



Story of Lewis Township and Swengel

By LUTHER YARGER

Republished from the Union County Sesquicentennial book

“The Story of a County” 1813-196

Lewis Township was separated from Hartley in 1857 and was named after ex-Judge Lewis. What is now Lewis Township had the unique distinction of having two county seats at the same time. Originally in Cumberland County, the Township was divided near Ray's Church by the Treaty of 1768, the northern part being in Berks County and the southern part in Cumberland County; it remained so until the County of Northumberland was erected in 1772.

According to tradition, one of the first clearings was made by William Doran around 1755 near the Halfpenny and Grove Mill, but he left the valley at the time of the Great Runaway and never returned. This settlement, together with the opening of the Reuben Haines Road, no doubt led to the building of the mill there in 1781 by David Smith, son-in-law of Christian Shively. Mr. Shively, who settled at White Springs in 1773, bought eleven hundred acres of land from John Harris on the north side of Penn's Creek extending from White Springs to the Lincoln Farm. Mr. Smith came in possession of three hundred acres of land in the vicinity of the mill.

Among the first known settlers were the Reznor's, Rae's, Fore's, and the Klinesmith's who homesteaded along the new road, later called the turnpike. Settling in the southern part were the Laughlin's, Heis', Smith's, Catherman's, Millers', Shively's and Stitzer's and many more whose names we do not know.

Lumbering and Farming Important

The early inhabitants of Lewis Township were mostly engaged in farming and lumbering or lime and brick burning. Among other craftsmen were carpenters, stone and brick masons, pump makers, carpet weavers, shoemakers, blacksmiths and wagon and coach builders. For many years lumbering was an important industry. Many saw mills dotted the valley, the largest being the Ryan Thompson Co., along Buffalo Mountain. The products of this company were hauled on a tram road to Mifflinburg and there loaded on railroad cars. Hundreds of thousands of feet of lumber, railroad ties, mine props were also hauled to the stations at Millmont and Swengel to be shipped to eastern markets. The lumber industry is gone; only agriculture remains and persons not engaged in agriculture must seek employment elsewhere.

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In Your Mailbox

July is perhaps the summer vacation month for many people. If you are heading out on vacation be sure to let your carrier know the specific dates when you will be away. You can call your local delivery office and request Form 8076 to be delivered to your mailbox so that you can fill it out and return it to the carrier so he/she knows exactly when to begin holding your mail and when the end date will be. While you are away from home you can rest assured that all of your mail will be held safe and secure in the post office until you return home. Form 8076 includes a space for you to indicate whether or not you would like all of your accumulated mail to be delivered on a specific day, or whether you prefer to pick your mail up at the post office. Be sure to mark the appropriate box.

Recently issued stamps include a sheet of 16 stamps honoring the legendary Country Music singer Johnny Cash. In addition to Cash's songs living forever, the postage on the sheet of 16 stamps will also be good - Forever.

Another recently issued stamp honors the 150th anniversary of statehood for West Virginia. These Forever stamps come in sheets of 20. Later this month (July 13th) a sheet of New England Coastal Lighthouses will be available at your local post office. Each sheet features five different lighthouses, and is the sixth in a series. For these and other stamps contact your local post office.

On June 28, 2013 it was announced that the Monday through Friday window hours at the Hartleton Post Office would be reduced from 8 hours per day to 2 hours per day. The new window hours - 9:00 a.m. until 11:00 a.m. will go into effect on Monday August 12th.

The post office will observe July 4th holiday on Thursday, July 4th. Have a happy, safe, and enjoyable holiday!

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According to Lincoln, the first clearing was made in 1793 where the village of Swengel now stands by Bastian Miller, a tenant on lands owned by Col. Hartley. This land passed on to Daniel Spigelmyer and in 1858 was purchased by John Swengel, from whom the town got its name, Mr. Swengel having previously purchased other land around Swengel. He divided this tract of land and sold the land east of the New Berlin-Hartleton road to Thomas Shipton in 1869. In 1874 The Lewisburg, Center, and Spruce Creek Railroad Company bought a right-of-way through Lewis Township and the town of Swengel was born. The town was laid out in building lots and both Mr. Swengel and Mr. Shipton gave a plot of ground to the Railroad Company for a station site.

A rivalry soon developed between Swengel and Millmont for the new station; Millmont won the victory and Swengel had to be content with a flag stop, siding and mail crane. A post office was established at Swengel Feb. 6, 1875; Alfred T. Shipton was the first Post Master. He has been followed by J. L. Halfpenny, William Feese, Sr., Wolfe Friedman, William L. Burd, John B. Zeigler, William L. Burd, Clarence L. Burd, John N. Burd, Willard E. Hackenberg and Donald K. Reiner.

Another institution that flourished for over a decade was the Swengel Camp Meeting. Soon after the Evangelical Association built a church in Millmont, they organized a camp meeting. This was moved to Swengel grove on Aug. 4, 1881, and in November of 1883 they leased the grove for a permanent site. Buildings were erected, hitching posts set and shade trees planted. It drew large crowds, particularly on Sundays, and for several years an excursion train was run from Lewisburg.

After the unfortunate split in the Evangelical Church, the camp closed and the buildings were sold. The prevailing prices for the ten days meeting were \$2.00 for tents and \$3.50 for board; among items listed for sale were ice cream, peanuts, lemonade and watermelons.

Merchants Serve Community

The following merchants have served the community: S. P. Myers, Wm. Young & Son, Wm. Bower & Son, W. H. Zaring, D. C. Albright, Wolfe Friedman, Chas. H. Lebkicker, Wm. Feese, N. S. Walter, John B. Zeigler, W. L. Burd & Co., Arthur Burd, Willard Hackenberg, E. J. Boop, general merchandise, John Knauer and Ruhl Bros., grain and coal, Nathan Feese, hardware and furniture.

Rev. David Williams built a Baptist Church here which was formally opened May 14, 1880, by Dr. A.J. Hill, President of Lewisburg University. The brick school, built as a subscription school prior to 1837, was the only one in the Township purchased by the school board when free schools were established in 1842. When the new school district was set up in 1858 four schools were already in existence; a new school house was built during the summer along the turnpike, as near to the road as the law would allow. The turnpike served as a play ground.

In 1884 the young men of the vicinity organized the Swengel Cornet Band under the direction of Mr. Isaac Zellers of Mifflinburg. The late Charles Knauss, one of the original members, was the leader of the band when it disbanded a quarter of a century later.

Swengel never enjoyed a flourishing industrial climate; the town grew to a certain size and then remained static. For a number of years there were two stores and a grain house; today they are gone.

The Bible Truth Depot, started many years ago by Mr. A. F. Cowles of Buffalo, N. Y., and now under the management of Mr. Donald Reiner, together with the Church and Post Office, still remain.

Millmont History Recalled

By Jacob Shively

Republished from the Union County Sesquicentennial book

“The Story of a County” 1813-1963

The village of Millmont, nestled in the scenic mountains of the western end of Union County, was founded by Jacob E. Royer in 1874. In August of that year, Royer employed Calvin Hayes and William Snyder to make a survey and lay out the town into lots. A wide strip, over one thousand feet long, approximately in the center of the plot, was ceded to the Lewisburg and Tyrone Railroad. The arrival of the railroad precipitated a spirited rivalry between Royer and William Feese, a merchant located at the site of the present village of Swengel, as to which site would be favored by the depot. Royer offered the best proposition and it was promptly accepted by the Lewisburg & Tyrone. The Railway later named the station Millmont, probably because of the mill and nearby mountains.

An enterprising businessman, Royer owned a brick factory which produced bricks for the station, a grist mill, church, school house and several dwellings. Kelly Royer, a son of the proprietor, invented an ingenious device for opening and closing window shutters from inside the house. A factory was erected for its manufacture and continued in business for several years. E. A. H. Royer, another son, was the first merchant in Millmont and conducted an extensive business for many years before being appointed postmaster when the post office was opened in 1882.

Principal industry in Millmont was a wood-making factory, manufacturing such products as flooring, wainscoating, molding, boxes, etc. This factory was owned by W. E. Smith & Company. An impressive wooden structure, 60 by 150 feet, the factory was destroyed by fire in December, 1912. But the new proprietors, Ruhl & Watson, soon rebuilt the factory, this time

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Exploring the Bald Eagle State Forest

Weikert Run Road



Shed once used to house dynamite off Weikert Run Road.

Portions of Weikert Run Road are located in both Union and Snyder counties, and can be accessed via several forestry roads. Those access roads include Hunter Road, Thomas Dam Road, White Mountain Road, and Longwell Draft Road. Weikert Run Road, like many Bald Eagle State Forest (BESF) roads, possesses areas of natural beauty and historic interest. In this month's edition we will highlight a few of those features.

The origins of road names such as Weikert Run, Thomas Dam, and White Mountain are well known. However, when it comes to Hoofnagle and Longwell Draft, they are a little more puzzling. Perhaps they were the surnames of people who lived or worked in the area during the lumbering era? Or, did they originate from some early forestry worker? I do not have the answer. Like so many other place names in the BESF if someone reading this article knows the answer to the origins of these names please feel free to contact me at the address on page 12.

Weikert Run was named after George Weiker, who according to historian Richard VB. Lincoln was one of the early settlers in that region. His brother, Jacob Weiker also settled in that area around the same time. Both George and Jacob, along with their families, moved west in the early part of the 19th century. Folks in that area later recognized Weiker by naming the village and nearby mountain stream after the pioneer settlers. The letter T was subsequently added at the end of the Weiker name, both on the village as well as the stream.

The 1856 survey map by Paschall & Keily of Union County refers to Weiker Run as Wickard Creek. A 1922 Karoondinha State Forest map shows the name of the stream as Weikert Run. More recent BESF maps and topographic maps spell the name of the stream as Weikert Run.

The easiest way of gaining access to Weikert Run Road is by turning onto White Mountain Road in the village of Weikert. When you arrive at the T intersection at the south end of White Mountain Road you have the option of going east or west onto Weikert Run Road. For this article we will begin our journey turning right (west) at the intersection.

At the intersection all of the forestland around you is privately owned. After driving west on Weikert Run Road about three tenths of a mile you will enter BESF lands. If you look to your left near the state forest boundary line perhaps you will see an old shed hidden in the thick undergrowth. A smaller building with similar construction (thick walls and doors that are filled with sand) is located nearby.

Many of the BESF roadways were once layered with shale. The abundance of shale pits on state lands provided an adequate supply of raw material. In more recent years crushed limestone or other materials are used to improve the forest roadways. Numerous shale pits scattered across the BESF are no longer used and some are barricaded with large boulders to prevent four-wheelers and off-road vehicles from making use of them.

Heading west on Weikert Run Road you cross over the stream from which the road got its name. Just beyond the bridge is a sign indicating the White Mountain Wild Area. If you walk behind the gated road to your right White Mountain Ridge Trail will lead you to Chimney Rock.

At various times while driving along Weikert Run Road it is difficult to see the stream due to the dense rhododendron. July would be an ideal time to take a stroll through the BESF to see the large woody shrub in bloom.

There are numerous trails that originate or terminate along Weikert Run Road. In addition to White Mountain Ridge there are several others, including Devils Elbow, Green Gap, and Penns Creek Valley Trail. There are also some unnamed paths that will lead you to various other sites of interest.

Little Weikert Run flows into Weikert Run just west of the intersection of Hoofnagle, Longwell Draft, and Weikert Run Road. The water that flows from these two streams originates on Strong Mountain (Weikert Run on the north side of the mountain and Little Weikert on the south). The PA Fish Commission has classified both branches of this stream as Wild Trout Waters.

Further downstream Green Gap Run empties into Weikert Run near Green Gap Trail. From there the stream continues eastward until it enters Penns Creek at Wesley Forest. Green Gap Trail is



Moss covered rocks in Green Gap Run.

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Remains of a stone cabin alongside Green Gap Run.

located about 1.8 miles west of the intersection of White Mountain Road and Weikert Run Road. After crossing the wooden footbridge the trail parallels Green Gap Run southward until it exits on Hunter Road. The footbridge was an Eagle Scout project of Jeremiah Zimmerman of Troop 536. As you head south on Green Gap Trail toward Hunter Road the trails intersects with Penns Creek Valley Trail, which runs east and west.

Prior to ascending the gap you will arrive at the ruins of what used to be a stone cabin. When this cabin was built and by whom is information I am trying to locate. How they managed to build a cabin that far off the beaten path is also a mystery. The scenery along Green Gap Run is noteworthy. The moss covered rocks and boulders highlight some of the natural beauty of the area. Hiking boots are a must if you plan to take advantage of the scenery along Green Gap Trail.

For many years Weikert Run was a popular destination for fishermen. Years ago, access to pools of water back in the more remote areas was by walking. For the dyed-in-the-wool fisherman that was never

an issue. During a January 1996 interview with the late George J. Sholter, Sr. (1913-1997) he recalled the days when anglers of all stripes made their way to the pristine waters of Weikert Run to take trout from the stream.

For a number of years Sholter served as a deputy under Arthur Snyder, Union County Fish Warden. Sholter recalled one incident along Weikert Run from late 1920's that involved himself and Snyder. They received word that a group of scoundrels were engaged in illegal late night activities in the area of Devils Elbow. Sholter said that he and Snyder walked from the village of Weikert to Devils Elbow because there was no drivable road at that time. There they rounded up a group of outlaws whose method of capturing fish included the use of explosives.

Tossing a stick of dynamite into a small stream not only created a loud explosion; it also resulted in a number of dead or stunned fish rising to the surface. This unsportsmanlike activity was not limited to Weikert Run. I have other newspaper articles from the 1920's and 1930's that mention the use of dynamite on Rapid Run and Penns Creek.

The July 1932 issue of the Pennsylvania Angler magazine included a blurb relative to the Paddy Mountain Fish and Game Club of Weikert. It stated that under the guidance of Asa. R. Sholter (1887-1967) the club was rearing thousands of brown trout for release into Penns Creek as well as other nearby streams. (Asa R. Sholter was the father of George J. Sholter, Sr).



Above are numerous Red-Spotted Purple butterflies engaged in "puddling."

Below is a black phase Timber Rattlesnake (about 24" long) recently photographed along Weikert Run Road.



The forestry department, along with the resources provided by the Weikert CCC camp, made improvements to many of the forestry roads in that area during the time the camp was open (1933-1941). Improved forest roads allowed for easier and more convenient access to the mountain stream by anglers. As fishing pressure grew, so too did the need for stocking. The PA Fish Commission subsequently released hatchery-reared fish into Weikert Run.

My wife and I have witnessed some interesting nature related events along Weikert Run Road over the years. This spring we observed a Green Heron near Devils Elbow. The stocky wading bird stood motionless in a marshy area alongside the stream patiently waiting for a meal. While watching the Green Heron a young male turkey lumbered across the road in front of our vehicle before moseying into the brush.

In June we arrived at Devils Elbow to find nearly two-dozen lethargic Red-spotted Purple butterflies huddled together on the ground. Several years ago we witnessed a similar event on Weikert Run Road when we came across a gathering of Tiger Swallowtails (photo on p. 1) at the entrance to the trail leading to Chimney Rock. According to Nathan Boob of New Columbia this type of butterfly activity is what entomologists refer to as "puddling". The butterflies are actually looking for dissolved minerals or nutrients in the ground. Boob also noted that the larvae of both species feed on wild black cherry trees. The sight of one brightly colored butterfly is always a delight. However, when you encounter dozens of them in a small area that is even more of a thrill.

The origins of Devils Elbow is yet another mystery. It is located on a sharp curve on the forest roadway, which perhaps explains its diabolical name. Devils Elbow Trail begins at this bend and continues north on White Mountain.

The trail leads to the top of the mountain where it intersects with White Mountain Ridge Trail. I know someone who found this area so captivating that when he died his ashes were taken up Devils Elbow Trail by family members

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The Adirondack lean-to and stone fireplace shown above were built by the CCC at the intersection of Weikert Run Road and Hoofnagle Road in the 1930's.

and laid to rest on the north slope of White Mountain. This spot was chosen because it was located south of Club AFWREO (7785 Weikert Road). It was because of AFWREO (abbreviation for All Friends Will Respect Each Other) that he, his wife and children were introduced to the mountains and streams of the West End of Union County.

The intersection of Weikert Run Road and Hoofnagle Road is a convenient place to pull off the road and relax by the stream. When the veterans of the Spanish American War, and WWI were stationed at the Weikert CCC camp one of their many projects was the construction of an Adirondack lean-to and stone fireplace at this intersection. The two CCC era construction projects were removed a number of years ago when DCNR eliminated campsites alongside streams on state land, including those on Weikert Run. At campsite No. 61, just south of the intersection of Hoofnagle and Weikert Run Road, an Adirondack lean-to campsite has been provided by DCNR, and is available for public use by contacting the local office.

If you care to backtrack, or perhaps turn east onto Weikert Run Road from the T intersection with White Mountain Road, it will bring you out on Hunter Road in Snyder County. About .7 of a mile east of the intersection you will cross Lick Run. A short distance beyond the culvert is an unnamed trail to the left. Should you decide to park your vehicle and walk north this trail will lead you to Penns Creek. A section of this trail was once the main tram road leading to and from the Pardee Lumber Company sawmill.

Some people are under the impression that the pond east of the Union County Sportsmen's Club was associated with the lumbering operation. However, the entire Pardee sawmill operation was located on the south side of Penns Creek. The pond near the Union County Sportsmen's Club had no role in the operation of the Pardee Lumber Company. The pond, or oxbow, alongside the former railroad right-of-way was created when the Lewisburg, Centre and Spruce Creek Rail Road redirected Penns Creek on the south side of their right-of-way. By diverting the stream to the south it eliminated the need for the construction of two bridges.

On the stretch of Weikert Run Road through Coral Gap there are numerous places where you can see ballast from the tram roads once used by the lumber company. These tram roads are located along the rim of Penns Creek Mountain to your right (heading south). Sections of this tram road are easier to see when the leaves are off the trees.

The origin of the Coral name, both for the gap and the stream are unknown to me. The 1856 survey by Paschall & Keily reveals the name of S. Corl residing in the vicinity of Trails End. Although spelled slightly different, I have pondered whether Samuel Corl (1806-1872), interred in the Lincoln Chapel Cemetery, may have had any connection to the gap and stream by that name? Since I have no evidence to support that theory it should be taken with a "grain of salt."

Coral Run begins its journey to Penns Creek on the south side of Hunter Road. It empties into Penns Creek on the opposite side of the stream from where Camp Nik-O-Mahs was once located. While driving through Coral Gap you might notice a forestry marker indicating the Union/Snyder County boundary. Also nearby is the Penns Creek Valley Trail sign. Both of these markers are a short distance from the intersection with Hunter Road.



Weikert Run can be a refreshing and relaxing way to cool your feet on a hot summer day.

There are many things to see and hear along Weikert Run Road. A pleasant way to get pleasure from this area is by walking along various sections of the forestry road as Janice and I do from time to time. The resonance of the mountain water cascading over the rocks and boulders in the stream is as soothing as any music made by human hands. The stunning beauty of a Scarlet Tanager, the distant hammering of a Pileated Woodpecker, the deep-throated caw of a Raven, the sweet melody of a Wood Thrush, the excited chirping of a Chipmunk, or even the heart pounding fear upon encountering a coiled timber rattlesnake are sights and sounds that we never grow tired of, and hope we never take for granted. If you want to go exploring through the Bald Eagle State Forest be sure to check out Weikert Run Road.



Evidence of a Pileated Woodpecker that had searched for food in this dead hemlock tree. To the left of the hole is a Varnish cap mushroom.

Editor's Note: My thanks to Nathan Boob of New Columbia for identifying the butterflies in the photographs and for providing additional information concerning these beautiful insects.

TLS

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with brick. It became a leading industry in the western end of Union County until it was destroyed by fire in December, 1951, throwing about twenty-five men out of employment.

In 1913 the Millmont Improvement Club was formed among local residents, and a building was erected for the manufacture of shirts. Although this venture failed, operations were later resumed by the Quaker Manufacturing Company under the management of R. C. Miller. They were discontinued in 1928. Rev. Greene Shively purchased the old Royer store building in 1918 and converted it into a broom factory, turning out as many as 12,000 corn brooms per year until it ceased operations in 1930.

Millmont's best-known citizen was Dr. J. W. Yeisley—minister, lecturer, publisher, organizer of fraternal orders and founder of the Rex Company which did a nationwide mail order business in advertising material, religious books and lodge jewelry until the death of the owner in 1944. (Editors Note: According to his obituary, Dr. J.W. Yeisley died April 14, 1945).

Today, Millmont has a population of about 170 persons. There are about 50 dwellings, a new Post Office, P. O. S. of A. hall, one store, a garage, and a book shop operated by Jacob Shively.

Hartleton A Center for Trade and Travel

By Jacob Shively

Republished from the Union County Sesquicentennial book

“The Story of a County” 1813-1963

Hartleton, located in the western part of Union County and traversed by Route 45, is one of Union County's four boroughs. A population of about 200 is served by three churches, a store, a garage, a barbershop, a beauty parlor and a print shop.

Philip Cole was the first settler on the site of the present town, the land having been surveyed in 1773. Cole left the settlement at the time of the Great Runaway, selling the land to Colonel Thomas Hartley, a prominent officer in the Revolutionary War, from whom the town received its name. He placed Peter Keister there as a tenant and the place became known as Keistertown until it was laid out by Colonel Hartley. The deed for the first town lot was dated March 28, 1799; the town then was called Hartleytown.

For many years the bulk of the trade and travel from Penn's Valley found its outlet through this village. Later, when a stage route was established, it was a favorite stopping place for “drovers” before they entered the rugged Seven Mile Narrows. Hugh Wilson opened the first tavern in Hartleton in 1773. He was succeeded by Martin Silton in 1778, John Yerger, and John Yerger Jr. The tavern was located on the post route established April 1, 1798, from Northumberland to Bellefonte. The mail was delivered once a week by horseback.

Hartleton opened a Post Office in 1814. James Madden was appointed first postmaster, and for many years this office served the entire west end of the valley. John Thomas opened the first general store in 1811; soon after, however, the business was taken over by John Williams. Never noted as a manufacturing town, Hartleton was long known for its skilled craftsmen. In 1814 the town numbered among its citizens: Amos Harris, shoemaker; Thomas Miller, wheelwright; John McBride, joiner; Joseph Hadden, cordwainer; James Madden, weaver. Two inns, operated by William Poak and Godfried Harlof, served a steady stream of travelers, while John Williams and Abbot Green did a lively business in general merchandise. By 1829 Abraham Hahn had opened a store and tavern; Robert Foster, a store and a distillery; John Plapp, a tavern; and John Wilson, an inn. Such rapid growth was not sustained, however, when more rapid means of transportation were found. The Seven Mile Narrows were not as formidable an obstacle, and Hartleton gradually lost its position as a stopping point for travelers. By 1886 the town boasted only one hotel, operated by M. S. Wagner.

On February 16, 1858, a petition was presented to the Union County Court asking for the incorporation of a borough to be called Hartleton. It was reported favorably and the petition was granted September 18, 1858.

At the time of incorporation there were two schools within the corporate limits of Hartleton. They were used until 1863 when a two room school building was constructed. A second story, with a hall for public meetings, was added soon afterward, having been paid by a public subscription. The first teachers under the common, or free school system, were James Madden and R. V. B. Lincoln; Lincoln is the author of a monumental history of the Union County area of the *Susquehanna and Juniata Valleys in Pennsylvania*.

First church services in Hartleton were held in the school houses by Methodist itinerants who often stopped overnight in the town. Ministers of other denomination soon followed. The old Union Church was built in 1841 and was used mostly by Presbyterians, Methodists and Evangelicals. The Presbyterians withdrew in 1885 and built the church still in use by that denomination. The present Lutheran Church was built in 1875 under the pastorate of Dr. Sahn.

Editor's Note: With all of the activities and festivities surrounding the Bicentennial of Union County this year I thought it would be a good time to reflect upon some of the history of the West End that was written for the county's Sesquicentennial in 1963. I extracted the three articles (pertaining to the West End) from “The Story of a County” published in 1963. These articles were written by Luther Yarger (1901 -1974) and Jacob Shively (1901-1970) and pertain to the villages of Swengel, Millmont, and the Borough of Hartleton. After reading these articles it is interesting to see how many changes have taken place over the last 50 years, let alone over the last 200 years! Laurelton, Glen Iron, Weikert, and Pardee will be featured in subsequent issues.

Remembrance

Harold Reuben Zechman, 82, of 3305 Shakespeare Road, Milton, since 1985, entered into rest at 2:35 a.m. Tuesday, June 11, 2013, at his home.

He was born April 10, 1931, in Cowan, a son of the late Charles Edward and Florence Marion (Snyder) Zechman. On April 27, 1958, in Mifflinburg, he married the former Patricia Mary Catherman, who survives.

Harold was a 1948 graduate of Mifflinburg High School.

He served as a corporal in the Army from April 25, 1951, until his honorable discharge April 13, 1953. Harold then served as a master sergeant in the Army Reserves until his retirement in 1991.

Harold was employed as a controller with the U.S. Department of Justice for 20 years.

He was a member of West Milton United Methodist Church and a former member of Mount Zion United Methodist Church, Milton. He was a member of Mifflinburg American Legion Post 410, Mifflinburg Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 1964, Mifflinburg Loyal Order of Moose Lodge 1396, Circle M Saddle Club, Millmont, Chefs Silver and Gold Association, Milton, West Milton State Bank Good Neighbors Club and the Employees Club, Federal Prisons Camp, Allenwood.

In addition to his wife of 55 years, he is survived by three sons and two daughters-in-law, Gregory Zechman and his partner, Bryan Shrout, of Baltimore, Md., Dennis and Karen Zechman, of Hanover, and Dwayne and Eileen Zechman, of Fairfax, Va.; two grandchildren, Dennis Zechman Jr. and Kara Zechman, both of Hanover; three brothers and two sisters-in-law, Richard Zechman, of Lewisburg, Donald and Betty Jane Zechman, of Carlisle, and Robert and Ruth Zechman, of Lewisburg; and one sister, Betty Auman, of Beaver Falls.

He was preceded in death by two brothers, Kenneth and Charles Zechman, and two sisters, Geraldine Shively and Thelma Zechman.

Interment with military honors was in the Old Cedars Cemetery, Swengel.

William Isaac Bilger Sr., 89, of 606 Millmont Road, Millmont, for 39 years, entered into rest at 8:12 a.m. Wednesday, June 19, 2013, at his home.

He was born May 29, 1924, in Lewistown, a son of the late Paul S. and Alice (Swartz) Bilger. On December 15, 2009, in Daytona Beach, Fla., he married the former Cynthia L. Snyder, who survives.

Bill attended Laurelton High School. He served in the Army from June 26, 1943, until his honorable discharge Jan. 14, 1946. During this time, he served under Gen. George Patton Jr. with the 712th Tank Battalion attached to the 90th Division as a tank gunner. Bill saw action in France and Luxembourg. He was in the Battle of the Bulge and the crossing of the Rhine. Bill was wounded in action January 10, 1945, in Luxembourg. He was decorated with the Good Conduct Medal, EAMETO Ribbon with three battle stars, American Theater Ribbon, Purple Heart and the World War II Victory Medal.

Bill was employed as an independent contractor in home improvements.

He was a member of the Shade Mountain Golf Course, Middleburg, where he had six holes-in-one.

Bill was a pilot and enjoyed flying friends and family in his plane. He also enjoyed cars, motorcycles, hunting and bowling.

Surviving, in addition to his wife, are one son, William I. Bilger Jr., of Las Vegas, Nev.; one grandson, David W. Bilger, of Chico, Calif.; one daughter-in-law, Marilyn Bilger, of Las Vegas; and two stepgranddaughters, Natalie Hilbert and Abigail Bilger, of Las Vegas.

He was preceded in death by one brother, Paul Bilger Jr., and one sister, Betty Jane Speth.

Burial was in Hartleton Cemetery with military rites conducted by Mifflinburg American Legion Post 410.

Thank You!

I would like to thank the following people for making monetary donations toward the publication of this newsletter: Harvey and Brenda Ilgen, and Arnold and Dorothy Gilkey, of Mifflinburg; Robert and Bernice Dlugé of Elysburg; Leon and Betty Klock of Herndon; and Dolly Lucci of State College.

I would also like to thank everyone who renewed their subscription for another year. Your support is what makes this newsletter possible.

My thanks to Harvey Ilgen of Mifflinburg for sharing information about his Rearick ancestors; Jeanne Jolly of Weikert for donating numerous back issues of The Mifflinburg Telegraph; and Jane Bakos of Selinsgrove for providing the names from the 1926 Class attending the Millmont Red Brick School.

Wanted

Despite the fact that this newsletter is scheduled to be discontinued in April 2015, there are a number of topics that are on my "hope to do list". As with any topic I want to write about, each topic requires me to develop sufficient information and photographs in order to make the article insightful and enjoyable to the reader. Perhaps you have information and or photographs on the some of the topics listed below that will either be woven into a future article, or perhaps be a part of the front page feature story.

Future topics that I would like to gather additional information on include: The physicians and druggist who lived in the Borough of Hartleton and served the needs of that community (Dr. Newton, Dr. Alden, Dr. Frederick Piper, Dr. John Geddes, Dr. Thomas Weirick, Dr. William Seebold, and Dr. Boush); information about a possible school located at the intersection of Trails End Road and Weikert Road that served the needs of students from the Pardee area; photographs of the Dunkard Church that was once located adjacent to Weikert Road; photographs of the Center Point School and the Lincoln School that was located in the vicinity of Laurel Park; local topographical maps from the 1930's; the spring that was located next to Diehl's Garage in Hartleton; taverns, saloons, and bars located in Hartley Township and Hartleton Borough; the Laurelton State Village picnic pavilion and pond off Route 45 west of the state institution; the Culp brothers of Hartleton (Lee and William); Zachary Galer and Phoebe Styers; Peter Sheesley; Albert Lichtenwalter (also spelled Lictenwalter); photograph of a train exiting the Paddy Mountain Tunnel; and a photograph of Leroy "Deafy" Dorman.

Recipe of the Month
by Janice (Dorman) Shively
Zucchini Appetizer

4 C. sliced zucchini
 1 C. all-purpose baking mix
 ½ C. chopped onion
 ½ tsp. salt
 4 eggs, beaten (or 1 C. egg beaters)
 ¾ C. shredded cheddar cheese
 ½ C. vegetable oil
 1 clove garlic, minced

Preheat oven to 350°. Lightly grease a 9 x 13 inch baking dish.

In a large bowl, mix zucchini, all-purpose baking mix, onion, salt, eggs, cheddar cheese, vegetable oil and garlic.

Spread zucchini mixture into prepared baking dish.

Bake for 25 minutes or until bubbly and lightly browned. Cut into bite-sized pieces to serve.



I found a recipe similar to this one on-line about 7 years ago. After tweaking the original recipe, this is what I came up with. It is easy to prepare and makes a great picnic dish. It's delicious served warm or at room temperature.

I use Bisquick® baking mix and Egg Beaters® when I prepare the recipe and slice the zucchini about ¼" thick. Zucchini are coming on rapidly in backyard gardens. This is a great way to use them!

Enjoy!

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

Tue. July 24, 1934. (Temperature) 52-95 (degrees). Clear. Worked in the garage.

Wed. July 25, 1934 (Temperature) 72-100 (degrees). Clear, with the exception of a few light showers. Worked in the garage.

Edmunds (Edmund Shively and family) went on a visit to the fair (World's Fair in Chicago). They took Rev. Yeisley's along (John and Lettie Yeisley) They propose to visit some folks along the way.

Thu. July 26, 1934. Clear. A very nice day. I worked in the garage.

Fri. July 27, 1934. (Temperature) 72-95 (degrees). Cloudy. Had the best shower this evening we have had for some time.

We had a card from Edmund. They are visiting with Bro. Kelly Royer's daughter, Mrs. Graber. Kelly's brother-in-law, John Showalter, and Mrs. Samuel Blackford's.

Sat. July 28, 1934. (Temperature) 60-90 (degrees). Fair, a very nice day. Everything seems to appreciate the good rain we have had. Worked in the garage.

This evening we received a Telegram from Edmund stating that they arrived at the Century of Progress.

This evening mother and I were down to Jacobs. They made ice cream.

Sun. July 29, 1934. (Temperature) 60-85 (degrees). Cloudy. Lesson subject, Micaiah Speaks the Truth, 1 Kings 22. Golden Text 1 Kings 22:14. Pres 107. Con. \$3.12. I taught my class and spoke relative to the Church of Sardis.

This evening mother and I were at C.W.M. Sister Mary Wert lead. (She) had a good program. I made some remarks on the Parable of The Rich Fool. Billy and Donald sang "The Beautiful Garden of Prayer."

*Last night Mr. Boop's barn burned, on the fruit farm. **

Mon. July 30, 1934. (Temperature) 70-90 (degrees). Fair, showers in the evening. Worked in the garage. This evening Mr. Frank Buoy's and their daughter and husband were here.

* Editors Note: I spoke to Randall Boob of Laurelton to see if he recalled any barn fires at the Buffalo Valley Fruit Farm where his older brother, Kermit Boob was employed. While he was not aware of any particular fire at that location he said that he was aware of a number of fires that were deliberately set around that time in the area of Pleasant Grove and Rand. Randall also said that in July 1934 his father, Clarence Boob, who lived at 3410 Grand Valley Road, lost his barn in a fire. Randall Boob said that at that time he and others suspected that the fire of his father's barn may have also been intentionally started.

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

May 26, 2013

John Aaron and Amanda Martin's daughter, Jessica, of Mifflinburg is in the hospital again. She has a virus. Jessica will have her 4th birthday on May 29th.

June 1

Today was the 2nd annual benefit auction at Buffalo Valley Produce Auction for the Dr. Morton Clinic for Special Children. It was a very warm day. Lots of things were donated for the sale along with lots of food, and a large crowd of buyers were there.

June 2

Jessica Martin came home from the hospital.

June 4

Alvin and Erma Zimmerman of Lewisburg had a barn raising to build a free-stall barn for their cows. Alvin Sensenig of Mifflinburg was there to help. While using a chainsaw he accidentally cut his leg above the ankle. He was able to get down from the building and then was taken to the hospital where he had surgery to remove the chips of bone in his leg. He will possibly need to stay in the hospital for two days.

June 15

Elam Brubacker of Mifflinburg hitched his horse to the spring wagon and parked it outside where they have a rope to fasten the horse (his wife wanted to go somewhere with the horse). Elam sprayed the horse with fly spray and walked away, not realizing he had never tied the horse. The horse went down the road just like usual, but without a driver. A neighbor passed the horse in a vehicle and then jumped onto the wagon as it went by, and was able to bring the horse under control.

Late in the evening Nelson Hoover (17) son of Ervin and Carolyn Hoover of Mifflinburg, sped away on his bicycle from "Sunyside Singing School" for the youth along Cold Run Road. His bike crashed into Leonard Horning (17) son of Eugene and Anna Mae Horning coming on his bike from the opposite direction. Nelson was conscious for a while, but was taken to Evangelical Hospital after he went unconscious. From there he was life-flighted to Geisinger Medical Center and is in ICU on life support. He has blood on his brain, broken nose broken eye sockets, a dent in the right side of his forehead, bone fragments loose above the eyes, and a cut on his temple. As soon as the swelling goes down they want to come in with a team of five surgeons to work on his broken bones. Leonard did not need to be hospitalized but has been having headaches since the accident.

Looking Back

The following article was published in a local newspaper following the July 26, 1950 accident that claimed the life of Edward T. Jolly of Weikert.

Deaf Weikert Man Killed by Falling Tree

**Edward T. Jolly, 7 Retired Lumberman,
Crushed in Union County Forest.
Deaf-Mute Companion Secures Aid.**

A fallen tree, which gave way suddenly after it had lodged against another tree in Western Union County woodlands Wednesday afternoon, fatally injured a deaf man, Edward T. Jolly, 76 of Weikert, a prominently known retired lumberman.

He died of a crushed chest and internal injuries, in the vicinity of Mifflinburg while en route to Lewisburg Evangelical Hospital in the Lewisburg community ambulance. He also suffered a leg fracture.

A witness of the tragedy, William Bettilyon, like the victim, was deaf, and adding to the unexpected difficulty encountered was the fact that he was also incapable of speech. However, the amazing thing was the seemingly impossible manner in which Mr. Bettilyon, Mr. Jolly's timber-cutting companion, managed to remove the injured man's body from beneath the heavy tree which pinned it to the ground.

These men were engaged cutting timber in the forestland area of the estate of C. K. Robertson, Shamokin, located across Penns Creek from Weikert. The logs were to be used in construction of another cottage on the tract, which presently holds five in addition to the main building.

A tall poplar tree, measuring about 18 inches in diameter, was cut. As it fell, it became lodged in a nearby tree, due to its extreme length. Jolly was trying to free the tree when it broke loose and plummeted down upon him, pinning his body to the earth, the impact crushing his chest and causing internal injuries which were to cost him his life.

The accident is believed to have taken place about 3 o'clock, although the inability of Bettilyon to give details and the fact that he and Jolly were alone in the woods at the time, made portions of the story somewhat indefinite. Apparently, Bettilyon used super human effort to free his companion. He then ran to the Jolly home, located along the creek in Weikert, to make known the tragedy to the injured man's daughter, Mrs. Isabel Alexander. Realizing that something had happened to her father, she ran to the neighboring cottage, occupied by Elery Newberry, Shamokin, soliciting his aid. Mr. Newberry sped to the vicinity of the accident by car, found Jolly, determined that he was se-

(Continued on page 10)

(Continued from page 9)

riously injured, and raced to the A. R. Sholter store, in Weikert to summon the Lewisburg ambulance.

The call was recorded at the Erroll E. Angstadt residence in Lewisburg at 4:45 o'clock, and Mr. Angstadt with driver Carl Rohrbach, were en route to Weikert five minutes later.

Mr. Newberry, accompanied by another cottager in the area, returned to the accident site, but had difficulty finding it again. Bettilyon, tapping on a saw with a wedge made sufficient sound to attract them to where Jolly lay, watched over his companion. When the ambulance reached Weikert, Sholter directed the driver to the vicinity of the accident, and Jolly was carried to it from about 300 yards in the woods. Although in great pain, he was conscious at the time.

Ted Furry, Mr. Robertson's butler, accompanied Jolly on the trip to the hospital. It is believed that his death occurred shortly after he lapsed into unconsciousness somewhere between Mifflinburg and Vicksburg. At the hospital he was pronounced dead. Mr. Jolly, retired for a number of years, had served as caretaker for the Robertson estate, and was in charge of cutting timber. Although not supposed to engage in strenuous work, he was always very active. Mr. Bettilyon, a native of Weikert, had lived there until locating in Mifflinburg, and was experienced in lumbering activity.

Harry T. Beck, Lewisburg, Union County coroner, continued his investigation this afternoon.

Edward Tomp Jolly was born in Venango County, April 20, 1874, but had been a resident of Hartley Township since he was eight years of age. For many years he was engaged in extensive lumbering activity in the western Union County mountains. Upon his retirement, he had maintained keen interest in this field, but because of failing health, had been less active.

It was disclosed today that effort had been made by members of the family to keep him from cutting timber on the Robertson estate. He commented that if he wasn't able to do such work he would die. Throughout his retirement he had always kept busily engaged, and disdained inactivity.

He was the son of the late Allen and Nancy Jane Jolly. He was a member of Hironimus Church of the Union Evangelical United Brethren Circuit. He and his wife would have their marked 53rd wedding anniversary one week from today.

Surviving in addition to his wife, Mary B. Jolly, are two daughters, Mrs. Alexander, at home, and Miss Hilda Jolly, parole officer at Laurelton State Village, and also residing at Weikert. The latter, currently on vacation, was contacted late this morning at a lake resort in New York state, and started for this afternoon. Shortly after contact was established with her a call was received from a grandson of the deceased, Edward Barnett, Camp Hill, who was also on vacation and was located at Atlantic City, also by means of police teletype.

Other survivors are four sisters, Mrs. Della Weller, Milton; Mrs. Minnie Kahler, Ohio; Mrs. Sara Boop, Weikert; and Mrs. Robert Tharp, Hartley Township, and a brother, Melvin.

Services will be held from the Hironimus Church at 2 o'clock Saturday afternoon with Rev. William P. Walker, Mifflinburg, pastor of Union Circuit, officiating. Burial will be in the Hironimus Cemetery.

Are You Moving?

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

This newsletter is distributed bulk rate each month, and therefore it will not be forwarded by the United States Postal Service to your new address. All undeliverable newsletters are recycled.

If there are any changes in your postal mailing address you can contact me at (570) 922.4297 or you can send me an email at: tshively@dejazzd.com

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The small photograph in the upper left corner of page one shows a gathering of Tiger Swallowtail Butterflies along Weikert Run Road in June 2008. We found them "puddling" near the trailhead of White Mountain Ridge Trail.

Millmont Times Fun Facts

When I began The Millmont Times in May 2000 it contained 4 pages and was rather inexpensive to print and freely distribute the 100 copies each month to families in and around the village of Millmont. As time went by the number of pages increased, as did the number of copies.

When I began publishing the newsletter making a profit was never a goal. That policy has not changed even as this (the 159th) issue of The Millmont Times went to the printer. I started the newsletter because I wanted to share historical information and photographs that I have collected, and to let people know about various activities happening in their community.

Over the years I have had a number of requests from people wishing to advertise in the newsletter. While paid advertising may have been beneficial from a financial standpoint, I never had any interest in following that path. Since I would rather give it a way than sell it, trying to solicit monthly advertising would have been my downfall. From time to time I have included advertisements in the newsletter but they were from groups like the Union County Historical Society, the Lewis Township Village Green Association, the Laurelton Women's Club and other non-profit organizations.

In 2012 the average number of hard copies printed each month was 373. That same year the average number of unique monthly visitors to the website was 2,694. Since we began offering the newsletter free via the Internet the momentum has shifted away from hard copy to digital.

To read the main story from the July 2004 issue of The Millmont Times, please visit www.millmonttimes.com, select 2004, right click on July and left click to open link. The main story is about Corporal Joseph R. Ruhl and Corporal Joseph J. Gutelius, "150th Bucktail Brigade". This is a fitting story as we mark the 150th anniversary of the Battle of Gettysburg.

Numerous people have expressed their concern to Janice and I about the newsletter coming to an end. Some have encouraged me to hold off on my retirement. Your words of encouragement are greatly appreciated. I would be thrilled if someone, or a group of people, stepped forward to continue the newsletter in its current format. While I am not anticipating that will happen, if it does I will keep everyone informed.

Union County Historical Society & Bicentennial Events

Wednesday, July 3, A Great American Evening. Union County celebrates the Fourth of July in a Bicentennial year! 5:45 p.m. at the Campus Theatre, Lewisburg Meet & Greet with the Co-Directors/Producers of Turtle Derby, the Documentary. Learn about the making of this 80-minute documentary with Co-Directors/Producers Todd Bieber and Juliana Brafa. 6:00 p.m. at the Campus Theatre, Lewisburg - Turtle Derby, the Documentary. On the big screen, a celebration of an all American Fourth of July tradition in New Berlin makes its national theatre debut. 7:30 p.m. at Hufnagle Park, Lewisburg - "Stars, Stripes, and Sousa". This evening's concert in the park features the Penn Central Wind Band. Set your lawn chairs up prior to flick and be ready to rock with Sousa when the film ends just one block away.

From July 8th through the 12th Mifflinburg's Summer History Camp, sponsored by the Buggy Museum, Preservation Mifflinburg, Inc., and Mifflinburg Heritage and Revitalization Association. One day camp with hands-on activities for children, ages 5 – 12.

On Thursday July 11, 2013 from 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm there will be an open-air concert: featuring Repasz Band at the Slifer House.

On Saturday July 13th from 8:30 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. there will be an all-day bus tour of Union County Historic Plain Sect/ Amish (1770's-1900) with Don Carpenter. Tickets are \$30 per person. Tickets available in advance from the Union County Historical Society at (570) 524-8666. Tour will meet in the Weis/old Wal-Mart parking lot and lunch will be on-your-own at Carriage Corner.

On Sunday afternoon, July 21, 2013, from 4:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m., the scene at Shikellamy State Park Overlook will be one of period music and historic interpretation of the Susquehanna River Valley. This family event will feature costumed folks complemented with storytellers Jeff Frazier, Tom Reitz, and John Moore (replete with props such as a storyteller's bell and a tomahawk). Also of note will be strolling musicians: fiddler Beverly Conrad and drummer Brad Becker. Guided nature walks for younger folks, as well as the opportunity to explore marked trails at an individual pace, round out the agenda.

The emphasis for the day will be exploration of the park with a significant nod to its history and relevance for us today... not overly academic, just informative and fun-filled. In that effort, folks are encouraged to tote picnic baskets and blankets for repasts before, during, or after this event. (Please note that the park does not permit alcohol.)

Shikellamy Overlook is reached from the town of Shamokin Dam by going north on US 11, then turning left onto County Line Road. From the north on US 15 southbound, make a left onto County Line Road and drive approx 1.2 miles. the park entrance will be on your left.

If you are interested in the activities and events celebrating Union County's Bicentennial be sure to check out their website at: www.uc200.org There you will find a list of events continuing through November 2013 as well as photographs, both old and new, of people and places in Union County.

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

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

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

July Birthdays & Anniversaries

2 – Carolyn Bowersox	13 – Mary C. Kahl	24 – Sarah Hoover
2 – Shanda Bingaman	15 – Donald R. Miller	25 – Tiffany Lyons
3 – Olivia Hackenberg	14 – Adran Martin	25 – Frank Raker
3 – Kody Catherman	17 – Randall Aikey	26 – Becky Wenrick
4 – Robert Steimling	17—Robert & Carolyn Wagner - 1971	26 – Michael Jones
5 – Joan Lyons	18 – Dolores & Gerald Starks - 1965	26 – Bailey J. Koonsman
5 – Robert Klingman	18 – Esther Keister	27 – Donald Bowersox
5 – Roger Shoemaker	18 – Aaron Reiff	28 – June Rowe
7 – Dennis Shively	18 – William Fultz	28 – Phyllis Ruhl
7 – Scott Kline	19 – Kass Beebe	29 – Oakley Whitesel
8 – Catana “Tina” Zimmerman	19 – Glen G. Catherman	30 – Eli Shirk
9 – Rachel Shively	20 – Nancy Prutzman	30 – Jeannette Lasansky
9 – Brooke Catherman	20 – Ruth Hoover	31 – Shirley Eberhart
9 – Jeremy & Elisa Beaver - 2005	21 – Ralph Sheesley	31 – Baris Göktaş
9 - Franklin Gross	21 – Ricky Sholter	
9 – Jerry L. Starks	22 – Blanch “Becky” Calder	
10 – Neil Shoreman	22 – William & Doris Fultz – 1955	
10 – Neil & Alice Shoreman – 1966	22 – Donald & Carolyn Bowersox - 1972	
11 – Lucas & Angela Southerton - 2010	22 – Elva Brubaker	
11 – Bill Chappell	22 – Jonathan Martin	
11 – Mervin Zimmerman	22 – Esther Nissley	
12 - Harvey & Brenda Ilgen - 1959	23 – Shelby Hackenberg	
13 – Barry Cooper	23 – Donald Long	

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