

“Yesteryear”



2005

In Barrett and Paradise



The summer of 1955 was a hot one with little rain. Gardens died from lack of moisture, wells failed and the need for rain became more and more evident. But, that said, no one was prepared for the havoc that arrived on August 18 with Hurricane Diane. "Diane" was predicted to "wear herself out" and cause little damage to the Poconos.

Following close on the heels of Hurricane Connie that had supplied blessed relief from the drought, Diane caused devastation the like of which had never been seen in the area. In less than 24 hours after she began Diane had killed 67 persons in Monroe County, caused millions of dollars damage, ripped up great chunks of the Creek Road (Rt. 447), swept away 11 homes in Canadensis, ruined 22 others further east, eliminated three businesses, and damaged 13 others. In Mountainhome two homes were destroyed and 13 were seriously damaged.

Route 447 was intact only 1/4 of a mile from Canadensis to Stroudsburg. Eight people lost their lives when the cottages were swept away just below Log Cabin Farm. Tombstones were toppled and several of the graves in the row closest to the creek were torn up in the Canadensis Methodist Cemetery.

The Civil Defense Unit reported that every bridge in Barrett Township was down or received heavy damage. Helicopters

were used to rescue passengers from a stranded D.L. & W. train near Cresco. Seventeen railroad bridges were destroyed and 20 major washouts on the road made it the greatest catastrophe in the railroad's history.

A rumor that the dam at Skytop Lake might be damaged and threatening to break sent everyone scattering for higher ground. This did not happen but helped to point out that some sort of flood control was needed.

The Civil Defense workers, led by Chief Director D. Marshall Reese, worked tirelessly to evacuate stranded residents.

The picture on the cover, donated by Ernie Voros, shows the Canadensis Bridge, looking across the swollen Brodhead Creek toward the center of Canadensis. The Canadensis United Methodist Church, where a high water mark can be found in the side vestibule of the church, is seen to the left of center. The white building, to the left of the church, was part of a cottage complex and is now owned by the Church. Several of the cottages were washed away in the flood. The Cross Roads can be seen in the background. The building to the right of Rt. 390 was Humphry's Drug store, which burned in the late 70s. The bridge, although damaged, was one the few in the township that, after a dirt ramp was built, could be used to cross the Brodhead.

## Special Dates to Remember

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

The following excerpts were taken from a reproduction from the *Pocono Record* "Outlook" Sunday, May 2, 1982 (Used by permission).

"Tourism boosted lagging Barrett economy" by Monica von Dobenack, Pocono Record Reporter.

Mountainhome — Barrett Township, named after a president judge of Monroe County, was created in 1859. At that time two tanneries were operating, the lumber industry was booming, tourists had not yet discovered the area's pristine beauty, farmers were struggling to make living from the rocky soil, and the Mountainhome Methodist Church was under construction at a cost of \$1,050.

John Price and his wife first moved to Barrett Township in 1756 but were driven off by hostile Indians who were angry at the results of the infamous "Walking Purchase." The Prices returned in 1764 and settled along the Brodhead Creek. They, and other early settlers had a hard life trying to entice a living from the rocky soil.

Barrett became a township in 1859. Tanneries were the area's first industrial business. Mountainhome was originally White's Tannery, named after a factory started in 1856 by White & Brakely. White's Tannery later became Oakland, but the federal post office kept confusing the village with other Oaklands, thus prompting the final name change to Mountainhome.

Dr. Gilbert Palen, of the Palen and Northrup tannery, named Canadensis for the Latin name of the hickory, *Tsuga Canadensis*. Palen's old home is now the Pine Knob Inn.

The lumbering industry was also active at this time. Mountainhome had a shoe peg factory, which manufactured wooden pegs attach soles to shoes. The factory later manufactured clothespins, shipping 200 boxes a day. Shingles, barrel staves, chair seats and wooden buttons were

also products of Barrett Township's factories in the 19th century, the township's peak industrial era. Harness making, huckleberry gathering and flagstone quarrying also created employment.

The tanning and lumbering businesses were so successful they caused their own downfalls by depleting area trees, particularly hemlocks. After the two tanneries burned down, industry died in the area until local residents discovered a new source of revenue – tourism.

The coalfields of Scranton helped the tourist industry, which began around the turn of the century. Coal meant railroads. Barrett Township's first station, called Oakland, was built in 1875.

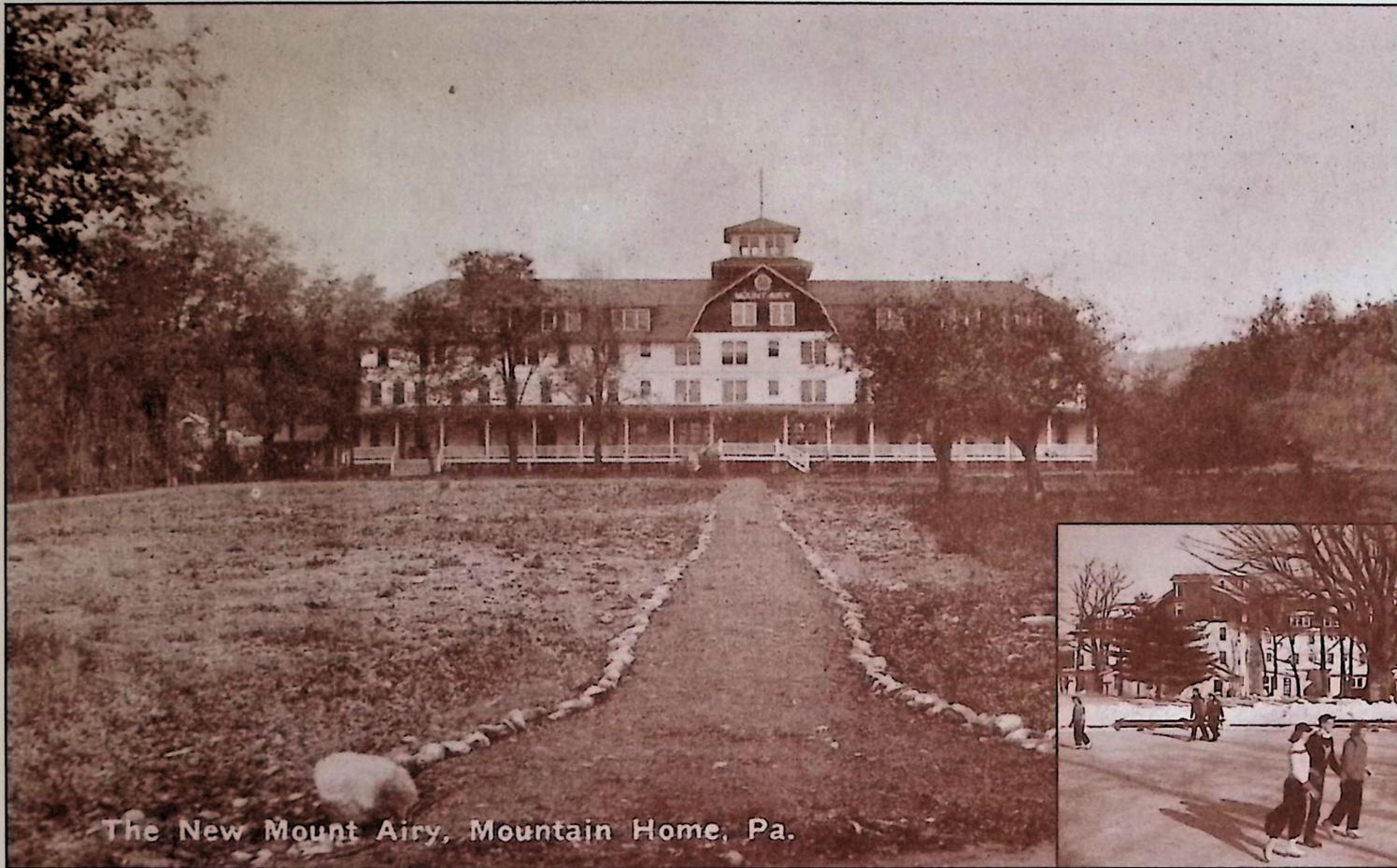
One of the first inns was Buck Hill House, located at the Forks. The Spruce Cabin Inn was one of the largest and best known of the early resorts. Built in 1887, it burned in 1891 and again in 1920, after which it was never rebuilt. The Hotel Canadensis, built in 1867, was Barrett Township's oldest standing tourist facility until it was demolished in 2003.

Train arrivals were great events. Hotels met their customers with horse-drawn carriages, later with cars. Old-timers sat with well-known personalities to spin yarns around the station's potbelly stove.

The station closed in 1968 but was reopened in 1998 under the auspices of the Barrett Township Historical Society and has operated during the summer months as Cresco Station Museum.

Since the writing of the above article there have been many changes, Buck Hill Inn is closed and many of the old resorts are no longer in existence having burned down or been abandoned. Barrett Township has changed but, hopefully, will continue to attract tourists with its beauty and natural surroundings.





### **The New Mount Airy Lodge**

The New Mount Airy Lodge was owned by the Harry Hellers. Originally a single dwelling farmhouse, another building was erected later and called "The Annex." In the above photo, the buildings have been joined. In the early thirties, it was bought by the Shinnen family who operated it until the early seventies. For a few seasons it became a summer music camp and then the Blue Mountain Sports Camp. The main lodge was destroyed by fire in 1979. The foundation of this building was used to construct the first units of the Onawa Townhouses.



### **Boy Scout Troop #89**

Front Row - L to R: C. Starner, C. Ayers, L. Hummell, Rev. Cathers, P. Nauman, H. Drennan, E. Green  
Middle Row: J. Jeffries, J. Martin, J. Price, M. Bender, C. Sieg, R. Williams  
Back Row: A. Hippler, G. Price, J. Heckman, J. Drennan, R. Sengle



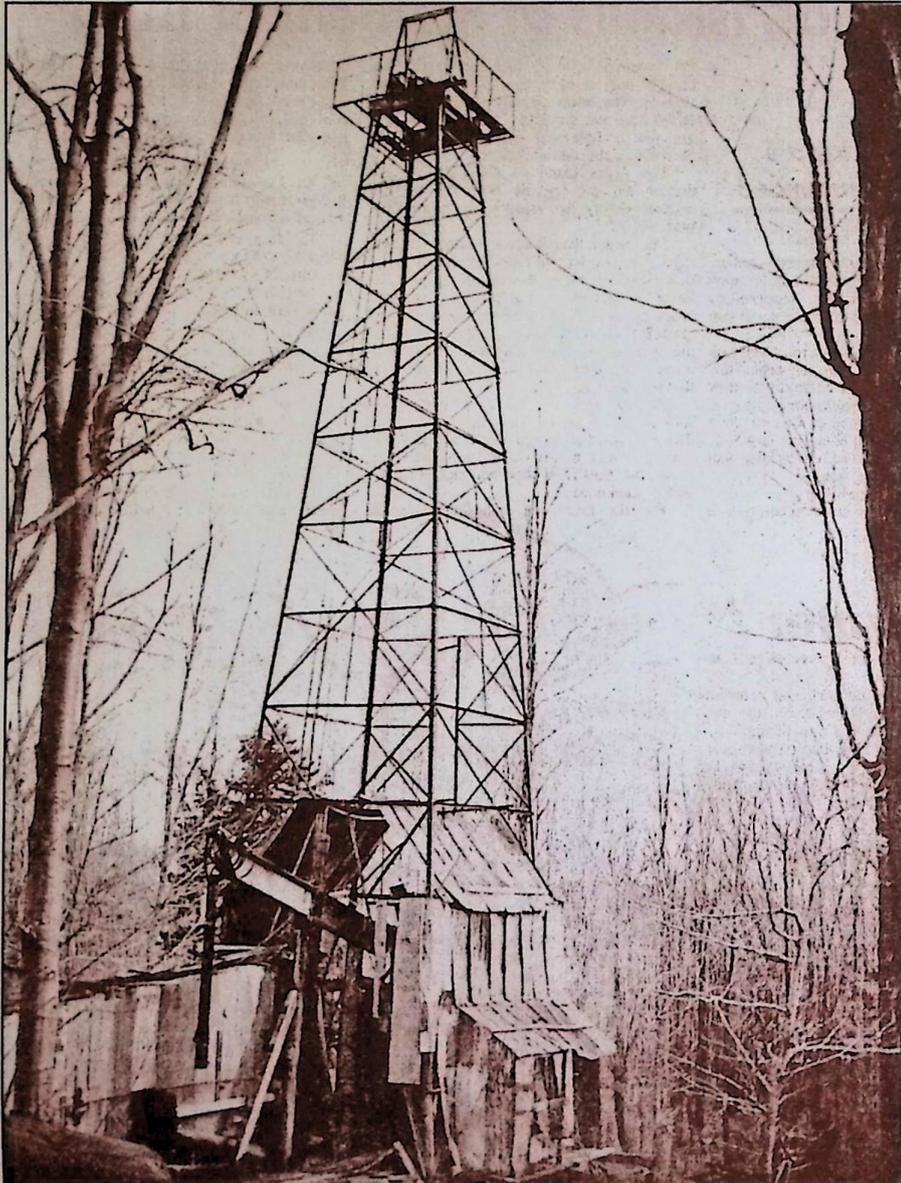
THE NEARBROOK HOUSE, Paradise Valley, Pa.



THE OLDEST POST OFFICE BUILDING IN MONROE CO. PA  
AT PARADISE VALLEY, PA.

### The Paradise Valley Post Office

On the right side of the building was the first post office formed after Monroe became a county. There was also a general store within the post office building. The left side was a casino where recitals, minstrel shows, lectures, etc. were performed by guests of Paradise Inn and the large literary population of the valley. James Kintz built the building in the 1840. Daniel Kintz, James's son, razed the building to erect Nearbrook Inn at the intersection of Routes 940 and 191. The post office closed in 1910. The Nearbrook was razed for the parking lot at Crescent Lodge.

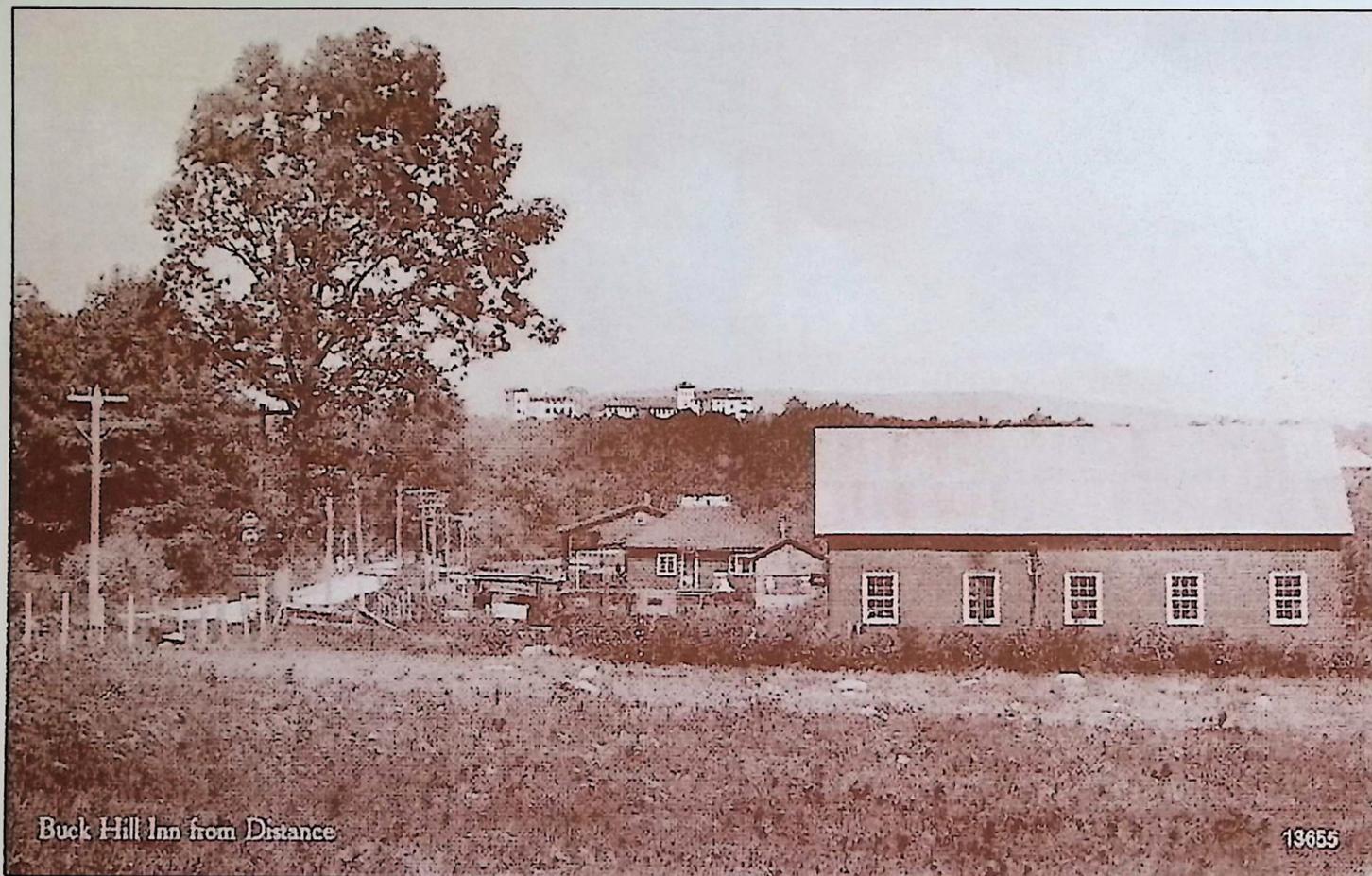


### A.M. Price Natural Gas Well

The A.M. Price well #1 was located along Route 447 north of Canadensis. In the early 1960s, the Poconos had a “run” on digging natural gas wells. Coming at a time when the economy was at a low level, it was thought that gas was buried under the gray rocks of the mountain country. Nothing ever came of it and the great conglomeration of metal and other cast-off soared into the treetops until it finally crumbled into a pile of rusted junk.

**GOOD TRY** — The A.M. Price Well No. 1, a natural gas well, stands silent and decaying along Rte. 447 in Canadensis. The well was

drilled approximately 18 years ago on the A.M. Price property, but nothing ever came of it. (Ambrose Vince Photo)



### Original Ford Garage

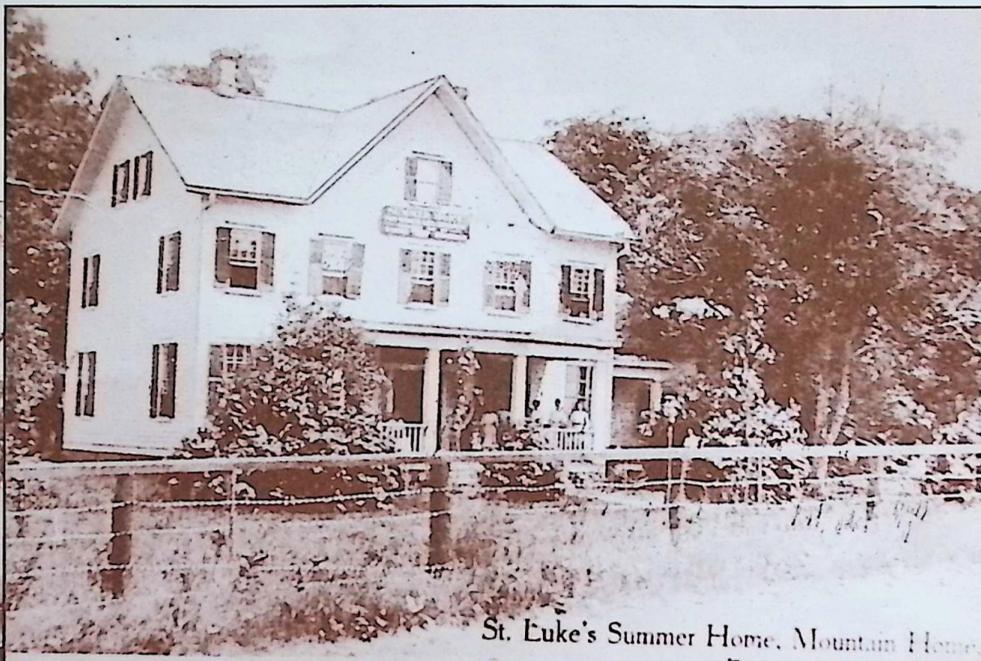
In the foreground is the first original Ford Garage built in 1913 by Ray Price. Ray Price sold the lot between the garage and the Morrisey gift shop in 1930 to the Williams Brothers for a drug store. The building next to the gift shop was a photography shop owned by Henry Schnackenberg and later became the legendary barbershop of Edgar Treneseau. Buck Hill Inn is in the background.



### **Barrett Township High School Band**

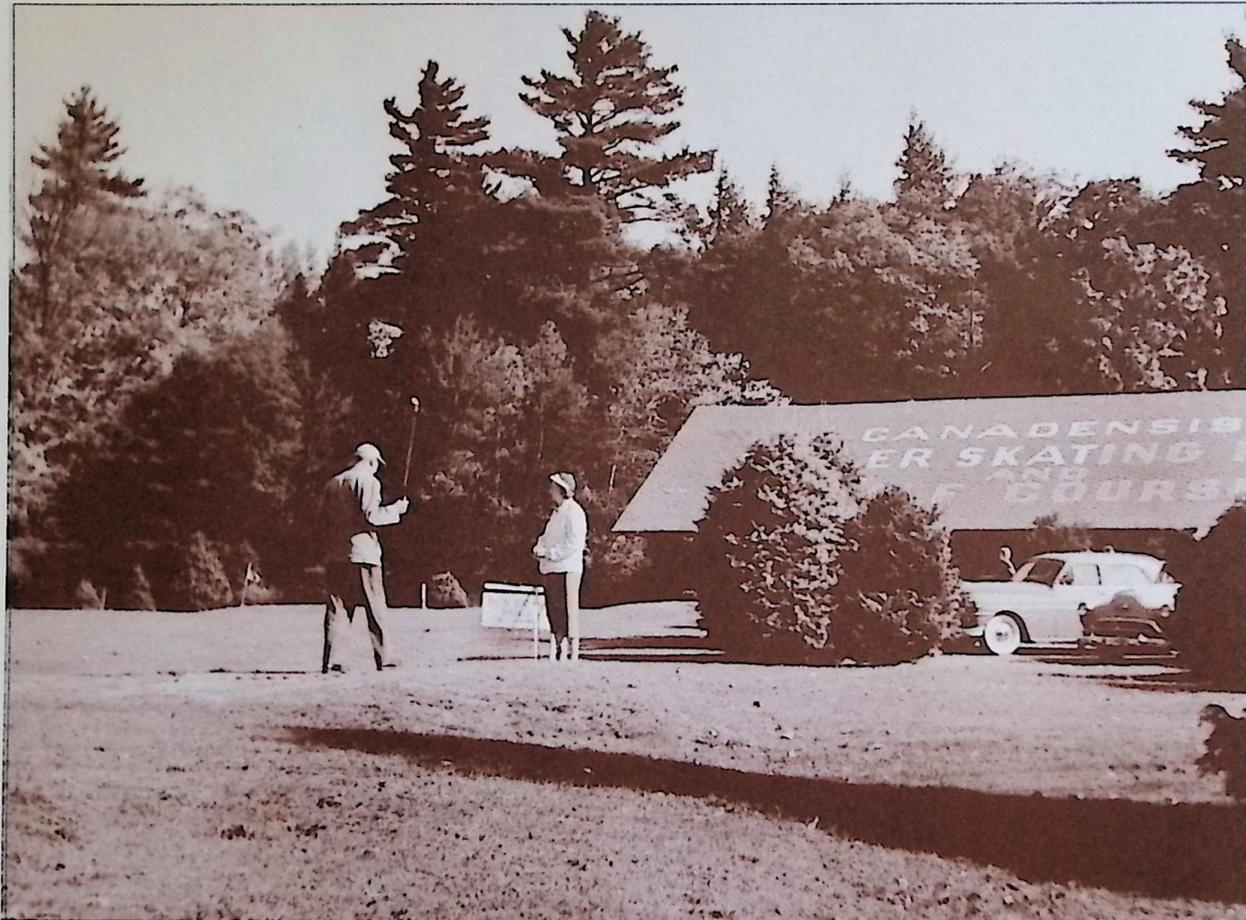
This is the Barrett Township High School Band with Director, Ernest Shiffert, about the year 1946. The photo was taken in front of the stage curtain in the gym-auditorium.

Front Row - L to R: K. Rider, M. Bender, L. Harrison, J. Sickler, M. Schaarschmidt, V. Rozelle, C. Vernoy, L. Ehrgood, C. Jenkins, H. Bixler  
Center Row: S. Roberts, B. Snyder, J. Heckman, H. Schultz, L. Sickler, H. Price, J. Naumen, J. Vernoy, M. Roos, G. Shaller, R. Osborne, Mr. Shiffert  
Back Row: J. Drennan, G. Price, R. Williams, J. Roos, P. Naumen, C. Ayres, E. Krummel, J. Price, I. Slack, D. Meinweiser, N. Lauffer



### **St. Luke's Summer Home**

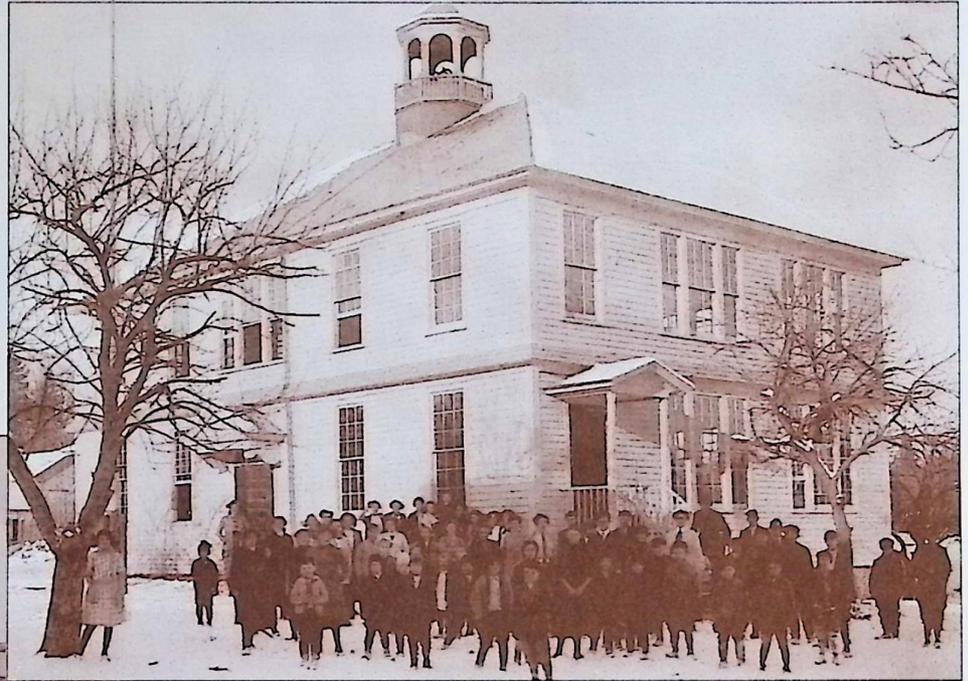
This was also called the "Fresh Air Children's" Home and provided a summer vacation for needy women and children from the Scranton area. Operated by the city of Scranton, the home was originally built by C.W. Decker, an associate judge. Mrs. Mabelle Green later ran it as the "Village Guest Home." Purchased by Mrs. Rowena Stevens, then the owner of the Pocono Playhouse, it was used as housing for actors and apprentices. During the tenure that Mount Airy owned the Playhouse, the building burned. They gave the land to the fire company for their current home.



### **The Canadensis Skating Rink**

The Canadensis Skating Rink was built by Vance Megargle in the early forties. Vance also operated the adjoining par three golf course. The skating rink was located next to the Brodhead Creek and the Old Canadensis Hill Bridge. The skating rink went downstream in the 1955 flood. The golf course is part of the Laurel Grove Inn and is still in operation.

*Picture courtesy of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Sieg.*



### **Barrett High School**

This picture shows the first Barrett High School built in 1911 and located in Canadensis between the present-day Indian Trading Post and the Laurel Grove Inn. One of the first 1913 graduating class members was Mary Bush who later taught at the new Barrett Township Consolidated School which opened in 1926. The old High School still remains, although the third floor has been removed. The second photograph shows an interior classroom with students and their teacher. Circa 1920.

tain hours will be set aside for quiet study with one or two teachers at hand to explain matters and make clear in the lectures or answer such questions as the student may have.

Special personal direction will be given those who want to improve their English or who want additional training in arithmetic, writing or the study of languages.

#### Religion

The Pocono Peoples College will treasure the rich spiritual heritage of America's religions thought and in the broad spirit of tolerance which has characterized America will encourage freedom of religious choice in sectarian matters. It will emphasize the common ideal of service to the Community and Nation.



#### Psychological Tests

At the beginning and end of the Session psychological tests will be given each individual and on the basis of these personal and expert advice will be given by a well known psychologist as to whether the individual is doing the sort of work in which he can be happiest and most successful and how he can find greater self-expression and real happiness in his personal life. This will take the place of examinations.

#### Help and Guidance After Leaving the School

The greatest educators say that education is never finished and the Pocono Peoples College will give, by correspondence and personally, every assistance in the student after they leave the College.

#### Location and Grounds

The college and its grounds are one mile from the Henryville railroad station, about twelve miles north of Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania. Located on a high bluff it overlooks the beautiful Paradise Valley and a long range of the Pocono Mountains. The main college building is designed in the purely American architecture of the Colonial period and is built of the native stone.

#### Admission

Admission will not be determined by elementary school credits but by the recommendations of responsible citizens. Neither eighth grade nor high school diplomas are required.

#### Schedule of Payments for Board, Room and Tuition

	Board & Room	Tuition
January	\$35.00	\$50.00
February	30.00	45.00
March	25.00	30.00
April	20.00	15.00
	\$110.00	\$125.00
Board and Room 4 months	\$110.00	
Tuition 4 months		125.00
Physical examination and medical care during minor illnesses		4.00
Total cost		\$239.00

This sum may be reduced by the College in the form of scholarships and loans to those who need them. Reduction of tuition cost as well as admission is not based on previous education, but on the recommendation of responsible people.

Further information may be secured by addressing

S. A. MATHIASSEN,  
Director Pocono Peoples College,  
HENRYVILLE, PA.

## Pocono Peoples College

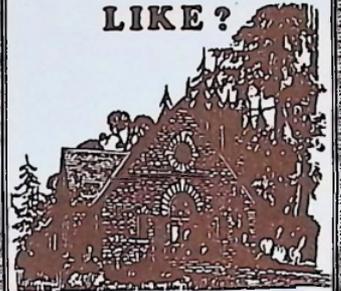
Henryville  
Pennsylvania



*A Fall School for Men and Women Seeking Knowledge and Spiritual Growth. It aims to Awaken Enthusiasm for the Noble and Beautiful and to Inspire a Wider Outlook on Life and the World About Us.*

*"The true purpose of education, for young and old, is the understanding and enjoyment of life, and the uneducated man is who cannot read or write, count but he who walks unseeing and goes uncompanied and unhappy the busy streets and glorious open life's infinite pilgrimage."*  
Association for Adult Education.

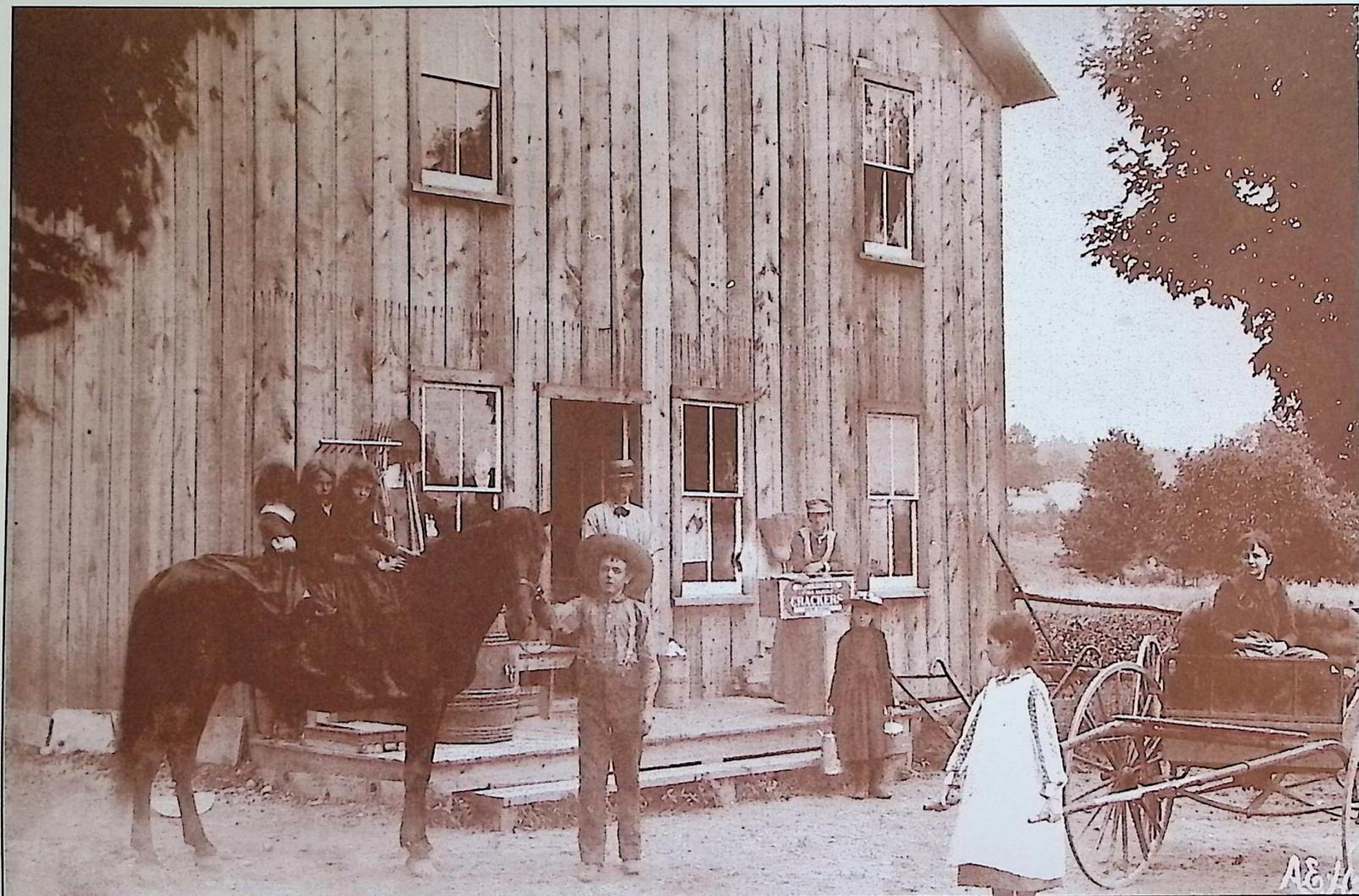
## WHAT IS POCONO LIKE?



*A sceptical critic came to Pocono, and then wrote an account for some young people he knew who were thinking of coming. This is what he wrote them*

## Pocono Peoples College — Henryville

The college opened January 3, 1924 under the direction of Dr. S.A. Mathiasen. The theme was to provide opportunities for higher education regardless of former schooling. The school had two permanent buildings; the main education building and the president's home, which today is a private dwelling. Two sessions were held each year with enrollment of 20 to 50 students, many of whom came from the New York Metropolitan area. The format was based on private schools in Sweden that had been visited by the director. After five years the school closed due to lack of funding and poor administration. David Hunter bought the lands and buildings from the bank in 1946. The main building was destroyed by fire in 1991.



### Paradise Valley Store

The store was built in 1890 and was operated by "Meck" and Jennie Kintz whose home was also in the same building. The barn in back of the store was built first. The store was closed for many years when William Niering of Scotrun bought the property at a tax sale. He gave the store to his son, Tom. Tom's wife Millie ran the store through World War II. The other portion was given to Harry Niering, Sr. who built the garage in 1935 which Harry, Jr. now operates.



### Winter Travel

Seguine's store can be seen in the background with Mr. Seguine riding in the dog sled cart. In the foreground is a cattle chute which was used to load cattle onto railroad cars that came in on the siding. On the left is one of the houses that was built by the railroad for their workers. Cresco Garage is next to the home.

## *Organizations*

### **Barrett Ambulance Corps.**

Meetings: 1st Tues. every  
month at Ambulance Bldg.  
595-7621

### **Barrett Friendly Library**

M-W 10-5PM & 6:30-9PM  
Fri. 12:00-4PM  
Sat. 9AM-4PM 595-7171

### **Barrett/Paradise Business Association**

Meetings: 1st Mon. every  
other month 595-9393

### **Barrett Historical Society**

Meetings: Third Fri. 7:30PM  
Mountainhome United  
Methodist Church

### **Barrett Lions Club**

Meetings: 2nd and 4th Mon.  
7PM at The Cook's Touch

### **Barrett Volunteer Fire Co.**

PO Box 1  
Buck Hill Falls, PA 18323

### **Concerned Citizens of Barrett Township**

Meetings: 4th Thurs. 7PM  
Oct-May High Acres Community  
June-Sept. High Acres Park

### **Cresco Station Museum**

Memorial Day - Labor Day  
Sun. 1-4PM  
July-Aug. Wed., Sat. & Sun.  
1 - 4 PM  
After Labor Day call 595-7390  
For appointment

### **Harvesters**

Meetings: 1st Tues. at noon  
Ambulance Bldg. Apr.-Dec.

### **Paradise Willing Workers**

Meetings: 2nd Tues. at 7PM  
At Keokee Chapel 595-7068

### **Pocono Mountain Rotary Club**

Meetings: every Wed. 6:15  
At The Forks

## *Municipal Offices*

### **Barrett Township Supervisors**

Meetings: Every Tues. 9:30AM  
2nd Tues. 7PM at  
Municipal Bldg. 595-2602

### **Paradise Township Supervisors**

Meetings: 1st & 3rd Tues. 6:30PM  
Municipal Bldg. 595-9880

## *Churches*

### **Canadensis Moravian**

Sunday School: 9:30AM  
Worship: 10:45AM  
595-7114

### **Canadensis United Methodist**

Sunday School: 9:30AM  
Worship: 10:45PM  
595-7277

### **Keokee Chapel**

In Paradise 688-9366  
Sunday Worship: 9:30AM

### **Mountainhome United Methodist**

Sunday School: 10:15AM  
Worship: 9AM  
Cross Road Café-Grade 7-12  
Fri. 7-10PM 595-2077  
Vesper 4th Sun. 7PM

### **Lighthouse World Prayer**

Sun.: 10:30 AM  
595-2000

### **Paradise Valley Baptist**

Sunday School: 10AM  
Worship: 11AM, 6:30pm  
Bible Study: Thurs. 7PM  
595-6454

### **Pocono Bible Church**

Wed. 7PM  
Sunday School: 10AM  
Worship: 11AM & 7PM  
595-2127

### **St. Bernadette's Catholic**

Winter - Sun. 9 & 11AM  
Summer - Sun. 8 & 10AM  
Sat. 4:00PM,  
3PM confession  
595-2139