



The Millmont Times

AUGUST 2014

Glen Iron Power & Tool Company

In the 1920's local newspaper headlines heralded the development of something big that was about to happen in the village of Glen Iron. Those headlines, along with the talk of the town, brought with it much excitement and enthusiasm for the folks living in and around that small West End village. After all, WWI was in the rear view mirror, and the 1920's was about to become known as the Roaring Twenties. No longer were automobiles owned and operated by the wealthy, but they were fast becoming commonplace. Homes were being wired for tele-phones and electricity and radio was in its infancy. There were reasons to be hopeful and optimistic as details about the Glen Iron Power & Tool Company, headquartered in their little community, intensified.

A banner headline in July 1923 stated: "Glen Iron To Have Big Industrial Plant Soon". One can only imagine the excitement that such headlines would elicit from folks hoping to land a job at the factory. The subheading of this particular newspaper article noted that "Big Power Dam To Be Built - Pipe And Nut Wrench To Be Manufactured".

The proposal for this manufacturing facility was that of Rufus Franklin Boop (1877-1967). A resident of 4560 Creek Road, Boop invented and received a patent for an innovative pipe wrench, which he and his associates planned to manufacture and market around the country and around the world. In addition to various sizes of adjustable wrenches they also envisioned producing pliers, chisels, screwdrivers, hammers and automobile forgings of every description.

Boop's dream was larger, and far more costly than anything he could ever have managed using his personal finances. He associated himself with others who could add their personal knowledge, expertise and perhaps invest financial resources into the project. One of those was a neighbor, John T. Church. Church spent years in the iron ore mining and smelting business on the south side of Penns Creek opposite Glen Iron. The fire at the furnace had been extinguished years earlier, but Boop and Church were persuaded that the mines could be re-opened; ore could be extracted, smelted and used to manufacture the pipe wrench and other tools developed by the company.

Rufus Boop was president of the fledgling company, and Church was the vice president. Others who came aboard to assist in the project included James L. Miller of Lewisburg who served as secretary and treasurer, Isaac Cornwall of Northumberland, superintendent and general manager and W. L. Broman of Wilmington, Delaware who was sales distributor.

The company incorporated under the laws of the state of Delaware, with a plan to issue \$500,000 in stock. While shares of stock were sold to local residents interested in seeing the company get up and running, it was highly doubtful that enough financing could be raised locally. How successful Broman was at marketing the stock at \$10.00 per share on a state or national level is unknown.

Officials planned to erect a manufacturing facility adjacent to the L & T Railroad line, which ran through Glen Iron. In addition, management anticipated the erection of a hydroelectric power generation facility spanning Penns Creek, which was expected to produce three

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Field Notes, by WCO Dirk Remensnyder



During the annual update training on the use of Taser's officers are required to fire two cartridges. One cartridge is fired during a simulated stress situation where an officer lying down has to turn over, draw the Taser and hit the target with a good probe location. During this portion of the training one probe missed the target lodging into the side of the game lands building. I hope the Land Management Officer doesn't start experiencing any leaks in the building.

I can report that many people are seeing and commenting on a few different pairs of Bald Eagles that reside in the area and are prevalent almost every-day.

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This is a view of the former Rufus F. and Gertie (Shively) Boop home located at 4560 Creek Road, Millmont as it looked in the autumn of 1969, about one year after it was purchased by Neil and Alice Shoreman.

Photograph courtesy of Neil and Alice Shoreman. Alice can be seen sitting on the swing on the front porch.

to four hundred horsepower. Their goal was to produce sufficient electricity to operate their tool and assembly shop, as well as the forge and furnace. In addition they anticipated producing a surplus of electricity, which they intended to sell to residents of the community in order to electrify their homes.

It is believed that the manufacturing facility was to be erected along the south side of the railroad tracks, in the field west of Long Lane. According to Neil Shoreman of Millmont, years ago physical evidence could be seen that indicated footers for the project were in place at that location. Today Neil Shoreman and his wife Alice live in the home that was owned by Rufus and Gertie (Shively) Boop. The precise location of where the power dam was planned is not known.

Boop spent about five years working on and developing his Perfection Pipe Wrench. He was awarded a patent from the U. S. Patent Office in Washington on March 28, 1922; almost two years from the date he originally filed his paperwork and drawings. One of his assertions to the patent office concerning his wrench included "improved gripping jaws, capable of substantially embracing the pipe, or other objects there between so as to give more

turning power to the wrench and facilitate its use". He also proclaimed that his wrench had "improved structural changes, whereby the pressure of the jaws is so evenly distributed as to reduce the possibility of distorting or injuring the objects engaged by the jaws to a minimum".

A prototype of Boop's wrench was subsequently made from drawings. Neil and Alice Shoreman are the owners of this prototype. They recently allowed me to examine and photograph the wrench at their home. While the wrench was to be manufactured in various sizes, the prototype, and the only wrench of its design known to exist, was without a doubt one of the larger wrenches that the company planned to manufacture and market. The wrench weighs 15 pounds 12 ounces, and when fully extended was capable of turning a four inch piece of pipe.

Company officials were certain there was a ready-made market for their adjustable wrenches by plumbers, steamfitters, and locomotive mechanics and automobile repairmen. The ability of the wrench to grip fast to a piece of pipe without slipping, kinking or crushing was a unique trademark. In an attempt to market their product officials of the company personally demonstrated it to local mechanics, plumbers, and businessmen who subsequently wrote letters of recommendation after using the product.

Diehl & Kammerer of Hartleton (later known as Buck Diehl's Garage) were automobile mechanics who put into words their satisfaction with the pipe wrench's capabilities. In a letter dated July 5, 1923, they wrote: "We are awaiting the manufacture of this wrench with great interest and wish to place our order for a complete set covering each size you will make."

Arthur W. Zechman, proprietor of the Laurelton Garage, was extended an opportunity to use and evaluate the Perfection Pipe Wrench and test its usefulness. He affirmed in a letter dated July 7, 1923, to John Church the capabilities of the wrench, stating: "it did more than anything we expected". He further declared that after showing to others, including people from out of town, that - "without exception all have declared it the greatest wrench they ever saw". Like Diehl and Kammerer of Hartleton, Zechman stated that: "as soon as any of them were ready for sale I want an entire set for my garage".

In his letter of recommendation Irvin L. Shively wrote that, as someone who handled and used various wrenches over the years, the Perfection Pipe Wrench - "is as different from the others as is the modern automobile from the old horse and buggy".

With forty years of experience as a steamfitter, Frank D. Solly of Hartleton wrote that the Perfection Pipe Wrench was superior in design and truly scientific. He noted: "the holt (sic) it takes is far stronger and surer than any he had ever previously used".

By December 1924, the dream of erecting a manufacturing facility and power dam was still just a dream, despite another banner headline that proclaimed: "POWER & TOOL CO. ASSURED GLEN IRON". The reporter opined how gratifying it was when residents attended a public meeting held at the Glen Iron School on Saturday November 29, 1924 to listen to businessmen involved with the project provide updates. The article noted that work on the facility was scheduled to begin within a few weeks. However, just as with earlier news accounts, the project languished. In May 1925 another newspaper article announced that work on the facility was to begin the following week. While footers may have been dug and lumber for the building ordered, work on the project abruptly came to a halt.

Exactly why the dreams and aspirations of the men involved in the company never materialized is unknown. There were

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Exploring the Bald Eagle State Forest

State Parks and State Picnic Areas



While the Pennsylvania Bureau of State Parks and the Bureau of Forestry are both more or less independent agencies they both fall under the purview of the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, (DCNR). However, each bureau has their own particular area which they are responsible for. The Bureau of State Parks is responsible for maintaining 120 parks spread across Pennsylvania encompassing more than 283,000 acres.

The Bureau of Forestry is responsible for the 20 state forest districts in the Commonwealth that total more than 2.2 million acres. This vast acreage of both the state parks and state forestlands, all of which is open and available for public use, offers a myriad of things for outdoor enthusiasts to do. It is a priceless legacy that residents of Pennsylvania have inherited from some forward thinking and dedicated conservationists.

At 21,122 acres, Pymatuning State Park located in Crawford County is the largest in Pennsylvania. Seventeen thousand acres of this state park are made up of Pymatuning Lake. The smallest state park in Pennsylvania just happens to be located right here in the Bald Eagle State Forest (BESF). That park is Sand Bridge, which is

located along Route 192 in Lewis Township, Union County.

Within the BESF are six state parks and five state picnic areas. The state parks include Reeds Gap (Mifflin County), Poe Valley, Poe Paddy and Mc Call Dam (Centre County) along with R. B. Winter and Sand Bridge in Union County. The Bureau of State Parks is responsible for maintenance and upkeep at all of these parks.

The five state picnic areas in the BESF include Tea Springs (Union County), Hairy John's (Centre County), Rock Springs and Snyder-Middleswarth (Snyder County) and Bear Gap (Mifflin County). The Bureau of Forestry is responsible for maintaining each of these state picnic areas.

Tea Springs Picnic Area is located off of the White Deer Pike in the northwest part of Union County. It is not far from the site where the boundary of three counties intersects. Those counties are Union, Clinton and Centre. Interstate Route 80 is also close by, so noise from traffic can be an issue at this location.

Snyder-Middleswarth and Rock Springs State Picnic Areas are located adjacent to Swift Run Road northwest of Troxelville. These two picnic areas are in close proximity to one another. The 500-acre Tall Timbers Natural Area encompasses the Snyder-Middleswarth Picnic Area. One half of this natural area is composed of old growth hemlock, pitch pine and hardwoods. Both areas offer picnic tables and roofed pavilions. There is also a neat spring that provides fresh running water at Rock Springs.

Hairy John's State Picnic Area is located off Route 45 near the border of Union and Centre counties. This area has two roofed picnic pavilions, including one that offers a native stone fireplace. Traffic noise can be an issue at this area, but it is not nearly as bothersome as it is at Tea Springs.

Bear Gap State Picnic Area is located at the intersection of Hunter Road, Treaster Valley Road and Red Ridge Road. There are a few open picnic tables at this location as well as a roofed pavilion, which offers better picnic facilities than the nearby tables that are exposed to the weather.

Bulletin 37, published by the Pennsylvania Department of Forest and Waters in 1946, reveals that various state parks and picnic areas have been classified in different ways over the years. As an example Hairy John's was a state park early on in its history, but has since been turned over to the Bureau of Forestry, and designated as a state picnic area. The interesting history of this park was detailed in a five part series of this newsletter. For those who would like to review that history you may do so by checking out the June through October of 2007 issues that are available online at www.millmonttimes.com.

A number of years ago the responsibility of maintenance and upkeep at some state parks was transferred from the Bureau of Parks to the Bureau of Forestry. According to Robert E. Klingman (1926-2013) the reason maintenance at some state parks was turned over to the forestry department is because of their location. Klingman, who served as Assistant Director of the Bureau of State Parks at the time of his retirement in 1986 oversaw some of these changes, including the change of classification of Hairy John's from state park to state picnic area.

In addition to the name change the maintenance and management at some of the parks also changed. Prior to the transfer from one bureau to the other, personnel from Poe Valley State Park were required to travel to Hairy John's in order to maintain the park, a distance of nearly 25 miles. Following the transfer from the Bureau of State Parks to the Bureau of Forestry people from the state forest maintenance building, which were once located along Bear Run Road, took over responsi-

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Recipe of the Month

By Janice (Dorman) Shively

Acorn Squash with Apricot Sauce

2 small acorn squash
2 T. brown sugar
¼ tsp. ground cinnamon
2 T. butter
1 C. orange juice
½ C. dried apricots, coarsely chopped
½ C. chopped walnuts, optional

Cut squash in half; discard seeds. Cut a thin slice from bottom of squash with a sharp knife to allow it to sit flat. Place hollow side up in a greased 15-in. x 10-in. x 1-in. baking pan; add ½ in. of hot water.

Combine brown sugar and cinnamon; sprinkle over squash. Dot with butter. Cover and bake at 375° x 55 - 65 minutes or until tender.

Meanwhile, in a small saucepan, combine orange juice and apricots. Bring to a boil. Reduce heat; simmer, uncovered, for 15 minutes or until apricots are tender. Transfer to a blender; cover and process until smooth. Serve with squash; sprinkle with walnuts if desired.



Acorn squash are ripening in our garden, and I've already enjoyed this dish this summer. The recipe comes from the *taste of home farm fresh favorites* cookbook and is probably my favorite acorn squash recipe. The apricot sauce is so yummy! I usually make a double batch of the sauce and use it on chicken, shrimp or pork.

Enjoy!

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bility of managing what became the Hairy John's State Picnic Area. Turning the responsibility of the state park over to the BESF was one method of reducing expenses to the state.

The largest state parks in the BESF are R. B. Winter and Poe Valley at 695 acres and 620 acres respectively. Both of these parks offer a variety of summertime activities including picnicking, swimming, boating, fishing, hiking and camping. Of these two parks Poe Valley has the largest lake, 25 acres, compared to the lake at R. B. Winter, which is six acres. Both state parks offer sandy beaches, ample parking, picnic tables, pavilions and modern restroom facilities.

The state picnic areas do not have as many facilities as those available at the state parks. However, the picnic areas in the BESF do offer picnic tables and pavilions along with rest facilities. Some of them, such as Snyder Middleswarth and Rock Springs also have a stream (Swift Run) that meanders through both picnic areas. Hairy John's offers a small pond. Trails are accessible at all of the state park and state picnic areas in the BESF for those who would like to simply "take a hike".

When you combine 2.2 million acres of state forest with 283,000 acres of state park land, and then add to it the roughly 1.4 million acres of state game lands and 517,000 acres of Allegheny National Forest it is clear to see that residents of Pennsylvania are blessed to have over 4.4 million acres of public land to use for both pleasure and recreation.

There is an abundance of state parks, state picnic areas and state forestlands right here in central Pennsylvania. The BESF contains more than 193,000 acres along with the hundreds of acres of state parks for our outdoor enjoyment. There are areas where you not only can you find solitude, but also places where you can restore your soul. Why not take the opportunity to get outside while the weather is nice and enjoy nature's beauty while at the same time be refreshed and renewed in God's beautiful and wonderful creation.

TLS

Sources: <http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/stateparks/findapark/index.htm>

Editor's Note: My thanks to subscriber Robert Page of Mifflinburg for sending me the following note after reading Exploring the Bald Eagle Forest, Part II about the Civilian Conservation Corps in the July 2014 issue:

Tony,

I was just reading about the CCC camps, my dad had the Hayes Road Camp, about a mile below the Halfway Dam, just where you turn to go up the mountain. We use to stay there most of the summer. We went up to the CCC Camp Saturday nights to watch the movies. They were silent, no sound, They had a screen up between the road and the barracks. As soon as it was dark enough they would start. It was the first movie I even saw.

Bob Page
Mifflinburg, PA

Remembrance

Harry L. Snook, 86, of Weikert for more than 30 years, entered into rest at 10:30 a.m. Tuesday, July 22, 2014, in Hartley Township, Union County, due to injuries suffered in an automobile accident.

He was born March 19, 1928, in McClure, a son of the late George A. and Kathryn (Baker) Snook. He married the former Elizabeth K. "Betty" Kissinger, who preceded him in death in 2003.

Harry attended grade school in Laurelton and was a 1946 graduate of Mifflinburg Area High School.

After graduation, he was employed by the Dairyman's League working as a milk tester. Harry then served in the Army and was deployed in Korea from 1951 to 1952. After his honorable discharge, he farmed on the family farm until retirement.

Harry served on the SUN Area Technical School advisory board for three years and the school board of the Mifflinburg Area School District for 20 years. He was a member of the Mifflinburg Buggy Museum Association and Union County Historical Society.

Harry was always willing to lend a helping hand to anyone in need.

Surviving are three brothers and sisters-in-law, William T. and Elaine Snook, of Moorestown, N.J., Kenneth D. and Linda Snook, of Mifflinburg, and Donald R. and Barbara Snook, of Westfield; three sisters and one brother-in-law, Ruth Pioch, of Indianapolis, Ind., Elizabeth and Harold Klose, of Allentown, and Wilma Leitzel, of New Berlin; a special friend, Dorothy Dickie, of Mifflinburg; and numerous nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by three brothers, George, Joseph and Wilbur Snook.

Editor's Note: While I had "known" of Harry Snook most of my life, it wasn't until more recently that I had the privilege of getting to "know" him on a personal basis. Our friendship developed shortly after I began substituting at the Weikert Post Office for Postmaster Marian Kahley in 2008. I continued to substitute at the Weikert Post Office on a fairly regular basis for those who followed in Kahley's footsteps following her retirement. While my primary office was substitute at Millmont Post Office, I always enjoyed filling in at other posts offices, especially at Weikert. Having worked at numerous small post offices in the West End, you get to know people who come in for their mail on a regular basis pretty well. I had the pleasure of getting to know Harry L. Snook rather well.

Harry came to the Weikert Post Office every morning, since he had to make that 2.5-mile trip from his home near Cherry Run in order to pick up his copy of the Sunbury Daily Item. His newspaper box was located directly across the street from the Weikert Post Office. His first order of business, after pulling into the parking lot at the post office, was to get his newspaper then come in for his mail. He rarely had the key to open his mailbox, so I would hand him his mail directly, which was always a pleasure.

As a matter of course I greeted him by saying - good morning Harry, how are you doing? His answer was always the same refrain - "Oh, the best I can!" Sometimes he would include - "for an old guy". That was the same refrain I heard whether I saw him at the Union County Sportsmen's Club on a Friday evening, or whether I met up with him out in public. He was always doing the best he can.

My wife and I are not regular patrons of the Union County Sportsmen's Club, like Harry, but there were numerous times when we enjoy eating a meal there. Nearly every Friday evening we ate at the restaurant Harry Snook was there, or would arrive shortly after us. He routinely sat on the same chair at the same table. We even invited him to our table on occasion. In any event either Janice or myself, or both of us, made a deliberate effort to walk to his table to greet him and talk to him for a little before we left the restaurant.

Harry was a subscriber to the newsletter. Oftentimes during his visits to the post office, or at the club, our conversations centered on things of historical interest. We also engaged in mundane topics and at other times we could delve into more significant and thought provoking subjects. Our discussions were always interesting and harmonious, even though there were times when I recognized that we could agree to disagree.

Having spent 20 years as a school board member he was well versed on matters relating to local education. We both expressed our displeasure upon the closure of the outlying elementary schools in recent years. It was an action undertaken by the school board long after he had departed the board. We agreed that crowding an ever-larger number of impressionable young girls and boys into enormously large school facilities cannot possibly lead to a healthy situation for the students, or the teachers.

During his youth Harry attended a one-room school and recognized their benefits. While neither of us would have advocated returning to those conditions, the outlying elementary schools of the Mifflinburg School District proved their usefulness to generations of school students. Those schools also contributed greatly to the communities in which they were located. Harry and I agreed that the axiom "bigger is better" did not apply to schools.

Harry took great pride in his garden, and whenever Janice and I enjoyed a leisurely ride to Cherry Run, one of the things we always took note of was how his garden was progressing. He was a generous man, and each spring he would share his fresh crop of asparagus with Janice and others. He would search for me at one of the West End post offices so he could pass off a large bag of the green vegetable. Harry liked asparagus, but unfortunately he was unable to eat it due to the aftereffects it caused him. In return, Janice would bake him one of his favorite desserts, pecan pie.

Janice and I learned a few things that we did not know about Harry during his graveside service. Pastor Richard Devitt referred to him as "Mike" Snook and not Harry. Mike was a nickname that we had never heard previously. If someone had

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asked us who Mike Snook was we would not have had the slightest idea whom they were referring to. Even folks who knew him longer than we have were surprised to learn that his nickname was Mike.

Another fact that came out at the service was the mention of his generosity. Phil Frederick, former Director of the Union County Office of Veterans Affairs, shared with the attendees that it was Harry Snook who was responsible for the erection of the flagpole and the stone wall that grace the front of the Hironimus Church. Long time attendees of that church had no idea that Harry was the person responsible for that project. That not only speaks of his charitable spirit, but his character as well.

As mentioned earlier our topics of discussion at the Weikert Post Office were ordinary at times, but at other times were rather profound. Harry may have grown up a farm boy, and spent his working career as a dairy farmer, but he was a highly intelligent man. He not only possessed tremendous knowledge but he also had insightful wisdom. Having lived through the Great Depression, he knew what hard times and sacrifice were all about. Following the rough financial times of late 2008, Harry provided financial insights that my wife and I found useful.

His personal library, which he showed to Janice and I on one of our visits to his Tight End home, was eclectic. He was an avid reader and would occasionally bring a book from his collection to the Weikert Post Office for me to read. He could easily quote from ancient Greek philosophers, which I have to admit was over my head at times. However, I never felt intimidated as he quoted lines from a book he had read. By reciting those lines it was his way of keeping those quotes fresh on his mind.

One of things that gave me great pleasure was assisting Harry in a telephone reunion with one of his long lost Korean War buddies. Eighty-four year old Fred Ricciuti of Pittsburgh made headlines across the state (including the Daily Item) in May 2012. Harry recognized the name of his fellow soldier after reading the newspaper.

Ricciuti, a former Korean War Veteran, shot and wounded a 25-year-old crook who was attempting to enter his home at 4:30 in the morning. Ricciuti's and his invalid wife were asleep in the downstairs of their house when they were awakened by the ruckus of an intruder trying to break into the door. Without hesitation Ricciuti grabbed his handgun, the same one he carried during the Korean War in the 1950's, and shot the intruder. While alarmed and frightened, neither Ricciuti nor his wife was injured. The same could not be said for the intruder. His heroic efforts garnered attention all across the state, including that of Harry Snook.

When Harry related this story to me in the post office one day, I got the idea of doing an Internet search to see if I could come up with Ricciuti's telephone number to give to Harry. I found Ricciuti's phone number and provided it to Harry, and suggested that he give his old veteran buddy a call. Sometime later I learned from Harry that he did make the call and was able to talk with him. He said Ricciuti remembered him from their war experience together, and they were able to reminisce about old times.

My biggest regret is that I never took Harry on a mountain ride to the site of the Pardee Engine 59 crash site. It was something that he talked about, and wondered where it was located and hoped to see the spot sometime. I provided directions to the location, but instead I should have provided him with a ride to the site. He encouraged me on a number of occasions not to give up my efforts to erect a plaque at the site of the crash.

The only time I ever witnessed emotion and tears well up in Harry's eyes was during the rare occasion when he talked about his wife, Betty. He did not talk of her often, because it was evident that her loss was difficult to bear. He once told me that his marriage to Betty was the best thing that had ever happened to him in his life. Harry was a bachelor until he was 50 years old. After he and Betty were married he had an opportunity to see other parts of this country, and the world, (apart from his involvement during the Korean War) that he never would have seen and enjoyed had the two not met and gotten married. The reason I could personally identify with Harry on that aspect of his life is because that was something that we both had in common, finding our soul mates late in life.

Although he had no children Harry L. Snook made an indelible mark in the lives of his siblings, nieces, nephews, friends and neighbors. Evidence of how many lives he touched was on display at his graveside services on Saturday July 26, 2014, at the Hironimus Union Church Cemetery. The number of people present, and the words they shared were a testament to who he was, and what kind of human being he was. I am fortunate to have not only "known" Harry L. Snook, but I also had the pleasure of getting to "know" him. The sagacious old timer from Tight End of Union County will be sorely missed. Rest in peace my friend.



At the graveside service for Harry Snook on Saturday July 26, 2014, we learned that Harry Snook was the person responsible for the erection of the stone wall and flag pole adjacent to the Hironimus Union Church. Etched on the wall are five simple words - "To Honor All Who Served".

TLS

Blessings from the Bible

By Brenda Weaver

“Praise is due to you, O God”

Psalm 65: 1a (ESV)

A soft rain falls in the stillness of the night as I write. I am reflecting on our lovely month of July. With adequate rainfall, crops flourished in the fields. Grass stayed soft and green instead of growing brown and crunchy like it does during dry summers. Corn grew tall without the curling leaves of drought. Flower gardens burst into full bloom. By the roadsides, Chicory, Clover, and Queen Ann’s Lace blossoms swayed in warm breezes.

Sunny afternoons found the locusts scratching out their lazy summer song. Day Lilies bloomed. Fledglings flew. Butterflies fed. Farmers smiled. Black raspberries grew fat and sweet, to be scattered on cereal and splashed with milk. School children enjoyed their summer vacation. Gardeners harvested vegetables. Nights cooled for pleasant sleeping. All things considered, I think it has been a while since I have experienced a lovelier July!

Sometime during this month I alighted upon the picturesque words of Psalm 65. It described my perception of this July quite well.

*By awesome deeds you answer us with righteousness,
O God of our salvation,
the hope of all the ends of the earth and of the farthest seas;
the one who by his strength established the mountains, being girded with might...
You visit the earth and water it; you greatly enrich it;
the river of God is full of water; you provide their grain, for so you have prepared it.
You water its furrows abundantly, settling its ridges, softening it with showers,
and blessing its growth.
You crown the year with your bounty; your wagon tracks overflow with abundance.
The pastures of the wilderness overflow, the hills gird themselves with joy,
the meadows clothe themselves with flocks, the valleys deck themselves with grain,
they shout and sing together for joy.*

Psalm 65: 5-6; 9-13

I find myself wondering what I did with the gift God gave in this lush, unusually comfortable July. As the end of the month nears, and a night and day of rain have watered our community again, I take a walk and praise and thank the Lord. I notice, with joy, that if we still had wagon tracks, this evening they would be full. The fullness of the pastures, the meadows, the valleys, and the hills shout and sing together for joy.

*“Blessed is the one you choose and bring near, to dwell in your courts!
We shall be satisfied with the goodness of your house, the holiness of your temple!”*

Psalm 65:4

Loneliness can be viewed as a burden or a blessing. What if we would also see it as an invitation?

A lonely person may be chosen and brought near, to dwell in the very courts of God! What a royal invitation, one we can be satisfied with as we see the goodness of God’s house and the holiness of His temple. But where are “the courts of God?” Where is His house? His temple? A number of scriptures refer to them. (Finding these verses would make an interesting word study for one’s personal devotions.)

The children of Israel worshipped God in the temple courts; where do I worship Him today? A thankful heart is readily invited into the courts of God to worship, so I like to begin each day by thanking God. Praise is the language of worship, and with it we are invited into His courts. *“Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name”* Psalm 100:4.

Could it be then, that the courts of God are anywhere that I come into His presence with thanksgiving and praise? If such is the case, a local roadway became the courts of God to me this morning.

From the woods at the side of the road stepped a young fawn. It seemed almost to tiptoe into the wide world, washed and lush with an overnight rain. Silhouetted against the morning sun, the fawn was not fully visible, yet I knew by its size it still had the spots of youth. I slowed my car to a stop and praised God for the loveliness of this early morning gift. The fawn also stopped, looking about as if to also enjoy and offer thanks. With little sense of danger, it bent to lick rain water from the pavement before lightly stepping toward the other side of the road. As I crept forward, the fawn changed its mind and turned back toward the safety of tree cover. I stopped beside its path, catching a glimpse of white dots on brown, then rolled down my window and foolishly tried to warn the fawn—like any good mother would do.

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Only a few minutes had transpired, but I was grateful no cars approached on the busy roadway to disturb the silence and serenity of the scene. As I drove slowly on my way words wafted into my soul. *“Will not I care for you with such gentleness, and lead you in paths of joy and peace?”*

I knew then that I had visited the courts of God.

Prayer for Today:

“How lovely is your dwelling place, O Lord of hosts! My soul longs, yes, faints for the courts of the Lord; my heart and flesh sing for joy to the living God.” (Psalm 84:1-2)

Thank You!

I would like to thank the following people for making monetary donations toward the publication of this newsletter: Ava Boney of Hartleton; Harvey and Brenda Ilgen and Robert Page of Mifflinburg; Donald and Shirley Flinchbaugh of Jamestown, NY and Mark and Betty Auman of Beaver Falls, PA.

Thank you to all those who renewed their subscriptions, and also thank everyone who sent along kind words about the newsletter with their renewal notices.

I would like to thank Isabel Kline of Laurelton for loaning me several old West End photographs to copy and for donating May 1936 and July 1963 copies of The Mifflinburg Telegraph; Robert and Dianne Lynch for donating information and material about Brown’s School, the Hartley Township High School and a copy of an index that Dianne developed, and Donald Shively of Millmont for donating Shively family photographs and newspaper clippings.

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The photograph above shows the prototype of Rufus F. Boop’s invention - the Perfection Pipe Wrench. This wrench is owned by Neil and Alice Shoreman of Millmont.

rumors and speculation as to why the company failed, but substantial evidence to pinpoint exactly why has not been uncovered. There were certainly talented and skilled people within the organization. John T. Church was well known in the community. He and his family had a long history as owners and operators of the Glen Iron Furnace. Church was familiar with mining and refining iron ore and should have been an asset to the company.

According to news reports, Isaac Cromwell had decades of experience as general manager and superintendent of the Keystone Forging Works in Northumberland. His knowledge of the tool making business should have placed the company in an advantageous position.

Perhaps the biggest hurdle that the company had to overcome was financing for the project. Questions remain as to their ability to market shares of stock in order to raise sufficient capital to move the project forward. Perhaps there were other issues that thwarted their efforts and eventually led to the downfall of the company. While the decade of the 1920's was a time of unprecedented industrial growth across the country, that prosperity did not find its way into the Glen Iron Power & Tool Company.

The aspirations of the directors and stockholders as well as the residents of the West End who were hopeful of employment opportunities were dashed when they realized the project was never going to happen.

Having exerted years of his time, energy and money designing, patenting, and developing the prototype and then watching it fail had to be disappointing for Rufus F. Boop. While his dream of building a facility to manufacture and distribute his Perfection Pipe Wrench, and then getting his product into the hands of potential customers never came to fruition, he nonetheless deserves recognition for his efforts.

TLS

Editor's Note. My sincere thanks to Robert and Dianne Lynch of Mifflinburg for providing me with newspaper clippings and copies of Boop's patent for his Perfection Pipe Wrench and other helpful information used in this article. I would also like to thank Neil and Alice Shoreman of Millmont for the photograph of their home and for allowing me to examine and photograph the prototype of Rufus F. Boop's Perfection Pipe Wrench.

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:

Sat. Aug. 15, 1931. Feeling better. Mother, Florence and the children and I attended the Catherman reunion at Rock Oak Park. Was well attended. Rev. Judy gave several readings and Rev. Catherman spoke and gave a short talk. We enjoyed the refreshments.

We installed another gas pump at the garage. (Shively's Garage).

Penlines
From my
Kitchen to Yours
by Lucy Hoover

June 20 2014

Linus Martin (57) had one day surgery.

June 22

Ervin Hoover family were here for lunch. In the afternoon we went to the singing at the neighbors, Vernon and Norman Martin.

June 24

Harvey and Marlene Hoover of Mifflinburg have their third daughter. Her name is Maribeth Hoover. Grandparents are David and Ruth Hoover and Ivan and Ada Horning.

June 27

Elvin and Sarah Ann Zimmerman of Mifflinburg have a son named Travis Lavon Zimmerman. He has two brothers. Grandparents are Abram and Emma Zimmerman and Daniel and Esther Martin.

The other day I said to Isaac "Elsie is in Colorado, and Marie and Pauline are planning to go to Kentucky. Where would you like to go?" Without hesitating he pointed to a shack the neighborhood children built in their woods. Isaac has been asking to sleep there for a while already. Since his birthday is tomorrow I arranged for our family to camp there.

June 29

Aaron Martin (94) of Ephrata was at church. He is staying with his daughter, Lydia Ann and Esra Zimmerman for a short while.

July 6

Alvin and Doris Horning of Mifflinburg have their second daughter. Her name is Lynette Horning. Grandparents are Phares and Anna Horning and Paul and Lucy Weaver.

Mark and Elaine Reiff of Millmont have a son named Weston Levi. He has one sister. Grandparents are Allen and Dorothy Reiff and Vernon and Norma Martin.

July 11

Colton Ian Zimmerman was born to Eugene and Bethany Zimmerman of Mifflinburg. He has one brother and one sister. Grandparents are Amos and Susie Zimmerman and Earl and Mary Martin.

The small photograph in the upper left corner of page one show a view of the Salem Schoolhouse that was located off of Cold Run Road northeast of Hartleton. This school was located in close proximity (perhaps a little east) of the home located at 1880 Cold Run Road. This one-room school was built in 1871 and was attended by students from the village of Pleasant Grove area as well as those who lived north of Hartleton. This photograph was given to me by Robert and Dianne Lynch of Mifflinburg.

Looking Back

The following newspaper article was published in the August 9, 1877 edition of the Lewisburg Chronicle. The Chronicle was republishing this newspaper article from the Millheim Journal in Centre County. The toll gate referenced in this newspaper article would have been located somewhere west of the intersection of Route 45 and Paddy Mountain Road.

Turnpike Riot

The toll gate at the east end of the Narrows between this and Union County, on the Youngmanstown, Aaronsburg and Old Fort Turnpike was the scene of a serious riot last week. The toll house is occupied by a Mr. Holloway, who it appears was permitted to remain one month from April 1st, last, conditionally, or in other words if satisfactory to the company for that period could remain longer, if not to quit then. Not proving satisfactory, it was resolved that a change should be made.

Mr. Holloway refused to move into the gate house, and thus the matter stood until last week, a Mr. Yearick, the company's new man, was moved down.

He was permitted to move into the gate house, when another place was secured for him but also was frightened off from moving into that. The company secured the services of some fifteen men and went down on Thursday to eject the tenant and get possession of the house.

Mr. Holloway had quite a number of his friends there helping him guard his place for several days, but it so happened that at the hour these men came there that there were but some four men on guard.

The party inside was armed with guns, revolvers and clubs.

Admittance being refused, the company's men forced an entrance, and then took place a terrible fight, the parties clubbing each other, but the ejecting party proved too strong and cleared the premises, removing the goods out of the house and placing in the new man. Revolvers were flourished freely and one of the Turnpike men was wounded in the head by a pistol shot, an accidental discharge of a weapon by one of his own party. It appears as a result of the vigorous blows administered by the combatants that a number were considerably bruised.

Mr. Holloway has brought suit, we understand, against the parties. *Millheim Journal*.

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All of the newsletters published between January 2004 through the current issue are now available on the website. Please use the following address if you are interested in contacting the editor, making a donation or changing your address: Tony Shively, Post Office Box 3, Millmont PA 17845, telephone: (570) 922.4297 or E-mail: tshively@dejazzd.com

August Birthdays & Anniversaries

1 – Cory & Charlene Yarger - 1988	10 – Tommy Potoeski	19 – David and Della Schneeberg - 1967
1 – Anna Shirk	10 - Marlene Martin	20 – Dennis & Lena Susan - 1966
1 - Mae (Kuhns) Sullivan	10 – Angie Dorman	20 – Glenda Sheesley
2 – James Catherman	11 – Bob & Maryann Losik	20 – Henry Dorman
2 – Irene Musser	11 – Angela Brown	21 – Martha Stover
2 – Pat Kline	11 – Beverly Scheffler	22 - Tim Osborne
3 – Chris Bilger	11 – Jeff Erdley	22 – Sue Blyler
3 – Brandon Bilger	12 – Grace Antol	23 - Vada Erdley
3 – Adam Dorman	12 – Ken & Beverly Catherman - 1962	23 – Nancy Hendricks
3 – Sean Klingman	12 – Naomi Aurand	24 – William D. Barnett
4 – Carl R. Catherman	13 – Rodney Sholter	24 – Ruth & Sam Ely - 1964
5 – Fred Keister	13 – Mary Ellen Hoffman	24 - Grace Kuhns
5 – Ricky & Tina Sholter - 1995	14 – Glenda Sheaffer	24 – Tom Guyer
5 – Alta Z. Oberholtzer	14 – Tom Catherman	24 – Lois Feaster
7 – Ronald and Darlene Ulrich	15 – Sam & Shirley Diehl - 1948	24 – Brenda Klingman
7 – Jacob Sholter	15 – Galen & Esther Keister - 1959	25 – Norman and Pearl Strickler – 1961
7 – Kim Blyler	16 – Pearl Gower	28 – Carl Day
7 – Carol Martin	17 – Larry & Angela Brown - 1991	28 – Menno Zimmerman
8 – Brandi Spotts	17 – Steve & Pat Libby - 1968	29 – William “Bill” Little
9 – Mary Ella Martin	17 – Levi Brubaker	31 – Norma J. Catherman

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