

# opinion



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River Valley News Group

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- We love letters to the editor. Letters should be typewritten or printed legibly and must be signed with the name, address and telephone number of the writer. Only the name and hometown of letter writers will be printed in the paper. **Phone numbers are required, but only for questions and verification.**
- Letters should be limited to 500 words or less and be topical in nature. Letters of thanks or well wishes are published as personal ads.

- Pointed opinions and letters addressing controversial subject matter are welcomed and encouraged. However, the *Morning Times* reserves the right to reject or edit any letter, with the understanding that such editing will not materially change the context of the writer's message.
- We will not print letters that level inappropriate personal attacks, or are outside generally accepted bounds of good taste.

## SUBMITTING YOUR LETTERS

- Letters should be addressed to "Letters To The Editor," *Morning Times*, 201 N. Lehigh Ave., Sayre, PA 18840, FAX to us at (570) 888-5554 or send via e-mail to [whoweler@morning-times.com](mailto:whoweler@morning-times.com).
- We will make every effort to contact letter writers promptly if changes are needed in order for a letter to be published.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Difference in coverage

**Editor:**  
I just finished reading the article on Tioga's performance Saturday in today's *Morning Times*. I'm glad I was there in person to see the first ever N. Y. S. Dual Championships, because what I read is not what I saw. We are considered part of the "Valley" by your paper and, therefore, a local team. To be a part of this first ever tournament, as a "wild card" was a real honor, as last Monday's edition pointed out. It was honor earned on the strength, history and respect of and for our program.

From the headline on, this story was written from die perspective of a "glass half empty," certainly not what you would expect from the "local paper." For example, even the Binghamton Press-Sun Bulletin led off with a more positive "Tioga wrestlers fall just short." They continued with, "Tioga missed qualifying for the title match by an eyelash to eventual champion Mt. Siani." I was impressed. The "Press" seldom acknowledge we exist, except in passing.

Unlike what is implied in the "Times" article, C. V. A., the #3 seed, was favored when we opened with them. This reads as though we some how managed to lose to an inferior team 32-33. The 34-32 loss to Mt. Siani, who won the title by a score of 33-30, gives a similar impression. Even our big win over Port Jervis, who upset C. V. A., comes across as a victory over a team who probably wasn't very good. Where is the respect? Higher seeds are not guaranteed wins. In Division I, Locust Valley, the #1 seed, finished 0-2 while "wild card" Tioga barely missed qualifying for the Division II championship match. The competition was very good and the scores close. If you weren't there, you don't know that.

I have often thought sports writers were very reluctant to write about personal failure in high school athletics, almost to the point of denying there ever were any and, if there were, no one should be held responsible or accountable for them. I have never agreed with this line of thought, but in this account, there are comments made that I don't believe were intended for publication. On the onher hand the refusal (failure) of certain referees to award points for scalling and/or "slap the mat" in crucial matches at critical times was very damaging to most, if not all teams. It was to us.

I agree with the coaches quoted in the story. It was a great tournament and a big success. I am glad N.Y.S, finally got it done. I believe that Tioga represented Section IV well. We are very proud of our boys and girls who compete and the men who run our wrestling program.

Sincerely,  
**Doug Graves,**  
Tioga Center

## TODAY IN HISTORY

Today is Thursday, Feb. 1, the 32nd day of 2018. There are 333 days left in the year.

**Today's Highlight in History:**  
On Feb. 1, 1943, during World War II, one of America's most highly decorated military units, the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, made up almost exclusively of Japanese-Americans, was authorized.

**On this date:**  
In 1790, the U.S. Supreme Court convened for the first time in New York. (However, since only three of the six justices were present, the court recessed until the next day.)

In 1893, inventor Thomas Edison completed work on the world's first motion picture studio, his "Black Maria," in West Orange, New Jersey. The opera "Manon Lescaut," by Giacomo Puccini (poo-CHEE'-nee), premiered in Turin, Italy.

In 1922, in one of Hollywood's most enduring mysteries, movie director William Desmond Taylor was shot to death in his Los Angeles home; the killing has never been solved.

In 1942, during World War II, the Voice of America broadcast its first program to Europe, relaying it through the facilities of the British Broadcasting Corp. in London.

In 1946, Norwegian statesman Trygve Lie (TRIHG'-vuh lee) was chosen to be the first secretary-general of the United Nations.

In 1959, men in Switzerland rejected giving women the right to vote by a more than 2-1 referendum margin. (Swiss women gained the right to vote in 1971.)

In 1960, four black college students began a sit-in protest at a Woolworth's lunch counter in Greensboro, North Carolina, where they'd been refused

service.  
In 1968, during the Vietnam War, South Vietnam's police chief (Nguyen Ngoc Loan) executed a Viet Cong officer with a pistol shot to the head in a scene captured by news photographers. Richard M. Nixon announced his bid for the Republican presidential nomination.

In 1979, Iranian religious leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini (hoh-MAY'-nee) received a tumultuous welcome in Tehran as he ended nearly 15 years of exile.

In 1988, actress Heather O'Rourke, co-star of the 1982 movie "Poltergeist," died in San Diego at age 12.

In 1993, Gary Bettman took office as the National Hockey League's first commissioner, succeeding the NHL's final president, Gil Stein.

In 2003, the space shuttle Columbia broke up during re-entry, killing all seven of its crew members: commander Rick Husband; pilot William McCool; payload commander Michael Anderson; mission specialists Kalpana Chawla, David Brown and Laurel Clark; and payload specialist Ilan Ramon (ee-LAHN' rah-MOHN'), the first Israeli in space.

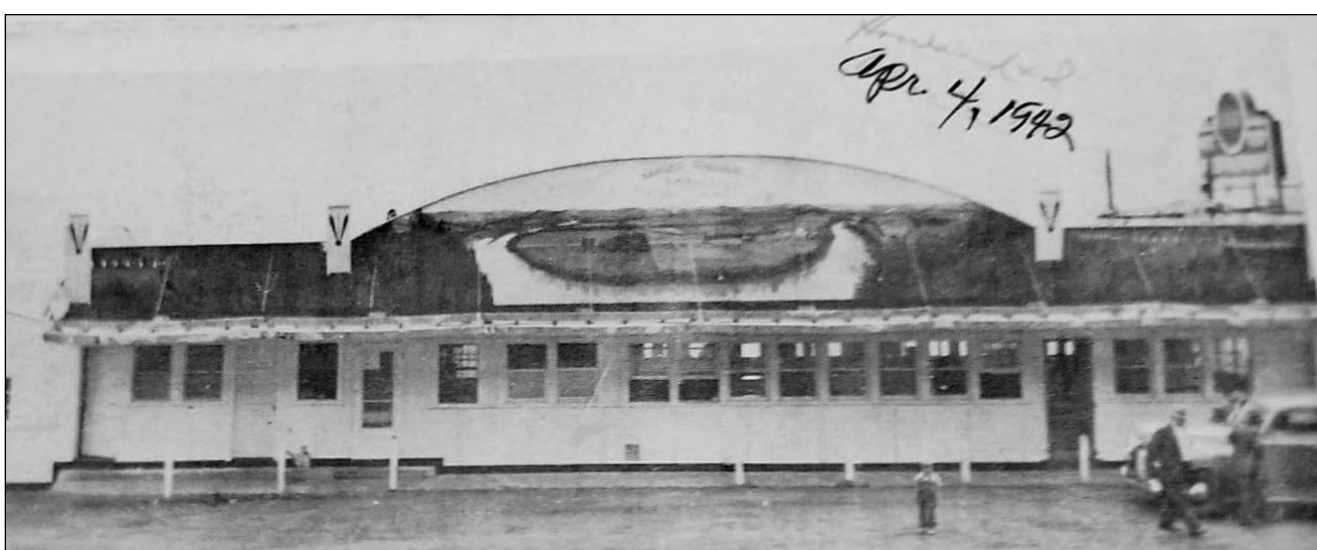
Ten years ago: Exxon Mobil posted a then-record annual profit by a U.S. company — \$40.6 billion — and the biggest quarterly profit to that time. Microsoft announced an unsolicited bid for Yahoo, which later rejected it. Remote-controlled explosives strapped to two mentally disabled women killed at least 100 people in Baghdad.

Thought for Today: "Courage is doing what you're afraid to do. There can be no courage unless you're scared." — Eddie Rickenbacker, American war hero (1890-1973).

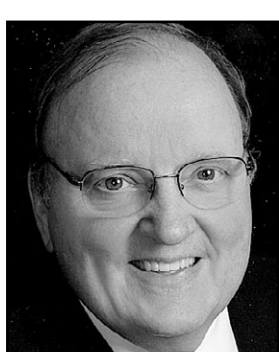
## COLUMN

### LOOKING BACK:

# The Mountain Top restaurant on 'Glory Hill'



This photo of the Mountain Top Restaurant shows the Louis Gore oil painting on the front of the building. (Photo courtesy Waverly Historical Society.)



**HENRY G. FARLEY**

Last week I mentioned that Dan Leary dropped off some items for me to review and that brought about the story of the Iron Kettle Inn. Today the story is about another long-time establishment on Waverly Hill the Mountain Top Restaurant. People from my generation and before will remember the trip over Waverly Hill to get to Elmira, N.Y. It was not a fast trip like it is today. I grew up in Towanda and the trip for us was well over an hour so stops at places like the Mountain Top and Iron Kettle happened frequently. I remember how thrilled we were when Route 17 got from Elmira to the old Tomahawk Restaurant.

I contacted Town of Chemung Historian Mary Ellen Patterson Knust and between us, we pieced the early history of the Mountain Top together. By the way, check out Mary Ellen's work on the Town of Chemung site. She has some great history posted there.

In about 1922 the need for services on the new State Road from Waverly to Chemung was still evident. A young concessioner from Rochester, N.Y., opened a Socony gas station on the hill on land that later became the entrance drive for the Carmelite Monastery that once occupied land high above the highway across from O'Brien's. The young man responsible for the Socony station was Paul G. Merick. Merick stayed at the Socony location for a few years but eventually moved the operation across the road a bit higher up the hill and added a restaurant at the same time. The gas station had become a popular spot for motorists for both gas and water for automobiles that overheated on the trip up Waverly Hill. This was in about 1928. In the United States Census records for 1930, Paul G. Merick is listed as a gas station manager living with him at the Mountain Top at that time was his wife, Laura; Kenneth Crawford, a gas station laborer; and Charlotte Crawford, a restaurant laborer.

Paul Merick operated the Mountain Top for several years. In August of 1933 the *Sayre Evening Times* reported that "\$5,000 Champ Dog Pays Valley Visit." A celebrity of an unusual kind visited Waverly yesterday. He was champion Warland Protector, an Airedale dog owned by S. M. Stewart of Suffolk, N.J., and is valued at \$5,000. The owner and the animal stopped at Mountain Top, just outside

Waverly on Waverly Hill yesterday.

In December of 1933, the *Sayre Evening Times* reported that Merick reported a robbery. Mountain Top proprietor tells Chemung County officials of alleged theft. "About \$9 in cash and a quantity of restaurant equipment is alleged by Paul Merick to have been stolen from his Mountain Top road stand on Waverly Hill by a group of CCC men going through this section. The theft was discovered about 15 minutes after the group had left his place and was reported to the Elmira city police and the Chemung County sheriff. The stand is just across the Tioga County line in Chemung County."

Sometime about 1935, Arthur and Pearl Mosher became the proprietors of the Mountain Top Restaurant. When their daughter, Esther, graduated from high school in 1936, she went right to work in her parents Mountain Top Restaurant. The Mosher's enlarged and modernized the facility. A photo of the establishment on file at the Waverly Historical Society Museum in Waverly, N.Y., shows a lady standing in front, the building is very plain with a large sign on top that says "Lunchroom." In 1938, the Mountain Top ran an ad calling "all friends — "Cork" Whitaker will be here to welcome his friends and to prepare for them the best in full course dinners. Remember this is where you get the Giant Hot Dogs." In 1938 the restaurant could seat 108 as was stated in the Thanksgiving ad — "Why Bother — Why go to all the fuss and worry of preparing Thanksgiving Dinner at home when you can have turkey and all the trimmings and enjoy the beautiful view and good service at the Mountain Top for only 60 cents. 108 may be served at one time—You'll always find a cozy table at THE MOUNTAIN TOP."

During the years Arthur and Pearl Mosher owned the restaurant and gas station, they continued to enlarge and improve the establishment. They added the Chemung observation room and a balcony that gave diners a magnificent view of the valley below. There were also Tower Viewers placed in the parking area to give visitors the opportunity to look out and view the scenic attractions in the valley below. The menu dated April 4, 1942 featured a photo of the restaurant that showcased the Louis Gore oil painting on the front of the restaurant. The menu read: "The oil painting on front of our building is a view of Chemung River Valley taken from Mountain Top Restaurant situated on Glory Hill overlooking Sayre and Athens, Pennsylvania in the background."

The facility in its prime offered sleeping bunks on the lower level for truck drivers. The next flight up contained and auxiliary kitchen and storage area. The third story was the banquet zone and the main floor was where the soda fountain and main dining room were located. There were

living quarters on the property for the owners as well.

The Mosher's were very generous with Waverly High School and held many congratulatory banquets for school sports events and other honors programs. Mountain Top was also the meeting place for the Waverly Rotary over the years.

In 1949, John R and Ethel K. Foster became the proprietors of the Mountain Top Restaurant. By this time, the gas station was removed and the Louis Gore oil painting on the front façade of the structure was covered over with a large banner that stated Foster's. On Friday, Saturday and Sunday evenings, the restaurant featured the Starlight Trio. The restaurant was famous for Sizzling Club Steaks, which were sold for \$1.95.

In 1964 Mountain Top's bowling team won the championship of the American Bowling League. The team members were: Don Callear, Don Millard, Bill Roberts, Lavern Callear, Dr. Frederick Shaw and Bob Sackett. In 1965 the Mother's Day special was a ham dinner for \$2.25.

The Foster's carried on the operation of the Mountain Top until 1971 when the Southern Tier Expressway Route 17 opened. The traffic over the Waverly Hill road was reduced to nothing and business fell off, so the decision was made to close the restaurant. In 1973 there were several tag sales held at the site to sell off the restaurant china and equipment. After this, the building sat empty. On Saturday Aug. 11, 1979, 11 fire companies participated in a controlled burn to torch and level the decaying Mountain Top Restaurant. After the fire, Ed O'Brien, who owned O'Brien Restaurant just below the Mountain Top on Waverly Hill and owned the land the Mountain Top Restaurant stood on, created overflow parking for O'Brien's on the site.

Last Sunday I went to visit my good friend Phyllis Garfield at Elderwood. Phyllis recently lost her only sibling Joe. On my way down Chemung Street, I noticed that the Waverly Historical Society Museum was open, and I thought to myself "I will stop on my way back if they are still open." I did stop and was greeted by Linda Vogel and Ron Keene, both very enthusiastic members of the Waverly Historical Society. I wanted to check their files on the Mountain Top to see that my information was accurate. What a treasure the museum is for the history of Waverly. If you have not been to the Waverly Museum, you need to make a visit. The work of Mr. Don Merrill and the museum board is spectacular and a tribute to Waverly. The museum is open Wednesdays and Sundays from 1 to 4 p.m.

Henry Farley is a founding member and a current board member of the Sayre Historical Society. He is also president of the Bradford County Historical Society.

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