



Ken Field

Owner of Slate Belt Energy Services

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Stop Whining and Start Climbing

Using a ladder as an example of how people can progress in a job makes it easy to visualize what the future can be like. It takes some patience to make enough progress to get within reaching distance of the top. A person may get a few rungs up and realize that this ladder is not going where they want to go. Or maybe they just get tired of climbing. You can get off at any time but if you start on a different ladder you will start from the bottom again.

Manual labor is the best place to start in any trade. There is nothing to be ashamed of if your job is being a helper to a skilled mechanic. I spent many years in that position and learned so much more than just the trade. I learned how to think and also how to learn. People who want to get the job done are always willing to share their knowledge so that another person can help get things done properly and in a timely manner. Today that means keeping your mouth shut and observing along with leaving the phone in your car or lunchbox. Never forget that it's a job, it's not supposed to be easy or fun. You will make mistakes and you will be scolded for that. But you will be paid for your effort and your pay will increase eventually as your skills improve. The more valuable you become to the people you work for, the more likely you are to see an increase in pay. Time alone won't do the trick and saying "I'll do more when I get paid more" is counterproductive. I feel like this is a talk I would give to high school kids but there are people well into their 30s who need to hear it too. That first rung is always waiting for someone to set foot on it and it doesn't care how old they are. Just because you have a car loan and rent to pay that first rung will not yield any more money. You may just have gotten a late start and some kid who started climbing right out of high school may be on the 6th rung. Possibly you took a few years to 'find yourself' and now are looking up at that kid's backside. Or perhaps you went to college and things did not turn out as you hoped. It's never too late to get on that first rung. Don't blame the employer because you can't live on entry level pay. Start climbing.

Ken Field is the owner of Slate Belt Energy and Field's Service, Inc. As a certified energy rater and contractor, he is qualified to assess every aspect of energy usage and prescribe solutions to save energy. He can be reached at 610-759-6306 or email Ken@FieldsService.com

November is Native American Heritage Month

By Jim Wilson

SLATE BELT - November is Native American Heritage Month and we're grateful for the Lenape, the original people and first stewards of Northampton County and the entire Delaware River Watershed. The Lenape are indigenous to the places we now call New Jersey, Delaware, southern New York and eastern Pennsylvania—including the entire Lehigh Valley.

The Lenape resided along rivers and streams throughout their homeland. Here in Northampton County, Catasauqua, Hokendauqua, Monocacy, Oughoughton, Saucon and Tuscarora creeks were long ago named for the Native Americans who lived along these stream banks. Even the word Lehigh has its origins in Native American language.

Four Northampton County parks are named in honor of our local Native American heritage: Minsi Lake in Upper Mount Bethel Township; Monocacy Meadow in Bethlehem Township; Totts Gap in Upper Mount Bethel Township and Wy-Hit-Tuk in Williams Township.

Minsi is a term that applied to the Lenape and their rocky, glaciated landscapes in the upper half of their homeland, which extended from northeastern Northampton County north of Blue Mountain or Kittatinny Ridge (another Lenape word) and the Delaware Water Gap.

Totts Gap is likely a variation of Tatamy's Gap after Moses Tunda Tatamy, a Lenape leader prominent in early Northampton County history. An 1805 map shows a road leading through the mountain gap called Tatamy's Road. The Northampton County Borough of Tatamy, where Moses Tunda once lived, is named in his honor as well.

Monocacy is a Shawnee term meaning "stream with several large bends." During early colonization, Shawnee Indians displaced from their southeastern homeland, relocated for some time here in Pennsylvania.

Wy-Hit-Tuk is a Lenape term for "river;" specifically a river that drains into an ocean, like the Delaware. Also spelled "wihittuk," colonial records frequently refer to the Delaware as Lenapewihittuck, which meant "river of the Lenape."

Because so many Lenape villages were located along the Delaware River—so named in honor of Thomas West, 3rd Lord De La Warr, an English nobleman—the Lenape were more often referred to as Delaware Indians by later European immigrants. In fact, Lenape descendants today living in federally recognized communities in Oklahoma belong to either the Delaware Tribe of Indians in Bartlesville or the Delaware Nation in Anadarko.

Every President since 1995 has issued annual proclamations designating the month of November as Native American Heritage Month. Take time this month to visit Minsi Lake, Totts Gap Conservation Area or your favorite Northampton County Park to enjoy the great outdoors and celebrate the culture, accomplishments and contributions of the first people who lived worked and played here. For more info visit <https://nativeamericanheritagemonth.gov> and www.pbs.org/specials/native-american-heritage-month/.

