

Local History Spot
By Marty Wilson

At the beginning of August this year a former Water Gap resident returned to the borough for the last time. She came to stay. Beatrice Okuno (rhymes with Pocono) Anthony died at the age of 97 in California. Although she left Water Gap in 1970, she always kept the town close to her heart. This is where she wanted to be buried. In August her family converged on the borough from California, Virginia, New Jersey, and western Pennsylvania to honor her final wish.

Beatrice and her family were active and vital members of the Water Gap community. She and her daughter sang in the Presbyterian Church choir, the Waring recording choir in the Castle Inn, and various venues around the Poconos. Her husband, a school teacher in Stroudsburg, played the organ in the church and was the Chief of the fire company.

The Anthonys, however, were probably best known for the businesses they ran, the Green Lantern Gift Shop and the adjacent Tea Room. The building the Green Lantern occupied was built by Beatrice's father, Ainosuke Okuno, who moved to Water Gap in 1924 when Beatrice was one-year-old. The buildings that housed the Green Lantern and the Tea Room still stand to the right of the Dutot Museum's driveway. Since he was of Japanese descent, the FBI investigated Mr. Okuno and threatened to confiscate his property at the beginning of WW II. Luckily for Mr. Okuno, the FBI eventually found more serious threats to national security.

From the 1920s until the family left Water Gap in 1970, the Green Lantern was an important community center. It not only sold gifts to tourists, but it was the bus station and ticket agent for the train. Mr. Okuno eventually installed a lunch counter to feed tourists and residents alike. For years the family's two businesses boomed, at least in the summer months. Since it was a transportation hub, a phone booth was installed just outside the Green Lantern, a phone booth that survived well into the twenty-first century. The building the Green Lantern occupied also housed the multi-generation Okuno/Anthony family.

Since Beatrice's husband was the fire chief, the Green Lantern served as something of a command center for the fire company. When fire calls came into the Green Lantern someone from the family had to run across the street and activate the switch to the fire alarm. If Beatrice's husband was away, that important task fell to either Beatrice or to their son, Jim, who was twelve-years-old when the family moved away. During the family's visit this August, Jim, who will soon be seventy, told me that as a young boy, he struggled with the switch that turned on the fire alarm. The switch was attached to the outside wall of the firehouse (today's town hall). Jim could reach just high enough to turn on the alarm, but in order to turn it off he had to make a running start, push off the wall with one foot, and jump up to make a grab at the lever. The fire alarm wailed until Jim could make a successful leap. The siren itself was housed in the steeple of the Presbyterian Church, just across the street from the Green Lantern. Jim told me that when the alarm went off, it was so loud that it seemed to be inside the Green Lantern.

Jim's son, J.T. Anthony the fifth, recently sent me a photo showing that the fire hall was narrower than it is now. The fire company's two trucks barely squeezed into the building.


One of the more interesting stories Jim told me was that Water Gap experienced extreme drought conditions from time to time when he was a boy. He remembers that when the town faced a drought, the fire department drove their 1926 LaFrance firetruck (currently housed at the Dutot Museum) up the mountain to Lake Latini. (The lake, the site of a proposed housing development, has since been drained.) There the firetruck pumped water from the lake through fire hoses to supply the town with water. Jim remembers walking up the mountain with his father as he checked the couplings and hoses for leaks.

The borough that Beatrice left in 1970 was a different place than it had been when she arrived forty-six years earlier. Rt. 80 diverted traffic from Main St.; the old hotels were mostly gone; and even the passenger trains that had brought summer visitors eventually stopped running. The family sold the Green Lantern to another family, the Kosmerls, and found new opportunities elsewhere. But now Beatrice has come home to stay.

THE WATER GAP TIMES

A Quarterly Newsletter

Issue Number 45 – Fall 2021



Information on Fall leaf pick up will be posted at borough hall, the post office & on Savvy Citizen when it becomes available.

Trick or Treat
In the Gap
Sunday, October 31st
6:00 to 8:00 p.m.



Voting Day

Tuesday November 2, 2021

Polls open at 7:00 a.m. &
close at 8:00 pm

Borough Office

49 Main Street
PO Box 218
Delaware Water Gap, PA 18327
Phone: 570-476-0331 Fax: 570-476-0380
boro@dwgpa.gov www.dwgpa.gov

Hours: Monday – Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. After 1:00 p.m. by appointment.

Office Secretary/Treasurer – Allisen Trotter
Municipal Authority Secretary – Lauren Hognlund
Borough Superintendent - Harry Kent Darlington

Delaware Water Gap Police Department
570-476-4674
police@dwgpa.gov

Police Chief Andrew Yakubik
Michael J. Ceccato, Police Officer
Louis Chirico, Police Officer
State Police – 570-839-7701

Dial 911 for emergencies only.

Borough Council
Jack Shoemaker, President
William Buzzard, Vice President
Zack Booth
Walt Conway
Lisa Paulette
Tim Snow
Eileen Noelle-White
Larry Freshcorn, Mayor
Council meetings are held on the 1st Monday of the month at 7:00 p.m.

Municipal Authority
James Reynolds, Chair
Harry Darlington, Vice Chair
Martin W. Wilson, Secretary
James Holbrook
Steve Simister
Municipal Authority meetings are held the 3rd Thursday of the month at 7:00 p.m.

Planning Commission
Derek Anspach, Chair
Ann Biffen
Valerie Higbee
Gary Schubert
Randy Snow
Planning Commission meetings are held on the 2nd Monday of the month at 7:00 p.m.

Zoning Hearing Board
Frank Davis
Carol Penna
Dmitri Snytkine
Harry Kent Darlington, Alternate
Zoning Hearing Board meetings are held as needed.

Building Code Board of Appeals
Walter Conway
James Holbrook
Bob Mancuso

Zoning Officer
Michael Manter

Building Inspector
Dave Manter

Emergency Management Coordinator
Darin Schaedel

Floodplain Administrator
Walter Conway

The Borough of Delaware Water Gap
AN APPALACIAN TRAIL COMMUNITY

Mayor's Corner

Happy Fall, fellow Residents. The cooler temperatures are finally upon us after a busy and extra warm summer. After a year of postponed activities, it was nice to finally head outdoors again and enjoy our Annual Founder's Day. There was also a great response to the first National Night Out hosted by your DWG Police Department. Look for this family friendly event next year again! The Summer Concert Series at the Church Gazebo brought the neighborhood back out again and was a great lead in for the COTA Jazz Festival. The town was crowded with music enthusiasts that weekend.

DWG fared well during Hurricane Ida. The river crested at 21.9 feet, but thankfully our town didn't experience any major flooding issues. Our Emergency Management Coordinator, Darren Shaedel and our Fire Chief, Howard Ike were in contact with me throughout the storm and were monitoring the storm and water levels for the Borough. At this writing, Cherry Valley Road will undergo milling and paving for the next few weeks. It will begin from Main Street, down Cherry Valley Road and past Kimberly Road to the borough line. The road will be open to local traffic only. A new sewer storm pipe will be installed at the intersection of Cherry Valley Road and Kimberly Road. During the pipe installation, Cherry Valley Road will be closed.

Trick-or Treating will be on Sunday, October 31st from 6pm-8pm, weather permitting. There will be an Officer patrolling the town for safety. Chief Andy will have some treats for the kids at the Church Gazebo, so please stop by to say hello.

The Annual Cemetery Lantern Walk date will be announced via the Borough's FB page and Savvy Citizen. This is a great educational family friendly event. Election Day is Tuesday, November 2nd. Your polling station, inside of the Borough Hall, will be open from 7am-8pm. Please remember to wear your mask inside of the Borough Hall. Lastly, the Annual Wreaths Across America will take place on Saturday, December 18th and begin promptly at noon. This year we experienced things slowly getting back to normal. As we enter the winter months, stay safe and check in on one another. As always, let me know if you need anything.

Larry Freshcorn



13th Annual Association Lantern Walk

What was it like in Delaware Water Gap 100 years ago? Join us for a walk in the Delaware Water Gap Cemetery, where your hosts will take you on a 1-hour walking tour among the tombstones, providing the history of Delaware Water Gap through the stories of the farmers, soldiers, hotel builders, shopkeepers, bankers, laborers, mothers, fathers, and other townspeople buried there who helped to make Delaware Water Gap what it is today.

Complimentary hot cider and doughnuts courtesy of the Village Farmer will be provided after the walk.

Saturday, October 30th at 6 PM

WHERE: Delaware Water Gap Cemetery on Main Street. Be sure to wear appropriate footwear and bring flashlights to help you walk among the tombstones.

COST: The event and refreshments are FREE, but donations for cemetery upkeep are gratefully accepted.



Homeowners are responsible for the sidewalks in front of their property.

Please maintain them by keeping them in good repair, free of weeds & trash, and cleared of snow and ice in the winter months.

The Borough of Delaware Water Gap
AN APPALACIAN TRAIL COMMUNITY

Dutot Museum & Gallery's 6th Annual *En Plein Air* Silent Auction

Forty artists from Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and New York participated in this year's event. This year those boundaries enclose the Water Gap National Recreational Area, Milford, Shawnee, and the borough of Delaware Water Gap. This annual event is the Dutot Museum & Gallery's largest fundraiser.

Final bidding will take place on Sunday, October 3, 2021, from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.

Food and beverages will be served under a tent outside the museum.
Masks are required while inside the museum & gallery.

Condolences to the family & friends of

Philip E. Farber, III

January 28, 1948 - August 16, 2021

Phil served on Borough Council for many years and was a true asset to our community. He was a loving husband, father, grandfather and a great friend to many. He is deeply missed by all who knew him.



Wreaths Across America Sponsorship

Living Up to Their Legacy

The Delaware Water Gap Cemetery Association will be sponsoring Wreaths Across America on Saturday, December 18, 2021, at noon. This is a national event which recognizes fallen veterans by placing a wreath at their grave site within cemeteries. There are approximately 140 veterans buried in the DWG cemetery. Please consider sponsoring a wreath or wreaths which will be laid during the Wreaths Across America ceremony. We have an agreement with WAA that if we receive more wreath orders than what we need, the additional wreaths will go to Arlington National Cemetery. Each wreath is \$15.00. For questions, contact Roxanne Kaiser-Antonowich at 570-476-8084. We are still looking for borough veterans to participate during the ceremony.

Please complete the order form below by Friday, November 12, 2021, and send with check payable to Delaware Water Gap Cemetery Association to PO Box 36, Delaware Water Gap, PA 18327.

Name _____

Phone Number _____

Address _____

(A receipt for tax purposes will be sent to you)

Number of wreaths _____ x \$15.00 per wreath = \$ _____ enclosed.