

# LOOKING BACK

**10 YEARS AGO**  
December 17, 2008  
Vandling sidewalks cost \$840,039; Forest City Boro's cost \$206,042; total joint project is \$1,046,081.

Vandling considering joint recycling agreement with Forest City & Vandling.

Forest City loses battle of Pierogi Capital.

Virginia Connor is named branch manager at HNB in Forest City.

Teton Pipeline seeks permission to place an 8-inch gas pipeline on township roads from Pleasant Mount Supervisors.

Deaths: Joseph M. Nadzak, Brown Dale; Elva M. Bates, Curtis Valley; Arthur C. Franceski, Rotterdam, N.Y.; Stanley P. Gillern, Jr., Scranton; Joseph Galaydick, Taylor; Gladys Smith, Archbald.

**20 YEARS AGO**  
December 16, 1998

The debate over whether Forest City Borough residents would get the bag system or unlimited trash collection ended at the Council meeting on December 7th. The Borough accepted the bid of USA Waste to provide per-bag trash pickup for 1999-2000-2001.

Joseph Debevec Jr. was elected president of the Brown Dale Fire Company for 1999.

Forest City Council granted Free Parking on Main Street from December 14 to January 2.

Forest City's Code Enforcement Officer Tim Tyson submitted his letter of resignation effective December 31st.

Deaths: Ann E. Gulbin, Forest City; Emma Herrmann, Union Dale; Colette A. Murmin, Vandling; Thomas Frank Zedar, Richmond Dale; Edward Tavornik Sr., born in Vandling.

**30 YEARS AGO**  
December 15, 1988

The Forest City Area Rotary Club recently sponsored the attendance of Michael Kane to a Leadership Seminar. Mr. Kane is an employee of ABC Market.

The Trehab Center, based in Montrose, has announced that a Food Bank will be opened in Forest City.

Louis C. Parise and Joseph W. Scotchlas are pleased to announce the association of Robert L. Lesjack to their firm.

Officials and citizens of Herrick Township found themselves divided over the issue of an Amusement Tax at a meeting of the Herrick Twp. Supervisors.

Deaths: John Shamro, born in Herrick Center; John Puchnick, Ohio; Lynette Pickering, RD 3 Susquehanna.

**40 YEARS AGO**  
December 14, 1978

A 19-year-old Carbondale man came crashing through the ceiling of Community Bank's Simpson Branch after setting off an alarm bringing police to the institution last week.

Kathy Urbas has been selected captain of the FCRRHS girls basketball team.

Joseph Matircho was elected president of the Tri-County Senior Citizens.

Water quality and fire flow insufficiency were the top problems listed by the new Forest City Citizens' Advisory Committee.

The FCRRHS Soccer Team was the Northern Division Champ of the N.E. PA Soccer League and finished in second place in the District 12 playoffs.

Deaths: Thelma Hornbeck, former local school teacher; Mrs. Gladys Snedeker, RD 1, Waymart.

**50 YEARS AGO**  
December 26, 1968

Four persons walked away from the wreckage of a Cessna airplane last Thursday that glided to a crash landing near Crystal Pines Restaurant at Crystal Lake.

Vandling Mayor Tom Butler attended a meeting last week on the proposed Scranton to Carbondale Industrial Highway.

The new elementary addition to the Forest City Regional School Building is estimated to

cost \$904,323.  
Tom Oven and Arvo Leola were picked co-captains of the Foresters basketball team.

**60 YEARS AGO**  
December 25, 1958

St. Joseph's Hospital School of Nursing has received word from the National League of Nursing that the school, operated by the Sisters Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary was founded March 25, 1926 and has graduated more than 500 nurses.

A2/c Donald Zalesky, son of Mr. and Mrs. Donald Zalesky, North Main St., has received the Presidential Citation Ribbon for being a member of the 42nd Bombardment Wing on combat ready status for a period of over four months.

The stockholders of the First and Farmers National Bank of Forest City, at their annual meeting on Tuesday, January 13, will, in addition to the submission of the annual report of the year 1958 and the election of the Board of Directors, be asked to take action on a motion of the board to approve the declaration of a 100 percent stock dividend. The Directors approved the motion to declare a 100 percent dividend at their meeting held on December 16.

**NO 70 YEARS AGO**  
**80 YEARS AGO**  
December 22, 1938

Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Varcoe, Curtis Valley, observed their 48th wedding anniversary on December 18.

Rev. Joseph M. Brownlee, SMT, will leave the Christ Church rectory. The Rev. Oliver Kingsman will serve here on temporary assignment.

Senator F. T. Gelder has been selected by the Republican caucus to serve as President Pro Tempore of the State Senate.

Deaths during the past week: Mrs. Ada Loomis, Maple Grove; Charles E. Leach, Thompson, and Mrs. Ursula Sorbs, Forest City.

**90 YEARS AGO**  
December 20, 1928

Elias Freedman, 63, died Saturday at the family home on Hudson Street. He was one of the borough's successful and esteemed businessmen.

Mr. and Mrs. Benedict McCabe moved their household effects from Plains to Forest City.

Carl Franceski has returned to his home here after spending some time at Alden Springs, NY.

The one-family house of Frank Zaller, N. Susquehanna St., was destroyed by fire Monday.

John Sever, son of Mr. and Mrs. Anthony Sever, Grand Ave., escaped injuries when he fell 20 feet from a window on the second floor of the family home.

**100 YEARS AGO**  
December 26, 1918

The Forest City to Susquehanna Good Roads Association was formed at a public meeting here. Over 200 local and regional representatives were present. F.T. Gelder was named chairman and H.L. Bayliss, secretary.

Joseph, five-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Adam Wysocki, Susquehanna St., died as a result of burns received when scalded when a boiler overturned on the youth.

Turkey prices were high during the holiday season, fifty cents a pound live weight.

M.J. Walsh has sold his Depot Street property to John Sienko.

T.P. McCormick was named president of the Enterprise Hose Company.

Michael Kost of Richmond Dale passed away at the family home on Saturday. Michael Carey died at the family home on Lackawanna Street on Friday.

**110 YEARS AGO**  
December 25, 1908

Joseph Zaller Jr. will leave next week for Joliet, IL, to take up his duties as Supreme Secretary of KSKJ fraternal organization.

The "Laurel Club" has engaged the entire floor of six rooms of Cohen's Store. Officers are: Joe

Anderson, president; John Murray Jr., vice president; P.F. Morrison, treasurer; Ben McClosky, secretary; Peter Lettings, Tim Kilhullen and Barnard Bodman, trustees. The rooms have been neatly furnished including a \$400 piano.

Dan Melvin and John Stanivewicz of St. Bonaventure College are spending the holidays at their home here.

The Family Theatre is now open the first three nights of the week for roller skating.

D.B. Gibson closed his meat market in the LaBar building. He has purchased the wholesale business of S. Bronson, in Union Dale.

**120 YEARS AGO**  
December 26, 1898

The rite of Confirmation was administered to fifteen persons on Tuesday evening by Rev. Ethelbert Talbot. At the conclusion of the services a reception was held at the home of Rev. J.E. Broadhead.

Eleven local residents have applied for renewal of their licenses here. They are: W.H. Wildenberger, Martin Muchitz, John Prokopovich, John Cunningham, Charles Leonard, Margaret Hartung, Thomas Cunningham, J.F. Wellbrock and Michael Krantz, George Wademan in Union Dale, and P.H., Flynn in Herrick Center.

M. Hendlar has bought the shoe store of Frank Cunningham and will combine this with his own business.

Stephen Bronson is busy filling ice houses in the Union Dale area.

George Thompson, Vandling, has purchased Richard Gray's barbershop in Vandling. Dick is opening a new shop in the Forest House.

**130 YEARS AGO**  
December 20, 1888

Anti-slang societies are the latest.

R.R. Randall has moved into his recently erected home near the Clifford breaker.

Sheriff Foran, of Montrose, was professionally engaged in town Tuesday.

D.G. Black of Nicholson is busily engaged locally, selling insurance.

Thomas Pritchard and Mary Richards were united in marriage Wednesday by Rev. J.L. Williams.

Mrs. Priestly and her three-year-old grandchild perished in the fire which destroyed a one and one-half story house on Main Street. The home was occupied by Mrs. Priestly and her daughter and son-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Peter Gavin and children. The bucket brigade prevented the fire from spreading to adjacent structures.

**Lottery Calendar Fund-Raiser to Help Seniors**

The Lottery Calendar Fund-raiser, coordinated by B/S/S/T Area Agency on Aging, Inc., is being offered to benefit seniors living in Bradford, Sullivan, Susquehanna, and Tioga Counties.

The cost of the lottery calendar is \$20, and comes with 120 chances to win from Jan. 1 to April 30, 2019. The evening "You Pick 3" lottery numbers are utilized, and the cash prize for each day is awarded to the calendar holder with the corresponding number. Daily cash prizes range from \$30.00 up to \$100.00, and a total of over \$4,000 in cash prizes are possible.

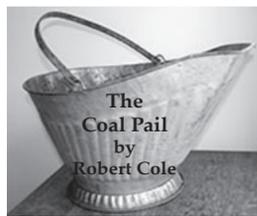
For more information about the Lottery Calendar Fund-raiser or B/S/S/T Area Agency on Aging, Inc., services, please call

**American Legion in need of new & former members**

The American Legion is looking for more members, and new members, and is calling on all veterans to join or re-up today. And just a reminder, spouses can be in the Auxiliary too!

The Legion is full of good, committed, and patriotic people; something the world needs more of. Don't let your patriotism fade away. The legion needs you!

For more information call Al at 570-785-5387 or Jeff at 334-549-6300.



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 grandparent's house on Railroad Street. His grandparents were Richard and Jessie Atkinson.

**Annie and Willie's Prayer**  
Sophia P. Snow

'twas the eve before Christmas. "Good night," had been said, And Annie and Willie had crept into bed;

There were tears on their pillows, and tears in their eyes, And each little bosom was heaving with sighs,

For tonight their stern father's command had been given That they should retire precisely at seven

Instead of at eight—for they troubled him more With questions unheard of than ever before:

He had told them he thought this delusion a sin, No such creature as "Santa Claus" ever had been.

And he hoped, after this, he should never more hear How he scrambled down chimneys with presents each year.

And this was the reason that two little heads So restlessly tossed on their soft, downy beds.

Eight, nine, and the clock on the steeple tolled ten, Not a word had been spoken by either till then,

When Willie's sad face from the blanket did peep, And whispered, "Dear Annie, is 'ou fast as'eeep?"

"Why no, brother Willie," a sweet voice replies, "I've long tried in vain, but I can't shut my eyes,

For somehow it makes me so sorry because Dear papa has said there is no 'Santa Claus.'

Now we know there is, and it can't be denied, For he came every year before mamma died;

But, then, I've been thinking that she used to pray, And God would hear every-thing mamma would say,

And maybe she asked him to send Santa Claus here With that sackful of presents he brought every year."

"Well, why tan't we p'ay dest as mamma did den, And ask Dod to send him with p'esents aden?"

"I've been thinking so too," and without a word more Four little bare feet bounded out on the floor,

And four little knees the soft carpet pressed, And two tiny hands were clasped close to each breast.

"Now, Willie, you know we must firmly believe That the presents we ask for we're sure to receive;

You must wait very still till I say the 'Amen,' And by that you will know that your turn has come then."

"Dear Jesus, look down on my brother and me, And grant us the favor we are asking of thee.

I want a wax dolly, a teaset, and ring, And an ebony workbox that shuts with a spring.

Bless papa, dear Jesus, and cause him to see That Santa Claus loves us as much as does he;

Don't let him get fretful and angry again At dear brother Willie and Annie. Amen."

"Please, Desus, 'et Santa Taus tum down tonight, And b'ing us some p'esents be-

fore it is light;

I want he should div' me a nice 'ittie 'sed, With 'bright shinin' 'unners, and all painted red;

A box full of tandy, a book, and a toy, Amen, and then, Desus, I'll be a dood boy."

Their prayers being ended, they raised up their heads, With hearts light and cheerful, again sought their beds.

They were lost soon in slumber, both peaceful and deep, And with fairies in dreamland were roaming in sleep.

Eight, nine, and the little French clock had struck ten, Ere the father had thought of his children again:

He seems now to hear Annie's half-suppressed sighs, And to see the big tears stand in Willie's blue eyes.

"I was harsh with my darlings," he mentally said, "And should not have sent them so early to bed;

But then I was troubled; my feelings found vent, But of course they've forgotten their troubles ere this,

And that I denied them the thrice-asked-for kiss: But, just to make sure, I'll go up to their door,

For I never spoke harsh to my darlings before." So saying, he softly ascended the stairs,

And arrived at the door to hear both of their prayers; His Annie's "Bless papa" drew forth the big tears,

And Willie's grave promise fell sweet on his ears. "Strange—strange—I'd forgotten," said he with a sigh,

"How I longed when a child to have Christmas draw nigh." "I'll atone for my harshness," he inwardly said,

"By answering their prayers ere I sleep in my bed." Then he turned to the stairs and softly went down,

Threw off velvet slippers and silk dressing gown, Donned hat, coat, and boots, and was out in the street,

A millionaire facing the cold, driving sleet! Nor stopped he until he had bought everything

From the box full of candy to the tiny gold ring; Indeed, he kept adding so much to his store,

That the various presents outnumbered a score. Then homeward he turned. When his holiday load,

With Aunt Mary's help, in the nursery was stowed. Miss Dolly was seated beneath a pine tree,

By the side of a table spread out for her tea; A workbox well fitted in the center was laid,

And on it the ring for which Annie had prayed, A soldier in uniform stood by a sled

"With bright shining runners, and all painted red." There were balls, dogs, and horses, books pleasing to see,

And birds of all colors were perched in the tree! While Santa Claus, laughing, stood up in the top,

As if getting ready more presents to drop. And as the fond father the picture surveyed,

He thought for his trouble he had amply been paid, And he said to himself, as he brushed off a tear,

"I'm happier tonight than I've been for a year;

I've enjoyed more pure pleasure than ever before; What care I if bank stock falls ten per cent more!

Hereafter I'll make it a rule, I believe, To have Santa Claus visit us each Christmas Eve."

So thinking, he gently extinguished the light, And, tripping down stairs, retired for the night.

As soon as the beams of the bright morning sun Put the darkness to flight, and the stars one by one,

Four little blue eyes out of sleep opened wide, And at the same moment the presents espied;

Then out of their beds they sprang with a bound, And the very gifts prayed for were all of them found.

They laughed and they cried, in their innocent glee, And shouted for papa to come quick and see

What presents old Santa Claus brought in the night (Just the things that they wanted,) and left before light:

"And now," added Annie, in a voice soft and low, "You'll believe there's a 'Santa Claus', papa, I know";

While dear little Willie climbed up on his knee, Determined no secret between them should be,

And told in soft whispers how Annie had said That their dear, blessed mamma, so long ago dead,

Used to kneel down by the side of her chair, And that God up in heaven had answered her prayer.

"Den we dot up and prayed dust well as we tould, And Dod answered our prayers: now wasn't He dood?"

"I should say that He was, if He sent you all these, And knew just what presents my children would please.

(Well, well, let him think so, the dear little elf, 'Twould be cruel to tell him I did it myself.")

Blind father! who caused your stern heart to relent, And the hasty words spoken so soon to repent?

'Twas the Being who bade you steal softly upstairs, And made you His agent to answer their prayers.

## 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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