

Paradise Past

THE NEWSLETTER
OF THE

PARADISE
Historical
Society

VOLUME 16, Spring 2018



PHS is very grateful to Susan Layton for opening the doors to the Ace Store for our annual holiday gathering last December. The building looks as if it had always been located exactly where it is! More work is planned — this time to raise the roof at the back of the building to give more headroom on the second floor. We're fortunate that so many people in Paradise care about preserving our past.

Jane

Jane Niering, *President*

RALPH KNAUF REMEMBERS

Growing Up in Paradise

Paradise Township purchased the Knauf farm in 2009. Located at the heart of Paradise Valley along Carlton Road, the trail at Knauf Farm Preserve offers a peaceful place to walk. Ralph Knauf talked with Carol Hillestad on September 29, 2017. Below is a summary of that conversation. (Photo, Ralph and Helen Knauf just after WWII. Photos page 2, the farmhouse, Helen and Ralph in later years, Ralph and the family tractor, a trail at Knauf Preserve.)

Paradise was a wonderful place to grow up, in good wholesome, self-initiated play and of course creating our own playthings, it truly was the best environment for my brother and me. I moved there when I was 3 years old. My father was going to start a poultry farm. And I don't think that worked out all that well. So for a few years he did that, and then went back to teaching until he retired.

My mother was a housewife. Both Mother and Dad shared responsibility for raising us. Mom was responsible for running the household and also for preserving the products from our garden and orchard. She was more permissive than Dad. However both were bugs on good behavior & manners. Since my father enjoyed part-time farming, we always had vegetable garden, and a cow, chickens and sometimes a pig and a mule of course my brother and I had to help with chores, when we became old enough to distinguish between vegetable plants and weeds. The greatest

Continued on Page 2

COLLECTING, PRESERVING
& DISSEMINATING PARADISE HISTORY



RALPH KNAUF REMEMBERS

Growing Up in Paradise

Continued from Page 1

fun was taking in hay. Then we'd jump in the hay when it was up in the mow and my father would give us the devil because it was tangled and he couldn't get it down for the cow.

We learned in later life that the chores helped us to establish good work habits and self reliance. We made some spending money by selling raspberries. Our best customer was Mt Airy Lodge, which is now Mt. Airy Casino. I learned at an early age to identify common trees, wildflowers, and wildlife. I wanted to become a forester but they told me when I got out of the Army that the Park Service would only hire me to do office work and that wasn't my kind of thing. Things have changed now, it's much easier to get that kind of job now. My father worked in the Forest Service when he lived in Idaho. I was an early riser, so I walked the trails surrounding our home. Hunting and fishing were seasonal part-time enjoyments. Many streams were accessible nearby and there were acres and acres of surrounding woodland. We always had pets that included dogs, rabbits, goats, cats, though my father ruled out a pony.

My father got a job teaching in East Stroudsburg. He developed the industrial arts department in East Stroudsburg at the high school. And mother and father lived for a time in East Stroudsburg for a short time then moved up here. This property is just what my father was looking for. My mother never cared for it, but she got used to it after while. And raising a family, she decided it wasn't so bad. The farm with the house was 39 acres.

My father worked over at Buck Hill, taking tickets to see the waterfall with Joe Wile. My father's first training was in carpentry so he went as a handyman to Buck Hill. He loved Buck Hill, because his poultry customers were at the cottages. He was a great talker and very gregarious. Joe Wile was superintendent of the Pocono area school district at one time and he was also a teacher over in Barrett, and also the coach.



In later life Dad and I developed a small tree farm. Would you believe we used to take our cows with no lead on them down Carlton Road to a pasture toward Blackwell's corner? Times have changed and so traffic would preclude that today, Also we would go sledding on the same road sometimes as far as the garage on 940. That was rural living.

The field there now was the hay field. On the house side there was an orchard and then below as you go in the drive where the kiosk is, there was a barn, 3 stalls for cows with hay mow, no silo, chicken coops that my father built when he first moved there. When they were torn down my brother and I used the lumber to build a cabin, which was just up on the edge of the woods. So we built a little cabin up there, with a stove, and we would sleep up there. How the place never burned down is a mystery. A stone wall divided the property from the old Pocono Gardens.

I lived at the farm until 1943 when I went in the service. After, I went to college and got my teaching certificate and a masters in education and administration. When I was first teaching in Paradise, I taught up to the 7th grade, and Audrey Hamblin, who was my teacher, I also taught with her. Miss Anderson had been my first grade teacher and the three of us, we held the fort down at the Madison School.

We sold the place about 8 years ago, and the township bought it. It was one of those things — I couldn't enjoy it any more and my wife Helen was ill. We didn't want to develop it, so it went for a good cause. **PHS**



HELP DOCUMENT ^{of} MARCH the SNOW STORM 2018

Well, the snow and wind storm known as “Riley” is history. We all have memories of where we were and what we were doing on Friday March 2, 2018, when the storm hit. In years to come people will discuss the depth of the snow or the night spent in a car stranded on the highway. While not of the magnitude of the flood of '55, it was still a storm worth remembering in the future.

The historical society is charged with preserving and disseminating history.

In keeping with that mission, we would like to hear from you — both members of the Society and the Paradise community — about your adventures during Riley. Pictures would be helpful in documenting the severity of the storm. Recollections of the trees on houses and closed roads with various vehicles stalled are part of the story. The length of time

homes and businesses were closed by the downed electric lines helps illustrate Riley’s impact on the community and the making of Paradise history.

Please send copies of photos and written notes about what you saw and what happened to you and people you know to Paradise Historical Society, P.O. Box 94, Henryville, PA 18332. Or bring them to our next meeting. Or email jimhill@ptd.net. And thank you for making and documenting history! **PHS**



Eagles in Paradise

In 1970, just two nesting pairs of eagles were confirmed in Pennsylvania. Then President Nixon formed the Environmental Protection Agency, which stopped the use of the pesticide DDT. One of DDT’s effects in nature had been to make eagle eggs so thin and delicate that they broke before they could hatch. Today, eagles are a fairly common sight in Paradise, and there are at least two successful nests in the Township. Our natural history is worth remembering, too! **PHS**

ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED

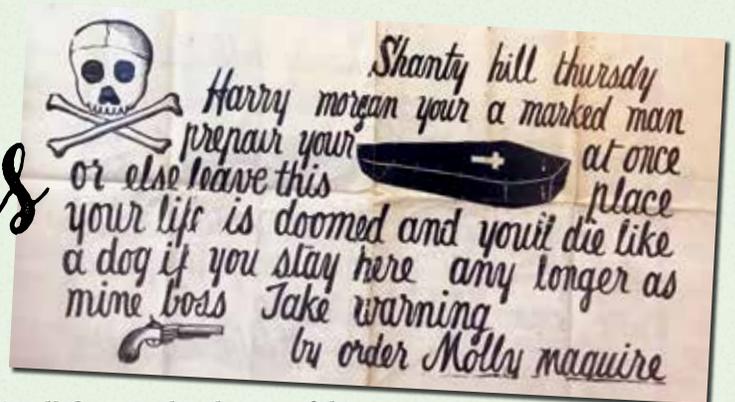
MEETING BRIEFS

Rick Smith Shares Insights into

THE *Molly Maguires*

Convicted of murder, arson, and other crimes, 20 men — suspected members of the “Molly Maguires” — were executed in 1877 and 1878. Were they the scourge of the Pennsylvania coal region, as railroad magnate Franklin Gowen insisted? Or were they heroes of the mines in the early days of workers seeking fair wages, humane treatment and safer working conditions? Did the “Molly Maguires” even exist as a secret society in Ireland or anywhere else?

At our April 8, 2018 meeting, Rick Smith of Jackson Township raised these questions and many more. It is a fascinating look at changing attitudes to the early labor movement — and the conflict between wealthy, powerful men determined to have their way at all costs and immigrant miners working in terrible, dangerous conditions for a pittance. Thank you, Rick! [PHS](#)



Summer PHS Meetings - JULY: PICNIC & CAR SHOW AUGUST: WEILER BRUSH TOUR

The directors and officers of Paradise Historical Society are:

Bruce Estell • Peter Gonze • Dan Hamblin
Carol Hillestad • Aaron Imbt • John Layton
Laura Layton • Harold Metzgar
Jane Niering • Kim Williams

And We Welcome Our New Members:

Bruce Bonner and Andrew Leschak
Jackie Geer • Nina Karabinos
Alice Keiper • William L. McGill
Col. Joseph Rine, Retired
Buddy Salak • Spiro Vlismas

Become a Member Today!

YOUR MEMBERSHIP COUNTS!

Please help Paradise Historical Society collect, protect & share the interesting history of our area.

- Student or Senior (65+) - \$8.00 Family - \$25.00
 Individual - \$10.00 Corporate - \$50.00
 Couple - \$20.00 Sustaining - \$100.00

First Name: _____

Last Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: (_____) _____

Email: _____

Please send the completed form and check (no cash) to:



**Paradise Historical Society,
P.O. Box 94, Henryville, PA 18332**

Spring 2018