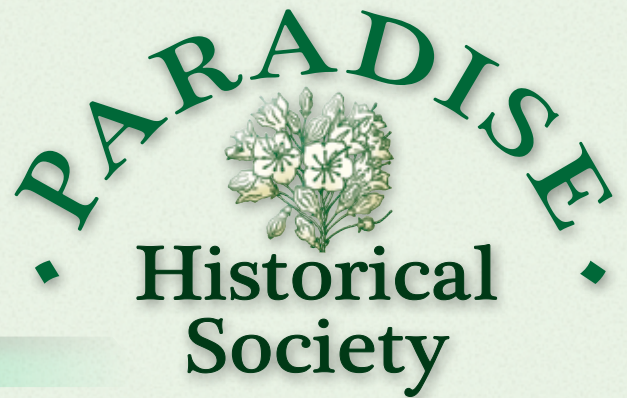


Paradise Past

THE NEWSLETTER
OF THE



VOLUME 14, Fall 2017

President's Letter

Local history is all about stories — stories about us and people we know, parents and grandparents, what they did here, and how life in Paradise has changed over the years. Capturing those stories is the purpose of PHS. Presentations at our meetings, show and tell, outings with a local naturalist, and memories of current and former Paradise residents all contribute to conserving our stories. I hope you enjoy this issue of *Paradise Past*!

Jane

Jane Niering, President



Help Brainstorm Ideas for Future Meetings

Your ideas for future meetings are always welcome! Here are a few that are in the planning stages to get you started thinking...

Remembering Barrett, Paradise & Mount Pocono - Suzanne McCool

The Molly Maguires - Rick Smith

Show and Tell

The Knauf Farm

More Postcards from the extensive collection of Shirley Lansdowne

A Tour of Weiler Corp

William Howard Hay and the Pocono Hay-Ven

The Railroad History of Paradise

Horse Stables & Trail Riding in Paradise

Many members remember the fun we had at "Movie Night at Niering's Garage" in the very early days of PHS. We hope to do something similar in 2018 — do you have old home movies related to life in Paradise Township? Please share! Contact the newsletter editor at jimhill@ptd.net or 570 629-2727.

Do you have an idea for a program? Let us know!

Memories of the Devils Hole IN PARADISE TOWNSHIP

Contributed by Suzie Fretz McCool

My parents, my sisters, and I settled in Paradise Township at the home my parents bought in 1949 on Carlton Road, after their hotel business days were over. My parents had owned businesses in Laceyville (The Hotel Angler) and before that in Mount Pocono, the Airport Inn (now Bailey's). My sisters, Linda and Paulette, and I were enrolled at the Paradise Township Elementary School which had six grades in it and about 80 students.

Continued on Page 2

Paradise Township Elementary



COLLECTING, PRESERVING
& DISSEMINATING PARADISE HISTORY

Fall

Memories of the Devils Hole IN PARADISE TOWNSHIP

Continued from Page 1

Contributed by Suzie Fretz McCool

We had a fairly long bus ride, considering how small the township was. Part of that ride went into the “Devil’s Hole.” I remember the bus picking up the Depue kids on Grange Road, crossing Route 940 to Koerner Road and picking up the Koerner kids, and traveling onto Devil’s Hole Road. The families I remember with kids being picked up were the Arnolds, the Scaplans, the Pascoes, and Kathy, Donna, and Davey Williams. The area was actually named for the Devil’s Hole Creek, but everyone just called it the “Devil’s Hole” and it had a mysterious ring to it, because of the steep gorge and a very deep lake which was said to be bottomless.

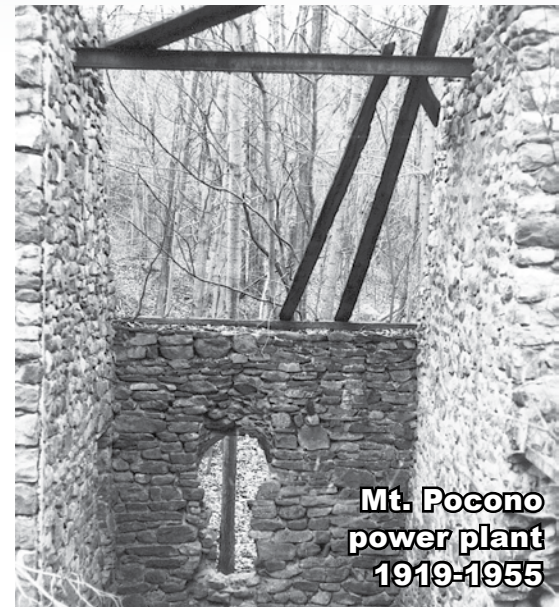
I was probably about seven years old when I went with my father, John P. Fretz, to visit his friend, Mr. Monahan, who lived in the Devil’s Hole and had a very nice house there. I remember their talking about wild animals and about elk and deer but didn’t pay much attention at the time. In later years, I developed an interest in history and the tales of the Devil’s Hole. However, the Flood of 1955 altered that area greatly. I was a kid during that terrible flood.

The Devil’s Hole had an unusual history. Shirley P. Wheeler, who wrote the book *Dr. Nina and the Panther*, referred to it on page 91 of the book: “...outside the tiny town of Mt. Pocono, and just on the edge of a privately-owned property locally known as the Devil’s Hole. The entire tract encompassing the Devil’s Hole, more than 500 acres of forest land, had been bought by a New York banker, enclosed by a chain-link fence, and stocked with Canadian elk. The elk multiplied, and when fully matured, were dangerous animals.”

My research at the Monroe County Historical Association (MCHA), suggested that Carl Tielenius, a New York business person came to Mount Pocono (called the “Forks” at that time) in 1918, and he loved the Pocono Mountains. Mr. Tielenius set up a riding academy next to his home at the corner of Route 611 and Route 940. The riding stable was enclosed and he had good horses and an excellent German riding master who trained the horses to perform by voice command only. The show horses of the Ringling Brothers Circus came here for training. Then Tielenius bought 1,000 acres of land in the nearby Devils Hole area of Paradise Valley and created “Deer Park” where he maintained a large herd of elk. It is said that the first elk was presented to him by President Theodore Roosevelt. Wire fences were strung by hand over the acreage to control the elk. He also built a Hunter’s Retreat in the Devil’s Hole. It burned down many years later and only some ruins remain.

Helen Stapff Deitz contributed to the file on the Devil’s Hole at MCHA. Her father, Jules Stapff, moved to Paradise Valley in 1919. He heard about the elk range when he moved here. Eventually the 8-to-12 foot fences went to rack and ruin, Helen reported. The animals became aggressive and a nuisance to farmers, and locals started hunting them. Helen’s childhood was in the 1940s and she remembers the Tielenius house still standing, and didn’t recall

when it burned. Mr. Tielenius liked to bring in city friends to his retreat. He never commercialized it. However, the Flood of 1955 washed out his road and the beautiful landscaping. Helen’s research referred to a power plant which generated the power for Mount Pocono in the days before rural areas were electrified. The Flood of 1955 destroyed this. Helen’s dad bought the Paradise Inn in 1919 and the Inn had its own generator at that time, and its own unique history.



**Mt. Pocono
power plant
1919-1955**

Helen’s ancestors on her mother’s side of the family were Bowmans. George Bowman, wife and children arrived in this area in the spring of 1822 and called the area “Paradise Valley” and often played host to drovers coming off the mountain headed to Easton to put the cattle on canal boats headed for the New York and Philadelphia markets. The Bowman family in 1835 built a tavern to accommodate the drovers. This eventually became the Paradise Inn. Also Helen indicated that the Hamblin family were direct descendants of George Bowman. Helen indicated that the railroad was built in 1856.

In 1987, a college student from Clarion College, Mary Rebscher, wrote a paper on the Devil’s Hole. She was



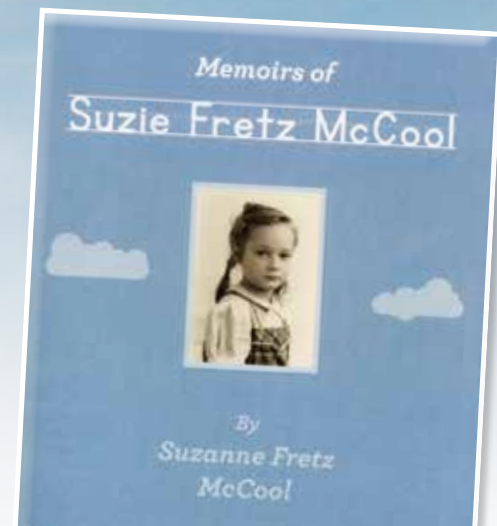
**Suzanne sitting on top
of the dam crossing
Devil’s Hole Creek**



Tielenius' Seven Pines Lodge

anyone who dared to go in would sink and go straight to Hell. Helen Deitz and her husband Bill used to hike this area, and she said she could see the bottom of the lake. Today much of this area is state game lands and great for hiking, hunting, trout fishing, and just enjoying the beautiful scenery.

Association for providing me with the files on the Devil's Hole and to Helen, Dan, and Mary for their contributions to the archives. **PHS**



Suzanne Fretz McCool has written a book about her memories of growing up in the Poconos. It can be obtained by contacting her at 570 424-2363.

also exploring the folklore, myths, and legends of this interesting area. She contacted Helen Stapff Dietz and Dan Hamblin who were knowledgeable about the Devil's Hole, as they were longtime residents and both descendants of George Bowman. Mary described the geography and the topography of the area, referring to the steep gorge which the Devil's Hole Creek eroded and carved out. A canyon and waterfalls and a very deep lake were evident up until the infamous Flood of 1955. Local folklore said that the Devil's Hole Lake was bottomless and

The archives of the MCHA refer to the various ruins in the Devil's Hole area including a former residence (now gone due to the Flood of 1955) called the Seven Pines Lodge. It is reported that the lodge took its name from a legend that raiding Indians (Native Americans) were caught and hanged from seven trees on Seven Pines Mountain, which is part of the Devil's Hole. However, Helen Stapff Dietz does not believe this tale to be true.

I'd like to thank Amy Leiser, Executive Director of the Monroe County Historical

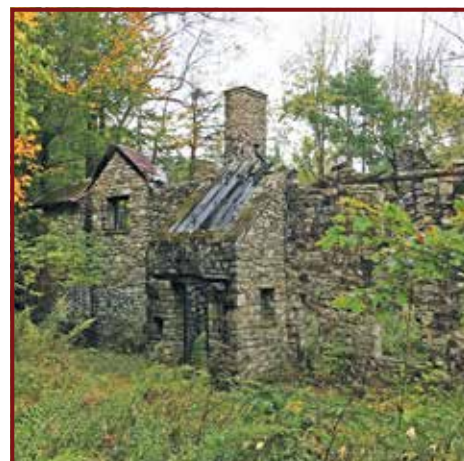
PHS Meeting Briefs

In June, John Layton described "History on the Move," the challenges and triumphs of moving the Ace Store, well back on the property, away from the dangerous Carlton Road corner. This move, witnessed by many Paradise residents, is a good example of history happening now! Look for photos and a summary of John's presentation in the Winter issue of *Paradise Past*.

Shirley Lansdowne presented "Postcard Views of Paradise," at our August meeting. Shirley's collection of postcards is nothing short of astounding — and we were able to make only a small dent at the meeting. Watch for information about when she will be back to continue the saga.

PHS meetings are generally held on the first Sunday of the month, at the Paradise Township Municipal Building. All welcome, and refreshments are served. Audio recordings of meetings are posted at www.paradisehistorical.org and are maintained in our archives at Barrett Paradise Friendly Library.

For October, we met Paradise naturalist Don Miller at the trailhead of Fieldstone Farm Preserve, off Devil's Hole Road. Don gave us a tour of the stately ruins of the stone mansion and discussed land preservation and protecting water quality in the county and township. The property is owned and maintained by Pocono Heritage Land Trust, and open to the public dawn to dusk. **PHS**



Paradise Historical Society
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Henryville, PA 18332

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*The directors and officers of
Paradise Historical Society are:*

Bruce Estell • Peter Gonze • Dan Hamblin
Carol Hillestad • Aaron Imbt • John Layton
Laura Layton • Harold Metzgar
Jane Niering • Kim Williams

And We Welcome Our New Members:

Julia Davis
Ken and Samantha Fearon
Ralph Knauf
Robert and Sharon Nothstein
Cheryl Phillips
Clarica Schweppenheiser

HAVE A CLUE?



**Postcard of
Hickory Grove Farm, Henryville,
dated 1941. Does anyone know where it was
located or the history of the farm?**

**Become a
Member
Today!**

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

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ Phone: (____) _____

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Please send the completed form and check (no cash) to:
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Fall 2017