



Riverside Trivia

Special Thanks to Shawn Murphy,
4th grade teacher at Riverside Elem. West,
for gathering this information.

Question/Info Posted 9/02/08:

When were girls at Riverside allowed to wear "PANTS" to school?

Ans: December 1970 Source: Jan. 1971 edition of [The Viking Press](#)

Question/Info Posted 5/29/08:

What local rock band sang "Timothy" (#17 on the U.S. charts) in the gym of the old high school in 1971?

Ans: **THE BUOYS** from Wilkes-Barre

Question/Info Posted 5/19/08:

When was the "ground broke" to construct Riverside JR.-SR. High School?

Ans: **June 14, 1971** ~ As quoted in the May 2, 1971 edition of *The Scranton Times*, Principal Patrick Reviello stated, "We believe the purpose of the secondary school is to equip the student for his next step in life, and we must take into consideration the development of the student - mentally, emotionally, physically, socially, and esthetically."

Question/Info Posted 4/15/08:

How many RIVERSIDE HIGH SCHOOLS are there in Pennsylvania?

Ans: 2 The "other" RHS is located in Ellwood City (Beaver Co.), Pennsylvania. This school is located in western PA, and is located on Connoquenessing Creek. After contacting officials in Ellwood City we were told their mascot is the Panther and their school colors are green and white.

Question/Info Posted 2/11/08:

Name the spring musical performed in 1986 at RHS?

Ans: "**Annie Get Your Gun**" Lora Antonio played Annie Oakley, Joe Gisolfi played Frank Butler, Dave Davis played Pawnee Bill, Walter Deininger played Buffalo Bill *Other senior actors were Kathy Secor, Kevin Jennings, Dana Aldrich, Marijo Consenza, Michelle Occipinti, Steve Griffiths, Mark Jennings & Eddie Popil

Question/Info Posted 1/4/08:

Who were the officers from the class of 1987?

Ans: President; Karen Fuller, Vice-President; Greg Flanagan, Treasurer; Billy Sochovka, & Secretary; Shawn Puchalski The Class of 1987 recently held their 20th year reunion.

Question/Info Posted 11/14/07:

Who were the Senior Band Members from the class of 1976?

Joe Cudo, Joan Davis, Milton Evans & Margaret Carr

Question/Info Posted 10/02/07:

It was 10 years ago that our varsity football team won the PIAA "A" Eastern Conference Championship! Who were the players that led our high school to this great victory?

Ans: # 4 Sean Namlick, #10 John Jezorwski, # 12 Harry Armstrong, # 14 Joe Sluck, #15 Jeremy Ransom, #18 Billy Kytte, # 19 Jay Reviello, # 22 Mark Jones, # 23 Ryan Oustrich, # 30 Joe Bakaysa, # 32 Nathan Thomas, # 33 Brian Jones, # 34 Justin Hewitt, # 36 Tim McNulty, # 40 Bill Sandly, # 42 Ryan Ott, # 44 Jesse Jones, # 46 Patrick Gronski, # 51 Jim King, # 52 Chris Coombs, # 54 Steve Thomas, # 55 Joe Kowalski, # 56 John Maher, # 60 Conan Conaboy, # 61 Chris Swartz, # 64 Jeff Ransom, # 65 Tom Maines, # 66 Mike Juba, # 68 Jason Mitchell, # 70 T,J, Hudak, # 72 John Harrison, # 73 A.J. Jones, # 74 Chris Thomas, # 77 Kris Karnis, # 78 Jim Obidinski, # 80 Bill Gnall, # 81 Eugene Gallagher, # 82 Anthony Marianelli, # 84 Chris Ellis, # 85 Robert Slusher, # 86 Josh Korczakowski, # 88 Gary Beck, and # 89 John Dodge Head Coach was Steve Armillay Assistant coaches were: Ray Calabrese, Glenn Kempa, Frank DeAngelo, Matt Talarico, Jack Ott, Harry Armstrong, SR., Eugene Ruddy, Gene King, Ed Jezorwski, and Dan Repshis Facts: Riverside beat Southern Columbia to capture this great feat. Former player (# 12) Harry Armstrong is currently the head coach of the Viking varsity squad. It's hard to believe it's been 10 years since that great season!

Question/Info Posted 9/21/07:

Who kicked the winning field goal to beat Old Forge High School in the 1973 Thanksgiving game?

Ans: The late Bobby Powell RHS '74

Bobby's nephew, Jimmy Pietrowski, is a captain and lineman for the Vikings. Another interesting note: Jimmy's late grandfather, Joseph Pietrowski, played fullback for the Taylor High Trojans in 1945 when we beat Old Forge 6 – 0 Also, Jimmy's Dad, Jim Pietrowski, SR., played for the Devils in 1980 when The Vikings went on to Victory! Jimmy has a "60 Plus" years family history with the Old Forge/Riverside game!

Question/Info Posted 8/6/07:

What former "Taylor High" football player brought with him his alma mater's nickname "Trojans" when he became head football coach of the newly formed "North Pocono" High School?

Ans: Jake Semion North Pocono needed a new nickname. When the "Taylor-Moosic" jointure took place (July 20, 1961) we became the VIKINGS. As the Vikings sailed into Riverside, the Trojans climbed the mountain to North Pocono.

Source: several graduates from ol' Taylor High

Question/Info Posted 7/11/07:

Who were the 3 siblings at Riverside Elementary West to win the P.T.A. (Council Level) REFLECTIONS contest in the area of MUSIC back in 1999?

Ans: Jared, Jacob & Jessica Jones They are the children of Jason & Lisa Jones of Taylor.

Question/Info Posted 6/26/07:

What was voted as the "Best Moving Picture" of the year by the Taylor High School Class of 1939?

Ans: Jessie James This researcher believes that most students must have gone to Taylor's former "Thomas Theater" on Union Street to view the film. The theater was located in the vicinity of the current parking lot of Wachovia Bank.

Question/Info Posted 5/3/07:

Who was the last football player from Moosic High School to play in the Dream Game?

Ans: Eddie Jezowski Ed was selected to play in the August 1961 game. He played defensive end in the game and also held the ball for the extra point. The City beat the County with a score of 7- 6. Eddie played starting quarterback for the Red Wings. Another interesting fact: Ed also threw the last touchdown pass for the Red Wings. This happened on Thanksgiving Day against the Avoca Buffaloes. The late Jimmy Decker caught the touchdown pass.

Question/Info Posted 4/10/07:

Who were the "Class Comedians" 🤪 of the Taylor High School Class of 1939?

Ans: Ruth Reese and William Johnson 🤪
(Ruth Reese currently resides in Taylor.)

Question/Info Posted 4/01/07:

Who was the MVP of the 1990 Lady Vikes Softball Team?

Ans: Suzi (Deininger) Taylor

Question/Info Posted 3/21/07:

Who was President of the Future Nurses' Club at RHS during the 1975 - 76 school year?

Ans: Diane Wielebinski

Question/Info Posted 3/15/07:

Who were the Senior players on the Lady Vikes Basketball team from the Class of 1984?

Ans: Mari Flynn, Debbie Hughes, Renee Tippet, Mary Grace "Gus" Fortuna, Kim Adamiak and Patty McGraw Head Coach Tom Nageli and Assistant Coach Frank Chisdock again led their team on a winning pathway. The team went into post-season play only to be stopped short of repeating as District 2 Champs. "Lady Vikes showed the true Riverside spunk and sportsmanship."

Question/Info Posted 2/19/07:

What former Taylor business sponsored the Punt, Pass & Kick contest at the "Taylor-Moosic" stadium during the fall of 1963?

Ans: Glenwood Motors This auto dealership was located at the present site of Via Apia Catering, South Main Street in Taylor.

Question/Info Posted 1/31/07:

What 3 recent retirees from the Riverside faculty graduated from Taylor-Moosic High School in 1964?

Ans: Stephen Lamper, Leon Mickavicz, and William Hyduchak / All 3 men graduated high school together and retired from teaching at their **alma mater** in the same year.

Question/Info Posted 1/20/07:

Who was honored as the "Globe Athlete of the Week" in 1966 at RHS?

Ans: Eddie Trescavage Ed was honored for his outstanding athletic ability in basketball and football. In fact, Ed was a constant hitter, finishing near the .300 mark.

Question/Info Posted 1/15/07:

Who drove the bakery truck to deliver goods to the old high school?

Ans: "Pete the Baker"

Question/Info Posted 12/08/06:

Who was Drum Majorette from the Class of 1984?

Ans: Maria (Price) Harrison

Question/Info Posted 11/17/06:

Who were the recipients of the Taylor American Legion Post 306 School Award from the T.H.S. Class of 1930?

Ans: Boy - Ralph Imdorf (Courage, Honor, Service, Leadership & Scholarship)
Girl - Anna Yatchisin (Courage, Character, Service, Companionship & Scholarship)

The award was begun in 1924, with Walter Davis being its very first recipient. The first girl to receive this "prestigious" award was Elizabeth Powell Griffith in the year 1926. Ralph Imdorf was the father of Mr. Ralph Imdorf, current Physical Education Teacher in our elementary school system.

Question/Info Posted 11/07/06:

When did the observatory open at RHS?

Ans: Fall of 1978 "It's the House that Kosek built!" Need I say more?

Question/Info Posted 10/29/06:

Who represented RHS as they reached semi-finals during the 1976-77 Scholastic Bowl?

Ans: J. Martin, J. Kwiatkowski, E. Walker, and L. Mlodzienski By the way, Riverside placed 3rd. Not bad at all!

Question/Info Posted 10/11/06:

Who served on the "Coke Crew" during the 1966-67 school year at RHS?

Ans: Students were Jane Merritt, Donna Schild, Mary Jane Evans, Kathy Graham, Ronnie Imdorf, Terry Smith, Joe Semion, Craig Bowen and David MacArt. Advisor was the late Betty Jane Caswell.

Question/Info Posted 9/17/06:

What year did we begin playing football against Old Forge High School?

Ans: 1939 Prior to the Taylor-Moosic merger, Taylor High School Trojans first played against OFHS in 1939. This was 7 years before our current stadium was built. During this first full season, the Trojans finished the season with a 3-4-1 record. This researcher was told that in the beginning, Taylor High played their home games in the vicinity of the current high school campus.

Question/Info Posted 9/17/06:

For what reason was the annual "Back-to-School Night" event postponed during the 2001-02 school year at Riverside Elementary West?

Ans: It was scheduled to take place the evening of 9-11

Question/Info Posted 9/6/06:

What was the first meal served in the cafeteria of Riverside JR. - SR. High School?

Ans: Shepherd's Pie

Source: Suzanne (Switak) Osterstrom

Question/Info Posted 8/29/06:

Who was the first Miss Viking?

Ans: Nancy (Felcovetz) Nash In fact, Nancy held this title during her junior and senior years. 1961- 62 and 1962- 63. She was also the Taylor-Moosic High School's "Class of 1963" Prom Queen.

Question/Info Posted 6/30/06:

Who was named "Outstanding Senior Football Player" from the Class of 1968?

Ans: Pat Barrett

Question/Info Posted 6/08/06:

What were some of the local business/utility companies our school district dealt with back in the early 1960's?

Ans: (To name a few) Moosic Lumber Co., Tom Taylor (sporting goods), Scranton Dry Goods, Erie-Lackawanna Railroad, Bell Telephone Co., Neway Stores, Inc., Oister's Service Station, Kavulich's Market, Weissberger's Store, Weinberger Co., Catarino's Shoe Service, Andy's Garage, Rafalko Bros. Garage, Horger Bros., Butt's Service Station, Taylor Auto Exchange

Question/Info Posted 5/22/06:

What year did Taylor High School begin to playing varsity football?

Answer: Fall of 1938

Only one game was played this year. St. Ann's High School of West Scranton beat Taylor High 6-0. Full schedules came in 1939 with a 3-4-1 record.

Question/Info Posted 4/30/06:

Who was Miss Viking from the Class of 1987?

Paula Praschak Rebar

F.Y.I. Here is how I choose some trivias. I simply go into the new Taylor Community Library and pick out any yearbook from the shelf. I try to bounce from one decade to another. I flip through pages and find anything to put in. This makes it a random selection in a sense.

Shawn

Question/Info Posted 4/09/06:

Who was crowned Homecoming Queen from the RHS Class of 1976 1975?

Ans: Linda Sluck Chmielewski

Who was crowned Homecoming Queen from the RHS Class of 1976?

Ans: Diane Wielibinski

ALSO:

An excerpt from the November 23, 1956 Scranton Times:

(The day after the OF-Taylor High football game)

THE GRIDDERS OF COACH ELIO GHIGIARELLI, NEVERTHELESS, HAD TO SETTLE FOR A 6-6 STALEMATE IN A BRISTLING BATTLE WITH THE NEIGHBORING TROJANS OF TAYLOR.

SOME 4,000 BRAVED THE CRISPY WEATHER AT TAYLOR STADIUM WHICH WAS CONSPICUOUS BY THE **ABSENCE OF GOAL POSTS**. JUST WHEN AND HOW AND BY WHOM THE UPRIGHTS HAD BEEN LIFTED IS A PUZZLE STILL TO BE SOLVED.

TAYLOR AND OLD FORGE MET FOR THE 18TH TIME SINCE THEIR GRID STARTED IN 1939 AND NEITHER SHOWS AN EDGE IN THE NUMBER OF VICTORIES. EACH HAS WON EIGHT TIMES AND THE OTHER TWO ENDED IN STALEMATES. THE PREVIOUS DEADLOCK OCCURRED IN 1950 AND THE SCORE THEN WAS IDENTICAL TO YESTERDAY'S.

(NOTE: BOB REESE WAS COACH OF THE TROJANS)
SOURCE: SHAWN MURPHY'S MOM'S H.S. SCRAPBOOK

Question/Info Posted 4/05/06:

When did the "Big Eleven" football conference begin?

Ans: 1969

ALSO:

(From the January 2, 1910 edition of The Scranton Tribune-Republican Newspaper)

The Taylor Baseball club organized for the coming season , Friday evening at Stanton's Parlors, and elected the following officers. President, John Rufibach; Secretary, Richard Connolly; Manager, Gomer E. Davis. The following players have been signed for the coming season. D. Evans, H. Weisenfluh, J. Burns, E. Berger, F. White, A. Davis, C. Scull, H. Scull, J. Hanley, M. Day, T. Evans and W. Evans. The team will conduct a benefit sometime in February.

(From the January 10, 1910 edition of the Scranton Tribune-Republican Newspaper)

John Schield, of Harrison Street, the well-known baseball pitcher, was seriously injured in the Pyne Mine by falling under a trip of cars upon which he was riding. He was taken to the Moses Taylor Hospital. His injuries consisted of several ugly gashes on the head and a broken ankle.

Question/Info Posted 3/20/06:

What year were the "preliminary plans" drawn up for the new "Greenwood" Elementary School?

Ans: 1966 Originally named Moosic Elementary, this school is now called "Riverside Elementary East." In 2004 a major renovation project was completed, allowing this school to compete academically in the 21st century. (Riverside JR.-SR. High School and Riverside Elementary West School also went through similar renovations with the same goals in mind.)

Question/Info Posted 3/15/06:

Who was the very first head coach of the "Lady Vikes Basketball" team?

Ans: Ms. Janet Kresge

Question/Info Posted 3/8/06:

When was approval of "the building of a press box at the football stadium" granted?

Ans: August 1966

Question/Info Posted 2/27/06:

Who wrote the Riverside High School alma mater?

Ans: The late Betty Jane Caswell, Music Educator and Band Director at RHS

The melody comes from "God of our Fathers"

Source: David MacArt, former Social Studies Teacher at RHS

Dave tells us he was the first to hear the finished work in the living room of of his family homestead on Union Street in Taylor. Betty Jane was his cousin.

Question/Info Posted 2/20/06:

A Couple of Riverside Firsts...The "Taylor/Moosic Jointure" took place on July 20, 1961. In the years to follow we would be renamed Riverside. Below are a "couple of firsts" on the Viking Voyage!

Superintendent - Mr. William J. Powell
H.S. Principal - Mr. Merwyn Howells
H.S. V-Principal - Mr. Richard Carroll
Elementary Supervisor - Mr. John Weir
Dir. of Curriculum - Mr. Patrick C. Rivello
Head Football Coach - Mr. Bernard Gillespie
Asst. Football Coaches - Mr. James Connors, Mr. Joseph Mekilo
Head Basketball Coach - Mr. Louis Pettinato
Asst. Basketball Coach - Mr. Edward Helcoski
Head Baseball Coach - Mr. Joseph Kakareka
Asst. Baseball Coach - Mr. Joseph Mekilo
Faculty Manager - Mr. Edward Helcoski
Truant Officer - Mr. Joseph Kneiss
School Nurses- Mrs. Charlotte Davies, Miss Ann Hamadik
Guidance Counselors- Mr. Edward Helcoski, Mr. William Jones
Faculty Treasurer - Mr. Winfield Masters
Band Director – Betty Jane Caswell
Units Director – Tessie Gondella Bard

Question/Info Posted 2/14/06:

What was another popular nominated name for our district when "Taylor-Moosic" became Riverside?

Answer: **KEYAWANNA SCHOOL DISTRICT** Timothy "Keys" was one of the first settlers in the Lackawanna Valley. He settled on the Lackawanna River in present-day Taylor c. 1770. The nominator combined history with geography by taking Keys' name and part of "Lackawanna" to form this word.

Source: **J. Dennis Kryzanowski, former Principal of RHS**