

LE ROY PENNSAVER & NEWS - APRIL 5, 2015
The Children Of 1940

by **Lynne Belluscio**

Ruth Harvie came in last Thursday and I told her that I had a special project for her to work on. She took the little red leather-covered book that lists all the people in the 1940 Book and began methodically reading through the alphabetical list. By the end of the day, she had over twenty people. On Friday, she read through the rest of the book and there were more names, some with question marks. We are still working on the list, but I thought it would be worth the effort to share what we had at this point, and see what you think.

If families wanted to be in the book, they had to pay a small fee, so just because your family lived in LeRoy in 1940, doesn't mean that their photograph is included.

As far as we can determine, Lois Thorn may be the oldest surviving person in the book. The challenge is knowing a woman's married name since they are listed with their maiden name. I've posted some of the photographs on the facebook page "LeRoy Then and Now" and have heard from some folks.

Carol Lathan Bonaquisti remembers wearing her very best dress and walking down the street to have her picture taken with the Lathan family. She's also been very helpful in giving me a list of surviving Lathans. Jim Henry and his two sisters, Betty Stewart and Dorothy Papke, are still around.

Jim was thirteen when the family picture was taken. When I talked with him yesterday, he told me that what he remembers is that his dad had died (when Jim was 10) and his mother was really trying hard to make ends meet.

They couldn't afford to pay the fee to be included and his Aunt Bessie Campbell made sure that the Henry family photo was taken and included in the book.

I overheard a comment that there weren't any Italian families in the book, and that's not true. I haven't counted them, but there are many. One of my favorite pages is the Forti family which includes a photo of the Forti Store. When I posted their page on "LeRoy Then and Now" many people shared stories and fond memories. Both John and Elizabeth Forti are alive and I hope to share the stories with them. I know they'd enjoy it.

Many years ago, I talked with Jim Olmsted, and he told me that he arrived late for the family photograph. His father was furious and he didn't have a chance to change into his good clothes. He stood with his bicycle, and several pictures were taken, but his father was so mad at him, he couldn't bear to open his eyes. Ozzie Weiggel, the photographer had to print the photo and paint his eyes open.

Here is a list that we have put together. There are over 40 peo-

ple that we think are still with us. We aren't sure if we have everyone or if we might have a couple of people who have passed away. So as you read through it, if you have any corrections or additions, let us know - jellodirecto@frontiernet.net or call 585-768-7433

- Anchor, Donna (Mills)
- Anchor, Bob
- Boylan, Paul Jr.
- Bradbury, John (Jack)
- Bradbury, Sonja
- Bradbury, Nancy
- Brooks, Elaine (Booten)
- Brooks, Wilfred ?
- Davis, Frank
- Fay, John
- Ferguson, Anne (Cooper)
- Forti, Elizabeth
- Forti, John
- Frost, David
- Frost, Nancy (Norman)
- Frost, Betsey (Levensen)
- Gleason, Mary Joan
- Graham, David
- Graham, Joyce (Jordan)
- Graney, Carol Anne
- Graney, Charles (Chuck)
- Graney, Dorothy (Chapman)
- Graney, Larry Judd
- Graney, William
- Henry, Dorothy (Papke)



Dorothy Henry (Papke)

- Henry, Jim
- Henry, Elizabeth (Stewart)
- Hoe, Robert
- Knoll, Joan (Ianello)
- Lathan, Carol (Bonaquisti)
- Lathan, Robert James
- Lathan, Lloyd
- Lathan, Helen (Hussey)
- Lathan, Jim
- Lathan, Clarence
- Luttrell, Lois (Thorne)
- McDermott, Thomas Edward
- Messore, Elaine
- Schmelzie, Sonja Ray
- Woodward, Dorothy (Daley)
- Zimmerman, Katherine (Lapp)

As I look over the names, I see people who have experienced the last 75 years -- These are children born of parents from the Depression -- of World War II. They know of thirteen presidents, but probably more important, what it was like to raise families -- teach children -- work -- and play. They share memories of LeRoy -- some good and some bad. And they are our aunts and uncles, grandmothers and grandfathers, and they are our link to our past. As I look at the photographs, and see young children, with their lives yet to live, I cannot help but wonder, if their dreams and expectations were met.



Elizabeth Forti



Paul Boylan, Jr.



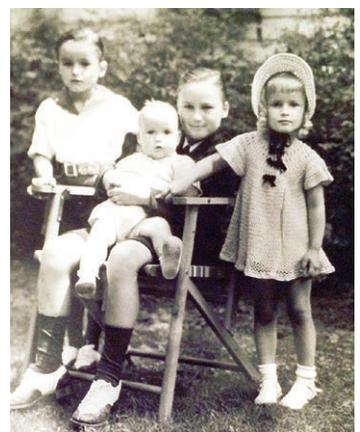
Jim Henry



Carol Lathan (Bonaquisti)



Frank Davis



**The Bradbury children:
Jack, Nancy, Lyle, Sonja**