



Linda Fox 1953

Memories of a One Room Schoolhouse

By Linda Fox

Still sits the schoolhouse by the road
A ragged beggar sunning
Around it still the sumac grow
And blackberry vines are running...

Whenever I drive into Millmont and pass the red brick schoolhouse, I remember attending first grade there. Fortunately, the building became a private residence, and has escaped the fate of the "ragged beggar" in the poem.

My formal schooling began as a first grader, under the instruction of Mrs. Swartz. At that time, the building held two classes, first grade and second grade. However, pupils could advance in individual subjects as they mastered different levels. The first grade could also listen to, and learn from, the lessons being taught to the second grade, since we were all in the same room.

Reading was my best subject and, by the end of the school year, Mrs. Swartz had allowed me to use third grade level books. I have always liked reading, and it is still a favorite past time. We were very fortunate to have a teacher who encouraged her students to achieve higher goals and to pursue their interests. I believe that a good beginning is a key element to later success in school.

The schoolroom had wooden desks with fold-down seats and were double-wide, able to accommodate two people side-by-side. Since not every seat was filled, some pupils had a whole desk to themselves. Others were not so lucky. A good seatmate was fun to have, but the teacher often solved behavior problems by pairing one noisy student with a quiet one, or one inattentive student with a studious one, so that your partner was often not the one you would have chosen. The worst that could happen was being assigned a seat next to a member of the opposite gender, certainly offensive to a girl and pure embarrassment for a boy. One of the things you learn in school, as in life, is how to get along with others. A double-desk is certainly a good place to start.

Around the walls of the room, close to the ceiling, was a border of alphabet letters, both upper and lower case. As first graders, we were only allowed to print, since cursive penmanship was not taught until a later grade.

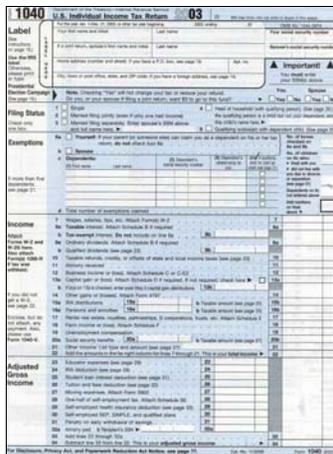
In addition to reading and writing, we learned shapes and colors, spelling, counting and sim-

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The Millmont Times

FEBRUARY 2004

Millmont Mailbox by Postmaster Sam Smith



Which one of the following statements is absolutely false? a. The federal government is divided into three branches. b. Supreme Court Justices are nominated by the President. c. The U. S. Postal Service is run with tax dollars. d. The Eagles will win in the playoffs next year. If you said d; you might be right! (Sorry Eagles fans!) The correct answer is c. Unlike other government agencies, the USPS receives no operating funds from taxes. Postal Service revenues are generated by its sales of products and services. Taxes are not used to help pay for our services. The Postal Service has been required to operate on a break-even basis since 1971, making the Postal Service run more like a business. The inability to use public tax dollars has made the Postal Service very focused on holding down costs. Americans now have the most productive postal system, with some of the lowest rates, of any country in the industrialized world. Speaking of taxes, US and PA tax forms are now available in the lobby. Also available in the lobby on Thursday, February 19th, will be some of my wife's delicious drop sugar cookies and coffee for customer appreciation day.

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Linda Fox standing in front of her parent's farm tractor, and their 1951 Plymouth sedan.

ple arithmetic. A spelling bee was an interesting diversion from everyday lessons. Some history was included, and we honored presidents Lincoln and Washington on their respective birthdays. These famous presidents were well known to us, as their pictures hung on the classroom wall and we saw them daily.

At the front of the room was a raised platform that held the teacher's desk and chair, bookcases, and the flag. A blackboard stretched across the front wall. Our school day always began with a prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag. The platform also held a phonograph and records. It was considered a treat to be selected as the student who got to choose a record to be played during music class.

In the back corner of the room was a big coal furnace. A coal shed was attached to the other end of the building, close to a side door. In those days, I never wondered who built the fire and kept it burning, but I remember that some of the boys would help carry coal buckets into the school. We also had a stoneware water jug with a metal spigot, sitting on a stand at the back of the room. There was a row of coat hooks, above a bench where lunch boxes were stored, and room for overshoes underneath.

The sanitary facilities were the usual outhouse common in those days, his and hers. If a trip was necessary while classes were in session, you could signal the teacher for permission by raising your hand and extending one or two fingers. At her nod, you could leave the room. One learned from experience

that it was best to plan ahead and not wait until the last minute to raise your hand, in case the teacher was too busy to notice you immediately. Of course, no first grader is ever too adept at "planning ahead" for anything. In a pinch, you could call her name but that extra attention, coupled with your waving arm and extended fingers, was sure to bring forth snickers from the classroom and probably a frown from the teacher for creating a disturbance. No first grader needs this kind of embarrassment when you are already under pressure.

I never knew why you had to specify one or two fingers, unless there was an unspoken time limit involved. Of course, it never occurred to me to question this rule, either. (Kids, if you need this explained, ask your grandparents or great-grandparents. I'm sure they'll remember!) Since no one wanted to spend recess time in the outhouse, learning how to get excused from class seemed just as important to us as reading and writing.

Our playground at recess consisted of the small yard and driveway next to the school, and the dirt bank with small trees at the back. Playground equipment was non-existent, but you don't miss what you never had. Some of the students would play shortened varieties of baseball, or mostly just pitch and catch. Tag was always popular. The girls would jump rope and sometimes the boys would join us, especially if the game was "high water." Instead of swinging the rope overhead, two people each held one end of the rope and raised it after each turn. The object, of course, was to see who could jump the highest. The game could be made more difficult by also swinging the rope from side - to -side.

The small trees in back of the yard made good substitutes for a jungle gym. The dirt bank was also a big attraction, and served us well as a sliding board. Being a tomboy, climbing and sliding were my favorite past times at recess, and I went home from school on many occasions with a dirty dress and petticoat, much to my mother's dismay. I'm sure she spent many a washday bleaching the mud out of my feed-sack underwear.

Speaking of mud, and playing tag, brings to mind one memorable recess. It must have been late fall or early spring, because the weather was cool and rainy, and there was a big mud puddle in the schoolyard driveway. We were playing tag and, not wanting to be "it", I was running full tilt, tripped over a stick, and landed face-first right in the middle of that puddle. An Olympics gymnast could not have timed it better. I had to use the stick to scrape enough mud from my face so that I could open (Continued on page 3)



This 1950 Millmont School photograph includes the following students, front row, left to right: Dale Zechman, Gordon Libby, Kenneth Catherman, Harold Vanatta, Quinten Dorman, and Richard Swain. Second row, left to right: Darlene Sibble, Norma Catherman, Judy Rising, Linda Catherman, Sandy Arbogast, Mary Lou Knauss, Dorothy Zechman, Linda Dorman, Eileen Rowles, and Sandy Swain. Third row left to right: June Catherman, J. Catherman (twin), Elaine Herman, J. Catherman (twin), and Patsy Blackford. Back row, left to right: Teacher - Mrs. Swartz, Carey Shively, Welsey Rowles, Leon Rising, Richard Dorman, Diane Catherman, Darlene Eisenhuth, and Sandy Shemory.

This 1950 Millmont Red Brick School photograph, along with the names, were provided courtesy of Delphia Shirk of Millmont.

BIRD TALK

By Jim McCormick



Reeter-Reeter-REET!!! Reeter-Reeter-REET!!! We are one-sixth of the way to the Summer Solstice, the days are getting longer and the call of the Tufted Titmouse is in the air. Spring can't be far off! In just a few weeks the Robins will be returning, so throw off those old winter blues. While the New Year has brought some very cold days, we haven't had that much snow. I noticed the leaf buds on the cherry tree outside my window are starting to thicken already--even in the dead of winter, Nature is starting the process of renewal.

The Tufted Titmouse is a lovable Permanent Resident and is one of my favorite birds all year long. It is just a 'little bird', literally what titmouse means, at just 6 inches. It has a slate gray coat, with a white underside and rufous or rusty markings on its sides and a characteristic crest or tuft on its head.

The male and female look alike. Titmice (yes the plural of titmouse is titmice) are a species of little birds with a big voice. At this time of the year they can be seen traveling in mixed flocks of Black-capped Chickadees, White-breasted Nuthatches, Brown Creepers, Downy Woodpeckers and other small birds. In fact the titmice and chickadees are related, even sharing some vocal similarities. There are times when I have to look quite closely to see which bird is actually making the sound. I remember seeing a pair of titmice chasing each other around the branches of an evergreen along Penns Creek. As I was watching them I noticed two chickadees doing the same thing and followed them as they flew from tree to tree. Just then I noticed a small band of about fifteen Cedar Waxwings silently observing me! Cedar Waxwings are very strange birds that seem to appear and disappear rather mysteriously. Some call the titmouse the "peter bird", saying its call is "peter, peter, peter", but to me it really sounds more like **Reeter-Reeter-REET!!!** The titmouse has a rather large repertoire of sounds and calls. There is an interesting article on the titmouse available at the *Birdwatcher's Digest* website: <http://www.birdwatchersdigest.com>. Just type 'tufted titmouse' in the search box and you can read the article for free. The author is a resident of central Pennsylvania. Titmice are very active at birdfeeders and can be quite aggressive. Some feel that it is because of these birdfeeders that they have been able to extend their permanent range all the way into Canada. I have read several accounts of the 'hair stealing' activities of these wily little birds. They have been known to land on sleeping dogs, cats or even humans and pull the hair out to line their nests!

Recently I observed some rather early arrivals: two Killdeers and two Common Snipes. Snipes don't usually arrive until early March; I can't imagine what they are doing here. I have been waiting to see if the pair of Red-tailed Hawks will rebuild their nest this year. The nest had been in use for many years, but during the severe windstorm we had this fall the nest just blew away. This was in part due to the return of the fledglings, something I had never seen before. They came back and jumped around causing structural damage, which made the nest susceptible to the wind damage. The birds will soon be returning in waves, so THINK SPRING, grab your binoculars and take it all in.

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my eyes. The good news was that I got to spend the rest of the day sitting in the back of the room next to that good ol' furnace. By the time we were ready to go home, my dress, coat and shoes were dry, if a little worse for the wear.

Another thing I'll never forget is riding to school on the BIG yellow bus. Starting out as a five-year-old, and small for my age, that bus was a long way up. I gained the bottom step by grabbing the rail with both hands and climbing up on my knees. After that first step, the rest were easy. Getting out was not a problem, just a short hop to the ground.

Our bus would go to Millmont, drop off the first and second graders at the red brick schoolhouse, then continue through Millmont, cross Penns Creek, pick up students on the other side of the creek, then come back across the creek and go to Mifflinburg. On at least one occasion, I had fallen asleep by the time we reached Millmont, missed the unloading stop, woke up on the other side of Penns Creek, and had to be delivered back to the one room schoolhouse before the bus could finish the trip to Mifflinburg.

When my parents first moved to the farm on Cold Run Road north of Hartleton, my father accepted a job driving school bus, in addition to farming. This was before I was born. He continued to drive bus for several years, but quit that job the year that I started school. Surely that was just a coincidence? I no longer remember the name of my first school bus driver, but he must have been a very patient man.

Before the beginning of my second school year, the one room schoolhouse was closed, and I rode the big yellow bus to Mifflinburg to attend second grade in the elementary school that was formerly the high school (and has since been demolished). The elementary school now held first through sixth grades, on two floors, which was a big change. We had a playground with equipment, an auditorium, a library, and a basement that served as both gymnasium and cafeteria. It was a new and exciting place, full of many wonderful things to do and learn, but nothing will outlast my memories of attending first grade in that little red brick schoolhouse by the side of the road to Millmont.

Editor's Note: I would like to thank Linda Fox for her sharing her memories of the Millmont School with the readers of The Millmont Times. Linda Fox is the daughter of Evelyn (Kramer) Fox and the late Charles Hubert Fox. She was born in 1946, after her parents and sister had moved to the family farm along Cold Run Road, north of Hartleton in Lewis Township. Linda graduated from the Mifflinburg Area Jr. - Sr. High School in 1964, and was employed by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, retiring from the Laurelton Center in 1995. She currently resides in Hartley Township, west of Laurelton.

Hartleton, PA - AS I REMEMBER IT

1930 - 1950

by Eleanor (Hoffman) Hoy

Hartleton was made up of many different families who lived there during the time I am writing about.

Blaine Catherman was one of the most prosperous at the time. During this period a lot of people fell into hard times financially because of the depression and he would buy their properties. It used to be said that he owned Hartleton. Blaine had a brother, Melvin, and a step-brother, John, also living in town. Blaine and his wife had a parrot and everyone loved to tease it and hear it swear.

Ernest Printzenhoff and his wife and family lived in a very nice brick home at the west end of town, where the road turns to go to Laurelton. After their death, their son Frank lived there and raised eight children. Frank's sister, Vera, married Clarence Mitchell. Mitchell's lived west of Frank and his wife Edna, in a large wood frame house, where they raised two children.

The VonNeida family was another familiar name in Hartleton, with several still living there. Charles and his wife Mae raised a family of seven children. They lived at the west end of town.

Rueben Sheesley and Elsie, his wife, raised a family of seven or eight children also, living in several properties around town. Rueben came to Hartleton from Centre County, as did his brother Carl, who also lived in town. Carl and his wife Adrena raised three children.

Curtin Catherman was another citizen of Hartleton. He raised bees and had a ginseng patch along the road to Laurelton. He and his wife raised two children. At his home he had a small white building with cakes of cone honey and jars of strained honey in it for sale. On the building was a sign "Take the honey and leave the money", which people did. In our present day the honey and the money would probably both be gone during the night. Ginseng was a plant which was used in medicine and he sold it to a medical company. It grew similar to grapes on a vine.

Donald Hayes is remembered by young and old alike. He was a bachelor, and every summer he went to Minnesota where he oversaw the operation of a farm he inherited. He did many kind deeds for the people of Hartleton. Before he left for Minnesota each summer, and at Christmas time, he would line up the children at Sunday School and give each one a dime. If a child happened to be absent that particular Sunday, he made sure he or she received their dime. This does not sound like much today but it meant a lot to us in those days. In later years he refurbished the Union Church.

The Wilsons' were another family in town. James Wilson and his wife Elsie raised four children. Their bachelor son, John, lived at home and helped his dad on the farm. Robert, another son, lived at the west end of town with his wife Ruth and their two daughters. Bob was a painter at the Laurelton State Village.

Editor's note: In the December 2003 issue of The Millmont Times, Eleanor (Hoffman) Hoy noted in her column that the Hartleton Lutheran Church parsonage was torn down. Since the publication of that issue, Eleanor called me to say that the parsonage wasn't torn down, but was instead relocated from its location alongside Route 45, over the hill to its current location northwest of Hartleton. Janice Dorman, a native of Hartleton, has researched the history of the relocation of the former parsonage, which is included in the article below.

The Relocation of the Former Hartleton Lutheran Church Parsonage

By Janice L. Dorman

In the December 2003 issue of The Millmont Times it was mentioned that the Lutheran Church and the parsonage located on Main Street in Hartleton had been torn down. It was after that information was published that Eleanor (Hoffman) Hoy recalled that the church parsonage had not been torn down, but was relocated.



This photograph was taken as the former Hartleton Lutheran Church parsonage was being transported to its new destination northwest of Hartleton. Photograph courtesy of Amos Zimmerman.

Herb Weaver bought the house in 1977 from the Lutheran Church (now 4-bell church) after Lynn Shively made mention to him that it was for sale. Herb lived in the house until 1979. The house was then sold separately from the land. Dr. Stanford Sholley bought the land, which adjoined his property at 504 Main St., and Weaver Zimmerman bought the house with the intention of relocating it over the hill north of its location. The house move was successful and the Weaver Zimmerman family took up residence. Some time later Amos and Mary Zimmerman (Weaver Zimmerman's daughter and son-in-law) took possession of the home. Amos and Mary lived in the home until 2000 and then sold it to the current owner, Menno Zimmerman and his family.

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This is a view of the former parsonage as it appears today. The home is currently owned by Mr. & Mrs. Meno Zimmerman.

Thank you to Herb Weaver, Mr. and Mrs. Meno Zimmerman, and Mr. and Mrs. Amos Zimmerman for the information you provided. Special thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Amos Zimmerman for providing the photographs of the house being moved.

Bible Quiz

Diane Oberholtzer, 167 East Pieffer Hill Road, Stevens, PA 17858, was the winner of the January Bible Quiz, and as a result, she won \$10. The answer was: "His name (Peter's name) means stone, John 1:42." Matthew 8:14 Jesus healed Peter's wife. The answer to the bonus question (for an additional \$10) was: "At his request, he (Peter) was crucified with his head down because he felt unworthy to be crucified like Jesus was." The person responsible for the "Bible Quiz" has asked me to thank everyone who entered the Bible Quiz, including: Jean Boob, Laurelton; Mervin Knissley, Mifflinburg; Rita Kuhns, Millmont; and Edward Zerbe, Sunbury.

The Bible Quiz question for February is: a. Name the three friends who confronted Job, accusing him of sin? b. Name the young man who spoke in defense of Job and God? The person whose name is drawn with the correct answer will receive \$10. Send your answers, along with your name and address to: Bible Quiz
PO Box 8
Swengel, PA 17880

Please have your answer mailed to this address by the 20th of the month.



I want to thank Cindy Shively, along with her mother, Betty Shively, of 3240 Creek Road, Millmont, for baking and decorating a beautiful cake for my birthday. The cake featured a replica of a front page of the December 2003 issue of The Millmont Times. Betty - Cindy - the cake was delicious and I thank you - not only for remembering my birthday - but also for taking the time to bake me a cake. It was greatly appreciated!!!

Blessed are those who can give without remembering,
and take without forgetting. Elizabeth Bibesco

Looking Back

The article below was originally published in one of the local newspapers on February 16, 1912. It is copied here verbatim.

Mr. Jacob Knauss Meets With Horrible Accident

His Left Arm Torn or Crushed in a Shredder, Obliging Amputation Near the Shoulder.

A horrible accident befel Mr. Jacob Knauss, of Swengel, on Thursday forenoon of last week. He, with his brother Charles, and a helper, were engaged in shredding corn fodder on the farm of Mr. Charles Bingaman near Millmont, the former feeding the machine, his brother controlling the engine furnishing the power, and the helper handing the sheaves to the feeder, Mr. Jacob Knauss. Unfortunately, one of the sheaves pitched to the victim, caused him to lose his balance, when his left arm was caught by the rapidly revolving knives, drawn into the machine and frightfully mangled, practically crushed to a point about three inches above the elbow. Indeed, he would have lost the entire arm, and probably his life, had not his brother Charles at that instant succeeded in stopping the machine. It was full half an hour or more before his brother Charles and others were able to extricate him from the grip of the shredder. Dr. A. H. Hill and Dr. C. H. Dimm, of this place, and Dr. O. W. H. Glover, of Laurelton, were immediately summoned, and amputation of the arm a few inches below the shoulder was decided upon, Dr. Hill doing the amputating very neatly, ably assisted by Drs. Dimm and Glover.

Much in favor of the life of Mr. Knauss was the nature of the injury, the tissues of the arm being crushed, thus preventing the loss of much blood. As a result, he endured the amputation remarkably well. Dr. Hill informs us that he is getting along as well as can be expected.

Mr. Knauss is a poor man with a large family of small children, and this sad, sore accident has caused the greatest sympathy in his behalf. Let us all hope that said sympathy will soon manifest in a very practical, substantial manner.

This is the third nasty shredder accident that has occurred within our recollection in recent years, Mr. D. Linn Ruhl having had a hand chipped off, Mr. Samuel Schrack part of a hand, and now Mr. Jacob Knauss an arm.

Editors note: Jacob Knauss is the father of Miriam (Knauss) Thomas, currently a resident at Rolling Hills Manor, Millmont.

Thank You!!

I'd like to thank the following people for their donations toward the publication of this newsletter Doris Fultz, Libby Road, Millmont, PA; Mr. & Mrs. Elwood Showalter, Mifflinburg; Merlyn & Miriam Hoffman, Forest Hill Road, Mifflinburg; James & Lois Miller, Mifflinburg, Dan Snyder, Millmont; and a Mifflinburg resident who wishes to remain anonymous.

The people listed below have agreed to accept this newsletter over the Internet as a PDF. This has allowed me to reduce the monthly expenses associated with printing and mailing this publication. My heartfelt thanks to: Betty Stamm, Carl Albright, Claude & Sharon Hartman, C. Wayne Nolan, Cathy Strausser, Clifford Valentine, Dave & Dayna Bickhart, David Shively, Dawn & Don Campbell, Denny Fritz, Doris Fultz, Doug Bowersox, Donald G. Shively, Donald L. Shively, Doug Pepper, Faye & Charles Zechman, Glenda & John Sheaffer, Harry Mench, Henry & Linda Dorman, Janet Larson, Janice Dorman, Jeannette Lansansky, Jeff Bastian, Jeremy Beaver, Jim McCormick, John & Linda Schnure, Judy Fallon, Karen Fultz, Kenneth Pick, Kim Blyler, Larry Byers, Lawni Zimmerman, Mark & Joan Hofmann, Nikki Wahl, Rich & Sherri Meese, Robert Spangler, Shanon Burkland, Sharm Lidick, Sharon Connor, Steve & Fay Richard, Steve Libby, Teddie Troisi, Terry Shively, Torry Showalter, Tracey Beaver, Trudy Shively, and Wendy Bilger. Anyone interested in signing up to receive a color version of newsletter each month at no charge is being asked to contact me at: tshively@evenlink.com

In addition, I want to thank the following new subscribers: Mr. & Mrs. David Showalter, Hassenplug Road, Millmont; Mr. & Mrs. John W. Showalter, Paddy Mt. Road, Millmont; Mr. & Mrs. Richard DeVett, Lincoln Chapel Road, Millmont; Ms. Rebecca Finsterbush, Glen Iron Road, Millmont, Mr. & Mrs. Steven Showalter, Danville, PA; Nancy Watson, New Cumberland, PA; Edgar & Geri Schnure, Muncy, PA; Mr. & Mrs. Bruce Schnure, Watsonstown, PA; Margaret Stutzman, Mifflinburg; Marian Bilger, Route 235, Millmont; David Mitchell, Tok, AK; Dawne Miller, RR# 2 Middleburg, PA; Marie Von-Neida, Hartleton; James Shipton, Mifflinburg; Carl Catherman, Spring Mills, PA; David & Anne Goehring, Lewisburg; and James and Sandra Sanders, Pleasant Grove Road, Millmont; Phares Ziummerman, Millmont, and Earl Weaver, Mifflinburg. I want to thank all those who renewed their subscription to the newsletter for an additional year. Your support is what helps to make this newsletter possible, and as always it is greatly appreciated!!

Thanks also to Pauline Shively Weller Lane Millmont, and Janice Dorman of Hartleton for their help with this publication.

What's Happening at the 4-Bell Lutheran Church Courtesy of Shirley Kerstetter

The 4-Bell Church will be holding a "Pot-Pie-Supper" on Saturday March 13, 2004 from 3 p.m. until ? Chicken - Ham - and Beef pot pie will be served family style. Included with the meal - coleslaw, applesauce, bread, and a drink. The cost of the meal is \$6 for adults, \$3 for children 6 through 12 years of age. Children under 6 years of age eat for free. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Members of the church will begin making and selling chocolate covered peanut butter and coconut Easter eggs beginning Monday, February 23 and continuing each Monday thereafter through Easter week.

On Tuesday, February 24 from 5:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. a pancake and sausage supper will be held in the church dining hall. There is no charge for the meal, however, a donation would be greatly appreciated.

Lenten Breakfasts will be served every Wednesday morning beginning 8:00 a.m. in the church dining hall. Mark these dates on your calendar if you plan to attend: February 25 - March 3 - March 10 - March 17 - March 24 - March 31 - and April 7.



The only individual who can be positively identified on this photograph is the later Reno Hoffman. He is the man on the far right. Reno is the father of Merlyn Hoffman of Forrest Hill Road, Mifflinburg. Photograph is courtesy of Merlyn & Miriam Hoffman.

Snow Removal Crew

For Union County residents, cold temperatures, and unusually windy conditions have marked the winter of 2003/2004. No major, or significant snowstorms have thus far plagued this region. However, the first day of spring is still seven weeks away. Today Penn DOT and local township road crews are well equipped to handle just about any type of snow event. Large dump trucks with V plows, graders, and pay-loaders are capable of clearing the high-ways in a timely manner. Seventy years ago the situation was much different. Heavy snowfalls combined with strong gusty winds, often left the roadways impassable for days on end. As a result it was necessary for local residents to sometimes band together to clear the snow from the roads. The photograph to the left (circa 1930'a) is a group of West Buffalo Township residents who pitched in to clear snow from the roadway. They took a break from their snow shoveling duties long enough to have this group photograph taken.

Public meetings to be held in the Lewis Township Municipal Building

- ▶ Municipal Authority of Lewis Township, the first Tuesday of the month, beginning at 7:30 p. m.
- ▶ Lewis Township Board of Supervisors, the second Tuesday of the month beginning at 7:30 p. m.
- ▶ The Lewis Township Village Green Recreation Association will hold their next meeting March, 2004.

Meanderings

by Hertha S. Wehr

The Great Depression II

During the Depression years the job market was very spotty. Jobs were hard to find and locating one didn't mean it would not disappear as some businesses failed. How people coped varied with the individual. It was very hard to keep a positive attitude when you weren't sure when you would have another paycheck.

One example of loss of purchasing power was supplied by the following interview. The husband had been laid off from his regular job and was unable to obtain other full-time employment. The couple's rent was 20.00 a month, plus utilities. They had two school age children and a toddler.

The husband worked at any part-time jobs he could find, and sometimes the dollar-a-day jobs included a welcome dinner (noon meal). The housewife was an accomplished hand seamstress. When friends told her of a company in New York City that would send out pre-cut baby dresses to be hand sewn she investigated. After completing a sample dress to the company's satisfaction she received regular work. The dresses arrived in dozen lots and she received \$6.00 to \$9.00 for a completed dozen. The pay depended on how many pleats and tucks, and how much smocking needed to be done. It was intricate work. She recalled adding labels they supplied as "Hand Made for Marshall Fields", or sometimes a Lord and Taylor label was used.

The dresses were sent back to New York by parcel post, without postage reimbursement. She could not recall what postage cost her but she said the rates were quite reasonable at that time. She also told me that one year as Christmas drew near she had \$9.00 due her and there was some delay. She wrote her supervisor and asked if she could please receive her payment in time for Christmas, as there would be nothing else for gifts or extra food items.

The meager earnings of both parents were supplemented by gardening, canning extra food that friends and neighbors supplied from their gardens and orchards, and at times gifts

from one set of parents. This was depression living for more than one family in Mifflinburg.

While some families were having difficult times, others felt they were extremely lucky to have kept their jobs. One such person was Mary Shively (1891-1986) She worked in the Kurtz Overall Factory. She started working there in 1911 @ \$4.00 a week. By Depression time she was earning \$8.00 a week as a floor-lady. She worked 59 hours a week--"five 10 hour days but just 9 hours on Saturday". She never married and lived with her parents. Her father also kept his job as borough clerk and road-master at a salary of \$1000.00 a year. They gardened and kept an orchard which "we tended on the side, and we canned about 1000 jars of produce each year, with about 400 jars going to Bethany Orphanage" She said that in the spring, when it might be a bit less expensive, they purchased about 300 pounds of sugar for the years use. "During some depression years sugar sold for \$3.00 a hundredweight."

Teachers usually kept their jobs but it wasn't always easy. One person recalled she taught for \$100.00 a month (nine months of the year). Then she took a pay cut to keep her job. Later she had to teach subjects she was not trained to teach. She felt she worked much harder than the students that year.

Another would-be teacher told me she worked after school and during the summer at the Kurtz Overall Factory. She received .10 cents a pair for the completed product. She felt quite pleased that she had the opportunity to have that job, as she was able to finance one year at Bucknell.

Contractors and builders were not doing very well but occasionally jobs did materialize. One householder told me they had a much-needed addition built onto their home. They hired one of the most skilled contractors in town to do the work. His wages were above average at .38 cents per hour. But with the scarcity of work he too had a hard time supporting his family.

Life was hard for the unemployed; fear and anxiety were constant companions. People with jobs, however, were not strangers to like situations. Would they be the next to loose their jobs? Would their employer's business survive? Would they be asked to take a pay cut? For the self-employed it was a question whether they could earn enough to keep their independence.

I have yet to tell you much about the farmer and about businesses in Mifflinburg. Then there is the story about what was done to help the destitute. I had an interesting time researching this subject and I hope you also find it to your liking.

Old People Are Still Good For Something

Submitted by Edith (Moyer) Musser

Remember, old folks are worth a fortune. With silver in their hair, gold on their teeth, stones in their kidneys, lead in their feet, and gas in their stomachs.

I have become a little older since I saw you last and a few changes have come into my life since then. Frankly, I have become a quite frivolous old gal. I am seeing five gentleman everyday. As soon as I wake up, Will Power helps me out of bed. Then I go to see John. Then Charlie Horse comes along and when he is here he takes a lot of my time and attention. When he leaves, Arthur Ritis shows up and stays the rest of the day. He doesn't like to stay in one place very long, so he takes me from joint to joint. After such a busy day I'm glad to go to bed with Ben Gay. What a life!!

Do not worry; eat three square meals a day; say your prayers; be courteous to your creditors; keep your digestion good; exercise; go slow and easy. Maybe there are other things your special case requires to make you happy, but, my friend, these I reckon will give you a good lift.

- Abraham Lincoln

The Schoolhouse

Still sits the schoolhouse by the road, a ragged beggar sunning.
 Around it still the sumacs grow, and blackberry vines are running.
 Within the master's desk is seen, deep scarred by raps official;
 The warping floor, the battered seats, the jack knives' carved initial,
 Charcoal frescoes on its walls, the door's worn sill betraying
 The feet that dragging slow to school went storming out to playing.

Long years ago a winter sun shone over it at setting,
 Lit up the western windowpanes, the low eaves' icy fretting.
 It touched the tangled golden curls, the brown eyes full of grieving,
 Of one who still her steps delayed when all the school were leaving.

For near her stood a little boy her childish favor singled,
 A cap pulled low upon his face, where pride and shame were mingled.
 Pushing with restless feet the snow, to right and left he lingered
 As restlessly, her tiny hands, her blue-checked apron fingered.

He saw her lift her eyes, he felt her soft hand light caressing,
 And heard the trembling of her voice as if a fault confessing.
 "I'm sorry that I spelled the word, I hate to go above you",
 "Because", her brown eyes lower fell, "Because, you see, I love you."

Still memory to a gray-haired man, that childish face is showing.
 Dear girl, the grasses on her grave have forty years been growing.
 We live to learn, in life's hard school, how few who pass above us
 Lament their triumph and our loss, like her, because they love us.

Editor's note: This poem was submitted by Evelyn Fox, as recited from memory. It is a poem that she learned in school. Evelyn (Kramer) Fox was born in Nittany Valley on January 1, 1914. She spent most of her childhood in Snyder County, in the area now known as "Smithville", between New Berlin and Kreamer. She attended St. Paul's Lutheran (Erdley's) Church and the one-room Snyder's School that was located nearby. Evelyn learned this poem, along with many others, while a student at the school. Evelyn moved to Lewisburg when she was 14 years old. The picture of Evelyn below was taken in Lewisburg in 1929, when she was 15 years old. Evelyn married Charles Hubert Fox in 1936. Their first daughter Karen was born in 1943 in Lewisburg, just before the family moved onto their farm north of Hartleton. Evelyn, who turned 90 years old on January 1, 2004, still resides on the family farm located at 1265 Cold Run Road.



Evelyn (Kramer) Fox - 1929

On Dec. 6, I went sled riding with my friends Stan Weaver, Tyler Hames, and Kyle Faylor. We went sled riding on the big hill next to the red brick schoolhouse north of Millmont. This is the same place where my grandfather and his classmates went sled riding when he was a student in this one room schoolhouse in the 1930's. When we were finished my friends and I were cold, wet, and hungry.



Editor's note: The story above was written by ten year old Tyler A. Radel, grandson of William and Pauline Shively of Millmont. Tyler is a fourth grade student at the Mifflinburg Elementary School. His teacher, Mr. Underkoffler, requires each one of his students to write a true story each week revolving around an event in that student's life. The story above was one of Tyler's most recent stories. The photos on the left shows Tyler Radel and his friend, Stan

Weaver, during one of their sled riding expeditions near the red brick schoolhouse north of Millmont.



How many of these young folks do you recognize?

This photograph was taken by the late Edmund Shively, and was provided to me courtesy of Mary Louise (Shively) Jones of Mifflinburg. The young folks on this photograph were also enjoying themselves sled riding. Exactly where and when the photo was taken, I do not know, but it was most likely a group of students from either the Millmont Red Brick School or the Pike School. If anyone can put some names to the faces, call me at 922.4297.

The small photograph at the top left corner of page 1 is a view of Maple Street in Millmont. The photographer (whose shadow can be seen in the picture) was standing at the west end of the street, looking east. Note how muddy and rutted the street was at the time. The date of the photograph is unknown, but was probably taken in the early 1900's.

Lewis Township News

Village Green Recreation Association (The next meeting will be held in March 2004).
Miniatures of the Millmont Covered Bridge are SOLD OUT!!

Lewis Township Board of Supervisors - Monday - January 5, 2004

Henry Sanders, Doug Pepper, Wayne Klingman, Karen Watters, and Kenneth Catherman were present for the meeting. Other attendees included: Clair Kaler, Tom Watters, Melissa Lobos, Kenneth Catherman, and T. Shively. Solicitor Tom Boop was present during the regular monthly meeting held at 7:30 p.m. The re-organization meeting of the Lewis Township Board of Supervisors was held at 7:00 p.m. on Monday January 5, 2004. Incoming Supervisor, Wayne Klingman was sworn into office, before being appointed Temporary Chairman of the re-organizational meeting. The following people were elected or appointed to various township positions. Henry Sanders elected Chairman of the Lewis Township Board of Supervisors; Wayne Klingman was elected Vice Chairman; Karen Watters elected Secretary/Treasurer; Kenneth Catherman was reappointed Road-master; William Packer reappointed assistant to the Road-master; Thomas Boop reappointed as township Solicitor; Martha Witmer reappointed Zoning Officer; Mifflinburg Bank & Trust was chosen as the township's banking institution; Central COG was reappointed as SEO; Central Tax Bureau was reappointed as the township's taxing authority; HRG was reappointed as the township's Engineering Firm; Steve Bilger of Millmont and Ken Strowbridge of Swengel were appointed to the Municipal Authority; (Bilger replaced Clair Kaler whose term expired 2004 and Strowbridge will fill the un-expired term of Kenneth Groff who resigned in December 2003). Dawne Schreckengast, Wendy Bilger, Sandi Faylor, Pauline Shively, and Janet Renninger were reappointed to the Lewis Township Village Green Recreation Association; Henry Sanders was elected as a delegate to the 2004 State Convention; the Treasurer's Bond was renewed at \$150,000; and the dates for the supervisors meetings will remain the second Tuesday of the month at 7:30 p.m. The re-organizational meeting was then adjourned.

The regular meeting of the Lewis Township Board of Supervisors was called to order at 7:30 p.m.

>Melissa Lobos asked that Clair Kaler be recognized for his services to the municipal authority. Clair, who was present at the meeting, was recognized by the board for his ten years of service to the Municipal Authority of Lewis Township.

>A motion by Doug Pepper to approve the minutes from the previous meeting was seconded by Wayne Klingman. Motion carried.

>A motion to approve the Treasurer's Report was seconded by Wayne Klingman. Motion carried. The Treasurer's Report showed the account balance statement of the township at \$204,700.72.

>Solicitor Boop reviewed the contract for services submitted by Central COG regarding their services. A few minor changes from the previous year were noted. Melissa Lobos noted that some of the changes were recommended by DEP. Doug Pepper made a motion to enter into a contract with Central COG. Wayne Klingman seconded the motion. Motion carried.

>Doug Pepper made a motion to approve the sewage permit fees. Wayne Klingman seconded the motion. Motion carried.

>One building permit was applied for. That permit was submitted by Curtis & Donna Duke.

>Doug Pepper made a motion to approve the SEO vouchers. Wayne Klingman seconded the motion. Motion carried.

>It was noted that the request by the Sand Run Hunting Club for a special exception to the recently adopted zoning rules was approved during a special hearing of the Lewis Township Zoning Hearing Board.

>Doug Pepper stated that he would like to see a buggy crossing sign erected on Shuck Road. He also indicated that there is a need for reflective signs on a sharp curve on that township roadway. There was also some discussion about erecting speed limit signs on both ends of Kaiser Run Road. Doug Pepper then made a motion to have Road-master Kenneth Catherman post road signs on Kaiser Run Road and Shuck Road, as needed. Henry Sanders seconded the motion. Motion carried.

>Doug Pepper asked the township secretary to contact the Milton State Police regarding 4-wheelers ripping around on the Village Green in the town of Millmont, and at various other places within the township. Karen indicated that she will contact the Milton office of the Pennsylvania State Police.

>Melissa Lobos addressed the board regarding the adjoining property owners surrounding the waste water treatment plant. She stated that 2 of the 4 adjoining landowners have contacted the authority. The remaining two property owners have not been heard from. Melissa also indicated that she spoke to Penn Vest regarding the possible transfer of the wastewater treatment plant from the township to the municipal authority. They (DEP) have not yet responded to her inquiry. Melissa stated that the municipal authority needs a decision from the township on the transfer of the property due to the expected costs associated with the erection of the perimeter fence. Solicitor Boop questioned whether or not the fence is an extraordinary expense for the authority, and expressed his concern about having general revenues from the township paying for the fence rather than the rate-payers. Boop stated that he didn't see why it was necessary to transfer the property in order to erect the fence. Supervisor Pepper indicated that he didn't think that the township should give away an asset while still maintaining the liability. Pepper stated that the authority is not in dire straights, so they should be able to pay the expenses related to the fence. Sanders also felt that the township should not transfer the property over to the authority. Boop advised the supervisors to give the authority to erect the fence as required by DEP. Melissa Lobos requested that the supervisors leave the question of transferring the property open until DEP responds. A motion by Wayne Klingman to give the authority approval to erect a fence on township property was seconded by Doug Pepper. Motion carried.

>Doug Pepper made a motion to approve a salary increase for Karen Watters in the amount of \$50 per month. Wayne Klingman seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Municipal Authority of Lewis Township - Tuesday January 6, 2004 - Minutes courtesy of Marge Schmader.

The reorganization meeting of the Municipal Authority of Lewis Township was held prior to the regular meeting of the board. Present at the meeting this evening were: Jim Sanders, Kenneth Bair, Marge Schmader, Kenneth Strowbridge, Walter Scholl, Ray and Melissa Lobos, and Steve Siegfried. Others in attendance at the meeting: Past Chairman, Clair Kaler, Past Treasurer, Kenneth Groff; and Lewis Township Supervisor, Douglas Pepper.

The following board members were elected to these positions: Chairman - Jim Sanders; Vice Chairman - Ken Strowbridge; Secretary - Marge Schmader; Treasurer - Kenneth Bair; Banking Institution - Mifflinburg Bank & Trust; Solicitor - Groover & Lobos; Plant Operator - Walter Scholl; Back-up Operator - Jason Koch; Engineering firm - HRG. With that the reorganization meeting was adjourned.

The regular meeting of the Municipal Authority of Lewis Township was then called to order.

>The minutes from the November and December meetings were approved as printed. The Treasurer's report was approved as read. The authority's checking account balance stands at \$26,688.12. An additional \$96,637.69 in invested in various CD's, with \$50 maintained as petty cash. A motion by Marge Schmader to pay the bills was seconded by Ken Strowbridge. Motion carried.

>Marge reported that the DCED report forms were received. She will give those to the auditors.

>A copy of a letter written by Lewis Township Solicitor, Tom Boop, and sent to Penn Vest regarding the transfer of the land from the township to the authority was received. A copy of the letter sent from authority solicitor, Melissa Lobos, to Penn Vest was also received.

>Engineer, Steven Siegfried, reported that the NPDES report is ready, but it is not due until later this year. Steven also noted on his report the recent violation at the treatment facility. Plant Operator, Walter Scholl, reported that DEP made an inspection of the facility recently and they were satisfied.

>Melissa Lobos discovered three municipal liens on file at the Union County Courthouse. No information relative to those liens was located in the material kept on file by the authority when all of the records were turned over by Lewis Township Secretary, Karen Watters. Marge will contact Karen to see if she was able to locate anything in her files regarding the three liens.

>Melissa reported on her recent attendance at the Lewis Township Supervisors meeting regarding the transfer of the property from the township to the

(Continued on page 10)

(Continued from page 9)

authority. The township and the authority are awaiting word from Penn Vest on that issue. She also stated that the supervisors have given their approval for the authority to erect a fence around the perimeter of the property, but they (the township) would not pay for the required fence. Melissa stated that the underwriter for Penn Vest called her today. She said that Penn Vest is not happy with the Lewis Township Supervisors since they (Penn Vest) have not received any information on the authority lease. Melissa indicated that there was no provision for the supervisors to give permission for the authority to be formed. She said that there should not be a year to year lease, but that it should run until July 2011 (the end of the loan payment period). Penn Vest would like a lease agreement they can approve of from the township. Melissa said that Penn Vest would entertain a request from the township for the transfer and the assumption of the loan by the authority. HRG representative will confirm who currently holds the permits.

>Melissa reminded the board members to have the names on the bonds changed so they reflect the change of board members, including Chairman and Treasurer. The names on the authority's banking account will also need to be revised. A motion by Ken Strowbrige to get those changes made was seconded by Kenneth Bair. Motion carried. Marge will contact the proper people to have those changes made.

>Walter Scholl informed the board that he needs a DO Probe, as well as a new supply of Chlorine tablets. Scholl also provided a report from DEP regarding the NPDES Compliance Inspection. That report will be kept on file. Scholl also reported that Eichelberger's will drill the new well as soon as the ground is frozen. Scholl indicated that Israel Yoder, an adjoining property owner at the treatment plant, does not have any problems regarding the erection of a fence around the wastewater treatment facility.

>Tony, Please sign in for 2 yr. subscription to the "Times." I've been seeing my Dad's for a while now. It's a wonderful service you're providing our community. Jim Sanders 1190 Pleasant Grove Road, Millmont.

>We enjoy the Millmont Times very much. Even though I only lived up here 28 yrs. I still like to read what went on years ago. Thanks again. Florine J. Davis 538 Libby Road, Millmont.

THANK YOU!!

To Wayne and Nancy Shively for the material the recently provided to me relating to my great-grandfather, Rev. Greene Shively. Some of the material included pages from Greene's "Then and Now" which was published in the 1940's, as well as newspaper articles preserved by relatives of Wayne.

People celebrating a birthday during February

Eli Reiff, February 1	Emilie Jansma, February 19
Mary J. Martin, February 1	Helen Wert, February 21
Robert Catherman Jr. Feb 1	Pat Witmer, February 22
Brenda Weaver, February 10	Orvis Wallace, February 22
Kimber Groff, February 12	Dawne Shreckengast, Feb 26
James Brubacker, Feb. 12	
Eric Mabus, February 14	
Marian Hoover, February 17	
Connie Engelhart, Feb. 18	

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