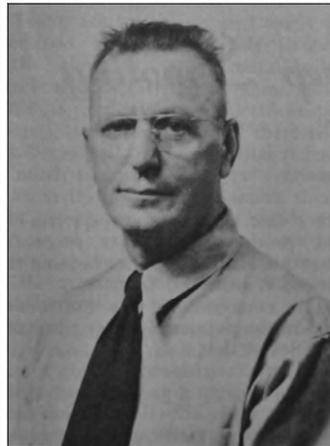




The Wardens Miles Reeder & Art Snyder



Miles L. Reeder

Pennsylvania is unique in that it is the only state with independent agencies managing the commonwealth's fish and game species. These two agencies are the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission, established in 1866, and the Pennsylvania Game Commission, established in 1895. The suggestion that Pennsylvania should modify the management of fish and wildlife agencies in order to conform with the other 49 states has been researched and debated, examined and explored numerous times over the years. To date the state legislature has not advanced any attempt at combining the two agencies.

Despite the fact that both agencies operate independently of one another, conservation officers from both agencies have enjoyed a close working relationship. The interaction and cooperation between wardens was particularly noticeable in Union and Snyder counties during the overlapping tenures of Game Warden Miles Reeder and Fish Warden Art Snyder. These two men assisted one another in their respective law enforcement respon-

sibilities from 1929 through 1936 when Reeder was transferred.

Miles Leslie Reeder was born August 7, 1888, in Cross Keys, Juniata County, a small community southeast of Mt. Union, Pennsylvania. His parents were Joseph and Laura Reeder. At some point during his childhood, Miles relocated with his family to Bucyrus, Ohio, north of Columbus. Despite this move Reeder maintained close ties to his native state and returned to his Pennsylvania roots to marry the former Alice I. Cox of Mt. Union. They were married in Hagerstown, Maryland on September 12, 1914. According to Kathryn (Reeder) Boob (1916-2001), her father served as a deputy game protector at Mt. Union, PA prior to becoming a full time employee with the Pennsylvania Game Commission.

On October 21, 1919, thirty-one year old Reeder was appointed Assistant Game Protector with the Pennsylvania Game Commission. According to a 1967 Lock Haven newspaper article, when Reeder began his duties in Clinton County in 1919, he was earning \$125.00 per month. In that August newspaper article he talked about his salary with the Game Commission during the early part of his career. Reeder exclaimed: "it was good money in those days".

In 1920, the game warden patrolling the fields and forests of Union County was Charles L. Braucher of Hartleton. He collapsed and died from a heart attack while in the performance of his duties near New Berlin September 9, 1920. In November of that same year Miles Reeder was assigned acting game protector of Union and Snyder counties. On January 6, 1921, the Board of Game Commissioners appointed Reeder to the post of game protector of these two counties.

(Continued on page 2)

Field Notes, by WCO Dirk Remensnyder



One of my deputies took his son out for the early special antlerless deer season. His son was really excited and watched the woods and the field edge intently from within the blind for any signs or movement of a deer. All of the sudden, near the blind, the leaves rustled indicating something was close. Suddenly a chipmunk popped into the blind through a hole and started running circles in the blind looking for a way out. Needless to say the young boy's attention went from intently looking for deer to chasing a chipmunk.

I recently found a hunters field jacket, which the hunter forgot prior to leaving the area he parked at. The hunter got his jacket and license back after we made contact with him.

(Continued from page 1)



Arthur S. "Art" Snyder served as Fish Warden for Union and Snyder counties for 22 years, and manager of Fisherman's Paradise in Centre County for 17 years. Photograph courtesy of Harvey Ilgen of Mifflinburg.

Shortly after his assignment Reeder began searching for a home that was centrally located in his district, between the communities of Mifflinburg and Middleburg. Reeder and his family settled into a home on Green Street in Mifflinburg. They remained in Mifflinburg until he was transferred in 1936.

Miles and Alice Reeder were the parents of five children, one son and four daughters. Their only son, Edward Reeder, was killed at age 32 while employed by the railroad. Their four daughters were: Kathryn, married to Donald Boob; Sara, married to Glen Stevens; Ruth, married to Jack Heydrich and a daughter Jean, who died at age 6.

Arthur Stillwell Snyder, "Art" as he was generally known, was a native of Union County. According to the marriage docket in the Union County Courthouse, Snyder was born November 1, 1886, near Winfield, the son of Charles and Alveretta (Sears) Snyder. He married the former Helena R. Pfleeger, and together they had a daughter, also named Alveretta. Snyder's marriage to Pfleeger ended in divorce in 1930. He subsequently married the former Miriam E. Brungard, the daughter of Harvey and Anna (Boop) Brungard. Rev. Harry Reynolds united Snyder and Brungard in marriage in the Hartleton Lutheran Church on September 29, 1933. Art and Miriam did not have any children.

Throughout Miles Reeder's tenure as game warden of Union and Snyder counties he and the editor of The Mifflinburg Telegraph maintained a cordial relationship. The newspaper demonstrated its support for his law enforcement efforts by customarily publishing his exploits. And, Reeder elicited the newspaper's assistance in spreading the word about the game laws and Game Commission activities in his district. In addition to the rapport with the game warden the editor of this local newspaper had strong ties to valley sportsmen.

Early in his career Reeder was not only enforcing game laws, he was also enforcing the laws established by the Fish Commission. One instance of

local game wardens enforcing the fish laws took place on the Susquehanna River near Selinsgrove in May 1921. Reeder and his counterpart in Northumberland County, Warden Charles Madendorf, concealed themselves along the edge of the river in an effort to nab individuals engaged in illegal fishing activities. When the violators approached Reeder and Madendorf, they were instructed to bring their boat to the waters edge. Snubbing those commands, Reeder leaped into the water, grabbed hold of the violators boat and pulled it to the riverbank. Two men were taken into custody along with their nets, gigs and numerous game fish that were illegally taken.

In the August 31, 1922 edition of The Mifflinburg Telegraph the writer took the opportunity to support Reeder's law enforcement efforts, and at the same time vent their frustration at the Fish Commission for not having a warden in place in Union County. The article stated: *"Mr. Reeder is a game protector and is paid by the Game Commission and not by the Fish Commission, altho he is instructed to prevent fishing violations and has the authority to do so.....Mr. Reeder's work as game protector has been highly satisfactory to the sportsmen of his district; he has enforced the law without favor; secured game and been on the job in every way, and it is not possible for the enforcement of the fish laws, because that would be a physical impossibility. His job, as the most efficient game protector this district has ever had, is more than enough to keep him busy. It is up to the Fish Commission to give the fishermen some protection for their money or have the license law repealed."*

Despite appeals by the newspaper directed towards the Fish Commission to appoint a fish warden for the county, it took several years before Art Snyder was selected to the position. While I was unable to ascertain precisely when Snyder was appointed fish warden for Union and Snyder counties, research reveals that he was actively enforcing the fish laws in 1929. Snyder knew his district well and like Reeder he was familiar with those who deliberately flaunted the laws. Although employed by different state agencies, these wardens, often working in unison, vigorously enforced the fish and game laws in their district.

In addition to the articles published in the local newspaper, narratives about the law enforcement prowess of Miles Reeder and Art Snyder were etched on the minds of several people I have interviewed over the years. Those men included LaRue E. Shirk, Charles S. Mabus, George J. Sholter, Raymond E. Kline and Milford K. Hoover. These men knew one or both of the wardens personally. While some of the accounts they related to me came straight from the wardens, other information they shared is merely anecdotal. Whether some of this information is factual or legend, I do not know. All eyewitnesses to these accounts have been deceased for a long time, so there is no way of corroborating their hearsay accounts.

Charles Mabus (1920-2013) became acquainted with the game warden during the early 1930's while living on Green Street, just east of the Reeder home. As a teenager Mabus took an interest in the warden's activities. LaRue Shirk (1916-2002) also

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Exploring the Bald Eagle State Forest

Samuel "Sammy" Osenbaugh

The Old Mountain Man

Part I



The photograph above shows a crew from the Laurelton Lumber Company standing on Engine No. 2. Left to right is Sammy Osenbaugh, John Reppart, Rufus "Linn" Wert, Joe Bartlo, Charles Hoffman, Harry Krebs and Charles Raub. Date unknown.

Photograph courtesy of William A. Koons of Mifflinburg.

Samuel "Sammy" Osenbaugh was a man who knew large sections of the Bald Eagle State Forest - as that often used saying proclaims - "like the back of his hand". Although he was not a native, this rough and rugged outdoorsman was well acquainted with Paddy, Buffalo, Stitzer, Bear and Stony mountains. He was also quite familiar with the mountainous terrain in the Gooseneck, the Hook, as well as every gap, hollow, ravine and knob. Osenbaugh first became familiar with these areas as a result of his employment with the Laurelton Lumber Company. This lumber company operated from the mid 1880's until 1909 harvesting large sections of forestland, and Osenbaugh was one of many employees who assisted in that effort.

Once the forest was stripped of its timber the lumbering jobs disappeared. Osenbaugh and others were forced to either relocate where the lumbering jobs were, or find a new way of earning a living. Osenbaugh chose to remain in the West End, where he found employment with the Pennsylvania Department of Forestry. Later in life he was hired by the Pennsylvania Game Commission as a refuge keeper. In both of these latter jobs Osenbaugh played a role in helping to repair and restore the forest that he and others helped to denude with reckless abandon.

As near as I can determine, Osenbaugh was born in Ohio on June 22, 1872. Precisely when he found his way to the West End of Union County is unknown, and what brought him to this area is also unknown. However, a plausible explanation may be his association with

the Laurelton Lumber Company. The first time Samuel Osenbaugh's name appears on census records in Hartley Township was in 1900 (1890 census records are nonexistent). Decennial census information recorded from 1900 through 1940 reveals significant personal information about Osenbaugh.

During a thirty-year period (1900-1930) Osenbaugh had a housekeeper living with him by the name of Amanda Sheesley. Throughout those three decades he and Sheesley indicated that they were each single and they had no children. When the 1940 census information was gathered Osenbaugh had a new housekeeper by the name of Edna Narehood. At that time Osenbaugh is 67 years old and Edna Narehood is 35 years old. They also list two young children living in the home, Naomi Narehood (4) and Florence Narehood (1).

During the forty-year census time frame (1900-1940) the noteworthy changes relative to Osenbaugh were his various occupations. In 1900 he was listed as a trucker, in 1910 a lumberman, in 1920 a refuge keeper, 1930 a state forester and in 1940 a carpenter.

Following the demise of the large-scale lumber operations vast sections of denuded forestland was purchased by the Pennsylvania Department of Forestry. Over time, the state established forest districts, and placed men in charge of this state land in an effort to repair and restore the forest. From around 1912 through 1920, the forester responsible for the Buffalo Division of state forestlands in western Union County and eastern Centre County was Arthur C. Silvius. His headquarters was located in Laurelton. Since the restoration work was more than one man could possibly handle, he hired seasonal or part time workers to assist with those tasks.

One of men Silvius wanted on his team was Sam Osenbaugh. While Silvius was anxious to hire him as a fulltime ranger, authorization from Harrisburg was not forthcoming. On July 2, 1912, Silvius sent the following letter to his supervisor, Robert S. Conklin, head of the Department of Forestry: *"As per a recent letter to Commissioner Harris, it has been my purpose to remain neutral in the matter of the contemplated ranger appointment for this territory, but I can restrain myself no longer as the worth of the man now filling this position temporarily, daily impresses and convince me. He is what I call a "find" for this work. He is 37 years old*, was employed by the Laurelton Lumber Co. for 6 years as a truck boss and had charge of one of their log trains. A man fond of the woods. Knows every inch of this territory and above all is a hard and skillful worker. In fact I am sure that his qualifications are so far beyond that of any one else in this vicinity, that I truly believe it would be a mistake to appoint any other person. If I felt any other way about it I would not trouble you about the matter.....in addition the above Mr. Osenbaugh lives at almost an ideal location, namely, just a short distance from the east end of the 7 Mile Narrows into Centre Co."*

In time, Silvius received consent to hire Osenbaugh, even though reports from March 1913 indicate that he was earning a pitiful \$13.65 per month. Over time his earnings increased, due primarily to the efforts of Silvius who begged and cajoled his supervisors in Harrisburg to raise Osenbaugh's salary. By 1916 he was earning \$40.00 per month.

Correspondence from Silvius to Robert Conklin dated February 1918 reveals another attempt for the Department of Forestry to increase Osenbaugh's pay. In that letter Silvius wrote: *"Now, while you said I could only pay \$50.00 per month for each of the four*

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Recipe of the Month

By Janice (Dorman) Shively

Breakfast Casserole

6 slices stale bread, buttered on one side
 12 eggs, beaten
 2 C. milk
 1 lb. chopped or chipped ham
 1 lb. shredded cheese

Butter the bottom and sides of a 9 x 13 pan. Put bread in pan, butter side down. Layer with ham and cheese. Combine eggs and milk with wire whisk. Pour over top, cover and refrigerate for a few hours up to 2 days. Cover with aluminum foil sprayed with non-stick spray and bake at 350° x 45 minutes. Uncover and bake another 15 minutes.

This basic recipe can easily be adjusted to suit anyone's taste buds. I've recently prepared this recipe and omitted the ham, but layered spinach, sweet bell peppers, sliced

onion and hen of the wood mushrooms. I topped the casserole with Colby-jack cheese and added some oregano and basil to the egg mixture. I've also made this with chipped roast beef and Swiss cheese.



For years we hosted Christmas brunch at our house. Some variety of this recipe was always served. It's great because you can prepare it ahead, pull it out of the fridge and go to the oven. (Make sure you use a pan that is o.k. going from the cold to hot without risk of cracking.)

The recipe came to me from my friend Donna Prince of Middleburg, more than 20 years ago. I've been preparing this dish for years, and almost never the same way. I really enjoy trying new additions to the basic recipe. I hope you will find many years of palatable enjoyment with this dish too! Merry Christmas!

ENJOY!

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Shown above is Clinton County Game Protector Miles L. Reeder and his deputies. Left to right: Jack Heydrich (Reeder's son-in-law), Earl Keen, _____ Zerbe, Reeder, Wilbur Williams and Delmar Decker. Photograph courtesy of Kathryn (Reeder) Boob.

accounts Reeder and Snyder caught individuals illegally taking fish under cover of darkness through the use of gigs. The wardens ordered the culprits to come out of the water and surrender. The violators disregarded that request and instead taunted the wardens to come in the water and get them. Both wardens immediately jumped in the water, ready and willing to meet the violators in the middle of the stream. By all accounts a melee erupted in the middle of Penns Creek resulting in the use of hands and fists, flashlights and blackjacks. During the fracas Snyder's blackjack burst open, the lead shot spilled out, and he was left holding little more than the leather strap. He then resorted to using his flashlight as a club. The wardens ultimately overpowered the lawbreakers and charges were filed.

George Sholter recalled when it was not uncommon for men to use dynamite in order to capture a large number of fish. This sinister behavior was used on large streams like Penns Creek and also smaller mountain streams such as Weikert Run, Cherry Run and Rapid Run. Lighting a stick of dynamite and tossing it into a stream resulted in the fish rising to the surface. They were then easily scooped up with a net. Sholter recalled an incident in which he and Art Snyder walked from the village of Weikert to Devil's Elbow to apprehend lawbreakers using dynamite to capture fish from Weikert Run.

Snyder's aggressiveness in enforcing the fish laws was noted in an August 1933 newspaper article in the Mifflinburg Telegraph. Details surrounding the episode revealed that five or six violators were taking fish with illegal devices near the powerhouse dam south of Millmont. When the source of water to the mill was temporarily diverted, unethical fishermen took advantage of the catfish, yellow perch, suckers, carp, sunfish and rock bass that became stranded in the tailrace. When caught in the act by Snyder, the miscreants hurriedly abandoned their net, pitchfork and their illegal catch of dozens of game fish.

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Snyder made a desperate attempt to capture at least one of the individuals who "scattered to the four winds" when he bellowed at the lawbreakers to halt. The newspaper article noted that: "Warden Snyder deserves great credit for his fearless efforts to apprehend fish outlaws. In chasing the men Tuesday evening he received painful injuries when he fell into the fence that made possible the escape of the man he was pursuing". Before fleeing the scene Snyder was able to ascertain the license number of the vehicle.

Milford K. Hoover (1936-2012) told me that as a youngster he spent years working on Art Snyder's farm located just south of Mifflinburg off Route 304. During that time he recalled seeing a lot of gigs and fishnets stored in the barn at the Snyder farm. Most likely Snyder seized those items while making arrests for illegal activities.

The aggressive law enforcement tactics employed by Reeder and Snyder were welcomed by honest and law abiding sportsmen. However, the men who wantonly and willfully disrespected the fish and game laws despised them. Some of these lawbreakers hated them so much that attempts to do bodily harm were aimed at Reeder.

Shirk, Mabus and Sholter each recounted an incident in which an individual allegedly fired a shot at Reeder. Piecing the story together it appears as though Reeder was on foot patrol on the east end of Paddy Mountain when the incident took place. A shot reverberated through the woods, and according to one of the men I interviewed, the bullet "barked a tree" near Reeder's head. Pieces of bark purportedly struck him on the face. Whether the intent was to frighten him or to inflict serious harm is unknown.

Mabus also recalled an incident where Reeder parked his vehicle in a secluded area off Dietrich Road, northwest of Mifflinburg. Once again he was patrolling the area on foot. As rumor has it, one or more persons, with intent on causing severe or deadly harm to the warden attempted to rig a stick of dynamite to the battery of Reeder's vehicle. Mabus said he was not sure if the perpetrator(s) were spooked in the midst of their evil deed and were forced to flee, or what may have happened. In any event Reeder returned to his vehicle, noticed something amiss, and discovered the sabotage. Had Reeder unwittingly got into his vehicle and turned over the ignition, the consequences would have been tragic.

Reeder was also the victim of other incidents of foul play. He and his family owned a cabin in the Fourteen-Mile-Narrows, just west of the Union/Centre County line. This forest getaway was used for family outings and was also open for use by fish and game commission employees and forestry personnel. In January 1929 the cabin was burglarized and some of the contents removed. Two men were apprehended and prosecuted for their involvement in the crime.

A few years later, May 22, 1933, the cabin was deliberately set afire in the middle of the night. The 3:00 a.m. blaze caught the attention of a department of highway worker who made his way to a telephone to inform Reeder. Nothing could be done to save the remote cabin. The large wood frame structure was destroyed by the inferno.

Art Snyder was also the victim of criminal behavior. A newspaper article reported that on May 12, 1936, Snyder's vehicle was stolen during the late night hours while parked in Mifflinburg. His vehicle was a 1935 Ford V8 Coach, gunmetal in color and equipped with a spot light. I did not uncover any newspaper articles to indicate if his vehicle was ever found and returned to him.

Reeder also had numerous other life threatening adventures during his career as a game warden. In August 1926 he narrowly escaped serious injury when he inadvertently stepped on a large rattlesnake in the vicinity of Tunis Gap. The snake wrapped around his foot striking at his boot yet unable to bite him in the leg. After getting the snake off of his foot he withdrew his pistol and dispatched the 48-inch rattler.

On December 20, 1934, Reeder was the passenger in an automobile driven by Refuge Keeper, Charles Shannon in the Fourteen-Mile-Marrows. A truck driven by a CCC worker from the Halfway Camp, driving in the opposite direction, slammed into Shannon's vehicle causing extensive damage. Reeder and Shannon were shaken but escaped serious injury.

The year 1936 brought about a number of changes in the life of Miles Reeder. In April the Game Commission adopted a number of changes, including separating Union from Snyder County with regards to law enforcement. Reeder remained in charge of Union County while his assistant, Clarence Walker, was named Game Protector in Snyder County.

In July of 1936, two of Reeder's deputies from Union County applied for enrollment into the first training class at the Ross Leffler School of Conservation near Brockway in Jefferson County. Both of the men, George A. Dieffenderfer (1904 -1981) and Bruce W. Catherman (1911 -1991), were accepted. The training school in Brockway was the first school of its kind in the

Charles A. "Charley" French was the Commissioner of the Pennsylvania Fish Commission from 1937 until 1955. His relationship with Art is evident in the following letter he wrote to Miriam Snyder on May 26, four days after her husband passed away. This letter was provided to me courtesy of Harvey Igen of Mifflinburg.

Dear Miriam:

It is with a very heavy heart that I try to write this note to you. I sat in our back yard all alone until after one o'clock this morning. Arthur and I lived over many wonderful times we had together.

God never made a finer man than Arthur S. Snyder. I have told hundreds of people that if anyone ever gets to Heaven it would be him. He was one of the best Christians I ever knew. His daily life was what God would expect of one of his own.

Arthur never did anything to hurt anybody and no man was respected and loved by more people than he was.

Though you have suffered a great loss, I know you will be given extra strength to carry on.

Mrs. French joins me in extending our deepest sympathy and one day we shall stop at Mifflinburg for a visit with you.

*Sincerely
C. A. French
753 Mass Ave
Ellwood City*

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Blessings from the Bible

By Brenda Weaver

And God said, "Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is on the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit. You shall have them for food.

Genesis 1:29



For over one hundred years it shaded the house we purchased and lived in for the past seventeen years. What can be said about a tree that old?

That tree served our property and this small village well. It did the marvelous job of trees, helping to produce oxygen and clean up carbon dioxide. It hosted birds, including a nesting Screech Owl for a few years. It was a playground for squirrels—although I sometimes wondered if that was a benefit. It provided shade and beauty to First Street and to our home.

I quickly became attached to the tree when we moved here from the country and adjusted to living “in town.” The tree represented the familiar; the nearness of nature, the gladness of green, the spaciousness of spreading limbs. That tree was a “piece of the country” for me. I enjoyed peering into its branches from our second story bedroom

window. We moved the last day of October so bright yellow leaves soon comforted me in our transition. In the dead of winter the sturdy trunk still provided a bit of privacy and the branches swept gracefully in the wind. Springtime brought the first signs of vivid, welcome green, and the troublesome “helicopters,” for a silver maple tree is not without its nuisances. After a few weeks of spring, my husband would climb a ladder to remove all the tree seeds the spouting caught. If he waited to do the job, he also removed a row of tiny maple trees, sprouted in spouting. Summer brought bows of green, and shade, and birds, and the chatter of squirrels, and loveliness. In every season, I admired that tree.

But sometimes I also worried about it, especially when strong winds blew. I had reason to be concerned; it was only a few feet from the side of our house, and its branches spanned three bedrooms. But years passed and we still enjoyed the tree, still cleaned out the spouting. One year a trimming lessoned our fears as the heaviness of the tree was reduced. More years passed. So did my husband. The tree began to worry me more. I peered through its thinning leaf cover, and surveyed some dying branches. Each wind that whipped during the middle of the night reminded me the tree might not be as solid as it appeared. Neighbors noted the old tree did not look as healthy as it once did. Finally, after climbing out on the porch roof myself to clean out a row of small trees, and after my son or son-in-law climbed the ladder to clean the highest spouting (how did my husband make that job look so easy?), I decided that the tree should come down.

Call me silly if you will, but I mourned for that tree. I felt like I was saying goodbye to an old friend. I also knew the tree had become a burden for me.

On the day my son and son-in-law arrived to cut the old giant down I determined to not look out the window. From a lift they started at the top, cutting off branches. As the thuds outside got louder, and the limbs got bigger, I had to investigate. Finally just the bulk of trunk rose naked beside the house. I noted there were sizable holes in many of the larger limbs. *How much of that tree is hollow* I wondered as my former logger son-in-law notched the base of the three to four foot diameter tree.

Where will it land? Is my son far enough away? Will it hit the house? And then amidst my fears, it fell. “And great was the fall of it.”

My longtime friend lay broken, and limbless, and *hollow!* My grandchildren stood inside slices of it, or stuck their heads into hollow limbs. My sons studied the tree, and a photo of our house from 1909, when the tree was a sapling. I climbed among the pieces marveling. If I would have known how only the outside was living, and the inside was rotten, wasted, and *empty* I surely would have lost more sleep on windy nights!

Leave my teenage daughter roll her eyes, or fuss about the strangeness of my plan; I still hope to include photos of me, inside a slice of my hollow tree, with this year’s Christmas cards. For certainly I have a lot to be thankful for: a hollow tree that stood until we cut it down, a family who helps and cares for me, safety as they cut down the tree, and (smile, Stan and Nate!) no more rows of trees to clean from the spouting!

As the year draws toward a close, and I reflect as I always do, I am praising God for his provision and protection. I’ve got the photos to prove it!

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Penlines

From my Kitchen to Yours

by Lucy Hoover

October 18, 2014

Amos and Verna Hoover of Mifflinburg have a son named Travis Andrew. He has three brothers and one sister. Grandparents are Amos and Elizabeth Hoover and Esra and Lydia Ann Zimmerman.

October 19

Alisa was born to Elton and Edna Martin of Mifflinburg. She has two brothers and two sisters. Grandparents are Ammon and Eva Martin and Daniel and Alice Burkholder.

October 22

Amos Nolt of Lewisburg recently had surgery.

October 23

Nelson Hoover of Mifflinburg sprained his ankle at the wedding of James and Eunice Oberholtzer.

October 25

Ervin and Carolyn Hoover had a Hoover reunion for his side of the family. They prepared for 300 people.

Tonight we had a singing in our barn for the youth. The singing was beautiful.

October 30

A girl named Lanelle Dawn was born to Harvey Lamar and Delores Horning. Grandparents are Harvey and Ruth Horning and Lester and Marlene Martin.

Michael Shirk (12) of Mifflinburg was hit by a vehicle when he crossed Route 45 in Vicksburg on his way to church. He is OK, but his bike is demolished.

East End School students saw a weather balloon land in the field beside the schoolhouse. They mailed the information box back to MO where the balloon started from.

November 15

Levi Martin is home after spending almost a week in the hospital with pneumonia and a blood infection. Levi will have his 84th birthday on December 14. His address is 922 Conley Road, Mifflinburg, PA 17844.

The small photograph in the upper left corner of page one shows an early view of the Hayes Lane Camp, which is located off Buffalo Flat Road. This photograph was provided to me courtesy of Jack Shirk of Hartleton.

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All this reminds me of one of my favorite poems by Joyce Kilmer entitled:

Trees

I think that I shall never see
A poem lovely as a tree.
A tree whose hungry mouth is prest
Against the earth's sweet flowing breast;
A tree that looks at God all day,
And lifts her leafy arms to pray;
A tree that may in Summer wear
A nest of robins in her hair;
Upon whose bosom snow has lain;
Who intimately lives with rain.
Poems are made by fools like me,
But only God can make a tree.

Prayer for Today:

Dear Lord, Thank You for making trees! They truly add beauty and strength to our world. And thank You, God, for Your protection and provision this year. I have much to be grateful for.

Thank You!

I would also like to share my sincere thanks to those who have contacted me by email, in person or by telephone to express their concerns about the April 2015 retirement of this newsletter. Over the past 15 years I have endeavored to preserve the history of numerous people and places from the West End of the county, and I sincerely thank all those who have contributed to that effort. Unfortunately the remaining four issues will not provide me with sufficient time to write about all the people and places I had hoped or planned. I apologize for that, but hopefully everyone will understand.

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:

Thurs. Dec. 13, 1945. Today I painted mother's little cupboard that I put up for her. Anna Mitchell was here today. Tonight Mrs. Kate Heller died. They phoned from New Kensington to Showalters and asked them to tell me she had died, and I was to preach the sermon. Miss Anna Lincoln, a teacher in Mifflinburg died today. She was a daughter of RVB Lincoln, born 1873.

Fri. Dec. 14, 1945. Today I took the snow about 4 inches deep off the garage, also the valleys and porch roofs. Did the cleaning up in the house for mother while she was typewriting for me. Mrs. Heller is to be shipped to Mifflinburg and all services are to be held from there. She was born Dec. 8, 1852 in Snyder County. She lived at Knauers Mill for years, then moved to Altoona, then came and lived here with her brother, Allison Swank at Millmont for years, until last fall she moved from Allison's home to New Kensington, PA to live with her niece.

Sat. Dec. 15, 1945. Temperature 8 above at 8 AM. Much lower in some places. The windows are frozen shut, the cistern pump froze and cars froze up too. This PM I preached the funeral sermon of Mrs. Kate Heller. There was a car full of her folks from New Kensington. Mr. Harry Vanatta, Roy Graham, Roy Adams, James Catherman, Ned Adams, and Elmer Blyler were the pallbearers. She was buried very nice.

(Continued from page 5)

country devoted entirely to training game wardens/game protectors. Diefenderfer and Catherman graduated from the school, and both spent more than three decades working in various capacities for the Pennsylvania Game Commission.

July 1936 also brought about the transfer of Miles Reeder from Union County to Clinton County. The transfer appeared to be abrupt and well executed. As soon as Reeder and his family vacated their home at 400 Green Street in Mifflinburg, Union County's new game warden Fred Fisher and his family moved in. Reeder's daughter, Ruth, was a junior at Mifflinburg High School when her family relocated to Lock Haven. Her desire was to graduate with her classmates, so she boarded with Mr. and Mrs. Charles Edelman in Mifflinburg until after graduation.

In March 2000 I had an opportunity to interview Raymond E. Kline (1919-2007), who grew up in the vicinity of Forest Hill. Kline said that it was his recollection that Reeder was transferred out of Union County because of the threats to his well-being. During the sixteen years Reeder enforced the game and fish laws throughout Union and Snyder counties there can be no doubt that he irritated and annoyed those who habitually and flagrantly violated those laws. With his safety at the forefront, perhaps it was wise for the Game Commission to relocate him to another district.

Reeder retired from the Pennsylvania Game Commission in 1951 while working in Clinton County. An article published in the January 1952 issue of Game News concerning Reeder's retirement stated: *"Now we salute another veteran of the trail - Miles Reeder, a District Game Protector, Lock Haven, a man to ride the river with, a man who has given his all to the wildlife cause for close to thirty-two years..... the big, raw-boned man with the infectious smile and the heart of gold retired December 31, just a few days ago. May we never lose contact with him or the other veterans of the conservation trail. Our one great happiness is in knowing that they will always remain symbols of a great outdoor fraternity - the Pennsylvania Game Protector"*.

When asked what she remembered about her father's career with the Game Commission, Kathryn (Reeder) Boob wrote the following: *"arresting people and bringing them to our home"*. Miles L. Reeder died April 19, 1978, at age 89. His wife, Alice, died the previous year. Both are buried in the Pleasant View Cemetery in Mifflinburg.

In addition to his duties of enforcing the fish laws in both Union and Snyder counties, Art Snyder was one of two individuals in charge of Fishermen's Paradise near Bellefonte. When this popular Centre County attraction opened to the public thousands of anglers took advantage of the fishing opportunities on Spring Creek, in close proximity to the fish hatchery. According to the September 1951 edition of Pennsylvania Angler magazine, Art Snyder was a manager at Fisherman's Paradise since its inception in 1934. It was a post that he held for 17 years.

Snyder retired from the Fish Commission around 1951, following a 22-year career as fish warden for Union and Snyder counties. He suffered with health problems for the last six years of his life, and died in the Evangelical Hospital in Lewisburg on May 22, 1957 at age 70. At the time of his death he had been a patient at the hospital for one year and one day. His widow, Miriam, died January 16, 1989 at age 86. (Miriam married Carl L. Wertz after Art's death). Arthur Snyder and his wife Miriam are buried in the Pleasant View Cemetery, only a short distance from where Miles and Alice Reeder are interred.

Those who purchase hunting and fishing licenses each year financially support the activities of the Pennsylvania Game Commission and the Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission. Those resources allow the two state agencies to operate in an efficient manner, while at the same time taking into consideration the best interest of the fish and wildlife as well as the sportsmen. This arrangement seems to have worked well for more than a century. The old adage "if it ain't broke, don't fix it" seems appropriate in this situation.

The men and women who wear the uniform of a Wildlife Conservation Officer or Waterways Conservation Officer are responsible for defending and protecting the wildlife resources of the commonwealth. These officers are part of a "thin green line", and each one of them is mindful of the hazards and dangers they face each and every day while enforcing the fish and game laws. Many years ago Game Warden Miles L. Reeder and Fish Warden Arthur S. Snyder were a part of that same fraternity. While these two wardens have gone on to their eternal reward, they would be pleased knowing that the camaraderie and cooperation they shared with one another during their watch has endured and continues.

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I would like to thank Harvey Ilgen of Mifflinburg for material and information he provided concerning Arthur S. Snyder and his wife Miriam.

Sources: Kathryn (Reeder) Boob; Charles S. Mabus; LaRue E. Shirk; George J. Sholter; Robert E. Klingman; Raymond E. Kline; Milford K. Hoover; The Mifflinburg Telegraph; Lock Haven Express; Pennsylvania Game News and the Pennsylvania Angler.

The following was published in the July 1957 issue of the Pennsylvania Angler magazine, and was provided to me courtesy of Harvey Ilgen of Mifflinburg.

ARTHUR S. SNYDER
Senior Fish Warden

The June issue of the PENNSYLVANIA ANGLER was already on press when the news of Art Snyder's death reached us. Arthur S. Snyder, a senior fish warden in Union County of some twenty-two years service, passed away, May 22. Art, as he was more genially known, in addition to his regular duties, was also in charge of Pennsylvania's Fisherman's Paradise near Bellefonte, for a period of seventeen years.

On behalf of the Fish Commission family—the ANGLER pays signal salute to the memory of a loyal fellow employee—a loved public servant—a sterling husband and father.

Looking Back

The following article was originally published in the December 15, 1894 issue of one of the local newspapers.

MILLMONT

Miss Carrie Watson is spending a few days with friends in Lewisburg.

Miss Clara Shirk has resigned her position with the Supply Agency.

Mrs. G. W. Catherman is reported as being seriously ill at the time of this writing.

D. C. Galer, of Weikert, was in town on Tuesday.

Miss Sallie Long, of Lewisburg, spent a few days last week with her parents.

Mrs. Annie Newman, of Lewisburg, is spending a few days with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Jonas Shell.

Merchant Catherman is making extensive preparations for the holidays. He expects to handle large quantities of candy, oysters, fruits, etc. Give him a call.

We have been informed that a bell has been ordered for the Union Church of this place. Hence we infer that the congregation will need money to pay for said bell, and for erecting a belfry. We sincerely hope the people will respond in a prompt and liberal manner. If they do we may expect to within a few weeks hear the village bell calling us unto the house of prayer.

The Epworth League, of Millmont, will hold a social on the evening of Dec. 31st, and Jan. 1st in the Union Church. Ice cream, cake, fruits, candies, oysters, etc. will be served. Special exercises to bid farewell to the year '94 and to welcome the new year of '95. The occasion will be enlivened by selections of choice music. Everybody is invited to come. Come, and bring your neighbors and friends with you and have a good time. Proceeds for the benefit of the church.

From Dec. 23 until further notice the Epworth League lesson will be found in the SATURDAY NEWS, together with the Christian Endeavor lesson for the following Sunday.

(Continued from page 3)

men I find and am convinced it will not be equitable and fair to Mr. Osenbaugh unless we pay him more than each of the three others. He is experienced and knows our work as no other man in this vicinity does, besides he is a more efficient worker, He ought to have \$60.00 per month, considering this and the price we will have to pay for day labor this spring. The Highway Department is now paying 22 ½ ¢ per hour or \$2.25 per labor on the roads and the rate may go to \$2.50 per day before long. I haven't promised Osenbaugh \$60.00, only told him that I thought we could do better than \$50.00 in his case. He is an expert tree planter and can handle a planting crew in an A 1 manner".

Whether Silvius was successful in getting Osenbaugh an increase in salary is not known. However, it was around this same time (1918) that Osenbaugh resigned from the Department of Forestry in order to become a refuge keeper for the Pennsylvania Game Commission. It was also in September of 1918 that Osenbaugh was appointed a Volunteer Policeman of Union County by then Governor Martin G. Brumbaugh.

These positions were given to designated people across the state during WWI, following the adoption of an Act by the General Assembly. The primary purpose of these volunteers was to maintain law and order in the event of "any offense against the laws of the Commonwealth or of the United States". It is doubtful that his services were ever required, since the primary purpose of these volunteers was to "suppress riots and tumults", none of which ever took place in the West End of Union County - at least not to my knowledge. Besides, by this time the war in Europe was winding down, and within two months the armistice was signed.

Following his appointment as refuge keeper, Osenbaugh was assigned to Refuge No. 22. This refuge was established in 1918 and encompassed a large section of the present day Hook Natural Area near the Union/Centre County boundary. In addition to his responsibilities as refuge keeper Osenbaugh was also authorized to enforce game laws.

Some of Osenbaugh's duties as a refuge keeper included erecting and maintaining the single strand of wire that encircled the 2,130 acre sanctuary and posting it with signs at various intervals warning people to stay out. He also maintained a path around the perimeter of the refuge in order to patrol on foot for violators. Refuges were established by the Game Commission in order to provide absolute protection to all of the wildlife within each sanctuary. These areas were also off limits to humans, and the rules barring entry were strictly enforced. Thwarting hunters, fishermen and others from entering this protected area was a challenge that Osenbaugh routinely dealt with as a refuge keeper.

An issue that was particularly troublesome to game officials in Union County at that time, including Game Warden Charles L. Braucher and refuge keeper, Sam Osenbaugh, were free roaming dogs chasing and harassing wildlife. Hatred for these dogs by Braucher and Osenbaugh was so bitter that any dog they caught running loose was shot on site. In addition they also placed bait, poisoned with strychnine, in areas of the state forest in an effort to exterminate these free roaming dogs. On this issue For-ester Silvius butted heads with his old friend Osenbaugh, and more specifically with Warden Braucher.

Silvius heard first hand the complaints of dog owners and their anger and threats because of these hardnosed tactics. While some dogs were deliberately turned loose in order to chase game, others had merely escaped without the knowledge of their owner. Reckless and indiscriminate killing and poisoning was unacceptable to these dog owners. A Game Department cabin near the refuge had been torched in the autumn of 1918, and the wire around the perimeter had also been deliberately cut. Silvius believed both of these actions were in retaliation for the ongoing poisoning operation. He was likewise fearful that troublemakers might direct their vengeance in the direction of the forests he was trying so hard to maintain.

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Sources: William A. Koons of Mifflinburg; Hartley Township Census records from 1900 through 1940; Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission; Wildcatting on the Mountain by Benjamin F. Kline Jr.; The Mifflinburg Telegraph; the Lewisburg Saturday News and the office of Register and Recorder in the UC Courthouse.

In Part II of this story we will learn more about Sammy Osenbaugh's activities, and his life as a refuge keeper. We will also scrutinize some of his memorable tricks and shenanigans in addition to his somewhat sad ending in life.

* In July 1912, Osenbaugh was 40 years old not 37 years as was noted by Silvius in his letter to Robert Conklin.

The Millmont Times is distributed during the first week of each month. The newsletter is also available at Shirk's Country Store in Millmont. Their telephone number is 570.922.4222. The single issue cost is \$1.50.

Internet subscriptions can be obtained FREE by visiting: www.millmonttimes.com

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

December Birthdays & Anniversaries

1 – Eli & Anna Shirk - 1960	8 – Ruth Ely	22 - Robert Page
1 - Terry Witmer	8 – James Gross	23 – Kurwin Martin
1 - Kyle Blyler	8 – Nicole Gross	24 – Jeremy Beaver
1 – Robert Katherman	8 – Catherine Martin	24 – Charity Yarger
2 – Tom and Cindy Potoeski - 1978	9 – Cheryl Shively	25 – Donald L. Shively
2 - Robert Wagner	10 – Wilma Brubaker	25 – LaRue Lyons
3 – Marian L. Zimmerman	11 – David Schneeberg	27 – Colin Camp
3 – William “Bill” Levan	11 – Nancy Heckman	28 – Randall Boob (95 years old)
3 – Myrna Walter	11 – Curvin Hoover	28 – George Sholter Jr.
3 – Gordon Libby	11 – Mike Hackenberg	28 – Fred & Margie Yarger - 1950
4 – Mark Hartman	13 - Dennis Susan	28 – Etta Zimmerman
5 – Gordon & Polly Libby – 1960	13 – Robert Vanatta	28 – Phares Zimmerman
5 – Perry & Brenda Klingman - 1987	14 – Levi Martin	29 – Charles & Lois Feaster - 1957
5 – Kimmy Smith	14 – Joe Schnure	29 – Linda Dorman
5 – Perry Klingman	15 – Jane Benner	29 – Bob Wagner Jr.
6 – Mary Doebler	15 – Terry Mensch	31 - Jayden Beaver
6 – Betty Motter	16 – Galen Graham - 1928	31 – Leon & Lydia Zimmerman - 1992
6 – Sandra Wagner	17 – Oscar Maust	
6 – Doris Fultz	17 – Anna Maria Maust	
7 – Melvin & Doris Walter - 1956	19 – Donna Maust	
7 – Ivan Oberholtzer	21 – Anthony Guida	

The Millmont Times
P. O. Box 3
Millmont, PA 17845