



**Merry Christmas  
and Best Wishes for 2015!**

November 26, 2014: Rothrock Monument with the town's new Christmas tree in the background.

## *The New, Improved and Independent* **Rothrock Community Library**

**by Steven R. Feathers, President**  
McVeytown Borough Council

In October, members of the McVeytown Borough Council were informed that the Mifflin County Library would no longer staff the Rothrock Branch.

It quickly became apparent that this decision was unacceptable to many area residents, particularly students and senior citizens. They asked council members what we could do.

I am pleased to announce that the library will remain open as the Rothrock Community Library—with no affiliation with the Mifflin County Library.

The Borough Council has joined forces with volunteers from the Borough and surrounding area to staff the library. Deb Himes, retired school librarian, is heading the drive to keep the library open and the Borough Council is behind her 100 percent. If you are interested in volunteering, call Deb Himes at 899-6846 or email [rothrocklibrary@verizon.net](mailto:rothrocklibrary@verizon.net).

The library is now open on a limited basis, and we look forward to a Grand Opening in January. The date will be announced later.

Our goal is to have neighboring townships take part in funding, and appoint a representative to serve as a library board member.

We welcome donations to the library fund to help with expenses and purchase of books.

We also welcome book donations. If you are an avid reader who buys books on the best-sellers list, please consider donating them to the Rothrock Community Library after you are finished reading them. If you desire, a label will

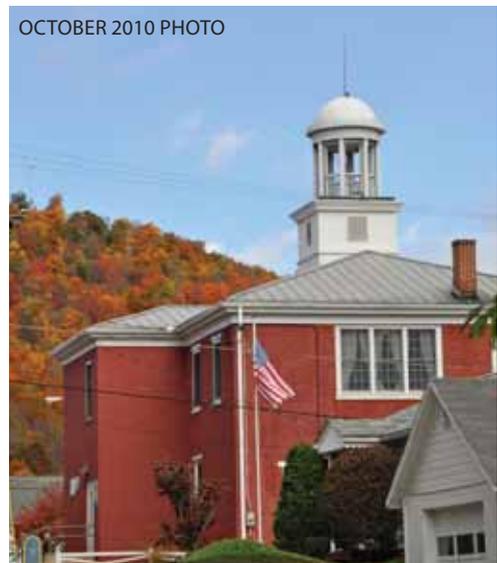
be placed on the flyleaf to acknowledge you as the donor.

We on Borough Council have the interest of all our citizens. We try to provide all the services of a larger community on a much smaller budget, and we are proud of our town. Let's rally together to make our community library a huge success.

Allensville now has an independent and greatly improved library since they were dropped as a branch of the Mifflin County Library last year. We can do it, too!

We already have a computer, copier and fax available for public use.

If you wish to help in any way, contact Barbara Stiver at 899-6323 or stop in at her office in the lower level of the Borough Building. *[See office hours in the box at left.]*



OCTOBER 2010 PHOTO

### **Town Council Members**

- Steve Feather, President
- Wilda Fisher, Mayor
- Roland Fagan, Vice Pres.
- Danny Bollinger
- Rex Goss
- Keith Gruber
- John Stiver
- Mark Zong

### **Water & Sewer Authority**

- Pete Sunderland, Chair
- Russ Halfpenny
- Steve Coleman
- Galen Yoder
- Barbara Stiver

### **Borough Office 899-6323** **10 N. Queen St.**

Barbara Stiver, Sec./Treas.  
Hours: Mon. Tues. Thurs. 9-2  
email: [mcveytown@verizon.net](mailto:mcveytown@verizon.net)

### **Borough Maintenance and Treatment Plant 899-7436** **28 S. Water St.**

Hours: Mon. thru Fri. 7-3  
Randy Stoner  
John Mumper  
email: [boroman1@verizon.net](mailto:boroman1@verizon.net)

### **Bldg./Assessment Code Officer** **John Hendricks 899-5108**

**Rothrock  
Community Library**  
**899-6846**  
[rothrocklibrary@verizon.net](mailto:rothrocklibrary@verizon.net)

*Mailing address:*  
**McVeytown Borough**  
**PO Box 321**  
**McVeytown PA 17051**

*Visit online at:*  
**[www.mcveytownboro.com](http://www.mcveytownboro.com)**

## Seasonal Celebrations

**Saturday, Dec. 6, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.**

*McVeytown Christmas Bazaar* at the Firehouse. Unique gifts by local crafters and retail vendors offering holiday specials. Soup Sale to benefit McVeytown Ambulance. Santa Claus comes from 11-12 noon! (For complete listing, see *McVeytown Christmas Bazaar* on Facebook.)

**Dec 6: Christmas Around the Square.**

Food and souvenirs provided by local businesses and organizations. Carriage tours around town. Treelighting at 6 p.m. Santa Claus arrives at 7 p.m.

**Sunday, Dec. 21: Santa Claus** at the McVeytown Firehouse from 1 to 3 p.m.

### Weekly Church Services

*McVeytown United Methodist Church*  
Sunday School - 9 a.m.  
Worship - 10 a.m.

*McVeytown Presbyterian Church*  
Sunday School - 9 a.m.  
Worship - 10 a.m.

### Playing to Support Our Volunteers

Bingo at the Firehouse is held on the second Tuesday and last Friday of each month. But because of the holidays, check the sign in front of the Firehouse to see when Bingo is scheduled in December.

### Reminder to town residents:

Borough workers will pick up discarded—and undecorated—Christmas trees during the first two weeks of January. Just place your tree curbside and it will magically disappear!

## Seen Around Town

*How well do you know your neighbors?*



*Who is this?* This friendly guy lives on John Street. He serves on the Borough Council and is a volunteer for the McVeytown Fire Company.

Answer: John Stiver



## Winter Blahs by Barbara Stiver

2010 PHOTO

*It's here already! We had our first snowstorm on November 26.*

How hard will the winter be this year? Very snowy...not so snowy? Will there be another Polar Vortex or two, or just the "usual" cold? We will have to wait and see, but...Please remember that when snow arrives, the Borough clears the streets as fast—and as best—as it can. The streets must be kept clear so that fire equipment

and ambulances can get through, in case of emergencies.

As residents, we are responsible for shoveling our sidewalks within 24 hours after a snowfall. Please do not shovel the snow into the street. The plows will just push it back to the side again!

## Borough Council Report

### Good News for the New Year

*No Tax Increase for 2015*

**by Roland Fagan, Vice-President**

McVeytown Borough Council

The borough council has formulated the preliminary 2015 budget. It is available at the borough office for residents to review.

Once again, this process was completed with *no increase* to borough taxes.

Our last tax increase, in 2008, was an increase of two mills, which equated to approximately \$25 per mill per property owner.

The borough is faced with many budget challenges as costs continue to escalate. Our borough is managed on just under \$98,000 for the year. From that amount, we pay our employees, support the Fire Company and the Playground, and now we are supporting the Rothrock Library.

Other expenses include snowplowing and snow removal, street maintenance, heating costs, electricity costs for the borough building and street lights, along with our insurances which are climbing at breakneck rates.

The proposed budget will come before council at the Borough Council's December meeting for final adoption. So please take a minute, stop by the borough office and review the budget. I know Barbara will welcome your visit.

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### Improvements Coming

*Here's how you can help*

**by Barbara Stiver, Member**

Water and Sewage Authority Committee

Within 30 to 60 days, all McVeytown residents will receive a confidential income survey from the Water and Sewage Authority. The survey is needed in order for us to apply for and receive grants and low-interest funding to address the inflow and infiltration problems with our sewer system.

The Authority is under a Consent Order with the PA Department of Environmental Protection to correct this problem, otherwise the Authority will be fined for overflows.

It is imperative that the survey is returned as not doing so will put the grant/low-interest funding application process in jeopardy. So please return it promptly.

*Also:* In our continuing efforts to drill a new well and get it DEP permitted, as well as satisfy the DEP mandate, the Authority will be strictly enforcing deadlines as they relate to delinquent bills.

But to end on a positive note, preliminary testing of the new well shows that it has much softer water than the other wells.

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*Council meetings are held on the 2nd Tuesday each month at 6:30 p.m. in the basement of the Borough Building, 10 N. Queen Street.*

# McVeytown's First Christmas Around the Square

by Susan Feathers

*While watching our huge community Christmas tree come down, and heading into the holiday season, I was reminded of another Christmas...1987.*

Members of the Rothrock Playground Association Faye Boaz, Mindy Williams, Sandy Henry, and I (Susan Feathers) spearheaded a campaign to light the huge evergreen on the funeral home property.

As news of the project spread, friends and neighbors headed to basements and attics to donate lights, bulbs, and money.

Margie Booth provided the electricity, and gave us permission to plug cords into the illuminated sign in front of the business.

Not only did we face the challenge of connecting 50-foot strings of lights together, we had to figure out how to get them to the top of the tree!

After talking to our firemen we learned it wouldn't be easy to use ladders and they recommended we get a bucket truck. As it turned out Faye and her husband Ed were shopping in Lewistown and saw the Henderson fire truck decorating the trees in Lewistown. Working through our fire company they contacted Henderson and we had a solution. Now that decorating the tree was solved, we decided to include a huge star at the top.

Charlie Fisher told us that there was a nativity set stored down at the sewage plant we might want to use.

We found Joseph, Mary, and Baby Jesus in good condition but needed a manger. Ed Boaz headed for the sawmill and fashioned a crèche for our nativity out of slab wood.

We thought Baby Jesus would look a little better if he were wrapped in a blanket, so Faye brought one of her son Chad's receiving blankets, and it is still being used this year.

We decorated the tree on a chilly Saturday morning. We carefully transported 12 huge string of lights, the star, and our nativity set to the square. Neighbors turned out to hold a strand of lights as the Henderson fire truck took each one to the top.



In 1987, Faye Boaz, Susan Feathers and Rick Williams sorted lights, donated by area residents, for the first tree lighting ceremony. Note the box held by Rick was donated by Mack Rodkey. The photo was published in the *Lewistown Sentinel*.

When the star was placed on top, it was time to cross our fingers and hope everything worked for the tree lighting ceremony.

McVeytown's community Christmas tree came to life that evening with the community band riding into town on Mr. Yoder's horse and wagon.

The transformed plastic mayonnaise containers from Klines Market surrounded the square as beautiful luminaries.

The candle lighting ceremony, the Presbyterian choir directed by Jerry Grassmyer, and a community sing-along was highlighted by the blessing of the tree by Rev. Earl Rowland.

Thoughts of the season by Mayor Wilda Fisher, refreshments, and a special visit by Santa's helper (Steve Feathers) greeted young and old.

As Santa handed out treats by the tree, snowflakes fell from the sky. Faye, Sandy, Mindy, and I agreed it was the perfect ending to our first Christmas Around the Square.

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## ***A farewell—and a planting for future generations***

McVeytown said goodbye to an old friend on October 22, when the town's Christmas tree was cut down. It was a victim of bagworms.

The tree was around five feet tall when it was planted around 1955, by a local Girl Scout troop, led by the late Dorothy "Dot" Stimely. (She and her husband Dave Stimely once operated Dave's Sunoco in McVeytown.)

The tree stood for almost 60 years, and grew to be about 60 feet tall.

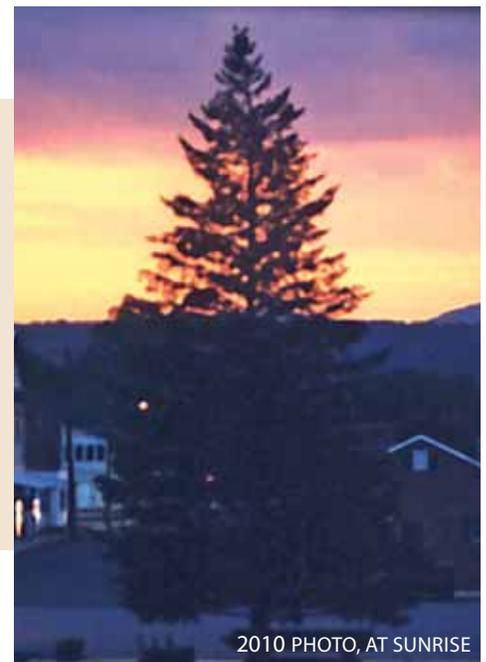
Dave Harshbarger of Harshbarger's Funeral Home owns the property where the tree stood. He immediately ordered a replacement from Stone House Nursery, and a 13-foot Norway Spruce was planted on November 8. It is a beautiful tree, and we hope it will last as long as the former one did.

McVeytown's Christmas Around the Square is scheduled for Saturday, December 6. Bring the kids, so they can tell *their kids* that they were at the first lighting of the new tree!

The tree will be lit at 6 p.m. Santa Claus will arrive at 7 p.m.

Come and celebrate the Christmas Season with your friends and neighbors!

*Note:* While any tree can be infested with bagworms, the most common are arborvitae, hemlock, juniper, pine, spruce, bald cypress, locust, sweetgum, and sycamore. Infestations can be controlled if caught early, so check your trees before it is too late! This information came from The Tree Geek. Visit [www.thetreegeek.com](http://www.thetreegeek.com) for treatment recommendations.



2010 PHOTO, AT SUNRISE

## Growing up in McVeytown in the 50's to mid-60's

by Rich Freed

There's an old saying that if a town loses any one of three things—a church, a school or a fire house—it loses part of its character. We did lose the school. In these past 50-plus years, we might be surprised at what else we have lost. Although a very small number of this list remains, if you are from McVeytown see how many you remember that we no longer have. Most are places, some are just memories.

Swimming in the Sand Mine sink-holes and at the "Falls"  
Ice skating on the frozen Juniata, or at the field off Ferguson Road, that the fire company flooded each year  
Little League uniforms consisting of just a T-shirt (with printed team names of Yankees, Phillies, etc.) and jeans.  
Memorial Day Parade and Festival and the annual baseball game against Belleville  
The Minstrel Shows (Joe Smiley and Elwood Clark)  
The two-hour wait at the door to get in to see the Rothrock/Kish basketball game  
Coaches Harold Wertz and Harry Rothrock and the 1963 Rothrock High School boys basketball state championship team  
Harry Ehrenzeller's Penny-pitch game at the Festival  
The fire siren at the corner of the Elementary School playground  
The "Electric Paddle" that every elementary school student knew existed in the High School Principal's office  
Vaccination shots given by Dr. Steele  
Doc Schooley, and his \$1 charge to students for physical exams  
Eli Kohler's Hardware (Barlow knives on the counter)

Novak's Hardware • Norton's Hardware • The Cider Press  
Jimmy White's Garage • Pecht's Garage • Harbst's Garage  
Tom Trewek's Gas Station • Zong's Gulf • Dave's Sunoco  
Keener's Garage (And his old steam tractor)  
"Speck" Harshbarger's Garage • Stine's Garage  
"Josh" Gearhart's garbage truck  
Metzger's Café (Bowl of chili and French fries for lunch)  
Cherry cokes and playing pinball and pool at Sheffel's Diner  
The Space Diner • Grassmyer's Restaurant • Ray's Inn  
Clark's Confectionery • Grace White's Pie Shop  
Piper's Barber Shop • Bud's Clock Shop (On the Square)  
The First National Bank of McVeytown (and Vernon Gearhart)  
Brookland Mills Feed Mill • Knepp's Grocery  
Spigelmyer's Store in McVeytown • Harshbarger's Store  
Odd Fellow's Hall • Mansion House Hotel  
The old shirt factory building  
Daily bus service to Lewistown  
*Can you think of others to add to the list?*

## A View of Our History



JOHN SHEARER PHOTO COLLECTION

This early 1900s photo of South Market Street was taken by the late John Shearer of Mattawana. (It was before 1924, when the monument was placed in the intersection of Market and John streets.)

Most of the buildings on the west (*right*) side of the street are no longer standing, but many of the houses on the east side are still being lived in today. The large house on the left is now owned by Glenn and Helen Berryman.

**Congratulations and Thank You!** When you see McVeytown Mayor Wilda Fisher, say congratulations and thank her for her many years of service to McVeytown and Mifflin County.

As Director of Shelter Services, Inc., Wilda is retiring at the end of the year. But she will continue working—as our mayor!

### About the McVeytown Journal

The name of the newsletter comes from our history. From 1873-1912, Edward Conrad published a four-page weekly newspaper called the *McVeytown Journal*. (A collection of issues are on microfilm, and can be viewed at the Mifflin County Historical Society.)

Here's an excerpt from one issue. The item is dated September 3, 1880: *A couple of our citizens entused with grape juice had a lively time in the Diamond at a late hour on Saturday evening. They were having a little circus all to themselves near the bandstand when a female occupant of a house nearby vigorously protested against the performance. Thereupon one actor handed her a dime, and told her to contribute it to the missionary fund at the church. Our reporter doesn't say whether the show then adjourned or not.*

And we thought our celebrations were lively!

The plan is for the *McVeytown Journal* to be published four times a year, once each season.

We want your help. If you have any comments, photos, stories or events listings to share in the newsletter, please send to Newsletter Editor, PO Box 321, McVeytown PA 17051; or email [sfsf23@verizon.net](mailto:sfsf23@verizon.net).

Share the *McVeytown Journal* with your friends and relatives who live away from here! They can read it online at [www.mcveytownboro.com](http://www.mcveytownboro.com).