

# Hairy John's State Park

## Part II

In this and future installments, I will attempt to reveal some of the allure and excitement that was commonplace at Hairy John's State Park from the 1920's through the 1960's. Efforts to obtain records relative to the operation of the concession stand at Hairy John's Park have been futile. As a result, offering precise dates as to when individuals or families operated the concession business at the park is almost impossible. Despite the lack of physical records, I have established a chronological order of who operated the concession.

Numerous people that I have interviewed over the years have shared their memories of the concessionaires, entertainment and other activities that took place at the park during its long history. I am grateful to all those who provided me with information or photographs relative to Hairy John's State Park, situated alongside Route 45 near the Union/Centre County border.

Ward C. Royer, Lewis and Charles Iddings, Harry Mench, Max and Meda Hosterman, Blaine and Mae Hosterman, and Jake Bateman are some of the names associated with the concession business at the park.

The first reference I found regarding the establishment of a concession stand at Hairy John's



A view of Hairy John's State Park, with Route 45 in the foreground, taken June 1922. The small pavilion next to the parking area was the location of the register book. The sign fastened to the electric pole indicates that there is a "SPRING" nearby. Courtesy of the Pennsylvania State Archives.

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## Millmont Mailbox by Postmaster Sam Smith

Recently I was advised of some damaged mailboxes on the Rural Route. Taking a bat to a mailbox, or damaging it otherwise may sound like fun to some rambunctious teens; however, it is a criminal act that hurts our neighbors and community. Federal law protects mailboxes, and crimes against them and the mail they contain, are considered a federal offense. Violators can be fined or imprisoned for each act of vandalism. Damaged mailboxes have to be replaced, costing the owner time, money, and inconvenience. Meanwhile the mail cannot be delivered. The impact of mailbox vandalism affects all of us. We don't feel as secure in our neighborhoods and communities. If you have information on mailbox vandalism, report it to your local Post Office and State Police.

If you're going on vacation, like I am in July to Virginia Beach, or anywhere else, be sure to make arrangements to have your mail held. Now you can go online and arrange to have your mail held from 3 to 30 days. Just go to [www.usps.com](http://www.usps.com) and search for "Hold Mail Service." The site is encrypted for your protection. First enter your ZIP Code at the prompt. Then enter your address information and the dates the mail should be held. The online service then electronically notifies your local Post Office. It's that easy! Or, you can also fill out a PS form 8076, available at the Post Office or from your carrier to authorize holding your mail. Have a great vacation!

New stamps available include: a sheet of 5 different lighthouses, Heart stamps, Star Wars, and a booklet of Pollination stamps, (Flowers with bees, birds, and butterflies).

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Sate Park was a letter of correspondence between Forester A. C. Silvius of Laurelton and Commissioner Robert S. Conklin of the Department of Forestry. This correspondence is preserved at the Pennsylvania State Archives in Harrisburg. The letter from Silvius to Conklin is as follows:

*Dear Sir: Mr. Robert Barner, a recently discharged soldier of Woodward, would like to have the privilege of selling ice cream and soft drinks on Sundays and holidays at a place on this forest formerly known as Hairy John camp site but now known as Crystal Springs Park. This place is on the state highway about 4 miles east of Woodward, is much patronized by the traveling public and local residents, especially on Sundays and holidays. Only yesterday 12 large sized spruce trees were pulled up and carried away, so that I feel that we need some one at this point on the above days to look after our interests. Mr. Barner will gladly do this in consideration of the above mentioned privilege.*

*Very Respectfully, A.C. Silvius*

Conklin replied to Silvius with this letter dated June 18, 1919:

*Dear Sir: I have no objection to granting Robert Barner a temporary camp, which can be renewed each 21 days, for the Crystal Spring Park site, giving him a very small space, just large enough for his purpose, and allowing him to sell ice cream and soft drinks, provided he does not sell any of the different varieties of near-beer such as whistle, bevo, and other products which breweries are now turning out. I inclose you form upon which he can make application for the same.*

*Yours truly, Commissioner of Forestry, R.S. Conklin*



Photograph of Ward Royer's concession stand at Hairy John's State Park circa 1921. From the collection of Dottie (Royer) Shirk, Mifflinburg.

Crystal Spring Park was the name given to the park by officials in Harrisburg, despite the fact that local residents refused to refer to it by that name. The park was renamed Voneida Park for a few years before the state conceded, and named the park Hairy John's.

I was unable to determine whether Barner completed and submitted the application to operate the concession stand at the park during the summer of 1919.

In March of 1920 the Forest Commission in Harrisburg extended a lease offer to Ward C. Royer to operate a concession stand at Voneida Park. In a March 5, 1920 letter from Commissioner Robert S. Conklin in Harrisburg to Forester Arthur C. Silvius in Laurelton, PA, he wrote:

*Dear Sir: The Forest Commission at its meeting today authorized me to make a lease with Ward C. Royer of Mifflinburg for a site in Voneida Park upon which to erect a building and in which to conduct a*

*restaurant for the sale of candy, ice cream, cakes, soft drinks, and other unobjectionable refreshments.*

*I have a letter from Mr. Royer saying he is willing to pay \$12.00 per year for the privilege. Do you think this is a fair price? If not, what do you think the privilege is worth?*

*Yours Truly, Commissioner of Forestry, R. S. Conklin*

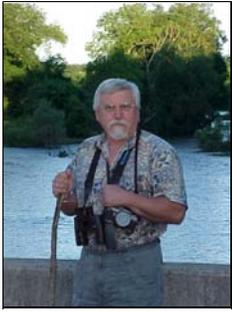
Royer's offer to pay \$12 per year for the privilege of operating a stand at the park was apparently satisfactory to Silvius and the Forestry Department. Shortly after the offer was made a small concession stand was constructed on the south side of the state highway, opposite the park, and Ward Royer was the concessionaire. According to Franklin W. Royer Jr., a resident of Pleasant Gap, his grandfather operated the concession stand at Hairy John's State Park for several years. Ward Royer sold ice cream, soda, candy and other items to the patrons who stopped at his small stand.

I had an opportunity to discuss the concession stand at Hairy John's State Park with the late John L. Iddings in September 2006. During that interview Iddings provided me with information concerning relatives of his who operated the concession stand at the park during the summer of 1923. Iddings stated that his aunt Barbara (Iddings) Fluhrer and her husband, August, made arrangements for taking over the concession stand from Ward Royer in January 1923. The untimely death of Barbara (age 47) shortly thereafter precluded the plans she made for operating the concession stand. With his wife deceased, August Fluhrer had no interest in taking over the concession stand.

Subsequently two of Barbara Fluhrer's brothers, Lewis and Charles Iddings, decided to jointly operate the stand. Since these brothers were also farmers, they worked out an arrangement whereby they would operate the stand on alternating weeks. Lewis Iddings and his wife, Florence, operated it one week and Charles Iddings and his wife, Blanche, operated the business during the following week.

The building that housed the concession stand was "big enough to hold the ice cream freezers" and not much more accord-

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# BIRD TALK

By Jim McCormick

**“..Stay Clear of the Bison”** It has been hot, hot, hot! Way too hot for me. The multiple shades of spring green seem to have merged into one shade of summer. As I say every year at this time—I hope you have started watching where the sun comes up since the Summer Solstice. If nothing else, follow the shadow of the setting sun on your wall. Summer is just starting, but already the days are starting to shorten. The birds are acutely aware that the time for breeding is beginning to shorten as well. I missed most of the Oriole nest-building this year. Usually, if you don’t see the nests being built, you will have a tough time finding them.

The Baltimore Orioles become very secretive when there are nestlings around. Some birds have already started to collect into flocks. This year I started to watch the Common Grackles very closely in June. They, along with the Red-winged Blackbirds, are two of the earliest arriving migrants. In previous years I had noticed that early in July the Grackles seemed to just disappear overnight. This year, however, I noticed a great deal of activity throughout the month of June, and I expect them to be leaving their breeding grounds during the first two weeks of July. June turned out to be a good month this year to see the Yellow-billed Cuckoos. They are usually a reclusive bird and rarely seen. They are often heard calling their ‘kuk-kuk-kuk-kuk.....’, or the slow rhythmic “coup... coup...coup”. This year I saw one at the top of a tree at the end of Canada Drive. It was quietly sitting on a branch in full view. As I was watching it, I also noticed something large moving on another branch below. When I turned to focus on the new bird, I gasped. It was a Green Heron moving along a branch over the little stream below. Now I had to choose which bird to look at. Of course, as I moved from bird to bird, they both just flew away! June is also the month when you begin to see those strange birds that don’t exactly look familiar; there is just something that is not right. One such bird is the fledgling Eastern Bluebirds. They are much thinner than the adults, and they are almost entirely a speckled gray. There are only a few blue feathers beginning to emerge. In fact, if you didn’t see an adult nearby, you might have a tough time figuring out what they were.

While we were in Yellowstone in May, we saw a sight that reminded me of something I had read about one of our local birds—the Brown-headed Cowbird. As we were driving through the Park, we saw many small herds of Bison (incorrectly called Buffalo) bulls, cows and even a few small calves (cute, by the way). The bulls are massive and quite dangerous, in fact, there are signs in many places warning people to **“Stay Clear of the Bison”**; many people are gored every year. As we passed a few bulls on the side of the road, I noticed two Brown-headed Cowbirds perched on the back of one of them. I could not resist parking, and, standing behind the car for protection, trying to take a photo of this sight. Brown-headed Cowbirds are thought to have co-evolved with cattle and Bison. The characteristic habit of parasitic nesting of the Cowbirds evolved because the birds traveled with cattle and Bison and could not build permanent nests, but rather, laid their eggs in other birds’ nests. They lay their eggs in the nests of much smaller birds, such as Yellow Warblers and numerous Sparrows. When the eggs hatch, the foster parents struggle to feed them until they fledge, mostly at the expense of their own nestlings. This, while not seeming to be ‘fair’, has been going on for thousands of years. There are many curious things to discover in nature, so grab your binoculars and take it all in.



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**ing to John Iddings. He also stated that during the week they were scheduled to work at the concession stand his aunt and uncle remained at the park overnight rather than commute each day.**

**As a youngster John Iddings recalled the week he spent with his uncle Lewis lending a hand at the concession stand. Ice cream was dipped into cones from large tubs. Iddings said that the tubs of ice cream were purchased from a local distributor, and was not made on the premises. Iddings stated that the ice cream his uncles sold was a real hit on hot summer days. According to John Iddings, his uncles and their wives ran the concession stand at Hairy John’s State Park for one season.**

**It is uncertain who took over the concession stand when the Iddings brothers relinquished it. Information found in the July 24, 1926 issue of the Lewisburg Saturday News revealed the name “Wagner” as the concessionaire at Hairy John’s State Park. The same name was mentioned as the concessionaire in a newspaper article from the August 13, 1926 issue of the Lewisburg Journal. In both instances no first name was provided.**

**In 1925 and 1926 the small pond, built years earlier under the direction of A. C. Silvius, was enlarged. Under the direction of Forester Raymond B. Winter, this pond was dug deeper and cement walls were constructed around the impoundment. Like the earlier pond, this impoundment was also stocked with trout. Unethical fisherman discovered that these well-fed fish were easy prey to their cunning behavior. In a futile effort to keep fish in the pond the state eventually discontinued stocking it.**

**During the summer of 1926 thousands of Central Pennsylvania residents gathered at the park to enjoy an open-air band concert. A correspondent for the Lewisburg Saturday News had a headline in their column that stated “Ten Thousand At**

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A peek into the life of....

## Theron W. Conrad



During the time that I have been publishing The Millmont Times I have become acquainted with so many wonderful people and I have made many new friendships. People from throughout Union County, as well as around the state and the country, have contacted me in order to share information, photographs, or memories they have of the “West End.” Some of these folks were responding to my request for information, while others have merely taken the time to reach me in writing, by telephone, or by e-mail. Eighty-three year old Theron W. Conrad, of Sunbury, is one example of someone whom I did not know, and likely would never have met had he not taken the time to pick up the telephone and give me a call. During our telephone conversation, and my subsequent personal interview, Conrad provided me with interesting details about his childhood memories of Millmont, Hartleton, Laurelton, Laurel Park, Weikert, and Swengel.

Theron W. Conrad was born in Sunbury on September 23, 1923, the son of the late Theron D. and Mabel (Yoxtheimer) Conrad. He, his parents, and his two younger siblings spent a great deal of their vacation time in and around the Millmont area. As a result, he became acquainted with many folks living here. Conrad exclaimed to me that he “was more at home here (in Millmont) than he was in his hometown of Sunbury.”

As he sat at my dining room table reminiscing about his youthful days spent in the West End surnames like Schreckengast, Shirk, Shively, Graham, Blyler, Catherman, Mitchell, Eisenhuth, Bingaman, Burd, Boop, Goodlander, Sholter, and others rolled off his tongue with ease. The “Sugar Camp”, the “Gut” and “Bailey’s Hole” were a few of the places near Millmont that he recalled spending time at more than seventy years ago. As he continued to reminisce, I was amazed at the impact this newsletter had made on him. His younger sister, Pat (Conrad) Phifer of West Chester, PA, recycled her newsletters by sending them to Theron. As he read each issue a particular name or place sparked a distant memory. When he arrived at my home he was carrying a tablet filled with pages of hand written notes he had made after reading back issues of The Millmont Times.

Theron W. Conrad became familiar with this area while vacationing here with his family from about 1928 until he entered military service in 1941. During the summer months the Conrad family lodged at a number of different camps or dwellings. One of the more memorable places the family stayed at was the Smith/Miller mansion just west of Millmont. Although the three story home was razed a number of years ago this furnished mansion provided adequate accommodations for the Conrad family, despite the fact that it had no electricity or running water. This property, which was then owned by Rev. Dorsey and Anna (Smith) Miller, was later sold to Joseph Parry-Hill. As many old time residents can attest, Parry-Hill was a rather eccentric individual. Parry-Hill later sold this property to Dr. Forrest Showalter.

The Conrad’s also vacationed at the “Pine Knot” on Canada Drive. Another favorite campsite was the farmhouse owned by Elmer Boop. No longer standing, this farmhouse was located at the east end of Canada Drive, where the public road ends. Each and every vacation was a memorable event for Theron, and his family.

Theron became acquainted with Newt and Minnie Schreckengast during his vacations here. He soon befriended their sons, Leonard, Clifford, Harold, Keith, and William. One year Conrad spent his Christmas vacation in Millmont and he accompanied Clifford Schreckengast as they tended to his muskrat trap-line along the banks of Penns Creek. Memories of fishing for eels and catfish in Penns Creek are still vivid in Conrad’s mind, whether it was at the “Sugar Camp”, the “Gut”, the “Power Dam” south of Millmont, or near Yeagle’s Mill at Laurel Park.

Conrad mentioned how much pleasure he got out of capturing bullfrogs, with bare hands, along the banks of Penns Creek at Bailey’s Hole during the 1930’s. His brother Jim, who was two years younger, accompanied him on these night time adventures. Jim Conrad held the flashlight for his older brother while Theron did the catching. Jim was also responsible for carrying the burlap bag they used to transport the bullfrogs back to their springhouse next to the Smith/Miller mansion. By the time the brothers were ready to give it up for the night and head for home Jim Conrad could barely drag the bag. They placed the live bullfrogs in the springhouse next to the mansion where they were kept until they were ready to be eaten. Conrad said that the water in that springhouse was so cold that the bullfrogs were numb shortly after being placed there.

### Rev. George Yoxtheimer “The Flying Preacher”

Does anyone recall when Rev. George Yoxtheimer of Northumberland flew his single engine airplane to Lincoln Chapel on Sunday mornings during the time he preached at that church? The era was 1937, and early in the morning en-route to Lincoln Chapel “The Flying Preacher” buzzed his small plane over the villages of Swengel, Millmont, and Laurelton. Theron W. Conrad said that Yoxtheimer’s goal was to shake the roofs off some of his parishioners and “wake em up” so they were able to make it to the church on time.

Yoxtheimer was married to the daughter of F. D. Kessler, a well-known Northumberland area businessman. Kessler’s construction business secured government road building contracts all across the state of Pennsylvania.

Yoxtheimer at one time owned the Sunbury Airport. Yoxtheimer occasionally served as supply pastor at the Millmont Methodist Church, which is why Conrad’s family attended the church on Sunday mornings while they were camping here.

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# Penns Creek Angler

by Bruce Fisher

Well, the summer sure came too fast and the water level is dropping on Penns Creek. It looks like we've seen the best hatches of the year pass and we should start to look forward to the fall and better water conditions. The Pink Ladies Slipper flowered just as the Green Drakes and Light Cahill's were in their full glory around Memorial Day. The Mountain Laurel bloomed on June 1<sup>st</sup>, the start of the Slate Drakes. Chicory is a tall weedy plant with sky-blue dandelion type flowers and I understand the root can be roasted to make a coffee substitute. This plant marks the start of the Blue Wing Olives around June 10<sup>th</sup> but this year the Olives came off very early to everyone's surprise. Goats Beard grows along the stream bank and has large panicles of small cream or greenish white flowers but I have yet to see it. I'll keep my eyes open and look for it near the end of June. Goats Beard flowers around June 30<sup>th</sup>, about the time the Yellow Drakes start to hatch. The good folks that run the Outdoor Education Program at Mifflinburg School District provided all the information about the flowers that bloom during the different hatches. When I first became aware of the program I was very excited that it existed and I'm still excited. You know the old saying give a kid a fish and he will eat for a day, teach a kid to fish and he will eat for a lifetime. I think this age-old adage holds true here. I'd like to thank Karin Fullam and Jere Motto for providing me with several stream specimens and the literature I use as a model for my articles. Starting in July I'm looking forward to spending more time walking the trails along Penns Creek and Bald Eagle State Forest. I've found some new spots this month with the help of a friend. One I'd like to share is Hobo Overlook or Hobo View. It's a spectacular view that most people will never see. It is without doubt one of the finest scenic vistas in the state of Pennsylvania. Do some research and find Hobo View (Overlook) and you will find a slice of heaven especially in October when the leaves change. I guess I better put in some words about the creek and the fish that we all love to catch. I have never seen more fish or better conditions than this past spring. The river is healthy and got a good scouring with the huge chunks of ice that crashed down the creek in the winter. New pools were created and old pools and runs were changed forever. The river is an ever-changing environment and that's why I like it so much. One year a big old tree will mark a good hole and the next year it will be gone without a trace. We are so lucky to have Penns Creek and Bald Eagle State Forest as our back yard. I've been doing research about the spinning wheels of Penns Creek and will follow up with an article next month. If you have some information about the spinning wheels on the creek please send me an email at [angler@pennscreekanangler.com](mailto:angler@pennscreekanangler.com)

Bruce Fisher

Editor's Note: Penns Creek Angler is located at 17745 Old Turnpike Road (intersection of Route 45 and Fairground Road) and offers angling and hunting supplies, custom rods and repairs, lodging, and fly tying courses. You can telephone Penns Creek Angler at 570.922.1053, or visit their website at: [www.pennscreekanangler.com](http://www.pennscreekanangler.com)



This photograph of "Hobo's View" was taken in October 1980. Leaning against the sign is Jeremy Beaver, of Liverpool.

Photograph courtesy of Tony Shively.



Front row seated (L-R): Olivia Boop; Katie Boop; Hannah Boop; Rachael Reaser. Back Row (L-R): Cheryl Pflieggor; Ashley Wetzel; Crissa Johnson; Marissa Ewing; Jennifer Mapes.

## Sun Area Dairy Royalty

It was a busy weekend for SUN area dairy promotion team recently. It started off on Friday June 22nd when the girls along with local FFA members constructed a 99-gallon ice cream sundae to pass out to the community at the Boscov's Mall court. The sundae included 99 gallons of ice cream; 30 lbs of strawberries; 7 gallons of Hershey's syrup. There were many local contributors: businesses; banks; farm companies; stores; and farm families. It was these donations that made the sundae, cheese tasting and milk punch stand possible for the weekend events. The Dairy Promotion team starts off their current promotion year with this big event. The Dairy Misses are Hannah Boop, daughter of Jon and Becky Boop of Mifflinburg; Olivia and Katie Boop; daughters of Jerry and Martha Boop of Millmont; Rachel Reaser, daughter of Richard and Tammy Reaser of Mifflinburg; and Ashley Wetzel daughter of Tom and Denise Wetzel of Middleburg. The Misses help the Princesses with promotions throughout the year. The Maids are: Marissa Ewing, daughter of Susan Hauck and Brad Ewing; and Crissa Johnson, daughter of Alanson and Bonnie Johnson of Lewisburg. The dairy

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# Meanderings

by  
*Hertha S. Wehr*

## Tail Waggers

I just finished reading an article about dogs who wags their tails, why they do it, and how to read the tail wagging to see if your dog is happy, likes you, likes your friends, and what to think if he doesn't wag his (or her) tail.

I couldn't believe someone would take the time and effort to research such a subject, but as I read I found there is a scientific reason for such research. According to the article it has to do with which part of the brain specializes in behaviors involving what the scientists call approach and energy enrichment. Anyway I thought you might want to know how researchers spent their time.

This survey was done in Italy-at least you know that your government is not spending grant money on finding why dogs wag their tails to tell their owners if they are displeased or happy.

They started out with the knowledge that when ears are

close to the body and tail straight out it probably means "don't mess with me." On the other hand if the ears are perked up, wiggly body and the tail is wagging vigorously it means he is very happy to see you. But one observant fellow noticed that some dogs seemed to wag their tails more to right and some others seemed to wag their tails more to the left. Presto, gotta find out if the observation is correct! The dogs (their owners volunteered the animals) were put into cages with only limited vision of other dogs, owners, cats, an aggressive unfamiliar dog, and unknown humans. Now, don't think they were treated inhumanly, as they were only exposed to the different situations for one minute, then were rested for 90 seconds before being exposed to another view. The testing lasted 25 days, 10 sessions per day. Concealed cameras recorded all of this.

They concluded that when the dogs were attracted to something benign, even if it was a cat, their tails wagged right, true not with the happy wag of seeing its owner but it didn't seem threatened, (could it be that knew the cat couldn't reach them?) and when they were fearful their tails wagged left.

I am not sure what all of the research proves but Dr. Vallortigara seems to say it proves that human and animal brains work much the same, we all have left brain and right brain responses. He maintains it suggests that the muscles in the right side of the tail reflect positive emotions while the muscles in the left side express negative ones. What this has to do with how our muscles react to various vibes from our left or right brain I haven't figured out. See if you get the message. When you walk your dog this summer be observant and see how it reacts to various situations. You might be able to contribute something to this very scientific study.

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Shirk's Store and Mitchell's Store were some of the places he and his Millmont friends liked to hang out. Another favorite pastime was the Saturday night auctions held in front of Burd's Store in Swengel. However, the place that he enjoyed visiting the most was "Shirk's Ice Cream Parlor" in Hartleton. Conrad grinned from ear to ear as he exclaimed "Boy, was it a treat on Saturday night to go to Shirk's Ice Cream Parlor." According to Conrad the homemade ice cream that was sold by the Shirk's, Annie and Pauline, was "out of this world." The place was always crowded on a Saturday night during the summer months.

Theron was friends with Al Goodlander, and hunted with Benjamin Goodlander of Weikert. Conrad later learned that Benjamin served as fireman for his grandfather, Walter Z. Conrad, during the time he was an engineer on the former L & T Railroad, which ran from Northumberland to Bellefonte.

Conrad also recalled hunting small game with the late James Oscar Boop, of Glen Iron. When Boop went hunting he carried a single shot shotgun that had no stock. When he spied a rabbit he loaded the gun with a shotgun shell, held onto the gun with both hands and shot. According to Conrad, despite the poor condition of the shotgun, "When he (Boop) shot - the rabbit was there."

Although Theron W. Conrad was born in Sunbury it was obvious after spending time with him that his heart belongs to the West End of Union County. He was emphatic when he stated - "the days of my life were spent here." Theron W. Conrad is a gregarious gentleman who is unable to visit the West End as often as he would like. However, it is through the pages of this newsletter that he is able to reflect upon the people and the places he once knew.

While Conrad recognizes that many of the people he remembers, and those who would remember him, from seven decades ago are gone, he is hopeful that someone who reads this article will recognize his name, and take a moment to contact him. If you remember Theron W. Conrad you are encouraged to write to him at 428 Fairmount Avenue, Sunbury, PA 17801. You can also contact him by telephone at 570.286.5321. He would love to hear from you.

**Theron D. Conrad & Co.**  
Theron W. Conrad's father, Theron D. Conrad, was a well-known Sunbury stockbroker. Between 1950 and continuing through the mid 1970's this investment firm assisted their clientele from this area by maintaining an informational booth at the Union County West End Fair. This annual late summer event was a place where the Conrad's could renew old acquaintances and foster new friendships with folks from the West End.

## Recipe of the Month

By Janice (Dorman) Shively

### Barbequed Shrimp

1 lb. shrimp, heads off, peeled and deveined  
½ C. margarine or butter  
½ C. zesty Italian dressing  
1 T. lemon juice  
1 tsp. ground black pepper  
½ tsp. minced garlic  
½ tsp. red pepper flakes

Wash shrimp and drain well. Place shrimp on metal skewers or on wooden skewers that have been soaked in water for at least 20 minutes.

Melt margarine or butter in a small pot. Add salad dressing, lemon juice, black pepper, minced garlic, and red pepper flakes. Heat until butter is melted and ingredients are well blended. Reserve half of the butter mixture for dipping or to pour over pasta.



Brush shrimp with the remaining butter mixture and grill over medium heat a few minutes on each side, until done. Serve shrimp on a bed of saffron rice or with your favorite pasta.

ENJOY!

## TRAMPS

by Judy Wagner

*“Rich men ride in taxis.  
Poor men ride on trains.  
But the hobo walks the railroad tracks  
And likes it just the same.”*

My mother, Mildred (Zimmerman) Shively, used to sing this verse, and I never heard it anywhere else. My mother had many encounters with hobos, or “tramps” as she called them.

In the 1920’s and 30’s my parents lived at 545 Walnut Street in Mifflinburg, only a short distance from the Lewisburg & Tyrone Railroad tracks. The tramps seemed to know they could get a hand-out there. I have since learned that tramps would somehow leave a “mark” for others to go to places where they would be well received; maybe an arrow made with a few stones or something like that. I wish I would have asked my mother how often they stopped over the years, but I got the idea it was frequently for the ten years or so they lived there. My sister, Betty Koons, recalls our mother giving them whatever she had, often a piece of pie. My mother made excellent pies so maybe that was part of the attraction.

When Jack and I were married, we moved to 512 Walnut Street, the same distance from the railroad, but this was in the early 1960’s. Believe it or not, even though railroad traffic was slowing down, we had at least three visits from tramps that we remember.

Early one morning a tramp with a wooden leg appeared at our kitchen door. Pickings were a little slim because we had two little boys and Jack was working part time and going to school, so we didn’t have too much to give him. We made him a cup of instant coffee, and gave him a big wedge of chocolate cake that was about ready for the garbage can.

Some time after that, the same tramp appeared, and this time Jack gave him coffee and a hastily made egg sandwich. Between peg-leg’s visits, another tramp turned up for a hand-out so we figured he had gotten the message that he wouldn’t be turned away. They always sat on our porch steps to eat, and thanked us - even though the cake was stale.

Looking back, it would have been an opportunity to learn something of the life of these wanderers, but we were too young and too busy to be bothered. I’ll bet the tramp with the peg-leg would have had an interesting story to tell. Maybe he lost his leg hopping on and off boxcars. We’ll never know.

## Blood Drive

Summer Blood Drive - in Air Conditioned Comfort!  
Monday, July 16, 2007 from 1:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. at  
Christ’s United Lutheran Church, Millmont.

All persons 17 + years of age, in good health, and who weigh at least 110 pounds are urged to consider donating blood. For more information, call 1-800-GIVE-LIFE.

Please bring photo ID.

The small photograph in the upper left hand corner of page one shows a close up view of the register stand located at Hairy John’s State Park. This stand contained the book where visitors could register their name, address, and comments they had relative to the park. This photograph was taken in February 1922, and is courtesy of the PA State Archives.

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Hairy John's Park" in connection with the band concert that took place on July 18, 1926. (See this month's Looking Back column on page 9). Ten thousand at Hairy John's seems like an incredible number of people gathered together at a remote mountain park in the middle of the wilderness. The Saturday News columnists may have exaggerated the number in attendance at the park that day. The following letter from Forester Raymond Winters to his superiors in Harrisburg, relative to the concert, reveals that it was a well-attended event.

*July 19, 1926. Yesterday immediately after dinner I started for Hairy John Park. It has been sort of showery and I did not expect a jam even tho I knew there was to be a band concert there. I got into traffic soon after leaving town and a jam on reaching the mountain.*

*Two state highway patrolmen, Carl Motz and an able assistant had more than they could manage. The mountain was full of cars from Mr. Orwig's Camp to the Woodward Rod and Gun Club. About 2:30 I took a fire warden and started to count parked cars. We counted 900 and there were possibly that many more trying to park and couldn't. There were at least 5000 people on the grounds around about 3 o'clock, and counting those that had left and those coming in I believe the number of visitors would be between 6000 and 7000, and if we would have had parking facilities 10000. You can readily see that your permission to go ahead and make more parking space is very necessary or we will have to stop having band concerts up there on Sunday.*

*If you wish you may give this information to Mr. Illick for the service letter.*

*Raymond B. Winter*

After reading this letter I became curious as to who the band or bands were that were able to attract thousands of visitors to Hairy John's State Park for a concert to listen to their music. Scouring through all of the June and July 1926 issues of the Lewisburg Saturday News, The Mifflinburg Telegraph, and the Lewisburg Journal, I was struck by the fact that there was virtually no promotion of the band concert that drew thousands to the remote mountain park in the Seven Mile Narrows. The Lewisburg Saturday News had a tiny front-page blurb at the bottom announcing a "Triple Concert At Hairy John's" on July 18, 1926. The notice stated, "All roads will lead to Hairy John's Park in the Seven Mile Narrows, thirteen miles west of Mifflinburg. Three big bands will render concerts: Moose of Williamsport and Selinsgrove and the Citizens Band of Mifflinburg. No admission; everybody invited." It appears as though each of these three bands had a large core of dedicated followers.

In the next issue I will examine the concessionaires who operated at the park during the 1930's and 1940's. I will also provide some information about the entertainers who performed there, including some of the local amateur performers, as well as the professional entertainment. Family reunions, Sunday School Class picnics, High School reunions, and horse and pony rides were all a part of the history, which will be explored in Part III of Hairy John's State Park.

My thanks to following people who contributed information, photographs, or memories of Hairy John's State Park: Dottie (Royer) Shirk, Mifflinburg; Emilie F. Jansma, State College & Weikert; Delphia (Jolly) Shirk, Millmont; David W. Diehl, Lewisburg; Helen (Rudy) Engelhart, formerly of Mifflinburg; Randall Stover, Aaronsburg; Franklin W. Royer Jr., Pleasant Gap; Anita Ruhl, Mifflinburg; Doris Iddings, Mifflinburg; Ruth (Stuck) Kostenbader, Lewisburg; Harold Orndorf, Woodward; Robert Klingman, Mifflinburg; Gene Manbeck, Mifflinburg; Charles Zechman, Millmont; Agnes (Shreckengast) Jernigan, South Carolina; Carolyn (McClintock) Catherman, Mifflinburg; Caroline (Bilger) Wenrick, Hartleton; Doris (Hess) Shively; Kenneth Zechman, Penns Creek; Alice (Baker) Reitz, Millmont; Charles Mabus, Millmont; Faye (Strickler) Lyons, Mifflinburg; Betty (Strickler) Klock, Herndon; Isabelle Hosterman, Millmont; Rufus Balbin, Woodward; Everett Bingaman, Millmont; Marie (Rishel) VonNeida; Hartleton; Audrey (Mitchell) VonNeida, Hartleton; Marvin Benner, Mifflinburg; Shirley (Benner) Katherman, Laurelton; and Wayne Benner, Millmont; Betty Buttorff, Hartleton; the late John Iddings; and the late Grace (Rudy) Engelhart.

Sources: Pennsylvania State Archives Records of the Department of Forestry and Department of Forest and Waters 1895-1923. Ellen Clarke Bertrand Library at Bucknell University, Lewisburg, Pa.

#### Union County Historical 18th-Century Site Open Sundays 2-4 PM

The 1793 Dale/Engle/Walker House is open on Sunday afternoons from 2:00 to 4:00, now through October, for guided tours of the first floor rooms and the original kitchen. The tour focuses on architecture, slavery and the Underground Railroad, and the immigrant experience and includes interactive audio stations and an exhibit of the 1804 Dale Library.

The limestone farm house, on a 137-acre active farm, is at the site of the Dale's Ridge Trail off Route 192. From Route 15 in Lewisburg take Route 192 for 1.7 miles to Strawbridge Road, turn and drive 1.5 miles to the farm lane beside the trail parking lot. Tours take about an hour with the last tour starting at 3:30. Group tours are also offered with advance reservation (call 570-524-8666 for more information).

From August 15-18, 2007, the property will host the 4th Annual *Rural Heritage Days*. Wednesday, August 15 will be a day of children's activities. A presentation on "Textiles on the Farm" will be offered on Thursday, August 16. A hay ride and tour of Grove's Mill is featured on Friday evening, August 17. And Saturday, August 18 there will be an old-fashioned chicken and corn roast with soft ice-cream made by a hit and miss engine, horse-drawn wagon and pony cart rides plus a wide variety of activities and demonstrations focused on rural textiles and metalsmithing. Watch for more information on Rural Heritage Days in your local newspaper or call the Historical Society at 570-524-8666. The Union County Historical Society Union County Courthouse, S. Second and St. Louis Streets, Lewisburg, PA 17837, hstoriel@ptd.net, www.unioncountyhistoricalsociety.org "Preserving the past for the future."

# Penlines From my Kitchen to Yours

*By Lucy Hoover*

May 15, 2007

John Eric Nolt (4) son of Alvin and Annie, broke his leg. He will need to wear a body cast for 6 to 8 weeks.

May 23

Leon and Linda Hoover have a son named Logan. He has one sister. Grandparents are Allen and Mary Hoover and Floyd and Esther Weaver.

Ben Zimmerman (16) son of Abram and Wilma has a ruptured muscle in his knee. It will take time to heal again.

May 24

Curvin went with a vanload of others from this area to visit the deaf school close to Wilkes-Barre.

Paul Nolt (19) son of Harold and Lucy Nolt, had a kidney transplant at Geisinger Medical Center. He is doing well.

May 27

We went for a hike at Dales Ridge Trail this afternoon. I thought the big old sycamore trees were interesting to see.

May 31

Clair and Lucinda Zimmerman have a son named Timothy. He has two brothers. Baby Timothy was born on his mother's birthday. Grandparents are Aaron and Susie Zimmerman and Daniel and Alice Burkholder.

June 2

It was a beautiful day for mom's sale. All her children were present, including the ones from Kentucky and New York. Mom is moving in with James and Susie Brubacker.

June 5

Daniel and Verna Zimmerman have a daughter named Eileen Marie. She has six brothers and three sisters. Grandparents are Leroy and Verna Zimmerman.

June 9

The bake sale at Hidden Valley was a success. We went to the yard sales. They have them twice a year.

June 15

Curvin's uncle, Noah Earl and Naomi Hoover, and cousin Roy and Ida Jean Hoover and family of Wisconsin were here for lunch. (Roy is one day younger than Curvin). Roy's family will be here overnight too. They came for the Hoover reunion at Lewis and Verna Hoover's tomorrow.

This evening 10 of us gathered at Green Ridge Country Market to make 600 ham and cheese sandwiches to serve at the reunion.

## Wanted

Information and photographs relative to the "Muskrat Farm" that was built and operated by Parker Boop at Laurel Park in the 1920's. If you have any information that would be helpful you can contact The Millmont Times, P.O. Box 3, Millmont, PA 17845, or call 570.922.4297, or email: millmonttimes@dejazzd.com

## Looking Back

The newspaper article below was originally published in the July 24, 1926 edition of the Lewisburg Saturday News.

## TEN THOUSAND AT HAIRY JOHN'S PARK

### Suggestion That Religious Services Be Held There On Sunday

There is nothing particularly euphonious about the name - "Hairy John's Park," in fact the place is better than the name would imply.

But name or no name, the place would not hold the people who jammed the Narrows last Sunday seeking the sweet strains of music by three bands.

They were all there, sure enough, and the Wagner ice cream and dog counter was swept bare as fast as filled.

It was a hungry bunch, but none seem to have gone too far with the outlawed stuff although much suspicion attached to the varying odors that had relation to alcohol.

Just according to which section you happened to hail from. If from Snyder County and you had imbibed some triple extract of the vat and coiling pipes, you smelled somewhat like a dental office where creosote has been used; if from Union County and you het up one or two before taking the long trail of concrete, your eyes bulged and the odor arising from your steaming countenance was much akin to the tincture floating on the atmosphere when you approach a country cider press on a busy day; if it was a case of Juniata or Centre County outlawed decoction of the odoriferous zephyr was quite positively distinguished as the laurel there is of a different variety.

Fifty years ago many a fellow drove through the Narrows to see his girl at Woodward, Millheim, Aaronsburg and Spring Mills, and was half scared to death when he passed Hairy John's cabin driving a horse hitched to a buggy with high iron bound wheels. Now ten thousand people swarm over a beautiful park which the hand of man has evolved from a wilderness, formerly the home of bears and wild cats, rattlesnakes and skunks.

True enough, it is not keeping the Sabbath holy if you look at it that way, but why not meet this crowd on their own ground? They have preachers at camp meetings where food and soft drinks may be had and thousands go to "visit" and start toward the wedding

*(Continued on page 10)*

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**march; therefore why not a detail of preachers for this place? We suggested this to a prominent and wide-awake Centre County minister and he thought the crowd at Hairy John's would give a preacher a frost.**

**We didn't believe it. Our friend is wrong. Thousands of people who like the mountain air on a Sunday afternoon would listen to preaching and be reverent. That is they would listen to several short sermons. Of course in hot weather long sermons are not popular anywhere. Not at the Sesqui, in cities or towns, nor would they be at Hairy John's. But good short attacks on sin we believe would quickly make a spiritual affair of the Sunday afternoons at this popular resort.**

**"The soul grows in the direction of its attention," then why not attract it to things spiritual out there in the open where everybody might sing as loud as they can and go home refreshed and conscience free and guiltless of wrong by commission or neglect. Carysle speaks to Nature as God, and if we plunge into the depths of the forest we are near the Infinite Power and can be holy there as elsewhere if we do not forget it.**

**It looks to us as though a crowd of ten thousand people dressed up in their Sunday clothes, good natured and good citizens, would finish a rare field for great work in guiding right-minded people in the right direction. Or church auxiliary organizations could do it. The crowd is there and will continue to be there, so why not a campaign to carry a message among the throng along with the music of the band?**

## **Lewis Township News**

**Lewis Township Board of Supervisors Meeting Minutes  
Courtesy of Karen L. Watters, Secretary**

The Lewis Township Board of Supervisors met on Tuesday, May 8, 2007, 7:30 p.m., at the Municipal Building, Millmont, Pennsylvania. Those attending the meeting were as follows: Supervisors, Henry M. Sanders, Donald Shively and Wayne Klingman, Taxpayers of Lewis Township, Thomas Boop, Solicitor, and Karen L. Watters, Secretary.

Donald Shively, Chairman, opened the regular board meeting at 7:30 p.m. and called the meeting to order. Mr. Shively led the group with the pledge of allegiance. The floor was opened for public comment. There being none.

The minutes were reviewed, Wayne Klingman made the motion to approve the April minutes with the correction that Wayne Klingman also met with the Little League, seconded by Henry Sanders. The Treasurer's report was approved as printed and Wayne Klingman made a motion to pay the bills for May, seconded by Henry Sanders.

Correspondence was received from a Race for a Cure regarding a bike race event going through the township. The supervisors saw no problems with the request. A violation letter was received from the COG regarding Glenn Martin.

Kim Blyler wrote a letter to Chairman Shively regarding the adverse possession/right-of-way issue on Smith Alley. The matter was discussed and Attorney Boop reviewed the issues that could arise. The matter was tabled for further review and it was decided to request Mr. Blyler's attendance at the next regular meeting.

Ron Sanders was present representing Purdy Insurance. He was invited to review the current storage issues of the township building and allowing the Village Green to access this area. There are liability and theft issues with access to the garage bay areas. Mr. Sanders clarified potential issues with the use of this area by non-employees. It was also discussed about additional event coverage for the Village Green events and who would bear the costs.

Mr. Sanders would like a work session to review the current township policy prior to the renewal in September, 2007.

Attorney Boop was contacted by Gail Walter regarding concerns of abandon refrigerators and freezers on Milford Hoover's property, creating a potential hazard to children. Henry Sanders contacted Tom Sauers, Code Enforcement in February, 2007 regarding this matter and has had no response. It was also noted that junk was within the township right-of-way. A motion was made by Donald Shively to have Henry Sanders contact Mr. Sauers regarding this matter and the secretary will send a letter to Mr. Hoover, seconded by Wayne Klingman.

Wayne Klingman had prices and sizes on storage buildings for the Village Green Committee. Donald Shively made a motion to send a letter to the Village Green Committee regarding their selection of a building, the Quaker or Highside, a 10 by 12 size, seconded by Wayne Klingman.

There will be a special exceptions hearing for the proposed dog kennel on May 9, 2007. The Planning Committee will be meeting on May 23, 2007.

There has been vandalism reported in the Village Green Park area.

The Roadmaster reported that pipe was up 6%. Henry Sanders made a motion to approve Leon Botts hiring and charging \$10.00 for his own employee to help with the pipe installation, seconded by Wayne Klingman. Mr. Bott's employee will be working under his bond and insurance.

2007 Estimates were received from Gary Hopple of PENN DOT, the project will be put out for bid and opened at the June meeting.

*(Continued from page 5)*

**maids are also a vital role in the promotion team. During the pageant event the maids prepare a speech that pertains to the dairy industry that they must give in front of the judges. The two contestants that vied for the Dairy Princess title were: Jennifer Mapes, daughter of Mark and Susan Mapes of Mapes View Farm, New Berlin and Cheryl Pflieger, daughter of David and Beverly Pflieger of Mifflinburg. Cheryl helps out on her grandfather's farm.**

**Jennifer Mapes was crowned the 2007-08 SUN area Dairy Princess. Cheryl was crowned the alternate Dairy Princess for the 2007-08 year. Jennifer and her court will have a busy year ahead of them. The Princesses are required to attend a 3-day seminar; the Misses and the Maids are required to attend a mini-seminar at Penn State. These seminars teach the girls on Public speaking, proper conduct during promotional events, and they receive information to help them educate the consumers on healthful dietary choices. They will then attend fairs; farm meetings; non-farm meetings; local schools, nursing homes; perform radio promo spots and submit newspaper articles. They promote the importance of dairy in diets, and teach about the dairy industries.**

## Upcoming Family Reunions

### K/Catherman Family Reunion

The 54th annual K/Catherman family reunion will be held July 7 and 8 at the Mifflinburg Community Park. Descendants of any Kattermann immigrant, and their families, are invited to attend. Genealogical consultants will be on hand at 10 a.m. on Saturday. At 11:30 a.m. announcements will be made and a group photograph will be taken. A picnic lunch will be held at noon. Those attending are asked to bring their favorite side dish and dessert to share. Grilled chicken, coffee, tea, and soda will be available at no charge. There will be free swimming and golf for children under 18 years of age. At 1:30 p.m. there will be a family history tour, and at 2:15 p.m. a Chinese auction will be held. Guests are asked to bring items to support the treasury. Bingo will also be played.

### Hartley Family

Descendants of JOSEPH and ELLEN (BOOP) HARTLEY are invited to attend the family reunion being held at the Anthony Selin Park, West Sassafrass Street in Selinsgrove on Sunday July 22, 2007 from 11:00 a.m. until ? Joseph Hartley, who was born in 1838, and Ellen were the parents of eleven children, including Levi, Adam, William, Sarah, Mark, John, Isaiah, Rufus, Anna, Clarence, and Elsie.

Those planning to attend the reunion are encouraged to bring a covered dish to share, as well as their own utensils and lawn chairs. For more information you can contact Jim Hartley at 570.374.4067, or by email at jash39@ptd.net

### Hironimus Annual Reunion

The descendants of Jacob and Eva Hironimus will hold their annual family Reunion at noon on August 4, 2007 at the Hironimus Church Picnic Pavilion in Weikert Pa. There will be games for both children and adults, plus Karaoke in the afternoon. Bring along a covered dish and enjoy an old fashion picnic. Also if you are not related and are friends of the Hironimus Clan you are invited to come too.

## Thank You!

I would like to thank the following people for making monetary donations toward the publication of this newsletter: Mrs. Edna (Grove) Ammon, Mifflinburg; Allen & Janet Zimmerman, Mifflinburg; Leon & Betty Klock, Herndon; Arnold & Dorothy Gilkey, Dinwiddie, VA; Theron W. Conrad, Sunbury; and Hazel Benfer, Milton.

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: Greg Richards, Trevorton; Roxie & Terry Machamer, Thompsontown; Ron Wenning, Lewisburg; Craig Howe, Honey Brook; and Daphne Martin, Mifflinburg. If you would like to join more than 280 subscribers who currently receive a FREE color version of The Millmont Times each month via the Internet, please sign up now at: millmonttimes@dejazzd.com.

Welcome to the following new mail subscribers: Mrs. Edna Ammon, Mifflinburg; Thelma Pontius, Hartleton; John & Mary Dunkle, Mifflinburg; Randall Aikey, Mifflinburg; and Steve Badger, 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!!

Thanks to Robert Klingman of Mifflinburg for providing me with information, newspaper clippings and photographs relative to Charles Wetzel, Art Snyder, and Miles Reeder; to Caroline Wenrick of Hartleton for donating a large number of newspaper clippings pertaining to Hartleton that were copied from The Mifflinburg Telegraph (and for the homemade molasses cookies); and Joseph G. Hartley of Spring Grove, PA for sending me a photograph of the Laurel Park Band along with the names of each of the band members.

**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:**

*Sunday July 11, 1937. Taught my class, Mervyn preached. This evening in response to the request of Dr. William Rearick I recited the Sermon on the Mount in the Lutheran Church at Mifflinburg from memory. Also the 12th Chapter of Romans, and made some comments.*

*Monday July 19, 1937 Throughout the week I worked in the garage and in the afternoons I painted at the house. Billy, Donald, and Edgar helped at times.*

## Letters and E-mails to the Editor

Dear Mr. Shively, I have just read back issues of The Millmont Times—enjoyed every one. Nice to read about so many people I know from years back and the many places of interest throughout the western area of Union County. Please accept my check for (1) year subscription to The Millmont Times and since I am not sure of the charge, place the remainder of the check for your use of postage.

Mrs. Edna Grove Ammon, Mifflinburg, PA

*(Continued on page 12)*

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Hello Tony. I got your June Millmont Newspaper, and just finished reading it. I like your story on the Hairy John State Park. And to think --- there actually was a real man by that name! Wonder how he made his living, if one assumes that he probably did not have a job, or transportation, and if he lived alone? He must of had slim pickings to live at such a isolated area. Also, I really like that picture you included of the L&T track, and the siding at Millmont. I am assuming that photo was probably taken at or near the Millmont Station, judging from the siding track. Again, you did a fabulous job on this month's Millmont Newspaper. Will anxiously await the July issue.

Eugene Hoffman, Mifflinburg

## July Birthdays & Anniversaries

2 – Carolyn Bowersox	19 – Glen G. Catherman
2 – Shanda Bingaman	20 – Nancy Prutzman 1941
3 – Olivia Hackenberg	20 – Ruth Hoover
3 – Kody Catherman	22 – William & Doris Fultz – 1955
3 – Mary K. Campbell	22 – Donald & Carolyn Bowersox - 1972
5 – Roger Shoemaker	22 – Elva Brubaker
7 – Scott Kline	22 – Hazel Erdly
8 – Catana “Tina” Zimmerman	22 – Jonathan Martin
9 – Jeremy & Elisa Beaver - 2005	22 – Esther Nissley
9 – Franklin Gross	23 – Shelby Hackenberg
9 – Jerry L. Starks	23 – Donald Long
11 – Irene Andrechick	24 – Sarah Hoover
11 – Mervin Zimmerman	25 – Frank Raker
13 – Mary C. Kahl	26 – Bailey J. Koonsman
15 – Donald R. Miller	26 – Donald Zechman
14 – Adran Martin	27 – Donald Bowersox
15 – Sam Susan	28 – Phyllis Ruhl
17 – Randall Aikey	29 – Oakley Whitesel
17 – Robert & Carolyn Wagner – 1971	29 – Harold Stephens
18 – Dolores & Gerald Starks - 1965	29 – Ethel R. Stover
18 – Esther Keister	30 – Eli Shirk
18 – Aaron Reiff	30 – Jeannette Lasansky
18 – William Fultz	31 – Baris Göktaş
19 – Kass Beebe	

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Please use the address below if you are interested in contacting the editor, subscribing to the newsletter, making a donation, sending a gift subscription, changing your address, or providing me with your email address.

Tony Shively  
Post Office Box 3  
Millmont PA 17845

Telephone: (570) 922.4297 or  
E-mail:  
millmonttimes@dejazzd.com

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