

HAYCOCK HISTORICAL NEWS

The Newsletter of The Haycock Historical Society • Summer 2017

THE FOUNDING OF LAKE TOWHEE

by Marjorie Goldthorp Fulp

Before Lake Towhee Park became a Bucks County park, it was privately-owned, having been developed by Tohickon Lodge Inc., of New Hope. In 1958, the lodge bought a three hundred-acre woodland property in Applebachsville, Haycock Township, for \$54,000. This land included the historic Stokes's Meadow, which belonged to the Stokes family in pre-Revolutionary War times. The Stokes used the meadow to pasture horses and cattle. During the Revolutionary War, the family had to hide their horses from the militia, who seized civilians' horses for military use.

Thirty-one acres of woodland were cleared to prepare the land for the lake. After the trees were felled, their stumps were left behind and were covered by the rising water as it filled the lake. The decaying stumps might have affected the quality of the lake's water, causing a growth of green algae, which, in days to come, turned swimmers' bathing suits green! The twenty-seven-acre Lake Towhee was created when an earthen dam, with a concrete spillway, was constructed across Kimble Creek in Haycock Township. Two hundred acres remained as woodland. The park was named after a native bird, the Eastern Towhee.

Tohickon Lodge Inc. was made up of five conservationists: Edward A. Miller of Applebachsville, president; Henry Mattox of New Smithville, vice president; Richard Cox of South Hampton, vice president; William Sill of Horsham, secretary-treasurer, and Attilio Bergamasco, an architect, of Doylestown. Edward Miller was also executive director of the Neshaminy Valley Watershed Association.

The park had a sandy beach at the swimming area. The beach was created by the installation of a native stone apron, upon which sand was spread. There were bathhouses, a

concession stand at which hot dogs and soda were sold, boat docks, picnic tables, and fireplaces. The park also had a field for volley ball, badminton, and horse shoes. In the Fall of 1961, the lake was stocked with large-mouth bass, blue gills, and pickerel for the fishermen. A 40'x70' pavilion and a 20'x30' stage stood available for folk and square dancing and weekly band concerts. There was a supervised playground which had seesaws, sand boxes, and a merry-go-round swing.



Our historical society members, Karina (Sturman)Rilling, and Ilze(Celmina)Diaz, lived in Applebachsville at the time and worked at the concession stand, along with Karina's sister Meta and Ilze's sister Dace.

Karina shares her memory of the park: "The most wonderful thing to happen in Applebachsville – a business where we could get some employment! Mr. Miller was so very kind and nice, in spite of the money problems which were apparent even to us inexperienced teenagers. We even had a chance to take our Red Cross life - saving courses there. We learned how to save a struggling adult in deep water, how to jump into deep water. The lake was a great addition to our village."

After a few successful years, the park had financial set-backs, and in January 1963 was sold at sheriff's sale for \$98,000 to Bucks County. The county was looking to acquire more park land, and in the purchasing of Lake Towhee Park, gained a beautiful new county park for the residents of Bucks County.

Before the county bought the park, Edward Miller and his family lived in the stone 1740's Stokes House, named after its builder, John Stokes. The Stokes House was included in the sale and became the property of the county. The house is located at the end of the gravel Apple Road in

Applebachsville, and sits in the Bucks County Lake Towhee Lodge Inc.), bought the property in 1958, to develop the first Lake Towhee Park. It is now the headquarters of The Haycock Historical Society, who rents the house from the county.

The lake was dredged in 1990, exposing good clay. This clay left over from the dredging has been used ever since by the Moravian Tile Works in Doylestown. Before this, the tile works bought commercial clay. Now they have a free source of clay on that section of county-owned land in Haycock Township.

Today the park covers 549 acres, 50 acres of which is Lake Towhee. Swimming is no longer allowed. There is boating and fishing at the lake, and ice skating is very popular in the winter. The park has walking and horseback riding trails, ball fields, a playground, picnicking areas, campgrounds and a nature area. Wildlife include beavers, raccoons, minks, and deer. Bears have been seen at Towhee. Waterfowl at the lake are geese, ducks, and blue herons. Visitors praise the peacefulness of the park.

There was another enterprise at the site a few years before Tohickon Lodge Inc. bought the land. In the early 1950's, Ernest Reich, who sold stoves at a store he owned in Quakertown, founded "The Haycock Mountain Sportsman's Club," and hoped to build a country club, with an arena for sports car racing. He had grand plans for the country club. There would be horse and dog shows and field trials, an Outdoorsman's show, eight weeks of Summer Theater, and sports car road racing on a 1 - mile paved course. The club would also have square and social dancing, picnicking, camping, hiking and tennis courts. For the following year, he further planned to have a 2 ½ - mile Grand Prix Sports Car Circuit, and a 50 - acre lake with boating, fishing and swimming. Also, there would be a large sand beach, a 9-hole golf course, and a club house with dining facilities.

The Sportsman's Club first built a dirt race track, located off Sawmill Road, for the sports car races. Our historical society members, Robert and Lorey Smell, and Richard Landgreen, remember that the race track was located down E. Sawmill Road from Old Bethlehem Road. Across the bridge on E. Sawmill, and after the first house on the right, was a driveway going back to the track. This was on land which later became the county property. Richard Landgreen recalls that it was a figure 8 shaped track, and understands that only one race was held. The club presented a Sports Car Auto Cross on Sunday, June 23, 1957. Opposition to the races from area residents put an end to the club's dream of creating a country club and an auto racing arena. Richard remembers that Ernest Reich lived in the Stokes House, before the Edward Miller family lived there.

The Haycock Mountain Sportsman's Club folded, and this is when Edward Miller and his fellow investors (Tohickon

Nature has reclaimed the land upon which the track was built, but not completely. When they were exploring the area, our members, Dave Long and Chris Bauer, found the remains of the race track, in the form of brush covered embankments in the woods.

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See It For the First Time
**SPORTS CAR
AUTOCROSS**
See Expensive Sports Cars
with Racing Pedigrees
in Competition
presented by the
**SPORTS CAR CLUB
of AMERICA**
(Phila. Region)
benefiting the
United Cerebral Palsy Ass'n

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See Radio-TV Stars
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See the Most Exciting
SPORTS CAR SHOW
32 Different Foreign Cars
and Exotics on Display

SUNDAY JUNE 23
Grounds Open 12 Noon || First Trials 1 P.M.

\$1.25 ADMISSION ★★★
Tax, Parking, Program Incl.

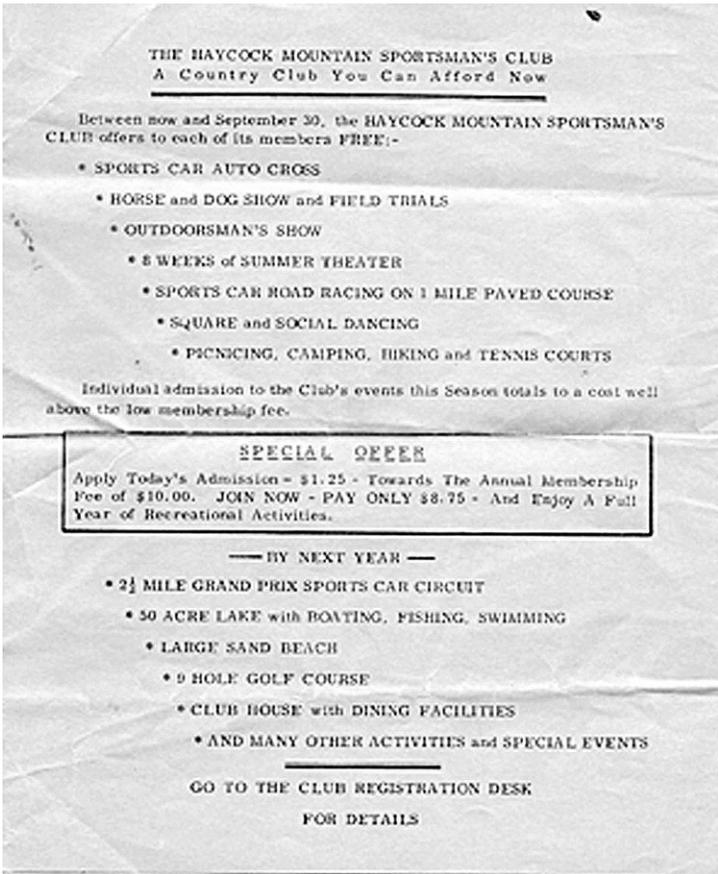
Follow the Arrows to
**HAYCOCK MOUNTAIN
SPORTSMAN'S CLUB**
Applebachsville, Pa.
On old Bethlehem Pike bet.
Quakertown and Doylestown —
Arrows on Rts. 212, 309, 313.
RAIN DATE: Sat., June 29

NO.	DRIVER	CAR	TOURING	COUNTRY	ENG. SZ.	TIME		
						Count	Count	Total
1	Charles Roemer	VW-Ghia		Ger.	1198 cc			
2	Paul Green	Volkswagen		Ger.	1198 cc			
3	Don Trachtenberg	Morris Minor		Eng.	850 cc			
4	Frank Heymann	MG Magnette		Eng.	1500 cc			
5	Ralph Schantz	Volvo		Swed.	1414 cc			
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<u>SUPER SPORTS</u>								
14	George Alderman	Cooper-J. A. P.			500 cc			
15	Brice, Gray, Jr.	Jaguar-C			3493 cc			
16	Charles Dresden	Allard			5500 cc			
17	Alfred Zantinger	Chev. Corvette			283 ci			
18	Harry Whitney	Allard-Chev.			4800 cc			
19	Art Kluth	Kaiser Darrin(blown Ford)			4701 cc			
20	Joe Wolf	MB 300SL			2996 cc			
<u>SPORTS UNDER 1500 cc</u>								
21	Bob Reppert	MGTD		Eng.	1250 cc			
22	Michler Warner	MGA		Eng.	1489 cc			
23	Ten Eyck Ronson	MGTD		Eng.	1250 cc			
24	Brad Howes	MGTG		Eng.	1250 cc			
25	Dick Rice	MG		Eng.	1250 cc			
26	Oliver Founds	MGTD		Eng.	1250 cc			
27	John Wilroy	MGTD		Eng.	1250 cc			
28	Daniel Trupp	Alfa Romeo		Ital.	1290 cc			
29	Ben Fowke	MGA		Eng.	1474 cc			
30	Bernard Saffier	MGTG		Eng.	1250 cc			
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NO.	DRIVER	CAR	COUNTRY	ENG. SZ.	TIME			
					Count	Count	Total	
<u>SPORTS OVER 1500 cc</u>								
41	Art Bartholomee	Porsche	Ger.	1584 cc				
42	Bill Worthington	Morgan	Eng.	1991 cc				
43	Vernon Bennett	Jaguar	Eng.	3442 cc				
44	Dave Dougherty	Austin Healey	Eng.	2661 cc				
45	Charles Smack	Jaguar	Eng.	3442 cc				
46	Vernon Davies	Porsche	Ger.	1584 cc				
47	Lawrence Young	Morgan	Eng.	1991 cc				
48	Fred Rowe	Jaguar	Eng.	3442 cc				
49	Don Campbell	Triumph	Eng.	1991 cc				
50	George Robinson	Austin Healey	Eng.	2661 cc				
51	Charlotte Worthington	Morgan	Eng.	1991 cc				
52	Dave Elliott	Morgan	Eng.	2088 cc				
53	John Tuit	Triumph	Eng.	1991 cc				
54	John Davis	MB 190SL	Ger.	1887 cc				
55	Frank Martin	Morgan	Eng.	1991 cc				
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ROSTERS FROM ONE OF THE AUTO RACING EVENTS

This is a listing of the participants and their automobiles, from one of the events held in Haycock Township.



Haycock Mountan Sportsman's Club

Promotional flyer produced by the Sportsman's Club

Flea Market

Saturday September 16, 2017: 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. - Haycock Township Community Center, 1014 Old Bethlehem Road- Outdoor and Indoor Vendors - Food and Drinks - Basket Raffle-Musical Entertainment - Bake Sale



Print of a Painting of Lake Tohee

By
Ranulph Bye

Donated by Dave Long



This circa 1950 mural was painted by
Chief Joe One Star
It was donated in 2016 to the Haycock Historical Society
by Sharon (Shearer) Frank and Moira (Shearer) Dorse
In memory of their parents
June (Gieseke) and Allen Shearer

CHIEF ONE STAR MURAL

Clayton and Linda Fox have framed the mural and it is now on display at the Stokes House. The plaque pictured above has been added. We hope to display this mural at the Haycock Township Community Center when renovations there are finished.

THANK YOU

Marla Burke for donating an antique cedar chest. Marla will be the featured artist at our 2017 Kringle Christmas Shoppe

STOKES CLEAN-UP DAY

Saturday, November 4, 2017 – 10 a.m. to Noon with Lunch. All are invited for our annual fall clean up. This year I would like to clean out and rearrange the garden shed and clean the Stokes' basement. Thanks for all your help.

Pat DeWald

OUR LOST TOHICKON VALLEY

PRESENTATION

Tuesday, September 19, 2017 - 6 p.m. At the Environmental Center in Nockamixon State Park: Margie Fulp and Pamela Varkony will give a power point presentation on "Our Lost Tohickon Valley."

Past years' issues of our Newsletter are available on our web site.

www.haycockhistoricalsociety.org

"Our Lost Tohickon Valley" and "Haycock Township and Eddie Bauer" are available as E-Books on Amazon

PRINT VERSIONS

"Haycock Township and Eddie Bauer" is available at Stokes Headquarters, Haycock Township Building, and Margie Fulp

"Our Lost Tohickon Valley" is available at Sines 5&10, Stokes Headquarters, Haycock Township Building, The Treasure Trove in Perkasio, and Margie Fulp

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MEETINGS

Sept. 17, 2017: Sunday meeting 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. at the Stokes House headquarters.

SETTLERS' DAY presentation by Steve Applegate. Steve will cook a stew over an open fire. There will be NO Thursday meeting in September

Oct. 19, 2017: Native American Artifacts – Walter Fachtet will tell us about his collection.

Nov. 16, 2017: Hobo King—Karl E. Teller—National Hobo King 2002. Karl will tell us about hobo life and riding the freight trains and steam locomotives.

NOTE NEW LOCATION!

Third Thursday meetings will now be held at the Haycock Community Center, formerly the Haycock Elementary School at Old Bethlehem Road and Sawmill Road, in Applebachsville. The meeting room is Community Room West.

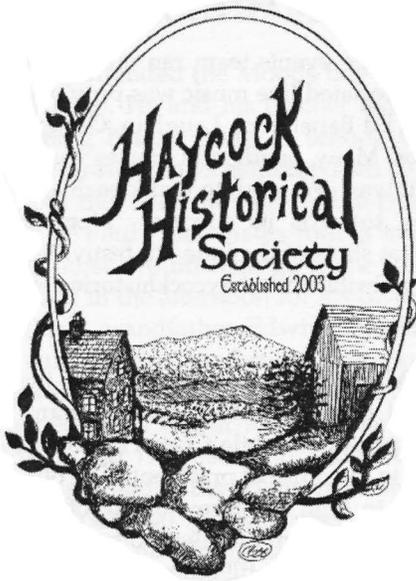
The meetings begin at 7 p.m.

OFFICERS

President: David Long cadklong@verizon.net
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Secretary: Nancy Stemler grandmom42@comcast.net
Treasurer: Paula Laughlin pmlreader@yahoo.com
Ad Hoc:: Pat DeWald wdewald@verizon.net
Ad Hoc: Chris Handschin chandschin@verizon.net
Ad Hoc: Nancy Janyszeski ncj@epix.net

Please submit material for the newsletter or suggestions for interviews to Margie Fulp. (215-257-7472) or m_fulp@hotmail.com

HHD USA



**P.O. Box 715
Quakertown, PA 18951**

www.haycockhistoricalsociety.org

AN INVITATION TO MEMBERSHIP

YES, ENROLL ME AS A MEMBER OF THE HAYCOCK HISTORICAL SOCIETY!

I WANT TO BE PART OF RECLAIMING OUR HISTORY AND PRESERVING IT FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS.

- Individual Membership - \$20/year**
Receive quarterly newsletter and attend all special functions this year – Jan. thru Dec.
- Family Membership (Parents & Children in household) - \$30/year**
Receive quarterly newsletter and attend all special functions this year – Jan. thru Dec.
- Corporate Sponsor - \$100/year**
Gain advertisement in our newsletter by yearly sponsorship (ad size smaller than business card)
- Corporate Patron - \$200/year**
Gain advertisement in our newsletter by yearly sponsorship (ad is full business card size)
- Lifetime Individual Membership - \$200**
Receive honorary lifetime status, receive quarterly newsletters and attend all special functions
- Lifetime Household Couple Membership - \$250**
For just \$50 more, join as a household and enjoy all the benefits of lifetime membership

DATE _____

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY, STATE, ZIP _____

PHONE _____ E-MAIL _____

**SEND APPLICATION ALONG WITH CHECK MADE PAYABLE TO HAYCOCK HISTORICAL SOCIETY TO:
P.O. Box 715, Quakertown, PA 18951**