



Picnickers at the park in the early 1920's. Photograph courtesy of the PA Archives.

# Hairy John's State Park

## Part III

Family and high school alumni reunions, Sunday School picnics, school outings, and various forms of entertainment were commonplace at Hairy John's from its inception in 1919 through the 1960's. It was not uncommon for some families or high school alumni groups to use the park for decades as a meeting place for their annual reunions.

According to Alice Reitz of Millmont, the Wolfe & Tyson families held their first annual reunion at Yankee Run (now R. B. Winter State Park) in the Fourteen Mile Narrows on September 13, 1919. The following year, 1920, the site of the Wolfe/Tyson family reunion was changed to "Voneida Park" near the Union/Centre County border. Minutes kept by the secretary of the Wolfe/Tyson family reunion reveal that their 1921 gathering was held at "Hairy John's Spring." Three years later, 1924, the secretary recorded the name "Hairy John's Park."

The only time the family suspended their annual reunion was during the height of WW II. The families continued to hold their annual gathering at that location until the late 1950's. According to Reitz there were 200 family members in attendance at Hairy John's when the family met there during the summer of 1954.

As a youngster David W. Diehl, of River View Manor, Lewisburg, recalled an occasion when his Sunday School class held their picnic at Hairy John's during the summer of 1924. Since nearly 25 people from the Pleasant Grove Evangelical Church were planning to attend the picnic, someone from the group secured a truck large enough to transport the entire group of people along with their picnic supplies. The operators of the Buffalo Valley Fruit Farm, located just north of the village of Pleasant Grove, supplied that truck. Diehl chuckled as he recalled how every passenger on the truck was forced to disembark at the bottom of the hill leading to Hairy John's Park. The weight of all the passengers made it impossible for the truck to navigate the steep incline. With the exception of the truck driver everyone was required to trek one mile on Route 45 in order to reach the park.

Diehl also recalled when he was one of nearly 200 enrollees assigned to the newly organized Civilian Conservation Corps camp at Joyce Kilmer in June 1935. CCC Company 2324 was located near

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# The Millmont Times

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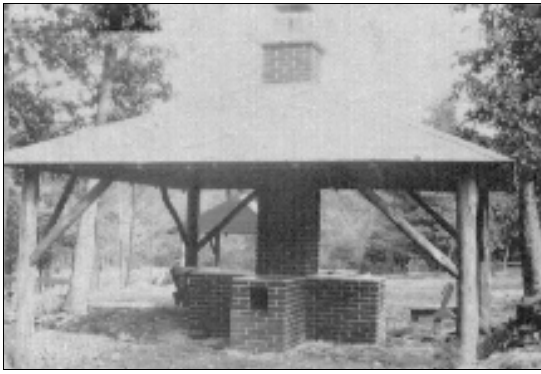
## Millmont Mailbox by Postmaster Sam Smith

After several months without a substitute rural carrier for Route 1, Sandra Kline has been hired and trained to work the route when Randy is off.

When you associate numbers with the Postal Service, the first one that comes to mind is the current price of stamps, 41 cents, but here are some much bigger numbers associated with the Postal Service. The Postal Service delivers first class mail to more than 144 million homes, businesses and Post Office boxes 6 days a week, and Express Mail every day of the year including Sundays and holidays. We serve more than 7.5 million customers each day at one of more than 37,000 Post Offices, and each day nearly 1 million people visit our website-www.usps.com. Our employees sort and deliver 212 billion pieces of mail a year. The Postal Service operates a transport and delivery fleet of more than 214,000 vehicles driving more than 1 billion miles each year. Each one-cent increase in the price of fuel costs the Postal Service \$8 million! The Postal Service "is at the center of a \$900 billion mailing industry, which employs 9 million people in such businesses as direct mail, paper manufacturers and printers," reports The Washington Post. The mail is definitely an important part of our nation's economy. Stamps help generate our revenue and new issues this month include:

The Art of Disney, James Stewart, Celebrate, Super Heroes depicting Spiderman, the Hulk, Captain America, Iron-Man, Elektra, Silver Surfer, Spiderwoman, Sub-Mariner, and Wolverine, and also a reissue of the Purple Heart stamp.

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The fireplace above, along with the one in the background, was built in cooperation with the Keystone Brick Company. Total cost for construction was \$85.17. Photograph courtesy of the Pennsylvania Archives.

the intersection of Bear Run Road and Route 45, about 1.5 miles east of Hairy John's Park. Diehl, who served as Company Clerk, and many of his fellow enrollees often walked from the CCC camp to the concession stand at Hairy John's at the end of a workday. During the summer months the enrollees spent time relaxing in the cool breezes of the park while enjoying ice cream and other treats at the roadside concession stand operated by Harry Mench.

Year's earlier enrollees of another CCC camp, Company 1355, located between Hairy John's Park and Woodward, assisted the Pennsylvania Department of Forest and Waters with the construction of a picnic pavilion at Hairy John's Park. The late Larue "Rat" Shirk was one of two hundred enrollees housed at Company 1355 at Woodward in 1933 and 1934. During interviews I conducted with Shirk in March and April of 2000, he provided me with details about the involvement of his CCC camp making improvements in and around the state park.

Charles Mabus, a resident of Millmont, recalled his Mifflinburg Junior High class field trip and picnic at Hairy John's during the 1931 school year. His teacher, Miss Myrtle Thompson, secured a truck from the Smith Bottling Works in Mifflinburg, which transported Mabus and his classmates on their outing to the state park in the Seven Mile Narrows. "Boy we thought we were going to the World's Fair" Mabus exclaimed, as he recalled the excitement of

getting out of the classroom and venturing into the mountains. Walking alongside the spring fed pond, Mabus was suddenly and unexpectedly shoved into the water by one of his classmates. While it made the trip even more memorable, Mabus found no humor in this juvenile prank. Upon exiting the pond, and after regaining his composure, Mabus quickly wiped the smirk off the face of the classmate who intentionally pushed him in the water.

Years later (1939) Mabus was part of a federally funded program, the National Youth Administration, or NYA. The aim of this depression era program, which operated from 1935 to 1943, was to provide employment and job training to high school and college age students. Those who enrolled in the voluntary program were paid between \$10 and \$25 a month based upon their work hours. When Mabus enrolled in the program he was assigned to the Pennsylvania Department of Forest and Waters, under the direction of Bald Eagle District Forest Ranger, Stewart Benner. Part of his responsibilities included downing dead trees on state forestlands and cutting them into firewood size pieces. Mabus and his co-workers culled the dead trees and cut them to length the old fashioned way – with a crosscut saw. Some of this wood was loaded onto a truck and taken to Hairy John's where it was made available to patrons of the park who used the outdoor fireplaces.

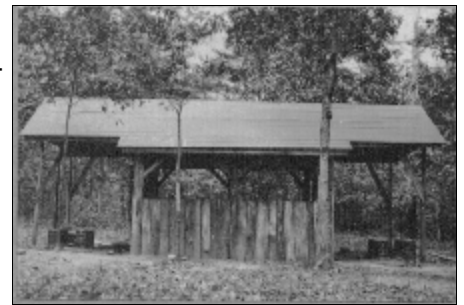
As was mentioned earlier, Harry Mench operated the concession stand at Hairy John's Park for a number of years. Although I have not been able to determine the exact time frame, based on information that has been provided to me by Harold Orndorf of Woodward, Mench began operating the concession stand at the park in the late 1920's. Mench continued to operate the stand until the mid to late 1930's when he lost the concession rights to George Hickernell.

Mench established a prosperous restaurant business in the middle of the Seven Mile Narrows. Randall Stover, a resident of Aaronsburg, was emphatic when he told me that Mench made the "best #?%! hamburgers he ever ate." When Mench was forced to relinquish control of the concession business at the park he quickly opened another restaurant along the state highway west of Hairy John's Park. Mench's loyal clientele soon followed him to his new location.

According to David Diehl, Hickernell, who later served as Union County Commissioner, operated a really nice concession stand. Indoor seating accommodations were also now available. The clapboard sided restaurant was located on the north side of the highway, and was large enough to host parties. The large porch added to the rear of the building provided an ideal spot from which musicians and other entertainers could perform in front of visitors to the park.

Hartleton resident, Caroline (Bilger) Wenrick, was employed at the Corner Room in State College during 1937 and 1938. Her beau at that time, Norman Wenrick, often drove to State College to bring Caroline home on weekends. Oftentimes the couple would stop at the restaurant at Hairy John's on their way to or from State College to get a bite to eat. Caroline recalled that each time "Norm" dropped his nickel in the large jukebox he always played the same song. The words to the Walter Hirsch and Bert Kaplan hit song "Horsey, Keep Your Tail Up" (*keep the sun out of my eyes*) still resound in Caroline's mind even though 70 years have come and gone. Caroline Bilger and Norman Wenrick were married in 1939.

Delphia (Jolly) Shirk, of Millmont, recalled a memorable visit to Hickernell's concession stand with her parents and siblings when she was about twelve years old. She said that her parent's, Melvin and Sara Jolly, stopped at the restaurant so everyone could enjoy some ice cream. Like all youngsters, as soon as she got her cone she quickly began licking the ice cream. Unbeknownst to her a bee also decided to partake of her ice cream, and landed itself on her cone. As she anxiously licked the ice cream, and the bee, it stung her on the tongue. She immediately felt the painful sting and began crying. Before long her tongue was swelled. Although it



This picnic shelter at Hairy John's Park was built in the early 1920's at the cost of \$50. Photo courtesy of the PA Archives.

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# BIRD TALK

By Jim McCormick



“...one of the many views from the Bridge.” Rain, rain, rain—where IS the rain! This has been the driest summer since we moved to Millmont. It seems like the rain just passes around us every time. It’s looking like some of the local crops won’t make it this year. One evening about midnight, however, I did wake up to the sound of distant thunder. It was so rare this summer, I got up just to listen to the rain approach. I opened the window and could feel and smell it coming. A cool breeze accompanied the rain, and, for the briefest time, it poured.

As I have said in the past, when it comes to bird watching, you never know what you will see. I always approach the Covered Bridge as quietly as possible. Late in the month, just as I reached the Bridge, I heard some splashing and caught a glimpse of a couple Common Mergansers. I froze, then cautiously inched my way forward. I then quickly entered the Bridge, climbed up the beams and looked upstream. I was really expecting to see a female and a clutch of ducklings. What I did see, however, was that the Mergansers had already moved about forty yards upstream. Looking at them more closely, I saw that there were two adult females and eighteen immature ducklings already almost full-grown. Penns Creek was very low and the Mergansers were fishing as a group. It was something fascinating to watch—they were a fishing machine! The fish didn’t have a chance. The Mergansers seemed to be almost herding the fish into the shallows, leaving them nowhere to go. I did notice that there were a few of the ducklings that still appeared to be ‘playing’. A couple of years ago I wrote what I called “a family fishing trip”. At that time I watched a female and about nine small ducklings getting ready for the day. A few of the ducklings would start what appeared to be a ‘power swim’. This time I saw a couple of the larger ducklings doing the same thing. I don’t know whether what they were doing was play or serious fishing. No matter, it was fun to watch. I watched them until they disappeared around the curve in the creek. This was just “one of the many views from the Bridge”. There is a twelve to eighteen inch gap below the eaves of the Bridge, which makes it a perfect duck blind. I have been watching from this vantage point for many years now.

During one of the few cool nights this month, I left the windows wide open. When I awoke in the morning, I noticed something odd—it was quiet. I listened and wondered what was wrong. It had been hot for so long, I had missed the inevitable ending of the birds’ morning reverie. The early birds, mainly the Robins, had finished their breeding season and had moved on. This was happening with all the birds. The Baltimore Orioles had almost disappeared from sight in late June. The Common Grackles were starting to flock and were on the move. This exceptionally dry summer also affected the Red-winged Blackbirds. Because it was so dry, the fields were mowed much later than usual, at the peak of the nesting season of the Blackbirds. They don’t usually leave their breeding grounds until early August, but this year they had left by mid-July. Most of the nesting season is completed, so for much of the rest of the season the many species of birds will be starting to collect into bigger and bigger flocks getting ready for the return trip to the south. Grab your binoculars and watch the spectacle.



## Views From The Bridge

The top photograph shows a Mallard hen on Penns Creek with ten ducklings in tow. The bottom photograph is that of a Belted Kingfisher sitting on a branch hanging over Penns Creek. Photographs courtesy of Jim McCormick.



## Field Notes, by WCO Dirk Remensnyder

I recently got to watch as a young coyote tried to stalk a flock of geese feeding in a field. The two adult geese however had already spotted the coyote and had formed a line of defense for the younger geese. They had decided that they were not ready to quit feeding and the coyote didn’t seem to like the defensive posture that the geese were in so he decided to look elsewhere for a meal.

During the first seventeen days of June I had to attend a Military school and WCO Jon Wyant was as-

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MISS UNION COUNTY 1985, Suzanne Tufts, left, and at right, the first Miss Union County, Maureen Zimmerman, Miller, Herndon, who was crowned in 1965. Fourteen of the previous pageant winners attended this year's competition, guests of the Fair Association, commemorating the 60th anniversary of the fair and the 20th of the Miss Union County pageant. Photograph courtesy of the author.

# THE FIRST MISS UNION COUNTY

By Maureen (Zimmerman) Miller

I heard at school that there was going to be a beauty pageant at the West End Fair to find the very first Miss Union County. I had serious doubt that I would ever be lucky enough to wear that crown, after all I was only a country girl growing up on my Dad's (Lloyd "Bud" Zimmerman) farm, but I also knew that I was going to enter the pageant. Later that month, on a rainy night in August 1965, I left that event no longer just Maureen Zimmerman, but I left as Maureen Zimmerman, Miss Union County.

The crown that I wore that night was not the beautiful tiara that you see beauty queens wear today. It was a crown made from a sculpted Clorox bottle, painted gold with a silver braided trim around the top. I still have that crown and the banner and the newspaper articles from that event. I thought that crown was the most beautiful thing that I had ever possessed – not because of monetary

value but because of what it represented to me. It represented drive and pride and a feeling of belonging to my hometown.

The crown made me realize that there is almost nothing that I could not do if I put my heart into it. Parading around in front of strangers in a bathing suit was a difficult thing for me to do at 15; the experience made me realize that life is not always going to be easy or a given, but I learned from that night that I was driven to seize things that I wanted. It helped me understand that just when you think "that is completely out of my reach," it really isn't. I had to go after the things that I wanted, and being Miss Union County was what I wanted most when I was 15.

The crown also instilled in me a deep sense of pride. From that night on, I was Miss Union County. No, there were no trips around the world, no sponsorships, no state, national, or international contests for me to enter. But I was my county's representative. The fact that there were no speaking engagements or whirl wind tours did not keep me from feeling that deep sense of pride of being something beyond just oneself. I knew that I was representing my county. No television cameras or paparazzi could have made me more aware that I now had an obligation to make my county proud of me – that I now had the world somehow expecting bigger things from me because of my new title. After all, how could I let my county down since I was their own "Miss Union County"?

The crown also taught me the values of small town, USA. State fairs and beauty contests have always represented family values and patriotism and a wholesomeness that is hard to explain. My hometown, Mifflinburg, PA, has always been everything wonderful to me. It represented being surrounded by people who loved me, people who believed in me, and friends and family who I knew I could count on as I grew up. Becoming Miss Union County made me realize how much support I had – we all had—during those wonder years.

My life has been a constant awe to me – a successful career, wonderful children and grandchildren, and a spouse that still makes me know how truly blessed I am in this world. As my life approaches retirement years I live on a beautiful, almost secluded, island off the coast of Georgia where I've met a whole new world of opportunities and good friends. But that first

## Miss Maureen Zimmerman Crowned As Queen Of West Union County Fair

A Mifflinburg R. D. 1 girl, Maureen Zimmerman, was crowned: Miss West End Fair" Friday night at the Union County West End Fair, Laurelton.

A heavy shower delayed all activities, threatening a postponement. One and one-half hours after formation time was originally scheduled, the rain had ceased and permitted the costume parade and the "Miss West End Fair" parade to continue.

As "Miss West End Fair" Miss Zimmerman, competing with eight girls, ages 15 through 21, received \$25 as the first prize.

The first runner-up, receiving \$15 was Jane King of Lewisburg R.D. The second runner-up was also of Lewisburg R.D. namely Linda Hauck, who received \$10.

Others competing for honors were: Deborah Boop, Millmont; Loretta Kreamer, Mifflinburg R.D.; Vonnie King, Lewisburg R.D.; Betty Chappell and Donna Chappell, both of Laurelton, and Diane Zimmerman of Mifflinburg R.D.

The heavy showers kept most of the children away from the "kiddie" parade that attracted only 33 in costumes. Those appearing received 25 cents each. All were under 12 years of age.

Also in the parade for the nighttime activities were three horseman and the Milton Junior Drum and Bugle Corps.

A tractor driving contest and pulling contest were held Friday, along with the following games for children: greased pig, watermelon eating and tug of war. The Mifflinburg High School band, scheduled to play at night, was unable to attend.

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# Penns Creek Angler

by Bruce Fisher

Since moving to Millmont I've had so many projects and adventures! I've researched some of the spinning wheels (mills) on Penns Creek but don't have enough information for a good article yet. So I'll write something more along the lines of what I know best.... Penns Creek. This year we saw great fishing from Mid-March until Mid-June and then the drought and heat set in. After our heat wave and lack of rain July gave way to cool temperatures and some much needed but small amount of rain. I don't think the rain had much of an affect on Penns except it stopped the creek level from falling any further. At any rate the fish are doing great as far as my limited time on the water reveals to me. The night water temperatures are falling to the low 60's in the upper section of Penns Creek Gorge and this is helping the trout remain in good shape. One thing I've noticed is the pike, bass and walleye are moving further up the creek this year. I had one trip last week and I caught several small mouth bass in the 14-17 inch range after dark. I didn't know these fish were so active in creeks and rivers after sunset. I always knew they were active night feeders in lakes but not rivers. At this time of year my time on the water has been centered on fishing big wet flies like size #2 Matuka's, #4 Sculpin's and a special pattern called a Black Window in size #4 on a 4 XL shank hook. I use two flies at a time and usually cast down and across the creek and slowly stripping it back with slow pulls about 4 inches in length. The fish like a broadside view of the fly and follow it down stream a short distance and take it on the swing. But sometimes you have to change things around and use a fast strip or no strip at all. These Penns Creek fish can get fussy and a number of methods must be employed to find out what's working on any given trip. Along with the Brown trout fishing I've found great Brook Trout fishing on many small brooks and tiny creeks that feed Penns. For me its not the size of the fish I catch but the enjoyment I get from being outdoors. This year I learned how important it is to be versatile, patient and try new creeks. This past month I saw an adult Bald Eagle two times. I saw a mother Bear with two small cubs and many fawns alongside their mothers. I saw the turtle nests along the railroad grade and it looks like there were several more than in previous years. I've also seen a good number of rattlesnakes this year with the dry weather. I've found it best to stay off the south facing hills to avoid contact with these critters. Please keep your dogs close to you and on a leash if you go hiking on the north side of the creek. To sum things up Penns is in for a good year unless August is unusually hot and dry. After this cool weather leaves the story will play out. September is only a few weeks away and the Slate Drakes and Blue Winged Olives will begin to hatch and everything will fall back into its proper place. Penns Creek Angler will run weekly fly tying classes every Wed 6-9 pm. I am looking for some of the elder statesmen of the creek to possibly show us new guys some of the patterns used in days past. I find it so interesting when someone comes in and shows me a fly his father or grandfather fished and asks me to make a few that match what he has. I recently came across the grandson of the man who invented the "Honey Bug" and that fly will be feature in one of the classes very soon.

Good Fishing to everyone, Bruce Fisher



Editor's Note: Penns Creek Angler is located at 17745 Old Turnpike Road (intersection of Route 45 and Fairground Road) and offers angling and hunting supplies, custom rods and repairs, lodging, and fly tying courses. You can telephone Penns Creek Angler at 570.922.1053, or visit their website at: [www.pennscreekangler.com](http://www.pennscreekangler.com)

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signed to cover my district. Because my Deputies were available and took care of almost all the incidents Jon only had to come to the district once. I am happy that was the only time he came down here because I didn't want him to have flash backs of me getting activated again and him having to cover the district for another eighteen months.

I had a potential deputy candidate ride – along with me and showed him how we set bear traps and bait a bear into the culvert trap. After showing him once I let him set the next trap while I observed. After one week of not catching a bear in the trap that he baited I again took him along to observe while I showed him how it was done. Three hours after setting this trap I got a call that I had a bear already. I then called the deputy candidate and told him that he needs to take better notes when the WCO instructs him on a technique.

Reminder: Hunter Education Courses will be held at the Buffalo Valley Sportsmen's Club as follows: Thursday August 9 (6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.) and continues on Friday August 10 (6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.). This course concludes Saturday August 11 (8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.).

The small photograph in the upper left hand corner of page one is a view of the Hartleton School, year unknown. From the collection of Linda Dorman of Hartleton.



# Meanderings

by

Hertha S. Wehr

## Keys and Clocks

Quite a few of you people who attended one room schools will remember the clocks what were on the wall. They had a face of about a foot in diameter and a long pendulum that struck the hour. They were Seth Thomas clocks.

Several weeks ago I saw a mantel clock that was a Seth Thomas. The back had a slide door and on that there was a patent date of 1888. I was not aware that he had made mantel clocks. By the way, the mantel clock runs and strikes. But the most interesting part was the key that was with it. It had the butterfly end that is held to wind it, and the hollow stem that is inserted over stubs to wind it. But what was eye-catching to me was that from the hand hold was a small hollow stem, very short, and inside of the clock there was a notation that time could be adjusted with that small end. It explained that a quarter turn, right or left could be used to make it run just a little faster or a little slower. I had never seen a key like it.

That brought to mind some of the keys I had collected over the years. When I was in grade school the teacher carried a key about six inches long. The handle was split to allow the key end to be inserted when it was folded in half. I suppose a key that long was necessary because the doors

were solid wood, probably two inches thick, and then there were the enormous latches where the key fit. The folding was necessary so it would fit in a man's pocket or a woman's purse.

I also have a very small key, which I am told was used to wind a pocket watch. This was from a time when almost all men wore pocket watches and before watches were made with a stem to wind them. Of course now almost all watches are battery powered.

This little key has a hollow stem, just as larger keys, made to fit a post in the watch. It brought to mind the vests men wore where a watch was inserted in a watch pocket and a watch chain went across the vest to another pocket where a watch fob was tucked into another pocket. I can only assume that the little key was attached somewhere along that chain to prevent its getting lost.

Another key that is no longer in use is a skate key. They were necessary when both roller skates and ice skates were fastened onto shoes. The skates had a piece of metal under the sole of the skate. The metal piece was turned up on each end to fit onto the sole of the shoe. Those metal pieces were made with a place to insert a key so the skate could be tightened for a wider or more narrow shoe. The rear of the skate had a metal counter to fit around the shoe. It was secured with a leather strap around the front of the ankle.

There are keys to jewelry boxes, sewing machine drawers, house keys with many different kinds of cuts to open many different kinds of doors. Some of these are as long as five inches and some are three inches. Someone gave me a replica of the key that was to have been the key to the Bastille. There aren't many things these days that aren't copied.

I don't know exactly how I got interested in keys but I suspect that it was that schoolhouse key that sparked my interest. Did someone have a hole worn in a pocket and they thought of a better way to make it better? Did the manufacturer come up with the answer, or did the user suggest it?

Anyway someone was very clever.

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Fashioned from a plastic Clorox bottle, this crown was awarded to Maureen Zimmerman at the West End Fair's first Miss Union County pageant in August 1965. Photograph courtesy of the author.

night when I was crowned with that gorgeous Clorox crown was the start of all things possible for me. That experience caused me to realize how lucky I am. Because of all the lessons of that very exciting pageant, I have faced the world with drive and pride not just as Maureen Zimmerman, but also as Maureen Zimmerman, Miss Union County.

**Editors Note:** My thanks to Maureen (Zimmerman) Miller, Jekyll Island, GA, for submitting this timely article about her experience as a contestant in the first Miss Union County pageant.

The 2007 Miss Union County pageant will be held Tuesday August 7. She will be crowned at 7:30 p.m. This year's winner will receive \$500, the runner-up will receive \$100 and the contestant named Miss Congeniality by her fellow contestants will receive \$25. Miss Union County will be obligated to appear in the West End Fireman's Parade that same week, the 2008 Mifflinburg Fireman's Parade, the Victorian parade in Lewisburg during December, and the 2008 fourth of July parade in Lewisburg. She is also obligated to make appearances at the West End Fair and other fair events.

## Recipe of the Month

By Janice (Dorman) Shively

### Sweet Pepper and Corn Relish

1 strip raw bacon, cut into small pieces  
2 tsp. olive oil  
½ C. finely diced red pepper  
½ C. finely diced red onion  
1 tsp. minced garlic  
1 C. fresh corn kernels (or frozen)  
2 TBSP. fresh lime juice  
1 ½ TBSP. brown sugar  
⅛ tsp. cayenne pepper  
¼ tsp. dried red pepper flakes, or to taste  
¼ tsp. salt  
1 green onion, minced  
2 TBSP. chopped fresh cilantro

In a 10-inch non-stick skillet, cook the bacon over medium-high heat until crisp, about 2 minutes. Add the olive oil, red pepper, onion and garlic. Sauté for 2 minutes or until the mixture is just beginning to become soft. Add the corn and sauté another 1 – 2 minutes. Stir in the lime juice, brown sugar, cayenne pepper, red pepper flakes and salt and remove from the heat. Let cool to room temperature, then stir in the green onion and cilantro.



This relish is quick and easy to make and is a great side dish, especially with seafood. The original recipe comes from the Summer 1993 Simply Seafood magazine. Over the years I've tweaked it and come up with the above recipe.

The recipe makes about 4 ½-Cup servings. It's delicious warm or cold.

ENJOY!



The photograph to the left was taken on September 9, 1937 at the West End Fairgrounds near Laurelton. The band shown is the East Centre German Band, with members Jay Wingard, Paul Glasgow, Randall Stover, Melvin Warntz, Lowell Stover, and Russell Stover.

The East Centre German Band was organized in Aaronsburg in 1935, and played at local fairs and festivals. The band performance at the Union County West End Fair in 1937 was to promote Herbsters Mill at Laurelton. Close inspection of the band members uniforms reveals that they were made from Eshelman Red Rose Feed Bags.

Photograph from the collection of Randall Stover, Aaronsburg.

#### August 15-18 Rural Heritage Days Events at Dale/Engle/Walker Historic Farm

Wednesday, August 15th from noon-4 PM opens four days of special events for area families and their summer visitors. Wednesday's events focus on many old-fashioned children's games with prizes, pony rides, soft ice-cream made by Amishman Sam Yoder and his family on hit and miss engines, butter-making, noodle-making, soap-making, and spinning from an angora rabbit, which is new to the event this year. There will be tours of the 1793 hearth where all the cooking took place, animal displays: with milking a cow, turkeys, geese, baby chicks, piglets, and more on view as well as a lunch of barbecued hamburgers and hot dogs. School groups are encouraged to come.

Thursday, August 16th, is next with an evening lecture on textiles on the farm by Nancy Roan, textile expert and a member of the Goshenhoppen Historians of Montgomery County. The 7:30 PM lecture with limited seating is free but reservations are required, and should be made prior to the event. Call 570-524-8666 to get on the list. An exhibit on Union County farm textiles made from scrap - rugs, quilts, and more - opens a half hour prior to the talk.

Friday, August 17th is a 6 PM hayride from the Dale/Engle/Walker farm on Strawbridge Road off Route 192 to historic Grove's Mill on Hoffa Mill Road. There will be a tour of the early nineteenth-century mill for this group and then a return hayride. There is a fee for adults and a children's rate. Places for the ride and tour are limited; reservations can be made by calling the Union County Historical Society at 524-8666.

Saturday, August 18th is the final and largest event in *Rural Heritage Days* and the events start at 10 AM and run through to 4 PM. There will be a chicken barbeque and corn roast all day headed by Eli Reiff and others with watermelon and soft ice cream, draft horse-drawn wagon rides, and the binding of threshed oats with hit and miss equipment. The now fully furnished wagon shed will be open for

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was not very funny at the time, this childhood incident at Hairy John's Park is one that Mrs. Shirk can laugh at today.

Hairy John's Park was a popular place for young and old alike. According to Charles Mabus, the park was the place where young folks hung out. It was where young single guys went looking for young single girls, and vice-versa.

Agnes (Schreckengast) Jernigan, a former resident of Woodward (now of South Carolina), recalled the Sunday afternoon free entertainment that Hickernell provided to visitors of the park during the summer months. While well-known musicians sometimes provided summertime entertainment at the park, there were numerous occasions when local talent was on hand to provide the entertainment.

During oral interviews with Helen (Rudy) Englehart and the late Grace (Rudy) Englehart, I had an opportunity to listen as these sisters provided details about their musician husbands, the late Dale "Jack" Englehart the late Lester "Pete" Englehart. In addition to being brothers, Jack and Pete were talented musicians, especially on stringed instruments. During the summers of 1939 and 1940, Jack, Pete, and Helen Englehart, along with Norman "Bing" Bingaman occasionally entertained folks from the porch of the restaurant at Hairy John's Park. Jack played the banjo, Pete played the fiddle, Helen played the guitar, and Bing played drums.

Helen recalled that many of the songs they performed at the park were Country & Western or "Hillbilly" as she liked to refer to the music they played. They would also sing hymns from time to time. Some of her favorite tunes included Roy Acuff's "Wabash Cannonball", Jimmie Davis's "You are My Sunshine", and the groups lively rendition of "Under the Double Eagle." Although they did not get paid for their performance, someone, usually a young person, was sent into the crowd with a hat or a cup in hand to solicit donations, according to Helen. She recalled one occasion when her share of the take was just a little over \$3. Looking back, Helen has fond memories of entertaining the folks visiting Hairy John's Park. She said that it was a very "exciting" time in her life.

In the next issue I will continue to explore more of the entertainers that performed at the park, amateur as well as professional. Maurice "Max" and Meda Hosterman take over the restaurant at the park. Later it was operated by Max's brother, Blaine Hosterman and his wife, Mae, followed by Jake Bateman. The end of the concession business at the park, Lewis Township High School alumni reunion information, and more personal stories will be included in Part IV of the History of Hairy John's Park.

My thanks to following people who contributed information, photographs, or memories of Hairy John's Park: Dottie (Royer) Shirk, Mifflinburg; Emilie F. Jansma, State College & Weikert; Delphia (Jolly) Shirk, Millmont; David W. Diehl, Lewisburg; Helen (Rudy) Engelhart; Randall Stover, Aaronsburg; Franklin W. Royer, Jr., Pleasant Gap; Anita Ruhl, Mifflinburg; Doris Iddings, Mifflinburg; Ruth (Stuck) Kostenbader, Lewisburg; Harold Orndorf, Woodward; Robert Klingman, Mifflinburg; Gene Manbeck, Mifflinburg; Charles Zechman, Millmont; Agnes (Shreckengast) Jernigan, South Carolina; Carolyn (McClintock) Catherman, Mifflinburg; Caroline (Bilger) Wenrick, Hartleton; Doris (Hess) Shively, Millmont; Kenneth Zechman, Penns Creek; Alice (Baker) Reitz, Millmont; Charles Mabus, Millmont; Faye (Strickler) Lyons, Mifflinburg; Betty (Strickler) Klock, Herndon; Isabelle Hosterman, Millmont; Rufus Balbin, Woodward; Everett Bingaman, Millmont; Marie (Rishel) VonNeida, Hartleton; Audrey (Mitchell) VonNeida, Hartleton; Marvin Benner, Mifflinburg; Shirley (Benner) Katherman, Laurelton; Wayne Benner, Millmont; Betty Buttorff, Hartleton; and the late Grace (Rudy) Englehart, the late Larue Shirk, and the late John Iddings.

Sources: Pennsylvania State Archives Records of the Department of Forestry and Department of Forest and Waters 1895-1923; Ellen Clarke Bertrand Library at Bucknell University, Lewisburg, Pa.

### What do an Empty Whiskey Bottle and a Basket have in Common?

**BUFFALO TOWNSHIP:** The answer to this question is part of an exhibit currently on display at the Union County Historical Society's 1793 Dale/Engle/Walker house. The house is open to the public for tours every Sunday 2-4 PM now through October. The answer is the grain named "rye."

Grains, such as rye, as well as wheat and corn, were ground into meal and flour that filled the cloth and paper sacks - all from the collection of the Union County Historical Society - currently in an exhibit that focuses on converting *Grains into Products*. Many of the local mill locations are shown on a large county map and some still stand. Only the Grove's Mill on Hoffa Mill Road still operates however.

Rye whiskey was made by distillers like the Reish family of the Forest Hill/Cowan area. The Reish family came to Union from Berks County in the early nineteenth century. Daniel Reish, b. 1800, began a distillery near Forest Hill around 1820. His son Benival, b. 1826, succeeded Daniel, who in turn was followed in the distilling trade by his son James K. Reish, b. 1850. James Reish ran a distillery in Cowan in the early 1870s as well as a sawmill in Hartley Township, a coal yard in Vicksburg, while continuing to run the family's inn "Forest House." James' brother Joel periodically ran the older family Forest Hill distillery as well as another distillery on White Deer Creek in White Deer Mills which was also managed by Daniel, then George Reish before the property sold in 1883.

The ledgers, invoices, and bottles in the Society's exhibit at the Dale/ Engle/Walker House are what remain of the 100-year old Reish distilling tradition here in Union County. They are in the Society's collection through gift and purchase. The main Reish distillery warehouse could hold 1,000 barrels of whiskey. The last 200 barrels were sold to Waller & Seal of Harrisburg in 1918. There is no aged whiskey in the collection.

Union County Historical Society, S. 2nd and St. Louis Streets, Lewisburg, PA 17837, (570)524-8666, hstoricl@ptd.net  
www.unioncountyhistoricalsociety.org      *Preserving the Past for the Future*



# Penlines From my Kitchen to Yours

*By Lucy Hoover*

*"A song in your heart, Gives each day a good start"*

## June 16, 2007

We all went to the Hoover Reunion at Curvin's parents, 430 people registered. The weather was nice. There was a lot of left-over food. At 3:00 p.m. Mr. Seebold flew overhead with his plane, and dropped candy down for the children. On one trip, water balloons came down (to our surprise!).

Mervin & Annetta Martin of Mifflinburg had a Martin Reunion today, they had approx. 1 ½ inch of rain in the afternoon.

Cousin Paul & Verna Hoover of Kentucky came to our place for the night.

## June 17

We had visitors here for supper, Brother John Isaac & Erla Hoover & three children, Cousin Allen Hoover family, and Cousin Mervin Hoover family, all of Kentucky. Chris & Wilma Brubacker family were here too.

After supper we all went to Curvin's parents where everyone leaving on the KY bus met, we waited to see them leave, around midnight.

## June 19

We had a thunderstorm, and hail the size of mothballs. But it did not do much damage to the crops here. Mifflinburg had more storm damage at some places. Curvin & I went to the viewing of David Weaver (29) of Port Trevorton.

## June 26

Curvin went to the viewing of Larry Derrick, Jr. (28) at Hughesville. (Larry had an accident with his 4-wheeler.)

## June 28

Mervin & Lois Oberholtzer have a daughter named Carla. She has one brother, and two sisters. Grandparents are Amos & Elizabeth Oberholtzer, and Adin & Anna Mae Zimmerman.

Jerry & Lorraine Hoover's Laurie Beth (5 months) has been admitted at Philadelphia Children's Hospital.

## July 3

Joseph Hoover (11), son of Luke & Ada Mae, was taken to the hospital with a ruptured appendix.

## July 11

The girls stayed with their Dad while I went to a quilting this afternoon. Just before I left, I took a peach cobbler out of the oven, and set it on the counter to cool. The girls helped themselves to it, but when more than half of it was gone they started feeling guilty about it. So they baked another peach cobbler and set it out to cool. I did not notice it was a different one until they told me.

## July 13

My sister, Anna Brubacker, brought my cousin Ruth Brubacker of Windsor, MO here for a visit this morning. They stayed for lunch too.

## Looking Back

The newspaper article below was originally published in the Lewisburg Journal on August 13, 1926.

# PLANE CRASHES TO EARTH IN THE 7-MILE NARROWS

## Pilot and Mechanic Escape Without Scratch But The Plane Is Badly Dam- aged on Wednesday When They Are Forced to Land

Considerable mystery surrounds the crashing to earth of the aeroplane in the Seven-mile Narrows, one-fourth mile north of the Halfpenny cottage, and the sudden disappearance of the pilot without any trace whatsoever as to his whereabouts.

The plane was flying beneath the regular U. S. mail plane about 1:30 on Wednesday afternoon when it was noticed to be in distress and after the plane dropped from sight the mail plane turned back and made a complete circle and then proceeded on to the Bellefonte landing field.

The Wagner boys, of North Third Street, who conduct a lunch counter at Hairy John's Park, immediately started for the spot where the plane had dropped and upon their arrival found that the switch on the motor and the gas feed had been carefully turned off and the leather belt which is usually fastened around the waist of the aviator had been unbuckled but no pilot was in sight and no trace of him could be found. This at once advanced the theory that the pilot had made a descent by via a parachute after he discovered that the plane was going to crash.

Other reports were also forthcoming to the effect that the aviator and his companion had come to Mifflinburg to telephone Bellefonte aviation field announcing their accident but how they got away so suddenly without being seen is puzzling the persons who were in close proximity.

Theories were also advanced that the plane was following the mail plane with the intention of robbing it of its cargo of valuable mail while some are of the opinion that the plane was stolen and that the aviator was afraid of being apprehended if he was caught near the spot.

Nevertheless the plane is there pretty well banged up and somebody drove it there.

Sight-seers who visited the spot on Thursday report that two men arrived there to dismantle the machine and take it away. Nothing could be learned from the me-

*(Continued on page 10)*

**THE WEST END LIBRARY AND  
THE WEIKERT HERITAGE GROUP**

Invite everyone to

***Cracker Barrel Conversations***

*“Stories our folks told us”*

Sunday, September 30, 2007

2:00 pm - 4:00 pm

At the  
Hartley Township Community Center  
Rt. 235, Laurelton

Featuring olde tymers and an open mike

**Moving?**

If you are planning to move or if your post office mailing address is about to change, please notify me immediately at P. O. Box 3, Millmont, PA 17845. This newsletter is distributed each month by bulk rate, and will not be forwarded by the U. S. Postal Service to your new address. If there are any changes in your postal mailing address, or your email address, please call me at (570) 922.4297 or email me: millmonttimes@dejazzd.com

***Letters and E-mails to the Editor***

Hi Tony, What a great article you have this time again about Harry John's. Gosh, I can't wait until the next story comes out in the August issue. In reading the article I took notice you mentioned about a Wagner that was known to run the concession stand at one time there at the park. It sticks in my mind that there was a man from Lewisburg that they left open up a stand to sell hot dogs and soda's. Don't know how much other stuff he may have had. I am not sure what year it may have been. I knew of a Barney Wagner that ran the concession stand and if it's the same one, he has a son that is living in Lewisburg by the name of Dave Wagner. If you could contact him you may find a little something out from him if it is the same Wagner. Dave lives in Lewisburg. I am sure if he knows of any dates and all he can tell you. Good luck and I am really enjoying all the stories you have been writing about.

Alice Reitz, Millmont

**Blessings from the Bible**

*Brenda Weaver*

*“Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.” Genesis 2:24*

Outside our home the occasional cautious call of a mother bird can still be heard as the summer advances. We also hear the lively chirps of baby birds, eager to be fed and eager to fly. As a mother, I identify with the hovering mother bird as fledglings flop, flutter, and eventually fly.

Within our home thoughts run in a similar vein. Our “nest,” which once held five vivacious children, now holds two—who are also advancing toward the edge of the nest. Several weeks ago, our second daughter married and headed to the far north with her Albertan husband. As I write they are relishing the beauty of Alaska and the Canadian Rockies of British Columbia.

A parent can only hover in love and trepidation for so long, and then there comes the releasing as a child soars for the sky. God designed marriage to involve leaving and cleaving. By God's grace parents can bless the marriage of their children by allowing them to leave the nest and cleave to their spouse. Just like mother birds, we issue calls of caution, warn of possible dangers, and hover while they try their wings. Then we step back and give our child over to the One who made the sky, the One who thought of marriage in the first place.

Ah yes, we can lay aside our worries and sighs, and take up our work of grieving a loss, even while we celebrate a union. We can rest assured there is One who will never stop hovering.

As children fly from our nests by marriage or by choosing to live independently, we can rest in the promise of Deuteronomy 33:27. *“The eternal God is thy refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms.”*

**Prayer for today**

*Heavenly Father, Thank You for ordaining marriage. Thank You for families. Thank You for the love and pain involved in being a family, as well as the joy and grief we feel when a new family is established. Thank You for the comfort and strong tower found in Your Word.*

*And thank You, thank You, for hovering with everlasting arms—always.*

*(Continued from page 9)*

chanic, he refusing to talk, while the other would answer some few questions. He stated that the men riding in the plane were unhurt and that this was about the sixteenth that this pilot has had with aeroplanes. It was also stated that the pilot brought the machine down on its side so that it would drop on one of the wings, thereby breaking the impact.

One tree was broken completely off, another partly broken and limbs from nearby trees were broken. The struts and braces were torn and broken, the canvass on the wings and body was punctured and torn, the propeller was broken and the hood on the engine was torn off.

## Hironimus Annual Reunion

The descendants of Jacob and Eva Hironimus will hold their annual family Reunion at noon on August 4, 2007 at the Hironimus Church Picnic Pavilion in Weikert Pa. There will be games for children and adults, plus Karaoke in the afternoon. Bring along a covered dish and enjoy an old fashion picnic. Also if you are not related and are friends of the Hironimus Clan you are invited to come too.

### *What's Happening at Christ's United Lutheran Church* by Shirley Kerstetter

If you make your way to the 2007 Union County West End Fair, which runs from August 6 through the 11th, be sure to visit Christ's United Lutheran Church food stand. Dinner menu for Monday - Hot turkey sandwich platter - \$5, Barbecue platter - \$4.75; Tuesday - Roast Beef or Turkey dinner; Wednesday Smoked Ham dinner or Turkey dinner; Thursday - Pot Pie dinner or Turkey dinner; Friday - Pork and Sauerkraut dinner, Roast Pork dinner, or Turkey dinner; and Saturday - Roast Beef dinner or Turkey dinner. The cost of the dinners from Tuesday through Saturday is \$7 for adults and \$4 for children. All dinner menus come with mashed potatoes and stuffing and your choice of two side dishes, including applesauce, cucumbers, pickled cabbage, or vegetable.

Ham sandwiches, Hamburg barbecue, homemade pie, and homemade baked beans will be available daily. Take outs will also be available.

*(Continued from page 7)*

tours and a farrier shoeing a horse, a wheelwright, tinsmiths, and multiple blacksmiths will be demonstrating all day as will those making shingles, souvenir wooden, boxes, rolling pins, and boxes on machinery run by hit and miss engines. Also seen all day will be an exhibit on flourmills and distilleries - all from the area.

New to the event this year will be women tatting, lace-making, quilting, doing darning and smocking as well as others making hooked and braided rugs. The skills in the women's sphere will be highlighted by these demonstrations and in the house exhibits. There will also be hearth-cooking demonstrations by Peggy Gelnett who will be cooking with many of the kinds of utensils made by blacksmiths and foundry workers.

At noon the winning raffle ticket will be chosen on a woven queen-sized coverlet by York County Pennsylvania-German weaver David Kline who makes coverlets with traditional colors and design as well as crib coverlets/wall hangings. Small coverlets, table runners and place mats will be offered for sale.

For a fun filled day on a historic farm and good meals with area produce come to the Dale/Engle/Walker 1793 farm on *Rural Heritage Days*. For the complete schedule visit the web site [www.unioncountyhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.unioncountyhistoricalsociety.org) or call 570-524-8666

## Thank You!

I would like to thank the following people for making monetary donations toward the publication of this newsletter: Mary Kahl, Millmont; Donald & Doris Wilson, Millmont; Donald & Betty Zechman, Carlisle; Roger & Marjorie Dunkle, Mifflinburg; Clarence Aikey, Sebastian, FL; Dorothy Walter, Milton; Norman & Kathleen Strickler, Millmont;

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: Andrew and Daphne Clouser, Millmont; Mike Stewart, Northumberland; Maurice Clouser, Mifflinburg, Kendrisa Kerstetter, Millmont. If you would like to join more than 280 subscribers who currently receive a FREE color version of The Millmont Times each month via the Internet, please sign up now at: [millmonttimes@dejazzd.com](mailto:millmonttimes@dejazzd.com).

Welcome to the following new mail subscribers: Dorothy Walter, Milton, PA.

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!!

Thanks to Betty Buttorff of Hartleton for allowing me to reproduce a photograph of a graduating class from the Hartley Township High School; Mervin Kline of Swengel for loaning two books from his collection: *Glimpses of the Past A Selected History of Penn Township Centre County, Pennsylvania 1844 - 1994* and *Haines Township Life and Tradition*, published by Haines Township Bicentennial Committee 1976; Linda Dorman for allowing me to reproduce a photograph of the Hartleton School; Darlene Hackenburg for donating a circa 1921 photograph of my great grandmother, Adda Shively; Caroline Wenrick of Hartleton for donating two boxes of Mifflinburg Telegraph and Middleburg Post newspapers from the 1980's; and Carol Loss of New Berlin for providing several names from a photograph of a Lewis Township High School graduation published in the November 2005 issue of The Millmont Times.

**From the diary of the late Elder Greene Shively, born in White Springs in 1870 and a resident of Millmont from 1918 until his death in 1954:**

*Monday August 9, 1937. During the week I worked in the garage in the forenoon and in the afternoons I did some concreting, making a curb along the walk in front of the house.*

*Saturday August 14, 1937. Mother and I attended the Sunday School outing at Voneida Park. Made a short address.*

*Tuesday August 17, 1937. This evening I married George Moyer and Helen Walters at the home of the groom, Mr. and Mrs. Dreese Moyer.*

*Saturday August 21, 1937. During the week I worked in the garage in the forenoons with the exception of today. After opening the shop and waiting till Jacob arrived, Florence took mother and I to the Catherman reunion at Rock Oak Park. It commenced to rain and then we went to Laurel Park and ate our lunch in one of the buildings.*

Lincoln Chapel United Methodist Church in Laurelton is a friendly, welcoming church, located at 2350 Paddy Mountain Road. Service times are: 8:30 am and 10:30 am. A variety of Sunday School opportunities are available for all ages, and classes begin at 9:30 am.

For further information, please call 922-1411. Everyone is welcome!

### Blood Drive

There will be a blood drive held at the West End Fair on Thursday August 9 from 3:30 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. See the Red Cross at the front gate.

All persons 17 and older, in good health, and who weigh at least 110 pounds are urged to consider donating blood. For more information call 1-800-GIVE-LIFE. Bring Photo ID.

### August Birthdays & Anniversaries

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

The Millmont Times is distributed during the first week of each month, and is available through mail subscriptions, as a PDF over the Internet (Adobe Acrobat Reader is required), and at Dorman’s Country Store in Hartleton. Mail subscriptions are \$10 per year (12 issues). Internet subscriptions are FREE. Copies purchased at Dormans Store are priced at \$1.50 each.

Please use the address below if you are interested in contacting the editor, subscribing to the newsletter, making a donation, sending a gift subscription, changing your address, or providing me with your email address.

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