

“Looking Back on Barrett”



2000

Prepared by The Friends of Barrett Friendly Library

(On the Front Cover)

Construction of Skytop Lodge

Skytop, according to the Inn's historians was started by John S. Stubbs, a dealer in securities; Sam Packer, an assistant manager at the Inn at Buck Hill Falls; and Dr. Earl H. Mayne, a Brooklyn physician whose engineering background told him that this could be an ideal site for a resort. The "official and proper" name of the new venture was Sky Top Lodges, Inc, but it quickly became known as Skytop. The first meeting of the board of directors was held on August 22, 1925. A golf architect, Robert White was engaged, and Edward Arbogast was chosen as the superintendent of construction. Informality marked the breaking of ground for the new venture on Krummel Hill on September 3, 1927. While Rev. Mr. Kemper offered a prayer, Little Miss Peggy Packer lifted the first shovelful of earth to begin a new era of construction.

By the late Spring of 1928, construction had been completed. On Monday, June 18, 1928, with impressive exercises, stirring addresses and a spirit of hospitality, the new hotel representing an outlay of approximately \$ 1,500,000 (building and grounds) was formally turned over to the managing and operating company. A quantity of silver currency, a history of the development, possibly a Texas horned toad as well as other documents were placed in a copper box before the cornerstone was sealed in place.

Situated on 3,000 acres the hotel contained 170 guest rooms, an eighteen hole golf course, bowling alley, tennis courts, and a swimming pool. Before the end of the first summer, it became apparent that the builders had not dreamed big enough. Action was taken on building a new wing and a group of non-housekeeping cottages.

Photograph - courtesy of Skytop Lodge

Special Dates to Remember

Skytop has a year round art show open to the public in the East Wing Gallery. The artists are selected by the Monroe County Art Council and change every two months.

Barrett Township in the Early Part of the 20th Century

By the turn of the century, the area quickly became renowned for the clean air and beautiful mountain paths where fragrant blossoms were seen. The magnificent Brodhead Creek and rambling mountain brooks were an angler's dream. By 1911, Cresco was the receiving station for forty-five boarding houses and hotels; the resort industry had begun to grow.

Heller's Mount Airy House was later sold, renovated and began to be operated as Onawa Lodge. Constructed on Godfrey Ridge in 1914, Mo-Nom-o-Nock Inn had a country club setting. The resort was marketed for being radically new. For instance, the kitchen had a complete artificial cooling system; to avoid contamination, meats, vegetables, butter, and milk were stored in separate locations.

Along the central road, JJ (Jinx) Sharbaugh established a merchandise store. He sold groceries and owned a music hall (with player piano) and a small motion picture theater built further back on his land. A photo studio, automobile business and other merchants set up shop through out the towns.

Although the township continued to grow, terrible fires still took their toll. Mabelle Cottage had to be dismantled. On June 1, 1920 (the third time in twenty years), Spruce Cabin Inn caught fire and burned to the ground. Approximately a month after the fire inquiry had begun, Philadelphia investigators exposed a pyromaniac who had been a guest at the time of the inferno. Confined to the Eastern Penitentiary for setting his neighborhood on fire, the firebug denied setting the torch to the famous resort.

Dedicated on Armistice Day in 1927, the Consolidated School, designed by two local architects (Lacey and Rinker) was modernly equipped. It had a large lot for use as play and recreation.

By the summer of 1929, the historic Shafer store building had been leased and remodeled by the American Stores Co. George H. Bush opened the grocery store (June 21st) and began to sell meats and produce. Ralph Sommers, transferred from the East Stroudsburg store, was manager of the meat department.

Later that summer, Elinor Smith (holder of the solo endurance flight record for women - 26 hours and 21 minutes), on her way to opening Wilkes-Barres' new airport encountered a thick, low cloud fog ceiling. Not able to gain a higher altitude, but aware of hazardous terrain further on, she forced her plane into a pancake landing in a small field. Shaken, but unhurt, she walked five miles to Meinweiser's farm for assistance.

The Buck Hill Inn's new addition was dedicated on June 5, 1930, the hotel's Twenty-Ninth Anniversary. It consisted of 135 excellent rooms, a beautiful East Music Room and a large auditorium which had a seating capacity of 1000. Charles Thompson announced that the room would be used for lectures, conventions, talking pictures (the first picture shown was 'Disraeli') and presentations by the Buck Hill Players.



3rd Feb 1917

Winter Show

Horse drawn sleds pulled guests past nature's winter beauty.

Photo - courtesy of Betty Jenkins



Theo B. Price Store

Begun in 1902 by J.W. Swaine, his merchandise and mining prop/lumber business became an overnight success. By 1905, he was employing 40 men and had 23 teams working for him. They shipped out 15 railroad cars of notch and lumber a week. By 1908, Theodore Price had begun to rent out a section of the store. Joe Swaine sold the business (recognize the building, since it still exists?) to him in 1912. By 1924, Theodore Price had opened a sprag (pieces of wood used to brake coal mining cars) mill. (shown on right).

Photo - courtesy of Mary Ann Miller



Price and Litz Grocery Store

Begun in 1923 by Porter Price and Dan Litz, this store sold high quality meats as well as produce. Previous to this endeavor, Porter Price was in charge of groceries at the Buck Hill store, while Litz worked at his side. The building is currently operating as The Mountainhome Deli Cafe.

Photo - courtesy of Virginia Swaine Burry



Barrett Basketball Team

By 1929, the Barrett Consolidated High School had begun to organize its basketball teams. Basketball games were played at Sieg's Hall. This women's team was formed in 1931. Featured in this photo are: back row L-R Pauline Price, Virginia Swaine, Margaret Michaels, Josephine Henry, and Jenny Cramer. Front row L-R Helen Williams, Alda Price, Ella Mae Snow, Mary Brutzman, and Pierma Comazzi.

Pierina

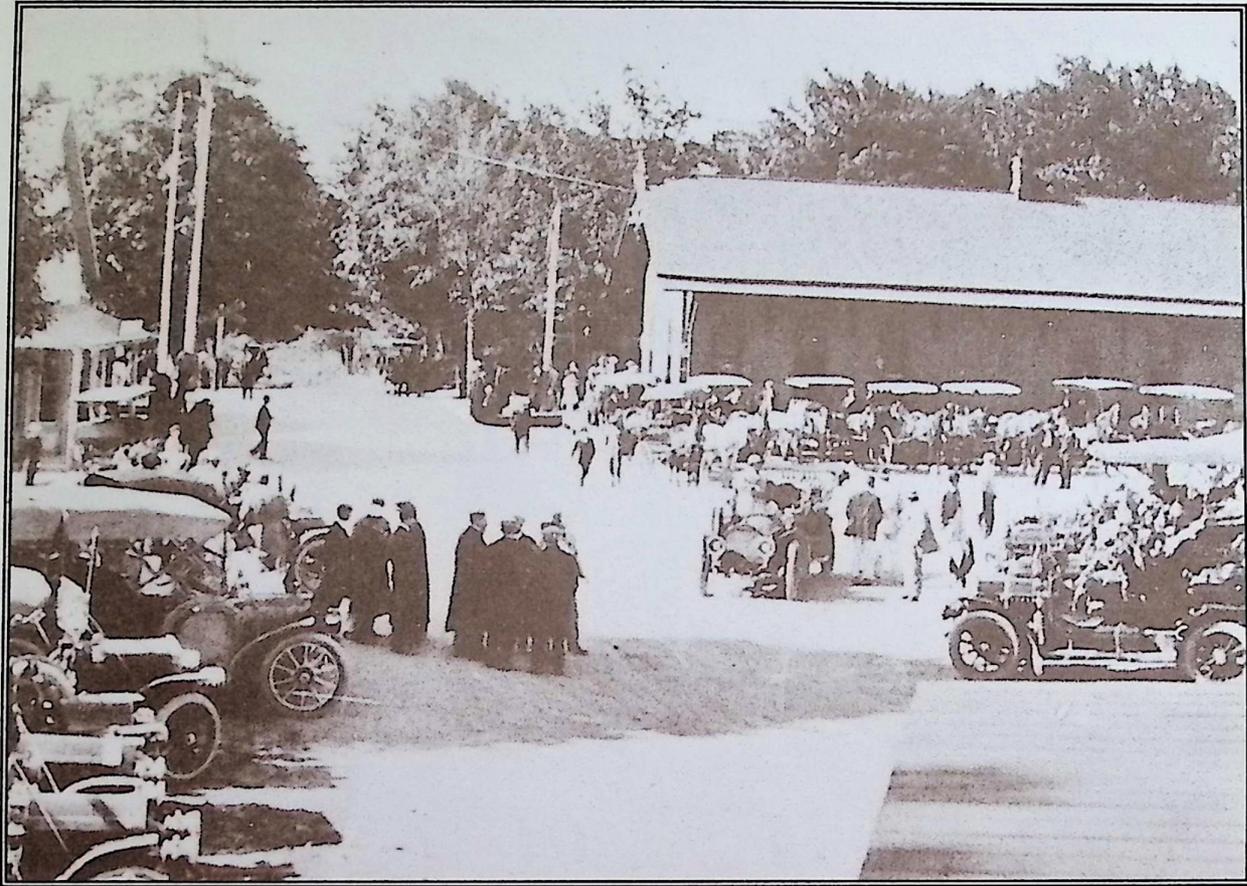
Photo - courtesy of Virginia Swaine Burry



Buck Hill Forks

For a number of decades, Barrett residents cast their ballots in this small election house (which lay just beyond the service station). For residents unable to make their way, friendly neighbors would take them so they could vote their ticket. The building had other uses. By the summer of 1921, the structure was scrubbed out, curtains were placed in the windows and a pot-bellied stove was added. A Well Baby Clinic was opened. Dr. J.M. DeKay offered his service; Mrs. Lena Swaine was the nurse in charge. The clinic weighed the babies and showed the women how to care for them. The Buck Hill House (currently the Forks Restaurant) stands on the other side of the road.

Photo - courtesy of Daphne Price Leeds



Cresco Railroad Depot

Long before the Poconos became associated with the tourism industry, the Delaware, Lackawanna, and Western railroad companies heavily promoted the Pocono area. Brochures, travel guides and booklets praised the excellent fishing, beautiful scenery, recreation, fresh vegetables and healthiness of the region. The big freight years were during the 1926-1930 period. It brought in the first brick for the addition to the new Barrett High School, carried gravel for the roads, material for the Pennsylvania Power and Light lines, and building materials for Skytop Lodge as well as other resorts in this growing tourist area.

Photo - courtesy of a friend



Canadensis Frozen in Time

The building to the left of the Canadensis Methodist Episcopal Church accommodated Leona Price's Tea Room. A section of her building was rented for use as the Canadensis Post Office. The structure was later razed to make room for the "new" Canadensis Hill (Rt. 390) road. The original Methodist Episcopal Church was built by the Palen and Northrup tannery south of the town. By 1915 the congregation built a larger structure in the center of the town.

During the early 1900's George Bush operated a general merchandise store (building to the right of the Church). He sold groceries, flour, feed, dry goods, notions as well as Lowney's Chocolate. The Barrett school, located across the street, began to occupy the second floor in the early 1920's when it needed additional space. Marli's Antiques presently occupies the building.

Photo - courtesy of Lee Ann Dyson



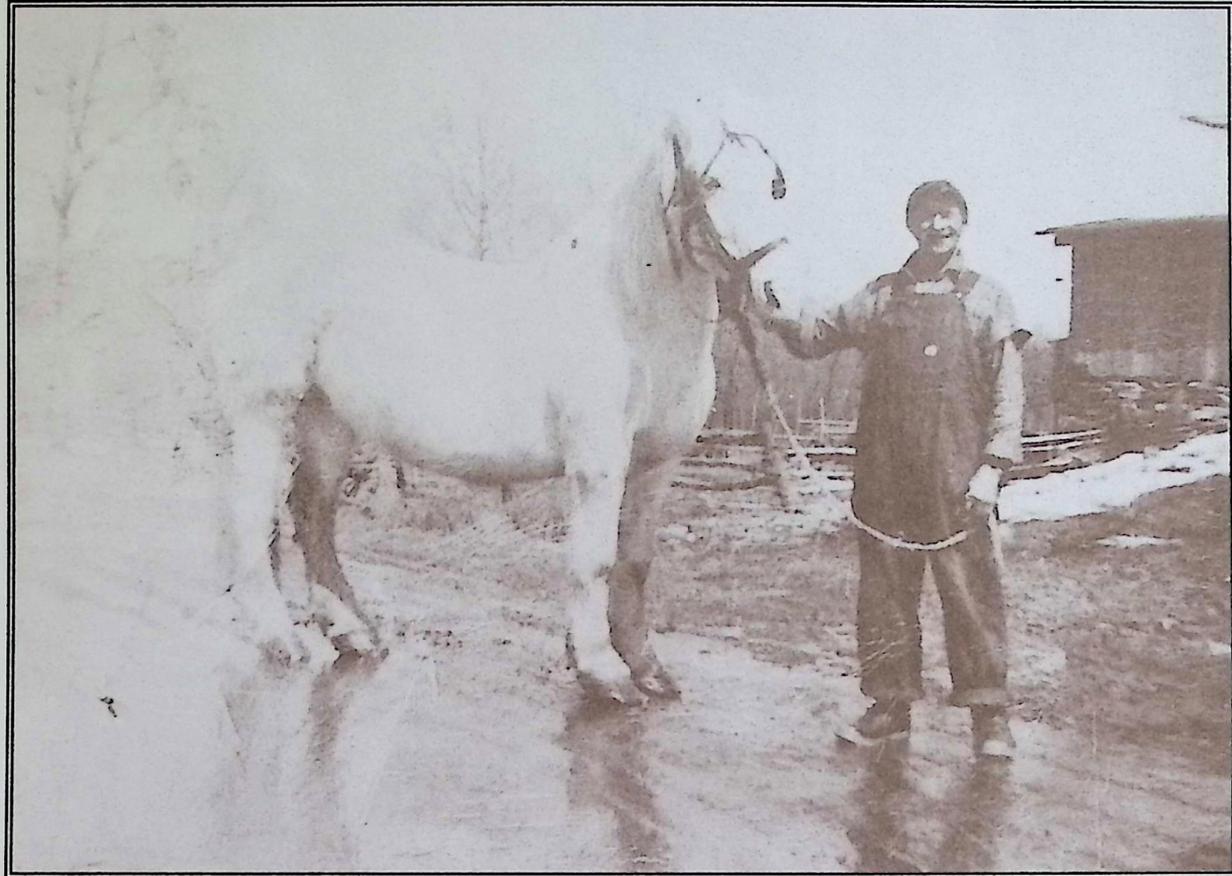
The Indian Trading Post

Opened in 1936, Fred Schaefer's Indian Trading Post quickly became well known for southwest native American Indian handcrafted items. Sixteen Hollbrook Arizona Navajos lived and worked around the store.

Photo - courtesy of Helen Schaefer Grady

*"There's a vacation village of rustic beauty
Do not miss it as you travel through this way
It's Canadensis with Indian Trading Post
Fine Indian Craftsmanship there on display."*

From The Call of the Poconos by Hattie Keating; Copyright 1941.



A Mid-Twentieth Century Character

John Fish was born and lived his entire life in Barrett township. He spent much of his life living from his natural environment. He cleared his land and plowed his farm with a team of oxen, later replacing them with a horse. John made and sold oxen yokes. Each season, customers came from many miles to purchase his corn. He was also renowned for his apple cider.

Photo - courtesy of Janet Fish Howard



The Toboggan Slide

Situated in the lake behind the Sharbaugh store, everyone had a lot of fun on the toboggan slide. Located at the deep end of the lake, almost two stories in height, sliding down the ramp must have given everyone quite a fright. The ramp was dismantled once a person was hurt. Ice was stored in the building on the left of the slide. If you look carefully at the top of the slide, you'll notice a two-person toboggan.

Photo - courtesy of Virginia S. Burry



The Oak Spring Hunting Camp

Although the early hunting camps were many, the Oak Spring Hunting Camp fellows shot their fair share. Oak Spring was founded during WWI on the Lafayette Price Homestead. L-R: Lloyd Martin, Lloyd LaBar, Harold Price, Elmer Rinehart, Floyd Shafer (M.D.), Chas. Gordon, Chester Sommers, Jay Shumaker, and Witt Price.

Photo - courtesy of Mary Wicks



Winter Fun

Buck Hill Inn was marketed as a "Winter Inn" during the 1913-14 season. Other resorts soon followed their lead by offering tobogganing, sledding, skiing and skating. During the 1934-35 winter, Buck Hill Inn operated the first rope tow for skiers in Pennsylvania.

Photo - courtesy of Mary Ann Miller

Organizations

Barrett Ambulance Corps.

Meetings: 1st Monday
at Ambulance Bld.

Barrett/Paradise Business Association

Meetings: 1st Monday every other month
Call 595-6260

Barrett Community Club

Meetings: 1st Thursday
at Ambulance Bld.

Barrett Historical Society

Meetings: Third Friday 7:30 p.m.
Mountainhome United Methodist Church

Barrett Lions Club

Meetings: 2nd and 4th Monday
7:00 p.m. at The Cook's Touch

Barrett Volunteer Fire Co.

PO Box 1 Buck Hill Falls, PA 18323

Concerned Citizens of Barrett Township

Meetings: 4th Thursday 7:00 p.m.
Oct-May High Acres Community Bld.
June-Sept. High Acres Park

Cresco Station Museum

Open Memorial Day - Labor Day 1-4 p.m.
After Labor Day call 595-7643 for appt.

Harvesters

Meetings: 1st Tuesday at noon
Ambulance Building

Paradise Willing Workers

Meetings: 2nd Tuesday at 7:30 p.m.
Call 595-7068

Pocono Mountain Rotary Club

Meetings: every Wednesday
6:00 p.m. at The Forks

The Shepherds of Monroe County

Board Meetings: 2nd Wednesday
Mountainhome United Methodist Church

Barrett Friendly Library

M-TH 12-5:00p.m.&6:30-9p.m.

Fri. 12:00-4:00 p.m.

Sat. 11:30-3:00 p.m.

Call 595-7171

Municipal Offices

Barrett Township Supervisors

Meetings: Every Friday 9:30 a.m. and 2nd Wed.
7:30 p.m. at Municipal Building 595-2602

Paradise Township Supervisors

Meetings: 1st and 3rd Tuesday 7:00 p.m.
At Municipal Building 595-9880

Churches

Canadensis Moravian

Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.
Worship: 10:45 a.m.
1st Saturday from May-Oct. Craft Sale

Canadensis United Methodist

Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.
Worship: 10:45 a.m.

Friends Quaker Meeting

Memorial Day - Columbus Day at Buck Hill's
Kerby Library. Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m.

Keokee Chapel

in Paradise
Sunday Worship: 9:30 a.m.

Mountainhome United Methodist Church

Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Worship: 8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

Paradise Assembly of God

Sunday Service: 8:30 a.m. 10:50 a.m. 7:00 p.m.

Paradise Valley Baptist Church

Sunday School: 10:00 a.m.
Sunday Service: 11:00 a.m. 6:30 p.m.
Bible Study: Thursday at 7:00 p.m.

Pocono Bible Church

in Mountainhome
Sunday School: 10:00 a.m.
Worship: 11:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.

St. Bernadette's Catholic in Canadensis

Services: 9:00/11:00 a.m. Sunday
5:30 p.m. Saturday 4:00 p.m. confession