



Bernice, on right, and Gisela in the park at the Cologne Cathedral in 1992.

Bernice & Gisela

A World War, a used coat, an enduring friendship

At the close of WWII, a project sponsored by the Lutheran World Relief opened the door to a life-long friendship that has continued for more than six decades. The friendship between Bernice (Schnure) Dluge, at the time a teenager living with her parents in Laurelton, and 11-year old Gisela (Hees) Michel of Oberhausen, Germany, has flourished through the years, despite that fact they live thousands of miles, and an ocean apart.

Dluge was born May 29, 1929, the youngest of five children born to the late Nevin and Ethel (Bogenreif) Schnure. She grew up in the home located at 1911 State Route 235 in the village of Laurelton. During a recent interview Dlugue shared with me that when she was growing up her mother was the strict parent, while in her father's eyes, she was always "Daddy's little girl." Nevin was a carpenter by trade, and as Dlugue recalled, "we didn't have much, but we didn't know it, and we didn't care."

Her maternal grandfather, William Bogenreif, always called her "Vernie", after his sister, Verna Bogenreif. William Bogenreif was responsible for making the trip from Laurelton to the Glen Iron Railroad Station to await the arrival of the morning train. Upon arrival of the train he was handed the incoming sacks of mail destined for the Laurelton Post Office. His granddaughter, Bernice Schnure, accompanied him on his trek to and from the railroad station whenever possible. She sat outside the train station waiting for the arrival of the train, knowing that in all likelihood the engineer would give her a nickel. As she and her grandfather were returning to Laurelton with the mail they often stopped by Deater's Store in Glen Iron, where she usually spent her nickel on a popsicle.

Dluge's paternal grandparents were Frank "Squire" and Lila (Baldwin) Schnure. The appellation "Squire" was given due to his years of public service as Justice of the Peace. Frank and Lila at one time operated an ice cream parlor in the village of Laurelton located at 65 Weikert Road.

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The Millmont Times

DECEMBER 2008

Millmont Mailbox by Postmaster Sam Smith

It's hard to believe that Christmas will soon be here. Most of us will be busy shopping, baking, and sending greeting cards. When you send those cards, be sure to include your return address on them, in case the addressee has moved, and the card is undeliverable. It is also a great time to notify friends and family if you have moved or had a change in your address. Due to the economy, many people won't be traveling as much, but may still want to make sure loved ones receive a Christmas present. I encourage Priority Mail use for its speed and low cost. Sometimes even quicker delivery is necessary; Express Mail is our overnight option for most destinations. While there are three main companies offering overnight service, (Postal Service, UPS, FedEx), Consumer Reports found that the US Postal Service prices were as much as 281% cheaper than UPS and FedEx! In their test, the Postal Service charged \$16.50 for a flat-rate envelope, while UPS charged \$62.87 to Oregon, and \$29.55 to Manhattan. FedEx charged \$54.57 and \$27.48 respectively! That's good to know in this tight economy.

While everyone will be busy this holiday season, be sure to come in and take a break at the Millmont Post Office on December 18 or 19, as I will have customer appreciation days with hot coffee and my wife's homemade cookies! The Post Office will be closed on Thursday December 25 and Thursday Jan 1 to celebrate the Holidays.

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Following their attendance at Sunday morning services at the Laurelton Lutheran Church, Nevin Schnure and his entire family stopped to visit with his parents. A favorite treat that Dluge recalled from her visits with her grandparents were the icing topped spice cookies that her "Aunt Tant", Francis (Schnure) Sampsell, made. Adults, as well as the children, all enjoyed their cookie snacks along with a hot cup of coffee. Bernice shared that Aunt Tant, was the "best cook and best baker you could ever imagine" despite the fact that she was legally blind. Her baking was done in a coal-burning stove. When asked how she knew the temperature was right for baking, Aunt Tant told Bernice that she just opened the door and put her hand inside and she could tell if it was the right temperature.

Dluge and her parents regularly attended services at the Lutheran Church located at 2360 Laurel Road. The sanctuary has since been converted into a single-family dwelling. It was while attending this church that she first heard about the Lutheran World Relief (LWR) organization, and their outreach project to collect and donate used coats. As a result Bernice and her mother both decided to get involved, and they each selected a used coat that they wanted to donate.

Bernice was about 16 years old when she and her mother donated their used coats to LWR. The coat that Bernice chose to donate was one she had outgrown. It was the same coat that was given to her by Martha "Marty" (VonNeida) Waterbury, a teacher at the Hartley Township High School. Prior to donating their coats to LWR, Ethel Schnure suggested that she and her daughter each place a little note inside one of the pockets of the coats they were donating. That note included their name and address. While this was a denomination-wide outreach, Dluge did not know if anyone else locally had participated in the project.

A short time after the garment was donated Bernice received a letter from a young German girl who had received the coat. Since the English language was unfamiliar to her she enlisted the aid of one of her schoolteachers in order to send a letter thanking the teenage girl from Laurelton, Pennsylvania for the much-needed warm winter coat. The young German girl was Gisela Hees of Oberhausen, Germany.

Bernice was excited at the opportunity to correspond with Gisela. During her correspondence she asked Gisela if there was anything else that she might be in need of. Her next letter to America included a request for a pair of shoelaces, pencils (with erasers) and a bar of shaving soap for her father. The Schnure family was so moved by the letter and the humble request that in addition to the items she mentioned they also sent along coffee, Crisco, and some used shoes and clothing. The Schnure family knew that the articles of clothing that could not be used by the family could be traded on the black market for food or other items that the family was in need of. While Bernice's mother also received a letter from a young German girl, thanking her for the coat, correspondence did not continue between them.

Through the years Bernice and Gisela have corresponded in writing and occasionally by telephone. In 1992 the Dluge's decided to travel to Germany to meet Gisela and her family face to face for the first time. They met one another at the Cologne Cathedral. It was during this trip that Gisela shared the remnants of the coat she received from Bernice years ago. According to Dluge, once she outgrew the coat, Gisela's mother modified it so her younger sister could wear it. When Gisela's younger sister outgrew it their mother made a cape and muff from material salvaged from the coat. Gisela keeps those very special items in a basket to remind her of the generosity of her American friend.

While Bernice and Bob were visiting Germany, Gisela contacted the Burgermeister of Dudenhofen, Germany. Through that contact they discovered that Bernice had distant cousins living in the city. Arrangements were made to meet Heinz Schnur and Elfreda (Schnur) and her husband Manford Reish. The Dluge's also had the unique opportunity to visit an 18th century Lutheran Church that Bernice's ancestors helped to build. Although the church is only open Sunday's, the Dluge's were privileged to find the sanctuary open due to wedding preparations being made on the day they visited.

Robert L. Dluge Sr., grew up in Shamokin, but had connections to the West End of Union County because of the cabin his family owned near Weikert. It was during a 1948 encounter at the West End Fair in Laurelton that Robert and Bernice first met. They were introduced to one another through a mutual friend, Helen (Dorman) Mattern. Following a short courtship Bob and Bernice were married on December 29, 1948. They will celebrate their 60th anniversary later this month. Although they reside in Elysburg the Dluge's maintain a close connection to the West End each time they visit or spend time at their cabin on Paddy Mountain.

They also attend the annual Hartley Township High School reunion.

The Dluge's have one son, Attorney Robert Jr., and his wife Debra (Ford), also of Elysburg. They also have three granddaughters: Dawn is a Physician's Assistant specializing in diabetes management. She and her husband, Ronald Aungst, Jr. live in Clifton Park, NY; Jennifer is a Physician's Assistant at an OB/GYN practice in



Gisela models the cape and muff made of material that came from her used coat.



This 1992 photograph shows Schnure cousins; Bernice (Schnure) Dluge on the left, Elfreda (Schnur) Reish in the middle, and Heinz Schnur on the right.

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BIRD TALK

by Jim McCormick



Winter came early to our quiet valley. Seemingly out of nowhere, we had several inches of snow on the ground when I woke up. And then the cold..... It was only mid-November and it already felt like January. All the color has left the mountainside; only the browns, grays and dark greens of the evergreens remain. I love fall, but now we had jumped right into winter and I wasn't ready for it. The birds, too, seemed confused by the sudden change.

Birds have a difficult time dealing with snow, especially the ground feeding birds. Sparrows flock to any open areas, hoping to catch some stray seeds. The Woodpeckers just continue on as usual, searching out their hidden meals in the bark of the now bare trees. The Nuthatches, with their distinctive "akk, akk, akk", make their merry way from branch to branch. It is curious that the birds seem to flock to the same feeding

spots at the same time. You could walk for quite some distance without seeing a single bird, then, there they are: Woodpeckers, Nuthatches, Sparrows, and Tit Mice, each with its own rhythm and sound, clustered together. The winter birds have started to return; the Black-capped Chickadees returned at mid-month along Penns Creek. With the snow came the Dark-eyed Juncos--beautiful little charcoal-colored birds with flashing white tail feathers. In the distance I can hear the "Caw, Caw, Cawing" of a noisy group of Crows--tricksters, probably harassing a poor Red-tailed Hawk in some tree. There is the boisterous calling of Blue Jays, noisy cousins of the Crows. Hidden in some thick shrub, I hear the "tchick, tchick, tchick" of the Cardinals, male and female, sneaking around. No longer are they perched on the top of some tree calling to each other; that activity must wait for sometime in February. Now, the Cardinals will actually form into small bands and travel about the area together, socializing until breeding season begins. There are still a few Great Blue Herons tucked away on the edge of the streams and creeks. They look so incredibly cold all folded up and standing on the ice covered logs or in the icy water. We can still see a few King Fishers swoop down from their perch, skim along the Creek with their "Rat-tat-tat-tat", then suddenly curve upward again to another perch. There are some rather large flocks of Starlings in the area and our regulars are still here in Millmont. One can also see a few Mocking Birds hanging around and hear their "chuck" sound, so different from their normal chatter. Our Eastern Bluebirds, too, stay for the winter. If you are lucky, you will see small groups on the wires or hear their plaintive call as they fly high overhead. Their brilliant blue is such a striking sight when the sun hits those feathers at just the right angle. Another colorful bird of our area is the American Kestrel. The male is especially brightly colored, the female more drab. The Kestrels usually are seen perched on telephone wires, distinguishable by their bobbing tail, or by the sight of them holding an unfortunate mouse in their claws. Many American Goldfinches can still be seen, recognized by their distinctive pulsing flight pattern. The males have lost their bright yellow breeding plumage and have taken on the protective coloring of the female for the winter. Here and there the powerful little singer, the Carolina Wren, can be heard. This is an inventory of our winter birds but it could also be the cast of characters for the Fourth Act of the play The Cycle of the Seasons. This act would be titled "Winter". We could also expect, perhaps, a cameo role for the Brown Creeper and the mysterious return and just as mysterious disappearance of the Cedar Waxwings. Now that I have set the scene for the play, I hope you will all make an effort to watch this play unfold over the next several months. Perhaps, it will help us all get through another winter. I hope you all have a Happy and Healthful Holiday Season!



A "Tight-knit family"

The photograph above shows a family of Wood Ducks that was taken toward the end of July. The female Wood Duck had seven ducklings (one of them is missing from this photo). Photograph courtesy of Jim McCormick.



Miriam (Feaster) Landis & Memories of Glen Iron

The iron mines, for which the village of Glen Iron subsequently got its name, have been sealed for many years. The fires that once burned in the furnace located at the base of the Penns Creek Mountain were extinguished decades ago. Any and all vestiges of the once active railroad station have long since disappeared. The one-room schoolhouse where generations of Glen Iron residents received their grammar school education is no longer part of the landscape. The Glen Iron Hotel, Harry Feaster's Store, and Blackford's Dairy are mere memories for many folks old enough to remember when these businesses operated in the village. However, Miriam (Feaster) Landis of Lewisburg, who will soon be celebrating her 90th birthday, has pleasant memories of these and other places in and around the small village of Glen Iron where she grew up.

One of three children born to the late Harry and Amanda (Bingaman) Feaster, Landis was born December 20, 1918, in the home located at 5415 Creek Road. Later, her parent's and siblings, Pierce and Edna, moved to the village of Glen Iron, where their father operated a general store located at 2970 State Route 235.

During an interview with Landis earlier this year she had an opportunity to share some of her childhood memories growing up in this small community. Those memories included the store that her parents operated and the Glen Iron Hotel that her grandfather owned for a period of years. Landis said that in addition to the patrons who lived in the village, Harry Feaster's Store also served the needs of his customers who lived outside the village. While Harry was delivering groceries in his Studebaker to customers as far west as Pardee, her mother, Amanda, tended to business in the store. In addition to his duties as storekeeper Harry Feaster also served as postmaster at Glen Iron from 1920 until 1925.

According to Landis, fire swept through her parent's store in the mid 1920's, completely destroying the building and contents. The origin of the destructive fire was thought to be an overheated potbelly stove. Harry Feaster had no insurance on the contents, thus his grocery business came to an unexpected and abrupt end. The post office, located in the same building, was also destroyed in the fire.

According to Landis, it was customary for some Glen Iron residents to congregate at the railroad station upon the arrival and departure of passenger trains. In addition to greeting friends and neighbors returning home, or those who were departing, local residents were curious to see if any strangers disembarked from the train.

William Bingaman, Miriam's maternal grandfather, owned and operated the Glen Iron Hotel from 1920 until 1925. The hotel was located at 236 Glen Iron Road, directly across the street from Harry Feaster's Store. Landis recalled the era when some of the regular boarders at the hotel were employed at the iron mining operation on the south side of Penns Creek. She also recalled working for her grandfather at the hotel when she was a young girl. Some of the chores she performed while working at the hotel included changing the linens, filling the water pitchers, and emptying chamber buckets.

Some readers may recall when Bingaman provided transportation to students attending Hartley Township High School in Laurelton. When Bingaman first began transporting students to the high school he used a dual team horse drawn wagon. In the late 1920's (or early 1930's) he purchased a truck, which he used to transport students. During the winter months riders had to bundle up or bring along a heavy blanket whenever they rode in the back of the truck to or from the schoolhouse.

Some of the fondest childhood memories



This view of Route 235 (looking north) was taken at a time when the highway through Glen Iron was still dirt. In the background is the Glen Iron Station on the right. Photograph courtesy of Miriam Landis and Jeanne Jolly.

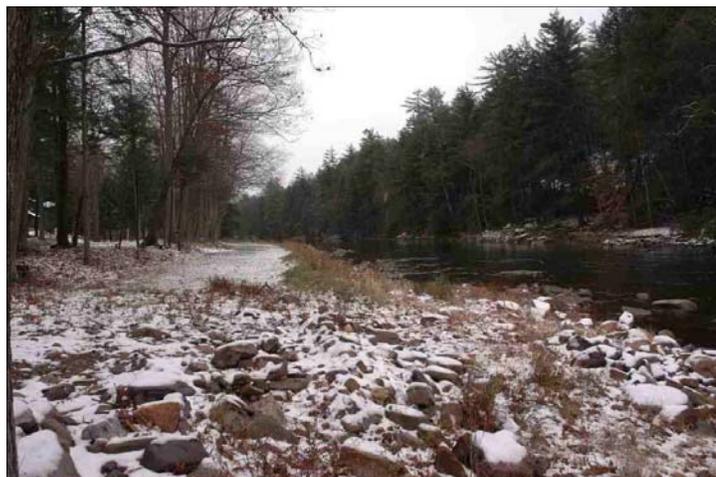
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Penns Creek Angler

by Bruce Fisher

Winter Fishing

Call them strike indicators, bobbers, floats or whatever you want, but they help you catch fish. I fished Penns for 29 years without one and now I would not even think of hitting the water without some indicators in my vest pocket. My choice is an indicator called a “fish pimp” and it’s one of the best on the market. They are high floating, aerodynamic and you hardly



notice them on your leader. To top that off they come in several colors: chartreuse, red and white. Chartreuse is best seen in low light conditions, red is for daytime fishing and white is for the spring creeks where the trout are very spooky. An added bonus is you can take a sharpie marker and color one side of the white indicator to whatever color you can see best.

An indicator doesn’t just tell you a fish has taken the fly. It has many more functions. If the indicator bounces up and down during the drift it tells you that your fly is too close to the bottom of the creek. If you learn to watch the indicator it will tell you when your fly is skirting around a rock. It will also tell you when a fish has come to look at your fly and turns quickly and loses interest in your offering. I usually fish three flies under my indicator so this is very important information.

When I see the indicator bouncing I know I am too near the bottom and I simply adjust the indicator down towards the flies until the indicator stops bouncing. In the case of rocks, and there are hundreds in any creek, when I see the indicator hesitate for a second and then I see it do it again and then a third time I know there is a rock there. There is an old saying on Penns, “When you find a big rock you will find big fish.” I will now work the rock on all sides until I catch a fish or move on.

Remember every stretch of water has a different depth and rocks are placed everywhere. When the indicator goes in kind of a circle very quickly I know a fish has come to look at my flies, in this case I may change the size of my fly or change to a different fly altogether. When your indicator floats just like the air bubbles in the creek your indicator is either working as it should or you are too far off the bottom. But this is rarely the case. When the indicator floats just like everything on the water you are usually at the depth you should be at. If your indicator just stops, especially in fast water strike, it will either be a fish or a snag. If you get snagged simply loosen your line and walk back upstream and gently jiggle your flies loose. Don’t pull hard you will just dig the fly deeper into the snag. I use 3x fluorocarbon for my winter nymph fish because I can get my flies back, but dropping to 4x is sometimes needed on fussy fish, but you will get fewer flies back.

So fishing a bobber isn’t just for kids. You will learn many things if you keep your eye on the indicator, you may even learn some new stuff not mentioned in this article. When fishing in the winter it’s best to take a buddy and leave an extra set of dry clothes in the car and please use a wading staff.

Good fishing to all. Now is the best time to learn nymph fishing with a “bobber”.

“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 the website at: www.pennscreekangler.com



Field Notes, by WCO Dirk Remensnyder

Recently one of my wildlife pest control guys called to let me know he had a problem with a bear. Initially this was an odd call to me because I know this guy is very knowledgeable in using scents to either deter or entice animals. It seems, though, that this particular bear was helping him out, in a pest control way of his own, when the bear ripped apart the back end of his camper to rid him of the yellow jacket nest that was there.

This year in Union County WCO’s and Biologists have trapped and tagged 41 bears for research purposes. This is the most ever caught in this county and it bodes well for a successful hunting season.



Meanderings

by

Hertha S. Wehr

Presidents Part I

I suspect that many of you in the area have seen the half-page items in the daily paper about the presidents. I have read quite a bit about most of the presidents but the items in the paper are thumb-nail biographies and they brought to light many things I had forgotten or didn't know before. As a result I cut them out and saved them.

My recollection of presidents begin with Herbert Hoover. I was in grade school when he was nearing the end of his term. I remember we had a straw vote when he was running against Franklin D. Roosevelt. As could be expected our vote was in favor of Hoover, since most of the people we knew were Republicans. But of course that wasn't who won the national election.

Roosevelt's terms were the beginning of the slippery slide to Socialism. I know, we all like to think we are the only truly democratic country in the world but we have many programs where many people benefit from government run programs. Probably one of the programs that has been with us the longest, and from which most older people benefit, is Social Security. It has been a lifeline to many and I'm not saying it is deplorable; just pointing out that it is a form of Socialism. Some of the programs he started did end but it is extremely hard to get rid of a government program once it gets started. A good example is the Tennessee Valley Authority.

Truman was the surprise the country got when FDR died in office. He did a remarkable job when we consider that he was never privileged to any government workings while FDR was president. When he inherited the presidency he first learned military secrets, first heard of the atomic bomb. He remarked, "I felt like the moon, the stars, and all the planets had fallen on me." He did see us through the remainder of WWII, and through the peace settlement. He held firm

against Russia during the Cold War. Many Europeans will be eternally grateful for the Berlin Airlift carried out by the U.S and the British during that time. If you are too young to remember about it, the winter months are a good time to read an account about it. Truman was also the president who ended racial segregation in the armed forces. The Korean War, too complicated to try to explain here, occurred during his time in office. What is usually remembered is his firing of Douglas McArthur for insubordination.

Eisenhower, Dwight D., was a West Point graduate and the military was his life. During WWII he ended up Supreme Allied Commander. Truman appointed him Army Chief of Staff where he managed demobilization and created the Department of Defense. After a series of government positions under Truman he finally retired to civilian life and was president of Columbia University. When he declared himself a Republican he was called to run for president and was easily elected. He ended the Korean War. His ordering troops to protect students in Little Rock, AR from threats of violence started the era of modern civil rights reform in America. He was the last president under whom we had a balanced budget.

Kennedy, John Fitzgerald, first served in the Senate, then ran for president in 1960. He won over Richard Nixon and was a very popular president. His lovely wife, small children and the whole Kennedy clan were news from day one. He served in WWII. You have probably read at least one of the stories of his heroics. He also wrote the book "Profiles in Courage" which is very good reading. He had some successes and some failures in his short term in office. He is noted for taking a strong stand against Russia when they proposed installing missiles in Cuba. His biggest blunder was supporting Cuban exiles in their Bay of Pigs invasion, which was a complete failure. One of his initiatives was the Peace Corps, which sent young people all over the world. He was assassinated in 1963 after having served just a little over two years. His inaugural address is still heard today with "Ask not what your country can do for you, but what you can do for your country." I remember very well seeing the funeral procession on TV and the enormous crowds that turned out in the capitol rotunda to pay their last respects. In spite of his great popularity his term in office was too short to tell us if he would have been a great president.

I've taken you down memory lane and it got much longer than I originally intended so I hope you'll join me next month beginning with LBJ.

(Continued from page 4)

Landis has pertain to the years she spent attending the one-room school in Glen Iron. The sound of the school bell ringing atop the roof of the schoolhouse still resonates in her mind. Memories of her grammar school years not only include her fellow students but also the teachers. Her first grade teacher was Florence Snyder. With children ranging in age from age six to fourteen in the same classroom, Landis recalled how students were grouped together according to their age. Students in the same age group were brought to the front of the room where they sat on benches while the teacher presented that day's lesson. The remaining students were seated at their desks studying. As the day progressed students, by age groups, alternated between their desks and the front bench.



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The photograph on page 6 shows William Bingaman with the two horses he used to transport students to and from the Hartley Township High School. The photograph above is the restored truck that Bingaman used for the same purpose sometime later.

Photographs courtesy of Miriam Landis and Jeanne Jolly.

In addition to Snyder, other teachers at the Glen Iron School during this era included Gladys Aumiller, Harry Bingaman, Pearl Kaler, and Edna Boop. She recalled one winter when her teacher, Harry Bingaman, made a lasting impression on his students by constructing a unique and artistic snow sculpture. When he was finished the creative sculpture was the bust of the 16th President of the United States, Abraham Lincoln.

One of seven students in her class, Landis graduated from the Hartley Township High School in 1935. Her graduating class consisted of four female and three male students. In addition to Landis the students included Maxine Middleswarth, Martha Zimmerman, Sara Hironimus, Lee Aumiller, Ralph Libby, and Bruce Shirk.

Shortly after graduation Miriam and her female classmates de-

ecided to spend time together at a cabin west of Weikert. The cabin belonged to the parents of Sara Hironimus. The camping trip was an auspicious one for then 16-year old Miriam Feaster. At a nearby cabin was Clair Landis who was vacationing with his parents at their cabin. Miriam and Clair met for the first time during this outing. While that initial meeting was awkward for both, Clair persisted. Sometime later he telephoned Miriam and invited her to go out on a date. Their second encounter occurred on Memorial Day 1935. That encounter was indeed memorable, because within a short period of time (July 13, 1935) Miriam Feaster and Clair Landis were united in marriage. They were later blessed with the birth of two children – Carnell G. “Corky” Landis born, June 26, 1937 and Kenneth Landis born November 24, 1940.

Miriam (Feaster) Landis was employed at the Laurelton State Village in Union County. She later worked for the Pennsylvania Treasury Department in Harrisburg. At the time of her retirement, 27 years later, she was supervisor of her department. Following her retirement she was searching for something to do to keep active; so she operated a franchise ice cream soda fountain located in the Susquehanna Valley Mall near Selinsgrove known as “Dipper Dan’s.” Because she really enjoyed cooking, she took advantage of an opportunity to open a restaurant near Montandon. The name of the restaurant, “Good Wil’s”, was derived from the name of a relative of the Landis family, Will Good, who owned property near the restaurant. Today her son, Kenneth Landis, manages the restaurant. It was only recently that Miriam gave up her daily routine of helping out at the restaurant she founded in 1985.

Editors note: My thanks to Miriam (Feaster) Landis for sharing her childhood memories of Glen Iron with me. Happy Birthday Miriam!

Those who would like to wish Miriam (Feaster) Landis a Happy 90th Birthday may do so by sending your cards and letters to:

Miriam Landis
403 A JPM Road
Lewisburg, Pa 17837

Blessings from the Bible

by Brenda Weaver

Suggested reading: John 17

“...that they might have my joy fulfilled in themselves.”

John 17:13b

Search for a Christmas present for yourself. Unwrap it and enjoy its treasures. It is given to you by God and is found in John chapter seventeen. Don’t just skim; really read and meditate on the messages found there.

In my favorite Bible this chapter begins with the heading: “Jesus prays for his own.” All but the first few words of introduction are written in red so they are words of Jesus. Here we find him praying to his Father, God. He prayed for his disciples and then he prays “Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word.” Jesus prays for me, for you! That knowledge is a gift we can treasure all year long.

As I write this, many people are shopping on famous “black Friday.” Yesterday was Thanksgiving Day. In recent years, the day set aside to be thankful seems to be swallowed up in the frenzy to buy the latest toys and gadgets for Christmas gifts. If you are in the whirl of preparations for Christmas when you read this, stop to consider the best gift—God’s gift of His son, Jesus. Remembering how He came, in lowliness and with a humble birth, can readjust our materialistic frenzy into a time of wonder and joy.

While you do the few or many things you normally do for this end-of-the-year holiday, make Christ and His advent the focus of your attention. The “emptiness” that follows a gadget-filled, activity-overloaded Christmas will not invade a Christmas of reflection and thanksgiving.

Christ came. And He will come again. Will He find you thankful for His sacrifice?

In the joy of the season remember the Giver of joy!

Prayer for Today:

Dear Lord,

Thank You for sending us the best gift—Your Son. Thank You for salvation made possible by that gift. Thank You, Jesus, for being willing to come, in the humble way You did, to people who could never earn Your gift, but could receive it with thanksgiving!

Thank You for Christmas. Help us to reflect and remember. Help us to give thanks.

Amen.

Recipe of the Month

by Janice (Dorman) Shively

Buffalo Chicken Dip

2 (10 oz.) cans chunk chicken, drained
¾ C. pepper sauce
2 (8 oz.) packages cream cheese, softened
1 C. bleu cheese salad dressing
1 ½ C. shredded cheddar cheese
Celery & crackers for dipping

Heat chicken and hot sauce in a skillet over medium heat, until heated through. Stir in cream cheese and bleu cheese dressing. Cook, stirring until well blended and warm. Mix in half of the cheddar cheese and place in a 1-½ qt. greased casserole dish.

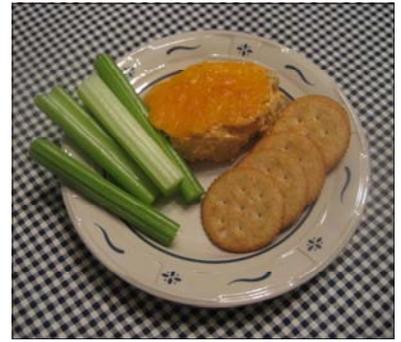
Sprinkle the remaining cheese on top, cover and bake at 350° for 15 – 20 minutes, or until the cheese is melted. Serve hot, with celery and your favorite crackers.

This is a great dish for serving at your Christmas or New Year's gatherings, quick and easy to assemble with little time in the oven.

I like to use the Franks Red

Hot® sauce when I make it. If you don't like bleu cheese salad dressing, use 1 C. of ranch dressing instead. It tastes delicious that way too.

ENJOY!



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

Monday December 6, 1948. Billy came up this PM and said they had a young son born this AM at the Evangelical Hospital. They had no name yet. Looked for a girl and had no boys names yet. Kenneth moved today.

Tuesday December 7, 1948. This was a nice day. Jacob put our radio aerial up to the FM and it does fine too. They were drilling all day at the well at Donald Shirks. The ladies were working at the Evangelical Church all day varnishing the woodwork and putting carpet down and papering the walls. They are digging out under the church to put a furnace in. Clarence Swineford brought us sausage and scrapple. Sally Boyer brought us sausage and a nice piece of pon hoss. It tastes good, since we don't butcher ourselves.

Wednesday December 8, 1948. This was a nice day. This evening one of Francis Keister boys came and brought us backbone, sausage, scrapple, and a sack of special flour.

Thursday December 9, 1948. This was a nice cold day. We washed windows.

Friday December 10, 1948. This was a cold blustery day, snowflakes flew too. Donald was with the Shirk crowd hunting and he shot a deer.

Saturday December 11, 1948. This was a foggy dreary day. I was over to see Billy's boy. He weighed 7 ¼ pounds and is named Terry. They came home from the hospital today and they are both good. Polly was up all day when she came home with Billy and the baby.

(Continued from page 2)



Robert and Bernice Dluge of Elysburg will celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary this month.

Lewisburg, PA. She and her husband, Tom MacDonald, live in Watson-town, PA; and Stephanie, of Elysburg, is an educator with an emphasis on children with Autism. They also have one great granddaughter, 3-year old Alexa Aungst.

Robert and Bernice owned and operated a clothing store in Shamokin until their retirement in 1989. Robert's great grandfather started the store, which also sold groceries in addition to clothing.

As we approach the Christmas Season and reflect on the greatest Gift of all, we are reminded to reach out to others. When Bernice placed a note into the pocket of the used coat she was giving away she had no idea where it was going, or who the recipient would be. Through her selfless act of generosity, Bernice, a young teenage girl from the small village of Laurelton, was unknowingly planting a seed. The seed that Bernice planted as a teenager has sprouted and matured into an enduring friendship that continues to grow. In addition to corresponding with Gisela, Bernice also corresponds with Gisela's 10 year-old granddaughter, Anna Hees. The moral of this story, according to Bernice, is that "It was all

part of God's special plan."

Editor's Note: Special thanks to Bernice and Robert Dluge for opening their home and their hearts to share this inspiring story of giving and friendship. Thanks also for providing the photographs used in this article.

Penlines From my Kitchen to Yours

by Lucy Hoover

October 23, 2008

Anthony and Mary Reiff of Mifflinburg have a daughter named Margaret. She has one brother. Grandparents are Allen and Dorothy Reiff and Joseph and Margaret Hoover.

October 27

Darren and Ruth Martin of Mifflinburg have a son named Darren Lee. He has two brothers. Grandparents are Earl and Mary Martin and Phares and Ada Zimmerman.

October 29

Alvin and Ellen Zimmerman of Mifflinburg have a son named Eric Alvin. He has three brothers and three sisters. Grandparents are Etta Zimmerman and Joseph and Margaret Hoover.

Mrs. Katie Zimmerman moved in a trailer home at her daughter's residence in Millmont. Katie will be having auction at her former home (next to "Big Earl's Bike Shop" in Mifflinburg) to sell her extra household goods on November 22, 2008.

October 30

Timothy Hoover (age 2) son of Warren and Louise Hoover of Millmont is home from Hershey Medical Center, where he spent 3½ weeks. He is doing well.

November 4

Daniel and Esther Nolt of Mifflinburg have a son named William. He has three brothers and three sisters. Grandparents are Floyd and Jane Nolt and Reuben and Ella Reiff.

November 10

Steve and Ruthie Hoover of Mifflinburg have a daughter named Melissa Jane. She has three brothers. Grandparents are Joseph and Margaret Hoover and Harvey and Ruth Martin.

There is evidence that a bear is still wandering through our neighborhood, going through a garbage can and tearing open an Ag Bag.

November 13

John Ivan and Mary Ann Martin of Lewisburg have a daughter named Kristen Rebecca. She has two brothers and two sisters. Grandparents are Allen and Anna Martin and Aaron and Susie Zimmerman.

Duane and Grace Shirk of Mifflinburg have a son named Micah Duane. He has one sister. Grandparents are Eli and Anna Shirk and Henry and Martha Oberholtzer.

Roy Zimmerman (age 7) son of Allen and Marian Zimmerman of Lewisburg was taken to Evangelical Hospital and later transferred to Geisinger Medical Center for surgery.

November 14

Roy Zimmerman came home tonight. He is doing well.

Looking Back

The following article was copied from a December 1932 edition of one of the local newspapers.

Ninety Years Old Recalls Having Voted for Lincoln

Mr. Samuel F. Ruhl, venerable old man of Swengel, celebrated his 90th birthday anniversary on Thursday, December 8. Mr. Ruhl is in splendid health considering his advancing years and declared that he feels like a boy. A number of his friends gathered at the home during the day to congratulate him and in the evening a party was staged and refreshments were served by his housekeeper, Mrs. Minnie Jones.

He is the son of the late George and Hannah Ruhl. His father, at the age of 10 years, migrated from Lancaster County with his parents in 1806. He died at the age of 82 years in the year 1878. His mother died in 1888 at age 81. Both are buried at Rays Church. They had five children: Elizabeth, who married Amos Grove; Priscilla, who married a Mr. Schrack; Samuel F., Henry, and Sarah, who married a Mr. Schnure.

Mr. Samuel F. Ruhl was married to Miss Barbara Paul, who died in 1909. To this union there were no children. Mr. Ruhl possesses a remarkable memory and can recall many interesting events about folk he knew, giving exact dates and facts concerning their lives. As a boy he attended the old log church at Rays, which was located on the south side of the road where the cemetery is now located. This church was very poorly constructed and it was not an uncommon occurrence to find sheep had sought shelter in it. He attended the laying of the cornerstone of a new structure on the same site. Rev. Eph. Keiffer was the Reformed pastor and Rev. Anspach, the Lutheran pastor, the latter for a period of 52 years. He recalls the building of the present Rays church, which is located on the North side of the road. He attended the funeral of the mother of Isaac Reish. Isaac was the father of the late Mrs. Jennie Frederick. Jennie was the mother of Mr. Charles R. Ruhl.

Modes of living were very primitive in his youth. Floors were mostly bare, little or no carpet used and the kitchen was white washed about once a year. The fireplace was replaced by a Hathaway Cook Stove purchased from Charles Shriner of Mifflinburg. He harvested with the cradle and sickle, and mowing was done with a scythe. The wheat threshing by means of horse tramping it. Later the first machines using horse tread power came into existence. Flour was milled at Ruhl's

(Continued on page 10)

(Continued from page 9)

Mill, where the P. P. & L. Co., plant is now located. Staple foods were purchased in Hartleton at the Shem Spigelmyer store. Brown sugar and stick candy were among the purchases made. Mr. Ruhl took delight in helping his mother in the evenings to spin wool and flax. This was done every evening until "Candlemas." The weaving was done at Halfpenny's factory, which was located near Laurelton, about the same place where the West End Fair is now held. The family physician was Dr. Seebold of Hartleton; the blacksmith, Jacob Catherman, who lived on the hill about a mile south of Swengel; John Oberlin, the tailor, lived about 3/4-mile north of Swengel, Mr. Ruhl recalls the horror of his hand being torn off throwing wheat heads in a machine.

Mr. Ruhl, in partnership with his brother, Henry, did the farming at the old homestead, which is located about 3/4-mile east of Swengel, until about 30 years ago when he retired and moved to Swengel. He was a Sunday School teacher for a period of about 65 years and is a member of the Lutheran church. He is interested in politics and voted for the re-election of Abraham Lincoln and in the last election supported Herbert Hoover.

The following is a list of visitors who called on Mr. Ruhl on his natal day: Mr. and Mrs. James Geiswite, White Springs; Mr. and Mrs. James Bollinger and son Bruce, Laurelton; Byron Leffler, Mifflinburg; Mr. and Mrs. Clark Dieffenderfer, Montandon; Mrs. Ellen Smith, Laurelton; Mr. Seymore Morningstar, Mr. and Mrs. Herendeen and daughters Louis and Irene, Mrs. Charles Knauss and daughter, Irma, Mr. J. G. Royer, Mrs. William Shipton and sons, Jimmie and Donald, Miss Beatrice Pontius, of Swengel; Mrs. Phia Libby, Wilbur Libby, Millmont; Mrs. Katherine Diehl, Swengel; Mr. and Mrs. Harry Mitchel, Mrs. Kate Heller, Mrs. James Catherman, Mrs. Ellen Coleman, Millmont; Mr. and Mrs. C. L. Burd, Swengel; Mr. and Mrs. Harry Schnure, Mr. and Mrs. Warren Schnure, Laurelton; Mr. and Mrs. C. C. Schnure, Millheim, Miss Mary Schnure, Laurelton; Miss Rosmond Frank, Millheim; Miss Helen Schnure, Millmont; Keith Schnure, Mifflinburg; Shirley Benner, Millheim; and Mrs. Minnie Jones, Swengel.

Thank You!

I would like to thank the following people for making monetary donations toward the publication of this newsletter: Robert & Jeanne Jolly, Weikert; Leroy and Gloria Wenrick, Grace Weidensaul, and Randall and Geneice Boob all of Laurelton; Pauline Shively, Delphia Shirk, Seibert and Connie Teichman, and Wayne Benner, all of Millmont; and Paul and Elaine Feist, Lewisburg.

If you would like to receive a FREE color version of The Millmont Times each month via the Internet log on to the website: www.millmonttimes.com and download the newsletter directly onto your computer. The January 2004 issue all the way through to the current issue of The Millmont Times is available on the website.

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!!

I would also like to thank Mrs. Caroline (Schrader) Hummel of New Berlin for providing me with additional information relative to the recent articles "Hartleton Then and Now"; and Kass Beebe of Millmont for donating a 1934 newspaper and an early issue of Pennsylvania Magazine.

Christmas Candlelight Service

A Christmas Candlelight Service will be held at the Hartleton Union Church on Thursday December 11 beginning at 7:00 p.m. Special music will be provided by members of the Millmont Mennonite Church Choir. Refreshments will be available following the singing. Members of the choir will also stroll through the borough singing Christmas Carols. Those desiring to accompany the choir are welcome.

Laurelton Women's Club Crocks

The Laurelton Women's Club is now selling their remaining crocks for \$15.00 each. The crocks that are available include Penns Mills, Hartley Township High School, and the Millmont Railroad Station. If you are interested in purchasing one or more of these crocks, or if you would like additional information, you can contact Beverly Catherman at 922.1640 or Carolyn Stamm at 922.1997.

Sportscard & Collectible Toy Show

Benefit Shikellamy Marching Band
Saturday January 3, 2009
Shikellamy High School
9:00 AM until 3:00 PM
Admission \$1.00
Refreshments available
Matt Wright
Toronto Blue Jays pitching prospect will be signing autographs from 11:00 until 1:00

Remembrance



Terry William Shively, 59, of Zion, formerly of Millmont, Union County, died on Friday, November 14, 2008, at Mount Nittany Medical Center in College Township after a lengthy battle with cancer.

He was born December 6, 1948, in Lewisburg, the eldest of five children to Pauline M. (Bowersox) and the late William Paul Shively.

He was a 1966 graduate of Mifflinburg Area High School, a 1968 graduate of Williamsport Area Community College with an associate degree in liberal arts and a 1971 graduate of Lock Haven State College with a bachelor of science degree in education. Terry also did graduate work at Pennsylvania State University.

It was while attending Lock Haven State College that he met his wife of 38 years, the former Cheryl Lehman. They were married in Lock Haven on November 28, 1970.

In 1971, Terry began his career as an elementary teacher for the Bellefonte Area School District. Assigned to the Benner Elementary School, Terry began as a fifth-grade teacher, later becoming a

third-grade teacher and finally becoming a fourth-grade teacher. It was as a fourth-grade teacher that he spent the last 30 years of his career. He retired in June 2003 after 32 years of teaching.

Terry enjoyed fly-fishing, bass fishing, surfing the Internet on his computer and spending time with friends. He was especially fond of staying at his TP cabin on Penns Creek near Weikert.

In addition to the love of his life, Cheryl, and his mother, he is survived by one son and daughter-in-law, Dion C. and Rachel Shively of Greensburg; three sisters, Trudy Shively of Montoursville and Tracey Beaver and Tammy Radel, both of Millmont; one brother and sister-in-law, Tony and Janice Shively of Millmont; and one grandson, Ian Shively of Greensburg.

Editors note: Janice and I would like to thank everyone who sent cards, flowers, emails, or called on the telephone to express their condolences at the passing of my brother, Terry. We would also like to thank those who kept my brother, and our entire family, in your thoughts and prayers over the last eighteen months as he went through countless chemotherapy and radiation treatments at Hershey Medical Center, and at State College. He fought the disease as long and as hard as he could.

Terry was a mentor to his younger colleagues at the Benner Elementary School, and he was loved and admired by the students he taught for 32 years. Like his grandfather, Jacob Shively, he enjoyed history, especially local history. He wrote several articles for publication in this newsletter, including: *Where Did the Buffalo Roam?* (March 2006); *The Covered Bridges of Pennsylvania* (June 2006); and *Pow-Wow: Magic, Miracle, or Myth* (April 2008). Each of those articles elicited phone calls, letters, emails, and comments to Terry, as well as Janice and I. My brother had ideas for future articles that were of interest to him that he hoped to someday research and write. I was also grateful to him for the stories that he did take time to write, including his most recent article, which he wrote while battling lymphoma.

Terry, the husband, father, grandfather, son, brother, son-in-law, brother-in-law, uncle, and cousin will be missed by his immediate and well as his extended family. He will also be missed by his classmates of the Mifflinburg High School Class of 1966, as well as the close-knit circle of friends that he has had throughout his life, including Paul Feist, Steve Libby, and Denny Fritz.

What's Happening at Christ's United Lutheran Church *Courtesy of Shirley Kerstetter*

Christ's United Lutheran Church will once again be selling bon-bons and baked potatoes at the Christkindl Market in Mifflinburg Thursday, December 11th from 4:30 - 9 p.m., Friday, December 12th from 10 a.m. - 9 p.m., Saturday, December 13th from 10 a.m. - 9 p.m.

Angel Food Ministries is an ongoing program at the church. For more information about Angel Food you can visit their website at: afm@4bellschurch.com or you can call the Angel Food Coordinator at 966.5068.

If you are not from this area you can go to the Angel Food Ministries website: www.angelfoodministries.com and select a church closer to you. It is a great program.

Are You Moving?

If you are planning to move, or if your post office mailing address is about to change, please notify The Millmont Times at P. O. Box 3, Millmont, PA 17845, as soon as possible. This newsletter is distributed bulk rate each month, and therefore it will not be forwarded by the United States Postal Service to your new address. All undeliverable newsletters are returned to me postage due. If there are any changes in your postal mailing address you can contact me at (570) 922.4297 or you can send an email to: millmonttimes@dejazzd.com.

The small photograph located in the upper left hand corner of page one is a 1993 wintertime view of the Hironimus Union Church, a.k.a. as "The Lighthouse in the Wilderness" west of Weikert. Photograph courtesy of Rev. Ralph Unroe.

December Birthdays & Anniversaries

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

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