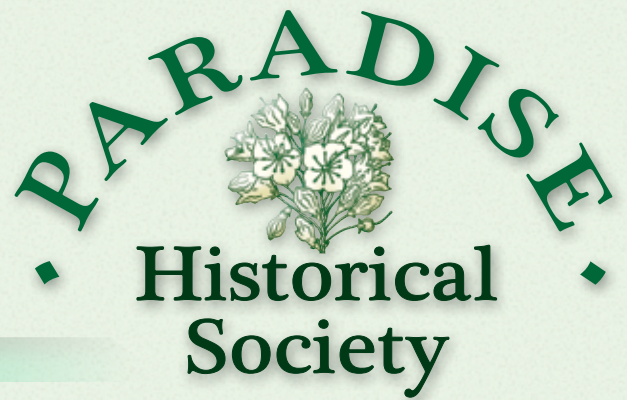


Paradise Past

THE NEWSLETTER
OF THE



VOLUME 11, Winter 2017

THE Hawthorne Inn AND Cottages

by Suzanne Fretz McCool,
RETIRED MONROE COUNTY COMMISSIONER

The Pocono Mountains were known generations ago as a healthful place to visit to restore oneself. Going back into the 1800s and early 1900s, the Pocono Mountains had a very enviable record regarding healthfulness in comparison with other summer or winter resorts. It was said that the air was very dry. Hundreds of cases were cited where “permanent health had been restored to persons who were on the point of a complete breakdown”. This quote is from a 1910 brochure of the Hawthorne Inn and Cottages, which was owned by Ryerson W. Jennings at the time. Another facility known for its “cures” was the Pocono Haven in Mount Pocono, which later became the hotel known as High Point Inn. A famous nutrition doctor, Dr. William Howard Hay, owned it and treated many famous celebrities there. My own mother was a nurse who worked for Dr. Hay in the late 1930s.

Regarding the Hawthorne Inn, my research tells me that some of its earliest cottages were built in 1874. The owner, Clara E. Jennings, widow, conveyed unto Reese LeRoy Dengler 71 acres known at the Hawthorne Inn and Cottages. More cottages were added over the years. The interesting thing I learned was that each cottage was named for a well-known classical author. Even some of the rooms in the hotel were named. For instance, there were cottages named for Bryant, Browning, Emerson, Longfellow, Burns, Shelley, and Tennyson. There were thirteen cottages in all when LeRoy Dengler owned it and twenty-two rooms in the main inn. The property spanned an area in Paradise Township and part of Pocono Township very near Mount Pocono Borough. The high elevation and pure air were part of the attraction.

President's Letter

Many of you were able to witness an unusual and historic event—the move of the 19th century Ace Store from its dangerous corner to a safe distance from the road. And doesn't it look regal in its new location! Landscaping and other work remains to be done, but congratulations are in order for Susan Layton and the entire Carlton-Layton family. The Society is grateful for their stewardship of this lovely part of Paradise's history.

Jane

Jane Niering, President



Mount Pocono is one hundred and eleven miles from New York City. In those days (1910), the DL & W (Delaware, Lackawanna and Western Railway) transported the vacationers to the station in Mount Pocono. The trip took three and a half hours. A round trip ticket was \$4.50, good for the season. From Philadelphia it took four hours of “delightful travel along the historic Delaware, via the Belvidere Division of the Pennsylvania Railway”. Those tickets were \$5.45, good for the season.

In its earliest years, The Hawthorne Inn and its cottages were a spring and summer resort closing for the winter. In later years, heating was added other than fireplaces in each cottage.

At some point Stonecrop, an annex to the Inn was added which opened before June 1 and stayed open after October 1. It was a fall and winter Inn. It was called the handsomest and best built house on the Pocono Mountain. It had hot water heat. It was considered an ideal resting place because of its beautiful panoramas.

My father, John P. Fretz, along with two of his sisters, Ida and May Fretz, owned and operated The Airport Inn in Mount Pocono, known today as Bailey's Steak House. He was a friend to LeRoy Dengler who owned the Hawthorne Inn. My father and his sisters probably had the Airport Inn in the late 1930s and/or 1940s. I am still trying to discover the date that Inn started. My father married my mother who was a nurse at Pocono Haven in the early 1940s. She gave up nursing and helped run our hotel from then on.

In later years Mt. Airy Lodge bought the Hawthorne Inn and Cottages and several other resorts nearby in Paradise Township. Then, in the recent past, the DeNaples Family bought Mt. Airy and the surrounding properties in the township and developed and built the beautiful Mt. Airy Hotel and Casino which is a very attractive venue today. [PHS](#)

Winter
COLLECTING, PRESERVING
& DISSEMINATING PARADISE HISTORY

FRED LEHRER OPENS THE DOOR TO THE WHITE HOUSE

In 1962, when Jackie Kennedy conducted her televised tour of the White House, eighty million viewers tuned in — at a time when *Gunsmoke*, the most-watched show on TV, was drawing audiences of 18 million.

Americans have been fascinated with the White House for generations. At the PHS October 2016 meeting, local historian Fred Lehrer shared its story.



Designed by James Hoban, an Irish immigrant, the Executive Mansion was to have 36 rooms on three floors — the largest house in the United States until the 1860s. The cornerstone was set in October 1792. But the rural, remote location made it difficult to find craftspeople to do the work, and both freemen and enslaved people worked on the construction, which was completed in 1800. John and Abigail Adams moved in.

It wasn't long before succeeding Presidents began to make changes. Jefferson added colonnades for privacy, as well as stables, laundry, smokehouse, and other outbuilding. Jackson added the North Portico in 1829-30, and the South Portico at about the same time.

Running water and central heating were installed in 1835, and electricity in 1891. Greenhouses for flowers and decorative plants and fruit were built in 1857-60. These covered enormous area by the time of Teddy Roosevelt — who had them demolished to make way for a “West Wing” to house executive offices. Next in line was William Howard Taft who doubled the size of the West Wing and added the first Oval Office. FDR rebuilt it, added a second floor, and changed the location of the Oval Office.



The Executive Mansion had always been nicknamed the White House, and Teddy Roosevelt made that its official name.

It was burned by the British in 1814, during the War of 1812, and a dramatic fire destroyed parts of the West Wing in 1929. But the biggest reconstruction of the White House was the “Truman Renovation.” The story goes that in 1945, Truman noticed that a chandelier in the East Room swaying for no apparent reason. Three years later, Margaret Truman’s piano crashed through the floor. It was found that the entire inner structure needed to be gutted and replaced. The Trumans moved to Blair House and over 1949-52, wood was replaced by steel and concrete — only the exterior walls were retained — and a new story was added.

Today the building is 67,000 square feet in size, with 132 rooms, two pools, a putting green, jogging track and basketball court, among other amenities. It takes a staff of 96 full-time people to maintain and operate the building, with an annual budget of \$13 million. Five thousand visitors a day wait in line to tour the public rooms. [PHS](#)



By Request:

RECIPE FOR Cinnamon Apple Cranberry Bread Pudding

from Sweetfern Farm
by Don and Gayle Miller

- 4 extra large or 6 large cinnamon or apple muffins, cut or broken into pieces
- 2 - 3 eggs
- 1 cup of raisins (dried cranberries)
- 2 - 3 chopped smokehouse (or your favorite) apples
- 1 cup heavy cream
- ¼ cup real maple syrup
- ¼ cup Wolf apple butter



Mix all ingredients gently until well mixed and muffin pieces are moistened. Fold into 9 x 13 glass baking dish. Sprinkle with additional cinnamon/sugar mixture or granulated maple sugar. Bake 30 to 45 minutes (less for moister muffins of finished dish, more for drier muffins of finished dish).

Memories: Harley Collins Shares A Story about Harry Niering, Sr.

The George Collins family moved to Swiftwater in 1930. They had a two-door 1930 Chevy which on occasion needed repairs. We got to know Harry Niering. He worked in a garage in Mt. Pocono. I don't remember the name of the garage, but as I recall it was located just south of the railroad and east of Rt. 611. Of interest, the road coming up the hill there was paved with bricks.

My father-in-law, Howard Dippre, tells this story. Mt. Pocono had a Volunteer Fire Company. They would have a carnival every summer to raise money. It seems that my father-in-law, who worked for the Bell Telephone Company as an installer/repairman, and a couple of linemen from the PP&L line crew in Mt. Pocono were installing some lights for the carnival. Harry was there and wanted to climb a pole. Now those were the days long before bucket trucks. People climbed the poles. The "climbers" were metal frames strapped to the lineman's legs. Each frame had a sharpened spike attached to it. To climb, the spike was stuck into the wood pole. So Harry put on a set of climbers and climbed a pole. Now these linemen "forgot one thing". They did not tell Harry how to climb down. Eventually, Harry slid down the pole picking up a few splinters on the way."

Would you like to share a memory of a person, place, or event? Please call the editor at 570 629-2727. [RHS](#)



Mabel & Harry Niering, Sr.

At Sylvan Cascade Don Miller Talks About Paradise Township's Natural History

This is the second of two parts describing naturalist Don Miller's talk at the Sylvan Cascade this summer. The first part appeared in the Fall 2016 edition.

The Butz Run today is a good quality stream, though not abundantly full of fish. Algae is the basis of the food chain. It feeds the bugs which feed the fish. Algae in this and other creeks in our area hasn't yet recovered from the epic scouring of the Flood of 1955. Trout born here reach breeding size at 7 inches. Fish Commission regulations allow catching and keeping fish 7 inches in size. So in an afternoon one good trout fisherman could fish the stream, remove the limit — and set the stream back a decade.

At the edge of Sylvan Cascade is Brodhead Forest and Stream, a 1,200-acre private hunting and fishing club. The property includes a significant stretch of the Brodhead, Paradise, and confluence pool of Brodhead/Paradise. Even before the railroad came through, Stites Mountain Resort, the Rapids Hotel in Analomink, the Henryville House and others in the area catered for fisherman who would come and stay for long stretches of time. It is well documented that this is the birthplace of flyfishing in America. When the railroad came through, beginning in 1850, the Poconos were opened up to short-stay tourists, attracted by clean air, cool temperatures, and an escape from polluted urban areas.

With that influx of people, 500 years' worth of trout and trout reproduction was then opened up. People took bushel baskets of wild trout out of the streams. Fisherman often paid for their stays at local inns by catching fish and bringing them back to the kitchen for meals there. In time, clearcutting the forests for the tannery industry left the creeks exposed and warmed the water. Erosion from the denuded hills sent silt and debris into the creeks. Native trout were decimated.

Responding to disgruntled fishermen, the Fish Commission couldn't fix the denuded landscape, so they brought in more tolerant species — brown trout eggs came from Germany and rainbow trout came from the western U.S. They began to prosper, water quality improved over time, and brown trout began to replace native brook.

Since those days, steps have been taken to restore native brook trout by improving stream quality. The microscopic layer of algae, the basis for the food chain

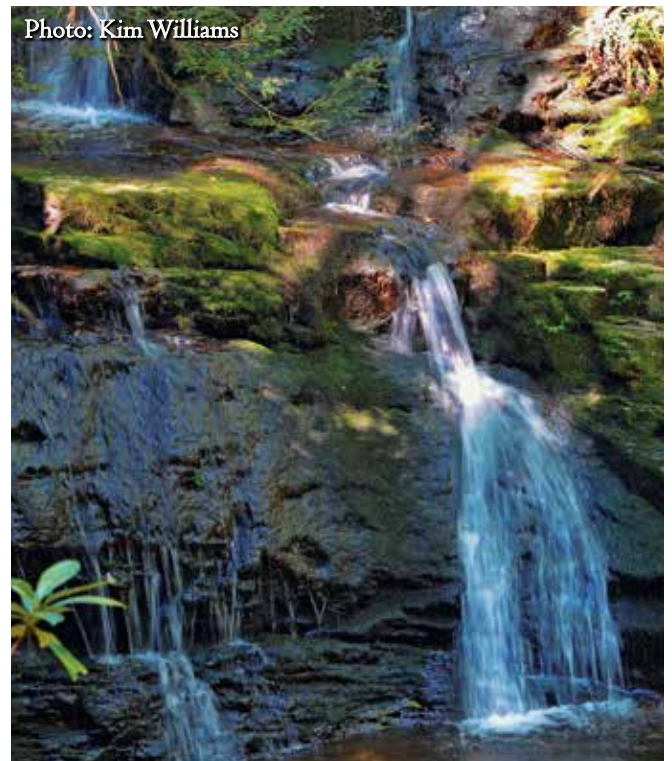


Photo: Kim Williams

still has not recovered from the 55 flood. The beds of our high-gradient, glaciated streams consist of glacial cobble which moves and scours the algae with every high water event, and the streams bear the brunt of 20- and 50-year flood scours, too. So streams are not responding as fast as models would suggest, but in general they are in good shape. We've made headway. [RHS](#)

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Aaron Imbt • John Layton
Laura Layton • Harold Metzgar
Jane Niering • Kim Williams

And We Welcome Our New Members:
Nell Cadue
Andrea Ekstedt
The Bob Hughes Family
Alfred and Carol Johnson
Virginia Warburton and Family



Member Dan Hamblin gave a very well-attended talk at our November meeting about how Pennsylvania came into being and the first property owners in Paradise Township. A summary of his talk will be in the spring issue of *Paradise Past* and details will be posted at www.paradisehistorical.org. The complete transcript will also be available at the PHS archives at Barrett Paradise Friendly Library. [PHS](#)



YOUR MEMBERSHIP COUNTS!

Please help Paradise Historical Society collect, protect & share the interesting history of our area.

- Student or Senior (65+) - \$8.00
- Family - \$25.00
- Individual - \$10.00
- Corporate - \$50.00
- Couple - \$20.00
- Sustaining - \$100.00

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