

October 2007

# Ready...Set...*Retire!*

A Quarterly Newsletter for Lycoming County Retirees



## *Announcements for 2008*

- **Because of increased postage rates** and other costs, the retiree newsletter will be mailed only to the retirees who have paid their 2008 membership dues, effective January 1, 2008.
- **2008 membership dues** of \$10 may be mailed directly to:  
Anne Kilburn, 79 Quail Lane, Cogan Station, PA 17728.  
Please make your check out to *Lycoming County Retirees*.
- **Mark your calendars!**
  - 2007 Health and Wellness Fair at the Scottish Rite, Market St.  
Friday, October 12, 2007 ~ 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
  - 2007 Christmas Luncheon at Valley Inn, Duboistown  
Thursday, December 13, 2007 ~ 11:30 a.m.
  - Retiree Group Meetings for 2008 (locations to be announced)
    - Tuesday, February 12, 2008 ~ 11:30 a.m.
    - Thursday, April 10, 2008 ~ 11:30 a.m.
    - Tuesday, June 10, 2008 ~ 11:30 a.m.
    - Thursday, August 14, 2008 ~ 11:30 a.m.
    - Tuesday, October 14, 2008 ~ 11:30 a.m.
  - 2008 Christmas Luncheon  
Thursday, December 11, 2008 ~ 11:30 a.m.

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**Published quarterly by:**  
Office of Human Resources  
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Williamsport, PA

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# RETIREE HONORED:

## Allen Kaplan: GIS/Data Systems Supervisor



**A**llen Kaplan began working for LCPC in 1995 where he started the computer mapping and Geographic Information System (GIS) group for the County. Retiring on July 27, 2007, he headed up the GIS Mapping and Computer Applications division for over 12 years. During this time he became a PG (Registered Pennsylvania Geologist). Allen brought corporate efficiency, productivity and customer service to local government. Allen used the computer to build 3-d visualizations of future developments including wind farms and quarries. Allen is proudest of the capabilities, pleasant work environment and accomplishments that his GIS Mapping and Computer Applications team members have made.

He is proud to be a native of "the port" and for 36 years has been married to Jill (see photo at left) who currently teaches English to learning disabled students at Montoursville Area High School. Allen is a graduate of Penn State University (BS Science) and University of Cincinnati (MS Geology). He was a computer applications geologist for Phillips 66 Petroleum Company for fifteen years. While stationed overseas Allen developed computer mapping and modeling of deep oil field reservoirs for Europe and Africa. He also worked in Odessa, Texas; Houston, Texas; and in Bartlesville, Oklahoma.

Wanting to return to Pennsylvania he was employed as senior CADD (Computer Aided Drafting and Design) computer support engineer for 3-d plant design at Air Products and Chemicals in Allentown, Pa. In 1993 Allen and his family returned home to Williamsport area for a better quality of life. He spent a year designing and remodeling his current home and Allen taught physics and astronomy at Penn College as an adjunct professor.

Allen and his wife Jill have three children who attended schools in London (UK), Houston, Allentown and then all graduated from Montoursville. Presently Matthew is a lawyer with Pepper Hamilton in Wilmington Delaware. Heather is a graduate student in education at Penn State. Gerald teaches ceramics at Hilton Head High School and will earn a Master of Education in August 2007.

As a member of our community, Allen has not only promoted the sharing of County GIS knowledge, but volunteers as a fireman and an EMT with the Plunketts Creek Township Fire Department. He is an amateur radio operator with the County's Disaster Communications Service.

Allen's future plans are to continue his daily workouts at Max Fitness and to hone his ballroom dancing skills. He is outfitting a new workshop for both making and firing stoneware pottery and for cabinet-making. He will be helping his wife Jill with her breeding of Labradors and training for general obedience and service for the handicapped. He hopes to have time to cruise and travel.

## RETIREE HONORED:

### Harry Bryson: Special Projects Coordinator/ Equipment Operator ~ RMS



Above: Harry Bryson with Commissioners Nassberg, Burke, and Larson

[Submitted by Steve Tucker,  
Director of Resources Management Services]

When I came to RMS in April 1997, Harry Bryson was in his 16<sup>th</sup> year of service and was second in command in operations, supervising the equipment operators for Duane Layton. Duane was not here at RMS when I first came on board. He was recuperating from major surgery, and was off for several months. Duane had advised us that he would not be able to return to the rigors of operations.

Anxious to get started and reorganize things, I approached Harry about ideas to reorganize RMS.

I asked him if he would lead the Operations Division. He accepted the challenge. Harry was a veteran equipment operator that possessed respect for the work that was performed here at RMS. Also, Harry's reputation was well known for his even handed way in which he worked with the men. To my way of thinking Harry just seemed a natural to manage the Operations Division of RMS.

After four years working in the revamped RMS organization and the administrative oversight that had developed through RMS Division Management, Harry came to me and stated that his first love of the job was equipment operation and that his current duties took him further away from equipment than he wanted. He asked for a change in the Operations Division management. Siting foremost that he did not want to create a problem, as he understood the need for the management tasks, however, he stated he wanted to return to the field to operate equipment.

September 2001 Harry returned to the field, as a Special Projects Coordinator/Equipment Operator, a job he has held to retirement.

Stepping down from the management of the Operations Division could have become a major stumbling block, but not for Harry Bryson. He held the needs of RMS above his own and only wanted to create the change to return to his longed for duties, operating equipment again. Dave Bonus, Harry's successor and at the time the Supervisor of the Equipment Operators, has stated that the transition while it could have generated issues, it never did, and that he and Harry formed a lasting friendship and a genuine mutual respect for their respective talents.

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The County has been well served by Harry's efforts, his experience, and his leadership here at RMS. He is the type of employee that only comes around once in while. The lasting impressions of Harry Bryson will always be the quiet strength of his character and his dedication to harmony in the work place. Few lead by true example, but Harry is one in a million, the exception, that is leaving a legacy at RMS, if emulated will bring about future and continued success of the organization.

Thank you Harry, for just being you, it has been a great experience working with you and all at RMS and the County wish you the very best on your retirement.

~ Steve Tucker



**Below:** Harry in action!





# ABBHEY TALES



Submitted by Nancy Stugart

**O**n June 22<sup>nd</sup> Abbey participated in an obedience demonstration held at the grand opening of Calico Creek Feed & Pet in Lock Haven. It was hot and the demonstration was held outside on the pavement. The hot pavement can be distracting because dogs don't want to walk or sit on the pavement. Despite the heat and the hot pavement she did everything I told her to do without hesitation.

On June 23<sup>rd</sup> she participated in another obedience demonstration at the Williamsport Pet Fair held at Greevy River Front Park in Loyalsock Township. The pet fair was a fund raiser for Nittany Greyhounds. Marissa (my 11 year old granddaughter) wanted to participate in the demonstration with Abbey. The problem was when Abbey sees our grandchildren she wants to play. I was not sure if Abbey would concentrate on her commands or if she would just want to play.

Before the demonstration Marissa was giving her commands and she was slow in responding. At the beginning of the demonstration I told her don't be nervous (dogs can sense when you are nervous and they get nervous) and give Abbey her commands and she will do everything you tell her to do. Wow, Marissa was giving commands and Abbey was doing everything she was told to do!!

One more thing, if they hadn't done as good as they did, it didn't matter because Marissa and Abbey enjoyed themselves!!



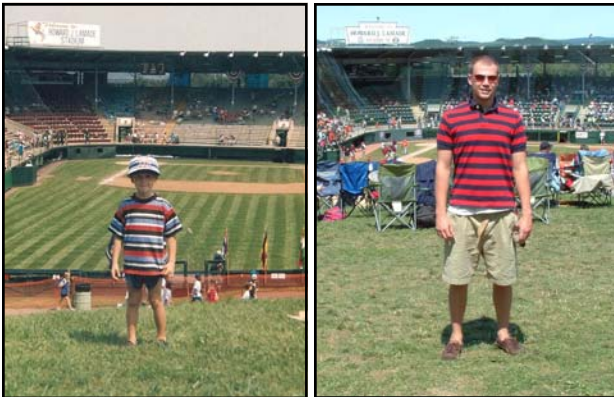
Abbey and Marissa

# A View from the Bleachers

Submitted by Joan Blank

Although I grew up in nearby Hughesville, I had never gone to a Little League game. My father had taken my little brother once ... and I was just as happy to stay at home. After I had my own children, however, I decided that I wanted to take them to a game. The opportunity came in 1993, when my son was only five. His older sisters were eight and eleven, and not very interested in watching the game from our blanket that was spread out on the hill behind right field. Dave, however, was quite excited to be there and insisted that I buy him an official Little League ball cap. My memories of the day? The free parking, the ice cream sandwich that cost only \$1, kids sliding down the hill behind us on flattened pieces of cardboard, and the way my son talked about his trip to the "game" with his nursery school friends when we got back home to Connecticut.

Well, my son is now nineteen years old and came for a weekend visit in August. When I mentioned that Little League was playing on Saturday, he said, "We are going, *aren't we?!*" I remembered that I had taken a photo at the game in '93 so I pulled out the box of photos labeled "Davy"...and there he was...wearing his new baseball cap and his favorite striped shirt, smiling at me as I took his photo.



In 1993.....and in 2007

So, on our return trip to Lamade Stadium, I had to re-create the shot of Dave, wearing his favorite striped shirt, and smiling at me as I took his photo. Corny? Yes, I know...

This time, we sat in the bleachers, surrounded by local fans cheering for every team who came up to bat, and by parents and friends of the boys running onto the field below us. The stands were jammed, the seats were a little hard, but the atmosphere was electric. The world had, indeed, come to Williamsport. And Williamsport, as it does every year, welcomes the world to this special place we all call home...If you didn't make it to a game this year, try to go next year.

You won't regret it!

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## Drought Watch for Lycoming County

Submitted by Gary Hutchinson

Although Lycoming County received rain over the past weeks, the county is one of 58 that are in a drought watch. At this stage, users are requested to reduce water consumption by 5%. The top 5 actions that impact this situation are:

- ◆ **Stop Leaks** – check for leaks at facets, garden hoses, sinks and washing machines connections.
- ◆ **Check Toilets** – toilets manufactured after 1994 use only 1.6 gallons of water per use. If you have older toilets, consider replacing – this is the largest water user in your home.
- ◆ **Replace Older Washers** – this is the second largest user of water in you home.
- ◆ **Lawns** – water lawns or plants in the early morning or near darkness, to minimize evaporation.
- ◆ **Porches/Driveways** – consider using a broom instead of using a hose to wash down sidewalks.

Please consider these conservation tips, until the watch is lifted.

# We wish a very HAPPY BIRTHDAY to our friends who are celebrating in October, November and December:

Oct. 2 Janet McManigal  
Oct. 5 Barbara Koser  
Oct. 7 Karen Wright  
Oct. 8 Bernard Steinbacher  
Oct. 9 Martha Cupp  
Oct. 9 Richard Saylor  
Oct. 13 Russell Reitz  
Oct. 13 Tom Diehl  
Oct. 13 Cherie Foust  
Oct. 14 James Stopper  
Oct. 16 Shirley Ferreri  
Oct. 16 Doris Sanso  
Oct. 18 Evelyn Snyder  
Oct. 24 Jack Freezer  
Oct. 27 Kathryn Bowman  
Oct. 30 Patricia Winner  
  
Nov. 1 Eva Miller  
Nov. 3 Cynthia Moore  
Nov. 7 Stephen Schopfer  
Nov. 10 Robert Culver  
Nov. 12 Kathryn Marquardt  
Nov. 12 Sylvia Green  
Nov. 15 Harold Olmstead  
Nov. 17 Mary Henninger  
Nov. 17 Robert Stack  
Nov. 20 Betty Lauver  
Nov. 28 Alice Bair



Dec. 3 Michael Cassidy  
Dec. 4 Helen Baier  
Dec. 4 Julia Manno  
Dec. 5 Robert Shearer  
Dec. 7 Paul Bloom  
Dec. 7 Thelma Weaver  
Dec. 8 Helen Harrington  
Dec. 9 Mary Louise Goehrig  
Dec. 9 Donna Mathews  
Dec. 12 Raymond Walters  
Dec. 21 Beverly Gottschall  
Dec. 27 Florence Neuhard  
Dec. 28 Judy Ohnmeiss  
Dec. 30 Wilma Wilson  
Dec. 30 Virginia Marchese  
Dec. 31 Eleanor Westphal

If you would like to have your birthday listed in upcoming newsletters and it has not appeared in past lists, please give Joan a call (320-8157) and let her know.



Autumn is in the air . . .

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