



# Millmont Box Factory

Throughout its history the village of Millmont has been home to a number of small businesses. The Rex Company, the Shirt Factory, Shively's Brooms, numerous merchants and garages, blacksmith shops, a printing shop, a small brick factory, a grist mill, shutter factory, and other places of business have been part of the landscape over the past 133 years. However, there has only been one major employer in the village that provided steady employment over a long period of time. That was the Millmont Box Factory.

From 1883 until 1951 the Box Factory provided employment to many village residents, as well as residents in the surrounding area. During its nearly 70 years of operation the firm was subjected to two devastating fires. The first occurred in December 1912 and the second destructive fire occurred in December 1951. Despite the near total loss following the first fire owners quickly rebuilt their facility. The overwhelming loss as a result of the second fire brought the operation to a close.



The origins of the Box Factory operation in Millmont can be traced to the year 1883. It was during that year that William E. and Hannah Smith purchased two lots from Jacob E. Royer at the corner of Third and Penn Streets. A 60' x 150' two story building to house the milling operation was erected upon this double lot.

In 1884, William E. Smith & Co. was formed when Smith and his wife sold 1/2 of their inter-

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# The Millmont Times

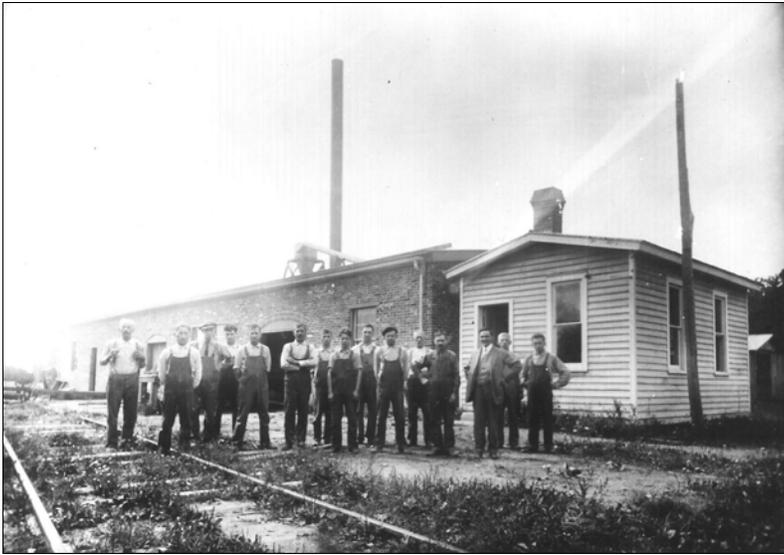
DECEMBER 2007

## Millmont Mailbox by Postmaster Sam Smith

It's hard to believe that the Holiday Season is upon us again. Christmas stamps are selling briskly, and parcels are being sent to loved ones. When you send a parcel, there are many reasons to send it Priority mail versus Parcel Post. Speed is certainly the main reason. A Priority parcel to California takes about 2-3 days normally, while a regular package sent Parcel Post takes about 10 days to 2 weeks (maybe more with all the extra parcels in the system at this time of year). In many cases, the difference in price may be as little as 10 cents! Many times customers tell me that it doesn't matter when it gets there. Maybe time doesn't matter, but I always feel that the less time it's in the transportation system; the less time there is for the chance of damage or loss. Another reason for sending a package Priority Mail versus Parcel Post, that many customers are unaware of, is the fact that if a Parcel Post package needs to be returned to the sender, because the addressee has moved, refused it, a wrong address, or any other reason for non-delivery, the sender will be charged the full amount of postage for the return of the package. If the addressee has moved and the package is forwarded, they are charged postage for the package being forwarded to them. With Priority Mail, packages are returned FREE of charge, and forwarded FREE of charge! I really encourage anyone sending a parcel to use Priority Mail or our overnight Express Mail because of their superior value and service. With the price of gasoline, sending parcels and shopping with mail order makes a lot of sense and cents!

I hope to see many of you during the Christmas season. Stop in and see the lobby my wife decorated this year. I'm sure a couple days before Christmas I can persuade her to send up some of her cookies for my customers to enjoy. I'm busy getting ready for my baseball card show, January 5, at the Shikellamy High School. Another local athlete, Jason Neitz of Lewisburg has kindly agreed to be an autograph guest. I'll have more info on this in my next article. The Post Office will be closed Tuesday, December 25, to celebrate Christmas and Tuesday, January 1, 2008 for New Years Day. Merry Christmas!

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Workers at the Millmont Box Factory pose outside the plant for this circa 1922 photograph. Unfortunately I do not have all of the names of the individuals shown in the photograph. Those that I can identify are Ned Adams, Clarence Blyler, Roy Adams, Reuben Feaster, Charles Ruhl, Sam Adams, and Charles Adams. If you can identify anyone on this photograph please contact me at the address shown on page 12.

est in the factory to Horace B. Cawley for \$500. At the time Cawley was serving as agent at the Millmont Railroad Station. He continued to serve the community as station agent during his partnership with Smith.

By 1890 the box factory and planing mill employed about 20 men. Keiffer Wolfe, a prominent Hartleton resident, was the firm's general manager and primary salesman. The sales aspect of the job often required him to travel throughout the state on behalf of the company. Robert H. Watson, who lived at 75 Maple Street in Millmont, was one of the first employees hired at the factory. He spent nearly 20 years as superintendent of the Box Factory.

On April 1, 1891, Horace B Cawley, and his wife Clara, sold their ½ interest in the company to Abram E. Grove for the sum of \$1,000. William E. Smith now had a new business partner. Like Cawley, Abe Grove was also employed as the station agent at Millmont when he went into partnership with Smith.

Newspaper clippings from the late 1800's and early 1900's sometimes revealed what business conditions were like from time to time at the factory.

Comments about the factory were culled from the

“Millmont” columns written and submitted to various newspapers by a local unnamed columnist.

Here are few excerpts from some of those columns: December 9, 1893: “The box factory was compelled to suspend work for several days this week on account of having no lumber.” A December 1894 clipping noted, “The box factory is rushed with orders.” “The Box shop is in full blast at present. Hope it may continue to boom” were the comments submitted in the June 15, 1895 column. A May 5, 1906 column stated “Work is slack in the box-factory at present owing to the strike.” The columnist made no mention whether it was employees striking or if the source of the problems were external.

Workers at the Millmont factory were exposed to hazardous and dangerous working conditions. The saws, planers, and machinery used during the manufacturing process were not equipped with guards and safety features that we often take for granted today. The list of injured workers who lost fingers, hands, or toes includes John Wert, Thomas Houser, Francis Walter, Rev. Ed Confer, Lincoln Dorman and others. A tragic accident occurred at the factory on December 17, 1904. Newton Rearick, age 26, husband of the former Laura Kaler, and father to be, lost his life while servicing machinery early one morning prior to the start of production.

On December 10, 1908, William E. Smith & Co. sold the Box Factory to Charles R. Ruhl and Ernest Watson. Ruhl was a highly respected Lewis Township businessman. Watson, a native of Millmont, was the son of Robert H. Watson, superintendent of the Box Factory. On January 25, 1909 the firm was incorporated under the name “Ruhl & Watson.” A total of 100 shares of stock, with a par value of \$50 were issued. Charles and Annie E. Ruhl owned fifty shares and Watson owned the remaining fifty. Ruhl & Watson made various improvements to the building after purchasing the business.

The line of products offered by the company in 1909 included box shooks (unassembled wooden boxes and crates), flooring, plaster lath, wainscoting, siding, novelties, window sash, window boxing, doors, door boxing, porch columns, shutters, blinds, molding, chestnut shingles, and Hemlock bill lumber. They also carried Brenings Paints.

On Friday December 27, 1912, a fire originating in the engine room quickly engulfed the entire two-story wooden structure. A recently installed dynamo and all of the machinery was lost. In addition to the loss of the factory, one railroad boxcar loaded with finished products was also destroyed. Newspaper accounts record that it was a windy day. Fiery embers from the inferno were carried in all directions. While many residents joined the bucket brigade to help save adjacent dwellings, at the time many were concerned that the entire village might go up in flames. Fortunately the roofs on many of the homes in town were blanketed in snow, which helped to prevent further destruction. The loss at the factory was estimated at \$15,000. Between 20 and 30 men were thrown out of work.

Elwood Showalter of Mifflinburg recalled hearing stories about the fire that were told to him by his mother Ruth (Adams) Showalter (1898-1991). The home of Ruth's parents, Sam and Clara Adams, was situated immediately north of

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# BIRD TALK

by Jim McCormick



“...a little acrobat with a golden crown.” The season continues on its roller-coaster course; one day summer, one day winter. The mountainside has now taken on shades of brown; most of the colors are fading away. The unusual part, of course, is that there still are leaves on many of the trees! It is hard to believe, but the Winter Solstice is only a few weeks away and the days will begin to get longer. Try to watch the path of the sun on that day; it makes the smallest arc in the sky of the entire year. We have been fortunate lately with much needed rain and will at least have some moisture in the ground when it finally freezes.

Early in the month, as I was just reaching the concrete Millmont Bridge, I caught a glimpse of some flitting movement in a Sweetgum Tree along Penns Creek. Most of the leaves were gone, so I got an unusually good view of what it was. As I focused on the little bird, I saw “a

*little acrobat with a golden crown.*” It was a Golden-crowned Kinglet. This Kinglet, like its cousin the Ruby-crowned Kinglet, is usually only seen when the leaves finally fall off the trees. The Kinglets are constantly in motion and are almost impossible to photograph (I didn’t have a chance!). It was a workout just following the little dynamo leaping and flipping from branch to branch. It really did remind me of an acrobat swinging from a trapeze. The bird is only about four inches from beak to tail, but is always fun to watch when you can actually see the little ‘crown’ on the top of its head.

Most of the waterfowl have already left our area, except for the ever-present Mallards. On my way home from work at mid-month, I saw a group of three ducks in the area of Penns Creek, just upstream from Penns Creek Pottery. I didn’t have my binoculars with me, so I put my telephoto lens on my camera and thought I could just get a photo and identify them later. I really didn’t think I was going to even get out of the car before they took off, but I got lucky. I actually got to the edge of the Creek and took several photos of the little group. A raptor flew over and they got a little nervous. I couldn’t tell if it was an Osprey or an immature Bald Eagle. I didn’t get a good look at it. The ducks eventually took off and I thought that when I got home it would be an easy task to identify them. They had been on the far side of the Creek and I had to enlarge the photo quite a bit. I still wasn’t quite sure what I was looking at, but I am guessing that it is a male Bufflehead and two females. What do you think? See the photo to the right. There is a website I found which has quite a few photos of Buffleheads: [www.flickr.com/photos/tags/bufflehead](http://www.flickr.com/photos/tags/bufflehead).

Winter is on our doorstep and soon all the leaves will be gone. That is always a good time to get a better look at all the birds that have been hiding from view all year. It is also a good time to start learning the names of the birds you have probably seen all your life, but never bothered to learn about. Grab a couple of Bird books or go on-line and start learning about those incredible little creatures in our midst!



## Wanted

Subscriber Dahle Bingaman asked me to put a notice in the newsletter requesting readers help him locate photographs of several of Hartley Township’s once room schoolhouses that were razed and the lumber used to construct the large schoolhouse in Laurelton. That building is now home to the Hartley Township Community Center. If you have photographs of any of these one room schools you can contact Dahle at 1280 Ranck Road, Millmont, Pa 17845.



“Millmont Railroad Station” crocks are available from the Laurelton Women’s Club. The cost is \$30. To pick up your crock you can call Carolyn Stamm at 922.1888 or Bev Catherman at 922.1640. Crocks produced earlier by the Women’s Club are also available. They include Penn Mills, Hartley Township High School and the Laurelton Center A Building. The cost for these three crocks is \$25 each.

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Shown in the top photograph is Ernest Watson. Below is Charles R. Ruhl.

the Box Factory. Ruth was fourteen years old at the time of the blaze. The family Christmas tree was situated in front of the living room window, which faced the Box Factory. Ruth recalled how the clear hard candy tree ornaments melted from the intense heat generated by the burning structure. It was only through the efforts of the bucket brigade that the Adams home was spared the same fate as the factory next door.

Ruhl & Watson immediately rebuilt the factory in the aftermath of the fire. A new one-story brick building was under roof plant within two months of the fire. By the middle of March the last boxcar load of new machinery had arrived at the site and was ready to be installed. Within about four months of the disaster the plant was ready to resume production.

In 1922 Ruhl & Watson sold their business to the Millmont Box Company. A search through courthouse documents as to names of the individuals who incorporated under that name was unsuccessful. I did find the letter of incorporation from the state of Pennsylvania, which was recorded on March 27, 1922. A Mifflinburg Telegraph newspaper account of the pending sale noted that J. Ned Adams of Millmont, and James W. Hoover and J. Robert Thompson of Mifflinburg were the new owners. Harry Stuck is reported to have purchased the factory in 1926.

In the autumn of 1927 the Millmont Box factory expanded its physical plant with the construction of a new dry kiln, storeroom, tool room, and dry storage building. Once completed the facility was 96 feet wide and 250 feet long.

Around 1941 the Box Factory entered into agreement with Jasper Wood Products of Watsontown to produce plywood cores. These cores were sent to Jasper for final assembly as radio (and later TV) cabinets for the Philco Corporation, also of Watsontown. Production at the Millmont factory was steady when the company was struck by yet another disaster.

On December 13, 1951 flames consumed the Millmont Box Factory. The fire broke out about 1:00 p.m. in the dry kiln containing about 60,000 feet of lumber. The cause of the fire was undetermined. In minutes the fire mushroomed through the entire plant. Like the fire 39 years earlier, strong northwesterly winds fanned the flames and spread flying embers throughout the village. Once again village residents were in a state of panic.

Fire companies from throughout Union and Snyder Counties were summoned to the scene to extinguish the conflagration. Fire hoses were stretched along Penn Street from the site of the fire to Cold Run behind Shirk's Store in order to provide water to fight the blaze. Within minutes 10,000 square feet of manufacturing space, along with the dry kiln, storage shed, and office was little more than a heap of burning ruins. In addition to the machinery lost in the blaze nearly 200,000 feet of finished and unfinished poplar, mahogany, cedar, and basswood were

also consumed.

Although the fire broke out during production hours, no lives were lost as a result. There were also no injuries to those who helped extinguish the blaze in sub-freezing temperatures. Although dwellings in close proximity to the factory were at risk, none were lost due in large measure to the heroic efforts of the firefighters.

Harry Stuck, owner of the factory, estimated damages to building and contents at between 75 and 100 thousand dollars. Insurance covered a portion of the loss. Unlike the December 1912 fire, company officials decided against rebuilding.

Although the Box Factory provided employment opportunities to generations of local residents, Millmont's only major employer was now history. It was a severe blow to the local economy. In human terms it was even more agonizing for village residents as more than two-dozen men, some who had worked at the plant for many years, found themselves without a job.

On June 17, 1952, the Board of Directors of the Millmont Box Company Inc. voted to sell the three vacant lots where their factory was once located to Lloyd and Edna Herrold for the sum of \$200. Herrold constructed the home at 11 Third Street in Millmont, now owned by Kenneth and Kathy Groff, on the site of the Millmont Box Factory.

My thanks to Elwood Showalter of Mifflinburg for providing information used in this article. Other sources used include The Mifflinburg Telegraph, The Daily Item, and the Union County Register and Recorder's office.

The Lewis Township Village Green Recreation Association has authorized the production of a wooden replica of the original two-story wood frame Millmont Box Factory. It is the desire of the association to have the miniatures available in time for Christmas. If you have purchased previous miniatures from the association, and you indicated your willingness to purchase future editions, you will be notified when they will be available for pickup at Shirk's Store in Millmont.

# Penns Creek Angler

## by Bruce Fisher

Here we are at the end of November and beautifully colored leaves are still on the trees. I'm not sure I've ever seen this before, or it's been so many years I don't remember it. In my last article I was very concerned about the low water in Penns Creek and the Brown Trout that are so special. It's been months since I've seen a good hatch of insects or the trout that feed on them. It seemed like there were two Herons in every pool and several Ospreys patrolling their usual territory. The Kingfishers were defending their spots and disputes broke out almost by the minute. I know this is nature's way, but the birds sure had the best fishing this year. On many occasions I've seen Osprey hit the water with a loud crash and come up with a fish, it's a wonder they can get airborne again with the size of the fish they catch. Some of the fish they caught were suckers and some were trout; it's an amazing sight. Since the beginning of November I've had a few opportunities to fish and walk the creek, and I noticed the smaller trout had come back in good numbers.

Around the first week of November I fished a large pool and stumbled on a good Blue Winged Olive hatch and caught a few fish on dry flies. I didn't get any large fish but I did get some in the 10-14 inch range. It was wonderful to see they had made it through the long dry summer of 2007. At the middle of the month I saw more and more fish in their normal holding water. Now my only concern was where are these fish going to spawn? I know there are many spots in the main creek that the trout spawn but they are few and far between. To make matters worse the feeder creeks are getting closed in with large rocks from the floods over the past few years and the fish will have a terrible time getting up to their traditional spawning areas to deposit eggs. But again this is nature's way of letting the strongest fish survive.

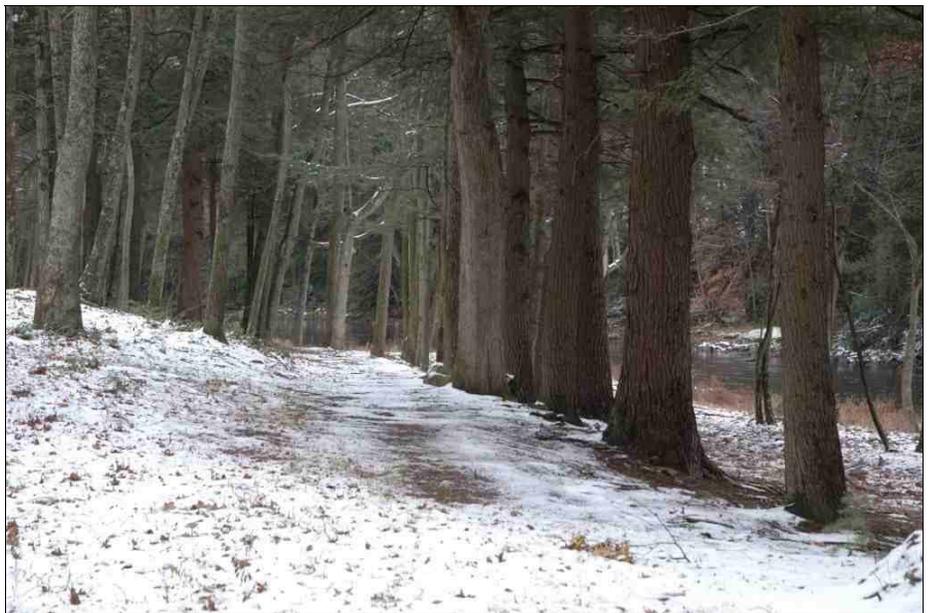
While fishing during the last week of November I caught several fish that had spawned somewhere and were now rising to small beetles and ants. I know that when the hatches end in late fall a beetle will usually take a fish or two and if that doesn't work a streamer will usually grab their attention. I hope in early December I'll wake up to a nice warm day and get the rod out and go for a walk. The spawn will be over and I might just use a yellow stonefly nymph to attract a hungry brown.

I hope the story I tell next month will speak of bigger fish and plenty of them. Until that time I'll still be concerned about the larger fish because they seem to take the low hot water harder than the smaller fish. I know my best prospects for finding larger fish will arrive in December and January when the creeks are devoid of fishermen and the water is higher. So all I can do is hope and pray the big fish are o.k. and doing just fine.

To close this article I can hear and feel the wind out of the west and the air is cooling considerably. This is good for the trout and the possibility of rain or snow, but my poor fingers will be cold. It's hard to tie flies when your fingers are frozen. I want to wish everyone a Merry Christmas; my next article will reach you in the year 2008. How time flies... ;>

"Catch you later" - 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.pennscreekanangler.com](http://www.pennscreekanangler.com)



Winter scene along Penns Creek. Photograph courtesy of the Bruce Fisher's website:  
[http://pennscreekanangler.com/the\\_wildlife.htm](http://pennscreekanangler.com/the_wildlife.htm)

The small photograph in the upper left hand corner of page one shows the Millmont Box Factory circa 19078. This photograph was provided to me courtesy of Shirley (Showalter) Boyer of Mifflinburg.



# Meanderings

by

*Hertha S. Wehr*

## Christmas 2007

I was tempted to use the first Christmas column I wrote, which was in 2002. Yes, I've been writing this column since then, in fact I started in June of 2002. Tony gave me a lot of leeway as to what I could write, so with much trepidation I began to put down my thoughts. Sometimes I've had to check with people, with books, and search my memory to get a story together. Since I write in the month before the paper comes out I sometimes have difficulty projecting my thoughts to the subject I'm writing about. This is one of those times.

Christmas is different each year and yet it is the same. The Advent Season, in the churches, is the beginning of a new season, a looking forward to a new birth. But to many of us Christmas is the ending of the year, perhaps the ending of projects we've started, and the looking forward to a less busy season. Most of the outside work has been done and some of us are looking forward to doing inside hobbies, and perhaps to a more restful time. However, the time we should perhaps be thinking about, the real reason for Christmas, instead finds us scurrying around trying to find the perfect gift for

someone, trying to please someone who can't be pleased, no matter what you do. These are the distractions that keep us from perhaps going to church or spending time with family and renewing our good times together. Our family, meaning the family I grew up in, used to gather around the piano and sing carols, or other Christmas songs. Do you remember Jolly Old St. Nicholas, Up On The Housetop, Jingle Bells, and others we learned from home or the one room school? No, we had not been exposed to Rudolph The Red Nosed Reindeer, which was to come later.

This year takes on a more somber tone as once again we are at war; many families are split between two continents. Some have come home with disabilities, minds that can't put all they have seen behind them, and many families will have family members who won't be coming home at all. All the more reason for us to celebrate Christmas as it is supposed to be.

Perhaps another reason to approach the season with a bit of speculation is that prices seem to be rising on everything, and it isn't going to stop in the near future. The housing market is in trouble. Gasoline prices are higher than they have ever been, which in turn affects the cost of everything that is transported. Fuel oil is more expensive as everyone who heats a home knows. Electricity is going to go up if their appeals to government regulatory agencies are granted. It is indeed a season to stop and ponder.

I seem to have pointed out all the glum and dreary facts of life. How can I put some Christmas cheer into your thoughts? I guess I'd have to say, love one another, make the best of what you have, be kind to one another and never forget that life is sometimes what you make it, good or bad.

I do wish you a Christmas filled with good cheer, and a New Year with hope for peace.

## *Field Notes, by WCO Dirk Remensnyder*



Cadets in the Ross Leffler School of Conservation are assigned to seasoned field officers during the hunting season to gain valuable experience that will help them once they graduate and are assigned to a district of their own. During a cadets field rotation they work with and are evaluated by four different WCO's, which are known as field training officers. While the cadets are learning and being evaluated they also evaluate their training officers to find out what it takes to be a successful field officer. They then use all the qualities of those field officers to develop and refine their own style and technique. Cadet Deal was first assigned to WCO Groshek and then to me. He immediately discovered one trait that WCO Groshek and I had in common, which he thought was a requirement to be a successful field officer. Cadet Deal noted that we both owned "One eyed dogs"

which were both missing their left eye. Well, if this is a trait that makes a successful field officer then I know one Cadet that is in the market for a one eyed dog.

Turkey hunters should have no problem finding a flock of turkeys in Union Co. this year. On the first day of turkey season I located a flock of approx. 35 birds in a field and watched them for over two hours.

## Recipe of the Month

by Janice (Dorman) Shively

### Sweet Potato Casserole

4 C. cooked sweet potatoes (about 6 average in size)

¼ C. butter

2 eggs

½ C. sugar

1 T. vanilla

½ C. sweetened coconut

½ C. brown sugar

¼ C. flour

2 T. butter

½ C. chopped pecans (or English walnuts if you prefer)

Mash sweet potatoes. Add ¼ C. butter, eggs, sugar and vanilla. Stir well. Add coconut. Put mixture into greased 2-quart casserole dish. Combine brown sugar, flour and 2 T. butter till crumbly. Add pecans. Sprinkle on top of potatoes.

Bake, covered, at 350° for 45 minutes. Uncover and bake an additional 15 minutes.



A former pastor's wife, Amy Murphy, shared this recipe with me years ago. It quickly became a favorite for our Easter, Thanksgiving, and Christmas gatherings. I've adapted the original recipe to suit my taste, not as sweet as the original recipe was.

**Tip:** As opposed to peeling the raw sweet potatoes, I scrub them well and cut into like sized pieces (about 2-inches in size) and cook them until they are fork tender. Drain and allow to cool. The skins will peel right off of the potatoes!

ENJOY!

## Introducing our new website!

In recent months we have encountered numerous problems e-mailing The Millmont Times to nearly 300 subscribers. Therefore, we now have a website: [www.millmonttimes.com](http://www.millmonttimes.com). The website is not fancy, but meets our need to make each monthly newsletter available as a PDF to anyone that would like to retrieve it in this manner. Despite the fact that we pay a monthly charge for the website, there is no fee to access or download the current issue, as well as back issues of the newsletter. The website currently holds all of the 2006 and 2007 newsletters, and it is our goal to eventually post all of the past issues of The Millmont Times.

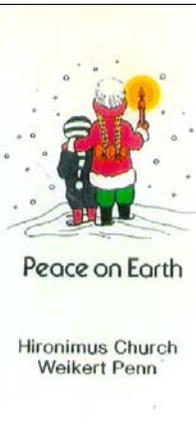
To view the December 2007 issue of The Millmont Times, or any issue that is posted, simply log on to [www.millmonttimes.com](http://www.millmonttimes.com), right click the icon below the month, and select *open link*. Each issue is in color and can be printed on your home computer in color or black and white, if you so desire.

You can add [www.millmonttimes.com](http://www.millmonttimes.com) to your favorites. We will make every effort to post each issue of The Millmont Times by the 3<sup>rd</sup> of the month. Please check out the website and let us know what you think. There is an e-mail link on the website, and a guest book on the *About* page.

## Letters and E-mails (and photographs) to the Editor

Dear Tony, Although we get the Times through the Internet, we would like you to have this donation. It is a wonderful paper and has so many varied articles. Hertha's recent article about the origins of the VFW and Legion is helpful for use in the Pennsylvania Room of the Herr Library as well as in timely speeches to different organizations. Features about Hairy John's, Hartleton, and the newest on Laurelton have been enjoyed. Thanks for adding to our knowledge of local history.

Sincerely, Tom & Peggy Reimensnyder, Mifflinburg.



Hi Tony: Although I receive The Millmont Times free over the Internet, that does not mean that I am not required to give monetary support for your endeavor. I know you put a lot of time, work, and money into each issue. Thank God there are people like you who record the memories of the older people before they pass on, because, when they are gone the memories of the way things use to be are gone too. Please accept my donation and keep up the good work.

Marvin & Connie Englehart, Mifflinburg, Pa.

Winter scene of the Hironimus Church in Weikert, courtesy of Rev. Ralph Unroe.

## Lewis Township News

The Lewis Township Board of Supervisors met on Tuesday, October 9, 2007, at 7:30 p.m., at the Municipal Building, Millmont, Pennsylvania. Those attending the meeting were as follows: Supervisors, Donald Shively, Wayne Klingman and Henry Sanders, Solicitor, Thomas Boop, tax payers of the township and Karen L. Watters, Secretary.

Chairman Donald Shively called the meeting to order. He led the group with the pledge of allegiance.

The floor was opened for public comment, there being none.

The minutes and treasurer's report were reviewed; Wayne Klingman made a motion to approve the minutes and treasurer's report as presented and pay the bills for October, seconded by Henry Sanders.

➤Hearing of Visitors- Andy Lyons and Pete Johnson were present to discuss their candidacy for District Attorney of Union County. District Attorney Johnson gave an overview of his background and education. He has worked in the District Attorney's Office since 1991, being an Assistant and being elected as District Attorney in 1995. He worked part-time through 1997, then gave up his private practice in 1997 and working full-time at the part-time salary. In 2006 the DA's salary was subsidized by a grant increasing the salary rate to a full time salary. He continued reviewing his accomplishments over the years in the DA's office. Andy Lyons has been in private practice for over 32 years, he worked part-time as an ADA under District Attorney Showalter. He currently is the Lewisburg Borough Council Solicitor and the County Solicitor. He went on to say that he has a strong commitment in public service. He is active in the middle schools regarding drug use education.

➤Correspondence- Letter from the Union County Conservation District on the Dirt and Gravel grants. After some discussion, it was determined that there was no road eligible for this grant.

➤A Letter from Stacy Mast, Mifflinburg Community Ambulance thanking the township for their continued support.

➤A letter from DCNR notifying the township of a PA Water Obstruction and Encroachment Permit for a project located on Brandon Road. They will be installing a reinforced concrete box culvert with associated wing walls, headwalls and aprons.

➤Donald Shively was contacted by David Henderson regarding a tree on Millmont Road. This tree is on a state road and cannot be trimmed by the township, the state would have to be contacted.

➤Wayne Klingman, David Oldt, Thomas Watters and Don Shively were present for the township at the County Comprehensive Meeting on September 26, 2007. There was a public forum with several speakers. The next meeting will be held at the Hartley Township Municipal Building on November 14, 2007 at 7:00 p.m. The committee needs public input. The next Lewis Township planning committee meeting is scheduled for November 28, 2007.

➤Zoning Permits-Martin and Englehart.

➤Martha Witmer, Zoning Office presented proposed new permit fees for the boards review. The Planning Committee will review the proposed changes at their next meeting and the supervisors could possibly adopt the changes at their December meeting.

➤Village Green- DCNR funds were released and deposited into the General Funds. The Committee did not provide the supervisors with a list of the members willing to serve. A workshop will be scheduled to prepare guidelines for the committee to work under. Thomas Boop, Solicitor suggested that the supervisors officially appoint committee members. Once appointed the committee can organize on their own. The supervisors need to maintain control of the committee. There was some discussion on the committee's purpose and the responsibility of the volunteers. Wayne Klingman made a motion to send a letter to Mr. Bilger regarding the workshop meeting scheduled for Wednesday, October 24, 2007, 7:00 pm. at the municipal building in Millmont. The purpose of this meeting is to get suggestions regarding guidelines for the operation of the Village Green Board and members, seconded by Henry Sanders. The secretary will also request that the members provide a list of all interested parties willing to serve on the committee.

➤The Martin zoning appeal was updated. An Order of Court was received and the Martins have until 10/20/07 to appeal the decision of the Court

➤Ken Catherman, road master, reported that the seal coat project

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## Blessings from the Bible

by Brenda Weaver

*"Oh how great is thy goodness,  
which thou hast laid up for them that fear thee;  
which thou hast wrought for them that trust in thee  
before the sons of men!"*

Psalm 31:19

Did you know heaven has a "Lay Away Department"? Read the above verse again. God lays up goodness for those who fear Him—surprise packages to be given to His children, and not just at Christmas time. Not only does God have these gifts laid away for us, He has "wrought" them. (Pardon me, while I say "Wow!")

"Wrought Iron Works," I remember the sign hanging on a country store near our home when I was a child. I came to understand that "wrought" meant "worked," and the iron for sale had been forged and welded into various shapes. Can you imagine God working? How elaborately, carefully He creates packages of goodness to lay away for those who trust Him. Can you think of surprise packages He has given you?

Last month I mentioned our daughter and son-in-law, Lori and Kevin, and their struggle with facing his brain tumor. God has been good to give them surprise packages of goodness in the midst of the pain: A huge pile of firewood, chopped with love by brothers in Christ. An incredible sequence of events, providing a ride to a doctor's appointment when a fuel filter quit. Phone calls to encourage. Precious prayers by friends who care. And then there were Bible verses, satin-wrapped and ribbon-tied, straight from a God who cares. Hearing of the gifts God is giving them affirms my faith and cheers my aching heart. God really can carry them through tough times. He may choose to give the gift of physical healing or ultimate healing.

Psalm 31 holds other fine verses to help us trust God: *In thee, O Lord, do I put my trust (v.1). Into thine hand I commit my spirit: thou hast redeemed me, O Lord God of truth (v.5). I will be glad and rejoice in thy mercy: for thou hast considered my trouble: thou hast known my soul in adversities (v.7). My times are in thy hand. (v. 15) Be of good courage, and he shall strengthen your heart, all ye that hope in the Lord (v. 24).*

Another precious promise for those who fear God is found in verse 20: *"Thou shalt hide them in the secret of thy presence from the pride of man: thou shalt keep them secretly in a pavilion from the strife of tongues."* I am so glad to be God's child, hidden in His presence and blessed with gifts wrought by His hand!

Prayer for today: *O Lord God, I put my trust in Thee. Thank You, thank You, for the treasured promises found in Your Word. Thank You for surprise packages of goodness You have laid away for me and all those who fear You. I want to hide in Your presence. Amen.*

# Penlines From my Kitchen to Yours

by *Lucy Hoover*

## October 17, 2007

Allen & Darlene Zimmerman have a son named Christian. He has two brothers and two sisters. Grandparents are Phares & Ada Zimmerman and Irvin and Esther Martin.

We went to the funeral of Curvin's cousin, Susan Hoover (40) at Honey Brook Mennonite Church. She died in a car accident.

## October 18

Mom has spent six days at our house. She went home this morning. Enos & Rachel Shirk have a son named Earl Ray. He has two brothers and two sisters. Grandparents are Naaman & Florence Shirk and Milton & Edith Hurst.

## October 19

Jere & Ruth Ann Martin have a son named Timothy Aaron. He has three brothers. Grandparents are Levi & Lydia Martin and George & Edna Martin.

## October 20

The three girls went with grandparent Hoover's to spend the day in New York. Curvin went to an auction, so I went to mom's for the day.

## October 21

Noah & Elsie Zimmerman have a daughter named Marcille Rose. She has three brothers and three sisters. Grandparents are John & Esther Zimmerman.

Aaron & Minerva Zimmerman have a son named John Adam. He has four brothers and four sisters. Mrs. Etta Zimmerman is the only grandparent the baby has that is still living. The two babies that were born today are cousins.

Mrs. Mervin (Irene) Horning (33) has a tumor on her adrenal gland. She will need surgery. They have five children.

## October 26

Mom was taken to the E.R. during the night and admitted in ICU because of congestive heart failure.

## October 30

Mom came home this afternoon. She is doing well.

Laurie Beth (9 month), daughter of Jerry & Lorraine Hoover, died at Philadelphia Children's Hospital. She spent a lot of time in hospitals, but was cared for by the family whenever she was well enough to be at home. Jerry & Lorraine have one other child, Rosalie is 3 years old.

Elam & Maria Brubacker have bought a farm close to Penns Creek. They plan to move on November 29, 2007.

Elsie started a winter garden in a glass gallon jar. She kept moving it around, trying to keep it in the sunlight. Along came her helpful little sis and wrapped the jar in 3 or 4 blankets, then she asked me if I thought that would keep it warm!

## November 7

Adin Zimmerman of Millmont went for surgery to remove his gall bladder.

Lisa Martin (7) daughter of Steven & Esther had an appendectomy at Geisinger Medical Center.

## November 14

James & Verna Reiff have a daughter named Joanna Alyssa. She is their first child. Grandparents are John Aaron and Lydia Reiff and George & Edna Martin.

## Looking Back

The following was copied from a December 1912 issue of a local newspaper.

### MILLMONT BOX FACTORY WIPED OUT BY FIRE

### OWNED BY MESSRS. RUHL & WATSON

Burned Down Last Friday Evening, Dec. 27.

Loss \$15,000; Partially Insured

Fires of late seem to be going the rounds. A short while ago the fine parsonage of the Lutheran Church of Lewisburg was gutted by fire; next the leading hotel of New Berlin was reduced to ashes; next the Hartman business house in this place was nearly sponged out, and the following evening the leading industry at Millmont—the two story Box Factory, owned by Messrs. Chas. R Ruhl and Ernest Watson, employing between 20 and 30 mechanics, was totally destroyed. The last blaze, we are informed, started in the engine room, and in a short time the entire building, of frame, 60x150 feet, was one sheet of flame and doomed for total destruction, which occurred in short order, the people and visitors to the scene expending their efforts in saving other buildings, in which they happily succeeded. One boxcar loaded with the product of the factory was also destroyed. The building was located along and near by the railroad and about 500 feet west of the station. It was a good thing that private buildings not far away were covered with snow, otherwise they, too, would have been consumed, it being a windy evening and the sparks were flying in showers in various directions.

The factory was originally established by Wm. E. Smith & Co., and was purchased about five years ago by Ruhl & Watson, who were doing a good business. They estimate their loss at \$15,000, which is partially covered by insurance. It is said they will rebuild the plant, which will be good news to their employees and the community in general.

### Are You 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 at 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 you contact me at (570) 922.4297 or email: millmonttimes@dejazzd.com

A peek into the life of....

## David W. Diehl

When most people hear the name David W. Diehl one thing generally comes to mind .....Insurance. As one of the leading insurance agents west of Mifflinburg for many years, it is little wonder that his name is associated with that business. Selling insurance was something Diehl started as a side business while working at Herbster's Mill in Laurelton. As the business grew it went from a part time job to a full time occupation in the 1960's.

David W. Diehl was born in Hartleton on December 17, 1914 the son of Willard and Mary (Klingman) Diehl. Shortly after his birth David's parents moved to Pleasant Grove where they lived with his maternal grandparent's. He attended Salem School, which was located off Cold Run Road. In the autumn of 1926 he began attending the Lewis Township High School located between Millmont and Swengel. According to Diehl, this was the first year that the township school directors provided bus transportation. In 1928 Lewis Township became a two-year high school rather than a four-year school so Diehl matriculated to the Mifflinburg High School. He graduated from Mifflinburg in the spring of 1931.

In 1931 the tentacles of the Great Depression were being felt by nearly everyone, including the rural residents of Union County. The job prospects for those graduating from school during this time were practically nonexistent. Although he possessed the talents and abilities to further his education beyond the high school level, neither he nor his parent's had the financial means to make those dreams come to fruition. Over the next two years Diehl struggled to find meaningful employment.

Because of his acquaintance with Raymond B. Winter, Diehl learned about the opening of a Civilian Conservation Corps camp located at Half Way State Forest Park in the Fourteen Mile Narrows. It was through that association that Diehl became an enrollee at the camp. Since the camp had recently opened, Diehl found himself sharing a tent with five other young men. Like the other 200 enrollees of the CCC Camp S-67 these were strangers from cities and towns throughout Pennsylvania. Nearly five months, and one harsh winter later, wooden barracks were built to replace the drafty WWI tents that the enrollees were forced to use when they first arrived.

The work was hard, the hours were long, and the pay was not that great, but at least he had a job. Diehl was elevated to the position of Supply Sergeant at the camp after about one year into his tour as a member of the CCC. Prior to that he worked at constructing or reconstructing forestry roads, trimming brush, gooseberry eradication, and assisting in the construction of the stone and masonry dam across Rapid Run. That dam, and the lake that was created, is the focal point of what is now R. B. Winter State Park.

In June 1935 Diehl and numerous other CCC enrollees from Half Way, voluntarily transferred to the newly established CCC camp at Joyce Kilmer, west of the Laurelton State Village. Once again the enrollees were forced to make due, living in tents until the wooden barracks were erected. The commanding officer of Company 2324, Lieutenant Hugh O. Seager, asked Diehl to accept the position of Company Clerk. Diehl accepted the position which he held until the camp was abandoned on October 1, 1937.



The photograph above shows David W. Diehl standing in front of the newly constructed stone and masonry dam at Half Way State Forest Park in January 1934.



Shortly after his arrival at Joyce Kilmer, Diehl realized that he was in need of a tonsillectomy. On July 9, 1935 he was transported by Army ambulance from the camp to Walter Reed Army Hospital in Washington, D.C. Surgeons there performed the operation. He spent the next 28 days in Walter Reed recuperating before returning home by passenger train. The trip to the nation's capital was a first for Diehl. Since he was not confined to his room during the latter part of his stay he decided to absorb some of the sights and sounds of the Capital City. In addition to enjoying a scenic and memorable boat ride on the Potomac River under an impressive moonlit sky, Diehl also had an opportunity to attend his first major league baseball game.

When floodwaters inundated cities, towns, and villages along the Susquehanna River in March 1936, Diehl and his fellow enrollees of Joyce Kilmer Camp were more than willing to come to their aid once the muddy waters receded. The flood relief efforts by the men of Joyce Kilmer,

*(Continued on page 11)*

(Continued from page 10)

as well as many other CCC camps across the state, were noble and noteworthy.

By the time he was discharged on October 15, 1937, Diehl had spent more than four years of service in the CCC. He later obtained employment at the Worker's Compensation Bureau in Harrisburg where he spent about four months. He returned to Union County where he held the position of timekeeper on Pennsylvania Department of Transportation road projects within the county. When Andy Herbster offered him a job as bookkeeper for his milling operation in Laurelton, Diehl accepted. It was during this time that he began selling insurance policies part time. By 1960 selling insurance was his primary occupation. He continued to operate his business from his home until 1980, when he was ready to take advantage of a much-deserved retirement. He subsequently sold his business to M. S. "Ted" Meixell. Today that insurance firm is known as the Meixell-Diehl Agency of Lewisburg. Diehl faithfully served for 18 years on the Board of Directors of The Mifflinburg Bank & Trust Company.

David married the former Mildred Teichman on October 12, 1940. Mildred passed away on February 28, 2005. Together they had one daughter, Diane. She is married to Robert W. Wert, Jr.

Prior to Mildred's passing they moved from their home on Fairground Road to Riverview Manor, Apartment 21/22, Lewisburg, Pa 17837, where he continues to reside. On December 17<sup>th</sup> David W. Diehl will be celebrating his 93<sup>rd</sup> birthday. Those who would like to send birthday greetings to him are encouraged to do so at the address noted above.

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY DAVID!**

## **Hartleton Borough Celebrating 150 years**

Hartleton Borough is commemorating their sesqui-centennial in 2008. The celebration is beginning in December. A wooden replica of the Hartleton Union Church is available for \$15. Bradley Shoemaker "Baptism" print of the Union Church is also available for \$75.00, and a personalized crock is available for \$30. Items can be picked up at the Hartleton Post Office. Please call the Hartleton Postmaster at 922-1363, Wendy Styers at 922-1892, Dave Benfer Jr. at 922-0165 or Donna Purves at 922-1940 to reserve your pieces. All proceeds benefit the maintenance of the Hartleton Union Church and community projects and are made possible by your generous support.

## **Thank You!**

I would like to thank the following people for making monetary donations toward the publication of this newsletter: Ruth Diamond, Indialantic, FL; Wayne Benner, Millmont, PA; Thomas & Peggy Reimensnyder, Mifflinburg; Bob & Jeanne Jolly, Weikert; James & Carol Shipton, Mifflinburg; Marvin & Connie Englehart, Mifflinburg, Bernice Dluge, Elysburg; Leroy Wenrick, Laurelton; Paul & Elaine Feist, Lewisburg; Jacob & Myrna Walter, Mifflinburg; and Patricia H. Phifer, West Chester, PA.

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: Chip & Beth Zechman, Millmont; Jim Wagner; and Paul E. Dupuis, Mifflinburg. If you would like to receive a FREE color version of The Millmont Times each month via the Internet you can log on to [www.millmonttimes.com](http://www.millmonttimes.com) and download the newsletter. We currently have all of the 2006 and 2007 issues of The Millmont Times available for download on our website.

Welcome to the following new mail subscribers: Glenn & Brenda Miller, Mifflinburg; Samuel Schell, Laurelton; Leroy Wenrick, Laurelton; Leonard Wagner, Mifflinburg; Philip F. Snyder, Laporte; Jean Keister, Lewisburg; and Jacob & Myrna Walter, Mifflinburg.

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 also to Linda (VonNeida) Dorman of Hartleton for donating two old photographs of her home town.

**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:**

*Friday December 25, 1931. Cloudy. A very nice Xmas day. We ate dinner at Jacob's. I read nearly all day. Jac. gave me Dickinson's novels and Edmund gave me a diary book for next year. Mother and I sent 150 copies of my Xmas poem. Art Narehood was here this PM and said a gun fell from the clock shelf and shot his little girl and killed her. He asked me to preach for her funeral.*

*Saturday December 26, 1931. Cloudy. Worked in the garage. Tonight Irvin Catherman's house, near the Pike, burned.*

*Sunday December 27, 1931. Clear. Never saw such a nice day at this time of year. I spoke from Joshua 3-4 Ye have never passed this way. This PM I preached the funeral sermon for the little girl that was shot. The girl was 3 yrs. 10 mo. & 27 days. Funeral at our church and burial was there too. This evening I spoke at the Reformed Church at Laurelton at Xmas program.*

(Continued from page 8)

was completed and shoulder cutting.

➤The treasurer's report was re-opened with the addition of Thomas Boop for his third quarter invoice for \$1,012.50, Wayne Klingman made a motion to pay the expense, seconded by Donald Shively. Henry Sanders abstained from voting.

➤Copies of the new zoning ordinance will be needed from Shawn McLaughlin, Martha Witmer said we would probably need about 50 copies.

No further business to be conducted. Meeting Adjourned. Respectfully submitted, Karen L. Watters, Secretary

### December Birthdays & Anniversaries

1 - Bob Katherman	13 - Dennis Susan
1 - Eli & Anna Shirk - 1960	13 - Robert Vanatta
1 - Vivian Shively	14 - Levi Martin
1 - Terry Witmer	14 - Joe Schnure
1- Kyle Blyler	15 - Jane Benner
1 - Robert Katherman	15 - Terry Mensch
2 - Robert Wagner	17 - David W. Diehl
2 - Alma Bingaman	17 - Oscar Maust
3 - Myrna Walter	17 - Anna Maria Maust
3 - Gordon Libby	18 - Leah Brubaker
5 - Jacque & Julie Libby - 1959	19 - Donna Maust
5 - Gordon & Polly Libby - 1960	21 - Donald & Betty Zechman - 1956
5 - Perry & Brenda Klingman - 1987	21 - Anthony Guida
5 - Kimmy Smith	21 - Kathryn Wert
5 - Perry Klingman	23 - Paul & June Boop - 1943
6 - Terry Shively	23 - Kurwin Martin
6 - Sandra Wagner	24 - Ernest Boney
6 - Doris Fultz	24 - Jeremy Beaver
7 - Orvis & Betty Wallace - 1940	24 - Charity Yarger
7 - Melvin & Doris Walter - 1956	25 - Donald L. Shively
7 - Ivan Oberholtzer	25 - LaRue Lyons
8 - James Gross	27 - Colin Camp
8 - Nicole Gross	28 - Fred & Margie Yarger - 1950
8 - Catherine Martin	28 - Etta Zimmerman
9 - Cheryl Shively	28 - Phares Zimmerman
10 - Wilma Brubaker	29 - Charles & Lois Feaster - 1957
11 - Nancy Heckman	29 - Linda Dorman
11 - Curvin Hoover	29 - Bob Wagner Jr.
11 - Mike Hackenberg	31 - Leon & Lydia Zimmerman - 1992

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