

YESTERYEAR



Barrett and Paradise Townships

2012

Stories from Yesteryear

Many are the tales that are told about our past. Join us in a trip down nostalgia's lane as we sit around the big old stove in the Cresco Station Museum and reminisce about those long ago times.

When going to Stroudsburg on the train, one could leave his horse and carriage at the livery stable at the Cresco Hotel for 25c.

The churches all had their own picnic groves. The families would prepare a week ahead for the food for these picnics—and they were wonderful affairs—lasted all day, or as long as food and strength held out. Revivals were important, too. Everybody came.

The farm of George Price was on the Buck Hill property, and when that famous inn started, Mr. Price supplied the milk and other dairy products for the Inn. Then Buck Hill started their own chicken farm (now the Barn Studio) - this was around 1904-05, and had incubators and hatched their own chickens. The chicken farm lasted later than the milk products venture. (Can you imagine a chicken farm at Buck Hill today?)

The early settlers made their living by farming, lumbering, rafting logs, hunting and trapping. Wild game was very abundant. Pioneer women were left to do the chores while the men were absent and hurried to finish before dark as sometimes wolves came down to the farms looking for food.

There is an interesting thing about the Stright House (later The Pinehurst Inn and located opposite Long Road on Route 447). William Straight worked at the tannery in Canadensis until it closed, when he moved his family to northern Pennsylvania to a place where there was similar work. There the Strights built a house. When the work gave out, they moved to Philadelphia but could find no sale for their house, so they had it taken down, shipped to Mountainhome on open railway cars, hauled to the land they owned here and re-assembled, just the way it had been in the first place.

A strange couple, Josie Lobdell and his wife, for several years sold berries for a living in summer, living wherever they could in the winter. Josie always wore an old army overcoat. One day, it was discovered that they were both women? This part taken from Ringing Axes and Rocking Chairs tells only a small part of the story. Lucy Ann Lobdell was born in Westerlo, Albany County, NY in 1829. Lucy's family moved to Delaware County when Lucy was young. Her father was unable to do much work. Lucy took up hunting to provide food for her family. She married George Washington Slater, bore a daughter, and was deserted by her husband when the infant child was a few weeks old. Lucy again took up hunting and spent much of the rest of her life as a man. She and her companion are said to have lived in caves around Barrett Township. She called herself "The Female Hunter of Delaware and Sullivan Counties", posed as an itinerant preacher, was arrested and jailed in Stroudsburg on a charge of vagrancy, after becoming a nuisance to the inhabitants, and when the poorhouse authorities of Barrett learned that they were both women took them back to Delhi. More of their story can be found on the Internet.

In 1864, Barrett Township voters gave Abraham Lincoln only 18 votes, while they cast 132 for his opponent, McCellan. Lincoln had gone down in popularity, because in 1860, he had polled 43 votes.

We had all sorts of activities: rag carpet frolics, all-day quilting parties, church suppers. One older citizen remembers that whenever there was anything doing, father would bring out the sleigh (or bobby—bobsled) and haul everyone who wanted to go, no matter how far away. That was what was nice about the old days. Everybody helped everybody else just because it was their way of life in those days. On Christmas, we all went to Grandma's in the sleigh with straw on the bottom and buffalo robes tucked around us. The horses had strings of sleighbells that sang such a merry tune in the cold winter air.

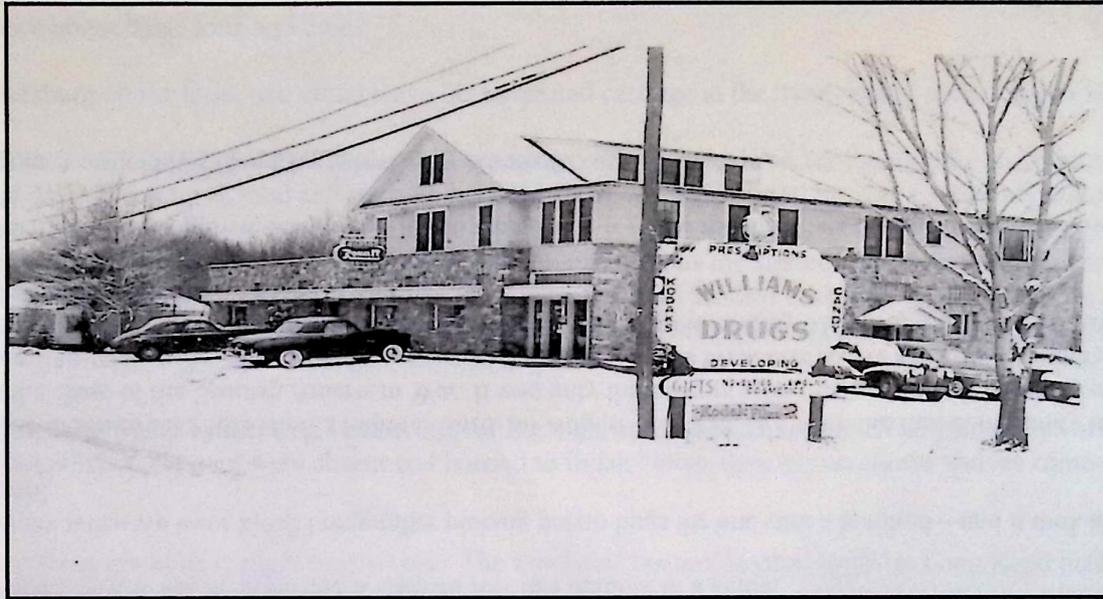
We made apple butter and apple pies and cider and vinegar—all from apples that came, not from Johnny Appleseed, but from Germany. Most of the apple slips were brought from the old country and grafted on wild apple trees here to start those beautiful orchards on every farm. We all got together to make the Dutch apple butter. We boiled down the cider to a thick, dark syrup, peeling and quartering bushels of apples to add to this bubbling brew. After a day of boiling down the syrup and a day to boil the apples, constantly stirring, of course, with a corn husk paddle attached to a long handle to keep the ingredients from sticking to the bottom and burning (we took turns stirring and replenishing the fire), the apple butter was finished. My, it was so good and it smelled just like autumn in a kettle.

How did we earn money when we were kids? I remember picking potato bugs for one cent a hundred—and it took a heap of potato bugs to fill your pockets with cash!

We made the Sunday Edition of the Philadelphia Inquirer once, on August 15, 1898. We were the first community in the United States to hold a peace celebration at the close of the Spanish American War. It was only three hours after the "signing of the protocol." There were lots of orations and, of course, a flag-raising. As "the starry flag unfurled," snapping in the brisk breeze, we sang "My Country 'Tis of Thee" and paraded around the lawn and sang "The Star Spangled Banner" and the finale was a grand display of fireworks. It was on August 12, 1898. It was a grand day, and we made the most of it!

Indian Caves, the Devil's Hole, Frogtown, and more - these are but a few of the recollections that make Barrett Township what it is today - a place we call HOME.

Excerpts from: Ringling Axes and Rocking Chairs by Peggy Bancroft



The Original Mountainhome Drug Store

Built in the 1930's and enlarged in the 40's, this building is located across from Callie's Candy Kitchen. Originally named Williams Drug Store and owned and operated by Jack Williams. After his death, his son operated it and then sold it to Rea and Derrick's in the 1950's. It continued as the only local drugstore, becoming CVS again remaining as a drugstore until CVS bought the Cook's Touch property and built the present CVS at that location. Although closed now, there have been many "residents" of this building; rental apartments on the second floor, District Magistrates office, an insurance office, and The Nearly New Shop.



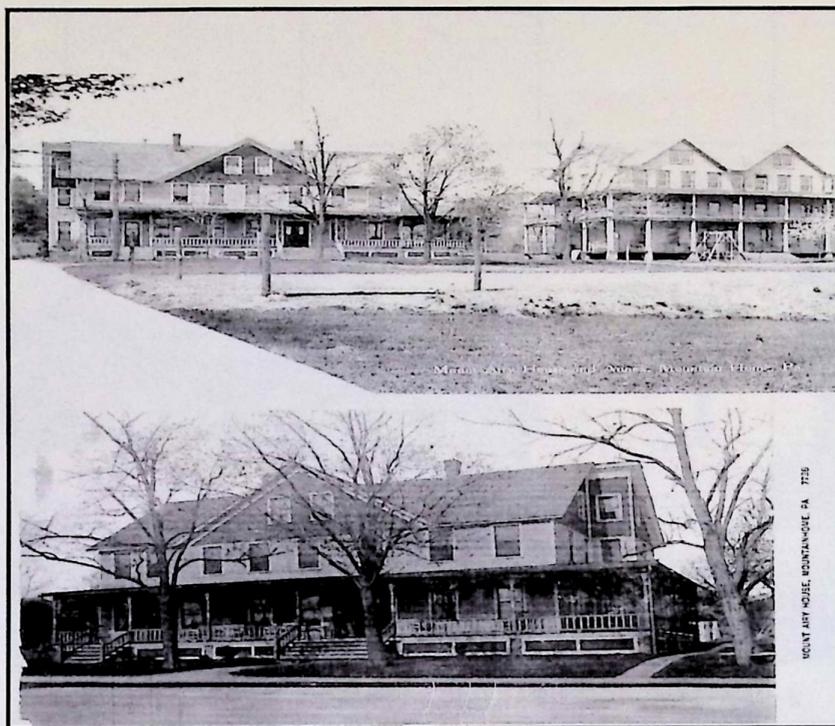
The newspaper caption for the above picture “ **A TREACHEROUS TURN, A SPILL, A THRILL, A CHILL** The camera clicked just at the split second yesterday when Mush Reese, Buck Hill Falls No.2 dogsled team overturned in the dogsled derby at Alden Park Manor. Reese righted his team, finished third.”

From 1932 to 1942, one of the major events in the Pocono Mountains was the Sled Dog Derby, in Barrett Township at Buck Hill, held each year with competing teams of Siberian Huskies from Pocono Manor, Skytop and other areas. Harry Drennan trained the Buck Hill Team, assisted by Blain Siglin and Marshall Reese. Buck Hill Kennels always won either first or second in these races, which were covered by Fox Morietone News. On at least two occasions, the dogs were used in rescue work, carrying fuel, food and medicine to snowbound persons, once in Alden Park Manor, near Philadelphia, and once across ice-bound Long Island Sound to Westport, Connecticut. In 1943, the dogs were sent to an Army camp in Montana for use in Alaska and elsewhere in rescuing the crews of downed planes



Henryville Railroad Station

Henryville Station was built, probably around 1860, largely as a result of Ed Hewitt, a 'big name' in fly fishing, and his friends petitioning the Delaware, Lackawanna RR to put a station at Henryville due to the inconvenience of having no place to get off the train to go to the Henryville House where they stayed while fishing the local creeks. The property for the Station was sold to the company for \$1.00 by the Henry's estate with the provision that they build a Station. The Station was also known as Henry Hill Station. More research needs to be done to determine when the Station closed; one informant remembers seeing it standing one morning and by afternoon when he returned home it had burned to the ground. This was around 1951. Notice that, although smaller than Cresco Station, the design is much the same. This design was used for many of the Stations on the Delaware, Lackawanna line. Note: Thanks to Wolden Magann, Bill Sengle, Jr., Aaron Imbt, John Layton, and other members of the Paradise Township Historical Society for research and information about the Station.



Heller's Mount Airy House Onawa Lodge

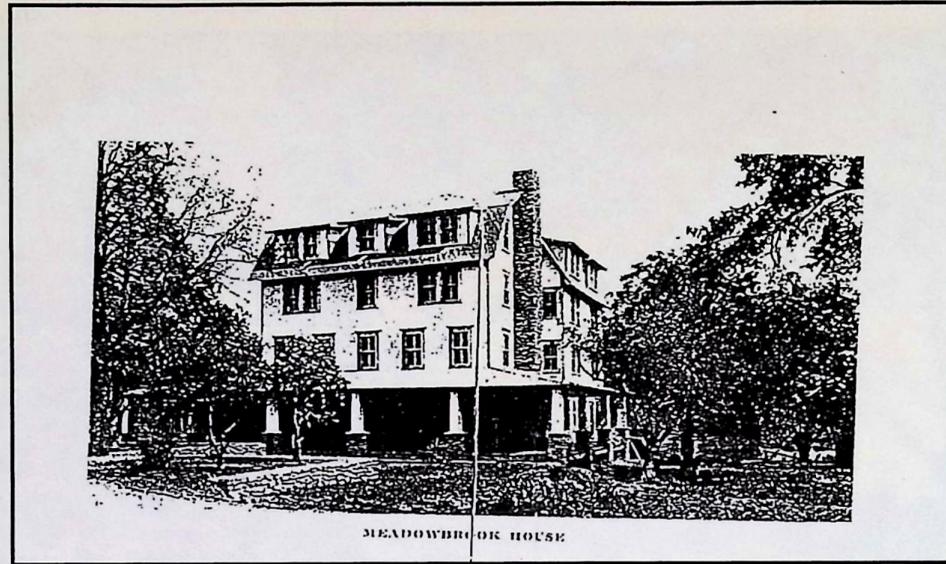
This resort was located in Mountainhome, at the intersection of Route 191 and ?? where the Onawa Townhouses are now located. According to information found in Ringing Axes and Rocking Chairs, by Peggy Bancroft, "special attention was paid to the table, (own farm attached) and spacious lawns with fine shade provided a real attraction for strolling. Later called Heller's Mount Airy House and Annex, it had acetylene gas and a box ball alley and improvements." In 1942 an ad appeared in Penna's Picturesque Playground, Famous for "Cruise-Way" vacations, capacity 200, weekly from \$25.00, including meals. Open all year. H.J. Shinnen, Owner Manager. In 1952, The Scenic Poconos the following ad: Resort for vacations or honeymoons. "Cruise-Way" fun, relaxation. All summer and winter sports. Accommodates 300. Rates \$7.00 daily – includes meals. H.L. Shinnen & Son, Owner Manager. "Hosts of the Poconos since 1926." It later became a music camp and then the Blue Mountain Sports Camp. It was destroyed in a fire of mysterious origin and the Onawa Townhouses were built on the property.



Hotel Canadensis

Believed to be the oldest hotel in Barrett Township, the picture above is the third building and the final version before it was abandoned and finally razed in 2007. Originally built in 1867, it burned twice and each time was rebuilt on this site. It was first operated by Adam Albert and later by his son, Abraham Albert. Over the years it had many owners; including Al Gravel, Frank Nyce, Dan Serfass, George Neff, and Frank Brown. It was operated under the name of "Green Valley House" when Frank Brown was the popular innkeeper and well known hunter.

The site is now a vacant lot, home to squirrels and chipmunks rather than the avid fishermen of yore.



Meadowbrook House

Description taken from advertisement brochure:

“Canadensis is the fastest growing resort in the Pocono Mountains. The beauty of the scenery, the altitude insuring a temperature always comfortable during the hottest weather, the number of trout streams, the gorges and waterfalls have combined to attract a greater number of tourists and summer vacationists. The demand for a greater number of modern houses to accommodate the increasing number of summer visitors has resulted in the erection of a score of new and modern hotels. The Meadowbrook House was built to help fill the need for modern and moderate price hotel accommodations.

The Meadowbrook has a capacity of 50 guests with comfortable room for every guest accepted. Each room is an outside one of ample size and good ventilation. Hot and cold running water in every room with baths on all floors. The house is new and newly furnished and has open fire places and a modern electric lighting system.”

This resort was located on Route 447, about a mile and a half North of the light in Canadensis, on the right side. This resort suffered the same fate as many of the old wood structures, burning to the ground.



You may know this building as Ray's Mountainhome Deli but in 1921 it was a store owned by Porter Price and Dave Litz. The store sold high quality meats and produce. Prior to this endeavor, Price was in charge of groceries at Buck Hill Falls Inn, while Litz worked at his side.

The small wooden barn (far right in the photograph) was used by Allen Price to butcher meats for the Buck Hill House in the 1888-1889 era.

Allen Price owned his hotel at the forks, the road leading to Canadensis and Buck Hill Falls. By 1896, his Inn (which had the first tavern in the area) was a popular stopping place.



It's Great to be Alive at Skytop!

On 3000 acres of mountainous woodlands and shimmering lakes, with the zestful fun of riding and hiking or tennis or fishing or golf—on one of the most interesting courses in the country!



IT'S GREAT to feel complete release from the humdrum, great just to be far away in the tonic coolness of bracing mountain air, in an environment as perfect as anything between Canada and the Caribbean—yet so much more accessible.

But the thing that appeals *most* to men and women alike, the thing that really *makes* Skytop is a certain PLUS: a Club Plan.* This Plan assures, to our members and guests, an association with compatible people—and gives a feeling of complete congeniality and freedom which is the essence of a really enjoyable vacation. You, your family really LIVE—at Skytop.



Skytop 

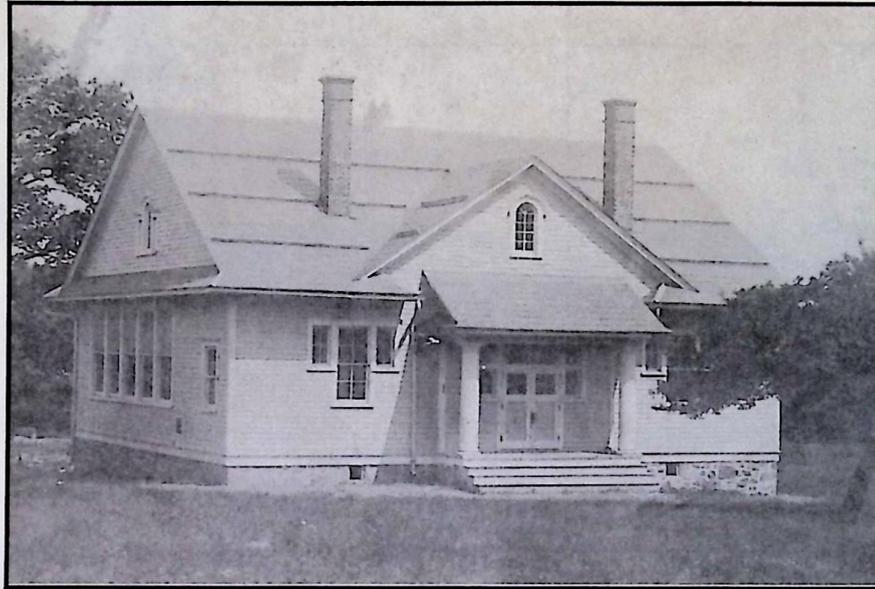
High in the Pocono Mountains

*Guests are included on recommendation of Club members, through introduction by the Foster Travel Service in your own city or after application to S. H. Packer, General Manager, Skytop Club, Skytop, Pennsylvania. We shall be glad to send you further information. Skytop is open the year 'round.



SKYTOP LODGE—Samuel H. Packer, Gen. Mgr. Skytop, Pa

Photo from: "Mountain and Lake Resorts on the Lackawanna Railroad: brochure 1933



The Paradise School

This school house is located on East Swiftwater Road in Swiftwater PA. It was built about 1915 as a two room school. Around 1925 there were two rooms added, making it a four room school. It served Kindergarten through grade 7 with the students in grades 8 to 12 being bused to other schools. Pocono Mountain School District used it for Kindergarten and special needs children. For a time it was used as a Township building.

It is now a private home.



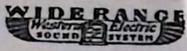
BUCK HILL AUDITORIUM

WEDNESDAY, JULY 17
Arlene Judge Kent Taylor

"COLLEGE SCANDAL"
An Excellent Mystery Story

FRIDAY, JULY 19
Guy Kibbee Zasu Pitts

"GOING Highbrow"



The most recent Development in Sound Reproduction which is being added to the Auditorium Equipment

Two Shows — 7:40 and 9:00 P.M.

— ★ —

— COMING —

"LES MISERABLES" — SAT. JULY 20

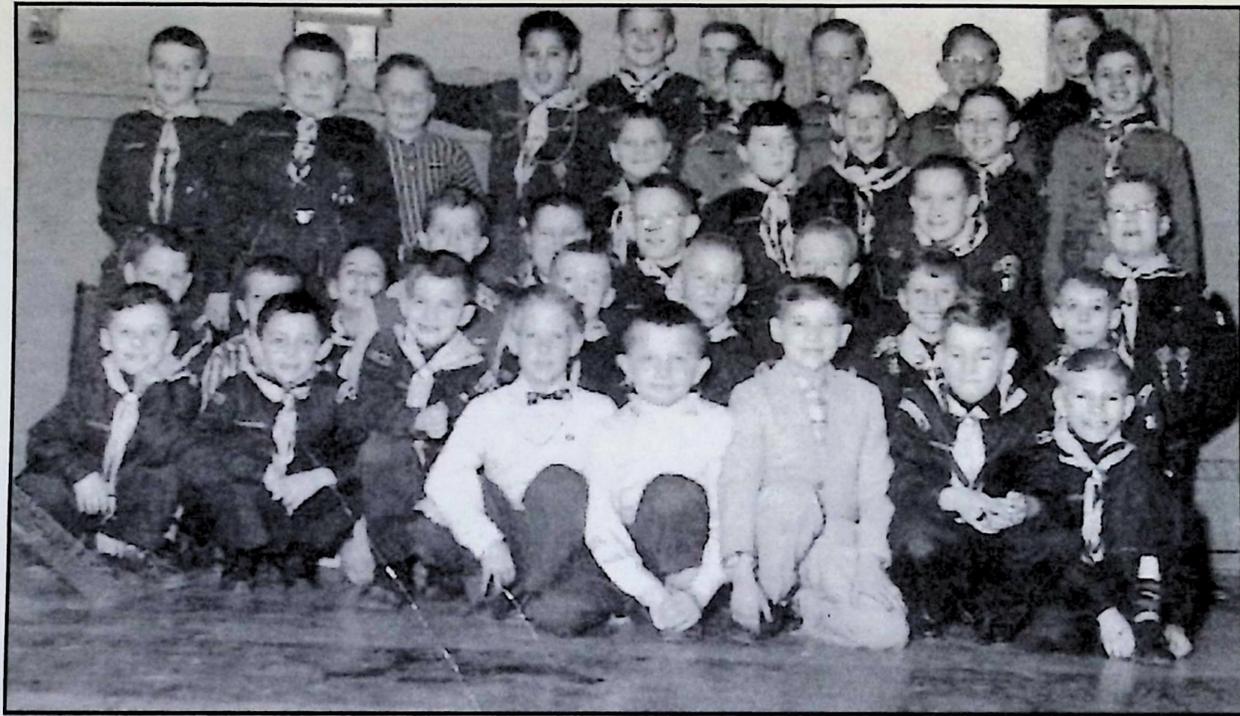
"BECKY SHARP" — MON. JULY 22

Watch for Special Announcement

The Buck Hill Auditorium

This impressive room was, among many other things, home of the Buck Hill Players. This group presented the July Fourth Pageants for the first three decades of Buck Hill History. Cornelia Stabler Gilliam was the Players' first president in 1930, with 14 talented charter members. Mrs. Gilliam was well known world wide for her one-woman theatre as Cornelia Stabler. She was a quick change artist and portrayed many characters in her presentations. Over the years the Auditorium was also a movie theatre to which all of Barrett Township was invited, it hosted the graduation of many Barrett High School students, participated in the meetings and conventions. Advertised to seat 900 in comfortable chairs and provide a quite environment.

The announcement is a postcard dated 1935.



Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts 1955-1956

Front Row L to R: 1-Ricky Noon, 2-John Styk, Jr., 3-Robby Gravel, 4-Ronnie Shinnen, 5-Keith Megargle, 6-Richie Brinker, 7-?,
8-Noel Smith

Second Row L to R: 1-?, 2-?, 3-?, 4-?, 5-?, 6-?, 7-?, 8-Eddie Rhobacker

Third Row L to R: 1-?, 2-?, 3-?, 4-?, 5-Rich DeLuca, 6-Bob Huguenin

Fourth Row L to R: 1-Lonnie Gravel, 2-Dave Miller, 3-C. Serfoss, 4-Ron ?, 5-Corky Fochera

Fifth Row L to R: 1-Alan Oppelt, 2-Mike Megargle, 3-Steve Schleiker, 4-Stewart Kreck, 5-Paul Zeigler, 6-?, 7-Leo Smith, 8-?,
9-John Hay, 10-Rich Krummell

There are several unidentified boys in the picture above. If you can help, please contact Maryann Miller at 595-2501 or Joanne Seese at 595-2694.

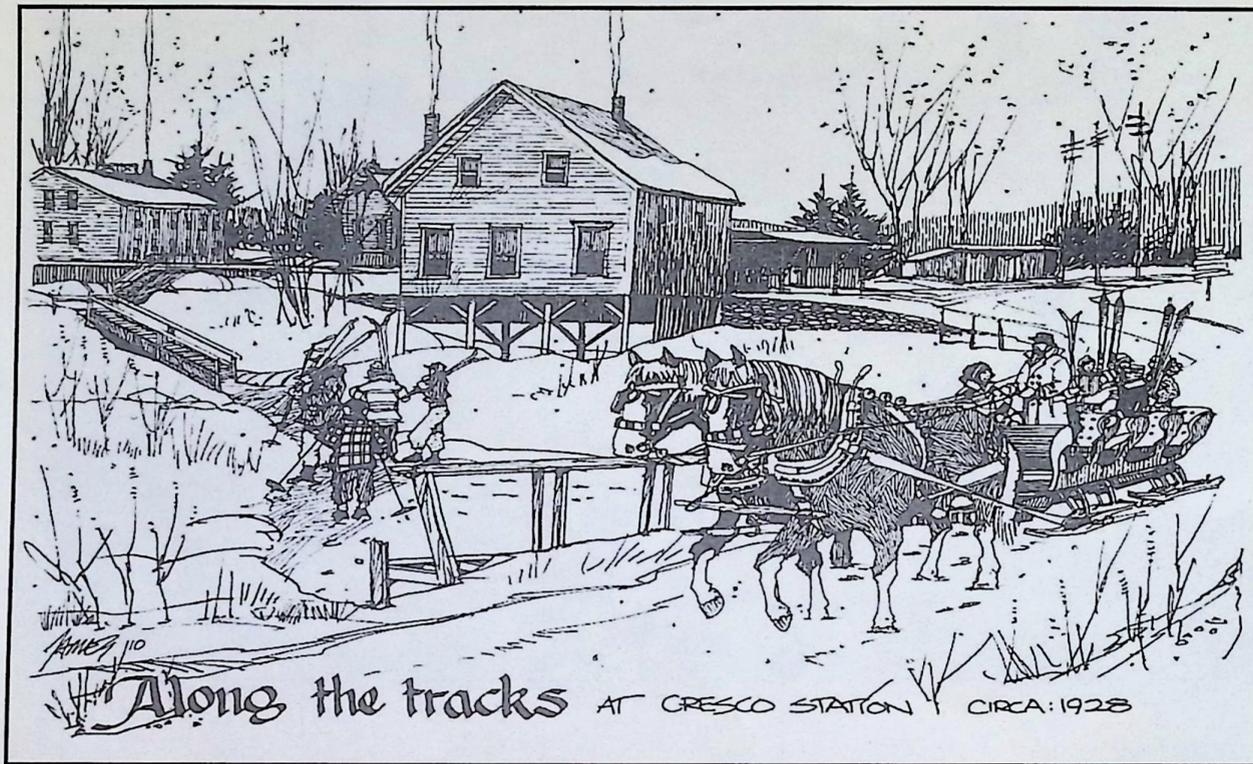


Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts 1955-1956

Front Row L to R: 1-Ricky Noon, 2-John Styk, Jr., 3-Robby Gravel, 4-Ronnie Shinnen, 5-Keith Megargle, 6-Richie Brinker, 7-?, (7) ~~NOEL SMITH~~
 8-Noel Smith
 Second Row L to R: 1-?, 2-?, 3-?, 4-?, 5-?, 6-?, 7-?, 8-Eddie Rhobacker
 Third Row L to R: 1-?, 2-?, 3-?, 4-?, 5-Rich DeLuca, 6-Bob Huguenin
 Fourth Row L to R: 1-Lonnie Gravel, 2-Dave Miller, 3-C. Serfoss, 4-Ron ?, 5-Corky Kochera
 Fifth Row L to R: 1-Alan Oppelt, 2-Mike Megargle, 3-Steve Schleiker, 4- Stewart Kreck, 5-Paul Zeigler, 6-?, 7-Leo Smith, 8-?,
 9-John Hay, 10-Rich Krummell

There are several unidentified boys in the picture above. If you can help, please contact Maryann Miller at 595-2501 or Joanne Seese at 595-2694.

Row 2 (5) TEDDY PRICE
 (6) ~~CORN SERFAS~~
 (8) EDDIE RHOBACKER
 Row 3 (3) RICH DELUCA
 (4) ~~BOB HUGUENIN~~
 3-5 BOB HUGUENIN
 Row 4 (1) LONNIE GRAVEL
 (2) ~~DAVE MILLER~~
 (3) CORRAD SERFAS
 (4)
 (5) CORKY KOCHERA
 Row 5 (1) ALAN OPPELT
 (2) MIKE MEGARGLE
 (3) STEVE SCHLEIKER
 (4) STEWART KRECK
 (5) PAUL ZIEGLER
 (6) TAYLOR
 (7) ~~NOEL SMITH~~
 (8) LARRY VARREL
 (9) JOHN HAY
 10 - RICHARD
 KRUMMELL



This picture may appear unfamiliar to many folks, but if you look closely, you should be able to recognize the Cresco Station Museum area. It is the building to the left of the large one in the center of the picture with the distinctive spire on the end. The dominant building in the center is the Sequine Souvenir Shop which carried refreshments and trinkets for the weary train travelers. Note the piers supporting the back of that building and the stairs leading from the tracks to the road. This dates it to before the parking lot was extended by filling in this area. The other buildings include a livery stable where one could leave their horses, the Cresco Hotel, and the freight siding. This picture is taken from one of Mickey and Maryann Miller's Christmas cards and drawn by local artist, John James.

The Country Store in the Cresco Station Museum was originally the Baggage Room for the D.L. & W. Station. The Barrett Township Historical Society Museum Committee decided to add interest to the Station by creating the facsimile of an old store. The items on display have been donated or loaned by local citizens and give an overview of the variety available.

The following letter was sent to the township citizens from the Sequine & Shannon Cresco Cash Stores:

Cresco Cash Stores

Cresco, Pa., Dec. 17, 1898

Dear Madam:—

For the week preceding Christmas, Dec. 19th to 24th inclusive, we have some exceptional Bargains to offer. We place on sale Monday,

Hill 4-4 Bleached Muslin at 5 1/2 c the yd. 4-4 Bleached Muslin, 7c kind at 5c the yd., 4-4 Brown Muslin, 6c kind at 4 1/2 c the yd., 46-inch wide Bleached Muslin, worth 12 1/2c at 10c the yard.

Bleached Pillow Case Tubing, 12 1/2c per yard.

Sheets, Bolster and Pillow Cases, single or in sets.

White Apron Lawns, Satin Finish Borders, 15c per yard. Good Glass Toweling at 5c the yard. Few pieces left of 4-4 all Wool Plaid Dress Cloth, were 50c, closing out at 25c the yard.

Some that were 25c closing out at 15c the yard. Large stock staple and fancy HOLIDAY GOODS. Hobby Horses, Chairs, Doll Coaches, toy Furniture, Tin Toys, China Tea Sets, Dolls, etc.

Machine made Christmas Candy, 9c pound, 3 pounds 25c. Pure hand made Christmas Candy, 11c per pound.

Fancy Florida Oranges, sweet and good, 30c the dozen.

Our Grocery stock is most complete. You will find here everything needful for complete Christmas Dinner. We are paying for Butter 22c per pound. For Eggs 26c per doz.

Hoping to see you at our stores during the week,

Very truly,
SEQUINE & SHANNON

SEQUINE & SHANNON stores were located a short distance from the Cresco Station, originally next to the building with the old gas pumps and later across the road beside the railroad siding. The original sidewalk in front of this three story Department can still be seen. J.A. Sequine also operated a Souvenir Shop located next to the Station, close to the Rail Road Crossing gate. This Souvenir Shop can be seen in the picture for December.