

“Yesteryear”



Seguine House

2006

In Barrett and Paradise



Seguine House

"How well I remember the Seguine home just outside of Cresco. I saw it once brightly illuminated, the porches strung with garlands and Japanese lanterns, and from the trees around the house, more lanterns shone in the darkness. The lawn party was wonderful."

The above quote was taken from Ringing Axes and Rocking Chairs The story of Barrett Township by Peggy Bancroft. Others who remember the home during the 30's and 40's describe the lovely formal flower gardens, the shuffle board court, and the sleeping porch.

For many years it was the home of John A. Seguine and his family. Mr. Seguine operated the Cresco Cash Store with Mr. Stewart Shannon. This store was originally located near the Cresco Station Museum. The business later moved to the building next to the Cresco Garage, now the home of Albert and Susan Seese and family. In 1908 John Seguine built a four-story department store directly across the road. This store was in operation until it burned in 1954. Part of the original sidewalk can still be seen opposite the old Garage and gas pumps.

The cover photograph was taken in 1980 as part of a historic resources survey of sites and structures in Monroe County. Monroe county Planning Commission prepared the information in the book, April 1980. They gave the following description of the Seguine House: "J. A. Seguine owned and operated the Seguine Store in Cresco. The small dry goods store founded in 1873 grew to be a landmark department store until 1954 when fire destroyed it. Although reputed to be a watchful accountant and strict taskmaster, J. A. Seguine did have this large and luxurious home built for himself just outside of Cresco. The house was built at the turn-of-the-century, but it was inspired by the Second-Empire style."

The Pleasant Ridge Land Development Scam

In the early 1890's a plan was formulated to build a large new town, **The Pleasant Ridge**, in Barrett Township, Monroe County, Pennsylvania – "The Heart of the Pocono Mountains".

The Pleasant Ridge Land & Improvement Company of New York City was incorporated under the laws of Pennsylvania and capitalized at \$50,000. The corporate headquarters was located in the Pulitzer Building in NYC. The chief executive officers were Isidor Lindemann-President, Nathan Vorzimmer-Treasurer, and Leon Shimmer-Secretary. The new town was to be located on a tract of land, two miles north of the existing town of Mountainhome, at the headwaters of the Rattlesnake Creek. The company purchased a six hundred acre tract of land, encompassing the full John Murray Warrant and one-half of the Sarah Murray Warrant, and the deed registered at the Monroe county Courthouse. A town plan was developed that called for thirty long streets and avenues to be laid out in a rectangular grid pattern. The avenues were named for states (i.e. New York, Pennsylvania, Maryland etc.) and the streets named numerically (1st – 12th streets). The land was divided into lots of twenty-five feet wide by one hundred feet long, with some exceptions for larger lots held by the company for undisclosed buildings.

Preparation of the site was completed in 1891. Several streets were cut out and a pavilion built to entertain and conduct business for potential buyers.

The sales campaign started in earnest in 1892. Interested people were invited to visit the site. Some of these people were new immigrants to the country with their life saving packed in their suitcase. The Delaware Lackawanna & Western Railroad was the most common source of transportation. Trips were planned at Laurel and Rhododrenden blossom time, as well as other favorable periods in the summer. At the Cresco Station the people were greeted with great fanfare by a band and horse drawn surrey that drove through the towns of Cresco and Mountainhome before swinging up the state and access roads to the Pleasant Ridge pavilion. Along the way a stop was made to show the visitors the small beautiful Rattlesnake Falls. At the termination point, the pavilion, the guests were entertained with music, food and beer before being subjected to the high powered sales pitch. Single and multiple lot sales were accomplished at the site or in other realty offices in the northeast so that by the end of the first year thirty-six parcels were sold.

The sale of lots continued for a period of 30 years but with dwindling sales each year until the last lot was sold in 1922. A total of sixty-two parcels were sold but very few homes were built on the site. The lack of necessary water and sewage prevented building on the sites. The company went bankrupt and the individual lot owners lost their land to the county by tax foreclosures. A large portion of the property was sold by the county to the Evans family and became the Evans hunting camp.



Krummell Hill House

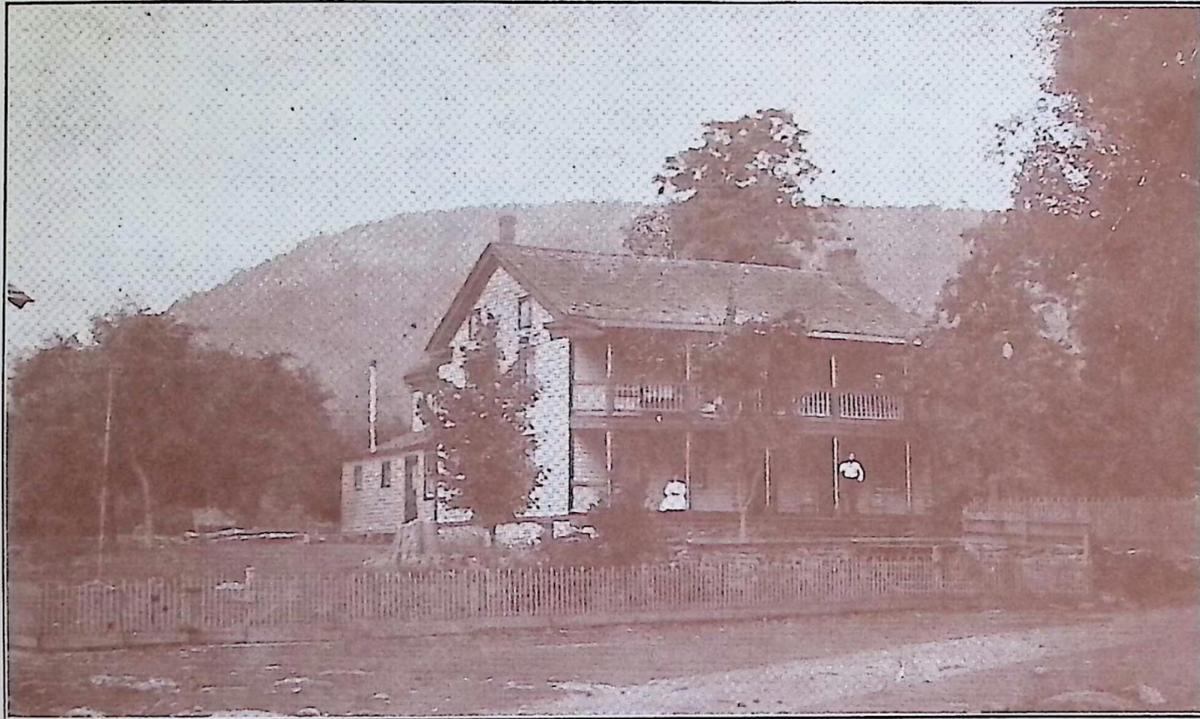
The Krummell Family moved to the Poconos in the mid nineteenth century and purchased a large tract of land in the Skytop area from Charles Price. Their boarding house was built in the early nineteen hundreds. It was originally named the Poplars; later called the Krummell Hill House and then Mountain Top House. The property was purchased by Skytop Lodge, razed, and the Skytop Meadows town houses were built



The 1947 – 1948 Barrett High School Basketball Team

Front Row – Left to Right: Charles Nauman, Ronald Dougherty, Adolph Caprioli, Carl Kresge, Robert Theos

Second Row – Left to Right: Mr. Wile, James Anderson, Robert Koerner, James Walter, James Sickler, John Ketz, Harry Rider (Manager)



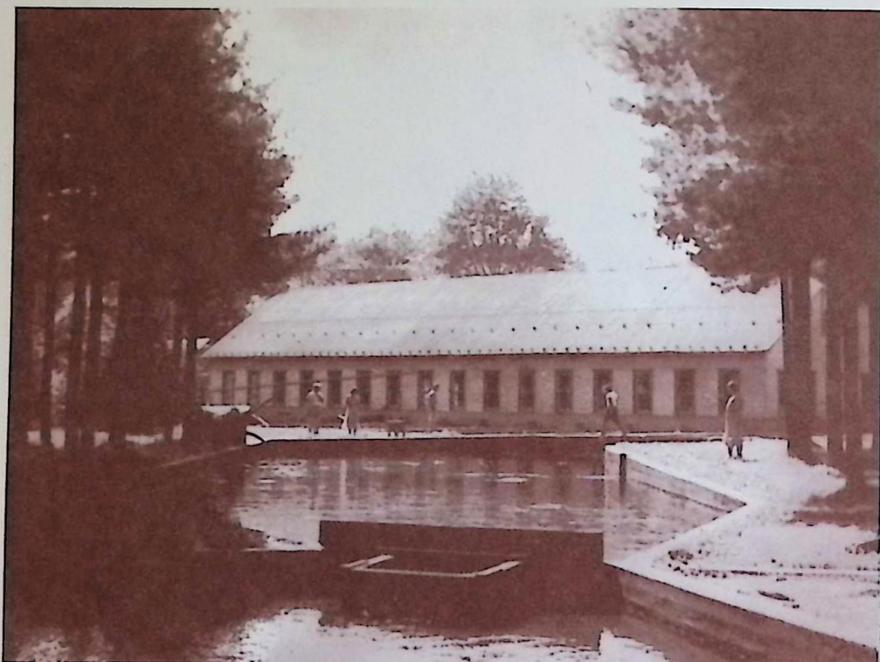
LAFAYETTE PRICE, Prop'r

MOUNTAIN LAKE HOUSE

CANADENSIS, PA.

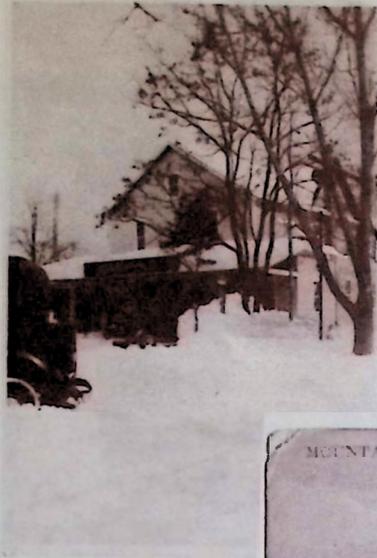
Mountain Lake House Inn

The main part of the Inn was built in 1839 by Charles Price as a hotel for the lumbermen of the mountain. Around 1876 it was sold to ten men from Scranton and called the Salmonicides Fishing Club which existed for eighteen years, during which time Charles Price was the innkeeper. Around 1908 Lafayette Price, Charles's son bought the property and enlarged it and it was called "Mountain Lake". In 1916 the property went to his daughter, Susan Price Somers. After the death of her husband she married Frank Janney and for a while the Mountain Lake House was known as the Janney House. In 1925 Frank and Susan Janney sold the property to the builders of Skytop Lodge. The house was later dubbed The Greasy Spoon as it served as housing for Skytop Lodge employees. In the early sixties Skytop Lodge razed it.



Paradise Brook Trout Co., Inc.

The first licensed trout hatchery in Pennsylvania was started in 1902 by a group of local businessmen from Pennsylvania and New Jersey. Initially Brook trout eggs were culled from native Brook trout, which were taken from a branch of the Brodhead Creek, which runs through the 110 acres property in Paradise Valley. Brown trout came later, the first eggs being purchased from the PA Fish Commission. Later they started raising Rainbows. The main market at that time was the New York restaurant trade, including the Fulton Fish Market. Fish were processed at the hatchery, driven to the Cresco Station by horse and wagon and taken by rail to New York City. Today the main business is selling live trout to private fishing clubs within a 100-mile radius of the hatchery.



Local Grocery Stores

Prior to World War II there were three small grocery stores serving the Barrett area. One A & P was located in what is now Mick's Showroom, the A & P in the picture was in Frank Brown's building in Canadensis, and the American Store, the third one, was in the present Bible Church in Mountainhome.

Above left



Paradise Mountain House (The Olde Inn now Paradise Inn)

Before 1840, John Edinger of Tannersville received the contract from the newly formed D.L. & W. Railroad to accommodate the Engineers who were designing the railroad bed. They were concerned about the grade on Pocono Mountain. The grade never exceeded 15%. He then purchased the George Bowman homestead (1840) and some acres and converted it to a tavern with rooms and meals, which were often eaten off wide boards laid across wooden horses. To this day, descendants of old time resort operators refer to hotel guests as "boarders". This is now called the American Plan. Paradise Mountain House is 3 miles from 3 major crossings on the mountain: Henryville, Oakland (Cresco), and Mount Pocono, and also included the tunnel at the Pocono Knob, now referred to as "the cut". The small building directly behind the Inn was especially built as the Engineers Office. In later years, it served as a shoemaker shop and also an election booth. In 1850 Thomas Lockyer bought the business and spent summers there with his family, including his nephew John Hamblin and son-in-law Joseph Jefferson, the actor.



William W. Price and his Jitney

William W. Price and his Jitney transported city folks to and from Oakland Railroad Station. Here he is shown on a sightseeing tour of the mountains in the early 1900's. Jitney was originally a slang word for a nickel, or five cents. The word then came to be used for a bus that carried passengers along a regular route, since the fare for these rides was five cents. Buses like this continued to be called jitneys long after the fares rose.



The Bridge at Mountainhome

The Civil Defense Unit reported that every bridge in Barrett Township was down or received heavy damage during the flood of August 18, 1955. This is a picture of the Mountainhome Bridge over Mill Creek taken from below the Mountainhome United Methodist Church, looking past the bridge up the hill toward Ravelli's, now Cooks Touch. A small distance upstream, the residence of Clyde and Esther Smith was washed away. Several years after the flood, the Odyssey Gift Shop was build along the stream near the center of the photograph.



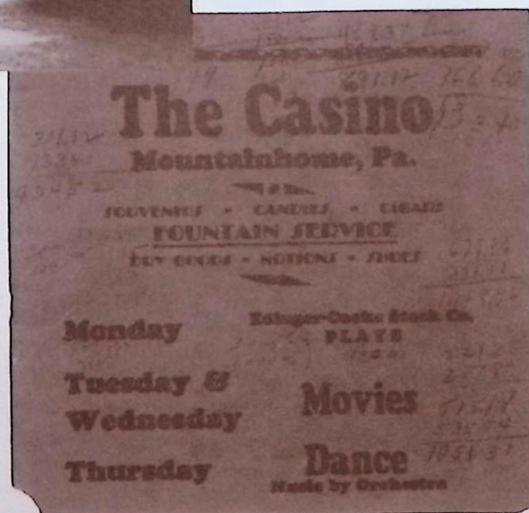
Log Cabin Tea Room

The Log Cabin Tea Room opened in October 1940. Prior to this building, a roadside stand across the highway started with renting bicycles by Grant Snyder's daughter Rlendine (Toots) and selling soda and ice cream. Grant, obtaining permission from Buck Hill Falls Co., hauled in chestnut logs that had been killed by the blight that killed the trees in the early part of the century. Toots helped her father in constructing the Log Cabin Tea Room. Breakfast along with sandwiches, fresh fruit sundaes, milk shakes – a popular one was "Teaberry" – and banana splits were popular features. Bike rentals also continued. Most of the business came from the three resorts in close proximity - Onawa Lodge, Monomonock and the Pleasant Ridge House. The Snyder family continued operating the business until the seventies.



The Rudolph – The Crestwood – P.M.I. in the Sky

The "Rudolph", later called the "Crestwood" and still later Pocono Mountain Inn or "P.M.I. in the Sky." The hotel commanded one of the finest views in the Pocono area. The nightclub was called the "Rainbow Room". The building was torn down and the property is now part of our local part system.



Sharbaugh Store and Casino

This property was originally the Sharbaugh Store and Casino movie theater. Rapha Sieg purchased the property in the late 20's. The store and theater burned in 1932, although the residence on the right was saved. It was rebuilt as a store, post office, and gas station. The two buildings were joined together in 1948 and now house the Sopko offices.



Humphrey's Drug Store

Humphrey's Drug Store, standing in the intersection of Rts. 447 and 390, was a connecting link between the Canadensis of the 1900's and the 1970's until it burned in May of 1974. Built by Ira Edwards, it was traded to William Long for a hotel that the Longs had. The Longs operated it as a General Store, as did Richard Manhart. It also saw service as a meat store, a clothing store, and the Post Office. The place was bought in the early 1930's by Harry and Margaret Humphrey and operated as a year-round drug store until the late 1950's when they opened only in the summer and lived in Florida during the winter. Mr. & Mrs. Humphrey lived in an apartment above the store.

Organizations

Barrett Ambulance Corps
Meetings: 1st Tuesday at
Ambulance Building

Barrett Friendly Library
M-TH 12-5:00 PM
And 6:30-9PM
Fri. 12:00-4:00 PM
Sat. 11:30-3:00 PM
595-7171

Barrett/Paradise Business Assoc.
Meetings: 1st Monday every other
month 595-9393

Barrett Historical Society
Meetings: Third Friday 7:30 PM
Mountainhome United Methodist
Church

Barrett Lions Club
Meetings: 2nd and 4th Monday
7:00 PM at The Cook's Touch

Barrett Volunteer Fire Co.
PO Box 1
Buck Hill Falls, PA 18323

**Concerned Citizens of Barrett
Township**
4th Thursday 7:PM Oct-May High
Acres Community Bld. June-Sept.
High Acres Park

Cresco Station Museum
Open Memorial Day-Labor Day
1-4
Wed. & Sat. July & Aug.
After Labor Day call 595-7282 for
appointment

Harvesters
Meetings: 1st Tuesday at noon
Ambulance Building
Apr.-Dec.

Pocono Mountain Rotary Club
Meetings: every Wednesday
6:15 at The Fork

Municipal Offices

Barrett Township Supervisors
Meetings: Every Tues. 9:30AM and 2nd
Wed. 7:30PM at
Municipal Building 595-2602

Paradise Township Supervisors
Meetings: 1st & 3rd Tues. 6:30 PM
At Municipal Building 595-9880

Churches

Canadensis Moravian
Sunday School: 9:30 AM
Worship: 10:45 AM
1st Sat. June-Sept. Craft Sale

Canadensis United Methodist
Sunday School: 9:30 AM
Worship: 10:45 AM

Friends Quaker Meeting
Memorial Day-Columbus Day at Buck
Hill's Kerby Library
Sunday Worship 10:30 AM

Keokee Chapel
In Paradise
Sunday Worship: 9:30 AM

**Mountainhome United Methodist
Church**
Sunday School: 10:15
Worship: 9:00 AM
Cross-Road Café for Grade 7-12
Fri. 7:00 PM-10:00 PM
7-10: Vesper 4th Sun. 7PM

Paradise Assembly of God
Sunday Service: 8:30&10:50AM
7:00 PM

Paradise Valley Baptist Church
Sunday School: 10:00 AM
Sunday Service: 11:00AM, 6:30PM
Bible Study: Thurs. 7:00 PM

Pocono Bible Church
In Mountainhome
Sunday School: 10:00 AM
Worship: 11:00 AM & 7:00 PM

St. Bernadette's Catholic
In Canadensis
Services: 9:00/11:00 AM Sunday
4:00PM Sat. 3:00PM confession