

# YESTERYEAR



2019

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## About our Calendar

This year, we are featuring some of the artistry of John James.

John James, local artist, graduated from Kutztown University in 1974 with a B.S. in Art Education. While teaching, he continued his education in art and earned a Master's Equivalency in Art Education.

John taught 38 years in the Pocono Mountain School District, 22 years at Monroe County Vo-tech-adult art education, 12 years at the Lindenroot Gallery, and 30 years for the Buck Hill Art Association.

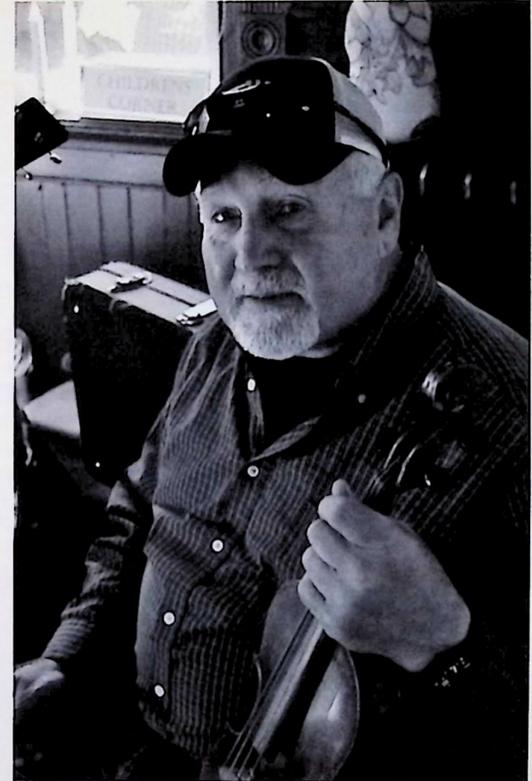
John has won several first prizes from Wilkes-Barre's Fine Art Festival on the Square. He is a well rounded artist, who loves pen & ink, colored pencils, illustrations, and caricatures. His passion is watercolors, but his truest passion is teaching all the stuff he never learned in high school.

In 1982, he was asked to draw a pen and ink illustration for the Theo B. Price Country Store and Lumber Yard's annual Christmas card. This first pen and ink used as a Christmas card began a tradition which continued for 33 years. Now on display at the Barrett Township Historical Society (BTHS) Library Research Center are several historical illustrations of Barrett Township that John created for Mickey and Maryann Miller from 1982 to 2015.

The pictures in this calendar are from that series, reproduced with permission from John James and Mickey Miller. The BTHS has also reprinted some of these as Christmas cards with captions; those captions have been edited and included here.

John James' roots in this area go deep. He can trace his family, the Snows, on his mother's side back to the Mayflower and the Whittaker side to the first forest ranger with a pavilion named after him at Promised Land State Park. It's no wonder John has been inspired by local history.

When not at the easel John can be found with either a fiddle or fishing pole in his hand. He is an accomplished self taught musician, (playing 13 musical instruments, although he cannot read music) and an avid fisherman. He and a group of friends entertain with song and stories at various local venues. Watch for announcements of dates they will perform at the Cresco Station Museum during the summer season, and visit the Library Research Center to see some of the originals of the Christmas Card series.



## About the Barrett Township Historical Society

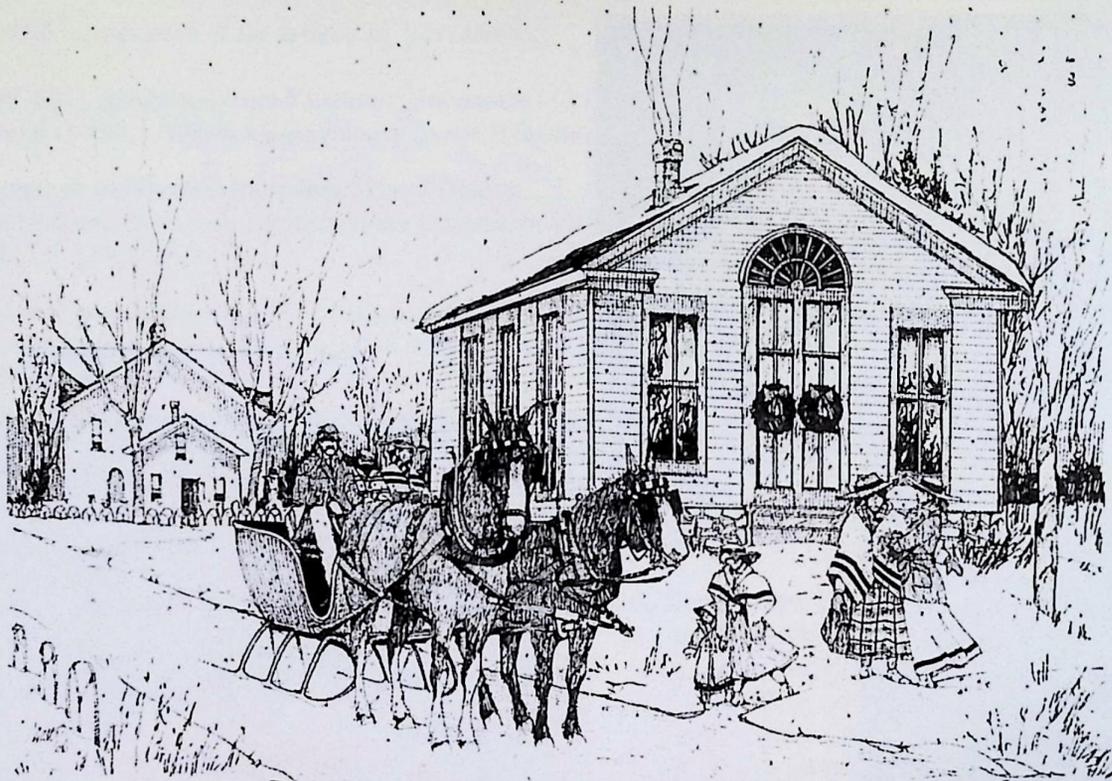


Cresco Station, 142 Sand Spring Road, Cresco

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.



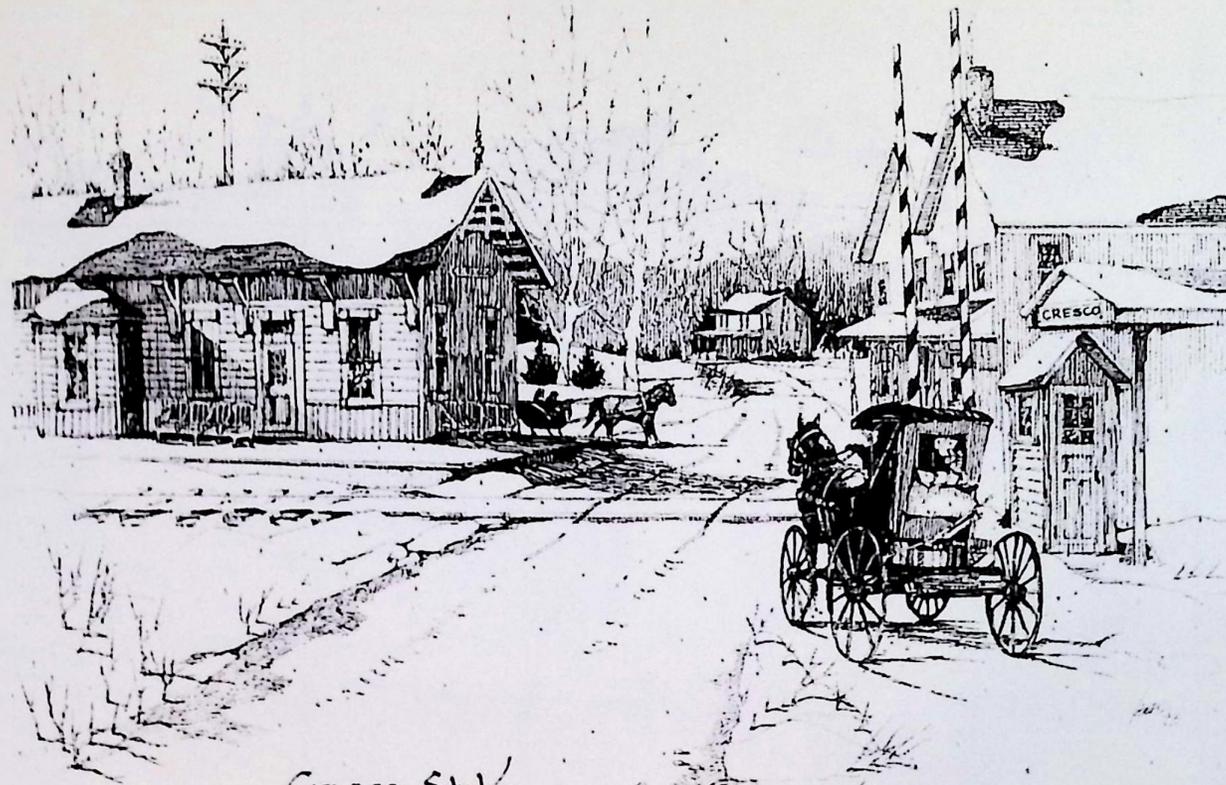
Library and Research Center, 145 Sand Spring Road, Cresco



Oakland Methodist Episcopal Church

CIRCA 1884

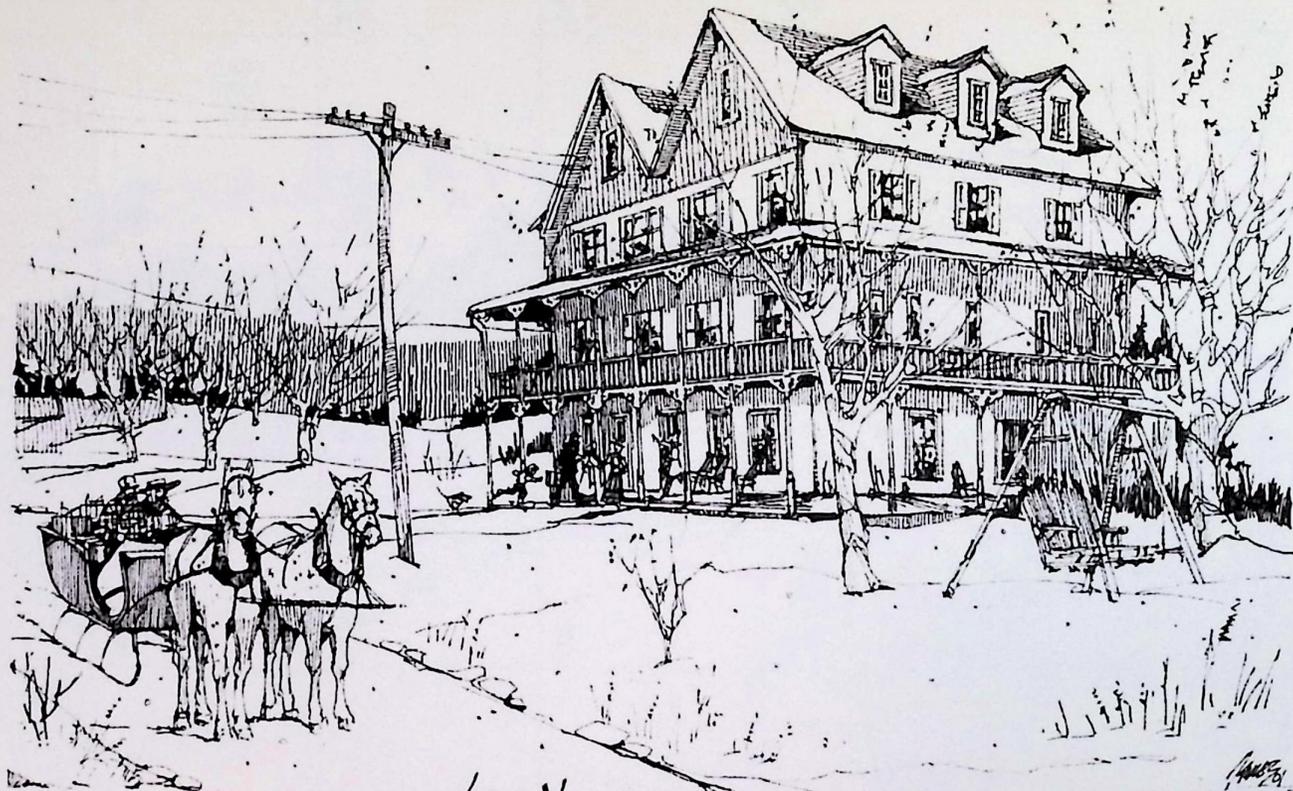
The first meeting of the Oakland Methodist Episcopal parishioners was held at the home of Harrison Sebring, Oakland, in 1854. George G. Shafer of the firm Shafer and Rhinehart gave the ground to the Oakland Church on which the original church building was erected around 1859. The church is now called the Mountainhome United Methodist Church and is located at the intersection of Routes 191 and 390, Mountainhome. The picture shows the building before the addition of the steeple. In 1916, when the present church was built, the steeple was moved intact to the new church.



*Cresco Station*

CRESCO, PENNSYLVANIA CIRCA 1898

The first Delaware, Lackawanna and Western (DL&W) locomotive arrived at the Cresco (originally Oakland) Station, Pennsylvania, on January 21, 1856. The present station was built in the 1880s. It closed in 1968, and reopened in 1999 as a museum owned by the Weiler Family Corporation and operated by the Barrett Township Historical Society.



Cliff View Cottage Cresco, Pa. circa: 1901

The Cliff View House, located on Route 390, Cresco, Pennsylvania, was opened in the last part of the 19<sup>th</sup> century by Charles and Amanda Kolb. It accommodated 40 guests at the rate of \$8.00 to \$12.00 per week. Partially burned in 1995, the present building houses Winners Circle Automotive.



*Lackawanna Station, Cresco, Pa.*

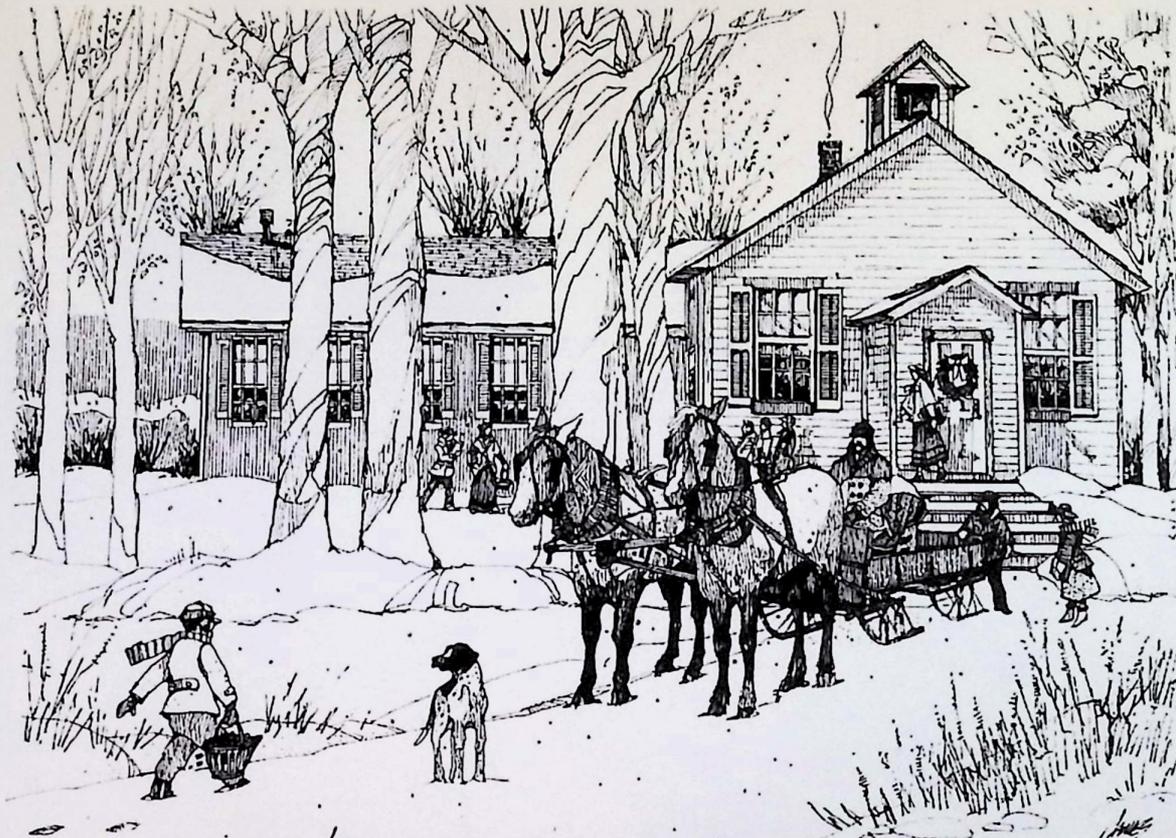
*CIRCA: 1901*

The Route of Phoebe Snow – The Delaware, Lackawanna and Western Railroad was also known as “The Road of Anthracite”. The Lackawanna advertised that it used clean burning anthracite coal for fuel. The original Lackawanna and Western was organized in 1851 and ran north from Scranton, Pennsylvania to Great Bend, Pennsylvania on the Susquehanna River. The railroad merged with the Delaware and Cobb’s Gap Railroad, and built south from Scranton through Cresco to the Delaware River in 1856. Near Portland, Pennsylvania, the railroad crossed the river and connected with New Jersey railroads, running to Hoboken, New Jersey. In 1882 the western route to Buffalo, New York was added.



Main Street Canadensis, Pa.  
© 1902

This scene is on Main Street, Canadensis, Pennsylvania, on Route 290 (now Route 447) looking east. The village of Canadensis was named by Dr. Gilbert Palen of the Palen and Northrup Tannery. It is the botanical name for the Hemlock, "Tsuga Canadensis". Present day Canadensis can boast of having the only traffic light in Barrett Township.



*Mountainhome Grammar School* CIRCA: 1910  
MOUNTAINHOME, PENNSYLVANIA

In 1906 the Mountainhome School, Mountainhome, Pennsylvania, included 15 boys and 22 girls between 8 and 16 years of age. The seating capacity of the school was 32. It had three grades and a library. The subjects taught were arithmetic, geography, reading, mental, history, grammar, physiology, spelling, and algebra. After closing, the two sections of the building were moved across the road. Today one section remains part of the Steele's Hardware (formerly Theo B. Price) complex; the other was purchased by Irwin Mick and stands alone opposite Mick's service station.



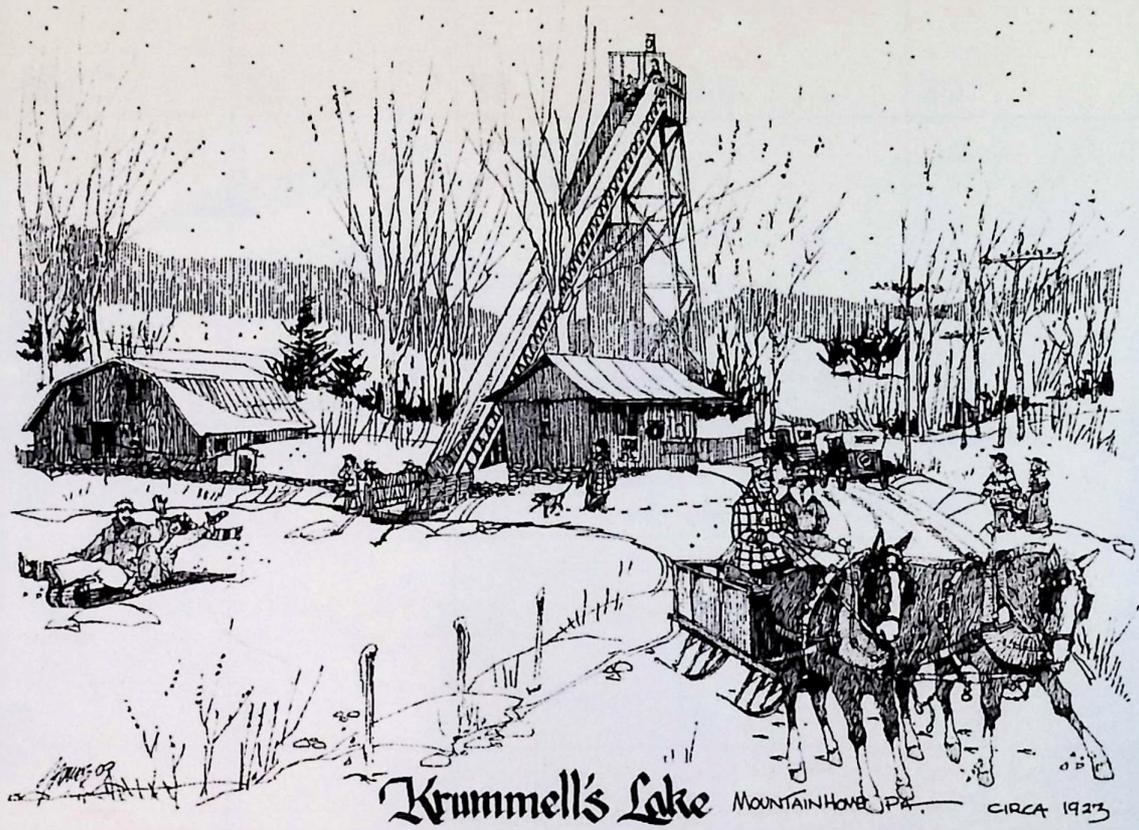
*Woodlawn House*, MOUNTAIN HOME, FA. CIRCA: 1910  
MRS. SAMUEL COOPER PROP.

The Woodlawn House started as a private residence sometime around 1900. In 1906, Reverend Samuel Cooper and his wife Mary purchased the property and ran a boarding house until 1917. Open all year, the rate was \$7.00 per week. In 1944, the Ravellis opened a restaurant, operating it until 1960 when it was purchased by the Uguccionis, who continued to run it as a family restaurant. In 1999, David and Cindy Cook renamed it "Cook's Touch and operated the restaurant until it was sold in 2007. CVS Pharmacy is now on this site.



**Shafer's Store**  
MOUNTAIN HOME, PENNSYLVANIA CIRCA: 1914

Shafer's Store, built by C. W. Decker, was started by Wm. Shaw White as a general store and post office in 1998. It was located on Route 90 (now 191) and Brutzman Road, Mountainhome, Pennsylvania. It later served as the American Store, Bill Meeks Paint Store, Little Phoebe Wax Works, an antique shop, and is presently home of the Pocono Bible Church.



Shafer's Dam had its origin in 1855 when William S. White and Harrison Sebring formed a partnership to dam the Mill Creek and operate a sawmill. Located at the corner of Spruce Cabin Road and Route 390, Mountainhome, Pennsylvania, the property was later acquired by Luther Krummel and became known as Krummel's Lake. Ice was harvested from the lake in the winter and sold to the hotels in summer. Although the picture shows the slide in winter, it was actually a water slide and used in the summer, giving the rider an adventurous trip to the lake below.



*Seguine's Department Store* CRESCO, PA.  
Circa 1924

In 1896 J. A. Seguine and Stewart Shannon opened the Cresco Cash and Carry, in Cresco, Pennsylvania. In 1908 Seguine bought out Shannon and on October 31 opened a new store across the highway, Route 90 (now Sand Spring Road). Seguine's daughter Edith operated the store until it was destroyed by fire in 1955.



*Theo. B. Price Sprag Mill Employees circa: 1925*

The Sprag Mill, located on Route 390 in Cresco, Pennsylvania and founded by Theo B. Price, manufactured a unique tool perfected by Mr. Price. Utilized to slow or stop mine cars in a day when mechanical brakes were not heard of, the sprag was an important part of the mining industry. "Spragging the wheels" was a common term in the days when putting on the brakes meant shoving a pointed sapling (usually done by a small quick teenager called a runner) into each wheel to slow it down. The original building became the Sprag Mill Gallery in the Theo B. Price complex, now Steeles Hardware.



### Back to Skytop

THROUGH MOUNTAIN HOME, PA. CIRCA 1926

In the 1930s, several of the large Pocono Mountain Resorts: Mount Airy Lodge, Mount Airy Lodge (Onawa Lodge), The Inn at Buck Hill Falls, and Skytop Lodge maintained and raced sled dog teams. Even smaller resorts like Joe and Clara Price's Spruce Mountain House had a dog team. From 1923 through 1942 one of the major Pocono Mountain winter events, the Dog Sled Derby, was held at The Inn at Buck Hill. The first woman driver was Edith Drennan, who drove a team of "five or seven pure white Huskies".

2020

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**Barrett Township Historical Society (BTHS)**

142 and 145 Sand Spring Road

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Cresco, PA

Mountainhome, PA 18342

Physical addresses only; **NO MAIL**

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