Old Frackville Tales

Lorraine Stanton

This store opened August 31, 1937, at 16 South Lehigh Avenue (next to the present Home Savings and Loan) as a franchise operated by Stanley Sadiky and Henry Algirdy of Shamokin. The owner was Joseph Kulp, right. Prices included eggs for 3½ dozen, watermelons 3½, cake lb. 1½, bread 25 a pound. Oh, the good old days!

DOES IT KNOW the first trolley car appeared in Frackville in 1927? The road to Petersburg finally closed the railroad tracks, while the main line to Shamokin followed the present state highways, went around the Pennsylvania Coal Company’s iron mine, then rose the high way and cut the mountains toward Shamokin. When the trolley cars and the Pennsylvania Coal Company Plant area began to operate, and in 1977, Frackville was served by the meeting, Social and Lakeview Churches, Petersburg.

Remember some of the business places in town in 1927. Jack McFadden Jewelers had a big store at Main and Broad Streets. A. K. Wilsons Store at South Lehigh was at 16 South Lehigh, and a small store with a sign that said “Kingfishers.” The Red Jacket was a popular spot, the second store at North Lehigh, and there was also a store at South Lehigh and 12th Street.

Did you know the Junior Club of Frackville was founded in 1927? The first officers were: H. C. Baske, president; George Baske, vice-president; Rev. W. B. Rige, secretary; Robert G. Garrett, treasurer; and D. R. W. Kall, sergeant-at-arms. The name of the Society was “Service Above Self.”

Did you know the First National Bank of Lehigh Avenue and FIRST, North Lehigh, opened on the corner of North Lehigh and 12th Street, with a capital of $10,000. The officials were: F. O. Mooney, president; Rev. C. C. Boyce, vice president; Robert G. Garrett, cashier; and J. P. Thorsen, manager.

Did you know Garfield’s, the grand saloon, was opened in the city in 1927? It was located at 122 South Lehigh, and always being a place of entertainment for the young people of Frackville.

Did you know the first fire department in Frackville was built in 1918 by J. J. Phillips and Company at the extreme end of South Avenue? The fire engine was sold and destroyed by fire in 1932.

Did you know that Frackville had many churches in 1927? There were seven Protestant: three Catholic, a Polack National Catholic, Roman Orthodox, Greek Catholic and a synagogue. Three listed were: Caucasian, St. Joseph, St. John, Holy Trinity, and Empire Catholic.

Did you know the Frackville Presbyterian Church was built in 1927? The building was condemned and moved to the Presbyterian Church at 10 North Lehigh.

Did you know George Martin and his family were with some of the early women of Frackville, including Daisy, their daughter, and the town celebrates her each year on her birthday? That’s the way it was in 1927.

30 California tourists
love town’s hospitality

BY CAROL KLINE

A sample of the coast resorts—Frackville style—was given to a basket of fried chicken by Commissioner E. J. Bowen.

The group of five were engaged in a sightseeing tour of the area and they were shown a typical Frackville tour. The tour included a visit to the Frackville Historical Society, where a film on the history of Frackville was shown. The group was also given a tour of the town, which included a visit to the old Frackville High School, which was built in 1892 and is now a museum.

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