



Burd's Store – Swengel

The village of Swengel has been home to several general stores during its 125-year history. Census data and newspaper accounts reveal that as early as 1880 William Zaring was operating a general store in the village. Zaring's business remained on the county mercantile list until 1884.

William Feese Sr. was another early merchant. Feese's store operated in Swengel from about 1885 until 1891, and was located in the vicinity of 1349 Orchard Road. Feese's business failed and he was forced to liquidate his assets at sheriff sale in September 1891. Prior to the sheriff's sale Wolff Freedman purchased the entire stock of Feese's store. Feese's store was subsequently destroyed by fire.

Wolff Freedman operated a dry goods, grocery, clothing, and shoe store in Swengel circa 1890-1892. Newspaper advertisements from that era indicate that Freedman was simultaneously operating a general store in Glen Iron. John B. Zeigler was another merchant in Swengel. His business appears to have been operating from about 1900 through 1905.

In an article written for the Union County Bicentennial in 1963, Luther Yarger, a long time Swengel resident and local historian, included the names of a number of Swengel merchants in addition to those

mentioned above. Those merchants included S. P. Myers; Wm. Young and Son; Wm. Bower and Son; D. C. Albright; Newton S. Walter; and Charles H. Lebkicker. Specifically when these businesses operated in the village of Swengel is unknown.

Of all the merchants who operated in the village of Swengel, none is more familiar than the name Burd. Between 1894 and 1948 three generations of the Burd family operated a general merchandise business in Swengel. The first member of the Burd family to open a store was William L. Burd. William was one of seven children born to Isaac P. and Susannah (Collier) Burd. His siblings included George, Isabella, Catherine, Samuel F., John C., and Isaac C. Burd.



W. L. Burd & Co. Store in Swengel. The names of the people in this circa 1908 Horton photograph are unknown. From the collection of Delphia Shirk, Millmont.

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Hartleton Mailbox by Postmaster Gail Hanselman

Only a few short weeks till Christmas! For those of you who are still trying to decide what to get someone remember that stamps are always a great gift.

For those who need to send gifts here are some important cut off dates to keep in mind so your gifts don't arrive late.

Domestic Mail: First Class Mail- Dec. 21st; Priority Mail- Dec. 21st; Express Mail- Dec. 23rd; and Parcel Post Mail- Dec. 16th.

Military Mail: APO/FPO zip code 093 - First Class/Priority Mail - Dec 4th all other APO/FPO's - First Class/Priority Mail- Dec 11th; Express Mail - Dec 18th.

International Mail: Africa, Central & South America - First Class/Priority Mail - Dec 4th; Express Mail - Dec 12th.

Asia/Pacific Rim, Australia/New Zealand, Mexico - First Class/Priority Mail - Dec. 4th; Express Mail- Dec 17th.

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BURD'S STORE
SWENGEL, - - - PENNA.
 PRICES GOOD THROUGH JULY 31st.

Early June Peas - delicious 2 cans 25¢
 Evaporated Milk - tall cans 4 for 39¢
 Sour-kroust - full qt. jar 22¢
 Barrel Baking Syrup quart 27¢
 White House Apple-butter qt. jar 23¢
 Cranberry Sauce can 19¢
 Quart Bottles Soft Drinks 2 for 25¢
 plus bottle deposit

Men's Bib Overalls \$1.95
 full cut - 8 oz. sanforized

Men's Covert Work Pants pr. \$1.79
 Men's Covert Zipper - Shirts \$1.49
 Men's Summer Neck-ties 19¢
 Men's Socks - good quality pr. 9¢
 Turkish Towels 19¢
 Ladies' Rayon Hose pr. 49¢

Brooms - good quality - 4-sewed 69¢
 Hog Wire Fencing - 20 rod rolls \$8.95
 Yard Fencing - 48 in high, 10 rod roll \$7.98
 Flourescent Lights \$9.25
 complete - 2-20-watt globes

WE ALSO HAVE
 ARMSTRONGS RUGS AND LINEOLEUM
 MYERS PUMPS AND REPAIRS
 ENDICOTT JOHNSON SHOES
 ALADDIN LAMP SUPPLIES
 SNOOK'S FEEDS

TELEPHONE 6-4318

Burd's Store advertisement.
From the collection of Forrest Wenrick of Laurelton.

William Luther Burd was born on September 14, 1853 and died August 19, 1913. He married Jane Moyer and together they had two sons, Clarence L. and Arthur R. Burd. When William and Jane entered the merchandising business in 1894 it appears as though they turned to his younger brother, Isaac C. for assistance. By that time Isaac C. and his wife Mary Ida (Rogers) Burd were knowledgeable business people, being the operators of a store in the borough of Shamokin, Northumberland County.

In addition to operating a general store William L. Burd also served as postmaster at Swengel. He was first appointed to that post in 1892 and continued to serve in that capacity until 1894. He was again appointed to the postmaster position in 1898 and he served in that post until his death. W. L. Burd also had a grain and coal business. The building where he stored those commodities was located along the railroad siding in Swengel.

In his will, William L. Burd made the following stipulations relative to the continuation of the store business that he and his wife established: *"First, it is my will that the store business to be carried on as before my death and that Clarence my son to oversee the Business.....I give unto my two sons Clarence L. Burd and Arthur R. Burd in equal shares and to their heirs and assigns forever."*

Twenty-one years separated the births of Clarence L. and his younger brother Arthur R. Burd. At the time of their father's death Clarence was 37 years old, while Arthur was only 16. Clarence L. Burd was born May 23, 1876. He spent a number of years working alongside his father learning the mercantile trade and was well prepared to step into his father's shoes. On September 29, 1896 he married Elizabeth "Lizzie" Bingaman. Together Clarence and Lizzie were the parents of four children: Mildred, Lucille, Gladys, and John Nevin.

In addition to operating the store Clarence was also appointed to the position of postmaster at Swengel following the death of his father. Like his father, Clarence held that post up until the time of his death. Centenarian, Walter Krebs, of Danville was born near Swengel (1908) and recalled when Clarence L. Burd was postmaster. He remembered watching Burd attach the canvas mail pouch to the

mail crane alongside the railroad tracks.

Sometime prior to 1930 Clarence took over the grain and coal end of the business in addition to his duties as postmaster. His younger brother, Arthur, took over the management of the general store. Clarence Burd purchased grain, coal, and fertilizers that were shipped to Swengel via the railroad and stored in bins in a long building adjacent to the Swengel railroad siding. He then retailed those products to customers in the West End.

In addition to his grain and coal business Clarence purchased quantities of eggs from local farmers, which he then sold to merchants in distant markets. Edwin Emery succeeded his father-in-law in the egg business and later expanded into the poultry market as well. Emery was a huckster, dealing primarily in the buying and selling of chickens and eggs. He conducted his business in the same building that his father-in-law used to store coal and grain. Marietta (Steese) Raker of Mifflinburg recalled working for Edwin Emery in the 1940's. She helped to clean, inspect, and crate the eggs prior to shipment.

Clarence Burd died on February 21, 1941. A devoutly religious man, Clarence touched the lives of many people during his lifetime. In his diary Elder Greene Shively, of the Buffalo Valley Church of the Brethren, made the following notation upon learning of the death of Clarence L. Burd: *"His death surely was a great shock to me, a lifelong friend."*

Arthur R. Burd was born July 15, 1897. As an adult he became widely known as simply "Peck" Burd. Like his brother he also began working for his father in the store at an early age. When the 1910 census information was taken thirteen year old Arthur was listed as "salesman - general store." Census data taken twenty years later (1930) indicates that at that time he was "operating a general store." Peck married Della Campbell on January 21, 1915. Together they had one daughter, Jane Geraldine "Jeanie" Burd, who later married Owen M. Steese. Both Dells and Jeanie assisted Peck in the general store.

Peck Burd was an astute businessman. With competition from Elmer Boob's store operating only a few doors away Burd



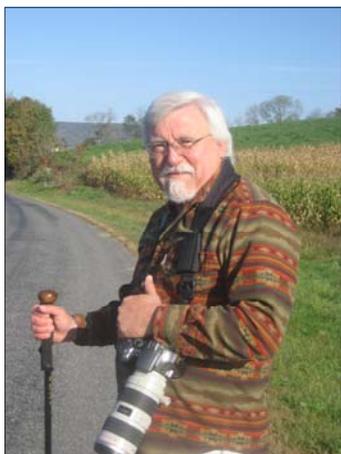
This photograph of Peck Burd was taken in September 1940 when he was tending store at his Chestnut Street Mifflinburg location.

Photograph courtesy of Marietta (Steese) Raker and Lorenah (Steese) Greenland.

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BIRD TALK

by Jim McCormick



On Thanksgiving Day I looked out the window to find a gray misty morning; as a photographer, especially one trying to get a photograph of a bird, it was not what I had wanted. It is usually almost impossible to get a photograph in this type of light; either you can hardly see the bird or the light is so low the result is unusable. I stepped out into the morning air and it was quite mild for late November; in fact, it was almost balmy. As I arranged my photo equipment for my walk, I heard the high rising sound of a Starling perched in my maple tree, perhaps, one that had nested in a cavity in that tree earlier in the year, perhaps even, the very same one that had left me messages on my windshield and on the hood of my car every morning during nesting season! I looked up at the sky and it looked just short of a drizzle and I hoped it wouldn't get any worse. I got to the concrete bridge without seeing many birds and I was wondering what kind of walk this was going to be. Usually in this kind of

weather the birds seem to stay hidden most of the morning. I looked upstream and downstream, but no waterfowl in either direction; most have already left for the year. I walked upstream until I reached a spot along the creek where I had been seeing two Red-headed Woodpeckers since the beginning of the month.

I had happened upon the first one on the first of November, and wasn't sure what I was seeing when I first saw it. It looked like a Red-headed Woodpecker, but its head wasn't red; it was almost black or discolored. I thought I was seeing an immature Red-headed but it seemed too black, at least compared to the immature one I had seen in September; that one was gray. It was fascinating to watch as this bird flew from its perch on the outcropping branch of a dead tree to another tree and quickly returned, flew out and quickly returned. It just kept this up for some time, so I watched more closely. It was flying out to an oak tree that still had acorns on it and returning to insert or pound these acorns into the holes it had made in the dead limb. I watched this for some time until I heard the sound of another Red-headed Woodpecker and the one I was watching immediately flew towards the sound. The two met at what must have been the borderline between their two territories; both flying through the branches and around the trunk until the invader finally left. I had found the territorial boundary. What was most interesting was that the second bird too had only a partial amount of red on its head. As I have learned since they must have both been immature birds; adults have one complete molt at the end of breeding season. The two birds had no problem with each other when they flew outside of their territories to a small stand of oaks, but once either crossed the line there was an immediate attack. On Thanksgiving Day they were both in their respective territories, busily flying out and returning to their favorite perches. I watched them for a while, and then moved on down Canada Drive. There were many Grey-eyed Juncos on the side of the road; as I walked along they flew off into the leafless, tangled, underbrush and disappeared. Then, more and more of them flew up from the mangled stalks of harvested corn; there must have been over fifty. Things were picking up! When I reached the Covered Bridge there was evidence that the long-awaited repair work was finally starting, but that's another story.....!



Photograph of molting Red-headed Woodpecker, courtesy of Jim McCormick.

As a final reminder, the Winter Solstice is December 21st this year, so make an effort to see where the sun rises and sets and how low it is in the sky at noon. The sun at noon at the Summer Solstice is directly above your head, while at the Winter Solstice it is much lower in the southern sky. Have a great Holiday Season!

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Europe, Middle East, Caribbean - First Class Mail - Dec. 11th; Priority Mail - Dec. 14th; Express Mail - Dec. 17th.
Canada - First Class Mail - Dec. 11th; Priority Mail - Dec. 14th; and Express Mail - Dec. 18th.
Remember you can get all your packaging products at your local post office.

As we approach Christmas the possibility for SNOW is greater and greater everyday. Just a reminder on how important it is to keep your mailbox cleared out for your mailman. For those of you who live on a rural route your mailbox needs to have the full approach and exit clear of snow and ice. Carriers are not permitted to back up or exit their vehicles when serving your mailbox. Failure to maintain a clear approach and exit to your mailbox may lead to temporary delay in the delivery of your mail. For those of you who have street delivery, keep your side walks and porches clear of snow and ice to prevent any injuries.

Have A Very Merry Christmas !!

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developed creative marketing strategies to attract new customers, while at the same time keeping his regular customers returning to his business. In the 1930's Peck was outmaneuvering his competition by handing out or mailing flyers to his customers. Those flyers included special sales and reduced pricing on items available at his store. He occasionally advertised a deep discount on a particular item to the first 50 customers who walked inside his door. Marietta Raker recalled her mother telling her that shoppers were lined up with lanterns in hand ready to enter the store in the predawn hours in order to take advantage of Peck's promotions.

It was in the 1930's that Peck came up with another novel idea to attract customers to his establishment. On Saturday evenings during the summer months Burd held an auction outside the front of his store. In addition, Peck lined up local musicians who entertained the folks who attended the auction. When asked what he recalled about the auctions at Burd's Store, Charles Mabus Sr., of Millmont, declared "*everybody went to Swengel on Saturday nights to attend the auction.*" Another Millmont resident, Delphia (Jolly) Shirk, also recalled attending the auction with her parent's, Melvin and Sara (Walls) Jolly. The large crowds at the auction impressed both Mabus and Shirk. The auctions, along with the entertainment, created quite a stir in this otherwise sleepy little village of Swengel.

Floyd Wagner, an auctioneer from Penns Creek, Snyder County, came to Burd's Store on Saturday evenings with a truckload of goods that he then auctioned off. Floyd's son, Elwood Wagner, often traveled to Baltimore, Maryland where he purchased a truckload of fresh produce, vegetables, and seafood for his father that was then brought back to Central Pennsylvania and subsequently auctioned off. One thing that stands out to most of the auction attendees were the three-foot stalks of green bananas that Wagner put up for sale. Wagner rattled off his cadence at the rear of the truck as attendees bid on the large hands of bananas, or perhaps the entire stalk. In addition to the fruits and vegetables Mabus also recalled when Wagner sold fresh oysters by the bucket from the rear of his truck.

Local talent, which often consisted of string bands, were encouraged to perform before and after the Saturday evening auctions. Peck's unique strategy of attracting business was popular as folks came from throughout the West End. Blanche "Becky" (Eisenhauer) Calder of Mifflinburg, recalled when she and her older brother Paul Eisenhauer performed at Burd's Store in the mid 1930's. Blanche, born in 1928, and older brother Paul were the children of Martin W. and Martha C. (Jordan) Eisenhauer. Calder termed their Saturday night performances at Burd's Store an "amateur hour" where local entertainers took center stage to entertain the shoppers. Center stage just happened to be the front porch of Burd's Store. Paul Eisenhauer played the guitar as he and his sister both sang. The brother and sister duo performed at a number of area venues until Paul entered the military during WWII.

During a July 2003 interview with Helen (Rudy) Englehart she recalled when she and her husband, Jack Englehart, and his brother, Pete Englehart, attended the Saturday night auctions at Burd's. They also got up on the store porch to play their stringed instruments and sing to the crowd. Helen also remembered purchasing a long stalk of green bananas at the auction. They stored the bananas in their cool basement and ate them as they slowly ripened. When asked how much a stalk of bananas cost, Helen quipped, "they sure didn't cost much because we didn't have much."

Marietta Raker has fond memories of the era when her grandfather, Peck Burd, operated the store that was located at 1416 Orchard Road in the village of Swengel. Raker recalled walking in the front door of the building where the post office was located on the left side. Situated alongside was a long counter where the cash register was located. Nearby was the meat and cheese case. Behind the counter were shelves that held canned goods, cereals and other food items. In the rear of the store were tools, stovepipe, pumps, fencing, electrical wiring, and other hardware items. Burd carried men's and women's clothing, as well as fabrics, needles, threads, leather goods, shoes, and boots. Raker recalled the dried fruits in front of the counter that were sold by the pound. Peck also sold gasoline.

In front of the counter were barrels of loose candy, which were easily accessible. Raker said that oftentimes while Peck was assisting a customer in the rear of the store kids helped themselves to the candy before rushing out the front door with-

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FIRE IN SWENGEL LAST FRIDAY NOON

BURD'S STORE IN FLAMES WHEN ALARM WAS SPREAD BY MAIL AREOPLANE

Last Friday, pandemonium reigned in the village of Swengle, when shortly after noon the store of W. L. Burd and Co., was discovered in flames. The village has no fire fighting apparatus whatever, and it was only through the efforts of the "Bucket Brigade" that the fire was prevented from spreading.

Shortly after dinner the residents of Swengle were startled to hear an areoplane passing over the town seemingly at a height that would endanger house tops, and rushing out, found that the areoplane had already passed over the town, but that Burd's store was in flames. Every one got to work immediately and in a very short time the flames were extinguished. Not before the chimney, in which the fire started, and from which it spread, fell to the ground, narrowly missing Mrs. A. K. Walter and Mrs. Charles Knouse, who were pumping water in the yard adjoining the store. Some one warned them just in time, for hardly had they stepped aside, when the big chimney fell directly where they had been standing. The loss is estimated to be about one hundred and fifty dollars.

Editors Note: The article above was copied verbatim from the November 22, 1923 edition of The Mifflinburg Telegraph.

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Postmasters at Swengel & date of appointment

Albert T. Shipton – February 6, 1875
John L. Halfpenny – March 10, 1882
William Feese Sr. – February 25, 1887
Wolff Freidman – April 26, 1889
Wm. L. Burd – February 3, 1892
John B. Zeigler – October 31, 1894
Wm. L. Burd – December 19, 1898
Clarence L. Burd – November 3, 1913
John Burd – April 26, 1941
Willard E. Hackenberg – July 17, 1948
Donald Reiner – 1958 - 1986
Dorothy Reiner – 1986 - 1992
Louise VonNeida - 1992 - 1996
Pat Witmer - 1996 -

out paying. Raker shared a story that the late Rev. Fred Pick told regarding his youthful indiscretions at Peck Burd's expense. Pick said that as a youngster he was one of those who stole candy from Peck. Shortly after his conversion at a tent revival meeting, Fred had the opportunity to ponder his errant behavior. As a result he felt the Spirit nagging at him to make amends for his youthful transgressions. One day he took fifty cents into the store, discreetly placed it on the counter out of Peck's view then walked out the door. However, a sense that he had not properly atoned for his sins continued to gnaw at him. Sometime later Pick returned to the store so he could confess to Peck Burd in person. Tears welled up in Burd's eyes and down his cheeks as he accepted the apology. He then told Pick that he did not owe him anything.

E. Walter Shirk, now a resident of Surfside Beach, South Carolina, recalled when he and other Swengel residents loafed on the wooden benches located in the front of Burd's Store. He and other village residents gathered outside the store on pleasant summertime evenings where they discussed the events of the day. Some of the men that Shirk recalled loafing in front of the store included Pete Catherman, Charles Humphrey, Charles Shipton, and members of the Knauss family.

By the late 1930's and early 1940's folks from the West End were gravitating toward Mifflinburg to do their grocery shopping. In addition to the variety of shopping venues available in Mifflinburg people could also take care of their banking needs, go to a restaurant, get a haircut, or attend a movie while they were there. Around 1940 Peck Burd decided to take advantage of this trend by moving his merchandising business from Swengel to a new location at 340 Chestnut Street in Mifflinburg. Their nephew, John Nevin Burd, then began operating the store in Swengel.

Arthur R. Burd was only in Mifflinburg for a few years before he died of a heart attack on October 10, 1943, at the age of 46. Marietta Raker stated that at the time of her grandfather's death there were thousands of dollars in outstanding credit that was owed to Peck by his customers. None of that debt was ever collected. In March 1948 Lizzie, widow of Clarence L. Burd, sold the Swengel store to Willard and Leona (Shirk) Hackenberg. The Hackenberg's continued to operate the business for a number of years before they closed the store. The building that once housed Burd's Store was destroyed by fire and has since been razed.

Glen Iron, Cherry Run, Weikert, Laurelton, Pleasant Grove, White Springs, Pardee, Laurel Park, Millmont, and Swengel were each home to their own unique general store, or stores, during their history. Shirk's Store in Millmont is the only one still in existence. On October 31, 2009 Dorman's Country Store in Hartleton was closed, adding to the long list of stores from the West End that no longer exists.

The stores in these rural villages often housed the local post office and as a result they were the focal point of life in the communities in which they operated. Despite the closures of the local small town general stores, what remains are the memories. Burd's Store is an example of a small town general store that was memorable to many folks old enough to remember shopping there.

Editors Note: A special thanks to Marietta (Steese) Raker of Mifflinburg for inspiring me to write this article and for providing me with much of the information and photographs helpful in putting it together. I would also like to thank Lorenah (Steese) Greenland of Pennsylvania Furnace; Delphia (Jolly) Shirk and Charles Mabus Sr. of Millmont; Forrest Wenrick of Laurelton; Donald and Kay (Wagner) Shirk and Janice (Emery) Eichenlaub of Mifflinburg; Pat (Wagner) Rovenolt of Lewisburg; E. Walter Shirk of Surfside Beach, SC; Walter Krebs of Danville; and Patricia (Long) Witmer of Swengel.

Other sources include: Tape recorded interview with the late Helen (Rudy) Englehart; Story of Lewis Township and Swengel by Luther Yarger, and published in The Story of a County 1813-1963; The Mifflinburg Telegraph; and the office of Union County Register and Recorder in Lewisburg.

The small photograph located in the upper left hand corner of page one shows a view of the main street through the village of Swengel c 1920's. While it is difficult to see detail on the small photograph it appears as though Burd's Store was written in large letters on the north side of the building. The road through the village is dirt. Photograph from the collection of Delphia Shirk of Millmont.



Meanderings

by

Hertha S. Wehr

Hot Water

When I was growing up hot water was at a premium. It was not something where you just turned a faucet and automatically hot water came out. There were variations of how you could get hot water.

My older sister lived in town. Since they had a hot air furnace water could not be heated by their furnace. I'm not sure the electric water heater, or gas heaters were available for the average household. They had an arrangement, which was called a water front, which was a series of pipes going around the firebox of the kitchen range. This was all well and good when the kitchen range was being used in the wintertime. Summertime was another story.

Most kitchen ranges were not used continually in the summer time because of the heat. Some homes had a kerosene range, which was used in the summer. Some models had two burners while some came with four burners. When they were not being used they were turned off and the heat ceased to exist.

At the home where I grew up we had a kitchen range with a reservoir at the end of the stove. It had hot water all the time the stove was in use—providing the last to use hot water replenished it with cold water. I can never remember of going for water and it was dry. I guess everyone who used it appreciated being able to get hot water, so they readily refilled the reservoir. When summer came what a nuisance it was to have to heat water to wash dishes and heat water for bathing. But the oil (short for kerosene) stove was great for some things. Ours had an oven, which could be placed over two burners.

We used it to bake cakes and for roasting some meats. But pie baking and cookies were put off until a day it was not too hot, then the cook stove was put into use.

But finally we were able to have electricity. We were able to get an electric pump at the well. No more working that pump handle up and down. But the biggest bonus was that we get well water in the house. Prior to the electric pump we had spring water piped into the house but it was not used for drinking. Water was brought from the well for cooking and drinking.

Since we did not have a bathroom my brothers soon rigged up a shower in the basement. That brought into being the bucket-a-day stove, which worked much like the water front on the kitchen ranges, with the pipe arrangement running around the small stove. There was a tank to keep hot water at the ready. The theory was that you put a bucket of coal in once a day, adjusted the draft and it was supposed to keep things at an even temperature until the next day when you took out the ashes, added another bucket of coal and you always had hot water. As a general rule it worked pretty well.

When I was married we had a bathroom but did not have a furnace to heat the whole house, neither did we have a cook stove. Heat was supplied with coal and wood burning stoves. Thus that bucket-a-day stove came into being again. If we had a windy day it would burn faster than it was supposed to, on days when the weather was foggy, with no breeze whatsoever, it would go out, I never did get used to regulating it as it was supposed to work. I had most of the responsibility of tending it, as Karl was not here most of the day. It was a very frustrating experience. So all the growling of not having hot water, or having it too hot was by, and at, me. An electric water heater was a next "must have" on our purchase list, and at that time everything had priorities.

When we felt we could afford to pay for a water heater we purchased one. Nothing went on a credit card as our income was spotty and we never bought things unless we could pay for them when purchased. It was indeed a pleasure and blessing to have hot water at the turn of a faucet, especially when one came in from outdoor chores and needed hot water for cooking and cleaning.

Our water heater today is right below the bathrooms so I have to wait a few minutes, well maybe not minutes, until hot water arrives at the kitchen sink. I am often reminded of the days of no hot water and feel blessed once again. Don't forget the blessings you experience every day.



Field Notes, by WCO Dirk Remensnyder

A few of my Hunter Education instructors have been out quite a few times to hunt for geese but were complaining that on some days the ground that they had to lay on was cold and damp causing them to quit hunting before they wanted to leave. Then one day one of the instructors stopped by the house while I was doing a workout using an army issued physical training mat and thought that would be the perfect solution to their goose hunting problems. When I went to my next drill weekend I bought them each a mat and was just informed that it has solved their problem.

The number one violation observed by my deputies and I during the month of October was hunters not displaying their hunting license. All were issued warnings and asked to spread the word that displaying a license is still required.

Would You Like to Send Christmas Cheer to Someone This Year?

There are a number of people that are in assisted living centers or nursing homes that would appreciate a letter or card this Christmas. If you would like to send Christmas cheer to brighten up the day of one or more of the individuals listed below we're sure they would be happy to hear from you. While this list is far from complete it includes folks that we know personally that could use a cheerful greeting this holiday season.

Leona Wirt
270 Ridgecrest Circle Apt. 79
Lewisburg, PA 17837

David W. Diehl
c/o RiverWoods
3201 River Road
Lewisburg, PA 17837

Bruce Shirk, Room 147
Elmcroft of Lewisburg
2421 Old Turnpike Road
Lewisburg, PA 17837

David & Vivian Shively
4905 East Trindle Road
Box 69 Country Meadows
Mechanicsburg, PA 17050

Kathryn Wert
29 Grayson View Ct. #237
Selinsgrove, PA 17870

Dean & Emilie Jansma
500 East Maryland Ave.
State College, PA 16801

Mervin & Esther Nissley
RhodesMere Room 410
945 Fairground Road
Lewisburg, PA 17837

Fay Zechman
Helen Harter
Dennis Shively

Each at the following address:
c/o Rolling Hills Manor
17350 Old Turnpike Road
Millmont, PA 17845

What's Happening at Christ's United Lutheran Church

From December 10 through the 12th members of the church will be selling baked potatoes, peanut butter Bon-bons, and Schnitz un Knepp at the Christ-kindl Market on Market Street in Mifflinburg. Christkindl Market is open from 4:30 p.m. until 9:00 p.m. on Thursday, 10:00 a.m. until 9:00 p.m. on Friday, and from 10:00 a.m. until 9:00 p.m. on Saturday.

Angel Food Ministries - Low Cost Food Distribution available to EVERY-ONE. The Angel Food Signature Box contains approx. 17 items (different each month) with a value of \$60 or more at the local grocery store.... for just \$30. Several other choices as well as specials are available each month as well. For the current menu or to order online, please visit their website at www.4bellschurch.com.

Looking Back

The newspaper article below was originally published in The Mifflinburg Telegraph on December 9, 1875.

Letter From Laurelton

Laurelton, November 29, 1875

Mr. Editor: Last Wednesday five deer were killed, along the creek, four or five miles above this place. The lucky hunters are Jac. Deter, Thompson A. Snyder, Wm. H. Snyder, Andy Hironimus and John Galer, each of whom shot one. T. A. Snyder shot his (a four pronged buck) with a revolver. Wm. H. Snyder also killed one on Monday.

On Sunday, 28th, Mrs. Dersham and Mrs. Aumiller, daughters of Robert Badger, were immersed in Penns Creek by Rev. Adam Beaver. The solemn rite was witnessed by a large number of spectators.

The Laurelton coal yard seems to be doing a flourishing business. The proprietors, W. E. & S. S. Smith, have lately purchased 75 car loads of pea coal; 30 of which are for Swengelville, 25 for Millmont and 20 for Laurelton.

It is rumored that there is to be a miniature job printing office set up in this village; but as no press or material is yet on hand, the folks are beginning to think that the rumor is false.

Last Monday I made a trip to
"TIGHT END,"

as the upper part of the valley is appropriately called. From Laurelton westward, for a distance of about 12 miles, Paddy's Mountain on the north, and Jack's and White Mountains on the south, gradually approach each other, until, at last, there is nothing but Penns Creek between them; thus forming what is usually called "tight end." This is a favorite resort for picnics, and also for hunting and fishing parties.

At McCurdy's, ten miles above Laurelton, I found Col. Moore and Sons, with a force of some 20 men, at work grading the railroad. The masonry for the trestle bridge across Cherry Run is nearly completed. It is a good solid job of dressed stone, put up by Amos Fauver of Laurelton. Amos understands all about masonry and the dressing of stones; but all that spites him is that he cannot take his bridges and culverts into the shop these cold days, to finish them.

Farther up I found Thomas Martin, who has charge of Campbell Brother's job, busy at work along the side of the mountain. Next comes Mr. Gilliece's work which includes Paddy's tunnel. This is 14 miles above Laurelton, where Penns Creek breaks through the mountain. Tunneling, at this end, has not yet commenced, as the rock formation is too loose to do it with safety. A great deal of work, however, has already been done; and the tunnel, now, has the appearance of a large stone quarry. At the other end they commenced tunneling, but had only proceeded a few feet when it caved in, as the rock is not solid. It is probable that a cut will now have to be made through the mountain,

(Continued on page 8)

Recipe of the Month

by Janice (Dorman) Shively

Sweet-Hot Sausage Meatballs

2 cans (8 ounces each) water chestnuts, drained
1 lb. bulk pork sausage
1 lb. bulk hot pork sausage
¼ C. cornstarch
1 C. maple syrup
⅔ C. cider or red wine vinegar
¼ C. soy sauce

Finely mince water chestnuts and transfer to a large bowl; add sausage. Mix well. Shape into 1-in. balls. Place in ungreased 15-in. x 10-in. x 1-in. baking pan. Bake, uncovered at 350° for 20 – 25 minutes or until meat is done. Meanwhile, in a saucepan, combine cornstarch, maple syrup, vinegar and soy sauce; stir until smooth. Bring to a boil; cook and stir for 2 minutes or until thickened and bubbly. Drain meatballs; add to sauce and heat through. Yield: approximately 36 meatballs.



These meatballs are ideal for your Christmas or New Year's gatherings. They are a good balance of spicy, tangy and sweet with a bit of crunch. This is a recipe that I came across in a magazine years ago. I've made these meatballs for numerous gatherings and they always disappear quickly.

ENJOY!

instead of a tunnel. Should this be the case, it will be an immense cut; and it will be at least two years before the grading through the mountains will be finished.

A walk of six miles, to the tunnel and back again, over the rough mountain road, gave me an appetite like a sawmill; and it would have done you good, Mr. Editor, to see me stow away the victuals which Mrs. McCurdy set before me. After satisfying myself with good things, I had a pleasant conversation with Thomas McCurdy, who is now nearly 80 years of age. He told me that he came here from Mifflinburg in the spring of 1836—nearly 40 years ago. It was then a perfect wilderness; but he cleared up the ground, built himself a house, and raised a family of which he may well be proud. He is now living in ease and comfort, with his son Foster, enjoying the fruits of his hard labor. Although he was never much of a hunter, he shot 36 deer, 8 bears and a great deal of smaller game. While living in Mifflinburg he occupied the house now owned by Jas. Haus. He was at one time in partnership with your father (our aged Commissioner) in the hat making business. He related many other things of interest about Mifflinburg of 40 years ago, and the persons who lived there then; but, as my letter is already too long, I must close for the present.

Yours Truly, C. E. Haus.



Happy 98th Birthday Leona Wirt!

Leona (Sholter) Wirt, daughter of the late Asa R. and Verna (Erdley) Sholter, will be celebrating her 98th birthday on December 12th. Anyone wishing to send

birthday greetings to Leona may do so at this address: 270 Ridgecrest Circle Apt. 79, Lewisburg, PA 17837.

Hartleton Union Church Christmas Program

You are invited to attend the annual Christmas Program on December 17 at 7:00 p.m.

The historic Union Church is located on Catherine Street in Hartleton.

Music will be shared by the Millmont Mennonite Youth Group.

Refreshments will be provided.

For more information please call Wendy Styers at 570.922.1892 or Laurie Hughes at 570.922.4771

Penlines From my Kitchen to Yours

by Lucy Hoover

October 18, 2009

Charlene and Lisa Zimmerman and Merle Wise family were at church. There were four deaf girls and two boys and Curvin interpreted in sign language for them.

October 19

Lewis and Verna Hoover of Lewisburg came home. They were living in the Luke Shirk home in Iowa for 7 1/2 weeks since Nevin (age 19) had his accident. Nevin is home again too.

October 21

Mrs. Henry Oberholtzer had a quilting and invited all the ladies that she bought produce for at the auction this summer. She had 4 regular size quilts and 1 crib quilt in frames. She invited approximately 70 ladies.

November 3

Luke and Ada Mae Hoover of Mifflinburg have a son named Daniel. He has seven brothers and three sisters. Grandparents are Joseph and Margaret Hoover and Phares and Ada Zimmerman.

November 5

Joyce Martin (age 10) daughter of John and Miriam of Mifflinburg, came home from Pittsburgh. She is doing well and does not need to go back for six weeks unless a problem would arise.

"Mountain Laurel" the new parochial school in Millmont (off Laurel Road) opened its doors two weeks ago.

November 12

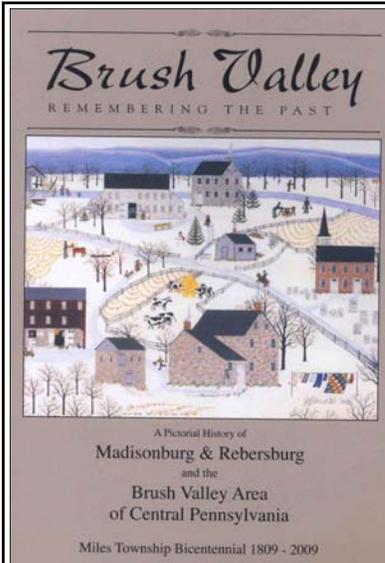
Samuel and Dorothy Hoover of Mifflinburg have a son named Lester. He is their first child. Grandparents are Harvey and Martha Hoover of KY and Lester and Martha Nolt.

November 13

Allen and Kathleen Weaver of Lewisburg have a daughter named Rosalie. She is their first child. Grandparents are Melvin and Elva Weaver and Leon and Marian Martin.

November 14

Ivan Zimmerman (age 30) son of Esra Zimmerman of Mifflinburg has not been well. He is now on oxygen.



Brush Valley Remembering the Past A Pictorial History of Madisonburg & Rebersburg And the Brush Valley Area of Central Pennsylvania

This 74 page soft cover book is full of history pertaining to Penns Valley as well as Brush Valley! Each page has photographs along with their histories. There are many photographs of people, houses, churches and other buildings. Some of the names listed are Poorman, Gramley, Spangler, Royer, Bierly, Brungart, and Corman. There is also a section in this book on the Miles Township Veterans' Memorial. This section has many

names listed with the war in which they were served. The wars include: Revolutionary War; War of 1812; Civil War; Spanish American War; World War I; World War II; Korean Conflict; Vietnam Era; Persian Gulf; Iraq/GWOT; and Peacetime Veterans.

The book was written by the Miles Township Bicentennial Committee and would make an ideal Christmas gift! The cost of the book is \$15, or \$18 if mailed. For more information, or to order a book, please contact Vonnie Henninger, 107 Brown Road, Rebersburg, PA 16872, phone 814.349.8960 or e-mail eeh1@psu.edu

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:

Tuesday December 13, 1932. This PM Mervyn Mench took Sister Mow to Brother Earl Kipp's place. They were there for supper but it began to snow so fast and storm they decided to come home before services. They had an awful time getting home without chains the car skidded so much. They turned from side to side they could hardly get down the hill.

Wednesday December 14, 1932. Stormy, 20—30 degrees. Did some work in the garage and then did some reading. I have a bad cold.

Thursday December 15, 1932. Stormy. Did some work in the garage and then helped in the house.

Saturday December 17, 1932. Snowing 10 to 15 degrees. This PM Mr. Oscar Catherman, who lives near the Power Plant, was here for me to come down to baptize his brother-in-law, Mr. Paul Kaler, who is very sick. I told him that I could not do it as I have found no place where they sprinkled for baptism in the Bible. They got Rev. Upham to sprinkle him today. I read and prayed with him then came home and visited Brother Dewitt. He was hurt by the train throwing him over when it hit his mail cart.

Sunday December 18, 1932. Clear, temperature 10 degrees.

Subject World Evangelism. Present 83. Douty taught my Class. I preached from Matthew 24:41. This evening I was at home, while mother went with Edmund where they practiced for Christmas.

Monday December 19, 1932. Cloudy. I helped some in the garage part of the day. Later I was lying down since I was not feeling well.

Millmont Items

On the morning of November 6 John Weaver and friends began tearing off the old shingles on the roof of their 18 Penn Street home. Although the sun was shining brightly throughout the day it was cool with a brisk wind blowing. They finished their project the following day.

The repetitious pounding of the hammer well drilling apparatus could be heard throughout the village on Veterans Day, November 11 and again on Thursday the 12th. The new well was being drilled at a residence off Millmont Road.

Delphia Shirk spent Thanksgiving Day recuperating in Evangelical Hospital. She came home for two days but then had to return to the hospital for another few days. As of this writing she was still in Evangelical Hospital. For those who would like to send Delphia well-wishes during her recovery you may do so at: P.O. Box 56 Millmont, PA 17845.

The renovation of the Millmont Covered Bridge commenced during the third week of November. Contrary to published reports the bridge will not be completely dismantled during the renovation process. Mark Welker, of Shaffer Engineering, recently informed the editor that the renovation work will take nearly one year to complete and will involve substantial work on the support structures and the replacement of any deteriorated wood. Welker, who has been involved in a similar project in a different part of the state, said that everyone will be pleased once the project is complete in late 2010.

Photographs & Information Wanted

I am interested in obtaining information and photographs relating to the following people and places:

Photographs and information relative to the Knauss family of Swengel who owned and operated the portable thrashing machines.

Photographs of the Swengel Band Wagon.

Information and photographs of Rev. Joseph E. and Caroline (Watson) Brenneman, and Rev. J. Fred and Esther (Showalter) Andreas.

Information and photographs of Dreibelbis Mill that was located in White Springs.

Photographs of a train exiting the Paddy Mountain Tunnel.

Information and photographs relative to Clayton "Buck" Johnson.

Old newspaper clippings, obituaries, or articles pertaining to people and places in the West End of Union County.

If you, or someone you know can provide anything pertaining to the above mentioned people I would appreciate it very much if you would contact me at 570.922.4297. My mailing address is P.O. Box 3 Millmont, PA 17845. Or you can send an email to: tshively@dejazzd.com

Newsletter subscriber, Ron Keister of Laurelton is searching for information about his great-grandfather, Michael Keister. Michael died sometime during the first decade of the 1900's. Ron would greatly appreciate any information about Michael, including exactly when he died and where he is buried. You can contact Ron Keister at 570.922.1879, or write to him at P. O. Box 62, Laurelton, PA 17835.

Blessings from the Bible

By Brenda Weaver

Suggested reading: Romans 8

"For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death. For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh."

Romans 8:2-3

The time of year has come to be thankful, not that we shouldn't be thankful all year long! As I write, Thanksgiving Day is only a day away. December will find us celebrating Christmas.

As I meditated on being thankful and read again of God's great gift to us, lines of rhyme started to come. Writing poetry is often a worshipful experience for me, because I can exercise a gift God has given, and give it back to Him with adoration and praise. So here is our gift to you at this season of the year:

The Gift of The Living Testament

His advent brought a new and living Testament
So full of grace and truth mankind could not lament
The folding of the Old Law—old and spent;
The comers thereunto stayed discontent.

His birth, His life, and death rose a new day.
At His cruel death the rent veil made a way
To enter the true holiest and pray
And now, joint heirs, we'll forward to the fray.

One coming day we'll hear the trumpet blast
Cold death be swallowed up in victory at last
And we in rapturous joy will our crowns cast
At His feet, who bore sins of future days and past.

Old Testament spent,
New Testament lived;
He gave
That we might give.

With lips unleashed,
May praise increase;
He came
That we might live!

Together we can thank and praise God for the best gift ever given—salvation through Christ Jesus. Hopefully our gift-giving and busyness won't obscure the true reason for this season!

Prayer for Today:

Precious Lord, We have so much to thank you for, very many

(Continued on page 11)

(Continued from page 10)

blessings and gifts of all sorts, but we are most thankful for Your great love to us and Your exceeding great kindness towards us in offering us the free gift of salvation through Your Son, Jesus. We can say with the hymn-writer:

*“Could we with ink the ocean fill, and were the skies of parchment made,
Were every stalk on earth a quill, and every man a scribe by trade,
To write the love of God above would drain the ocean dry,
Nor could the scroll contain the whole, though stretched from sky to sky!”*

(The quote above was taken from “The Love of God” by Frederick M. Lehman, who actually borrowed the words of this third verse of the hymn from a Jewish songwriter who wrote a poem containing this word picture in Arabic in 1096. Many years later, these revised words of the poem were found written on the wall of an insane asylum after a patient’s death. During times of sanity these words must have brought the patient great comfort. Pastor Lehman heard of this account and wanted to preserve the powerful words for future generations, thus he wrote the song. Only one who understands—or begins to understand—the love of God can realize how true the words, how deep His love.)

Have a blessed Christmas, remembering the love of God.

Thank You!

I would like to thank the following people for making monetary donations toward the publication of this newsletter: Pauline Shively of Millmont; Audrey VonNeida of Hartleton; Kenneth and Annabelle Shuck, Irene Musser, Ralph and Edna Ammon, Billy and Lindy Mattern, and Eli and Kathleen Reiff, all of Mifflinburg; Jim and Cam Hironimus of Coburn; Wayne Benner and Leroy and Gloria Wenrick all of Laurelton; Paul and Elaine Feist of Lewisburg; Robert and Jeanne Jolly of Weikert; and Gary and Ruth Alice Spangler of New Berlin.

If you would like to receive a FREE color version of The Millmont Times each month via the Internet you can log on to the website: www.millmonttimes.com and download the newsletter directly onto your computer. All of the newsletters published between January 2004 to the current issue are 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 like to welcome the following new subscribers: J. David Hain of Sunbury; Jim and Cam Hironimus of Coburn; Truman and Betty Motter of Hartleton; Julia Lenhart and John Watson both of Mifflinburg; Dale Dorman of Lewisburg, and Charles Zechman, Jr. of Millmont.

I would also like to thank Ronald Keister of Laurelton for allowing me to copy a photograph of a steam engine on the Laurelton railroad spur line that he took while a student at the Laurelton Elementary School in 1956; Harvey W. Illgen of Mifflinburg for providing information and photographs pertaining to Arthur and Miriam (Brungard) Snyder; Bill Mattern of Mifflinburg for providing with information about Dr. Charles W. Boush who in addition to helping form the Millmont Rod & Gun Club also helped to organize the Kramer Rod and Gun Club to which Bill is a also a member; Jeff and Becky (Shively) Bailey of Mechanicsburg for donating Shively family material.



The photograph to the left shows the last diesel train that traveled on the Laurelton State Village Spur in 1956.

The photograph was taken by Ronald Keister, then a sixth grade student in Harry Bingaman’s class at the Laurelton Elementary School. Having advance knowledge that the last train would be passing through Laurelton, Ron took his box camera along to school in hopes of getting a photograph. He walked out in front of the school to capture the last train on film as it was going by.

My sincere thanks to Ron for sharing this photograph with me and all those who read this newsletter.

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: tshively@dejazzd.com

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www.millmonttimes.com

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

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E-mail: tshively@dejazzd.com

December Birthdays & Anniversaries

1 – Matt Klauger
1 – Eli & Anna Shirk - 1960
1 – Vivian Shively
1 - Terry Witmer
1- Kyle Blyler
1 – Robert Katherman
2 – Robert Wagner
3 – William “Bill” Levan
3 – Myrna Walter
3 – Gordon Libby
4 – Mark Hartman
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
11 – Nancy Heckman
11 – Curvin Hoover
11 – Mike Hackenberg
12 – Leona Wirt
13 - Dennis Susan
13 – Robert Vanatta
14 – Levi Martin
14 – Joe Schnure
15 – Jane Benner
15 – Terry Mensch
16 – Galen Graham - 1928
17 – David W. Diehl
17 – Oscar Maust
17 – Anna Maria Maust
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 - Jayden Beaver
31 – Leon & Lydia Zimmerman - 1992

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