



The Millmont Times

JULY 2006



Nathan Boob Amateur Herpetologist

“The only good snake is a dead snake.” Some folks who have little or no regard for these lowly creatures oftentimes use that familiar phrase. It makes little difference whether they are referring to a venomous or non-venomous snake. Enlightening people about the beneficial aspects of snakes, including *Crotalus horridus*, or timber rattlesnakes, seems like an almost impossible task. However, it is a mission that 28-year old amateur herpetologist, Nathan Boob of New Columbia endeavors to carry out.

Boob’s desire to incorporate timber rattlesnakes into his wildlife art prompted him to search for this particular species. As a result, he is able to photograph them in their natural environment. The more encounters he has with rattlesnakes, the more captivated he is by this elusive reptile. Boob developed an intense yearning to learn more about a species of snake that evokes fear in the hearts

and minds of many, and passionately studies the habits and habitat of this unique creation.

Nathan Boob was born with an instinctive sense of wonder and amazement regarding the natural world. His fascination with indigenous flora and fauna began at an early age. His parent’s, James and Karen Boob, of Hassenplug Road, Millmont, never knew what their young son might carry into their home. All species of birds, mammals, reptiles, amphibians, fishes, and insects piqued his interest. His classmates often expressed their view of life in the west end of Union County as “boring.” While their interests leaned towards sports and athletics, he was more excited about exploring the fields and forests around his home, just west of Lincoln Park. Atypical of most boys his age, Boob’s Christmas and birthday wish lists were filled with field guides and identification books.

As a result of his interest in timber rattlesnakes, Boob became familiar with a research project under the auspices of the Pennsylvania Fish Commission. The project goals are to conduct comprehensive studies of timber rattlesnakes, their habitat, and assess the current population. Through an acquaintance, he was able to secure a role in the project from its inception in 2003.

The project is being conducted in several phases. Expected to be completed this year, phase

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Millmont Mailbox by Postmaster Sam Smith

Summer is finally upon us and with it comes many local activities, like the Millmont Yard sale on July 8th. My wife and I will be trying to sell some of our items there and will look forward to seeing everyone, and enjoying the chicken! Summer also brings road construction. Anyone who travels route 80 can attest to that! This year, road construction has hit locally, as the bridge on Millmont Road, just before the Post office, is being replaced. It is quite an inconvenience to my carriers and anyone who wants to do business at the Millmont Post Office. I am told it should be completed in the middle of August. Although you can use Click-n-ship at www.usps.com anytime, this might be an especially good time to do so, to avoid the detour. One of the easiest ways to send priority mail would be to use the flat rate envelopes for \$4.05 and the flat rate boxes for \$8.10. They can be mailed from your home without needing to be weighed, and the postal zone isn’t a factor in determining postage. Due to their popularity, the Ronald Reagan commemorative stamp and the Happy Birthday stamps will be reissued in the 39 cent denomination and are available now. The Post Office will be closed Tuesday, July 4, to celebrate Independence Day.

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Boob is licensed by the Pennsylvania Fish Commission to handle timber rattlesnakes out of season.

one of the project is a historic assessment of the timber rattlesnake. Project members have visited known sites that were included in a similar study from the 1980's. That research was discontinued within a short time due to lack of funding and personnel. More recently, the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service provided the Pennsylvania Fish Commission with funding to revive the project.

The project is under the direction of Chris Urban, Chief, Natural Diversity Section of the Fish Commission, while Jim Chestney coordinates the 40 to 50 volunteers involved in the project. These volunteers are located in geographic regions across the state. While team members are studying the habitat of this species, their primary focus is to develop a realistic estimate of the timber rattlesnake population in Pennsylvania.

The second phase of the project is to identify new timber rattlesnake sites. The status of the timber rattlesnake in some sections of the state, including Union County, has never been studied. As a result, no local historical data on this species exists. While a lot of questions remain unanswered, Boob is excited about what he and his team members are

learning about the population of timber rattlesnakes here in the county.

As part of the research project, team members obtain blood for DNA sampling from captured snakes. Project members also implant a "PIT" (passive implant transponder) on selected snakes. This microchip, no larger than a grain of rice, contains a numeric code and is inserted through the rib cage and into the body cavity of the snake. By using a handheld wand, or scanning device, researchers can retrieve the information on the chip should an implanted snake be recaptured.

Pinpointing timber rattlesnake den sites is a difficult task. The project leaders ultimate goal is the placement of telemetry devices on selected snakes so their precise den sites can be ascertained. According to Boob, Union County is home to a sizeable timber rattlesnake population. He has personally located den sites in the county that are home to dozens of timber rattlesnakes. During a tagging adventure in early May, researchers tallied 60 rattlesnakes that emerged from one den. Two male rattlesnakes captured at this undisclosed site in western Union County measured nearly 50 inches in length.

Identifying den sites and basking areas is crucial to the survival of this species. Once these areas have been located, that information is fed into a database. This information is then used to create buffer zones, which will aid the timber rattlesnake by providing habitat protection. Identifying new sites in Union County, and

throughout central Pennsylvania, is what Boob is most excited about. He is also optimistic about the future of this protected reptile in Union County because of the excellent habitat provided by the vast tracts of forestlands located in the Bald Eagle State Forest . The fact that no authorized snake hunts are conducted within the county is another reason for optimism.

Recently I had an opportunity to accompany Boob on a timber rattlesnake hunting adventure in the western end of the county. The daylong outing in late May was not only interesting and enjoyable, but it was a learning experience. In addition to locating a water snake, rat snake, garter snake, and two copperheads, we also located and examined about a dozen yellow and black phase timber rattlesnakes. The most surprising thing I learned about rattlesnakes is how docile they are. According to Boob, timber rattlesnakes are un-aggressive and not inclined to strike, often going out of their way to avoid human encounters. Past experience has also taught him that common water snakes are more aggressive than timber rattlesnakes.



Copperhead's, like the one shown above, share the same habitat as timber rattlesnakes. They are also known to share the same den sites.

Rattlesnakes rely primarily on their camouflage for protection. During our excursion scouring the talus slopes and large boulder fields, I witnessed first hand Boob's discerning eye when it comes to spotting snakes. He is very knowledgeable about this particular snake, its habits, and its disposition. Since he holds a permit from the Pennsylvania Fish Commission to handle snakes out of season, Boob was eager to share some the unique characteristics about the timber rattlesnake.

After spending about six months below ground, where they brumate (hibernate), timber rattlesnakes emerge from their dens in April. They remain above ground until mid October. Sexually mature snakes are capable of breeding anytime after emerging from their dens. July and August are the peek times for breeding. Shortly after coming out in the spring, gravid (pregnant) females head for their basking sites, or rookeries. These large rocky areas, with southern exposure, offer abundant sunshine necessary to aid in the gestation of their young. Neonates are born live in late August and early September of the following year, and are capable of enveno-

NATHAN BOOB:

Age: 28

Born: 1978

Parent's: James & Karen (Deitrick) Boob, Hassenplug Road, Millmont.

Graduated: Mifflinburg High School Class of 1996.

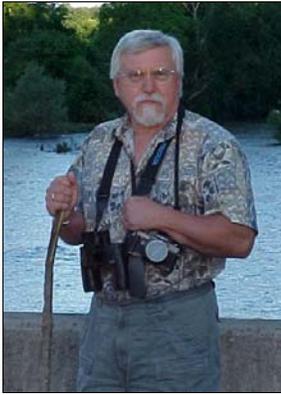
Wife: Brooke (Reigle) Boob.

Resides: New Columbia.

Employer: Hepner's Landscaping.

Hobbies: Wildlife artist, hunting, fishing, herpetology.

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BIRD TALK

By Jim McCormick

“Boy, what a noisy family!” Spring has moved on to summer; the summer solstice has come and gone. This is a much different summer than last year—rain, rain, rain. If you remember, last year was—dry, dry, dry! You only have to look at the crops to know what that means.

About mid-month I was on my normal walk along Canada Drive. Starting upstream from the concrete bridge, I noticed an unusual number of Gray Catbirds. I have often seen them along this stretch of road, but there seemed to be more than usual and they were especially vocal. As I reached the western end of Canada Drive, I started seeing Brown Thrashers on the roadway and in the trees along the small stream running parallel to the road. By the time I reached the Covered Bridge and started seeing Northern Mockingbirds, I started wondering what was going on. I have seen all of these species in our area before; their territories often overlap somewhat. What was particularly significant was there were so many of them, they were out in the open and they were being particularly vocal. I thought, **“Boy, what a noisy family!”** All three of these species belong to the same bird Family, the Mimidae, and are called mimids, or sometimes mimic thrushes. The family is characterized by their special ability at vocalization. The Brown Thrasher has an extensive repertoire of songs and vocalizations; some say the most of any species of birds. It is sometimes an amazing string of repetitive calls. The Gray Catbird is a well-known bird with the characteristic mewling call that gives it its name, but it also has a large number of bubbly calls. The true ‘mimic’ of the family, however, is the Northern Mockingbird. I have written before about this bird, and I am always amazed at how accurate its imitations of numerous and diverse birds can be. On this particular day I heard several Mockingbirds and they were all unusually vocal and loud. I have no explanation for this unusual sighting and I have not seen it repeated.

In preparation for this month’s column I revisited the Cornell University bird website. It has been completely renovated and is filled with a wealth of interesting and useful resources, visit: <http://www.birds.cornell.edu/>. Go to the *All About Birds* section and click on *Gear*. Included there is an updated article on how to buy and use binoculars; featured in the review are comparisons of different models within several different price ranges.

As I reflect on the spring birding season, I am struck by the fact that I didn’t see a single warbler this year (other than the Yellow Warblers which nest here every year). In previous years I have seen many different species migrating north: Blackburnian, Yellow-rumped, Black and White and Canada Warblers. They are normally only here for a few days or a week or so and then move on. The Baltimore Orioles have built their nests and have done their disappearing act. Other species, such as Robins and Starlings, seem to be working non-stop feeding their insatiable nestlings. There’s plenty to see out there, so grab your binoculars and take it all in.

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There are two phases of timber rattlesnakes, a “yellow phase” and a “black phase.” The color phase can only be determined by looking at the color of the iris of snake’s eye.



mating as soon as they are born. During the gestation period, the female snake does not take in any nourishment. This process is so taxing on their bodies, and they lose so much body mass, that the females are only capable of breeding about every three years.

Timber rattlesnakes are pit vipers, meaning they have thermo, or heat sensitive pits located between their eyes and nostrils. This species has highly developed sensory organs allowing them to locate and strike prey, especially during their nocturnal forays. Their tongues are used for scenting purposes.

Their primary source of food is small warm-blooded mammals such as chipmunks, mice, and squirrels, or ground nesting birds. Rattlesnakes are not capable of constricting, nor are they equipped to swallow their prey alive. Therefore, the only way they are able to eat is by envenomating and immobilizing their prey. Rattlesnake venom is hemolytic, destroying red blood cells,

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Boob holds a nearly 40 inch long yellow phase timber rattlesnake captured during our recent outing. This beautiful specimen was later returned to its basking area unharmed.

a timber rattlesnake bite. However, he is quick to point out that a bite can cause very serious problems. Immediate medical attention should be sought whenever someone is bitten.

Other than man, rattlesnakes have few natural predators. Juvenile rattlesnakes will however fall prey to hawks, owls, crows, ravens, and black racers. Boob has also heard of an incident where a wild turkey killed a rattlesnake. What is most troubling to him, and others who are in awe of this unique creature, is the indiscriminate killing of timber rattlesnakes along remote state forest roads. In their natural environment, rattlesnakes left undisturbed pose no threat to humans.

While Boob does not hold a degree in herpetology, he knows a great deal about snakes. He readily admits that a lot more knowledge can be obtained by continuing to monitor these fascinating reptiles. Although many people dislike snakes, generally speaking they are inclined to support this research project. The work that he and his team members are doing on behalf of the timber rattlesnake is groundbreaking. He considers it a privilege to be a part of the project, and hopes to be an active participant as long as it continues, and as long as he is able to contribute to the research.

Being outdoors, during any season of the year, is far more exciting and captivating to Nathan Boob than any sporting or athletic event, movie, or television program. The wondrous natural beauty of Penn's Woods, including the reptiles, amphibians, birds, mammals, and insects is something he can neither get enough of, nor will he ever grow tired of.

Timber rattlesnakes are fascinating yet complex creatures. They, like other species of snakes, have inhabited this Earth as long as man. Although some may not understand why, they were put here for a reason. Like every other species, they have the potential to benefit science, and man, in the future. It is one of the reasons it is vital that these creatures be protected.

Sharing information to alleviate the fears and misconceptions people have about venomous snakes is something that profes-

which causes internal bleeding and tissue breakdown. Once bitten, a small mammal will succumb rapidly.

The size and growth of the timber rattlesnake depends on the available food supply. The amount of food a snake consumes also determines how often it molts, or sheds its skin. As the snake's body grows, the old skin is replaced with a new skin. This process can be repeated several times during the summer months. Each time the snake sheds its skin, it adds another segment to its rattle. The rattle serves as an early warning signal to anything, or anyone that gets too close for the snake's comfort.

While Boob enjoys searching for and handling timber rattlesnakes, he is also mindful of their potential to cause harm. As he exclaimed, "I have not lost my respect of them, because if you do, that is when you will get hurt." He has also learned never to take his eyes off the snake's head. When you get distracted that is when you can very easily get bit. He also gives thanks to God for watching over him during his snake outings. "I rely on the Lord to keep me safe when I am handling, and so far He has come through for me." Boob is unaware of any documented cases in Pennsylvania where a human has died from

DID YOU KNOW

- *There are three venomous snakes found in Pennsylvania: Timber Rattlesnake, Eastern Massasauga, and Copperhead.
- *Timber rattlesnakes range from Southern New Hampshire through the Appalachians and Blue Ridge Mountain ranges west to Texas and north to Wisconsin.
- *Rattlesnakes have poor eyesight and rely mainly on their sense of smell.
- *The rattle of the snake can be heard at distances up to 35 to 40 yards.
- *Timber rattlesnakes have been measured up to 74 inches in length.
- *The life span of a timber rattlesnake is between 16 to 22 years, and they become sexually mature in about 7 to 12 years.
- *They also brumate, or hibernate communally, sometimes with other species such as copperheads.
- *They do not need to be in a coiled position to strike.
- *The rattle is made of carotene material much like the fingernail on humans, and their rattle is hollow.
- *During the breeding season a male timber rattlesnake will sometimes travel several miles in search of a mate.
- *Female timber rattlesnakes are ovoviviparous. Although mating occurs the previous year, the female holds the sperm until the following June at which time fertilization occurs.
- *A neonate is born with one button on its tale, but it will not be able to produce a rattling sound until it molts.
- *They do a lot of resting during the day, and forage in the evening when temperatures cool off.
- *Although they are not listed on Pennsylvania's endangered or threatened list they are candidates. In some areas of the state it has been extirpated due to development.
- *An unscientific method of determining the sex of the timber rattlesnake is to count the number of subcaudal scales from the vent to the tail. If there are 19 or less it means the snake is most likely a female. If there are 20 or more subcaudal scales it is most likely a male.
- *The timber rattlesnake is a legally protected species in Pennsylvania.

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sional and amateur herpetologists will continue to do. In doing so they hope to instill a sense of appreciation, wonder, and amazement for a reptile that has few friends. The next time you encounter a snake in the wilds of Pennsylvania, Nathan Boob would encourage you to ignore that old adage, "the only good snake is a dead snake."

Editor's note: My thanks to Nathan Boob for allowing me to accompany him on one of his timber rattlesnake outings, and for providing me with much of the information and several of the photographs used in this article; and the pamphlet "The Timber Rattlesnake: Pennsylvania's Uncanny Denizen, by Christopher A. Urban."

Is Our Hatred for Snakes Biblical?

Can the hatred and animosity many of us have toward snakes be traced to the beginning of time when Eve was tempted by the serpent in the garden? This Bible passage from Genesis Chapter 4 Verses 14 and 15 is one that Nathan Boob referred to when he noted why people have such low regard for snakes.

And the Lord God said unto the serpent, because thou hast done this, thou art cursed above all cattle, and above every beast of the field; upon thy belly shalt thou go, and dust thou shalt eat all the days of thy life: and I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.

Millmont Items

I would like to thank all those folks who contacted the Union County commissioners by e-mail, in person, or by telephone relative to the restoration of the Millmont Covered Bridge. On June 12, 2006, Commissioner Preston Boop, Hartley Township Supervisors, Steven Buttorf and Dale Zechman, and concerned citizens met at the covered bridge to listen to representatives of Coukart & Associates of New Berlin provide details about the status of the reconstruction project. Coukart representatives stated that the bridge has been closed since 1996. In 2003 federal monies were approved for the restoration of the bridge. While Coukart & Associates has completed much of the design work, part of the delay is attributed to the number of agencies involved in reviewing the project. Currently the project is in the hands of the Penn DOT office in Williamsport, and awaiting the review by the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission. Coukart representatives continue to monitor the bridge for any changes. They indicated that ultrasonic testing of the beams has been conducted. While the arches are in good condition, it is anticipated that approximately 50% of the beams will need to be replaced. A realignment of the south side entrance onto the bridge is also included in the plans. They anticipate that work on the bridge could begin in the spring of 2007, provided each department currently reviewing the project provides their approval. In an effort to get the project moving forward, Supervisor Buttorf informed all those in attendance that he was going to contact Senator Corman's office and the office of State Representative Russ Fairchild.

The 30th annual Millmont Community Yard Sale & Chicken Barbecue will be held on Saturday, July 8, 2006. The yard sales begin at 9:00 a.m. Table space is available on the "Village Green" for only \$4.00 per stand. No reservations required. The chicken barbecue will be available "rain or shine" from 11:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. Platters are priced at \$6 and include a baked potato, roll, applesauce, and dessert. Halves are priced at \$4. Chicken barbecue tickets are available by calling a member of the Village Green Association at 922.1515, 922.1812, or 922.1506. Barbecue tickets are also available for pickup at Shirk's Store in Millmont. Delphia's telephone number is 922.4222. All proceeds benefit the Frank Long Little League Ball Field off Libby Road.

The sixth Hometowne Collectable wooden miniature in the series is now available for pickup by those who purchased earlier editions, and who expressed an interest in future issues. The June 2006 miniature features a replica of Shirk's Store in Millmont. Previous editions, including the Millmont Railroad Station, Penn Mills, the Millmont Covered Bridge, the Lewis Township High School, and the Millmont Grammar School were sold out shortly after their availability. If you would like to purchase the 2006 edition of Shirk's Store, please call 922.4222 for availability. If you have a miniature on order, please stop by Shirk's Store to pick it up before July 31, when unclaimed miniatures will be sold on a first come basis.

If you own the first wooden miniature produced for the Village Green Association (The Millmont Railroad Station) and you are interested in selling it, please contact Robert Vanatta of New Columbia at 568.5553.

The power dam across Penns Creek, south of Millmont, a once popular swimming, boating, and fishing area for generations of west end residents, was recently breached. What took a large crew of men weeks, if not months, to construct only took a couple men from Lycoming Supply Inc., of Williamsport, using large equipment, days to destruct. Workers began removing the dam on June 5, and the work continued over the next several days. The purpose of the dam was to divert water from the main stem of the creek to the former Halfpenny & Grove Mill. In 1903 this mill was converted into a hydroelectric generating facility, which provided the Borough of Mifflinburg with electricity for a number of years. According to a press release posted by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (www.depweb.state.pa.us/news/cwp/view.asp?), the cost of removing this dam totaled \$25,984. The benefits of removing the dam, touted by the DEP, (and the Pennsylvania Fish Commission) in the June 7, 2006 press release, remain to be seen. One thing is certain, yet another part of the history of

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Meanderings

by
Hertha S. Wehr

Connections to Agriculture

Even though less than 2% of the population is engaged in agriculture at this time, we often use phrases that were coined when we were primarily an agricultural society. If our ancestors didn't actually farm for a living they were acquainted with horses for transportation, cows for the family dairy products, chickens for eggs, and many homes kept a gaggle of geese for home consumption and a "security force." Nothing beats geese for letting you know if there is an intruder in your midst.

All of this was brought to mind when I was given a list of phrases we use frequently to express our feelings on certain occasions. Let's start with the poultry population. "A chicken and egg situation" is used when we can't decide which to do first. Of course it refers to the old debate of which came first, the chicken or the egg. "Madder than a wet hen," if you have ever seen a chicken when water has doused her you get the idea of how disturbed she is. If you ever found yourself madder than a wet hen take heart, the chicken dries off and gets over being doused, and it's likely you too have gotten over whatever made you "mad" in the first place.

"Scarce as hen's teeth" is a synonym for meaning absolutely nothing, which is how strapped for cash we were when we started farming. (Technically, synonym refers to only a like word, but I couldn't think of another way to say how many times we use phrases to express our meaning.) We'll stay with the chickens a bit longer with the expression "Like a chicken with it's head cut off." When chickens were home dressed they were often just let go after the head was severed; that was when they fluttered and flopped until they died. All of the activity did no good and I hope you haven't engaged in such actions as it probably didn't do any good either.

"Fox in the hen house" is one that you don't hear too often but it does apply to a lot of situations. The one that comes to

mind is when politicians take advantage of the public trust. I don't really want to explore that situation.

Let's move on to the horse population. "Don't switch horses in the middle of the stream." I can recall when FDR was running for a fourth term and we were engaged in WWII. That phrase was used in his campaign. Actually it was originally used to tell us we'd get wet, swept away with the current, or other dire consequences. As for the election campaign, it was successful but FDR's death put Truman in the White House and in spite of dire projections he was a very successful president. Does that negate the validity of that phrase?

"You can lead a horse to water but you can't make him drink." I like this one as I have seen it happen with people being substituted for the horse many times, not only in my life but in the lives of others. I can recall when there was advice I didn't take and I should have. Then there is advice I gave which wasn't heeded and it should have been followed. But most of all I visualize my brothers leading horses to the watering trough where they consumed gallons of water. I couldn't imagine when they would stop, especially as I was working the handle on the pump. But I'm told that a horse will not drink if it knows the water is contaminated.

There were forty-six of these sayings. Some dealt with hogs, sheep, cows, and poultry, as well as horticulture and some general ones. The general ones are ones which don't require an agriculture background. I'm sure you have all used the expressions, "Greatest thing since sliced bread," "When the cat's away the mice will play," "Knee high to a grasshopper," "Slower than molasses in January," and "Butterflies in my stomach." I can relate to this last one as I'm not very good about heights. One summer we visited Cape Hatteris and of course the light house there is a big draw. I tried to escape the "thrill" (the families' word, not mine) of going up by saying our youngest daughter was too small to climb all those stairs. The older sons told me it was okay as they would carry her part of the way. There wasn't much of an argument left. Going up, the steps being enclosed, wasn't bad, but I had a hard time making myself step out of the doorway onto the enclosed observation walk around the structure. I ended up going around the structure with my back pressed to the wall, both arms trying to grip the wall. I didn't really enjoy the view, and the butterflies kicked in when my husband and family went to the fence and kept explaining what they could see and how wonderful it was. I didn't really start out to use some personal references but sometimes my mind works like a dog with a bone, you just can't let go of it. Hope you weren't too bored.

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Millmont, and the west end is now gone.

To anyone who may be visiting Millmont over the next several weeks, please keep in mind that Millmont Road is closed just north of town. All vehicles are required to make a detour onto Creek Road in order to get into town. Penn DOT began replacing the deck on the bridge over Cold Run just north of town on June 5. The road is expected to be closed into mid August. The construction project has been, and continues to be, quite an inconvenience to folks who live in town. If you are planning a trip to Millmont for the upcoming yard sale and chicken barbecue, to pick up your wooden miniature, or attend the public auction of Mr. & Mrs. Lamar Kahler on Saturday July 15, don't forget about the detour!!

West End Heritage Tour



Pictured above are some of the participants in the West End Heritage Bus Tour at the Millmont Covered Bridge. From left to right: Tony Shively, Eugene Hoffman, Dean Jansma, Emilie Jansma, Judy Blair, Betty Koons, Corky Landis, Joyce Landis, Ralph Unroe, Jo Unroe, Jeanne Jolly, Bob Jolly, and John Mayes. Not in the photograph, Philip Snyder, Peggy Reimensnyder, "Mom" Landis, and the photographer, Janice Shively.

Would you believe that there are enough people interested in the history of the "Tight End" of Union County to prompt a bus tour? Thanks to the great planning by Emilie Jansma of State College, and Weikert, on Sunday June 11, 2006 a group of 17 people made their way across the west end of Union County by way of a small chartered bus.

Once everyone had boarded the bus at the Union County Sportsmen's Club, Emilie made introductions and welcomed attendees. Many of those invited to attend the tour were involved with the Weikert Heritage Days event that was held in May 2004. That event was also spearheaded by Emilie.

Judy Blair of Zechman Lane, Millmont, gave a brief history of the Union County Sportsmen's Club as we departed the grounds. Our first stop was at Pardee. Philip Snyder of LaPorte, and Corky Landis of Halifax shared some memories of Pardee. Some folks walked a portion of the former L&T railroad bed between Pardee and the Union County Sportsmen's Club.

From Pardee we headed to Trail's End. Peggy Reimensnyder pointed out the locations of Conrad Camp, Camp Westfall,

Camp Nikomahs, and the railroad bed. We crossed the Penns Creek Bridge and traveled Thomas Dam Road where the former Girl Scout Camp and the Boy Scout Camp, Karoondinha, were noted. We continued on Thomas Dam Road to Hunter Road in search of Coral Gap. We then returned to Weikert Road and stopped at the Dunkard Cemetery (Kester's or Keister's).

Laurelton was our next point of interest. Several on the bus pointed out various landmarks, including the long abandoned railroad spur line that once made its way to the former Laurelton State Village. The building that once housed the Laurelton State Bank, the community center, and the site of the Laurelton Foundry were also noted. As we rode along Creek Road toward Millmont, Tony Shively called attention to the site where Yeagel's Mill once stood along Penns Creek near Laurel Park. The farm once owned by noted historian Richard V.B. Lincoln was also noted.

Our next stop was at the Red Covered Bridge, west of Millmont. Many of the people departed the bus and walked in and around Union County's longest covered bridge. As we continued east toward Millmont Shively also pointed out the site where the William E. Smith mansion (later owned by Rev. Dorsey Miller) once stood. In Millmont Tony pointed out locations of the railroad station, box factory, and broom factory. He also noted Shirk's Store and the Shively Family Museum.

From Millmont we traveled to Hartleton. Henry, the bus driver, navigated the narrow alley (Park Rd.) as Janice Shively gave a brief history of the Union Church and the Borough of Hartleton. We returned to the Union County Sportsmen's Club and enjoyed a relaxing lunch in the dining room.

After our break we traveled west on Weikert Road. The former sites of the old post office, Tom Libby's barn, the Sears Roebuck house, Weikert train station, and the possible location for "The Flying Jenny" carousel were all pointed out.

We passed through Wesley Forest and on to White Mountain Road. Many departed the bus in search of the Allen Jolley house and barn that still stands, hidden from view along White Mountain Road. Once our curiosity had been satisfied, we again boarded the bus and headed to Weikert Road.

Bob and Jeanne Jolly shared information relative to the Hironimus Church, the pavilion, and the school. At Lindale, many folks made mention of the former post office, the Lindale Station, "The Frenchman's Tract", Camp Lindale, the Frank Jolly



Members of the bus tour had an opportunity to walk to the Allen Jolly barn. The house and barn are located south of Weikert off White Mountain Road. According to Bob and Jeanne Jolly, this property is presently owned by a group of sportsmen from Pittsburgh.

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home, the Pursley home, and Roy Ott's Beer Garden.

We enjoyed a brief respite at "Serenity," along Little Mountain Road. The Landis's and the Jolly's built this cottage, which is now owned by Emilie and Dean Jansma. Discussion ensued about the large family reunions and the bean soup feeds held in the grove by the Hironimus clan. Emilie pointed out the "Green Spot" where many people used to come and hold picnics beside the creek. We reconnected with Weikert Road and continued west past the Hironimus home that had previously been converted into a barn, and is soon to be demolished.

Betty Shively Koons reminisced of visiting along the route with her father, as he delivered meats to various summer camps and cabins. Jansma pointed out the David Johnson homestead and store location. She also mentioned that he had been taxed for an ink factory there.

As we passed the Trevorton Rod & Gun Club, it was noted that it had been an early Aumiller home. Emilie shared stories about "Pop" Korten, his Buick, baking bread and electric light system, as we passed what is now the Harry Snook property.

The swinging bridge was pointed out as we passed the late Genevieve Weaser's cabin. Shively pointed out his brother's cabin, "T-P," which was previously owned by his late grandparent's, Jacob and Florence Shively.

Our next stop was at Cherry Run. There several people took advantage of the opportunity to walk to the Cherry Run Railroad Bridge and take pictures. Emilie pointed the way to the Fish Commission property (formerly Aumiller's Bottom and Foxy Winter's place), and also discussed the Mid-State Trail, and a short section of that trail known as the Libby Trail. From there, we returned to the Union County Sportsmen's Club and concluded our tour of the West End of Union County.

While some folks, in particular our waitress at the sportsmen's club, could not image that any group of people would board a bus to tour the west end of Union County, we find this part of the county to be rich in history. We barely scratched the surface that gorgeous Sunday afternoon. There has been some talk of possibly doing this trip again, but breaking it up into two different trips, and spending more time traveling throughout the west end.

Special thank you to Emilie Jansma for organizing the West End Heritage Tour, and to all those who shared their memories of the "Tight End." It was enjoyed by all!

Thank You!

I would like to thank the following people for making monetary donations toward the publication of this newsletter: Trudy Shively, Montoursville; James & Carol Shipton, Mifflinburg, PA; Kenneth & Isabel Kline, Millmont; Mary Louise (Knauss) Wilson, Lewisburg; Hazel Benfer, Milton; Judith Blair, Millmont; Charles & Rebecca Hagenbaugh, Mifflinburg; and Billy & Lindy Mattern, Mifflinburg.

The following people have agreed to accept this newsletter through the Internet as a PDF, thereby reducing the monthly expenses associated with printing and mailing this publication: Darlene (White) Lewis, Midland, MI; Donald & Ellen Kaler, Millmont; Margaret Aikey, Millmont; Corky Landis, Halifax; Dr. William and Ethel Musser, Mifflinburg; David Sampsell, Mifflinburg; Dale E. Miller, Boynton Beach, FL; Fran Wenrich, Lewisburg; and Robert Senft, Johnstown (and Pardee). If you would like to join the more than 200 subscribers who receive The Millmont Times in color each month as a PDF via the Internet, please sign up now. You can contact me at the following email address: millmonttimes@dejazzd.com

The new mail subscribers this month include: Irene Andrechick, Perth Amboy, NJ; Richard & Daphne Martin, Mifflinburg; Nathan Walizer, Loganton; and Luther & Jane Doebler, Williamsport.

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

My sincere thanks to Ruth (Yarger) Diamond of Indialantic, FL, for donating a number of old school photographs, Millmont P.O. S. of A. Band photographs, and memorabilia from the Millmont Post Office. All of this material was preserved by her father, the late Luther Yarger. Included in the collection of school photographs are the White Springs, Swengel, Salem, and Lewis Township High School. I hope to feature some of these photographs in future issues of the newsletter.

Grace Reformed Chapel Lavonia, Pa

The following program will be presented at the Grace Reformed Chapel at Lavonia, Pa:

The Brush Valley Community Choir
directed by Debbie Strouse.

Sunday August 6, 2006 at 2:30 p.m.

For more information please contact

Joy G. Roush
121 Bull Run Road,
Rebersburg, Pa 16872
or call 814.349.5929

Blood Drive

There will be a blood drive on Monday, July 17, from 1:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. at Christ's United Lutheran Church (4 Bells Church) along Route 45, between Mifflinburg and Hartleton. All persons 17 years of age and older, in good health, and who weigh at least 110 pounds are urged to come out and donate blood. Call (800) GIVE LIFE if you have any questions. Please remember to bring your photo ID.

The 53rd Annual K/Catherman Reunion will be held in Mifflinburg on Saturday and Sunday July 8-9. Reunion activities on Saturday will all take place at the Mifflinburg Community Park. For more info contact Carl Catherman at 570.966.6236 of email at: crcath@dejazzd.com

The small photograph in the upper left hand corner of page one is a front view of the Swengel Schoolhouse, circa 1960's. This photograph was sent to me courtesy of Ruth (Yarger) Diamond, Indialantic, FL.

Penlines From my Kitchen to Yours

Dear Readers,

Derick Martin (16), son of Floyd & Katie, is at home again after having a liver transplant. He is doing as well as expected. His address is 2080 Swengel Road, Mifflinburg, PA 17844.

May 18, 2006

Lawrence Hoover (15), son of Earl and Anna, is conscious again and was moved out of I.C.U.

May 19

Allen and Marian Zimmerman's two daughters were taking food to Earl Hoover's, on their bikes. Karla (6) crossed Rt. 45 and was hit by a car. She was taken to Geisinger Medical Center by ambulance.

May 20

Karla has bruises and brush-burns from the accident. She came home today.

May 21

Lawrence Hoover came home from the hospital. His address is: 6681 Old Turnpike Rd., Mifflinburg, PA 17844.

Lewis & Verna Hoover family want to heartily thank everyone for their help, food, and donations after their house fire.

Thank you kind friends,
For all you've done.
We never can repay;
God grant us strength
To pass this on,
To others on Life's way.

June 2

Early this morning Curvin and I left to spend the weekend in Canada. We traveled with a van load of others; George and Edna Martin, Noah and Elsie Zimmerman and two daughters, and Allen and Marian Zimmerman and three children. On the way up we stopped at Niagara Falls.

June 3

We all spent the day at the Ontario Deaf Gathering. More than 300 people had gathered; we were greatly inspired.

Levi and Loretta Brubacker, of Millmont, have a daughter named Renee. She has one sister, and one brother. Grandparents are Mrs. Milton Brubacker of Millmont, and Linus and Irene Martin of Mifflinburg.

June 7

Jason and Pauline Martin, of Mifflinburg, have a son named Nevin. He has one brother and two sisters. Grandparents are Mervin and Annetta Martin, and Samuel and Alice Horning, all of Mifflinburg.

Amos and Mary Zimmerman's twin baby boys came home from the hospital, where they had been since birth. Their address is 1605 Borough Line Road, Mifflinburg, PA 17844.

June 11

We were invited to Warren and Mabel Zimmerman, of Mifflinburg, for lunch. Seven other families were also there. The weather was cool and pleasant for the horses that had far to get there.

Landis and Linda Reiff, of Mifflinburg, have a daughter named Miriam. She has one sister. Grandparents are Alvin and Minerva Reiff, of Mifflinburg, and Irvin and Esther Martin, of Mifflinburg.

June 14

Mrs. Ammon Martin (Mary), age 72, died this morning. She had been ill for quite a while. Ammon's address is 805 Green Ridge Rd., Mifflinburg, PA 17844.

Looking Back

The article below was published in The Mifflinburg Telegraph on July 5, 1928.

PASSENGER PLANE FORCED DOWN AT HARTLETON

On Wednesday June 27th a biplane en-route from New York to Detroit was forced down in a wheat field west of Hartleton due to a faulty oil line.

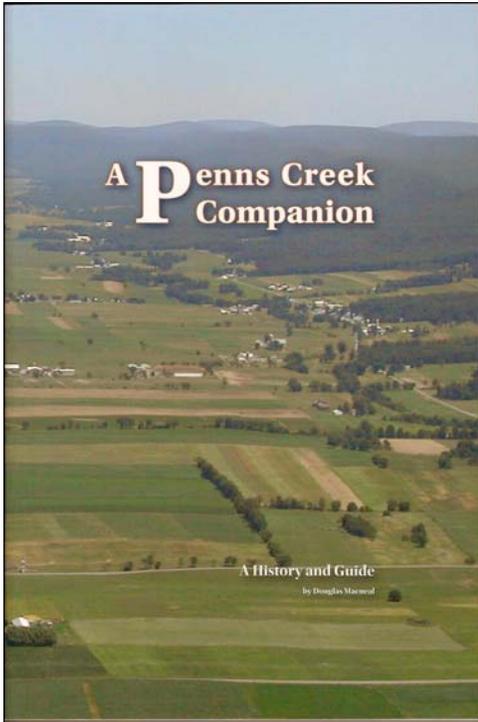
The plane, owned by James C. Penny Jr., of New York, who was a passenger, was piloted by Capt. Arthur Argles, formerly a navigator for the "Queen of Diamonds," Miss Mabel Boll. It will be remembered that Miss Boll recently gave up her plans to be the first woman to fly across the Atlantic when she heard the news of the successful flight of Miss Amelia Earhart. I. M. Taylor, prominent New York businessman, was also a passenger.

Mechanics were summoned from the air field at Bellefonte, who made temporary repairs on the oil line and refueled the plane at the emergency landing field at Hartleton.

When the plane took off to resume its flight to Detroit, the oil line again went bad and the plane was forced down a second time. It was found necessary to have a special glue to make the needed repairs. This glue was furnished by Mifflinburg's well known insurance man, Roy L. Stahl. It took all day to make these repairs so that it was decided not to take off until Friday. When the time for take-off arrived it was discovered that the field was too wet to allow for an ascent with three passengers. Mr. Stahl again obliged. This time by taking Mr. Taylor in his car to the Bellefonte Air Mail Landing Field. At Center Hall the plane was forced down again by a leak in the gas line. A landing was finally made at the Bellefonte Air Mail Field, where the plane was given a complete overhauling before leaving for Detroit.

Mr. Penny, owner of the plane, is the son of James C. Penny, Sr., nationally known proprietor of the J. C. Penny Store.

“A Penns Creek Companion” A History and Guide, by Douglas Macneal



A book entitled “A Penns Creek Companion” was recently published by the Penns Valley Conservation Association of Aaronsburg, Pa. The 205-page soft cover book, written by Douglas Macneal, is filled with information and photographs relating to the upper Penns Creek watershed. The book explores some of the interesting history of Haines, Potter, and Miles Township’s and the villages (or boroughs) located in the east end of Centre County, including Aaronsburg, Rebersburg, Centre Hall, and Millheim. The history of the Bellefonte – Old Fort – Aaronsburg – Youngmanstown Turnpike (Route 45) and the Miles Great Road (Route 192) are also examined.

Other topics include the Nittany Arch, Karoondinha Gorge, and Hairy Johns Park. The influence of the L& T Railroad and the early logging industry are also examined. The lives of several poets and storytellers, including Henry Meyer (1840-1925), Charles Calvin Zeigler (1854-1930), Fred Lewis Pattee (1863-1950), Henry Shoemaker (1880-1958), Harvey Flink (1902-1951), and Margie Graffron are included in the chapter “Valley Voices.”

To pick up your copy of “A Penns Creek Companion” you can visit The Whistle Stop Restaurant off Route 144 at Centre Hall, or stop by the Aaronsburg Museum and Library. You can also contact the Penns Valley Conservation Association, P. O. Box 165, Aaronsburg, PA, 16820.

The cost of the book is only \$20.

From the diary of the late Elder Greene Shively (1870 - 1954) a resident of Millmont from 1918 until his death:
Monday, July 8, 1935. Temperatures 68 - 75. Rainy all day. I made a swing for the children in front of the (Redmen) Lodge Building.

Tuesday, July 9, 1935, Temperatures 68 -70. Clear at noon. Made another swing for the boys and girls out of a gas tank. Worked in the garage this forenoon.

Thursday, July 11, 1935. Temperatures 70 -80. Worked in the garage, then went to Jacob's when the doctor came to see what kind of rash I was having. Dr. said it was a bad case of hives.

Friday, July 12, 1935. Temperatures 80 - 90. Clear. Stayed in bed. This is this first morning for more than a year I have not been in the garage until nine o'clock, except when I went to District Meeting. The Dr. called of his own account not being called and charged no fee, he said he was anxious to know how I was getting along. This I appreciated for it showed me he really wanted to help me. I often had a few hives, but this is a mess. My whole body is covered. So is my tongue and mouth, even the soles of my feet.

Saturday, July 13, 1935. Temperatures 85 - 95. Still down with the hives as much as I can be. Fact is a fellow can't stay down when the hives start itching in real earnest if he has the strength enough to get up.

Bible Quiz

Lois Bakano, 75 Sheltie Lane, Millmont, PA 17845, was the winner of the June Bible Quiz. The answer to the question was “Noah” walked with God, and can be found in Genesis Chapter 6, Verse 9.

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

The Bible Quiz Question for July: What was it that tempted Eve in the Garden of Eden? Please include the Bible passage.

A \$10 cash prize will be awarded to the person selected with the correct answer.

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

Public meetings to be held in the Lewis Township Municipal Building

- ▶ Municipal Authority of Lewis Township, the second Thursday of the month, beginning at 7:30 p.m.
- ▶ Lewis Township Board of Supervisors, the second Tuesday of the month, beginning at 7:30 p.m.
- ▶ Lewis Township Village Green Recreation Association, meeting to be announced.

Recipe of the Month

By Janice (Dorman) Shively
Squash Medley



1 medium yellow summer squash, halved and thinly sliced
1 medium zucchini, halved and thinly sliced
½ red onion, thinly sliced
1 ½ tsp. olive oil
1 C. cherry or grape tomatoes, halved
1 T. butter
½ tsp. lemon-pepper
¼ tsp. garlic powder
Salt & pepper to taste
½ C. shredded cheese of your choice

In a large skillet, sauté the squash, zucchini, and onion in oil for 8 minutes, or until crisp-tender. Stir in the tomatoes, butter, lemon-pepper, garlic powder, salt and pepper. Cook for 2 minutes or until heated through. Remove from the heat; sprinkle with cheese and cover for one minute, or until cheese is melted. Yield: 4 servings.

This is a great summertime recipe for the home gardener. If you prefer, substitute regular tomatoes for the cherry tomatoes. I like to use cheddar or mozzarella cheese for the topping when I make this recipe. The last time I made this (pictured above) I used a chipotle cheddar cheese, which kicked it up a bit. Be creative and ENJOY!

Letters and E-mails to the Editor

Tony: Sorry for delay in answering your request for information. I was on vacation in Maine for the last week.

Information: At the May 23, 2006 Union County Board of Commissioners meeting Shawn Sassaman from Courkart and Associates presented an update on the county bridges that are currently be reviewed or having work done on them.

Red Bridge, No. 23 (Millmont Covered Bridge). Renovations are slated to begin early next year. The preliminary engineering is almost complete which will allow Courkart and Associates to obtain the joint permit with DEP to move forward. This will include the historic review and solicited comments. There are a few minor issues that he feels will not delay the permitting process. Once this is completed the county engineers can start the final design.

Thanks for your interest.

Commissioner Bill Haas, Lewisburg

Tony and Janice: Greetings from Sunbury! I wanted to drop a line to the two of you expressing my appreciation for your passion of constructing this informative and entertaining paper. We always look forward to reading this every month. I learn so much, many things have been of significance out of the West End, many that I was not even aware of. I still love to go up to the mountain when I can, and I sometimes take time to see things that I read about in your paper. Hope you will be able to keep this alive for quite some time. Thanks again, and have a great summer.

Lawni Zimmerman (son of Harold and Tina Zimmerman)

Hi Tony, I have been enjoying every issue of the Times and have started a scrapbook sort of so I can keep them all in. You and Janice and all the others that supply you with stories certainly do a wonderful job. I like the one about the covered bridges this time. I have some stories and pictures of Hairy John's Park if you're ever interested in them sometime. These were all from years ago and then from recently as about 3-4 years ago when a lady called me after I took the story that had been my mother's into the Daily Item. She did a lot of research on it then and had a big write-up in the paper that time.

Alice Reitz, Millmont

Tony, I just wanted to let you know that I 'm still getting the times ok. I do enjoy it very much, and I'm still trying to find some old pictures that maybe you could use. I do have a picture of John Rheppard and a friend with a bear they shot. I think it was in the Pardee area but I'm trying to find some more info about the picture. I know it was some of my family. I have a picture of the Laurelton # 2 steam engine and its crew with the names of all of them and John Rheppard is one of them. He was my great grandfather. But then maybe you do have these pictures. I'll keep a look out for something you might be able to use and thanks again for sending the times.

Marge Mitch

Att: Editor/Publisher, Enclosed is my check in payment for a one year (12 issues) gift subscription to your very fine and enjoyable publication. My daughter, Patty, is a subscriber and shares issues with me. However, I would like to have The Millmont Times sent to a dear friend as a birthday gift. Her birthday is July 11. I hope that she will receive it in time. Our family has a cabin along the creek in Millmont, and have loved and enjoyed every moment in this area. Our friend Irene Andre-

(Continued on page 12)

(Continued from page 11)

chick has been a frequent guest and always looks forward to spending another weekend in "God's Country." She will be very surprised and very pleased to receive The Millmont Times so she can relive all her happy memories of this area. I thank anyone and everyone responsible for this great publication. May it grow and prosper for many years to come.

Grace Antol, Edison, New Jersey

Hey Tony and Janice! Hope you both are well. I wanted to send on my new email address so I can still receive The Millmont Times. I'd sure miss it if I couldn't get it every month and I love getting it through email with the colored pictures and all. Keep up the great job! Thanks,

Stacey Martin, West Milton

July Birthdays & Anniversaries

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 2 – Carolyn Bowersox | 20 – Nancy Prutzman |
| 2 – Shanda Bingaman | 20 – Ruth Hoover |
| 3 – Olivia Hackenberg | 22 – Elva Brubaker |
| 3 – Kody Catherman | 22 – William & Doris Fultz - 1955 |
| 3 – Mary K. Campbell | 22 – Donald & Carolyn Bowersox - 1972 |
| 4 – Independence Day | 22 – Hazel Erdly |
| 5 – Roger Shoemaker | 22 – Jonathan Martin |
| 7 – Scott Kline | 22 – Esther Nissley |
| 9 – Franklin Gross | 23 – Shelby Hackenberg |
| 9 – Jerry L. Starks | 23 – Donald Long |
| 11 – Irene Andrechick | 24 – Sarah Hoover |
| 11 – Matt Siegrist | 25 – Frank Raker |
| 11 – Mervin Zimmerman | 26 – Bailey J. Koonsman |
| 13 – Mary C. Kahl | 26 – Donald Zechman |
| 15 – Donald R. Miller | 26 – Miriam Hoffman |
| 14 – Adran Martin | 27 – Donald Bowersox |
| 15 – Sam Susan | 28 – Phyllis Ruhl |
| 17 – Robert & Carolyn Wagner - 1971 | 29 – Kimber & Joanne Groff - 2000 |
| 18 – Gerald & Delores Starks - 1965 | 29 – Oakley Whitesel |
| 18 – Esther Keister | 29 – Harold Stephens |
| 18 – Aaron Reiff | 29 – Ethel R. Stover |
| 18 – William Fultz | 30 – Jeannette Lasansky |
| 19 – Kass Beebe | 31 – Baris Göktaş |
| 19 – Glen G. Catherman | |

The Millmont Times is distributed during the first week of each month, and is available through mail subscription, a PDF through the Internet (Adobe Acrobat Reader is required), and over the counter at Dormans Country Store in Hartleton. Mail subscriptions are \$10 per year (12 issues). Internet subscriptions are FREE. Copies purchased at Dorman's Store are priced at \$1.50 each.

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The Millmont Times
Post Office Box 3
Millmont PA 17845
Telephone: (570) 922.4297 or E-mail:
millmonttimes@dejazzd.com

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