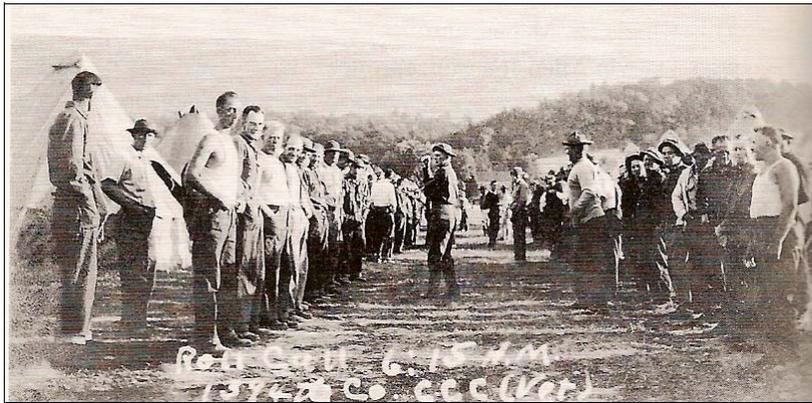




# The Weikert CCC Camp

While an array of New Deal programs were introduced following the inauguration of Franklin D. Roosevelt as President in 1933, few, if any, were as popular as the Civilian Conservation Corps. The CCC, as it became known, rescued millions of men from across this country during the depths of the Great Depression. As a result, the men who enrolled in the CCC came to the rescue of some of the nations prized natural resources. Many of these natural resources had been exploited and neglected during the decades preceding the establishment of the CCC.

The state of Pennsylvania and the west end of Union County were the beneficiaries of this federally funded program. The local state parks, forestry roads and bridges, and picnic pavilions many of us use today are testimony to the hard work and efforts of the men who spent time in the CCC. Union County was home to four Civilian Conservation Corps camps. Tea Springs, in Lewis Township, opened in May 1933 and continued to operate until October 1935. Half Way, the longest operating CCC camp in Union County, opened in June 1933 and re-



The photograph above shows CCC enrollees lining up on the grounds of their newly established camp at Weikert. During the first few months, tents were used to house the veterans. Photograph courtesy of Hope Hartman, and the Union County Historical Society.

mained in operation until March 1942. The Weikert camp opened in July 1933 and continued through August 1941. Joyce Kilmer began operating in June 1935 and continued until September 1937.

The camps at Tea Springs, Half Way\*, and Joyce Kilmer accommodated unmarried men between the ages of 18 and 25, while the camp at Weikert housed older men, many of them with a wife and children to support. With the exception of the supervisory staff, all the men assigned to the Weikert camp were veterans of WWI.

While many of the CCC camps in Pennsylvania were established on state forestlands, the Weikert camp was located on privately owned land. John C. Krumrine's open farmland was adjacent to the L & T, or Pennsylvania Railroad, which provided an accessible and hospitable environment for the establishment of the new camp.

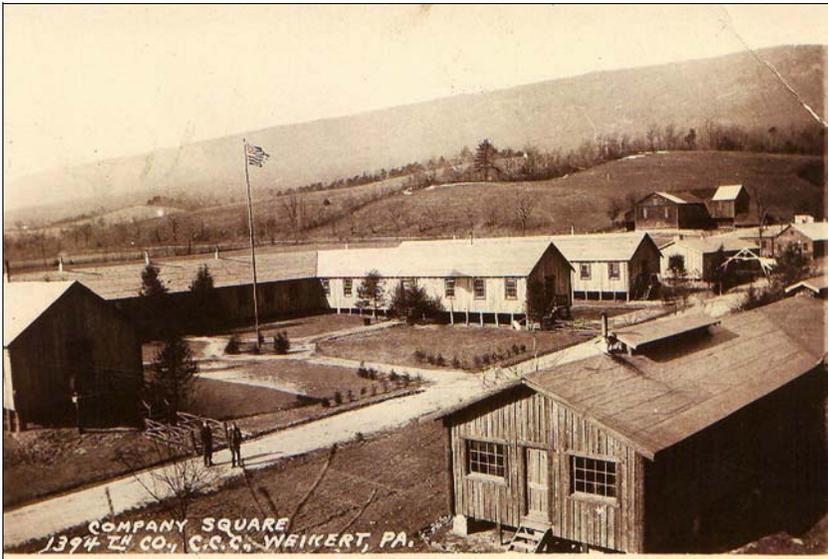
The appearance of CCC personnel began on July 9, 1933 with the arrival of Lieutenant R. C.

*(Continued on page 2)*

## Millmont Mailbox by Postmaster Sam Smith

The dog days of summer are here again, and as in the past, at the Millmont Post Office, we will observe them with a customer appreciation event. August 10th and 11th will be our "Dog Days of Summer", (hot dog days that is!) Stop in from 10:00 AM till 4:30 PM either day and get a free hot dog with the condiments of your choice as a way to say thank-you to everyone for using the Millmont Post Office. I know this has required special effort from many of you with all of the detours this summer! There's a song that goes "America loves baseball, hot dogs and apple pie..." well we'll be featuring at least two of those during the event as the Postal Service has issued a really nice edition of commemorative baseball stamps featuring Mickey Mantle, Roy Campanella, Hank Greenberg, and Mel Ott. They will be available in sheets of 20. I will also have a display of some of my baseball memorabilia at the office. Another stamp sure to be a hit will be issued on August 8th; a sheet of 20, depicting four different motorcycles; 1940 Indian, 1918 Cleveland, 1965 Harley-Davidson, and a 1970 Chopper! So stop in and enjoy a hot dog, purchase some great stamps and view some of my baseball collection!

(Continued from page 1)



A birds eye view of the "Company Square" at the Weikert CCC Camp. The Union County Sportsmen's Club is now located on this site. From the collection of Hope Hartman, and the Union County Historical Society.

Small and his entourage from Ft. George Meade, Maryland. Their job was to establish temporary facilities and make preparations for unloading 200 enrollees and their equipment from the train that arrived on the morning of July 10<sup>th</sup>. The first order of business for these former soldiers was the erection of a flagpole. Later the officers and enrollees gathered together for the raising of the American flag, followed by the formal dedication of their new CCC camp, aptly named "The Bald Eagle Camp." In short order the men began erecting tents that served as temporary quarters until construction of the camp's wooden buildings were completed.

The men assigned to the Weikert CCC camp came from metropolitan areas of Pennsylvania, including the cities of Altoona, Johnstown, Tyrone, Pittsburgh, and Philadelphia. Prior to the onset of the Depression many of these former veterans were employed as plumbers, electricians, machinists, policemen, railroaders, sheet metalworkers, and painters. While their backgrounds and occupations were as varied as the

cities and towns they came from, they had one thing in common, all of them were unemployed.

Construction of the camp's permanent wooden buildings began soon after their arrival. The first building completed was the mess hall, on September 9, 1933. By the middle of the following month four barracks were ready for occupancy. The headquarters, officer's quarters, garage, warehouse, and other buildings quickly followed. The recreation hall was completed on March 1, 1934. Drinking and bathing water for the camp was supplied by a nearby mountain spring, which was piped into a small reservoir located on site.

The work area assigned to the enrollees of Weikert camp consisted of 35,000 acres of the Bald Eagle State Forest. This land was situated in Union, Snyder, Mifflin, and Centre Counties. Work projects performed by the enrollees included road construction and maintenance, bridge construction, timber surveys, timber stand improvements, reforestation, gooseberry eradication, stream improvements, marking state forest land boundaries, and more.

The Weikert enrollees were also assigned to major construction jobs as well, including the erection of a fire tower and the building of a residence and garage for use by the local forest ranger. Several local state parks also received new picnic pavilions, tables, benches and signs, courtesy of the Weikert camp. In cooperation with the Pennsylvania Rail Road, enrollees developed a fire safety lane alongside the railroad tracks from Weikert to Ingelby in Centre County.

The first superintendent at Weikert was David Libby. He previously served as a forest ranger in the Bald Eagle District. Other local residents employed as foreman at the Weikert camp during its existence include Lincoln Rutherford, William A. Pursley, Wesley Aumiller, William Gross, James Bilger, Harry Hoffman, Charles Taylor, Robert Meeker, Harry Green, Earl Troutman and Cyrus Hoffman.

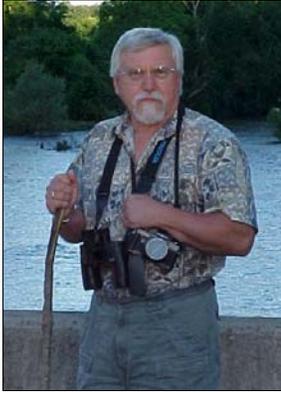
The state forest lands where the enrollees spent considerable time working, was located on Jacks Mountain, south of the village of Weikert. Mountain's with names such as Thick, Short, White, Penns Creek, Buck and Little, and areas like Middle Ridge, Bull Hollow, Henstep, Coral Gap, East Kettle, Pot Pie Springs, and Hunter Road became all too familiar to the enrollees of the Weikert camp.

While tens of thousands of acres of state forestlands were located on the south side of Penns Creek near Weikert, access was hindered because there was no vehicle bridge nearby. A top priority for the Weikert CCC crew was the erection of a cement bridge across Penns Creek at Weikert. The new 143' steel truss bridge; with mountain stone and masonry pier and abutments, was completed and opened to traffic in



Above are some of the WW I veterans assigned to the CCC camp at Weikert. From the collection of Delphia Shirk.

(Continued on page 3)



# BIRD TALK

By Jim McCormick

*“...it had a beautiful rose-colored patch on a field of pure white.”* You can tell we have reached the beginning of late summer—the cicadas have started their rhythmic drone. With all the heat and rain, the landscape is a lush green and the corn is as tall as I can ever remember seeing it this early in the season. Forget about ‘knee high by the Fourth of July’!

On a recent walk I heard what I again thought was a Scarlet Tanager. I had been looking for them since May and thought I should see one any time. I finally did see one on the Fourth of July along Canada Drive and again the following weekend. On this particular day, I was at the end of Canada Drive and was convinced I had heard another Tanager. I went to the tree the sound was coming from and tried to locate the source of the sound. After walking around the area for some time, I was just about to give up and continue with my walk. I saw something fly to the top of the tree and tried to grab my binoculars. When I had started my walk it looked like rain, but it was too hot to wear a raincoat. Instead, I decided to take my umbrella, just in case. The dilemma I faced was that I didn’t have enough hands for the things I had. I had my walking stick in one hand and the umbrella in the other. While I was deciding which item to throw on the ground, I was sure the bird would fly away (they usually do). At first, I thought the size of the bird was too big and it had the wrong shape to be a Tanager. I thought it was going to be a Robin again. All spring I had seen Robins instead of Tanagers—the Tanager’s song is described as sounding like a Robin with a sore throat; but Robins sometimes sound like a Robin with a sore throat, too. As I focused on the bird in the tree, I could see *“it had a beautiful rose-colored patch on a field of pure white.”* It was, of course, a Rose-breasted Grosbeak; a bird I normally only see once or twice in a good year (I didn’t see even one last year). It is a black and white finch almost as large as a Robin and has a powerful large beak (i.e. Grosbeak). See photographs and hear recorded song clips at: [www.birds.cornell.edu/AllAboutBirds/BirdGuide/Rose-breasted\\_Grosbeak.html](http://www.birds.cornell.edu/AllAboutBirds/BirdGuide/Rose-breasted_Grosbeak.html) or [www.birdwatchersdigest.com](http://www.birdwatchersdigest.com). Its song is described as sounding like a Robin that had singing lessons; but, again, Robins sometimes sound like that too. The bird flew to another tree, and I watched it for a while hoping to find its mate or nest nearby (I saw neither). Then, in the tree I had first searched, I saw a Scarlet Tanager fly into full view. I heard it calling to another Tanager nearby. When I reached the Covered Bridge, I saw another Tanager in full view. This is, again, an example of what bird watching is all about—you will see what you will see, when you see it. You cannot go out thinking I want to see such and such a bird; it just won’t happen.

There was plenty of other bird activity in July. The Common Grackles started to leave their breeding grounds by the beginning of the second week in July. I noticed a few Baltimore Oriole fledglings; but only a few, they are very secretive at this time. The Common Merganser family I have been seeing between the concrete bridge and the Covered Bridge is down to seven immatures out of the original ten. The ducklings are nearly adult size and it is difficult to tell them from their mother. The Red-winged Blackbirds are just about ready to leave their breeding grounds (some have already left), but there is one male along Millmont Road that is the most aggressive and obnoxious bird I’ve seen all season. He doesn’t want me anywhere near ‘his’ territory. Most other species are finishing up their breeding and the flocks will soon be collecting throughout our area, so grab your binoculars and take it all in.

**Jim McCormick provided another link to a website that contains some incredible photographs of the Rose-breasted Grosbeak. You can visit that website at: <http://www.hiltonpond.org/ThisWeek020501.html>**

*(Continued from page 2)*

## January 1934.

The winter of 1935/36 was as hard on the veterans of the Weikert camp as it was for many residents of the west end. The deep snows of January 1936, kept the enrollees of Weikert camp stranded inside their barracks for days. The men, along with other forestry personnel, assisted in clearing snow from the public highway leading to their camp. Weeks later heavy rains, in combination with the deep snow pack, created serious flooding throughout the Susquehanna and Juniata Valleys.

The men of the Weikert camp put their forestry jobs on hold as they descended into flood-ravaged towns like Sunbury, Lewisburg, and Lewistown. In a local newspaper column Lewisburg Burgess, Samuel B. Wolfe, described the events of the 1936 flood that devastated his town: “Around 10:00 AM Wednesday we sent an SOS to the Weikert CCC camp for men and trucks. They responded promptly, and were available for the next forty eight hours for any emergency.”

The men spent the next two weeks in Lewisburg assisting residents with clean up efforts. In commending the efforts of the veterans of the Weikert camp, Wolfe stated: “Lewisburg has just about emerged from the effects of the most disastrous flood

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Shown above are some of the enrollees utilizing the library at the Weikert CCC Camp. Photograph courtesy of the FDR Library, Hyde Park, NY; and the Union County Historical Society.

that any living person has endured, and for the rapid strides to recovery we are deeply indebted to the loyalty of the Veteran CCC Camp of Weikert and the WPA workers. These two organizations came to our rescue when most needed, and they have been untiring in their efforts in digging us out of the muck and mire and wreck and ruin that was our heritage of the great flood.”

By June 1936 the enrollees had completed several major forestry projects including the construction of 6 steel and timber bridges, 28 miles of forestry roads, 10 miles of foot trails, developed 16 mountain springs, built game feeders, and brought more than 100 miles of state forestry roads up to U. S. Forestry Department standards. Major improvements were made to Weikert Road, Weikert Run Road, Hoofnagle Road, Brinninger Gap Road, and Park Road. These improvements provided access to thousands of acres of state forestlands in the event of fires. The road improvements also allowed convenient access for the hunting and fishing public.

Major improvements were also made to Thomas Dam Road, Cherry Run Road, Bull Hollow Road, and Hunter Road. The enrollees at Weikert constructed a new vehicle bridge beneath the PRR trestle over Cherry Run. The construction of the new bridge allowed for the realignment of the Cherry Run Road, thereby eliminating a hazardous railroad crossing to the east.

The enrollees of the Weikert camp built hundreds of concrete toilet bowls, which were shipped to other state parks throughout Pennsylvania. Another project involved rehabilitation of Hairy Johns Park, including the construction of new parking facilities, fireplaces, water lines, walks, shelters, picnic tables, benches, and drinking fountain.

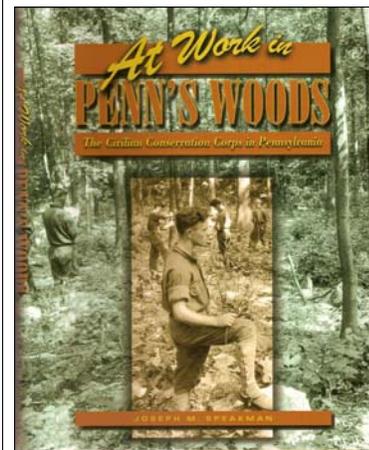
While alcohol was prohibited at most CCC camps, at least during the early years of the program, such was not the case with the older veterans who were stationed at Weikert. Although alcohol was available at the company canteen, many of the veterans enjoyed socializing at Tharp’s Beer Garden in Pardee, a short trek east on the railroad tracks. According to some folks, the atmosphere at Bob and Hattie Tharp’s establishment on Friday and Saturday nights was not only lively, it was sometimes downright rowdy.

Baseball was summertime entertainment for the veterans at Weikert. Because the camp had an excellent baseball field, they often played host to visiting CCC teams, as well as civilian teams from around the area. During the wintertime entertainers, actors, and performers were brought to the camp to perform staged plays. The enrollees got into the act, by performing sketches in front of the home crowd, guests from neighboring CCC camps, as well as the general public. A number of area residents recall traveling to the Weikert CCC camp on Friday nights to watch movies.

The veterans of the Weikert camp were assigned to construct a new home and garage along Route 45, just west of Hickernell Springs in October 1938. Foreman Harry Hoffman and 18 veteran enrollees, many of them with experience in carpentry, plumbing, heating, electrical wiring, plastering, and masonry, constructed the 8 room wood frame house and nearby garage. This home served as the residence for the local forest ranger who was employed by the Department of Forest and Waters.

The erection of an 80’ steel frame fire tower atop Jacks Mountain was another project undertaken by the men of the Weikert camp. When the tower was completed in 1938, it provided an excellent vantage point for forest fire wardens during the spring and autumn fire seasons. The tower, located approximately two miles east of Route 235 on East Kettle Road, provided a picturesque view of Buffalo Valley to the north and Snyder County to the south. The fire tower on Jacks Mountain outlived its usefulness and was dis-

### Interested in Learning More



If you would like to learn more about the Civilian Conservation Corps, I highly recommend the recently published book entitled “At Work in Penns Woods, The Civilian

Conservation Corps in Pennsylvania” by Joseph M. Speakman. This 240 page, 7 by 9 inch hardcover book, with 44 illustrations details the history of the CCC in Pennsylvania. Contained in the book is a complete listing of all the camps that operated in PA, and the dates they were in operation. The Appendix includes a listing of many the state parks and forests where the

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mantled. The stone work in evidence at Hickernell Spring was another project undertaken by the enrollees of Weikert CCC camp.

The 185 veterans stationed at the Weikert CCC camp were relocated to an existing camp near Hyner, in Clinton County on August 20, 1941. Their departure brought to an end an eight-year relationship between the CCC and the residents of the Tight End.

The Bald Eagle State Forest was the workplace for hundreds of CCC men more than seventy years ago. The legacy they left behind is one they can be proud of and something each one of us should cherish. Their reforestation efforts benefited the state forestlands and all species of birds and animals that makes use of mountainous habitat. Some of their conservation efforts were aimed at minimizing erosion on mountain streams and waterways, thus benefiting native fish populations and other forms of aquatic life. Their construction efforts provided for increased recreational opportunities by making major improvements to several state parks in the region.

\*The Half Way CCC camp was converted to a Veterans camp in 1938.

Resources: "The CCC Camps of Union County (1933-1942): Life and Work in the Civilian Conservation Corps" published by the Union County Historical Society in 2002. Photographs from the collections of Delphia Shirk, Millmont; Hope Hartman, Mifflinburg; the Union County Historical Society; and the FDR Library, Hyde Park, NY.

(Continued from page 4)

CCC made improvements.

I had the pleasure of meeting Joseph Speakman, Professor of History at Montgomery County Community College near Philadelphia, in June 2004 during the early stages of his research. Although it was a dreary and rainy day, I was delighted to give him a tour of several of the former CCC camp sites that were situated in Union County. For more information on purchasing the book you can contact the publisher: Penn State University Press, 820 N. University Drive, University Park, PA 16802, 814-865-1327. Or you can visit the following website: <http://www.psupress.org/books/titles/0-271-02876-9.html>



The CCC Camps of Union County  
(1933 - 1942):  
Life and Work in the Civilian  
Conservation Corps  
by Tony Shively

Another book detailing the history of the four Union County CCC camps is a book entitled "The CCC Camps of Union County 1933-1942 Life and Work in the Civilian Conservation Corps" published in 2002 by the Union County Historical Society. In addition to the Weikert CCC camp, this book explores the history of the camps at Tea Springs, Half Way, and Joyce Kilmer. This book is available from the Union County Historical Society, located in the courthouse at Lewisburg, telephone 524.8666, or you can contact The Millmont Times, P.O. Box 3 Millmont, PA 17845

## Bible Quiz

Arlene Martin, 1050 Millmont Road, Millmont, PA 17845, was the winner of the July Bible Quiz. The answer to the question was a "serpent" and can be found in Genesis 3:4.

The person responsible for the Bible Quiz would like to thank all those who entered the July Bible quiz.

The Bible Quiz Question for August: Who was taken to Heaven in a chariot of fire? Where is the answer found in the Bible?

A \$10 cash prize will be awarded to the person selected with the correct answer.

Send your answer to: Bible Quiz, P. O. Box 21, Millmont PA 17845. Please have your answer submitted by the 20th of the month.

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

The following meals will be served at the church's food stand at the Union County West End Fair: Monday: Hot turkey sandwich platter or barbecue platter, \$4.00 each. Beginning Tuesday and continuing through Saturday, the cost of the dinners will be \$7.00 for adults and \$4.00 for children. Those dinners consist of the following: Tuesday: Roast beef or turkey dinners. Wednesday: Smoked ham or turkey dinners. Thursday: pot pie, or turkey dinners. Friday: pork and sauerkraut, roast pork, or turkey dinners. Saturday: roast beef or turkey dinners.

Served daily: Ham sandwich, \$2.25; Hamburg barbecue, \$2.25; homemade pie, \$1.50 per slice; and homemade baked beans .75 cents.

Remember the West End Fair begins on August 6th and continues through August 12th.

The small photograph in the upper left hand corner of page one is a photograph of the "Weiker" Railroad Station. Standing in front of the station is George Sholter and "Pappy" McCole. Photograph courtesy of Dr. Donald Maze and Emilie F. Jansma.



# Meanderings

by

*Hertha S. Wehr*

## Horses and Cattle

I had known for some time that there were record books about C.E. Shively's horse business, but it wasn't until two weeks ago that my grandnephew, Matthew Wagner, and I got together and discussed the books. Matthew had the foresight to spot the books, and to save them when C.E. possessions were being readied for sale.

The books stated that he shipped his first load of horses in 1919. However, an advertisement from the Mifflinburg Telegraph, tucked into one of the books, told of a public sale by Messers. Walter and Shively at Vicksburg where a load of horses from Iowa would be held, "consisting of fine family horses, pretty pacers, excellent drivers, well mated teams-grays, blacks, sorrels, etc., the first load of horses ever shipped to Union County."

After doing a little arithmetic I concluded that that article was about another Shively. On the chance that I might be on the right track I talked with Thomas Brouse. He confirmed that his grandfather, Thomas Shively, did indeed buy horses from the Midwest and hold sales in Vicksburg in conjunction with a Walter, whose given name he could not recall. Thomas Shively was C. E.'s uncle; could this have been where C.E. got the idea of making a living dealing in horses and cattle?

C.E., sometimes known as "Bud", was married in 1901. He farmed for several years and his first love was horses, both driving and work horses. Farming was making a living but it wasn't what he really wanted to do. About 1912 he started dealing in cattle. Farming was done on a smaller scale giving him time to drive around seeing farmers, making deals for trading, buying, and supplying markets with milk cows.

I once asked him how he got started in the cattle business. He told me he had boys who could help and would need jobs. At that time he had four sons, to be followed by three more. The eldest was eight and it wasn't too long until that son would be part of the cattle drives from Centre County and places closer to home. The other sons would soon be following in his footsteps.

Surplus cattle were driven to butchers closer to large population centers. When an opening for a retail meat market presented itself in Mifflinburg, Shively's Meats came into being. The year was 1918.

The meat market was under the supervision of Ed Klingaman, with my brothers as assistants. Two of my brothers were not quite twenty-one when they were running the business. Apparently the meat market run by his sons gave him the time and the capital, or at least the borrowing power, to go west to buy horses.

In 1916 C.E. bought his first small farm. Some farming was done, but most of it was pasture for trading stock, and the barn was built for keeping horses and cattle. That farm was where the last three of us were born and where most of us grew up. Over the years he was to own a number of farms where horses were king.

While writing this I had the vague feeling that I was repeating myself, so I went back and looked over some previous columns. I found that in April 2003 I did write a few of the facts I mentioned in this article. I felt I needed to go into the background of how he got into the horse business and it turned out to be a lot longer than I had anticipated, so I haven't told you much about the horse business. I think I need to continue this subject next month.

The following letter was recently sent to Rev. Ralph Unroe of the Hironimus Union Church in Weikert by a soldier serving his country in Iraq.

June 2, 2006

Dear Members of the Congregation,

I would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to all of you who found the time to send me cards, letters and packages. It means a great deal to me that people who I don't even know support me and the collective efforts of the men and women serving in Iraq.

I apologize for not responding to everyone individually but things here are rather busy and there is little free time. If my watch did not display a date and a day of the week I would have no concept of time. The war does not take a day off and neither do we. Since I deployed last fall I have had two days off in Iraq. Make no mistake, I have no complaints and I am happy to serve our great nation. When life here starts to get me down I look back at those who came before me and think of the soldiers in WWII and Korea who spent years deployed. In comparison, 365 days of my life is truly insignificant. I extend my thanks to all veterans and their families.

People always ask me how are we doing in Iraq? I will tell you that much of what you see on TV or read in the papers has been highly sensationalized to increase circulation and viewer ship. The old saying goes, "If it bleeds it leads" and Iraq is no different. There are so many good things being done here that the news coverage is truly an insult to all of us who serve here. My unit conducts weekly humanitarian projects in our little corner of the war and no mention is made of it outside of my battalion. Such is the nature of the world we live in.

In closing, I would like to once again thank you all for your support. I will come and visit you in church some time late in the summer or early in the fall. It depends largely on when I am finished with my tour here.



## Millmont Items

Demand for the Hometowne Collectable wooden miniature of Shirk's Store (shown to the left) was greater than anticipated. As a result, a limited quantity of unnumbered replicas are being made available by the Village Green Association. To reserve your miniature you can call Delphia Shirk at 922.4222, or stop by the store Monday through Saturday from 9 a.m. until 7 p.m. (The store is closed all day on Wednesdays and 10 a. m. until 3 p.m. on Fridays). The price of the wooden replicas is \$17.



The reconstruction of the bridge over Cold Run, north of town continues. Completion of the new deck is expected to be completed by mid August. The re-opening of the bridge cannot come soon enough for the residents of town who have been inconvenienced by the detour. Despite the favorable weather we have had during the past two months, progress on the project seems to be moving forward at a snails pace. While no public parade or celebration is expected following the re-opening of the bridge, spontaneous private celebrations are most likely to erupt.

The Millmont youngsters shown to the left made the best of a rainy Saturday afternoon on July 22, 2006. After nearly 3 inches of rain fell in less than 24 hours, a portion of the Village Green turned into a muddy pool. Pictured from left to right are Joey Smith, Tyler Radel, Kyla Mattern, Holly Weaver, Tyler Hames, and Stan Weaver.



In the "Looking Back" column of the July issue I included an article from the July 5, 1928 edition of the Mifflinburg Telegraph. That article reported the forced landing of a bi-plane owned by James C. Penny Jr., in a wheat field west of Hartleton. The plane was en route from New York to Detroit. After reading that article, newsletter subscriber Dahle Bingaman recalled an undated photograph in his

collection that showed people climbing around on a bi-plane that had landed in what appeared to be a wheat field. The photograph belonged to Dahle's father, the late Harry Bingaman. Although there was nothing written on the reverse side of the photograph to indicate where it was taken, there is a good possibility that the bi-plane shown above is the one that belonged to J. C. Penny Jr.

My thanks to Dahle and Shirley Bingaman for bringing this photograph to my attention, and for allowing me to include it in this issue of the newsletter.



The Old Order Mennonite tradition of neighbor helping neighbor was in strong evidence following the devastating fire at the Raymond Weaver farm, east of Hartleton, on the afternoon of July 1. Immediately following the blaze, and for several weeks thereafter, the site was like a beehive, with a flurry of activity taking place. At times in excess of 100 men were involved in the cleanup and rebuilding efforts.

My first question to Loren Weaver, after visiting the site was - "who was responsible for instructing all of these men?" His answer was Phares Horning. Horning's skill at providing direction was readily apparent, as progress on the rebuilding effort was unbelievable. Preparing meals, and feeding hundreds of hungry men on a daily basis was an extraordinary task as well. Lucy Martin, with the aide of dozens of ladies from the Mennonite community, volunteered scheduling, preparing, and serving meals to the workers in the makeshift kitchen set up next to the Weaver home.

While newspaper accounts stated that no cows were lost in the fire, Loren Weaver reports the loss of 10 heifers.

### 3<sup>RD</sup> ANNUAL RURAL HERITAGE DAYS AUGUST 16-19, 2006

At the Union County Historical Society's historic Dale/Engle/Walker House off Rte 192, 2 miles west of Route 15, Lewisburg, follow brown Penn Dot signs.

**Wednesday, August 16 Noon - 4 PM** Many Children's Old-fashioned Games with Prizes~ Animal Exhibits & Pony Cart Rides ~ Food to Eat ~ Buttermaking and Soapmaking Demonstrations ~ Tour of 1793 Original Kitchen ~ Hearth Cooking Demonstration ~ Soft ice cream made with hit and miss engine. No admission charge.

**Thursday, August 17 7:30 PM** Presentation on *Casting Iron in Pennsylvania* by Tom Rich Accompanying Exhibits Open at 7 PM - reservation required - limited seating. No admission charge, call 524-8666 to reserve your seat.

**Friday, August 18 6 PM** Hay Ride & Tour of Historic Grove's Mill - reservation required - limited seating \$6 for ride and tour, call 524-8666.

**Saturday, August 19 10 AM - 4 PM** All Day Chicken and Corn Roast with Fixings and Ice Cream Making ~ Activities This Year Focus on Rural Metalsmithing ~ Tinsmith and Multiple Blacksmithing Demonstrations ~ Wheelwright and Gunsmith Demonstrations ~ Wagon rides ~ Hit & Miss Engines Making Rolling Pins and Boxes, Threshing and Binding Wheat ~ Oxen ~ Hearth Cooking ~ Three Major Exhibits including Opening of the New Wagon Shed with Old Vehicles and Old Farming Equipment and Interpretive Station.

No admission charge, parking donation.

Thursday, August 17 at 7:30 p.m. at the Dale/Engle/Walker House, Lewisburg Presentation: *Into the Crucible, the Story of Iron Making in Union County* by Tom Rich. (Accompanying Exhibits Open at 7:00 p.m.)

Over a century ago furnaces roared in Union County as men toiled to refine iron from ores that were dug from the Montour and Shamokin Ridges. Hammers rang in forges and foundries as the cast iron from the furnaces was wrought and formed into basic products for use on farms, factories and homes.

During his presentation at the Union County Historical Society's Rural Heritage Days, Tom Rich will explain the basic process of iron smelting that was used in the huge stone furnaces at Winfield, Glen Iron, and White Deer. He will talk about the methods used to obtain the raw materials: iron ore, charcoal, anthracite coal and limestone. And he will discuss some of the prominent people who developed the iron making industry of 19<sup>th</sup> Century Union County along with the workers who gave their labor and sweat to bring it about. In addition to historical pictures and illustrations, Tom will have some hands-on materials and artifacts on display to help bring this local history alive.

Tom Rich is a professor of mechanical engineering at Bucknell University. For over a decade he has studied the technological history of Pennsylvania. He has written an electronic book (CD) titled *Building Pennsylvania - Part 1* that covers historical topics on Pennsylvania's canals, lime and cement industry, iron and steel industry, and waterworks. He is currently working on Part 2 that covers the coal, lumber and oil industries of the Commonwealth. He is a member of the Union County Historical Society Board and webmaster of the site [www.unioncountyhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.unioncountyhistoricalsociety.org)

**Check it out!**

## Thank You!

I would like to thank the following people for making monetary donations toward the publication of this newsletter: Ruth (Yarger) Diamond, Indialantic, FL; Luther & Jane Doeblar, Williamsport; Seibert & Connie Teichman, Millmont; Shirley Kerstetter, Mifflinburg; and Jesse & Mary Genevish, Lock Haven.

The following people have agreed to accept this newsletter through the Internet as a PDF, thereby reducing the monthly expenses associated with printing and mailing this publication: Vonnie Henninger, Rebersburg; Earl & Donna Steese, Mifflinburg; Shanon Burkland, Lewisburg; and Roy & Doris Hoffman, Millmont. If you would like to join the more than 200 subscribers who receive a color version of The Millmont Times each month as a PDF via the Internet, please sign up now. You can contact me at the following email address: [millmonttimes@dejazzd.com](mailto:millmonttimes@dejazzd.com)

The new mail subscribers this month include: George & Linda Sholter, Weikert; and Donald & Shirley Flinchbaugh, Jamestown, NY.

Thanks to everyone who renewed their subscriptions for an additional year. Your support is what helps to make this newsletter possible, and is greatly appreciated!!

My sincere thanks to Harold and Pat Zechman of Milton and Dahle & Shirley Bingaman of Millmont for allowing me to reproduce a number of photographs from their collections; Tobias Catherman Jr., Sunbury, for donating material concerning the Lewis Cemetery written by my late grandfather, Jacob G. Shively; and Leah Brubacker, Millmont, for allowing me to copy material from her collection relative to the history associated with a farm along Kaiser Run Road that she and her late husband, Milton Brubacker, once owned. That farm is now owned by their son.

## Letters and E-mails to the Editor

Hi, Please find enclosed my check to cover a one year subscription to "The Millmont Times." I've meant to do this for some time now and I keep forgetting to follow thru. (my loss).

I always enjoy reading it when I am home visiting with my family 4 or 5 times a year (Rose Libby is my mother). I have 3 brothers & 3 sisters, and we all grew up in that area. It's always nice to keep up with what is going on in the "old home town." It is just great to read all the "history" and anecdotes about the people (most of whom I know and have known from the past). I just finished reading the July issue last week when I was home, and even enjoyed the article about rattlesnakes. I learned a lot from that article.

Please start my one-year subscription with the August issue if that is possible. Thank you.

Shirley (Libby) Flinchbaugh, Jamestown, NY

If you want your children to improve, let them overhear the nice things you say about them to others.

Haim Ginott

# Penlines From my Kitchen to Yours

## June 17

Brother John Isaac & Erla Hoover & family of Kentucky are in our area for her mother's funeral. We had a family get together at parent Hoover's today.

## June 19

Esra & Lena Zimmerman of Mifflinburg took their son, Ivan to see a doctor.

## June 24

Two vanloads from our church went to the deaf reunion at Benuel & Sarah Lapp of Rebersburg. There were 430 people registered. They had a pig roast and ice cream that was churned with a hit or miss engine. The fellowship and the food were both great.

## July 1

This afternoon Raymond & Edna Weaver's barn burned. Their cows were taken to a neighbor's empty barn. They will milk the cows there until their new barn is built.

## July 3

A large group gathered to help clean up at Raymond Weaver's barn fire.

## July 6

Wilmer & Annetta Hoover of Mifflinburg have a daughter named Brenda. She has one sister. Grandparent's are Amos and Elizabeth Hoover of Mifflinburg and Harvey and Rachel Burkholder of Shilo, Ohio.

Jacob and Irene Zimmerman's son, Michael (3) is wearing a cast after he had an accident on a trampoline.

## July 9

David and Karen Zimmerman have a son named Evan James. He has one brother. Grandparent's are Phares and Ada Zimmerman of Millmont and Earl and Mary Martin of Mifflinburg.

Our neighborhood had hail tonight the size of moth balls. It damaged the garden plants and the crops in the fields.

## July 11

Ammon Martin Jr., (17) of Millmont came home after a two day hospital stay following surgery.

## Grace Reformed Chapel Lavonia, Pa

The following program will be presented at the  
Grace Reformed Chapel at Lavonia, Pa:

The Brush Valley Community Choir  
directed by Debbie Strouse.

Sunday August 6, 2006 at 2:30 p.m.

For more information please contact

Joy G. Roush

121 Bull Run Road,  
Rebersburg, Pa 16872  
or call 814.349.5929

If you have something to do that is worthwhile doing, don't talk  
about it.....do it.

George W. Biount

## Looking Back

The article below was published in one of the local county newspapers on August 18, 1893. The article was originally published in the Centre Hall Reporter.

## A VERY SAD AFFAIR.

Walter Kurtz Drowned at  
Paddy Mountain Tunnel.

Drowned Saturday Evening While  
Bathing in Penns Creek.  
Sad Ending of a Camping Party.  
Efforts to Rescue.

From this week's Centre Hall Reporter.

On last Saturday morning a company of young ladies and gentlemen of our town took the train for Paddy Mountain, where they had arranged to camp over Sunday, on which day there were to be Christian Endeavor services by the campers. The party left in the happiest frame of mind, in expectation of a pleasant time. With everything needed to administer to pleasure and comfort, the party safely arrived at their destination, and having fixed themselves for a few days stay, the day was spent pleasantly, no one dreaming that a most sad event was soon to mar their pleasure. A sumptuous supper was partaken of in camp, when the young men resolved upon bathing, and for this purpose proceeded to the bridge on the west side of the tunnel, about one eighth of a mile from camp. Here there is a large deep pool, and the boys proceeded to bathe, among the number being Walter Kurtz, who was not an expert swimmer, yet ventured to strike out for deeper water.

Walter first used a pole for sounding the stream, and finding the water within his depth, struck out for the bridge pier in the middle of the creek. He used a board at first but soon discarded it and swam unaided. The water at no place in the direction he took was over six feet deep, and thinking the stream safe, he took another direction to the shore. He had hardly swam over 15 feet when he suddenly went down, and coming to the surface, his distressful cry to his companions on the shore was "Boy's, help me?" His older brother, Fred, was in the stream about twenty feet above Walter, and he immediately struck out to his assistance. Fred, not being an expert swimmer, was carried past Walter about six feet before he could turn. Meanwhile the boys on the bank were rushing about seeking something to throw in to the assistance of the boys. David Boozer first threw in a part of a tree to Fred, who caught it and tried to force his way back to Walter, but could make no headway against the

(Continued on page 10)

(Continued from page 9)

current.

Walter had gone down two or three times, and as he came up again Fred pushed the log to him, but having lost his strength, he was seen to make a feint effort to grasp it, but missed, and went down. By this time a platform was thrown in upon which Sumner Hosterman jumped and polled it across to where Walter had gone down with hopes that he would come up again and could be rescued; by this time, was completely exhausted, and the raft was pushed over to him.

Walter, with his companions, had worked hard all day to get the camp in order, and, with the rest, had a sharp appetite, and ate a hearty supper which the ladies had spread, and these circumstances, it is believed, induced cramps from his entering the water while he was heated and the hearty meal in his stomach.

It is fortunate, no doubt, that his brother Fred did not reach Walter, as the latter, as is too often the case, would have dragged the rescuing and exhausted brother down with him, and both would have been drowned.

It being Saturday evening, most of the men employed about the saw-mills in that neighborhood had left for their homes and it was only at Poe Mills, one-half mile distant, that Frank Bradford succeeded in getting three men to hurry to the scene of the drowning, the body having then laid in the water fully a half hour. The men at once dived down to the spot where Walter was seen to sink, and after hard efforts of about fifteen minutes, succeeded in finding the body and brought it to the shore. A long but fruitless effort was made to resuscitate Walter, but all means used were fruitless, alas! The body had been under water too long. Imagine the feelings of those who had spent a day in mirth and glee! The news reached camp and the young ladies were horror-stricken. Camp was broken up in short order. News of the sad event had been telegraphed here soon after the drowning occurred. It fell like a clap of thunder from a cloudless sky, for Walter was a favorite with everybody.

The young ladies of the camp did what, under ordinary circumstances, they would not have undertaken to do in broad daylight—they walked on the railroad, starting at dusk, the entire distance from Camp to Coburn, a distance of about three and one half miles, crossing no less than three bridges, and through tunnels, with a single lantern, the bridges being high and dangerous, reaching Coburn at 10 o'clock. The excitement nerved them to the task and they reached Coburn after a never to be forgotten walk, where hacks from Centre Hall were in readiness for them, and they reached here about 2 o'clock Sunday morning.

No pleasure party ever left Centre Hall in a happier frame of mind or spent a day in pleasanter glee than this one. But, with the marching along of the evening shades of the setting sun, a cloud of deepest gloom at once turned all into sadness - one of the happy group had found a watery grave.

Walter was a good and faithful boy, uncomplaining and obedient to his parents. He never had a quarrel or an enemy within or outside the circle of his associates. His manners were gentle, coupled with liveliness, yet ever within the bounds of propriety. His sad and untimely end was a shock to the entire community.

The funeral, on Tuesday forenoon, was largely attended from the vicinity and outside the county.

The ladies of the camping party, as a token of esteem, had a large and beautiful harp of cut flowers, ordered from Chappell's at Williamsport; Mrs. P. Gray Meek, of Bellefonte, in token of her sympathy, sent a basket of her rarest cut flowers; his Sabbath school class furnished a handsome wreath of white cut flowers; Mrs. Flora Love, his companion, as her token, laid an elegant bouquet of flowers upon the casket; Mrs. S. M. Campbell, of Millhiem, contributed a beautiful metallic floral cross.

For the many expressions of sympathy and offers of aid from friends about us in the hour of our distress and the messages of condolence from abroad, we gather a tinge of silver lining to our grief and offer sincere thanks for those manifestations of kindness and tokens of esteem for unfortunate Walter.

Walter's camping companions, to the number of some thirty, attended the funeral in a body, the young men of the party acting as pall bearers. All of the latter were eye witnesses to his sad fate. With consternation they heard his cry, "Boy's, help me," but they could not.

Walter's face was a familiar and favorite one in the Reporter office, where he was a most valuable assistant, and one whose place we will find difficult to fill.

Hundreds viewed the remains of poor Walter at his home, where the funeral services were conducted by Rev. W. E. Fischer, assisted by the other clergymen of town, Revs. Baskerville, Isenberg, Goodling and Boal.

His age was 19 years, 4 months and 15 days.

From the diary of the late Elder Greene Shively (1870 - 1954) a resident of Millmont from 1918 until his death:

*Saturday August 11, 1945. 62 degrees at 7 a.m. Billy came home this morning for another furlough of 21 days.*

*Sunday August 12, 1945. Temperatures about the same, a very nice day. Billy took us to services this morning, "Isaac's Testimony to God" Genesis 26:19-33. G.T. Psalms 72:13. Present 32. Con. \$2.46. I taught my class and spoke from Matthew 6: 1-19, James 1: 1-18. Mervyn's (Mensch), Brother Charles Keister, mother and I ate our dinner in the narrows. This evening mother and I went along with Rev. Sheesley to Hironimus Church to a Home Coming service. I delivered an address featuring the first Chapter of James and the 12th Chapter of Romans.*

*Monday August 13, 1945. A very nice day, about like yesterday.*

*Tuesday August 14, 1945. Clear, 68 degrees at 7 a.m. Helped mother to do the washing. This evening at 7 o'clock an announcement from Washington stated that Japan had accepted Unconditional Surrender.*

### Moving?

If you are planning to move or if your post office mailing address is about to change, please notify The Millmont Times immediately. This newsletter is distributed each month by bulk rate, and will not be forwarded to your new address, nor will they be returned to me by the U. S. Postal Service. If there are any changes in your postal mailing address please call me at (570) 922.4297 or email me at: [millmonttimes@dejazzd.com](mailto:millmonttimes@dejazzd.com)

**Recipe of the Month**  
*By Janice (Dorman) Shively*  
**Fresh Peach Cobbler**

1 ½ T. cornstarch  
¼ C. brown sugar  
½ C. water  
4 C. sweetened sliced peeled peaches (8 – 10 medium peaches)  
1 T. butter  
1 T. lemon juice

Mix cornstarch, sugar and water. Add peaches and cook until mixture is thickened, about 15 minutes. Add butter and lemon juice. Pour into an 8" round baking dish.

Drop spoonfuls of batter topping (recipe below) on top of hot peach mixture. Spread batter as evenly as possible. It will spread over peaches during baking. Sprinkle with sugar. Bake at 375° for 40 – 50 minutes. Serve warm. Makes 6 servings.

**Batter Topping**

½ C. flour  
½ C. sugar  
½ tsp. baking powder  
¼ tsp. salt  
2 T. soft butter  
1 egg, slightly beaten

Combine all ingredients and beat with spoon until batter is smooth.

I found this recipe years ago while browsing through a 1965 *Farm Journal's Complete Pie Cookbook*. It's very tasty and easy to make. There is a Spiced Honey Cream recipe that is recommended as an accompaniment. I've not made the Spiced Honey Cream, but the recipe follows: Beat 1 C. heavy cream until thick. Add 2 T. honey and ½ tsp. cinnamon. Beat to mix. Makes about 1 ½ cups. Whether you make this recipe with or without the cream, it's sure to be a great mid-summer dessert.

ENJOY!



*Lewis Township News*

The regular meeting of the Municipal Authority of Lewis Township was held July 13<sup>th</sup>, 2006 at 7:30 PM at the Lewis Township Municipal building in Millmont. The following being members of the board of authority named in the articles of incorporation were present: Jim Sanders, Renda Shively, Clair Kaler and Steve Bilger.

Also in attendance: Solicitor Melissa Lobos, HRG Rep. Rob Rowe, and Plant Mgr. Walt Scholl

**HEARING OF VISITORS:**

Donald Shively obtained some paperwork concerning sewer hookups. Joe White addressed concerns that his sewer hookup totals may be inaccurate.

**READING OF MINUTES:** May minutes approved and accepted as read. No meeting was held in June.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Clair made a motion to accept treasury report as submitted. Seconded by Steve so- moved.

**CORRESPONDENCE:** Mifflinburg Bank sent a letter verifying sewer unit billing data to be completed and submitted.

**ENGINEER'S REPORT:** Nothing to report.

**PLANT OPERATOR'S REPORT:** Walt reported that the central processing unit or CPU broke down on the plant computer on June 23<sup>rd</sup>. This required Walt and his crew to run a manual operation at the plant for over two weeks. A new CPU and a new fax modem was installed and with the help of a service technician the plant was up and running by July 12<sup>th</sup>. Walt said it still needs some adjustments but the primary function was restored.

**OLD BUSINESS:** The audit for 2005 was completed and is on file. The lien on the Himes property has been satisfied. Letter were sent to several residents regarding their delinquent accounts.

**NEW BUSINESS:** Joe White will submit a list of his properties to help verify if a discrepancy exists on the authority's billing data. The phone company will be contacted to add an additional number at the plant for emergencies. This number will be added to the billing statement and can be used if a sewer problem arises at a residence.

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

- ▶ Municipal Authority of Lewis Township, the second Thursday 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.
- ▶ Lewis Township Village Green Recreation Association, meeting to be announced.

## Blood Drives

Tuesday, August 1 at the St. Mary's Street Park near the Lewisburg Community Pool from 5:00 until 8:30 pm. This drive is part of the National Night Out event, so bring the family! Thursday, August 3 at Playworld Systems from 10:00 am until 4:00 pm. The option of a double red cell donation will be available. Monday, August 14 at BZ Motors Showroom on Route 15 next to Weis Markets from noon until 6:00 pm. The option of a double red cell donation will be available. Wednesday, August 30 at the Red Cross office in Brookpark Farm from 9:00 am until 1:00 pm.

All who register to donate blood in August will be automatically entered in a drawing to possibly win:

- A \$50 gas card (one is awarded weekly throughout August)
- One of 3 plasma screen TV's
- An Apple iPod (for donors aged 17-19 years old)

Please call 1-800-GIVE-LIFE or the Union County Red Cross office at 524-0400 to make an appointment to donate blood. On-line appointments can be made at [www.givelife.org](http://www.givelife.org). Walk-in donors will always be welcome. However, donors who have made an appointment will be given priority. To donate whole blood, you must be at least 17 years old, be in good health and weigh at least 110 pounds. For double red cell donations, additional criteria apply. For more information call 1-800-GIVE-LIFE. Contact the Union County Chapter for information about upcoming drives at 524-0400 or [unionarcblood@dejazzd.com](mailto:unionarcblood@dejazzd.com).

## August Birthdays & Anniversaries

July 29 was Ethel Stover's 90th birthday	12 - Ken & Beverly Catherman - 1962
1 - Mae (Kuhns) Sullivan	14 - Glenda Sheaffer
1 - Cory and Charlene Yarger - 1988	14 - Tom Catherman
2 - Pat Kline	14 - Paul & Betty Long - 1947
2 - James C. Catherman	15 - Galen & Esther Keister - 1959
3 - Chris Bilger	16 - Kyle Failor
3 - Brandon Bilger	16 - Pearl Gower
3 - Sean Klingman	17 - Levi Brubaker
5 - Sandra Winegardner	20 - Glenda Murphy
5 - Alta Z. Oberholtzer	20 - Henry Dorman
7 - Kim Blyler	20 - Dennis & Lena Susan - 1966
7 - Carol Martin	22 - Sue Blyler
7 - Carolyn Catherman	23 - Nancy Hendricks
7 - George & Helen Wert - 1952	22 - Kyla Mattern
9 - Mary Ella Martin	24 - Grace Kuhns
10 - Marlene Martin	24 - Tom Guyer
10 - Angie Dorman	24 - Lois Feaster
11 - Jeff Erdley	24 - Brenda Klingman
12 - Naomi Aurand	28 - Menno Zimmerman
12 - Betty Zechman	29 - Ralph Kuhns

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