Dr. Joseph J. Neds was born in Gilberton and at an early age moved to Philadelphia. He attended grammar and high school there and was voted "All Scholastic, Best Center Half Back" in his senior year on the soccer team.

He came to Frackville in 1926 and opened his first office on the second floor of the Zetuksi Building on North Lehigh avenue. It was amusing and interesting to hear him tell the prices for extractions during his early career. Extractions for children cost twenty-five cents and adults cost fifty cents. Dentures were made out of a hard rubber called vulcanite and the process for making dentures was called vulcanizing. The teeth were of porcelain and cost fifty dollars a set.

The Zetuksi Building, said Dr. Neds was quite an elegant building for its time, having its own self operating elevator. The Elks organization was also located on the second floor, the P.P.&L. had their offices on the first floor, and a ballroom was located in the basement rooms. He was at this location until 1937 and then moved to the G.A. Haupt, Jr. Building on West Frack street, until he retired in 1971.

Dr. and Mrs. Neds were married in 1935 and lived at 404 Washington street. She recalled that the street was not paved until the following year.

Mrs. Neds was born and raised in Mahanoy City and graduated high school in 1925. She entered training at Jefferson Hospital of Philadelphia and gained a position at the Locust Mt. Hospital for the grand sum of seventy-five dollars a month. She was one of the two anesthetists employed by the hospital at that time. During World War II she was in charge of the Red Cross Bandaging Classes in town. These were women from different church organizations who volunteered to make bandages which were sent to the field hospitals in Europe.

Classes were held on the second floor of the Bohard Building. She is now volunteering her services with the Red Cross Blood Bank of Pottsville.

Dr. Neds joined the Elks in 1927 and was Exalted Ruler in 1935-36. He is a life member and is the oldest living Past Exalted Ruler. They are members of the Fountain Springs Country Club for the past twenty nine years and have travelled extensively throughout the United States and Europe. They have lived in their lovely home at 15 South Third street since 1941.

Old-Timers: Dr. Berk, decendent of pioneers

(Brief sketches of prominent Frackville citizens from the borough's early days).

Berk, John K., M. D., a well known and popular physician of Frackville, is a descendant of some of the pioneer families of Berks county, Pa., and is of German lineage. His paternal grandfather, Henry Berk, was a prominent farmer of Berks county, married a Miss Greenawalt there and reared a family of children, one of whom was John G. Berk, the father of the subject of this sketch.

The maternal grandparents were Isaac and Louisa (Haas) Kalbach, both of whom died in Frackville. John G. Berk married Mary Jane Kalbach and in 1873 located at Girardville, Schuylkill county, where he clerked in a general store for about one year, when he came to Frackville as the senior member of the general merchandising firm of John G. Berk & Co. He continued at the head of this concern until his death in 1881, at the age of thirty-five years. He left two sons, viz: William H., a clergyman of the Lutheran church, and Dr. John K., who was reared from infancy in Schuylkill county, though he was born at Hamburg, Berks county, August 22, 1872. He received his education in the Frackville public schools and the Keystone normal school at Kutztown, where he graduated in 1892. He then taught for one year at Lewistown, Schuylkill county, and in 1894 began the study of medicine. After due preparation he entered Jefferson medical college, of Philadelphia, where he received the degree of M.D. as a member of the class of 1896. In October of that year he opened an office in Frackville, where he has ever since been engaged in the practice of his profession, and where he has built up a remunerative business. He is one of the progressive physicians of Schuylkill county; is a member of the American and State medical associations and the Schuylkill county medical society, and keeps fully abreast of the march of medical progress. Dr. Berk is also interested in other enterprises, being one of the charter members and a director of the First National bank of Frackville. He is a member of the Lutheran church. On June 6, 1900, Dr. Berk was united in marriage to Miss Rae Ethel Hand, daughter of Ludman and Hester (Goff) Hand, of Cape May Court House, N.J., and to this marriage has been born one son, John William.