

# YESTERYEAR

62:—Parting of the Ways for Canadensis, Mountain Home and Buck Hill, Pa.



2020

## About our Calendar

Little did we realize when we started this venture into grocery stores in Barrett Township that we would find so many over time. For some we have multiple pictures and names and proprietors, and others are only shadowy memories of old timers in the area. "I think I remember my Grandmother talking about that store in Canadensis, you know, where old Joe Michaels used to live."

The internet and Facebook were sources for some of our information on the present Art Gallery in Mountainhome. At various times it housed grocery stores; Brandilinos, Lewis's, A&P Store, IGA Store, plus a plumbing shop, hardware store, and a kitchen store, Cook's Tour. Then there is Mick's garage which, some say, had a grocery store where their showroom is now. According to some it may have been Lewis's before the present store was built but also may have housed an A&P store prior to the building next door becoming the A&P. Questions?

Moving on to the Sopko building, now the remodeled Mountainhome Farmstand, we found several grocery stores throughout its long history. Originally J.J. Sharbaugh's General Store and Post Office, sold to Rapha Sieg in 1925 who operated it until 1936. Later it was operated as Handy's Groceries and Walter's Groceries, closed for many years, now the Farmstand.

Hopping into our Time Machine, we travel down the road to Canadensis, stopping at various years to find Eleazer Price's Store, Dann's Market, The Atlantic & Pacific Store, William Long's Store (later Humphrey's Drug Store), Tuscano's Meat Market, G.H. Bush's General Store and Sieg's Store. While these did not all exist at the same time, they paint a picture of a community looking for a place to do their food shopping.

Finding our way to Cresco we enter the world of J.A. Seguire Stores. There was the Souvenir Store beside the Station before the parking lot was expanded in 1928. The Cresco Cash and Carry Store was a short way up the road from the Station, and eventually a large department store across the road. This store sold everything from soup to nuts.

Along the way, we may have missed one or two. What is now the Bible Church was originally the Shafer Store, later, in the early 1930's, it became The American Store.

Last but not least our Time Machine brings us to the present day and Lewis' Store, the end of a long line of grocery stores. Hope you enjoy your "tour" of Grocery Stores, past and present, as you browse through and use the 2020 calendar.

## About the Barrett Township Historical Society



Cresco Station, 142 Sand Spring Road, Cresco

The Station Museum was closed most of 2019 for a complete replacement of the floor and supporting structure.

The BTHS celebrated our 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2018. We have operated the Cresco Station Museum since 1999, housed in the circa 1880s Cresco Station built by the Delaware, Lackawanna and Western Railroad. In 2018, we opened the Library and Research Center across the street from the Station, in a building built in 1928 for the Cresco Post Office. The Weiler Family Foundation very kindly leases both buildings for our use. The Station is at 142 Sand Spring Road, and the Research Center is at 145 Sand Spring Road – but do NOT use these addresses for mailing purposes. Contact information is provided on the back of this calendar.



Library and Research Center, 145 Sand Spring Road, Cresco



The Price and Litz Grocery store is shown at the far right on the picture on the cover of this calendar. In that picture, The Forks at Buck Hill is visible beyond the gas station; the road to the right is present Route 390 to Canadensis, and the road to the left is Golf Drive to Buck Hill. Begun in 1923 by Porter Price and Dan Litz, this store sold high quality meats as well as produce. Before this endeavor, Porter Price was in charge of groceries at the Buck Hill store, while Litz worked at his side. In 2019, this building is the Mountainhome Deli Cafe.

*Photo courtesy of Virginia Swaine Burry*



This store was at the corner of present 447 and 390. From Marty Price:

“My first memory of the A&P is when it was in Canadensis. It was small and it was not self serve. There was a long counter on the right as you entered the store. All the items were on tall shelves behind the counter. Earl Rose was the manager. You had to tell the clerk what you wanted and they would get it down from the shelves. My Mother used to annoy Earl because he wanted her to hand him her list but she insisted on telling him what she wanted one item at a time so she could check each one.”

Sometime after this picture was taken, the A&P Store moved to what is now an Art Gallery on Route 390 opposite Steele's Hardware Store (formerly T.B. Price's). The left side of the building was the A&P Store and the right side was Vogt's Plumbing. From Marty Price: “My most vivid memory is the Thursday night that only Al Mutchler and I were working when the flood of 1955 hit. We slept in the store that night!”



Built in 1859, this quaint building became, over the years, a post office, general store and in the early 1930's, American Store with Ken Brutzman in charge of the butchering. That grocery store closed in the late 1940's or early 50's. George Bush, one of the managers of the store, is in the picture above. It is now the Pocono Bible Church, the original building having undergone several renovations.



Bush's Store, Canadensis, Pa.

Bush General Store was across Route 447 from what was originally the Indian Trading Post, now a closed sport shop. The upper floor, at one time, was used as added classrooms for the Canadensis High School. The picture was taken before 1916, because the Canadensis Methodist Church next door had not yet been built. It later became Marli's Antiques and is now being remodeled for apartments.



Left to right: The Ray Blitz store sold newspapers, candy, cigarettes, and magazines. Ray was blind but managed the store very well, asking local kids to confirm the denomination of a bill if the patron was a stranger. Next: Toscano's Meat Market, selling, among other meats, live poultry. At the far right: Humphrey's Drug Store, which was a pharmacy, post office, and soda fountain, and sold ice cream, penny candy, and other items found in a typical drug store of today. This was previously the William Long Store (see the November picture). Blitz' and Toscano's still stand on the west side of present Route 447, just south of Route 390, in Canadensis.



In 1912 Charles and Emma Sieg built this store on the east side of Route 447 just north of Laurel Grove Inn in Canadensis. It was a general store with living quarters upstairs. A meat delivery wagon and later a truck operated out of the store. The store closed in 1950. This picture was taken in September 1947. Mrs. Kennedy, Miss E. Kennedy, and Mrs J. W. Clark are on the porch. The building still stands, though the porches are gone and other changes have been made.



The Cresco Cash Store was located next to the present derelict gas pumps near the Cresco Station. It was purchased by John A. Seguire and Stewart Shannon in 1891 from Jacob Miller. John was about 22 years old, and Stewart was about 26 at the time they bought the store. In 1902 Seguire had acquired the store by himself, and became quite well known for his determination to sell only reliable goods at fair prices. Space was cramped, so he expanded the dry goods business by building a larger four floor store across the road.



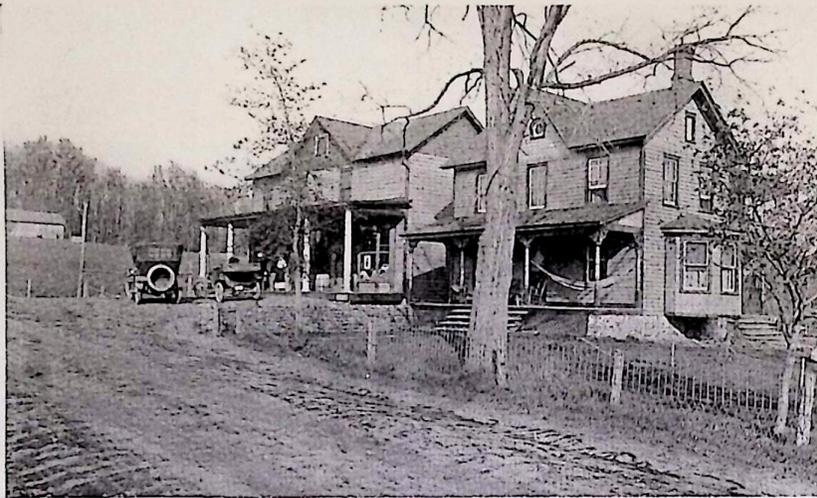
In 1908, J. A. Seguire built this four-story building across the street from the original Cresco Cash Store, and eventually added more buildings. Some of the products sold by Seguire's Store included: groceries, dry goods, clothing, carpet, wall paper, coal, propane, and equine supplies. After Seguire's death in 1945, the store was operated by his daughter Edith. It burned in 1955.



From Steamtown NHS Archives used with permission C4053 5-9-1917

This building was located in what is now the parking area of the Cresco Station Museum. The date of construction is not recorded, but when J. A. Seguine and Stewart Shannon dissolved their partnership “by mutual agreement” in 1902, “Stewart Shannon will conduct the clothing business in the store opposite the depot” (Scranton Times-Tribune, January 3, 1902). By 1913, this store carried the Seguine name, and carried a large variety of souvenirs and stationery. Ice cream and soft drinks were also available during the summer season. It served as the Cresco Post Office until the building was demolished to enlarge the parking lot in 1928. While technically not a grocery store, it did offer various things to tempt the traveller.

(The Cresco Station platform is at the far right side of the picture. The main road through town crossed the double track railroad at grade, with manually operated crossing gates.)



J. J. SHARBAUGH'S GENERAL STORE, Mountainhome, Pa.

Sharbaugh's store was just north of Mill Creek on the east side of present Route 390. At some point the owner of this successful store was Ted Ford, who sold it to Rapha and Emma Sieg in 1925. The Siegs added a soda fountain and gas pumps. Sieg's sold it in 1936 to take over Laurel Grove Inn. It became Handy's Groceries and then Walter's Grocery at different times. The northernmost of the two buildings in the older picture burned, and was replaced by another building. Later, the two buildings were connected. Now, remodeled, it is The Mountainhome Farmstand.

The colorful pumpkins and chrysanthemums aren't nearly as attractive in black-and-white as they are in color!





W. A. Long's Store

Eventually becoming Humphrey's Drug Store, standing at the intersection of Rts. 447 and 390, this store was a connecting link between the Canadensis of the 1900's and 1970's until it was burned in May of 1974. Built by Ira Edwards, it was traded to William Long for a hotel that the Longs owned. The Longs operated it as a General Store, as did Richard Manhart. It also saw service as a meat store, clothing store, and the Post Office. It was bought in the early 1930's by Harry and Margaret Humphrey and operated as a year-round drug store and in the 1950's when it was only open in the summer.



Lewis' Food Market was opened by Tom Lewis around 1945, who was soon joined by brothers, Lew within a year, and Jim, sometime in the 50's. The first store was located at the present Mick Motors. After four years at this location, a parcel of land was purchased from the Ravelli family and the big move was made to where the store is today. This store was larger than other grocery stores in town and it was self-service. This meant the shoppers could walk around the store and choose the items they wanted rather than giving their list to the grocer who would gather the items himself.

The Grand Opening at the present location was on March 23<sup>rd</sup> in 1950 and the festivities included free samples, refreshments and contests all weekend. A prize was awarded for guessing the weight of the World's Largest Bologna. Special prices on items served to draw in the shoppers: Old Dutch Cleanser for 10 cents, a pound box of Ritz Crackers for 31 cents and a pound can of Crisco or Spry shortening for 28 cents. The store's produce was delivered by Joe Lewis Produce in Pocono Lake – Joe was the father of the brother-owners and the three sisters, Alice, Marge and Betty, who also worked in the store.

In the late 1950's a full-service bakery was added. While everyone loved the fresh-baked products as well as the wafting aromas, the bakery was soon closed as more room was needed as the business grew. 1992 brought an addition on the back of the store and a facelift on the storefront about 10 years ago.

Tom's son, Mike, and Lew,'s son, Jerry, both grew up in the business and started working at the store in the late 70's and became partners in 1980, the same year Lew retired. Tom retired in 1986. Tom's grandson, Ryan, joined the business in 1993 after graduating from college. Ryan grew up in Mountainhome and worked in the store on vacations and school breaks. Ryan's 8 year-old daughter likes playing at the cash registers after hours. Who knows if and when a fourth generation will eventually enter the supermarket business....

**2021**

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**Barrett Township Historical Society (BTHS)**

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