

GNLCC Business of the Month: Becky's Drive-In, Inc

4548 Lehigh Drive (Rte 248)
Walnutport, PA 18088 (Berlinsville)

William D. Beck, started showing movies to the public in 1936 at different locations in Berlinsville, The public sat outside on benches to watch the movies at Uncle Charlie's Restaurant (where the Blue Mt Town & Country Gazette is located). Also, at Minnich's Restaurant In Berlinsville (across from where Tony's Garage is located). In 1939, the first Route 45 Drive-In was located in Berlinsville (where the Bryfogle Memorial Park is located). Patrons sat in their cars to watch the movies. Admission was 50 cents a carload. In 1946, Route 45 Drive-In was relocated to its present location. In the 1970's the name of the drive in was changed to Becky's Drive-In, because the state changed the route number of the highway to Route 248. The reason it was named Becky's is because all the local people called the drive in that anyway. (William's childhood nickname)

Becky passed away in 1987 and wife Alice passed away in 2007. Their children took over the business in 1982-sons: Darrell, Dale, Dennis Beck and daughters: Mary Mayberry and Cindy Deppe. Dale passed away in 1997.

Their spouses and children help out as well, plus many loyal employees with some being employed by Becky's since the 1970's.

Becky's offers 2 movie screens showing double features on both screens. Open April through September, weekends only from April to mid-June and the month of September, and then every night –Mid-June to August. The second screen opened in 2005. The entire family can enjoy sitting out under the stars to watch a double feature without worrying that the children will be too loud and wouldn't be able to sit still and disturb other patrons like in the indoor movie theatres. They can stretch out their blankets and chairs and may bring their pets along if they are quiet and the owners clean up after them. There is a playground, moonbounce and trackless fire engine for the children to enjoy before the movies begin and pony rides on Friday and Saturday nights the PG and PG13 movies are shown.

Each year they celebrate Hollingshead Day with fireworks at intermission. Richard Hollingshead is the founding father of the first drive-in opened in Camden, NJ, June 6, 1933. On Labor Day eve (Sunday) we have our annual Dusk Till Dawn Marathon showing 5 movies right up to dawn (Monday). Last year was our first year to hold a Cub Scout campout where scouts enjoy a double feature and camp out in their tents overnight. There were over 400 scouts/parents in attendance. This past year the drive-in was the site of the 24th annual Lehigh Township Benefit Festival and Car Show to benefit Dream Come True of the Blue Ridge Chapter. We have raised \$227,000 for DCT since 1990.

The goals of the owners are to "Continue to show double features for the entire family to enjoy. Offer quality service and entertainment and good quality food in our refreshment stand. In the next year we will be installing digital projectors. 35mm film will be obsolete. It will be very expensive and there will be many theatres in the USA that will be going out of business because of the expense. We are offering a new refreshment stand to handle the crowds and more restrooms to accommodate our patrons. We will continue to strive to be one of the area's premier entertainment locations."

If you have questions or would require more information please them at Phone: 610-767-2249 Fax: 610-767-9109 Website: beckysdi.com.