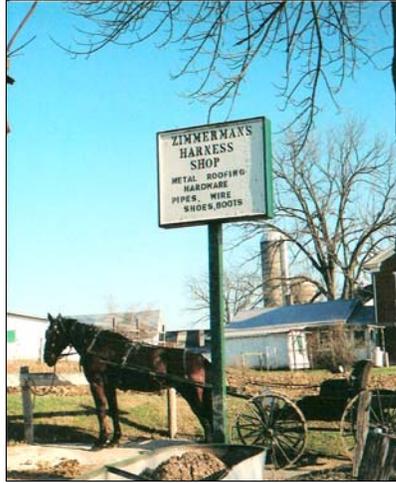




# The Millmont Times

FEBRUARY 2006



## Zimmerman's Harness Shop

While the sign indicates you are entering a harness shop, it is apparent before you ever step foot inside, that Zimmerman's Harness Shop has much more to offer. Entering the shop at 436 Kaiser Run Road, Millmont, is like going back in time to a much earlier era. The jingle of sleigh bells as you open the front door, the creaking wooden floor, and the sight of the gas lights hanging from the ceiling, are telltale signs that you have entered a hardware store unlike Cole's, Lowe's or Home Depot. Since the business is owned and operated by members of the Old Order Mennonite community, it makes the shopping experi-

ence even more unique. While the employees can easily communicate with all of the patrons who enter, the dialect they speak behind the counter, amongst themselves, is one that only they can understand. The late Daniel H. Zimmerman founded the business in 1969. Today Elam and Levi Brubacker, are continuing the longstanding traditions and business practices started by their grandfather.

Daniel Zimmerman was born in West Earl Township, Lancaster County, on November 10, 1909. He, his wife Minnie, and three of their seven children, moved from Lancaster County to Union County in 1960. The Zimmerman's were one of the earliest Old Order Mennonite families to settle in Buffalo Valley. Dan first settled on the former Haven Lukens farm, northwest of Hartleton. Daniel and Minnie's grandson, Mervin Zimmerman, currently owns that farm.

In 1969, Daniel and Minnie retired from farming and built a home alongside Kaiser Run Road. The site of their new home was a portion of the farm owned by their son, Adin. Adin Zimmerman had purchased the former Emmanuel Mensch farm in 1961, prior to migrating from Lancaster County. In the spring of 1969, soon after his house was under roof, Dan opened the harness and leather repair shop in the basement of his home located at 439 Kaiser Run Road. As the influx of Old Order Mennonites from Lancaster County, into the fertile farmlands of Buffalo Valley, increased during the 1960's, so too did the demand for Zimmerman's services.



Original location of Zimmerman's Harness Shop was in the basement of this house, currently occupied by Leah Brubacker.

*(Continued on page 2)*

## Millmont Mailbox by Postmaster Sam Smith

Winter is halfway finished, and as of this writing, no major snow storms have occurred yet! February is a transitional month, as the days are getting longer, and anticipation of spring is in the air.

One thing I am not looking forward to is Rural Mail Count, which I have talked about before. It will last only two weeks this year, and Tony will get his first chance to experience this firsthand!

Valentines Day is one of our busiest occasions. Emails just aren't the same as sending or receiving a card or letter. An actual card or letter helps to make moments special and become keepsakes to be cherished and appreciated over and over again. Taking time to write a letter says so much to the recipient, it shows your friends and loved ones you care in a personal, lasting way. New Love stamps featuring a pair of bluebirds are on sale now. The Post office will be closed to honor Presidents' Day on Monday February 20, 2006.

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Soon his part time job had turned into a full time occupation. Before long, family, friends, and neighbors were turning to Zimmerman to take advantage of his leatherworking expertise.

Zimmerman also began repairing shoes and boots, in addition to stocking a supply of new footwear. Sometime later he began selling nails, screws, lawn and garden tools, fencing, and metal roofing. When Amos Hoover disposed of his drainpipe business, Zimmerman began stocking those items as well.

In 1978 health issues forced Zimmerman to scale back his day-to-day involvement with operation of the business. While he continued to act as a purchasing agent over the next several years, he turned the business responsibilities over to his son's, Adin and Eli Zimmerman. Following Eli Zimmerman's relocation to Kentucky, control of the business was in the hands of Adin.

Zimmerman's Harness Shop continued to grow, both in size and in the variety of items they stock. Expanding the inventory necessitated the construction of a new store on the north side of Kaiser Run Road in 1985. To mark the celebration of the new store, members of the Old Order Mennonite community held a singing inside the new building on January 18, 1986. Adin persuaded his brother-in-law, Milton Brubacker, to relocate from Snyder County to Lewis Township in 1987 so he could assist him with the business.

The east end of the building, which houses the harness shop, was later enlarged by adding a second floor. Employees Elam Brubacker and Harvey Horning are responsible for much of the harness work. There they have tools and materials necessary to cut, sew, detail, wash, and dip the harnesses in oil before applying "tough coat" to the cowhide leather. Several employees, including Levi Brubacker and Jonathan Martin, are natural artisans when it comes to detailing some of the leather made items produced at the shop.

In addition to harnesses, they produce halters, bridles, reins, belts, straps, ammunition pouches, as well as hand, shoulder, and saddlebags. A large selection of durable nylon material used to make custom-made straps for the trucking industry, pony harnesses, dog collars, and leashes is also available. Because the shop is not equipped with electricity, the sewing machines used to stitch the leather and nylon items are powered by air pressure.

While the production of custom made leather and nylon products keeps two employees busy, the largest increase in business over the years at Zimmerman's has been the demand for tin roofing and siding. According to Adin Zimmerman the tin business continues to expand with each passing year. An average of two tractor-trailer deliveries of raw materials arrive at the shop each week. Despite the competitive nature of the tin business, Adin estimates that their shop has become a major supplier of tin to customers within a fifty-mile radius. An additional 40 by 60 building was recently erected to house the expanding line of metal roofing, siding, and special orders. Since its availability in the late 1970's, colored metal roofing has become popular with patrons. Zimmerman's line of roofing now includes an assortment of 15 different colors.

Adin has resisted the need to electrify the harness shop, or his retirement home located at 191 Kaiser Run Road. As he exclaimed, "I didn't see a need for it." Gas lights found in the harness shop and his home are reminiscent of those that could have been found in many rural homes and businesses in the west end of Union County prior to the availability of electricity.

The hissing sound generated by the propane lamps, has been extinguished in recent months due to the installation of a new solar lighting system. Solar lighting was added to the harness shop in October 2005. The unique system consists of several skylights, or dormers, cut through the roof. The glass-covered openings allow reflected light to be channeled to the ceiling panels on the first floor. Although the openings on the roof are small, the Styrofoam panels that line the opening from the roof to the ceiling are covered with highly polished aluminum, thus allowing an abundance of light to shine into the building. When looking at the solar lighted panels in the ceiling it would be easy to mistake them for florescent light fixtures.

One of the solar lights is located on the roof of the two-story harness shop. There the light is reflected through the second floor and down to the first floor where even on cloudy days the work area is well lit. According to Adin, the costs associated with purchasing and installing the new lighting system was not inexpensive. However, the new system is paying dividends by reducing the use of high priced propane to light the building.



Pictured above is a custom made guitar strap that was handcrafted by Jonathan Martin. Sam Beiler, of Millmont provided the pattern and within 2 hours, the 25-year old craftsman had completed his project.



Amos Martin cuts painted tin for Jay Matthews of Middleburg.

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# BIRD TALK

By Jim McCormick

“...*he thought it was a ventriloquist.*” I know, I know. I don’t even have to say it. You already know what I’m going to say: “This has been a very strange winter.” But it has been—January in December and October in January. We even had a thunder and lightning spectacle in a snowstorm. One day after a heavy rain we had unusually warm weather and I saw a small plant germinating on the side of the road. “Not a good idea,” I thought. No matter, the days are getting longer and we are on the ‘down’ side of winter. The days are over a half hour longer already.

Recently I was thinking I haven’t spotlighted one of our Permanent Residents for some time now. But which bird should I choose? As I walked along I saw a little, brightly colored bird fly by and thought, “That’s it.” It was a *Sialia sialis*, or, as it is better known, an Eastern Bluebird. We are very fortunate to have this beautiful little bird among us. It is a small thrush, only about seven inches from beak to tail, a small cousin of the American Robin. The male has brilliant blue wings, head, back, and tail and a chestnut breast. When seen in bright sunlight, it is one of the most brilliantly colored birds in America. It literally takes your breath away. There is an often-quoted entry in Henry David Thoreau’s *Journal* for April 3, 1852: “The bluebird carries the sky on his back.” They are usually seen as inconspicuous birds perched on an overhead wire, quietly watching as I pass by. Someone once said “*he thought it was a ventriloquist.*” I wasn’t quite sure what he meant at the time, but I think I now know what he was implying. There are times when you can distinctly hear the Bluebird, but cannot see it. The bird is normally easily seen in open fields or perched overhead. I have found, however, that when I hear them but cannot see them, if I look overhead, they are usually flying quite high above me singing their plaintive song. The Eastern Bluebird almost became an endangered species in the 1960’s and its comeback is a true success story: see <http://nabluebirdsociety.org> for information on how the North American Bluebird Society is working to make their comeback permanent. At this site there are back issues of their journal *Bluebird*. There is another website, <http://www.sialis.org>, which may be the best site I have found for all things Bluebird. It is filled with photos, history, and as much information as you could possibly want. While much of the Bluebirds’ comeback is due to the introduction of Bluebird houses, they do still build nests the old-fashioned way—in tree cavities. I was fortunate enough to be able to watch a pair nesting in an old tree with a woodpecker hole. The male would fly to the nest with food in its mouth, look around, and then disappear into the nest. When the young fledge they can be seen on the wires, but if you didn’t see them with the adults you wouldn’t even know they were Bluebirds—they look like another species. They are grey with streaks of blue and much thinner than the adults. The cause of the sharp decline in the Bluebird population was due to the introduction of both House Sparrows and European Starlings in the nineteenth century. These non-native bird species have relentlessly taken over the normal nesting sites of the Bluebirds and it is only through the ongoing intervention of hard-working humans that the Bluebird is again beginning to thrive.

On the 23<sup>rd</sup> of January I saw several pairs of Common Mergansers just upstream from Penns Creek, so the migrants are already making their return. Looking forward, the Robins usually return right around Presidents Day weekend and then the Common Grackles and Red-winged Blackbirds arrive around the last days of February. The season is about to change, so grab your binoculars and take it all in.



## Tom Boop to Head Game Commission Board

Thomas E. Boop of Sunbury, was elected President of the Pennsylvania Game Commission at their annual reorganization meeting held last month in Harrisburg.

A native of Laurelton, Union County, and a lifelong hunter, Boop operates a sole practice law office. He has been an associate or partner in Sunbury law firms since 1974. In addition to serving as a private practice lawyer, he also served as an assistant district attorney for Northumberland County from 1976-1984.

Boop is a member of the Northumberland County and Pennsylvania Bar Associations, the Pennsylvania Trial Lawyers Association and chairman of the Northumberland County Bench Bar Committee. He is a former member of the Pennsylvania Bar Association House

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The top photograph shows a front view of Zimmerman's Harness Shop on Kaiser Run Road. The bottom photograph is a view of the sheds that contain the tin and the large supply of plastic pipe and culverts that are available at Zimmerman's.

Adin has resisted large-scale expansion of the business in favor of slow and moderate growth. There were some who encouraged him to carry a bigger line of materials, including plywood and lumber. As he exclaimed, "getting too big can also be a "headache." He stands by the business principle that it is not just about "making money or seeing how big your business can grow," but more importantly, it is about "serving the needs of your customers."

The pressure to modernize is yet another enticement that gathers momentum from time to time. Several years ago one employee at the shop was convinced that in order for the business to grow it was necessary to modernize the shop. This employee posted a note at the counter, for Adin to see, with a not so subtle list of things that needed to take place in order to satisfy the needs of the customer. Included in the long list of ideas was the installation of electricity and a modern cash register. On the bottom of the paper Adin wrote a short note stating that the list contained things that would "benefit the employees, not the customers." The following day the list disappeared. Some time later he did make an offer to step aside if the younger generation wanted to proceed with modernization. He was happy knowing that the next generation of owners and operators of the harness shop had decided against making any major changes.

Seventy-year-old Adin Zimmerman, the father of twelve children, has turned the daily operation of the harness shop over to his nephews, Levi and Elam Brubacker. However, he continues to lend a hand in the mornings from 8:00 a.m. until noon. In addition to Adin and the Brubacker brothers, the other employees who are there to assist include Jonathan Martin, Harvey Horning, Levi Oberholtzer, and Amos Martin.

Daniel H. Zimmerman, harness maker, businessman, and carpenter, died on October 17, 1994 at age 84. Little did he know when he founded the harness shop in the basement of his Kaiser Run Road home in 1969 that it

would prosper and grow to the extent it has. As long as his son, Adin Zimmerman, and his grandsons, Elam and Levi Brubacker, remain active in the harness shop, the customs, traditions, and business practices that were established 37 years ago will continue for years to come.

My thanks to Adin Zimmerman, Leah Brubacker, Elam Brubacker, Harvey Horning, Jonathan Martin, Amos Martin, Eli Reiff, and David Zimmerman for providing information for this article. Other resources include the "History of the Groffdale Conference Mennonites in Union County, Pennsylvania 1960 – 2004", compiled by Alice M. Horning, Adin, N. Zimmerman, Eli M. Reiff, and Luke H. Weaver, and published in 2004. The 360-page hard cover book is available at Zimmerman's Harness Shop.



Country Garden Farm Supply, 3890 Ridge Road, Mifflinburg.

## Country Garden Farm Supply

David Zimmerman, (no relation to Adin Zimmerman), began working at Zimmerman's Harness Shop in January 1994. Although he was only employed at the harness shop for slightly more than 18 months, he gained knowledge and valuable business experience that would later prove useful. On August 3, 1995, while working at the harness shop on Kaiser Run Road, David's life was forever changed. It was a hot afternoon when he and several of his co-workers decided to take advantage of their break by taking a swim in the pond directly behind the Harness Shop. On one particular dive, David did not resurface. Recognizing that their friend was in

serious danger, several of the boys came to his rescue.

Twenty-year old David Zimmerman was pulled from the water and soon airlifted to Geisinger Medical Center, where the diagnosis was very discouraging. Only 10 weeks from their October 12 wedding day, David Zimmerman, and his

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fiancée, Pricilla Hurst, learned the tragic news that he would be paralyzed from the arm-pits down. While the misfortune altered their plans for their wedding and their future, it did not dampen their spirits. Confined to a wheelchair, David spent the next year recovering from the accident. He also had ample time to contemplate his future.

Adin Zimmerman, his former employer, did whatever he could to help David. Despite the fact that he was confined to a wheelchair, and had limited use of his arms and hands, Adin encouraged him to return to the harness shop. He was given a desk behind the counter where he spent the afternoons reviewing the shop's invoices and bills, making sure everything was in order, and correcting mistakes that were found. David exclaimed, "He (Adin) almost paid me more than what I was really worth.....he did it as a favor, to get me out of the house, and get me motivated, and get me started on something."

The wedding plans that David and Pricilla had made the previous year were delayed until September 12, 1996. While there were offers for disability assistance presented to David and Pricilla, they both decided shortly after the accident that was not an option for them.

Despite his handicap, David has chosen to not view himself as disabled, or dependent.

With the encouragement of Adin Zimmerman and others, David and Pricilla started their own small business.

In 1997 they opened a small store along Route 304, south of Mifflinburg. Since opening, their business has seen continued growth and expansion. On September 3, 2001 they relocated "Country Garden Farm Supply" to a new, and much larger facility, located at 3890 Ridge Road. The line of items for sale expanded as well, and now includes animal health and dairy supplies, farm chemicals, horse supplies, water softener salt, dog food, pet supplies, fencing, gates, and lawn and garden tools.

August 3, 1995, was the day that David's life changed forever. The challenges resulting from the accident are a daily reminder to both he and Pricilla. However, they both have much to be thankful for, including the addition of two young children into the family. With the assistance of Clayton Zimmerman, David's brother, they continue to enjoy business success at their new location. Country Garden Farm Supply is open each weekday from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m., and on Saturdays from 8 until noon.

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of Delegates, the Pennsylvania Bar Association's Agricultural Law Committee, past president of the Northumberland County Bar Association, and former chairman of the Pennsylvania Bar Association's Disciplinary Committee.

A former Zone Governor of the Pennsylvania Bar Association, Boop also served as a member of the Association's Finance and Executive committees.

Boop serves as general counsel for the Mifflinburg Bank and Trust Company and as Vice-Chairman of its Board of Directors; as solicitor for Hartley and Lewis townships in Union County; and as a director and solicitor for the Hartleton Cemetery Association. He also serves as a director and secretary of the Mifflinburg Farmers Exchange and its wholly-owned subsidiary, Country Farm and Home.

A graduate of Mifflinburg Area High School, Tom earned a bachelor's degree from Dickinson College, and later was awarded a law degree from Dickinson School of Law. He is the son of Randall and Geniece Boob of Laurelton.

Boop is a member of the Buffalo Valley Sportsmen's Club, Union County Sportsmen's Club, the National Rifle Association and the Ruffed Grouse Society. He is a member and captain of the Huckleberry Hunting Lodge, and a member and co-captain of the Little Mountain Regulars. He also is a member of Mifflinburg Lodge #370; a member and former council officer of Zion Lutheran Church in Sunbury; and a member and past president of the Sunbury Rotary Club.

Raised on a dairy farm enrolled by his father in the Game Commission's Cooperative Farm-Game Program, Boop is the owner and president of Willowcreek Farm, a livestock operation, which also is enrolled in the Farm-Game Program.

Boop has three adult children -- Ryan, Garrett and Ellyn. A fourth child, a son, Adam, is deceased.

Nominated by Gov. Edward G. Rendell to the Board of Game Commissioners on July 1, 2003, and overwhelmingly confirmed by the Pennsylvania Senate on July 28, 2003, Boop was officially sworn-in on August 27, 2003. He represents District 5, which is comprised of: Bradford; Columbia; Lycoming; Montour; Northumberland; Sullivan; Tioga; and Union counties.

The small photograph in the upper left hand corner of page one shows a view of the Lewisburg & Tyrone Railroad situated alongside Penns Creek, between Camp Westfall and Pardee.



# Meanderings

by

*Hertha S. Wehr*

## World's Columbian Exposition

When I first saw a Columbian half dollar a number of years ago, I realized it was a special issue but it really didn't mean anything special to me. But that all changed when I was given a book for Christmas.

The title of the book is *The Devil in the White City*. It is an intriguing story about the Chicago Exposition and a man of many aliases whose story is interwoven with the planning, building, and management of the Exposition.

The year was 1890 and the census just proclaimed Chicago the second largest city in the United States. Philadelphia was not pleased. They claimed Chicago had cheated by annexing large expanses of land just before the 1890 decadal census. But facts were facts. This bit of news started a group of businessmen and prominent people in Chicago to begin to dream dreams.

There was a feeling among some people that the country should be celebrating the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Columbus' discovery of America. Part of the feeling was to "out-do" Paris for their stunning world's fair that was "so big and glamorous and so exotic that visitors came away believing that another exposition could not surpass it." That was the year that Alexandre Eiffel built his famous tower.

When Chicago submitted a plan for a world's fair there was a hue and cry that Chicago was a stock yard and packing house city and any celebration should be held in Washington, D.C. Then New York and St. Louis wanted the distinction. But Chicago's citizens began a real campaign, pointing out how they had come back from the disaster of the great fire in 1871. Congress had the final say. It took eight ballots to get a majority but finally Chicago won the right to have the fair.

The book goes into the struggle of meeting deadlines, how to keep buildings from sinking into the "gumbo"

where bedrock was 125 feet below the surface. Not the least of the problems were how to keep each committee from trying for the most power. A big concern was the time line. They had just under three years to accomplish a near miracle. A few buildings were not finished at the official opening but by fair's end they were seeing some 200,000 people attending each day.

Thomas Edison visited the site and pointed out the advantages of using direct current instead of the alternating current one contractor was determined to install. Gas was still a main feature in most homes but the fair did much to change the way we light our homes today.

The giant that "out Effeled Eiffel" was designed by George Washington Ferris. It was the original Ferris Wheel. It's proportions are hard to believe. The wheel was 250' in diameter. It carried thirty-six cars, each holding sixty people. "It would propel 2,160 people at a time three hundred feet into the sky over Jackson Park, a bit higher than the crown of the now six-year-old Statue of Liberty." By the way, the engineer was from Pittsburgh.

The fair was called the White City because it was finally decided to finish all the buildings in white. The Ferris Wheel served for a number of years but its usefulness was limited because of its capacity. It was finally dismantled and sold for scrap. The Eiffel Tower is still standing, and we have Ferris wheels at every amusement park and fair, although not such giants.

The book brings out the fact that women were just beginning to gain more freedom at the time of the fair. Many young women sought jobs in the city. The very young, handsome, friendly doctor employed young women as his secretary or as clerks in the drug store he established. He seemed always to be able to explain why they were no longer in his employ. True, he carried a doctor's bag but the things he carried in it did nothing to make people more healthy.

Dr. Holmes' story (one of his aliases) did not end when the fair ended. But, when the wife of one of his employees began to question where her husband was, an investigation was begun. It wasn't until 1896 that his charming ways could no longer keep him out of jail. His story is intriguing but it did not distract from the great story of the fair.

After reading about the Chicago Exposition, it's grander, it's accomplishments in engineering, and completion in an almost impossible time line, I can understand why they struck a commemorative coin to honor it.

A blood drive will be held on February 24, 2006, from 9:00 a.m. until 1:30 p.m. at the New Berlin Social Hall. The event is sponsored by the Sun Area CTC. All persons 17 and over, in good health, and who weigh at least 110 pounds are encouraged to donate blood. Please bring a photo ID. Call 1.800.432.8045 with questions.

**Recipe of the Month**  
*By Janice (Dorman) Shively*  
**Chocolate Meringue Pie**

6 C. Milk  
Combine: 1 C. sugar  
          1/2 C. cocoa powder  
          10 TBSP. Cornstarch  
          Pinch of salt  
6 egg yolks  
2 TBSP. Butter  
1 tsp. vanilla

Heat 6 C. milk over medium heat. Do not bring to a boil. Once the milk is warm, add some of the milk to the egg yolks to temper them. Then pour egg yolks into the warm milk. Slowly stir in the sugar mixture. Stir over medium high heat until the pudding thickens. Add the butter and vanilla. Pour into your favorite pre-baked pie crust. Set aside.

To make the meringue: Beat 6 egg whites until frothy. Gradually add 9 TBSP. of sugar while beating with electric mixer, until stiff peaks form. Spread meringue over top of the pudding mixture and bake at 350°F for 10 minutes, or until lightly browned. Remove from oven and let cool to room temperature. Refrigerate and serve chilled.

\*This pudding recipe came to me from my Mother-in-law, Pauline Shively. It was her Mother's recipe, and is my husband's favorite dessert. If you don't want to prepare with the meringue, you can top with cool whip.

Enjoy!



### Thank You!

I would like to thank the following people for making monetary donations toward the publication of this newsletter: Judith Blair, Millmont; Lucille Wagner, Mifflinburg; Betty Auman, Beaver Falls; Roger Libby, Lewisburg (Internet subscriber); Wayne & Nancy Shively, Mifflinburg; James and Sandra Sanders, Millmont; David & Vivian Shively, Mechanicsburg; Thomas and Peggy Reimensnyder, Mifflinburg (Internet subscriber); Glenn & Norma Catherman, Old Bridge, New Jersey; Karen & Barış Göktaş, Aberdeen, Scotland; Evelyn Smith, Swengel; Marvin & Jane Benner, Mifflinburg; and Kenneth & Linda Davis, Millmont.

The following people have agreed to accept this newsletter through the Internet as a PDF, thereby reducing the monthly expenses associated with printing and mailing this publication: Roger Libby, Bonnie Pontius, Marsha Libby, Peggy Reimensnyder, David Peachy; Jody Fallon; David Ebersole, and Timothy VonNeida. Anyone interested in signing up to receive a free color version of the newsletter each month is encouraged to contact me at: [millmonttimes@dejazzd.com](mailto:millmonttimes@dejazzd.com)

The following are new mail subscribers: Arla M. Sechman, Mifflinburg; William and Donna Wellema, Millmont; and Kenneth & Linda Davis, Millmont.

Thanks to everyone who renewed their subscriptions for an additional year. Your support is what helps to make this newsletter possible, and is greatly appreciated!!

Thanks also to D. Roger Libby of Mifflinburg for donating copies of old newspaper clippings relative to the Tigt End.

From the diary of the late Elder Greene Shively (1870 - 1954) a resident of Millmont from 1918 until his death:

*Monday February 12, 1934 - Lincoln's Birthday Temperatures 30 - 35, cloudy—I worked in garage.  
Tuesday February 13, 1934 - Temperatures 28 - 19, a strong wind from the west. Visited schools today. I went with Mr. John Pontius, the rest went with Dr. Boyer, all but Mr. Knauss he could not go along. Visited first at Mrs. Long's school at Salem, was impressed with her program for devotion, we then went to Swengel where Mr. Reamer is teaching, then to the Hopp Inn where Dr. Boyer had ordered a splendid dinner. This afternoon we visited Miss Kahler's school and the High School taught by Mr. Showalter. Edmund teaching the Millmont School was sick. Dr. and I gave short talks at the various schools. Dr. Boyer brought me home. We were down to see Edmund this evening. He is doing better.*

### Bible Quiz

Betty Rote, 521 Chestnut Street, Mifflinburg, PA 17844, was the winner of the January Bible Quiz. As a result she won the \$10.00 cash prize. The answer to the question "Who took the place of Judas as one of the apostles" was "Matthias."

The person responsible for the Bible Quiz would like to thank all those who entered the January Bible quiz.

The Bible Quiz Question for February is: Who led a rebellion against Moses, and was subsequently swallowed up by the ground? A \$10 cash prize will be awarded to the person selected with the correct answer.

Send your answer to: Bible Quiz, P. O. Box 21, Millmont PA 17845. Please have your answer submitted by the 20th of the month.

# Dogs I have Known & Owned

By Joe White

The first recollection of dogs I have known and owned, was when I was a child. It was at 4975 East Sternburg Road, Fruitport, Michigan. "Pepper," was the dog's name. It belonged to my grandparents, George and Bessie White. As a child I spent a lot of time with them, if I didn't get homesick for my father and mother.

The first dog I owned, I didn't have long enough to name. It was killed on that dirt road back in Fruitport, Michigan. Mother was upset that some heartless person could kill a little boy's puppy with their car, and not stop to let anybody know. So, she put an ad in the Muskegon Chronicle to that affect. Only a few days later a new puppy was dropped off by our driveway, and would you believe it, another Beagle. But my joy was short lived, because it was also hit by a car. I could not be comforted. I cried for days. We buried "Fly" in my pet cemetery, wrapped in one of my mother's throw rugs. Father loaded Fly in the wheelbarrow, in which he had given me many rides. We chose one of mother's favorite and largest rocks from her rock garden to use as a marker. The year was 1957. The paint I used to write "Fly, I love you. 1957" was of good quality because in 1976 when I took my wife to back to Michigan to show her the grave you could still read the lettering.

In the late 80's I took my boys to show them the stone. I intended to steal it and take it back to Pennsylvania to my mother. Wouldn't you know it, someone had beat me to it. I remember the mosquitoes were thick as gnats on that hot summer day. I was reminded of God's commandment: Thou shalt not steal.

But I have digressed, I must get back to the story of Fly. I had no pictures of Fly. So my parent's dug out an old photo of a dog of my father's, who was also named Fly. I held that photo every chance I got for at least two days. On the back, in red crayon, I wrote, "Fly, I love you."

I remember the neighbors dog, "Rin-Tin-Tin." Of course, it was a German Shepherd, like the one on TV. Teddy was a dog that lived about a half mile away. In boyhood days, it seemed that the neighbor's dogs always followed me home.

One dog that followed me home was "Moses," a Collie like Lassie. After many attempts to take the dog back to its owner, they said I could keep it, and mother agreed. One day while my sister, Dawn, and I were watching from the picture window, a tractor-trailer truck traveling the macadam road ran over Moses. We ran to another room, dropped to our knees and prayed, asking God to spare old Moses, who was also expecting pups. By the time we returned to the picture window, father was preparing to put Moses out of her misery. The truck driver, who had stopped, asked dad not to do that. While they talked, we watched Moses drag her mangled body to the house. In kindness, mother let the only dog I've ever known to be in her house, into the basement. Moses recovered and she delivered a litter of pups. God hears the prayers of children.

Not long after that we moved, and I don't remember what became of Moses. It seems she may have been returned to her original owner.

Editor's note: Joe White was born in Michigan, and moved to Millmont in 1972, two years after his parent's, the late L G and Ellen "Mickey" White, had arrived in this small village. A well-known resident, Joe resides in the Maple Street home formerly owned by the late Bruce and Margaret Boop.

## Days of Yore

The photograph to the left was provided to me courtesy of Elwood Showalter of Mifflinburg. It shows a bi-plane that landed somewhere in the west end of the county.

While I have no information relative to this particular mail plane, they were a common sight in Union County during the 1920's and 1930's.

Some readers may recall the era when a landing strip was maintained on the Korman farm, just north of Hartleton. Since the ground in the photo is snow-covered, it can be assumed that the photograph was taken during the winter.



# Penlines From my Kitchen to Yours

## Dec. 16, 2005

Floyd Weaver had surgery. His address is 5109 Old Turnpike Rd. Lewisburg, PA 17837.

Tonight Bethel Holiness Church came Christmas caroling at our house.

## Dec. 22, 2005

We all went to our school Christmas program this forenoon. Afterward the parents and children had a hot lunch. We took "Amish Roast" along.

Earl and Emma Weaver of Mifflinburg are having a new house built next to their other one. When the new house is completed they want to tear the old house down.

John and Esther Zimmerman of Millmont are having public auction (a complete farm machinery dispersal) on February 18, 2006.

## Dec. 25, 2005 Christmas Day

A vanload of our Hoover family, Lewis and Verna, Michael and Jemima, and Chris Brubacker family, with Lewis Ray as their driver, are on a 10 day vacation to visit family and friends in Kentucky and Iowa.

The remainder of us Hoovers had Christmas dinner at Ervin and Carolyn of Mifflinburg. They had invited his family too.

Ralph and Wilma Zimmerman of Mifflinburg have a daughter named Wilma Joy. She has three brothers and four sisters. Grandparents are Phares and Ada Zimmerman of Millmont and Daniel and Alice Burkholder of Mifflinburg.

## Dec. 28, 2005

Luke and Carol Oberholtzer of Mifflinburg have a son named Dana Jared. He has one brother. Grandparents are Allen and Lucy Oberholtzer of Mifflinburg and Nathan and Mary Ella Martin of Millmont.

## Dec. 29, 2005

George and Edna Martin of Lewisburg moved into the house just up the road from them, where their daughter Ruthann and Jere lived. Jere and Ruthann moved into the farm house that George and Edna vacated, where they will take up dairy farming. There will be an auction there on March 10, 2006 to sell George and Edna's extra things.

A stomach virus is making a round through the community. Our girls all had a turn with it. Even our dog Skippy was sick!

*(Continued on page 10)*

## **Moving?**

If you are planning to move or if your post office mailing address is about to change, please notify The Millmont Times immediately. This newsletter is distributed each month by bulk rate, and will not be forwarded to your new address by the U. S. Postal Service. Newsletters that can not be delivered are returned, which requires me to pay an additional .37 cents postage. Please call me at (570) 922.4297 or email me at: millmonttimes@dejazzd.com if there are any changes in your postal mailing address.

## Looking Back

The article below was sent to me by subscriber, D. Roger Libby of Lewisburg. This article was originally published in The Sunbury Daily Item, date unknown. It is copied verbatim.

## Legend Of Spurned Girl's Death Under Lover's Train Told

(Folk tale of the construction days up in "Tight End." Written for The Daily Item by Dr. Charles M. Steese.)

Our story concerns the building of the extension of the "Lewisburg, Centre and Spruce Creek Railroad" from Laurelton to Spring Mills. It took place between the years 1875 and 1877, when the construction gang was grading the road bed and laying the tracks in the narrows along Penns Creek west of Glen Iron.

This railroad had been started more than 20 years before. By 1871 it had reached Mifflinburg and by 1875 was extended to Laurelton. In later years the name was changed to the "Lewisburg and Tyrone Railroad Company." It is now owned and operated by the Pennsylvania Railroad.

In order to build the road it was necessary to import much of the labor. All of the engineers and surveyors were, as they were then called, "city men." As the construction moved westward, these men were forced to find lodging and meals at various farm houses. Late in 1875 a boarding house was opened near Pardee and here most of the foremen and surveyors roomed, and all of them took their meals. While working on the right-of-way nearby, the men thinking of this boarding house used to sing:

"There is a boarding house not far away.  
Where they have onions three times a day.

Oh how the boarders yell when they hear  
the dinner bell.

Oh how the onions smell, three times a day."

Several young ladies, daughters of nearby farmers were engaged to wait on tables at this boarding house. One of these girls was a beautiful brunette about 19 years old. Her name was Elizabeth, and she was called "Liz" by her friends. Soon she be-

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We are always glad when everyone feels better again.

Jan. 8, 2006

Daniel and Verna Zimmerman of Mifflinburg have a daughter named Bethany Verna. She has two sisters and six brothers. Grandparents are Leroy and Verna Zimmerman of Millmont.

Minister Eli Burkholder of Penn Valley (near Kutztown) was at Vicksburg Church this forenoon.

We went to Chris and Wilma Brubacker's for lunch. This afternoon Curvin and I had an invitation to the Editor's house to attend a time of fellowship. My mom, Leah Brubacker, went with us, and we enjoyed meeting Tony and Janice and all of the other writers that were present.

Jan. 11, 2006

Mervin and Ruth Zimmerman of Millmont have a son named Lavern. He has five brothers and four sisters. Grandparents are Adin and Alice Zimmerman of Millmont and Mrs. Jonas Hoover of Ephrata.

Esra and Anna Mary Zimmerman of Winfield have a son named John Mark. Now they have five sons! Grandparents are Esra and Lena Zimmerman and Ammon and Mary Martin, all of Mifflinburg.

Jan. 14, 2006

John and Esther Nolt of Mifflinburg have a son named Eugene. They have six sons. Grandparents are Floyd and Jane Nolt of New Holland and Amos and Emma Nolt of Lewisburg.

Jan. 15, 2006

Brother John Isaac and Erla Hoover and their son Ben, age three, of Kentucky are in our area for the weekend. They and the rest of the Hoover family were at our place for lunch today.

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came well acquainted with the chief foreman, a tall young man whose home was in Wilmington. The couple would always be together in the evening after the girl's work was done. Many times they took long walks, going as far on a number of occasions as the store at Weikert, where he bought trinkets and ornaments to please her.

On Memorial Day 1876, Liz and her friend drove up through the narrows to Millheim for the celebration, and on July 4th of the same year they went down to Sunbury on the work train and spent the night there, coming back the next morning with the crew.

By the fall of 1876, the work on the east side of the Cherry Run Tunnel had been completed and many of the workmen were preparing to leave the Pardee boarding house and go to Coburn and make their headquarters there. The young man from Wilmington was not going with them. He had decided to take another job and was going back home.

The night before he was to leave he and Liz took a long walk. It was then that she told him she had "loved not wisely but too well," and begged him to marry her. He was silent a long time and then he gently told the girl that he could not marry her, as he had already had a wife back in Wilmington. He did promise to help her, and tried to give her some money, which she refused.

They returned in silence to the boarding house. There had been no quarrel. Just outside the door, in the darkness, Liz turned quickly, kissed the young man goodnight and then ran into the house.

The next morning he was up bright and early and walked to Pardee in order to get passage to Lewisburg on the work train. After he had left the boarding house, Liz quietly went out of the back door and down to the creek which she followed almost down to the Thomas Mill. By the time she got there she could hear the whistle of the work train. She quickly lay down over the tracks. A few minutes later the train roared by, bearing the unsuspecting young man from Wilmington.

Several hours later track walkers found the mangled remains of Liz. She was buried in an unmarked grave at the Hironimus Church. It is doubtful if the young man who had been the cause of her suicide ever heard the sad story.

### *Letters and Emails to the Editor*

Tony-I wanted to extended my sincere thanks for the great article that you wrote about my Grandmother, Hertha Wehr. You have captured so much of her spirit within your words, a spirit that we sometimes take for granted with everything that she does. I have always been proud of her and the "little" things that she does, it is wonderful to have others know what an incredible lady she is. Thank You!

Kathie Dittmer

Hi Tony, Please find a check for 1 years subscription to "TMT" and a small gift. Keep up the good and interesting work. I wish my father, George B. Klingman, had lived to know you and your paper. He would have been a help to some historical facts for you. Thanx!

Linda Davis, Millmont

Dear Tony, Many thanks for sending the back issues of the "Millmont Times." I am really enjoying them, and I know that they will be extremely helpful in the Pennsylvania Room at the Herr Library for genealogical research. I am enclosing a check although I know the "e-mail" is free. I'm sure you can use it for general expenses. Sincerely,

Peggy Reimensnyder, Mifflinburg, Pa

## *Lewis Township News*

The re-organizational meeting of the Municipal Authority of Lewis Township was held on January 3, 2006 at 7:30 PM at the Lewis Township Municipal Building, Millmont. The following, being members of the board of authority, were present: Jim Sanders, Steve Bilger, Renda Shively and Marge Schmader. Also present were Solicitor Melissa Lobos and Plant Mgr. Walt Scholl.

The following were nominated and approved:

<u>POSITION</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>Motion made by and seconded by</u>	
CHAIRMAN	Jim Sanders	Marge Schmader	Steve Bilger
VICE CHARIMAN	Steve Bilger	Renda Shively	Marge Schmader
SECRETARY	Marge Schmader	Renda Shively	Steve Bilger
TREASURER	Renda Shively	Marge Schmader	Steve Bilger
SOLICITOR	Groover/Lobos, LLC	Marge Schmader	Steve Bilger
ENGINEER	HRG	Steve Bilger	Marge Schmader
BANKING INST.	Miff. Bank & Trust Co.	Renda Shively	Marge Schmader
PLANT OPERATOR	Walt Scholl	Renda Shively	Marge Schmader
BACK-UP OPERATOR	Jason Koch	Renda Shively	Steve Bilger

A motion was made by Marge and seconded by Steve that the Municipal Authority meetings will be changed from the 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of each month to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of each month at 7:30 PM at the Lewis Township Municipal Building, Millmont.

The regular meeting of the Municipal Authority of Lewis Township was held January 3, 2006, 8:00 PM at the Lewis Township Municipal Building, Millmont. The following, being members of the board of authority named in the articles of incorporation, were present: Jim Sanders, Renda Shively, Steve Bilger and Marge Schmader. Also present were Solicitor Melissa Lobos and Plant Mgr. Walt Scholl.

The minutes from the December meeting were approved as printed. The treasurer's report was given. The checking account balance for December was \$10,363.78 and \$97,204.70 in CDs and were approved and filed for audit. Marge made a motion to pay the bills and Steve seconded it – so moved.

**CORRESPONDENCE:** Melissa sent the original contract for our CDBG Grant, which was given to Renda Shively since she is the contact person from our board.

A copy of a memo from Steve Siegfried, HRG, to William Seigel, SEDA-COG, re: Sole Source Purchase Justification.

Also, we received a copy of a letter from Mr. Seigel to Scott Dunwoody, DCED, re: the above memo from Mr. Siegfried.

Mr. Seigel reported that Mr. Siegfried's letter apparently "did the trick" and we can purchase the computer from Jet Tech.

Copies of letters have been received from Melissa Lobos re: why the fencing hasn't been installed as yet; and, from Mr. Boos, DEP, re: the fencing of the plant and him wanting to know what date we plan to have the fence installed. Melissa will reply to Mr. Boos' letter and explain that since HRG wasn't present at tonight's meeting, we will be delayed in getting a bid for the computer and therefore the fencing will probably be delayed and that we don't have a definite date to give them. All these letters are on file.

Also, Melissa will write to the County Commissioners re: the possibility of us receiving a Growing Greener Grant for the balance of the money requested through the CDBG grant that we didn't get.

**ENGINEER'S REPORT:** Not present

**PLANT OPERATOR UPDATE:** The computer is causing problems with the SBR. We are getting an overflow. Walt caught it tonight. It's causing it to overflow.

Walt is going to call and have the spare pump revamped. A motion had been made at a prior meeting for him to go ahead on this in January when our funds are better.

**OLD BUSINESS:** A letter was sent re: a delinquent account.

There will be sheriff sale and we will receive the delinquent payments at that time.

**NEW BUSINESS:** Renda received a bill for a bond from our insurance company and Karen Watters gave her a letter stating that they, the Supervisors, paid the same bill. Renda will check into why the Supervisors are getting our bills.

### **Black History Events at the Dale/Engle/ Walker House Sponsored by The Union County Historical Society**

February 5 beginning at 1:30 p.m. - Slavery in Union County. Society member, Jeannette Lasansky, who chairs an ongoing team research project on slaves and free African Americans in Union County, will present the first program in a series of four events for Black History Month, all held at the Dale-Engle-Walker House on Strawbridge Road, Lewisburg. Mrs. Lasansky's talk on this important research project will be followed by a tour of the 1793 kitchen where the Dale family slave, Dinah, worked for two generations of the Dale family. Dinah was one of two slaves said to have lived on the property. The second was an older man living there in 1840 just seven years before the Pennsylvania Emancipation Law. Jeannette Lasansky's research on Union County slaves and free Blacks was published in "The Mill-

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mont Times" January 2005. She is the author/editor of numerous books on area history, quilting and rural traditions. Black History Month programs have been developed to better understand the diversity of our county population from the late 1700's to the present.

February 12, beginning at 1:30 p.m. - Freedom Bound: The Underground Railroad in Lycoming County will be the Union County Historical Society's second of four Black History Month. The speaker will be Mamie Sweeting Diggs, who is the fourth generation descendent of Daniel Hughes, a "conductor" on the Underground Railroad in Lycoming County, Pennsylvania. Reservations are required for this Dale/Engle/Walker event and are limited to 35 people. Call 524-8666 or write hstoricl@ptd.net for reservations.

February 19, beginning at 1:30 p.m. - The African-American Community in Central PA: Where did they come from, Where did they go, and Who did they marry? The third program in the Union County Historical Society's Black History Month will feature Connie Cole of State College. For any questions about the Black History Month events of the Union County Historical Society please call 524-8666 or write hstoricl@ptd.net.

February 26, beginning at 1:30 p.m. - Safe Harbor film. The critically acclaimed documentary tells the story of free blacks and middle-class whites of northern Pennsylvania who risked everything in support of the antislavery movement and the Underground Railroad. Narrated by Philadelphia storyteller Charlotte Blake Alston, produced by Main Street Media in association with Harry T. Burleigh Society. The film runs one hour and is suitable for all ages.

## February Birthdays

1 - Eli Reiff	17 - Marian Hoover
1 - Mary Jane Martin	18 - Connie Englehart
1 - Robert Catherman, Jr.	19 - Emilie Jansma
2 - Karen Göktaş	21 - Helen Wert
3 - Tyler Walter	22 - Pat Witmer
4 - Brad Walter	22 - Orvis Wallace
4 - Ruby Maust	23 - Leon Zimmerman
8 - Fran Stroup	25 - Anna Mae Shuck
8 - Ralph Dorman	26 - Marvin Benner
10 - Brenda Weaver	
12 - Kimber Groff	
12 - James Brubacker	14 - Valentines Day!!
12 - Matthew Dorman, Sr.	
17 - Belva Steese - Happy 80 <sup>th</sup> "Bep"	

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