

Jonathan Davis volunteers recall founders

by Frances A. Sabaluski

The Jonathan R. Davis Volunteer Fire Company of Idetown, among the youngest of companies in the Back Mountain had its inception in 1959 when Albert G. Davis offered the use of a carriage house surrounding property near Idetown corners to interested area residents. The group met in July at the home of Bernard C. Banks, to consider the Davis offer. An affirmative vote was step one in the formation of this new fire company which would be a memorial to Davis' father, Jonathan R. Davis. The group met again on Nov. 18, 1959 and on Dec. 12, 1959 a prepared application for charter was read, accepted and signed.

This application filed in Book 20, pages 397, 398 and 399 of the Luzerne County Court of Common Pleas, bears the signatures of John W. Hewitt, J. Sheldon Cave, Andrew R. Lavix, Edgar M. Darby, Willis E. Ide, Ernest L. Fritz, William A. Casterline, Harold S. Donnelly, and William A. Valentine (solicitor).

First officers were then appointed for the company. They were president, J. Sheldon Cave; vice-president, Edgar M. Darby; secretary, John M. Hewitt; treasurer, Paul Dorris; financial secretary, B.C. Banks; fire chief, Willis E. Ide; assistant chief, Harold S. Donnelly; and captain, William A. Casterline.

The charter signers and first officers were immediately joined by a large group of concerned men and renovations and a building addition were immediately begun on the carriage house. By January 1960 progress on the converted carriage house was sufficient to allow the company to use the newly built garage area.

At this time a dual presentation was held at the fire hall with Albert G. Davis giving the company their first piece of fire fighting equipment, a 1959 Howe pumper. The second presentation was a check for \$500 given by Richard Williams Sr. on behalf of the Harveys Lake Lions Club.

Shortly after the fire company charter was approved, in May, 1960, a ladies auxiliary was organized. The first officers for the auxiliary were Mrs. Doris Margellina, president; Mrs. Marshall Patton, vice-president; Mrs. Helen Lavix, secretary; Mrs. Naomi Davis, financial secretary; and Mrs. Alverna Anesi, treasurer.

In 1962 a used cab and chassis was purchased from the Stegmaier Brewery for a nominal fee. Fireman William Waggoner and several others began building a 1400 gallon water tank which was then mounted on the chassis along with the necessary equipment.

In 1966 a newer chassis was purchased and the tank and related apparatus was transferred to it. A special feature notable when passing this fire hall on Route 415 is the Idetown World War II Honor Roll which stands on the front lawn surrounded by flowers and crowned by an American flag. Purchased by donations of residents and dedicated on Decoration Day 1945 it was originally located at Idetown Corners and was moved to its present location in June 1964 when the company assumed charge of maintenance.

In 1966 Davis was so impressed with the progress of this organization that he relinquished the \$1 (one dollar) per year rental and deeded the building and property to the fire company.

In 1972 an adjoining piece of property was purchased and in 1973 Al Zim presented the company with a 1962 Cadillac ambulance. This new piece of equipment brought into full view the need for more garage space. In the spring of 1973 a new addition was begun which doubled the size of the existing building.

In 1974 a new 400 gallon per minute portable pump and 15 complete sets of bunker gear (helmet, bunker coat, boots, gloves and face shield) were added to the company inventory. In 1975, 600 feet of 2½ inch hose was put on the pumper, along with a portable fight generator and lights which was received from the Harveys Lake Lions Club and in 1976 5 more sets of bunker gear have been acquired.

In addition to completing their new building the membership has given hours to attending various fire schools, answering fire and rescue calls, training, maintaining their trucks and equipment, competing at the firemen's competition featured at the fall fair and working on their major fund raising activities.

During the early years of the organization a homecoming festival was held each summer and coin cards were distributed and

collected annually. Then in 1966 Ed Gilmer, Ken MacDougall, and James Casterline travelled throughout Pennsylvania and made some stops in New York and New Jersey collecting data on the best ways to organize and operate a horse show.

Other members of the first horse show committee were Ralph Snyder, Emerson "Bud" Snyder, Lester Hoover, and Lloyd "Hap" Jennings. Their work was well repaid with a successful show and a profit of more than \$600.

Arrangements for this year's 11th annual horse show are now being completed. The show will run Saturday, Aug. 14 and Sunday, Aug. 15 at the Lehman Horse Show Grounds on Route 118. This year's show committee includes Ed Gilmer, Harold Grey, Ron Ritts, William Casterline, Ken Wentzel, Ray Grey, Emerson and Ralph Snyder, Walter Blejwas Jr., Roger Phillips, Jan McLaughlin, Bill Hearst, George Honeywell.

The company is especially proud of their charter members who are still active, J. Sheldon Cave and William A. Casterline. Financial secretary, John Chesnovitch is serving his 15th year in that office. Other officers for 1976 include president, Walter Blejwas Jr., vice-president, Kenneth MacDougall, secretary, Ronald Ritts, treasurer, William A. Casterline, fire chief, George Sabaluski Jr., assistant fire chief Robert "Jan" McLaughlin, and captain William Hearst.

Looking forward to a 1977 and beyond, the members of the Jonathan R. Davis Volunteer Fire Company are now training their new young members in methods and procedures of the company so they may in the future continue to fulfill the purpose of this company which is "...to operate and support a volunteer fire dept. in the Northeast district of Lehman Township, Luzerne County, Pa. and to cooperate with all neighboring fire departments in the control and elimination of fire and the saving of life and property from whatever cause..."



PLANNING DINNER—These members of Mt. Carmel Church are planning the parish chicken dinner to be held Aug. 29. Seated left to right; Mary Fedor, co-chairlady; Joe Haczewski, chairman; Father Leo Kozlowski, honorary chairman; Theresa Roman, chairlady; Ben Archacavage, co-chairman. Standing in the same order; Madaline Szalkowski, kitchen activity; Mattie Haczewski, publicity; Bernie Archacavage, salads and vegetables; Ceil Piotrowski, waitresses; and Emily Andrasko, kitchen. (Photo by Faye Broody Studio)

King's College schedules continuing education

Pre-registration is under way at King's College for Continuing Education classes of the fall semester and will continue until Friday of this week. In-person registration for continuing education will be Aug. 30 from 5:30 to 8:30.

A Spanish class will be taught Thursday nights in Spanish and Communication. This will cover pronunciation, basic training in understanding the spoken language, fundamentals of grammar, reading and writing. There will be a Saturday

class from 10 a.m. to noon in effective speaking. Free brochures are available daily by contacting the Continuing Education Office in the college Administration Building, North River Street, Wilkes-Barre.



PAST COMMITTEE MEMBERS—Pictured above are members of a past committee for the annual Jonathan Davis Fire Company's Horse Show. Standing left to right; C. Casterline, J. McLaughlin, D. Ide, C. Palmer, J. Casterline, W. Casterline, A. Zim, D. Zim, E. Snyder, S. Cave, E. Gilmer, L. Jennings, and H. Haebele. Kneeling, in the same order; R. Ritts, B. Rollman, W. Blejwas, B. Dobinick, R. Snyder, W. Hurst, B. Ide, G. Sabaluski, and R. Phillips. This year's show will be held Aug. 14 and 15 at the Lehman show grounds (Photo by Alex Rebar)

(Continued from page one)

Dallas Board

bidder could use it as he desired providing he complied with zoning ordinances.

Guyette's Communications Inc. were lone bidders for audio-visual equipment installation in the amount of \$2,450.

Charles Preece was appointed as Dallas Senior High School track coach by the unanimous approval of the seven members present. William Price and Harry Lefko were absent from the meeting.

Lewis Isaac was appointed student council advisor and M. Jay Pope named junior class advisor by a vote

of six to one, with Earl Fritzges voting no. He explained that he believed that the teachers should be student conscious and willing to perform these functions without extra compensation.

Back Mountain mini-football league was granted permission to use the Dallas High School field for practice and the senior high school field for their Sunday games as it was explained that the youngsters must play on a field enclosed by a fence as a safety precaution.

The September meeting will be held on Monday, Sept. 13.

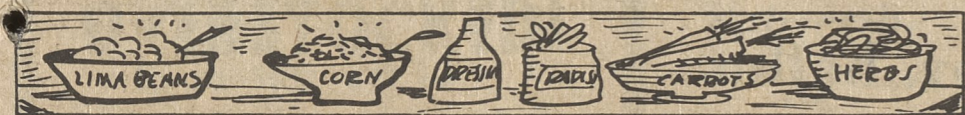
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Noxen

replacement of the boiler at the Noxen School and J.L. Turner Co. of Wilkes-Barre was the apparent low bidder at \$10,300. Yatsko paving was the low bidder for completion of parking-lot paving with a \$2,050 estimate. Bids were also opened and sent to committee for the installation of automatic, electric heat control units and Power Regulator Co., Philadelphia, was the apparent low bidder at \$4,700.

The board also authorized the school district to give school event passes to all senior citizens so that senior citizens could attend all district-sponsored events at no cost. The passes will soon be printed and available at all of the district buildings.

The Lehman High School was also authorized to initiate cross-country as a varsity sport, pending a successful search for a coach for the sport.



You can make a delicious side dish by chopping leftover lima beans and mixing them with corn, peas, fresh carrots and radishes. Add a little French or Russian dressing or sour cream and season with herbs.

"Man's real treasure is the treasure of his mistakes, piled up stone by stone through thousands of years." Jose Ortega y Gasset

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