



NANTICOKE LEGACY

NANTICOKE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

Samantha Mill House, 495 E. Main Street, Nanticoke, PA – 570-258-1367

SOCIETY NEWS:

Virtual Tour a success - Society unveils new sign - Spring Raffle Winners Announced - Discovery Recaptures Memory of City-wide Celebration

New Archive Coordinator Named - New Link to Area's War-time Past

In Honor of Our Military – Information Requested for New Military Book

FEATURE STORIES:

- **PETE GRAY - Lost and found –A legend and a baseball**
- **MARK CINTALA –SPACE SCIENTIST - To the Outer Limits**
- **WEST SIDE PARK - Lazy Hazy Crazy Days of Summer**
- **ON SALLY'S CORNER - Memories of some of the city's unique corner stores**

Just one of the many archival photos colorized by the
Nanticoke Historical Society

NANTICOKE HISTORICAL SOCIETY MISSION STATEMENT:

The object of this society is for educational, charitable, and literary purposes with a primary focus to research, preserve, develop and disseminate the history of Nanticoke, Pennsylvania. To collect artifacts, memorabilia and historical documents and fact Nanticoke, Pennsylvania and to store such items in a central location or specific area where these articles may be preserved, appreciated and used by the citizens of Nanticoke to enhance their heritage.

MEETING SCHEDULE

MEETINGS ARE HELD THE LAST THURSDAY OF EACH MONTH AT THE HISTORIC SAMANTHA MILL HOUSE LOCATED NEXT TO THE MILL MEMORIAL LIBRARY. ENTER THE PARKING LOT FROM KOSCIUSZKO STREET.

FOR INFORMATION CALL THE SOCIETY OFFICE AT 570-258-1367 MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY 9 A.M. TO 2 P.M.

NANTICOKE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Samantha Mill House

(Next to the Mill Memorial Library)

Off Kosciuszko Street

495 East Main Street Nanticoke, PA 18634

570-258-1367

Our Web Site

www.nanticokehistoryonline.org

Email

Office email - history@nanticokehistoryonline.org

Newsletter email - nanticokehistory@aol.com

OFFICERS AND STAFF

President: Julianna Zarzycki

Vice-President/Treasurer: Chester Zaremba

Membership Coordinator – Charlotte Dudkowski

Archive Coordinator – Tania Gronkowski

Information Officer – John Sherrick

Building and Grounds – Mike Passetti

NEWSLETTER EDITOR, NEWS AND STORIES

Judith L. Minsavage

MEMBERSHIP FEES Individual \$20

Family \$30

Lifetime \$100.00 Individual

Please inform us of any changes in email or home mailing address

RESEARCH

See our website – nanticokehistoryonline.org

SOCIETY NEWS:

Virtual Tour a success

Chet Zaremba, vice president of the Nanticoke Historical Society and John Sherrick, society information officer, narrated “A Virtual Tour” of Nanticoke on Sunday, April 30 at the Cultural Centre of St. Faustina, 38 West Church Street. Those attending were delighted to revisit stores, schools, streets, city buildings mining locations, and more through photos.

During this past year, using a special photo software, Zaremba set about changing some of the society’s black and white photos to color, making pictures of locations in the city seem as if they had just been taken. You can see evidence of this on this issue’s cover. During the presentation, audience members were encouraged to request various locations and ask questions.

The Nanticoke Historical Society is committed to preserving the city's rich heritage. We have exciting events planned for the future that will showcase our history and culture. We invite you to join us and learn more about our unique history. For more information on the Nanticoke Historical Society please call 570-258-1367, our office is open Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.



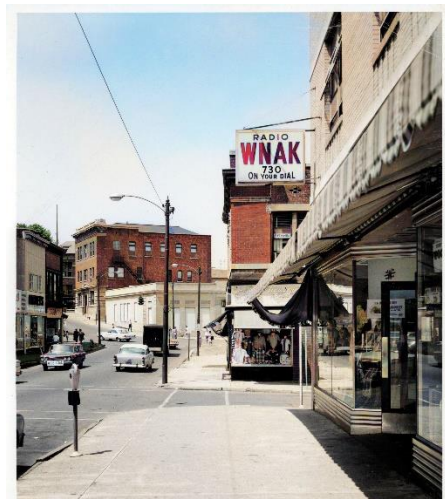
MANY ATTENDED THE VIRTUAL TOUR OF NANTICOKE HELD AT THE CULTURAL CENTRE OF ST. FAUSTINA



NARRATING THE TOUR, CHET ZAREMBA AND JOHN SHERRICK



FROM LEFT, CHARLOTTE DUDKOWSKI, MEMBERSHIP COORDINATOR; JULIANNA ZARZYCKI, PRESIDENT AND TANIA GRONKOWSKI, ARCHIVE COORDINATOR GREET THOSE ATTENDING THE VIRTUAL TOUR



ONE OF THE MANY COLORIZED PHOTOS HIGHLIGHTED DURING THE VIRTUAL TOUR

SOCIETY NEWS:

Generous donations make new Society sign possible

Thanks to the generosity of Mrs. Stephanie Shern, and Mr. John Tomko, we are pleased to announce that a new sign has been erected designating the site of the Nanticoke Historical Society at 495 East Main Street. Mrs. Shern donated a substantial amount to the society for a sign which holds an in-memory tribute to her husband, George E. Shern. Mr. John Tomko also made a sizable donation adding a concrete pad and two stone pillars for support.

Chet Zaremba, vice president of the society recently explained, “The Ram’s head with horns intertwined through an N has been the society logo since its inception bringing to mind the early days of Nanticoke High School and the school’s three-time state



GEORGE E. SHERN

championship basketball teams, then known as the Rams.

Upon Shern’s passing on September 4, 2021, Zaremba, wrote a focus story in the society newsletter dated December 2021 detailing long friendship Shern

Zaremba’s full story can be seen on our website nanticokehistoryonline.org. click on our Stories page.



THE NANTICOKE HISTORICAL SOCIETY SIGN AT THE SAMANTHA MILL HOUSE.



THE SIGNS STANDS IN LOVING MEMORY OF GEORGE E. SHERN

Welcome New Members

LIFE MEMBERSHIP

Jeffrey Ford

Thank you for your generous donations

Society Treasurer, Chet Zaremba, reports that there have been a number of monetary donations by both members and non-members of our organization since the last newsletter.

Mrs. Stephanie Shern

Mr. John Tomko

John Gregorowicz

Ed Jamison

Andy Sherbine

Michelle Karbinowicz

Dan Marnell

The Wyoming Valley Stamp Club

Notice to our members

The Nanticoke Historical Society Membership Coordinator, Charlotte Dudkowski asks that if any member has had a change of address, phone number or email address to please contact the society office at 570-258-1367. You may also email those changes to history@nanticokehistoryonline.org

Thank you!

Request for research

Are you looking for that little piece of the puzzle? That one connection to your past that's missing? We're here to help. The information in our archives is immense and if you are looking for that long lost family member, dates, addresses, locations, stores, businesses, that will put your questions to rest, we can help. Download our research form from our website nanticokehistoryonline.org or call us at 570-258-1367. Our office is open from Monday to Friday 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

SOCIETY NEWS:

Spring raffle drawing held in April.

Congratulations to the following winners

Martine Caroselli - \$125

Cinda Lally - \$50

Rob Ottensman - \$25

Thank you to everyone who participated.

A Special Thank you to Rob Ottensman

who donated his winnings back to the Nanticoke Historical Society.

Society Archive Coordinator named

The Nanticoke Historical Society is pleased to announce that Tania Gronkowski has been named the society's archive coordinator. Tania will be taking over the task of cataloging the society's acquisitions into Past Perfect, a collection management software that the society obtained in 2013.

The program includes numerous list management, research, and report features providing full access to data. There is a membership and contacts database that generates reports and creates mail merge letters. Originally created for museums, the software is now used by myriad of organizations and historical societies around the world because of its tools to streamline maintenance of archival information and objects. 📄

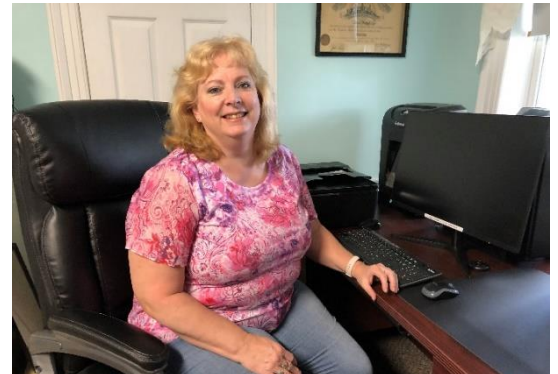
Editor's Note:

We hope you enjoy the Nanticoke Historical Society's newsletter, *Legacy*. We are committed to bringing you all the news of the society, its good works and its dedication to the stewardship of all historical data pertaining to the city. Please let us know that you are happy with our efforts by becoming a member or retaining your membership this helps to defray the cost of printing and distribution. We want you to hear the stories and we want to tell your stories. If you'd like to comment, please email us at our newsletter email.... nanticokehistory@aol.com.

We at the Nanticoke Historical Society thank you for your support.



FROM LEFT, CHET ZAREMBA, SOCIETY VICE PRESIDENT; JULIANNA ZARZYCKI, SOCIETY PRESIDENT AND JOHN SHERRICK, INFORMATION OFFICER HOLD UP THE WINNING TICKETS



ARCHIVE COORDINATOR, TANIA GRONKOWSKI

TOBACK, Charles (POW)
TOMKO, Aloysius (POW)
TOMKO, Victor E. (POW)

Korean War

DROZDOWSKI, Stanley Joseph
CHOJNOWSKI, Frank Jr.
HAYDOCK, Albert R.
PILAR, John A.
WASIAKOWSKI, Ralph E.
WISNIEWSKI, Felix John

Vietnam War

NOVAK, Walter Mark
SKONECKI, Leonard Frank Jr.
ZAREMBA, Thomas Henry
HOJNOWSKI, Stanley Bernard

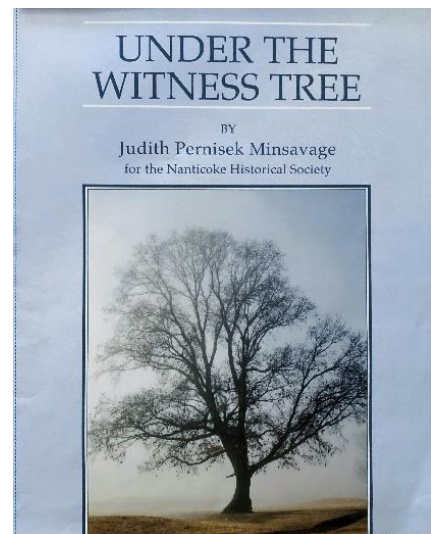
“Under the Witness Tree”

The City of Nanticoke in Stories and Photos

Now available:

If you haven't already received your copy of The Nanticoke Historical Society's newest book, “Under the Witness Tree” please contact our office at 570-258-1367. A great keepsake or gift for family and friends. All proceeds benefit the Nanticoke Historical Society.

Thank you for your support of our efforts to keep the memories and history of the city of Nanticoke alive.



SOCIETY NEWS:

Discovery recaptures memory of city-wide celebration

A recent discovery in the attic of one of the city's homesteads has been entrusted to the Nanticoke Historical Society. One is a uniform that resembles the one worn by General George Washington during the American Revolution. The other is a civilian outfit from the same period. A label sewn into the back of the uniform's waistcoat tells the story.



WASHINGTON HEADQUARTERS

The Grey Shops Have These Lovely Costumes For The Bi-Centennial Celebration

GET into the full swing of this nation-wide event... wear these romantic and picturesque costumes at local dances and balls. We are co-operating with Congress and have the exclusive agency for the handsomely approved costumes... and every costume is an authentic style, made exactly as in the time of George Washington! Some of the costumes are illustrated and described here.

1. **Betsy Ross Costume**... of homespun printed cotton twined with white batiste sleeves. Buckram gives skirt fullness. Women's, size 32 to 42 at \$3.98. Children's, sizes 7 to 14 at \$2.98.
2. **Colonial Boys' Suits**... three piece of fast color flannels. Blue with oyster, or brown with tan. Metal button trimming. Size 8 to 16 at \$4.98.
3. **Colonial Boston Frock**... of fast color batiste with ruffling. Buckram preserves the full bouffant effect skirt. Women's, sizes 32 to 42 at \$4.98. Children's at \$3.98.
4. **Homewife of '76**... of attractive flowered print with white batiste trimming. Buckram gives bouffant skirt effect. Women's, sizes 32 to 42, at \$2.98. Little girls' at \$1.98.
5. **Pamper Effect Frock**... of fine quality batiste, fast color. In various harmonizing colors. Women's size, at \$6.98. Little girls' styles at \$2.98.
6. **Nathan Hale Suit**... boys' fast color three-piece flannel suits with metal buttons. Your choice from brown and tan, or blue and oyster white. Size 8 to 16 years, at \$4.48.
7. **Old Virginia Hessian Frocks**... of fine quality printed organdy with harmonizing plain color batiste. Rose bud braid trimming. Women's styles at \$4.98. Little girls' at \$3.98.
8. **Colonial American Dance Frock**... of three-tone celanese taffeta with ruffled nylon georgette trimming. Rosebud braid touches with buckram-treated bouffant skirt. Women's, at \$9.98. Girls', at \$7.98.

Group Discounts... Special Costumes For 4-H Clubs And Boy Scouts

10% discount will be allowed on all orders for TEN or MORE costumes. Boy Scouts and members of 4-H clubs, for whom we have special costumes not illustrated here, should take advantage of this offering.

Attractive White Wigs

Snow white and silvery tinted wigs, replicas of the styles worn at inaugural balls and dances during the Colonial period of George and Martha Washington. For men and women. **\$2.50**

Seven children and young misses may purchase wigs to correspond with their costumes for Bi-Centennial parties at school or at home. All styles at this one low price. **\$1.98**

Grey Shops, Third Floor

FOWLER, DICK and WALKER THE BOSTON STORE

The year 1932 marked the bicentennial of George Washington's birth, and the nation celebrated with various events and commemorations. In Nanticoke, a city with a large Polish-American population, included festivities honoring two Polish heroes of the American Revolution: Casimir Pulaski and Thaddeus Kosciuszko. The city's Central Park, now Patriot Square, was the venue for a grand parade, a musical program, and speeches by guest speakers. A banquet sponsored by the Polish Falcons, a fraternal organization, climaxed the day's events. The mayor of Nanticoke, Evan J. William, urged all citizens to join in the spirit of the occasion, saying, "It is urged upon the businessmen and residents of the city to decorate their places of business and homes to join in the spirit and to play their part in making this celebration the biggest and best in the history of our city."

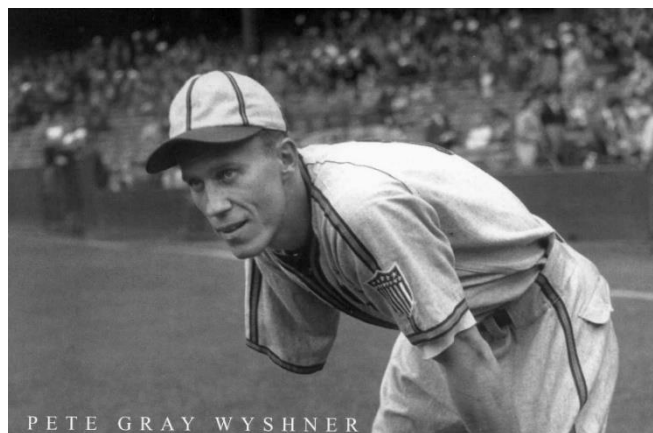


As part of the festivities, two local stores, Pomeroy's and The Boston Store, offered a variety of costumes and accessories for those who wanted to dress up as historical figures from the Revolutionary War era. The costumes were authentic and carried the official seal of the United States George Washington Bi-Centennial Commission. The outfits are on display at the society offices.



Lost and found – A baseball legend and a ball

By Judy Minsavage

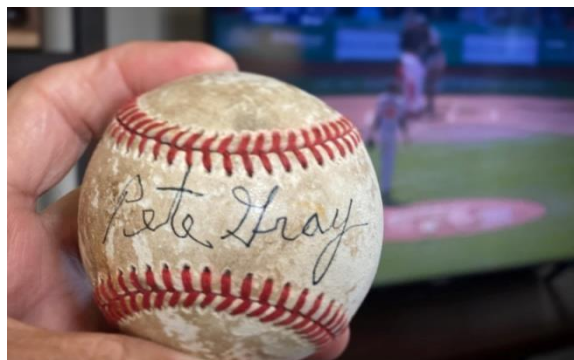


It was a chilly April day in 1995 when Clark Van Orden, photographer and reporter Mark Jones both of the Times Leader visited Nanticoke to interview Pete Gray, the local baseball legend who overcame huge challenges to play in the major leagues. They were joined by William C. Kashatus, who authored the definitive biography of Gray called “One-Armed Wonder: Pete Gray, Wartime Baseball and the American Dream.”

The article that Van Orden and Jones were working on “Pete Gray, in a League of His Own” was published in the Sunday edition of the Times Leader on April 9, 1995. The article commemorated the 50th anniversary of Gray’s debut in Major League Baseball as an outfielder for the St. Louis Browns.



To celebrate the start of the 2023 baseball season, Van Orden recently shared a picture on Facebook of a ball signed by Gray that day. The society commented on the post, calling Gray “A Nanticoke Hero.” Van Orden then offered to donate the ball to the society for display, and of course without hesitation, Chet Zarembo, vice president of the society, gladly accepted.



**LONG LOST BALL NOW CONTAINS SIGNATURE OF
BASEBALL LEGEND PETE GRAY**

A Little History

Pete Gray Wyshner was born on March 6, 1915, to Lithuanian immigrants Peter and Antoinette (Keulewicz) Wyshner. They lived in the Hanover Section of Nanticoke. At the age of six, Gray fell from a wagon on which he was riding, his right arm caught in the wheel, which caused a massive injury.

That evening, his arm was amputated above the elbow. As he grew, so did his love for baseball. His sights set on realizing his dream and against all odds he learned to catch the ball in his glove, flip it off and quickly transfer it to his hand. He also batted left-handed and ran with great speed. He played semi-professional ball for Hanover A.A. in 1934 and was considered one of the best amateur players and consistent hitters in the Wyoming Valley. By 1942, he began his professional baseball career in Canada. While in the minors he obtained the Philadelphia Sportswriters Most Courageous Athlete of the Game award and MVP in the Southern Association while with the Memphis Chicks. He was then signed by the St. Louis Browns in 1945 and played 77 games hitting .218 with 13 RBIs.

The story of how Wyshner changed his name to Gray is not clear. Some say his father did it, others say he did it himself to gain notice from scouts. Gray's life and career have been documented in books, articles, and also a movie. In 1976, William G. Nicholson penned *One-Armed Major Leaguer*; In 1978, A chapter regarding Gray appeared in William B. Mead's "Even the Browns"; in 1986, a movie entitled "A Winner Never Quits Starring Keith Carradine, Mare Winningham and Dennis Weaver; and in 1995, the quintessential biography by Kashatus. Kashatus was six years old when he met Gray. The baseball legend showed him how he could catch a baseball by removing it from his glove and exchange it to his throwing hand seamlessly.

In all accounts Gray is described as very private. He had his favorite hangouts but could mostly be found at the Recreation Park on Front Street in the Hanover Section of Nanticoke where he would meet with friends and enjoy sunny afternoons. Tall and thin usually in his trademark hooded jacket, most who did not know of Gray's past thought of him as a kindly gentleman, who enjoyed an afternoon walk, or sitting on a bench and with a slight smile nodding to passersby.



THIS UNDATED PHOTO SHOWS PETE GRAY WITH HIS PARENTS AT A BROWNS GAME



A DAPPER PETE GRAY

Gray was a solitary man, who did not like to talk about his days as an admired and respected ball player. He remained cautious into his later years, not wanting attention, but despite his avoidance of the limelight he was most certainly a respected presence in Nanticoke. By all accounts he was unsure whether his rise to the majors was due to his extraordinary talent or to the lack of players during WWII and his ability to draw large crowds at the ballparks. He played the 1945 season with the Browns, but as seasoned players came home from the war, he returned to the minors. Gray's career ended in 1949 and he returned to Nanticoke.


Back at the park

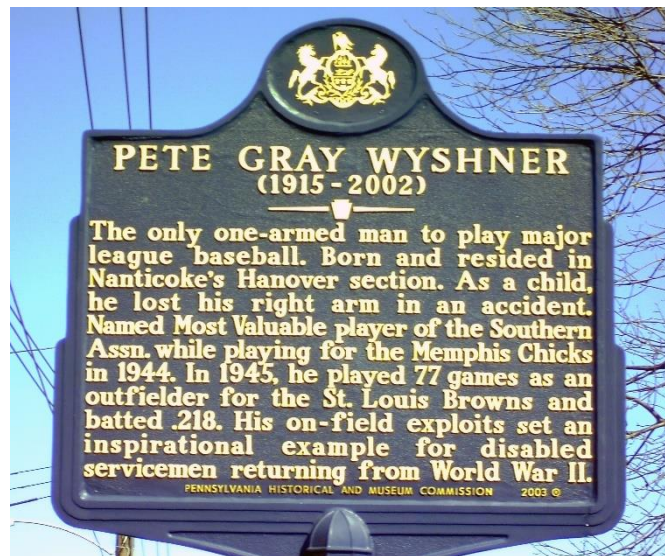
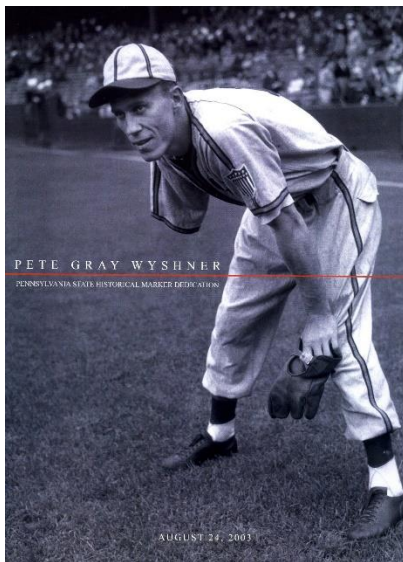
On that April day in 1995, Van Ordan, Jones and Kashatus tracked Gray down to interview him for the upcoming article. Kashatus already knew the task would not be easy after experiencing the arduous interview process with Gray for his book. They found him at the Recreation Field in the Hanover Section of Nanticoke and Gray, after a time, felt comfortable enough to share his story.

Several events were planned to honor the man and his talent. Gray's specially outfitted baseball glove was to go on display at the World War II commemorative exhibit at the Baseball Museum in Cooperstown. The glove, with most of the padding removed, allowed him to remove it quickly. Kashatus was to be the keynote speaker at a banquet honoring Gray at the 137th annual meeting of the Wyoming Historical and Geological Society and the Luzerne County Commissioners designated Friday April 28 as Pete Gray Day.

Van Orden wanted to make the trip special. Recently he stated, "I took a few photos of Pete and Kashatus. While Mark was doing his interview I hoped I could find a baseball somewhere around the field. Sure enough I was lucky enough and found a ball in the weeds near the field. It was after the interview and we were walking back to the cars and a local resident came over with Kashatus' book and asked Pete to sign it, he did. So I asked him to sign the ball. He took the ball, put it between his knees and signed. I kept the ball in a drawer and would, every now and again, take it out thinking about Pete and that day. To me Pete was a remarkable man who never let his handicap hold him back."

In 2003 the Luzerne County Historical Society and the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission unveiled a marker that was erected on Front Street in the Hanover Section of Nanticoke. A dedication ceremony was held prior to a Red Barons game at the Lackawanna County Stadium in Moosic.

Pete Gray Passed away on June 30, 2002. He was laid to rest at St. Mary's Cemetery in Hanover Township. 



PLAQUE HONORING BASEBALL LEGEND PETE GRAY WYSHNER ON FRONT STREET IN THE HANOVER SECTION OF NANTICOKE



BALL FINDS PLACE OF HONOR AT THE NANTICOKE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OFFICES COURTESY OF CLARK VAN ORDEN



In Honor of Our Military



The Nanticoke Historical Society is honored to hold a vast amount of military information in its archives. It is our pledge to focus on those hometown heroes who sacrificed so much for our country's freedom. A new partial list of the names of local veterans of all wars will be listed in our "In Honor of Our Military" Section of each Newsletter. The lists are long, so if a loved one's name has not appeared, please follow upcoming issues. Information obtained from the Nanticoke Historical Society archives.

WORLD WAR I

Kazimir Markowski

Stephen Marshall

Bruno Maryanski

John Masakowski – Wounded in Action

Thomas Maslock – KIA

Julian Massatt – Troop A, 22nd Cavalry

Arthur Masters – Telegraph Corp

Stanley Matchkiewicz – KIA

John Mathews – 109th Field Artillery – Wounded in action, France

Joseph Matusavage – U.S. Navy

Elizabeth May – Nurse – U.S. Army

Stanley Mayewski - U.S. Army

Stanley Maylock

Angelo Mazzoni

Frank McDermitt

Daniel McManamon

Martin McNelis

Bernard Merchelski

Joseph Meterpak

George Meyers

George Michalik

Bruno Michalski

Stanley Miczynski

John Mierzwa

Robert Miesiewicz

Joseph Mikavitch – U.S. Army

Joseph Milkewicz – Wounded in Action

Andrew Miller

Joseph Minsavage – MIA – US Navy – served aboard the Henry Knox – Red Sea

Anthony Misiewicz – First Battalion, Battery A, Field Artillery 80th Div. Service on the Meuse-Argonne Front

Bronislaw Miskiel

Joseph Mislarek

Joseph Miscannnon

Harry Mitchell

Charles Moore

Ralph Morgan – Aviation Corps France

Daniel Morgan – U.S. Army

Eric Morgan – 109th Field Artillery – Medical Corps

Arthur Morgan – U.S. Army Medical Corps

Arthur J. Morgan – Battery C, 3rd Field Art.

Frank Morgan – KIA – France

Dr. Isaiah Morgan

James Morgan

Norman Morgan – Aviation Corps

Pascal Morgan – Aviation Corps

NOTE: The names are as listed in our Historical Society Records. If there are misspellings, we apologize. Please contact our office to correct any discrepancy. Thank you....



In Honor of Our Military



WORLD WAR II

John Trotski – KIA North Africa
Joseph Trynoski – POW
Robert Turley – U.S. Navy
Anthony Twardowski – 14th Anti-Aircraft Artillery Command - Pacific
William Uren - KIA
Edwin Varker – 1st Class Petty Officer
Joseph Vaccaro – Aircraft Engineering Officer - Pacific
Albert Valentinelli – KIA - Belgium
Adam Venslove – U.S. Army
Steven Verazin
Thomas Vivian – Third Armored division - Europe
Frederick Vollrath – KIA - Pacific
Anthony Volpicelli
Noah Walck – Army Air Corps – China – Burma - India
John Walters– U.S. Army
Chester Warakowski – POW
Stanley Wardecki – KIA - Italy
Charles Waselus – Army Air Corps
Michael Waselus
Marcel Washco – KIA
Constant Wasilewski – POW
Michael Wasilczyk
George Webster -POW
Leonard Weiss – Army Air Corps
Samuel Weltman – KIA - Holland
William West – POW
Daryl Weston – U.S. Army
John Williams – POW
Thomas Williams
Andrew Winiaraczak – Tank Commander
Walter Wishkowski – U.S. Army
Anthony Wishinski - KIA - Europe
Cas Wisnieski
Frank Wnek
Edmund Wodyka – U.S. Army
Walter Wojciechowski – KIA – Pacific Theater
Albert Wolfe
Louis Wrubel –KIA - Italy
Henry Wytrykowski. – KIA – Pacific Theater
John Yachwan – U.S. Army Air Force
Stephen Yanoshak
Peter Yarmonchik – U.S. Army - Pacific
Thomas Yatsko
Theodore Yayechnik – U.S. Army
Roman Yurek
Frank Yurkowski – U.S. Army Air Corps
Edward Zaborney
Theodore Zabrenski – MIA - France

SEE WHAT'S IN OUR ARCHIVES

FOR A COMPLETE LISTING OF ALL THE RECORDS AND PHOTOGRAPHS THAT ARE IN THE NANTICOKE HISTORICAL SOCIETY ARCHIVES, GO TO OUR WEBSITE www.nanticokehistoryonline.org you will find a full listing on our Research Page.

FOCUS ON:

Mark Cintala –Space Scientist from Nanticoke to the Outer Limits

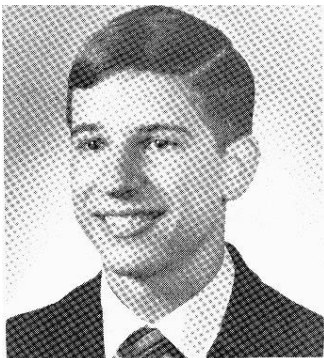
By Judy Minsavage

The side notes describing Nanticoke High School senior Mark Cintala in the 1970 Yearbook reads “SCIENTIFIC - Our Albert Einstein...high flying pilot.” Certainly, an indication of the challenging path Cintala would take after graduation.



MARK CINTALA, SPACE SCIENTIST

The son of John and Mary Lou Cintala of 417 E. Ridge Street, Nanticoke, Mark Cintala has produced an extensive amount of research in the field of Astronomy and Space Science most of which reads like a foreign language. Cintala graduated in 1974, from Bridgeport University with a B.S. Degree in Physics and



CINTALA IN 1974

named a Charles A. Dana Scholar in recognition of superior academic achievement and leadership in the college community. He was a member of Aristeia and Sigma Pi Sigma honor societies. In 1974, Cintala along with eight other students at the University of Bridgeport received an award for the design and construction of a new kind of solar observatory at the 40th Annual Stellafane Convention in Springfield, VT. The Convention, which began in 1926, gives amateur telescope makers an opportunity to gather, show their creations and teach each other telescope making and mirror-grinding techniques.

Cintala was a research assistant at Brown University in Providence, RI, where he received his Master’s and Doctorate degrees in Geological Sciences, in 1976 and 1980, respectively. He was a postdoctoral researcher at Brown University for two years. He moved to Houston Texas to join the Experimental Impact Laboratory at NASA Johnson Space Center where he, according to NASA’s website, “Served as a space scientist within the Astro Materials Research and Exploration Science (ARES) Division then becoming the manager of the Experimental Impact Laboratory.”

In 2019, Cintala received the Barringer Medal in recognition of his outstanding work in impact crater and the better understanding of impact phenomena.” According to the Barringer website, “The honor was established in 1982 to honor the memory of D. Moreau Barringer Sr., and his son D. Moreau Barringer Jr., The senior Barringer was the first to seriously propose an impact origin for the crater that now bears his name. The junior Barringer was the first to identify the Odessa Crater, the second known impact site on Earth.”



THE BARRINGER MEDAL

According to the Wiley Online Library, in an article Meteoritics & Planetary Science written in 2019 by colleagues, Friedrich Horz and Jennifer L.B. Anderson regarding Cintala's Barringer Medal Honor, Cintala's works included but are not limited to:

"Combining planetary gravity, equations of state for both target and impactor materials, and shock-decay results from early hydrocode calculations into an analytical technique to calculate crater size and associated melt volume.

Initiating a thorough examination into the comminution of mafic rocks and minerals to understand the evolution of the lunar regolith. These experiments demonstrated that feldspar breaks up under shock much more easily than pyroxene and olivine, thus duplicating the variable modal and compositional properties of lunar regolith samples as a function of grain size, particularly for those less than 20 microns.


Developing the Ejection-Velocity Measurement System where a pulsed laser illuminates a vertical cross section through the ejecta curtain of a growing impact crater in non-cohesive sand targets."

Horz and Anderson go on to state "It is difficult to summarize all of Mark's accomplishments in a few paragraphs. Few people have the broad talents and interests to make the observational, experimental, and theoretical contributions that he has to our field. Whatever he tackles, he does so with unusual thoroughness and unparalleled attention to every detail. He has been and continues to be an excellent mentor and role model for many graduate students, postdocs, young scientists, and undergraduates. As the manager of the Experimental Impact Laboratory, he facilitates an active visitor program and ensures that everybody using the facility obtains the best data possible from their experiments. He has been deeply involved in the planetary science community, often in the background, as he runs workshops, serves on organizing and editing committees for the Lunar and Planetary Science Conference, and reviews numerous papers and proposals."



In over 216 publications, Cintala along with co-researchers addressed subjects titled: Impact Melt in Small Lunar Highland Craters - Scaling Impact-Melt and Crater Dimensions - Block Distributions on the Lunar Surface – An Analysis of Differential Impact Melt-Crater Scaling – Impact Induced Thermal Effects in the Lunar and Mercurian Regoliths, and many more in-depth studies.

According to NASA Johnson Space Center website, "Cintala has contributed extensively to the field of regolith development and evolution through high-speed impact experimentation. He engages in all aspects of development and operation on reduced gravity flight. He has also investigated the surface properties of asteroids caused by collisions in the mid-infrared by impacting forsterite and enstatite across a range of velocities and at varying temperatures. He conducted experiments related to erosion and comminution of lunar rocks and soils."

According to ntrs.nasa.gov, "These studies contribute to the understanding of how regolith a loose heterogeneous material covering solid rock behaves during meteorite impacts on the moon and asteroids, giving to the knowledge used in designing spacecraft landing systems. Nasa scientists use information on reduced gravity flights to provide development of space hardware, crew training and administration of medical care and conducting scientific experiments. The impact studies completed, and publications produced by Mark Cintala during his time with NASA will enable future space travelers to understand the lunar surface, asteroids, and planets beyond." 

From the Editor:

Nanticoke Historical Society member and life-long resident, Sally Gorgas, will from time to time be sharing her memories of people, places and things that are unique to the city.

ON SALLY'S CORNER

by Sally Gorgas

As a child, what could be better than having a few pennies and running to the corner store for candy? Having a nickel or a dime made you feel rich. Some of the many choices were wax soda bottles, Lik-M-Aid sugar candy, and candy cigarettes (the horror of that one!). In the 50s and 60s, there were many corner stores in Nanticoke. My neighborhood on Hanover Street had Fry's, Frank Weiss, across Hanover Street from each other, Nork's Bakery and Gorka's Economy Store on South Street. Each conveniently located within walking distance from home. Aside from candy, Fry's store had trinkets and small toys. I remember a walkway connected their home to the store. Through their dining room window one could see a magnificent chandelier. I was in awe of its beauty. A bakery in the neighborhood was a great treat. I remember going to Nork's for glazed donuts. And the smell! yummy! Gorka's Economy Store on South Street sold mostly groceries for the family in addition to candy. I remember Jack, a neighborhood boy, pulling a wagon bringing groceries to our home. The item I wanted most was a beautiful bride doll. She was about two feet tall with blond hair. Oh, how I wanted that doll! I would go for treats and stare after that doll. It was high on a top shelf, out of my reach.

I spent most of my money at Frank Weiss store on the corner across from the firehouse on Hanover Street. The candy was in a glass case and my pennies filled a small brown paper bag. Some favorites were flying saucers, pips, sugary watermelon slices, candy dots on paper, and Necco Wafers. Also, there were comic books, magazines and small toys in the window. When I was a junior in high school, I worked there on Friday nights and Sunday afternoons. I was in heaven reading all the teen magazines and having a snack. When it got dark, I had to go to the basement and put on the light for the telephone booth outside the store. Children would come in with their pennies for candy just like I did years before.

The stores are all closed now. Fry's is boarded up, Nork's was torn down, Gorka's was later turned into a hoagie shop and Weiss is now a family home. It was nice having all these pleasures so near and dear. As a child, I would never dream that these stores would be gone, though I still see them in my mind daily as I travel in the neighborhood. The memories flood back every time. 📷



SALLY GORGAS



West Side Park

Lazy Hazy Crazy Days of Summer

By Judy Minsavage

Established sometime in the 1920s West Side Park was a place where families and friends gathered to enjoy the warm days of spring and summer. In 1946, Stanley Kamon met with twenty-five other residents from the west side of the city to form a club for the promotion of civic welfare in the community. In 1947, as a gesture of goodwill, Susquehanna Coal Company donated a 4,800 square foot



section of land at Grand and Line Streets for the purpose of constructing a new playground. An auxiliary of volunteers worked with the City of Nanticoke to establish the playground.



1950 - Volunteers constructed a shower and rest room facility for team sports. Leon Kolinowski, Bernard, Kolinowski, Milliard Skalia, Bernard Skalla, Leon Margolski, Alphonse Pepel, Nicholas Zarilla, Cornelius Benkowski, Andrew Jasko, Edward Dalkewicz and Stanley Sowa..

Event planners set about organizing track and field tournaments, clambakes, dances and contests for children as well as a swimming area. The West Side Playground organization was established with the following leadership roles: Stanley Kamon, president; Andrew Modla, vice president; Henry Katra, treasurer; Joseph Smereski, financial secretary; Joseph Szat, recording secretary; Cornelius Bienkowski, membership secretary and Frank Litchkowski as sergeant at arms. Gabe's Pontiac, a local car dealership, provided a new scoreboard for the baseball field that enhanced the experience of the players

CARNIVAL

WEST SIDE PLAYGROUND

— Grand-Line Streets —

ALL THIS WEEK

• RIDES • AMUSEMENTS • GAMES • REFRESHMENTS

FREE ADMISSION — FREE PARKING

Come One! Come All! Fun Galore!

— Benefit of West Side Playground —

and spectators. The playground was a great attraction for the kids in the neighborhood, especially the wading pool that was enjoyed on the scorching days of summer. The park also hosted a basketball league for the teenagers, sponsored by the Lion's Club. The West Side team, coached by Leo Wysocki, had an impressive record of 12 wins and two losses. The team consisted of Walter Skalla, Stanley Kaminski, William Marcinkowski, Ted Petrochko, Henry Sowa, Dan Distasio, Dan Jacobs, Sylvester Grzynski, and Harold Granitski. The playground became one of the best places in the valley for children to have fun and learn.

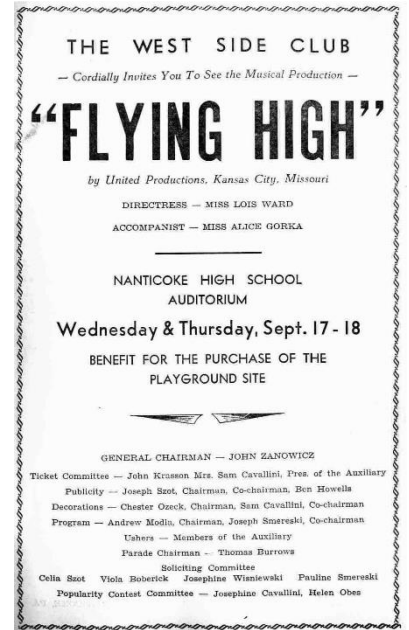
Good times gone?

By August of 1952, to the surprise of everyone concerned, the playground was in jeopardy as the Susquehanna Coal Company notified the association of their plan to sell the property. The association quickly organized several fundraising activities to acquire the land. Martin Gronka, principal of Nanticoke High School, blasted the company . "Susquehanna does not seem even interested in civic affairs of the town. It takes a lot from the community but gives nothing in return." The Nanticoke Businessmen's Association joined the efforts to save the playground.

Residents and high school students staged "Flying High," a benefit play under the guidance of drama coach Lois Ward. The play aimed to raise funds to buy the land from Susquehanna Coal. The event was well attended and received, but Susquehanna was demanding \$6,000, which exceeded the amount collected. The playground builders and supporters were shocked to learn that the Susquehanna Coal Company never intended for them to keep the land permanently. This raised concerns for public schools and other entities with donated lands for playgrounds. To make matters worse, Susquehanna hiked up the price to \$9,000 due to a tax assessment..

Group effort pays off

Thanks to the leadership of Eugene Hudak, the chairman, and the generosity of several club members who provided the funds, the land purchase from the Susquehanna Coal Company in 1953 was a major milestone for the association,. The president, Stanley Kamon, declared that the association would continue to



Children Appear in a scene from the play Flying High presented at Nanticoke High School auditorium in 1952

expand its activities and facilities. The West Side Club Auxiliary organized a bazaar to support the West Side Playground Association. Frank Marcinkowski, a city councilman and honorary chairman of the association, and Josephine Cavallini, the president of the auxiliary led the event. The Miller Brothers Shows offered rides and entertainment for the attendees. Little Bill Phillips, a popular local

radio announcer, also made an appearance. The Association in 1954, held a testimonial dinner to honor Stanley Kamon, for his leadership.

On with the Summer fun


In 1960, The first doll and stuffed animal contest netted one hundred participating youngsters. Winners of that first contest were, Sharon Bartoszek, Loraine Bartoszek, Susan Novak, Diane Kalinowski, Sandra Skurka, Judith Salkowski, Diane Dokutowski, Theodore Katra, David Yaroronis, Monica Evans, Jean Chorney, Alexander Kalinowski, Linda Omolecki, Patricia Chapure, Angela Augenti, Theresa Katra, Linda Kopiak, Elaine Antonik, Timothy Womar, Beth Ann Evan, Gloria Rychlicki.

In 1962 The first Contest Day had over one hundred children participating. Judges awarded prizes to children attaining the highest score in a series of games. Instructors were Marilyn Obaza, Micheline Wysocki, Terry Makarczyk, Jeanette Bucholtz, Donna Sobieski, Walter Prusakowski, Jerry Kazmierski, Stanley Galazin.

On June 23, 1968 the Westside Playground Assoc. celebrated its 20th Anniversary and the dedication of its new clubhouse at the park.

WESTSIDE PLAYGROUND ASSOC.

**20 th. ANNIVERSARY
AND
BUILDING DEDICATION**



Sunday, June 23rd., 1968
Cor. Line & Grand St. Nanticoke, Pa.
Sponsored By Members

OFFICERS OF WESTSIDE PLAYGROUND ASSOC.-1968

President	Theodore Petrochko
Vice-President	Casimir Katra
Financial Secretary	Blayne Sims
Recording Secretary	Edward Pruschinski
Treasurer	Leo Wysocki
Membership Secretary	Adam Novak
Sergeant at Arms	Theodore Jadodzinski

AUDITORS

George Balla	John Wisniewski
Charles Waselus	Leo Waclovicz

ANNIVERSARY AND BUILDING DEDICATION COMMITTEE

John Wisniewski - Chairman	
Charles Waselus	Andrew Modla
Walter Brozena	Edward Prushinski
Edward Thompson	Henry Wadas

PAST PRESIDENTS

Stanley Kamon	John Cichy
Andrew Modla	Walter Brozena
Cornelius Bienkowski	Leo Waclovicz
Millard Skalla	John Wisniewski
Joseph Boberick	Bernard Skalla
Charles Waselus	George Balla
Henry Wadas	

PLAYGROUND CARETAKERS

Millard Skalla	Joseph Boberick
Leo (Kelly) Waclovicz	John Cichy
Walter Skalla	Edward Jagodzinski

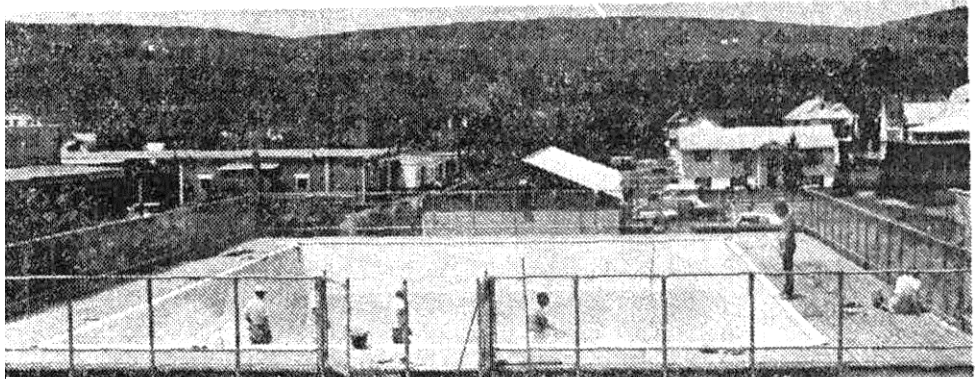
IN MEMORIAN

Stanley Kamon	John Zanowicz
Cornelius Bienkowski	Jerry Kulesa
Henry Katra	Lawrence Biscontin
Alphonse Pepel	John Smereski
Leo Smereski	

WESTSIDE PLAYGROUND AUXILIARY COMMITTEE

Josephine Wisniewski	Lottie Katra
Viola Boberick	Josephine Dalkiewicz
Lois Chado	Ivy Wysocki

The city of Nanticoke acquired, free of charge, a 40 x 60-foot above ground swimming pool in the 80s through an agreement with the Wilkes-Barre Redevelopment Authority and the Scranton office of the PA Dept. of Community Affairs. The pool area offered picnic tables and sunbathing for visitors. It operated seven days a week from 1 p.m. to 7 p.m. and charged fifty cents for children up to 16 years old and \$1 for adults.



NEWLY ACQUIRED POOL IN THE EARLY 80s



1984 Police Athletic League sponsored a family picnic at West Side Park to honor the Nanticoke Little League championship team sponsored by the PAL. team members received trophies First row, from left, Harry Bloom, Tom Dreyfus, Mike Zaremba. Second row, Chris Brojakowski, Thad Wadas, Mike Opalski, Chris Landmesser, John Curry, Gary Wardecki, Third row, Joe Kosch, Dave Zegarski, John Kashatus, Len Strong, John Chepolis. Fourth row, Sgt. Emil Borowski, NPD; Chet Zaremba, team manager; Edward Butkiewicz, Nanticoke Mayor; Lt. Raymond Ceppa, NPD; Ptlm. Richard Meyers; NPD and Thomas Dreyfus, coach.

Through the years West Side Park was a popular venue for various community events, church picnics, reunions, family gatherings, soccer, soft ball and Little League games. However, by 1999, West Side Playground Association officials faced challenges in maintaining the facilities and operations due to a shortage of volunteers and funds.



In 2001 grant money enabled renovations of the West Side Playground. In 2005 the Greater Nanticoke Area Fatherhood sponsored an initiative to restore the West Side Park. Dads and their children set about repairing and painting broken or vandalized items.

From left Darren Chesney, Patricia Rende, Debreaann Chesney, Walter Szychowski and Dylan Szychowski repair and paint a park bench at West Side Park

In 2015 the Nanticoke High School class of 1975 held their 40th reunion at the park.

Boy Scouts of America awarded Ethan Halas the prestigious Eagle Scout rank in 2019, after demonstrating his leadership skills and commitment to service. He led a

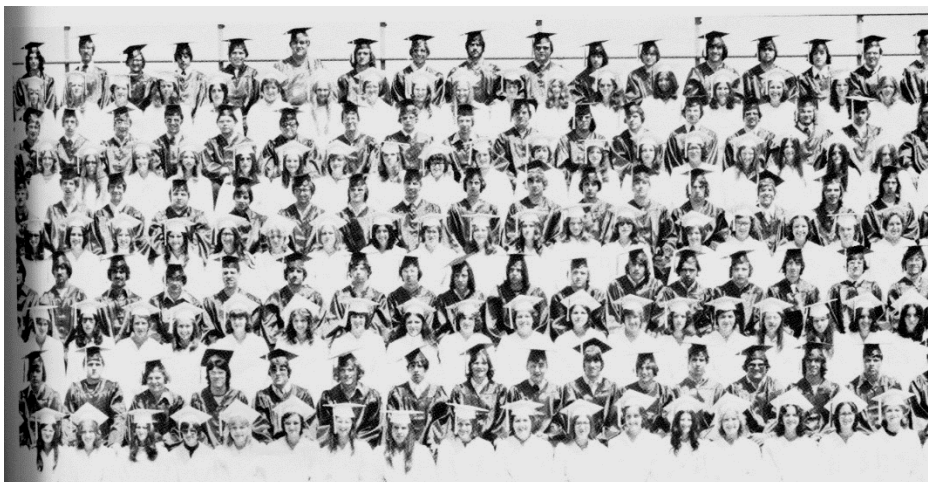


ETHAN HALAS

Thanks to many wonderful volunteers, the park is open and ready to serve the community.

team of volunteers to paint the restroom

and storage facility at West Side Park. He also secured donations of paint and brushes from local businesses, showing his resourcefulness and initiative. Staff and visitors appreciated his efforts to improve the park's appearance and functionality..



NANTICOKE HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 1975



still

LOOKING FOR A YEARBOOK?

THE FOLLOWING YEARBOOKS ARE LOCATED AT OUR OFFICES:

Nanticoke High School

(John S. Fine or GNA (Greater Nanticoke Area High School), years 1942 to 2004.

Newport High School, Wanamie,
Newport Twp. years 1942 to 1970

GAR High School

Bloomsburg University

Wilkes University

Kings College

Duplicates from each high school are available for purchase.

For more information call our office at 570-258-1367.

LAST ISSUE'S MYSTERY QUESTION:

For approximately 66 years Woolworth's in Nanticoke was a popular place to shop for a variety of everyday items. In 1953, there were complaints that certain items were no longer seen displayed in the windows of the store. What were they?

Answer

A Headline appeared in the September 13, 1953, edition of the Sunday Independent – “5 and 10 Cent Items Not in 5 and 10.”

The article noted that the biggest 5 and 10 cent store in Nanticoke didn't have any five or ten cent items on view in its spacious display windows. The manager of the store commented. “I'd say it was true without glancing through the windows” adding, “It shows how much out of line things really are these days.” “The five and ten is a misnomer. With rising prices the store has now become a department store.” According to various sources what was initially known as the 5 and 10 cent store left the scene in 1997 when F.W. Woolworth ended its 118 years in the retail business. Woolworth's was always known as a discount store, but many continued to call it the “5 and 10” even after inflation caused price increases on items. The 5 and 10 cent aspect came to an end many years before, in 1935.

Frank Winfield Woolworth opened his first “five and dime” in Utica New York on Feb. 22, 1879. After that store closed, he, along with his brother Charles, opened a new store in Lancaster. With its success, he opened a second in Scranton. By 1930, he owned a chain of stores and had an office in his new Woolworth Building in New York City, at the time, the tallest building in the world. Today the concept has been replaced by stores such as Dollar General and Dollar Tree that utilize the concept Woolworth originally started. According to the US inflation calculator – In 1930 what would cost \$1.00 would now cost \$18.00 today.

This Issue's Mystery Question

Does anyone remember seeing the 1981 movie “Blow Out” starring John Travolta at the State Theatre?

We'll soon reveal why we're asking this question on our Website – nanticokehistoryonline.org and in our next issue



Follow the Nanticoke Historical Society on Facebook and our website for coming events.

More Mystery Photographs

Over the years the Nanticoke Historical Society has obtained photos contained in collections from various families and events, but unfortunately do not know who are in the photos. We are placing these photos in this and future newsletters.

If any match the ones in your collection, or perhaps you recognize a family member, please let us know by calling our office at 570-258-1367 or emailing history@nanticokehistoryonline.org. Just give us the number on the photo and the name or any information you may have, so we can add them to our records.

