



Camp...Nik-O-Mahs In the Mountains of Central Pennsylvania



In 1926 when the staff lodge at Camp Nik-O-Mahs was built by the Boy Scouts the following words were etched in the lintel above the entrance to the building:
Erected In Honor of Our Mothers

The scouting fraternity and the Trails End area of Union County have been intertwined almost from the time the Boy Scout organization was founded in 1910. Troops from Lewisburg and Mifflinburg were hiking and camping along Penns Creek as early as 1911 and 1914 respectively. With the rich natural beauty in that end of the county it is not surprising that a scout troop from Shamokin also found Trails End an inviting place when they were searching for a campsite.

According to an article published in the November 1, 2004 issue of this newsletter, Nelson Clements of Levittown wrote that C. K. Robertson, George H. Higgins and Edward Schrawder purchased land from William and Vesta Libby in May 1920. The nearly 24-acre property was situated between Trails End and Pardee. Penns Creek bordered the property to the south and the

Lewisburg & Tyrone Railroad constituted the north boundary. The three parties mentioned above purchased the property for use by the Boy Scout troop from Shamokin. They nicknamed their outpost - Camp Nik-O-Mahs.

Scouts often incorporated Indian terminology into the names of their individual troops, and the name Nik-O-Mahs was idyllic. While the name sounds like it would be associated with Indians, in reality it is a hyphenated spelling of the city of Shamokin - spelled backwards. The identity of the person (or persons) who came up with the clever name for the camp remains a mystery.

Shamokin Boy Scouts began camping at Nik-O-Mahs shortly after the land was purchased. Over the years they constructed a number of buildings on their property, including some made of native stone found in and along the nearby creek. They also built a number of small cottages for the scouts to sleep in during their overnight outings. Scouts from the coal region of Pennsylvania utilized the campgrounds until the late 1930's. In 1942 the scouts leased Camp Nik-O-Mahs to Walter J. Hall, Sr. and J. Ellwood "Woody" Ludwig, for two years with the understanding that the scouts had a right to use the facility for one week each summer.

Walter J. Hall, Sr. (1901-1991) was born in Morris Run, PA, the son of Rev. William C. and

(Continued on page 2)

In Your Mailbox by Gail Hanselman

Can you believe it...It's June, I think winter is finally gone, my husband is starting to open the pool and school is out....man time really does go so much faster as you get older.

I know I've written about this before but with the warmer weather finally here, it means it's time to check your mailbox and see if it needs any fixing up from the winter. Is your mailbox in good overall condition, does the door to your mailbox close completely, can the mailman read your box number, is the post sturdy and don't forget to check the area where mail carriers drive in front of the mailbox. Are there any pot holes that need fixed? Also with the warmer weather comes bugs and bees, please keep your mailbox free from all uninvited guests.

Recycling...you recycle clothes, plastic, paper and glass but did you know you should recycle your old cell phones? Cell phones contain a range of toxic metals like lead, cadmium, and mercury which have significant adverse effects on ground water quality when thrown away in the garbage. Just Google recycling cell phones, there are a lots of options...one option is Pace-butler Corporation, you sign up to get a free mailing label and they even pay you for your phone.

A Typical Day At Camp Nik-O-Mahs:

- 7:45 a.m. Rise and shine**
- 8:10 a.m. Flag raising**
- 8:15 a.m. Breakfast**
- 9:10 a.m. Cabin clean-up**
- 9:45 a.m. Inspection of cabins**
- 10:00 a.m. Activity period (depending on weather)**
- 11:00 a.m. Activity period**
- 12:30 p.m. Lunch – eat again**
- 1:30 p.m. Rest period – letter writing**
- 2:30 p.m. P.X. (Nik-O-Mahs Store)**
- 3:00 p.m. Another activity**
- 4:00 p.m. General swim**
- 5:30 p.m. Flag lowering and eat again**
- 7:30 p.m. Programs**
 - a. Movies**
 - b. Games**
 - c. Short hikes**
 - d. Skits, etc.**
- 9:00 p.m. Little tots to bed**
- 10:00 p.m. Big tots to bed**

Emily Hall. The Hall family relocated to Shamokin when William was serving parishioners of the Primitive Methodist Church on 7th Street in Shamokin.

Walter graduated from Shamokin High School and subsequently enrolled at Bucknell University. After graduating from Bucknell he returned to Shamokin where he taught and coached at the high school for 23 years before relocating to Springfield Township High School in Delaware County. Walter and his wife Kathryn, also a graduate of Bucknell, were the parents of three sons: Charles, also known as “Chuck”, Thomas and Walter J. Hall, Jr.

As a schoolteacher, the elder Hall was interested in pursuing some type of activity during his summer recess. Being familiar with some of the scout leaders in the Shamokin area he became aware that their campsite along Penns Creek was inactive. He made inquiries about Nik-O-Mahs’ availability for use as a summertime youth sports and recreation camp. Hall, along with his friend, Woody Ludwig soon had their summer sports camp up and running.

J. Ellwood Ludwig (1911-2001) was born in Pottstown the son of Horace and Margaret Ludwig. He graduated from Pottstown High School in 1929, Valley Forge Military Academy in 1930, and the University of Pennsylvania in 1934. He was active in athletics throughout his high school and college experience.

After graduating from college Ludwig shared his knowledge and excellence in sports as head football and basketball coach at Northampton High School. In the early 1940’s he relocated to Shamokin High School where he coached the football team. While living in Shamokin, Woody and his wife Dorothy became the parents of three sons: Jim, Tom and Gary. In the mid 1940’s Woody became head coach of the Bucknell Bi-

son football squad. In addition, Ludwig also coached the Bucknell basketball and baseball teams.

Their association with the Shamokin High School and their relationship with Bucknell University intertwined the lives of Woody Ludwig and Walter J. Hall, Sr. Another connection the two men shared was their strong interest in athletics and their desire to be actively involved in the lives of young boys and girls. That commonality and like-mindedness provided a perfect opportunity when they joined forces to revitalize and rejuvenate Camp Nik-O-Mahs. An integral part of their lease agreement with the scouts stipulated that Hall and Ludwig were required to pay the property taxes and maintain the buildings.

The Hall and Ludwig families began operating Nik-O-Mahs as a sports and recreation camp during the summer of 1942. This was a somber time for many Americans. Six months before the camp opened Japan attacked Pearl Harbor, which led to a declaration of war by the United States. Two days later the country declared war on Germany. Throughout the war, life in the United States was altered. Parents and children lived through military enlistments and conscriptions, as well as rationing, blackouts, and air raid drills. Nik-O-Mahs sports and recreation camp offered a distraction for many young boys and girls, even if it was only a week or two during the summer.

J. Ellwood and Dorothy Ludwig’s involvement in Camp Nik-O-Mahs ended in 1945. They, along with co-founders Bill and Catherine Slick, opened Camp Bil-O-Wood in Ontario, Canada in 1946. That youth sports camp is entering its 67th year of operation.

Following Ludwig’s withdrawal from the joint venture, Walter J. Hall, Sr. along with members of his immediate family became the sole operators of Camp Nik-O-Mahs. The Hall’s continued to lease and use the facility for the next two decades.

In her book entitled “Chronicle of Windy Inn” the late Elizabeth (Hoffman) Fahringer recalled when her father, Howard Hoffman, and several friends from Sunbury built a cottage known as Windy Inn along Penns Creek sometime prior to 1920. That cottage was situated adjacent (east) of Nik-O-Mahs. The sole means of ingress and egress to both destinations was a narrow dirt road between Penns Creek and the railroad tracks. The porch on the north side of Windy Inn offered a vantage point to watch vehicles going to and from Nik-O-Mahs. One of the memories Fahringer included in the book were of Coach Walter J. Hall, Sr. and members of his Shamokin High School football squad arriving at the former scout camp for two weeks of training and recreation during the latter part of the summer. For the young females camping at Windy Inn the highlight of the summer was usually the arrival of the football team.

Spreading the word about Nik-O-Mahs was accomplished by mailing brochures and by word of mouth. The headline on a 1958 brochure distributed to prospective campers read: “Camp Nik-O-Mahs in the Mountains of Central Pennsylvania”. That year the camping season lasted from June 21st through August 9th, seven consecutive weeks scheduled for the boys followed by three weeks of summer activities for the girls.

Exploring the Bald Eagle State Forest

STONY RUN ROAD



An enjoyable ride through the Bald Eagle State Forest (BESF) can be found on Stony Run Road located off State Route 45 just east of the former Laurelton State Village. Turning north onto the state forestry road will lead you on a 7.3-mile journey through some historic and picturesque areas of the BESF.

When the Laurelton Lumber Company operated a narrow gauge rail line from their sawmill to their logging operations to the north, the intersection of Stony Run Road and Route 45 is where the railroad tracks crossed the main highway. As you travel along the state forest road you should be aware that at various times on your journey you are driving on sections of the railroad right-of-way used by the Laurelton and Pine Creek Railroad.

Although no traces remain, Sammy Osenbaugh lived in a shanty located on the right side of the state forest road a short distance after turning onto Stony Run Road. Osenbaugh was employed by the Laurelton Lumber Company, and later worked for the Pennsylvania Department of Forest and Waters.

In the 1920's the Pennsylvania Game Commission employed him as refuge keeper. At various times throughout the year while patrolling the boundaries of Buffalo Flat Refuge No. 22, Osenbaugh was headquartered in the stone shanty atop Branch Mountain. An article about that area was featured in the May 2013 issue.

Osenbaugh's name has been mentioned in conversations that I have had with old-timers from the West End. Those people knew him personally and were well acquainted with some of his antics. From what I have learned, Osenbaugh was a character. Although his personal life was less than ideal, the Ohio native lived an interesting life, and is someone I would have enjoyed conversing with. He was dirt poor all of his life, and when he died in 1951 he was buried in an unmarked grave in the Hartleton Cemetery. Someday Janice and I plan to erect a simple headstone to mark the burial location of this interesting man.

About a quarter mile off Route 45 you will notice a sign for the Bald Eagle State Forest Stony Run Demonstration Forest parking lot to your right. If you have an opportunity to park your vehicle and walk the designated forest trail you will learn about various types of forests and how to incorporate similar management techniques on your forestlands. The forest stewardship practices demonstrated along the trail are good for the trees, and for wildlife.

The forest demo project was undertaken sometime after the Laurelton State Center closed, and the property on the east side of Stony Run Road reverted to DCNR ownership. If you follow the numbered kiosks each one explains the different types of forest you are walking through. Keep in mind that the trail is rocky, and proper footwear is required. A section of the trail (kiosks 12 through 19) has become overgrown. A couple of the kiosks on this part of the trail are no longer upright or visible.

The gated road at the forest demo parking lot leads to the area where the Laurelton State Village hog farm was located. The Pennsylvania Game Commission acquired this farmland when the institution closed. Nearly all remnants of the once bustling hog farm operation and butcher shop are gone.

Continuing north on Stony Run will lead you to Bartley Gap Trail. This trail goes through Bartley Gap intersecting with Frederick Trail on Buffalo Mountain. This trail's namesake is a mystery to me.

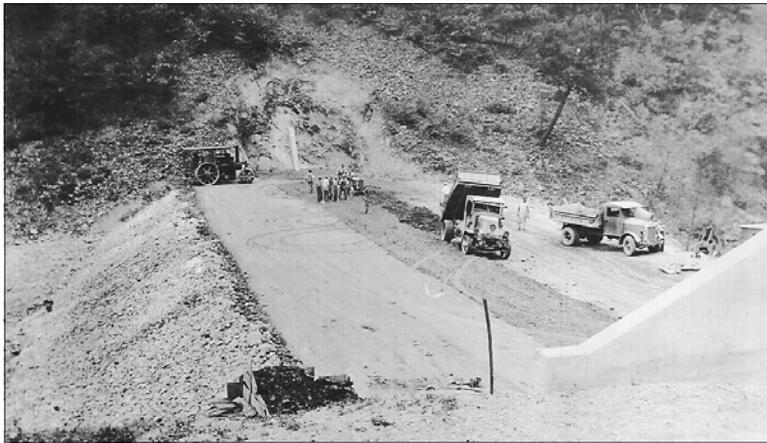
Traveling further on Stony Run Road will bring you to the reservoir that was one of the primary sources of water for the state institution during the time it was open. Miriam (Feaster) Landis (1918-2008) recalled her father, Harry Feaster (1894-1968) assisting with the construction of the impoundment circa 1927.

The reservoir is a place of natural beauty and one that we enjoy visiting from time to time. We have seen ducks, geese, great blue herons, fish, frogs and other wildlife there at various times over the years. Recently while visiting the reservoir we had an opportunity to witness a unique display of procreation in the amphibious world. We arrived at the reservoir late one afternoon to the melodious sound of mating American Toads. The entire impoundment was alive with a tune that only toads can make. We also spotted a number of toads hopping from the side of the mountain, across Stony Run Road, as they made their way toward the singing along the waters edge.

We soon discovered that on this particular afternoon we were witnessing what appeared to be the crescendo of toad's mating activity. As we approached the edge of the water we could see dozens of toads engaged in vivacious reproductive activities as they swam along the edge of the reservoir. Oddly, when we returned to the exact same spot two days later we did not hear a single toad, nor did we see any in the water or along the roadway. It was as if they accomplished their God given instinct and then - just disappeared. Keep in mind that the reservoir is owned by DCNR and signage posted around the pe-

(Continued on page 4)

(Continued from page 3)



Shown above is a view of the Laurelton State Village Reservoir under construction circa 1927.

rimeter clearly indicates that only authorized personnel are permitted to access that area.

Continuing on Stony Run you will observe to your right a sign that reads Halls Pike Trail. This trail leads from Stony Run Road north where it intersects with Frederick Trail and Bartley Gap Trail.

Stitzer Gap Trail is to your left about three tenths of a mile beyond Halls Pike Trail. As you approach Stitzer Gap Trail you will see a small-ponded area just off the road to the left. The water seeping from beneath the ground at this location is the start of Stony Run. The spring water meanders down the mountain where it eventually empties into Laurel Run.

Stitzer Gap Trail leads south through the gap by the same name and exits on Route 45 just west of the former Laurelton Center. Stitzer Mountain and Stitzer Gap were likely named after David Stitzer (1793-1867) who, according to historian Richard VB. Lincoln, oper-

ated a tavern in the vicinity of where the trail exits onto Route 45.

The road to your left that is now gated once led to the beacon light atop Stone Mountain. A portion of Union County was beneath the early transcontinental airplane flyway. This resulted in the installation of a number of beacon lights in this region. A bright beam of light slowly rotated 360 degrees from the towers situated atop the mountains. That beam aided air-mail pilots as they made their way along the highway in the sky. In addition to the beacon light on Stone Mountain there was another light located just to the west on Round Top in Centre County.

As you proceed on Stony Run Road through this section of BESF you will notice a number of areas where trees were recently planted. Those areas are conspicuous because of the plastic sleeves surrounding the saplings. The sleeves protect the trees from deer that might be tempted to browse on the tender shoots. I have never inquired or investigated what types of trees were planted along this stretch of forestry road. That might be something to explore in a future issue.

When you arrive at the four-way intersection you have several options. Turning left onto Sheesley Run Road will bring you out on Route 45. Turning right will lead you across Buffalo Flat Road and then onto Old Shingle Road, exiting at Buffalo Mills. For this article we are going to continue straight on Stony Run Road.

Not far beyond the four-way intersection you will come to the Kessler/Mid State Trail. The Mid State Trail is billed as Pennsylvania's longest and wildest footpath. A little further west is Cinder Pile Spring. Perhaps this was a stopping point for the narrow gauge steam engines transporting timber and log trucks to and from the Laurelton Lumber Company sawmill. This relatively flat stretch of rail line would have offered a convenient location for taking on water for the steam engine, while at the same time it was a convenient place to dump cinders. According to Benjamin F. G. Kline, Jr. tracks began at the sawmill south of Laurelton and continued almost to Lavonia.

About four tenths of a mile beyond Cinder Pile Spring is a stone marker designating the boundary line between Union and Centre counties. Adjacent to the boundary marker is a U. S. Geological Survey marker that shows the elevation at this point to be 1,807 feet above sea level.

Just beyond the county border is a campsite (#30). Like other campsites scattered in the BESF be sure to check at the District Office located along Route 45 if you plan to camp overnight. Beyond the campsite is a road to the right. This non-maintained road will take you to Negro Hollow. Although there is no sign to indicate the name, it is listed on recent BESF maps as Negro Hollow Trail. This road, or trail, intersects with Old Shingle Road and Buffalo Flat Road at the stone shanty. There are numerous swampy areas along this road/trail, so be cautious if you decide to check out this road in your vehicle.

Early public use maps as well as U. S. Geological Survey maps indicate the name of this road as Nigger Hollow Road. Some have speculated as to how or why this stretch of forestry road was named. The most reasonable explanation was provided to me courtesy of nonagenarian Randall Stover of Aaronsburg. Known as the "Old Mountain Man", Stover is well acquainted with the mountains, streams and valleys in eastern Centre County. He stated that many years back the trees in that region were so dense that sunlight scarcely reached the ground. Perhaps this darkness is what motivated some early forester to choose that nickname for this section of state forestland.

Winkelblech Road, which leads to Hairy John's Picnic Area bears to your



What was striking about the American Toads we observed along the edge of the reservoir was the difference in size between the male and female, as well as the variation in color.

(Continued on page 5)

(Continued from page 4)



When this stone structure at Cinder Pile Spring was constructed is unknown. It is located just west of the four way intersection of Stony Run, Sheesley Run, and Buffalo Flat roads.

left. As you continue straight on Stony Run Road, the stream that parallels the roadway is Winkelblech Run. This stream originates in Hayes Hollow and empties into Pine Creek.

The history behind the Winkelblech name is one I am unfamiliar with. At one time, more than a century ago, there were open fields in that region, which were widely known as the Winkelblech Fields. A June 2, 1894 issue of a local newspaper included a Millmont columnist that wrote the following about two residents from that little village:

“Messrs. Braucher and Grove took a large drove of sheep to what is known as Winkleblech’s fields, in the mountains north of here this week. Here they will be cared for by a herder during the summer months.”

Shepherding a large drove of sheep from Millmont to Winkelblech would be fraught with challenges today. However, in 1894 the only concern for Braucher and Grove while herding their sheep on the Old Turnpike was an occasional horse and buggy.

The remaining two-mile stretch of Stony Run contains some beautiful scenery, especially Winkelblech Run to your left and the talus slopes to your right. Before arriving at the four-way intersection you will cross over the pristine waters of Pine Creek. At this intersection

you can choose to go straight on Stover Gap Road, which leads to Route 192. You can go left on Pine Creek Road, which will take you to the village of Woodward. Or if you turn right onto Pine Creek Road you will come out onto Route 192. Those roads, along with their historical and natural beauty will be explored in future issues.

Frequently we have seen deer, bear, turkeys, hawks and various species of birds and other wildlife on our leisure drives along this stretch of forest road. If you want to go exploring through the Bald Eagle State Forest be sure to check out Stony Run Road.

TLS

Editor’s Note: The Mountain Laurel is beginning to bloom in the forests of central Pennsylvania. Don’t miss an opportunity to get out into the BESF and enjoy the natural beauty that is all around us.



Field Notes, by WCO Dirk Remensnyder

A friend of mine was hunting on my property and decided to put out a hen decoy to increase his chances of luring a gobbler within range. Not knowing where he was hunting my wife let the dogs out in the morning to do their business and they immediately ran through the back field, found the decoy and then proceeded to mark their territory. This of course ended his hunt for that day.

I can report that spring gobbler hunters have informed me that the season has started out very good. The Turkeys are talking and are not hard to find.

Thank You!

I would like to thank the following people for making monetary donations toward the publication of this newsletter: Shirley Walter, Wayne Benner, Grace Weidensaul, John and Janet Renninger of Millmont; and Edna Ammon of Mifflinburg; William and Elaine Snook of Moorestown, NJ; and the donation from someone in Mifflinburg who wished to remain anonymous.

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

I would like to welcome the following new subscriber: Jane Bakos of Selinsgrove.

I would also like to Jane Bakos and her mother, Louise (Kaler) Manifold, (who recently celebrated her 93rd birthday) for stopping by the Hartleton Post Office to visit with me on May 23, and for sharing a 1926 Millmont School photograph along with the names of many of Louise’s classmates; and Connie Bastian of Weikert for donating a copy of the graduates from the Hartley Township High School from the fist class through the last class in 1948 as well as many of the teachers who taught at that school during those years.

(Continued from page 2)

When the Hall family resided in Shamokin many of the young campers came from that area. That also held true when the family moved to Springfield, PA. Some of the young campers enjoyed the activities at Nik-O-Mahs so much they looked forward to returning the following summer.

According to Walter Hall, Jr., currently residing in Lancaster, PA, his parents operated the camp until 1966. Walter Hall, Jr. and his siblings, Charles and Thomas, along with their respective spouses, Nancy, Jeanne, and Anne, each played a role in the operation of Nik-O-Mahs.

Charles and Walter J. Hall, Jr. both followed in their father's footsteps at Bucknell University, and subsequently entered the teaching profession. Thomas Hall was a graduate of Indiana University, where he majored in physical education.

Charles Hall was the head counselor at Nik-O-Mahs while his wife Jeanne, a graduate of the nursing school at Geisinger, was the camp nurse. Thomas Hall and his wife Anne were the directors of physical education for both boys and girls. Walter J. Hall, Jr. and his wife Nancy were certified swimming instructors.

Members of the Hall family were all actively involved in athletics, both in high school and later in college. According to the brochure every member of the staff had been a letter-winner in one or more major sports while attending high school or college. Their interest in athleticism continued in their teaching careers as well as their involvement at Nik-O-Mahs.

According to Walter Hall, Jr., when Camp Nik-O-Mahs initially opened the cost of attendance was \$12 per child per week. When the camp closed in 1966 the cost of a one-week stay was \$50 per child. That fee included room and board, good food, counselor services, swimming instructions, and use of all athletic equipment. Additional expenses could be incurred if they went on side trips in buses, to the movies, P.X. allowance, craft materials, special swimming instructions and insurance. The management encouraged campers to sign up for a minimum of two weeks. Extensions beyond two weeks could also be arranged. Throughout most of its history boys and girls spent different weeks at Nik-O-Mahs. Exactly when it became a co-ed camp is unknown.

The railroad tracks constituted the northern boundary of the property at Nik-O-Mahs and Walter Hall, Jr. recalled during the early years of operation when a few campers arrived by train. This was most likely prior to 1949, as that was the year when passenger service on the Sunbury to Bellefonte Branch line was discontinued.

Walter Hall, Jr. recalled a row of about nineteen basic wood frame cabins that made up the sleeping quarters for the campers. Each cabin had enough bunk beds to accommodate from four to six campers. It was the responsibility of the campers to maintain their cottage and keep it neat and orderly. Capacity was 100 campers at any given time, with average weekly attendance between 50 and 100 youth ranging in age from 5 to 16 years. Some of the major changes that occurred during the two decades the Hall's operated the facility were electrification of the cottages, and the addition of lavatory facilities and plumbing to the shower house. In the early years bathing was done in Penns Creek.

Campers were encouraged to bring their own personal toiletry items, bedding, additional clothing, as well as several pairs of shoes and a pair of boots. They were also asked to bring their personal fishing equipment, baseball gloves, musical instruments, radios and flashlights. The camp athletic field was south of the railroad tracks.

Swimming in adjoining Penns Creek was one of the main activities at Nik-O-Mahs, and staff members were eager to teach beginners how to swim. Their 1958 brochure indicated that campers were permitted to "frolic to their hearts content" in the waters of nearby Penns Creek. During periods of inclement weather the recreation hall served as the center of activities with plenty of indoor games.

With activities planned throughout the day, at mealtime most of the campers brought a hearty appetite to the table. Children of all ages were encouraged to sit alongside one another at the dining table as a way of encouraging others to eat a variety of different foods that were placed in front of them. Local residents were hired to prepare meals.

Food supplies were purchased locally in Mifflinburg and Lewisburg. Shively's Meats of Mifflinburg also delivered food to the camp on occasions when they made deliveries to the West End. One particular treat that Walter Hall, Jr. remembered enjoying at camp was the ice cream purchased at Bechtel's Dairy in Lewisburg.

Campers were occasionally shuttled on various field trips, including a tour through Penns Cave, excursions to Rolling

Activities At Nik-O-Mahs:

Swimming
Diving
Fishing
Life Saving
Badminton
Handcraft
Track
Baseball
Cycling
Basketball
Quoits
Molding
Football
Volleyball
Tennis
Dramatics
Music
Ceramics
Nature Study
Ping Pong
Campfires
Hikes
Archery
Rustic Art
Story Telling



Swimming in Penns Creek was a favorite activity for many of the campers at Nik-O-Mahs. Shown above is a group of young boys in the water from their 1958 brochure.

(Continued on page 7)

(Continued from page 6)

Green Amusement Park, or visits to state parks such as Half-Way Dam and Tall Timbers. The youth were loaded into the vehicles of the camp counselors and advisors, or if it was a large group, bus transportation was provided. Organized hiking trips away from the camp were common and Sunday morning chapel service and evening Vesper services were also available.

I had the good fortune of corresponding or talking to four individuals about their camping experience at Nik-O-Mahs when they were young. Those individuals include Ruth (Fahringer) Potterfield of Savannah, GA; Joyce Schreffler of Glen Mills, PA; Sally Lash of Las Vegas, NV; and Gregory Ruhl of Mifflinburg, PA.

Potterfield and Schreffler spent many enjoyable summers along Penns Creek at the family cottage – Windy Inn. As youngsters the cousins also had an opportunity to share in the camping experience at Nik-O-Mahs. The cordial relationship between the management of the sports camp and the owners of Windy Inn were beneficial to both parties. Nik-O-Mahs staff was permitted the use of Windy Inn, and the children of the Windy Inn owners were afforded the opportunity to spend time at the sports camp.

Recounting her camping experience Potterfield recalled the chaff tick bedding on each of the bunk beds in the small cabins. She also noted that counselors endeavored to help each camper become more proficient in sports and various other skills, while trying to instill a sense of loyalty to each cabin mate. Another aspect of camp life she remembered was the efforts made by counselors to foster a better appreciation for nature.

Potterfield wrote: *“I especially remember the fun we had in the dining hall singing songs, also at campfires. We sang songs I remember to this day and have taught to my children and grandchildren. Also, we had contests and I was once badminton champ and ping pong champion as well. The last night at camp was very special. We had a ceremony where we stood on the dock at the swimming hole and launched candles on paper holders and watched them float down the creek.”*

Joyce Schreffler attended Nik-O-Mahs during the first two years of the camps operation, 1942 and 1943. During that time she lived with her parents in Sunbury, and recalled when gas rationing made it difficult for families traveling long distances. She remembered the fun and recreation everyone experienced from morning until evening. One of the highlights of Schreffler’s two-week adventure at Nik-O-Mahs was the train ride to Poe Paddy Park for an overnight camping trip.

Sally Lash of Las Vegas, NV, a 1957 graduate of Lewistown High School and a 1961 graduate of Millersville State Teachers College, recalled spending four summers at Camp Nik-O-Mahs (1953-1956). She was 14 years old when she attended camp for the first time. She enjoyed it so much she was eager to return year after year.

During her second visit to camp in 1954 she served as junior counselor, earning \$15 over three weeks on her first “paying job”. When she returned as junior counselor during the summer of 1955 and 1956 her salary increased to \$30. Her duties included watching for outward signs of campers being homesick, making sure the campers were safe at all times, and ensuring that everyone was in their cottage at bedtime. Lash remembered reveille being played across a loudspeaker in the morning and Taps in the evening.

As a counselor she participated in numerous outings to Penns Cave. She noted that by the end of her summer tour she possessed enough knowledge about the water cavern that she could have easily served as a tour guide. One year Lash won the “Camper of the Year” award at Nik-O-Mahs. Her prize was a free airplane ride on a Piper Cub. Since she was afraid of flying she turned down the prize. Ironically years later she married an Air Force pilot.

Gregory Ruhl of Mifflinburg became familiar with Nik-O-Mahs as a result of the Hall’s patronizing his father’s garage in Hartleton. As a result of the friendship between O. Ralph “Jeff” Ruhl and the Hall family, young Gregory was extended an invitation to join the camping adventure, which he accepted sometime during the early 1950’s.

Nik-O-Mahs was an inexpensive camp where youth from mostly urban areas were given an opportunity to live and play in a rural and remote outdoor environment. Walter J. Hall, Sr. and J. Ellwood Ludwig devoted the majority of their adult lives trying to inspire and encourage young people. Their goal was to instill desirable habits such as neatness and dependability, while at the same time teaching them how to interact socially and be tolerant of others.

The owners and counselors also helped broaden the leadership skills of attendees while at the same time allowing ample opportunity for them to enjoy their camping experience with limited regimentation. It was a place where many young boys and girls made memories that lasted a lifetime.

The memory of Camp Nik-O-Mahs was preserved when the private road leading to the camp was named Nikomahs Drive. The property where the camp was located changed ownership at various times from 1920 through the 1970’s. Today Dr. Edward Twigger of Shamokin owns the property. According to Millmont resident, Dahle Bingaman, Twigger was active in the Boy Scout organization as a young man growing up in Shamokin. Bingaman’s tongue-and-cheek comment - *“what goes around comes around”* – seems rather fitting when it comes to Camp Nik-O-Mahs.

TLS

Editor’s Note: I would like to thank the following people for providing helpful information for this article: Marilyn Miller of Belleville, PA; Sally Lash of Las Vegas, NV; Tyler Potterfield of Richmond, VA; Ruth (Fahringer) Potterfield of Savannah, GA; Walter J. Hall, Jr. of Lancaster; Emilie F. Jansma of State College; Joyce Shreffler of Glen Mills, PA; Dahle Bingaman of Millmont; and Gregory Ruhl of Mifflinburg.

Sources: Westfall A Family History by Louise (Goehring) Scott, self published (year unknown); Chronicle of Windy Inn by Elizabeth (Hoffman) Fahringer published in 1980.

Recipe of the Month

by Janice (Dorman) Shively

Watermelon Cake

1 package (18 ¼ oz.) white cake mix
 1 package (3 ounces) watermelon gelatin
 2 eggs
 1 ¼ C. water
 ¼ C. vegetable oil
 1 ½ C. prepared vanilla or cream cheese frosting, divided
 Red and green food coloring
 Chocolate chips

In a mixing bowl, combine dry cake mix, gelatin, eggs, water and oil. Beat on low speed just until moistened. Beat on high for 2 minutes or until well blended. Pour into two greased and floured 9-in. round baking pans.

Bake at 350° for 30 - 35 minutes or until a toothpick inserted near the center comes out clean. Cool for 10 minutes; remove from pans to wire racks to cool completely.

Set aside 2 tablespoons frosting for decorating. Place 1 ¼ C. frosting in a bowl; tint red. Tint remaining frosting green. Place one cake layer on a serving plate; spread with ½ C. red frosting to within ¼ in. of edges. Top with second cake. Frost

top with remaining red frosting to within ¼ in. of edges. Frost sides and top edge with green frosting.

Place reserved white frosting in a small heavy-duty resealable plastic bag; cut a ¼-in. hole in one corner. Pipe around top edge of cake where green and pink frosting meets. For seeds, insert chocolate chips upside down into cake top. Yield: 12 servings.

I came cross this recipe in the July / August 2001 issue of *Quick Cooking* magazine many years ago. I've made it numerous times, and it's always a hit. It's a great picnic dish. You wouldn't know that something so pretty could be so simple to make, and taste so yummy.

You can use a store purchased frosting or make your own favorite frosting. Tip: before you put the first cake layer on your serving plate, place thin strips of wax paper on the serving plate around the outer edge of where the cake will sit. When you're through frosting the cake simply slide the strips of wax paper from beneath the cake and you'll have a clean plate!

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:

Editor's Note: In 1934 Elder Greene Shively and his wife Adda, accompanied Rev. Mervyn's and Martha Mensch and their daughter Vivian, on a trip to Ames, Iowa to attend the Annual Meeting of the Brethren denomination. This was one of the highlights of Greene's life. He kept a journal of the trip to and from Iowa, including the villages, towns, and cities they went through, as well as the mileage at various places along the way. He subsequently included his journal into his diary. The group departed Millmont in Mensch's Baby Overland automobile on June 12th. They returned to Millmont, 13 days and 2,537 miles later without encountering any vehicle issues along the way. Having worked alongside his son Jacob in the garage for many years, Greene was all too familiar with vehicles that needed constant attention. Below I have included his dairy entries from June 12, the first day of the trip, and June 25th, the last day of the trip. Many of his entries included their location, mileage on the odometer, and the time they arrived.

Tuesday June 12, 1934 - Started on our way to Annual Meeting at Ames, Iowa. Brother Mervyn's, that is Mervyn, Martha, and Vivian, mother and I, in Brother Mervyn's Baby Overland. Went west 3:20 as we left Millmont. Sky about half covered with clouds. Arrived at Old Fort, distance of 35 miles at 5 o'clock. Pine Grove 49 m. 5:30. Route 45 to Water St. 70 m. 6:20. Hollidaysburg 88 m. 7:30. Route 22 to Cresson 111 m. 8:20. Then by secondary highway to Ebensburg route 422, to Indiana, here to remain over night, arriving at 9:30. The place we stayed was in charge of a brother by the name of Hildebrand. In the morning we had worship in one of the rooms, read the 23 Psalms together.

Mon. June 25, 1934 - Clear. Buffalo 2237 m. 6:20. Batavia 2283 m. 7:30. Route 5 Le Roy 7:55. Took a few minutes rest. Caledonia 2289 m. 8:30. Avon 2297 m. 8:45. Lima 2309 m. 9:00. Canandaigua 2322 m. 9:50. Geneva 2338 m. 10:30. We are on route 14. Along Seneca Lake. Beautiful scenery, where I took a picture. Quite a stretch of road without a town. Watkins Glen 2375 m. 12:30. Ate dinner in the park. After a stroll thru the park we left at 2:00. Beaver Dam 3:15. Corning 2403 m. 3:30. Painted Post 2414 m. Ervins 2418 m. 3:45. Lawrenceville 2427 m. 4:15. State Line, Tioga, Mansfield 2444 m. 4:50. Covington 2449 m. 5:05. Blossburg 2452 m. 5:10. Liberty 2463 m. Route 111 Buttonwood 2469 m. 6:00. South Run 2479 m. 6:20 Williamsport 2490 m. 6:45. Montgomery 2502 m. 7:20. Allenwood 2510 m. 7:45. West Milton 2518 m. 8:00. Lewisburg 2522 m. 8:15. Vicksburg 2529 m. 8:35. Mifflinburg 2531 m. 840. Millmont 2537 m/ 8:55.

Home from our trip to the Conference at Ames. A remarkable trip. Went from Home to Ames and back to Chicago without checking the air and from there home without giving the tires any more attention. Did not have any trouble with the Car. Did not change oil. The little Baby Overland at a public sale might not have brought \$50.00. Surely the Lord has taken care of us.

Penlines From my Kitchen to Yours

by Lucy Hoover

April 17, 2013

Emily Michele was born to Elvin and Charlotte Reiff. She has one brother and one sister. Grandparents are Eli and Emma Reiff and Lester and Marlene Martin.

April 21

Eli and Kathleen Reiff of Mifflinburg had a wedding reception for their son Stanley and Lori Reiff.

Daniel and Alice Burkholder of Mifflinburg have her two brothers, Amos (60) and Leroy (68) living with them for an indefinite time. (Their parents both passed away).

April 30

A vanload from this area went to Canada. Some went to visit relatives and others went for the funeral of David Brubacher (45) who died in a farm accident. He left behind a wife and four children. Three are hearing impaired.

May 5

Mrs. Lizzie Sensenig (85) of Mifflinburg was able to be at church. She had a stroke the other week and spent hours on the floor until her family found her. Her children are staying with her and caring for her.

After a week of beautiful weather we have received 3-4 inches of rain. That took care of all the dust on the driveway!

We had a yard sale for four days while the weather was nice.

On May 16, 2013 is the wedding day for Wilson, son of Allen and Dorothy Reiff, and Lucille, daughter of Leroy and Jane Zimmerman.

Remembrance

Linda Marie McClintock, 66, of 760 Canada Drive, Millmont, a lifelong resident of Millmont, entered into rest at 7:40 p.m. Monday, May 20, 2013, at Evangelical Community Hospital, Lewisburg.

She was born May 6, 1947, in Lewisburg, a daughter of the late Andrew J. and Esther (Dorman) Catherman. On September 26, 1966, in Mifflinburg, she married Carl R. McClintock, who preceded her in death in 2006.

Linda was a 1965 graduate of Mifflinburg High School.

She was employed at the Laurelton Center and later at the Selingsgrove Center for many years.

Surviving are one daughter and son-in-law, Carla M. and Chris M. Graham, of Millmont; one granddaughter, Kendra L. Ely, of New Berlin; one great-grandson, Kai; one brother and sister-in-law, Kenneth and Beverly Catherman, of Millmont; and one sister, Diane Hackenburg, of Mifflinburg.

She was preceded in death by one grandson, Kenny C. Ely, and one brother, Carl Catherman.

Looking Back

The following article was originally published in a local newspaper on June 16, 1919. The severe thunderstorm that claimed the lives of Emma (Crabb) Blyler and her granddaughter, Helen Blyler, occurred in the afternoon of Sunday June 15, 1919. At the time the family was living in a home along Blyler Lane, on the south side of Penns Creek at Millmont. My thanks to Jane (Ely) Foster of Camp Hill for providing me with a copy of this newspaper article.

Lightning Stroke Snuffs Out Lives of Two People

**MRS. CLAREENCE BLYLER AND
GRANDCHILD KILLED**

**BODY OF CHILD WAS THROWN
THIRTY FEET**

**Returning From Auto Ride, They Sought Shelter Under Tree
When Caught in Heavy Downpour, When Fatal Blow Fell**

A bolt of lightning at three o'clock yesterday afternoon snuffed out the lives of two residents of the upper end of the county. The unfortunate victims were Mrs. Clarence Blyler, aged 47 years, and her grandchild, aged four years, of near Swengel.

Mr. and Mrs. Blyler and grandchild had been out in their automobile and returned to their home near Swengel just as one of the terrific storms of the afternoon was breaking. Mr. Blyler was placing the car in the garage while Mrs. Blyler and her grandchild started for the house. Caught in a terrific downpour of rain they sought shelter under a tree which stood nearby. Mrs. Blyler was holding the child in her arms and was leaning against a fence under the tree when lightning struck the fence, killing both Mrs. Blyler and the child. The child was torn from the arms of Mrs. Blyler and thrown thirty feet into a field. Neither of the bodies were disfigured.

The funeral services over the unfortunate victims will be held Wednesday forenoon at ten o'clock. Surviving are the husband, and one son, the father of the deceased child.

Aside from the two persons who were killed, others who were standing nearby were shocked. A shoe was torn from the foot of Elmer Blyler, father of the little girl who was killed, and all members of the party were thrown to the ground.

Blessings from the Bible

By Brenda Weaver

“She watches over the affairs of her household and does not eat the bread of idleness.”

Proverbs 31:27

“The Blondies,” my husband called them affectionately when he was alive. Our two youngest children had blond hair at birth, and though it darkened as they aged, it always bleached in the summer sun.

Though they probably didn’t perceive it this way, the Blondies gave me interesting gifts for Mother’s Day this May. My son gave me a wedding. My daughter gave me a graduation. The Blondies did so much together in life and were as close as two siblings can be. So it seemed fitting that they should celebrate special days in the same month.

Hang on Mother you can do it: Sew dresses, plan and make a rehearsal meal, keep your head together and your heart from falling apart during your son’s wedding, smile when he comes to walk you down the aisle, cry when the preacher talks about your missing husband and the good example he was to this son. Sit with family—in a crowd of people and yet so alone—at the reception, wave bravely and happily as your son and new daughter-in-law drive away on their honeymoon. Train for a new case on your home nursing job while they are away. Help pack your son’s things and move them into a little house in a big woods. Grieve for the Dad who would have helped them move furniture and paint walls. Roast marshmallows with grandchildren at your son’s home. Catch your breath momentarily. Finish paperwork for secondary schooling for your youngest child, go to interviews, make financial decisions, arrange for a place for your daughter to live while she is away at school. Sew another special dress—this time for graduation, plan and prepare for grad events and party, help select photos for a photo collage, cut flowers for the tables, load up everything needed to help the other parents serve snack to all the guests at graduation, rush to set up, then quiet your heart for prayer with the graduates and faculty. Sit in the front row—acutely aware of the empty seat to your left where your husband should be sitting, yet grateful for the son who occupies the seat on your right. Enjoy your daughter’s graduation. Smile, laugh, and nod at her well-prepared and sweetly-delivered speech. Cry when she and a classmate place white roses on a table with photos of two parents who are in heaven instead of at graduation. Hug your daughter—hard. Don’t stop yet, Mother. Hurry to the tables, serve guests, make tea and lemonade, smile and answer questions about her future, talk of old days and old memories, pack everything up, drive home, unpack everything. Sigh. Enjoy special moments with your daughter as she opens her grad gifts on the living room floor. Fall asleep, exhausted, on the sofa. Wake up at 3:00 a.m. to June.

JUNE? What happened to May? Oh, yes...it was the month of Mother’s Day.

Now I’ve never considered myself able to measure up to the “Proverb’s 31 woman.” But I couldn’t help thinking about that woman of noble character and what the Bible says of her. *“She looketh well to the ways of her household, and eateth not the bread of idleness. Her children arise up, and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praiseth her”* (Proverbs 31:27-28).

This morning I found special letters lying on the floor beside my bed. I picked up the top set of leather-bound love letters and read from the writings of Apostle Paul. He had accomplishments to boast about, but he was glorying instead in his afflictions and his loving Lord. (A combination that is life-changing and God-honoring, if you can achieve it.)

I then picked up the second set of love letters, a notebook of letters written to me by my late husband after we attended a Marriage Encounter. In the letter I read, John praised me for my help in the strawberry business that year. If hearts can smile, mine did, even while a tear ran down my cheek.

Strawberries. This year is the first year in thirty years that the Weaver Farm has not had a strawberry crop. My phone still rings with calls about strawberries. Over and over I find myself explaining to former customers that my strawberry-growing husband died of cancer and we had to plow the strawberries under last year. It is a sad job. I ask God for grace to glory in Him, even in this affliction.

I miss the berry fields. I miss the juicy sweetness of sun-ripened strawberries. I miss the action, and working together as a family. I especially miss serving my long-time customers. Of course we all miss the Berry Farmer.

But I will glory in my Lord in the balmy, blessed month of June. And I will rest in the messages written to me in old and ancient love letters.

Now I have a daughter-in-law to mother. And five 8”x10” photos hang on the wall above my desk. All five of our children have reached adulthood. We don’t hoe or pick strawberries together anymore, but I trust my adult children to the God who understands my weaknesses as well as my sense of accomplishment.

Prayer for Today:

Oh Lord God, I bless Your name today for who You are—my never-changing, omniscient, tender-loving Lord. I glory in You and Your ability to guide me through big events and lots of change. You help me to let go when I need to let go, and You reassure me through Your written Word.

Even though I feel a deep sense of loss, I praise you for this new month of June!

Catherman/Katherman Family

Carl R. Catherman of Mifflinburg is working on a new version of the genealogy of the Catherman/Katherman family. Descendants of the Catherman immigrants include the descendants of Jacob Rearick and Margaret Catherman and those of David Dorman and Sophia Catherman. Most of the Rearick and Dorman descendants were not included in the second edition of the Catherman/Katherman genealogy published in 1993. They were omitted because the late Pearl Kaler's books on the Rearick and Dorman families were published at about the same time. Since all three books are no longer available Carl plans to combine them into one, as well as insert the information into a new format. He has already added the information from the Kaler books into his database. Many births, deaths and marriages have taken place since those books were published and these should be included in the next version. If you have any information to add on events that have occurred since about 1990 Carl would appreciate your cooperation. You can contact him by telephone at (570) 966-6236, by email at crcath@dejazzd.com or by letter to his address – 906 Market St., Mifflinburg PA 17844. Full names, places and exact dates of births, marriages and deaths would be especially appreciated.

Wanted

I am searching for photographs of the Millmont Boy's Baseball team, the Center Point schoolhouse and a photograph of the Lincoln School that was located in the vicinity of Laurel Park. I am also interested in locating school photographs where the late Mark Shively (1866-1947) was the school teacher. Shively taught at a number of area schools during the late 1800's and early 1900's, including the Green Grove School.

Another area of interest is my search for information and photographs relative to Albert Lichtenwalter (also spelled Lichtenwalter). He was the superintendent of the Pardee Lumber operation for a period of years. There is a Levi Lichtenwalter living in the village of Pardee when the 1900 census data was collected. However, Albert Lichtenwalter is not listed in the Hartley Township census records for that year. The whereabouts of the Lichtenwater family (Albert, Levi, or other family members) following the demise of the Pardee Lumber Company remains a mystery. Anyone who can assist in solving that mystery is encouraged to contact me at the mailing address, email, or telephone number shown below.

Other photographs I am in search of include the Bingaman Sawmill at Laurel Park, the Knauss's of Swengel and their thrashing machine, photographs of Charles L. Braucher, and information and photographs of Leroy M. "Deafy" Dorman (1911-1988), including some of his artwork.

I am also working on a series of articles (Exploring the Bald Eagle State Forest) about the origins of various place names, such as streams, gaps, mountains, trails, vistas, etc. If you are aware of any obscure names, or the origins of those names please let me know. Early maps that include the names of streams, mountain roads, trails, gaps would be helpful.

If you have any information or photographs concerning any of the topics listed above please contact me at: tsively@dejazzd.com, or write to P. O. Box 3, Millmont, PA 17845, or telephone 570.922.4297.

Millmont Times Fun Facts

Prior to publishing the first issue in April 2000, I deliberate what name I was going to attach to monthly newsletter. One of the possibilities that crossed my mind was the title "Millmont Then & Now". That title would have been similar to a newsletter that my great grandfather, Elder Greene Shively, published at various times from 1939-1953 entitled - Then & Now.

While I am confident my great grandfather would have approved of me plagiarizing his title I decided instead to come up with a different moniker. However, in several of the early issues (August-2000 - January 2001) I did title a back page article "Millmont Then & Now". In the five part series I explored the history of some of the early settlers of the Millmont area. The two families featured in that series of article was Jacob E. and Elizabeth Royer and the Christian and Susanna Braucher.

Union County Historical Society & Bicentennial Events

There are a number of Union County Bicentennial Events scheduled for June including, Historical Glimpses of Union County at the Packwood Museum on the 8th. Honoring Snyder, Union and Northumberland counties at the Battle of Gettysburg's 50th at the Hartleton Union Church on June 8th and 9th. Historic Ramblings on June 16th. History Camp at the Slifer House from June 17-21st. Buffalo Valley Sportsmen's Association Celebrates 50 years on June 23rd, and the Union County Veterans Parade on June 29th.

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 small photograph in the upper left corner of page one shows the origin of Stony Run situated alongside the road by the same name. Water seeps out of the ground at this location where it enters the former Laurelton State Village reservoir.

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

June Birthdays & Anniversaries

3 – Amos O. Zimmerman
4 – Lily Martin
6 – Tom Potoeski
5 – Sarah Shively
5 – Colby & Miranda Yarger - 2004
5 – Holly Weaver
6 – Truman & Betty Motter - 1959
6 – Tom Boop
7 – Lori Peachey
9 – Evelyn Bolig
9 – Kay Guida
10 – Lloyd & Marian Zimmerman - 1947
11 – Jeanie Lyons
12 – Elwood & Leah Showalter - 1948
12 – Lena Susan
14 – Norman Jr. & Becky Wenrick - 1959
14 – Robert Stroup
14 – Flag Day
15 – Karl & Shirley Eberhart - 1958
15 – Selin Göktaş
16 – Father's Day
16 – Darlene Ulrich
17 – Robert & Jeanne Jolly - 1950

17 – Lamar & Lois Kahler - 1950
18 – Ava Lynn Potoeski
18 – Oren & Doris Sheesley - 1960
18 – Vanessa Walter
18 – Becky Maust
20 – Bernie & Marge Schmader - 1964
20 – Darryl Kline
20 – Donald Gordon
20 – Dale Hartman
21 – Chelynn Bingaman
21 – Dion & Rachel Shively - 2003
22 – Karl & Catherine Hassinger – 1974
22 – Rhelda Rishel
22 – Lois Kahler
23 – Keri Yarger
24 – Lesley Lyons
24 – Lindy Mattern
27 – Clair and Carole Jacka - 1953
27 – Bob & Nancy Katherman – 1969
27 – Rose Libby
28 – June Rowe
29 – Norman Wenrick Jr.
29 – June Bingaman

30 – Larry Brown
30 – Sam Diehl

The Millmont Times
P. O. Box 3
Millmont, PA 17845

PRSR STD
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
MILLMONT PA
PERMIT NO. 3