

“The Story of Sayre”

An Overview of Sayre history in Questions and Answers

This set of questions was provided in the Sayre Historical Society raffles of History Baskets for several years and is displayed here for the viewer. Have fun !!

Questions

(Answers to be provided at a later date)

The Sayre Historical Society celebrates Sayre which was incorporated in 1891 and offers this set of questions to the public to enjoy as we celebrate our historic town. It was designed to be downloaded with places for the answers to be written in.

Some of the answers can be discovered (a) by taking a tour of Sayre and paying attention to the landmarks, (b) logging on to our website, www.sayrehistorical.com, (c) checking the society's own published history of Sayre during the centennial year of 1991, ***A Century of Memories, Sayre, Pennsylvania, 1891 to 1991*** © or (d) talking to any older resident or local history enthusiast.

Enjoy, enjoy !

1. Sayre, Pennsylvania, is the current name for our town. At one time, it was claimed to be part of Connecticut and earlier was within the territory of Native Americans. The tribes of the Iroquois League are remembered by six street names in Sayre. Name them.

2. Who was the founder of Sayre?

3. How is his name remembered today?

4. Sayre was named in honor of what executive of the Lehigh Valley Railroad?

5. Before Sayre was incorporated, what was the common name for the wooded area between Waverly and Athens?

6. Sayre began in 1870 in Athens Township. In what year was it incorporated as the Borough of Sayre?

7. What is the oldest inhabited part of Sayre?

8. What was located on the banks of Shepard Creek in Milltown?

9. What is the oldest cemetery in Sayre? Where is it located? Who donated the land for the cemetery?
10. Soldiers from three wars are buried there. What wars?
11. For the most part Sayre began between the railroad tracks and the Susquehanna River. What was the first major building on the west side of the railroad tracks?
12. In what year was Eighmey Hall built?
13. In what year was the Sayre Borough Hall built?
14. In what year was the Glaser Building built?
15. Why was the Wilbur Hotel built on the corner of W. Packer Ave. and Desmond St.?
16. Sayre grew as a railroad community centered around what railroad which was one of the largest employers in Sayre?
17. Since the railroad tracks could not turn in a narrow circle, how were the locomotives turned around?
18. What was the Lehigh Valley Railroad=s Afineest passenger train in the world@?
19. Why was it given that name?
20. When did the Lehigh Valley Railroad go out of existence?
21. How and when did the Robert Packer Hospital begin?
22. Who was Robert Packer?

23. Why is the hospital named after him?
24. What was the date of the tragic fire at the Robert Packer Hospital?
25. Does the former Packer Mansion still exist?
26. When did Dr. Donald Guthrie become the chief surgeon at the Robert Packer Hospital?
27. When did Dr. Donald Guthrie die?
28. How many hospitals has the town of Sayre had?
29. The Robert Packer Hospital and the Lehigh Valley Railroad had something in common. What was that?
30. During World War I, what did the people of Sayre establish to help the traveling soldiers who passed through Sayre by train?
31. What building was the community center with gymnastic and tumbling activities, the location of the first library, and cooking, woodworking, and dance classes?
32. Coleman Athletic Field was about the size of four football fields and included a covered grandstand. What is that area used for today?
33. Name the World Pocket Billiard Champion who lived in Sayre for many years and is in the Billiard Hall of Fame?
34. A trolley ran on tracks from Sayre to Waverly and Athens. What was its name and when did it end?
35. What was the name of the amusement park in Sayre which among its rides had a carousel and a roller coaster?

36. Where was it located? What is on that property today?

37. A factory building in Sayre had various names over the years: Foreman and Clark, Belle Knitting, Blue Swan Mills and Sayre Lingerie. What is it now called?

38. The first fire truck was pulled by horses. The horses did double duty and were used to aid in making street repairs. When the fire alarm sounded, they were quickly switched from the borough wagons to the fire equipment. What was the name of the first fire department? Which one followed it?

39. How many fire companies are there in Sayre and where are they located?

40. What was the first motorized fire truck in Sayre and what was it called?

41. Who gave land for the first schoolhouse in what is now Sayre?

42. How many schools have been built in what we now know as Sayre?

43. How many can you name?

44. What was the name of the school building formerly called ACentral@? When was it built?

45. When was the present Sayre Area High School built?

46. What Superintendent of Schools was a Sayre native and graduated from Sayre? What is he also known for?

47. For what person was the Snyder school named? How long did he serve the people of the Sayre?

48. Sidney Hayden, whose home was once located at the site of the present St. John's Lutheran Church, made his living producing what product which was used to build Sayre earliest roads and buildings?
49. The Sayre Post Office had six locations. How many can you name?
50. What Sayre company made T-shirts for the Navy and parachutes during World War II?
51. What was located at the site of the J. J. Newberry's building on Desmond Street before Newberry's was built?
52. What was the name of the store which made and sold Klover Ice Cream? What is located in that building today?
53. The Albro House was once the home of the Reeser, Kessler and Weiland Company. What kind of business was it?
54. Identify all of the churches at least 75 years old.

**WE hope you enjoy this exercise to discover or rediscover the facts
of our historic community, Sayre, Pennsylvania.**

Questions were compiled by a committee of James Nobles, Mary Lou Palmer, Duane Hunter and Maryanne Mader.
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