

Look
Inside



Memories of Se-Wy-Co Fire Co.'s 75 Years of Community Service

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SEPTEMBER 14, 2001 / VOLUME 13 NUMBER 38

THE VALLEY VOICE

SAUCON VALLEY'S WEEKLY PAPER 75¢

Water sinks Town Hall basement plans

By Ann Marie Gonsalves
Of The Valley Voice

Underground water, that unpredictable commodity over which it seems no one has control is not beholding to the designs of suburban tranquility.

Nor is it beholding to the new municipal building Lower Saucon Township planned to build.

Water forced council Sept. 5 to redraw its plans and exclude the basement in its new municipal building. Although Township engineer James Birdsall repeatedly raised the high water table issue, engineers only conducted rudimentary water table tests and not the more complex tests that are usually done on the four corners of the building's foundation.

Township Manager J. Layne Turner said the water table was found to be so high that parts of the basement would have been submerged under the current plans despite a ball park cost of \$250,000 for waterproofing.

Instead of a basement, council will add an expanded alcove for a police workout room and to store files. The plan will eliminate 2,000 to 4,000 square feet of space and will save about \$50,000 from the overall cost.

The water problems in the southeastern portion of the township are far from new.

Back in 1977, when New Jersey Zinc Co. pumped between 38 and 43 million gallons of water a day many home owners were faced with dried up wells. The company stopped pumping water in 1983 and by 1987 portions of the township noticed a rising water table, marshy conditions, the return of small streams and springs causing basement flooding and the malfunction of septic sewer systems.

The situation alarmed Councilman Barry Gebhart, who served as councilman and township mayor at the time. Gebhart said he heard enough reports to "fly a flag" at what is happening with the rising water table. But, Donald Hoskins of the state Department of Environmental Resources in September 1987 said there was no crisis to which a skeptic Gebhart said, "the jury is still out but I have to bow to the experts opinion."

Hoskins served as director of the topographic and geological branch of DER. He said, "The cone of depression is wide. If the cone of depression and water level at the mine site has returned to pre-pumping levels, then the water flow may have stopped and the cone outside the site could be filling."

NEWSMAKERS

Board looks at way to cut electric bill

Saucon Valley School District spends about \$400,000 a year for its electric bill and the board wants to reduce the cost with an on-site power generation plant.

Kevin Renninger of PPL Energy Plus said a 1,000-kilowatt generator, used on high demand days could shave about \$18,000 from the bill. The generator would be operated by diesel fuel. There were no cost estimates to install the generator. Renninger said the district pays a preferred rate of 8 cents a kilowatt hour but an increase of about 6 percent is forecasted for next year.

Renninger said he does not believe an on-site power plant would be financially justifiable and that the district should cut its overall consumption and convert the high school to gas heat.

The board is also looking at a plan to reorganize its custodial department that would eliminate the nighttime supervisors job but make three part-time positions into full-time positions.

Bethlehem man dies in motorcycle crash

Lower Saucon Township Police identified the man who died Sunday in a motorcycle crash as Brian David Whittemore, of West Union Boulevard, Bethlehem.

He was heading north in the 4100 block of Lower Saucon Road around 6 p.m. and failed to negotiate a curve, hitting a tree head-on. He was pronounced dead at the scene.

Whittemore died of massive blunt force trauma and the death was ruled an accident. Northampton County Coroner Zachary Lysek has ordered toxicology tests.

Investigators said witnesses reported that Whittemore pulled away from a home at a high rate of speed before the accident.

Se-Wy-Co Fire Co. marks 75th birthday

■ Firemen's parade to cap off celebration activities Saturday

Se-Wy-Co Fire Company volunteer Steve Martin likes to tell people he owns a t-shirt that states if he goes the firehouse one more time, his wife will leave him.

"Boy, she'll miss him," Martin jokes.

To Martin, it is a perfect example of loyalty that has helped the fire department survive for 75 years. Other words he used to describe the company's success included responsibility, duty, honor, pride, compassion and camaraderie. They were all present in memories shared among company volunteers at the lunch.

Each of these words were displayed Sunday during an anniversary lunch at Se-Wy-Co banquet Hall for fire more than 100 department volunteers and their families.

According to local historian Richard Kantor, Se-Wy-Co Fire Company formed after the following event, "The winter of 1926 was harsh as the eastern part of the nation was in the grip of a cold wave. . . . Furnaces were required to work extra hard. . . . On Jan. 30, 1926, flames destroyed four dwellings at Wydnor and badly damaged a fifth house. Mr. and Mrs. Gabriel Pearl, Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Devlin, Forrest Jacoby and John Nelmes were

(continued on page 13)



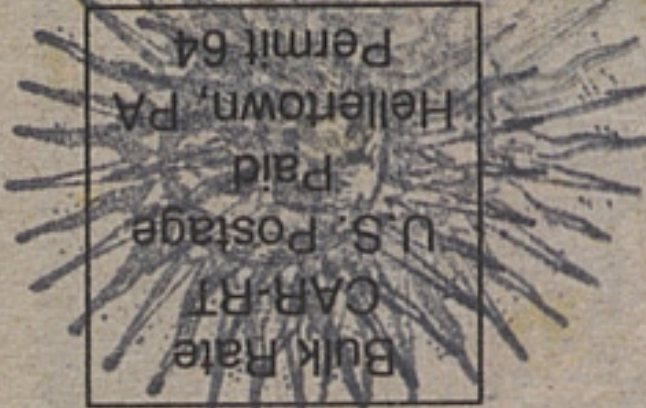
Rebecca and Steve Martin, both Se-Wy-Co Fire Co. members, observe a moment of prayer for fellow fire personnel Sunday at a company anniversary lunch.

Photo by Paul Bealer

A KEYSTONE & PENNSYLVANIA PRESS CLUB AWARD-WINNING NEWSPAPER

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AROUND SAUCON VALLEY

Meet county executive candidate Ron Angle

The Black River Neighborhood Association of Lower Saucon Township will hold a "Meet The Candidate Night" at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 25 at Se-Wy-Co Fire Company Banquet Hall, off Route 378.

Ron Angle, Republican candidate for Northampton County executive, will answer questions about county issues.

The event is open to the public and will be moderated by

Bruce Davis.

The Association is attempting to set up another candidate night with Democratic candidate Glenn Riebman.

Campbell, Rappold & Yurasits LLP has announced that Sallie Bambu of Lower Saucon Township has been appointed certified public accountant by the Pennsylvania Department of State.

She joined the firm in 1999 and is a graduate of DeSales University with a degree in accounting and finance.

Bamau is a member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and the Pennsylvania Institute of Certified Public Accountants.

An open house meeting to discuss traffic improvements to Route 412 from Interstate 78 to the Hill to Hill Bridge will be held at 7:30 p.m. Sept. 19 at the Comfort Suites, 120 W. Third St., Bethlehem.

Several alternative plans will be on display as will be the new environmental features data. The project team will answer questions. The force behind the

need for improvements is the Bethlehem Works project that will include entertainment features as well as a museum.

Registration is still open for the Hellertown and Saucon Valley Lions Golf Outing set for 8 a.m. Friday, Sept. 21 at Wedgewood Golf Club.

Proceeds will be used for the Lions work to help the visual impaired. Call 610-838-1000.

Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church, Route 212, Pleasant Valley will present an organ and piano recital by Richard and Evelyn Van Auken at 3 p.m. on Sunday, Sept. 23. This is part of the church's 250th anniversary celebration. Call 610-346-7282.

Area students win NCC scholarships

Saucon Valley area students have been awarded scholarships to study this fall at Northampton Community College's main campus.

The College's scholarship program is the largest of any community college in Pennsylvania.

Through fund-raising efforts by the college's Foundation, more than \$250,000 in scholarships are awarded each year.

Area scholarship recipients include Alicia Billig, Diane Kempf, Dawn Parker, Heather Raidline, Cassandra Beahn, Alyssa Chuck and Joseph Plebani.

Bulletin Board

Sept. 15

2 p.m., Se-Wy-Co Fire Company anniversary parade, Majestic Overlook Drive.

4 p.m., Se-Wy-Co Fire Company old fashioned ox roast, Lower Saucon Town Hall Park.

Sugar cake sale pick-up, Mountainview Moravian Church, Hellertown.

Sept. 18

Noon, Hellertown-Lower Saucon Chamber of Commerce lunch, The Meadows. Call 610-838-1808.

7:30 p.m., GFWC PA Woman's Club meets, Lower Saucon U.C.C., Hellertown.

Sept. 19

6:30 p.m., Hellertown-Lower Saucon Chamber of Commerce membership and board meeting, Saucon Valley Community Center.

7 p.m., Bingo, Springtown Volunteer Fire Company, Route 212, Springtown.

Government Meetings

Sept. 17

7 p.m., Lower Saucon Zoning Board meets, Town Hall.

7:30 p.m., Hellertown Council meets, Borough Hall.

Sept. 18

7 p.m., Lower Saucon Authority meets, Authority Building.

Sept. 19

7 p.m., Lower Saucon Council meets, Town Hall.

DEATHS

Mary J. Fodi

Mary J. Fodi, 85, of Hellertown, died Sunday, Sept. 9, in St. Luke's Hospital, Fountain Hill. She was the wife of the late Ladislaus B. Fodi.

She was a kindergarten teacher for St. John's School, Bethlehem, for several years.

Born in Fountain Hill, she was a daughter of the late Charles and Rose (Mesaros) Magyarics.

Fodi was a member of St. John Capistrano Catholic Church, Bethlehem, and a past president of its Altar and Ro-

sary Society.

She was a volunteer at St. Luke's Hospital for the past several years.

Survivors: Son, Kevin M. of Hellertown; daughters, Rosalie M. Krusemark of Andover, Minn., Donna M. Stevenson of Bernardsville, N.J. and six grandchildren.

Arrangements, Heintzelman Funeral Home, Hellertown.

Agnes T. Meterko

Agnes T. Meterko, 57, of Hellertown, died Saturday, Sept. 8, in St. Luke's Hospital, Fountain

Hill.

She owned and operated the former Meterko's Grocery Store, Hellertown for 30 years before retiring in 1982.

Born in Fountain Hill, she was a daughter of the late Michael and Mary Meterko.

Meterko was a member of St. Theresa of the Child Jesus Catholic Church, Hellertown.

Survivors: Brother, Michael of Hellertown and a nephew.

Arrangements, Falk Funeral Home, Hellertown.

Additional death notices appear on page 22.



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6 - 8 p.m.**

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Lehigh Valley Hospital-
Muhlenberg, Bethlehem

**September 19
6 - 8 p.m.**

Cancer Center
Lehigh Valley Hospital-
CC & I-78, Allentown

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C.F. Martin Guitar employee Lorée pulls weeds from a flower garden at Saucon Valley Community Center during United Way's Day of Caring. **Photo by Paul Bealer**

Volunteers help local center during Day of Caring event

To launch its annual fall fund-raising campaign, United Way of the Greater Lehigh Valley on Sept. 8 held its Day of Caring.

Saucon Valley Community Center benefited from the Day of Caring when volunteers from Dun & Bradstreet, Wood Dining Services and C.F. Martin Guitar Company

offered their services. Employees of the companies assisted with a picnic for seniors and called Bingo games; worked with children in classrooms; cleaned toys and did other chores.

The United Way's goal this year is to raise \$11.7 million, \$100,000 more than the amount raised last year.

Sheriff will head committee studying cheerleading contests

Saucon Valley School District Athletic Director Doug Sheriff will head a committee to study ways to provide more competitive opportunities for Colonial League cheerleaders.

Twelve members of the Colonial League on Sept. 7 voted unanimously to take the step after a majority of members reaffirmed their votes to ban cheerleaders from building pyramids and tumbling during athletic events.

Saucon Valley voted in favor of both moves.

The ban pertains only to events where cheerleaders offer support, Colonial League President Al Wilson said.

At the end of the fall sports season, a competition for cheerleaders is scheduled but league cheerleaders are allowed to perform stunts when safety mats are used, Wilson said.

The committee will talk to cheerleaders and coaches of the league's teams about adding more competitions and will consider whether to allow cheerleaders to participate in state and national competitions.

The ban came after two incidents involving injuries to cheerleaders, including a case last year that involved a cheerleader falling out of a back flip and striking a spiked fence at a Saucon Valley football game.

Wilson said the ban's foundation is a concern over safety. He cited cheerleaders, such as Saucon Valley's, who perform their routines on gravel tracks near football fields and wooden gymnasium floors.

Opponents argue the ban discriminates against athletes who are properly trained to do stunts at games.

Reward offered in vandalism case

A \$1,000 reward is offered by Lower Saucon Township for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the person responsible for vandalizing public restroom facilities at the Southeastern Park on Wassergass Road in Lower Saucon Township.

Police report that sometime between 4 p.m. Friday,

Aug. 24 and 3 p.m. Monday, Aug 27 two sinks and two toilets were smashed in the men and women's bathrooms. Damage is estimated in excess of \$400.

Readers with information can call the Lower Saucon Township Police at 610-317-6110. Ask for Officer Chris Leidy.

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No justification for legalizing illicit drugs

IN MITTLEBERGER'S "JOURNEY TO PENNSYLVANIA," THERE is found the following quotation, which all should peruse and remember during difficult times.

During the German emigration from Europe in 1754, it was noted that, "Children from one to seven years rarely survive the voyage, and many a time parents are compelled to see their children miserably suffer and die from hunger, thirst and sickness, and then see them cast into the water. I witnessed such misery in no less than 32 children in our ship, all of whom were thrown into the sea... often many dead persons lie in the berths beside the living ones, especially when contagious diseases have broken out on the ship."

The only parallel that can be made by today's standards in America would be the dispersal of the AIDS virus or the rise in use of illegal drugs, which leads to the living hell of addiction. One major television network took a poll about legalizing marijuana in the United States.

The poll reportedly showed that 78 percent of the Americans surveyed would be in favor of legalizing its use and not just for medical usage such as for the treatment of cancer.

This major network must have included in their survey a good number of junkies, distributors of illicit drugs, and

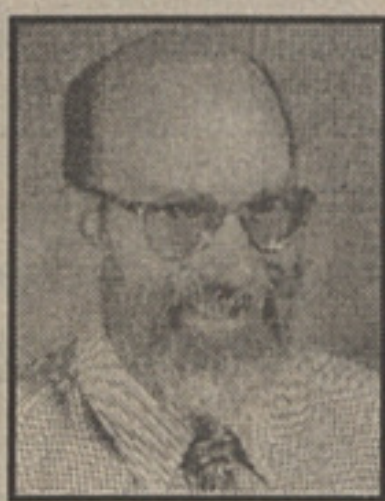
the kingpins who are the suppliers. For sure, the results came from California, where most of the ultra-liberal tendencies are found.

Largely the German emigrants did not choose to die but were victims of the harsh environment, the unforgiving Atlantic Ocean. Those people today who choose to use illegal drugs place themselves in harm's way. It's hard to fathom that today's and yesterday's

drug addicts choose to be dependent on Colombia, Mexico and other quality raw material growing areas. Do they envision a new world where drugs are legalized? The German immigrants envisioned a new world without persecution. Let's hope our government never legalizes drugs, but that it keeps prosecuting those involved in the drug trade.

I don't want to consider the alternative. There are enough crack babies born every day in 2001. There are enough turf wars in cities and towns in 2001 over the control of the drug trade. When pregnant women use crack it's just like throwing their offspring into the Atlantic Ocean.

I don't know how the 78 percent of people who favored legalizing drugs can justify a living death.



BY THE BACK FENCE

By Lee Weidner
Valley Voice columnist



I'LL GIVE THEM A YEAR OR TWO TO PLAY WITH THIS CLONING THING...
AND IF THEY START ANY TROUBLE, I'LL UNLEASH THE FROGS AND LOCUSTS

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Ousted Lions breakfast means great loss

The Saucon Valley Lions Club has been serving breakfast for 37 years as one of our major fund-raisers. We received a letter from Dewey Fire Company stating that they have an "exclusive" caterer and we can no longer hold our breakfast at their facility.

This decision has a far-reaching effect on the community. Our organization is all about the community so it not only the Lions that lose. The Boy Scouts that help will lose funding; contributions to the blind will have to be curtailed; college scholarships may have to change and donations to local fire companies, including Dewey, may have to be stopped.

I have been a member of this community for a long time and one of the things I liked most was the feeling of a small town where people help people.

I guess my feelings are about to change.

Members of the Lions Club do not get paid; every penny they earn goes back to the community. I guess I have to ask myself, "Is it time for the volunteer organizations to come to an end?" Are people and organizations more important than the community they are helping?

This is a sad day for the Saucon Valley community, and I hope the volunteer organizations in the area can survive.

Please remember the tradition that was ended when someone else starts serving breakfast at Dewey the first Sunday of the month.

Dave Liddell

President, Saucon Valley Lions Club

THE VALLEY VOICE

SAUCON VALLEY'S WEEKLY PAPER

Ann Marie Gonsalves,
Publisher
Paul Bealer
Editor
Amy Leap
Production Assistant
Lee Weidner, Editorial

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Letters to the Editor

Letters on any topic are welcome. They may be edited and they must be signed. Letters must be submitted exclusively to *The Valley Voice*. Letters will not be repeated, either when they are from the same writer or from a group of writers making the same points. You must include your phone number — not for publication, but so we can verify the letter. Send to: Letters to The Editor, *The Valley Voice*, P.O. Box 147, Hellertown, PA 18055.

About Opinions

Only those articles with the "Viewpoint" heading express *this newspaper's* opinions. An article with someone's name as its heading is called a "column" or "personal piece" and expresses that writer's *personal* opinions. We run opinion pieces not because we necessarily agree with the writers but because they write well and have something to say.

George Moore said:

"Taking something from
one man and making it
worse is plagiarism."



As I See It

By Bud Prosser
Valley Voice columnist

Shark attacks keep Bud in the sand

ICAN REMEMBER WELL HOW HORRIBLE the attack of a shark was pictured to be when the movie "Jaws" came out.

Now, with two recent deaths due to shark attacks, the reality of it all strikes home.

Just this summer when our family was at the seashore and as they veered out deeper and deeper into the water, I watched for any sign of a fin in the area. The lifeguards were very restrictive this year and I had a tendency to believe it was for that exact reason.

One must wonder why sharks appear to be coming more inland than ever before.

I surely don't have an answer, but I do wonder if their food supply is not as plentiful as before.

Whatever the reason, I'll just stand in the sand and let my feet get wet.

Other than that, I can help build sand castles with the grandchildren. The last two options seem a lot safer and offer a greater peace of mind.

And this is As I See It!

Memories



Thomas Barndt made sure this Se-Wy-Co Fire Company truck had a good shine. Almost 30 years later, Barndt still strives to serve the fire company as an assistant fire chief. Photo courtesy of Se-Wy-Co Fire Company

Se-Wy-Co Fire Company

75 Years of Protecting Life & Property

Compiled by Anna Mae Csaszar
Special to The Valley Voice

"A preliminary meeting of several residents of Wydnor was held in Grange Hall on Sunday, Jan. 31, 1926, and it was decided by those present to call a meeting on Feb. 3, 1926 of all residents of Seidersville, Wydnor and Colesville for the purpose of discussing the matter of fire protection."

Those were the first words in the minutes of the first meeting of the Se-Wy-Co Fire Company, held on Feb. 3, 1926. Several days before on the night of Jan. 29, 1926, an out-of-control fire destroyed three homes in the section of Lower Saucon Township known as Wydnor. There was no local fire department.

On Feb. 3, 1926, a meeting was arranged to organize a fire company and elect officers. The name Se-Wy-Co soon became the official fire company name, derived from the areas

of SEidersville. . . WYdnor. . . COlesville.

It was decided that the objective of the Se-Wy-Co Fire Company would be "For the extinguishment and prevention of fires and the protection of life and property."

The first officers of the fire company were George Mentzel, president; T. R. Peterson and Camille Julian, vice presidents; George Scholl, secretary and Leon Rader, treasurer.

The first trustees were Asher Bowman, Harry Reinhard and Clarence Krouse.

The first officers of the fire department were Harold G. Gross, fire chief; Paul Nobis, foreman and Harry Reinhard, assistant foreman.

By fall 1926, these men of action turned an idea into a functioning fire department. A Model-T Ford Howe HTA Triple Combination fire truck was in service and the residents would no longer be without a fire company.

In December 1931, arrangements were made for the fire company to become owners of the Grange Hall which had been used as the fire house since 1926. Over the years garage bays and storage areas were constructed to accommodate an increased fleet of fire trucks and emergency apparatus, and the building has increased in size about ten times since 1931.

The Social Club opened in 1938. The Fire Police were established in 1938.

On March 22, 1950, R. H. Leidich, secretary of the fire company, proudly stated, "We operate three pumpers, one of which is primarily equipped with such implements as are required for brush or forest fires, the other two being designed for our particular rural firefighting, carrying all the necessary equipment as well as a total of 600 gallons of water. These two pieces are of the high-pressure fog type. We also operate a

(continued on page 6)

SE-WY-CO HISTORY

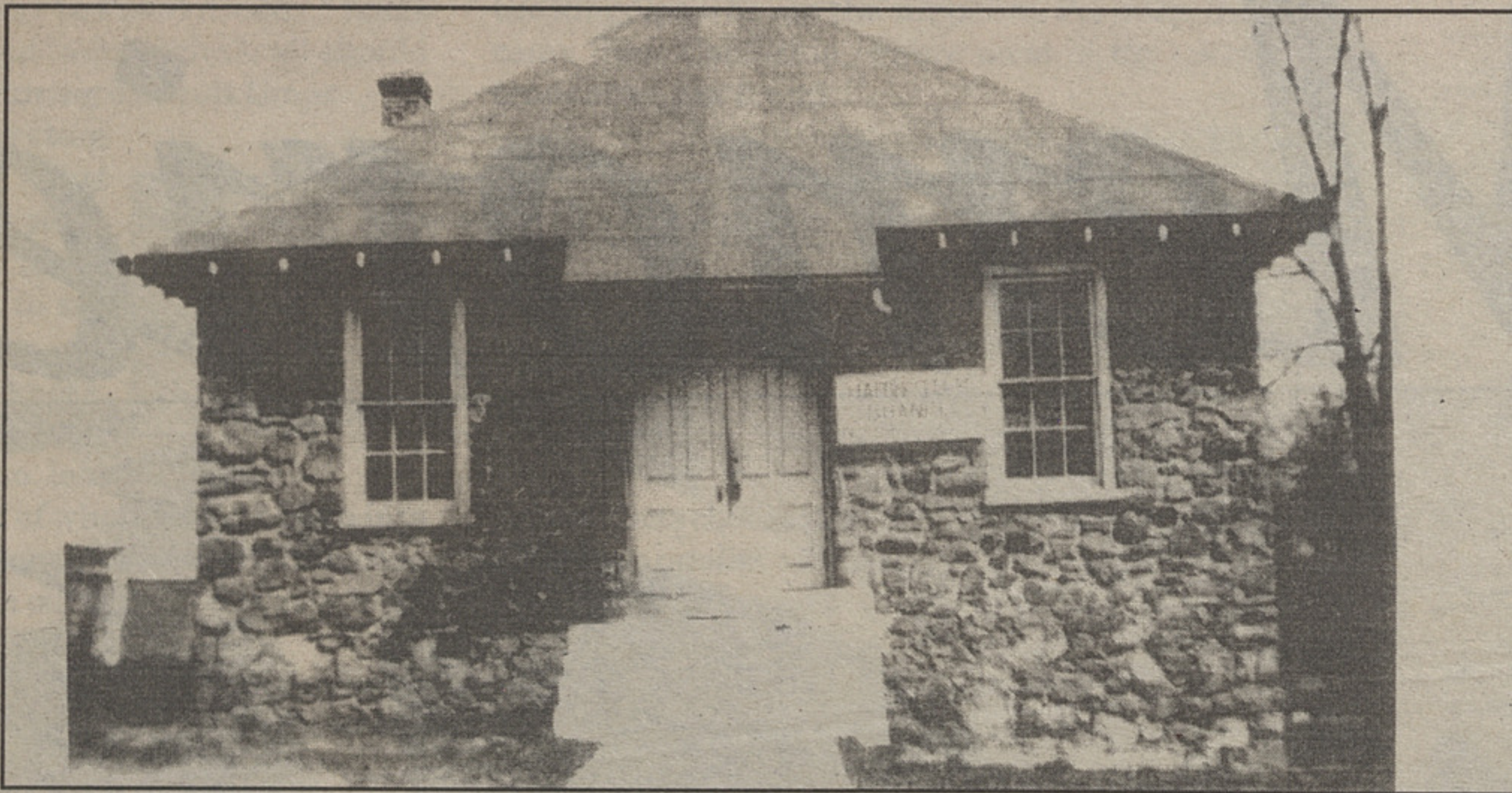
modern ambulance, fully equipped and manned with a first-aid crew of 18 men."

Today, Se-Wy-Co operates two pumpers, one ladder tower and one heavy rescue truck. The fire apparatus is equipped with the most technologically advanced equipment available and we are able to bring 2,300 gallons of water to a fire scene and deliver a sustained water flow of 2,000 gallons per minute.

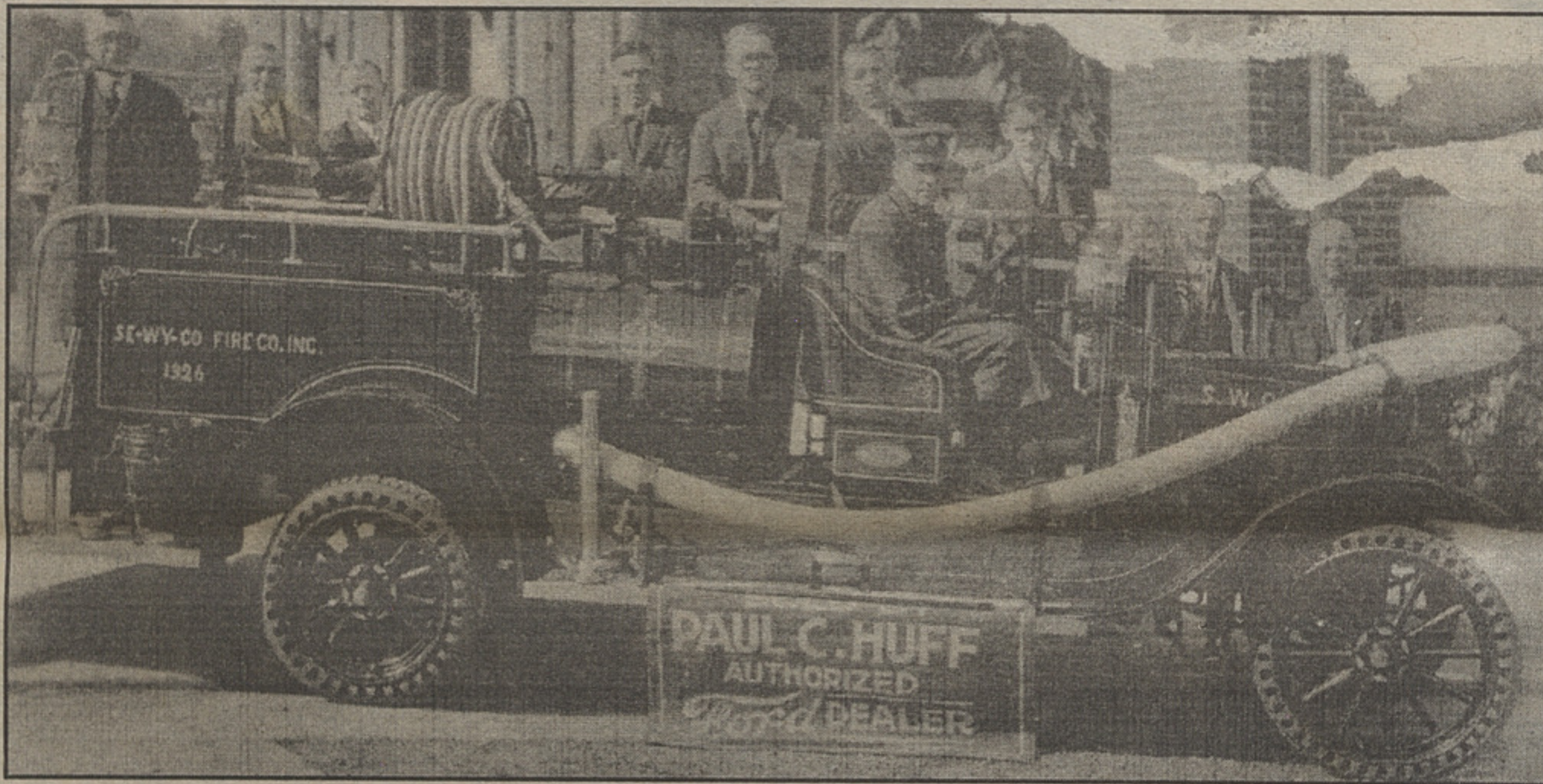
The basic method of operation that was started by the founders of Se-Wy-Co Fire Company has continued through the years under the leadership of fire chiefs like Camille Weidner (1940-1953); Austin Ruth (1954-1958); Howard Weiss (1959-1963); Ben Herzog (1964-1968); Ed Deegan Sr. (1968-1972); Karl Gross, who was the son of the first fire chief (1973-1976); Bruce Nash (1977-1978) and William W. Csaszar Jr. (1978-present).

THE PAST 25 YEARS

William W. Csaszar Jr. assumed the role of fire chief in 1978 and serves in that capacity to the present day. In October 1980, Csaszar initiated a building fund campaign to raise \$500,000, with \$370,000 earmarked for a new banquet hall facility and the remainder of the money for the purchase of a new pumper.



Above, Se-Wy-Co's first fire house as the old Wydnor Grange Hall off Old Philadelphia Pike. Below, in 1926, Se-Wy-Co's first officers and crew show off their new fire truck, a triple combination Model-T Ford Howe HTA. On the truck Camille Julian, George Mentzel, George Scholl, Clarence Krouse, Leon Rader, Paul Nobis, Chief Harold Gross, Harry Reinhard, T.R. Peterson and Asher Bowman.



(continued from page 5)

The banquet hall would serve as a source of income and a pumper with a 1,000 gallon water capacity would offset the lack of fire hydrants in many areas. It would also be power-gearred to handle the township's hilly terrain.

Attorney Earl S. Heffner was named the general campaign chairman and Frank McGarry was the general solicitation manager.

In 1982, the Se-Wy-Co site plan for a 60-foot by 84-foot, one-story building located east of the company's headquarters, was approved by the Lower Saucon Township Planning Commission at an estimated cost of \$250,000.

With a seating capacity of 300 people, the new banquet hall opened in 1983. It has been the scene of many weddings, parties and social functions.

Today it continues to generate sufficient income to help support the emergency services operations of the Se-Wy-Co Fire Company.

From the initial preparation of specs and making "on-site" visits to vendor's plants to awarding the final bid, Csaszar and the Se-Wy-Co firemen worked diligently to maintain a state-of-the-art emergency fleet. During Csaszar's tenure, the department purchased

(continued on page 7)

Congratulations Se-Wy-Co Fire Company on Your 75th Anniversary

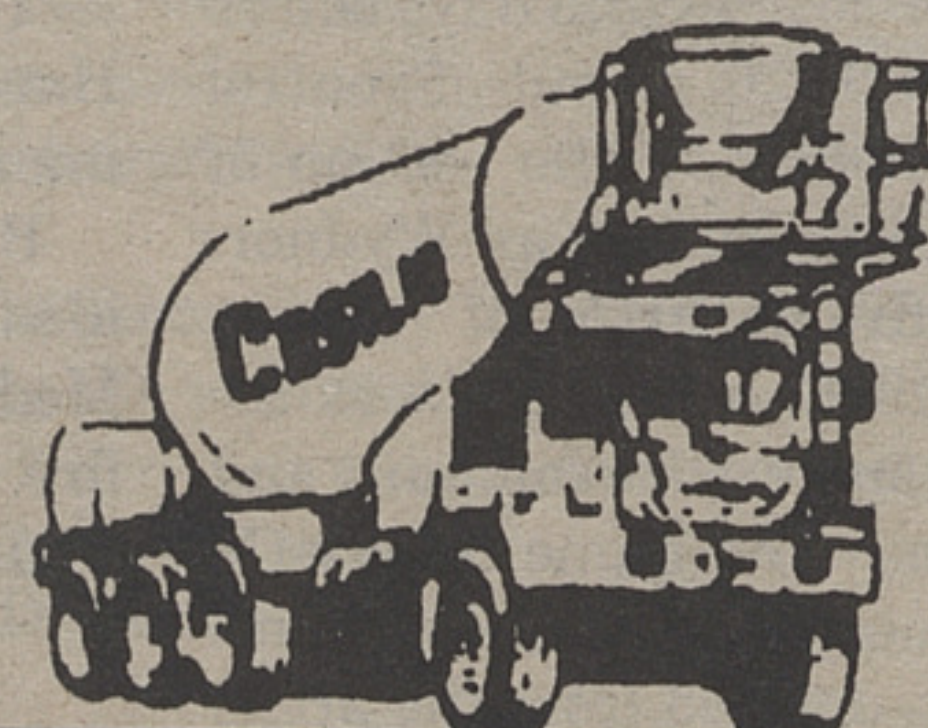


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SE-WY-CO HISTORY

(continued from page 6)



CHIEF HAROLD GROSS

a 1979 Horton modular ambulance; a 1981 Mack 1500 GPM pumper; a 1990 Emergency One heavy rescue truck; a 1990 Frontline modular ambulance; and a 1997 Emergency One 2000 GPM 105 foot ladder tower quint.

During the past 25 years, Se-Wy-Co firefighters were called to duty for quite a few front page news happenings:

... in July, 1983 a fire at Gus's Crossroads Restaurant reduced the building to rubble with an estimate of \$700,000 in damages.

In February 1996, another call was received for Gus's, but this time, the fire damage was confined to a second floor apartment with \$300,000 estimated damage reported.

... on July 6, 1995, flames gutted and destroyed the former Erhart Grist Mill on Old Mill Road before they were brought under control, damaging a portion of the roof on

the adjoining feed building.

... on July 18, 1996, a kitchen fire at a residence on Peach Tree Lane caused \$90,000 damage.

... in October 1996, Se-Wy-Co responded with neighboring fire companies to a fire that started in the Hellertown Newberry store and spread to the IGA building.

The damage to the building was \$1 million dollars.

All of the above incidents document substantial monetary liabilities and affirm the crucial need for dedicated and knowledgeable firefighters

who are equipped with technologically advanced equipment.

The current crew of 27 firefighters of the Se-Wy-Co Fire Department are cross-trained in specialized fields of emergency medical disciplines, vehicle rescue, confined space rescue, hazardous materials incident management, and high angle technical rescue, among other areas of specialization.

They respond to an average of 200 alarms annually and remain dedicated to a "purpose to serve" and an "intent to do good."



2001 Department Volunteer Roster

Fire Company Officers: President, Sal Ghazi (Sal has been president since 1994 when he succeeded Kenneth Headman, who served as president from 1962 to 1993); treasurer, Edward Boscola; financial secretary Michael Dulick; trustees, Houston Barndt, Karl Gross; house committee, Barbara Zmijewski, Harry Sine.

Fire Department Officers: Fire chief, William W. Csaszar Jr.; assistant chiefs, Thomas Barndt and Timothy Weighknecht; fire captain, Jan Doddy; rescue captain, Patrick Deegan; fire police captain, Stanley Turel; lieutenants: William Bender, David Deegan Jr. and Gary Wisniewski.

Fire Personnel: Stephen Martin, Timothy Barndt, Anne Erdner, Chris Sica, William Bender, Michael Eshelman, Sean Simpson, George Burke, Ronald Gates Sr., Stanley Turel, Thomas Barndt, Jan Doddy, Melissa Csaszar, Ronald Gates Jr., Timothy Weighknecht, William Csaszar, George Gress, Richard Whitman, David Deegan, Bob Hegney, Gary Wisniewski, Edward Deegan Jr., Ed Huff, Jarrod Wisniewski, Patrick Deegan, Virginia Huff and William Yob.

Junior Firefighters: Shaun Austin and Jonathan Wisniewski.

Reserve Firefighters: Ed Deegan Sr., Saleem Ghazi, Karl Gross and Cheryl Turel.



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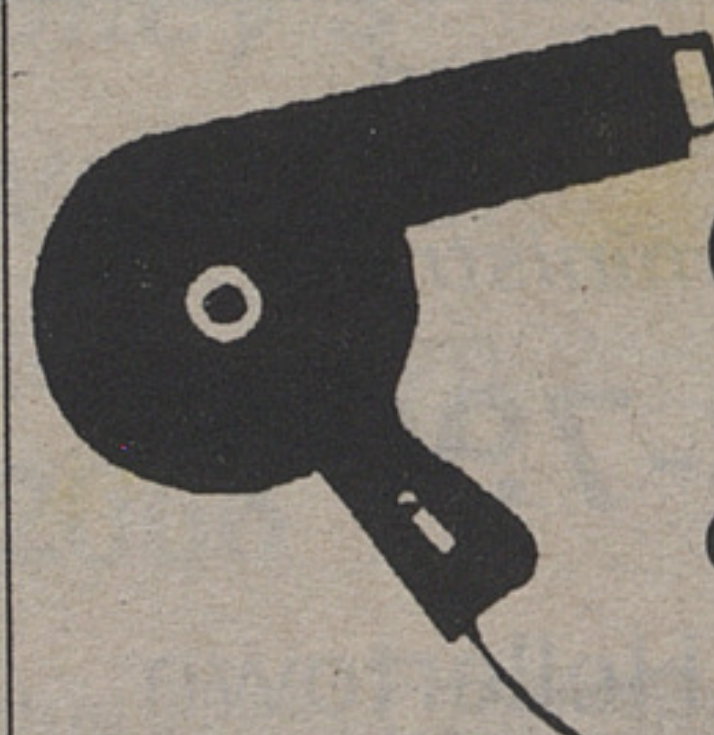
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A Glimpse Back...

Interesting Dates in Se-Wy-Co History

1926

A vote was taken on a fire company name. Suggestions included Saucon Valley Fire Company; Good Will Fire Company (1 vote); Community Fire Company (2 votes) Philadelphia Road and Community Fire Company; Sunnyside Fire Company; Good Fellows Fire Company; Se-Wy-Co Fire Company (16 votes) and Tri-Community Fire Company (8 votes).

1928

A special meeting was called. Harvester Grange #1788 proposed to rent the grange hall to the fire company for a yearly rent of \$144 with a five year lease that would be renewed. The grange would supply heat, light, and repairs. The fire apparatus would be kept on the main floor. The basement would be for hose and other items. The fire company would have use of all the chairs, benches, piano, and tables, but would have to repair anything it damaged. The idea was gladly accepted.

The Bethlehem Steel Company donated steel beams to help with the alterations to the grange hall, making it fit to hold the fire engine.

A letter of thanks was sent to Mr. Harry Rittenhouse of Eureka Hose Company for his donation of a bell for the fire truck.

1929

The first parade! A four-county fireman's parade was held in Hellertown. Everyone was to attend and apparatus was also to go. The uniform was straw hat, white shirt, black bow tie, white gloves, dark trousers and each person was to carry a small American flag.

1930

Fire apparatus was damaged while moving it
(continued on page 10)

Firefighting is family affair

Gross, Deegan families among many dedicated to Se-Wy-Co

By Lee Weidner
Of The Valley Voice

Former fire chiefs Karl Gross and Edward Deegan Sr. still have Se-Wy-Co blood flowing through them.

Gross is the son of Harold Gross, the first Se-Wy-Co fire chief. His father helped form the fire company in 1926 when Karl was one-year-old. Gross has been connected to the company long enough to help celebrate its 25th and 50th anniversaries and is participating in the 75th anniversary activities this week.

In 1976, Gross headed the 50th anniversary celebration and his late wife, Betty, was instrumental in the ladies auxiliary.

The company was founded in 1926, after a fire had destroyed three homes close to the building which was used as the local Grange. It later became the first fire house.

Gross' older brother, Thomas, is still a member of the department.

Karl recently recalled that his dad was not in favor of displaying various pieces of fire apparatus in parades.

They felt their only place was in the fire station to be ready at all times.

In 1926 Gross's dad and the other founders used a 1926 Model-T Ford fire truck financed by residents of the three communities. In 1939 the Model-T was converted to a Mack. The fleet grew to include an ambulance, a rescue truck, a tanker and two pumpers when Gross became chief in 1973.

Gross is a life member of the company.

Deegan began a family tradition serving the communities of Seidersville, Wydnor and Colesville
(continued on page 9)



Edna Buki treats Fire Chief Karl Gross to a dance during his 1976 retirement party. Below, Gross' late wife, Betty, provided musical fun.



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FAMILY AFFAIR _____ (continued from page 8)



"It may not be as big as Hellertown's or Bethlehem's, but we sure do have a good time practicing with it," jokes Thomas Gross in this 1976 photograph. He is one of several Se-Wy-Co volunteers who has a lineage of service with the fire company.

when he joined the company almost 50 years ago.

Three sons, Eddie, Patrick and David, followed in Dad's footsteps by serving as volunteers with Se-Wy-Co.

After he married, Deegan moved from Fountain Hill to Lower Saucon Township and joined Se-Wy-Co when Camille Weidner was fire chief. Deegan said he was attracted to the fire station and it seemed the only natural thing to do was volunteer.

After the couple's sons grew older, Deegan's wife, Janet, became a member of the ladies auxiliary. She now serves as one of the secretaries.

When they were old enough, the sons passed through the ranks of the junior fire company and continued to serve with the company. Patrick serves as fire police captain while David and Eddie serve as lieutenants. Ed Deegan Sr. is on standby as a reserve firefighter with Gross, Saleem Ghazi and Cheryl Turel.

The Deegans spend much of their free time at Se-Wy-Co performing equipment checks, training in weekly practice drills and fighting fires.

They also often help other company members set tables and prepare meals for social events at the banquet hall. Ed serves as head chef at the hall with assistance from Janet.

Gross and the Deegans are among several families that have served as volunteers at Se-Wy-Co since 1926.

That is a rare fact among many fire companies today as volunteer numbers dwindle.

Deegan has a theory that the extensive training required

(continued on page 11)

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'Frenchy' Dumont: caretaker and conscience

This tribute to member Walter "Frenchy" Dumont appeared in a 1991 program distributed by Se-Wy-Co during a fire truck dedication dinner. Dumont died in 1987.

"Frenchy" was a very special part of Se-Wy-Co history. Anyone who visited the fire company knew him.

If you ever crossed his path on the emergency scene, you were sure to get his opinion of the situation and a lot of advice to go with it.

Walter was best known by our vendors since he was the head watchman and "key keeper." On any given day you could find him tinkering around his car—unless he wasn't helping Kenny Headman with some errands.

Of course, you were always in for a lecture if you forgot to return something to its proper place. It could be said that "Frenchy" was the company's conscience.

Although he frequented the bowling lanes in his younger days, he was kept busy in his



WALTER "FRENCHY" DUMONT

(continued on page 11)

A Glimpse Back ...

Interesting Dates in Se-Wy-Co History (continued from page 8)

out of the grange hall for a private party. It was agreed that a qualified person must move it in the future and the fire company will be paid \$2 to do this.

Fire company purchases all property of the grange for \$1.

1931

The ladies auxiliary was recognized as an official part of the fire company. Meeting night to be every third Tuesday in the grange hall. First members: Mrs. Edgar Larish, Ann Clauser, Mary Nemes, Ann Leidich,

Minnie Earich, Mary Rees, Beulah Krouse and maiden Young.

The ladies auxiliary presented \$150 to the fire company. This more than doubled the balance which at the end of February was \$147.21.

1938

Se-Wy-Co gains a fire police force and decides to build up its truck fleet.

1939

The matter of purchasing or otherwise

(continued on page 11)



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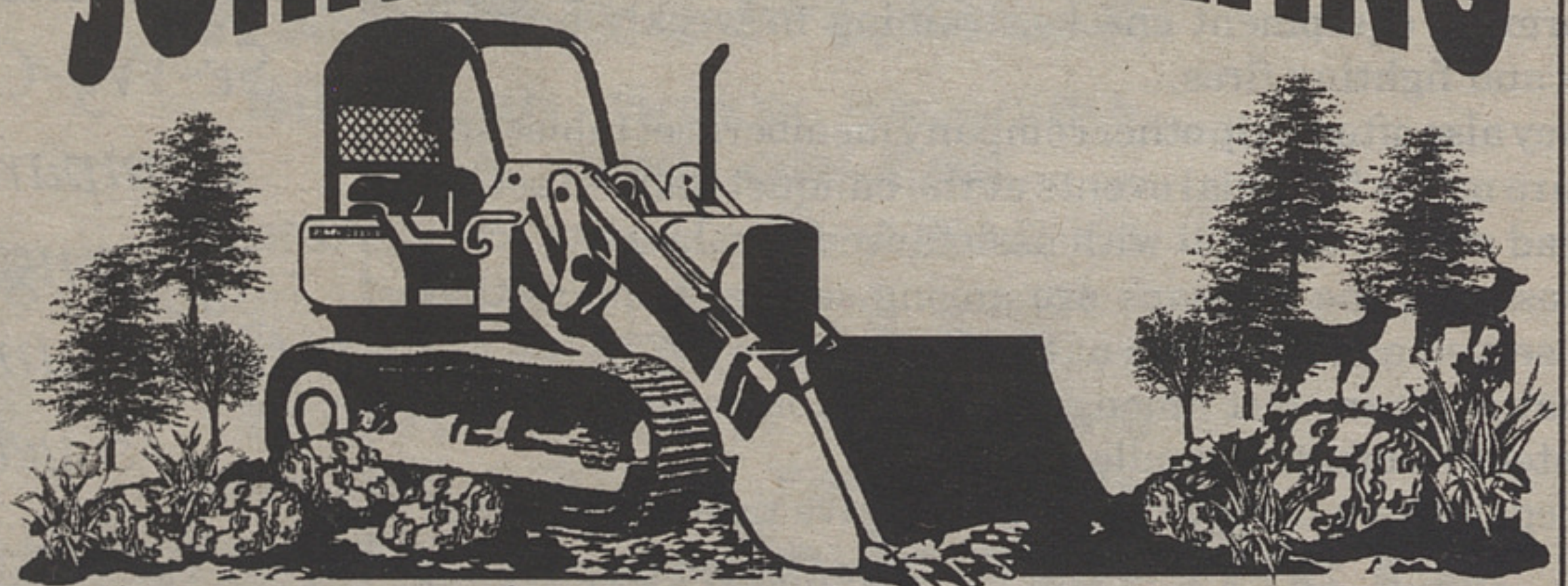
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A Glimpse Back...

Interesting Dates in Se-Wy-Co History
(continued from page 10)

acquiring a new fire truck was brought up. Clarence Krouse, John Weiss, Harold Gross and Camille Weidner were to secure prices on a new truck.

New chassis with present equipment installed thereon: International, \$865; Mack, \$935; Dodge, \$930 and Ford, \$900. "Mack and International had the most to offer."

Harold Gross re-elected chief, does not serve. He died in December.

1943

There were four fire calls and no money loss.

1949

"You are in good hands with Se-Wy-Co."—Ambulance service began.

1951

Northampton County Judge Carleton T. Woodring was keynote speaker at the 25th anniversary dinner of the Se-Wy-Co Fire Company. The speaker praised the fire company's progress in the last quarter century, emphasizing that such results are only obtained through public cooperation.

Headed by Chief Camille Weidner and Asst.

(continued on page 15)



FAMILY AFFAIR

(continued from page 9)

nowadays and state regulations have kept down the number of volunteers at his and other fire companies.

But with dedicated members like Gross and the Deegans serving at fire companies, there will always be residents thankful for their voluntarism.

At left, the Deegan family volunteers at Se-Wy-Co Fire Company include Edward Sr., Janet, Patrick, Edward Jr. and David.

Photo by Tim Gilman/
Bethlehem Globe Times

'FRENCHY' DUMONT

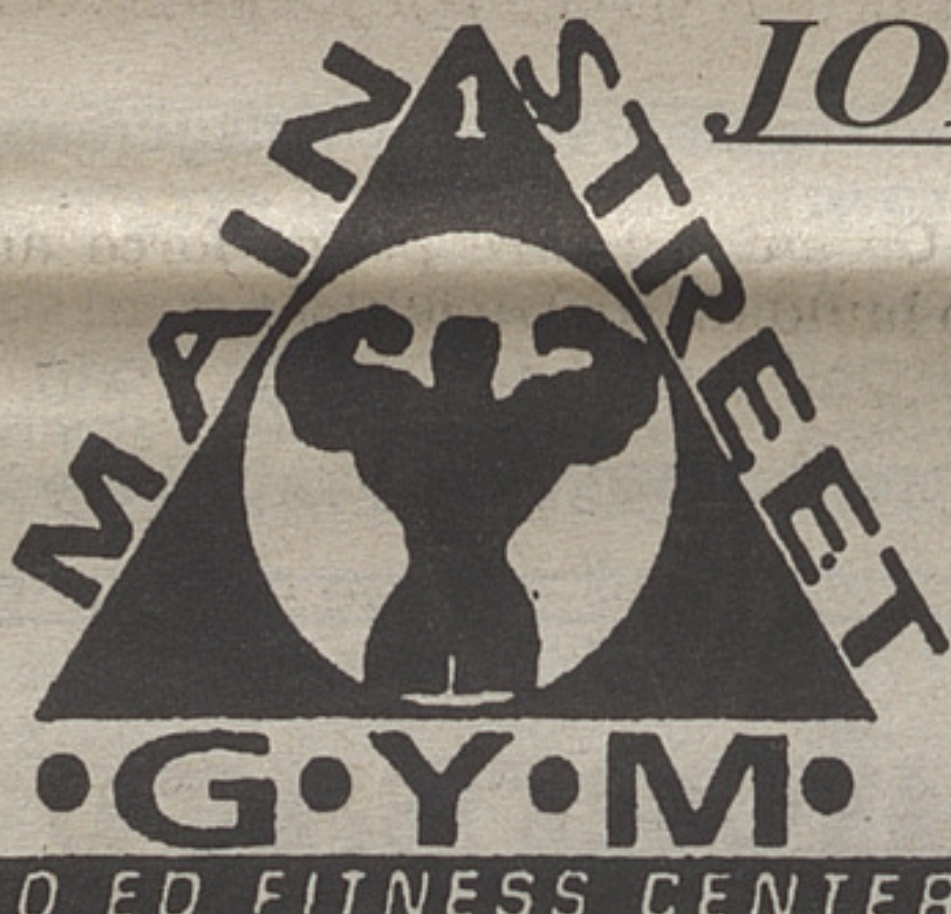
(continued from page 10)

later years parking cars for the various social functions at the firehouse. On the coldest winter night or the hottest summer afternoon, "Frenchy" parked the cars.

But most of all, we all miss

Frenchy's stately posture as he sat in that old chair in the radio room, with cigarette in hand watching T.V. We'll always remember you, Frenchy! Thanks for the memories.

Congratulations Se-Wy-Co Fire Co.



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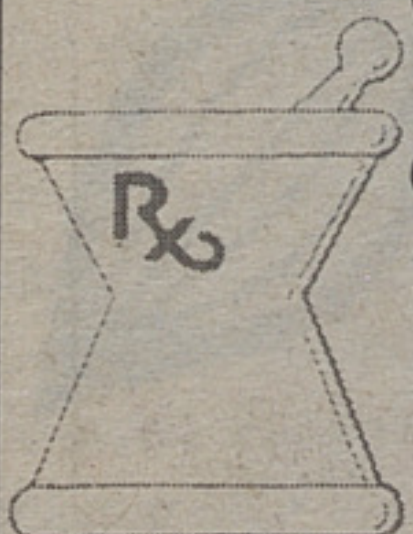
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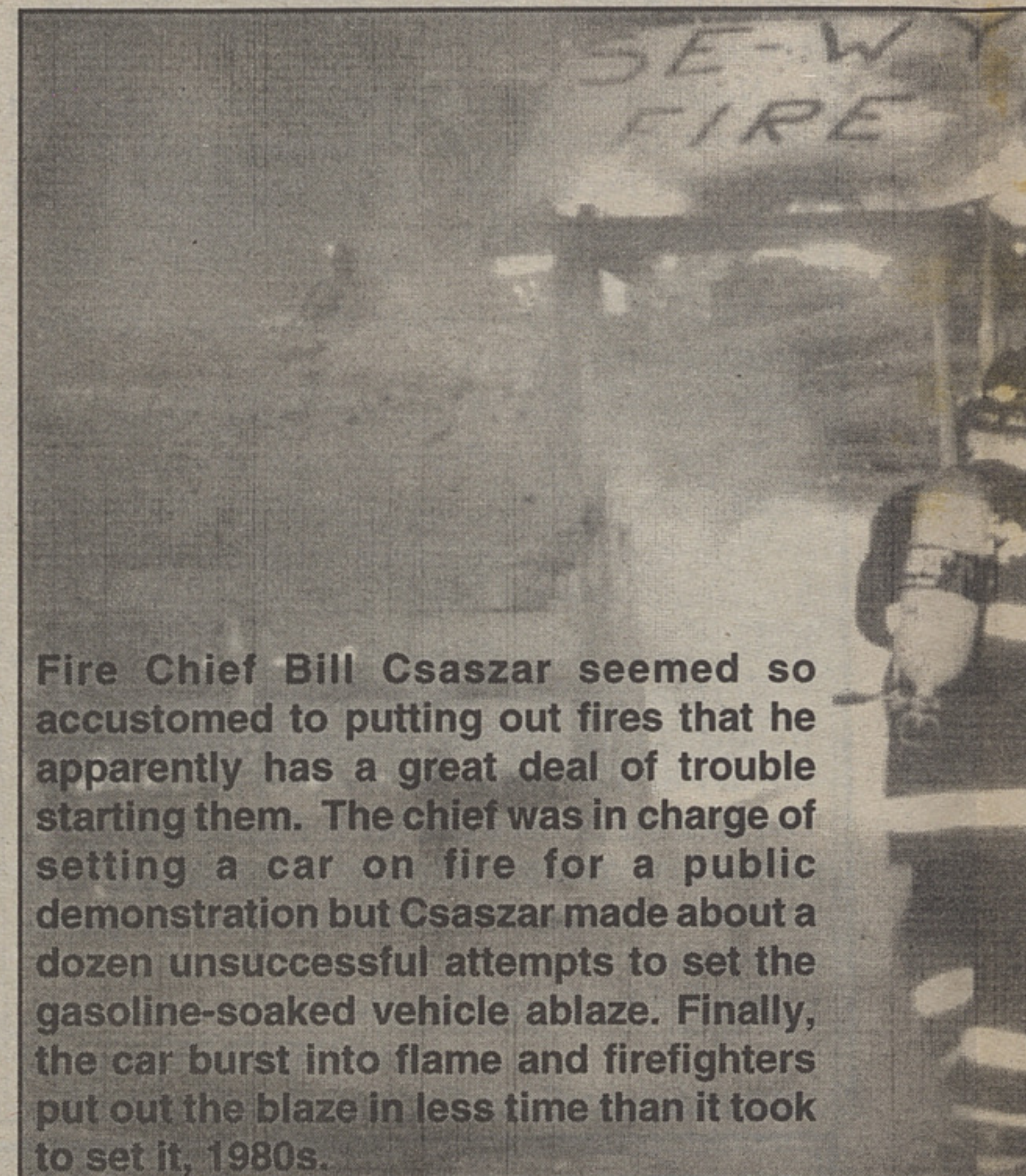
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SE-WY-CO Snaps



Fire Chief Bill Csaszar seemed so accustomed to putting out fires that he apparently has a great deal of trouble starting them. The chief was in charge of setting a car on fire for a public demonstration but Csaszar made about a dozen unsuccessful attempts to set the gasoline-soaked vehicle ablaze. Finally, the car burst into flame and firefighters put out the blaze in less time than it took to set it, 1980s.



Far left above, Fire Prevention Week at St. George's Preschool, 1982.

Far left below, unveiling the fire company flag created by Bruce Nash, 1976.

Left above, Melissa Ann Csaszar takes a good size bite during Donut Day at the banquet hall, 1985.

At left, the late Gene Buki served the fire police well.

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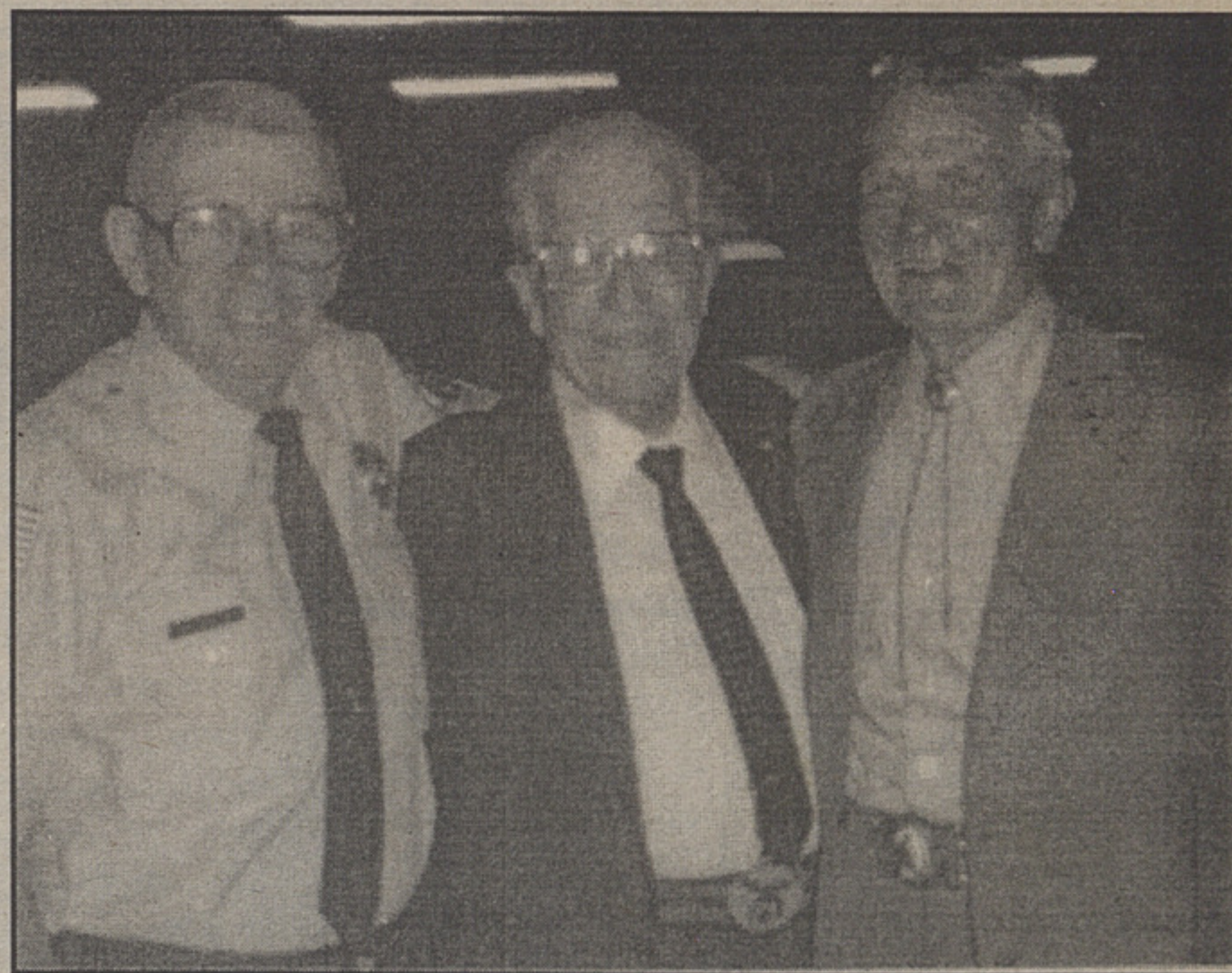
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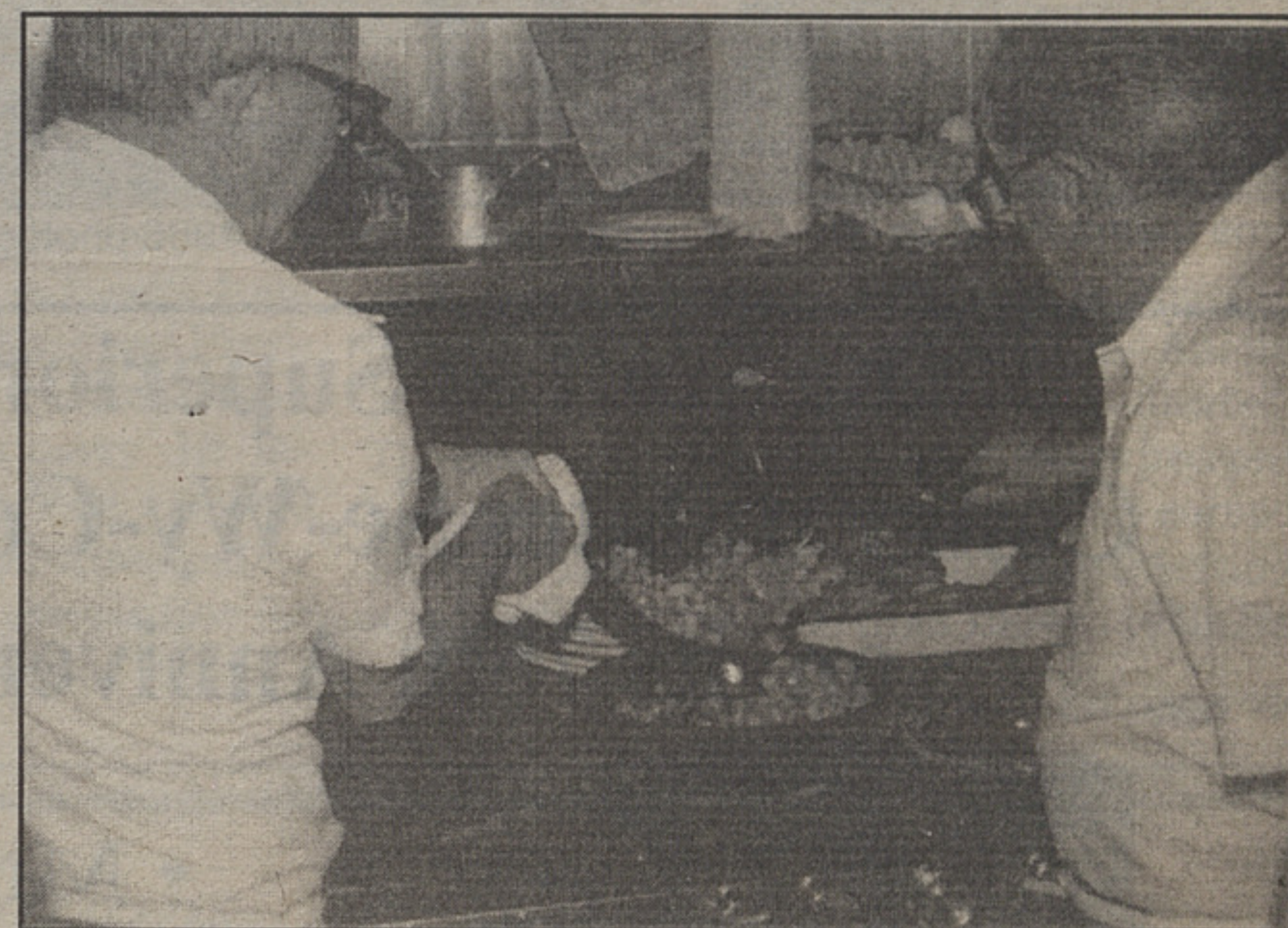


Above, Ernest Bognar becomes the social club steward, 1973.



Right above, three past fire chiefs, Ed Deegan Sr., Camille Weidner and Karl Gross, reunite, 1992.

Right, at work in the banquet hall kitchen, 1970s.



Photos Courtesy of Se-Wy-Co Fire Co., Anna Mae Csaszar and Ed Deegan Sr.

BIRTHDAY

(continued from page 1)

left homeless. Liberty Fire Company in Bethlehem was telephoned and responded. There being no fire hydrants, a line was laid to Black River Creek where a small dam was also built, but the headway of the fire and the insufficient water caused the homes to be lost."

Twenty two people attended a community meeting the next month to discuss fire protection and Se-Wy-Co Fire Co. was organized. The first president was George Mentzel and the first fire chief was Harold G. Gross. The name of the fire company came from the areas it would serve—Seidersville, Wydnor and Colesville.

The anniversary lunch was one of several events this week that highlights the fire department's 75th anniversary of community service. Guests included Lower Saucon Township Manager J. Layne Turner, Township Council President Priscilla deLeon and State Rep. Steve Samuelson. Monsignor John J. Martin and Father James Finnegan, both of Church of the Assumption B.V.M., offered the invocation and benediction.

One highlight of the lunch was the presentation of a

\$10,000 check from Se-Wy-Co Ladies Auxiliary President Rebecca Martin to fire company President Sal Ghazi and Fire Chief William Csaszar Jr. The money was raised through the auxiliary's popular fundraisers such as its hoagie sales, dinners and Bingo and penny parties.

While Martin said the volunteers and families in the banquet hall were not with the department to search for accolades, on several occasions this day volunteers received praise.

Service pins and gifts were presented to members whose voluntarism commitment ranged from one year to almost 60 years. Among the longest serving members recognized were Karl Gross, Edna Buki, Pearl Headman and Arlene Kiefer, who have all served more than 50 years with the department.

"Your volunteer efforts make us proud to live in Saucon Valley," deLeon said after presenting a proclamation to the department.

On Saturday, the fire department will host a firemen's parade that will feature Saucon Valley's companies along with 22 companies from Northampton, Lehigh and Bucks counties. The parade will begin at in the Majestic



Photo by Paul Bealer

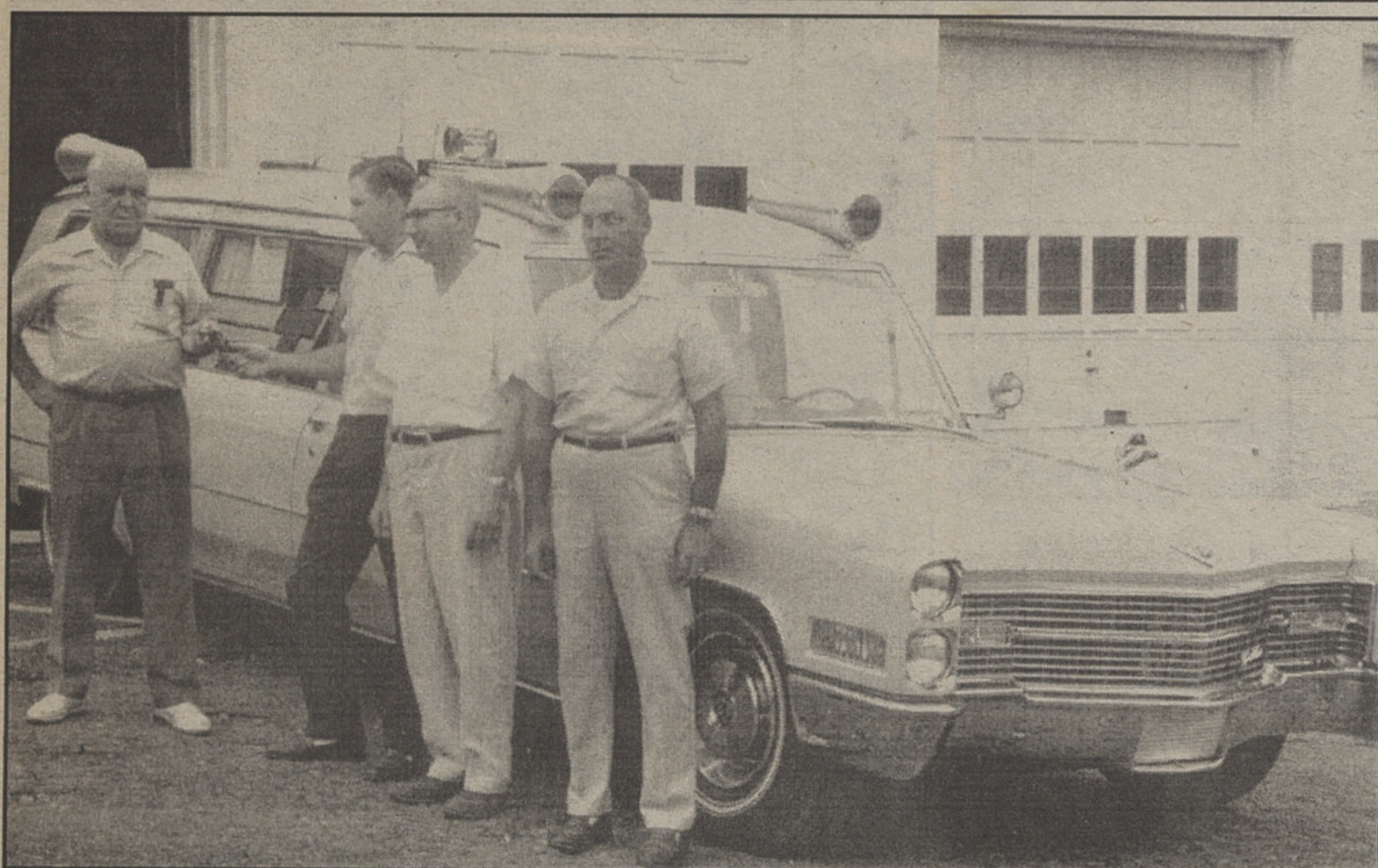
Se-Wy-Co Fire Co. Chief William Csaszar Jr. and his wife, Anna Mae, lead a procession of company volunteers and their families into Church of the Assumption, B.V.M. Sunday for an honorary mass.

Overlook section of the township and proceed through the Woodfields development to Bingen Road, Quarter Mile Road, Surrey Road, Bucknell

Drive, Dartford Road, Black River Road, Saucon Valley Terrace and Old Philadelphia Pike.

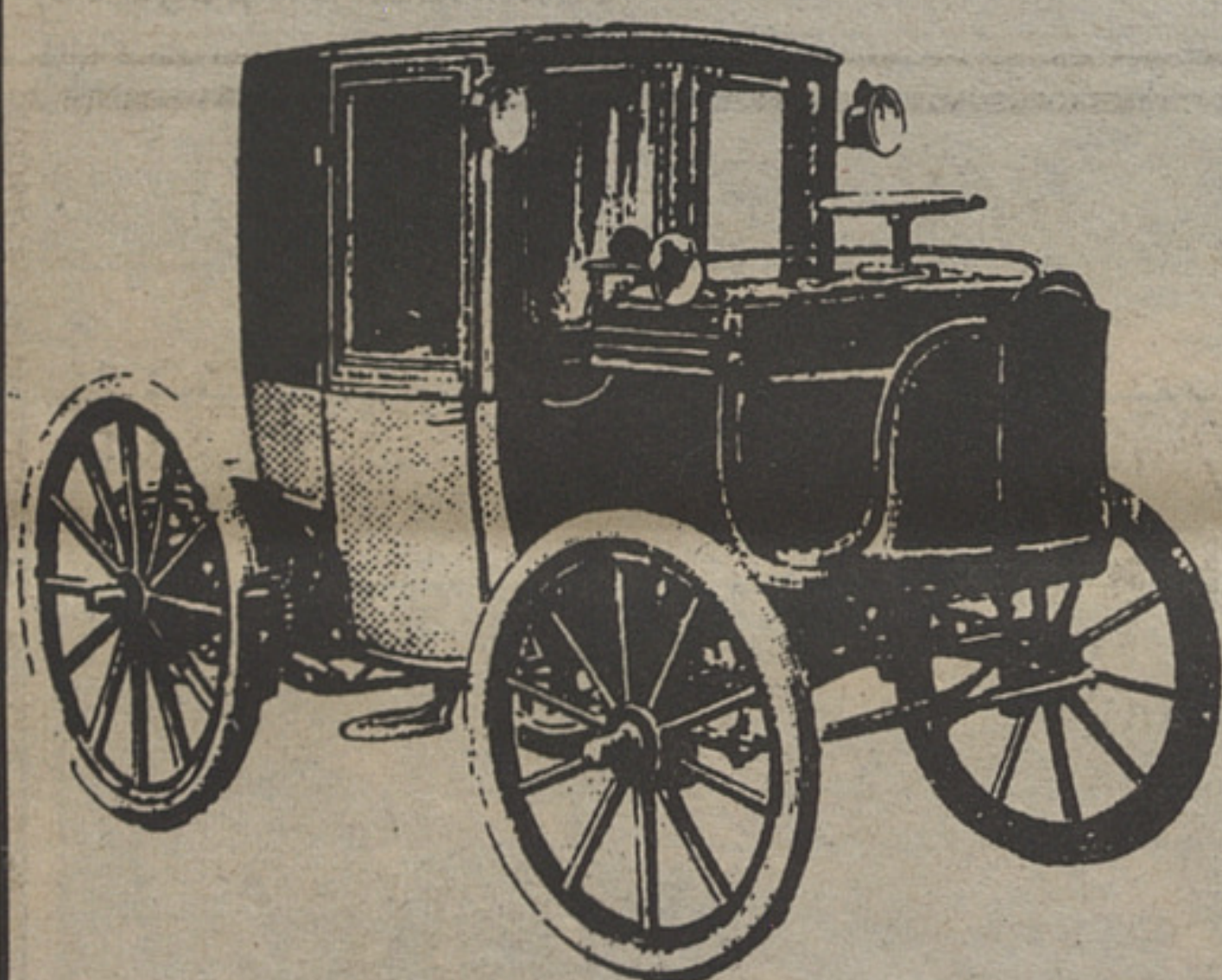
The celebration is dedicated

to surviving fire chiefs which include Camille Weidner, Howard Weiss, Benjamin Herzog, Edward Deegan Sr., Karl Gross and Bruce Nash.



Some members of Se-Wy-Co's ambulance corps in a 1966 photograph.

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- Matt Pengh

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Se-Wy-Co Ambulance Corps.

You were in good hands with Se-Wy-Co corps

Compiled by Anna Mae Csaszar
Special to The Valley Voice

The Se-Wy-Co Fire Company began its ambulance service in June 1949, and on June 17, 1958, the ambulance service became its own organization.

The equipment of this organization was the best available and the men who were entrusted with providing patient care and were trained to use equipment to the fullest extent. Their motto was, "You were always in good hands with Se-Wy-Co!"

Michael Kolesar served as the first president of the ambulance corps from 1958 to 1968. He was succeeded by Austin Ruth, Richard Williams, Stanley Turel Jr., Frank Fabian Sr., Edward Repyneck Jr., Ed Deegan Jr., David and Patrick Deegan.

Other former members included Benjamin Herzog, Kenneth Headman, Richard Williams, Orrin Barndt, Clayton Fritz, Stephanie Green, Cynthia Messics, Ann Erdner, Barbara Gibson and Barbara Zmijewski.

On June 2, 1998, the Se-Wy-Co Fire Company was forced to curtail ambulance service due to reduced numbers of volunteers. Under state law, a corps must provide coverage 24 hours a day, seven days a week. At this time, the corps had only nine volunteers and could not meet that requirement. Most of those volunteers were with the corps for 20 years or more. Service is now provided by Dewey Ambulance Corps.

1976: Charter member memories

Se-Wy-Co Fire Company was honored during a 50th anniversary dinner in 1976 at Hotel Bethlehem. The meeting was special for many members because four charter members attended. They were Leon Rader, Otto Dustman, William Fries and Clarence Krouse. Each of these men attended the earliest meetings in the Wydnor Grange

Hall that led to the formation of the fire company.

Each of the men were asked by a reporter from the former *Bethlehem Globe-Times* to share a memory. Here is what they had to say:

"He was spunky," Rader said of late Fire Chief Harold Gross.

When asked to say something proud about the fire company, Rader said, "Well, it's still here. . . . Everybody worked and it never went backwards."

"The fire company was a necessity in a growing community," Fries said. "The ladies of the fire company really helped too."

"Everybody got along," Krouse added.

Dustman, who lived in Coopersburg, took care of the floral needs for the fire company. "I enjoyed giving it a push in the beginning."

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Pearl Headman, affectionately known as "Queenie," served many years as president and member of the ladies auxiliary. Under her tenure, the group became famous for its hoagie fund-raisers.

Se-Wy-Co Ladies Auxiliary

Turn to these women for continuous support

*The Ladies of the Auxiliary
help out in a very special way.*

*Every little thing they do
helps to brighten someone else's day.*

*Each hoagie they make and person they serve
takes a lot of time.*

These are the people that make every single dime.

*Doing things and helping the fire men out
That's what the Ladies Auxiliary is about.*

— Jennifer Weikert, 1991

Compiled by Anna Mae Csaszar

Special to The Valley Voice

The Ladies Auxiliary was recognized as an official part of the fire company on Feb. 18, 1931.

Since that time women became an indispensable part of the fire company operations over the past 70 years.

The group has sponsored a formidable list of fund-raising activities, volunteered help and made donations to a variety of causes.

Some of the early fundraisers were "fifty-cent dinners", ice cream festivals, and the sale of cookies, spices, bath towels, tablecloths and aprons.

Later there were monthly dinners, breakfasts, bake sales, bingo and penny parties, flea markets, craft shows and the famous hoagie sales the first Thursday of every month, which helped to support the fire company.

Currently, Rebecca Martin serves as the President of the Ladies Auxiliary, following many years of dedicated service of past presidents Janet Deegan and Pearl Headman.

Other auxiliary officers are Sharon Bender, vice president; Jeannie Ficzk, treasurer; Janet Deegan, secretary; Arlene Kiefer, June Kuhns, and Helen Williams, trustees; and Helen Hivizdak, chaplain.

The Se-Wy-Co Fire Department has always been able to depend on the continuous important support from its ladies auxiliary members.

A Glimpse Back...

Interesting Dates in Se-Wy-Co History (continued from page 11)

Chief Austin Ruth, the volunteer organization includes three foremen, five fire policemen and a corps of trained firemen. The ambulance unit has been designated as an official highway first aid station by the Red Cross.

The membership now includes 627, with 129 women in the auxiliary. A ten-wheel truck was recently added to company equipment to fight forest fires. Firemen have answered hundreds of calls in the 25 years, while the ambulance has been used on 51 missions of aid since it was purchased in July 1949.

1957

There was a fire at the firehouse.

1971

Fire Chief Edward Deegan received a wonderful Christmas gift—a hoagie from the Se-Wy-Co Ladies Auxiliary. Pearl Headman presented the delicious treat to Deegan at the company Christmas party. He accepted and was surprised to find a \$2,000 check enclosed. The money is earmarked for a Cascade system and air compressor for the company's Scott Air Packs.

1972

Se-Wy-Co participated in flood pumping of Wilkes Barre.

1973

Ernest W. Bognar was elected in membership in April and would be the first steward of the Social Hall at Se-Wy-Co.

1976

Assistant fire chief Bruce Nash designed and had prepared the first and official Se-Wy-Co Fire Company flag. The flag was presented to the fire company and put into service the morning of Aug. 21. The flag, unfurled at the dedication of a storage building, has on a blue background a fire hose across the top with the company's name. It also pictures the state shield with a ladder and hydrant.

A special ceremony was held at the fire company Aug. 21. This was the day the Austin M. Ruth Memorial Building was dedicated. The new, special building is an always present memorial to Austin Ruth. This man served Se-Wy-Co as foreman, assistant fire chief and was Se-Wy-Co fire chief from 1954 to 1959. He

(continued on page 18)

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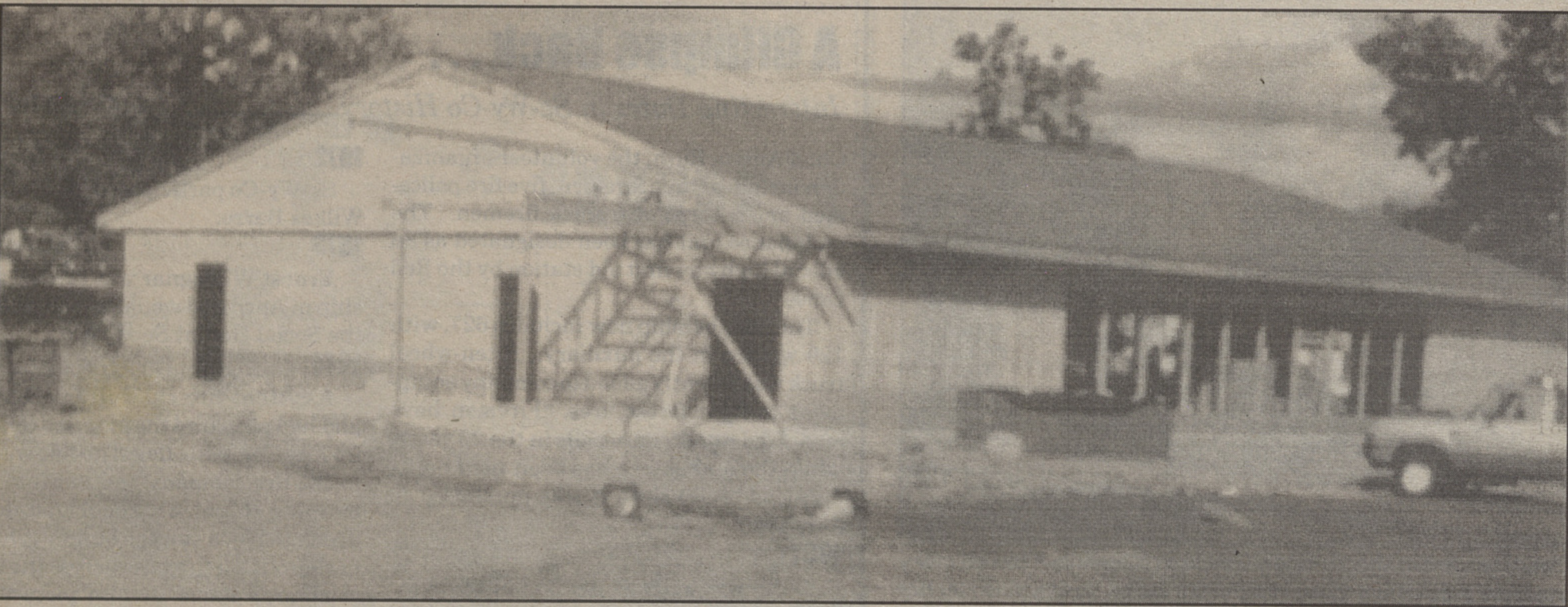
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A banquet hall with seating for more than 300 guests was built in 1982 near the fire company garage. The hall is a focal point for receptions, breakfasts, the popular hoagie sales and other events.



Se-Wy-Co Fire Company creates a popular gathering point

By Anna Mae Csaszar
Special to The Valley Voice

Se-Wy-Co's spacious banquet hall has been a popular

gathering place for banquets, wedding receptions and other events since it opened to the public in 1983.

Today it continues to serve as the central spot for popular breakfasts and hoagie sales among Saucon Valley

residents and other people.

In addition to serving as the club steward, Michael Dulick assumes the responsibilities of banquet hall manager, but he is quick to state that he only does what Arlene tells him to do and credits her with being the "real boss."

Executive chef Edward Deegan Sr., is a well-seasoned master of culinary art and creates lumps in gravy that are so tender you can cut them with a fork.

Everyone knows that Janet Deegan, Ed's wife, is indispensable and the real backbone of the banquet hall.

She works with some longtime friends like Jeannie Ficzkowski, who manages to keep everyone laughing; Helen Hivizdak, who cares for everyone in her own loving motherly way; Arlene Kiefer, who tells Mike what to do in addition to making the coffee and serving the head table and Helen Williams, who puts all the finishing touches on the table settings and table skirting.

The Hosler family contributes their share. Pat Hosler is a server who is credited for never dropping the wedding cake on the bride's grandfather, even though arrangements were made to do spot-cleaning on the premises.

Her husband Ron helps out in the kitchen, along with their daughter, Kristin, who makes her own theme aprons.

June Kuhns, in her own shy and demure manner, quietly prepares salads and her husband Walter, "The Green Bean Man," is often spotted on the front porch with a cigar.

The Turels work side-by-side in the kitchen with Sue serving corn and gravy while keeping Stanley out of trouble. Their grandson, Shaun Austin also helps.

Helen Hackman serves up mashed potatoes and keeps the bartender in line while her mother, Edna Buki, is known for making the mashed potatoes fly all over the room.

But, thanks to Kris Vasko, who cleans and polishes everything while she tells everyone about her baking, the kitchen is always ready to go for the next function.

These special volunteers are to be commended for their dedication in providing a service that supports the Se-Wy-Co Fire Department.

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Se-Wy-Co Discovers Times Change

Firefighting becomes specialized

Over the years garage bays and storage areas at Se-Wy-Co Fire Company have grown to accommodate an increased fleet of fire trucks and emergency apparatus.

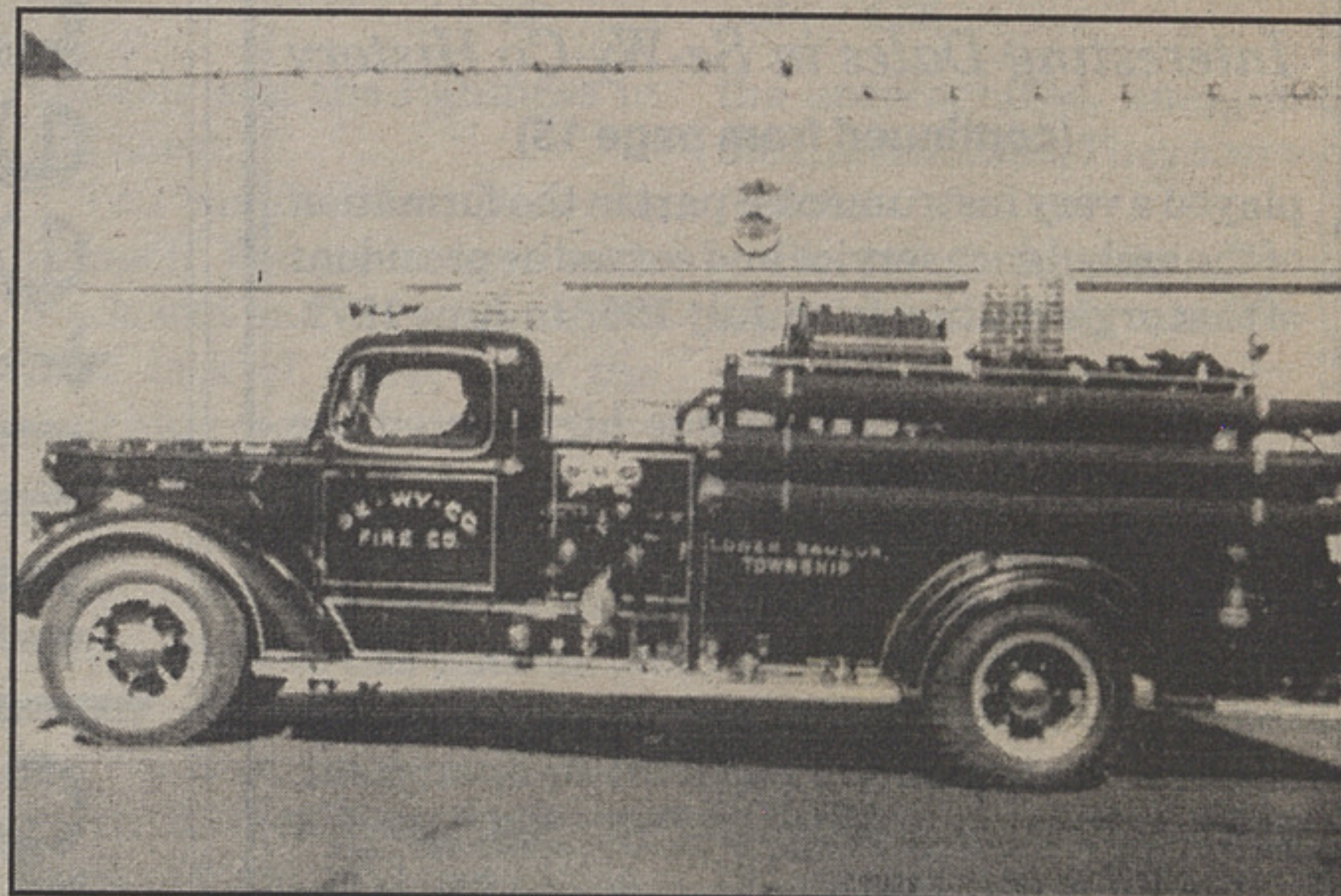
In fact, the former Wydnor Grange building has increased in size about ten times since 1931. Times certainly have changed since 1926, when the Model T Ford fire truck offered adequate fire protection and replaced bucket brigades.

By 1990, rescue capabilities

had mushroomed from basic vehicle rescue to specialized rescue in areas such as high angle technical rope rescue, trench rescue and hazardous material recognition and operations. Se-Wy-Co needed a unit that would meet those needs, so it purchased an Emergency One Hush rescue vehicle. At the time the order was placed, there were only six other units in existence in the United States. Se-Wy-Co Fire Company boasted it had

the latest state-of-the-art rescue vehicle on the East Coast. Some features include rear engine drive, four wheel drive capability, a mobile command center complete with three two-way radios, CB radio, two cellular phones, fax machine, personal computer, weather station and hazardous materials library.

In the late 1990s, the fleet grew to include one of the few ladder trucks in the Saucon Valley area.



Se-Wy-Co's first fire truck was converted in the 1940s into this more powerful truck.



With development and more high-risk situations, in the 1990s Se-Wy-Co added a state-of-the-art ladder truck and rescue vehicle to its fleet. Times have certainly changed since days of bucket brigades and Model-T Ford fire engines.

Photos courtesy of Se-Wy-Co Fire Company

Company firemen open attitudes, engines to women

Se-Wy-Co reserve firefighter Cheryl Turel made history about 20 years ago when she became the first female to be named a firefighter at Se-Wy-Co Fire Company. At age 15, she was also one of the youngest.

After receiving notification that she was certified as a firefighter, Turel told the former *Bethlehem Globe-Times* that being a fireman was one of the first things she told her parents she wanted to become.

At that time, Turel's father Stanley served as president of the ambulance corps and was a fireman. Her mother, Gladys, served with the ladies auxiliary.

It was a historic time for the men of Se-Wy-Co Fire Company, who had to change their feelings of acceptance. For

many years, women (including Cheryl) served with the company ambulance squad, but now they had the

state go-ahead to perform all tasks outside a burning building.

In the end, there were no

gender barriers when it came to fighting fires and today the company has several women trained to battle fires.

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Dr. Patrice Ryan

A Glimpse Back...

Interesting Dates in Se-Wy-Co History
(continued from page 15)

played a very instrumental part in the formation of the ambulance service and served as president of that organization from July 1968 to June 1972.

A dinner-dance and parade highlighted the 50th anniversary celebration.

1983

Gus' Crossroads Inn destroyed in fire that caused a \$700,000 loss. In 1996, another call to the restaurant by Se-Wy-Co resulted in \$300,000 damage after a fire in a second floor apartment.

1992

Longtime Se-Wy-Co volunteer and fire police captain Stanley Turel is recognized as a Prudential Community Champion. At the time, the Prudential customer service examiner, was in his 27th year as a volunteer and the fire company received a \$2,500 grant on his behalf. Turel continues to serve as a volunteer.

1995

Fire gutted the restored stone and wood Erhart's Grist Mill near Old Mill Road. Se-Wy-Co volunteers joined Leithsville Southeastern, Salisbury and Springtown in an hour-long battle to bring the fire under control.

1996

In October, Se-Wy-Co responded with area companies to a fire that started in the Hellertown Newberry store and spread to the IGA building. The damage was about \$1 million and the Newberry store was destroyed.

1998

Se-Wy-Co disbands its ambulance corps.

Dedicated volunteers
~ Se-Wy-Co's firemen in action ~



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A tribute to our Se-Wy-Co volunteer firefighters

As Se-Wy-Co Fire Company celebrates its anniversary, this tribute to volunteer firefighters is an appropriate way to thank volunteers throughout Saucon Valley who have served the company and others like it. The tribute by Rebecca Scott appeared in an Indiana newspaper several years ago.

The crowd has finally drifted away. The excitement is over, nothing but embers and blackness remain. Every detail will be recounted by those who saw it happen. They will tell how high the flames roared and how loudly the sirens wailed. Yet I wonder if they realize what they have witnessed tonight.

Did anyone see you? You are dirty. You are in tears with cinders in your eyes. You smell of smoke and soggy ashes. Your hair is matted beneath your helmet. You are cold. Tiny icicles hang from your collar. The ground is slick with ice produced by the hose streams. You slip and your friends laugh with you. You carefully lay the hose onto the hose bed and gather your equipment. You notice that



Se-Wy-Co volunteer firefighters rush to answer a call for help.

your hand is bleeding but you can feel no pain in the numbing temperature.

You are concerned about the family who rented the house. Where will they go tonight? You feel an ache inside because they lost so much. Why didn't someone call sooner?

Back at the station you drink hot coffee and complete the paperwork. You call the Red Cross to get help for the people left homeless. A twinge of pain

comes as you recall the little girl crying for her teddy bear. Does the Red Cross have a spare teddy bear? They do not. You will manage to find one before morning. A silent prayer lifts up from your heart. You pray for the unfortunate family and for the safety of your community. You thank God that no life was lost and that equipment did not fail. You ask Him for the strength to face the day with throbbing

muscles and the tightness in your chest.

You laugh when you see yourself. You are covered with black soot and are baggy-eyed from lack of sleep. Like the watching crowd you do not realize what you are seeing.

The word "hero" does not cross your mind. Yet you serve as the standard by which heroes are not made. True heroes are not made in an instant of valor. Rather they are creatures of consistent dedication. They are quiet sentinels ready, waiting, caring. They are often

the unrecognized, unappreciated, and abused. They are ever faithful.

Heroes are acquainted with sacrifice but rarely consider it as such. To them bravery is never a work, it is always a way of living.

Someday I would like to find words to tell you how proud I am. I want to thank you for what you have done and for all that you are.

The alarm rings and you—the volunteer firefighter—are too busy doing your job to listen to me talk about it.

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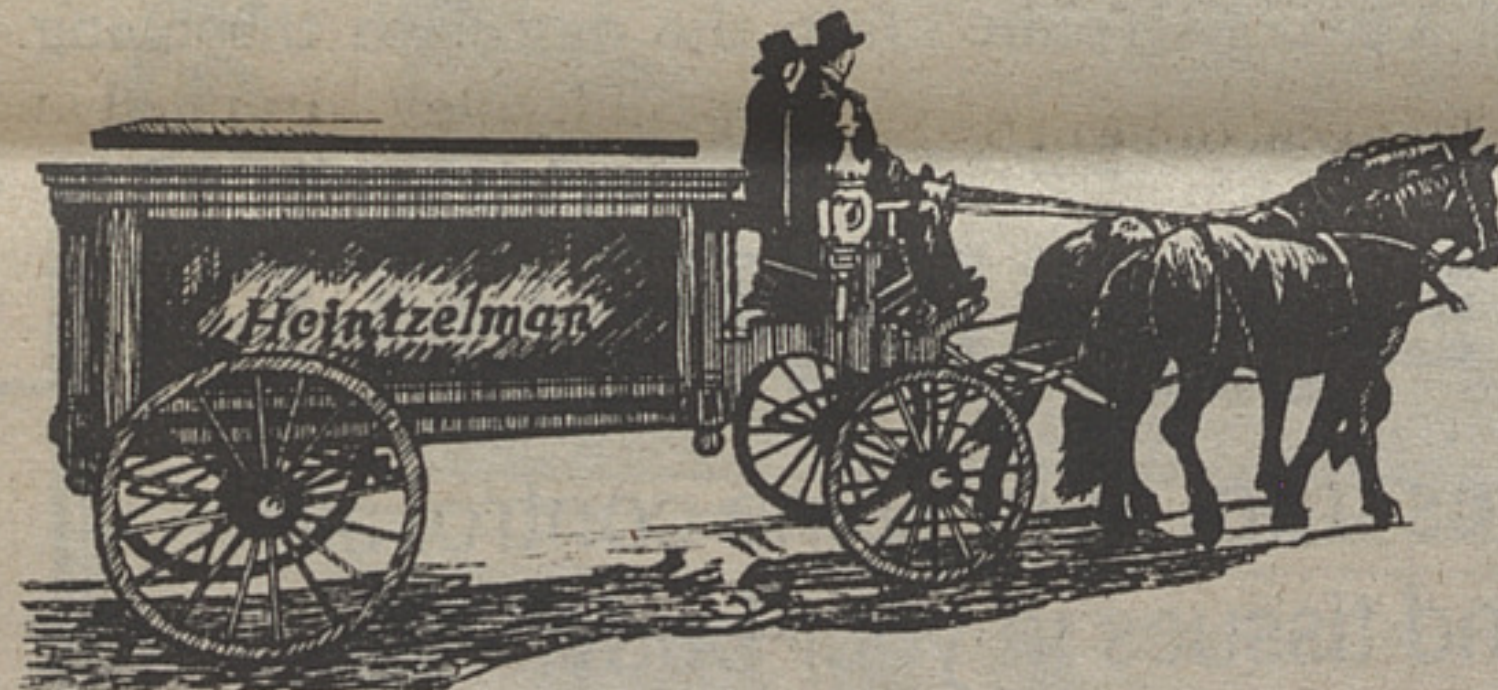
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Score Card

Saucon Valley dropped a 21-14 lead in the third quarter of football action to pick up its first loss of the season against Pen Argyl, 38-24.

The Panthers got on the board in the first quarter after Joe Baker carried the ball for 69 yards on a pass from Toby Weaver. Kicker Chris King scored the extra point.

In the second quarter, Steve Grida recovered a fumble on a punt attempt and carried it 21 yards for the touchdown. King then added a point to tie the game at 14-14.

Lyle Kares scored on a six yard run and King hit another point for Saucon to take the lead. The Green Knights then took over the field, holding Saucon to grab only three points on a King 29 yard field goal.

GOLF

Saucon Valley 439, Palmerton 500, Par 71 at Silver Creek Country Club. Low scorers were Bob Strecansky 84, Todd Lutseo 88, Chris Sisinski 88, Ryan Heffelfinger 89 and Marc Cocanougher 90.

Saucon Valley 458, Bangor 437. Lexie Wukich 89, Sisinski 99, Todd Lutseo 104, Strecansky 85 and Cocanougher 98.

TENNIS

Saucon Valley defeated Palisades, 5-0, in tennis action. Liz Rampolla def. Brittany Reiman 6-1, 6-1; Devon Goodrich def. Jen Heckler 6-0, 6-0; Carly Shields def. Chelsea Place 6-2, 6-2; Sarah Bowlby and Danna Long def. Allison Flannery and Caitlin Coats 6-0, 6-2; Heather Rasich and Katie Reiss def. Crystal Harlan and Kelly Schaefer 6-1, 6-1.

Saucon Valley defeated Southern Lehigh, 4-1. Rampolla def. Alexa Baggio 6-1, 6-2; Goodrich def. Steph Gerhard 6-2, 4-6, 6-2; Shields def. Courtney Shive 6-2, 7-6; Rasich and Reiss def. Lea Cassar and Jenna Wentz 4-6, 6-2, 6-4.

FIELD HOCKEY

Northwestern scored a goal in overtime to nab a Colonial League season opening win over Saucon Valley. Goaltender Amanda Thompson had nine saves for the Lady Panthers.

Pen Argyl then handed Saucon a 2-1 loss. The lone goal came in the second half from Stef Clowser, on an assist from Casey Williams.

SOCCER

Saucon Valley was held to only five shots on goal in a 6-0 soccer loss to Southern Lehigh. Ryan O'Toole and Josh Laudenslager combined for 19 saves for Saucon.

Chris King scored the only goal in a 2-1 loss to Palisades.

CROSS COUNTRY

Results from last week's cross country meet at Notre Dame (Green Pond) **Girls:** Rachael Panariello, fifth place; Lindsay Miller, sixth place; Katelyn Perna, eighth place; Rachel Baxter, 13th place; Shirsten Kreitz, 15th place and Megan Feher, 16th place. **Boys:** Joe Check, fourth place; Dave Weikert, seventh place; Matt Gorkos, 11th place; Cole Starkey, 15th place and Mike Nemeth, 17th place.

The girls team earned a sixth place finish and the boys team earned a 14th place finish in the Centaur Invitational at DeSales University.

VOLLEYBALL

Saucon Valley's junior varsity volleyball team dropped its matches to Southern Lehigh, 15-8 and 15-7. The varsity team dropped its match 18-16.

In the JV tournament at Whitehall High School, junior Jenn Adamek and sophomore Niki Humlhanz each had an ace. The team lost both matches against Lebanon Catholic, 15-5, 15-9. The team dropped matches to Pennridge then split its matchups with Conestoga and Pine Grove. Saucon won 15-12 and lost 15-5 against Conestoga and won 15-7 and lost 15-5 against Pine Grove. Sophomore Jen Heller had four aces and four kills and Adamek had two aces and two kills. Last weekend, the varsity team dropped its three matches in a tournament at Wyoming West High School.

—Lindsay Anthony

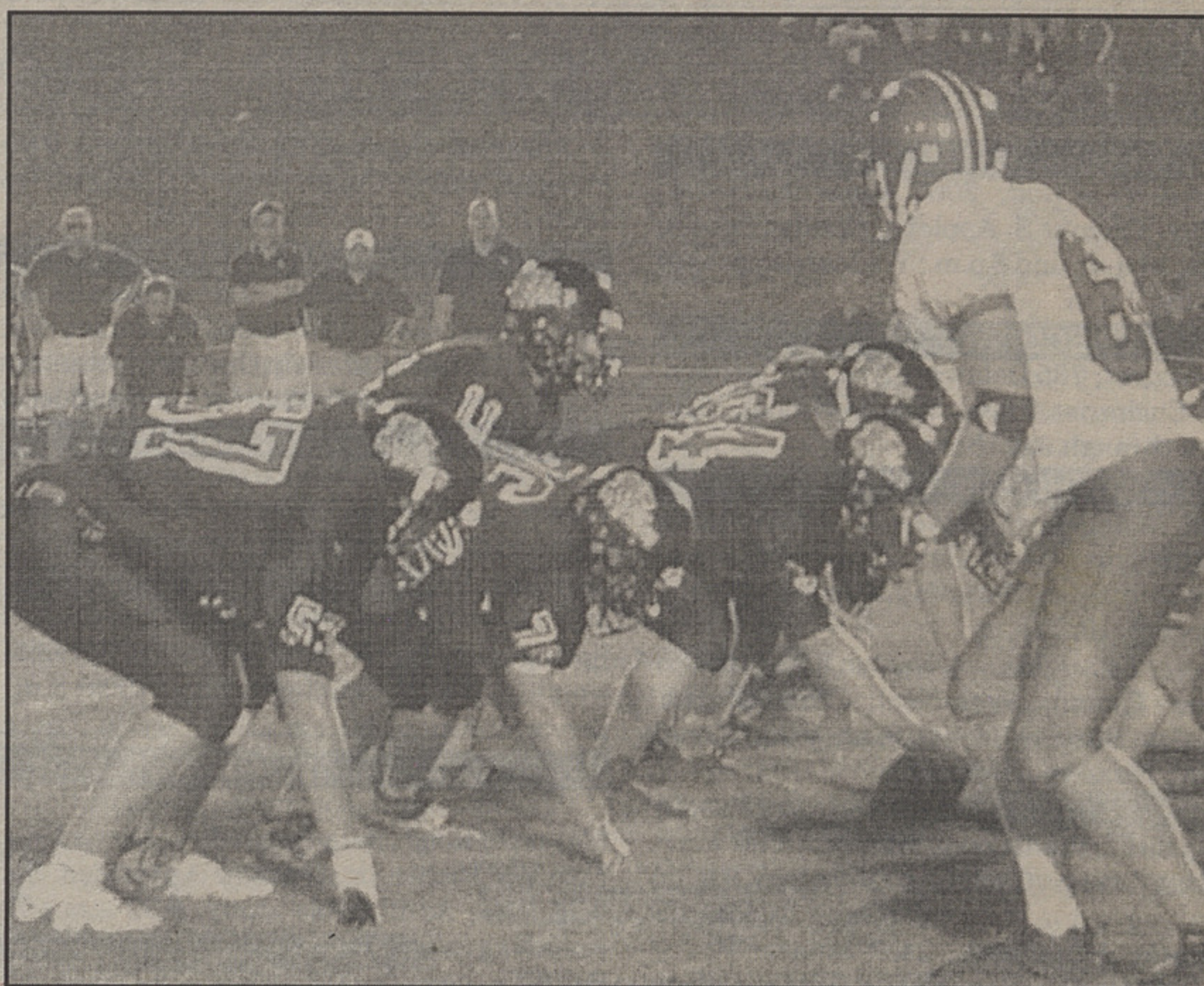
KEEPING IN TOUCH

Lower Saucon Township's Lauren Calabrese scored two goals and two assists in Moravian Academy's 5-1 win over Northern Lehigh. She added two goals and one assist in a 4-0 shutout over Palmerton.

Saucon Valley's Kelly Haymaker and Stevie Ochse combined their talents at Moravian College for a 7-1 soccer win over Alvernia. Haymaker scored three goals and Ochse scored two goals. Ochse added a goal in Moravian's 3-0 weekend win over Centenary College.

Hellertown's Meredith Hahn scored Lafayette's lone goal in a 2-1 loss to Villanova.

Lower Saucon Township's Chris Balshi earned fifth place during Moravian Academy's cross country meet at Notre Dame (Green Pond).



This was Saucon Valley's last chance at pulling off a victory, a failed drive near Pen Argyl's 10 yard line. From here, the Green Knights, behind Jake DeBoer, took over the field to grab a 38-24 win.
Photo by Paul Bealer

SAUCON VALLEY YOUTH FOOTBALL

The 95-pound Panthers picked up a thrilling 28-13 win Saturday over the Bethlehem Bulldogs.

With a large home crowd in attendance the Panthers dug in to keep their turf out of the Bulldogs hands.

In the first quarter the Bulldogs took one home but the penalty flags dropped and it was back to the line where a pack of Panthers pounded out a fourth down.

The Bulldogs scored with an outside drive and won the

extra point with a great play. Brian Evins scored on a 60-yard return. Michael McKarski brought in the extra point to tie the game.

In the second quarter the score was in the Bulldogs favor but the Panthers would have none of it. Ryan Tress made the extra point with a dive across the line.

With a Bulldogs pass attempt tipped down by Jason Delre, they went for a second, which was intercepted by Ryan Tress as the Panthers took the lead, 14-13.

Saucon kicked on the fourth

and recovered after the Bulldogs missed it. Jamie Airolodi ran the ball at the third down. Airolodi took it home for his team with Tress making the extra point.

In the third, the Bulldogs had the ball but were brought up short by Jacob Rasich. The Bulldogs passed, Dylan Evans made his move and it was incomplete. Jason Delre brought the next Bulldog down.

Taylor Kreitz stopped the Bulldogs next pass attempt.

(continued on page 24)

Sports Quiz

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1.) What was "Satchel Paige's" first name?

2.) Who would sometimes say "I feel hitterish today" before a game?

3.) Which NHL player scored his 500th goal in only 575 games?

☆☆☆

1.) Leroy
2.) Babe Ruth
3.) Wayne Gretzky

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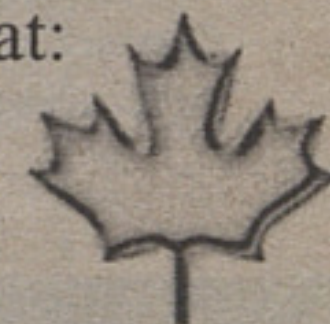
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Hellertown Assembly of God, 2065 Apple St., Hellertown. Minister, Rev. Thomas S. Appleba. Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.; Worship, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Wednesday prayer meeting/Bible study, 7 p.m.

EPISCOPAL

St. George's Episcopal, 735 Delaware Ave., Hellertown. Worship and Holy Eucharist, 9 a.m.; Sunday School, 10:15 a.m.; Nursery care through age three.

LUTHERAN

New Jerusalem Evangelical Lutheran, 3233 Apples Church Road, Bethlehem. Pastor, Rev. Tricia McMackin. Contemporary worship, 6 p.m. Saturday; Sunday worship, 9 a.m.; Sunday School, 10:30 a.m.

Christ Lutheran of Lower Saucon, Easton Road, Hellertown. Pastor, Rev. Thomas Vega-Neel. Contemporary Worship/Communion, Sunday School, 9 a.m.; traditional worship 10:30 a.m., Nursery available.

Christ Lutheran, 69 S. Main St., Hellertown. Pastor, Rev. Philip C. Spohn. Traditional worship 8:30 a.m.; Celebration Worship 11 a.m.; Christian Education, 9:45 to 10:45 a.m.

Friedens Evangelical Lutheran, 2451 Saucon Valley Road, Center Valley. Pastor, Rev. Elaine Quincey. Worship, 10:15 a.m.; Sunday School 9 a.m.; Holy Eucharist, children's time, 10:15 a.m.

St. Luke's (Old Williams) Lutheran, 20 Church Road, Hellertown. Pastor, John Hart. Worship, 9 a.m. and noon. Suffrages service followed by Bible study, 7 p.m.

Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church, 2170 Route 212, Pleasant Valley. Pastor, Donald C. Hagey. Worship, 8 and 10:30 a.m.; Sunday School, 9 a.m.

MENNONITE

Steel City Mennonite, Mixsell Avenue. Minister, Rev. David Kochsmeier. Worship, 9:30 a.m.; Sunday School follows. Home Fellowship Groups meet second and fourth Sunday; call 610-865-4899 for time and locations.

METHODIST

St. Paul United Methodist, 645 Main St., Hellertown. Pastor, Rev. Glenn Brown. Sunday School 9:15 a.m. (Preschool through adults); Worship, 10:30 a.m., nursery provided; Youth activities and Bible studies offered.

Salem United Methodist Church, Route 212, Springtown. Pastor, Rev. Michael S. Netznik. Traditional worship, 9 a.m., Sunday School, 10:30 a.m.; Contemporary worship, 10:30 a.m.; Bible study, Tuesday, 10 a.m.

MORAVIAN

Mountainview Moravian, Constitution Avenue and Magnolia Road, Hellertown. Rev. Derek French. Morning worship, 10:30 a.m., Nursery is provided. Sunday School, 9:15 a.m.; Adult Bible study, 9:30 a.m.; The church is collecting cans of Pam Spray in September for the Trinity Soup Kitchen.

Grace Moravian, Old Bethlehem Pike and Preston Lane, Center Valley. Pastor, Rev. Marge Hassler. Worship and Sunday School 9:30 & 10:45 a.m.

NEW REFORMED

Ebenezer New Reformed Church, 3221 Bingen Road,

Bethlehem. Pastor, Keith Easley. Sunday School, 9:30 a.m.; Worship, 10:30 a.m. & 6:30 p.m.; Wednesday Bible Study, 7 p.m.

ROMAN CATHOLIC

Church of St. Theresa of the Child Jesus, 1408 Easton Road, Hellertown. Priest, Monsignor Raymond F. Merman. Weekday masses, 8 a.m.; Saturday mass, 5 p.m.; Sunday 7:30 a.m., 9 a.m., 10:30 a.m. & noon.

Church of the Assumption, B.V.M., 4101 Old Bethlehem Pike (off Route 378 on Colesville Road), Bethlehem. Priest, Monsignor John J. Martin. Weekday mass 8:15 a.m.; Saturday mass 5 p.m.; Sunday masses 7:30 a.m., 10 a.m. & 11:30 a.m.

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST

Unitarian Universalist Church of the Lehigh Valley, 424 Center St., Bethlehem. Rev. Sue Turner. Adult Forum, 9:30 a.m.; Worship, Sunday School, 10:30 a.m.; community conversation, 11:30 a.m. Child care provided.

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Lower Saucon U.C.C., 1375 Third Ave., Hellertown. Sunday School, 9:15 a.m.; Worship service, 10:30 a.m.

First U.C.C., 501 Northampton St., Hellertown. Pastor, Rev. Kevin E. Fruchtl. Children's choir, 9 a.m.; Sunday School, 9:15 a.m.; Worship, 10:30 a.m.; Youth Choir, 11:30 a.m.; Ninth grade Confirmation, 5:30 p.m.

Trinity U.C.C., 1990 Route 212, Pleasant Valley. Pastor, Rev. Carl E. Siegfried. Sunday School, 9:15 p.m.; Worship, 10:30 a.m.; Bible study, 7 p.m., Wednesdays,

DEATHS

Florence J. Robbins

Florence Jane Robbins, 90, formerly of Bethlehem, died Friday, Sept. 7, in Gracedale, Upper Nazareth Township.

She was the wife of the late Theodore Robbins.

She was a private duty housekeeper in the Lehigh Valley area.

Born in Lower Saucon Township, she was a daughter of the

late William H. and Carrie J. (Stein) Reilly.

Robbins was a Lutheran. She sang in the Gracedale Choir.

Survivors: Son, LeRoy Riley, and daughter, Ruth E. Schatz, both of Bethlehem; sister, Clara Muschlitz of Richlandtown; eight grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren. She was predeceased by a son, Ted.

Arrangements, Heintzelman

Funeral Home, Hellertown.

Stanley Melinsky Jr.

Stanley Melinsky Jr., 82, formerly of Hellertown, died Friday, Sept. 7, in Manorcare Health Services I, Bethlehem.

He was the husband of the late Margaret (Jenkins) Melinsky.

He was a millwright in the powerhouse of Bethlehem Steel

Corp. for 30 years.

Born in Bethlehem, he was a son of the late Stanley and Anna (Kobilus) Melinsky.

He was a member of Wesley United Methodist Church, Bethlehem.

Melinsky was a Coast Guard and Merchant Marine veteran of World War II, serving in the Atlantic, Pacific and Mediterranean-Middle Eastern war zones,

Survivors: Daughter, Marian Seifert, with whom he resided; sons, Merle Getz of Bethlehem, George Getz of Harrisburg; brothers, Joseph of Bath, Leo of Bethlehem; sister, Annie Marmelo of Bethlehem Township; two grandchildren and a great-granddaughter.

Arrangements, John F. Herron Funeral Home, Bethlehem.

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and in medical oncology at
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Send letter of interest to Arthur Antonioni, Saucon Valley High School, 2100 Polk Valley Road, Hellertown, PA 18055 or e-mail to: antona@sauconvalley.k12.pa.us EOE. (9/14)

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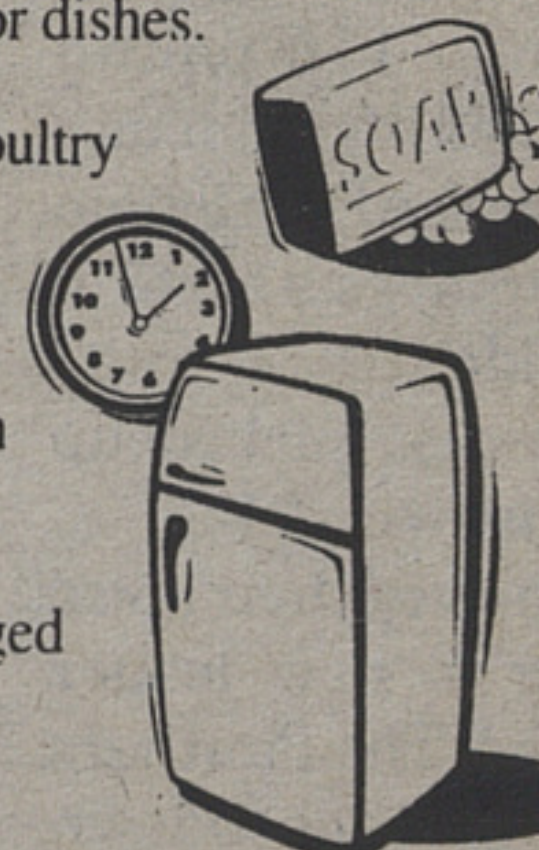
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- Thoroughly cook meat to at least 160° and poultry to at least 180° Fahrenheit to kill any bacteria present.
- Refrigerate leftovers of meat and other perishables within two hours after cooking and serving.
- Wash fruits and vegetables - including pre-packaged salads and melons - under cool running water. Refrigerate cut produce promptly.
- Don't eat anything containing uncooked or unpasteurized eggs - such as cookie dough, Caesar salad dressing, egg nog and tiramisu - to avoid the risk of Salmonella.
- Wash all food contact surfaces (e.g., cutting boards, utensils) with soap and hot water after each use; sanitize cutting boards, countertops and cooking surfaces with a solution of 1-3 tablespoons of household chlorine bleach* per gallon of water; let stand 2 minutes; rinse; air dry.
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SAUCON VALLEY YOUTH SOCCER

The Saucon Valley Strikers under-16 Girls soccer team on Sept. 9 posted a 2-0 victory over St. Thomas More.

The Strikers took a 1-0 lead in the first half on a goal by Amanda Shaffer, with an assist from Carly Shields.

They extended their lead to 2-0 in the second half when Shaffer scored on a head ball that was crossed by Lauren Zimpfer.

The Strikers kept pressure on the St. Thomas More's goalie.

Helping out up front were Erin Simmons and Melissa Henry.

Strong midfield play by Brittany Cheatham, Jenny Kreck, Laura Boyd and Jess Kasmiroski allowed the

Strikers to control the play. Defense, which included Robyn Travisano, Cara Tavormina, Emily Beyer, Amanda Mowrey, Janelle Castner and Angela Pirozzi, shut down the opponent throughout the game.

Goaltenders Allison Kipp and Kristine Cunningham combined for the shutout.

The Strikers play their first home game at 1 p.m. Sunday at the Saucon Valley School District campus.

UNDER-11 BOYS

The Saucon Valley under-11 Boys soccer travel team opened up its fall season Sept. 8 against

Bethlehem.

The fall season at the under-11 level consists of two games played back-to-back at 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. respectively.

In the first game, many of the returning veterans from the under-10 program battled 1-1 tie with Saucon scoring in the closing minutes of the game. In the second game Bethlehem won, 8-0.

For Saucon Valley this game featured a mix of returning players and several new players.

The team will face ENCO from Forks Township at 11:30 a.m. Saturday at the Wagner Grist Mill field, Walnut Street, Hellertown.

— Mark Diehl

FOOTBALL

Two pass attempts by Saucon and a run by Tress took the Panthers to the 50-yard line. Chomping at the bit the Panthers jumped and chose to punt.

Saucon took the Bulldogs down on the 28 and again at the 31.

With four minutes left to play Jake Amelio put an end to a pass play made by the Bulldogs.

At the eight yard line Ryan Tress took it home with another dive. Airolodi scored the extra point.

The Panthers face Northern Lehigh at home Sunday. — Joie Christensen

110-POUNDERS

After a slow start, which included a game ending injury to starting quarterback/outside linebacker Josh Amelio, the 110-pound Panthers pulled together as a team and gave the Bethlehem Township Bulldogs a taste of "Panther Pride."

The team also picked up its first league win, 21-7.

Offense showed their poise by adjusting to new leader Brett Kichline. The Panthers scored their first touchdown of the evening on a halfback pass by Eric Strauss to Justin Doklan.

Eric Kuester took the extra point in to even up the score. A 65-yard touchdown run by Kuester, capped off by an extra point by Bobby Bisson put the Panthers up, 14-7, at the half.

A 59-yard run by Kuester set up the Panthers' scoring drive in the second half. After Strauss brought the ball to the three on two consecutive runs, Bisson took it over the

line to score.

Kody Rivera scored the extra point for the Panthers.

Excellent blocking by the offensive line of Travis Kane, Jake Parsons, Matt Rieger, Kenny Rampolla, Kevin Mostek, Eric Gimbar, Justin Doklan, Tom Rasich, and James Luybli helped the Panther offense score 273 total yards, which included 241 yards rushing.

Strauss was 2-2 on the halfback option pass earning the Panthers 31 yards in the air.

Rushing leader was Kuester with 141 yards, followed by Strauss with 61, Bisson with 25, Tylor Holmes six, Kichline five, Rivera three.

Panther defense was led by Rampolla with four tackles and two assists. Rivera had three tackles, one assist and Gimbar earned three tackles. Jimmy Novak had two tackles and three assists.

In the short time he was on the field, Amelio hit the Bulldogs hard to rack up

two tackles and one assist.

Helping to stop the Bulldogs were Rasich with one tackle, two assists; Strauss and Bisson each with one tackle, one assist; and Mostek and Reuben Herrera with one tackle each.

Adding to the exhilaration was the report that Amelio's injury was not serious and he will be back on the field soon.

The Panthers meet Northern Lehigh Sunday at Dimmick Park.

(continued from page 21)

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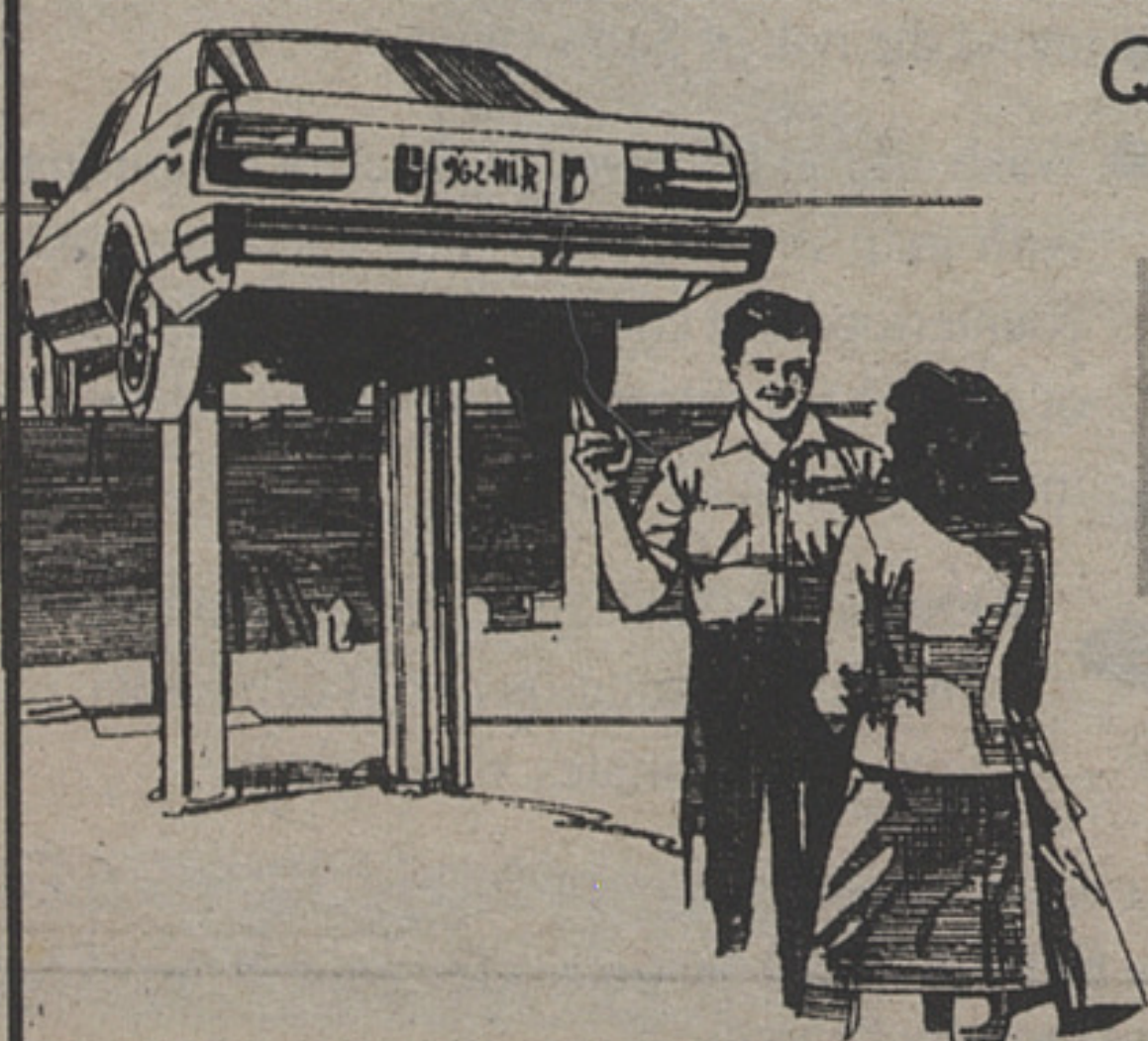
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