

NNHS NEWS LETTER

Northville Northampton Historical Society

Issue 156
September 2023
Editor
Gail M Cramer



Mr. Niagara Mohawk Northville Service Man

(The following is written in the 1960 Niagara Mohawk News Sept-Oct. magazine)
“NIAGARA MOHAWK’S “corporate image” in its Northville service territory in the Adirondacks is mainly vested in the person of George C. Fryer. A serviceman by the title and a jack-of-all-trades in profession. George has worked for Niagara Mohawk for 44 years. His entire power company career has been spent in Northville where his ability, ready smile and friendly manner have established him as “Mr. Niagara Mohawk” to residents of that Adirondack area.



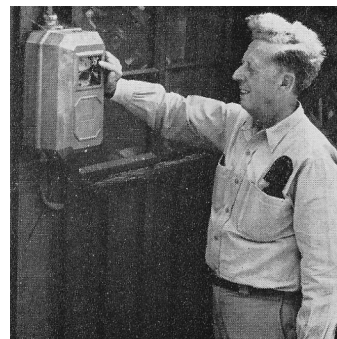
George Carl Fryer was born on 9 December 1896 in Perth, NY. His father was Frederick E. Fryer and his mother, Katherine Peary. The family moved to Mayfield, NY. In 1915 he moved to Northville, NY. George married Katherine M. Abrams June 1918. He was inducted in the U.S. army when he was 21 years old. He and his wife Katherine lived on First Street, where he died in July 1962, at the age of 65 and is buried in Northville.

George was very active in his community: A member of American Legion, Old Home Day Committee, Supervisor of Skating Rink on Water Street, Masonic Fraternity and on many other committees in the village.



George as a young soldier during World War 1.

This uniform is on display in the NNHS museum



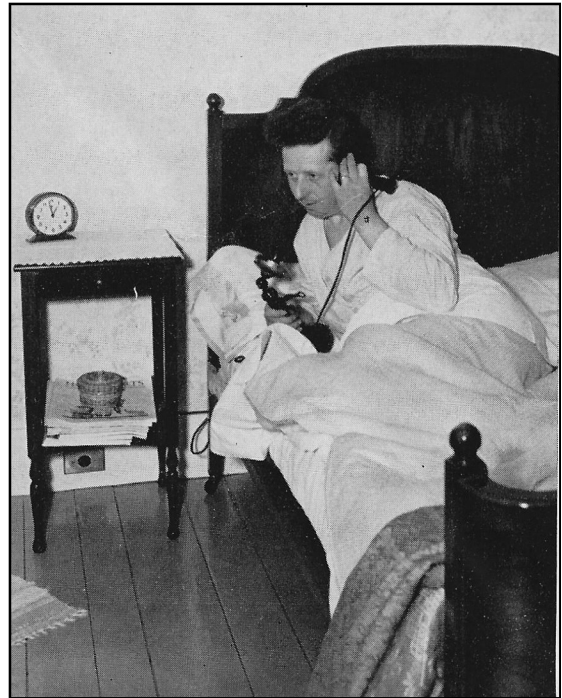
Changing meters was another of George’s jobs. This is one along the Sacandaga Lake damaged by vandals with air rifles



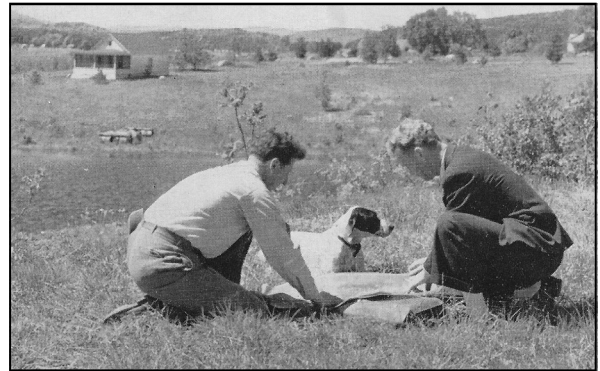
Catching up on paperwork after the days travels. George’s office and company garage was just a few doors from his home on First Street



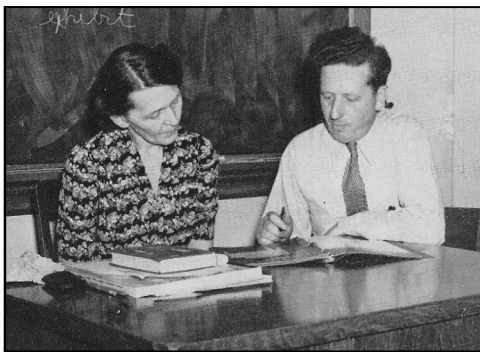
George coming down a pole after replacing a transformer fuse.



George would sleep with a phone beside his bed. A storm could bring a trouble call. A few minutes later he'd be out to see that service was restored.



Discussing plans with Tracy Howard to service a new summer resort development.



A rural school teacher is thinking of installing an electric range, so George calls to give her the information she has requested.

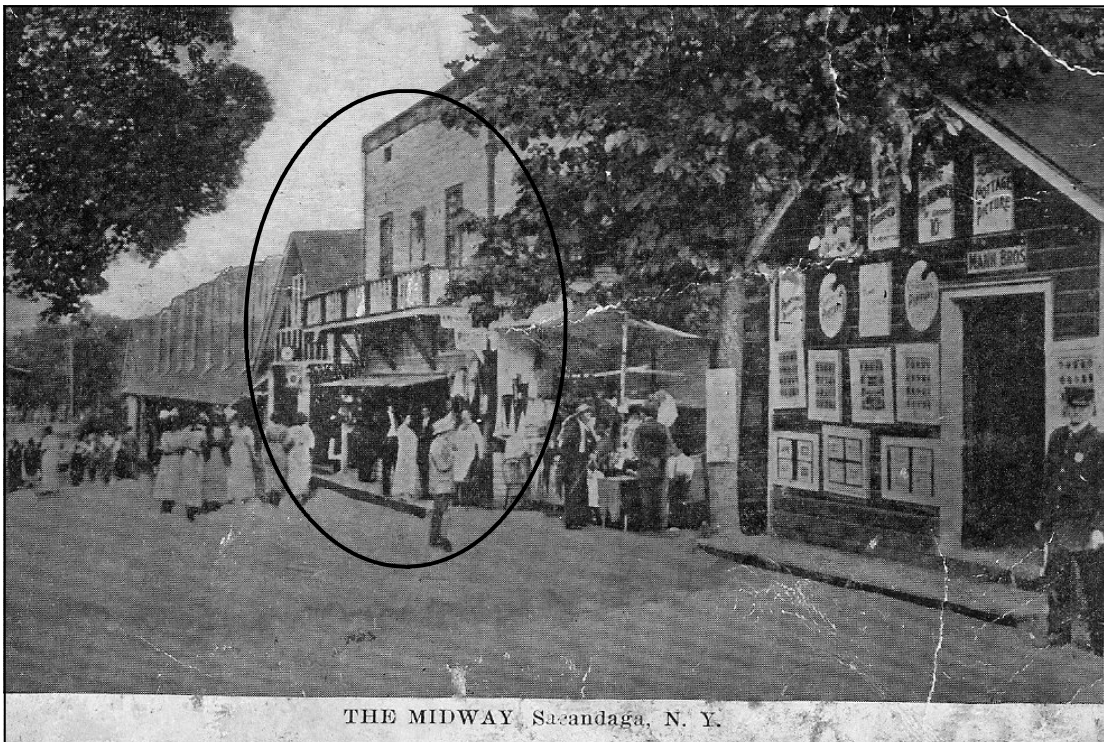
Picture below: Getting the signature from Tracy for the rights-of-way for lines to the proposed summer resort.



The Midway was where numerous small shops, cafés, photo studios, games to play, fun house, ice cream shops, gift shops, and others were located in the Sacandaga Amusement Park. Mr. William Becker from Gloversville NY operated his cafeteria during the summer months and was a piano tuner working in a piano shop the rest of the year. I believe this is probably his family that helped out in the cafeteria



Post card by Sacandaga Studio Preston and Avalon Props. Sacandaga Park



Boys Scouts Troup 55 Written by Carleton Nellis in 1986

NORTHVILLE SCOUTING 1915-1986

Less than a decade after the Boy Scouts of America was organized nationally; it became active in Northville, with Rev. Sidney A. Lowrie, Scoutmaster of Troop 55. That troop has kept its identity as one of the more active troops in the Sir William Council, Boy Scouts of America.

When the Boy Scout movement was welcomed into Northville around 1915; it had been preceded by a local youth group, The Boys' Brigade. William Foote was the organizer and leader of that group, which held its meetings in the Northville Baptist Church. The purpose and function of that group was similar to that of the Boy Scouts.

Since 1915, when I joined the Boy Scouts under Rev. Lowrie; Scouting in the village has ebbed and flowed, governed by the availability of a Scoutmaster, who had the spare time available to attend the meetings, and to take the boys on hikes and camping trips.

One of the peaks of activity of Troop 55 was in 1950; when the Scoutmaster was Harold Blowers. Being a capable woodsman; he took the scouts on many hikes and camping trips; teaching them to know and love the forests.

The troop was sponsored by the Sacandaga Tribe 122, Improved Order of Red Men. The meetings were held in the Tribal Rooms. Members of the Troop 55 Committee were: John B. Saterlee, Chairman; Frank Langr and Carleton V. Nellis.

Members of the troop were: James Aston, Cecil Berry, Glenn Brownell, Lewis Decker, John B. Dence, Kurt Duncan, Archie Dunham, Fred Gardner, Peter Giblyn. Gene Edwards, Donald

Hayes, Eugene Hinds, Richard Jenner, Bernard Manzer, David Morrison, Gordon Mosher, James Rhodes, Billy Ryan, Richard Siver, William Walker, Clayton Weir, Donald Williams, James Williams and Kenneth Williams.

Another high point of Scouting activities in the village was from 1957 through 1960; when Ray Savage was Scoutmaster. Troop 55 had 35 members at that time. The troop committee included Atty. Floyd Brownell, Chairman; Dan Weaver, Chaplain; and Carleton V. Nellis, Institutional Representative. Sponsored by the American Legion; it held meetings in the Veterans' Memorial Home. The activities of the group included money-raising projects; which enabled them to send a Scout to a Camporee at Valley Forge; purchase a portable kitchen and place-settings for 35 boys; purchase six tents; and to send 10 scouts to summer camp at Woodward Lake.

Space does not permit listing all of the hiking and camping activities. To name just a few; the troop carried out many cook-outs on weekends, regardless of the weather. One such adventure was seven cook-outs on the Robert Ryan flats in Hope Falls, held on successive weekends. Another favorite camping spot was on the lands of Frank Simons, adjacent to the present Northampton Beach State Campsite.

A few years in the future, historians will be writing on the continued activities of the Boy Scouts in Northville; and of the many activities of Troop 55, under the sponsorship of the Methodists' Men's Club.

Carleton V. Nellis



Pictures of Ray Savage and the Boys Scouts from 1957 to 1960