

District of Ross Mills  
Ross Mills Newsletter  
March 2018

Contact Emory ~ 338-5792 or email us at [rossmillsnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:rossmillsnewsletter@gmail.com)



**It's Beginning to be too much!!**

We will not be leaving newsletters at road front the way we have been doing for the last 10 years. It's gotten more difficult the last two months. I've had issues with the traffic — the traffic is getting too wild. For many years we could use the Post Journal Boxes.

You can get the newsletter many other ways! We send a lot by e-mail. You can e-mail us at [rossmillsnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:rossmillsnewsletter@gmail.com) , you can get it from the Town of Ellicott Website, Falconer Library, we can also mail one to you. We also have drop-off locations: Sister's Restaurant, Country Fair in Gerry, at Gerry and Falconer Post Offices, and Ross Mills Church of God.

Thank you for your understanding ~ Emory

## How Many out there can remember in the '50's?

In 1951 I got a new tractor and from that time we had many hay rides. I had lights all around the hay wagon that was powered from the tractor's electric. We would start at the church and run many miles around the country. Many times people from town would join us.

I remember going up town to First Street Church and taking them for some rides; back in the early '50's. At Christmas time we would go caroling around the community.



Down through the years we have been having hay rides at picnic time, but. Not going as far because of the traffic, it's too risky on the roads now a days. Things aren't the same as years ago. Many times during the community picnics I would go up the Knight Road to my fields. I have over 100 acres to run around on, that can be a lot of fun.

...if old Mini (the tractor in the picture above) we to take any more hay rides - it'll have to be somewhere else, because it has left it's original home.

~Emory

## History Up on the Hill

My dad told of the gas well being drilled up in my field behind the barn ~ when he was a young fellow. He saw it all, the casing is still there today! When they were drilling at 200 feet they drilled through the aquifer and water came out of the 6 inch casing with a strong force! They had to drive the casing down in to the rock below to shut the water off. Then when they hit the gas and set it a fire. Dad said it lite up the whole valley at night. They could read a newspaper down in Ross Mills from the light it made.

Dad said they drilled to about 1,850 feet. They planned to pipe it to Jamestown. It was all marked over the hill and they had a train car load of pipes on the switch at Ross Mills and then a company in

Pennsylvania gas bought the well and plugged it. Then Pennsylvania run a line from Pennsylvania to Jamestown. There was gas coming from the well and my grandparents used it for a time. I baled the well a few years ago and I was 1,450 feet to the bottom. It must be 400 feet plugged. Dad said they put steel at first and a wood pine plug with a load of sand on top.

Dec 14, 1890

### WESTERN NEW YORK.

#### NATURAL GAS AT 900 FEET.

The Ross Mills Oil and Gas Company  
Strikes a Vein Near Jamestown.

Ross Mills, Dec. 13.—[Special].—The Ross Mills Oil and Gas Company, which has been drilling for gas in the vicinity of Ross Mills, six miles north of Jamestown, this morning struck a gas vein which has a very strong pressure. The well was at once placed under a strong guard, and no one is permitted to come near enough to make any estimate of its actual pressure. The Company is made up principally of Jamestown capitalists, and if the flow of gas proves as strong as reported it will prove of incalculable value to that city. The drill was 900 feet deep when the vein was struck.

We will really miss our next door neighbor. We were so used to seeing him out mowing his lawn. I used to grow some crops together (potatoes) We would work at planting and digging them together. ~Emory



George A. Beckerink, 72, of Falconer, passed away Sunday (Feb. 25, 2018) in the John and Orpha Blair Hospice House in Warren, Pa.

A lifelong area resident, George was born April 9, 1945, in Jamestown, the son of the late Floyd H. and Elizabeth Caroline Rounds Beckerink.

George was a 1963 graduate of Falconer High School and in earlier years was employed by the Village Falconer Police Department, NACO Trucking and Cummins Engine. Prior to retirement, he was employed by TNT Redstar.

He was a life member of the Falconer Fire Department and Exempts, a member of the Local Teamsters Union and Falconer Moose Club. George served several terms on the

Falconer School Board of Education and town of Ellicott Board. He and his brother, Keith also owned and operated B&B BBQ for several years.

George enjoyed gardening, winemaking, making glogg and cooking. He will be remembered for his dry sense of humor and his famous line of "Do what you have to do."

Surviving are three children: Melissa (James) Harlow of Auburn, Ind., Todd (Melodie) Beckerink of Falconer and Shawn (Sabrina) Beckerink of Oneonta, NY; six grandchildren: Caroline Harlow, Drew Beckerink, Seth Beckerink, Trent Beckerink, Ethan Beckerink and Eliza Beckerink; two brothers: William (Judy) Beckerink of Lakewood and Keith (Mary) Beckerink of Falconer; two sisters: Shirley (Curt) Brown of Jamestown and Bonnie (Tom) Palmeri of Deland, Fla.; and a brother-in-law, Chuck Larson of Hobe Sound, Fla.

Besides his parents, he was preceded in death by his wife, Prudence A. "Prudie" Pattison Beckerink, whom he married June 12, 1965, who died March 28, 2011; and a sister, Anna Larson.

The Beckerink family would like to thank the staff of the Blair Hospice House of Warren County Hospice for the care George received and the hospitality and compassion they all received.