

HAYCOCK HISTORICAL NEWS

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THE NAMESAKE: AN ACT OF GRATITUDE IN HARD TIMES

by Pamela Feist-Varkony

In 1937, the ravages of the Great Depression were taking their toll on the country. Unemployment hovered at 25 percent and soup lines fed the homeless and hungry. Clyde and Gladys Feist were fortunate during those tough times. He had a good job with the General Crushed Stone Company and she was the mistress of a new home they had built in Strawntown, Haycock Township. Against what would seem to be all odds, they gave up their comfort and security to start a new business, just a mile down Old Bethlehem Road. By 1939, their business, the Tohickon Quarry Company, was operating at full capacity, producing a variety of stone for highway and building projects.

It is here that this story begins. Joseph Long also had a good job working for the Reading Railroad. Joe was a husband and father of a growing family; four children and one on the way. So the news that he was being furloughed, temporarily laid-off by the railroad, couldn't have come at a worse time. He needed to find another job as soon as possible, and he did.

Exactly how Joe Long came to work at the Tohickon Quarry is not known. Maybe he was friends with Joe Bickley, a railroad engineer whose farm adjoined the quarry property. Bickley would have been in a position to know the quarry was busy and might need more help. Or, according to Long family legend, Joe, a connoisseur of beer and conversation, was often a patron of the Mountain House and Elephant Hotel. Perhaps he heard, through the Haycock grapevine, where there might be work.

Fast forward seventy-two years: The number on my

phone's caller ID was unfamiliar. So was the voice at the other end that asked if I was the woman who co-wrote a book about Haycock, and the daughter of the man who owned the quarry? "Yes", I answered.

"I saw the article in the newspaper. My name is Clyde Long, and I was named for your father".

Life is full of serendipity and synchronicity-coincidences that come at you from out of nowhere yet are somehow connected. That's how I felt as I listened to Clyde's story. We were two strangers with this wonderful connection.

Naming children in honor of others used to be a more common practice. Clyde Long knew from early on that he was named for the man who had given his father a job when he needed one. Clyde's middle name also holds significance. It is Frederick, after Dr. Frederick Ort who delivered him on May 2, 1939, in a small white house near Sellersville, off old Route 309.

When Clyde and I met in person, there was still one more bit of serendipity in store. As we browsed through the book I co-wrote, "Our Lost Tohickon Valley", he, seeing it for the first time,

there on page 302 was the photo of my father with his "quarrymen", enjoying a summer company picnic. It was the one picture I had chosen from many to represent the camaraderie that always existed among men who labored together. When I selected the photo, all but my father's name had been unknown to me, until I saw the expression on Clyde Long's face when recognized the man looking out from the middle of the front row of a smiling group of men was his father, Joseph Long.



When this photo was taken in 1940 or 1941, there was no way anyone could have known that 70 years later it would help to bring together the children of two of the men shown here.

Clyde Feist, back row far left, and Joseph Long, front row second from right, along with other employees of the Tohickon Quarry Company, as they enjoyed the company's summer picnic.

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THE NAMESAKE *Continued*

Shortly after that photo was taken, Joe was recalled to his job at the Reading Railroad and the Long family moved to Bethlehem. Joe retired in 1961. By then he had become a section gang foreman responsible for maintaining the company's track and right of way from Lansdale to Bethlehem. He passed away in 1973.

Clyde graduated from Liberty High School in Bethlehem, spending the first 27 years of his career at Bethlehem Steel in the employment office. He is now retired after 22 years of a second career in retail management and lives in East Allentown.

Clyde says he regrets that he never got to see the Tohickon Quarry before it was submerged, but that he has many pictures of it in his mind from the stories his father would tell. He said that reading "Our Lost Tohickon Valley," it helped to make him feel reconnected to his father, his past, and the man for whom he was named.



The quarrymen of Tohickon Quarry Company, circa 1939, head toward the quarry ledge. Stone boulders created by blasting down the face of the ledge with dynamite, had to be reduced to a size that would fit into the "crusher." This was done by using blasting caps on the large boulders and manually breaking up the smaller ones with a sledge hammer. Joe Long may be one of the men in this photo.

OUR NEW HEADQUARTERS

by Pat DeWald, House Chairman

The Stokes house is looking good and I can't but wonder what all the previous families would think if they know what has happened to their home. I sit in the house and wonder about all the history these walls have seen; from pioneers, Indians, stage coaches, revolutionary war to the modern day of tractors, cars, cell phones and computers. Even after 250 years, the Stokes house is looking good because of all the dedicated members who have weeded, painted, moved logs, built closets, chased bats, and much more. In addition, all the things that were donated make our headquarters, as one member said, "feel like home". This is our headquarters now and we have started a

small museum to show Haycock Township history.

I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to all who have worked one way or another to get us to this place, of having a pre-revolutionary house as our historical society's headquarters. It is wonderful. Thank you for your donations of time, money, items and enthusiasm.

Stokes is open Friday mornings 9-12 for coffee and goodies. We also have a book swap and it is very pleasant to sit on the front porch and just relax.

We are looking into being open on one Sunday morning in the month instead of Friday.



Haycock School's fourth and fifth graders were HHS's first official visitors to The Stokes House in May. They learned about the history of the house and colonial times from Pat DeWald and Jane Nase.

HAYCOCK PROFILES: PAUL CROUTHAMEL

by Margie Goldthorp-Fulp

Paul Crouthamel, born in 1925 and raised in Bedminster Township, did not live in Haycock Township, but spent a lot of time there during his life. He knew the Tohickon Valley well, which was lost to Nockamixon State Park and lake. As a youth, he traveled all around Haycock by bicycle, and knew the residents who lived along the Tohickon Creek in the 1930s, 1940s and later. His parents were Paul and Mary (Weikel) Crouthamel.

Paul worked a good part of his life for Jacob Vargo, driving big trucks and hauling vast heavy loads of anything and everything. When Nockamixon State Park was being developed, Paul was involved in moving houses and demolishing big iron bridges. He relocated seven brick houses that were in the way of the park, moved a two-story stone house for George Ott, and also moved Marvin Stout's home out of the park area. Paul's truck pulled a trailer that had 34 wheels and was 17 feet wide. A giant jack was used to hoist the buildings. When prisoners from Gratersford felled trees to clear the land for the coming lake and cut them for firewood, Paul and his truck hauled the wood to World's End and other state parks east of the Mississippi River.

Before Nockamixon Lake was filled in 1974, Paul helped to tear down the bridges over Tohickon Creek. Guldens' Bridge, a large iron bridge, was cut in half by workers with a torch, and Paul towed away the pieces. He hauled away another demolished iron bridge which had spanned the Tohickon Creek between the farms of Enos Yost and his brother, Elias Yost. Also torn down were the bridge near Mae Bickley's home on Old Bethlehem Road, and the bridge on East Rock Road in East Rockhill. The latter was cut into 70 feet sections, and utility poles had to be removed to tow the sections around corners in the road.

While working for Jacob Vargo, Paul moved other buildings—some were houses with the furniture still in them. One time, using two trailers side by side, he moved a two-story farm building near Bucksville, with the chickens on the top level going along for the ride. This was to make room for an addition to a barn on the property. He hauled wide, heavy loads that were escorted in front and back by state police. These included huge generators which were shipped all over the state and into Maryland and New York.

Paul sometimes hauled stones from the Tohickon Quarry in Haycock. He brought 1,000 Christmas trees all in one load from Vermont, and transported tomatoes for the Campbell Soup Company. The last truck driven by Paul was a diesel that had 18 speeds forward and 3 in reverse, with a top speed

of 80 mph.

The first truck Paul drove was for Benny Surket, who had a farm in Haycock where the Nockamixon State Park marina is now located. Benny raised steer and did excavation work with his bulldozer. His truck was a Mack Truck that had chain drive, solid tires and an open cab. It went 28 mph uphill and downhill. Paul could also operate Benny's bulldozer, and with no cab for shelter, he bulldozed snow near the New Harrisburg one-room school in Haycock and nearly froze. He thawed and grilled his sandwiches by heating

them on the top of the bulldozer's engine. The next truck Paul drove, a Steward, was for another employer.

Paul also knew Chief One Star who lived in a cabin on Benny Surket's farm. Chief was a Cherokee from Oklahoma who settled in Haycock in the late 1940s. He was an artist, author, poet, and lecturer who worked at Camp Kahagon in Haycock, plus other camps and parks where he taught children Indian lore and crafts. Benny and Chief were well known Haycock characters. (Readers can "meet" Benny and Chief in the two books published by the Haycock Historical Society.)

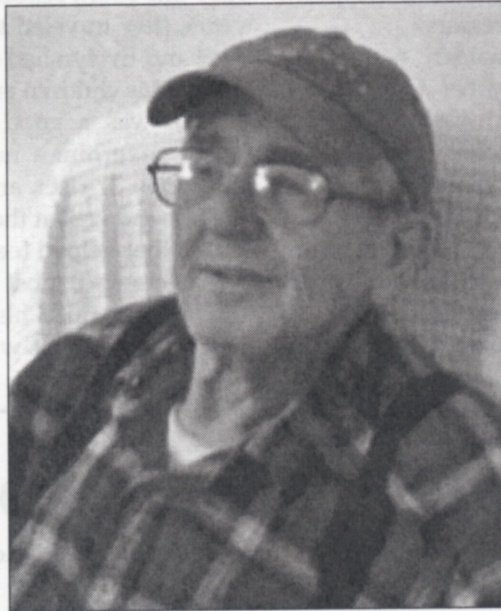
Other residents Paul knew were the Streapys, who owned the farm later bought by my family. He also knew

many of their neighbors in Haycock: Oscar Bauer, Sam and Willard Streapy, Willard Yost, Herb Sutter, Albert Kinzler, Bill and Russell Gulden, Wilmer and Walter Johnson, and the Kellers who owned the farm that my uncle, Clayton Fox Sr., later owned. Paul and the Streapy boys attended the dances at the Kellers Church Grange. He climbed Haycock Mountain and its tower, and saw the Indian Cave down along Tohickon Creek.

Paul's grandparents were good friends with Elmer Stover, who owned Carding Mill Farm and also had dairy cows. Elmer operated the mill, which now ground grain, instead of carding wool as it did in the 1700s. Paul's father helped out at the Elias Yost sawmill.

Paul's childhood home was on a farm in Bedminster Township. His family lived in a big, old stone home that was built in 1803. An addition was later added. The home was shared with Paul's paternal grandparents, Edwin and Elizabeth. They had a big kitchen with a stove sat in the middle and a large wood chest on the right. The children loved riding their express wagon around and around the stove. Paul's mother canned many different foods, and made her own apple butter and scrapple. Their home contained five fireplaces, was on a good sledding hill, and had a wonderful view looking down on the neighbors and countryside.

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PAUL CROUTHAMEL *continued from page 3*

Paul attended the Moods one room school in Bedminster Township. He and his brother hand-milked 37 cows in the morning before going to school. On the farm, Paul used horse-drawn plows behind which he walked. Paul rode horses, but they were not allowed to ride the large work horses. One of Paul's classmates rode a big white horse to school. This horse would then go home for the day and return by himself in the afternoon for his owner to ride home.

Paul's grandfather, Edwin Crouthamel, used horse power to run the farm machinery. Two horses would walk on an upward sloping treadmill to turn the pulley wheel that was connected by a belt to the pulley wheel on the machine. Edwin had 11 horses and hauled feed for a feed company, using a sleigh in the wintertime when necessary.

His paternal grandmother, whose maiden name was Elizabeth Ann Crouthamel, married another Crouthamel, Edwin Nicholas. Elizabeth's family's farm was on the right side of Old Bethlehem Road between Thatcher Road and The Mountain House Hotel in Haycock Township. It was here that Elizabeth was born in a log cabin with a dirt floor. Her father then built a house with open beamed ceilings in front of the cabin. Paul remembers the log cabin, and playing on its dirt floor, when visiting the family who next lived there.

His family's autos are well remembered by Paul. His

grandfather, Edwin, bought a new 1920 Model T 4-door Touring car for a little over \$400. Edwin's son (Paul's father) taught Edwin how to drive. Paul's father had a 1941 Plymouth Deluxe that he bought for \$800 from the Krauss dealership located by the railroad in Quakertown.

As a teenager, Paul would bicycle with neighbors all the way to Willow Grove Park, with \$5 to spend on rides. His bikes had headlights, a basket, and carried a repair kit and pump. Paul put on 11,000 miles between three bikes. When he met Evelyn Rummele, who would become his wife, she too went bike riding with him. They liked to sit under the apple tree on John Ahlum's farm, which was next to the Mt. Airy one-room school in Haycock Township. Married for 61 years, they traveled to 43 different states on their vacations. Paul and Evelyn had eight children, three boys and five girls. Two of his children are teachers.

Paul was a good marksman, and his employer, Jacob Vargo gave him a new .22 Hornet rifle. Paul hunted and butchered 37 deer, and he once bagged a 16 lb. groundhog. He also did well at the local meat shoots, winning most of the prizes that helped feed his family.

After seeing most of the country, and all the adventures that accompanied his travels, Paul has retired from driving and is enjoying his well earned rest.

TIDBITS ABOUT HAYCOCK

from "Place Names in Bucks County" by George Mac Reynolds

- Rock Bearry, Mansfield or Haycock were the names chosen for the township when the court was petitioned in 1762 about 20 years after the first permanent settlements. Obviously, the name Haycock won the court's approval.
- Haycock has many large stones that were once worked out with great labor by the Indians. Used as kettles for boiling corn and venison, the stones may have held several gallons. Their cavities were filled with water that were heated by stones kept in a fire for such purpose. Stones were also used as mortars in which corn and other grains were pulverized.
- Haycock Run is the boundary between Haycock and Nockamixon townships. It also divides the red sandstone of Nockamixon and trap rock formations of Haycock.
- Tohickon is an Indian place name, changed only slightly from the Indian word To-hick-han or To-hick-hanne. The word means "the stream over which we pass by means of a bridge of drift wood". A more recent interpretation is "deer-bone creek".
- Stagecoaches passed through Applebachsville daily on the way to Bethlehem and Philadelphia. It became known as the "Metropolis of Haycock". In the spirit of fun some Pennsylvania German neighbors called it "Snitzbachville".

SOCIETY NEWS

Member Covered Dish Picnic - Sunday, August 28 at Stokes House (Mark your calendar!!!)

Members and their families are invited to attend our FIRST member picnic at our new location, starting at 2:00 PM ---till whenever. Musicians bring your instruments and feel free to play them. Everyone, bring a comfy lawn chair and a side dish, snack or dessert, enough to feed about 8. (Nancy Janyzeski says this formula always works to feed any number of guests without a lot of leftovers and it DOES!). If you have a favorite lawn game, please bring it along as well. We'll supply the soda, tea, lemonade, bottled water & hot dogs!

Haycock Country Marketplace - Stokes Open House at Haycock Fire hall on June 4 had nearly perfect weather conditions for the added attractions this year. Lifetime member Greg Seifert, who co-owns local Haycock Mountain Pride Farm with partner Laura DiDonato, offered free wagon rides to HHS's Stoke's open house from 10-2. The magnificent team of Belgian draft horses, Willie and Whalen, dutifully made over 12 round trips between the fire house and the Stokes property, just under a quarter mile away. Over 40 guests signed the guest book at the Stokes house but Pat DeWald reports that many more visited that day.

Back at the firehouse, an amazing selection of vintage autos were on display. Some of the cars included were: 1932 Plymouth panel body- owner/member, Carl Stauffer; rare 1935 P-type MG - owner/member, Jason Urban; 1936 Auburn-owner, John Tatu; 1937 Packard - owner, E. J. Moser; 1941 Ford flat-bed truck-owner, Jim Hall; 1941 custom Ford Convertible - owner/members, Margaret & Dave Guttman; 1951 Chevy truck-owner, Timothy Holt; 1966 Ford Mustang - owner, Byron Bealer; 1966 Chevrolet Corvette-owner Dennis Koch; 1971 Ford Torino-owner Eileen Layton and 1978 Jeep CJ-5 - owner, Ellen McCracken. HHS is thankful to all of the classic and custom car owners who attended on June 4, several of whom remain unnamed, having joined the show as passers-by. A special registered car participant raffle for a \$50.00 Becker's dinner gift certificate was won by Jim Hall of Ottsville, owner of the 1941 Ford truck. Congratulations, Jim!

Inside table space filled to capacity early with vendors selling everything from antiques and flea market finds to jewelry and handcrafted birdhouses. A table, reserved for HHS merchandise doubled as a book store & information exchange. This year, authors of our latest book, "Our Lost Tohickon Valley," Margie Goldthorp-Fulp and Pam Feist-Varkony, signed and sold books and collected information that will become part of a second book. Visitors were encouraged to share stories and pictures and tell about their experiences on the land that became Lake Nockamixon. The women reported receiving that many interesting leads, especially from families on the Bedminster side of the Tohickon Valley. Thanks to the many generous donations to the White Elephant table, the event outdid itself this year, raising \$300.00 alone.

Both Giant Foods and Yum-Yum Donuts of Quakertown supported the efforts of HHS food sales by donating gift certificates that were used to feed the crowd. A sure sign of the

increased amount of visitors, the events team ran out of hot dogs by 1:00 p.m.. Much appreciated live music was provided all day by talented members Ed Bauer, Rich Laughlin, Gordon Allen and Steve Applegate. Many hands and purses made Marketplace the great day it was. We wish to thank each and every one for contributing towards its success. Member Wayne Keller took some great shots of the June 4th festivities. Look for them on the HHS website: www.haycockhistoricalsociety.org

Elections were held at the May 2011 general meeting for the offices of vice president and president. Pat DeWald unanimously was re-elected vice president while Chris Handschin was re-elected unanimously to the office of president. The officers announced they intend to limit the terms of the offices from this point forward, to a maximum of only two terms for any one office. While officers may opt to fill other positions on the board, they may not continue in their current positions for any more than two consecutive terms. It is the hope of the governing body to bring in new ideas and new involvement by varying potential leadership candidates.



HHS enjoyed their May meeting at Mountain Pride Farm. The boys Willie, Whalen, Miles and Greg Seifert were working hard. Thanks to Laura and Greg for the treats and great presentation.



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