



# The Millmont Times

JULY 2008

## Huckleberry Picking



Have you ever contemplated the origins of the word “huckleberry?” While there is some uncertainty about its origin there is evidence to suggest that the word huckleberry is a colloquial form of “hurtleberry.” When the colonists, who immigrated from Europe, first encountered the low-bush blueberry in America they misidentified the plant as the European bilberry, which is commonly known as the hurtleberry. It appears that those early settlers

who came to North America from Europe mispronounced hurtleberry and the name “huckleberry” was born. Whether that is factual we may never know. However, what we do know is the word huckleberry has taken on various connotations over the course of time.

The word huckleberry has been adapted for various uses in literature, music, cartoon characters, nicknames, and more. The classic Mark Twain novel “Adventures of Huckleberry Finn” is one example. Singer/songwriter Toby Keith recorded a song in 2002 entitled “Huckleberry.” Brad Paisley, another Country & Western singer, and his wife Kimberly celebrated the birth of their first child on February 22, 2007. The name they chose for their newborn son was “William Huckleberry Paisley.”

Moon River is a song from the 1960’s written by the late Johnny Mercer, and made popular by Andy Williams. Those of us old enough to remember and enjoy William’s music will recall him crooning the lyrics to that song – “We’re after the same rainbow’s end....waiting round the bend.... my Huckleberry Friend....Moon River.... and me.” Mercer reportedly used the term “huckleberry friend” as a nostalgic reference to his childhood days when he and his friends picked huckleberries along the river near his home.

When we think about huckleberries what usually comes to mind is the edible wild berry that grows primarily in the mountains. The fruit of the huckleberry is about the size of a pea, and can be blue, black, or reddish in coloration, depending on the genus. With ten (or more) tiny seeds and thicker skin, the huckleberry is smaller than their domesticated cousin, the high bush blueberry. However, to many folks wild huckleberries are just as tasty.

There are about 40 species of huckleberries that grow throughout North America. Huckleberries ripen from mid June and depending on the species they continue through August. Reference books and field guides offer a variety of names for the wild huckleberry including, whortleberry, dwarf bilberry, low bush blueberry, farkleberry, deerberry, dangleberry, and hurtleberry.

Native Americans made use of the tart little berries long before the arrival of the Europeans. The berries were not simply consumed hand-to-mouth; in fact, they were an important

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## Millmont Mailbox by Postmaster Sam Smith

It’s hard to believe that Independence Day is almost here. The Post Office will be closed Friday July 4 to celebrate the holiday. Delivery of mail will resume Saturday July 5. Several new commemorative stamps will be issued this month. On July 10, the “Celebrate” stamp will be reissued as a 42-cent stamp. This stamp is great for party invitations, graduations, Birthday cards and other joyous occasions. Vintage Black Cinema stamps depicting 5 classic movies will be released July 16. Another stamp being issued on July 16 will be one that I will be using for my correspondence: “Take me out to the Ball Game”. The stamp will pay tribute to the classic song and the game of baseball. In conjunction with the issuance of that stamp, I will be displaying some of my baseball memorabilia collection and giving packets of cards out; some with actual autographs during the week of the release of the stamp! I am also looking for someone interested in becoming a temporary rural carrier for RR 1, working Saturdays, and also when the regular carrier is off, as Sandy transferred to the Lewisburg Post Office. Please see me in person or call 922-1211 if interested in this position.

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food source for the natives. During a 1743 journey throughout the wilds of Pennsylvania from Philadelphia to New York well-known natural botanist John Bartram observed Native American squaws drying huckleberries in order to preserve them for future use. Stalks of freshly picked berries were placed about four feet above a kindled smoke fire until they dried. Berries could also be picked and allowed to dry in direct sunlight. The dried berries were later added to maize bread, or to pudding.

The huckleberry plant requires an abundance of sunshine in order to thrive and produce a bountiful crop of berries. I have read where Native Americans used controlled burns in order to eliminate the forest understory, and thus promote the growth of various plants, including huckleberries. Setting the forest ablaze in order to promote the growth of huckleberries did not end when the Native Americans were driven out. Residents living in the West End of Union County also practiced the tactic of setting the forests ablaze from time to time. Their goal was to provide ideal growing conditions for the huckleberry plant, which subsequently resulted in a high berry yield once they ripened.

A journal kept by the late Jennie (Shively) Brandt (1868-1929) noted that the nearby forest was ablaze in the spring of 1891. Jennie's May 11, 1891 entry noted the following:

*It was warm. The mountains are on fire, which makes it so smoky that a person can scarcely see any distance.* Presumably Jennie was referring to Penns Creek Mountain, which was directly south of her parent's White Springs home.

The practice of deliberately setting the forest ablaze continued for years, much to the chagrin of the state foresters. District Forester Raymond B. Winter reported to the Forestry Department officials in Harrisburg that he and his personnel had battled 16 forest fires during the spring of 1921. Of those 16 fires five were incendiary in nature. The remaining fires were the result of hot sparks from locomotives, carelessness with fire, or lightning. One of the primary reasons a network of mountain roads was established on state forestlands was to aid firefighters who needed to gain access to state forestlands whenever fires erupted.

The arrival and operation of large-scale lumbering companies, such as Pardee Lumber, Laurelton Lumber, Monroe Kulp and others during the late 1880's and throughout the early 1900's indirectly benefited huckleberry plants. Vast tracts of forestlands were stripped of nearly all of their marketable timber. Buffalo, Paddy, White, Penns Creek, Middle Ridge, Jacks, East Kettle, Stitzer, Jones and other mountainous regions in the West End of the county were practically denuded of trees. While this created an unsightly landscape it also allowed sunlight to reach the forest floor unobstructed, which in turn stimulated the growth of huckleberry plants. For a period of years after the logging operations were completed huckleberries were profuse throughout large stretches of mountainous terrain.

Occasionally during the summer months the lumber companies mentioned above provided transportation to folks wishing to go on huckleberry picking excursions. Men, women, and young children each with their baskets, buckets, and pales hopped aboard a narrow gauge railcar for the trek into the mountains. One such huckleberry-picking excursion on the Laurelton & Pine Creek Railroad turned tragic for 11-year old Edna Schnure during an 1898 outing. (See the Looking Back column on page 9).

While it seems hard to imagine two people today picking a bushel basket full of ripe huckleberries during one outing that is what 15-year old Greene Shively recorded in his July 19, 1886 diary entry:

*It was very warm today. George Brouse and John Aaron Smith, Mark and I were up on the mountain for huckleberries. Mark and I got about a bushel.* Mark was Greene Shively's elder brother.

During an interview with the late Louis (Goehring) Scott, for her oral history project, the late Pearl Kaler talked about her grandmother, Amelia Blyler (1863-1941), picking huckleberries on top of the mountain near her home southeast of Millmont. According to Pearl, her grandmother climbed all the way to the top of Penns Creek Mountain in order to gather berries.

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Employees of the Pardee Lumber Company transported men, women, and children out into the mountains for a day of huckleberry picking. The late Sarah (Walls) Jolly is pictured below the x. She is the only person identified in this c. 1902 photograph and is the mother of Delphia (Jolly) Shirk, who provided this photograph.



# BIRD TALK

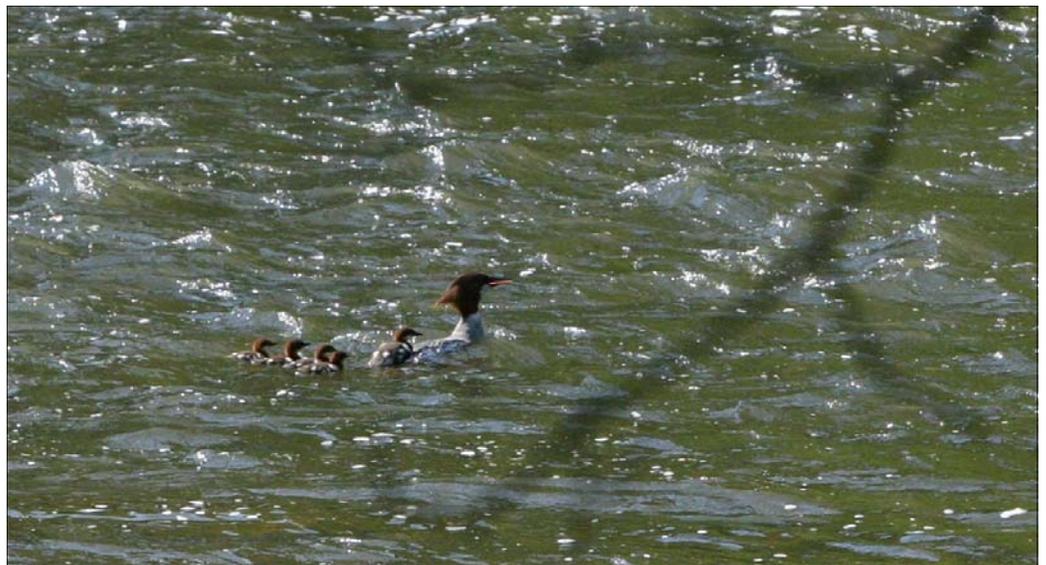
by Jim McCormick

“...a game of ‘guess that bird’.” Last month was cold and wet, this month was hot and humid--yuk! The older I get, the less I am able to cope with hot weather. This was way too hot, way too soon. To many people the Summer Solstice is the ‘beginning’ of summer, but to me it is the pivot of the sun on its trip across the horizon. It now begins its southern journey. This month we had the return of the seventeen-year cicadas. I had the chance to see and hear several colonies of them along Penns Creek, some on Canada Drive and more along Wildwood Road near Penns Creek. In

spots they were deafening. For those of you interested in getting more information on the subject see: [http://insects.ummz.lsa.umich.edu/fauna/Michigan\\_Cicadas/Periodical/Index.html](http://insects.ummz.lsa.umich.edu/fauna/Michigan_Cicadas/Periodical/Index.html). The daylight hours have begun to shorten and the birds have become busy, busy, busy. Their breeding time is quickly coming to an end. I have seen Robins and Eastern Bluebirds working on their second brood. It seems that everywhere you look there are odd looking birds and it becomes “a game of ‘guess that bird’.” The parents are desperately trying to satisfy their voracious appetites.

I have been watching the activity of the Common Mergansers since their first arrival in February. I have given updates since then and will do so again. I had been watching for the ducklings all spring and finally saw a female with 15 ducklings on the last day of May! I saw her from the Millmont concrete bridge, but she saw me and immediately started swimming upstream--all 15 ducklings in tow. I thought I would catch her upstream and headed that way as fast as I could. By the time I reached the ‘dip’ on Canada Drive, she had doubled back and was heading downstream! I ran downstream and thought I would catch them all as they went under the bridge. This time when she saw me she headed upstream on the other side of the island and I lost them. I kept hoping over the next few weeks to catch this family somewhere along the Creek. I have seen a female near the Covered Bridge several times; each time she would see me first and begin to call to her brood and they would remain hidden no matter what I did. I could tell where they had to be hidden, but I couldn’t even flush them out from along the riverbank. They are extremely disciplined. As the weeks went on, I was beginning to give up ever seeing them. The last week of June I was getting desperate and went to the Covered Bridge for one last try. There were people fishing at the Bridge, so I headed upstream. As I walked along the shoreline I heard a loud splash and thought I had been seen. I crept through the vegetation and saw several nearly grown Common Mergansers ‘playing’ along the shoreline. Before I could get my lens cap removed, they had seen me and flew downstream. Rats!!! Now I was getting really desperate! Frustrated, I headed for home empty handed. The next day I tried again. This time as I was driving slowly up Canada Drive, I caught a glimpse of a female Merganser with some ducklings slowly going along the shoreline. I immediately pulled off the road and grabbed my camera. The hen saw me and reversed course and headed upstream. I lost her and then headed for the Covered Bridge, but again found nothing. By now I was even more than desperate! I had almost reached the concrete bridge when I saw the hen with her ducklings on a rock in the middle

of the Creek. I jumped out of my car with my camera and started taking photos as fast I could. The hen gathered her brood and started swimming downstream in the swift current. The photo isn’t the one I wanted, but it is the one I got. The photo is blown up and somewhat blurry, but the family wasn’t exactly posing for their portrait! You can see one of the ducklings had managed to get aboard its mother’s back. If you try, maybe you will catch a glimpse of this family on the Creek, too.



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Brothers, Donald Shively on the left and William Shively on the right, do not appear to be too excited about picking huckleberries during this circa 1939 outing near the intersection of State Route 235 and East Kettle Road.

*My grandmother and them depended a lot on huckleberries. My mother said that her mother would go up into the mountains with two buckets. She went straight to the top..... She'd have two buckets full. They were somewhere on the top of the mountain where they were easy to get and plentiful. She'd go at daylight all by herself my mother said.....She would take two buckets and fill them up and when they were full she would start down the mountain.*

A highly productive huckleberry crop was financially beneficial to those who picked and sold berries. On July 31, 1911, Union County District Forester Raymond B. Winter, citing his inability to hire people to assist him for work projects on state forestlands, included this paragraph in a letter he wrote to his superior, Robert S. Conklin, Commissioner of the Pennsylvania Department of Forestry in Harrisburg:

*It is almost impossible to get men with anything this month on account of harvests in the valley and the huckleberry crop in the mountains. Some men are making 3-4 dollars per day picking berries and families too. Our \$1.50 per day pay can't get men.*

Octogenarian Lulu (Lohr) Hoffman of Millmont recalled some of her huckleberry picking outings as a young girl in the late 1920's and early 1930's while living on her parent's farm off Lohr Road, Mifflinburg. Lulu, her mother, Emma (Pentycofe) Lohr and older siblings,

Hazel and Pauline, headed northwest of their farm early in the morning, on foot, to Buffalo Mountain where they hiked up the mountain on Old Gap Path. They spent most of the day picking berries at or near the top of the mountain. Occasionally other relatives or neighbors accompanied the Lohr family during their outings. While they were always mindful of snakes, it was seldom that they ever encountered any during their outings. Despite the fact that many people engaged in picking berries, Lulu did not recall anyone ever getting bit.

In addition to carrying wooden backpacks used to transport the day's harvest, the Lohr's also carried woven sacks, which held drinking water and their lunch. Ice water was not an option, and drinking warm water during the middle of a hot afternoon was not very refreshing. To quench their thirst during a long day of huckleberry picking Lulu said she, and other family members, mixed coffee grounds with their water. The coffee grounds, which were allowed to settle to the bottom of the glass jars, added flavor to the warm water making it easier to drink.

Lulu, who was in her pre-teen years at the time, wore a leather belt around her waist from which she hung her picking bucket, oftentimes an old one-gallon paint can. She always picked "clean berries" which meant no leaves or debris of any kind. She recalled one picking adventure when nearly every berry within sight was ripe for the picking. By the time she was finished she had a bushel of berries ready to be carted home by her and other family members. The return trip off of the mountain with a backpack full of berries was considerably more difficult than the uphill climb earlier in the day.

Emma Lohr used some of the huckleberries for pies and jelly. However, because the berries could provide cash income to the Lohr family, the majority of them were sold to "peddlers" for 10 cents per quart of berries, or 3 quarts for 25 cents. The peddler took the fresh berries to towns throughout the area where he strolled along the streets yelling "huckleberries - huckleberries."

His 2005 self-published book entitled "Remembering" by Randall Stover, age 88, and a resident of Aaronsburg, included some of his huckleberry picking experiences. In that book Stover wrote:

*Wild Huckleberries can usually be found on mountain land where there had been a mountain fire, or where there had been what is called a clear-cut where all trees and cover had been burned or cut as in the clear-cut. Then the sun would warm the ground and the huckleberry seeds that had been in the ground many years would sprout and grow, a small bush type plant. Many places the ground would be covered with the huckleberry bushes.*

*I have seen the berry plants in full bloom that it was a sweet smell and solid white flowerbed, a most beautiful sight to see.....*

*For many years I picked huckleberries on Jones Mountain, this mountain is in Union County. The place I picked berries was on the power line right of way, under the power lines there was a road you could drive with a 4 wheel drive vehicle. There would always be many ber-*

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Picking huckleberries was a summertime activity that Jacob Shively (above) and his wife Florence (below) always enjoyed. Photo circa 1960.

## Remembrance

Linda C. Walter, 64, of 695 Buffalo Creek Road, entered into eternal rest at 7:53 p.m. Saturday, June 28, 2008, at Evangelical Community Hospital, Lewisburg.

She was born January 31, 1944, in Millmont, a daughter of the late Edward and Grace (Dorman) Catherman. On October, 4, 1963, at the United Methodist Church in Millmont, Linda was united in marriage to Robert F. Walter, who survives.

She was a 1962 graduate of Mifflinburg High School.

Linda attended Christ Community Church, Glen Iron, for the past 22 years.

She assisted in the operation of the family business, BS&B Repair, Mifflinburg, from 1985 to her retirement in 2005.

Linda was a loving wife, mother, grandmother and great-grandmother. She enjoyed gardening, crocheting, cooking and reading her Bible.

In addition to her husband, she is survived by two sons and daughters-in-law, Shawn F. and Cris M. Walter of Millmont and Brad F. and Angie L. Walter of Millmont; a daughter and son-in-law, Nikki L. and Adam J. Shemory of Mifflinburg; six grandchildren, Melissa, wife of Jason Stahl, Tyler Walter, Tanner F. Walter, Vanessa Walter, Morgan Shemory and Blake Shemory; a great-granddaughter, Reagan Stahl; two brothers, Stanley Catherman of Penns Creek and Glenn Catherman of California; and three sisters, Jane Hendricks of Millmont, Jean Herrold of Hartleton and Norma Hackenberg of Millmont.

She was preceded in death by two brothers, Guy and Neil Catherman, and two sisters, Phyllis Hursh and Dauna Hackenberg.

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## Blessings from the Bible

*by Brenda Weaver*

*"Remember the days of old,  
consider the years of many generations:  
ask thy father, and he will show thee;  
thy elders, and they will tell thee.*

*When the Most High."  
Deuteronomy 32:7*

God wanted his children to remember. The verse above, taken from a "song of Moses" in Deuteronomy, commands remembrance. Elsewhere God explains, "that thou mayest remember the day when thou camest forth out of the land of Egypt all the days of thy life.

God wanted the children of Israel to remember His provision, protection, and judgment for their entire lives. He wanted each generation to know.

Memory serves us well. It helps us preserve and learn from the past. Imagine experiencing things and not being able to remember and learn from them. One of the nice gifts of aging is being able to remember how God protected and provided for us through the years. Those memories comfort us in times of trial and are worth passing on to the next generation.

Of course some remembering is painful; but even sad memories teach us about life. Often hidden in the sadness are glimpses of God's goodness.

I am thinking and remembering a lot lately. As I write this on the eve of our daughter's first wedding anniversary, I have scores of memories vying for my attention. I remember the hustle and bustle of wedding preparations, the fun times with our prospective son-in-law, the beauty of their wedding day, the glory of their love and commitment, the poignant good-byes. Countless little things throughout my day remind me of our joy just one year ago. Then I remember Kevin's encroaching illness and our sad partings with one we knew and loved so dearly and briefly. Happy and sad memories are all mixed together, but treasured. I want to remember. I want to remember the joy of having Kevin as part of our family. I want to remember all the days of my life the valuable lessons we learned from God through Kevin and Lori's experience.

"Precious memories, how they linger." I find myself humming the familiar tune and considering the value of remembering. The happy memories I can treasure and stow away for years to come. The sad memories I can give to God. I know that He can redeem them. He can show me His goodness even through the tears. And He can assure me of Kevin enjoying his reward for faithfulness. By God's grace we can meet again.

By God's grace that reward is available for all who believe and confess Christ as Saviour and Lord. And that is the most important thing any of us can remember.

*Prayer for today: Lord, comfort our hearts as we remember; but strengthen them as well. Help us to treasure and use our memories for Your honor and glory. May we remember Your provision and protection all the days of our lives. The next generation needs to know.*

The small photograph located in the upper left hand corner of page one shows the trail sign where Tony & Janice enjoy going to pick huckleberries. Now you know exactly where our secret picking spot is located.



# Meanderings

by

*Hertha S. Wehr*

## God's Creatures, Great and Small

There are some articles in the newspaper that I don't read, I just scan them and ignore the story. But one morning this week I saw an article about a dog losing ten million dollars and it looked too good to be passed up. Seems a judge in Manhattan decided that Trouble, Leona Helmsley's dog, who survived her, did not need the 12 million that it was supposed to receive. The judge decided that two million would suffice to take care of Trouble. Since it resides in Florida with its caretaker it won't need winter coats or booties so two million should be ample for its care. The judge decided the other ten million would go to Helmsley's charitable foundation. It restores my faith in judges.

Actually, I started to write this column about other critters around my house, but got side tracked by the morning paper. What I wanted to tell you was that there is a wren that has a nest somewhere around the house. It sings all day, and occasionally I see it on the clothes line when the door is open and I'm at the computer. What a joy. There are robins galore this year, they too sing. Blue birds are also in attendance. I'm always amazed that they can sit on the electric line, which brings electricity into the house, look at the ground, spot a meal, dive down and capture it. They too, have a nest in at least one of the

boxes for their use.

I am not a dedicated bird watcher but I enjoy noticing things that are different. I saw an Eastern Towhee this year. I didn't know what it was, I had to get my bird book and look and decide just what I was seeing. Life is full of surprises, even in my back yard. I've also noticed that there are more cardinals than usual this summer. Is their range moving north further?

I'm not so happy about some of the other critters that frequent my back yard. I haven't been bothered so much with squirrels at the bird feeder this winter. I have a feeder that closes when something too heavy gets on the feeding perch. But for some reason or other this spring I have had a pesky squirrel. He couldn't get feed from the feeder but he finally discovered if he jumped on top of the feeder he could spill enough seeds on the ground and could feed there, smart little rascals!

I have the feeder set heavy enough to let larger birds feed, such as blue jays. The setting also lets chipmunks get in the feeder. Now that summer is here they also like to eat the petals from the petunias.

Rabbits are around in large, medium, and small sizes. I've resorted to spraying a lot of things with "Deer Off" which seems to help. They do like lettuce and peas, which can't be sprayed. Perhaps they will soon migrate to the clover and alfalfa fields.

Ground hogs are on my most hated list. They dig holes on every bank and incline. They have a hole, or holes under a building that is build on a concrete slab. They have the audacity to sit on my lawn, where I can see them from a window, and eat the clover in my lawn. They seem to smile a lot.

Then there are the animals that wonder around at night, I'm not sure what they are but I wake up sometimes and see that the motion light is shining brightly, apparently turned on by some critter. I often see tiny foot prints in the snow, soft ground or on wet pavement.

Oh yes, I forgot to mention the Ringneck Pheasant cock who fed under the bird feeder off and on all winter. I haven't seen him lately, perhaps he found a mate or has decided to move on and explore the neighborhood.

What's in your back yard?

## *Field Notes, by WCO Dirk Remensnyder*



One Sunday while shopping at the local flea market I purchased a large ham bone for my dog. When I came home and gave it to the dog he only chewed on it a little bit and then didn't seem interested in it. Right before dark it started to drizzle so I took the dog bone and put it under the porch stoop. Upon waking up the next morning the muddy bear paw prints on the deck told the story of why the dog's bone was now missing, stolen from right under his nose while he slept on the couch. The dog, however, was not content to be outdone by a bear. Three days later, after a lot of sniffing, he came walking down through the yard with the bone in his mouth. Now when he's done chewing his bone I watch as he goes and hides it.

On May 29<sup>th</sup> a group of PGC employees led by Dan Brauning rappelled down a cliff in Union county to a Peregrine Falcon nest and leg banded the lone chick in the nest.

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Shown above is Jacob G. Shively's (my grandfather) homemade wooden huckleberry backpack. Sitting atop the backpack is Earl VonNeida's, (Janice's grandfather) homemade huckleberry picker.

ries along this road as far from the road as all the trees and underbrush had been cleared. It was also rough land, many areas of sandstones, and this also was a place for many snakes. Rattlesnakes and copperhead snakes both are very poisonous.

It is not only humans that enjoy the flavorful taste of the wild huckleberry. The berries are also a food source for a variety of birds and mammals, including turkeys, grouse, and song birds as well as rodents, rabbits, fox, raccoons, squirrels, and black bears.

To spend quality time together as a family, why not venture into the mountains to pick huckleberries. Rules and regulations governing the picking of huckleberries on state forestlands is covered in Title 17 of the Pennsylvania Code Part I, Sub Part C. Chapter 21.31, which states: "*the edible wild plants may be gathered without authorization if they are gathered for one's own personal or family consumption.*"

Gathering wild huckleberries on state forestlands has become a summertime ritual for Janice and I. In fact we prefer the taste of the wild huckleberry to commercially grown blueberries. We

also enjoy scouting for prospective areas where huckleberries are in abundance and then keeping tabs on them while waiting for the perfect time to pick. We are continuing a tradition and legacy left to us by our parents, grandparents and great-grandparents.

The uses for huckleberries are endless. The berries can be used to make jams and jelly, syrup, and wine. They are also used in pies, muffins, ice cream, pudding, honey, and syrup. Hand-to-mouth picking is also enjoyable!

It is not only the taste of the wild berries that keeps us coming back to our favorite huckleberry patch year after year. The serenity, the solitude, and the fresh mountain air are compelling. Perhaps we will see you out and about along one of the mountain

### Huckleberry Picking Tips

There are a few things you should know, and some things you should always take along if you decide to venture out into the mountains to pick huckleberries. Try to do your picking during the early morning or late afternoon hours, thereby avoiding the hottest part of the day. Always take several bottles of ice water. Be sure to wear long pants and spray yourself with bug and tick repellent. A head net will provide added protection from bugs and insects. Remember a bucket to put your berries in. Save time at home preparing your berries by handpicking "clean berries." A salad spinner is a great tool for cleaning and drying your berries. While we have never seen any snakes while picking berries we are always mindful that they may be around.

roads this summer in search of huckleberries. Keep in mind that there is an unwritten rule among huckleberry pickers about not sharing their secret picking spot with others. However, that rule is one we ignore with anyone who wants to be our "Huckleberry Friend."

Sources: Louise (Goehring) Scott's Oral History Transcriptions, transcribed by Emilie Freer Jansma, August 2005; "Remembering" by Randall Stover, published in 2005; A Brief Biography of Elder Greene Shively 1870-1954, by Jacob G. Shively, 1965; Elder Greene Shively's diary; Henry David Thoreau, Wild Fruits, edited by Bradley P. Dean, published in 1999 by W. W. Norton & Company; and The Legacy of Penn's Woods 1895-1995 by Lester A. DeCoster, published in 1995 by the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission for the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources Bureau of Forestry.

The Middleburg Post - August 1886: Berry Picker - John Bolender Adamsburg was on Shade Mountain five times and brought down 208 quarts of huckleberries. Who can beat it?

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The Middleburg Post, July 1934: Berries Scarce - Huckleberries are reported as getting scarce as there are too many pickers on the mountain this year. People are taking advantage of the new road on Shade Mountain, which makes it convenient for people to pick berries.

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McClure Plain Dealer, August 1945 Mrs. Archie Young of McClure and her sister, Mrs. Elder Ewig, Raubs Mills, had a thrilling experience while picking huckleberries near the gap in the Shade Mountain, south of Beaver Springs. In a nice patch of berries Julia had picked five quarts when she stepped on a rattlesnake. A real battle on her hands, Mrs. Young killed the snake after a hard fight. A short time later Jean also saw a rattlesnake, which she killed in short order. Soon a third snake was seen. It was not a rattler, but they never saw a similar kind before.

Thinking some might doubt their words, they brought both snakes along home, each one measuring 38 inches long and having 12 rattles and button.

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The Middleburg Post - August 1965: R. M. Baker and C. F. Wagner, McClure were on Shade Mountain several miles east of McClure to pick huckleberries. They were in a section crowned with a wide flat, a good place for berrying and a good place to get lost, and returned home. Later R. M. told C. F. he'd lost his wallet. Back to the hill they went. This time they took with them a long pole. "Old Glory" was fastened to the top of the pole, set upright and could be used as a marker. They retraced their steps, glancing back to see the Stars and Stripes, and also singing, "God Bless America". The search finally proved fruitful and the lost wallet was found.

## Recipes of the Month

by Janice (Dorman) Shively

### Huckleberry Jelly

1. To prepare the juice for your jelly: Wash and stem 10 C. of huckleberries. Slightly crush the berries, one layer at a time, with a potato masher. Add 1 ¼ C. water and place in a large saucepot. Cover and simmer fruit for 10 minutes. Strain mixture through a damp jelly bag or several layers of cheesecloth to extract juice. Let juice drip for a minimum of several hours, or over night, in the refrigerator.
2. Measure 3 ½ C. prepared juice. You can add water to your juice to make 3 ½ C. if you don't have enough.
3. Combine prepared juice with 2 T. lemon juice in a 6- or 8-quart saucepot. Gradually stir in one box of Ball® Fruit Jell Pectin. Bring mixture to a full boil over high heat, stirring constantly.
4. Add 5 C. sugar, stirring to dissolve. Return mixture to a full rolling boil. Boil hard for 1 minute, stirring constantly. Remove from heat; skim foam if necessary.
5. Ladle jelly into hot jars, and place two-piece caps. Process in boiling-water canner for 10 minutes.
6. After processing, remove jars and set them upright on a towel (out of draft) to cool for 12 to 24 hours.



This recipe is adapted from the Ball® Fruit Jell Pectin instruction sheet for making blueberry jelly. If you are not familiar with the canning process, please read the enclosed instruction sheet carefully. Yield: 6 (8 oz.) jars.

If you don't want to pick 10 cups of huckleberries to make jelly, then 1 cup of huckleberries will be sufficient to make this recipe:

### Huckleberry Streusel Coffee Cake

- 2 C. all-purpose flour
  - ¾ C. sugar
  - 2 tsp. baking powder
  - ¼ tsp. salt
  - 1 egg
  - ½ C. milk
  - ½ C. butter, softened
  - 1 C. fresh or frozen huckleberries
  - 1 C. chopped pecans
- Streusel Topping:
- ½ C. sugar
  - ⅓ C. all-purpose flour
  - ¼ C. cold butter



In a large mixing bowl, combine the flour, sugar, baking powder and salt. Add egg, milk and butter; beat well. Fold in huckleberries and pecans. Spread into a greased 9-in. square baking pan.

For topping, combine sugar and flour in a bowl; cut in butter until crumbly. Sprinkle over batter. Bake at 375° for 35 – 40 minutes or until a toothpick inserted near the center comes out clean. Cool on a wire rack. Yield: 9 servings.

This recipe comes from the *Taste of Home* August / September 2005 magazine, which was shared with me by Martha Stanishewski of Creek Road Millmont. The recipe is originally written using blueberries, but it tastes delicious made with huckleberries!

Go pick some huckleberries, and ENJOY!

#### July Family Reunions

##### K/Catherman Reunion

The 55th annual K/Catherman family reunion will be held on Saturday, July 5th at the Mifflinburg Community Park. Descendants of any Katterman immigrant, and their families, are invited to attend. Scheduled activities include 10:00 a.m. genealogical consultations, sharing of family information, and fellowship. At 11:30 a.m. announcements will be shared and a group photograph will be taken at the nearby gazebo. A picnic lunch will be held at 12-noon. Attendees are asked to bring a side dish and a dessert to share. Beverages will be provided free of charge. At 2:00 p.m. a Chinese (silent) auction will be held. You are encouraged to bring a nice homemade or other item (unwrapped) to sell if you would like to support the treasury. Activities at the park include swimming pool, miniature golf, and children's playground. Bingo will be held in the afternoon. Tobias Catherman and Carl R. Catherman will be available to answer relative to family history.

##### Hartley Family Reunion

The Hartley family reunion will be held on Sunday July 27 at the Anthony Selin Park in Selinsgrove. Mealtime will be 12-noon, and attendees are asked to bring a covered dish to share as well as a place setting for your family. The gathering will take place under a pavilion, so a rain or shine policy prevails. There are ten acres to roam and explore at your leisure. You are also encouraged to bring family photographs, both old and new, to share with attendees.

##### Bingaman Family Reunion

The Bingaman family reunion will be held on Saturday July 5 at 12-noon at the Hartley Township Picnic Pavilion in Laurelton.

# Penlines From my Kitchen to Yours

by *Lucy Hoover*

*"The earth is the Lord's, the fullness thereof.  
It speaks of His greatness, it sings of His love."*

May 17, 2008

Sarah Ann Hoover (19) of Millmont had an appendectomy.

May 21

More than 1,800 hoagies were made at John Aaron and Lydia Reiff's of Millmont. Orders were taken earlier and the money went toward hospital bills.

May 23

Tonight a young black bear came across the fields and crossed Pheasant Ridge Road. Then it climbed up in the neighbor's tree, where quite a few people gathered to see it. Pauline was concerned about the bear getting into her bed tonight!

May 25

Lynn Zimmerman (5) son of Allen and Marian, was able to be at church for the first time since his head injury.

June 3

Ralph & Wilma Zimmerman have a son named Samuel Josiah. Grandparents are Phares and Ada Zimmerman and Daniel and Alice Burkholder.

June 4

Today was the Bishop ordination at Vicksburg Church, to ordain a helper for Bishop Levi. All four of our ministers were candidates. Esra Zimmerman Sr. of Mifflinburg is the one who was ordained.

June 11

Leon Horning (22) of Mifflinburg is at Geisinger Hospital to have a growth removed close to his heart.

Edna Jane Martin (22) of Lewisburg has a sore irritated eye due to a burdock seed.

## Are You Moving?

If you are planning to move, or if your post office mailing address is about to change, please notify The Millmont Times immediately at P. O. Box 3, Millmont, PA 17845.

This newsletter is distributed bulk rate each month, and therefore it will not be forwarded by the United States Postal Service to your new address. If there are any changes in your postal mailing address you can contact me at (570) 922.4297 or you can send an email to:

[millmonttimes@dejazzd.com](mailto:millmonttimes@dejazzd.com)

## Looking Back

The following article was copied from a local newspaper. The year was 1898.

### FATAL ACCIDENT

Edna Schnure of Laurelton Killed.

The village of Laurelton was plunged into gloom on Monday by an accident which resulted in the death of a little girl.

Since huckleberries have ripened the people of Laurelton have been going to the mountain, riding on the trucks of Laurelton & Pine Creek R. R., for the purpose of picking berries. Monday of this week about twenty-five persons, large and small, mounted the trucks and the train started for the mountains, Engineer Al. Bingaman at the throttle.

Among the passengers was Miss Edna, daughter of Squire Frank Schnure, aged about one month less than twelve years. There were two trucks in front of the engine and two behind. Edna sat on the first truck, about the centre of the forward end of said truck. At Stony Run Gap the train was stopped for a few minutes and then started up a pretty steep grade. As the engine started, the trucks bumping together suddenly, Edna was thrown to the track, the first truck passing over her and her body was under the second truck before the train could be stopped. When the train came to a stand still, the truck was lifted and the body taken out. The track hands placed her on their truck and brought her to Laurelton as speedily as possible. Medical aid was at once summoned, but it was found that both arms and a number of ribs were broken and the head crushed. In an hour from the time of return she was dead. The dear little girl who had left home two hours before; full of life, with a pleasant word for everybody, was a mangled corpse.

The writer talked with a goodly number of Laurelton people on Monday and all spoke of Edna Schnure as a bright, winsome little girl, with a pleasant word for everybody, extremely ladylike for one so young, and beloved by all with whom she came in contact.

To the parents the blow is a terribly sad one; but it was an accident and no blame can attach to any one. The sympathy of the entire community goes to the family in their sad bereavement, while another warning comes to all saying— "Be ye also ready, for in such an hour as ye know not the son of man cometh."

## Remembrance

Leah Mae Bingaman, 84, of 1040 Shirk Road for the past 61 years, entered into rest at 7:30 a.m. Thursday, June 19, 2008, at her home. She was born March 3, 1924, in Mifflinburg, a daughter of the late Wesley and Nettie (Kratzer) Jarrett. On June 21, 1947, in Mazeppa, she married Charles William Bingaman. He preceded her in death on October 20, 1997, breaking a marital bond of over 50 years.

Leah attended the Red Bank School, Lewisburg High School for two years, and then graduated from Mifflinburg High School in 1942. She was a farm girl her entire life, spending the last 61 years operating the family-owned Brookside Farm, west of Millmont. Before she was married, Leah worked at the Huntington Throwing Mills.

She was a member of Christ's United Lutheran Church, Millmont.

Leah loved her children, grandchildren, great-granddaughter, and her cats. She enjoyed sitting on the front porch and watching the hummingbirds and butterflies in her flower beds. Leah also enjoyed spending time at her son's campsite along Penns Creek, eating at area restaurants, reading, and watching game shows and cooking shows on television. Earlier in life, she enjoyed crocheting and latch hooking rugs.

Surviving are one son and daughter-in-law, Mark W. and Mary A. Bingaman of Millmont; one daughter and son-in-law, Joan K. and Robert L. Klinger of Mifflinburg; six grandchildren, Elizabeth M. Mattern, and Seth T. Mattern, both of Mifflinburg, Shanda K. Bingaman, Garrett C. Bingaman, Chelynn R. Bingaman, and Keyen M. Bingaman, all of Millmont; and one great-granddaughter, Piper Leah Bartholomew.

She was preceded in death by one son, Glenn D. Bingaman, on April 10, 1995; three brothers, Raymond, Paul, and Glen Jarrett; and two sisters, Mary Delsite and Beatrice Sanders.

Burial was in the Hartleton Cemetery.

\*\*\*\*\*

The June 2008 issue of The Millmont Times included the obituary of Elwood Dale of Mifflinburg, along with what I thought was a photograph of him in his military uniform. Unfortunately the photograph was actually that of his brother, Paul Dale, and not of Elwood Dale. I apologize to the family for the error. The photograph to the left is Elwood Dale in uniform. My thanks to Mary (Dale) Wehr of Mifflinburg for providing me with the photograph.



Eli Reiff of Mifflinburg submitted the following poem. He and his wife, Kathleen, received this poem from their daughter Marilyn, prior to her marriage to Leonard Zimmerman on September 8, 2005.

Dear Mom & Dad,

Precious are the memories of my childhood days,  
Fondest recollections of all your caring ways.

Mother you have taught me to fear and trust the Lord,  
And also the importance to read His Holy Word.

All the worthwhile lessons you took the time to teach,  
Cooking, sewing, cleaning.....I cannot name them each.

As I now grow older and pour my woes to you,  
You always seem to listen and know just what to do.

I also thank you Dad for all your efforts too,  
Clothing, food, and shelter - I've known my whole life though.

You tried to teach me right from wrong, and didn't spare the  
rod,  
You took us all to church where we learned some more from  
God.

All the lasting memories of things you've done and said,  
Quoting tales and stories, from history books you've read.

So with this change in life for your daughter and new son,  
We want to thank you both, for everything you've done!

With all my love,  
Marilyn

## Save These Dates!

Friday, October 3 and Saturday October 4, 2008

Researchers Day at The West End Library

On the above two dates historians and genealogists Emilie Jansma (Weikert, Pardee, & Tight End), Jeanne Jolly (Hironymous Family), and Tony & Janice Shively (Millmont & Hartleton) are scheduled to be present and available at the West End Library with various resource material. They will also be available to answer questions from individuals interested in items relative to genealogy and West End history. Interested individuals will be asked to contact the library staff in advance to schedule appointments. Watch for additional details in the August issue of The Millmont Times.

## Letters & E-mail to the Editor

Tony...what a pleasant surprise to see my mother, Freida Kline, in an early school picture. Hertha Wehr's column included a 1929/30 Pike School photo, which would have placed mother in fourth or fifth grade. In addition to Freida Kline Chappell's picture, my Uncle Bob Kline and Aunt Miriam Kline Kerstetter are pictured also. Mother will celebrate her 88th birthday in July and certainly will be thrilled to see her class photo. Thank You!

Bill & Gloria Wenrick Chappell, Mountain Top, PA

Hello Tony, I enjoyed the picture of the Pike School very much. My sister, Mildred Keister, went to school with a lot of the same students in 1924 - 1927. Ed Shively was the teacher then.

Thelma Pontius, Hartleton, PA

Tony, I really enjoyed seeing the picture of the Pike School in the June issue. My mother, Mae (Kuhns) Sullivan did not have any pictures of her brothers, Ralph, Harold, and David, when they were young. David Kuhns dies at age 12. I called her as soon as I saw the picture. Thanks!

Sharon Page, Ramer, TN

**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 1, 1934 - Temperature 70 - 95 degrees. Present 107. Con. \$3.85. Commenced the study of the "Divided Kingdom." 1 Kings 11:29-39. Golden Text—Proverbs 16:18. No Sermon. Practiced for Children's Day Service this evening. Bro Keister gave me \$9.56. The program was well rendered by the young people. Billy and Donald sang. Edgar and Harold recited, Harold's first experience. David and Kenneth took part in the service. Everybody seemed to enjoy the program.*

*Monday July 2, 1934 - Temperature 65 - 95 degrees. Clear. I worked in the garage. David's bicycle came on Saturday. Billy and Donald got a wheel during the time we were on our trip, and Edgar and Harold have a machine with 3 wheels. Was to School Director's meeting this evening. Adopted a series of histories, bought them from The American Book Co. Brother Bossler representing the company.*

*Tuesday July 3, 1934 - Temperature 68 - 100 degrees. Worked in the garage. This evening we had a shower.*

*Wednesday July 4, 1934 - Temperature 68 - 86 degrees. Clear. This evening Mother and I went with Edmund's to Sister's Aid at Brother Starooks.*

*Saturday July 7, 1934 - Temperature 72 - 102 degrees. Clear. Several showers. Edmund bought a Plymouth car. Mother and I had our first ride in it going to Sister's Aid on Wednesday evening.*

*Monday July 9, 1934 - Temperature 52 - 88 degrees. Fair. Worked in the garage. David and his father went fishing along the creek.*

## Thank You!

I would like to thank the following people for making monetary donations toward the publication of this newsletter: Kenneth & Isabel Kline, Laurelton; Arnold & Dorothy Gilkey, Mifflinburg; Mary Kahl, Millmont; Miriam Wirth, Mifflinburg; Leon & Betty Klock, Herndon; William & Jeannette Lasansky, Vinalhaven, ME; Mary Wehr, Mifflinburg; and Ronald & Evelyn Keister, Laurelton.

If you would like to receive a FREE color version of The Millmont Times each month via the Internet log on to the website: [www.millmonttimes.com](http://www.millmonttimes.com) and download the newsletter directly to your computer. In addition to the current issue we have also made all of the 2004 through 2007 issues of The Millmont Times available on the website.

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!!

I would like to welcome the following new subscribers: Roy Englehart, Mr. & Mrs. Oliver Hummel, Dianna Lloyd, and Robert & Lois Page, all of Mifflinburg; and William "Ted" Snook, Morrestown, NJ.

I would also like to thank Paul Boop of Hartleton & George Shively of Mifflinburg for allowing me to copy several old Pike Schoolhouse class photographs; Mary Wehr for sending a photograph of her brother, the late Elwood Dale, in his military uniform; Margie Bowersox of Groveton, TX, for donating a circa 1936 Pennsylvania State Roadmap; and Joe White, Tom Catherman, and Donald Fornwalt for donating old newspapers from the 1970's and 1980's.

## Blood Drive

A blood drive will be held at Christ's United Lutheran Church, Millmont on July 22 from 1:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m.

Everyone 16 years and older, in good health, and who weighs at least 110 pounds is urged to consider donating blood. For more information call 524.0400. Please bring photo ID.

## *What's Happening at Christ's United Lutheran Church*

*Courtesy of Shirley Kerstetter*

Prayer Group will be held every Wednesday morning at the church beginning at 9:30 a.m.

Angel Food Ministries is an ongoing program at the church. For more information about Angel Food you can visit their website at: [afm@4bellschurch.com](mailto:afm@4bellschurch.com) or you can call the Angel Food Coordinator at 966.5068.

If you are not from this area you can go to the Angel Food Ministries website: [www.angelfoodministries.com](http://www.angelfoodministries.com) and select a church closer to you. It is a great program.

### 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 – Dennis Shively	22 – Hazel Erdly
7 – Scott Kline	22 – Jonathan Martin
8 – Catana “Tina” Zimmerman	22 – Esther Nissley
9 – Brooke Catherman	23 – Shelby Hackenberg
9 – Jeremy & Elisa Beaver - 2005	23 – Donald Long
9 – Franklin Gross	24 – Sarah Hoover
9 – Jerry L. Starks	25 – Frank Raker
11 – Mervin Zimmerman	26 – Michael Jones
13 – Mary C. Kahl	26 – Bailey J. Koonsman
15 – Donald R. Miller	26 – Donald Zechman
14 – Adran Martin	27 – Donald Bowersox
17 – Randall Aikey	28 – Phyllis Ruhl
17 – Robert & Carolyn Wagner – 1971	29 – Oakley Whitesel
18 – Dolores & Gerald Starks - 1965	29 – Harold Stephens
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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Tony Shively

Post Office Box 3

Millmont PA 17845

Telephone: (570) 922.4297 or

E-mail:

[millmonttimes@dejazzd.com](mailto:millmonttimes@dejazzd.com)

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