

# LOOKING BACK

10 YEARS AGO  
December 19, 2007

Jim Spano, of JT Spano, LLC, told the NEWS that he is "giving up" and plans to drop his development plans for Forest City. He has leased the Does Not Compute building on Main Street to a non-profit group, The Portable Playhouse, which has moved in and is presently operating there.

Nellie Jane DeWitt BPW Club Past President Linda Chesnick, Thompson, was selected the club's 2007 Woman of the Year.

Matthew Tomazic, a member of Boy Scout Troop 8, Carbondale, has attained Eagle Scout rank, the highest honor in Boy Scouting. He is the son of Paul and the late Cathy Tomazic, Forest City.

The annual Forest City Area Rotary Club Christmas holiday basketball tournament will be held on Sunday, Dec. 23 and Wednesday, Dec. 26 at the High School.

Deaths: Robert Kutch, Greenfield Twp.; Christine A. Hollister, Sterling Twp.; Agnes Vauter, Clarks Summit; Ret. Chief Warrant Officer Raymond R. Thomas, Pleasant Mount; Edith Brunk, Forest City.

20 YEARS AGO  
December 17, 1997

The Forest City Commercial Association is launching a major \$17,500 fund-raiser to replace the overhead Christmas stringers. It has been more than 25 years since the oldest of Forest City's Main Street Christmas lights were purchased.

The fledgling police force in Vandling has accomplished two important goals in its first month of operation; it apprehended two individuals for dumping on the Northwest Road and it ticketed two speeders on the Main Street.

Two area emergency units voted to merge while two others decided against consolidation in voting last week. The FC Fire Dept. by a 17-9 vote, the FC Volunteer Ambulance by a 15-12 vote, decided to consolidate. Brownedale Fire Company, by a 31-4 vote, and Vandling Hose Co. by a 31-1 vote, decided against merging.

Deaths: Josephine Gostisha, Forest City; Robert J. Pribula, Forest City; Albert J. Kazakevich, born in Forest City; Joseph R. Sadauckas, formerly of Crystal Lake; Martin Leo Trusky, formerly of Richmondale; Willard W. Novitch, Nicholson; Stanley Matis, St. born in Richmondale

30 YEARS AGO  
December 17, 1987

A new librarian is directing Forest City Library. Mrs. Diana Junior assumed the post December 1 at this branch of the Susq. Co. Historical Society & Free Library Assoc.

William A. "Wivey" Orasin, a well known Forest City resident, died of congestive heart failure while hunting doe early Monday morning near Brownedale.

Forest City Borough Council officially passed its 1988 budget in the same form as the tentative budget which was passed last month. The plan calls for no increased taxes with millage staying at 35 mills.

Deaths: Mrs. Mary Derk, Brownedale; William Alnick, Forest City; Lillian Post, Thompson; Gustav P.J. Nyberg, Lakewood; Helen Caviston, Carbondale; William Osborne, Carbondale; Nellie Zerebak, Lakewood.

40 YEARS AGO  
December 15, 1977

Joseph Nadzak elected president of Forest City Regional School Board.

David St. Ledger, FCRS faculty member, will head the Carbondale YMCA team canvass to raise \$100,000.

Frank Gliha elected Forest City Fire Chief.

Miss Patricia Chesnick, Union Dale, chosen "Miss Hope of Lackawanna County."

Shirley Pavelchak elected president of Forest City Area Volunteer Ambulance Assoc.

Elk Mtn. Ski Center adds dou-

ble chairlift.

Deaths: Mrs. Patricia Melvin Cyzeska, Michigan; Leonard Polonic, Downingtown, PA; Robert O. Whipple, Fishs Eddy.

50 YEARS AGO  
December 21, 1967

The Mixed Chorus of the Forest City High School added further holiday spirit and enjoyment for the patients of St. Joseph's and the General Hospitals in Carbondale last evening with their caroling and songfest. After the carol singing the members of the chorus were guests for a Christmas Party at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Celbusky, Brownedale.

The Forest City Business and Professional Women's Club completed their Christmas program again this year by filling stockings for patients in nursing homes. Mrs. Veronica Yorke was chairman of the project.

Jack Fries of R.B. Fries Inc., Vandling, received his diploma on Dec. 14th for successful completion of the 14-week Dale Carnegie course.

Stephen Tellep, son of Mr. and Mrs. Victor Tellep, Union Dale RD, has been notified of his acceptance at several colleges. Stephen plans to enter Bloomsburg State College and pursue a course in Social Sciences in Secondary Education. Stephen has been a member of the National Honor Society.

60 YEARS AGO  
December 19, 1957

Mr. and Mrs. George Taylor, Cottrell Lake Road, Union Dale Rd., observed their 70th wedding anniversary.

Mrs. Bessie Jones, widow of W.H. Jones and mother of Robert and William Jones, local funeral directors, died Tuesday at the family home.

Cadet Anthony J. Burshnick, former Forest City High School basketball star, is now a regular member of the Air Force Academy basketball team.

Michael Pastuchak, 72, former millhand and watchman at the Ray Bloxham sawmill, Railroad St., suffered serious burns when fire gutted a home structure used as his living quarters.

Deaths recorded: Bert F. Kennedy Sr., Pleasant Mount; Mrs. Benedict McCabe, 743 Main St., Vandling.

70 YEARS AGO  
December 18, 1947

William Reese, long associated with the Forest City Ice Company, has sold the business to Joseph Tusar and Joseph Terchek.

Carl Franceski of the Hillside Hose Co. has been named chief of the Forest City Fire Department.

Mrs. Milton Gibson has been named president of the WSCS of the Union Dale Methodist Church.

Deaths recorded during the past week: Adam Wysocki Sr., 516 Susquehanna St.; Mrs. Sarah Raynor Smith, Union Dale, and Mrs. Ethel May, Ararat.

80 YEARS AGO  
December 16, 1937

John Franceski, local bowler, nearly recognized the ambition of every bowler when he rolled nine strikes in a row during a local match. He finished the game with a score of 277.

Fire caused about \$800 damage in the Dunn Block, Dundaff St., owned by Mrs. Lottie Cooley.

Miss Isabelle Jones, North St., has accepted a position with the State Department of Agriculture at Harrisburg.

Patrick F. Devaney of Vandling suffered a fatal heart attack at his home yesterday.

90 YEARS AGO  
December 15, 1927

The young men of St. Agnes Parish have organized an Athletic Assoc. Joseph A. Duffy was named president and John Woodyshek as coach.

Mrs. Theodore Hird was elected president of St. Margaret Guild of Christ Church.

Prof. Eliakim Painter is visiting his home in Vandling for the holidays from his teaching duties at St. Thomas, Virgin Islands.

Prof. Leon Bly's Forest City

Band presented a concert in the high school auditorium on Monday.

100 YEARS AGO  
December 10, 1917

Stephen Monahan, Pleasant Mount, was killed by a train on the O&W Railroad near Union Dale on Tuesday.

Lawrence Banonus, Delaware St., was fatally injured in a rock fall at the Gray Slope mine of the Hillside Coal & Iron Co.

Forty nine members of the St. Agnes Parish are now in Uncle Sam's service.

The Susquehanna County Draft Board has postponed the departure of a contingent of local draftees until after Christmas.

110 YEARS AGO  
December 19, 1907

With the recent snows, good sleighing has started props and timbers coming into town for the local mines.

The businessmen who suffered in last week's disastrous fire have all got a hustle on and are making arrangements for either temporary or permanent continuance of their businesses.

County Superintendent of Schools Sterns was professionally engaged in the local schools during the entire week.

Moses Burdick, 57, died at the family home on Wednesday.

120 YEARS AGO  
December 16, 1897

Local townspeople are up in arms over the too many recent street fights and brawlings taking place here.

Out of sight - out of mind - some of the sidewalks and crosswalks on Main Street. Great is the mud.

A fine exhibition of art work is now on display in the H.W. Ik Brown building. The exhibits include oil paintings and pastels of local artists.

William Bell has resigned his position with the Forest City Electric Light Company.

## Coming Events

Jan. 21 - Forest City Area Emergency Services designer purse bingo, 380 Railroad St., Forest City, \$25, doors open at noon, games 1 p.m., 570-785-3837.

June thru Oct. - Day trip at Ladore Lodge, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., \$15, Tues., Wed. or Thurs., lunch incl., outdoor recreational games, boat rides, heated pool & hot tub, Call 570-488-6129 to Barb or Linda.

Every Friday - Trinity's knitting group meets Friday at 6 p.m. ALL are welcome to join in for some great fun. Bring your favorite projects - knitting, crochet, or any other craft. Or come to learn and share with others! Call Elinor Daily for more information, 570-222-3568.

Feb. 24 - Ladore indoor yard sale, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., 287 Owego Tpke., Waymart, Spaces available \$10. Call 570-488-6129.

2nd Wednesday - The Union Dale Fire Co. meetings are the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 7 p.m.



The following short stories are of life as a young boy in the Forest City Area and are written by Robert Cole, Bordenstown, NJ. His parents were Alfred and Jessie Atkinson Cole. He was born in 1940 in his grandparents' house on Railroad Street. His grandparents were Richard and Jessie Atkinson.

Late spring and early summer brought different things to keep all of the Railroad Street boys busy. Fishing was on our minds and everyone loved to fish. April was trout season and the dam at the pump house held plenty of trout.

Also Brace Brook creek was full of native brook trout. There was a place that we called the tunnel on the creek. It was where the creek went under the O and W railroad bed.

I can remember taking 10 to 15 brook trout between 2 guys out of the pool. All were from 10 to 12 inches.

Imagine that now?? We also used to go to Uniondale and fish the creek that flows into Stillwater. Long pools and a waterfall over rocks that held trout. PA also stocked this part of the creek.

What fun to catch trout and the meal that followed was to die for. 100 ways to cook fish and they are all fried. My favorite is flour and fry in bacon grease. YUUMM

# Area Obituaries



Robert L. Gerchman  
Formerly of Simpson

Robert L. Gerchman, 85, formerly of Simpson, died Thursday, December 14, 2017 at Green Ridge Nursing Center, Scranton. His wife, the former Carmella Cerminaro, died in 2012.

Born in Simpson, he was the son of the late John and Mary Banko Gerchman. He was a graduate of Fell High School, Simpson, where he was a member of the basketball team that won the Northern League Championship for several straight years. Robert served in the Army from 1953-1955, then the Army Reserve through 1961. During his service, he was awarded the National Defense Service Medal and the Good Conduct Medal.

He was employed at To-byhanna Army Depot for many years until his retirement and later had his own resume writing service. He was a member of the former Holy Trinity Church, Simpson, and then St. Rose Parish, Carbondale.

His primary hobby and source of entertainment was reading books. He enjoyed Western novels by Louis L'Amour and action suspense novels by authors such as Lee Child, Michael Connelly and Tom Clancy. He was a loving husband, father and grandfather who enjoyed spending time with and was proud of his children and grandchildren.

The family would like to thank Dr. Diane Ciaglia, the entire staff of the Forest City Personal Care home for their outstanding care for the past seven years and the Green Ridge Care Center for their recent compassion.

Robert is survived by his four children and their spouses, Mark and Elizabeth Gerchman and Eric and Cathy Gerchman, all of Dunmore; Maria and Steve Bianco, East Ararat; and Diane and Tom Walsh, Jermyn; 10 grandchildren, Alexa, Griffin, Kayle and Alec Gerchman; Stephanie, Brianne and Angela Bianco and Kyle, Katie and Colin Walsh; a sister, Irene Cerra, Endwell, N.Y.; nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by three brothers, James, John and Joseph; and a sister, Helen Casmer.

The funeral was Monday, December 18 from the Joseph W. Scotchlas Funeral Home Inc., 621 Main St., Simpson, with Mass of Christian Burial in St. Michael's Church, 46 Midland St., Simpson. Interment with military honors was in Holy Trinity Cemetery, Simpson.

For condolences, visit: www.scotchlasfuneralhome.com.



Donald J. Becker  
Carbondale

Donald J. Becker, 80, of Carbondale, died Thursday, December 14, 2017 at Regional Hospital, Scranton. His wife is the former Beverly J. Fitzmorris.

Born in Carbondale, son of the late Joseph and Mary Horan Becker, he was a Navy veteran and a police officer in South Abington Twp. for many years. Don was a member of the Fraternal Order of Police (FOP) and the Teamsters. In 1955, he was a starting guard for St. Rose's (Carbondale) PCIAA Class A State Basketball Championship team. He was an avid, lifelong St. Louis Cardinals fan and member of St. Rose of Lima Church, Carbondale. He cherished time spent with his children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Also surviving are three sons, Joseph Becker and wife, Brenda, Carbondale; Donald Becker and wife, Beth Shaw, West Palm Beach, Fla.; Steven Becker and wife, Amy Cost, Carbondale; two daughters, Catherine Becker, Carbondale; Brenda Pearsall and husband, Edward, Forest City; seven grandchildren, Joseph, Grant, Cassandra, Jacob and Camryn Becker, Jonna Carden and Erin Pearsall; seven great-grandchildren; a sister-in-law, Elizabeth Becker, Vestal, N.Y.; and many nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by a brother, Gerard Becker.

The family received friends at a memorial service at Lawrence A. Gabriel Funeral Home and Cremation Services Inc., 74 N. Main St., Carbondale, on Sunday, December 17.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be sent to Dessin Animal Shelter, 138 Miller Drive, Honesdale, PA 18431.



Week of Dec. 25

Monday - Centers closed.  
Tuesday - Stuffed Cabbage, mashed potatoes, green beans, ww roll, cottage cheese w/berries.

Wednesday - Salmon Caesar salad, tomato bisque soup, crackers, tropical fruit.

Thursday - Turkey sausage, diner potatoes, french toast w/ syrup, tropical fruit.

Friday - Lemon pepper chicken, green & wax beans, mashed potatoes, ww roll, rice pudding.

For reservations, please call a day ahead at Forest City, 10-2, 785-3386. At Lenoxville, 10-2, THURSDAY ONLY, 222-9550, or you can call the Senior Service office at: 278-7664 or 800-634-3746



Patricia L. McLaughlin-Frankovsky  
Vandling

Patricia L. McLaughlin-Frankovsky, 73, of Vandling died Friday, Dec. 15, 2017 at home. She was predeceased by two husbands, Donald McLaughlin in 1981 and Joseph Frankovsky in 2009.

Born in Kearney, N.J., she was the daughter of the late Peter and Nellie Kowats Marcinkevich. Patricia was raised in Scranton and was a graduate of Technical High School and the Lackawanna County Vo-Tech Nursing Program. Throughout the years, Patricia was employed as a practical nurse at Scranton State General Hospital, Mercy Hospital and did private duty nursing.

Patricia had compassion for all her patients, and they recognized this and truly loved her. She enjoyed the outdoors and working in her yard, traveling, poetry and trips to the casino. She was a loving and caring mother and grandmother who worked hard to provide for her family and will be missed.

She is survived by two daughters, Judy Lowry, North Cape May, N.J.; Theresa Reedy, Greenfield Twp.; a son, Donald McLaughlin, Michigan; a brother, Peter Marcinkevich, Gouldsboro; two sisters, Marion Westover, Taylor; and Diane Marcinkevich, Scranton; eight grandchildren, Stacy, Jessica, Patty, Joseph, Tina, Thomas, Elizabeth and James; 13 great-grandchildren, nieces and nephews; special family friends, Steve, Joe, Bob and Leo; and her beloved dog, Max.

She was also preceded in death by a brother, Edward; and two sisters, Delores Ryan and Lorraine Crusier.

A blessing service was conducted Dec. 19 in the Joseph W. Scotchlas Funeral Home Inc., Simpson. Entombment at a later date in St. Mary's Cemetery, Montdale.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to St. Jude's Children Hospital, 262 Danny Thomas Place, Memphis, TN 38105.

To send condolences, visit: www.scotchlasfuneralhome.com.

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