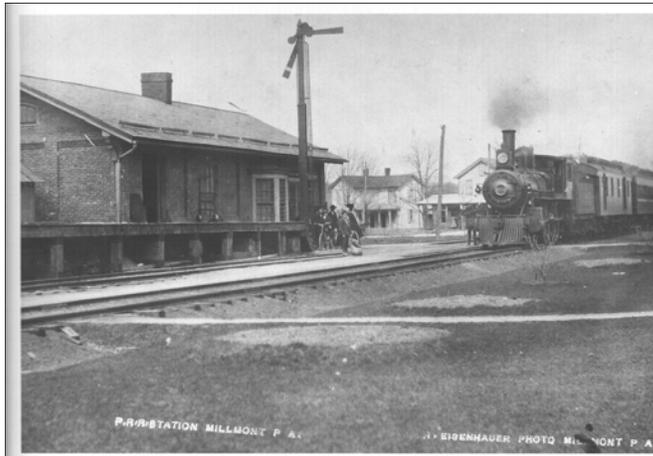




The Millmont Times

The Millmont Post Office Part II



This circa 1910 U. H. Eisenhauer photograph shows a view of the westbound passenger train arriving at the Millmont Station. The Railway Post Office (RPO) car can be seen immediately behind the engine.

For many years incoming and outgoing mail was transported to Millmont via the railroad. According to Lewisburg & Tyrone Railroad historian, Mike Bezilla of Lemont, PA, the Sunbury and Bellefonte Railway Post Office (RPO) operated from Northumberland County through Union and into Centre County, from 1912 until 1948. Inside the RPO car located behind the engine was a postal official responsible for sorting the mail as the train moved from one city, borough or village to the next. The postal employee on the RPO used a cancellation stamp on mail they picked, sorted and delivered locally along their route. In addition to the date,

the postmark on the card or envelope was stamped "Sunbury & Bellefonte R.P.O." While today it can take several days for a first class letter to get from Lemont in Centre County to Millmont in Union County, a century ago that letter was most likely delivered the same day.

At numerous locations along the line the RPO clerk merely tossed the bag of incoming mail off from the moving train at a particular location where someone was awaiting its arrival. When picking up the outgoing dispatch of mail the RPO clerk used a hook to snatch the leather bag from the mail crane. This action was also performed while the train was in motion. A number of the smaller locations along the L & T line had mail cranes adjacent to the tracks. To my knowledge there was never a mail crane at Millmont.

After the incoming morning mail was dropped off at the Millmont Railroad Station, it was loaded onto a wooden handcart and transported to the post office. There were a number of people who wheeled the mail between the station and the post office over the years. The name of at least one of those individuals, Wellington H. Dewitt, is preserved because of the headlines he made in a local newspaper.

On Monday, December 12, 1932, Dewitt, age 72, was pushing the handcart near the railroad tracks when it was struck by the 7:00 a.m. train. Misjudging the distance between the cart he was pushing and the tracks, the train struck his cart and whirled it around while at the same time tossing DeWitt to the ground. The elderly gentleman was shaken and bruised but man-

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Field Notes, by WCO Dirk Remensnyder



My deputy and I were patrolling and stopped behind a line of traffic at a red light. When the light turned green our lane wasn't going anywhere fast while the other lane continued to pass us. As we pulled out in the left lane we noticed a tanker truck that was slow to start at the red light. I commented to my deputy that the truck must have a heavy load because of his slow start. As we passed the truck my deputy read the side of the truck and said "there is why he's going so slow". The side of the truck said Allenwood Molasses. Unfortunately it was December not January.

I can report citing a hunter for the second time in two years for hunting while on license revocation. Besides hunting on revocation the individual shot a doe from a vehicle, in a safety zone during the first week of the antlered only rifle season.

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This Highway Post Office bus is similar to the one that picked up and delivered mail to the Millmont Post Office circa 1948 through the early to mid 1960's.

Photograph courtesy of postalmuseum.si.edu/exhibits

aged to escape serious injury. While DeWitt was recuperating Max Dale, another resident of Millmont, took his place transporting the mail to and from the station and the post office.

As was noted earlier, the RPO on the Bellefonte Branch was discontinued in 1948. It was around this time that the Postal Department began utilizing a system known as the Highway Post Office (HPO). This delivery method included the use of a bus to transport mail. The White Motor Company of Ohio manufactured these red, white and blue buses. First introduced in February 1941 these flat nosed buses became a primary source for mail delivery as mail transported by rail began to wane. A Highway Post Office bus serviced the Millmont Post Office for a number of years.

Hartleton resident, Henry Dorman, grew up in Millmont one door west of the Millmont Post Office on Maple Street. As a youngster he recalled seeing the large colorful mail bus arrive at the post office to pick up and deliver mail. In addition to the driver there was also a person in the rear of the bus sorting the mail as it traveled from one post office to another. The Postal Department phased out the use of the HPO in

the 1970's. It is unknown exactly when these buses were discontinued locally, but they were still in service here in the mid 1960's. When the HPO was discontinued the Postal Department hired independent contractors, using their own transportation vehicles, to pick up and deliver mail to post offices.

Ray Musser of Selingsgrove informed me that while he was employed by a private contractor he transported mail from the Sunbury Post Office to the small rural post offices in the West End of Union County around 1970. Musser said that prior to his involvement in transporting mail locally there was a gentleman by the name of Pittenturf from Lewisburg who was delivering mail to these offices. Musser said that his mail transportation vehicle in the 1970's consisted of a small green van.

Musser recalled a number of occasions during the winter months when the road to Millmont was impassible due to snow. He said that he dropped off mail destined for Millmont at the Hartleton Post Office and someone using a snowmobile retrieved the mail and brought it to the Millmont Post Office. By the mid 1980's mail delivery to the rural post offices in Union County was taken over by the Hackenburg brothers of Kreamer, PA. That firm continues to deliver mail to a number of post offices in Union and Snyder County. Mail from the Harrisburg sort facility destined for these smaller offices arrives early in the morning at the Sunbury Post Office. At Sunbury the mail is separated before being delivered to individual post offices.

March 2015 will mark the 133rd anniversary of the establishment of the Millmont Post Office. During those years the office has been located in several businesses and has been staffed by numerous postmasters and their assistants. Some postmasters served the patrons of the Millmont Post Office and the rural delivery route for many years. Sam Smith of Sunbury served the Millmont community for 20 years. Other postmasters came here for brief periods of time before transferring to larger post offices in other communities.

Another long time employee with the U. S. Postal Service was Marie (Blyler) Sampsell (1921-2004). Marie was born and raised in the village of Millmont. She was a clerk at the Millmont Post Office and also substituted in other area post offices for 38 years before her retirement on April 30, 1976. Sampsell began her career with the Postal Department at Millmont following the resignation of Helen (Schnure) Harter in November 1938. At the time the post office was located at 99 Maple Street, and Marie was then living with her parents, Elmer and Grace Blyler at 63 Maple Street.

Marie began her clerk duties under Postmaster Charles G. Kleckner. Kleckner served two stints as postmaster at Millmont. His first appointment began on August 15, 1917, and continued until 1921. Kleckner was again appointed postmaster on March 31, 1934, and continued to hold that office until Charles R. Graham replaced him in 1940. Although the village of Millmont did not have door-to-door delivery, Kleckner was known for occasionally delivering mail to the homes of some of his patrons.

During a December 1996 interview with Marie Sampsell, she recalled an embarrassing situation that Kleckner encountered one morning as he was trying to be helpful in delivering mail door-to-door. On this occasion he knocked on the door of Fred and Hilda Showalter, who then lived at 1485 Millmont Road. As he was handing over their mail he noticed that a postcard that was addressed to the Showalter family was missing. Apparently he had either inadvertently dropped the postcard or by mistake delivered it to the wrong address. Admitting his gaffe, Kleckner was not bashful in explaining to the Showalter's

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Exploring the Bald Eagle State Forest

The news release below was furnished to me courtesy of Gerald L. Hoy, Service Forester serving Union, Snyder and Mifflin Counties. Hoy is employed by the Bureau of Forestry from the Bald Eagle State Forest District Office, Millmont, PA. Hoy indicated that the program outlined below is a great opportunity for forestland owners.

Own Woodlands? Have Questions? Remember March 20 and 21!

University Park, PA -- January 28, 2015 -- Pennsylvania has 11.5 million acres of private forests owned by nearly 750,000 woodland owners. Estimates are that 1 of 7 households in Pennsylvania has at least an acre of trees. These woodland owners really like their woodlands. If you are one of these lucky owners, do you have questions about caring for your woods? Do you want to attract more wildlife to your property? Are you worried about your forest's health or threats from invasive plants or insects? Do you want to learn how to establish the next forest? Do you like to use GIS or apps to learn more about your woods? Are you interested in using wood products off your property? Do you want to know what resources are out there to help forest landowners like you? To answer these and many other of your questions, mark your calendar for March 20 and 21 for two days of learning about caring for your woods.

The second biennial *Private Forest Landowners Conference: the Future of Penn's Woods* will be at the Blair County Convention Center in Altoona, PA.

The program starts on Friday, March 20 with a selection of field tours before lunch to explore how others work with Penn's Woods. Following a keynote presentation by Jim Finley, Director of the Center for Private Forests at Penn State, opening the formal Conference, attendees can choose from forty-four different presentations during four concurrent sessions. New and established owners of large or small properties will all find topics designed to help them address questions and challenges they encounter while caring for their woodlands. After a day of workshops, there will be an open reception for all attendees. If you choose, you can attend a banquet where Richard Alley, a world recognized expert studying global climate change, will weave a story of ice and forests.

Saturday's program begins at 8:30 and offers fifty-five presentations during five concurrent sessions. Again, these offerings have been selected to answer your questions and provide information designed to help you care for your land. The program will close with a keynote by Chuck Fergus, outdoor writer, who will tell his story about learning his land. Chuck was a Pennsylvania woodland owner, but now lives in Vermont where he writes about forests and nature. You might recall his "Thornapples" column in the *Pennsylvania Game News*.

In addition, participants will have access to nearly fifty vendors and service providers before the formal program begins, during breaks, and while sharing lunch on Friday and Saturday. There will be a silent auction featuring an outstanding selection of items everyone can use. Proceeds from the silent auction will benefit the Center for Private Forests at Penn State and its mission to address issue affecting woodland owners and their land.

The 2013 Conference was a huge success and folks demanded that we offer this opportunity again in 2015. You can learn more about the Conference by visiting <http://ecosystems.psu.edu/private-forest-conference>. There you will find information on registration costs, a copy of the program schedule, information on tours and keynoters, and lodging information. If you have further questions, don't hesitate to write or call. Registration closes on March 9, so register today.

This is a great opportunity to find answers to your questions. You will have plenty of time to meet other woodland owners who share your interests in forests and trees. There will be foresters and other resource professionals available to answer your questions and to help you find answers to your most challenging questions.

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who sent the postcard as well as the message that was written on the reverse side.

The volume of incoming mail that arrived for the Millmont Post Office each day was heavy according to Marie. She indicated that a large portion of that volume was the result of the extensive mail-order business generated by the Rex Company. In addition to dropping off mail destined for the village of Millmont and the rural routes, the westbound morning train also dropped off the mail addressed to the residents of Hartleton. Marie indicated that Melvin Case (1890-1956) picked up the mail for Hartleton and drove it to the post office located in that community. In addition, Case also brought the afternoon dispatch of mail from the Hartleton Post Office to the Millmont Railroad Station. Case was appointed Mail Messenger by the Postal Department in 1933 and served in that capacity for an unknown period of time. The names of others who performed similar duty during the years that the Hartleton mail arrived by rail at Millmont Station have been lost to history.

Charles R. "Roy" Graham (1888-1956) was appointed postmaster at Millmont on August 14, 1940. A native of St. Thomas, Franklin County, Pennsylvania, Graham served in that role until his untimely death on November 9, 1956. A veteran of WWI, Graham was a foreman at the Box Factory in Millmont prior to his appointment at postmaster.

Like his predecessor Graham also enjoyed delivering mail directly to the homes of people living in Millmont. He was a well-known and respected citizen, and the news of his unexpected death was a loss for residents of the small village in which he

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Recipe of the Month

By Janice (Dorman) Shively

Cream Puff's

Batter recipe:

1 C. water
 1 stick (½ C.) butter
 ¼ tsp. Salt
 1 C. flour
 4 eggs

Preheat oven to 425°. Bring water, butter and salt to a boil in a medium saucepan. Remove from heat and stir in 1 C. flour until incorporated. Add one egg at a time, stirring until completely blended after each egg is added. (A wooden spoon works well for this.)

Drop batter by heaping tablespoon or medium (2 T.) cookie scoop onto a parchment lined baking sheet and bake for 25 - 30 minutes or until golden brown. There should be no moisture beads on the tops when they are done. Remove from baking sheet and place on cooling rack. Once cooled, cut each puff in half and fill with cream or "inject" filling using a cake decorator with a long straight tip.

Filling recipe:

1 C. white sugar
 ½ C. water
 1 C. vegetable oil
 2 C. vegetable shortening
 1 tsp. clear vanilla extract
 8 C. confectioners' sugar

In a saucepan over medium heat, stir the white sugar and water until the sugar has dissolved and the mixture is boiling.

Remove from heat, and let cool completely. Pour the syrup into a large mixing bowl, and beat in vegetable oil, shortening and clear vanilla extract with an electric mixer on high speed to blend.

Beat in the confectioners' sugar, 1 cup at a time, until the filling is thick and fluffy. If it's too thick, beat in a tablespoon of water at a time until it's the correct consistency.

Chocolate glaze recipe:

1 ¾ C. confectioners' sugar
 ¼ C. baking cocoa
 ⅛ tsp. salt
 2 ½ T. boiling water
 2 ½ T. melted butter
 ½ tsp. vanilla extract

Combine the confectioners' sugar, cocoa and salt in a large bowl. Stir in the water, butter and vanilla. Drizzle on top of cream puffs.



The cream puff dough recipe is enough to make 15 - 18 cream puff's. The filling and glaze recipes are enough to do about 3 batches of cream puff's. (The filling is also good in whoopie pies!)

My friend and co-worker, Suzanne Hendershot, made these cream puff's and shared with the ladies in the office. And of course I had to have the recipe. I've made them many times since and they are so yummy. The dough is very easy to prepare and bake. Suzanne prefers to use a vanilla pudding filling. Tony and I enjoy the vanilla cream filling.

This would be a great recipe to make for your sweetheart this Valentine's Day. A sweet and delicious treat!

ENJOY!

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

Sun. Feb. 23, 1941. 32 (degrees) this evening at 6 as I am writing this item. Edmund's brought us to Sunday School and service. Lesson, Prevailing Prayer, Luke 18:1-14, Golden Text Luke 11:1. I taught my class. Mervyn preached, Text 1 Cor. 2:2 "For I determined not to know anything among you save Jesus Christ and him Crucified. Present 70. Con. \$2.88. Mervyn's (Mervyn Mensch and family) were at our place for dinner and spent the afternoon. Mervyn said he wished he had a moving picture machine that would show how we are bearing the Cross. He related that a lady called the minister on the telephone that preached at the church President Roosevelt usually attends, and asked him whether the president would be at services on a coming Sunday morning. The minister replied, that he was not able to answer her request, but Christ would be there.

Wed. Feb. 26, 1941. 20 above this morning. Fair this evening, at 8 it is 30 (degrees). Did some work about the house.

Mr. William Missouri Smith died yesterday at 3:45. We always called him Zury. He was married to Dora Jane Jordan, daughter of Richard Jordan. After her father's death they bought the place and lived there a number of years. He (Zury) was born June 3, 1862. His age was 78 yrs 8 mo. and 5 days. He had one son Merrill and one daughter, Mrs. John Pontius. Funeral at the Pontius home at 10. Officiating minister Rev. Robert Clark. Interment in the Swengel Cemetery.

In Sympathy

While space prevents me from printing their obituaries, Janice and I would like to extend our condolences to the families of five long time subscribers of The Millmont Times who have passed away since the January 2015 issue of The Millmont Times was published. The first three people mentioned below provided information and photographs that were used at various times in articles published in this newsletter. The five families who we wish to extend our sympathy include Spencer E. Boyer born May 18, 1925 and died January 2, 2015; Audrey (Mitchell) VonNeida born October 7, 1932 and died January 13, 2015; Annabelle (Smith) Hackenburg born November 13, 1929 and died January 27, 2015; Howard E. Weaver born January 3, 1926 and died January 20, 2015 and Orville "OJ" Wagner who was born May 21, 1939 and died January 31, 2015.

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The photograph above was taken by photographer Elwood Moyer during the dedication ceremony held at the Millmont Post Office on Sunday May 21, 1961.

resided. In his November 9, 1956 diary entry Jacob Shively wrote the following about Graham's passing: "Our little village was shocked this morning to hear that Roy Graham, the postmaster had died suddenly of a heart attack. I understand that he was dressed in his hunting clothes and was ready to go afield with several companions. While waiting for them he must have felt the attack coming on and sat down on a chair, where he was found dead. He was one of the few public servants that did a great deal more than his duty. He delivered the mail to any of the patrons here in town who wanted him to, although he was not required to do so, and received no compensation for it."

During an interview with Theron W. Conrad of Sunbury, he told me that his father, Theron D. Conrad, a securities investment broker, was a friend of Postmaster Charles R. Graham. Conrad

stated that at one point postal officials were contemplating downgrading the Millmont office because of decreasing revenue. He said that for a period of time his father purchased postage for his business through the Millmont Post Office in order to help the office retain its classification.

Following Graham's death, Delphia A. Shirk was appointed Acting Postmaster at Millmont on December 18, 1956. Shortly thereafter Shirk moved the Millmont Post Office from 99 Maple Street to 1345 Millmont Road. The post office was once again operating out of a small room on the northwest corner of Shirk's Store. Delphia and her husband, Donald, lived in an apartment above the store. At that time the general store was owned and operated by Donald's father, Newton S. Shirk.

The position of postmaster at Millmont (then a Third Class post office) was published with a closing date for applicants of January 22, 1957. There were a number of people interested in the position. One of those was WWII veteran, Harold R. "Hap" Sampsell. The application process included taking and passing a Civil Service exam. It was also important to seek political support from local, state and federal politicians. By mid January 1957, Sampsell was already submitting letters to various politicians outlining his work history and qualifications for the postmaster position at Millmont. Two of those letters were sent to the Washington, DC offices of Congressman Richard Simpson and U.S. Senator Edward Martin. In addition, Sampsell also enlisted the aid of state and local politicians, as well as the County Chairman of the Republican Committee, Samuel B. Wolfe. The efforts to contact these people were important since the person selected for the postmaster position at Millmont had to be submitted by the president of the United States and confirmed by U.S. Senate.

The process of filling the position continued at a snails pace for well over a year. In August 1957 the U.S. Civil Service Commission laid to rest concerns raised by another party interested in the position regarding Sampsell's residency requirement. In May 1958, President Eisenhower submitted Sampsell's name to the U. S. Senate. On July 16, 1958 he received notification that the U.S. Senate had confirmed him as Postmaster at Millmont. On August 22, 1958, acting postmaster Delphia Shirk turned over control of all of the accountable stock and money for the Millmont Post Office to Harold R. Sampsell.

Postmaster Sampsell began laying the groundwork for a new post office at Millmont as soon as he was named to the post. The small room inside Shirk's Store where the post office was located did not fulfill his requirements for the office. The amount of space he and the rural carrier had to work in was not adequate. Sampsell also complained that the room they worked in had no running water, no toilet facilities, insufficient heat as well as concerns about privacy. The business owner had to enter the post office each day in order to access the electrical switchbox that controlled the lights for the operation of the general store.

Sampsell suggested a couple alternatives to postal officials, including the possibility of moving the post office into the vacant store building on Maple Street that was owned by Mary Feaster. Another possibility suggested by Sampsell was to engage the railroad in a long-term lease for a section of land on the Village Green for the erection of a new post office. Sampsell proposed and mapped out a site at the intersection of Maple Street and Millmont Road.

Correspondence between Sampsell and the Regional Real Estate Manager of the Postal Department about the unworkable situation regarding the Millmont Post Office was ongoing. With no resolution on the horizon Sampsell once again enlisted the services of Congressman Simpson and Senator Martin in Washing-

The following is an incomplete listing of the postmasters who served at the Millmont Post Office from 1934 through 2015. The dates are when they were appointed to the position.

Charles G. Kleckner	March 31, 1934
Charles R. Graham	August 13, 1940
Delphia A. Shirk*	December 18, 1956
Harold R. Sampsell	August 22, 1958
Grace L. Blyler*	November 30, 1960
Ernestine Buttorff	
Lamar D. Kerstetter	1979
Samuel R. Smith**	1980
Dale Engle	1980
Steve Austin	
Richard J. Girio	February 16, 1985
Linda Walter**	
Samuel R. Smith	February 25, 1989
Dorene Gwyn**	July 30, 2009
Tony L. Shively***	February 18, 2011

* Acting Postmaster
** Officer In Charge
*** Postmaster Relief (PMR)

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Blessings from the Bible

By Brenda Weaver

*“Call to me and I will answer you and tell you great and unsearchable things
you do not know”*

Jeremiah 33:3 NIV

“Nana,” my young grandchild said plaintively, “you have to come to my house.”

“But your house is far away and it takes a lot of time to get there,” I replied. He went on an innocent, childish row about taking a boat to his house. I explained that there was no boat to travel from my house in Pennsylvania up to his house in Alberta, Canada. Catching the word “up” he announced, “Well Nana, then get a ladder and come *up* to my house.” Patiently I explained that wouldn’t work either; there was no ladder long enough. When I told him the best way to go to his house was by airplane, and airplane tickets cost lots of money he thought of another idea.

“Nana, why don’t you just *buy* an airplane to come to my house?”

Years will pass before this 3 ½ year-old child understands just how complicated it is to travel thousands of miles to visit people you love. But for now, my heart is warmed by his desire for connection with me.

Recently I recognized a similar passion within me—to stay connected. Facing the empty nest, and enjoying my seven grandchildren, means connecting to family is very important. I value friendship so I also put effort into staying connected with friends. Worshiping and praying together, and participating in activities, keeps me connected to my church. Most important to me is staying connected with God.

Jeremiah 33:3 is referred to as “God’s telephone number.” *Call to me and I will answer you...* a reassuring thought, even when we know from experience that God does not always immediately provide *answers* to a call, even though he hears it. Like telephone wires or towers connect phones to each other, my relationship with God provides access to Him. When I call Him, I am connected. Because He is God I know He will hear me each time I call. Answers are forthcoming if not immediate. He will show us “great and unsearchable things” in His own time.

Being connected to God helps us in our connections with others. God’s grace spills over into our relationships with family and friends, enabling us to extend grace to others when they disappoint us. God is our unchanging Rock to cling to when storms of relational conflict swirl around us. What shelter! What strength! I want to stay connected to that Rock! My family, friends, and church body are blessed if I do.

Have you lost a loved one to death? Grief is the result of a broken connection. No longer can you visit with the person as you once did. Even in grief we strive for connection. I like to connect with old friends and new. I connect with the person I’ve lost through memories, photos, scrapbooking, or enjoying things we once enjoyed together. Though a tangible connection has been broken, a connection of sorts can live on in our hearts.

Have you considered the cost of connection? Try adding up the bills: phone bills, travel bills, the cost of stamps, computer and upkeep (if you use it to communicate), gifts, cards, etc. You may be surprised at how much you are willing to pay to stay connected. Or you may try a communication “fast” by limiting your communication for a time. Unplug the phone. Turn off the computer. Stay at home. Use the time of solitude to evaluate your priorities in staying connected.

In looking back over the past month I recognize growth and change in connection. Family gathered to sing “Happy Birthday” to a patriarch. Less than two weeks later we said goodbye and laid him to rest. Hellos were also said...to family members and friends who connected by attending the funeral...and to a new grandson who was born, and named after his great-grandpa. Then there was the trip to the airport to pick up the grandson who was seeking ways to connect with Nana. Tomorrow there will be the return trip to the airport, and tearful goodbyes will again pull at our hearts.

Through all the connecting, and losing connection I have been placing calls frequently to God. I am so thankful there will be no long distance charges.

No cost for this connection; it is free!

Prayer for Today:

Dear Lord, here I am again, calling out to You in my joys and my distresses. Thank You that You hear me. Thank You for connecting now, and giving answers in Your own good time. Thank You for Your never-failing presence, Your immutability, Your rock solid strength, Your connection to us.

ton, DC, for their support in erecting a new post office in Millmont. Congressman Simpson persuaded the Postal Department to remedy the working conditions of the postal employees at the Millmont Post Office.

Following an inspection of the Millmont Post Office in Shirk's Store, and further study, the Postal Department decided that a new post office for Millmont was necessary, and that it would be built on a vacant lot at 1295 Millmont Road. By the summer of 1960 construction of a new brick structure was underway. The contractor was George Carr of Mifflinburg who erected the building and then leased it to the Postal Department.

While Harold Sampsell was grappling with postal officials for a new post office at Millmont he also turned his attention from his postmaster position to that of the vacant rural carrier position. Following the retirement of rural carrier Luther A. Yarger, Sampsell decided to leave the postmaster job and take on the responsibilities of the rural carrier. After being awarded the rural carrier slot, Sampsell's mother-in-law, Grace (Shirk) Blyler (1895-1981), was appointed acting Postmaster at Millmont. All three of these changes were effective November 30, 1960.

The official dedication service for the new Millmont Post Office took place at 2:00 p.m. on Sunday May 21, 1961, a non-workday for the employees of the office. Dozens of people turned out for the dedication service. According to Marie (Blyler) Sampsell, her mother was nervous and apprehensive the day of the dedication ceremony. Grace read a brief welcoming statement from the dock of the building where the dignitaries were seated for the formal dedication. She then turned the program over to a well-known Millmont resident, Fred Showalter, who served as Chairman of the Ceremonies.

Rev. Joseph B. Hoffman, minister of the Millmont God's Missionary Church, delivered the invocation. Edward McGinn presented the dedication address and also awarded retired rural mail carrier, Luther A. Yarger, with a safe driving award following more than four decades of service. McGinn also presented acting postmaster Blyler with a new American flag for the office. The flag was hoisted up the pole under the direction of the Camp 426 of the Millmont P. O. S. of A., including members Harold Wenrick Jr. and Henry Sanders. The Western Area Joint High School Band, under director Cecil Shirk, performed music for the ceremony, and a trio of school students, along with the audience, sang the national anthem. At the close of the ceremony Rev. Clair R. Troutman, minister of the Millmont E.U.B. Church, offered the benediction.

In addition to George Carr, Frederick and Claire Champanore owned the building for a period of time. Today the building that houses the Millmont Post Office is owned by Steve and Beverly Aucker of Kreamer, who lease the building to the U.S. Postal Service.

Rural Free Delivery (RFD) was first established from the Millmont Post Office on December 15, 1904. The name of the first rural mailman at Millmont is unknown. At the time rural delivery was started Oscar Bowersox was the postmaster, and the office was located in his store at the west end of Maple Street. A second rural route from Millmont was established on June 23, 1905. At various times since then there has been one, oftentimes two, rural routes originating from Millmont.

John Russell Slayman Jr., a resident of Pleasant Grove, began his duties as a rural carrier at Millmont in 1905. A newspaper article from 1913 reveals that there were two rural carriers working from Millmont at the time. In addition to Slayman the other mail carrier was Oliver C. Catherman. According to his July 1916 obituary, rural mail carrier Slayman died at age 39, following a farming accident. Catherman was a merchant prior to becoming a rural mail carrier. By 1922 Catherman left his position as rural carrier to reenter the mercantile business in Millmont.

Marie (Blyler) Sampsell shared with me her memories of working as a clerk in the Millmont Post Office. She began her clerk duties in that office in 1938. At the time there were two rural carriers working from that office, Floyd Walter and Luther Yarger. When the mail arrived in the morning at the Millmont Railroad Station the mail was brought by cart to the post office where the postmaster, clerk, and both rural carriers assisted in sorting the mail.

Sampsell stated that at some point (she was unsure what year) the Postal Department decided to consolidate the two rural routes. The decision as to which one of the men remained at Millmont and which one would leave was a decision that was left to the discretion of Yarger and Walter. The two men discussed the situation and Walter decided to take a rural delivery job at the Lewisburg Post Office, leaving Yarger as the sole rural carrier from Millmont.

Luther Yarger (1892-1974) began his duties as a rural carrier at Millmont in January 1917 and as was noted earlier, retired on November 30, 1960. During his years of service as a rural mail carrier Yarger's substitute was his lifelong friend and Swengel neighbor, Archie Walter (1884-1976). When Yarger retired his position Walter resigned as a substitute mail carrier.

Following Yarger's retirement Harold "Hap" Sampsell (husband of Marie Sampsell) exchanged his postmaster title at Millmont to that of rural carrier. Hap remained a rural carrier until his retirement on August 31, 1985. Today he resides in Florida near his daughter, Sharon, and his son-in-law, Doug Denisen.

Sampsell's substitute carrier was Austin Goss (1911-1996). Goss was a dairy farmer who lived just north of Millmont. He substituted for Sampsell on Saturday's and whenever he went on vacation. Following Sampsell's retirement he was replaced by Scranton native, Donald J. Dorsey (1929-2007). Dorsey's tenure as the sole Millmont rural mail carrier continued until his retirement in 1991. Austin Goss retired from his substitute duties at the Millmont Post Office in 1988 and was replaced by Randy Lyons. In 1991, Lyons moved to the full time rural carrier position at Millmont following Dorsey's retirement. Thomas Guyer of Middleburg was hired as Randy's substitute carrier in May 1992.

The Millmont rural route continued to grow both in the number of delivery points as well as territory. At one time the intersection of Trails End Road and Weikert Road was the westernmost point of the delivery route. Today the carrier's westernmost point of delivery has been extended though the village of Weikert beyond the Hironimus Church to Lindale. In 1994 a portion of the route from the Millmont Post Office was sectioned off to become Route 2. Tom Guyer was appointed carrier for

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Penlines *From my* *Kitchen to Yours* *by Lucy Hoover*

December 17, 2014

Wayne and Emily Hoover of Mifflinburg have a son named Elijah Harry Hoover. He has one brother and one sister. Grandparents are Amos and Lizzie Hoover and Harry and Alta Oberholtzer.

December 20

Allen and Darlene Zimmerman of Lewisburg have a son named Phares. He has four brothers and three sisters. Grandparents are Phares and Ada Zimmerman of Millmont and Irvin and Esther Martin of Mifflinburg.

December 21

Paul David and Joann Sensenig of Mifflinburg have their second son. His name is Zachary Ryan Sensenig. Grandparents are Alvin and Lizzie Sensenig and Earl and Emma Weaver.

December 25

To those we love and see each day

And other loved ones far away.

To all good friends who mean so much

And those with whom we're out of touch.

Merry Christmas!

December 30

Marvin and Norma Reiff of Mifflinburg have a daughter named Renae. She has three brothers and three sisters. Grandparents are Alvin and Minerva Reiff and Eli and Anna Shirk.

January 1, 2015

Susan Horning (2) daughter of Elton and Delores Horning of Middleburg, came home from the Lancaster Hospital where she had spent the last three days.

January 2

Ivan Oberholtzer (11) son of Levi and Susan Oberholtzer, spent 18 days at Geisinger Medical Center. He was very ill.

January 8

Ivan Oberholtzer returned to the hospital again after suffering seizures.

January 15

Katie Zimmerman was brought out of the nursing home and has moved in with her daughter and son-in-law Vera and Luke Weaver near Lewisburg.

Jaylon Andrew Martin (7 months) son of Jonathan and Barbara Ann Martin of Millmont, is in Geisinger Medical Center where we will remain for the next three days.

Looking Back

The following article was written by Jacob G. Shively and was published in the May 1941 issue of Hobbies magazine.

All Because of a Button by Jacob G. Shively

The following information was furnished to me by a minister, nearly eighty years of age, who was personally acquainted with the principals involved:

Some time before the middle of the past century, several families of "Plain People" known as old Amish, moved into one of the fertile rolling valleys for which central Pennsylvania is famous. They found the soil and surroundings to their liking, and so reported to their brethren back home.

Soon there was a migration of several dozen families to this new found Canaan. Among them was Bishop Joshua, who was to be the shepherd of the little flock.

For a number of years they were contented, and prospered under his leadership for, although Bishop Joshua ruled them with the proverbial rod of iron, they loved and respected him because he practiced what he preached.

For infraction of the rules of their sect, members were "churched" and unless they confessed their sins and promised to desist from their evil ways, they were ex-communicated and thereafter treated as "of the world" as they were to refer to all who were not members of their particular branch of the Amish church.

Now one of their tenets forbade the wearing of buttons on their clothes, and herein lies our tale.

When Bishop Joshua's young son, John, reached manhood, he decided to see something of the world, and as was customary, went west. After some months he tired of roaming, returned home, and presented himself to his father.

During his absence from home John had clung to his customary attire, fastened together with hooks and eyes, with one exception; a BUTTON on the front of his coat. Whether he meant to be a bit vane or placed it there expressly to annoy his father, I do not know.

On seeing the forbidden button the good Bishop exclaimed, "John, John, have you soon forgotten what the church teaches about the wearing of buttons?"

"No father", replied John, "I have not forgotten the teaching which forbids the wearing of BUTTONS, but there is none that forbids A BUTTON." Of course John had to be "churched," but the old Bishop was torn between affection for his son and his duty to his church. To him, the lines of Whittier, "Yet never by faith's unreason, a saintlier soul was tried, And never the harsh old lesson A tenderer heart belied," might well have applied.

Just what was the outcome of John's "churching" I do not know, but there began to be murmurs among the members, some claiming that the Bishop had shown partiality toward his son. Anyway, John continued to be a member and to wear A BUTTON; and in the words of my informant, "From that time on the church began to go back."

Now, to my knowledge, there is not one Amishman left in that whole valley: and all because of A BUTTON.

The actual name of the bishop referred to was Elias Riehl. John was the name of his son. The later died in the valley some years before this

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tale was written. The Valley referred to was Buffalo Valley, in Union Co., Pa. County Judge Joseph Bucher is said to have pointed out Elias Riehl in the courtroom and remarked that if all men were like him there would be no need for a court, judge or jury.

On September 16, 1940, Jacob Shively noted that Sammy S. Starook told this story about the Amish and the button. Shively used the name Joshua in his article published in the May 1941 issue of Hobby magazine in order to protect the identity of Bishop Elias Riehl. Shively also noted that Bishop Riehl's son was named John. Riehl also had another son, Samuel, and the brothers were both bachelors who lived several miles above Lewisburg. According to his note both of the bachelor brothers died a few years before this article was published.

Editor's Note: The line "Yet never by faith's unreason, a saintlier soul was tried, And never the harsh old lesson A tenderer heart belied." Is from a poem by John Greenleaf Whittier entitled "The Minister's Daughter". I suppose in this instance it is more like the minister's son.

(Continued from page 7)



It is my understanding that this photograph was taken on Hap Sampsell's last day as a rural carrier at Millmont. Postmaster Richard Girio is there to greet him with a congratulatory pat on the back.

the new auxiliary route, a position he continues to hold. Lyons retired from the Postal Service in 2011. It was around this same time that other major changes were taking place at the Millmont Post Office.

The Postal Service has been undergoing dramatic downsizing in recent years. Those changes are particularly noticeable in the smaller rural offices. April 8, 2011 was the last day that rural mail was delivered from the Millmont Post Office. Starting Saturday April 9, 2011, both rural carriers from Millmont began working from the Mifflinburg Post Office. After 107 years, the days of rural delivery from the Millmont Post Office had come to an end.

The Millmont Post Office has seen many changes over the last 133 years. When I began working as a Postmaster Relief (PMR) at the Millmont Post Office on September 10, 2005, the window was open 8 hours each weekday. On June 4, 2011 the weekday window hours were reduced to 6 hours. On January 28, 2013, the hours were further reduced at Millmont to just 4 hours in the afternoon. It was during the most recent change that the office fell under the direct supervision and control of the Postmaster at the Mifflinburg Post Office.

More changes are anticipated as U. S. Postal Service continues to downsize their brick and mortar operations and find other ways of providing services to their customers. As an employee of the organization for more than 9 years

it is sad to watch the changes unfold. I also sympathize with customers who continue to express their frustration at the lack of convenience offered by the Postal Service. While the often-heard comments from the leadership of the organization boast about improving customer service, exactly the opposite is happening from the standpoint of people living in rural areas. As window hours continue to shrink, and customers are forced to travel greater distances to mail packages or purchase postal products. The notion that curtailing hours of operation at thousands of small post offices is somehow improving customer service seems disingenuous.

Over the years many subscribers of this newsletter, both near and far, have taken time to visit with me at the post office. I have always enjoyed those visits as well as the regular patrons who visit on a daily basis. Due to a recent agreement between the American Postal Workers Union and management of the U. S. Postal Service people like myself, a Postmaster Relief (PMR) are no longer permitted to work in either a 4-hour or 6-hour post office. As a result, a Postal Service Employee (PSE) will replace me in the near future. My only option was to transfer to a 2-hour a day post office, which is of no interest to me. This change was supposed to be effective December 22, 2014. Due to extenuating circumstances I have agreed to remain at the Millmont Post Office until a replacement is trained and installed.

Since I never would have anticipated the changes that have taken place at the Millmont Post Office over the last six years, there is no way of predicting what will transpire over the next few years. I do know that it has been both an honor and a privilege to serve the patrons of the Millmont Post Office, and to have played a small role in its long and interesting history.

TLS

Editor's Note: I would like to thank Sharon Denisen of Naples Florida and Millmont, Pennsylvania for the information she provided for this article. Sharon donated information and photographs pertaining to the Millmont Post Office that were preserved by her parents, Harold R. "Hap" and Marie (Byler) Sampsell. My thanks also to Wayne Shively of Mifflinburg; Henry Dorman of Hartleton; Steve Aucker of Kreamer; Ray Musser of Selinsgrove and Tom Guyer of Middleburg.

Sources: Helen (Schnure) Harter (1915-2013); Marie (Blyler) Sampsell (1921-2004); the diary of Jacob G. Shively; The Sunbury Daily Item; The Mifflinburg Telegraph and <http://postalmuseumblog.si.edu/2012/02/unexpected-treasures-highway-post-office->

The small photograph in the upper left corner of page one shows ice breaking on Penns Creek during a midwinter thaw from 1962. This photograph was provided by Irene (Vanatta) Musser of Mifflinburg and was taken in the vicinity of 2140 Canada Drive, where Penns Creek and the highway run parallel to one another.

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

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

February Birthdays & Anniversaries

1 - Peggy Reimensnyder	9 - Micah A. Yarger	20 - Kenneth & Rhelda Rishel - 1953
1 - Eli Reiff	10 - Jan Kline	20 - Cory Yarger
1 - Mary Jane Martin	10 - Brenda Weaver	21 - Malachi Yarger
1 - Robert Catherman, Jr.	12 - Mary "Lib" Dunkle	22 - Pat Witmer
1 - Lamar Kahler	12 - Jeanne Lyons	23 - William and Pauline Levan - 1952
1 - Eugene Hoffman	12 - Kimber Groff	23 - Leon Zimmerman
2 - Karen Göktaş	12 - James Brubacker	24 - James and Norma Catherman - 1996
2 - Alice Reitz	12 - Matthew Dorman, Sr.	25 - Kim Yarger
3 - Clair Jacka	13 - Robert Jolly	25 - Anna Mae Shuck
3 - Tyler Walter	14 - Valentine's Day	
4 - Alice Shoreman	15 - Ron Ulrich	
4 - Brad Walter	15 - Jane Zimmerman	
4 - Ruby Maust	17 - Irene (Barnett) Hill	
4 - Miranda Yarger	17 - Belva "Bep" Steese	
5 - Dean Jansma	17 - Marian Hoover	
7 - Carl & Shirley Day - 1969	18 - Verna H. Zimmerman	
7 - Kenneth & Anna Mae Shuck - 1947	18 - Connie Englehart	
8 - Tim Catherman	19 - Cindy Potoeski	
8 - Fran Stroup	19 - Emilie Jansma	
8 - Ralph Dorman	20 - Ralph & Lottie Sheesley - 1959	
9 - Linda Valentine	20 - Landon Zimmerman	

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