

NANTICOKE LEGACY



NANTICOKE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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



NEWS:

**Nanticoke Historical
Society announces
new email**

**Society Approves New
Bylaws**

**In Honor of Our
Military**

**Our New Mystery
Question
Who was crowned
Queen in 1958?**

FEATURES:

ICE CREAM TAKES US BACK IN TIME – Nanticoke had many places that served up the favorite treat on hot summer days.

LIGHTS CAMERA ACTION –

One 1987 NHS graduate made it to the Red Carpet and possibly to her dream of owning a Ferrari.

SALLY'S CORNER –

Remembering the Panie, strong women that set a standard for the neighborhood.

THE QUALITY HILL GANG –

Determined residents brought a park to Nanticoke's "Old Company Patch."

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 To collect artifacts, memorabilia and historical documents and fact Nanticoke, Pennsylvania and to store such items in a central location or specific area where these articles may be preserved, appreciated and used by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.

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 – NHS63@comcast.net
Nanticoke Legacy email - nanticokehistory@aol.com

OFFICERS and STAFF
President: Julianna Zarzycki
Vice-President/Treasurer: Chester Zaremba
Membership Coordinator – Charlotte Dudkowski
Archive Coordinator – Tania Gronkowski
Archivist – John Sherrick
Building and Grounds – Mike Passetti
Nanticoke Legacy Editor and Stories - Judith L. Minsavage

MEMBERSHIP FEES
Individual \$20
Family \$30

RESEARCH
See our website and click on our research tab – nanticokehistoryonline.org.

Welcome New Members

LIFE MEMBERSHIP:

Jeffrey Ford
Daniel Kotsko
Christopher Ushinski

FAMILY

William James and Christine Marie Swetye

INDIVIDUAL

James P. Carey

Thank you to the members of the Nanticoke Historical Society for supporting our efforts.

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 our [new email address NHS63@comcast.net](mailto:NHS63@comcast.net)

Thank you!

Editor's Note:

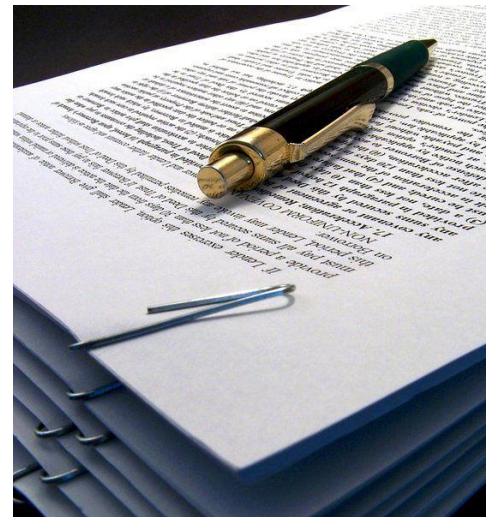
We hope you enjoy Nanticoke Legacy. We are committed to bringing you all the news of the society, its good works and its dedication to the stewardship of all historical data pertaining to the city. Please let us know that you are happy with our efforts by becoming a member or retaining your membership this helps to defray the cost of printing and distribution and helps us to continue to serve the community. If you'd like to comment, please email us at NHS63@comcast.net

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

NEWS

Society approves new Bylaws

In 1996, the Nanticoke Historical Society (NHS) created a constitution and bylaws to govern itself. These two documents, along with the Articles of Incorporation and, in 2007, the IRS letter granting tax-exempt status, formed the governing documents of the NHS. The constitution and bylaws were amended in March 2004. The NHS is operated as a non-stock, 501(c)(3) tax-exempt public charity serving the general public.



In 2023 came the recognition that changes had to be made. One of our members drafted a set of Bylaws that combined the best of the previous constitution and bylaws into a cohesive single document focusing the NHS on its core competency as a public charity serving the general public. Included in the newly approved Bylaws, dated September 1, 2023, are definitions, the clarification of the powers, duties and responsibilities of the Board of Directors, the enumeration of the officers and their duties, and fiscal management.

The Board of Directors believes that the new approved Bylaws add value to the NHS brand and form the basis for future success.

Announcing Society's new email - NHS63@comcast.net

The Nanticoke Historical Society has transitioned to a new email address to facilitate better communication with our members. The new email address is NHS63@comcast.net. Please add it to your contact list and use it for all future communications with the Society.



As email is our preferred method of contact, we are asking our members to supply us with a current email address by emailing our new address listed above.



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

Support the Nanticoke Historical Society

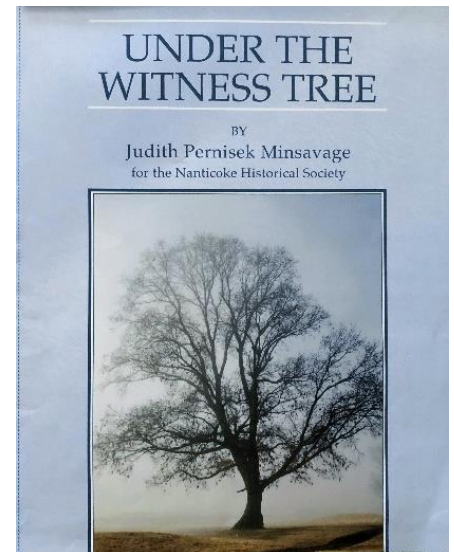
“Under the Witness Tree”

The City of Nanticoke in Stories and Photos

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.



Ice Cream Takes us back in time

By Judy Minsavage

I scream, you scream.... We all know the rest of the saying. There's nothing that says summer more than stopping at a favorite ice cream shop and ordering a soda, sundae, cone, shake or any of a number of cold delicious concoctions that are offered today. After a recent post on our Facebook page we found memories abound of shops and stores that once lined the streets of Nanticoke where youngsters sat at counters or in a booth and enjoyed the delicious treat. Others would simply buy small cups of ice cream with pull open tops and wooden spoons at the corner grocery before meeting friends for an afternoon of fun at a playground or street corner. The soda shop was a popular place for teenagers to hang out in the 1940s and 50s. Young teens could meet and enjoy each other's company sitting at a counter replete with soda nozzles, giant mixers for milk shakes and large freezer bins filled with Chocolate, Vanilla and Strawberry ice cream.



HELEN SCHAPPERT OWNER OF SCHAPPERT'S GROCERY

Many neighborhood kids would wait for the hour they'd hear the familiar tinkling tune of the Mr. Softie truck, as it made its way through the city. Kids lined up on the sidewalks awaiting the friendly man who would dole out cones and ice cream bars. It was a time when five, ten or twenty-five cents would buy the ice-cold treat on a hot summer day.

A Little History:

According to History.com Ice cream came to America with the European colonists. Thomas Jefferson acquired a taste for it while serving as the French diplomat. It was served by George and Martha Washington at Mount Vernon in 1784 and at the White House while Jefferson was president. The first ice cream soda was concocted in Philadelphia in 1874. The waffle cone was introduced at the 1904 St. Louis World's Fair. In the 1920s, during prohibition, many breweries turned to making ice cream to stay in business.

Nanticoke's Long Romance with Ice Cream began in the 1800s.

1882 - 1884 - Morris Grocery and Ice Cream Store

1884 -1886 - Eastabrooks Confections and Ice Cream, 26 Broadway near Arch Street

1889 - Leisenring's Ice Cream Parlor and Restaurant, corner of Arch and Locust

1891 - Hoffman's Ice Cream, 42 East Main Street

1891 - Learch's Ice Cream, 182 South Market Street

1882 -1894 Vivian's Ice Cream and Variety, 118 South Market Street

1904 - Allen's Ice Cream Parlor, Market Street

1908 - Dougherty's Ice Cream Parlor at the train depot

1911 - The Nanticoke Creamery Co., corner of Arch and Walnut Streets

1916 - Jones Dining Room and Ice Cream Parlor, 212 East Main Street

1920 - Fullers Candy, started as Fullers Karmelkorn Shop at 169 S. Market Street. In 1933 it advertised a pint of ice cream for 21 cents. By 1957 the business was known as Fuller's Soda Fountain and Luncheonette.

Autos are parked in the lot at 101 South Market Street, former site of Fuller's Soda Fountain and Luncheonette that was destroyed by fire. Fuller moved into the former Cut Rate Drug Store 105 South Market Street.

1921 - 1930 - Keefer Confectionery, 139-141 East Main adjacent to the Nilved Apartment Building



MAIN ST. LOCATION OF THE FORMER KEEFER CONFECTIONERY

1923-1927 - John Sando's Superior Ice Cream Mfg., 216 East Broad



THIS PHOTO IS BELIEVED TO BE THAT OF CIVIL WAR VETERAN WILLIAM LEISENRING; TAKEN IN FRONT OF HILL & EVANS HARDWARE, 30 MAY 1893



AUTOS ARE PARKED IN THE LOT AT 101 S. MARKET STREET, FORMER SITE OF FULLER'S SODA FOUNTAIN AND LUNCHEONETTE THAT WAS DESTROYED BY FIRE.

1923 - Tulip Confectionery, 52 E. Main



SANDO'S SUPERIOR ICE CREAM OCCUPIED THE BAVITZ RECREATION CENTER. IN THE 1960'S

1928 - Blue and White Ice Cream Parlor opened after Hughes Ice Cream Closed, 212 East Main Street

1930 - M&G Ice Cream at Turners Restaurant at Prospect and Broad Streets



M&G ICE CREAM AT TURNERS RESTAURANT



LOCATION OF THE FORMER BARANOWSKI GROCERY 318 WEST MAIN ST.

1936 - Baron's Homemade Ice Cream – in the Joseph Baranowski Grocery Store, 318 West Main Street

1934 - Hazel Ice Cream Store, 6 West Green Street



PELAS CANDY STORE HANOVER SECTION

1936 to 2004 - Pelas Confectionery, 406 Front Street, Hanover Section of Nanticoke



WOLEVER GROCERY 280-286 E. GREEN ST.

1943 - Wolever Grocery, 280-286 East Green Street

1943-1948 - Diamond Candy Shop, 4 East Broad Street

Diamond's Confectionery closed in December 2008



THE SODA FOUNTAIN AT DIAMONDS CANDY SHOP

Michael Passetti, photographer for the Nanticoke Historical Society, documented the Diamond building in January 2009. See more photos at nanticokehistoryonline.org – Photos Page



CORNER LOCATION OF THE FORMER DIFF'S DOLLY MADISON ICE CREAM PARLOR



DIAMONDS CANDY SHOP

1945 – 1958 - Diff's Dolly Madison ice Cream Parlor, 40 East Broad Street. The shop also advertised used records of the latest Juke Box Hits, 25 cents. The store later expanded into film development. and by 1953 expanded into cameras and photographic supplies, After the store closed in 1958 it was replaced by Margaret's Coffee Shop that continued to sell Dolly Madison Ice Cream.

1947 – 1963 - Scoops Dugout, 17 North Market Street

1964 – Abbotts House of Flavors at the Coffee Shoppe Restaurant, 112 Main Street next to the Kove Cocktail Lounge

1950 – Grand opening of the Blue Bird Restaurant, 159 South Market Street



SCOOPS DUGOUT 17 N. MARKET ST.



ABBOTTS HOUSE OF FLAVORS AT THE SANDWICH SHOPPE ON MAIN STREET.



THE BLUE BIRD CAFE SIGN HANGS OVER THE SIDEWALK ON MARKET STREET



1950 - Although Woolworths store began in 1909, It wasn't until it moved to the East Main Street location that a luncheonette was established. This menu from the 1950's shows the Fountain Features. It remained in business until 1986.

1955 - Ralph Vandermark's Grocery and Ice Cream Store, 200 East Broad Street



1957 -
Farrell's Ice
Cream Store,
West
Nanticoke

1957 – 1960
– Shapperts
Grocery, 390
East Green
Street

VANDEMARK'S GROCERY AND ICE CREAM SITS JUST TO THE FRONT OF THE FIRE ENGINE

1958 – 1963 - Helen's Corner Lady Mayfair Ice Cream, 186 E. Broad and Walnut Streets

1958 - Neilly's Ice Cream, Prospect and Washington Streets

1962 – Ice Cream Center, 200 Broad and Walnut Streets

ICE CREAM CENTER
Broad and Walnut Sts., Nanticoke
—OPEN DAILY AT 2 P. M.—
OPENING SALE!

POPSICLES 2 doz. **99¢**

DREAMICLES 2 doz. **\$1.09**

SUGAR-LO-DIABETIC 39¢
Finest Quality Diabetic Products—4 Flavors

1/2 GALLONS 10 FLAVORS
To Choose From **88¢**

SHERBERTS Orange, Raspberry, Lime, 4 pints **99¢**

PARTY NUT ROLL qt. **70¢**

"A FAMILY TREAT AT LOW, LOW PRICES"

1971 - Frostop Ice Cream next to Apex Auto Parks, Route 11 West Nanticoke

1997 - Dream Whip Ice Cream and Miniature Golf, 2 Alden Road Sheatown and closed in 2021 It reopened to 2022 to the delight of many local people who had enjoyed easy location for many years.

SALE! SALE!
NEILLY'S ICE CREAM
10 Flavors **59¢** 1/2 Gal.
Full Gal. 1.18
Ice Milk 1/2 gal. **59¢**
Ice Cream doz. **75¢**
Suckers doz. **49¢**
Fudge Bars
Sold From Truck at
Price's Parking Lot
Prospect & Washington Sts.
Nanticoke
Every Thursday 2-6 P.M.



DREAM WHIP ON ALDEN ROAD

Today, the small grocery stores and shops that served Nanticoke are gone, but the craving for ice cream has not diminished. We can still have that sundae with whipped cream and a cherry on top taking us back to those good old days.



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

Everett Morris

Herdick Moss

George Moyer – Wounded in Action

Iran Earl Moyer

Otto Mundowski

Fred Mundy

Andrew Murphy

James Murphy

Carmen Musto

George Myer – U.S. Army Medical Corp.

Joseph Nasal – 16th Infantry France and Germany

Howard Nash - U.S. Army

William Natizitski – KIA - France

Charles Naugle

Leo Navroth – Wounded in action.

Gustave Neiman – Battery C, 3rd Field Artillery

Edmund Niklewski

Harry Nitz

Paul Nockiski

Joseph Norowski

William Norton

Andrew Novack

John Novak Sr.

John Novak – US Navy

John T Novak – KIA Saipan

Teofil Novakowski

Frank Novak

Robert O'Braitis

Charles O'Brien

Martin O'Donnell

Russell Ogin

Marion Olengenski

John Olevick – Battery C 3rd Field Artillery

Stephen Olinchek – Battery C 109th Field Artillery

Frank Olshefski – US Army

John Olshefski – Wounded in Action

Stanislaw Olshefski

Stanley Olshefski – US Army

Frank Olzewski

Frank Omiecinski

James O'Neal Or O'Neill –US Army - France -Awarded the Distinguished Medal of Honor

Delbert Oplinger – 109th Field Artillery

John Ores

Stanley Osowski

JA O'Williams – Battery C 3rd Field Artillery

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

Adam Zane – MIA in France

John Zatowski

Leonard Zatorski – MIA - Europe

Louis Zdeb – 923 Field Artillery Unit

Stanley Zdziarski -Served in the Pacific

Frank Zielinski – 590th Field Artillery- Rec'd Good Conduct Medal and six bronze stars

Frank Zimolzak – US Marines

Edward Zmijewski – US Navy

Raymond Zolnerowicz – KIA – South Pacific

Zigmund Zubritski – US Marines

WORLD WAR II LIST COMPLETE

In the August 2018 issue of Nanticoke Legacy, we started publishing the names of all of the Nanticoke veterans who served in various battles and wars. The first publication began with The Battle of Wyoming, Spanish American War, Vietnam War, World War I, Korean War and Iraq War. The listing of names of those who fought in World War II started in the November 2018 issue. The longest of all the lists are World War I and II. Now in 2023 we are publishing the last of the names under World War II. We salute all the brave men who served this country during the various conflicts and in peace time as well. We will continue to preserve their legacy by maintaining for future generations their names and any and all information collected regarding these brave men. Please continue to follow our listing of World War I veterans in upcoming issues.



FOCUS ON:

Natalie Thimm – Lights camera action

By Judy Minsavage

Upon graduation, young adults hope to achieve their dreams. 1987 Nanticoke High School graduate Natalie Thimm, hoped to have a career in modeling and



someday own a Ferrari. We don't know about the Ferrari, but we do know that Thimm won the 2016 Creative Arts Emmy for her expert make-up work on a television episode on the Comedy Central Channel. The award

was presented to her and other members of her team at the Microsoft Theater in Los Angeles. The competition was fierce, but they were honored for artistic and technical achievement for Outstanding Makeup for Comedy Central's "Key and Peele Show." A show that premiered on January 31, 2012, and ended on September 9, 2015, with a total of 53 episodes, over the course of five seasons.



Thimm studied graphic design at Wilkes-Barre Vo-Tech and then went on to Empire Beauty School. She worked for a time as a cosmetic consultant at a local department store. After moving to Philadelphia, she gained experience by working on commercials, in theater and films. After a time she settled in Los Angeles.

According to her online biography She has worked on shows including: "Ugly Betty", "CSI:N.Y", "Parks and Recreation", "The Dollhouse", "William and Kate", Suburgatory, Top Model, Community and the TV movie "Merry Christmas, Drake and Josh".

She has worked on forty feature films as the Key Makeup and Special Effects Makeup Artist, including: "300: Rise Of An Empire", Lucky Stiff, Larry Crowne, Burlesque, Water For Elephants, Inalienable" starring Richard Hatch and Walter Koenig; "Ed Gein: The Butcher of Plainfield" starring Kane Hodder and Adrianne Frantz; "Dear Me" with David DeLuise, Sarah Thompson and Dan Lauria; and "Psycho Hillbilly Cabin Massacre".

In 2020, Thimm was again nominated for an Emmy for Outstanding Period and/or character -non-prosthetic make up for Star Trek Picard in the "Stardust City Rag" episode.

No doubt that in her many years in the field of Television and Movies, Thimm has met and prepared many talented actors and actresses for roles. We wish her much more success and hope she has that Ferrari.

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

Growing up in the 1950s and 1960s, my neighborhood had a diverse variety of neighbors. We watched out for each other and were close knit. Most of these close-knit individuals were called Pani polish for Mrs. I used that term of endearment for all the elderly women. At my young age, all the women were elderly! There seemed to be more women than men back in that time.



SALLY GORGAS

I lived in a small home at the rear of 932 S. Hanover Street behind an apartment building. This building was owned by Pani Katherine Kolodziej and her husband Anthony. Pani Kolodziej was a very nice woman. I remember her wearing a uniform of some sort. I don't know where she previously worked. She would walk on her porch during the night. On Christmas, she would give my sisters and I a crisp one-dollar bill in a bank envelope. To us, that was an enormous amount of money! Mr. Kolodziej had a pigeon coup above a garage. If I was lucky, he would let me climb a ladder and take a peek at the coup. Oh, the smell! Try as I might, I could never catch one of the pigeons.

One of their tenants was Pani Tillie Pietraszko. She lived in the basement apartment. She was a very short polish woman who didn't speak English well. I remember when she had gotten a telephone call, I went over to show her how to use it At my mom's request. Eventually, she figured it out. Another tenant was Pani Stefania Czajkowski. She was a very nice lady and a good neighbor.

On the other side of the house, lived Pani Ethel Lapinski, her husband John and sons Thaddeus and Gregory. Although she was a nice neighbor, she seemed to



ME ON THE LEFT WITH PANI LAPINSKI WITH HER SON GREGORY



PANI ANNA PRICE

think she knew it all As I remember. I also remember she wore thick black shoes. I asked her if I could have them when she didn't want them anymore. She said yes but I never got them.

On the corner was an apartment building at 1002 S Hanover Street. Pani Anna Price lived in one of the first-floor apartments. I remember her giving the neighborhood children knives to remove weeds in the yard. That was a disaster waiting to happen. Luckily, no one got injured. One time I found a baby bird and was showing it to the other children. She took it from my hand and threw it in a field. Why I don't know. After that I disliked her immensely and that was from a very young age. Pani Louise Krzywicki also lived in an apartment with her husband Chet. I remember her cleaning the fish he caught and cautioning me not to get too close so the fish scales wouldn't get in my eyes.

Pani Rose Mech was my favorite. She was warm and kind to all the children. She was always there with treats. She would get eggs from a farmer and one of us would take them to the nearby convent and rectory and also to a woman up the street. She also had a wooden refrigerator on her porch, but I don't think it was a workable one.

One of the wonders of the neighborhood was an old barn in Pani Mech's yard. We were allowed to play in it. It was dark, dusty and had unknown smells. I can only imagine the life of this old barn before it was torn down. That was a sad day in the neighborhood.

My neighborhood was my safe place. The Panie were strong women who I looked up to for guidance. I think about them often. Afterall, I pass their homes many times a day. 🇵🇱



ME IN FRONT OF THE BARN CIRCA 1953

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.**

Quality Hill Park

By Judy Minsavage

The Quality Hill Gang

On August 6 of 1938 the Wilkes-Barre Record announced the Nanticoke Playground Association was considering a request by Fred Lohman and George James to obtain a section of land from the Susquehanna Collieries for a park on Hill Street. After approval, large numbers of volunteers set about installing swings, see-saws and a sand box. By August 26, the park was complete.



By 1939, the park group from Hill, Slope and Coal Streets were being referred to as the “Quality Hill Gang”. As the use of the park grew, it was decided more land was needed for a miniature merry-go-round, and maypole. Beginning with those first days, Quality Hill Playground has entertained many youngsters with fun programs and contests. Officers were Edward Telletski, president; Fred Lohman, vice president; Frank Pace, secretary and John Hiller, treasurer.

In 1950, the Quality Hill Baseball Team won championship honors in the Junior Softball League. The team consisted of Henry Wadas, Daniel Sokolowski, Richard Distasio, Reynold Smith, Robert Herman, Joseph Golab, Ernest Turley, James Davis, Frank Shepanski, James Griffith, Edward Krynick, James Yannacone, Eugene Victor and Sam Ricci. The playground association reorganized in 1956 with elected officers, Frank Novak, president; Harold Lowyns, vice president; Henry Swiderski, secretary, Leonard O’Neill treasurer.

The Old Company Patch

Throughout the 50s youngsters from Coal, Slope, Hill and West Main Streets, a section formerly known as “The Old Company Patch” were treated to dog shows, costume parties, bicycle shows and much more. In 1952, Carol Ann Graboski, age 5, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Leon Graboski of Grand Street was chosen Miss Quality Hill. A 1955 doll contest was judged by Carol Blockus, James Jeffries, Janet Thorne, Mary Lou Hiller, Michael Gabel, B. Stubb and Ronald Evanish. Ribbons were given to Marie Stefaniak for the prettiest doll, Ann Joyce Kerestes for the largest, and Jonathan Kerestes for the smallest. In 1957, the first egg hunt was conducted, and a day long outing was held with refreshments and entertainment for young and old. It was hoped that monies collected for the event would meet

THE FOLLOWING THREE PHOTOS WERE TAKEN FROM A HOME MOVIE FILMED IN 1957



KIDS ENJOY THE MERRY-GO-ROUND AT QUALITY HILL



BOYS AND GIRLS PLAY ON THE SEE SAWS AT QUALITY HILL

the expense of a planned expansion program. By 1958, the Quality Hill Block Party was a much-anticipated summer event.



PEOPLE LOOK ON AS YOUNGSTERS ENJOY THE WADING POOL AT QUALITY HILL



HILL ST PLAYGROUND 1957

PHOTO TO THE LEFT TAKEN OF THE QUALITY HILL TENNIS COURTS IN 1957

Volunteers stepped up

Each year attendance at the block party grew and the need for volunteers increased. In 1962, volunteers were listed as Theodore Hiller, Ann Gornetski, Ann Novak, Margaret Lianna, John Evanish, Chester Czaplá, Rose O'Neill, Betty Wharton, Helen Snyder, Irene Evanish, Christine Grabowski, Isabelle Czaplá, Margaret Mack, Ida Jones, Mrs. Hugh Beggs, Mr. and Mrs. Michael Zupko, Harold Lowyns, Harold Lowyns Jr., Margaret and Sandy Mack, Mary Ann Danko, Mary Lou Hiller, Mary Victor, Barbara Antonik, Caroline Womelsdorf, Evelyln Pratz, Anna Novak, Irene Silvers, Martha Womelsdorf, Leo Novak, Carl Piontkowski, Jack Evanish, Jr., Michael and David Gable, Patrick O'Neill, Joseph Brosh, Frank John and Sylvester Novak, Anthony Brosh, Ellis Womelsdorf, Daniel Sokoloski, Frank Shepanski, Robert Herman, B.E. Buski, Leonard Mack, Victor Leonczyk, John Knizer, John Victor Joseph Cable, Frank Kornkiewicz, Eugene Belsa, Thomas Lipka, Leo Blockus, Jerry and Joseph Grabowski, Joseph Danko, Daniel Gornetski, Daniel Gornetski, Jr., Leo Piasecki, Edward Zanowicz and Lou Silvers.

By 1961, John Novak president of the Association announced that the group would be seeking the deed for the three acres containing the playground property, and part of the old Susquehanna No. 7 Colliery yard. Quality Hill was granted a charter with the organization's stated purpose to equip maintain and operate the children's playground. Incorporators were John Evanish Sr., John Novak, Leonard Mack, Ted Hiller and

Leonard O'Neal. By June of 1961, the club acquired four acres of land to enlarge and improve the playground.

Throughout the 60s the Quality Hill Playground Association held stuffed animal contents, a Mardi Gras, junior Olympics and lollipop hunts, as well as continuing their annual block party. In 1962, prizes were awarded in the annual doll contest, with Lori Evans, Debbie Tomko, Cynthia Beggs, Debbie Puzio Patricia Wiatrowski and Linda Snyder taking home prizes. The boys showed off various plastic models, James Panko, best ship; Richard Evans, best car; John Beggs, best plane; Edward Wiatrowski, most unique, Kenneth Swiderski, nicest model. The instructors at the time were Carolyn Draper, John Evanish Jr., Beverly Traher, Charlotte Kitler, Robert Herman and Stanley Galazin. One can imagine how Anthony Margelewicz and Sandra Tomko felt after winning a marshmallow eating contest held in the same year.

Throughout the 70s, 80s and 90s the fun continued and by 2001 the existing tennis courts were resurfaced with grants obtained with the help of Pennsylvania State Rep. John Yudichak and Ron Lozowski of Universal Court Contractors.

Sadly by the mid-2000s, the park had fallen into disrepair and most of the original supporters had either moved away or had passed on.

In stepped Ken Gill, to revitalize the Playground and its Association. He organized supporters and applied and received help from the Lowe's Heroes Program to bring the park back to life. By 2009 Gill was president, Nicole Kruczek, vice president; Marty Kotch, secretary and Ryan Verazin, treasurer.



FROM LEFT, NICOLE KRUCZEK, KEN GILL, MARTY KOTCH AND RYAN VERAZIN

Today, the Quality Hill Playground serves the community as a great example of community activism and support. It also hosts an annual fundraising event that is well attended and has raised tens of thousands of dollars to fight cancer. 🇺🇸



PARK OUTBUILDING DEDICATED TO THE MEMORY OF JOE NOVAK LONG- TIME QUALITY HILL MEMBER, OFFICER AND COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

LAST ISSUE'S MYSTERY QUESTION:

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

As we stated in our last edition of Nanticoke Legacy, we have a reason for asking this question. In our search to find the last movie that played at the State Theater, we know that the movie Blow Out was displayed on the Theater's marquis in its last days of existence as a theater. However, no one remembers actually viewing that movie at the State in 1981. This leads us to believe that the movie was advertised but never shown. At this writing, either Star Wars or Raiders of the Lost Ark were the last movies to be shown at the theater. We do not have any conclusive evidence. If you remember seeing either of these movies at the State, give us a call at 570-258-1367.

NEW MYSTERY QUESTION:

In 1958, for what Nanticoke organization were these young ladies competing for the title of queen?



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