

# Paradise Past

THE NEWSLETTER  
OF THE



VOLUME 17, Summer 2018



Paradise Township summer workers have cleaned up the Presbyterian-Lutheran cemetery, the oldest in the Township. We are grateful to Doug Leise and Ed McIntosh for their care, skill and respect in keeping the undergrowth at bay and to Supervisors Gary Konrath, Peter Gonze, and Reda Briglia for approving and supporting this work.

*Jane*

Jane Niering, *President*

## PARADISE HISTORICAL SOCIETY *musings*

BY JOHN C. LAYTON

Our Historical Society's mission is not just to collect information about the township's history, but also to share it. That's why we send the newsletter, *Paradise Past*, to members and residents of Paradise Township. We maintain a mailing list of current residents, updating it as we learn of deaths, moves, or new residents. Obtaining information on new arrivals can be difficult. The township is working with us to identify new arrivals.

Two historically significant organizations serving Paradise Township and the surrounding area are also affected by the departure of older members and difficulty in identifying and recruiting new members.

They are the Pocono Mountain Volunteer Fire Company and the Willing Workers of Paradise. Both have long standing commitments

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**COLLECTING, PRESERVING  
& DISSEMINATING PARADISE HISTORY**



# PARADISE HISTORICAL SOCIETY *musings*

*Continued from Page 1*

to helping those in need. Each organization has unique needs for volunteers. The fire company involves a more robust activity, but does have positions that are not as strenuous, although very satisfying. The Willing Workers efforts involve doing good deeds within the community. For example, they funded construction of The Roof on Kokee Chapel Road as well as the baseball field there.

The Pocono Mountain Volunteer Fire Company, chartered in 1925, has provided fire protection to the residents, businesses and visitors of the Pocono Mountain region of Northeastern Pennsylvania for over 93 years. They serve the borough of Mt. Pocono and Paradise. A substation and equipment are located on Route 191 in Paradise Valley. An important fund-raiser is the annual carnival in Mt. Pocono. Many volunteers take part — not just members of the fire company. Volunteers and donations to maintain the fire company are always greatly appreciated.

The Willing Workers were founded in 1938 and have been doing good within the community ever since. They have awarded student scholarships and donated to the Barrett Paradise Friendly Library. In 1958 they purchased the land next to the Kokee Chapel for the purpose of building a community center, which became The Roof. The Roof and adjacent ball field are now owned by Paradise Township and serve the community. The Willing Workers still do quilting, bake sales, bazaars and other fund-raising activities.

The Willing Workers and the Pocono Mountain Volunteer Fire Company both need volunteers to continue serving all of us. As with the historical society, they are painfully aware of the passing of members, as the number of active participants dwindles. Acquiring new members from those arriving in the township is more difficult.

I hope this musing will spur you and other neighbors to volunteer — in whatever capacity — to help these two essential service organizations. More information about the fire company is at [www.pmvfc.com](http://www.pmvfc.com). Check Facebook for the Willing Workers of Paradise Valley, PA. 



Pete and Julie Niering serve up delicious food at the Willing Workers' Annual Bazaar



# Memories of

# SCHOOL DAYS



# AND BUCK HILL INN

by Suzie Fretz McCool

I have many fond memories of Buck Hill Inn and the Falls. Growing up in Paradise Township and attending the very small Paradise Township Elementary school, we kids looked forward to attending the big Barrett School for 7<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade. Paradise school had about 80 kids in the six grades. Some classes had two grade levels in them. I remember students and friends like Peggy Banzof, Pam Koerner, Margey Storm, Joyce Shick, Irene Bush, Judy Ziegler, Margaret Counterman, Dottie Niering, Ellen Van Hogenberg, Lois Nauman, Nancy Depew, and Nancy Liese. There were boys too! Bill Nauman, Jimmy Hamblin, Tommy Miller, Bill Henry, Carl Henry, Teddy Bolyn, Craig Manchester, Wayne Stiff and Henry Fishbach, for instance.



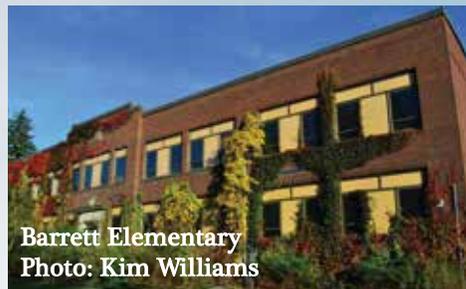
Paradise Township Elementary

Once we got to Barrett in the mid-1950s, our group of friends expanded — Katie Kreck, Dale Gravel, Connie Villa, Barbara Wiebolt, Ellie Weiler, Peggy Jennett, Alma Reilly, Nancy Keller, Patty Owens, Barbara Batzel among the girls and Larry Weil, Larry Shimen whose parents owned Onawa Lodge, Pat Mullen, AJ Bittner, Cliffie Bush, Don Kice, George Clark, Mike Shepard, Fred Pugh, Jimmy Brush, Jim Riley, John Grey and John Brown among the boys.

Although we were worried that the Barrett kids wouldn't like us and would consider us real "country bumpkins", the transition wasn't that bad. They were just as curious about us as we were about them. In fact they became wonderful friends, and many of these friendships continue to this day.

As Barrett High School's classes continued to grow, they needed a larger facility for graduation ceremonies. That larger facility was the beautiful Buck Hill theatre. It was the most perfect venue for a high school graduation ceremony.

I will never forget the 1961 graduation ceremony. It was Barrett High School's last, since the next year the Pocono Mountain Jointure would open. My older sister, Linda Fretz Musseleman, graduated in that final class. I would be in the



Barrett Elementary  
Photo: Kim Williams

first class of the "Jointure." I got to the Buck Hill auditorium early to get ready, since I played clarinet in the Barrett Band. We had rehearsed

"Pomp and Circumstance" to perfection. It was a very emotional evening, knowing it was the final graduation of BHS. I remember a tear sliding down my face as I played that beautiful march, realizing that things would never be the same.

After the ceremony the graduates all lined up in the lobby with people congratulating and greeting them. My sister Linda was crying her eyes out as I recall, while our favorite math teacher and a class advisor, Mrs. Dippre tried to console her. It was the end of a wonderful innocent era.

We kids in the community were allowed to attend movies at the Buck Hill Theatre, for a small admission. One summer, when I was working my way through college as a waitress, my sister Paulette and I and Barbara Counterman went to see "The Student Prince," a romantic musical starring Mario Lanza and Anne Blythe. The story had a very sad ending. My girlfriends and I ended up crying our eyes out!

My final fond memory of Buck Hill didn't have any crying. I was dating a boy, a foreign exchange student, in 1967. We took a romantic walk to the Falls, a beautiful ethereal place. He carved our initials in a heart on a tree a little off the beaten path. So if that carving is still there, it has the initials JM + SF inside the heart. Aah, Buck Hill, what wonderful memories!



Buck Hill Inn

**Ed. note:** *Suzanne also recalled some of the fine teachers of those days: Mr. Baker, Bob Land, Joe Murray, Al Schollenberger, Isabelle Bollock, Mrs. Palmer, Mrs. Johnson, Mrs. Dippre, Genevieve Battisto, Mr. Bozman, Marianne Heater, Mr. Slemmer, Mr. Bixler, Mr. Selston, Roy Seems.* **PHS**

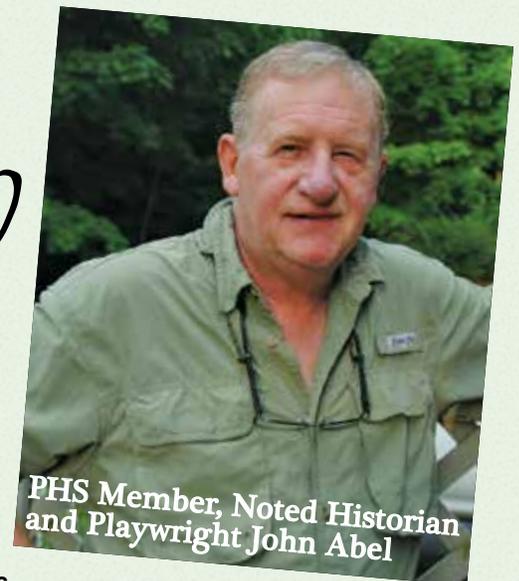
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ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED

# JOHN ABEL'S **The Murder of** *Theodore Brodhead*

Paradise Historical Society member and noted historian John Abel can add to his resume that he is a playwright. His one-act play The Murder of Theodore Brodhead is about a murder in Delaware Water Gap in which Mr. Brodhead was killed while chasing two burglary suspects in 1868. In the play, an old history professor relates the story to a young history teacher while sitting in the courthouse square in Stroudsburg. The play was produced by Shawnee Playhouse and performed in August 2018. Congratulations, John! 



### Upcoming Fall / Winter PHS Meetings

OCTOBER: DL&W HISTORY AND MYSTERY    NOVEMBER: THE GREAT WAR, CHARLES CARLTON & THE YMCA  
DECEMBER: ACE STORE HOLIDAY PARTY

*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:*

Eileen Bertanzetti      Suzanne Hackenberg Fox  
Brian Gallagher      Tiffany McCoy and Family  
Joan and Harry Powlus  
Richard and Barbara Sesock      Tom Shawiry



## 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

Summer 2018