day when he will go out to hunt again.

Thousands of years later, University of Pittsburgh archaeology students spend their summer near Route 18 in Smith Township digging in the soil for bits and pieces of debris from the small village where the Monongahela Indian lived and died. According to initial findings, the village dates from about 1000 to 1500 A.D.

The village, which is located on a small section of the Lee Moore farm in Smith Township near Raccoon Creek, is a relatively modern Monongahela Indian Village, according to Dr. James Adovasio, field director Pitt's training program.

The training program for future archaeologists or interested students runs throughout the summer with different groups of students. The students are housed in tents near the village.

The village, which encompasses about two-and-a-half acres of land, is smaller than earlier villages, notably the famous Meadowcroft Monongahela Indian village or a village near Connellsville which is currently being excavated, Adovasio said.

He added that the Connellsville site may yield more information, but the site in Smith Township may prove just as interesting.

The village is in an unusual area for the Indian tribe that once inhabited a large section of western Pennsylvania and a section of Maryland. The Indians generally built their villages near larger bodies of water and in more open areas.

Adovasio, who likened the Raccoon Creek site to a "backwoods area for the Indians," said the artifacts from the dig may give the scientists a better idea of what happened to a tribe that once populated such a large area.

"We have not been able to find any trace of the tribe after the year 1500 A.D. We have various theories about what may have happened to the tribe but nothing concrete," he said.

The village could have been a stopping point for the tribe before it went on to settle in another area, or it could have been the small section of one tribe breaking away from a larger tribe. The Indians could have felt threatened by another tribe, such as the Iroquois, and could have been trying to stay out of their way.

About the same time, 1000 to 1500 A.D., the Iroquois were making a stab

at becoming the dominant tribe in the area, Adovasio said. The Monongahela Indians could have felt threatened.

The Monongahela Indians have no known descendants. However, another theory is that they may have been absorbed by another tribe. Because there may have been changes in their style of art, living or clothing between the time they lived in the villages already discovered and when they united with another tribe, the scientists have been unable to discover a link or trace their descendants.

Another theory states the Indians may have been wiped out by the Iroquois.

The archaeologists, who oversee the excavations, are like detectives who put pieces of evidence from the past together to tell a story about life in an Indian village. They dig and sift through the soil slowly so as not to destroy what could turn out to be a piece in the puzzle. Each new fragment of pottery or animal bone brings a wealth of information to the trained person.

The work can be tiresome but the results are worth the hours and days spent sifting through the dirt for another clue, according to Michael Hochrein, who is in charge of the group excavating the area. An inexperienced person could destroy valuable artifacts.

"Because it is a training ground for future archaeologists, we are moving much slower than if it were a site staffed with professionals," he said.

The group has been working at the site for the past two years and has

**Pitt students dig Smith Township (Pg. 1)  
Observer-Reporter-July 6, 1986 Edition**

*Courtesy of Fort Vance Historical Society*



uncovered fire pits and trash pits left by the former inhabitants.

This will probably be the group's final year at the Lee Moore farm site. The first two years of work resulted in the discovery of 5,000 artifacts.

The trash pits are located within a few feet of the fire pits where the tribe roasted game and kept warm. The pits have provided a wealth of information to the scientists including the diet of a tribe, which could possibly provide a clue as to why it disappeared.

"We know that mainstays of their diet were rabbit, deer, turtle, raccoon, freshwater mussels, elk, and hackberries. It could be that they contracted a disease from what they ate," Adovasio said.

In addition to bones, broken pieces of pottery have been found in the trash pits. The pieces of pottery found can help the archaeologists discover whether or not the tribe was simply absorbed by another tribe.

The pottery contains a unique linear stamped motif. The decorations on the pottery link the tribe with another nearby site, the Scarem-Kramer site that was partially excavated in 1982 and 1983 by Pitt.

According to Hochrein, each tribe had its own distinctive way of decorating its pottery. If it were absorbed by another tribe, its way of making or decorating pottery would be incorporated into the new tribe.

This summer, the excavations will include a much larger area which may include the section of the village where the Indians built their huts.

In addition to the Moore site, the Perishina area may be excavated this summer. It is located three miles east of McDonald.

Archaeology has shown that flaked stone tools were made and resharpened at the site. There has been evidence of ground stone tool use at the area.

Washington County is one of the largest archaeological training grounds in the country.

## **Pitt students dig Smith Township (Pg. 2)**

**Observer-Reporter-July 6, 1986 Edition**

*Courtesy of Fort Vance Historical Society*

## **Pitt archaeologists wrap up excavation at Indian village**

ATLASBURG — University of Pittsburgh archaeologists ended their excavation of a Monongahela Indian village near Raccoon Creek in Atlasburg Tuesday but plan to continue next summer.

The excavation, which was part of a training exercise for archaeological students, was slated to be wrapped up at the end of this summer but the archaeologists have received permission to continue the dig on the Ernest Olah property next year.

The school have been excavating a section of the Lee Moore property for the past three years and have uncovered about 20,000 artifacts, including storage pits where the Indians threw their trash and fire pits where they cooked their food. The village dates from about 1,000 to 1,500 A.D.

This year, the group had been looking forward to uncovering huts where the Indians lived but Michael Hochrein, who is in charge of the dig, said they are still in search of them.

He said they did uncover about 5,000 artifacts this summer, including more elk and beaver remains and additional plants that can be added to what is known of the Indians' diet.

He said they have conducted tests on the Olah property and are very hopeful about the future excavation of that area. He said it should take three to five years to complete the dig.

"The land on the Olah property has not been disturbed by plowing or farming for a very long time," Hochrein said. "The artifacts we uncover should be intact."

**Pitt archaeologist wrap up excavation at Indian Village  
Observer-Reporter-August 14, 1986 Edition**

*Courtesy of Fort Vance Historical Society*



Tony Tye/Post-Gazette

Students from Pitt's anthropology department are digging up an Indian village in Washington County that may date to the 11th century. Excavation is done in rectangular sections and a tent has been constructed to allow all-weather digging. The expedition is led by James Adovasio, chairman of the department.

**Pitt 's Anthropology Department Dig-Moore-Olah Site**  
**Post-Gazette-August 7, 1986 Edition**

*Courtesy of Fort Vance Historical Society*



Lisa Gorman uses a screen to find minute fragments of artifacts

# INDIAN RIDDLE

## Archaeologists sifting for clues to vanishing of Monongahelas

By Joseph Barsotti

The Pittsburgh Press

**T**HE MONONGAHELA Indians roamed southwestern Pennsylvania nearly 1,000 years ago, leaving behind traces of a culture that continues to intrigue amateur and professional archaeologists alike.

Through excavations at dozens of ancient village sites, several of them in Washington and Greene counties, researchers are trying to come up with answers to puzzling questions about the Monongahela Indians.

Who were they? What did they look like? What did they eat? And, most importantly, what happened to them?

"I think they wound up in a Seneca stewpot," said Bill Johnson, a University of Pittsburgh archaeologist

who is trying to unravel the mystery of the Monongahela people.

One of two events probably sealed the fate of that peaceful civilization, said Johnson. The Monongahelas either were wiped out by the Senecas, a much more warlike people inhabiting the area, or were adopted by the Senecas or other tribes.

"I'm sorry I'm being so vague," said Johnson. "But no one knows for sure."

Johnson, an expert in prehistoric Indians and their pottery, is conducting research on artifacts found during the past three summers at a Monongahela village site near Raccoon Creek in Smith. Excavating at the site will continue for at least another three years.

The last sighting of the Monongahelas was reported by Dutch and Swedish traders in eastern Pennsyl-

vania about 1625. Johnson said the Indians may have been dispersed from the Mon Valley by that time.

Archaeologists believe that the Monongahela culture was established around 1050. "But that doesn't mean they couldn't have been here earlier. There is some continuity from 500 A.D.," said Johnson.

Their civilization is generally characterized by traits such as the way they made pottery, agricultural and dietary habits, and lifestyle.

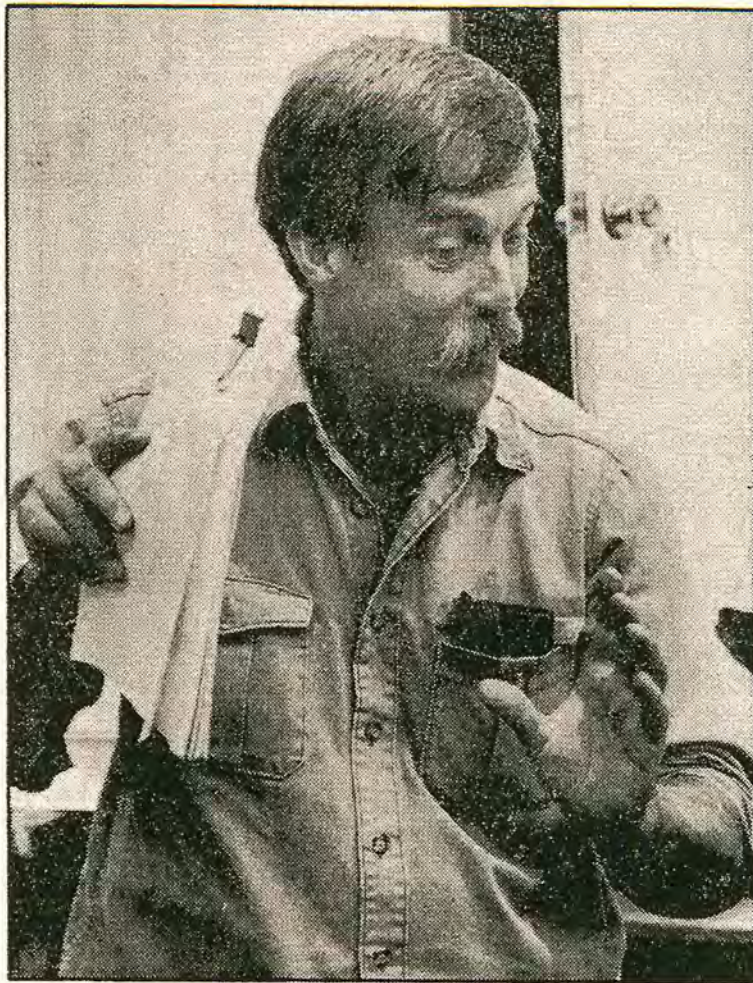
Earlier Indians living in the Mon Valley tempered their earthenware containers with limestone, but the Monongahelas used ground mussel shells found in rivers and streams.

"That was very innovative, although other Indians in other parts of the country were doing it," said Johnson.

Archaeologists sifting for clues to vanishing of Monongahelas (Pg.1)

The Pittsburgh Press-August 10, 1986 Edition

Courtesy of Fort Vance Historical Society



Bill Johnson says Senecas may have been to blame

The new ceramic technology also changed their diet.

"When the Monongahelas started tempering, they began to eat mussels," said Johnson.

Pottery was fabricated of clay from the river banks. The yellowish substance was rolled into a long ropes and coiled into the shape of an urn or vase. The coils were smoothed together using a wooden paddle wrapped with a cord.

From pottery fragments that bear the cord imprint, archaeologists have determined how the Monongahelas produced cordage.

Women took Indian hemp or inner bark from basswood trees and rolled it, probably on their thighs.

"A little girl learned to make cordage like her mother, who made it like her mother. The technology is 10,000 years old. The Monongahelas made Z-twist cordage almost across the board," said Johnson.

In Z-twist cordage, the strands run upward diagonally from left to right. Other Indians rolled S-twist cordage, in which the fibers ran downward from left to right.

At the Raccoon Creek excavation, many potsherds bearing cord marks have been found. With only one-sixth of the village uncovered, professional and volunteer archaeologists have located more than 40,000 artifacts, said Jim Adovasio, chairman of Pitt's anthropology department.

"With such an enormous amount of material ... we can reconstruct their diet," said Adovasio.

Using precision screening techniques, archaeologists track items as small as seeds and pollen.

Johnson described the Monongahelas as "swidden horticulturalists," meaning they created gardens by burning a small patch of forestland, raised vegetables for two or three years until they could no longer control the weeds, then moved to another plot.

They grew sunflower seeds, which eventually were replaced in the diet with corn. Beans and squash also were favorite crops.

"You can tell they relied heavily on corn through dental examinations" of skeletal remains, said Johnson. "Indians who ate nuts and deer meat had teeth that were in good shape. But maize contains a lot of sugar, which made their (Monongahelas') teeth rot."

Corn was eaten in the same manner as it is today, as soon as it ripens. Monongahela Indians of later periods learned to dry flint corn for winter storage.

Whitetail deer and elk were hunted with spears, and later with arrows. The spears were flung with the help of a throwing stick.

The Monongahelas lived in "nucleated villages" containing 35 to 300 residents. Conical roofed houses or wigwams encircled a barren plaza.

"They kept that area pretty well swept," said Johnson.

Around the village was a wooden stockade. "It was more to define territory than to keep out a rushing Seneca," he said.

House walls were constructed of posts that sloped away from the interior. Saplings were woven between the posts and covered with mud. The conical roof was supported by several poles inside the circular dwelling. Such homes were constructed on hills and may have been used only in summer.

During winter months, Monongahelas possibly fled to warmer sites in lowland regions, where they set up wigwams that resembled igloos. A sapling superstructure was covered with elm bark or reed mats, which also served as insulation.

"The flood plains were not as nasty as the hills in cold weather, so they could have moved around. But we just don't know," said Johnson.

Archaeologists have not yet found any remnants of houses at the Raccoon Creek village, which existed between 1250 and 1300.

What they are seeking are dark spots in clay that indicate the location of posts. A circular pattern of "post molds" would reveal the former presence of a house, said Ed Siemon, another Pitt archaeologist participating in the dig.

Several projectile points made by archaic Indians were found at the Raccoon Creek site.

"This means there was a hunting camp here thousands of years before the Monongahela Indians," said Siemon, whose specialty is the study of prehistoric tools.

Researchers have uncovered refuse pits that contained broken tools and pottery, bones and a leather punch made from a deer antler.

"The Monongahela Indians weren't the neatest of people," said Mike Hochrein, a teaching assistant and field supervisor at the Raccoon

Creek dig.

"But they weren't dumb either. These people knew what they were doing. They weren't out here banging on rocks. They had a definite technology."

The Monongahelas were peaceful, although they were larger than most Indians of the period. The males measured 5 feet 8 inches to 5 feet 11 inches tall.

"They had a casual way of releasing their hostilities," said Johnson. "They'd jump around and maybe throw a few spears, and maybe one guy got wounded. Then it was all

over. We have relatively little evidence of violent death among the males."

No burial site has been found at Raccoon Creek, but the majority of the village remains to be excavated.

Excavations are time-consuming and demand great care in sifting through soil layers. The Campbell farm dig near Brownsville is a good example of what perseverance can achieve.

"It took us nine years to determine that there were two villages there instead of one," said Johnson.

The possibility of an archaeologi-

cal gold mine attracts many amateurs who want to help, said Keith Bastianini, also a teaching assistant.

"We had a salesman here from J.C. Penney's, a newspaper editor from Philadelphia, a couple of widows — you name it, we had them," he said.

But why all the enthusiasm for a dead civilization?

"For no other reason than to correct some misconceptions about prehistoric Indian culture," said Hochrein.

"Some people expect that we're going to find tepees here."



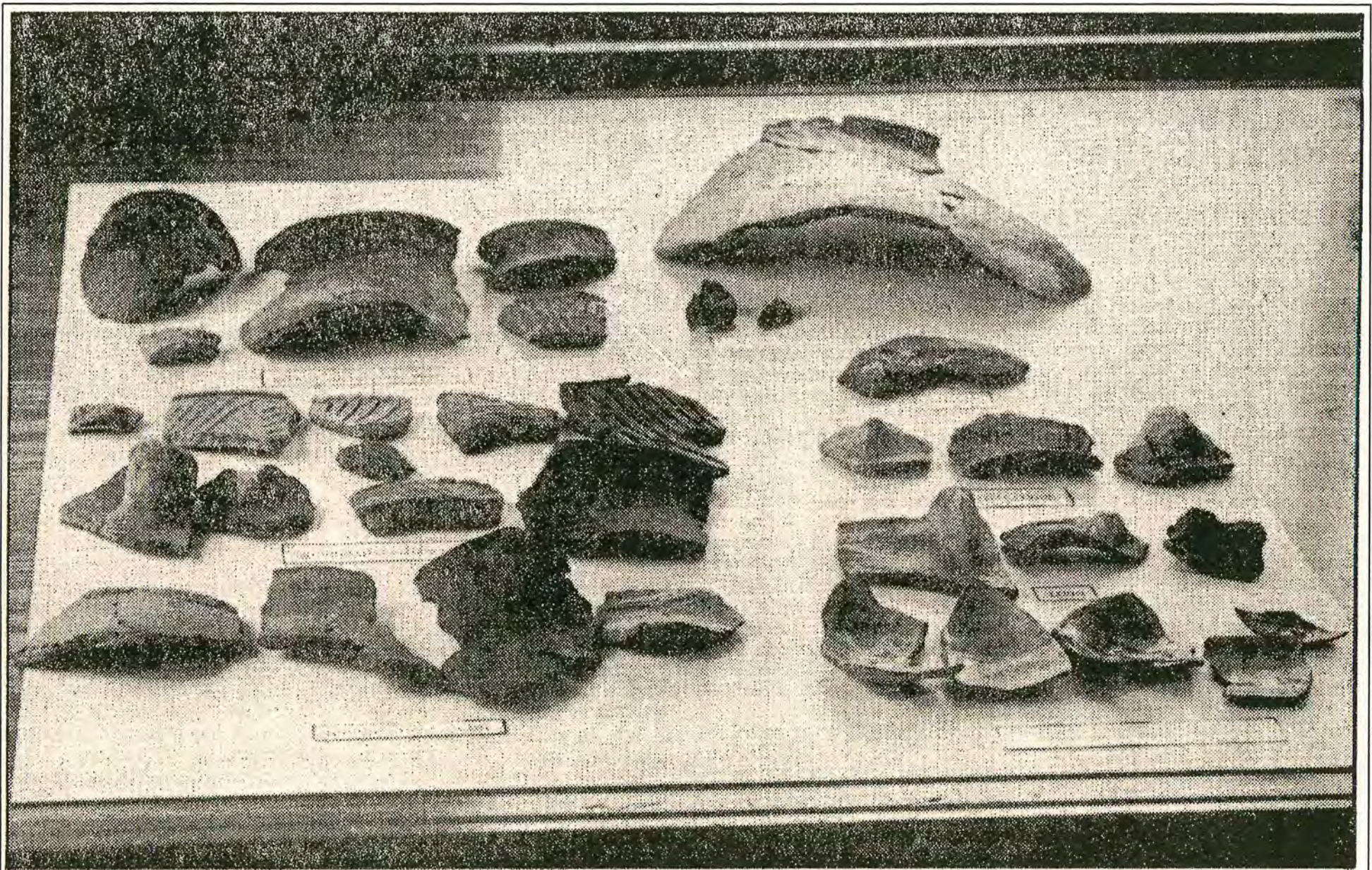


Robert J. Pavuchak/The Pittsburgh Press

A grid of "feature pits" is worked by student Chong Choe

**Archaeologists sifting for clues to vanishing of Monongahelas (Pg.4)**  
**The Pittsburgh Press-August 10, 1986 Edition**

*Courtesy of Fort Vance Historical Society*



Robert J. Pavuchak/The Pittsburgh Press

Fragments of clay cooking pots were uncovered in excavations at local digs

**Archaeologists sifting for clues to vanishing of Monongahelas (Pg. 5)**  
**The Pittsburgh Press-August 10, 1986 Edition**

*Courtesy of Fort Vance Historical Society*

“Because the land has not been plowed in almost 100 years, we are finding the best preserved artifacts from a Monongahela Indian village.”

—Dr. James Adovasio  
director of archaeological department at Pitt



Observer-Reporter

Ed Seimon with piece of pottery at site of Indian village

By Melanie R. Mars, Staff Writer

ATLASBURG — A burned hut and thousands of artifacts from a Monongahela Indian Village were found on a Smith Township farm this summer by the University of Pittsburgh.

The findings were the latest from a four-year excavation of one of the last Monongahela Indian villages in the country, according to Dr. James Adovasio, director of the University of Pittsburgh archaeology department.

“Because the land has not been plowed in almost 100 years, we are finding the best preserved artifacts from a Monongahela Indian village,” he said.

Animal bones, pieces of pottery, chips from stone tools and the outline of a hut have been found at the site that straddles the Olah and Miller farms along Route 18 near Atlasburg.

Adovasio said the excavation will probably continue for another three years. In that time, the expedition hopes to uncover the rest of the village that was laid out in a circular fashion and surrounded by a stockade.

The excavation is carried out each summer by University of Pittsburgh students. The artifacts gathered at the site will be catalogued and examined during the year.

According to Adovasio, the village and artifacts represent a culture that was on its way out.

“The Meadowcroft excavation is the oldest evidence of human occupation in northern America and this site is the last sign of those Indians,” he said.

The Meadowcroft site is 17,000 years old, while the site on the Olah and Miller farms dates to the 1500s which is about the time the Monongahela Indians were last known to exist in the country.

According to Ed Seimon, a re-

**Thousands of Indian artifacts unearthed on Smith Twp. Farm (Pg. 1)  
Observer-Reporter-August 7, 1988 Edition**

*Courtesy of Fort Vance Historical Society*



Observer-Reporter

## University of Pittsburgh students mark grids and dig for artifacts at archaeological site on Smith Township farm.

search associate, the unusual location of the village suggests the Monongahela Indians were possibly under some pressure from other Indian tribes, possibly the Seneca.

"The Monongahela Indians generally lived on a bluff in between two drainage divides," he said. "This site would suggest that they were trying not to draw very much attention to themselves. They were almost in hiding."

One village that had been unearthed had been raided and burned which seems to support the theory that the Monongahela Indians were wiped out by another tribe, he said.

"We actually know very little about the Monongahela Indians because they were gone before any

European settlers arrived in southwestern Pennsylvania," Seimon said.

But archaeologists have been able to piece together some information about the group from the various excavations, he said.

"They were horticulturists as well as hunters," Seimon said. "We have found evidence of seeds as well as the remains of elk, deer and rabbit. We also found a lot of box turtle shells. They probably used the shells as cups and ate the meat."

In addition, the Indians ate freshwater mussels then ground the shells to make pottery.

"They were obviously found of personal adornments," Seimon said. "We have found at other sites

evidence of tooth necklaces and an apron that had been beaded with bird bones."

But their philosophy, politics and religious beliefs remain a mystery, he said.

"We did find infants buried beneath huts with round sandstone markers at another village," Seimon said. "We know from other prehistoric Indian tribes that the spirits of infants were thought to go back to the mother's womb. Burying the infants in the hut would seem to suggest that they were trying to facilitate the transfer of the soul."

But adults were buried in the stockade surrounding the villages in an almost casual way, he said.

So far no human bones have been discovered at the Smith Township site.

**Thousands of Indian artifacts unearthed on Smith Twp. Farm (Pg. 2)  
Observer-Reporter-August 7, 1988 Edition**

*Courtesy of Fort Vance Historical Society*

By Patrick Ponticel. *Staff Writer*

An official of an archeological dig in Smith Township said this summer's findings are not consistent with the team's initial assumption that the site was a large, prehistoric Indian village.

"It's puzzling," said Edward J. Siemon, a research assistant with the Cultural Resources Management Program of the University of Pittsburgh. "We started with the assumption that we were working on a sizable village, but we cannot locate distinctive features that would indicate it was a large village.

"It might have been a small farming hamlet, with only a small group living there part-time," he said. "If that's true, it would be interesting, but we're not sure."

The excavation at what is called the Moore-Olah site is operated jointly by the Anthropology Department and the Cultural Resources Management Program, both of the University of Pittsburgh. The purpose of the dig is to train college and high school students in archeological field methodology.

Siemon said this summer's program, which ended Friday, was a success in that numerous artifacts reflecting some form of Monongahela Indian presence were uncovered. But this year's exercise was more noteworthy for what was not found, he said.

"It wasn't as satisfying a year as we had hoped it would be in finding more aboriginal features," Siemon said. "But the amount of materials found was good."

Fragments and artifacts uncovered at the site point to stone tool manufacturing and pottery-making, Siemon said. The remains of animal bones indicate that Indians had meals there as well.

Siemon said excavators hoped to define features that initially seemed to point to a large-scale occupation. It is possible, he said, that the dig this year was outside the area of habitation.

The Monongahela Indians are known to have lived in a circular arrangement of huts with a stockade surrounding the site. In such communities, pits were dug for the disposal of garbage and to build fires, and dead infants were buried inside huts.

No clear evidence of these features have been discovered, however.

Last year, a 3-foot section of what may have been a hatch and mud wall was discovered. This year's excavation centered in the area where the section of wall was discovered, according to Siemon.

He said the section was preserved after being burned. The Monongahela are known to have burned their huts, he added.

Siemon said the Monongahela Indians may have been forced out of the area by an enemy tribe. The Monongahela tribe ceased to exist by the late 16th or early 17th centuries, Siemon said.

The University of Pittsburgh team will be back for two or three years of further excavations, Siemon said.

## **Archeological dig gives new glimpse of Indian History Observer-Reporter-August 12, 1989 Edition**

*Courtesy of Fort Vance Historical Society*

## Pitt and the Smithsonian: It's a date

Pitt archaeologists will no longer have to order out for carbon-14 dating work on the various organic treasures they uncover. Pitt is now one of only a handful of universities in the country equipped with its own carbon-14 dating laboratory, thanks to a loan from the National Science Foundation.

The lab, valued at \$2.5 million, recently arrived along with its director, Robert Stuckenrath. Their new home is the University of Pittsburgh Applied Research Center (U-PARC) at Harmarville.

James Adovasio, chairman of the anthropology department, says the lab "will increase our ability to date the kind of archaeological sites we are at work on and also radically increase our ability to interact with geologists, paleontologists, and others who are interested in the past 50,000 years of the earth's history."

The radiocarbon lab will become part of Pitt's Cultural Resource Management program, the largest sponsored archaeological research operation in the country. Adovasio adds, "We are one of the few places that could take something like this on right now."

He says economic reasons

persuaded the Smithsonian Institution to abolish its carbon-14 dating laboratory and other facilities within its Radiation Biology Laboratory (RBL) facility in Rockville, Maryland. Government agencies, including NASA, and other universities across the country also received portions of the RBL facility. The carbon-14 facility was given to the National Science Foundation, which loaned the lab indefinitely to Pitt.

Adovasio, who served as a postdoctoral research fellow at the Smithsonian in 1971-72, notes that Stuckenrath and his research associate, John Williams, both approved the move to Pitt. "Basically, it was one of the only places Bob wanted to go," Adovasio says. "He and I have interacted over the years and he knows everything there is to know about our operation."

Pitt will operate the facility for both university and commercial use. Adovasio says there will be no trouble attracting business: "Bob is one of the world's leading experts on radiocarbon dating. He arrives with a built-in clientele of people who have been using his services for 25 years."

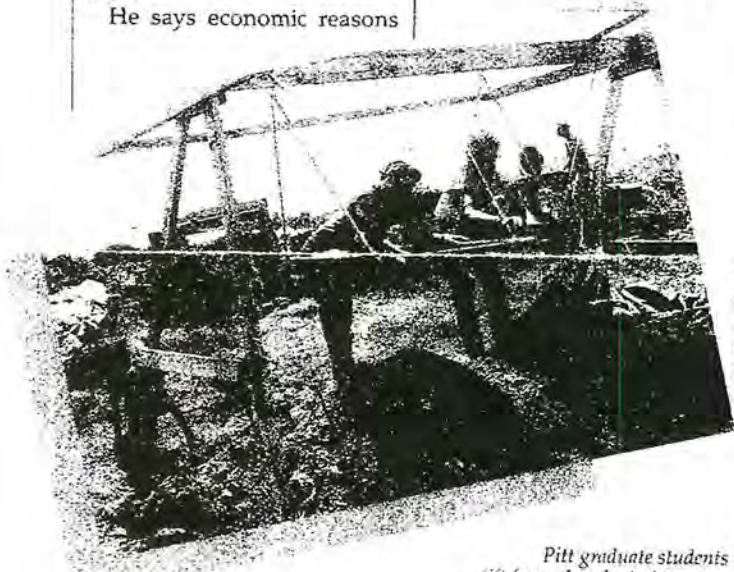
The immediate benefit of the laboratory will be in aiding Pitt researchers at work on two Western Pennsylvania digs: one in Atlasburg, Washington County, and the other near Connellsville. Adovasio

and his team of students, faculty, and volunteers have uncovered evidence of the way the Monongahela Indians lived in this region from about 1000 to 1500 AD.

The Washington County site, encompassing two-and-a-half acres of land owned by a local farmer, is unusual for its remote location. The Monongahela Indians tended to remain near large bodies of water. Adovasio theorizes that the site could have been a stopping point for the tribe on their way to another location, or it could have been home to a small section of the tribe that broke from the larger group.

Organic artifacts discovered at the site will undergo dating at the new lab when it becomes operational this month.

"The new facility makes the whole dating process infinitely easier," Adovasio says. "Instead of sending samples away for dating, you have the ability to talk face to face with the person running the test. You can only write so many instructions on a form. This way, we can receive detailed explanations on how samples should be pre-treated and discuss what their geochemical environments were."



*Pitt graduate students  
sift for archaeological treasure*

**Pitt and the Smithsonian: It's a Date**  
**Pitt Magazine-Unknown Edition**

*Courtesy of Fort Vance Historical Society*

# Smith approves work at Mark West site

BY GIDEON BRADSHAW

Staff writer

[gbradshaw@observer-reporter.com](mailto:gbradshaw@observer-reporter.com)

Smith Township supervisors agreed to extend the hours and allow a second shift of workers building a natural gas processing plant in Smith Township.

Supervisors cast a unanimous 3-0 vote Monday during a hearing at the township building on MarkWest Energy's request to extend work hours at the site of its Harmon Creek facility, to which the township gave conditional-use approval last year.

The site is between Point Pleasant and Creek roads, and is the second such facility being built in that area. The first is Energy Transfer's Revolution plant.

Shane Hecht, senior project manager for MarkWest, said the extra hours would accelerate construction on the plant.

**"IT'S A DISTURBANCE TO US. WE LIVE IN A RESIDENTIAL ZONING DISTRICT, AND, TO BE BLUNT ABOUT IT, YOU APPROVED A PLANT IN A RESIDENTIAL ZONING DISTRICT."**

**BRIAN COPPOLA, ROBINSON TOWNSHIP RESIDENT**

"We'd like to wrap up the construction before winter comes, and with ... the longer daylight hours and the better weather, to have less impact on our neighbors and the community at this phase of construction," Hecht said.

MarkWest – which is owned by MPLX, Marathon Petroleum Corp.'s pipeline company – received supervisors' conditional-use approval to build the plant last year.

Brian Coppola, who lives in neighboring Robinson Township, told officials he and his wife can hear work from the hill where they live, more than a mile away.

"It's more than just the noise. It's school buses (car-

rying workers) in the middle of the night," the former Robinson supervisor added in response to a question by Christopher Nestor, outside counsel for MarkWest. "It's a disturbance to us. We live in a residential zoning district, and, to be blunt about it, you approved a plant in a residential zoning district."

With Monday's vote, officials agreed to allow up to 50 people at the Harmon Creek site between 7 a.m. to 3:30 a.m. from Monday to Friday, and 7 a.m. to 11 p.m. on Saturdays, with no work on Sundays and holidays.

The conditional approval the township granted for the plant last year allowed

for construction from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. on weekdays and 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturdays, with no work on Sundays and holidays.

In response to MarkWest's request for more hours, the township previously approved a temporary extension of the hours June 18 and scheduled the hearing.

The move allows extra hours for workers to do welding, X-ray testing of pipes for leaks, final leak testing of systems, bolt torquing and cable pulling and termination. Deliveries would still occur during normal hours.

Coppola's wife, Susan, is pursuing a land-use appeal of the township's approval of MarkWest's plans to build the plant. Her case cleared a procedural hurdle late in May when Washington County President Judge Katherine B. Emery found she had standing to challenge the decision.

MarkWest, which inter-

vened in that case, is seeking to appeal Emery's decision before the state Commonwealth Court.

Coppola's attorney, Jeffrey Ries, argued MarkWest hadn't previously objected to the hours township officials had prescribed when it signed off on the plans.

"The conditional-use decision that this board entered had reasonable conditions attached to it," Ries said. "Those were obviously thought out after having taken numerous time and having submissions by counsel, myself included before those conditions were written. So those hours weren't just thrown together; they were thought about."

Nestor countered there "was some discussion" during the conditional-use process "about the fact that we may need to come back and talk about these work hours. It's actually in the transcript."

**Smith Township approves work at Mark West Site**  
**Observer-Reporter-July 18, 2018 Edition**

*Courtesy of Fort Vance Historical Society*



**Smith Township  
Swearing in of Constable of Pete Secco**

**L-R: Art Florio, Pete Secco, Ed Sciamanna, and Vince Gianfrancesco**



# This Indenture

Made the 3 day of April in the year of our Lord,  
one thousand nine hundred and forty-eight (1948).

Between JOSE FERNANDEZ and CELIA FERNANDEZ, his wife, of Smith  
Township, Washington County, Pennsylvania, - - - - -

- - - - - parties of the first part and

JOSEPH FRITCH and JOHN FRITCH, of Meadowlands, Chartiers Township,  
Washington County, Pennsylvania, - - - - -

- - - - - parties of the second part:

Witnesseth, that the said parties of the first part, in consideration of One (\$1.00) Dollar

to them now paid by the said parties of the second part, do grant, bargain,  
sell and convey unto the said parties of the second part, their heirs and assigns,  
ALL that certain tract of land situate, lying and being part in Cross-  
Creek Township and part in Smith Township, Washington County, State of  
Pennsylvania, known as the farm of the late Allison Vance, deceased and  
bounded and described as follows to-wit:

BEGINNING at a stone, the corner of lands now or formerly of G. M.  
Cameron and Robert Lyle, Jr.; thence by the lands now or formerly of  
Robert Lyle, Jr. aforesaid, South  $88\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$  West two perches; thence by the  
same South  $6\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$  East 53.7 perches; thence by land now or formerly of  
Robert Vance, South  $85\frac{3}{4}^{\circ}$  West 97.25 perches; thence by land now or  
formerly of W. Craig Lee, North  $38^{\circ}$  11' East 44.5 perches; thence North  
 $65\frac{1}{4}^{\circ}$  West 51.5 perches; thence by the same South  $88\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$  West 174.7 perches;  
thence by land now or formerly of the heirs of Thomas Vance, deceased,  
North  $42\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$  East 80.7 perches; thence by the same North  $24\frac{3}{4}^{\circ}$  East

70 perches to the land now or formerly of John S. Vance; thence by the land now or formerly of the said John S. Vance South  $65^{\circ}$  East 145.3 perches; thence by the same North  $57\frac{1}{4}^{\circ}$  East 80.2 perches; thence by land now or formerly of G. M. Cameron aforesaid South  $\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$  East 98 perches to a stone at the place of beginning. Containing 160 acres and 137 perches.

EXCEPTING and RESERVING, however, from this conveyance all prior conveyances as to right-of-ways made heretofore and also the exceptions and reservations contained in prior conveyances.

Also excepting and reserving from this conveyance all the Pittsburgh or river vein of coal with mining rights as conveyed by J. D. Vance, et al., to J. B. Henderson by deed dated December 18, 1911 in Deed Book, Vol. 395, page 177.

BEING the same tract of land conveyed to Jose Fernandez and Celia Fernandez, his wife, by deed of Thomas T. Ellsworth and Katharina Ellsworth, his wife, by deed dated November 14, 1945, and recorded in the Recorder's Office of Washington County, Pennsylvania, in Deed Book Vol. 696, page 618.

with the appurtenances: **To Have and to Hold** the same unto and for the use of the said parties of the second part their heirs and assigns forever,

And the said Jose Fernandez and Celia Fernandez, his wife, - - - -

for themselves, their heirs, executors and administrators covenant with the said parties of the second part their heirs and assigns against all lawful claimants

the same and every part thereof to Warrant and Defend.

Witness the hands and seals of the said parties of the first part.

Attest:

*G. J. Simanana*



*Jose Fernandez* ..... SEAL  
Jose Fernandez ..... SEAL  
*Celia Fernandez* ..... SEAL  
Celia Fernandez ..... SEAL  
..... SEAL  
..... SEAL  
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..... SEAL  
..... SEAL  
..... SEAL

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, }  
County of WASHINGTON ..... } ss:

On this the 3 day of April, A. D. 1948, before me the undersigned officer, personally appeared

JOSE FERNANDEZ and CELIA FERNANDEZ, his wife, - - - - known to me (or satisfactorily proven) to be the persons whose names are subscribed to the within instrument and acknowledged that they executed the same for the purposes therein contained.

In Witness Whereof I hereunto set my hand and official seal.

*Robert G. Cassidy*

ROBERT G. CASSIDY, Notary Public  
PUNGETT TOWNSHIP, PENNSYLVANIA  
(Title of Officer)  
My Commission Expires February 25, 1949

My commission expires

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, }  
 County of ..... } ss:  
 On this ..... day of .....  
 A. D. 19 ....., before me  
 in and for said .....  
 came the above named

State of  
 County of  
 On this, the ..... day of ..... 19  
 before me  
 the undersigned officer, personally appeared

known to me (or satisfactorily proven) to be the  
 person whose name ..... subscribed to  
 the within instrument, and acknowledged that  
 he executed the same for the purposes  
 therein contained.

and acknowledged the foregoing Indenture to be  
 act and deed, to  
 the end that it may be recorded as such.  
 Witness my hand and ..... seal.

In Witness Whereof, I hereunto set my hand and  
 official seal.

.....  
 Title of Officer.

My Commission Expires ..... 19 .....

**Certificate of Residence**

I, ..... do hereby certify that the grantees  
 precise residence is Meadowlands, Chartiers Township, Washington County, Pa.

Witness my hand this 6 day of April 19 48.

*Ed. Sciamanna*

Recorded Number  
 2468

**Deed**

Page .....  
 (Adopted)  
 Vol. ....

From

JOSE FERNANDEZ, UX.

APR 6 2 49 PM 1948

COPIED BY *mc*  
 COMPARED BY *SP*

TO  
 JOSEPH FRITCH and JOHN FRITCH.

Fees, \$ .....

EDWARD V. SCIAMANNA,  
 ATTORNEY AT LAW  
 WASHINGTON TRUST BLDG.  
 WASHINGTON, PA.

P. O. Nally Co., Law Blank Publishers, 415 Grant St., Pgh. 19, Pa.

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, }  
 County of Washington } ss:

Recorded on this 6th day of April

A. D. 19 48, in the Recorder's office of the said County, in Deed Book,

Volume 738, page 430

Given under my hand and the seal of the said office, the day and year  
 aforesaid.

*William B. Smith*

Recorder.

# Mark West resumes push for Smith cryogenic plant

By GIDEON BRADSHAW  
Staff writer  
gbradshaw@observer-reporter.com

A natural gas processor is once again pursuing plans to build a cryogenic operation in Smith Township after putting its plans for the facility on hold for more than a year.

MarkWest Energy representatives attended a workshop of the township planning commission Monday to discuss land-consolidation and conditional-use applications the company submitted to the township as part of its plans to build on about 130 acres the company owns between Point Pleasant and Creek roads.

The commission is expected to consider whether to recommend supervisors approve the plans at its regular June 12 meeting. Much of the discussion Monday was procedural as Veronica Bennett, of township engineers the Harshman Group, went over questions she had after reviewing MarkWest's applications.

Plans the company submitted to the township include two proposed de-ethanizers and four cryogenic plants. Rob McHale, northeast environmental director for MarkWest, said in an email following the meeting the plans give the company room to add additional processing capacity at the facility, known as the Harmon Creek plant, beyond what it plans to build initially.

"Upon receiving all requisite approvals, MarkWest will construct one cryogenic plant and one de-ethanizer," he said. "Additional processing capacity on the Harmon Creek plant

**“THE LOCAL COMMUNITY HAS A RIGHT TO SEE EXACTLY WHAT YOU'RE GOING TO BUILD - HOW BIG IT IS, HOW MANY ENGINES ... HOW MANY PIPELINES. YOU'RE BASICALLY ASKING THESE GOOD PEOPLE TO MAKE A DECISION SIGHT UNSEEN.”**

LISA GRAVES-MARCUCCI,  
STATE COMMUNITY  
OUTREACH COORDINATOR  
FOR THE ENVIRONMENTAL  
INTEGRITY PROJECT

site may be added as producer volumes dictate.”

McHale said the facility would create 25 full-time jobs.

The company initially applied to build the facility, originally calling the Fox Complex, in 2015 before putting plans on indefinite hold early last year. Township solicitor Gary Sweat attributed that decision to market conditions at the time.

Meanwhile, Energy Transfer Co. has begun building the Revolution cryogenic plant on nearby property, and township officials discussed complaints about heavy traffic near the site that people who live nearby raised during a township meeting earlier this month.

Among those at the meeting was Lisa Graves-Marcuc-

ci, state community outreach coordinator for the Environmental Integrity Project, who brought copies of an email from a state Department of Environmental Protection official confirming the company hasn't applied for an air-quality permit from the state.

The township isn't responsible for enforcing environmental regulations, but Graves-Marcucci asserted information the company would provide the state still matters locally.

“The local community has a right to see exactly what you're going to build - how big it is, how many engines ... how many pipelines,” Graves-Marcucci said. “You're basically asking these good people to make a decision sight unseen.”

McHale told officials MarkWest anticipates submitting an application for a general permit, or GP-5 - which covers midstream natural gas gathering, processing and compression facilities deemed minor air contamination sources - by the middle of next week.

McHale said after the meeting the company “can't so much as set up a foundation for a potential air-pollution source” without having the air-quality permit.

“It's nothing we've taken for granted,” he said. “It's a matter of course. These things are on their timelines, and we're working the timelines.”

The DEP issued a notice of violation against MarkWest in November 2015 after construction began at the Cibus compressor station before it received the GP-5 for the site from the state.

# The AVELLA NEWS

Avella Advocates Advancement

Vol. 1—No. 3

Avella Pa, Thursday, April 4, 1929

\$1.00 Per Year. Single Copy 3 cents

**The Avella News-Vol. 1-No. 3**  
**First year of Publication 1929-First Edition March 21**  
**April 4, 1929 Edition**

*Courtesy of Fort Vance Historical Society*

756 Preston St. West Philadelphia, Pa.

April 11, 1891

Dear Dr. Brownson

The first time I visited the site of Vance's Fort, I stood on the fallen trunk of an old apple tree which I was assured had stood and borne fruit for one hundred years. Standing as the tree did within the palisade, I thought it very likely that under it my own ancestry had both sheltered from the Indians and lifted their glad songs of praise to the God of heaven.

With this thought in mind, I sent for an ax and cut from that fallen trunk a piece of as fine grained curly wood as I ever saw. I am satisfied that that old trunk, had it been sawn into lumber as veneering would have been worth more money than any half dozen crops of apples it ever bore.

Recently I had the part I took from the old tree made up into a number of relics. And as I shall ever cherish a peculiar regard for the body from which I received ordination vows- - - under whose care I first preached the gospel--- and which taught my hands to war and my fingers to fight, I take the liberty of asking you, the oldest member, to present to the Presbytery of Washington, with my compliments, this little gavel. The making of this gavel was an after-thought and as all the good wood had been used, it had to be made of chips and refused pieces of the sap wood, so that, except slightly in the handle, the beauty of the grain does not appear.

However, if neither beautiful or very useful, it may be of interest to some because of the past associations. I have no thought that either the spirit of the Indian warrior who prowled around it or that of the early settler who, under its fruitful bows, worshipped God lingers with this bit of wood, but may I not entertain the hope that it may be so wielded as to promote the sweet spirit of unity, - - or if that be too much to ask, that it may preserve a decorous parliamentary calm during all the eloquent thrilling breezy Briggsy debates you may have over the new theology and revision questions.

With many kind recollections of the past,

Yours Truly,

W. H. McCaughey

Copy of the action of Washington Presbytery in receiving the gavel from Dr. W. H. McCaughey:

I move this Presbytery accept this gavel, a relic of the early history of the Church in this region. It carries our minds back to the time of the planting of the gospel here and is replete with sacred associations. Vance's Fort was the spot where, in great danger, the gospel was preached, and is connected with \_\_\_\_\_ remembrances. It reminds us we in these times must stand firm for the truth, and if need be - - like the fathers, contend earnestly for the faith once delivered to the saints.

We also tender our hearty thanks to the donor, Rev. W. H. McCaughey, a brother beloved, and once a member of this Presbytery, for the gift.

(The one who made this motion can be assumed to have been the Rev. Dr. James I Brownson, to whom the letter was addressed but his name does not appear on the original paper from which this is taken. A D W)



## Advancement at Washington and Jefferson College 35



**W**ASHINGTON AND JEFFERSON is the oldest college west of the Allegheny mountains. Its first building was erected in 1793. It was formed by the union of Jefferson College and Washington College in 1865. The institution has endowment funds in the sum of \$1,500,000 and an annual budget of \$190,000.

There are seven buildings in the college campus, which, with the land, are valued at one half million dollars. The library contains 38,000 volumes, and has two trained librarians. The health program of the institution is excellent. A physician is in charge of the gymnasium and all physical exercises.

Washington and Jefferson College numbers among its alumni 4 cabinet ministers of the United States, 11 senators, 10 governors, 95 congressmen, 300 legislators, 90 presidents of colleges and universities, 41 moderators of General Assemblies, 21 judges of Supreme Courts, 1900 ministers, 1400 lawyers and 750 doctors. Among its graduates are many engineers, teachers, chemists and business men. The total number of graduates is over 6,000.

During President Baker's administration many thousands of dollars have been spent in improving the physical equipment of the institution. The main college hall has been completely renewed, outside and inside. Sand blasting has restored the beautiful red brick walls, and a large open plaza in front of the entrance has improved the building architecturally. The entire property has been relandscaped. The interior of the main hall has been redecorated and refurnished. The other buildings on the campus have shared in these improvements.

Washington and Jefferson is a college for men only. The beautiful little city of Washington in which it is located is only 30 miles from Pittsburgh, in the center of a rich agricultural and industrial community.

Detailed information will be furnished on request to the president, Dr. S. S. Baker, Washington, Pa.

### Then Grandma Did Some Thinking

"GRANDMA, did you like that gundrop?"  
 "Yes, I liked it very much, dear."  
 "Well, Towser didn't. He spit it out twice."  
 — From "Life."

## **1945 CENSUS COUNT REVEALS 5,419 FARMS IN WASHINGTON COUNTY AVERAGE SIZE IS 79.9 ACRES**

The number of farms in the County of Washington, State of Pennsylvania, as shown by the preliminary count of returns of the 1945 Census of Agriculture was 5,419, as compared with 4,366 in 1940, and 5,072 in 1935. This was announced today by Evelena K. Smith, supervisor for the 1945 farm census in the Fourth Pennsylvania Census District with headquarters at Greensburg, Pa.

The total land in farms in Washington County, according to the preliminary 1945 census count, was 432,718 acres, as compared with 415,318 acres in 1940, and

470,422 acres in 1935. Average size of farms shown in the preliminary 1945 census count for Washington county was 79.9 acres as compared with 95.1 acres in 1935.

In announcing the 1945 census totals of farms and land in farms in Washington County, Supervisor Smith pointed out that the figures are preliminary and subject to correction. Final tabulations of Washington County farm census returns will be made by the Bureau of the Census and announced from Washington when completed.

**1945 Census  
Reveals 5,419 Farms in County  
Burgettstown Enterprise- August 30, 1945 Edition**

## FAIR EXHIBIT

The Guernsey Breeders Association of Washington County is planning an outstanding exhibit of their breed at the Washington County Fair, July 29 to July 31.

William H. Hutchison, of West Alexander, secretary, and Jonathan Day, president, have been soliciting support of district breeders and report several breeders will exhibit small groups of cattle to make a representative display at the fair. Breeders from Washington and Westmoreland counties have indicated they will show their cattle at the fair.

Washington County Holstein Breeders Club, under the leadership of M. Reed Welch, of Hickory, chairman, and George G. Paxton, Washington, R. D. 1, secretary, are rounding up Holstein exhibits from the Southwestern Pennsylvania District. Holstein breeders held their Black and White show Wednesday July 31, third day of the fair.

Regular fair classes in all livestock were judged Tuesday, July 30.

J. Ed Smith, manager of the fair this year, reports many entries.

Liberal premiums are offered in all farm and home products departments in Floral Hall. Entries in these departments were received until Monday afternoon July 29.

**COUNTY FAIR IS  
BEING INCORPORATED**

Approximately 125 names appear on the petition for incorporation of the Washington County Agricultural Fair, the organization composed of Granges, members of live stock organizations, and other groups interested in staging the annual show at Arden Downs, near Washington.

Committees in all townships are now engaged in a canvass for subscribers for additional shares.

Subscribers from this vicinity include: John C. Farrar, McDonald; Rev. J. V. Stevenson, Bulger R. D. 1; J. B. Henderson, Hickory, R.D. 1; Allison Bros., Hickory; Lee R. Scott, Burgettstown, R. D. 3; Harris Smith, Bulger; H. M. Lee, Burgettstown; Cross Creek Grange No. 1751; John L. Post, Avella; James A. Scott, Burgettstown R. D. 3; Burgettstown Grange No. 1502.

## Washington Fair Officers.

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The Washington County Agricultural Society held a meeting in the Town Hall Tuesday afternoon, and elected the following officers: President, John McDowell; Vice President, John H. Ewing, Julius LeMoyné, J. C. McNary, Secretary and Treasurer, A. G. Happer; Corresponding Secretary, John Aiken; board of managers, Duning Hart, James Glass, Robert Wylie, William Paul, James F. Gabby, R. D. Wylie, W. M. Dinsmore, Harry Shirls, John Vance, James McClelland, R. M. Fitzwilliams, J. C. French. There has been some opposition to the sale of the grounds, and a vote on the subject was taken. By a vote of 51 to 24 it was decided the grounds must go.

## County Fair Schedule

Twelve county and local fairs are scheduled in Pennsylvania during the two-week period starting September 24, according to dates reported to the State Department of Agriculture.

The name, place and date of these fairs are:

Name	Place	Date
Wayne county .....	Honesdale .....	Sept. 24-28
Doylestown- .....	Doylestown .....	Sept 24-28
Columbia county .....	Bloomsburg .....	Sept. 24-28
Sullivan county .....	Forksville .....	Sept. 25-28
Townville .....	Townville .....	Sept. 26-28
Edinboro .....	Edinboro .....	Sept. 26-28
Manheim .....	Manheim .....	Sept. 26-28
Union Agricultural .....	Burgettstown .....	Oct. 1-3
York county .....	York .....	Oct. 1-5
Lycoming county .....	Hughesville .....	Oct. 1-5
New Holland .....	New Holland .....	Oct. 3-5
Manor .....	Millersville .....	Oct. 3-5

## County Fair Schedule

Burgettstown Enterprise—September 25, 1935 Edition

# **Tavern Keepers**

**Washington County, PA**

**1797-1803**

*Courtesy of Fort Vance Historical Society*

TAVERN KEEPERS    1797-1803

by Ruth E. Renton

Quarter Sessions Book #3, April 1797-August 1803, Washington County, Pennsylvania has these "Tavern Keepers recommended to be licensed by the Court". Nearly all "paid fees and filed bonds" each year. A few did not, perhaps because they did not open for business, or possibly the court official neglected to make the "paid and filed" entry. Many of these would also have kept an Inn.

Joseph ALEXANDER    Frederick Town    1802, 1803  
 Josiah ALLEN        Smiths            1798-1803  
 John ARBUCKLE      Fallowfield      1798-1803  
 Jacob ARNOLD        Frederick Town    1799-1801  
 Joseph AYRES        Findley           1803

James BARCLAY      Peters            1797, 1798  
 Abner BEEDLE        (no place given) 1802  
 Samuel BLACK        Nottingham       1803  
 Adam BLAIR          Bethlehem         1803  
 Andrew BOGGS        Fallowfield      1797-1799  
 John BRADSHAW      Canton            1798-1800  
 John BUCHANNON     Middletown       1799-1801  
 Jonathan BUCHANAN   Middletown       1803  
 Robert BURKE        Canonsburgh     1797

Joshua CANNON      Cannonsburg      1801-1803  
 William CAROTHERS/CUROOTHERS Hopewell    1801-1803  
 Wm. CARTER          Amwell            1802,1803  
 Richard CHAPMAN    Chartiers         1797-1802  
 William CHIDESTER   (no place given) 1802  
 Thomas COOCH        Canton            1797  
 Ziba COOK           Amwell            1797-1801  
 William COOPER     Buffaloe          1803  
 Robert CORSON       Cross Creek       1802  
 Samuel COULTER     Chartiers         1798  
 John CROSSEN        (no place given) 1801

George DAY          Smiths            1797  
 John DAY            Smiths/Burgets Town 1798-1800  
 Brewer DECKER      Canton            1800-1802  
 John DEVORE         Donegall          1798-1801  
 Richard DONALDSON   Smiths            1797-1799  
 Richard DONALDSON   Chartiers         1800,1801  
 Michael DOLIN       Washington         1797,1798  
 Levi DUNGAN         Hanover           1798

William FERGUSON    WilliamsPort     1798  
 Charles FOX          Washington        1797-1803  
 William FRAZER      Washington        1797

John GARDNER        Cross Creek       1799,1801,1803  
 Neil/Neal GILLESPIE   East Bethlehem    1798-1802



TAVERN KEEPERS Continued

Jacob GOOD Washington 1803  
 Nehemiah GREEN Alexander 1799  
  
 Absalom HAWKINS Bethlehem 1803  
 Thomas HELMS/HELLEMS/HALLAM(S) Amwell 1798-1803  
 George HENDERSON Donegall 1798  
 Sidney HERRIOTT Williams Port 1797,1798  
 Thomas HILL Bethlehem 1797  
 John HOGE Chartiers 1797,1801  
 Andrew HOLL/HULL Bethlehem 1799-1803  
 Anthony HORSTMAN East Bethlehem/Fredericktown 1797-1800  
 Joseph HUSTON Washington 1797-1803  
  
 Francis IRWIN Can(n)onsburgh 1797-1803  
  
 Benjamin JAMES Frederick Town 1797  
 John JAMISON East Bethlehem 1803  
 Thomas JANNEY Washington 1797  
 Isaac JENKINSON Frederick Town 1801,1802  
 Jane JOHNSTON Washington 1797  
 John JOHNSTON Nottingham 1801,1802  
 Christian JOST East Bethlehem 1797-1803  
  
 Valentine KINDER Bethlehem 1803  
 William KNOX Buffaloe 1803  
  
 (John) Julius LeMOYNE Strabane/Washington 1797-1803  
 Juliana LOUGHMAN Frederick Town 1800  
 Michael LOUGHMAN Frederick Town 1799  
 Joseph LUDLOW Summerset 1798  
  
 James McCALL Cecil 1798  
 James McCALLISTER Fallowfield 1797  
 William McCAMMANT Washington 1800-1803  
 Ludwick McCARROLL Chartiers 1798  
 Michael McCLUNEY Hopewell 1799  
 James McCONNEL Smiths 1797  
 William McCORMICK/McCORMACK Hopewell 1799-1803  
 Andrew McCOWN Chartiers 1801  
 Andrew McCOWN Mt. Pleasant 1802  
 John McCRAKIN Donegall 1797-1803  
 Andrew McCUNE Mt. Pleasant 1803  
 Rachel McGIFFIN Canonsburgh 1800  
 Thomas McGIFFIN Canonsburgh 1797-1799  
 Robert McGOWAN Canton 1799-1803  
 Alexander McKNIGHT Donegall 1798  
  
 William MARSHAL Chartiers 1802,1803  
 Charles MAYS/MAYES Alexandria 1799-1803  
 Forest MEEKER East Bethlehem 1800  
 Charity MEEKS Bethlehem 1799-1801  
 Samuel MEEKS Bethlehem 1797,1798  
 Wm. MEEKS Bethlehem 1802,1803  
 Philip MILCHSACK Washington 1797  
 Joseph MILLER Robeson 1797  
 Samuel MILLER Smiths/Burget's Town 1799-1803

TAVERN KEEPERS Continued

Andrew MOORE Middletown 1799,1800  
 David MORRIS Washington 1798-1803  
 Jesse MORRIS East Bethlehem 1803  
 Duncan MORRISON Donegal/Alexander 1799  
 William MORROW Cannonsburgh 1802  
 Abraham MOSSER Washington 1803  
 Matthias MOUNTZ Taylor's Town 1803  
 Andrew MUNRO(E) Can(n)onsburgh 1797-1802 [Esq.1802]

John NEAL (no place given) 1802  
 Eleanor NEIL West Bethlehem 1803

Thomas OFFICER Washington 1798-1803

Simon PANCOAST (no place given) 1801  
 Benjamin PARKESON Nottingham 1797,1798  
 James PARKESON Nottingham 1798  
 Joseph PARKESON/PARKINSON Nottingham/Williams Port 1797-1803  
 James PATTESON Cannonsburg 1803  
 Nathan PATTERSON Smiths 1801-1803  
 Isaac PETTIT Amity 1803  
 Nathaniel PORTER Fallowfield 1802,1803  
 John POTTS Middletown 1801  
 John PURSEL East Bethlehem 1797  
 John PURVIANCE Washington 1797-1802

John RAMSEY Straban 1801-1803  
 Nathaniel REDD Fallowfield/Somerset 1800-1803  
 James ROBESON Amwell 1802  
 James and/or Joseph ROBESON Canton 1798  
 Joseph ROBESON Canton 1799  
 Moses ROBESON (no place given) 1800  
 John ROBINSON East Bethlehem 1800-1803  
 Rowland ROGERS Burgets Town/Smiths 1800,1801

Abraham SCOTT Straban 1798  
 Abraham SCOTT Hopewell 1799  
 John SCOTT Washington 1797-1800  
 Moses SCOTT Williamsport 1803  
 Samuel SHEARER Hopewell 1797  
 Samuel SHENAN/SHANNON Washington 1797-1801  
 Daniel SHUSTER/SHASTER Amwell 1797-1803  
 William SLEMONS Hopewell 1797  
 William SLEMONS the elder Hopewell 1803  
 Christopher SMITH Robeson 1798,1803  
 Ludwick/Lodwick/Lodowick SMITH Straban(e) 1797-1803  
 Wm./William SMITH Donegal/Finley 1801-1803  
 Zachariah SMITH Bethlehem 1799,1800,1802,1803  
 Michael SOURS/SOWERS East/West Bethlehem 1798-1802  
 Galbre(a)th STUART/STEWART Hopewell/Middletown  
 1797,1798,1801-1803

James STUART Alexandria 1798  
 Robert STOCKTON, Jr. Donegall 1797

TAVERN KEEPERS Continued

Robert TAYLOR Donegall/New Brunswick 1798-1800,1803  
 David TIDBALL Peters 1798  
 Edward TODD Nottingham 1797,1798,1801  
 William TOLINS Chartiers 1801  
 George TOWNSLEY Amwell 1797,1798

Charles VALENTINE Washington 1797-1803

James G. WARD BurgettsTown 1803  
 Richard WARD Nottingham 1797,1798  
 Henry WESTBAY Can(n)onsburgh 1797-1803  
 Isaac WHITEMAN Amwell 1798  
 Henry WICK Amwell/Amity 1799-1802  
 Robert WILKIN Hopewell/Middletown 1797-1801  
 Leaven/Leavin WILLIAMS Donegall 1797,1798  
 David WILLIAMSON Washington 1799  
 David WILSON Hopewell 1802,1803  
 William WILSON Washington 1800,1801  
 John WOLF Donegall 1798  
 John WOLF(F) Buffalo 1799-1802  
 James WOODBURN Alexander 1797  
 John WOODBURN Alexander/Donegal 1798-1803  
 James WORKMAN Straban/Amwell 1797-1803

John YOUNG Taylor's Town/Buffaloe 1803

END TAVERN KEEPERS 1797-1803

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Washington County, PA  
Initial Reassessment  
Property Values  
2017

## INITIAL REASSESSMENT PROPERTY VALUES

MUNICIPAL DISTRICT	OLD VALUE	NEW VALUE	FACTOR
ALLENPORT BOROUGH	\$2,609,832	\$28,216,770	10.81
AMWELL TOWNSHIP	\$24,009,791	\$278,497,010	11.60
BEALLSVILLE BOROUGH	\$1,762,415	\$23,295,010	13.22
BENTLEYVILLE BOROUGH	\$11,683,320	\$136,129,326	11.65
BLAINE TOWNSHIP	\$3,465,509	\$43,902,690	12.67
BUFFALO TOWNSHIP	\$14,038,249	\$158,618,724	11.30
BURGETTSTOWN BOROUGH	\$6,374,762	\$74,325,200	11.66
CALIFORNIA BOROUGH	\$21,889,059	\$213,650,355	9.76
CANONSBURG BOROUGH	\$48,467,806	\$551,808,780	11.39
CANTON TOWNSHIP	\$46,542,268	\$496,211,000	10.66
CARROLL TOWNSHIP	\$35,763,341	\$334,905,678	9.36
CECIL TOWNSHIP	\$161,358,502	\$1,988,391,937	12.32
CENTERVILLE BOROUGH	\$15,322,828	\$179,333,460	11.70
CHARLEROI BOROUGH	\$15,557,627	\$132,630,480	8.53
CHARTIERS TOWNSHIP	\$62,731,284	\$674,898,032	10.76
CLAYSVILLE BOROUGH	\$2,786,425	\$34,408,740	12.35
COAL CENTER BOROUGH	\$395,073	\$5,332,300	13.50
COKEBURG BOROUGH	\$1,832,778	\$19,357,950	10.56
CROSS CREEK TOWNSHIP	\$8,853,463	\$103,993,460	11.75
DEEMSTON BOROUGH	\$3,488,977	\$54,412,280	15.60
DONEGAL TOWNSHIP	\$14,438,310	\$164,652,870	11.40
DONORA BOROUGH & ANNEX	\$16,712,282	\$135,526,140	8.11
DUNLEVY BOROUGH	\$1,777,296	\$17,123,680	9.63
EAST BETHLEHEM TOWNSHIP	\$7,332,004	\$90,667,190	12.37
EAST FINLEY TOWNSHIP	\$11,984,549	\$110,377,709	9.21
EAST WASHINGTON BOROUGH	\$10,618,676	\$109,010,570	10.27
ELCO BOROUGH	\$956,231	\$9,696,920	10.14
ELLSWORTH BOROUGH	\$2,895,748	\$26,970,030	9.31
FALLOWFIELD TOWNSHIP	\$22,902,724	\$242,564,060	10.59
FINLEYVILLE BOROUGH	\$2,278,056	\$23,442,190	10.29
GREENHILLS BOROUGH	\$795,205	\$10,400,370	13.08
HANOVER TOWNSHIP	\$17,941,523	\$221,844,410	12.36
HOPEWELL TOWNSHIP	\$5,922,643	\$83,078,730	14.03
HOUSTON BOROUGH	\$5,601,010	\$65,366,000	11.67
INDEPENDENCE TOWNSHIP	\$8,413,598	\$95,943,075	11.40
JEFFERSON TOWNSHIP	\$6,583,679	\$88,520,815	13.45
LONG BRANCH BOROUGH	\$2,362,927	\$25,545,020	10.81
MARIANNA BOROUGH	\$994,306	\$9,190,100	9.24
MIDWAY BOROUGH	\$3,806,415	\$38,101,800	10.01
CITY OF MONONGAHELA	\$17,359,315	\$182,035,610	10.49
MORRIS TOWNSHIP	\$11,118,394	\$98,285,476	8.84
MT PLEASANT TOWNSHIP	\$25,670,960	\$297,118,810	11.57
MCDONALD BOROUGH	\$6,044,454	\$83,260,300	13.77
MCDONALD BOROUGH ANNEX	\$1,445,321	\$15,614,400	10.80
NEW EAGLE BOROUGH	\$8,526,981	\$85,982,070	10.08
NORTH BETHLEHEM TOWNSHIP	\$9,770,972	\$113,994,380	11.67

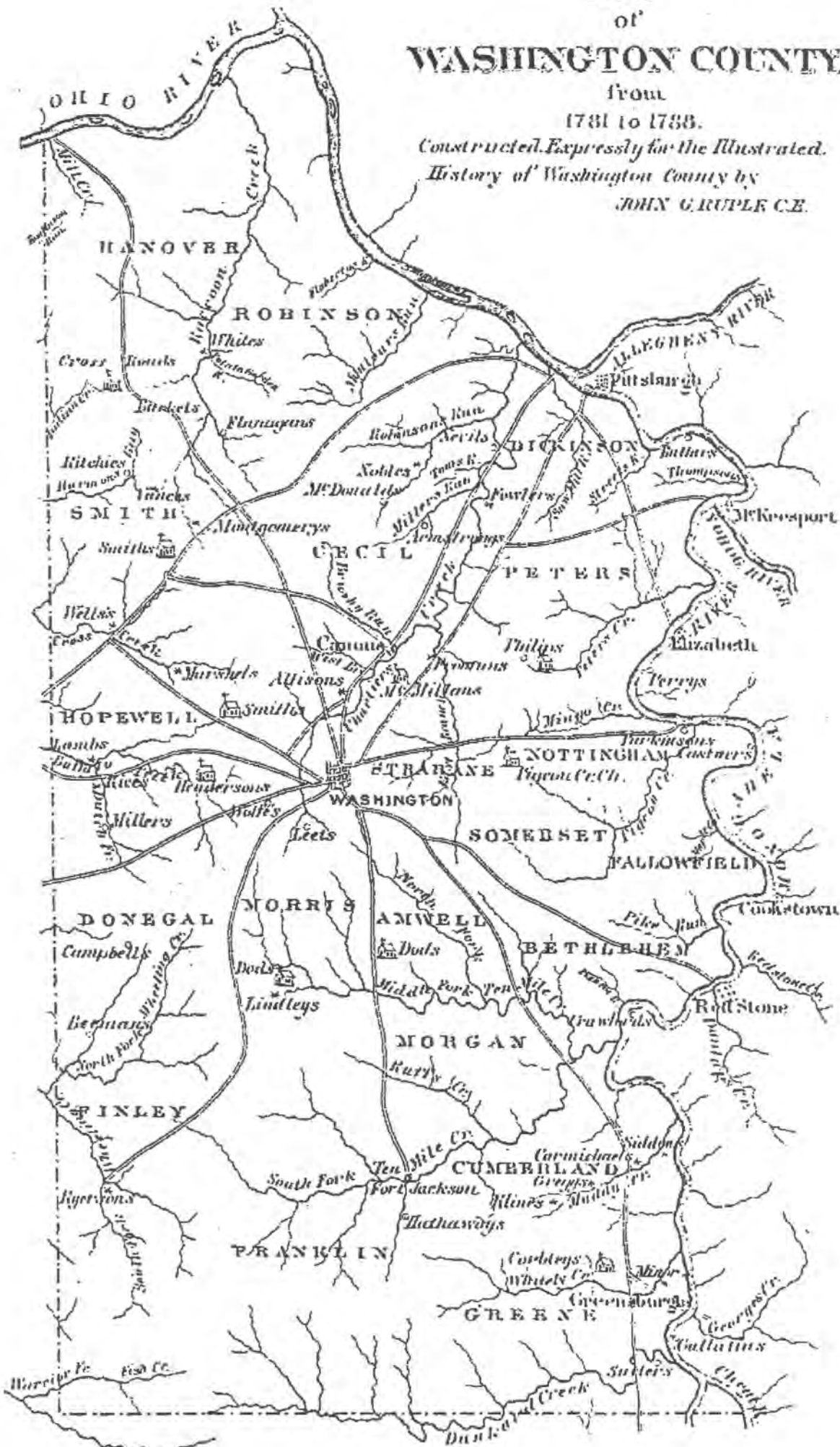
NORTH CHARLEROI BOROUGH	\$4,266,184	\$34,244,270	8.03
NORTH FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP	\$35,871,249	\$461,874,540	12.88
NORTH STRABANE TOWNSHIP	\$201,588,655	\$2,007,149,890	9.96
NOTTINGHAM TOWNSHIP	\$28,018,094	\$292,046,578	10.42
PETERS TOWNSHIP	\$346,802,274	\$3,110,187,050	8.97
ROBINSON TOWNSHIP	\$11,477,287	\$133,073,730	11.59
ROSCOE BOROUGH	\$2,766,618	\$26,851,900	9.71
SMITH TOWNSHIP	\$21,010,569	\$265,412,010	12.63
SOMERSET TOWNSHIP	\$18,983,098	\$214,777,195	11.31
SOUTH FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP	\$25,049,067	\$264,367,680	10.55
SOUTH STRABANE TOWNSHIP	\$115,898,096	\$1,291,721,430	11.15
SPEERS BOROUGH	\$9,895,553	\$90,816,040	9.18
STOCKDALE BOROUGH	\$1,728,504	\$20,699,200	11.98
TWILIGHT BOROUGH	\$1,093,708	\$9,415,140	8.61
UNION TOWNSHIP	\$37,028,023	\$379,209,345	10.24
WEST BETHLEHEM TOWNSHIP	\$6,108,263	\$77,012,620	12.61
WEST BROWNSVILLE BOROUGH & ANNEX	\$4,018,728	\$42,529,870	10.58
WEST FINLEY TOWNSHIP	\$7,519,157	\$71,729,010	9.54
WEST MIDDLETOWN BOROUGH	\$571,272	\$6,977,518	12.21
WEST PIKE RUN TOWNSHIP	\$7,958,539	\$89,820,099	11.29
CITY OF WASHINGTON	\$56,281,430	\$580,513,740	10.31

<u>SCHOOL DISTRICT</u>	<u>OLD VALUE</u>	<u>NEW VALUE</u>	<u>FACTOR</u>
AVELLA	23,760,976	289,992,783	12.20
BENTWORTH	45,165,916	511,228,811	11.32
BETH CENTER	35,008,793	433,910,660	12.39
BURGETTSTOWN	51,910,533	650,102,435	12.52
CALIFORNIA	42,957,007	441,643,234	10.28
CANON-MCMILLAN	411,414,963	4,547,350,607	11.05
CHARLEROI	57,221,596	547,492,870	9.57
CHARTIERS-HOUSTON	68,332,294	740,264,032	10.83
FORT CHERRY	48,444,437	567,169,040	11.71
MCGUFFEY	91,194,865	956,743,269	10.49
PETERS	346,802,274	3,110,187,050	8.97
RINGGOLD	145,686,092	1,433,147,611	9.84
TRINITY	222,321,404	2,528,303,980	11.37
WASHINGTON	66,900,106	689,524,310	10.31
<u>COUNTY TOTALS</u>	<u>\$1,657,121,256</u>	<u>\$17,447,060,762</u>	<u>10.53</u>

MAP  
of  
**WASHINGTON COUNTY**

from  
1781 to 1788.

Constructed Expressly for the Illustrated  
History of Washington County by  
**JOHN G. RUPLE C.E.**



## COUNTY ADOPTS USHA PROGRAM

Washington County Commissioners voted unanimously this week to make the County a participant in the U. S. Housing Administration's program of constructing large groups of low-rent houses for low-income families.

At the end of a long meeting during which they conferred with several authorities on the subject, they adopted a "declaration of need" for such projects, the form of resolution required by the USHA. At the same time, they decided to ask the USHA to lay aside \$2,500,000 of its funds for use on building projects in this County.

The Commissioners said they would proceed immediately with the task of naming a five-man County Housing Authority which would be in complete charge of planning projects, supervising construction, and administering the buildings after they are completed.

The County Authority, they explained, would have title to the house groups built, and would be in complete charge of them from the time they were first proposed until they had paid for themselves at the end of a period of 60 years' use.

Of the original County Authority members, one will be appointed for one year, another for two, and the others for three, four and five years each, so that one position will be filled by new appointment or reappointment by the Commissioners each year. After the first five years, each member will serve for five years, with one being renamed or replaced each year.

Under the program, it was explained, finances for construction of group houses — large apartment buildings, rows of houses, or rural groups of houses each with land about it—will be furnished to the Authority by sale of its own bonds of which the U. S. Housing Administration will buy up to 90 per cent of the total cost of a project, and the balance must be sold to private investors.

The County would furnish no money but the Commissioners said they expected to set up from \$1,500 to perhaps \$2,500 in a temporary loan to the County Authority for its initial expenses until it had secured USHA approval and funds for a project, when the loan would be repaid.

Members of the Authority will serve without pay. The only restriction on choosing them, the Commissioners said, is that no more than two of the five members may be men holding salaried public offices.

Under the program as explained, groups of low-rent houses would be constructed to replace "sub-standard" homes of the "slum" type. They would be accupied only by families definitely in the "low income" class. with the County Authority the sole judge on what constitutes "low income." Rents would be held to the lowest figure possible, and a federal subsidy would be received by the County to help keep the rentals within the means of "low income" families.

Through rent collections and the federal subsidy, the bonds issued by the County Authority would be paid off over a period of 60 years, with interest, and when the indebtedness had been cleared at the end of 60 years the housing units would become the property of the County.

The properties during the 60-year period, a USHA official said, would be exempt from local taxation, but he explained it is the practice for County Authorities to pay to boroughs school districts and townships an annual amount equal to the taxes they would have collected from the same families prior to the construction of the houses.

The Commissioners said they took their action after a long investigation of the program. Their action had been urgently advocated by CIO Councils of the County, which were the first to propose that the County participate in the USHA program.

The first act of the County Authority, it was said, will be to make a survey of the need for projects. USHA approval of its findings must later be secured.



# Nonprofit wants historic house

*Bradford House Historical Association only organization to express interest in property*

By MIKE JONES  
Staff writer  
mjones@observer-reporter.com

There won't be a rebellion in Washington over which group will take over the historic David Bradford House.

The Bradford House Historical Association was the only organization that sent a "request for interest" letter to the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission to take possession of the 226-year-old building from the state.

PHMC spokesman Howard Pollman said that basically sets the stage for the Bradford House to be donated to the as-

sociation so it can continue to be used as a museum and historical site in Washington.

"There's still work to be done, but they were the only people who submitted a letter," Pollman said.

The Bradford House was among six historic sites in Pennsylvania that were put up for sale last month, as the state Department of General Services requested letters from potential bidders. PHMC and DGS officials met Wednesday afternoon to review all of the letters of interest for the six sites as they prepare for legislation to be drafted this term to formally hand over the proper-

ties to qualified organizations. Pollman did not know if the other five sites in the state received multiple offers.

The Bradford House Historical Association submitted its letter March 26.

There is no timeline for the home to be turned over to the association, although Pollman expected it to be completed this year.

Clay Kilgore, who was director of Bradford House Historical Association until April 1 and is still affiliated with the group, said Wednesday's development is important for the region.

*Please see House, Page A2*



SCOTT BEVERIDGE / OBSERVER-REPORTER

The historic David Bradford House on South Main Street in Washington

He said the association, which managed the property for 30 years, will continue to expand on previous events, such as the Whiskey Rebellion Festival and fundraising dinner, now that it is expected to have possession of the house.

"Those things will continue and that was the reason we wanted to get the home," Kilgore said. "It's such a big part of Washington County history, and the history of the nation."

Kilgore does not expect the detachment from the state will affect the viability of the Bradford House.

The association lost \$8,000 in state funding per year and was left to bear the sole responsibility for the house's operating costs beginning in 2009 during the funding crisis and national recession.

However, the community's response through fundraising events and donations helped the organization, Kilgore said, and will need to continue.

"We're going to rely more on the community and their support," Kilgore said. "We can run with that and will continue to need their support and make this more of a community institution."

In fact, he thinks being independent of the state will ultimately be beneficial for the Bradford House.

"We might have a little more freedom with what we will do," Kilgore said. "That will be our (house). We can shape it, tell a different side of the story and step outside of the Whiskey Rebellion and tell the entire story. We're really excited to get going."

The stone house at 175 S. Main St. was built in 1788 by David Bradford, an attorney who led rebels in a protest of a federal tax on whiskey produced on area farms.

Bradford fled to the South after the rebellion ended in 1794 to avoid being arrested.

**Non-Profit Wants Historic House**  
**Observer-Reporter-April 18, 2014 Edition**

# Trolley museum unveils new car



JIM McNUTT / OBSERVER-REPORTER

The Cincinnati 2227 streetcar rolls again as passengers from Cincinnati, volunteers and contributors get on board for the maiden ride after years of work to get the streetcar back on the tracks at Pennsylvania Trolley Museum in Arden Tuesday.

## *Streetcar built in 1919 restored, modified for display*

By AARON J. KENDEALL  
Staff writer  
akendeall@observer-reporter.com

About 70 people attended the unveiling of the newly renovated Car 2227, a streetcar that began running the rails in Ohio nearly a century ago.

"It's a beautiful car," said Scott Becker, executive director of the Pennsylvania Trolley Museum. "We're happy to have it and we feel very lucky that we had so many generous people that made donations to make it possible."

Car 2227 was built in 1919 and originally ran on the

**"IT'S A BEAUTIFUL CAR. WE'RE HAPPY TO HAVE IT AND WE FEEL VERY LUCKY THAT WE HAD SO MANY PEOPLE THAT MADE DONATIONS TO MAKE IT POSSIBLE."**

SCOTT BECKER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE PENNSYLVANIA TROLLEY MUSEUM

Cincinnati Street Railway. When that city abandoned its streetcar system in 1951, it served in Cleveland, Ohio, before making it to several train and trolley museums in Ohio. It was shipped to the Pennsylvania Trolley Museum in Washington in 2009.

Becker said the museum

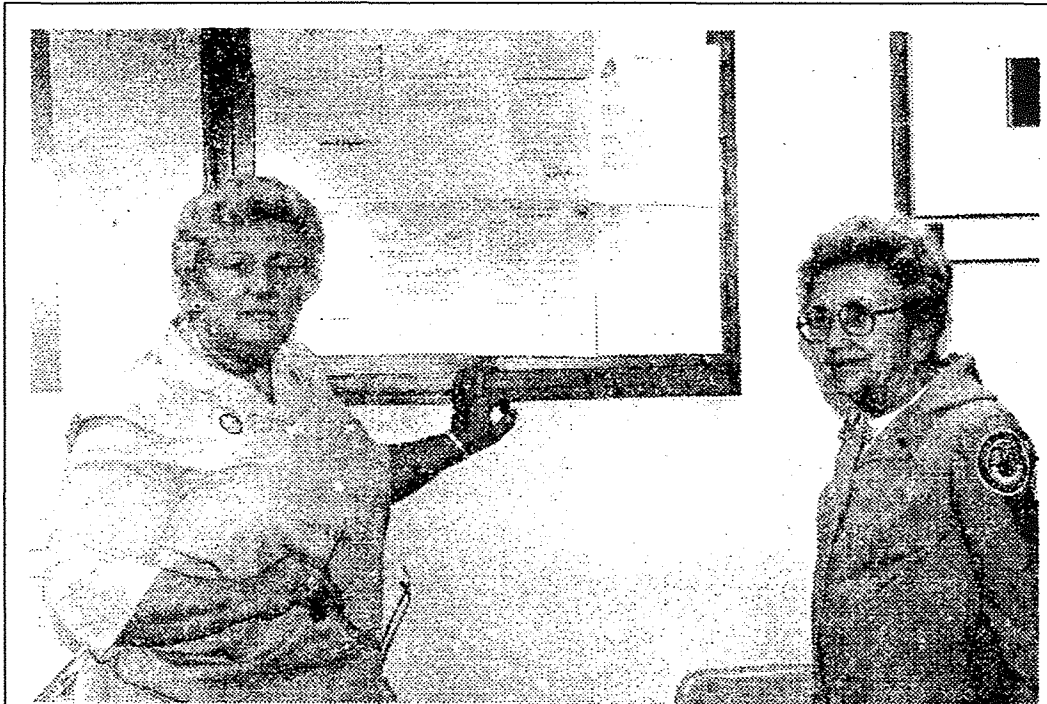
has spent that last four years and roughly \$70,000 renovating the streetcar. The undercarriage had to be modified to fit the wider tracks at museum's 4-mile course and Ohio company Swiger Coil Systems donated the overhaul of the four trolley motors that power the car.

The classic orange-and-cream streetcar with decked roof and black wheels, lettering and striping will soon be thrilling visitors. The new arrival to the museum's fleet arrives just in time for the museum's 50th anniversary – which it celebrates this year.

"We're going to operate it in the museum and display it," Becker said. "It's part of our mission to preserve and interpret the trolley era – and it's a classic."

More information on the Pennsylvania Trolley Museum can be found at its website, [www.pa-trolley.org](http://www.pa-trolley.org).

**Trolley Museum  
Washington Observer-May 2013**



### ***Letters Of Thanks Displayed***

Helen Gable, left, and Frances Maher, volunteers at the Weirton Medical Center, display letters of praise received during National Volunteer Week. Letters commending volunteers for their invaluable contributions of time and energy were sent by officials such as Gov. Arch A. Moore Jr., Sen. Robert C. Byrd, Sen. Jay Rockefeller, area clergy and others.

**Weirton Medical Center-Letters of Thanks Displayed  
Burgettstown Enterprise-May 25, 1988 Edition**

*Courtesy of Fort Vance Historical Society*

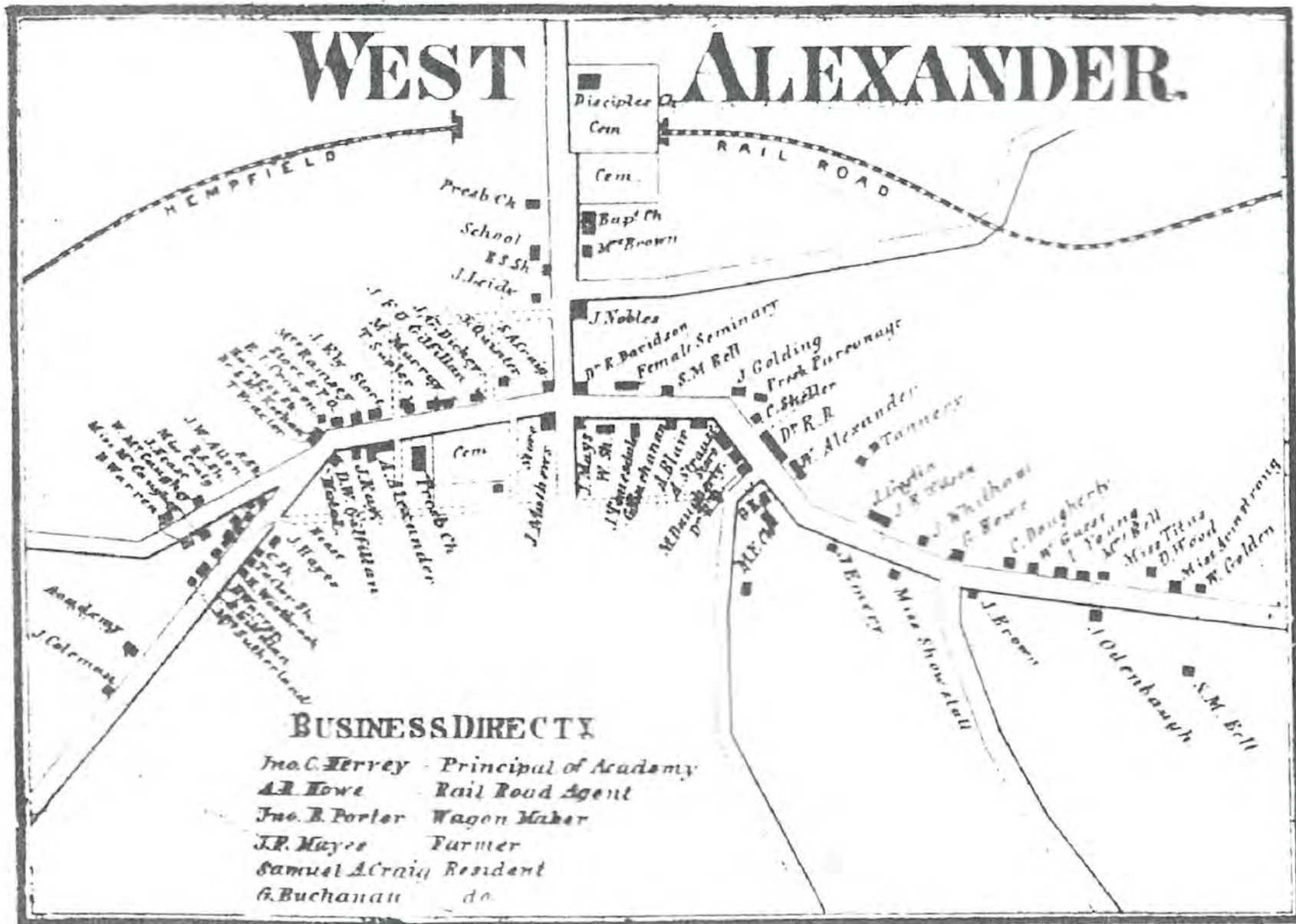
## **WEIRTON MEN HUNTED FOR 2 SAFE ROBBERIES**

Law enforcement agencies in the tri-state area were asked by police of Hollidays Cove to be on the lookout for two Weirton men, wanted for questioning in the theft of \$218 from safes Friday night in Hollidays.

Police said the men, both of whom have served time in prison for similar offenses, are suspected of looting the safes in the Sam Kusie garage and the office of the Scott Lumber Co.

Thieves obtained \$40.50 in cash from the garage and \$178.64 at the lumber firm's office. Two checks totaling \$200 were taken from the lumber office, but are considered worthless in the hands of the burglars.

Almost exact similarities in the jobs Friday and the blasting of the Bowers Supply Co., and the Cattrell Lumber Co., safes last June, led authorities to believe the same persons are involved. No clues have been uncovered by police. Possible fingerprints had been all wiped off by the thieves.



West Alexander-1861 Business Directory  
By A. Pomeroy and S.W. Treit



H. H. McDONALD.

President of the West Alexander Farmers' Fair Association.

# WEST ALEXANDER FARMERS' FAIR OPENS EIGHTH EXHIBITION TODAY

## The Annual Show Promises This Year to Be Bigger and Better Than Ever --- Program of Events For the Three Days.

West Alexander, Sept. 18. — The eighth annual exhibition of the West Alexander Farmers' Fair association opens here to-morrow and will be held on the grounds about one mile east of this place. The fair will be held Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday and will be one of the important events of the season in this section of the county as well as the adjoining county of Brooke, W. Va. From the present indications, with good weather the fair promises to eclipse any previous exhibition that has been held by the association.

This fair ranks among the best of the small country fairs and has always been a good drawing card from both states, the people arranging from year to year to meet at this place in sort of a family reunion. A greater interest has been taken in the fair this year than in former years and it is expected that a larger crowd will be in attendance than any year since the organization of the association. In view of this fact the association has enlarged the grounds in order to take care of the immense crowd that is anticipated. The new territory will be used for hitching grounds. A number of other improvements have been made on the grounds this year preparatory to taking care of the large stock exhibit that will be in evidence.

Last year the stock exhibit was so large that it was necessary to enlarge the sheds after the fair had begun and this year new stables have been erected. Nearly all the departments are full to-day as the secretary, Frank B. Gould has received more inquiries for entry blanks than any former year. The exhibit of fine cattle will exceed anything of the kind that has been at

the fair. A number of fine herds will be present from West Virginia as well as Washington county. Many entries have been made in the sheep, swine and poultry departments which will prove an attraction as last year's exhibit was beyond the ordinary in these exhibits.

The "trail" will be one of the principal attractions this year as to-day a large number of "takirs" of various descriptions have arrived and are pitching their tents along the "trail," or midway. The association has barred all gambling schemes from the grounds. Floral hall will be filled with the productions received from the farming districts as the crops this year were beyond the ordinary and the exhibits of fruit will be the finest in years.

The racing will be the principal feature of the last two days as a number of good speeders have been entered for the contests and it is understood that more horsemen will be present at the time of the opening to-morrow. The ladies' riding and driving contests will prove a feature of the day's attractions also.

This year the association has secured the services of policemen from Wheeling and good order will be kept on the grounds throughout the fair. A new feature that has been added this season is the privilege of selling live stock at public outcry each afternoon at 3 o'clock. The West Alexander cornet band has been engaged to furnish music during the fair. The management of the association has made arrangements with the B. & O. for reduced rates on Wednesday and Thursday, and train No. 104 for the east, due at West Alexander at 6 p. m. will

stop to receive passengers on those two days. The Wheeling & Edin Grove railroad will sell excursion tickets of one fare for the round trip during the fair.

The following officers will have charge during the fair: H. H. McDonald, president; H. O. Campsey, vice president; F. B. Gould, secretary; W. C. Henderson, treasurer; J. R. Ealy, Joseph Wetzel, W. F. Whitham, H. B. Carroll, W. S. Armstrong, H. H. McDonald, James Beal, Ham Craig, W. H. Nichols, J. M. Timmons, J. P. Whitham, C. E. Crothers, W. F. Kimmins, H. O. Campsey and E. E. Blayney, directors.

Superintendents — Horses, E. E. Blayney; sheep, W. F. Whitham; cattle, J. P. Whitham; swine, Hamilton Craig; poultry, —; machinery, Joseph Wetzel; farm and garden products, Brice Gorden; main hall, H. M. Yates, privileges, Leroy Alexander; music, J. M. Timmons.

Ladies' department — Eighth department, Mrs. W. F. Whitham, Mrs. Stout; ninth department, Mrs. Anna Craig, Mrs. D. A. Spragg; tenth department, Mrs. Jennie Link, Mrs. John Grimes; eleventh department, Miss Maude Armstrong, Miss Sue Chaney.

The following is the racing program: On Wednesday there will be two races — At 1:30 p. m., free-for-all pace, best three in five heats, purse \$60; at 2:30 p. m., farm horse trot or pace, best three in five heats, mile, purse \$25.

Thursday will be the big day of the fair. At 12:30, cavalcade; 1:30, ladies' driving contest, prize a gold watch; 2:30, free-for-all trot, best three in five heats, purse \$60; 3:30, double trot, free-for-all, best three in five heats, purse \$35.



F. B. GOULD.

Secretary of the West Alexander Farmers' Fair Association.

**West Alexander Farmers' Fair Opens Eighth Exhibition Today**  
**The Washington Observer-September 19, 1905 Edition**

## **W. Middletown Opens Post Office**

The new post office in West Middletown officially opened its doors Saturday morning, Dec. 10, according to Mayor Ronald D. Buchanan. The new facility is in the former Brownlee's Equipment building behind the Dairy Queen.

For 32 years, the former post office was in the home of postmaster Marjorie P. King.

"There are a lot of benefits to the new post office," said Ms. King, who

has been postmaster there for that entire time. "There's a lot more room, but it's a little rough now because of all the boxes."

When asked how it felt not to have the post office in her home for the first time in three decades, Ms. King said, "I don't know yet. I've been so busy down at the new post office, I really don't know."

As for the reason for the move, Ms. King said, "The post office department is phasing out the older post offices that are located in private homes."

Mayor Buchanan said, "The new post office will certainly be an asset to our town. It is a larger facility and the building has been completely remodeled. There will be parking available."

The West Middletown post office serves 220 to 250 people. All mail is delivered to postal boxes in the post office. There is no rural delivery.

Hours for the new facility will remain the same — 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and 3 to 5 p.m. Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays; and 8 a.m. to noon and 3 to 5 p.m. Wednesdays. The post office is open Saturdays from 8 a.m. to noon.

**West Middletown Opens Post Office**  
**Burgettstown Enterprise-December 21, 1988 Edition**

*Courtesy of Fort Vance Historical Society*

A letter to Percy F. Smith of Pittsburgh, from Matthew McKeever.  
(Copy)

"Yours of Sept. 11 came duly to hand wishing me to tell you what I know of "Old John Brown." I was intimately acquainted with him; he came to me in the winter of 1842 to buy some fine sheep. I sold him 30 fine ewes. (I do not remember the price). He said he had rented a large farm and would like to go into the sheep business, but had not the means to buy; would like to have some of the shares for four years, on condition which I send you written with his own hand; and also a letter after he had taken off the first clip. The wool was sent to Lowell and I received half the money.

After that a wealthy man named Simon Perkins, who lived near Akron, Summit County, Ohio, who owned a large farm—he and Brown agreed to go into partnership and go into the wool growing largely. My interest being in the way, they wrote to me to know what I would take for my interest in the 200 ewes. I wrote them that they know what they were worth better than I; for them to write me what they would give and I would answer whether I would take it or not. They answered by making me an offer of \$2400, \$1800 in hand and a note for \$600, to be paid in the Massillon Bank, Massillon, Ohio. When I got the letter I went out, got the money and note; signed my right over to tem, and came home.

Among hands I lost the note and wrote the bank if anyone offered it there not to receive it. When the note came due I wrote a receipt against the note and got my brother Thomas to sign it and I went over to get the money. Mr. Perkins said he did not know me or my brother, but if I would get Samuel Patterson to sign it he would pay the money. I told him that I could get 50 names to it if he wanted them. I came home, got Patterson's name on it. I sent the receipt back with Campbell McKeever and Perkins paid him the money—all but one dollar—which he kept out to fee a lawyer. Old John Brown followed Campbell out and told him his father had no right to lose that dollar and gave him one. If ever there was a man honest to a fault, it was this 'Old John Brown'. I believe if he owed a man 10 cents he would go 10 miles out of his way to give it to him, if he could not get it to him any other way.

You wished to know something of my experience with the underground railroad. I was a director of that road for 40 years. The kind of car we used was a good spring wagon, with a chickencoop in each end and the Darkies in the middle, with a good cover over them.

The most slaves I ever shipped at once was eight. They came to our house about daybreak one morning before any of us were up, except a colored man, John Jordan; he took them and hid them on the sheep shed loft and kept them there four weeks, and although we had a family of 18 or 20, there was not one of them knew they were there, not even my wife. They were fed all of the time out of our spring house and kitchen by John Jordan.

There was never anything discovered, only a hires girl told Mrs. McKeever somebody was stealing our bread.

That was the first time we ever kept any of them, and our reason this time was because we supposed their masters were watching the Canadian shore, which happened to be true; but they got tires waiting.

The next lot shipped was one which was bought from Wheeling, W.Va., to Bethany, Brook County, W.Va., to my brother-in-law's, Joseph Bryant, who lived there, who was a great Abolitionist. At the time my son Campbell was going to school there and Bryant sent



them to my House with William Arney and Campbell, and I shipped them to Pittsburgh. This fellow that brought them to Bryant's turned 'states evidence' and told their masters of Bryant's feeding them and sending them away; and their masters set the sheriff on Bryant and took him to Wheeling, he was there 15 days before the court came off, and while he was there they offered \$500 to anyone who would bring me to Wheeling dead or alive.

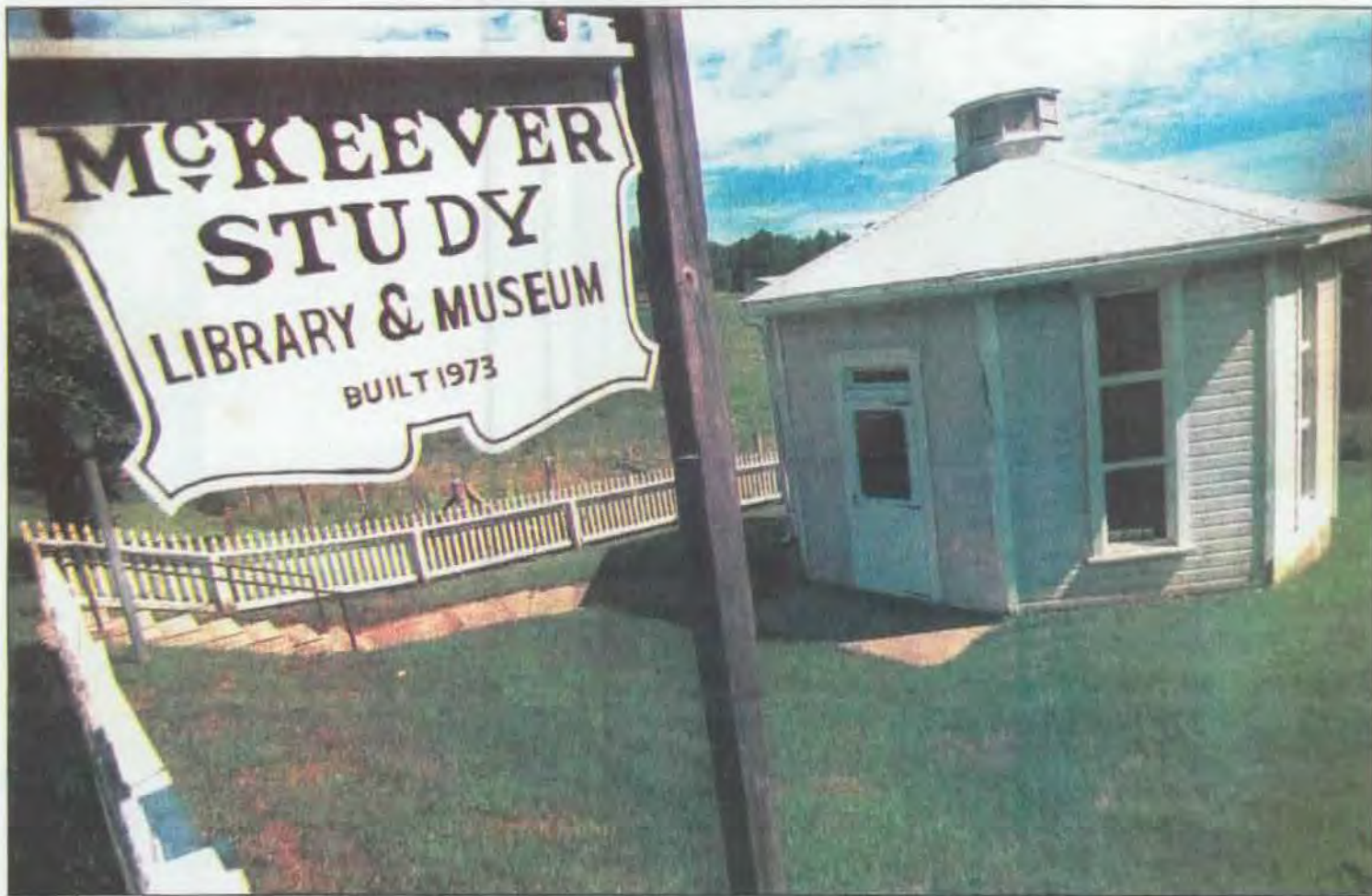
But I did not venture down about that time.

They kept fellow who brought them to Bryant for a witness, and when court came off the Judge decided 'that they could not punish an accomplice while the principal was a large,' and Bryant was sent home. Had other cases similar. My brother Tommy shipped a good many. I think as near as I can recollect the number I shipped was about 35 or 40.

I was acquainted with a great many slaves and their masters, and I never advised a slave to run away from his master, but when they came to me I helped them all I could. When Brown was to be hung his brother came to me and we went to Wheeling. I telegraphed to F.A. Wise to know if he could see his brother if he would come. Wise answered, 'No, he could not see him if he did come,' so we came back to West Middletown and Brown delivered two or three Abolition lectures and went back to Ohio.

"Yours respectfully,

"Matthew McKeever"



GREG TARR / THE OBSERVER-REPORTER

While McKeeever Study Library & Museum in West Middletown is hardly an imposing structure, the contents of the small building open the door to the community's past.

# A 'study' in history

## Small building connects West Middletown to its 19th century heyday

**BY LINDA METZ**  
THE OBSERVER-REPORTER  
lmetz@observer-reporter.com

**WEST MIDDLETOWN** - In the center of the small borough of West Middletown is McKeeever Study Library & Museum.

Passers-by can't help but notice the small octagonal building, which sits alone on a slight slope in a grassy lot surrounded by a white picket fence along Route 844. But it's the unusual structure's contents that are the real point of interest.

Inside are facts and figures, dates and times, names and addresses of the many people and events that have had an impact on West Middletown. There is also a variety of memorabilia, ranging from photographs to road signs and file drawers full of ephemera that help tell the community's story.

The "study," as it is commonly known, was erected in 1973 in observance of the borough's 175th anniversary celebration. It is a replica of the study once located on the nearby campus of the Pleasant Hill Seminary.

Local historian Jane Fulcher, whose home is a short walk from the study and houses the files and folders that won't fit into the small building, said Jane Campbell McKeeever and her husband, Matthew McKeeever, started the seminary around 1840. It was an offshoot of the "select" school that Jane McKeeever had conducted in her home about one mile north of town.

In 1846, the McKeevers opened a boarding school for young ladies. The first class of four graduated in June 1847. Soon after, management of the school was turned over to the couple's son, the Rev. Thomas Campbell McK-

eever, and under his guidance the seminary attendance grew to more than 125 students. After his death in 1866, the school rapidly deteriorated, and the last class of three graduated in 1869.

In its heyday, the seminary prospered, and buildings were constructed to meet the exceptional need. It was during this time that a small, octagonal, wood-frame building with large windows was built by the McKeevers for an office and a study.

Many years after the school's demise, the little building was moved into West Middletown, where it was used first as a barber shop and later as a shoe repair shop. About 1930, it was razed.

"In the early 1970s, borough council thought it would be nice to have a celebration,

► SEE STUDY, A2

## STUDY

FROM PAGE ONE

and they decided to build a replica of the study," said Fulcher.

Today, the new study serves as a focal point in the small community, as concentrated efforts are formed to trace the long history of the borough and the people who called it home.

"Basically, the McKeever Study is collecting reminiscences of West Middletown," Fulcher said.

A few large brick houses dating to the 1800s are all that remain to indicate that West Middletown was once a flourishing community. In the mid-1800s, there were eight stores and seven inns, along with coffin makers, cobblers and coopers, tanners and tanners, wagon makers, blacksmiths and tombstone cutters. In 1870, there were 323 residents, in comparison to about 200 today.

Set midway between Washington and Wellsburg, W.Va., the borough may now go virtually unnoticed by those traveling between the two points. However, it has a long, detailed history that may come as somewhat of a surprise. For example:

► West Middletown was once a stop on the Underground Railroad, as William McKeever and his sons, Matthew and Thomas, were ardent abolitionists. The McKeever family would hide slaves and arrange transportation for them to the next "station." During this time, John Brown would often visit the McKeever family in the borough.

► Dr. S.S. Quest, who participated in the California Gold Rush, moved to West Middletown after his experience. Letters he had written about his experiences

were thought to be lost in a fire. But recently, photocopies of those letters were discovered and added to the study collection.

► The first modern threshing machine made in the United States was manufactured in West Middletown. Andrew Ralston, who lived nearby, invented a combination grain-threshing and winnowing machine, which he patented in 1842. Borough resident Robert McClure arranged with Ralston for the exclusive right to manufacture the machine.

"There have been so many people who have lived or visited here," said Fulcher. "We have ardently kept track of some of them, but are trying to learn even more."

She explained that although much information has been acquired about West Middletown's early years, she is hoping to preserve present history for the generations to come.

"We know more of West Middletown in the 1840s through 1860s than we know about the 1960s and afterward," said Fulcher, whose mother, Phoebe Acheson Murdoch, collected a great deal of the early information, and upon her death left the collection to the borough.

In the meantime, Fulcher continues to gather information and share it with those other residents who meet monthly at the study to discuss the borough's history and sift through the wealth of memorabilia collected.

"We're looking to preserve now for the future," said Fulcher.

In addition to preserving history, Fulcher and her group are looking to preserve the study. They have just begun raising funds to build a new fence around the grounds as well as do some maintenance on the building.



GREG TARR / THE OBSERVER-REPORTER

Photographs and other artifacts at the McKeever study allow local historian Jane Fulcher to "know more about West Middletown in the 1840s through 1860s than we know about the 1960s."

## PROFILE

FROM PAGE ONE

wife, Durga, a pediatrician on staff at Mon Valley and Brownsville hospitals, have lived in Peters Township. Closer to home, he has volunteered at both the medical clinic and soup kitchen run by the Salvation Army of Pittsburgh.

He shared credit for his accomplishments with his wife.

"Together, we support many causes," Sreenivasulu Malepati said.

At the soup kitchen, they cook, serve and clean up. They also donate components of the vegetarian meal served monthly and make delicious soups that their supervisor described as "out of this world."

"The doctors are the most helpful people in the world, because it's hard to put on a meal for the homeless," said Philip George, kitchen supervisor at the Salvation Army's North Side mission. "We're not a very wealthy organization here. I don't get too many organizations that volunteer."

George's food budget allows only \$1.50 to \$1.75 per person per meal.

In February, Malepati, 51, an ear, nose and throat specialist, volunteered for a medical mission at Dr. Anibal Murrillo Escobar Hospital in Olanchito, Honduras.

His brother-in-law, Sreeramulu Nara, a urologist in Erie, recruited him for the medical team organized by National Baptist Church in Lincolnton, N.C.

It was Malepati's first trip to Central America. He said Olanchito was similar in size to Washington, but he called Escobar Hospital, which has a staff of six doctors, "the smallest hospital I ever visited."

The city is surrounded by banana plantations.

From one violent confrontation in a rural area came a patient with

a serious gunshot wound to the head. Malepati removed a bullet from a man's palate. The man said he was defending his property against armed intruders.

"He's lucky," Malepati said of the patient. "If it was a little higher he would have died or had neurological problems."

In his medical practice, Malepati typically treats patients who are troubled by sore throats, ear infections, allergies, sleep apnea and snoring.

These were the types of problems he treated in Honduras, but he performed no tonsillectomies because he would not be in the country long enough to give follow-up care.

Although Malepati purchased a 310-page guidebook about Honduras to prepare for the trip, it wasn't something he consulted often. "We didn't have time to see anything," Malepati said.

His son, Sarath, 19, a pre-medicine student at Indiana University of Pennsylvania, speaks Spanish and helped translate for the visiting doctors. A local teacher also served as a translator.

Malepati estimated he saw 300 patients during his weeklong stay, at least doubling his average workload.

"I was a little tired," he said.

There were no appointments, and patients would typically stand in line for two to three hours.

For his next volunteer project, Malepati may team with Dr. Dan Lattanzi, a South Hills obstetrician/gynecologist, on a mission to LaCroix, Haiti.

If he has one goal in his professional life, it is to inspire other doctors to embark on medical missions. "There is a need in the world, even in the U.S. Indian reservations," Malepati said. "It's a matter of giving back to the community and giving back to society. You are receiving satisfaction and happiness in return."





West Middletown as it appeared about 1900 in a photo from the *Observer-Reporter* archives

# An abolitionist stronghold

## Underground Railroad had a key stop in West Middletown

By Scott Beyerange  
Staff writer  
sbeyerange@observer-reporter.com

**WEST MIDDLETOWN—**An escaped slave being pursued by his master in the mid-1800s stumbled into West Middletown footsore, naked, hungry, tired and scared. The runaway was quickly taken to an Underground Railroad station at the home of a staunch abolitionist, Matthew McKeever, only to be followed there by his owner, led by a bloodhound.

Rather than turn over the escapee, McKeever insisted on taking him before the local justice of the peace to determine whether he was a free black man. The courtroom was surrounded shortly thereafter by angry abolitionists holding pitchforks.

Another local abolitionist attending the proceeding, James McElroy, asked the master if he owned the dog, and he received a positive reply. McElroy then stated, "This bloodhound does not leave this town alive," according to oral history records at the West Middletown historical society named in McKeever's honor.

"In less than 10 minutes that dog was hanging to the limb of a tree and the master was on his way out of town, believing it wasn't healthy for him to remain a minute longer than necessary," McElroy's son, James, stated in the 1910 oral history project.

This small town that cropped up along a 19th century wagon trail is situated halfway between Washington and Weilsburg, W.Va., and was once bustling with traveling merchants. During the early 1800s, the town had attracted many residents who strongly opposed slavery at a time when the neighboring state to the west was Virginia, part of the antebellum South.

Its remote location along present-day Route 844 provided a great place to hide runaway slaves, and the town's proximity to Virginia often made it the first stop in the North for escaped slaves running away through what is now the Northern Panhandle of West Virginia.



John Brown, left, greets Matthew McKeever in a woodcut print of the abolitionists created by an unknown artist. The image is from the *Observer-Reporter* archives.

The runaway slaves were kept in West Middletown until their "owner's watch ended," and then slipped to the care of a free barber in Washington, Samuel W. Dorsey, who had well-established connections to get them into Canada, according to a Dec. 17, 1955, article about local Underground Railroad stations in *The Observer*.

McKeever was the lead conductor in his hometown, and he took his instructions from the infamous John Brown, who was executed in 1859 after leading a brief raid on the federal armory and arsenal in Harpers Ferry, Va. Brown had fallen under the delusion that his raid would inspire scores of slaves to revolt and join his war against slavery.

The younger McElroy discusses how Brown, in 1842, set up a wool-buying headquarters in the house of McElroy's father, as well as at the McKeever home, where Brown also there.

At one such meeting, McElroy's father declared slavery was becoming stronger and more defiant, "and that in the providence of God it would go down in blood before the end came."

"How truthful that prophecy!" McElroy said.

The younger McElroy said he was eyewitness to the events and, at the age of 15, even shuttled slaves himself in a wagon to Paris under cover



A family of early black settlers in West Middletown poses for local photographer Frank France circa 1900.

of darkness, following instructions from his father.

McKeever kept his involvement in the Underground Railroad a tight secret, one he didn't share with most members of his immediate family of 18 to 20, not even his wife.

Participating in the Underground Railroad was risky business in parts of Washington County, including its county seat, because it was heavily populated with pro-slavery residents, said Clay Kilgore, executive director of Washington County Historical Society.

"The McKeever family kind of leads the way in West Middletown," Kilgore said. "It's fairly safe going there."

In 1842, McKeever's secret was shattered when the city of Wheeling, then part of Virginia, offered a \$500 reward for his capture, dead or alive, for helping slaves escape to Canada, according to another oral history collected from Sarah A. Armstrong.

"Few had known about this work until this notice was posted," Armstrong said.

McKeever was assisted with the Underground Railroad by local abolitionists and John Jordan, a free black man. It was Jordan's job to hide the

escaped slaves in McKeever's sheep loft and feed them from a nearby springhouse for a month before they were moved to Washington.

McKeever's "hired girl" had grown suspicious, though, and told his wife someone kept stealing bread and other food. His children also would ask him why they often found their clothes and shoes missing from their bedrooms in the mornings and heard noises through the night, he wrote in an 1880 letter to a friend.

Eventually, McKeever told his children the sounds were the "midnight train or flyer" for Pittsburgh, Butler or other northern towns.

"Of course the profits were small, and the passengers had to be clothed and fed and their traveling expenses paid," Armstrong stated, adding McKeever would eventually confess to his neighbors that he had been a conductor on the freedom route for 40 years, and that the largest number of escapees he had shipped at one time was eight.

McKeever was among the second generation of abolitionists in his hometown.

His father, William, who settled there in the 1790s, once acted out so angrily against slavery that the

events of that day were still remembered there a century later.

About 1810, a group of slaves handcuffed in pairs to a heavy chain at intervals of six feet made its way through the town.

The chain gang, known as a coffle, had been purchased in Maryland to furnish labor at farms in Virginia, resident Rebecca C. Jones related in her 1910 oral history.

"As the poor souls wended their weary way up the street they passed the door of William McKeever. The sight made the Scotch-Irish blood in his veins boil. He rushed out and poured forth his righteous indignation. Ordinarily a kindly man, but now he knew no bounds," Jones said.

The conductor was on horseback, whip in hand, as William McKeever called down all of the terrors of the hereafter on him.

"In hell they'll (roast) thee like a herring," Jones quoted him as saying in the story passed down to her by her mother.

The conductor was discrete, even though he had to listen to the denunciations for a mile beyond town, when William McKeever "exhausted his vocabulary" and came home "quite the hero," Jones stated.

# Burgettstown's Neighboring Towns

by A.D. White  
WEST MIDDLETOWN

Within the area of Hopewell Township in Washington County lie the two historic towns of West Middletown and Buffalo, both being located on the Washington-Wellburg Pike, and our "town of the week" being just halfway between these two larger towns. In the days when overland traffic was heavy between the banks of the Ohio River and the county seat of Washington County, and when large droves of cattle, sheep and hogs were driven over this highway, West Middletown provided the services required by this sort of traffic. Until recent times West Middletown always had a hotel and along with this, the stables and animal pens necessary for overnight stopping.

The earliest settler of old "Middletown" is said to have been Galbraith Stewart, who built a house and opened a blacksmith shop. Next came David Craig, who built a house and opened a store. And then the flood of settlers with the usual assortment of trades came in and the town became a thriving settlement. A Post Office was opened here as early as 1805. Although "in" Hopewell Township, yet West Middletown, strictly speaking, is not "of" the township, for in 1823 the place received a charter as a borough and it has so remained to the present day. Although it has sometimes been difficult to find persons to fill all the necessary offices of the municipality, yet the citizens try and they always come up with a mayor, a high constable and all the others which are required.

Always noted for having a goodly number of people who took the right side on important issues, this community early became known for its involvement in the Abolition movement in the years preceding the Civil War. West Middletown was one of the most important "stations" on the "Underground Railroad" and many a fugitive slave was shielded from the fury of the blood-house and of an irate master by being received into the secret cell in the basement of the old McKeever House.

When the Civil War came on, the loyalty of the citizenry of West Middletown and of Hopewell Township was perhaps unmatched in any community over a wide area. Many young men answered the call to the colors and did their full share in quelling the Rebellion. To commemorate the deeds of the valiant men of all wars of our Nation, a fine granite monument has been erected in a small Memorial Park in the borough. On this marker are engraved the names of all men of the community who answered the call of their country. And West Middletown always celebrates Memorial Day in an appropriate manner, with decoration of soldiers' graves, a parade and a suitable patriotic program.

West Middletown's most ambitious and historic venture in the educational field was the establishment in the 1850's of Pleasant Hill Seminary, founded as a school for girls by Prof. Campbell McKeever, who conducted the school until his death some years later. It was located outside of the village a mile or two to the northwest, where one of the original buildings of the school is still standing, now converted into a fine home.

Industrially, West Middletown is best known for the manufacture of the horse-powered threshing machines patented in 1842 by Andrew Ralston and produced in a factory built in this town by Robert McClure in 1853. This machine was used during the mid 1800's over a wide area including the huge grain belts of the mid-west. Perhaps the only one complete machine of this type yet remaining is that in the Henry Ford Museum at Dearborn, Michigan. Mr. Ford personally came to Washington County many years ago and purchased this piece for his museum.

West Middletown is important in the field of religion with its three churches of the United Presbyterian, Disciples of Christ and A.M.E. denominations ministering to the spiritual needs of the people of this town and the neighboring areas. The first church of the Disciples, or Christian Church, was located near Brush Run in southern Hopewell Township, just a few miles from West Middletown.

The fine old homes, many of brick construction and set right out on the sidewalks in most cases, make West Middletown a picturesque town, a fit subject for the roving artist and shutter-bug, and, in the opinion of some, a candidate for the title "Williamsburg of the North." It always pays one handsomely to drive leisurely through this historic town and drink in some of its beauty and try to absorb some of the lore for which the town and community are famous.

NEXT - BUFFALO

BURGETTSTOWN ENTERPRISE - PAGE 4

Wednesday, October 11, 1967 - Phones 947-4700 947-4701



This historic monument, standing in the West Middletown graveyard, marks the grave of Corporal Robert Rush, member of the famed Ringgold Battalion of Civil War times. Cor-

poral Rush was killed by guerillas while on duty as a mail carrier in the Union Army near Romney, West Virginia. His body was returned here for burial.



In this building which stood in West Middletown until recent years were manufactured the Ralston horse-powered threshers, widely used in many parts of the country until steam power became general in the later years of the nineteenth century. Robert B.

McClure, a mill wright and skilled mechanic, was the proprietor. In addition to the threshers, Mr. McClure manufactured other farm machinery as well as bug-gies and surries. To the left stands the McClure family home.

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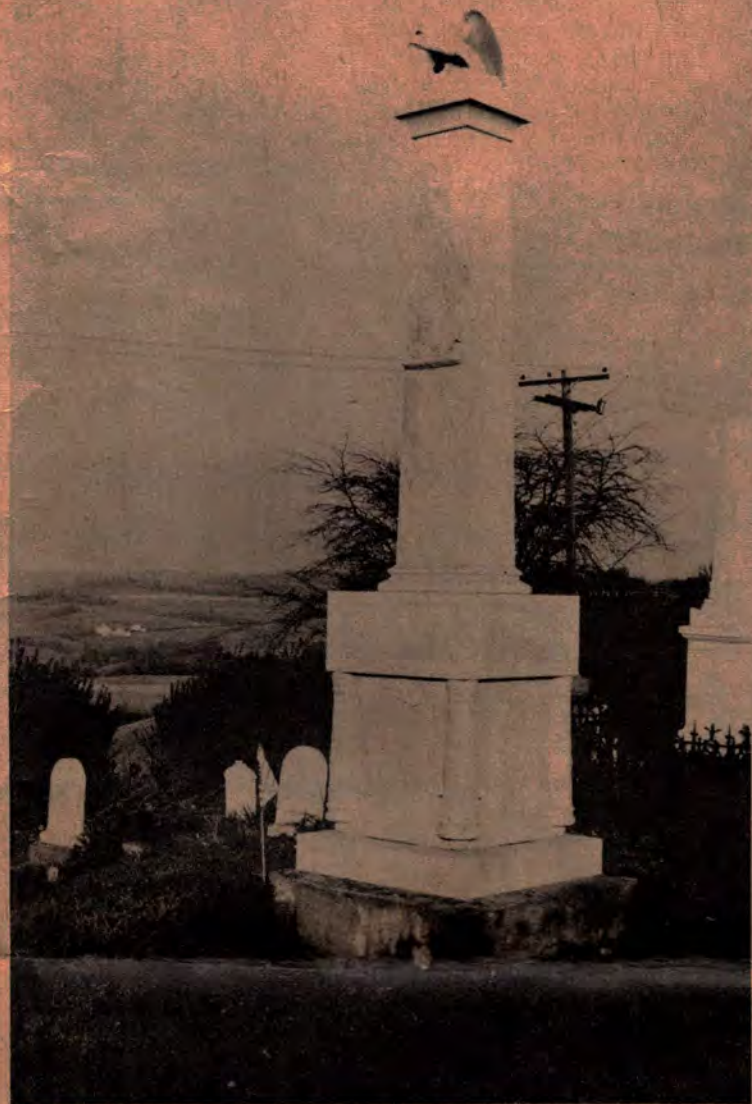
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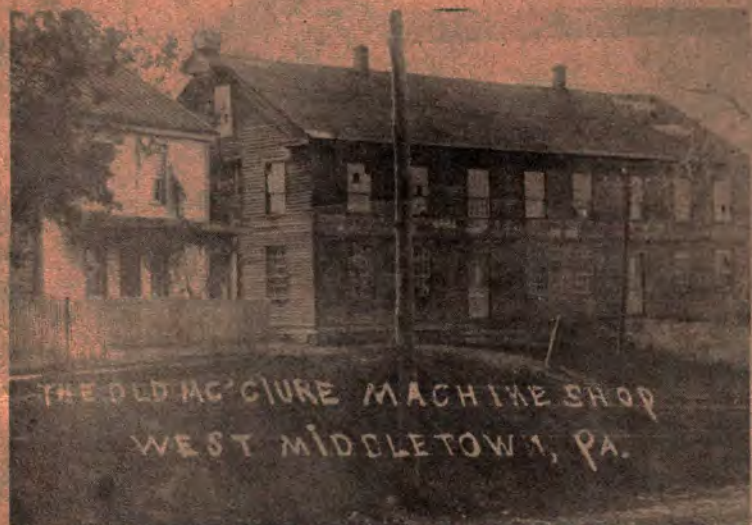
BURGETTSTOWN ENTERPRISE - PAGE 4

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## Ringgold Battalion Reunion at West Middletown.

The borough of West Middletown was in gala attire Thursday in honor of the surviving members of the Ringgold cavalry which celebrated the 35th reunion of the company. Due honor was paid the memory of the members who fell during the awful struggle and those who died later. Fully 2,000 persons were in attendance to welcome the old soldiers both of the North and South.

The true spirit of patriotism was shown by the citizens on all sides both in the decorations and the entertainment. Every house in town was decorated in the national colors and here and there through the town large banners bearing the words "Welcome" were strung across the roadway. The entrance to the church yard where the meeting was held was very handsomely decorated and was much admired. The residents of the western end of the county received congratulations from all sides for their untiring efforts in making the day one of welcome and enjoyment. Before the visitors reached the village they were greeted with flags as many of the residents within a mile of the meeting place had their homes decorated.

The campfire in the evening was one of the features of the reunion. It consisted mainly of reminiscences and many members of the company told stories. Miss Allie Reed recited a selection. One of the important talks of the evening was made by Daniel Ashworth, pension agent of Washington City.

**Ringgold Battalion Reunion at West Middletown  
Burgettstown Enterprise-August 26, 1908 Edition**



# HISTORICAL MAP

## SOUTHWESTERN PENNSYLVANIA

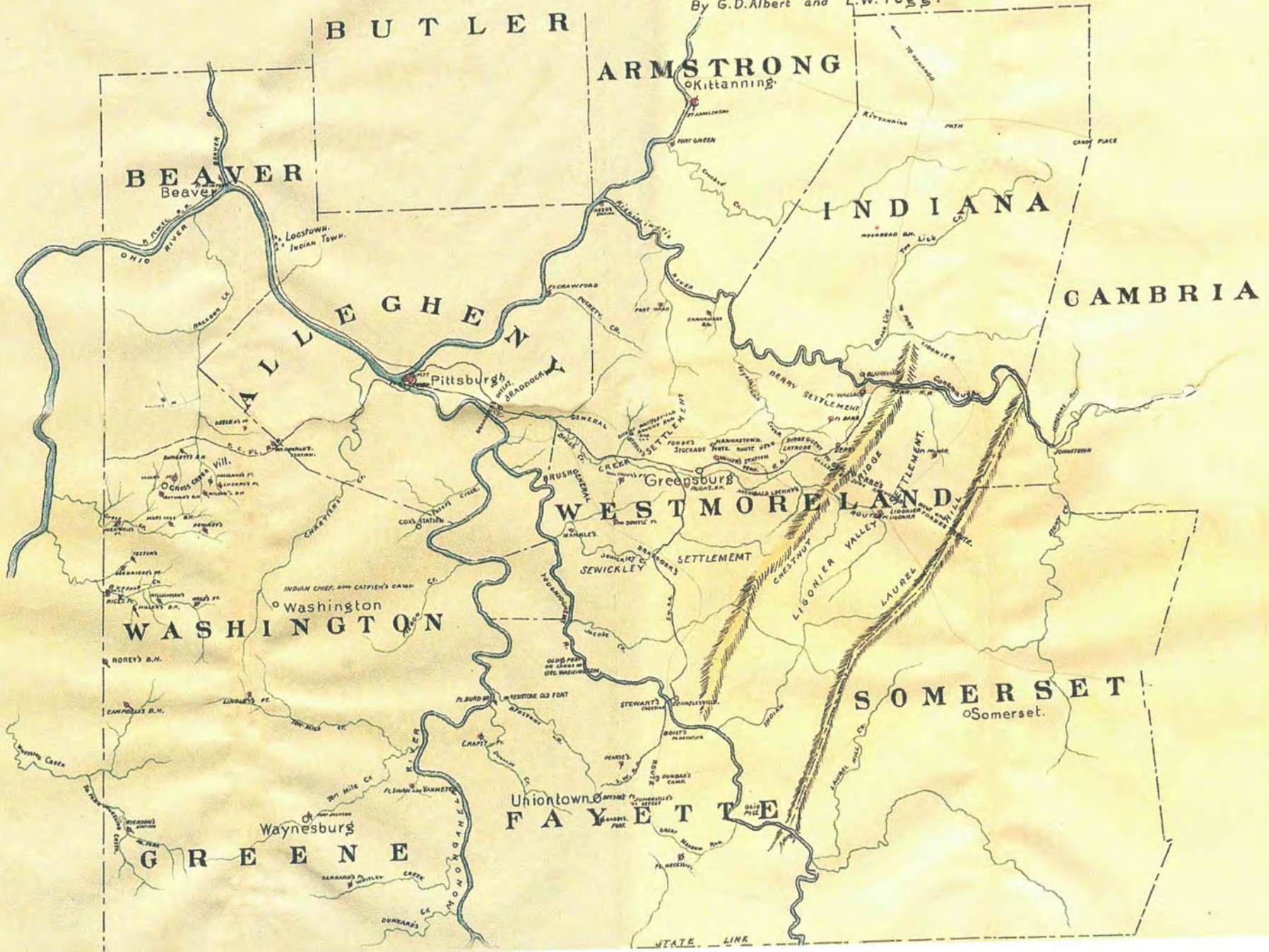
SCALE : 6 miles to  
one inch.

SHOWING SITES OF THE PRINCIPAL OLD FORTS. BLOCK-HOUSES

MILITARY ROADS AND TRAILS.

FOR THE OLD FORTS' COMMISSION REPORT.

By G.D. Albert and L.W. Foggs.





Two floors of Wilson Lodge will be transformed into an antiques marketplace during Oglebay Institute's 60th annual Antiques Show and Sale.

## Oglebay Institute's antiques show marks its 60th year

Oglebay Institute's Antiques Show and Sale will celebrate its 60th anniversary April 4-6 at Oglebay Resort in Wheeling, W.Va.

The annual fundraiser for the Museums of Oglebay Institute is not only the largest, but also the longest-running antiques show in West Virginia and among the oldest shows nationwide.

More than 50 dealers from 10 states will be set up on two floors of Wilson Lodge. Items will include American, English, primitive and period furniture, American art, folk art, Western art, pottery, quilts, jewelry, rugs, baskets, pewter, silver, glass, china and books.

Oglebay Institute museums director Christin Byrum said hallmarks of the OI

show, such as quality merchandise, expert dealers and a diverse inventory with items in every price range, are what keep people coming back.

"One of the perks of shopping a well-established antiques show is that it takes the risk out of buying," event co-chairwoman Paula McClure said. "Our dealers select their stock carefully and weed out the junk so buyers don't have to."

Antiques dealer Peter Chillingworth of Scenery Hill is managing the 2014 show. He has managed the show since 2000. Byrum said he invites "only the most reputable and knowledgeable dealers, and buyers can rest assured they are getting the cream of the crop."

The show opens April 4 with special patron events, including the Dessert with Antiques Preview Party from 7 to 10 p.m. Tickets are \$25 and will be available at the door. The ticket price includes repeat admission to the show April 5 and 6.

Other patron packages are available, such as a Patron Cocktail Party at the Glass Museum, limousine service to and from Wilson Lodge, a private patron lounge, a patron gift bag and a dealer's tour on a topic of the participant's choice.

General show hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. April 5 and 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. April 6. General admission is \$8.

For more information or to purchase tickets for the patron events, call 304-242-7272.

**Oglebay Institute's Antique Show Marks its 60<sup>th</sup> Year**  
**Observer-Reporter-March 26, 2014 Edition**

# **White's Mill**

**Murdocksville, PA**

*Courtesy of Fort Vance Historical Society*

# White's Mill then



# Murdocksville now

In 1786 George Washington came to claim a 2000 acre government grant in Washington County. The Biggers were among the settlers on his claimed lands. Without any ceremony he evicted them all. Thomas Bigger and Matthew Bigger returned to their original holdings on Raccoon Creek for a new start. Thomas Bigger then built a two story log house. Remains of that log house are still standing in the bottom lands below the Bigger stone house on Bigger Road. The stone house was built in 1848 on a foundation of solid rock. It is one of the landmarks in our community.

When John White and his brother Thomas wandered down the Hunters' Path before 1780 they found enough settlers clearing lands and building cabins that they saw the need for a grist mill to tie the community together. The grist mill was so important to any community that many of the later towns evolved from the villages that grew around the mill site.

Because grain had to be hauled by horse and wagon to the mill, a blacksmith soon set up shop to be available for shoeing horses while the farmer waited for his flour or meal. Other tradesmen followed. Usually there was a general store, a church, a school, a shoeshop, a hatshop, and homes.

There was no church building at White's Mill. There are accounts, however, which lead us to believe there were gatherings at designated places before 1800 for the purpose of worship. From records kept by Rev. John McMillan, a famed early evangelist, we find that Rev. McMillan preached at "Petato [sic] Garden Run" on the second Sabbath of November 1786. Robinson Church was planned at an outdoor meeting around a bonfire for heat and light in 1830 on property owned by Matthew Bigger, Alexander McBride, and Samuel Wallace. The first building was ready and the church established in 1833. Before that time, people had gone to earlier established churches in Burgettstown, Frankfort Springs, Hopewell, or held services in tents.

Thomas White built his three story log and frame mill on Raccoon Creek near the mouth of Potato Garden Run prior to 1780. A heap of rocks in what is now known as Allan Cox's garden lies north of the exact site of the mill building. Traces of the dam on Raccoon Creek are still visible. On the east bank, carefully laid rocks show where one end of the dam was placed. A jumble of rocks in the creek bed makes riffles and music now where they were washed in the Labor Day flood of 1912. In the flat land on the east bank of the creek there is still part of the sluice gate of the millrace. The mill race ran from the dam, through the bottom land, under the road, and on to the mill where it turned the wheel that turned the burrs to grind the grain. All signs of the millrace were removed when a new three-lane cement bridge was built in 1962. In 1804 Thomas White sold the mill to Joseph McCoy and John Leeper. Sometime after that it passed into the hands of Robert Withrow who owned and operated the mill until its closing in the early 1920s.

White's mill had thrived as a village for over fifty years. Times could not have been too easy because the Indians were very hostile on into the 1790s. The Hunters' Path led right through the heart of their valued hunting grounds which reached from the shores of the Monongahela on the east to the Ohio River on the west. The Indian trail which became the pioneers' road reached from Devore's Ferry, now Monongahela, to Mintow's Bottom on the Ohio. As the settlers crossed the Alleghenies and began chopping down trees and building permanent homes in that choice land, the Indians rightfully became alarmed and angry at seeing their hunting grounds gradually grow smaller and smaller.

By 1833 the village of White's Mill had gained enough importance to warrant a United States Post Office. It was established in the General Store of John P. Murdoch. Mr. Murdoch was named the first postmaster and the village became known as Murdocktown. Later it was changed to Murdocksville, the name still used for the area.

Through the years, besides the General Store and Post Office, Murdocksville has had various business ventures come and go. At one time there was supposedly a hatshop in Eugene Fragapane's house and a cobbler's shop on High Street. On the Coventry Farm on the east bluff overlooking the village, there was a small building that housed the tailorshop of Thompson Stewart from 1844 to 1870. On May 1, 1888, the first oil well was drilled on the J. Ray Armor farm and the Hanover Oil Field was opened. Sometime after that a pumping station was erected on the property between the mill and Raccoon Creek. This consisted of a pump house, a boiler house, a water tank, and a huge wood-staved oil storage tank. A pipeline connected the Burgettstown oilfields with Freedom, Pennsylvania. Murdocksville was the booster station between the two points. Mr. P.N. Gardner was the last to operate this booster station which was discontinued in the late 1920s.

On the Thomas Bigger farm there was a Tanning Mill that closed shortly before the Civil War. Up the creek there were two more grist mills; one at the Richard Donaldson property and one at Bavington. The Washington County History books record that both of those mills hauled flour and whiskey to the Ohio River by four horse wagon teams to Kelly's Ferry near Steubenville, Ohio. From there it went by flatboat to New Orleans and on to Cuba where the flour sold for \$25.00 per barrel. Is it likely that some of the White's Mill flour went the same route ?

Dr. James Bigham who had been a schoolteacher, lived in Doug and Stacy Koerbel's house on High Street in Murdocksville. He ran his medical practice from there. Business was not too brisk so he tutored young people in his spare time. He called his school The Select School, and provided further education for the students who had finished Common School. The Murdocksville Independent Telephone Company operated from that house also. The original Blacksmith Shop is on the lot adjoining the Marie Wolfkill property.

Resources

History of Allegheny County, Pennsylvania  
A. Warner & Co.  
1889

History of Washinton County, Pennsylvania  
Boyd Crumrine  
1882

20th Century History of the City of Washington and Washington County  
Joseph F. McFarland  
1910

Commemorative Biographical Record of Central Pennsylvania  
Centre, Clearfield, Jefferson, and Clarion Counties  
1898

Pennsylvania Postal History  
John L. Kay and Chester M. Smith, Jr.

Armor Family History -1939 - Jean Armor Leggo  
McCandless Family History - 1940 - Jean Armor Leggo

Thanks to the "Oldtimers" for their conversations  
Kenneth Caler, Emmett Dawson, Norman Elder, Jean Armor Stout

# White's Mill Past - Murdocksville Present

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The Washington County history books tell us that before 1780, Thomas White's grist mill was well established on the waters of the Raccoon. Family histories tell us that the Thomas Armor, Matthew Dillow, and Thomas Bigger families had settled on the banks of the same waters by 1776.

The three story frame mill building stood on a firm foundation of huge cut stones in what is now Al Cox's garden on the east bank of Raccoon Creek just before crossing the Murdocksville bridge traveling west.

The dam was about three hundred yards upstream from the present bridge and dammed the Raccoon into a large lake flooding acres of land as far upstream as the Thomas Bigger Farm. The millrace ran from the dam through the flat eastern bottomland and under the road to the mill. Traces of the old millrace sluiceway are still standing in that bottomland.

Traces of the hand-laid stones of the eastern end of the dam are also in place and can be seen on the creek bank.

Grain was ground into cattle feed and flour for the local settlers. Flour was also hauled by horse and wagon to Steubenville and on to New Orleans for sale.

Two mills up the creek, Donaldsons' Mill and Bavington's Mill were said to have shipped flour and whiskey by way of Steubenville to New Orleans and on to Cuba where the flour was sold for \$25.00 per barrel. It is quite possible that some of the flour from White's Mill went the same route.

White's Mill thrived as a village for more than fifty years, then it gained enough importance to warrant a United States Post Office. In 1833 the Post Office was established in the General Store of John P. Murdoch. He was named first Postmaster and the village became known as Murdochtown, later changed to Murdocksville.

During the early years the village boasted a hatshop and a shoeshop at different times in what is now Gene and Sue Fragapane's house. The General Store and Post Office were in Gorman and June Armstrong's house. A small building on the Coventry Farm on the bluff overlooking the village housed a Tailor's shop from 1841 to 1870.

Where the Kenneth Caler and Armstrong houses now stand, a plan of lots was laid out to be called "The Village of Murdocksville" in 1844. The driveway between the two houses was named Race Street.

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77

## White's Mill in the Early Days

### White's Mill as a Speech

There is not too much documented data on the beginnings of White's Mill. So we decided we would make up what we could not find to be fact.

Both Crumrine and McFarland, in their Washington County Histories, state - "before 1780 John White had a well established grist mill on the waters of the Raccoon".

That tells us that John White came here and built his dam and mill in the 1770s -- probably after the Armors, the Biggers, and the Dillows had settled on their lands and built their cabins.. These three families are known to have been here before 1776. Their official grants were dated 1780 and 1786.

Another authentic date to show the importance of this spot is taken from McFarland's history where he writes - "In 1786 the court was petitioned for a road from Mintows Bottom on the Ohio River to Thomas White's Mill to Devore's Ferry on the Monongahela River. Now we do not know whether there was a John and a Thomas White. Were they brothers ? or father and son ?

This area was all Washington County at that time. In 1800 Beaver County was erected, taking in White's Mill in its territory and as its southern point of designation on the survey,

I am standing in Beaver County. Across the creek and partway up yon hillside, it is Allegheny County. Across the road behind me, it is Washington County.

The village that grew around the mill was known as White's Mill until 1830 when a United States Post Office was established in the general store of John P. Murdoch. He was said to be the first Post Master. The village was renamed Murdochtown. That later deteriorated to Murdocksville.

Those are the facts.

Let us get back to the Grist Mill which we are commemorating today.

We are not sure that the remains of the mill building that were finally removed in the early 1940s were of the first and only mill or not. They could be.

The photos that we have show it to have been a log structure and covered with clapboard. It was two stories high and built on a strong foundation of huge cut stones. It stood in the far corner of what in now Allen Cox's garden - across the creek on the left side of the road.

The dam on the creek was about three hundred yards upstream from us here. You can still see the huge stones in the creek

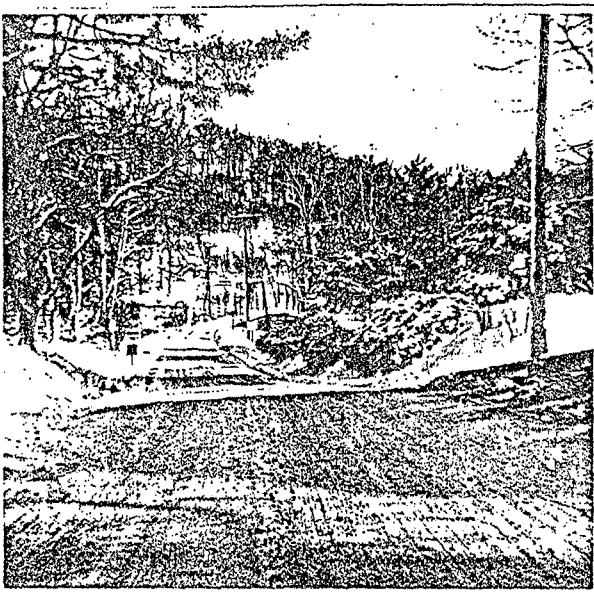
JAN 59



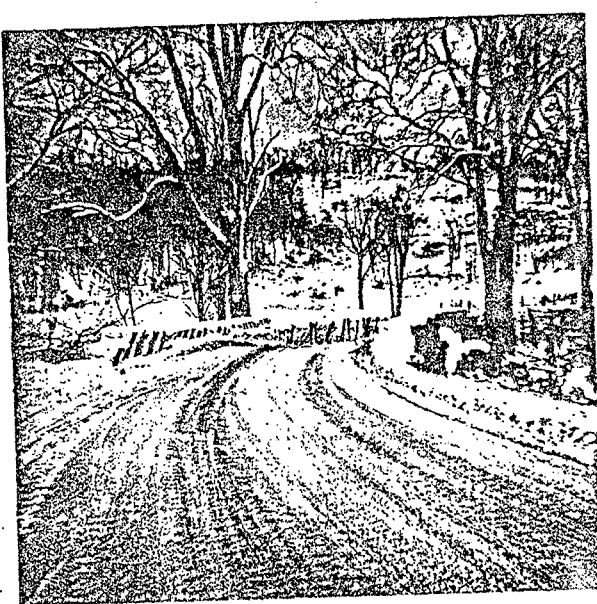
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JAN 59



JAN 59



The Arch Bridge (Potato Garden Run)

Built Approx 1852

Uncle Rays Armour born 1835 at age 17  
rode horseback and first to cross bridge.



# Remembering **WHITE'S MILL**

MUSIC PROVIDED BY DICK EATON AND FRIENDS

WELCOME, Mr. Gene Fragapane, Postmaster  
Clinton, Pennsylvania 15026

## HISTORICAL CONTEXT

Mr. Bernard Catalucci, Chairman Historic Committee  
Beaver County Research and Landmark Foundation

## WHITE'S MILL ON THE RACCOON

Story told based on Lynette Caler's manuscript.  
Presented by Jean Armour Stout

## RECOGNITION

People honored who still live on land-grant land:

**JEAN ARMOR STOUT**

**CAROLE ANN STOUT BULLOCK**

Both these ladies still reside on land that was awarded by George  
Washington to Thomas Armor for his service  
during the Revolutionary War.

**PEGGY BIGGER LONCARIC**

**THOMAS C. BIGGER Jr.**

They live on land purchased during 1774 by their ancestor,  
Thomas Bigger, who immigrated from Ireland.  
The land was a grant acquired by a Virginia Certificate.

## RECOGNITION OF OLDEST RESIDENTS

**KEN CALER**

**EMMETT DAWSON**

**NORMAN ELDER**

## RECOGNITION OF LUMINARIES

**PRAYER**

Mr. Bernard Catalucci

## CHAPTER XLVI.

1782.

### RAIDS AT DILLOW'S FORT.

OLD LAND ENTRIES—MURDER OF MATTHEW OR MICHAEL DILLOW—JOHN DILLOW CAPTURED—GRACE FULLER IN DILLOW'S FORT—ANDERSON WOUNDED AND HIS TWO SONS CAPTURED.

Laughed out the true daughters, "All men shall behold  
How we clothe her in Samite and crown her in gold."  
But the bitter ones cried, "Though her meadows be sweet,  
We will drench them with blood till she kneels at our feet."

—Amanda T. Jones.

Some time before 1779, the exact date is not now known, one Michael or Matthew Dillow (sometimes spelled Dilloe) settled on a tract of three hundred ninety-nine acres, on a branch of Raccoon Creek in Hanover Township. The stream is known to this day as Fort Dillow Run, named from the fort that Dillow built. That region was in the path of almost every raid made by the hostiles into Washington County, and so Michael Dillow built a fort on his land. There is no very extended record of either Dillow or his life in the lonely wilderness of northern Washington County, nor is it known how much of a family he had except one son, John.

The original records in the old survey books in the Washington County recorder's office show that on March 21st, 1780, Michael Dillow entered this land under the name of "Dillow's Fort," and he was granted a Virginia certificate for the same. This tract was joined by lands of Thomas Timmons, Hugh McCoy, Thomas Armour, and James Crawford, all early settlers in that region.

The old records also show a survey made in 1782 by Captain Samuel Beelor, on which tract was a road running from Dillow's fort to Beelor's fort, which stood near the old Raccoon church at Candor, in Robinson

## **Raids at Fort Dillow (Pg.1)** **History of Washington County**

*Courtesy of Fort Vance Historical Society*

## HISTORY OF WASHINGTON COUNTY

**Township.** From that place the road went west to Turner's Mills. This was probably nothing more than a path cut through the wilderness; but it meant civilization in those days.

Michael Dillow did not live long to enjoy the fruits of his toil in the far western wilderness. Following the defeat of Crawford's army, in the summer of 1782, a small war party appeared on Raccoon Creek. Michael Dillow and his son, John, were at work in a clearing on their farm, little suspecting the red death that was creeping upon them through the surrounding forest. The first intimation they had of danger was when they were fired upon by Indians. Michael Dillow was killed and John was captured before he had a chance to escape.

The Indians concealed the body of the father near a log, and carried the boy off to the Ohio country, where he remained in captivity for several years. He finally secured his freedom, and returned to his old home in Washington County to learn that his father's fate was never known by his neighbors. The body had never been found, and they supposed that both had been captured. After relating the incidents of Michael Dillow's murder and his own capture, the son guided a party to the clearing, where he located the log and found the bones of his father, which were buried near the fort Dillow had built.

An interesting incident in connection with Dillow's fort is related in "Frontier Forts of Pennsylvania". In the account published in that work, it states that Grace Fuller, a female slave who was the property of Thomas Armour, told in later years that she remembered being in Dillow's fort during an attack by Indians in 1778. She was seventeen years of age at the time, and no doubt could have told the details of this fight, but unfortunately no one took the trouble to make a record of the affair.

A letter written on August 1st, 1779, by Colonel Brodhead, from Fort Pitt, to Ensign John Beck states that a settler named Anderson, who lived about two miles from Dillow's fort, was slightly wounded and two of his boys were carried off by Indians during a raid through that section. Further details of this affair are lacking.

After his return from captivity John Dillow decided to remain in Washington County. He settled on land farther up the creek above his father's fort, where he built a cabin. This land is now near Murdocksville, in Hanover Township. In recent years it was owned by Robert S. Cooley, whose residence stands near the site of John Dillow's cabin.

The reason why John Dillow did not settle on his father's land is shown by the old survey records in the recorder's office. This gives the information that the land granted to Michael Dillow under the name of "Dillow's Fort," was surveyed on June 8th, 1781. After Dillow's murder and his son's disappearance the settlers evidently believed they were gone for good, and the land was evidently taken up by another man, for, on March 24th, 1798, a warrant was returned for the land to Abraham Kirkpatrick. Land was to be had for the asking in those days, and when John Dillow returned from captivity he evidently found another man in possession of his father's tract. This is, no doubt, the reason he took up another tract. The Michael Dillow land was owned in later years by Robert Coventry.

### **Raids at Fort Dillow (Pg.2)** **History of Washington County**

*Courtesy of Fort Vance Historical Society*

# Remembering **WHITE'S MILL**

MUSIC PROVIDED BY DICK EATON AND FRIENDS

**WELCOME**, Mr. Gene Fragapane, Postmaster  
Clinton, Pennsylvania 15026

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**EMMETT DAWSON**  
**NORMAN ELDER**

## **RECOGNITION OF LUMINARIES**

**PRAYER**  
Mr. Bernard Catalucci

## Money Hoard Is Stolen At Woodrow

State Police reported the almost unbelievable story of the theft of crudely hoarded money in a converted garage at Woodrow between Hickory and Rea.

Three Westland youths were arrested and charged with the theft of \$900 from the unoccupied dwelling last November 30.

Police said money was taken from behind wall pictures and from rafter hiding places. They said some of the money had been there so long that the paper clips used to hold \$20 bills together were rusted to dust and some of the bills had been chewed by rats. Other bills were mold-covered.

It was only inadvertently that police stumbled on the theft. One of the youths let the cat out of the bag, as it were, when being questioned in connection with another crime.

As a result, John, 20, and Edward McAnany, 21, and John McDonald, 17, all of Westland, were arrested and charged with burg-

lary and larceny before Hickory Squire John Frazer. McDonald is in jail, the two brothers are free under bond.

There is even a strangeness about the ownership of the missing money.

Police said the garage was converted into a dwelling place after the home of Grace Holmes burned some years ago. Mrs. Holmes,

now re-married, according to police, has been living on Highland avenue in Washington. They are still trying to locate her. They said her present name is Grace Holmes Lenox.

**Money Hoard is Stolen at Woodrow  
Newspaper and Date are Unknown**

*Courtesy of Fort Vance Historical Society*



# Woodrow Old Timers Reminisce About Their Gatherings Of Many Years Ago

Thirty-five to 50 years ago the village of Woodrow, in Mt. Pleasant Township, was a thriving community center. Persons who were residents of the community in that period, or who made it a shipping or community center, got together Saturday evening, August 15, for the third annual reunion of the Woodrow Old Timers. Many were present who had not seen their friends in the community for up to 40 years.

A picnic supper at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Howard Bates included hot wieners and hamburgers.

For a program a loud speaker and recorded music were furnished by Earl Smith and a Wellsburg radio service. Cathryn Zabrosky furnished accordion music. The host gave a word of welcome. Anna Brady Arbogast, who at one time taught at the nearby Bushy Rock School, read a poem and made a short talk.

James A. McGugin, who operated a local store which was a community center in the days when most of those present best knew the village, was called on. He mentioned the store and the gatherings of community folk there in the evenings, spoke of the lines of merchandise which were common on his shelves but which are obsolete now, told of the local school and the intimacy that existed among the folk of the community. He said that the de-

sire of so many to come together to meet old friends was an earmark of good citizenship.

The group elected the following officers for the next reunion, to be held in August, 1960: President, Oakley Woods; vice president, Fred Sims; treasurer, Howard White; entertainment, Howard Bates.

Those present included Mr. and Mrs. E. P. Miller, Miss Elva Miller, Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Holmes, Mrs. Barbara Stewart, Tommy and Nancy Stewart, Mr. and Mrs. Clare White, George White, Mr. and Mrs. Everett Carter, Miss Ethel Carter, Eugene Carter and Mr. and Mrs. Howard M. Bates, of Woodrow.

Mr. and Mrs. Brady Carter, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Holmes, William Gault and Stephen J. Holmes, of Rea.

James A. McGugin, Mr. and Mrs. Clark Phillips, Louis Phillips, Tom Phillips, Mr. and Mrs. Louis Alrutz, Mr. and Mrs. Otto Kraeer, Mr. and Mrs. V. M. Paul, Walter Campbell, Brady W. Ahrns, Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Marquis, Mr. and Mrs. G. S. Briggs, Mrs. Ethel Dinsmore, Mr. and Mrs. Emory Findling, Miss Mary E. White, J. Thompson White, Mrs. Wilhelmina Stewart Carlisle, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Wagner, Jr., Miss Judy Wagner, Joey Wagner, Walter Zebrasky, Miss Catherine Zebrasky, Dolly Jean Wussick, Kathryn Wussick,

Mr. and Mrs. Bert Phillips, Mr. and Mrs. James Phillips, Robin Phillips, Sherry Ann Phillips, Mr. and Mrs. Tracy Lewton, Mrs. Frances Ayers, Mrs. Helen Stewart Caldwell, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Schafer, Lena Knauer and Mr. and Mrs. Jewell Hinerman, all of Hickory.

Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Powelson, Mrs. Mable Stewart and daughters, Jane, Nancy and Elsie; Mr. and Mrs. George Logsdon, Mr. and Mrs. Howard White, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Sim, Mr. and Mrs. William E. Cowden and children, Billy, Bradley, Sandra and Joyce Ann; Mr. and Mrs. Charles Laws, Mr. and Mrs. Jay W. Troutman and Miss Edith V. Dewitt, of Washington.

Mr. and Mrs. George Alrutz, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Alrutz and Shirley Alrutz, of Burgettstown, R. D. 3; Mr. and Mrs. Mat Zaverl, Mrs. Helen Haley, Nick Abarow, Mrs. Helen Haley, Joseph R. Smoke, Mrs. Beatrice Kraeer and James Haley, of Canonsburg; Mr. and Mrs. Earl Smith, Mr. and Mrs. M. E. Dalrymple, Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Arbogast and Mr. and Mrs. Stacy De Witt, of Wellsburg, W. Va.

Mrs. Mame O'Donnell and Billy Ranegar, of Houston; Mr. and Mrs. Charles Brinkman, of McDonald, R. D. 3; A. L. Gault and Mr. and Mrs. C. G. Mohler, of Pittsburgh; Mrs. Arthur Lawton and daughter, Mary Jane, of Steu-

benville, Ohio; Mr. and Mrs. W. S. May Wood Arman, of Moundsville, W. Va.

Herbert Smiley, of West Middletown; Oakley Woods, of Beech Bottom, W. Va.; Mr. and Mrs. E. W. DeWitt and Randy DeWitt, of Amith; Mr. and Mrs. Tom Gorman, of Hialeah, Fla.; Wanda and Lorry Dinsmore, of Weirton, W. Va.; Mr. and Mrs. Tom Kraeer, of Cross Creek; Miss Linda Gary, of Westland, and Mr. and Mrs. Miles Gordon, of Eighty Four, R. D. 1.

**Woodrow Old Timers Reminisce about Their Gathering of Many Years Ago  
The Washington Observer-Unknown Edition**

*Courtesy Fort Vance Historical Society*