

# LOOKING BACK

About once every ten years we find ourselves a week ahead on our "Looking Back" column. Thus, in order to get back on a current schedule, we do not have a complete column this week. We will resume next week.

10 YEARS AGO  
December 24, 2008  
Vandling passes 2009 budget, no tax hike.

Vandling and FC agree to continue police protection agreement for 2009.

The Forest City community is saddened by the loss of Joe Nazdak, a longtime local volunteer.

Fortunado's Pizza and Hoagies opens on Main Street.

Louise Watson celebrates 90 years.

Inn at Starlight celebrating 100 years.

Deaths: John T. Suchnick, Forest City; Fiore S. Bruno Sr., Waymart; Emily Nieratko, Throop; John J. Coldwell, Susquehanna; Cheryl L. Weldon, Clifford Twp.

20 YEARS AGO  
December 23, 1998

Santa Claus came early to Paul "Butch" Benarick, 526 Susquehanna St., Forest City, when his name was pulled to win the \$5,000 grand prize of the Vandling Centennial Committee.

Rev. Edward Stanko, 69, pastor of St. John's Byzantine Catholic Church, Susquehanna St., Forest City, died Sunday, December 20, at Marian Community Hospital, Carbondale.

Veteran entertainer Allyn Benson was recently presented with a "Lifetime Achievement Award" by the Acting Company of Forest City.

Deaths: Kathryn Brennan, born in Union Dale; Frank Stas, born in Forest City; Genevieve L. Correll, Carbondale; Anna T. DeCoons, Forest City; Donald Haynes Sr., Starrucca; Donna Jean Schetromph Stone, Thompson.

We will not have a paper for January 2 so below is the Looking Back for Jan. 2

10 YEARS AGO  
December 31, 2008

Forest City Regional's National Honor Society collects toys for 60 area families.

NEP Telephone Co. rescues Paul Ferraro's pet from a tree on Lackawanna Street.

The Forest City News will increase its newsstand price to 75 cents after Jan. 1.

Deaths: Alice F. Kulick, Vandling; Eleanor M. Kulasinky, Vandling; Fred R. Jones, Carbondale; Robert L. Slater, Franklin Forks; William G. Kaufman, Carbondale.

20 YEARS AGO  
December 30, 1998

Doreen Henstell, a charter member of the Forest City Business and Professional Women's Club, was recently named BPW Woman of the Year for 1999.

Congressman Joseph M. McDade announced that the Federal Bureau of Prisons has reached a final decision to proceed with construction of a new \$100 million U.S. penitentiary at the Waymart site in Wayne County.

Forest City was the birthplace of major league baseball player and manager, Harry G. Lumley, former outfielder and manager of the Brooklyn National Club.

Deaths: Rev. Edward Stanko, Forest City; Albert Tomazin, Brown Dale; Victor R. Ben Petinato, Newton Lake; Bernard Builder, Ararat; Patrick Hoban, Union Dale; Marlene Whiting, R.N., Vandling; Mae J. Whiting, Moscow; Clayton Eugene Cobb, Waymart; Susan R. DeMark, Carbondale.

30 YEARS AGO  
December 29, 1988

Karol Kline was recently selected "Woman of the Year" by the Forest City Business & Professional Women's Club.

The Board of Directors for the Northeast Tri-County Mental Health/Mental Retardation Center, Inc., has announced the appointment of Edward Leo Golecki as acting director for the center.

PA Secretary of Education Michael Gilhool visited Forest City and met with eighth grade stu-

dents in an effort to determine why Forest City Regional students scored markedly higher TELLS scores than their counterparts around the state.

The Borough received a donation of 400 tons of cinders from Gino Popple and Mike Keklak of Popple Bros. Coal Company in Pittston.

Forest City, Vandling, Brown Dale and Richmondale residents were without water for about 12 hours last week as a six-inch water line broke in front of the Borough Building.

Deaths during the last two weeks: Joseph Churnicky, Forest City; Mary Mikulak, RD Union Dale; Frank Ferraro, born in Vandling; Angela Warner, Montrose; Mrs. Crescentia O'Connor, formerly of Forest City; Glenn Ely, Montrose; Katherine Sekunda, Simpson; Thomas Rupnik, born in Forest City; Louis Markel, born in Brown Dale; Maria Keklak, RD 2, Carbondale; Theresa Pratt, born in Susquehanna; John Kowalsky, Richmondale; Julia Cravetts, born in Forest City.

40 YEARS AGO  
December 28, 1978

Harold Hall, Brown Dale, has been hired as new Forest City Street Commissioner, replacing Joseph Slamas who resigned recently.

CD Director Gerald Cross has announced a meeting next week to announce details of Forest City's Block Grant request.

Susq. County's 1979 budget keeps the tax rate at 14 mills, the same as 1978.

Students from Penn State will be in Forest City to conduct a community-wide survey of local families for the local Community Development program.

January 4th will be the deadline for redemption of TriCounty Industrial Fund bonds.

William Puntar was elected president of Brown Dale Sportsmen's Club.

Deaths: Louis Bianco, Vandling.

50 YEARS AGO  
January 2, 1969

Robert Ferraro, former Vandling resident, an employee of Bendix Corp., was a special guest of NASA at the launching of the three Apollo 8 astronauts to the moon from Cape Kennedy. He resides in Cape Kennedy.

The Carbondale Nursing Home will have its formal opening on Jan. 15.

John C. Onufrak, Vandling, a junior at Penn State, has been awarded the Leland Rhodes Scholarship by the Chi Epsilon, engineering society.

Edwin Bloxham, a sophomore at Lock Haven State College, has earned a berth on the swim team.

ST2c Ray Lewandowski has returned to Long Beach, CA, after six months aboard the destroyer USS Maddox in the Tonkin Gulf, off South Vietnam.

Deaths: Mrs. Cecelia Ursich, RD 1, Waymart; Verne Dickinson, Herrick Center; Mrs. Elizabeth Misunas, Philadelphia; Mrs. Mary Dribnack, Kearny, NJ, both former residents.

60 YEARS AGO  
January 1, 1959

Rev. G. Fay Grossman, of Herrick Center, was the recipient of the Town and Country Award by the Pennsylvania Baptist Association.

Officers installed by the Enterprise Hose Company were John Zaller, president; Thomas Thiede, vice president; Donald Zalesky, recording secretary; Stanley Zebrowski, financial secretary; August DeMark, treasurer; Frank Wilks, chief driver, and Thomas Craparo, foreman.

PFC Ludwig Konzman completed U.S. Army Signal School at Fort Gordon, GA.

Joseph F. Fitzsimmons has been appointed Pennsylvania Agency Supervisor for Beacon Mutual Indemnity Co., Columbus, Ohio.

State Police are seeking persons responsible for stealing five boxes of blasting caps from a Clinton Township, Wayne County, construction project. They are warned to keep them out of the reach of

children, as they are potential killers, said Cpl. Harold W. Casper of the Honesdale substation.

70 YEARS AGO  
January 6, 1949

Three-year-old Carol Oakley of Crystal Lake died in the Carbondale General Hospital a short time after drinking undetermined contents of a bottle believed to be animal medicine.

Forest City High School Varsity and Forest City Boys Club will play a benefit game Monday for the Heart Fund.

Borough Treasurer John G. O'Neill is receiving treatment in the University of Pennsylvania Hospital in Philadelphia.

Final military respects were paid to First Lieutenant Merton B. Geuther whose body was returned home from Japan. Reinterment was made in Clinton Cemetery.

Forest City drops Northern League opener to Fell, 43-29. Vandling tops Archbald 30-27 in their opener.

Deaths: John Pribula, North Main Street; Ira Snyder, Clifford; Mrs. Frances Horoski, Pleasant Mount; Joseph Prudish, Scranton, a former Forest City resident.

80 YEARS AGO  
January 5, 1939

Hon. F. T. Gelder elected President Pro Tempore of Pennsylvania State Senate.

Teachers of the Forest City School District receive half month salary payment, still being only one month in arrears.

Forest City's high-gear basketball team swamped Fell High School 40-19, in their Northern League opener.

Miss Agnes L. Supon, R.N., has received word that she has successfully passed the New York State Registered Nurses exam. She is now associated with the General Hospital in Ossining, NY.

State Highway officials enter protest to borough council calling all the latter to take action in keeping parked cars off main roads during snow plowing activities of State Highway forces.

90 YEARS AGO  
January 3, 1929

Attempts were made to dynamite the Scranton home of Arthur Wrightson, former local superintendent of the Forest City colliery.

Edward Podboy, USN, is spending a leave at his home here.

Dr. B. E. Costello was installed as president of the Forest City Kiwanis Club, succeeding Dr. H.R. Bell.

Mrs. Anna Welicka passed away at the family home, North main Street, yesterday, Mrs. Marion Jones, former local resident, died Friday in Johnson City.

100 YEARS AGO  
January 2, 1919

Joseph Slick, who recently gave up his meat market business, died from injuries received in a premature blast at the Coal brook Mine. His brother, Peter, incurred minor injuries in the mishap.

Members of the Forest City Board of health presented Miss Loretta Cawley with a gold watch for her fine services rendered during the recent epidemic here.

James Arthur, one of the first settlers here, was struck by "The Flyer" last Thursday sustaining injuries from which death resulted.

Hugh Johnston has been reported to have been seriously wounded in France, his casualty just reported after happening two months ago.

110 YEARS AGO  
January 7, 1909

The village of Gibson, with no adequate means of fighting fires, was visited by a disastrous fire Sunday, which practically wiped out the business section.

L.J. Wells sold out restaurant and confectionery store to Henry and David William Davis.

Frank F. Krusnik, 31, a miner in the Clifford shaft, was killed in a rock fall last Thursday.

Union revival services were inaugurated here Sunday by the Methodist and Presbyterian Churches.

120 YEARS AGO  
January 5, 1899

The Forest City Colliery of the Hillside Coal and Iron Co. worked three and one quarter days last month, making a total of 120 days for the entire year.

A teacher institute for the district comprising Forest City, Union Dale and Herrick Township will be held Saturday in Union Dale.

After suffering several burglary losses, Julius Freedman has secured a burglarproof safe weighing nearly two tons. Mr. Freedman on Monday was notified of his appointment as a Notary Public. The appointment came from Governor Hastings.

Mrs. William Swartz died Sunday following a lingering illness. On Monday night, her brother, Joseph Pohren, passed away.

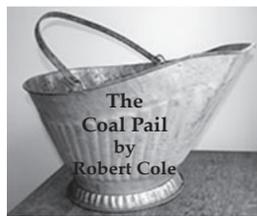
130 YEARS AGO  
January 5, 1889

The Hillside Cemetery Association has been granted a charter for the purpose of maintaining a cemetery in the borough.

The Welsh people of the village have decided to hold regular church services each week.

W. Jay Davis has left for Moosic, where he will rebuild the masonry work on the fire-damaged breaker there. He took the local corps of masons with him.

Harry O. Watrous was admitted to the Susquehanna County Bar last Monday.



The following short stories are of life as a young boy in the Forest City Area and are written by Robert Cole, Bordentown, 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.

## CHRISTMAS SPECIAL

Christmas is the time of the year that traditions are followed. They are passed down through the generations of family's. Christmas in Forest City was always a special time.

The Atkinson home on Railroad Street had traditions that were carried on every year. Soon after Thanksgiving the Christmas tree was decorated and the wonderful smells of evergreen was through the whole home. Grand Ma Atkinson and my Mom made their fruit cakes and Christmas cookies. Also a braided fried cake that the Germans called GRIMBULAS. I have not had them in years. Yum!

My sister Carol Cole Hawkins knows how to make them. Christmas Eve was spent at church and then home to get ready for bed. Stockings were hung and then off to bed. We would leave Santa a grimbula with a glass of milk.

In the morning we had to have breakfast before we could go see what SANTA had left for us. After that Grandma would start cooking the Christmas dinner. I can remember her cooking a Christmas GOOSE but usually a capon chicken. What an delicious meal.

At my home some of the traditions are the same. Tree up 3 weeks before Christmas and our children helped my wife Annette Pasquale Cole decorate it. Now our Grand Daughter Kylie Jessie Cole loves to help Grandma decorate the tree with all of the special ornaments that we have collected over all of the years (57) that we have been married.

We have a pickle ornament that we hide someplace on the tree. The one that finds it gets a special gift. This a tradition in alot of homes. Look it up on your computer and see the whole story.

Christmas Eve is a special time at our home. Annette cooks the Italian Christmas Eve dinner as her mother used to do. No meats on Christmas eve. Italians call it the 7 fishes. Annette's Mom did the 7 fishes but Annette does not do that many.

She starts with Italian Wedding soup (egg drop), shrimp comes next, and then fried flounder. Next is the walnut, fresh garlic and anchovies cooked in olive oil over linguine. Usually steamed broccoli with fresh garlic and olive oil and lemon. And of course I have to go to the Italian bakery and get 2 large round loaves of fresh baked Italian bread. Then we go to the tree and Kylie, Deborah and Robert get to open their gifts from us. Then home to bed for Kylie to wait for Santa. Annette off to church for Midnight Mass. Christmas day we go to Debs and see Kylie. Dinner at Debs. Always a great meal.

THE VERY BEST TIME OF THE YEAR.

## 100 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

Items from the Independent Republican Monitor Democrat and The World Journal Submitted by Betty Smith, Susquehanna County Historical Society, Montrose. Back issues of 100 Years Ago can be accessed at www.susqohistory.org

With "Our Boys in the Field:" Mrs. Margaret Welden, of Montrose, received word that her son, Francis Welden, a member of Co. A, 103d Engineers, of the 28th Division, was praised for the bravery shown by his company. According to Capt. Edward Hill, of Scranton, commander of Co. A, the company built bridges, roads and paths through the valleys and in the mountains, fought with the infantry, worked with the artillery and fought alongside the tank battalions. Nothing frightened them. One of their greatest feats was their success in building eighteen bridges over the Vesle River while under heavy fire; Lieut. Edward Little contacted his mother, the first she had heard from him since the signing of the armistice. He had been in the fighting in the Argonne Forest sector during the last days of warfare; Walter Thorne, of Ararat, received a message that his nephew, Willis Thorne, was severely wounded in France; Louis Skubic, of Forest City, sent a letter to his brother, Frank, stating that "it is a long time since I heard from [brother] Charles." Charles died in France in September, but Louis is evidently unaware of his death; John Fernan, of New Milford, has been decorated for bravery and good work done at the front; Walter Miller, son of Attorney and Mrs. J. D. Miller, of Thompson, returned home last Sunday, having been honorably discharged from the Air Service of the United States Army; A memorial service for Pvt. James Kane, son of Michael Kane of Franklin Twp, who was killed in military service in France, was conducted at St. Mary's Church in Montrose. James was killed instantly by an exploding shell, which came through the top of the building in which he had been sleeping. He was buried in a temporary burying ground on a ridge, about a half mile west of the little French village of Commesance, by the Chaplain of the Regiment.

Forest Lake - Word was received that Capt. M. S. Towne died at his home in Unionville, Missouri, Dec. 10th, aged 89 years, 2 months and 28 days. Myron Towne was born at Forest Lake in 1829, the son of John S. and Rachel Warner Towne. In 1875 he came to Unionville, becoming proprietor of the Empire House and took a prominent part in the development of Putnam county and the building of the city, becoming mayor in 1881. Mr. Towne enlisted in Co. H, 143rd Pennsylvania, in the famous Bucktail Brigade in 1862 and carried a musket in all the important battles from Antietam to the siege of Petersburg. He was engaged at Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, Gettysburg, Wilderness, Spottsylvania and Cold Harbor. In 1864 he was transferred to the 45th U. S. Colored Troops, being placed in command of a company with the rank of first lieutenant and later promoted to captain. He was in command of the first division wagon train to be parked on the historic field of Appomattox. The train consisted of army wagons laden with picks and shovels for entrenching purposes should Lee's army turn at bay and fight. He was the only man of his original company to be present at the surrender of Lee to Grant. Myron remained in the army until 1866 when he was discharged and came home.

Oakland - Oakland lost two of her long-time residents last week in the deaths of Mrs. Minnie Sperl and Theodore Bergstrom.

Susquehanna - George Oakley, an employee of the Erie Railroad, died in the hospital here on Dec. 18, as a result of being overcome by smoke. Fire was discovered in the engineers' oil and tool rooms of the old Erie roundhouse. The flames spread rapidly owing to the inflammable nature of the material stored there. When employees entered the storerooms, after the fire, they discovered Oakley on the floor in an unconscious condition. When the blaze started he returned for his coat and was overcome by the smoke. He was rushed to the hospital on the Erie Hose auto truck and died in about one hour. He is survived by his wife and a son, Fred, of Pittsburgh.

Montrose - At a meeting of those interested in temperance, held in the library, it was decided not to circulate any remonstrances against the Montrose hotels, owing to the existing conditions in regard to the manufacture and sale of intoxicants.

Brooklyn - Let us hope the "flu" has flown, and gone for good. Come to church. The Universalist church will open for services next Sunday. We will have a varied program, with as much Christmas in it as we can get. Come one and all and let us be glad together at this holy Christmas festival.

Springville - The annual gentlemen's supper will be held in the M. E. church parlors on New Year's eve, from 6 o'clock until all are served. Be sure and be present and enjoy the feast for which the gentlemen of the town are famous. ALSO Mr. and Mrs. Miles Compton celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on Tuesday, Dec. 24th.

Union Dale - Mr. Webster, one of our businessmen and Miss Nettie Felter, of Herrick Center, were united in marriage on Thursday, Dec. 19, 1918. They will reside on Todd Avenue. ALSO James Lowery, of Bucknell University, and Anthony Planishek, of State College, are spending the Christmas vacation here. ALSO Evan Williams attended the funeral of his brother, George, at Greenfield, Tuesday. His death followed a stroke of paralysis. He was 74 years of age and a veteran of the Civil War. Burial at the Lee cemetery at Greenfield.

West Auburn - Henry Bolles, of Missouri, and Mr. and Mrs. Roy Bolles, of New Jersey, were here to attend the funeral of their father, George Bolles.

Forest City - Several from here attended the Good Roads meeting and were greatly pleased at the determination of all present to seek better roads between the two largest business points in the county - Forest City and Susquehanna. We think if the powers that be would take an auto ride between the two boroughs they might be induced to grant the request of the people along the line.

Elk Lake - W. H. Tanner is running his mill day and night. He is obliged to take up the large dam in order to get the willow roots out, which are stopping the flow of water to the mill.

Thompson - The coal famine, which had every appearance of becoming a serious affair, was averted, when a car of coal was left at the coal pockets and the promise of more to come.

Silver Lake - Larry McCabe visited the Democrat's office and while we are always glad to see "Larry," he is especially welcome on gloomy days, when a large, genial soul is needed to turn the proverbial dark cloud inside out to reveal the silver lining. If we were to receive the terrible sentence to publish a county newspaper for one hundred more years, our one wish would be to be surrounded with those having his cheerful outlook on life.

News Briefs: American airmen in France brought down 854 German planes and 82 balloons, against American loss of 271 planes and 45 balloons. ALSO Germany has returned to Belgium \$91,000,000 of gold taken early in the war.

The Montrose Gazette's edition for December 26, 1818, is missing from our newspaper collection.

## Self-Defense Classes at Clinton Church

The Clinton Center Baptist Church, 1000 Belmont Trpk., Waymart will sponsor a self defense class beginning Sat., Jan. 5 at 10 a.m. The class will be instructed by Judy Wiggins, in the art of Tae Kwon Do. Donations accepted.

For more information contact Judy at 570-219-3594 or visit our website at www.clinton-centerbaptist.org

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