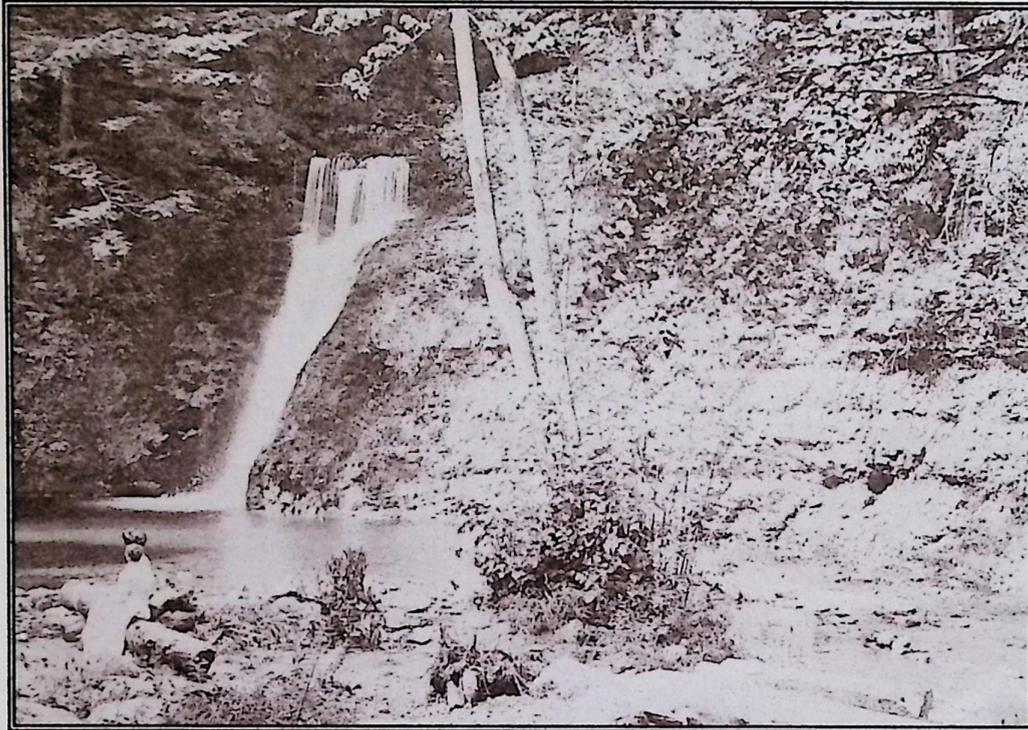


# “Looking Back on Barrett”



2002

*Prepared by The Friends of Barrett Friendly Library*



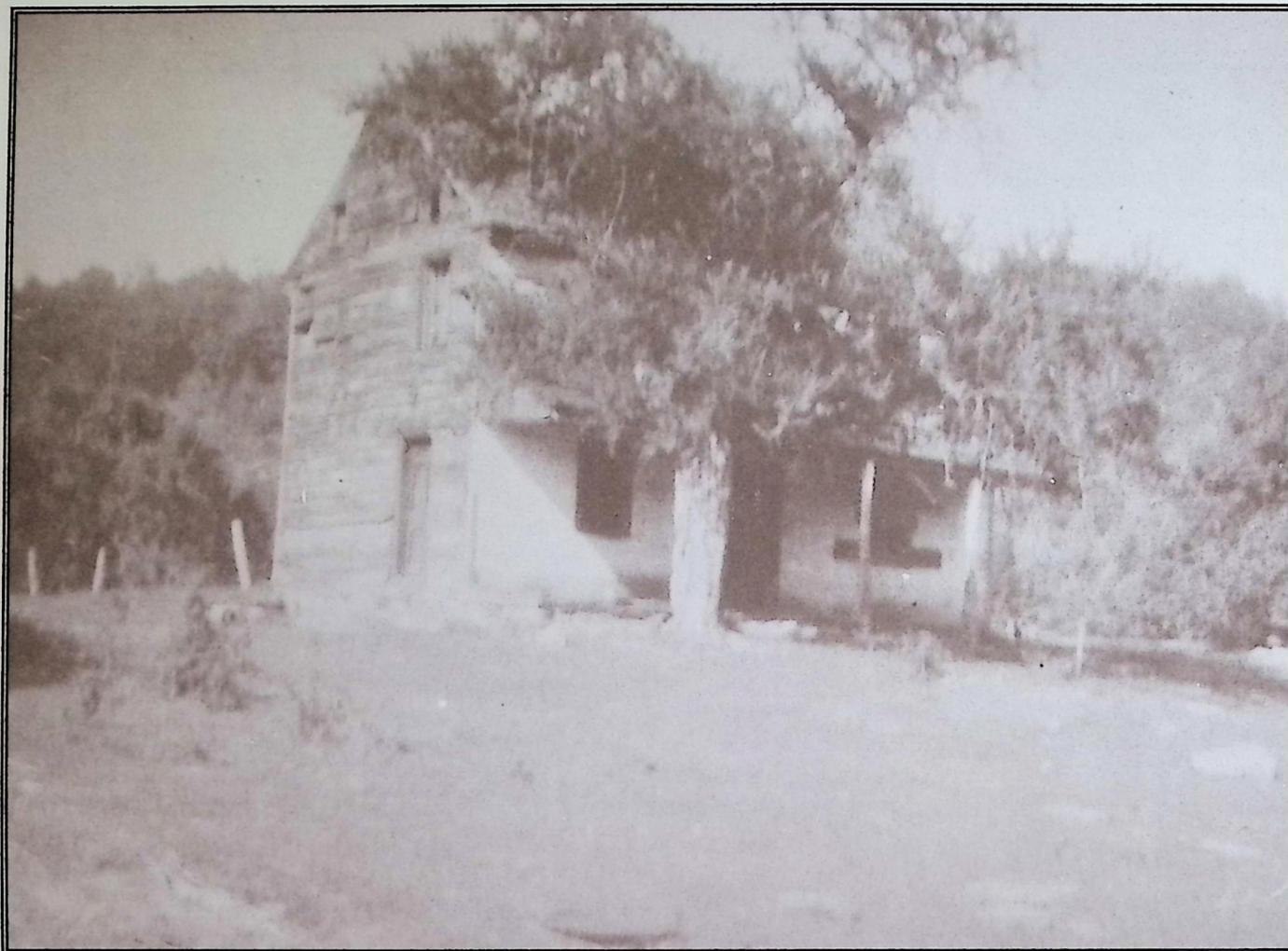
## Barrett Township in the Early Part of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century

The township had expanded to such an extent, that by 1932 a decision was made to add a siren for police and fire protection. That same year the Business Community Association undertook its second annual caravan to the shore. Using a Skytop Lodge bus and a number of private automobiles, the vehicles traveled to Atlantic City, Philadelphia and other metropolitan areas promoting the Laurel Time, the Pocono Mountain Horse Show, the beautiful country, and the resort villages of Barrett. Bathing, fishing, and all sorts of recreational activities, supplemented by tables of fresh vegetables and home-cooked meals kept bringing visitors back. Called the Heart of the Poconos, the township offered a variety of rooming choices for its discriminating guests.

Mononomock Inn, for instance, was one of the most pleasant hotels. Sitting high atop Godfrey Mountain, the resort overlooked the village of Mountainhome. From the wide verandas, wonderful panoramic views could be seen in every direction. Under the ownership management of H.E. and J.M. Geisinger, guests were made to feel just as comfortable there as at home. Directly below that resort lay the spacious grounds of beautiful Onawa Lodge. Formerly called the New Mount Airy Lodge, the house was one of the better known popular summer houses. Brewer Cottage, which was located on the main road between Cresco and Canadensis, adjoined the Buck Hill Quaker community. In addition to other activities, it offered good fishing or swimming on its wonderful lake. In the lower village were a number of other fine hostels. The Canadensis, for instance, under the management of D.L. Serfas sat near the center of the village. It offered summer attractions such as movies, dancing, horse-back riding and bathing in the new swimming pool. In addition to its recreation activities, proprietor H. Brewer of The Glenmere offered boating on the Brodhead Creek as well as winter activities. The Pines and its adjoining bungalows were noted for their magnificent views, and beautiful mountain walks through avenues of Mountain laurel and rhododendron. The Pinehurst, another imposing inn did a wonderful business on another delightful plot of land.

Located on a tract of land near Dutch Hill Road, the Barrett Airport was opened in 1932. Built in cooperation with the Business Association and the leaders of Monroe County, it had three runways laid out in triangular fashion so that planes could take off in any kind of wind. During those early summers, vacationers often flew up to have lunch or dinner at Skytop or Buck Hill, or maybe just stay a weekend. Flying lessons or tours of the Poconos were given and each year a number of stunt fliers and racers convened at the airport. The cracked aviator "air circus" provided thrilling stunts which included barrel rolls, falling "leafs", spins, banks and power dives. There were also parachute jumps which provided excited entertainment for the residents and township guests alike. With the ravages of time and a number of other variables, interest in "flying machines" died off.

On Memorial Day 1933, a monument to the warriors who had served in wars of 1812, 1846, 1864, 1898 and World War I was unveiled at 8 p.m. in front of the Barrett Consolidated School. The memorial had been erected through the efforts of the George N. Kemp American Legion Post. The American Legion Drum and Bugle Corps and Barrett Township school band provided the appropriate music.



### **John Price Homestead**

John Price ( 1728-1802) and his wife Sarah Wilkinson attempted to locate their family on this site in 1756, but were driven away by hostile Lenape Indians. They returned in 1764 to stay and had the honor of being the first settlers in Price Township. The homestead was located on the east side of the Brodhead Creek, in the area of Beartown Road and Lower Seese Hill Road.

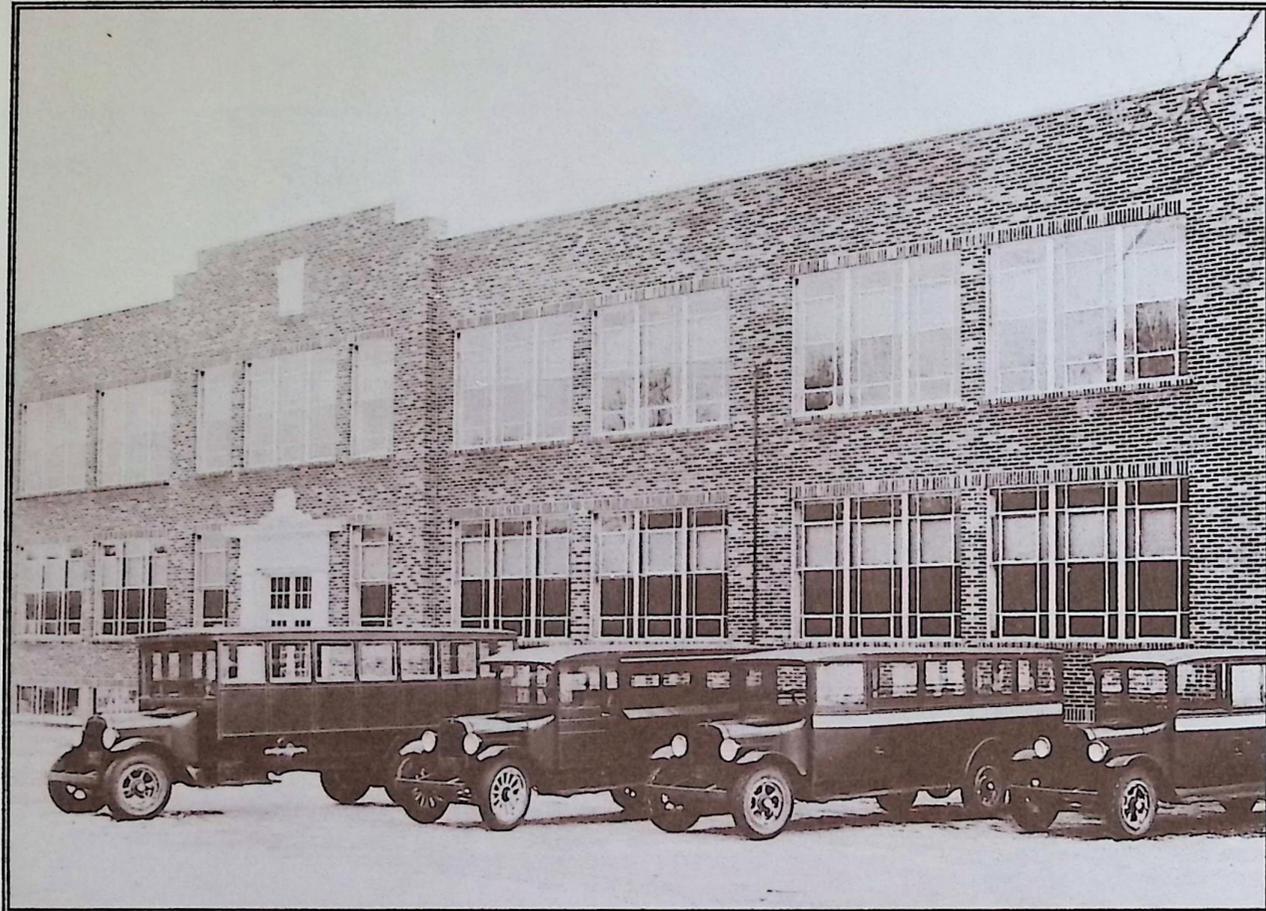
*Photo taken by Mary Price, courtesy of Mary Wicks.*



### **Early Ladies in Their Finest**

Left to Right: Mrs. Shaffer, Mrs. Buck, Miss Freunsch, and an unidentified lady standing in the middle of Main Street, Mountainhome on March 15<sup>th</sup>, 1910. A bark shed, a residue of the Mountainhome tannery is located on the right. Behind that building, one can just make out the old general store, currently owned by the Pocono Bible Church.

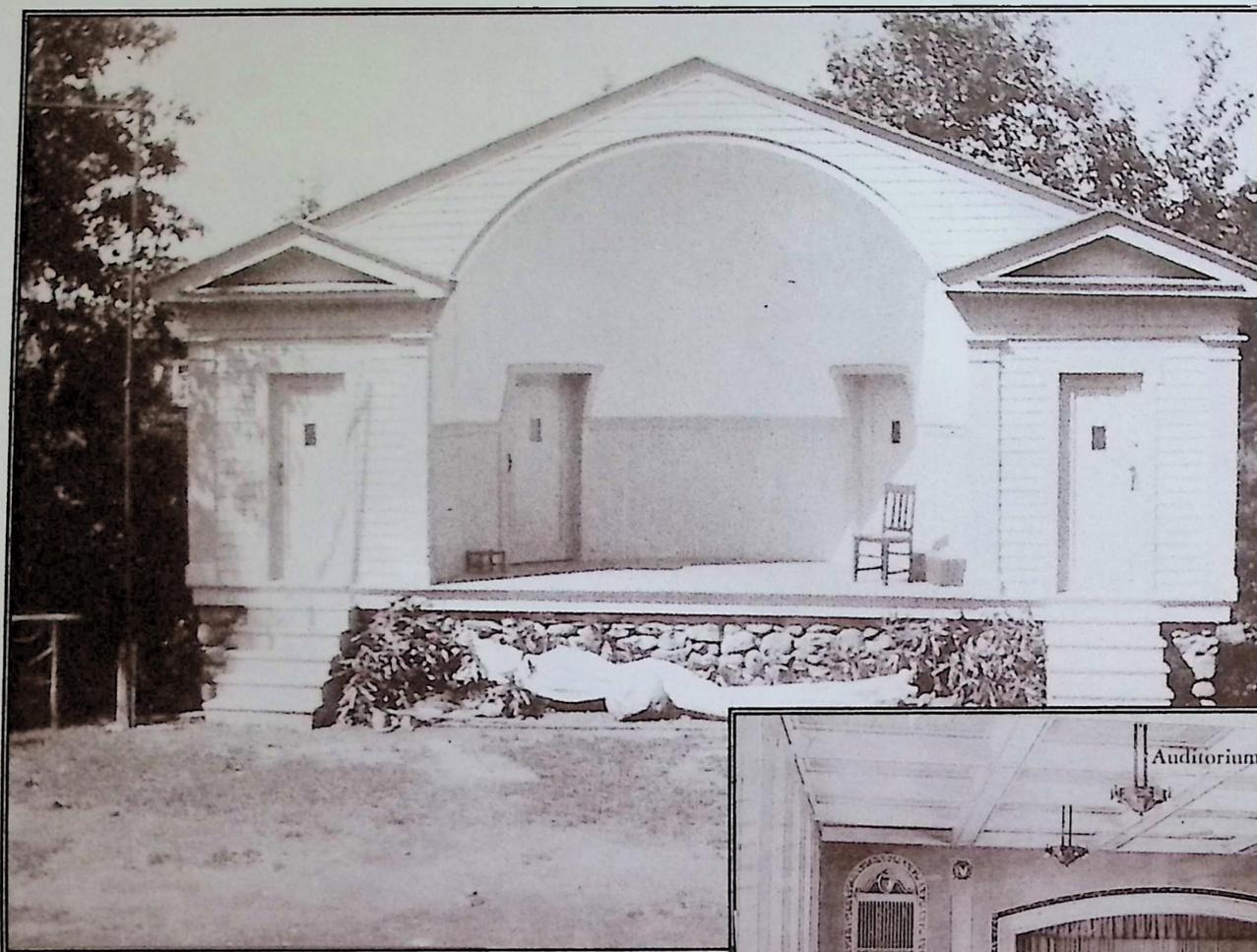
*Photo - Gwen Austin, courtesy of Barrett Township Historical Society.*



### Barrett Consolidated School

Hundreds of Barrett Township resident attended the opening of the dedication of the school on Armistice Day in 1927. Issac E. Walter, of Cresco, was named the supervising principal of the 16 room school building.

*Photo courtesy of Barrett Township Historical Society.*



## Entertainment

### in the Quaker Settlement

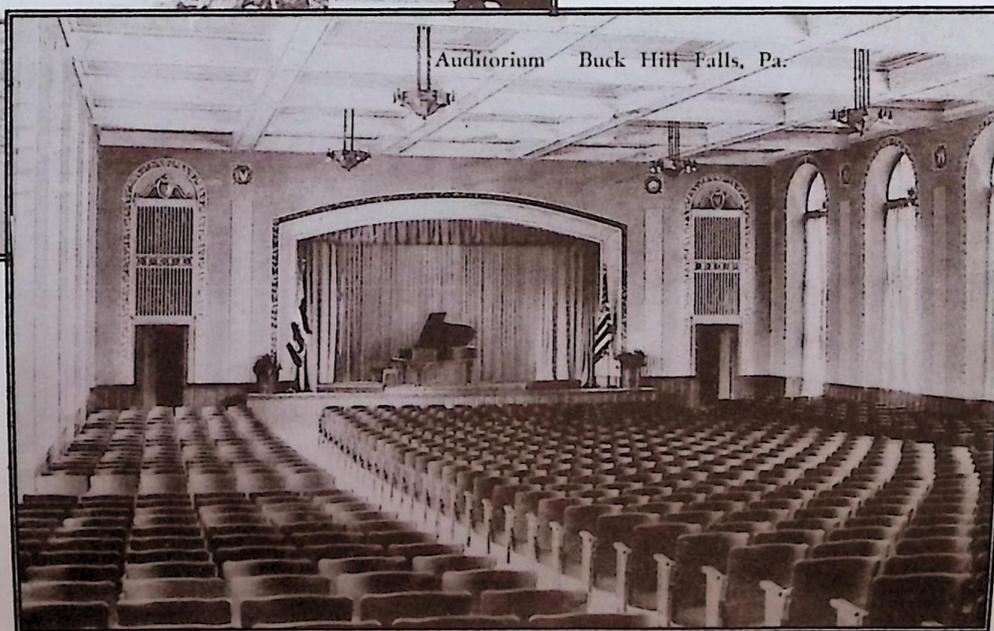
The 1918 Buck Hill Falls Music Shell proved to be the cat's meow.

*Photo courtesy of Buck Hill Collection*

The Auditorium at Buck Hill Falls was equipped with Western Electric sound equipment and was located on the lower floor of the Inn. As a general rule, the all-talking motion pictures (twenty five cent admission) were shown

during the winter on Wednesday and Saturday evenings. During the week of November 8, 1930, the audience viewed *What a Man*, starring Reginald Denny, *Big Boy*, starring Al Jolson and *Night Work*, featuring Eddie Quilan. The auditorium was used by the community for school functions and by the Inn guests for an assortment of functions.

*Photo courtesy of Maryanne Miller.*



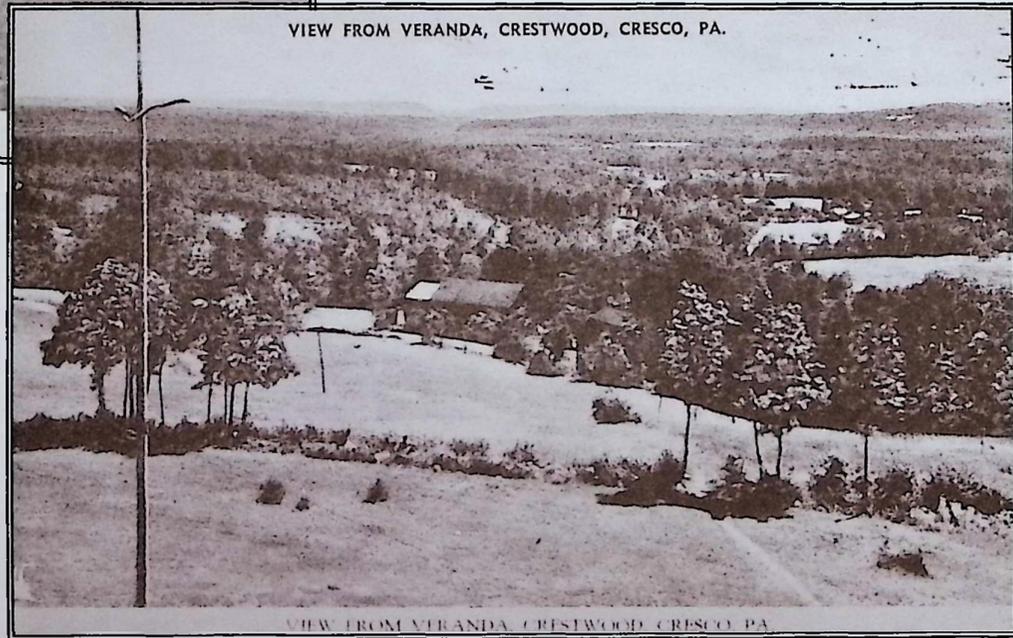


The Rudolph, Cresco, Pa.

## The Rudolph

Later named the Crestwood and eventually the PMI (it sat just off of Rt. 191 in Paradise across the road from the Maple Lawn or Golden Goose Inn), it commanded a location unsurpassed in the Poconos. Sitting on spacious porches, one had an excellent view of the Delaware Water Gap.

*Photo - courtesy of Ron Burry*



VIEW FROM VERANDA, CRESTWOOD, CRESCO, PA.

VIEW FROM VERANDA, CRESTWOOD, CRESCO, PA.



### Scouting at Spring City 1939

Scouting proved to be quite an adventure for these young men: R. Price, F. Rathbone, Roy Price, M. Price, H. Ayers, F. Vernoy, W. Price, J. Vogt, R. Mikels, and B. Manhart are just several of the scouts in the top row. J. Shumaker, J. Nauman, W. Magann, J. Sengle, L. Shoemith, Z. Price, D. Shaller, N. Price, N. Oppelt, E. Williams, and W. Sengle have also been identified. Do you know the rest?

*Photo courtesy of Barrett Township Historical Society.*



### Indian Ladder Falls

In their bathing attire, summer visitors at the Mountain Lake House enjoyed the water and view. Built by Lafayette Price around 1861, it was located at the north end of the Great Maple Swamp. It and surrounding property was sold to the Skytop Group in 1926. Johanna Price gave the falls its name in the early part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. *Photo circa 1915 - courtesy of Mary Price Wicks*



### The Bible School

was originally begun in 1930 by the Rev. T.M. VanVleck of the Canadensis Moravian Church. A large tent was erected and children from all the churches were invited to attend. The school endeavored to give the children a greater understanding and love of the Bible. Eighty-five children joined the school in the first year, with a steady enrolment over the years. The community Bible School is currently held at the Mountainhome or Canadensis United Methodist Churches during the summer months. *Photo courtesy of Barrett Township Historical Society.*



### **Soccer Champions of Monroe County**

In November 1932, the Barrett High School won the Championship of the Monroe County Athletic Association in Soccer. Barrett closed its season by defeating the light, but fast East Stroudsburg High School team and only one game - a tie with Pocono Township - modified an otherwise perfect record. Shown in the top row, left to right: Bernie Kropp, Al Mutchler, Barney Coffman, Bob Kresge, Russ Williams, Sheldon Anderson, Bill Eike, and Joe Wile. Middle Row - William Everett, Dave Blitz, Jay Shumaker, Bob Manhart, Bud Cramer, Gene DeTullio, Delroy Bender, and Web Courtright. Bottom row - Bud (Ted) Price, Warren Reese, Blaine Siglin, Joe Comazzi, Ken Brutzman, Joe Snow, and Sonny Vogt.

*Photo courtesy of Barrett Township Historical Society.*



### **The Travelers Diner**

Originally owned by Robert Irwin and Al Besecker, it was located on old Rt. 611 near the present traffic light. When the road was changed around 1940, Mr. Irwin purchased the structure and moved it to the intersection of Rts. 390 & 940. It was rented to Clair and Loretta Nauman who ran it for several years. After they were unable to manage the Diner, it was relocated to Allentown on 7<sup>th</sup> street across from the Lehigh Valley Dairy Building. It is no longer at that location. Mr. Besecker at that time bought the OK Diner in Snydersville which today bears his name.



### The Seese Hunting Camp

Started in the early part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, this camp was located not far from the villages. Seese's Hunting Camp is still very active today. Pictured from L-R are the Seese Brothers: Ebb, Peter, George, Albert, Clint, and George Crane. *Photo courtesy of Barrett Township Historical Society.*



### Dog Sledding

Dog sledding began to take place in the Poconos during the mid 1930's. By February, the Buck Hill Falls team of Leo St. Goddard, Harry Drennen, and Marshall "Mush" Reese (Edith Drennen and Bill Wells joined in later years), Skytop's huskies (driven by Peck Rake) joined with the Pocono Manor teams as well as two teams sent from the New Hampshire farms of Harold C. Richardson. The leading sled-dog drivers of the Poconos raced their teams over an eighteen mile course to determine the champion of the Poconos. They started at the Inn at Buck Hill Falls, raced up the South Sterling road to Wild Cat Hollow and returned along the Buck Hill Creek to the finish line.

## ***Organizations***

### **Barrett Ambulance Corps.**

Meetings: 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday at the Ambulance Building

### **Barrett Paradise Business Association**

Meetings: 1<sup>st</sup> Monday every other month. Call 595-6260

### **Barrett Community Club**

Meetings: 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday at High Acres Park Community Center

### **Barrett Historical Society**

Meetings: 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday 7:30 p.m. at Mountainhome United Methodist Church

### **Barrett Lions Club**

Meetings: 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Monday 7:00 p.m. at Cook's Touch

### **Concerned Citizens of Barrett Twp**

Meetings: 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday 7:00 p.m. at High Acres Park Community Center

### **Cresco Station Museum**

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

### **Harvesters**

Meetings: 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday at noon Ambulance Building

### **Pocono Mountain Rotary Club**

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

### **The Shepherds of Monroe County**

Board Meetings: 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday 7:00 p.m. at The Shepherds Office, corner of Sand Spring and Rt. 390

## **Barrett Friendly Library**

**M & W 10 - 5:00 p.m.**

**& 6:30 - 9 p.m.**

**TU & TH 12 - 5:00 p.m.**

**& 6:30 - 9 p.m.**

**Fri. 12 - 4 p.m.**

**Sat. 9:00 - 4:00 p.m.**

**Call 595-7171**

[www.barrettlibrary.org](http://www.barrettlibrary.org)  
email: [brfpubli@ptd.net](mailto:brfpubli@ptd.net)

## ***Municipal Offices***

### **Barrett Township Supervisors**

Meetings: Every Tues. 9:30 a.m. and 2<sup>nd</sup> Wed. 7:00 p.m. at Municipal Bld.

### **Paradise Township Supervisors**

Meetings: 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Tues. 5:30 p.m. at Municipal Bld.

## ***Churches***

### **Canadensis Moravian**

Sunday School 9:30 a.m.  
Worship 10:45 a.m.  
1<sup>st</sup> Sat. May - Oct. Craft Sale

### **Canadensis United Methodist**

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

### **Keokee Chapel**

in Paradise  
Sunday Worship 9:30 a.m.

### **Mountainhome United Methodist**

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

### **Paradise Assembly of God**

Worship 8:30, 10:50 a.m. 7:00 p.m.

### **Paradise Valley Baptist Church**

Sunday School 10:00 a.m.  
Worship 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. & 7:00 p.m.

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

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