



NEWSLETTER

PO Box 358 ~ Mountainhome, PA 18342
stationmuseum@gmail.com

PHONE NUMBER: (570) 481 – 4622
WEBSITE: www.barrethistorical.org

Pump House Inn

By Jacqueline Magann



Levis Falls House—Canadensis, PA

The present Pump House Inn has been known by other names since its beginning. First it was Levis Falls House and then Pump House Inn, Ski Run Lodge, Druequer's Restaurant and Carmichael's Grill, Lodging and Country Store. Most of the information in the Barrett Township Historical Society resort files on the Inn comes from the Mountain and Lake Resorts Booklet put out by the Lackawanna Railroad.

A 1930 ad for Levis Falls Inn run by Stewart Shivley stated that: The Levis House Inn was 5 miles from Cresco Station, guests would be met at the train, the inn ran a well cultivated farm which supplied the table, had a well, hot and cold running water, a large dining room and

bedrooms, a good piano and radio, a telephone for local and long distance, excellent trout fishing, an amusement room, pool, tennis court and croquet. The Inn was open May to December and could accommodate 30 guests.

The Pump House Inn has been purchased by Svetlana and Jonathan Hanover. They have exciting long-range plans for improving and expanding the facilities while keeping the ambience of the original owners.

A booklet found in the resort file at the Library Research Center shows a date of 1842. Svetlana and Jonathan have made arrangements to have the deeds searched at the Monroe County Court House, Stroudsburg, to find the earliest owner. Since Barrett did not become a township until December 31, 1859, the search may have to go back to another jurisdiction besides Barrett. That will be a challenge search.

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Presidential Message

What a Way to Start the Summer!

After two long years of delays due to the global COVID-19 pandemic, the Grand Reopening Celebration for the Cresco Station Museum was a huge success. There are so many people to thank for making it a wonderful day beginning with Mickey Miller and Joanne Seese. Their dedication to the museum is one of the hallmarks of the society and we are grateful not only for what they did to make the event on May 29 a success, but for manning the Museum on every Sunday afternoon. While they may have steered the ship their dedication alone could not have made this a day to remember without the efforts of Ellen Davis, Jackie Magan, Jackie Speicher, John Seese, Walter Lewis, Bella Lewis, Anthony and Alesia Gallo, Jordan and Maddy Speicher-Willis, Andrew Davis, Mary Price and her granddaughters, the Boy Scouts from Troop 89 and the support of the Barrett-Paradise Friendly Library, Forest Fire Crew 34 and the Barrett Township Volunteer Fire Company. In addition to the museum and library being open celebrants got to participate in an old fashioned cake walk, dine on free food, meet with friends and neighbors all the while being entertained by Doug Smith and the Dixieland All Stars Band. The culmination for the day's events occurred at 3 pm when Mickey Miller presented Karl Weiler with a John James original painting in recognition for all the Weiler Family Foundation has done to maintain the Cresco Train Station and support the Historical Society.

This fantastic event was followed by another. Less than a week following the big celebration the Library and Research Center became the museum when the Wedding Traditions Through the Decades exhibit opened. Folks from all over the community loaned BTHS their wedding dresses and photographs to be part of the display. To say it was a success is an understatement. The exhibit has been a smash thanks Jackie Magan and the volunteers she assembled. In just days they converted the LRC into an exhibition hall of the first order. Every day the exhibit was open the parking lot was packed with overflow parking at the train station.

We are not content to sit back now and soak up the rest of the summer, BTHS still has plenty of events on tap for the community to drink in this summer. The month of August is dedicated to recalling the Flood of '55. It is our hope to get as many first-hand accounts from those who lived through it

recorded for posterity. The FCC program on August 19, 67 years to the day after the tragic event of 1955, will focus on hearing the recollections of those who lived through it. Please reach out to your family members, friends and neighbors who would like to share their memories on that day, not just with those of us in attendance but for future generations of Barrett Township residents.

Later this summer on the last Sundays in July and August the Cresco Station Museum will host two excursions from Steam Town National Historic Park in Scranton. The community is invited to greet travelers as they disembark at the Cresco Station. There will be live entertainment, food and activities for the rail riders to enjoy. Please consider being a part of the festivities.

As you can see the Barrett Township Historical Society is a vibrant organization providing residents and visitors a link to our past and I am proud to be a part of it. Join us and you will be too.

Darryl Speicher
BTHS President

^_^/)_/- Whoops, a Mistake...

Correction to the April Newsletter Vol. #29, Issue #2, Page 11, 6th Paragraph

Henry Price was the great grandson of John Price, early settler in Monroe County. If there is something that needs to be corrected, speak-up. Please email me at alesiagallos@yahoo.com or give me call at (570)972-6422.

2022 Board of Directors

Shirley Lansdowne Jayne Blair Mary Price Marie Guidry Claudia Stuart

2022 Executive Officers

President	Darryl Speicher
Vice President	Marie Guidry
Recording Secretary	Ellen Davis
Corresponding Secretary	Hannelore Gaupp
Treasurer	Stu Malin

Treasurer's Report
 Stu Malin, Treasurer
 DATE:
 Checking \$1,139.57
 Money Market \$1,162.89
 CD ESSA \$8,489.18
 Investment \$42,000.00
 CD ESSA \$5,924.67
 Total \$58,716.31

2022 Executive Committee

<u>Archivist for LRC & CSM</u>	Consolidated in LRC & CSM activities
Cresco Station Museum	Mickey Miller & Joanne Seese
Curator for LRC & CSM	Joanne Seese
Finance	Stu Malin
Historian	Jacqueline Magann
Hospitality	OPEN
Information Systems	OPEN
Library Research Center	Jacqueline Magann & Joanne Seese
Membership	Jackie Speicher
Newsletter	Alesia Gallo, Editor & Jacqueline Magann, Co-Editor
Oral Tradition	OPEN
Programs	Mary Price & Malinda Bender, Co-Chairs
Publicity	Marie S. Guidry
Research	OPEN
Ways & Means Committee	OPEN

Exec Committee Meeting Dates

Held at LRC, 145 Sand Spring Road, Cresco
 Executive Committee meetings are held on the 2nd
 Tuesday at 3 pm monthly at LRC
 Aug 9
 Sept 13
 Oct 11
 Nov 8

General Membership Meeting Dates

Venue: Friendly Community Center
 Jul 15 at 7:00 pm
 Aug 19 at 7:00 pm
 Sept 16 at 7:00 pm
 Oct 21 at 7:00 pm

Committee Reports:**Cresco Station Museum** Mickey Miller & Joanne Seese

The museum will be open every Sunday from 1 pm – 4 pm through the summer.

Archivist & Curator for LRC & CSM Joanne Seese – Nothing to report

Finance Stu Malin

Our Total Income to date is: \$ 2,302.35

Our Total Expense to date is: \$ \$ 5,214.17

The Grand Reopening was a great success. Our Expenses were \$2,766.15 and we received \$862.35 in donations to offset the cost. We received a \$2,000.00 grant which was used for the celebration.

The executive committee approved the purchase of a large screen TV for the LRC which we hope to have installed in the middle of July.

Please note our financials on page 3.

Historian Jacqueline Magann

Nothing to report.

Hospitality OPEN

Due to COVID, we are not currently serving refreshments at programs.

Information Systems OPEN

Nothing to report.

Library Research Center Jacqueline Magann

The "Flood of 55", 67 years ago, will be the focus of the general meeting on August 19, 7 pm at the Community Center and the activities every Sunday in August from 1 to 4 pm at the Library Research Center. The Society has purchased a 90" Smart TV and 55 Flood related pictures will be shown. Please come and share your flood story.

If you want to access the 1950 Census for Barrett Township, go to [1950census.archives.gov](https://www.1950census.archives.gov) and use the search details: Pennsylvania, Monroe County, Barrett Township outside the unincorporated place of Canadensis and excluding Onawa Lodge, Skytop Club, and The Inn ID#45-2. 94 pages

Membership Jackie Speicher

Please see the membership form at the back of the newsletter and return it as soon as possible.

Newsletter Alesia Gallo, Editor & Jacqueline Magann, Co-Editor

Deadline for submission to the October 2022 Newsletter is September 25th. Send by email to: alesiagalloy@yahoo.com

Oral Tradition OPEN Chair is Needed

Programs Malinda Bender & Mary Price

Programs are normally held at the Barrett Friendly Community Center on the dates and times indicated below:

July 15, 2022 @ 7pm

Unfortunately, this program has been cancelled by The Monroe County Beekeeping Association. No program this night.

August 19, 2022 @ 7pm

Sharing Stories of the 1955 Flood

This will be an open forum with participation from those attending and members of the Society interacting with their experiences during the flood.

September 16, 2022 @ 7pm

Hiking at Ice Lake to Enjoy the Foliage

We will meet at the pavilion for a short history of the lake and the Seguire family before enjoying the walk around the lake. Please wear appropriate footwear and bring a bottle of water.

October 21, 2022 @ 7pm

The Art of Repairing and Building Musical Instruments

Dr. Ed Kosmahl, a gifted musician who performs with the Doug Smith's Dixieland All-Stars being skilled at performing on most fretted instruments, will be speaking on how he became involved with the building of his own instruments. Be prepared for a demonstration of his musical talents.

November 19, 2022 @ 2pm

Early Settlers in Barrett Township

Format for this program to be determined.

Our program for April was "50 Things to Know About Birds in Pennsylvania" by Darryl and Jackie Speicher. Their book is part of a series about birds in all 50 states written by different authors and is presented from the regional view of the state. Why is PA one of the best places to see fall migration of hawks and eagles? Where can I see sandhill cranes in PA. What is the state bird in PA?

Darryl spoke about the "Yucatan Express" which is the spring migration from South America across the Gulf of Mexico. It is amazing how far and how fast migrating birds can fly. Everyone learned some fascinating facts. For example, did you know that hummingbirds collect spider webs for their nests; birds of prey can be identified by their tail feathers; you can see woodcock at Gravel Family Nature Preserve and enjoy a great hike? We were entertained with some hilarious stories of Darryl's birding experiences and he has MANY!! He also can do some mighty good bird calls. So, get out there and enjoy the birds!

Our program for May was "A Legacy of Stitches – Quilt Documentation." Monroe County residents, Marianne Bridges and Marie Guidry, spoke about the ongoing efforts to identify the quilt makers and preserve the history of old and new quilts. Many beautiful quilts were displayed and unique characteristics pointed out.

Our program for June was "The Sommers' Tradition Carried On". Sharon Rose Price was our guest speaker and what a pleasurable evening it was! She demonstrated through stories and her photographs how she and Dale continue the tradition of preserving the natural resources on land originally owned by Herm Sommers in Canadensis. The house is a Sears Roebuck mail order so perfect for their lifestyle. Sharon's photography is so outstanding that you can almost smell the flowers.

She has agreed to expand her program on a fall Sunday afternoon at the Library Research Center. We'll keep you informed.

Visit our website at www.barretthistorical.org

(Committee Reports continued from page 5)

Publicity Marie S. Guidry

Follow the Barrett Township Historical Society on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/Barrett-Township-Historical-Society-814825878582400/> or on our ****NEW**** website at www.barretthistorical.org

Research - OPEN

Ways & Means Committee

A new ways & means committee will need to be formed due to the majority of the current membership moving across state, or out of state. If you would like to volunteer for this important role, please contact Darryl Speicher.

Newsletter Transition

Alesia Gallo has agreed to be editor of the Society Newsletter! We give her a warm and thankful welcome. Alesia and MaryKate Reeves-Hoche have met to turn over the editorship. Mary Kate will continue to write newsletter articles from California. We sincerely thank Mary Kate for all the wonderful newsletters she has produced as editor.

Hello Barrett Township!

My name is Alesia Gallo and I will be your new editor for the Barrett Township Historical Society Newsletter. Please bear with me during this time of transition and reach out with your newsletter submissions, suggestions, corrections or just to say hello. I currently reside in Tobyhanna with my husband Anthony and our two black cats. I enjoy hiking, cooking and reading. I work for the Monroe County Conservation District's Kettle Creek Environmental Education Center in Stroudsburg where I get to share the joy of nature with folks of all ages throughout Monroe County and beyond. I also do all of the public relations and website for Kettle Creek so I have some experience with newsletters information technology. If you're not already aware, I was involved with creating the new BTHS website and hope you are all finding it beneficial. I look forward to meeting and working with everyone and hope you're all having a great summer. You can reach me at alesiagallo@yahoo.com.

Farewell to The Kuhns

By Jacqueline Magann

We shall miss Sharon and Don and all their time and effort over the years to support the work of the Barrett Township Historical Society. Records show both served on the Ways and Means Committee, forever! They were so busy in so many ways it's hard to say where one task ended and another began. Sharon served as Hospitality Chair also. Just mention food at Society events, and she is sure to be there with Don always ready to lend a hand. Probably though, being a member of the Cresco Station Museum Committee is where they spent a big chunk of their time over the years, in every capacity. We are forever grateful and wish them the best in their new home in Kutztown near their beloved family.

2022 Appreciation Gifts

By Jacqueline Magann

Gifts were presented to Ann and Karl Weiler in appreciation for all the work done to repair the Cresco Station Museum and the continuing work they do for the Barrett Township Historical Society. Karl received a sketch of the Weiler Lake in springtime by John James. Ann received a needlepoint of the Cresco Station originally photographed by Richard Gross. It was designed for needlepoint by Al Hall. Al gave the pattern to Jo Ellen Chadwick who stitched the picture.

Bridal Time Travel

By Jacqueline Magann

The Bridal Time Travel exhibit was enjoyed by many, especially stories of the generations. We thank all who helped make the display the beautiful presentation that it was. We had 115 visitors.

Brides

1908	Laura Root Gilbert (mother)
*1945	Laura Gilbert Tupper (daughter)
1933-1935	Monroe County Historical Association
1934	Audrey Minnie King Specht (mother of Joanne Seese)
1941	Edna Marie Ott McFillin (Madeleine Forssell's mother)
1945	Patricia Murther's mother, name not provided
1951	Anna Regina Walton Warren (Diane Edward's mother)
1953	Maryann Schaarschmidt Miller
1955	Patricia McCain Williams
1955	Youndale Helen Price Seese
1961	Priscilla Blitz Kice
1967	Sharon Zimmerman Kuhns
1967	Ellen Davis
1971	Laurie Larsen Dunlap
1973	Malinda Price Bender (mother)
*2003	Lynne Ann Bender Littrell (daughter)
2011	Jack Littrell (son of Lynne) Christening gown from satin
1976	Madeleine McFillin Forssell
1988	Elizabeth Doreen Magann Hawley
1991	Dawn Marie DonEsposito Metzgar
1992	Becky Seese Leister (gown handmade by mother Joanne Seese)
*1996	Diane Edwards and 2001 (a cousin)
2006	Julie Bree Neiring
2012	Emelie McFillin Forssell Yuhasz (daughter of Madeleine Forssell)
No Date	Patricia Murtha

* Gown worn twice

**Back Ground Wedding Music**

Bob Riday, Stroudsburg, Pa.
Gary Raish, Stroudsburg, Pa.

Committee:

Malinda Bender • Diane Edwards
Madeleine Forssell • Jacqueline Magann • Pat Williams

Door Prizes:

Callie's Candy Kitchen • Diane Edwards
Mary Kate Reeves-Hoche • Steele's Hardware
Stonewall Garden Center

Flowers:

Imagination, Tannersville, Pa
Lavender Farm, Paradise Valley, Pa
Most Holy Trinity Flowers, Cresco, Pa
Skytop Flower Shop, Skytop, Pa

Graphic Design & Publishing:

Willa Jean Price, Willa™ Graphics Studio

Mannequins

Crossings Premium Outlets, Tannersville, Pa The Loft
Outlet • Ann Taylor Factory Store Mannequin

Hair Styles:

Benjie LaBar for Guys and Dolls

Photography:

Courtesy of Don Sack, D. Sack, Inc.

The Village View Centerfold

May 2022 Issue

Treatment of Gowns, Alterations and More

Snow White Dry Cleaners, Cresco, Pa.

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The Flood of 1955

By Suzie Fretz McCool

The Historic Flood of 1955 was caused by two hurricanes - Connie and Diane which came almost on top of each other. We natives of the Pocono Mountains will never forget it. Connie was named on August 5th, and hurricane Diane followed on August 7, 1955. Some areas of Monroe County received up to 22 inches of rain, causing massive destruction.

My sisters, Linda, Paulette, and I lived on Carlton Road in Paradise Township with our parents, John and Viola Fretz. We were about 9, 10, and 12 years of age at the time. I happened to be visiting with my Aunt Audrey Grabowsky in Mount Pocono for a few days when the flood of 1955 happened. She was the housekeeper for Dr. and Mrs. Kohn who resided on Fairview Avenue in Mount Pocono. The doctor had his offices in the basement of the house. The Kohn's had two children Judy and Ritchie. Because Mount Pocono was at a very high elevation it didn't fare too badly. As I recall, we had to bail water out of the basement with pails, but it wasn't too bad.

However, down in Paradise Valley things were much worse. Linda and Paulette were home alone, as our father was on a business trip to Lancaster. He was a cattle dealer and conducted much business "down country" as he called that area. Our mother was cooking at Paradise Inn at the time. The water was getting high at the Inn and our Mom, who didn't drive at the time, needed a ride home somehow.

Charlie Jumper gave her and another lady a ride home. They had just crossed the bridge on the Paradise Valley Road near Carson's Riding Stable and were the last car to cross that bridge before it gave out.

Charlie couldn't go back the way he came. That was near Pocono Gardens Lodge, whose guests had to be evacuated by boats. My Mom saw a car completely immersed in water up to its roof. We heard about a person who had to seek refuge from the swirling waters by climbing a tree; however my mother didn't see that. My Mom was very shook up by the time she got home, Linda and Paulette said. She said she didn't think they would make it. Later we learned that many cars had washed down Paradise Creek which had become a river suddenly.

Meanwhile on the home front, before our Mom got home, Linda and Paulette were quite terrified. Paulette said that the rain and high winds were so loud that it sounded like a freight train was coming through the house. Part of the roof fell in as a big leak developed near our stone fireplace in the living room. So much water came in so fast that Linda and Paulette ran upstairs to get blankets to absorb the water on the living room floor. Towels couldn't do the job. Also, our basement got very flooded.

Being in Mount Pocono I missed out on all this action, but I saw a great deal of destruction when I was able to go home again. The sides of the road coming down from Mt Pocono were quite washed out as big gullies of erosion were evident on both sides. The bridge below our home near the Merry Hill Road was completely washed out as well. For a long time after that we had to go the long way around to church and Sunday school at St. Paul's near Ace's Corner Store. Actually, 20 Monroe County bridges were lost during this catastrophe.

We now know that we were some of the lucky ones. It could have been much worse for us. The children at Percy Crawford's Camp were not so lucky, nor were many of the other 80 or more who lost their lives in that terrible flood. I believe that this experience is why I take storm water issues so seriously, and why Monroe County has updated our Storm Water Ordinance several times.

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NARRATIVE REPORT

Barrett Township Civil Defense: During and After FLOOD AUGUST 18, 1955

It was apparent at approximately 6:30 p.m. Thursday, August 18, 1955, that an unusual situation was developing. Therefore, we mobilized our Control Center and alerted Civil Defense Auxiliary Police. The Control Center was completely manned and operating by 7:15 p.m., and our first distress call was received at 7:30 p.m. Communications in the Control Center consisted of three telephones and a walkie-talkie radio for direct communications with the radio base station for the township, Fire

Department and Civil Defense radio. Because our telephones emanate from a switchboard, the operators were able to hold calls until an office telephone was available.

At the outset we attempted to keep a written record of each call as received and of its disposition. However, in a very short period we found this to be impossible because the telephones were swamped at all times and the radio was in use almost constantly with reports coming in from the five mobile units which were active throughout the area.

Calls for help streamed in and the Civil Defense Police and the Barrett Township Volunteer Fire Company were dispatched by radio to the scene of each distress call. Unfortunately, the streams came up so rapidly that by 8:30 p.m. every bridge within the township was impassable. Fortunately, George Huguenin, Fire Chief, dispatched a fire truck with mobile radio to each of the outlying areas of the Township before the bridges were covered. Therefore, we were able to continue rescue work and on-the-spot accurate information kept coming into the Control Center from these Mobile Radio Units.

The incredible velocity of the high water confined within the narrow valleys of the streams in the area made it absolutely impossible to reach people who were marooned, it was only possible to rescue those who were on the fringes of the stream. Many attempts were made to launch boats. They either overturned immediately in the current or broke the mooring lines. Needless to say, there were many, many narrow escapes and many people were rescued at great hazard to themselves and to the volunteer rescuers.

Despite the height and velocity of the water, many telephones remained in service, and one of the heartbreaking tasks was to have to tell pleading families that, although we were doing our best to get to them, it was virtually impossible to rescue them and that they would have to take whatever measures possible to save themselves and their families.

The Mass Care and Feeding Center at the Barrett Township High School was mobilized and operating by 11:00 p.m., fully equipped with cots, three registered nurses, a volunteer staff of 17 additional personnel.

Rescue teams were recruited, equipped with lights and all of the rope obtainable and sent out to patrol the main streams.

At daylight on the morning of August 19th, patrols were sent out to ascertain and report on the extent of damage to public facilities. The reports of these patrols and of the Mobile Units indicated that 22 of the 26 highway bridges within the township were destroyed or made impassable by huge washouts. Travel into and out of the township was impossible, and to make it worse, it was not possible to travel more than a mile in any given direction within the township because of the same condition.

It was obvious that we could not expect help from any outside source for at least several days. Therefore, we took immediate steps to make emergency repairs and to care for the community with local manpower and facilities.

Crews were immediately dispatched through the woods and by jeep to the area below Canadensis to search for the missing. To give examples of the problems encountered, it was necessary to carry one aged woman two miles through the woods on a stretcher to reach a road where she could be transported by ambulance to the home of friends for care. In another case, four bodies and two

badly injured were located, and, to bring a doctor in, it was necessary to travel by jeep and ambulance on a dirt road for 7 miles, by jeep over a logging road for 2 miles and by foot for half a mile. After examination, the injured were carried out and brought to the Barrett High School and eventually flown to the hospital by helicopter.

As bodies of the dead were recovered, they were removed to a temporary morgue set up in the basement of the school. Because the area was inaccessible, we contacted the County Coroner by State Police radio and had him appoint one of the local doctors as Deputy Coroner. By the same means, we made arrangements with an undertaker in Scranton to remove the bodies.

One group was organized to work with the Pennsylvania Power and Light Company to help in any way possible to restore their lines into the area. This group patrolled lines, reporting on conditions found to the utility company so that they were able to anticipate some of the problems to be encountered when it was possible to get their trucks into the area. Labor crews were recruited and sent out to help with the digging of pole holes and whatever else could be done to help restore service as quickly as possible.

Several groups were organized and local contractors hired to start emergency repairs on three main bridges between Canadensis and Mount Pocono in an effort to obtain as quickly as possible a truck route into the township. These groups were able to get emergency vehicles moving during the day over the bridge at Paradise Valley and the bridge on Route 390 west of Cresco so that by nightfall we were able to get vehicles as far as Mountainhome. A stone arch bridge was located a mile below Mountainhome which was partially usable. This was placed under guard of the Auxiliary Police and we were finally able to get emergency vehicles as far as the main stream at Canadensis.

The only two major Water Companies in the area, the Mountainhome Water Company and the Buck Hill Water Company were both without water, their facilities very seriously damaged.

Because of the lack of electric power, gasoline was available at only one gas station in the area, and this was immediately placed under a ration system with gasoline being issued only to emergency vehicles. When the electric current was finally restored to a portion of the community, the gasoline stocks at several stations were requisitioned and the operators voluntarily continued the rationing plan until we were sure that at least one highway was in good enough condition to permit trucking of gasoline into the area.

The telephones and radio continued in constant use. We quickly realized that it was necessary to have additional telephone facilities and office space, and an Auxiliary Center was set up in the Barrett School. This Center and the Main Control Center were manned and placed on a 24-hour basis. Telephone personnel, office personnel and operating personnel were recruited and scheduled in an effort to permit those who became exhausted to get a few hours sleep and to insure that all facilities were manned and operating around the clock.

During the night of the 18th, the authorities at Skytop reported that there was some danger of Skytop Lake going out. This lake was large enough to at least partially inundate some additional areas in Canadensis. It was difficult to notify residents although as many as could be reached were advised to get to higher ground. After the flood waters had receded substantially on the morning of the 19th, we again had a report that the lake was in danger of going out, and steps were taken to move most of the population in the area to higher ground. Since there was no means of notifying large numbers quickly, it posed a problem which, however, was solved with the ingenuity so often found necessary to handle situations which under normal conditions would be simple. The mobile radio unit located on the Fire Truck which had been sent across the stream the night before was equipped with an external loud speaker. The truck then toured the area and the radio operator at the base station broadcast the warning. By using the siren to attract attention, the public was thus quickly notified of the danger and moved out of possible reach of water if the dam should break.

Electric power, or the lack of it, created many problems. Many telephones remained in and were, of course, vitally needed. However, the telephone facilities had been operating on batteries since 8:00 p.m. the previous night, and the batteries were running low. A crew was placed on the

problem, and they soon located a small generator set in a local residence; this was removed and turned over to the telephone company at their central office. The Tobyhanna Signal Corps was contacted and agreed to supply two large trailer-mounted generators as well as a number of small ones. The units were routed through Mount Pocono and as soon as the crudest of temporary road facilities were available, they were moved by jeep and truck into the area. One was set up in the local doctor's office to provide much needed emergency lighting. Another was set up at the Mass Care and Feeding Center, and the smaller ones were moved around to various locations as needed.

The public was notified by every possible means not to use water, regardless of the source, unless it was boiled.

Close contact was maintained with the Tobyhanna Signal Corps Depot and their entire facilities were offered to us as needed. They advised us during the morning that helicopters were on the way and would be placed at our disposal just as soon as they arrived. These were used only on the first day to transport injured and for the removal of the bodies recovered during the day.

One of the sources of concern during the night of the 18th was the whereabouts of a Delaware, Lackawanna & Western passenger train which had not been heard from after leaving Stroudsburg. Efforts were made throughout the night to locate the train without success. However, at daylight on the 19th, the train was located just above the Cresco Station, and became one of our problems since it had a passenger list of approximately 250 people who had to be fed and otherwise provided for. These passengers were finally flown out by helicopter.

As each section of the area was opened to vehicular traffic, a very serious problem developed. Naturally everyone who owned a car wanted to see as much of the flood devastation as possible. We immediately decided that it would be necessary to limit all traffic to that which was absolutely essential to the well-being of the community. Therefore, the Auxiliary Police were instructed to permit passage to those with passes, or to those they personally knew were performing a vital job. These restrictions were eased as soon as possible but it was necessary to continue the order in some areas for as much as ten days after the flood.

Saturday, August 20

Naturally, during the night of Thursday, August 18th, and all day Friday, August 19th, maximum efforts were made to rescue the marooned, to get the injured attended and any other steps necessary to reduce the life hazard. On Saturday morning, this phase of the disaster had passed, and a greater effort could be directed toward the restoration of facilities.

Two of the pumper units of the Township Fire Company were dispatched to the two water companies in the area. One unit was able to pump water from the Rattlesnake Creek at the former site of the highway bridge in Mountainhome to a connection of the main of the Mountainhome Water Company and was thus able to supply water to a portion of the customers of this company. The other unit was located on Route 90 and pumped water into the mains of the Buck Hill Water Company. This water, of course, was not fit to drink nor could it be used for any purpose where it came into contact with the human body. However, it was wet and could be used to scrub, to flush toilets and for other sanitary purposes. These pumps were manned on a 24-hour basis for the ensuing week until temporary emergency repairs could be completed by both water companies.

Close contact was maintained with the Department of Health, and they sent a field man into the area to supervise the repair work for the water companies, and he also advised on the emergency pumping setup.

A group was organized to make a careful damage survey in the three affected communities of Canadensis, Mountainhome and Cresco, to ascertain the number of homes destroyed, the number of businesses destroyed, the number of establishments of both types damaged and the extent of the damage, and of course, the sad but very important survey to determine the exact number of dead, missing and injured. This last phase of the survey was extremely difficult because of the complete lack of communication facilities and because of the rumors which were so widespread. The only effective way of making the survey was to travel on foot to various areas and to talk with people who actually knew the circumstances at the time of the flood.

The next important step was taken in appointing two food and clothing coordinators, Reverend Hoesman and Reverend Moore, to survey the requirements for food and clothing and to coordinate the distribution of these items as they were obtained. The helicopters started to bring in food and other essentials in quantity at this time and the athletic field at the local high school was organized and set up as a heliport. This permitted close contact with the Auxiliary Control Center located at the school and as food, clothing and equipment arrived by helicopter, it was immediately dispatched to the areas where it was needed.

At this time, the deluge of requests for help and welfare reports started. With the widespread reports on radio and television and by newspaper of the disaster, naturally everyone everywhere who had a close relative or friend in the area became concerned about their well-being. Since there was virtually no means of communication, most people contacted their local Red Cross and the Red Cross, in turn, sent a Health and Welfare Request telegram. These requests threatened to swamp both offices. Unfortunately, we did not have the manpower to run down the information required, and we did not have the necessary telephone facilities and all available personnel was working at things which at that time were more important. This means that most of these requests were shunted aside and this was the one job which we feel was not handled in a satisfactory manner.

One of the comparatively minor problems which came up at this time was the concern of the Post Office Department for the mail in the train located at Cresco. Arrangements were finally made to remove this mail and have it transported under guard to the Scranton Post Office for redistribution.

Sunday, August 21

Late in the day on Sunday, we were able to cross the stream at Canadensis on a bulldozer which was building the ramp across the huge washout on Route 390. This meant that we were able to get some of the necessities into the area of Canadensis by means other than helicopter.

During the day, we were advised by the Tobyhanna Signal Corps Depot that four carloads of milk which were part of a stalled train at Tobyhanna were released to public authorities to be used where necessary. This was a tremendous boon, and we immediately dispatched a number of trucks to pick up this milk which was then distributed throughout the area, the major portion of it going to the Mass Care and Feeding Center at the Barrett School. During the next few days, this milk was distributed throughout all the mountain area, and a day or so later a truckload of it was even able to go through backwoods roads to the Analomink district where it was very welcome.

We received notification at 11:30 a.m. that the hospital would have 240 typhoid shots for our use. The quantity was small but nevertheless welcome and because they felt the possibilities of disease were greatest in the Canadensis area, we decided to limit these first shots to residents of that area. A good illustration of the complete cooperation which existed can best be shown by the procedure which was followed to set up these first typhoid shots.

As previously stated, notice was received from the hospital at 11:30 a.m. A call was made immediately to Station WVPO in Stroudsburg with a request to announce that the shots would be given in the Barrett School at 2 o'clock that afternoon. A second call was made to the Tobyhanna Signal Corps Depot requesting that a helicopter be sent to the hospital to pick up the shots, two nurses and an intern which the hospital had agreed to supply. Another call was made to the radio base station at the Fire House requesting that the Fire Truck tour the Canadensis area and broadcast the news as previously described. A call to the Auxiliary Control Center at the Barrett School requested the setup of a recovery room, the necessary doctors, nurses, registration personnel and school busses for transporting recipients from the Canadensis area as they were brought across the stream. At 12:05 p.m. the helicopter was at the hospital to pick up the vaccine and personnel and at 12:30 p.m. arrived at the Barrett School. By 1:15 p.m. four local doctors, a number of nurses and all other necessary personnel were assembled at the school and the first shots were given by 1:30 p.m.

Today we had our first rumors of looting in the damaged areas and were able to authenticate at least two instances. Therefore, a curfew was established in the Canadensis areas at dusk and maintained for the next three or four days until the situation was under control.

Monday, August 22

A meeting was held early in the morning on Monday which included the head of the Barrett Welfare Association, the pastors from each of the churches in the area, the President and Chief of the Fire Department, the head of the Barrett Ambulance Corps, the Barrett Township Civil Defense Council and a representative from the Tobyhanna Signal Corps Depot. A thorough review of the entire situation was made; considerable time was given to each major problem and to a frank discussion of what had been done and what was proposed. It was unanimously agreed that everything had been done that was humanly possible, that the procedures so far followed were the only ones, available and practical. Plans were formulated for the future. During the latter part of this meeting, Mr. Crawn flew in from Stroudsburg and gave us a brief review of the situation in the Stroudsburg-East Stroudsburg area.

Representatives of the Red Cross flew in and volunteered all possible assistance. We felt that the Mass Care and Feeding Center was well organized and operating at good efficiency. Therefore, we advised Red Cross that we would continue to take care of this phase of the problem so they could devote their time and facilities to the Stroudsburg area. We did request that as soon as the permanent rehabilitation program was set up, we be permitted to participate in any way possible.

Huge supplies of clothing, furniture, blankets, etc. were assembled and distributed as needed. A large portion of this material was trucked to Camp William Penn at the request of the Red Cross to help supply the residents of the village of Analomink when they were relocated at Camp William Penn.

We were continually harassed by rumors of all types. The most serious ones were those of missing parties or persons who had last been seen on the outskirts of the flood and had not since been heard from. Many, many hours were spent tracking these down and many fruitless searches made of flooded areas. One of the most persistent rumors was that of a missing Greyhound bus with 31 people aboard which was reported to have been lost in the Canadensis area. By this time: we had made such a thorough search of the area south of Canadensis that we were positive, despite the size of the piles of debris, that anything as large as a Greyhound bus could not be in the area without our knowing about it. We finally checked with the Greyhound Company and determined that they were not missing a bus. We checked also with the State Police who informed us that they had no authentic report of any missing bus. Therefore, we asked the Daily Record and Station WVPO to publish this fact in an effort to cut down the volume of inquiries about it.

More typhoid shots were received today and the inoculations were given on a mass scale. Because we were a resort area, many visiting doctors and nurses were available for service. Organization of these visitors freed our local doctors for the care of local residents. By systematizing our program, we had a complete list of the people who were given inoculations, the date on which the inoculation was given and any other pertinent information. One copy of this was then forwarded to the county headquarters and the original card file system retained in this office for permanent record.

Today Jeeps and trucks were able to cross the ramp into Canadensis and the situation in this area was greatly alleviated at once.

Tuesday, August 23

The entire Canadensis area is built on a huge gravel bed and since there is no sewage system and no water system in that section, each home and business being dependent on a private well and a private cesspool, we were greatly concerned about the disease problem.

Through the Department of Health and through the Civil Defense Headquarters of the county, we were able to get a team of sanitarians into the area. We provided them with guides and jeeps, and they made a careful tour of the contaminated area, checking and advising each individual householder and each place of business. Their activities continued over the next two weeks until each water supply and each sewage system was either given final approval or permanently condemned.

One of the big problems throughout the period was servicing the larger camps in the area. Most of them were without electric power which meant that they were not able to use their normal source of water and of course without refrigeration, their food supplies quickly dwindled. In all cases, however, we were able to reach them initially by helicopter and eventually by jeep, and finally by truck and car. All were taken care of without hazard to their occupants, but of course we had the ever-present problem of dealing with parents of children in the camps, first by wire and then by telephone. Finally, many parents appeared in person as the roads opened to this area. Even though they were advised that they could not reach the camps, they still came as far as possible, in the hope that somehow they could get through. In quite a few instances, parents drove to the area and then walked to the camps where their children were staying.

During all of this period, the search for bodies continued. By this time, decomposition had started and search teams had to be equipped with rubber gloves, pine oil disinfectant and plastic sheets. When a body was discovered, it was carried to the nearest cleared area. Headquarters were then notified and a helicopter called which would land first at the heliport at the school. A guide would accompany the pilot to pick up the body which was then transported to the temporary morgue in Stroudsburg; this was one of the most difficult jobs of all. However, those involved never complained and continued until the last missing person of the area had been found.

We have attempted in this narrative report to give a brief picture of the situation in Barrett Township as it developed and to mention the problems encountered and some of the solutions. It is not possible to list all of the things that happened and we have unquestionably missed many of the important ones. During the first four days, particularly, there was unavoidable loss of time and normal relationships of one event to another. We learned many things during the catastrophe which will be of invaluable aid in the future. One very gratifying event was the complete acceptance of the Civil Defense organization by the community. We have received thank-you letters from the Rotary Club of the Pocono Mountains, the Barrett Township Lions Club, the Pennsylvania Power and Light Company, the Bell Telephone Company and from many, many individuals.

We would like to make one observation from our experiences. We found that there were hundreds of volunteers to do every job that was necessary. Many of them were people of the highest caliber. Wherever we were able to provide trained leadership, it was possible to set up an organization quickly to do many of the numerous jobs encountered. It is our sincere recommendation that the Civil Defense Council give serious thought to leadership training in the future, rather than to the training of groups of people to do individual jobs, as we feel that if trained leadership is immediately available, sufficient personnel can be obtained and directed to do the job at hand in an emergency. There are some exceptions to this of course, such as Auxiliary Police, medical and first aid and rescue.

We would like to express our appreciation to all organizations which cooperated during and after the emergency. The work of the following was in our opinion outstanding: Barrett Township Volunteer Fire Co., Bell telephone Co., Pennsylvania Power and Light Company, Pennsylvania State Police, Tobyhanna Signal Corps Depot. The Signal Corps through Colonel Glover, Colonel Angster, Louis DePaul and Kenneth Banzoff provided us immediately and willingly everything we asked for helicopters, generators, radios, even a mine detector for a particularly difficult problem.
C.M. Reese

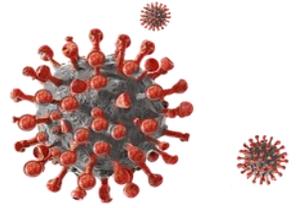
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What's New with COVID

By Mary Kate Reeves-Hoché

On May 19th of this year, following a meeting of the Vaccine Advisory Committee, the CDC Strengthened Recommendations and Expanded Eligibility for COVID-19 Booster Shots.



CDC now recommends that children ages 5 through 11 years should receive a booster shot 5 months after their initial Pfizer-BioNTech vaccination series. According to the CDC, more than 4.8 million children ages 5 through 11 have been diagnosed with COVID-19, 15,000 have been hospitalized and, tragically, over 180 have died. As cases increase across the country, a booster dose will safely help restore and enhance protection against severe disease.

In addition, on May 19th, the CDC is also recommending that those 12 and older who are immunocompromised and those 50 and older should receive a second booster dose at least 4 months after their first. During April and May there was a steady increase in cases, with a steep and substantial increase in hospitalizations for older Americans. While it is true that older Americans have the highest coverage of any age group of first booster doses, most older Americans received their last dose (either their primary series or their first booster dose) many months ago, leaving many who are vulnerable without the protection they may need to prevent severe disease, hospitalization, and death.

Whether it is your first booster, or your second, if you haven't had a vaccine dose since the beginning of the year and you are eligible, now is the time to get one. Please consult with your local Pharmacist or your Primary Care Provider about getting vaccinated.

Source: [CDC.gov](https://www.cdc.gov)

Historical Recipe: Corn-on-the-Cob

By Mary Kate Reeves-Hoché

Summer is here, and that means long lazy days fishing by the stream; eating watermelon and spitting seeds - competing for the longest shot; eating corn-on-the-cob fresh from the field, or at least fresh from the farmer's market. Corn as we know it has evolved over the last 5000 years, mostly due to the husbandry of the indigenous peoples of Mexico and Central America. Corn evolved from a grass and is the Fruit of the Grass, when eaten fresh is a vegetable, and when dried is a grain. Here are some simple summer recipes for Corn-on-the-Cob.



Boiled:

- Large pot of boiling water that is large enough to hold the number of ears you are cooking without crowding (you can cook in batches)
- Shuck the corn and remove the silk.
- When the water is boiling, carefully add the corn to the water and bring back to a boil. Cook 1.5 – 2 minutes.
- Remove with tongs and enjoy with butter, salt and pepper.

Steamed:

- In a steamer, add water and the steamer basket. Bring water to boil.
- Shuck the corn and remove the silk.
- When the water is boiling, carefully add the corn to the steamer basket. Cook 5 minutes.
- Remove with tongs and enjoy with butter, salt and pepper.

Microwaved:

- Shuck the corn and remove the silk.
- For each ear of corn, wet a paper towel and wrap it around the ear of corn.
- Place two ears of corn in a plastic bag and microwave on high for 3 minutes. Batch two at a time for 3 minutes each.
- The ears are very hot, remove from the oven with gloves and unwrap carefully. Enjoy with butter, salt and pepper.

Grilled:

- Gently peel the husks back from the corn but do not remove them. Remove the silk. Rinse the corn well and leave wet. Pull the husks back up over the ear of corn.
- If using coals, wait until the coals have burned down to a gray and are not bright red. If using propane, after preheating your grill, turn to medium heat.
- Put Corn around the edges of a round grill, or on the second shelf of a two-level grill. Grill for 15 minutes turning over at the half way mark.
- Removed from grill and peel back husks. Enjoy with butter, salt and pepper. Also great with a squeeze of lime juice.

Sources:

FOR SUMMER CORN, A RIOT OF TASTES, RAINBOW OF COLORS by Olwen Woodier, *New York Times* Aug. 27, 1986, Section C, Page 1

CRESCO ANNIE CHAPTER 18

Hi Friends, Cresco Annie here. I know I promised to tell you the story about how I lost my hands and why they came back time and again. I did ask for some ideas from you, my friends, and while I did get some suggestions, many were too nasty or even gory to share with you and some were rather outlandish so these I tossed aside.

One day my friend Phoebe Snow came to call and over several cups of tea we tried to figure it out. (This was when no Historical Society people were around and we didn't have to worry about getting caught, And it also was a day when an old steam train stopped and John came to lend his ideas.)

During our conversation John reminded us that he could only stay a short time and would have to leave as soon as the train left.

A steam train, yes, a very old steam train, and when it pulled out of the Station, John would go with it. We all looked at each other in surprise. Could that have something to do with my hands coming back every time an old steam was engine was here at the Station, with John.

While puzzling over that for a while, the whistle blew and John had to get back on the train and, low and behold, my hands went with him. I looked down at my empty sleeves and felt very sad.;

Suddenly it became very clear to me; every time my hands disappeared was when John left and when into the past and took apart of me with him. Then, when he became part of today or part of our future so to speak, my hands came back.

So that, dear friends, is my story. Think of all the times I could use the old typewriter in the Stationmasters office, or hold my baby's hands, or tie my bonnet; it was when John was around and now he is in the little building by the tracks and my hands are a part of me.

Oh beside my hands, which is a wonderful story by itself and maybe a solution to a great mystery, I also want to tell you about an exciting event that took place one Sunday. It was called the Cresco Station and Library Research Center celebration. All the village people were invited to celebrate a grand reopening event after the last few years when the station was closed for repairs and because of a COVID outbreak in the whole world.

Everyone had a wonderful time; ice cream and hot dogs were served along with popcorn. Also, the local fire company displayed their antique fire truck, Smoky the Bear came, the forest fire crew, the antique car club, several groups sold items, and of course, both buildings were open for tours. There was a cake walk. There were so many visitors to my store that I lost count. I sure wish I could have left my place here by the golden cash register but it was too busy.

I think everyone had a wonderful time and now they will tell their friends to come and visit us all here at the Cresco Station Museum and the Library Research Center.

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Obituaries

Charlotte E. Parks



Charlotte E. (Robacker) Parks, 85, of Cresco passed away in her home on, Saturday, June 25, 2022. Born in Newfoundland she was the daughter of the late Levine and Hannah (Uhl) Robacker. She was the beloved wife of the late K. Edward Price and the late Lyman "Lew" Parks, III. Charlotte's many passions included tea time at Skytop, gardening and sewing. Above all, she enjoyed music, playing the piano and organ for various churches since the age of 13. Charlotte was a member of the Barrett Township Historical Society Board of Directors.

Survivors: Charlotte will be lovingly remembered by her daughters, Barbara Bowden and her husband Donald and Nancy Seese and her husband Warren; sister, Rita Thomas and her husband Floyd; grandchildren, Laura White, Christopher Cassidy, Kelly LaJoie,

Jeffrey Haddon, Kristen Haddon, Blake Haddon, Jake Price and Ian Price and great grandchildren, Cameron, McKenzie, Bradley, Levi, Jenson and Michael.

Services: Services will be private at the convenience of the family. Bolock Funeral Home has been entrusted with arrangements.

Contributions: In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to, MountainHome Methodist Church, State Hwy 191 &, PA-390, Mountainhome, PA 18342.

Youndale Helen (Price) Seese



Youndale Helen (Price) Seese, 89, of Cresco, died Sunday afternoon, May 1, 2022, while under hospice care in her home. She was the widow of Albert John Seese, Sr. who died April 25, 2014.

Born on January 27, 1933 in East Stroudsburg, she was a daughter of the late Henry and Violet (Halterman) Price and lived in Monroe County for most of her life. She was valedictorian of the 1950 graduating class of Barrett Township High School and a graduate of Churchman's Business School in Easton.

Youndale was a long-term employee of Pocono Medical Center where she started as a medical transcriptionist and then earned her degree as a Medical Record Librarian, a position she held for many years before holding positions as Coding Specialist and in Risk Management, retiring in 2007 after 53 years of service.

She was an active lifetime member of Mountainhome United Methodist Church where she was chairperson of the Finance Committee for many years, sang in the choir, taught Sunday School, and served as secretary from 2007 to 2018. Youndale was also a member of AMRA and American Association for Medical Transcription; was a Notary Public; sang with the Pocono Mountain Community Chorus of Churches for many years; and was a NASCAR and local high school basketball fan.

Surviving are a son, Albert John Seese, Jr and wife Susan of Cresco; two granddaughters, Melissa Sue Seese and wife Joanna of Interlochen, MI and Nicole Summer Seese of Fairfax, Va; a sister, Malinda C. Bender of Cresco; several nieces and nephews; and a brother-in-law, Roger Seese and wife Barbara. She was preceded in death by a brother, Philip H. Price; step-sister, Dolores Adams; and step-brother, Glenn Cramer.

Youndale's life will be celebrated at a memorial service on Saturday, May 28th (at a time to be announced) at Mountainhome United Methodist Church.

In lieu of flowers, memorial remembrances may be made to Mountainhome United Methodist Church, P.O. Box 327, Mountainhome, PA 18342. Arrangements by William H. Clark Funeral Home, 1003 Main St., Stroudsburg, PA www.wmhclarkfuneralhome.com



H. Sumner Shumway

H. Sumner Shumway, age 98, of Cresco passed away in his home on Friday, April 15, 2022. Born in Chicago, Illinois, he was the son of the late Harold L. and Ruth (Basehore) Shumway. Sumner was the beloved husband of the late Janet (Burgwin) Shumway. Sumner honorably served as a radar technician in the United States Navy during WWII. He very passionately spent time educating youth about Veterans Affairs and spoke at many local schools and events. He also served his community as a chaplain for VFW Post #922 and served as a Barrett Township board member. Sumner worked for many years as a telecommunications technician for AT&T. He will be remembered for his love of sharing stories and memories with all he encountered. Above all, Sumner was the most active and loving father, with the best Donald Duck voice around.

Survivors: Harold will be lovingly remembered by his daughters, Gail Shumway and her husband Bruce Guerdan and Cindy Morgan and her husband George; brother-in-law, Bruce Burgwin and his wife Flo; daughter-in-law, GERALYN Shumway; grandchildren, Jennifer Lintzeris and her husband Kostaki; Alison Wong and her husband Jeffrey; Brittany Morgan; Stephanie Guerdan; Christian Guerdan and his wife Nicole; Emily Haas and her husband William; Andrew Guerdan; great grandchildren Nicholas and Emma Lintzeris and Ava and Alivia Wong as well as many beloved nieces, nephews, cousins and friends. Sumner is preceded in death by his son, Gary Shumway.

A Memorial Service was held at the American Legion Evans-Blitz Post #922 in Cresco where he had served as Chaplain for so many years. A tree has been planted in his memory at High Acres Park, Canadensis, donated by Mario Scavello.

Sumner served as a member of the Board of Directors for the Barrett Township Historical Society.

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A few photos from our Memorial Day Celebration!



Barrett Township Historical Society

New Membership

Membership Renewal

Last Name _____ First Name(s) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Regular Membership

Individual \$20.00

Family \$30.00

Business/Organization
\$50.00

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Patron \$100.00 - \$249.00

Angel \$250.00 - \$499.00

Lifetime Membership

\$500.00 and Up

Additional Donation \$ _____ enclosed

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