



# Laurelton, PA

## Celebrating 200 years

1811-2011  
Part V

Compared to other communities in the West End, Laurelton was somewhat disadvantaged. The turnpike was about one mile north of the village while the railroad bypassed it nearly one mile to the south. Hartleton grew because it was situated alongside a major thoroughfare, and villages like Swengel, Millmont, Glen Iron, Pardee and Weikert sprang up as a result of the Lewisburg, Centre, and Spruce Creek Railroad. However, despite those obstacles Laurelton experienced more growth in its business and manufacturing endeavors during the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries than any other community in the West End.

Laurel Run was one of the most important factors in the development of Laurelton. The power of this mountain stream was harnessed by numerous businesses in or near the village. According to historian, Richard VB. Lincoln, Henry Roush and Peter Fisher were some of the earliest entrepreneurs to tap into this stream. Roush had a mill along Laurel Run at the entrance to the Seven-Mile-Narrows (1793), while Fisher built his mill at the mouth of Laurel Run (1797). There were numerous other mills and businesses that exploited the pristine waters of Laurel Run.

While only memories of the foundry, woolen and gristmills, lumber company, hotels and taverns, high school, bank, and the Laurelton State Village remain, these and other businesses will always be a part of Laurelton's heritage.

We hope that you have enjoyed reading about that heritage as well as a few of the interesting people who lived in this community. In this, the final article in this series, we will explore a few more interesting aspects about Laurelton, including the shirt factory, the barbershops, the West End Fair, and more.

### SHIRT FACTORY

The shirt factory in the village of Laurelton was located at 157 Weikert Road. A letterhead produced by R. C. Miller & Company from the early 1930's includes the Laurelton and Millmont shirt factories as two facilities under management.

Lois (Shirk) Pick, a longtime resident of Laurelton, recalled when she began working at the shirt factory following her graduation from the Hartley Township High School in 1933. At the time she remembered walking to her job in Laurelton from her parent's farm situated off Long Lane, near Glen Iron.

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### Hartleton Mailbox by Postmaster Gail Hanselman

Happy New Year!!!! Hope everyone had a wonderful Christmas and I wish you all a very blessed and Happy New Year.

Well as I'm writing this guess what ...It's raining ...again.

This is just a reminder from last months article...the price of stamps is increasing from 44 cents to 45 cents on January 22. If you have stamps that say forever on them you do not have to add a make – up stamp, they are fine. If you need stamps it's okay to purchase them now, they will be good forever. And it's okay to stock up, buying them at a cheaper price.

Identity theft...Protect Yourself...here are 4 ways a thief could get your credit card number

1. Skimming – occurs when a retail or other employee with access to a credit card writes down the card number or uses a magnetic stripe reader. Do not let your credit card out of your sight. Cover the card number with your hand as you swipe it.
2. Phishing – is when credit card users provide sensitive information in response to unsolicited email or instant messages by disclosing information on their cards. Don't provide this information in response to unsolicited emails. Also, don't click on links in the email.

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Pick recalled two rows of electric sewing machines separated by a center aisle. A trough was located next to each seamstress where she placed the item once she completed her part of the assembly process. Sewn items were picked up by an adjacent seamstress who completed her task before sending onto the next person. The ladies working at the sewing factory were paid by the piece. Items not sewed together properly were returned to the seamstress who made the mistake and she was required to make the necessary repairs on her own time.

The Laurelton facility was producing more than shirts, according to Pick. She stated that during the time she was employed at the sewing factory she recalled how they produced women's dresses, pajamas, and men's underwear.

The shirt factory ceased operating sometime during the 1930's and the operation was moved to a facility in Lewisburg. The closure threw about 18 women out of work. Some of the coworkers Lois recalled from her days at the shirt factory include Bessie Boop, Edith Middleswarth, Gladys Shively, and Frances Susan. Iva (Berger) Dorman was a supervisor and Mabel Dorman was an inspector at the sewing factory.

As was noted in the October 2011 issue of this newsletter, Dan Pursley later converted the sewing factory into a tavern, which he operated for a period of time. Today the former shirt factory is a private residence.

## BARBER SHOPS

A number of barbers have served the residents of Laurelton and the West End during its long history. Two of the most recognizable names that plied their barbering skills on the scalps of West Enders include Miller and Sampsell.

The Millers operated their barbershop at various locations in the village. Francis Algernon Miller (1874-1952) was one of the first in his family to operate a barbershop in Laurelton. He was the son of Samuel C. and Clarissa Miller. According to his obituary, Francis Miller retired in 1925 after 38 years of trimming hair. If the information in his obituary is correct that meant he began cutting hair in 1887 - when he was only 13 years old. While that may be possible, it does seem to be a rather young age to be barbering and shaving facial hair on customers.

Hartley Township census records from 1900, 1910 and 1920 all reveal that Francis was a barber in Laurelton. His sons, George H. (1898-1956) and Samuel E. each followed in their father's footsteps for a period of time. That same 1920 census shows that nineteen-year old Samuel E. Miller's occupation was also a barber alongside his father.

George H. Miller listed his occupation as barber in Laurelton in the 1930 census. It appears as though the Miller's took up the barbering trade at a very young age. George's obituary states that he began apprenticing in his father's barbershop (Francis A. Miller) when he was only ten years old. He took over the business when his father retired (1925).

To my knowledge, no one person has been trimming hair in Laurelton longer than Carl "Bup" Sampsell. Bup started cutting hair in the early 1950's when he and the late Harry VonNeida operated a barbershop together at 313 Main Street in Hartleton. By the mid to late 1950's Bup opened his barbershop in the home he shares with his wife, Jeanne, located at 1656 State Route 235 in the village of Laurelton. His barbershop was located in the same building that Ida VonNeida once operated her hat shop (millinery).

Sampsell spent more than five decades trimming hair at that location. Recently he recalled when his first appointment was at 7:00 a.m. and his last patron of the day was getting his hair trimmed at 9:00 p.m. He said that there were many days when he trimmed between 25 and 50 scalps on those days when his barbershop was open for business.

As a faithful patron of Bup's I always enjoyed my regular visits to get my hair trimmed at his Laurelton establishment. Hunting and fishing were often topics of discussion while he dutifully trimmed the hair of his patrons. Once while seated on his barber chair I pondered aloud how many lies Bup may have heard over the years from his patrons while they were seated on his barber chair? With a grin on his face, and his familiar soft-spoken style, Bup simply said - he did not know. Octogenarian Bup Sampsell laid down his scissors, comb, and electric trimmer in late 2010. While he would like to reopen his barbershop, right now his health concerns take precedence.

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Lois (Shirk) Pick recalled when the small building that once housed Miller's Barbershop was used for Civil Defense purposes during WWII. The building was manned 24 hours a day by local residents who volunteered to work in 2-hour shifts. When a plane was spotted the volunteer manning the office was responsible for gathering as much information (markings or numbers) as possible and reporting that information into a central office. During that era, planes were not flying at the altitude they do today, which made it easier to gather the necessary information, but only during daylight hours. Older men,

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**3. Carding – Criminals use stolen credit card numbers to make small purchases on a website using the card number. The number then is sold to other criminals for larger purchases. Keep all your receipts and carefully review all charges made to your card.**

**4. Pickpockets or Car break-ins – Theft of credit card's is the easiest way for criminals to use your information. Immediately return credit cards to secure locations after you have made a purchase. Do not leave purses or wallets unattended.**

**All post offices will be closed Monday January 16 for Martin Luther King Day.**



# BIRD TALK

by Jim McCormick

The end of the year approaches and one can only become reflective about where we are and where we are going. As I write this, I am watching the pastel-tinged clouds announcing the rising sun, the start of a new day, an opportunity to do something better, be kinder, and, perhaps, become a little wiser. With all the strife and misery in the world, how truly fortunate we are to be where we are. Rather than complain about this or that, why can't we, each in our own small way, try to make the world we live in a better place for ourselves and for posterity? As I watch the political dysfunction of our government, I have to ask, "How did we get here?" We have become so polarized-- I'm right, you're wrong! We have become a society of 'me, me, me', instead of a society of

'us'. We have lost the sense of common good and common goals. Instead of--here is the problem, how do we fix it; we now have--'you' caused the problem! Instead of trying to accumulate the greatest amount of wealth, how about trying to become the best human being you can become! Now there's a thought for the New Year!

It certainly has been an unusual year; possibly the wettest year I can remember. This winter, however, has been remarkably mild so far and I am thankful for that. The mild weather, I think, has the birds and animals confused as well. I'm noticing opossums and skunks on the sides of the roads; not what you normally see in late December! Early in the month I saw a small band of Robins near the Covered Bridge; I couldn't tell if they were early returning or late migrants on their way south.

On Christmas Eve day I heard a familiar sound that I wasn't expecting. It was very faint at first then grew louder and louder. It was the distinct honking of a flock of Canada Geese. I looked up and there they were flying very high in the sky in their classic v-shaped formation. They were on their way south! I have seen some local bands of Canada Geese each winter, but they usually fly much lower. On Christmas day I noticed an unusual bird in a tree near Penns Creek; it wasn't any of the normal winter birds I had been seeing for the last several months. As I looked more closely with my binoculars, I recognized the familiar, distinctive eye of a female Rusty Blackbird. I had first seen them or at least first identified them last winter in much the same spot and wrote about them then. As I have thought about it since, I realized that over the years in the middle of the winter, I would see a bird or two that I could never see clearly enough to identify. Now I think these 'mystery birds' were a few scattered Rusty Blackbirds. Looking around, I saw she was a member of a small band that was moving through the trees on an island in the Creek. They were too far away to get a good photo, but I will continue to monitor their activity over the next few months.

Early in the month I saw another early arrival—Common Mergansers. There were two males and one female in Penns Creek below the Covered Bridge. I can't be sure they are the same ones but there has been this trio in that general area for many seasons. They usually don't arrive until late January or early February, though. Another indicator of this unusual winter was seeing Cloudy Sulfur Butterflies as late as December.

The nights had already gotten in the low 20's and here were one or two of these butterflies still active after the sun warmed them up. Amazing! This month's photo was taken on Christmas Day, a bright sunny day but very cold. This Mockingbird seemed to be guarding the northern entrance to Millmont near the bridge. You can see its feathers all fluffed up to keep it warm. I hope everyone had a wonderful Christmas and I wish you all a Happy and Healthful New Year!



The photograph of the Mockingbird above is courtesy of Jim McCormick.

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who were not in the military, and women volunteered to serve duty as watchers. Both Lois and her mother, Sarah (Kleckner) Shirk were volunteer plane spotters. Raymond E. Middleswarth Jr. remembered the mandatory blackouts that took place during WWII. People who were manning the civilian air report center went around to homes in Laurelton and knocked on your door if your lights were visible from the street. Middleswarth also recalled the steam powered air horn located on top of the kitchen roof that sounded the alarm for "lights out" for the cottages at the Laurelton State Village. The shrill sound from that air horn could also be heard in Laurelton.

#### WEST END FAIRGROUNDS

The West End Fair began as a corn festival at the suggestion of Rev. John W. Yeisley and was sponsored by Captain Thomas Church Camp, Sons of Veterans. The first "Corn Festival and Homecoming" was at the Laurelton High School on October 23, 1926. The first festival featured exhibits of farm products, home economics, and school students displayed some of their handiwork. Despite the unfavorable weather that year it was estimated that 2,000 people were in attendance. Serving on the committee were a number of public-spirited individuals including Aaron Hassinger, Marlin Boop, Sherman Kreisher, and Frank Stout.

The festival was later renamed the West End Agricultural Fair. The first building was erected in 1928, the same year the fair became a two-day event. Admission was first charged in 1931. The cost was 10 cents for adults only. By 1932 the fair had expanded to three days.

The West End Fair Association was chartered on September 4, 1935. In 1936 Carrie Lincoln presented a deed to just over 15 acres of land to the Fair Association for their use.

The fairgrounds was the scene of a large assembly during the Union County Sesquicentennial celebration in July 1963. Antique displays, art exhibits, music, old farm machinery, contests, concessions, Boy Scout and Girl Scout demonstrations, were just a part of the celebration of Union County's 150<sup>th</sup> birthday.

Since 2008 the fairgrounds have been home to the annual – A Bear's Picnic – each August. Like a scene straight out of the 1960's the three-day event features numerous bands and attracts people from around the state and across the nation.

Laurelton's 200<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration was held on the fairgrounds over a three-day period in September 2011.

#### MISCELLANY

The power of Penns Creek was harnessed in order to provide the village of Laurelton with electricity. Leroy Yagel, owner of Yagel's Mill converted his gristmill into a hydroelectric generating facility in the early 1920's. Electricity from Yagel's facility furnished Laurelton and the surrounding community with electric power for a number of years. In 1929, PP & L absorbed the Laurel Park Power and Light Company, one of the last independent electric service providers in Union County.

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In the late 1940's Laurelton resident Raymond E. Middleswarth Jr. recalled helping Percy Weidensaul (1923-1993) produce cement blocks at his establishment at the rear of 2485 Laurel Road. Percy's father, Luther Weidensaul, then owned this property.

Middleswarth helped after school (1947-1948) mixing the cement used in the manufacturing process. Steps involved in the cement block making included mixing the cement, tamping and stomping the blocks into molds, and then allowing them time to cure. During the evening he and his coworkers produced an average of 25 cement blocks each night. Other's who assisted Weidensaul with his block making venture included Donald Hackenburg, Joe Shively, Roger Zimmerman, and Bill Boyer. The homes at 81 and 147 Weikert Road were both manufactured using cement blocks from Weidensaul.

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Arthur W. Zechman was the proprietor of the Laurelton Garage. In addition to performing repairs to automobiles, Zechman also sold new and used vehicles. Raymond E. Middleswarth Jr. recalled when the garage was located on the first floor of the building and the showroom was located on the second floor. A slip from 1928 shows that Arthur W. Zechman was proprietor of the Laurelton Garage, and that he sold Ford cars and parts. Zechman's establishment was located next to the home at 2465 Laurel Road in Laurelton. The building is no longer standing. When the enumerator was gathering information for the 1920 census Arthur W. Zechman listed his occupation as automobile repairman. Exactly how long Zechman's garage was open for business in Laurelton is unknown.

#### VIRGINIA (ELY) SCHNEEBERG

In her book entitled "Reminisces", Virginia (Ely) Schneeberg (1912-1991) recalled that her parents (William & Alice (Snyder) Ely) moved to Laurelton when she was four years old. They first lived above the old Pursley Hotel before later moving across the street into an apartment owned by Doc. Glover. She was not happy growing up in this small West End community. Schneeberg wrote in her memoirs that when she graduated from the Hartley Township High School in 1929 - "I use to vow to myself that if I ever got out of Laurelton, I would never come back".

Schneeberg did get out of Laurelton, in fact, she went to Jefferson Medical College. She later got a job at Norristown State Hospital before finding employment at a Bronx, New York veterans hospital. It was while living in New York that she met

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and married Max Schneeberg and together they had a son, David.

Later Schneeberg moved to Pittsburgh where she was employed at another veteran's hospital. She entered the Army Nurse Corps during WWII spending time at Fort Jackson, SC, then to Alabama, before being sent overseas to Karachi, India. After returning stateside she lived in Martinsburg, WV for a period of time.

Following her discharge on October 4, 1946 she returned to Laurelton, before enrolling at Bucknell where she obtained her master's. In 1954 she was hired as Director of Nursing at the Laurelton State School and Hospital.

In 1989 as she was writing her memoirs Schneeberg wrote "So here I am back (in Laurelton) and I don't think anything would get me out except death or the need for a small apartment". She lived in New York City, Pittsburgh, and traveled around the world while serving in the Army Nurse Corps. However, when all was said and done, she returned to the small village of Laurelton where she grew up. Despite her vow to leave and never return, Schneeberg, like many others who have resided there over its 200-year history, found solace in the small West End village of Laurelton.

TLS

I would like to thank everyone who contributed information and photographs during this five part series of articles about the village of Laurelton: Raymond E. Middleswarth Jr., Lois (Shirk) Pick, Carl "Bup" and Jeanne Sampsell, Ronald Keister, and Judy Moyer, all of Laurelton; Charles Mabus Sr., Lulu Hoffman, Betty (Boop) Shively, and Wayne Nolan all of Millmont; Becky Wenrick of Aaronsburg; Doug and Sharon Denisen of Naples, FL; Carl R. Catherman and Eleanor (Hoffman) Hoy of Mifflinburg; and Emilie F. Jansma of Weikert and State College.

Sources from which information was used in these articles include: Historical writings of Richard VB. Lincoln; Union County Pennsylvania A Bicentennial History by Charles M. Snyder 1976; Louise Goehring Scott's Oral History Collection Transcribed by Emilie F. Jansma of State College and Weikert; Reminiscences by Virginia Kathryn (Ely) Schneeberg, self published in December 1989; The Story of a County (Union County Sesquicentennial) 1813-1963; Union County Heritage Volume VIII published by the Union County Historical Society; The Millmont Times Volume 5 Issue 5, and Volume 8 Issue 7; The History of the Susquehanna & Juniata Valleys published by Everts, Peck, & Richards in 1886; Union County Postmasters compiled by Charles M. Steese, a staff member of the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, Harrisburg, PA; The Mifflinburg Telegraph; The Lewisburg Saturday News; Commemorative Biographical Record of Central Pennsylvania, J. H. Beers & Co., Chicago, 1898; The 1868 Atlas of Union County published by Pomeroy and Beers 1868; Union County Register and Recorder's Office; Report of the Laurelton State Village at Laurelton, Union County, Pennsylvania for Biennial Period Ending May 31, 1950; The History of the Laurelton State Village written by Dr. Mary Vanuxem in 1938 and published in Volume II of the Union County Heritage (a publication of the Union County Historical Society); Wildcatting on the Mountain by Benjamin F. Kline Jr.; Chronicle of Windy Inn by Elizabeth (Hoffman) Fohringer and provided to me courtesy of Thomas "Tyler" Potterfield of Richmond, VA; Hartley Township High School Highlights published in 1938; The Diary of Rev. Greene Shively; The Schnure Family by Fred O. Schnure 1963; David W. Diehl; Darwin Allen Johnson; Bruce R. Shirk; LaRue E. "Rat" Shirk; David W. Diehl.

#### CORRECTIONS

According to informants, Ron Keister and Raymond E. Middleswarth Jr., the Laurelton Foundry operated into the early 1950's, not 1944 as was noted in the September 2011 issue. Raymond Middleswarth said that the Foundry was then being operated by the same people who were running the Body Company in Mifflinburg.

Wayne Nolan noted that the owner of the mill in Laurelton during the 1800's was spelled Sharack. In the September 2011 issue I had his name spelled Sahrak.

#### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON THE MERCHANTS OF LAURELTON

Courtesy of Carl R. Catherman - Mifflinburg, PA

I can add a little information on another Laurelton merchant and some relationships between them. It all revolves around one man, Samuel Weidensaul.

Sam Weidensaul was first and foremost a miller but he was also engaged in the mercantile business on two occasions. Hartley Township tax records indicate that Sam was a merchant in 1869-1861 and the 1860 census also lists his occupation as merchant. At that time he was living at the north end of the village on the west side of the road but I don't know where his store was.

In 1864 Sam purchased the Martin Dreisbach mill property on Creek Rd. He and his wife Polly (Catherman) lived there until he sold out to James Albright in 1876. The 1870 census lists him as a farmer but if he was farming it was certainly in addition to operating the mill since the tax records list him as a miller from 1865-1873. However, from 1874-1876 he is listed as a merchant. In fact he had erected a building east of his house to serve as a store. The railroad depot had been built on his property in either 1872 or 1873 and the store building was no doubt erected at the same time.

Sam's sister was married to Daniel B. Kerst, the first merchant mentioned in your article. The E. B. Weidensaul who was living with the Kersts and working as a clerk was not Sam's son but surely a nephew of both him and Mrs. Kerst. When Mrs. Kerst died in 1890 Sam was her sole heir.

Martin Emery, another Laurelton merchant, was Sam Weidensaul's grand-nephew, Sam's wife and Martin's grandmother Anna (Catherman) were sisters.

Finally, it is worth mentioning that Donald Shirk who operated the store in Millmont along with his wife Delphia, was a great-grandson of Sam Weidensaul. For many years portraits of Sam and Polly Weidensaul hung high on the north wall of Shirk's store.

# A Brief History of Education in Hartley Township

By Dahle Bingaman

The beginning of the 2011 - 2012 school year was marked by the closing of the Laurelton Elementary Building. For many of us who recall the completion of that building in the mid 1950's, it appears to have been a short period of use for such an expensive building. The history of school buildings in western Union County, however, suggests that school buildings in the area have seen shorter periods of use.

The earliest facilities offering public education were the one room schools, many of which were built in the 1800's. In these, a teacher provided early education and, quite often, the only education for area residents. The teacher may well have had students in all the grades from first through eighth; it was standard practice for older students to be enlisted as teacher aides providing assistance to the younger children.

Location of the one room school was determined by several factors. Primary was a population of children needing to be served. A second factor, in the days of limited transportation, was the distance students would have to travel to get to school. While some may have been able to depend upon horses, it is certain that most would have walked. (I can't help thinking that therein may lie an explanation for all the stories I have heard about the depth of snow back then).

With the arrival of the automobile followed by school buses, the one room school was destined to become a thing of the past. Former schoolhouses were now converted into residences, shops, or other uses. The one room school has not totally disappeared; the Mennonite and Amish continue to use that system of education. Replacing the one room school was the multi room school building, each room of which served students of a given grade, making for a more efficient approach to schooling. Now, a single teacher could give more attention to a single grade.

A one room school that has been mentioned in previous issues of The Millmont Times was the Hironimus School located west of Weikert. The wood frame building in Laurelton that serves as the Hartley Township Community Center was constructed by moving five one room schools to Laurelton and assembling them into what was then known as the Consolidated School. In the summer of 1942, it became the turn of the Hironimus School to be torn down and reconstructed as the fifth and last room of the Laurelton Elementary School. The writer is not sure about the origins of the other four rooms. However, he does remember seeing the Hironimus School being reconstructed; he is also unsure how long the building was in use at its original site. It is known that the recently closed building was first used during the 1953 - 1954 school year. If you consider the reconstruction of the Hironimus School as the completion of the consolidated school building you will note that the completed building was in use for only 12 years.

The Hironimus School, known in 1941 - 1942 as Hartley School Number 8, served 12 students in its last year west of Weikert. Attending were seven girls and five boys. Among them there were one first grader, one fifth grader, one sixth grader, and two eighth graders. The teacher, Nita Herbster, followed her old school to Laurelton where she taught second grade.

Try to imagine the difference Mrs. Herbster had to experience following her move to Laurelton. With 21 students in second grade, seven boys and fourteen girls, her class size had almost doubled. But now, instead of having to teach 7 grades, she only had to teach one grade. She may have had some assistance with 8 of her 21 students being in second grade the previous year. We do not know whether the Hironimus School was Mrs. Herbster's first teaching assignment, we do know that she started teaching there in 1940; her assignment there was only for two years when the building was moved. She continued her teaching career at Laurelton into the 1960's during which time she became Mrs. Boop.

The movement of the Hironimus School to become the fifth classroom in the Consolidated School did not eliminate all aspects of the one room school. With five classrooms and five teachers to serve seven grades, it became necessary to serve two grades in each of two classrooms. Until the high school classes were moved to Mifflinburg, one classroom served third and fourth grades and an-



The one room Hironimus School can be seen in the distance, with the nearby cemetery in the foreground.

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Above is a view of the old elementary school or Consolidated School at Laurelton before the addition to the north end was added. Photograph courtesy of Lois Huffines and the Union County Historical Society.

other served fifth and sixth grades. Harry Bingaman taught third and fourth grade and Frances Bingaman taught fifth and sixth grades. Certainly an advantage of the consolidation was the ability of teachers in this system to provide a more in depth focus on subjects and probably even an increase in the number of subjects to be offered. A review of old records suggests that the number of students enrolled in high school was less than those attending the elementary grades. In those days, eight grades were often considered sufficient preparation; even fewer students went on to pursue education at the college level.

As schools evolved so also did teacher preparation. The writer's father, Harry Bingaman, began his teaching career his first year after graduating from high school. His father, Dan Bingaman, who was a township supervisor at the time, asked him what he planned to do. Dad had not made any plans and his father said that he could get him a teaching job.

Harry taught in 1926 at the Lincoln School, walking to the school from his home on the south side of Penns Creek at Laurel Park. He later taught at Rand before moving to the school in Laurelton in 1936.

In those days, it was not unusual for a teacher to be a recent high school graduate. Dad, each summer, attended college courses to qualify for permanent certification; this was the path followed by many teachers. Two years of college were another means to qualification for teaching; the state normal school served this purpose. Teachers could also opt for completion of a four-year college before entering the profession. Today, the completion of a four-year college is required; a minimum number of additional courses are required to gain permanent certification. There are now additional financial incentives used to encourage teachers to acquire master's degrees.

Most of us remember our teachers taking the roll each morning. These records were entered into a booklet with a manila cover; they were usually visible on the teacher's desk. At the end of the year these reports were submitted to Harrisburg for approval. This approval was the means by which state funding was secured for the local schools. Some of these approvals determined the teacher's payment for service. After this approval process the records were returned to the school. Most schools destroyed the records at that point. This did not happen in Hartley Township; they were kept. After passing through several possessions, many of these records dating to the 1800's have become the property of the West End Library. Eventually these records will be available for review at the library.

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:

*Saturday - January 16, 1943 - 33 degrees at 9. Snowed a little again last night. The ground is covered. Did some weaving.*

*Sunday - January 17, 1943 - 38 degrees at 5 o'clock, about the same temperature all day. Jacob's car was out of commission, so we did not get to church. Jacob was here a while this evening.*

*Monday - January 18, 1943 - 34 degrees at 9 A.M. raining and 37 degrees at noon. I was working for Rev. Yeisley today. My first day working at the Rex Company.*

*Wednesday - January 20, 1943 - I spent eight hours working for the Rex Company. 19 degrees at 7 P.M.*

*Thursday - January 21, 1943—21 degrees at 7 A.m. cloudy. 18 degrees at 7 P.M. Another day working for the Rex Company.*

*Friday - January 22, 1943 - 10 degrees at 7 A.M. clear, a beautiful winter day, 32 at noon. At the Rex Company for 8 hours addressing and filing due accounts.*

The small photograph in the upper left hand corner of page one shows a view of the Hartley Township Community Center that was taken in August 2011. This building housed the Hartley Township Consolidated School for a number of years. Later it was home to the West End Library until they moved into their new quarters off Ball Park Road. The new library was officially opened in July 2006.

**Recipe of the Month**  
**by Janice (Dorman) Shively**  
**Santa Fe Veggie Chili**

1 T. extra virgin olive oil  
1 jalapeno pepper, seeded and finely chopped  
½ C. onion  
1 ⅓ C. chopped red and yellow bell peppers  
6 tsp. chili powder  
1 ½ tsp. paprika  
¼ tsp. garlic powder  
¾ tsp. ground cayenne pepper  
½ C. Splenda® no calorie sweetener, granulated  
3 T. balsamic vinegar  
1 (28 ounce) can crushed tomatoes with thick tomato puree  
2 (15 ounce) cans black beans, undrained  
1 (15 ounce) can dark red kidney beans, undrained  
2 (15 ounce) cans great northern beans, undrained  
1 (16 ounce) package frozen whole kernel corn

In a large, non stick, stock pot heat olive oil. Sauté jalapeno pepper, onion, and red and yellow peppers over medium heat until onions are translucent (5 – 8 minutes).



Add the remaining ingredients and slowly bring to a boil. Cover pot and simmer on low heat for 20 minutes. Serve hot. Chili tastes best when allowed to sit overnight.

This meatless recipe is adapted from a Splenda® recipe I found on-line. It is easy to make, comes together quickly and is sure to warm you up on a cold winter day. Feel free to adapt this dish to your taste by increasing the quantity of a particular variety of beans and decreasing the quantity of another. You can also adjust the spices to suit your tastes.

The recipe yields approximately 16 1-cup servings. Leftovers freeze well!

Enjoy!

**Notice to mail subscribers**

Some of you have probably noticed over the last few months that your newsletter arrival is not as timely as it used to be. The postal service has made changes in the way the mail is moved from the Millmont post office to your door. Previously, local mail was taken directly from the Millmont Post Office to the outlying offices including Hartleton, Laurelton, Swengel, Weikert and Mifflinburg. With the change that has taken place all mail must now go to the Harrisburg office before it can be delivered to you.

**Thank You!**

I would like to thank the following people for making monetary donations toward the publication of this newsletter: Spencer and Shirley Boyer, Sandra Winegardner, Marvin and Jane Benner, James and Carol Shipton, and Wayne and Nancy Shively all of Mifflinburg; Richard and Susan Boop, Kenneth and Janice Shirk, and Roger and Patricia Klingman all of Millmont; David and Linda Zechman of Laurelton; Rita O'Brien of San Antonio, TX; Harry Snook of Weikert; Norma "Pat" Bennett and Carolyn Wenrick of Hartleton; Harold and Patricia Zechman of Milton; and Charles and Lois Feaster of Palmer, Alaska.

I would like to welcome the following new subscribers: R. Scott Brouse of Lewisburg; Carole Olmstead of Methuen, MA; Virginia Hupp of Liverpool; Neil and Alice Shoreman, and Elwood Mitchell of Millmont.

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

I would also like to thank Billy Mattern for allowing me to photograph some of his L & T Rail Road memorabilia; R. Scott Brouse for donating a 2012 calendar published by the North Shore Railroad showing views from the Juniata Valley RR, Lycoming Valley RR, Shamokin Valley RR, Nittany & Bald Eagle RR, North Shore RR, and Union County Industrial RR; and Sandra Winegardner for donating numerous photographs including the Hartley Township High School, Laurelton Lumber Company, Pardee Lumber Company, P. O. S. of A. booklets, Shively family memorabilia, Glen Iron Hotel, and photographs taken at Millmont and Swengel; and Luke Weaver of Lewisburg for donating a copy of "A Mennonite Legend of 1717 by Andreas Mielke".

# *Penlines From my Kitchen to Yours*

*by Lucy Hoover*

## November 19, 2011

Anthony and Mary Reiff of Mifflinburg have a daughter named Annikah Grace. She has one brother and one sister. Grandparents are Allen and Dorothy Reiff and Joseph and Margaret Hoover.

It was the Wedding Day of Nathan Lee Martin, son of Nathan and MaryElla Martin, and Rosanna Reiff, daughter of Allen and Dorothy Reiff.

## November 20

Amos and Mary Zimmerman invited quite a few families to their house to meet Earl Ray and Edna Martin of Iowa.

## November 23

There was an ordination for another minister at Mt. View Old Order Mennonite Church. Out of 8 candidates, Jonathan and Lucy Martin of Middleburg are the chosen ones.

## November 28

Clayton and Lucinda Zimmerman's son Steven (3) could not be found tonight, neighbors helped search for him. Later he was found taking a nap on a pile of Teddy's behind his little sister's bed.

## November 29

Nevin and Joyce Martin of Mifflinburg have a daughter named Karina Bryn. She is their first child. Grandparents are Rufus and Vera Martin and Floyd and Esther Weaver.

## November 30

Curvin, Elsie, Isaac, and I started on a six day vacation to KY with Lewis Ray Hoover. Our traveling companions are Esra and Lydia Ann Zimmerman, Eli and Anna Shirk, and Lester, Martha and Louise Nolt.

## December 1

We were at the wedding of nephew Milton Brubaker and Ella Mae Martin. A person couldn't wish for more beautiful weather. After the wedding we went to the viewing of my cousin Caleb Zimmerman (13) the son of Lloyd and Amy Zimmerman who died suddenly and unexpectedly of a tragedy.

## December 2

Ralph and Anna Mae Brubaker of Lewisburg had their fifth son. His name is John. Grandparents are John and Laura Brubaker and Ammon and Erma Zimmerman, all of Kutztown.

## December 8

Ammon Martin of Mifflinburg came home yesterday after a 10 day hospital stay. But because of complications he went back into the hospital again today.

Lamar and Delores Horning of Mifflinburg have a son named Landon Lamar. He has one brother and two sisters. Grandparents are Harvey and Ruth Horning and Lester and Marlene Martin.

## December 12

Norman and Alta Reiff of Lewisburg have a son named Justin. He has two brothers and one sister. Grandparents are Isaac and Ruth Reiff and Aden and Irene Weaver.

# Remembrance

Calvin Neil "Scutch" Hackenburg, 79, of 200 E. Market St., Mifflinburg since 2000, formerly of Millmont, entered into rest at 7:10 p.m. Sunday, December 11, 2011, at his home. He was born October 10, 1932, in Lewisburg, a son of the late Peter and Amelia (Boob) Hackenburg. On August 14, 1964, in First Church of the Nazarene, Mifflinburg, he married the former Diane E. Catherman, who survives.

Scutch was a graduate of Mifflinburg High School. He was employed as a supervisor in the heat plant at the Laurelton Center for 33 years.

Scutch enjoyed traveling with his wife to the New England states.

In addition to his wife of 47 years, he is survived by one daughter and son-in-law, Debra A. and Chuck Klose, of Mifflinburg; one brother, Charles Hackenburg, of Millmont; three grandchildren, Amber and her husband, Justin Felme, of Millmont, Andrew Klose and his fiancé, Cassi, of Penns Creek, and Austin Klose, of Mifflinburg; and five great-grandchildren, Jaiden, Jaxson, Addison, Gage and Camdyn.

He was preceded in death by one sister, Kathryn Laucenbaugh.

Burial was in the Hartleton Cemetery.

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Ethel Ramona Stover, 95, of 244 Stover Road, Mifflinburg since 1974, entered into rest at 4 a.m., Sunday, December 11, 2011, at her home.

She was born July 29, 1916, in Menno, S.D., a daughter of the late William and Aurelia (Schnaidt) Wolfe. On August 12, 1933, she married Nevin T. Stover who preceded her in death on June 28, 1988.

Ethel assisted her husband on the family dairy farm in Swengel, and earlier in life in Centre County.

She was a member of the West End Senior Center.

Ethel enjoyed sewing, quilting, embroidery, flowers, bird watching, canning, baking bread, and collecting glass baskets. She enjoyed spending time with her grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and great-great-grandchildren, and preparing family dinners.

Surviving are four grandchildren and their spouses, Delphia and David Lohr, Tina and Ernie Smith, and Mary Ann Shallenberger, all of Mifflinburg, and Marlene and Dr. Rodney Stout, of Gallipolis, Ohio; one brother, Donald Wolfe, of Aaronsburg; one sister, Edna Bartley, of Spring Mills; nine great-grandchildren; nine great-great-grandchildren; and one nephew who she raised, William and his wife, Jean Wolfe, of Mifflinburg.

She was preceded in death by one son, Theodore Stover on May 7, 1995.

Burial was in the Fairview Cemetery, Millheim.

The Stover family wishes to extend a heartfelt thank you to Ethel's neighbors, Eli and Anna Shirk, for all of their help and support through the years.

(Continued on page 11)

# *Blessings from the Bible*

*By Brenda Weaver*

*“Or what man is there of you, who if his son ask bread, will he give him a stone? Or if he ask a fish, will he give him a serpent? If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask him?” Matthew 7:9-11.*

Our family always enjoyed gift giving at Christmas time. We tried to keep it simple and sensible. Careful thought was put into each gift.

*What do I give to the children this year?* I wondered. One day I was going through my husband’s Bible cover. There I found an answer to my question. Sheaves of small notebook pages fell out from behind a flap. They were notes from sermons over the past two to three years, notes taken by my husband while he listened to those sermons. A plan formed in my mind as I reviewed the notes in the familiar hand-writing. I will give the children gifts of words. These words, handwritten by their father, can be preserved. I will laminate them and give them to our children for Christmas. They, in turn, can put them in their Bibles to be reminded of principles that were important to their dad. He may be gone, but until they join him in heaven (oh I pray they all will!) these notes will help them remember the values of their godly father.

As sure as I delight in thinking of good gifts for my children, God delights in giving good gifts to them and to me. This year my loss looms larger than the gifts. This year the only gift I can choose for my husband is a tombstone. Sometimes, for brief periods, I am tempted to think that my Father God gave me a stone when I asked Him for bread. But by faith I believe God gives gifts that are good, even the “stony” ones. While I feel the loss, God gave John heaven! While my children grieve for their dad, they say things to me like, “Since Dad died I’m not really scared of death.” (Wow! What a gift he gave to them!) And while I ache in grief, I am glad for the gift of grief. It is a work. An arduous, painful work, but not without the pleasantries of good memories and good gifts to give.

If we do this work well, grief will forever bind us to the ones we love. The ones we love here and especially the ones we love in heaven. And grieving well gives a gift to ourselves over time—it’s called healing.

*Thank you, God, for good gifts. And thank you for the gift of grief.*

*“O my God, I cry in the daytime, but thou hearest not; and in the night season, and am not silent. But thou art holy, O thou that inhabitest the praises of Israel” Psalm 22:2, 3.*

(From “A cry of anguish and song of praise,” a psalm of David.)

I stood with my hands plunged into the dishwater, feeling sorry for myself. *If my husband were here he would be helping me with them.* I think of the many times he helped me wash dishes, and sigh. Our teenagers had left for an evening of fun with their youth group, and here I was washing dishes, alone. I wondered fleetingly if there are dishes to do in heaven and imagine if there were (odd thought isn’t it?) John is probably happily washing away, because work was a pleasure to him. He especially liked to work with his family, but he and I had a secret. If we wanted time alone all we had to do was announce there were dishes to wash. Often we were soon alone in the kitchen. The thought brought a smile, followed by a double sigh. Oh the joy and anguish of memories after a loved one leaves for Glory!

I remembered how when our son-in-law died his mother asked mournfully, “Why do the men who like to wash dishes have to die?” Now I wonder too. (If any men happen to read this, please don’t use this as an excuse to keep you from blessing your mother or wife by washing dishes for her!)

In the midst of my self pity I heard the noise of vehicles and then footsteps on the porch. “O Come All Ye Faithful...” the first strains of the old carol answered my questions. A mixture of emotion flooded over me. I think it was joy that arrived first, followed closely by sorrow. I tried to compose myself before going to the front door. We always enjoyed Christmas caroling! Together. *But this year they are caroling for me.* The old knot returned to my stomach. “...O come let us adore him, O come let us adore him...” *I can still adore Him. I can enjoy the carols.* I smiled at the enthusiastic young singers.

“O beautiful star of Bethlehem, shining afar through shadows dim, giving a light...” As they sang, a memory from long ago alighted on my heart. It was between stops, while we were Christmas caroling in my community, that John first reached for my mittened hand, and I made sure the next time he reached for it my mitten was in my pocket! Again both joy and sorrow raced to my heart.

They only sang three songs, but they cheered my evening and set my heart to singing. Dating or married, John and I had caroled together with our youth group or our church for over thirty years. And now I know, *really know* what it is like to be on the other side of the door. I thanked them as they left and thanked God too, for cheering me and winging warm memories my way.

And now I think I’ll sing some Christmas carols as I finish those dishes! Like the Psalmist, David, I will cry with anguish and sing with praise.

“Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask Thee to stay close by me forever and love me I pray. Bless all the dear children in thy tender care, and take us to heaven to live with Thee there.”

Editors note: At Brenda’s request, this month’s *Blessings from the Bible* are two of Brenda’s devotionals for Joyce Long’s website. Brenda is a regular contributor of devotionals for [www.joycelongcoverings.com](http://www.joycelongcoverings.com).

(Continued from page 9)

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Jacque Curwin Libby, 78, of 119 Walnut St., Mifflinburg since 2005, formerly of Second Street, Millmont for 43 years, entered into rest early Wednesday morning at his home, after battling cancer for the past seven years.

He was born October 29, 1933, in Swengel, a son of the late Wilbur and Helen (Zimmerman) Libby. On December 5, 1959, in Penns Creek, he married the former Julia I. Moyer, who survives.

Jacque was a 1952 graduate of Mifflinburg High School. He honorably served in the Army from 1953-1955, and was stationed in Germany. Jacque was employed for 38 years at Yorktowne Kitchens, Mifflinburg, until he retired in 1996.

He attended the Grace Baptist Church, Spring Mills. Jacque was a member of the Buffalo Valley Sportsmen's Club, Mifflinburg.

He enjoyed spending time with his family, especially his grandchildren, and beloved dog Pebbles, who never left his side. Jacque was an avid Penn State football fan. Before becoming ill, he enjoyed hunting, trapping, and fishing. Earlier in life, Jacque enjoyed playing golf, softball, bowling, building furniture and woodworking at his home.

Surviving in addition to his wife of 52 years, are two daughters and sons-in-law, Sherry and Timothy Osborne, of Mifflinburg, and Lori and William Valentine, of Lewisburg; four grandchildren, Ryan Osborne and Ashlee Osborne, both of Mifflinburg, Meghan Valentine, of Lewisburg, and Jaysn Valentine, of Tempe, Arizona; one brother and sister-in-law, Gordon "Butch" and Pauline Libby, of Millmont; two sisters and one brother-in-law, Rhelda "Jane" Weaver, of Aaronsburg and Ruby and William Templin, of Milton; one aunt, Joyce Strause, of Camp Hill; and numerous nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by one brother, in infancy. Burial was in the Hartleton Cemetery.

### THANK YOU

Our mother/wife spent her last days at Rolling Hills surrounded by a caring, giving, wonderful staff of "angels on earth". They helped make our mother/wife, (Nancy C. Balban's) remaining time with us as comfortable as possible. They helped our mother die with dignity. Our mother trusted and depended on these "angels" to attend to her every need, which they did on a daily basis. The Balban family can not begin to tell you how much of a comfort it was for us knowing that "mom", Nancy was so well treated and loved.

Thank you so very much -  
Rufus Balban  
Cam & Jim Hironimus  
Jonathan & Sharon Balban

## Looking Back

The newspaper article below was originally published in the January 31, 1883 edition of The Mifflinburg Telegraph.

### West Buffalo Items

Our schools are improving; they all sing regularly, and are doing more *practical* work than usual. Supt. Johnson visited them all a few weeks ago, giving them much good advice and encouragement – always practical, and right to the point. The work he did here shows that he is in love with the duties of his office. Our common Supervisor has made us fine roads for sledding; they seem to be appreciated. It is a wonder that people can't learn, from the convenience of sledding, that it pays to keep the roads in good order the rest of the year. It costs something to secure them, but it pays every one well to have them so. Bad roads kill time, teams and increase temper, and cultivate profanity, say nothing of the loss in dollars. Our roads have been improved much in ten years; much *more* should be done. The time is here when stone and iron bridges should take the place of old wooden bridges (of which we have many) as fast as they wear out, so we could come to something substantial soon, then we could have means to make the roads, instead of having to spend them all trying to keep a lot of dangerous bridges in order.

There are several cases of diphtheria in Hartsgravel; two deaths by it. There is a fortune in store for the medical philosopher that can produce a sure and convenient preventative. If it can be cured, it can also be prevented. Cleanliness, pure food, warm clothing, plenty of pure air, and proper care otherwise, seems to be the best preventative yet found out.

Judge Royer's bricks are nearly all sold; should bake more next summer.

Levi Shoemaker, the wealthiest citizen of this township, is preparing material for a new barn, on his farm, occupied by his son Mendon.

Jacob Strickler, our famous carpenter, has his new house nearly done; it is one of the finest buildings in these parts.

Samuel Youtz is also preparing to build a barn; he is going to build in Limestone township, and will live in West Buffalo; the turnpike being the line.

Grange 755 of Lewis Township, (represented here, also) numbers about twenty families, and bought through the order system, during last year, about \$1,700 worth of goods, including fertilizers and implements. We have much to learn yet, but don't tell us that we can't, or dare not. The "Farmers Friend," (our grange paper) goes into 10,000 homes weekly, and sends out thousands of extra copies occasionally. Instead of cursing us, as some are inclined, their thanks are due the Order, for bringing about much good and wholesome legislation, saying nothing of other work, of which outsiders know nothing.

Ryan, Thompson & Co. have their mill ready for the roof. Their 180-horse power engine is there, ready to set up. They are cleaning out the bed and piling the ties on it, for their R.R., also preparing to build a sixty foot bridge across the creek, on the east side of Judge Royer's farm. It is right they should push the work on the road, but it might be more pleasant for the Doctor and Squire if they (the Co.) would shove the right-of-way money around here soon.

The sale at Mrs. Irwin's, last Tuesday week, was a grand success, with the exception of too much calamity juice, poured into weak stomachs. The "Telegraph" should have some thanks for the success, and somebody should have the Constable for the noise which the juice made. Cider and whiskey don't mate well.

Jan. 28, '83

GROVE.

The Millmont Times is distributed during the first week of each month, and is available through mail subscriptions. Mail subscriptions are \$10 per year (12 issues). The newsletter is also available at Koch's Country Store in Hartleton, PA. Telephone 922.0452. The single issue cost is \$1.50.

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

All of the newsletters published between January 2004 to the current issue are now available on the website.

Please use the following address if you are interested in contacting the editor, subscribing to the newsletter, making a donation, sending a gift subscription, or changing your address: Tony Shively, Post Office Box 3, Millmont PA 17845, telephone: (570) 922.4297 or E-mail: tshively@dejazzd.com

## Are You Moving?

If you are planning to move, or if your post office mailing address is about to change, please notify The Millmont Times at P. O. Box 3, Millmont, PA 17845, as soon as possible. This newsletter is distributed bulk rate each month, and therefore it will not be forwarded by the United States Postal Service to your new address. All undeliverable newsletters are disposed of by the United States Postal Service. If there are any changes in your postal mailing address you can contact me at (570) 922.4297 or you can send an email to: tshively@dejazzd.com

### January Birthdays & Anniversaries

- |                                    |   |                       |
|------------------------------------|---|-----------------------|
| 2 – Charles and Fay Zechman - 1953 | 12 – Ann M. Koonsman                      | 23 – Fred Yarger      |
| 2 – Joan Klinger                   | 13 – Mary Catherine Hummel                | 24 – Kenneth Rishel   |
| 2 – Brady O. Koonsman              | 14 – Della Schneeberg                     | 24 – Richard Martin   |
| 3 – Fay Zechman                    | 14 – Helen Raker                          | 24 – Randy Lyons      |
| 3 – Edward Martin                  | 16 – Marge Schmader                       | 25 – Sandy Aikey      |
| 4 – Stacey Witmer                  | 16 – Julia Libby                          | 25 – Ellen Kahler     |
| 5 – Sarah Gordon                   | 16 – Jason Zimmerman                      | 25 – Betty Makosy     |
| 5 – Harry Oberholtzer              | 16 – Diane Hackenburg                     | 25 – Warren Zimmerman |
| 5 – Wilmer Zimmerman               | 17 – Leroy S. & Verna H. Zimmerman - 1961 | 26 – Helen Martin     |
| 5 – Donna Fultz                    | 17 – Lucille Wenrick                      | 27 – Evelyn Miller    |
| 6 – Lisa Martin                    | 18 – Keyen Bingaman                       | 27 – John Stamm       |
| 6 – Betty Wallace                  | 18 – Glenn Kuhns                          | 28 – Kathy Hartman    |
| 6 – Arlene Zimmerman               | 19 – Donald & Phyllis Ruhl – 1973         | 29 – Lottie Sheesley  |
| 6 – Craig Yarger                   | 20 – Anne Little                          | 29 – Richard Wenrick  |
| 7 – Helen Harter                   | 20 – Carl A. Catherman (Spring Mills)     | 29 – Margaret Yarger  |
| 7 – Norma “Pat” Bennett            | 21 – Tracey Beaver                        | 30 – Eugene Antol     |
| 8 – Pauline (Crebs) Levan          | 21 – Jennifer Martin                      | 30 – Daphne Martin    |
| 8 – Colby Yarger                   | 21 – Bill Mattern                         | 30 – Stan Weaver      |
| 10 – Linda Sholter                 | 22 – Dianna Lloyd                         | 31 – Marcus Zimmerman |
| 10 – LaNell Reiff                  | 22 – James & Helen Camp - 1961            | 31 – Hilda Zechman    |
| 11 – Carol Wilson                  | 22 – Helen Camp                           |                       |
| 11 – Leroy Zimmerman               | 22 – Wilmer Zimmerman                     |                       |
| 12 – Travis Brown                  | 22 – Hertha Wehr                          |                       |
| 12 – Peter Makosy                  | 22 – Gerald Starks                        |                       |

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