



# The Millmont Times

APRIL 2004



## Top Outdoor Products of Hartleton

Many of us, at some point in our lives, may have considered the possibility of quitting our day jobs in order to pursue a more fulfilling or rewarding way to earn a living. Some of us have even dreamt of the day when we could

somehow turn our part time “avocation” into a full time “vocation.” That has been the recurring dream for Russ Wagner of Hartleton. For the past ten years Wagner’s desire has been to transform his part-time turkey call manufacturing and outdoor products company into a full time occupation. The opportunity and the possibility, to turn that “dream” into “reality” is something that Russ and his wife, Michelle, have both yearned to do. They are optimistic that 2004 may be the year that they can take the next big leap of faith and watch their dreams come true.

Russ developed a passion for the outdoors at an early age. His love for hunting began to grow in 1972 upon reaching his twelfth birthday, the age at which a youngster can legally hunt in Pennsylvania. His interest in hunting continued to grow throughout his teenage years. Today - at age 44 – he still finds hunting and the outdoors rewarding and satisfying. With the decline of small game hunting in the mid and late 1970’s, pheasant hunting in particular, Wagner, like so many other hunters, turned his attention to the sport of turkey hunting. Since then, the sights, sounds, and elusiveness of the wild turkey have fascinated him. Because of that interest, he had an insatiable desire to master the art of turkey calling. This 1978 Mifflinburg High School graduate recalls getting into trouble on numerous occasions while practicing with his diaphragm turkey call during classroom study periods.



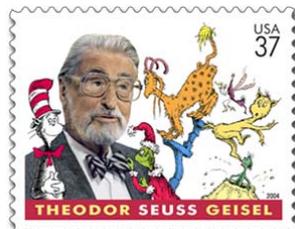
Russ and Michelle Wagner of Hartleton

Any seasoned turkey hunter can attest to the fact that it takes a certain amount of stealth, skill, practice, patience, and persistence to bag a mature wild turkey in Pennsylvania. According to Wagner, wild turkeys have a wide-ranging vocabulary. However, a hunter only needs to know a few basic calls in order to lure a wary bird within shooting range. He was able to hone his calling ability by entering and competing in various turkey-calling contests in Pennsylvania and throughout the Mid-Atlantic region. In 1994, at a turkey-calling contest in Franklin County, Wagner won first place and was awarded the title of Pennsylvania State Champion.

Wagner began calling in the amateur division before entering competition at the professional level. Winning in the amateur division meant taking home a trophy, while winning at

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## Millmont Mailbox by Postmaster Sam Smith



It's Spring: finally!! Time for baseball, I'm sure you'll see Bev at the Post Office some afternoons, as I take off to go to some minor league games. I'll be sure to display some of the autographed cards from the games. It's also time for spring cleaning. Many things will be thrown away, and some things will be put out for yard sales. Another good way to sell unneeded items is on Ebay. Once you sell your item (s), you will need to ship it. You can find the rates at: [www.usps.com](http://www.usps.com). If you have many items to sell, you can order FREE Priority Mail supplies (boxes, labels, Priority Mail tape)

online at that site also! Even if you only sell one or two items, you can get Priority Mail supplies at the Post Office at no charge. It's that simple and convenient! Also available now at the Post Office are the Dr. Seuss stamp and a nice new booklet: Garden Bouquet. April releases will include the Henry Mancini and the Air Force Academy stamps.

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the professional level resulted in cash prize awards, or occasionally a new shotgun. Competition on the professional level was fun, but it was also demanding according to Wagner. Although he still enters competitive events from time to time, his efforts are centered more on increasing and expanding his turkey call manufacturing business.

As a result of his interest in turkey hunting and calling, Wagner became affiliated with a call manufacturer based in Williamsport. His involvement with the company included promoting and selling their products. In 1994, he, in partnership with Frank Sutliff Sr. and Frank Sutliff Jr. of Renovo, Pennsylvania, purchased the small company. With that purchase Top Outdoor Products, T. O. P. Calls was born. Together, these three men have over 70 years of combined hunting experience. Their vision to produce some of the finest quality handcrafted game calls available on the market today has become reality.

The company specializes in turkey, deer, and predator calls, as well as deer scents and lures. Wagner's goal is "to build the company so that if an animal makes a sound – we want to manufacture a call to lure them in." Top Outdoor Products produces a wide variety of game calls, including slate, glass, and box calls, and diaphragms. They are proud of the fact that each and every call they manufacture is made by a hunter - for a hunter. The Sutliff's produce the majority of the diaphragm calls from their headquarters in Renovo. Wagner manufactures most of the friction calls in the building situated next door to his 504 Main Street Hartleton home, formerly known as "The Glover House."

TOP Calls produces handcrafted wooden calls made from 10 different species of wood including: ash, birch, cedar, cherry, maple, pine, poplar, red oak, sassafras, and walnut. They also produce friction calls made from various wood combinations, such as walnut-maple-sycamore, walnut-oak, and cedar-poplar strikers. The manufacture and production of all of the company's box calls is sub-contracted to an independent supplier. Latex diaphragm, or mouth calls, produced by TOP Calls sell for \$4.95, while the slate and glass calls range in price from \$15.95 to \$22.95. Walnut box calls are priced at \$24.95.

As result of advertising in nationally distributed turkey-hunting magazines, and utilizing a network of salesmen scattered across the country, the company has seen a steady increase in sales. Their products are available in well over 100 sporting goods stores. TOP Calls recently signed a contract with Gander Mountain to have its turkey calls placed in their 67 stores. The company inaugurated their official web site in November 2003, and can be viewed on the Internet at: [www.topcalls.com](http://www.topcalls.com). The Internet has opened new avenues to enhance the company's exposure, while at the same time offering new opportunities to increase product sales.



One of Michelle Wagner's responsibilities is aiding with the packing and shipping the variety of turkey calls sold by Outdoor Products.

According to Wagner, TOP Calls products have been shipped to every state in the United States with the exception of Alaska. A few of their turkey calls have been sent to foreign countries, including Ireland and Sweden. While they attend shows, and provide seminars in an effort to promote their product, the majority of the company's sales are generated through retail outlets. "Word of mouth is the best advertising," according to Wagner. As President of the company, he said they stand behind their products guaranteeing they will fix or replace any call they sell.

TOP Calls employs a number of individuals who are part of the company's "Pro Staff." Members of the Pro Staff are proficient hunters who demonstrate products, field questions at seminars and shows, and assist with new product development. Staff members include Bob Wagner (Russ's brother) of Laurelton, PA; Harold Raup of Turbotville, PA; Gary Pfleeger of Lewisburg, PA; Glen Rathfon and Reg Royer both of Mifflinburg, PA.

A major part of maintaining and expanding the business is the countless seminars and outdoor shows that Wagner and members of his Pro Staff attend on a regular basis. The largest show they attend each year is the Eastern Sports, Boat, Camping, Travel & Outdoor Show held at the Farm Show complex near Harrisburg. In addition to numerous local shows and seminars, company representatives attend similar events throughout Pennsylvania and New York. According to Wagner, his weekends are booked from January through April.

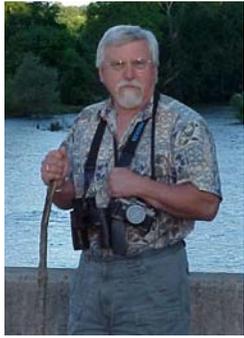
Attendees have an opportunity to purchase Top Outdoor Products at each event. In an effort to entice turkey hunters north to experience a wild turkey hunt in Pennsylvania, Wagner

hopes to attend shows and seminars in the southern region of the country.

To draw more young people into sport hunting, TOP Call representatives hold numerous seminars, and sponsors area youth at various turkey-calling contests. Each entrant uses a variety of turkey calls manufactured by the company. The youngsters are also fitted with a shirt, hat, and jacket bearing the TOP Calls logo. One young boy who is becoming well known throughout the turkey calling contest circles is twelve-year-old Dakota Clouser of Danville. The youngster is a two-time Jr. National Turkey Champion, having won first place honors in 2003 and again in 2004. Turkey calling is not limited to males. Eleven-year-old Alexia Miller of Sugar Valley has also entered competitive calling events using products courtesy of TOP Calls. Several Pro Staff members assist at area hunter education courses to teach youngsters how to utilize proper safety methods while hunting. "The future of our hunting heritage is in the hands of the youth," according to Wagner. He added, "If we can put a striker in a kids hands instead of a joy stick or a computer we are happy."

In addition to his manufacturing business, seminars, and sports shows, Wagner also guides turkey-hunting adventures in Texas during the month of April. This year will mark Wagner's ninth year guiding spring turkey hunts in the Lone Star State. Each year zealous turkey hunters from all over the country gather in pursuit of the Rio Grande Turkey. He estimates

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# BIRD TALK

By Jim McCormick

*C'est la vie, such is life.* Winter is rather reluctantly loosening its grip on our quiet valley. On the eve of the Vernal Equinox we received about six inches of new snow, and yet, spring is here. Just look anywhere!! The Robins returned around Presidents Day and, right on schedule, the Grackles and Red-winged Blackbirds arrived at the end of February. The male American Goldfinch has replaced its drab winter garb with brilliant yellow vestments. Stepping out into the cool air each morning, we are greeted by a chorus of Cardinals. *What Cheer—Cheer, Cheer, Cheer!* As I walked along Penns Creek recently, I could hear the boisterous honking of Canada Geese. Mating pairs are establishing nesting areas and they are quite vocal about it. You don't have to get HBO to see a good fight! I once watched two pairs of Geese fighting over a nesting site. The males put their heads down and charged each other, honking and flapping their wings. The females also paired off and put up quite a fight. After a lot of noise and splashing, it was somehow decided which pair had won. The losing pair simply moved on, but not without a few recriminating honks from both pairs. In life, too, when we put up a good fight, sometimes we win, sometimes we don't. We do the best we can, and if it doesn't work out, we just move on. *C'est la vie, such is life.*

*Cardinalis cardinalis* is the scientific name for which prominent, bright red Permanent Resident? If you guessed the Northern Cardinal, you are absolutely correct. See how intelligent you have become by reading this column! This easily recognized bird is quite common in our area and has probably visited nearly everyone's backyard at one time or another. The Cardinal, according to some sources, was given its name because of its bright red color of the male, which resembled the color of the long flowing robes of the Roman Catholic Cardinals. The female is much less striking in its coloration; it is buff-brown with only tinges of red on the tip of its crest and on its wings. Immature males have the same coloration as the female, but have a black beak. I remember seeing an immature male one time just after a rain. Its crest was disheveled and it looked like it had one of the new Punk hairdos the kids wear now--spiked hair! According to some authors, the Cardinals sing all year round, but I have found that they are quiet most of the winter. In fact, it is amazing how secretive they become. It is only in early February and especially in March that they become really vocal. The female also sings, but her calls are usually limited to the time between territory-establishment and when nesting actually starts. Cardinals prefer thick underbrush near open areas for nesting. They are so popular they have been chosen as the State Bird of six states (Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, North Carolina, Ohio, Virginia, and West Virginia), more than any other bird.

After the long night of winter, comes the warming light of spring--increasing daily. It is the Renaissance season--the season of rebirth. Open your eyes and see its beauty; open your ears and hear the music; but most importantly, open your heart and enjoy this most wondrous season. It is just starting; so don't miss a second of it. Grab your binoculars and take it all in.



## *Field Notes* by Union County Wildlife Conservation Officer

Dirk B. Remensnyder.

I was watching the pre-game Super Bowl festivities, and kickoff was about an hour away, when the phone rang. Neighboring WCO Randy Shoup was calling letting me know that he had just been called out on an incident, and he would probably miss the kickoff. He said "Now we're even" - referring back a couple of years ago when I got called out on Super Bowl Sunday to take care of an incident in his district. Somehow I don't consider us even yet because I was called to his district and didn't get back until half-time. He was called out in his own district and still made it back in time to see the kickoff.

## *What's Happening at the 4-Bell Lutheran Church* - Courtesy of Shirley Kerstetter

>Members of the church will be holding their annual chicken barbecue on Saturday April 24 from 3 until 7. Adult platters are priced at \$6.00 each, while the child's platters and chicken halves are priced at \$3.

## **Hartleton Photographs Wanted!**

I am searching for old photographs from the Hartleton area including, The Union Church, Grammar School, Baker Convalescent Home, Bull Pen, Lutheran Church, Hartleton ball field on Polly Pine Road, Stores, Post Office, or any other old photographs connected to Hartleton. If you or anyone you know has photographs available that I can borrow, duplicate and return to you, please contact me at 570.922.4297 or The Millmont Times, P.O. Box 3, Millmont, PA 17845, or via e-mail [tshively@evenlink.com](mailto:tshively@evenlink.com).

The curious thing about fishing is you never want to go home. If you catch something, you can't stop. If you don't catch anything, you hate to leave in case something might be caught.

Gladys Taber

(Continued from page 2)

that he has called in well over 100 turkeys for individuals ranging in age from teenagers to octogenarians. The most enjoyable aspect of being a guide is to lure a turkey into shooting range for a fellow hunter. While in Texas, Wagner finds time for some turkey hunting enjoyment of his own on the 22,000-acre lease maintained by the outfitter he works for.

In his native state of Pennsylvania, Wagner estimates that he has bagged about 30 wild turkeys during his hunting career. "There is a lot of good turkey hunting within 10 miles of Hartleton," says Wagner. The largest turkey he tagged locally was a 22-½ pound gobbler sporting an 11-½ inch beard. "If you can shoot a turkey in Pennsylvania you can kill one anywhere in the United States," stated Wagner.

Michelle Wagner, wife and partner of 21 years, is one of the driving forces behind his goal of turning Wagner's part-time occupation into a full-time business. He stated: "Behind every successful business there is a woman." Michelle has been an integral part of the company's success since its inception. In addition to her secretarial responsibilities, including packaging and shipping products, she is public relations director, and safety coordinator. Michelle also demonstrates the company's products at numerous shows and seminars. Her particular specialties are the box call and the slate call. Unique to Michelle's role is the way female turkey hunters are more at ease talking to her.



Michelle Wagner is shown here with her 7 point Centre County antlered deer.

More women are being drawn into the sport of turkey hunting and calling, according to Russ. Since Michelle was not raised in a hunting environment, she didn't understand her husband's passion for the sport during the early stages of their marriage. Over the last few years she has developed a serious interest in the sport. During the past few hunting seasons Michelle has accompanied her husband on several of his turkey and deer hunting adventures. The result was her successful deer hunt in 2002, in which she bagged a 7-point antlered deer in Centre County sporting an 18-½ inch spread. Due to her active participation in sport, she now has a better understanding of why her husband is so passionate about hunting, and the outdoors. For Russ, there is nothing more rewarding than being out at daybreak on a spring day and "hearing the woods come alive." Wagner said, "Now I have a hunting partner for life," which

makes his hunting experiences more enjoyable.

For the past 10 years Wagner has longed for the day when he could dedicate more time and attention to the company. If everything goes as planned, Wagner will be saying farewell to his day job on April 30, 2004, devoting more of his time, talent, and efforts to TOP Calls. This business has been a joy of Wagner's for many years. As Russ so succinctly put it, "Everybody at some point in time in their life would love to have a job that they absolutely want to get up in the morning and do – my job would be to get up and go hunting."

Editor's note: My thanks to Russ and Michelle Wagner of Hartleton for their assistance with this article, Janice Dorman of Hartleton, and Richard Hassenplug of Millmont.



Millmont resident, Richard Hassenplug, holds a turkey he harvested in Tioga County. The 22 lb. gobbler with a 10 ½ -inch beard and 1 ½ - inch spurs was called in by Jarod Erdley of Mifflinburg. Hassenplug later broke the home made glass turkey call used to harvest this bird. Although this instrument was not a TOP Calls product, Russ Wagner of Hartleton provided his services to repair it.

## Bible Quiz

Kathleen Reiff was the winner of the March Bible Quiz, and as a result, she won \$10. The answer was: He answered and said unto them, When it is evening, ye say, It will be fair weather: for the sky is red. And in the morning, It will be foul weather to day: for the sky is red and lowering. Oh ye hypocrites, ye can discern the face of the sky; but can ye not discern the signs of the times? Matthew 16:2,3 (KJV)

The person responsible for the "Bible Quiz" has asked me to thank everyone who entered the contest last month including: Helen Harter, Outlook Point, Lewisburg, Margaret Stutzman, Mifflinburg, Marian Hoover, Millmont, Anna Mae Martin, Mifflinburg, and the Millmont Methodist Church Youth Group.

The Bible Quiz question for April is: After His resurrection Jesus prepared a meal of what for the disciples after they caught how many fish? This month, everyone who enters the Bible Quiz with the correct answer will receive a \$2 bill. The person whose name is drawn with the correct answer will receive \$10. Send your answers, along with your name and address to:

Bible Quiz  
PO Box 8  
Swengel, PA 17880

Please have your answer mailed to this address by the 20th of the month.

## SPRING MAY BE COMING!

By Eleanor Hoffman Hoy

I just saw my first Robin, and the crocuses are coming through the ground. But this is March so be on the look out for some more snow.

Winter seems to get longer every year, or could it just be me?

I sit here in my nice warm apartment and complain about the cold, and then I remember how it used to be. Our homes were heated by heatrolas and cook stoves. The only heat you had upstairs was in the bedroom that the stove pipe went through, which didn't give much heat. The covers were so thick on the beds, no wonder there were so many people with back problems.

The next inconvenience was that little old outhouse out in the backyard. You didn't stay there any longer than necessary.

Now days they even treat the main highways before it snows. Back then there were very few snow plows. Remember the snow fences they put along the roads to try and keep the road from drifting? It helped, I guess.

How about those long johns we wore, plus those lovely brown ribbed cotton stockings we girls also wore to keep a little warmer. There were no down coats and vests. And girls only wore dresses then, no slacks or jeans.

How about those cold school buses we rode, if we were lucky enough to live far enough from the school to ride the bus. Our cars didn't have heaters either.

The schoolhouse wasn't too warm when we got there. If the teacher hadn't gotten there too early to turn the draft on, it was pretty cold. Of course, the ones sitting close to the pot bellied stove were too warm.

**GUESS THIS WINTER WASN'T SO BAD AFTER ALL!**



## Happy Anniversary

Donald and Eleanor (Hoffman) Hoy of 100 East Walnut Street in Mifflinburg will be celebrating their 39th wedding anniversary on April 29. Eleanor's column, "Hartleton, PA, As I Remember It 1930 - 1950" has been a monthly feature in The Millmont Times for the past year. Her reflections of the small borough of Hartleton are not only interesting, but also informative. Donald is the son of Jonas and Maud (Shontz) Hoy. Eleanor is the daughter of Maynard and Mildred (Eberhart) Hoffman. They are the parents one son, Eldon, (derived from the combination of the first names of his mother and father). Donald and Eleanor have two grandchildren, Zachary and Kira. Prior to becoming a full-time wife and mother, Eleanor was a hairstylist with a salon in Hartleton. Donald was employed by Philco (later Zenith of Watsonstown) and retired from Huntington Throwing Mills.

Additional anniversaries this month include: Edgar and Betty Shively will celebrating their 51st anniversary on April 4, Oscar and Ella Maust will be celebrating their 37th anniversary on April 6, Everitt and June Bingaman will be celebrating their 53rd anniversary on April 7, Tony and Kay Guida will be celebrating their 16th anniversary on April 11, Richard and Susan Hassenplug will be celebrating their 31st anniversary on April 21, Donald and Kafy will be celebrating their 36th anniversary on April 25, and Donald and Rhenda Shively will be celebrating their 27th wedding anniversary on April 30.

## Thank You!!

I'd like to thank the following people for their donations toward the publication of this newsletter: Shirley & Spencer Boyer, Mifflinburg, PA; Edith Musser, Fleming, PA.

The people listed below have agreed to accept this newsletter over the Internet as a PDF. This allows me to reduce the monthly expenses associated with printing and mailing this publication. My heartfelt thanks to: Russ & Michelle Wagner, Debra Stahl, Kenneth & Kathy Groff, Fred & Karen King, and Linda Chick. Anyone interested in signing up to receive a color version of newsletter each month at no charge is urged to contact: [tshively@evenlink.com](mailto:tshively@evenlink.com)

In addition, I want to thank the following new subscribers: Betty Makosy, Canada Drive, Millmont; Dorothy Gilkey, Dinwiddie, VA; Carol Loss, New Berlin, PA; Ruth Pioch, Indianapolis, Indiana; Laura Edinger, Johnstown Road, Mifflinburg; Wayne & Bobbye Benner, Lincoln Chapel Road, Laurelton; Virginia Martin, Fairground Road, Millmont; and Wayne & Betty Hess, Millmont. Thanks also to all those who renewed their subscription to the newsletter for an additional year. Your support is what helps to make this newsletter possible, and as always it is greatly appreciated!!

My thanks to Pauline Shively, Weller Lane, Millmont, and Janice Dorman of Hartleton for their help with this publication.

Seek those who find your road agreeable, your personality and mind stimulating, your philosophy acceptable, and your experiences helpful. Let those who do not, seek their own kind.

Jean-Henri Fabre

# Meanderings

by *Hertha S. Wehr*

## The Great Depression IV

Before I begin to tell you about businesses and how they coped with the Depression I thought you might be interested in a bit of feed-back I got after the farm article.

An economics professor told me about a Nebraska farmer who fattened sheep to send to the eastern markets. He sent a load to one eastern broker who was to sell them, cover the transportation costs and remit the remainder to the farmer. Prices were quite low and eventually the farmer got a notice from the broker saying there was x amount of money owed on the transportation. The farmer didn't have any money, so he wired the broker explaining he couldn't pay, but he offered to send more sheep in payment. (Was this Depression economics?.)

While the Depression was bitter medicine for individuals and families some businesses found the Depression medicine impossible to take. One such casualty was the Ford automobile agency. They were over extended and simply could no longer meet expenses, so closed their doors. When money became scarce, jobs faded into oblivion, and banks were reluctant to finance anything. Woe to the business that was not on sound financial footing.

Older established businesses which weren't operating on borrowed money rode out the Depression by stringent economy measures. One of the most common cost-cutting measures was to use family labor to replace hired labor. Great attention was paid to turning out lights and saving fuel. The next step was to reduce family living standards.

Bits and pieces of information gleaned from personal interviews confirmed that some few businesses were able to carry a limited number of chosen creditors until they were able to pay. Each business had its own formula for staying afloat, and some of the measures were quite unique.

The Ethel Koons store was noted for its millinery specialties. They had funeral hats which they loaned to women who were bereaved. The hats were black and had large veils. They had several sizes and people borrowed them without charge. There is little doubt that the service was appreciated as people did not have cash for spur or the moment purchases. At that time every woman wore a hat to all occasions and if you had any money you would naturally remember the kindness of the store. The store also re-trimmed hats which made used

models look almost new. In 1932 the store began to carry some manufactured clothing. House dresses sold for \$1.00, evidence that there was not much money available in households, and certainly not much money in business.

More evidence of scarce business money is evidenced by gross receipts in Shively's Meats cash book. A typical week's receipts (1930) of \$553.00 supported three full-time employees and their owner, paid for animal purchases from farmers, transportation, supplies, rent and utilities.

In spite of the financial difficulties every one was having, a Mifflinburg Bank official told me that they never foreclosed on a business or farm. He did say that on several occasions they recommended that people liquidate their assets. It was during those years that The Farmers Bank was merged into the Mifflinburg Bank. He said it took several years to complete the paper work but he would not commit himself as to whether The Farmers Bank was in financial trouble.

While businesses were not flourishing but surviving, at least one new business was established. Preston Knepp saw a need and an opportunity. In 1931 he bought a vehicle resembling a school bus, built shelves around its interior, then stocked it with groceries. He laid out routes in the country surrounding Mifflinburg and drove each route once a week. His motto was "Groceries At Your Door".

Even though gasoline was selling for .10 cents a gallon many rural people, and people on the edge of town, welcomed the relief from driving. He bought eggs from his customers and the egg receipts were invariably used to purchase groceries from his truck.

Since farm families cultivated gardens, produced their own red meat and poultry, plus having milk and eggs, they found that receipts from extra eggs would buy their groceries with only an additional few cents in actual cash. One farm wife reported that she sometimes had enough egg money for some penny candy for the children.

When egg purchases were greater than Knepp could use at his store (built at his home after the route was established) he arranged through a huckster to ship the excess for city trade. His success was due in part to the help of his wife and family who supplied untold hours of labor.

Businesses prospered, held steady, regressed or died. A few people prospered, some held steady virtually by swimming upstream against a downward current.

Statistics tell us that 1933 was the low point of the Depression. Interviews revealed several suicides in Mifflinburg in those middle years. Loss of jobs, loss of homes, indebtedness, and finally hopelessness were the causes of the suicides.

Just above the suicides were the people being swept downstream by a fast current. After interviews and some research some light was shed on how people were helped to survive those very stressful years.

## Public meetings to be held in the Lewis Township Municipal Building

- ▶ Municipal Authority of Lewis Township, the first Tuesday of the month, beginning at 7:30 p. m.
- ▶ Lewis Township Board of Supervisors, the second Tuesday of the month beginning at 7:30 p. m.
- ▶ The Lewis Township Village Green Recreation Association, first Monday of the month at 7:30 p.m.

The small photograph at the top left corner of page 1 is the Union Church of Hartleton. Built in 1841, this church is currently undergoing major restoration work, including re-pointing the exterior brickwork, new windows, and repairs and repainting of the interior.

# Penlines from my Kitchen to Yours

By Lucy Hoover

Every morning, lean thine arms a while,  
Upon the windowsill of Heaven, And gaze upon the Lord....  
Then with that vision in thy heart,  
Turn Strong to meet the day.

February 23, 2004: Today was my dad's funeral. Milton L. Brubacker, 68, of Millmont. He had been in failing health. We are glad that the weather was favorable that day. There were many people who attended the funeral and it was not so cold for them while standing outside.

This week one day, Noah Oberholtzer, (27) was helping others tear a building down. When there were only a few trusses left, it collapsed and Noah fell down injuring a vertebrae in his back. He is a farmer and has a wife and three children. Let's make mail time interesting for them while he rests. Their address is 615 Beaver Run Road, Mifflinburg, PA 17844.

February 26, 2004: Tonight we went to the viewing of Rev. Merrill Covalt, 65, of Spring Mills. He had been battling cancer for a while already. The Covalts are Gospel Singers. They have been friends of ours for a number of years.

February 27, 2004: Curwin's parents, Lewis and Verna Hoover, of Lewisburg, sold their dairy herd. They still plan to farm their land and care for their horses. Friends and neighbors donated food for the bake sale and lunch stand. All profits from the bake sale and lunch stand were given to Shriner Children's Hospital in Philadelphia.

February 28, 2004: Today was the last of seven sign language classes at Beaver Run Parochial School. Many children, and some adults in our community attended these classes so that they are able to correspond letter with a teenage girl and two little boys in our community who are hearing impaired. Tonight our whole family went the 10 miles with horse and buggy to stay with my mother overnight and Sunday. Phares and Susan Reiff have a son named Randall. He has two sisters. Grandparents are Phares Sr. and Lena Reiff of Lewisburg, and Harvey and Rachel Burkholder of Shiloh, Ohio.

February 29, 2004: Amos and Almata Horning took their 2-½ month old baby, Edith to church for the first time since birth. Published to be married are Kenneth Martin (Nathan's son) and Eva Martin (Norman's daughter). Their wedding date is planned for March 25<sup>th</sup>. Tonight neighbor Terry Boop was taken to the emergency room. He was sick in his stomach and could not keep the medicine down that he takes for his heart. He came home again early this morning.

March 1, 2004: Mrs. Phares Zimmerman Sr. had gall surgery today. Her address is 48 Zimmie Lane, Millmont, PA 17845.

March 3, 2004: A daughter, Dolores, was born to Erin and Carolyn Hoover of Mifflinburg. She was born 2 days before her mother's 32<sup>nd</sup> birthday. Grandparents are Harvey and Martha Hoover of Liberty, Kentucky, and Lewis and Verna Hoover of Lewisburg. The same day a fourth son, named Jayden, was born to Mervin and Irene Horning. Grandparents are Samuel and Alice Horning of Mifflinburg, and Mervin and Annetta Martin of Mifflinburg. Baby Jayden was hospitalized right after birth because of deformities. Mervin and Irene's address is 370 Stahl Road, Mifflinburg, PA 17844.

Nathan Hoover, of Millmont, was strapping down a load of tin at Zimmerman's Harness Shop where he works. The ratchet strap unhooked and hit him on the lips. He needed four stitches, and it also knocked 2 of his front teeth partially off.

March 4, 2004: A second son, Lyndon Andrew, was born to Floyd and Helen Martin of Mifflinburg. Grandparents are Linus and Irene Martin of Mifflinburg, and John and Esther Zimmerman of Millmont. During the night 9 of Linus Martin's steers got out of their pen. Early in the morning a young man in a car hit one that was on the road, injuring its leg, so severely that they needed to butcher it. The rest of the steers ran here or there through the neighborhood. Four days later they were all safely back home in their pen again.

March 5, 2004: Luke Oberholtzer had surgery to repair a torn cartilage in his hip. Size 8 ½ X 11 inch scrap pages can be sent to him at 2064 Strickler Road, Mifflinburg, PA 17844.

March 7, 2004: We attended Vicksburg Church. A visiting minister, Martin Nolt and family of New Holland, PA, were also there.

March 8, 2004: Mary Ellen Zimmerman (38) died of cancer. She was the wife of Ira Ray. They had eight children, all living at home, and between the ages of 4 and 17. Their address is 44 Zimmie Lane, Millmont, PA 17845.

March 11, 2004: This afternoon the girls and I went to Brother Chris Brubacker' to stay with 5 ½ week old Grace (who has bronchitis) while Chris and Wilma went to Mary Ellen's view-

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# Looking Back

The article below was originally published in one of the local newspapers on April 14, 1911. It is copied here verbatim.

## Graduation Exercises of Hartley Township High School

The class of 1911 held their graduating exercises in their room in the Hartley Twp. High School Building on Friday evening, March 31st. The room was tastefully decorated with wreaths of evergreen and the class colors, "Gold and Black," were in evidence all over the front part of the building, where the stage was erected. Each member of the class wore their class flower, a "White Rose." The exercises were conducted by the principal, Prof. D. P. Stapelton. The School Board occupied the rear of the stage; the class occupied the left; the Glen Iron orchestra the right. The graduates were: Bessie Hazel Glover, Clarence Zimmerman, Cora Catherine Osman, Mary L. Yarger, Grace Leoda Shirk,. Address by County Superintendent W. W. Spigelmyer, in which he happily congratulated the class on their good work, which had culminated in this exercise, and exhorted them to use their influence for the future good of the school, and to keep on striving to advance, making their influence for good be felt where ever their walk in life might lead them in the future. He deplored the fact that so few of our young people had availed themselves of these advantages in the past, and that more were not taking advantage of them now. After this Prof. D. P. Stapelton conferred the Diploma on the class and announced the following promotions: To the class of 1912 - Paul Steese, Harry Sampsel, Herman Dunlap, Laura Sampsel. To the class of 1913 - Mary Voneida, Ethel Bogenrief, Arthur Norhood. To the class of 1914, from the Intermediate School to the first year in the High School - Fred Sampsel, Leon Vanatta, Miriam Swauger, Archie Swauger, Lucile Rutherford, Frances Schnure, Fred Weidensaul, and Mary Reamer.

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ing. Mark and Marian Hoover of Mifflinburg have a daughter named Miranda. She has one sister and four brothers. Grandparents are Joseph and Margaret Hoover of Mifflinburg and Benjamin and Anna Zimmerman of Plymouth, Ohio.

March 12, 2004: It is cold and windy with snow flurries. We were to Mary Ellen's funeral. Many people were there.

Beautiful memories is what we have left,

Of those now gone to rest.

March 13, 2004: Curwin went to Cytek horseshoeing seminar at "Locust Grove Shoeing." A Cytek International Training Farrier from London, England was the speaker.

March 14, 2004: We were at Vicksburg Church this forenoon. Curwin took Pauline (2) outside when she cried, and saw that the horse that Sarah Ann Martin (Daniel) had come to church with had laid down and almost strangled itself. Curwin helped it up and it was ok to drive home after church was over. In the afternoon we went to see neighbor Phares and Susan Reiff's baby. Seven other families were there too. In the evening, after supper, we stopped in to see how Noah Oberholtzer is getting along. His healing will take time, but he seems to be doing ok. It is raining tonight.

"Springtime is when you feel like wishing,

Even with a shoe full of slush."

- Lucy Hoover

Editor's note: My thanks to Lucy (Brubaker) Hoover, for her contribution to the newsletter. "Penlines From My Kitchen to Yours", a column featuring the life and lives of members of Union County's Old Order Mennonite Sect will be a regular column in The Millmont Times. Lucy, her husband Curwin, and their three children, Elsie (age 7), Marie (age 5), and Pauline (age 2) live at 2947 Pheasant Ridge Road, Lewisburg, PA.

## Kids, on ATVs, Gone Wild

Submitted by Bernie Schmader

Habitat-eating machines need adult guidance. Sunday, March 21, 2004.

I really need to hear from parents of children in the 8- to 15-year-old range who own five acres or fewer of land, have no permission to use larger tracts of land and still buy all-terrain vehicles for their kids.

I want to understand your thinking in this. Did you mean well in the beginning? Were you planning to regularly take the kids to an ATV park or a state forest trail somewhere but then just didn't get around to it? Or did you think the kids would be satisfied making circles around the house for hours on end? Or did you intend from the start to give the whole thing a wink and a nod as the kids endangered themselves and others riding on public roadways or tearing up your neighbors' properties? "I didn't know they had left my property," said the father of one of the two boys who recently decided to drive his ATV down the middle of the stream and through the wetlands on my and two neighbors' properties. I didn't think to question how he could not have known they left his property of six or seven open, grassy acres. He didn't notice the sudden quiet when the noise boxes making circles on his lot left? At least he and the boys didn't try to deny they had done it. That would have not gone well.

After spotting them in the stream and telling them from a distance to get out of the stream and off private property, but not getting a clear identification on them, I had tracked them, following an almost unbelievable trail of destruction. They had smashed through various in-stream habitat devices I had built, collapsed the entrances to at least two muskrat dens, broken off several young trees I had planted, ripped up fragile wetland plant systems, broadened and flattened a low-impact trail I maintain, dug deep furrows into fragile flood-plain soil and damaged erosion-control rip-rap my neighbor had just finished installing. And that all came from two kids on two ATVs making one run upstream and a return-trip downstream.

If the father didn't know they had left his property, he certainly didn't know all the regulations the pair had broken the minute they set tire tread on someone else's land. They were trespassing. They were operating ATVs on someone else's property without permission. They were riding "in a careless way so as to endanger the person or property of another." They were riding in an area, or on a trail or roadway, that is not open to ATV use. I didn't get into it, but I'm guessing they were not carrying liability insurance and had not completed the required safety training course. In addition, neither ATV carried a registration plate, but that was required even for the vehicles to sit idle on his property because obviously the ATVs are not used solely in agriculture or business. Failure to register an ATV carries a fine of \$300, as does failure to obtain liability insurance. All of the other above offenses could carry fines of \$50-200 plus costs for the first offense and \$100-300 plus costs for the second.

Also, because they chose to ride along the streambed, they violated the section of the Fish and Boat Code relating to the "misuse of property and waters" by "failing to cross [the stream] by the most direct manner." That would carry another \$100 fine plus costs. If they did enough damage during their little adventure, the kids also could face the misdemeanor charge of "disturbance of a waterway."

I left their front door with "We're sorry" and "It won't happen again" in my ears. Not much satisfaction for all the damage that was done, but they were neighbors' kids and it was the first time. I guess we'll see if my second-time-you're-out threat carries any weight, both in preventing a second incident by the kids and in me going through with it if it doesn't. I also left with questions about how much opportunity to ride the expensive little toys really exists. Very little, actually: On private property with the consent of the owner; on state-owned property on clearly marked and previously designated trails, meaning 10 trails on state forest lands and about 100 miles on Allegheny National Forest, none on state game lands; on highways and streets for a short distance when necessary to cross a bridge or culvert; on highways and streets during periods of emergency when so declared by a governmental agency; on highways and streets for special events of limited duration that are conducted according to a prearranged schedule under permit from the governmental unit having jurisdiction, and on streets and highways that have been designated as ATV or Snowmobile Roads by the governmental agency having jurisdiction. Children under 16 must have a safety certificate or be taking a safety training course to drive anywhere other than on land owned or leased by the parent or guardian. Children under 10 may not even earn a safety certificate and thus may not operate ATVs anywhere but on private property.

Considering all this, an ATV just doesn't seem to be a toy that the kid is going to use much, at least not legally.

Editor's note: This article was originally published in The Patriot News.

## Lewis Township News

### Village Green Recreation Association - Minutes courtesy of Wendy Bilger.

The regular meeting of the Lewis Township Village Green Recreation Association was held on Monday, March 1, 2004 in the Lewis Township Municipal Building. President Dawne Shreckengast called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. Members of the association who were present at the meeting this evening in addition to the president include: Wendy Bilger, secretary and Pauline Shively.

>Copies of the minutes from the meeting held October 13, 2003 were handed out to each member. The minutes were approved as printed.

>Dawne Shreckengast will contact Dick Rowe concerning the memorial plaque for Brenda Rowe. Dawne will also order a replacement swing from Playworld.

>Pauline Shively asked members of the association if they were still interested in selling the wooden miniatures as a fundraiser. All agreed and Pauline will get the next miniature underway hoping to have it available for the Millmont Yard Sale and Chicken Barbecue. Members also discussed various ways of raising money. Some of those ideas were to sell Krispy Kreme Donuts, cookie dough, or pretzels. No decision was made during this meeting. There was some discussion concerning the sale of peanut butter and coconut cream eggs this year. It was concluded that because of lack of volunteers and time we will forgo making eggs this year.

>The annual Easter Egg Hunt will be held on Saturday, April 10, 2004 beginning at 2:00 p.m. Wendy was authorized to spend up to \$300.00 for prizes, candy, and cash gifts for the participants. Members will be calling for hard-boiled egg donations. Records indicated that 43 youngsters participated in the egg hunt last year. Dawne suggested that more hard-boiled eggs be available for the youngest age group.

>The tentative date for the next Village Green Association Chicken Barbecue and Yard Sale will be June 26, 2004.

### Municipal Authority of Lewis Township - Minutes courtesy of Marge Schmader.

The regular meeting of the Municipal Authority of Lewis Township was held on March 2, 2004 at the Lewis Township Municipal Building, Millmont. The following, being members of the board of authority named in the articles of incorporation, were present: Jim Sanders, Ken Bair, Ken Strowbridge, and Steve Bilger. Also present were Solicitors Ray and Melissa Lobos, HRG Rep. Rob Rowe, Plant Manager Walt Scholl, Supervisor Henry Sanders, Frank Long and Clair Kaler.

>The minutes were approved as printed. The treasurer's report was given. The checking account balance was \$27,080.39 plus \$96,637.69 in CDs and was approved and filed for audit. A motion was made by Ken Strowbridge and seconded by Steve Bilger to pay the bills – so moved.

>No information was received regarding how much the authority owes on our Penn Vest loan. Marge will inquire about it and answer the letter we received from Comptroller's office.

>The authority received the bond for Ken Bair. There is a difference in the amounts charged for the chairman and the treasurer. Marge will check with Insurance Co. as to why the difference.

>Tony Shively sent a letter stating his intentions as to having only one hook-on to his property, which was a 3-unit apartment house and will now be a single household.

>The hook-on for Timothy Eddinger was approved and a check for the fee of \$2,000.00 was received from the Supervisors.

>Rob Rowe reported the bid specs for fencing are in the process of being prepared. HRG will charge \$500.00 fee for this.

>HRG submitted Chapter 94 Waste load Management Report to DEP. There is still a problem with I & I (inflow and infiltration). The plant is within its permitted levels. Application for renewal of permit was prepared for a \$500.00 fee, which is required for the Commonwealth. Ken Strowbridge made a motion to approve the \$500.00 fee to be paid and Steve Bilger seconded – so moved.

>The Witmer family of Libby Road, Millmont, signed for the registered letter on Feb. 12<sup>th</sup>. If no money is received within 30 days of receipt of letter, Mr. & Mrs. Donald Witmer will get a summons for District Magistrate Court.

>Melissa received a letter from Atty. Boop re: renewal of lease until June 20, 2020. She suggests the lease be entirely rewritten with 3 pages of comments.

>There was discussion as to the amount of insurance required to replace the plant.

>Walt Scholl reported that everything is okay at the plant. Because of the power outage the generator shut down, but restarted. Drill bit is still in the ground – its still too soft to try to get it out.

### Lewis Township Board of Supervisors - Tuesday March 10, 2004.

Henry Sanders, Chairman; Wayne Klingman, Vice Chairman, Douglas Pepper, Supervisor; Karen Watters, Secretary/Treasurer; and Thomas Boop, Solicitor. Other attendees included: Clair Kaler, Tom Watters, Ken Strowbridge, Brian Mabus, Jennifer Mabus, Mike Fultz, George Zeyn, Union County Chief Assessor, Bill Haas, Union County Commissioner, Joe White, and T. Shively.

>During the public comment period Ken Strowbridge presented the supervisors with a list of signatures of residents in the village of Swengel regarding the problems with barking dogs. It was suggested that a specific ordinance pertaining to barking dogs could be enacted, rather than a noise ordinance. More information will be put together for the next supervisors meeting. Jennifer Mabus, President of the Millmont Little League, spoke about the hazardous condition of the visitors dug-out at the ball field on Libby Road. She indicated that the Little League Association is refusing to allow the use of the dug-out because of the unsafe condition. Doug Pepper asked Mabus to get a quote from William Miller concerning the removal and reconstruction of the cinder block dug-out. Mabus indicated that she would get a proposal from Miller and from another source. Mabus also questioned if there was a need for a building permit for the dug-out. She was told that a building permit was needed, and that she should present that bill to the supervisors. Brian Mabus asked about cutting the trees from the proposed parking area. He was told that the job of removing the trees would have to be placed out on bids.

>Klingman noted one minor correction to the minutes from the previous meeting. Doug Pepper made a motion to approve the minutes with that correction noted. Klingman seconded the motion. Motion carried.

>The treasurer's report was revised to reflect some recent income and expenditures. Klingman made a motion to approve the treasurer's report. Pepper seconded the motion. Motion carried. The account statement for Lewis Township showed a net worth of \$202,263.31.

>Tom Watters informed the supervisors about several bids he obtained regarding the purchase of a 5,000 watt generator. Sanders made a motion to purchase a portable generator. Pepper seconded the motion. Motion carried.

>Union County Chief Assessor, George Zeyn, addressed the supervisors and the attendees about the upcoming reassessment being done throughout the county. Mifflinburg Boro has been completed, Hartleton Boro is scheduled next, followed by West Buffalo Township, and then Lewis Township. The assessors should be starting their work in Lewis Township by mid April according to Zeyn. He indicated that of the more than 17,000 properties to be assessed, the taxes are likely to go up in 1/3 of the cases, 1/3 are likely to come down, and the remaining 1/3 will likely remain unchanged. During the first half of 2005, residents can expect to receive a notice concerning their old value of their property along with the newly revised value of their property. Zeyn also explained in detail the appeals process.

>County Commissioner Haas spoke to the supervisors and the attendees about several issues, including the reassessment, the Great Streams Commons project near Allenwood, and issues at the Union County Courthouse, including: Parking, morale of the employees, and possible changes to the county jail at some future date.

>Solicitor Boop presented information regarding the refinancing of the township debt. It was shown that if the supervisors took advantage of the new low rates, a savings of over \$14,000.00 during the life of the loan could be realized. Pepper made a motion to proceed with the loan modification. Klingman seconded the motion. Motion carried.

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>Tom Watters informed the supervisors that the Lewis Township Planning Commission met recently. They reorganized their board, and at the same time they also discussed holding their meetings on a quarterly basis.

>Solicitor Boop spoke about the issue of the long term lease between the township and the municipal authority. He indicated that he received a fax from the authority's solicitor pertaining to the lease agreement, and the need to completely rewrite the lease. Solicitor Boop's advise to the supervisors was that they not sign any long term agreement with the authority until he had an opportunity to speak with their solicitor, since they must have an agreement that both parties are satisfied with before it is submitted to Penn Vest for their approval.

>Doug Peffer reopened the issue of payment to the supervisors any time they attend a meeting. He indicated that at a recent training session, and after reviewing the code book, he learned that any township supervisor who attends a meeting other than the regular township meeting, must have an itemized listing of expenses prepared. In addition, he stated that any payment for attending meetings must be approved in advance of their attendance, and not after the meeting. He also indicated that attendance at any meeting must pertain in some way to Lewis Township business.

>Henry Sanders informed the board that Lewis Township Zoning Hearing board member, Donald Bowersox has resigned from his position. Peffer said that the alternate member should be contacted so that he can fill Bowersox's seat on the board. It was also decided that Martha Witmer should be contacted and advised to keep all Zoning Board members apprised of any future hearings, along with all relevant information pertaining to the hearing. Karen will contact Witmer either in writing or by telephone.

>Karen will advertise for bids for mowing, weeding, and trimming the Village Green, the ball field, and the sewer plant. Separate bids for each parcel will be requested.

## Change of Address

If your mailing or Internet address is changing, please let me know in advance so that I can make the necessary changes.

### People celebrating a birthday during April

Florence Kreps, April 1	David Hopta, April 21
Vickie Gordon, April 4	Lucy Hoover, April 24
Edith Musser, April 4	Margaret Boney, April 24
Keturah Yoder, April 8	Anna Brubacker, April 26
Elam Brubacker, April 11	Miriam Galer, April 26
Casey Mattern, April 11	Harold Zechman, April 27
Kathryn Shively, April 11	David Shively, April 27
Lauretta Brubacker, April 15	Theodore Catherman, Apr. 28
Joe Snyder, April 16	Susie Brubacker, April 28
Tyler Radel, April 16	Robert Rowe Jr., April 28
Marie Sampsell, April 16	Betty Klock, April 28
Mervin Kline, April 18	Polly Libby, April 30

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