

Paradise Past

THE NEWSLETTER
OF THE

VOLUME 23 • SPRING 2021

PARADISE



Historical
Society



PRESIDENT'S LETTER

We are so happy to be able to send you this newsletter after a year's hiatus. Though our issues of the "Paradise Flash" kept us in touch with PHS members, it's good to hold a paper newsletter for a change! The Society's board is working toward re-starting our in-person meetings, perhaps in early summer. Many interesting possibilities for programs are being discussed.

Until we meet again, please stay well — we look forward to seeing you!

Jane Jane Niering, *President*

The Meadowside Inn

A Story of Survival



Today the former Meadowside Inn sits empty at the intersection of Woodland Road and Meadowside Drive. For over 100 years a resort or retreat house has been located on the same site and visited by thousands of people, but little is really known about the history of the location.

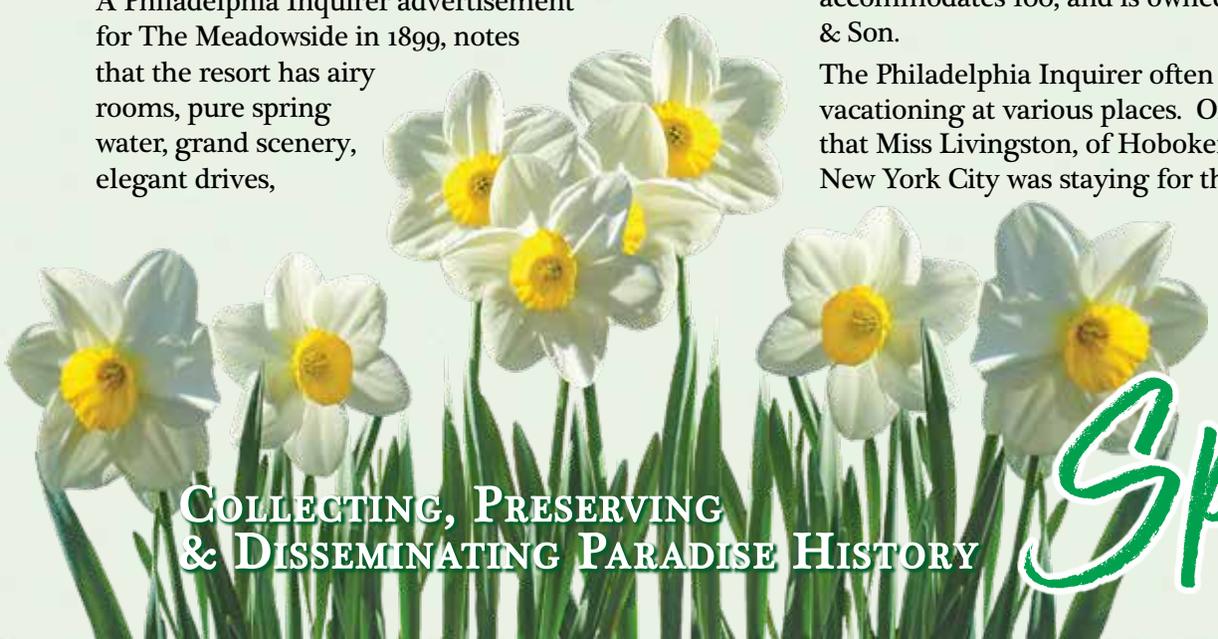
In 1898, the Meadowside Inn was owned by Isabella Smith.

A Philadelphia Inquirer advertisement for The Meadowside in 1899, notes that the resort has airy rooms, pure spring water, grand scenery, elegant drives,

accommodates 100, and is owned by Mrs. Isabella Smith & Son.

The Philadelphia Inquirer often reported on who was vacationing at various places. On July 15, 1900 it reported that Miss Livingston, of Hoboken, NJ; Miss M.C. Scott of New York City was staying for the summer; Dr. Cross of

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COLLECTING, PRESERVING
& DISSEMINATING PARADISE HISTORY

Spring

The Meadowside Inn

A Story of Survival

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Jenkintown is staying for a short visit; and Mr. & Mrs. Timken of Hoboken are registered at the Meadowside.

On April 25, 1917, the Reading Times reported a fire started in a defective chimney of the Meadowside House, owned by Edward J. Smith. "One of the best-known resorts in the Pocono region, was burned." The Pottsville Republican also reported the fire occurred on the night of April 24, 1917.

The Meadowside was rebuilt following the 1917 fire and continued to serve vacationers in the Poconos.

Fire again struck the Meadowside on March 16, 1926, and the resort was destroyed. One man, 26-year-old Charles Watkins, of Wales, was reported lost in the fire. The owners, Mr. and Mrs. Charles T. Miller attempted to save Watkins but were overcome with smoke in their attempt.

On March 28, 1926, the Scranton Republican, reported that firemen under the direction of the Scranton Fire Chief had traveled to the Meadowside Inn to search for the remains of Mr. Watkins. The chief found no evidence of Mr. Watkins, or a body. The whereabouts of Mr. Watkins remains a mystery. Mr. Miller was meeting with fire insurance adjusters.

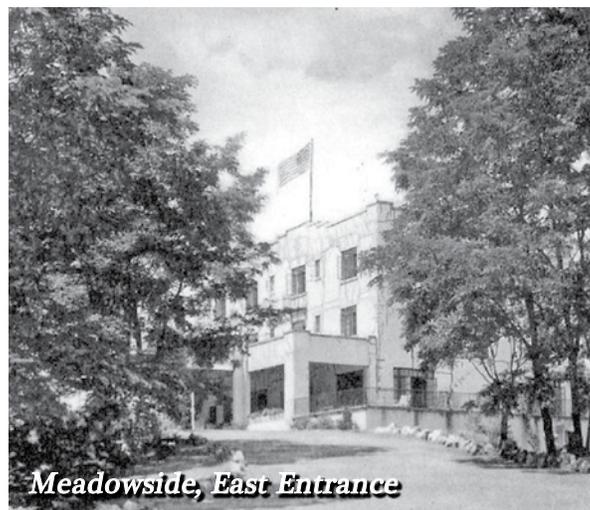
By 1936 The Meadowside had been rebuilt and the owner was C.T. Miller, President and Manager. He advertised in the Philadelphia



*The Meadowside Cottages
Owned by the Smith family before 1898*



The Meadowside 1912



Meadowside, East Entrance

Inquirer, "One of the Poconos' newest, most beautiful resort hotels (FIREPROOF). All sports, Select clientele"

The Philadelphia Inquirer, of January 4, 1953 ran a story, Nuns Buy Hotel at Mt. Pocono. The article continued, "The Bernardine Sisters of the Third Order of St. Francis, of Scranton, headed by Mother Mary Henrietta, have purchased the Meadowside Hotel, Mount Pocono, for \$225,000." The property was further described as being built in 1929, three stories, and of fireproof steel and concrete construction, consisting of 80 rooms. The nuns intended to use the hotel as a retreat.

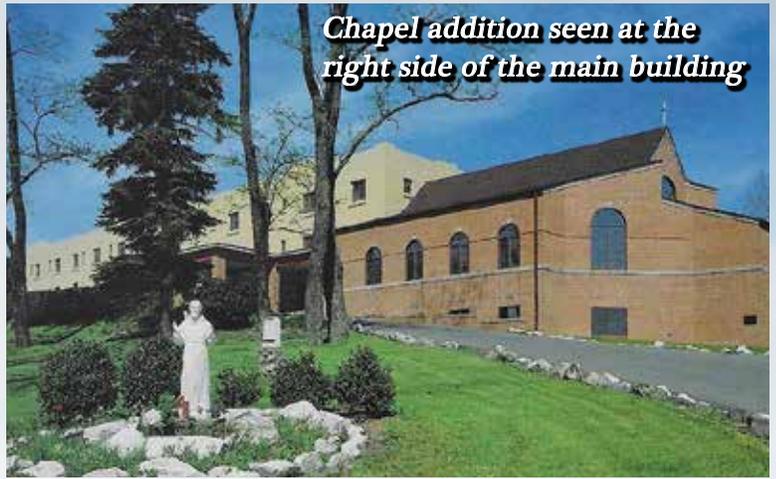
In 1953, the Meadowside became the Villa of Our Lady Retreat House and was operated by the Bernadine Franciscan Sisters. The Villa closed its doors on August 1, 2020. During the 67 years the Bernadine Franciscan Sisters operated the facility a large chapel was added to the end of the building.

The Catholic Light, a publication of the Diocese of Scranton, reported in the August 2020 issue, "When the doors of Villa of

Our Lady Retreat House closed earlier this month, it closed an historical chapter of long and distinguished service in the Diocese of Scranton by the Bernadine Franciscan Sisters dating back nearly 100 years." The three sisters who had remained have moved to the Reading area. Upon their departure they gifted to the Paradise Historical Society a water globe from the Villa. **PHS**



A water globe given to Paradise Historical Society by the Bernadine Franciscan Sisters upon their leaving the Meadowside. The inscription reads: *Villa of Our Lady Retreat House Mt. Pocono, PA*



Chapel addition seen at the right side of the main building

Early 20th Century Paradise Families Made the Most of Resources

"Use it up, wear it out, make it do, or do without..."

Beginning in 1928, Willard J. Carlton of East Swiftwater began selling flour, feed and grain from his newly constructed feed house. The rebuilt feed house was based on an existing post and beam barn on the property, with new materials added to ensure that it was vermin-proof. Previously his father-in-law, John M. Ace, sold flour from his store. The Willard J. Carlton feed and grain business lasted until 1952

when Willard became too ill to continue (he died in 1955). Over those 24 years, feed and grain was sold in 100-pound bags that were shipped by railroad car to local sidings. Deliveries of feed to the Cresco siding were sometimes split between Theo B. Price and Willard Carlton.

Tioga Mills Inc. of Waverly, NY was a manufacturer of animal feed at the time. They sold feed to distributors in a variety of bags, or sacks. "Sacks" was the more countrified term for the packaging. The sacks were often printed in decorative, colorful patterns.

Clothing Made from Feed Bags

Feed-sack material was of suitable quality for making clothing, such as dresses, from the left-over bags. This was a common practice in Paradise Township. In fact, farmers often got instruction from their wives as to which of the available feed sack patterns they wanted. There were numerous patterns from which to choose. Wives were known to actu-

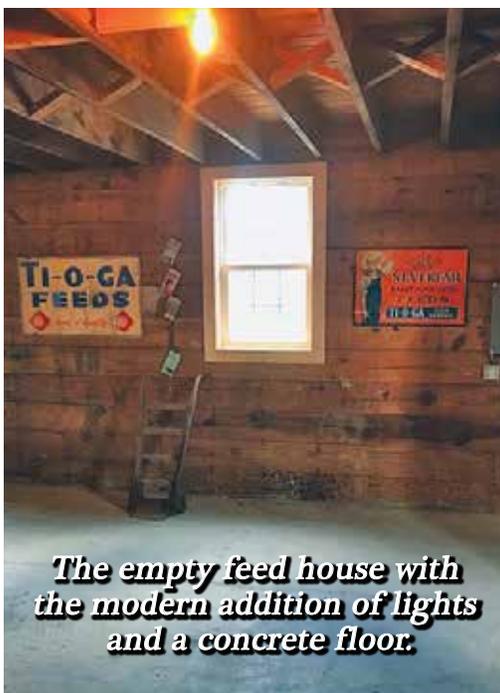


Feed bags, with & without decorative printing, which would have held 100 pounds of feed.

ally come to the feed house and pick out the bags that they wanted for the next garment they intended to make.

During the Great Depression and World War II, cloth material was either expensive or not readily available at reasonable prices. This situation created an opportunity for the animal feed business to provide feed sacks made of material that was attractive, giving it a second life.

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The empty feed house with the modern addition of lights and a concrete floor.

ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED

Early 20th Century Paradise Families Made the Most of Resources Continued from Page 3

You might call this an early version of recycling. These recycled fabrics were put in use in a variety of ways in addition to dresses, such as curtains, aprons, children's clothes and doll clothes. McCalls, Simplicity and Butterick were some familiar names for clothes patterns (all still in business).

In 1952 Glenn Boote took over the feed business of Willard J. Carlton, as seen in a newspaper announcement of the change in Tioga Feeds distributor.



These patterns were for boys' clothes and doll clothes. The Butterick doll pattern was patented in 1919 and sold for 25 cents. This pattern was first used around 1920.



Life in Paradise in the early 20th century usually meant families worked together to make their living. That often involved not just one official "occupation," but a mix of farming, ice harvesting, operating a mill, fishing and hunting, running a boarding house, keeping a store or repairing machinery — in general finding your living where you could. Making do with what you had certainly included putting the strong fabric of feed sacks to good use. [PHS](#)



YOUR MEMBERSHIP COUNTS!

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

- Student or Senior (65+) - \$8.00
- Individual - \$10.00
- Couple - \$20.00
- Family - \$25.00
- Corporate - \$50.00
- 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 2021

PHS WELCOMES THESE NEW MEMBERS:
Mildred Barr and Family
Clayton and Suzanne Colefield
John Haeussler
Carter Miller
Judy Nielson
Rose Tullo

The Directors & Officers of Paradise Historical Society are:
Bruce Estell Peter Gonze
Carol Hillestad Aaron Imbt
John Layton Laura Layton
Harold Metzgar Jane Niering
Kim Williams