



# Where Did the Buffalo Roam?

By Terry Shively

What do the names Buffalo Mountain, Buffalo Cross Roads, Buffalo Creek, Bucknell Bisons, and the townships of Buffalo, East Buffalo and West Buffalo mean to you? Surely it makes sense that the Buffalo had a significant presence in our own Buffalo Valley.

A few years ago, my buddies and I were at our favorite fishing site. Early that afternoon, a gentleman approached us. He said that he was a professor at Lock Haven State University, and that he was excited to find a bison corral in the forest. He explained that the Native Americans in the area used to drive bison into these stone enclosures, and that he had found many of them around the state. Imagine our surprise, when we located the spot he described, to actually find something that did resemble a semicircular stone fence of sorts. It seemed plausible to us.

Sometime later, I mentioned this encounter to my brother, Tony, the editor of the *Millmont Times*. Tony mentioned that he had attended Billy Mattern's April 1999 presentation before the Union County Historical Society, relative to the presence of buffalo in the county. Mattern's presentation cast serious doubt as to the authenticity of these stories. He also mentioned Henry Shoemaker as the man responsible for these buffalo legends.

I decided to do some research on Henry Wharton Shoemaker (1880-1958). I found various works by Shoemaker including a 60-page booklet entitled *A Pennsylvania Bison Hunt*



published in 1915, and *Extinct Pennsylvania Animals-Part I- The Panther, and the Wolf* published in 1917. This latter book is available to be read in its entirety on the Internet at ([www.strangeark.com/ebooks/Pennextinct.pdf](http://www.strangeark.com/ebooks/Pennextinct.pdf)). However it is from the former book about bison that many of our local legends seem to have been taken.

In *A Pennsylvania Bison Hunt*, Shoemaker

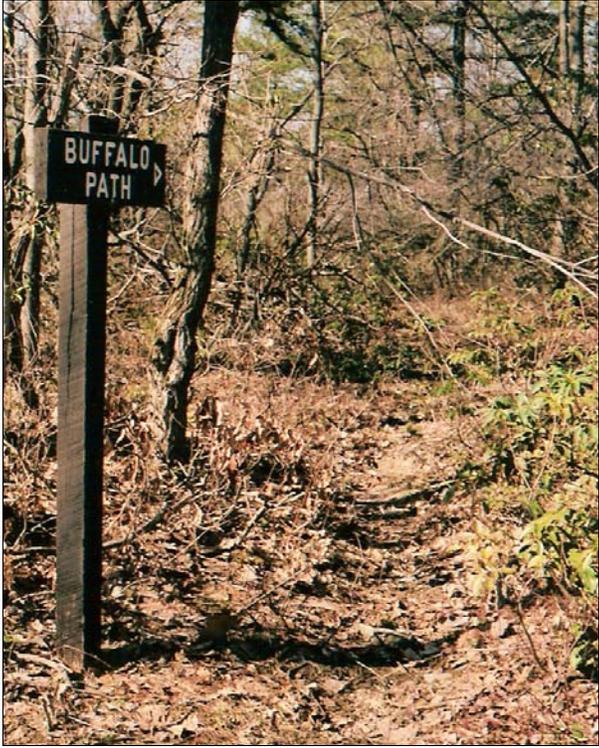
(Continued on page 2)

Could their ancestors have roamed Buffalo Valley?  
Photograph courtesy of [allyellowstonenationalparkpictures.com](http://allyellowstonenationalparkpictures.com)

## Millmont Mailbox by Postmaster Sam Smith

We have almost made it through another winter. I'm already looking forward to going to baseball games. One thing most of us aren't looking forward to, is working on our taxes, unless of course a big refund is in your future. In this computer age, more and more people are doing their taxes online, but for those of you that don't, the Post Office is a vital resource for completion of your taxes. Federal and PA State tax forms are available in the lobby of the Millmont Post Office. I can't help you fill them out, but I can help you make sure that they reach their destination and that you have proof of delivery. You can send your tax return by certified mail for only \$2.40 plus first class postage, and the Internal Revenue Service or State Revenue Department will be required to sign for your return. If you desire a return receipt on the certified article, that service is \$1.85 additional and you will receive a card with proof of delivery returned to you. For about \$4.64, you can buy peace of mind, knowing that your return has been received. Many people ask about using Delivery Confirmation or Signature Confirmation, but those services are available only on parcels. For more information you can go online to [www.USPS.com](http://www.USPS.com).

Due to a change in accounting procedures effective Monday April 3, 2006, the new Monday through Friday window hours at the Millmont office will be 7:30 a.m. until 12 noon and from 1:00 p.m. until 4:00 p.m. Please note there will be no change in the lobby hours.



(Continued from page 1)

wrote an account of the last large herd of bison, numbering 345 members that roamed Pennsylvania. Shoemaker said the following story was told by to him by Old Flavel Bergstresser of New Berlin. Flavel in turn had heard the story from his great grandfather, Martin Bergstresser, who was a participant in this event. Here is Flavel's story.

It happened right here in Union and Snyder Counties on December 31, 1799. The last bison herd was lead by a giant coal black bull named "Old Logan." The winter was extremely hard on the bison, and they were having a difficult time finding food. Old Logan led his herd into Snyder County, into the Valley of Middle Creek, to look for food. There the bison spied the winter hay crop at the farm of Martin Bergstresser, my great grandfather. The buffalo stampeded toward the hay pile, and in the process trampled not only the fences but all the domestic animals as well.

Old Logan then led the herd near the home of Samuel McClellan. Inside were McClellan's wife and three little children, the youngest being around five. As McClellan approached the cabin, he shot and wounded Old Logan. The enraged leader of the herd broke down the cabin door and led his fellow bison inside, in the process trampling McClellan's wife and children to death. The cabin wall was knocked down as the animals tried to escape. Seeing the carnage, McClellan shot and killed Old Logan as the beast emerged from the cabin. The remainder of the bison then moved on into the mountains.

News of the tragedy traveled fast, and soon a group of fifty men set out to find the murderous animals. Following bison tracks in the snow, the animals were chased into the White Mountains near Weikert, to a place known as the "Sink." There the bison became stuck in the snow up to their necks. The hunters, seeing that the bison were helpless, moved in among the herd cutting the throats of the bison with long knives, taking only the tongues, leaving not one animal alive.

The last bison herd in Pennsylvania was gone forever.

Perhaps you've heard Shoemaker's story of Colonel John Kelly, noted Indian slayer, Revolutionary War hero, buffalo hunter, etc. The Colonel is said to have killed over one hundred Indians and one hundred buffalo in his lifetime. But it was the buffalo he killed on the morning of January 19, 1801, that is the most noteworthy. For at that

time, he was said to have shot and killed the last known wild buffalo in Pennsylvania. Kelly spied the huge beast while out for a ride. Dismounting his horse, he raised his rifle and shot the bison in the heart. The animal collapsed directly into the intersection of two dirt roads. From that day on the place was known as Buffalo Cross Roads.

Did these things really happen? Why are none of these events mentioned in *Annals of Buffalo Valley* by John Blair Lynn published in 1877? In Lynn's book, there actually was a Buffalo Cross Roads Presbyterian Church located on that exact location some eighteen years before the Colonel Kelly's buffalo incident. So it seems unlikely the village was named for the Colonel's buffalo killing.

In Chapter VI of his *Extinct Pennsylvania Animals-Book I*, Shoemaker describes one of the greatest animal drives ever known. The drive took place about 1760 and was led by "Black Jack" Schwartz. After making a large clearing in the center of the forest, two hundred men formed a huge circle. Setting fires, shooting guns, and ringing bells, etc., the circle of men closed into the prepared clearing. There the slaughter of animals began. Shoemaker gives the following list of animals killed: 41 panthers, 109 wolves, 112 foxes, 114 mountain cats, 17 black bears, 1 white bear, 2 elk, 198 deer, 111 buffalo, 3 fishers, 1 otter, 12 gluttons (wolverine), 3 beavers and upwards of 500 smaller animals.

The Indians, being very upset with the massacre of the animals they depended on for sustenance, eventually ambushed and killed "Black Jack." Shoemaker does admit that there are no "written" records to substantiate his accounts, just oral history.

I decided to find out more about the author of such stories. I began by reading Simon J. Bronner's book *Popularizing Pennsylvania-Henry W. Shoemaker and the Progressive Uses of Folklore and History*. It provided wonderful background information.

Henry was born in 1880 to a wealthy family in New York City. His family owned a large country vacation estate at McElhattan, half way between Lock Haven and Avis. The estate was named Restless Oaks. At Restless Oaks, Henry fell in love with Pennsylvania, and from then on considered himself a Pennsylvanian.

(Continued on page 3)



# BIRD TALK

By Jim McCormick

*“... not Willkommen in Lancaster County.”* February has always seemed like the ‘dead of winter’, but, as I have said before, it is actually a very busy time for nature. The birds have definitely noticed the lengthening days and have already started to call. First the Cardinal was heard on January 28<sup>th</sup>, quickly followed by the Tufted Titmouse, Tree Sparrow, House Finch and Mourning Dove. It is all a part of the ageless process of renewal; something I never cease to be amazed by and look forward to each year.

Some of you might have heard about the ‘Crow Crisis’ in Lancaster. Apparently a large flock of Crows (estimated at around 60,000) has decided Lancaster is a good place to live. Unfortunately, for the people of Lancaster and, as it turns out, for the Crows, this is not the case. After many futile attempts to chase the Crows away, there was a plan by the federal Wildlife Service to poison some of the Crows, hang their bodies from the trees and in the process, hopefully, convince the Crows they were *“not Willkommen in Lancaster County.”* They placed dog food in the fields as bait. The Crows gladly ate the dog food for some time, and then the “poisoned” dog food was substituted for the regular dog food. For some reason the Crows took a pass on the poison and the agents had to manually remove all the tainted food. Eventually, however, the Crows did begin to take the poison and dead Crows have been appearing throughout the area. This event has aroused local, national, even international outrage from groups advocating a more humane method of dealing with the Crows. Most of you, I’m sure, remember a similar situation in Milton some years ago. I don’t remember anyone resorting to poisoning though. This phenomenon of flocking Crows occurs from time to time as the Crows migrate but they will always eventually move on. Some other localities have tried laser lights and falconry to deal with the problem. Anyone interested in the on-going controversy can follow the comments of Lancaster citizenry at <http://local.lancasteronline.com>. There is also a recently posted website where updates on the status of the ‘Crow Kill’ can be monitored: [www.lancastercrows.com](http://www.lancastercrows.com). People might be tempted to say, “They’re just Crows, they’re dirty and they’re just pests anyway. Who cares!” My feeling is that they may be pests, especially when they collect into such large numbers, but to kill hundreds of birds just doesn’t seem right. Of course we have never had to deal with anything like the Lancaster/Milton flocks—one of the many advantages of rural life. It reminds me of something I saw once on my walk. Several years ago, as I was walking along Shirk Road, I saw a large flock of Crows, probably several hundred, scattered over the open fields. It was an unusual sight in our area, so I spent some time watching them. As I was watching I noticed the appearance of a Marsh Hawk on the horizon. The Marsh Hawk has a distinctive flight pattern, skimming only ten to twenty feet above the ground, following the contours of the fields, rather than soaring high above like other hawks. The hawk saw the large flock of Crows and flew up in the air and came diving down right into the thickest part of the flock. Scores of Crows scattered into the air and began to pursue the Marsh Hawk. The Marsh Hawk, unlike its less talented cousin the Red-tailed Hawk, easily out-maneuvered the pursuing Crows. The hawk repeated this attack several times, then, having satisfied some inner urge, triumphantly flew over the crest of the hill. At the time, I remember feeling it was some sort of revenge for the many times Crows had harassed other birds, but now I think the hawk was just upset at the Crows for invading its feeding grounds.

I saw a small flock of Robins at Selinsgrove Center on January 30<sup>th</sup>, and a single Robin along Shirk Road on February 18<sup>th</sup>. They are slowly making their way north and will soon be appearing in a backyard near you, so grab your binoculars and take it all in.

*(Continued from page 2)*

He developed a keen interest in protecting the state’s environment. Lumbering, coal mining, and steel mills were causing devastation to many parts of our state. He thought that if he could help foster an appreciation for Pennsylvania’s past, through stories and legends, the citizenry would be more inclined to help preserve our natural resources that remained. He was not concerned so much with recorded history, but “things that took place beyond the reach of history writers.” Everywhere he traveled he interviewed old storytellers, writing down their stories and any legends they might possess. These he wrote down into pamphlet and book form as folklore.

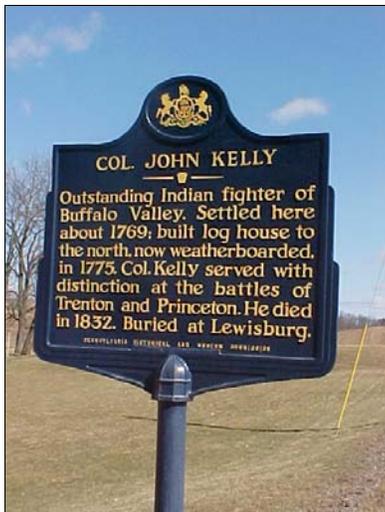
Shoemaker owned newspapers in Altoona, Jersey Shore, Reading, and Bridgeport, Connecticut. In these he wrote political editorials, wildlife accounts, local history accounts, and his literary folktales. He wrote over two hundred articles and books. His subjects included ghosts, werewolves, witches, panthers, wolves, bison, etc. He stated that none of these stories were of his own invention, but were written just as they had been told to him.

*(Continued on page 4)*

(Continued from page 3)



The historical marker above denotes the establishment of the Buffalo Presbyterian Church at Buffalo Crossroads in 1773. The marker below pertains to some of the exploits of Col. John Kelly. According to Shoemaker, Col. Kelly supposedly killed the last buffalo in Union County in 1801. This marker makes no mention of that happening.



In 1923, Governor Gifford Pinchot appointed Shoemaker chairman of the Pennsylvania Historical Commission. From this position, he was responsible for writing many of those ubiquitous historical markers we see along our state's highways. He was said to have written 4,000 of these historical markers himself. He delighted in marking trees, mountains, and paths that came from the oral histories he chronicled. One sign he erected was for the Shamokin Indian Path near his home at Restless Oaks. Shoemaker also got around to naming a mountaintop in Union County after himself.

In March of 1948, Shoemaker was appointed Pennsylvania's first State Folklorist, a position he held until 1956. Until then, no other state had ever created such a position.

Have you ever taken a tour of Penns Cave and heard the legend of Princess Nita-nee and her lover, the Frenchman, Malachi Boyer? How about the ghost of the wild man of the Elk Creek Narrows near Millheim? Ever heard of the Tiadaghton Elm? Or perhaps the story of the Indian Steps built over Tussey Mountain near State College that precipitated a deadly battle between the Susquehanna's on Nittany Valley and the Kishoquoquillas from the neighboring valley? Henry Shoemaker wrote all of these. If you're curious, give his stories a try. Many are available either on websites or in reprints that you can purchase. Shoemaker once said of himself, "I am not exactly an historian, but a collector of Folk Lore and Legends."

As I was trying to answer the buffalo question, I came upon a research study by the Carnegie Museum of Natural History in Pittsburgh. The authors of this study looked into records of the fossil remains, bone fragments, and any other evidence of the animals that once lived in our state, including mountain lions, wolves, lynx, fisher, moose, elk, bison, etc., at Pennsylvania sites, including the places Shoemaker described in his stories. I contacted one of the authors of this study, Suzanne B. McLaren. She is the Collection Manager, Section of Mammals, for the Carnegie Museum of Natural History. She was a terrific source of information.

I specifically asked her if there was any evidence that bison once lived in Pennsylvania. I also asked her about Henry Shoemaker. The following is a summary of some of the information she gave me.

Suzanne wrote, "We are very familiar with Shoemaker because we investigated many of his assertions. His accounts do make entertaining reading ...but it begins to dawn on you that the truth may be stretched. The lack of evidence of this animal (bison) in the Commonwealth is undeniable, yet most people point to the number of "buffalo" place names as proof. It is harder to prove something didn't occur based purely on lack of evidence, than it is to prove something that did occur...the good news is, if any probable bison bones are discovered I have a Penn State colleague ready to do DNA testing. The bad news is, he has to find the material to perform the analysis. That in itself tells me something if there were bison here...they were not in great numbers."

No bison bones have ever been positively identified in Pennsylvania. Wouldn't the Native Americans have hunted them? Wouldn't they have possessed buffalo robes, hides, or horns? Suzanne said she'd let me know if they ever do find bison remains.

Perhaps bison presence in Pennsylvania will never be answered, intertwined as it is with history, legend, and folklore. Somewhere, Henry Shoemaker must be smiling.

Editors note: Terry Shively is the eldest of five children born to William and Pauline Shively. He grew up in the village of Millmont during the 50's and 60's, living in the house next door to Shively's Garage. That home is presently owned by his sister, Tracey. Terry graduated from Mifflinburg High School in the class of 1966, the Williamsport Area Community College in 1968, and Lock Haven State College in 1971. For 32 years he was a teacher in the Bellefonte Area School District Bellefonte, Pennsylvania, retiring in 2003. He and his wife Cheryl live near the village of Zion in Centre County. They are the parents of one son, Dion, of Greensburg, PA. They are also co-owners of a cottage along Penns Creek near Cherry Run, that was formerly owned by Terry's grandparents, Jacob and Florence Shively.

If you are interested in reading more about this fascinating topic you are encouraged to pick up a copy of "Local Buffalo - Fact or Fiction, a Paper by Billy N. Mattern." This booklet provides some insight relative to the existence of buffalo in Buffalo Valley. The cost of the booklet is \$7.00. Billy Mattern is a well known auctioneer, artist, and antique dealer located at 706 Chestnut Street in Mifflinburg. You can contact him by calling 570-966-2722.



The Bison is the Bucknell University Mascot. This statue is located in front of the Kenneth G. Langone sports complex.

# Place names that sing of antiquity

by Harlan Berger

Some place names sing of antiquity, and four that do are Hironimus Church, Riansares Road, Rosecrans village, and Paddy Mountain. Hironimus Church near Weikert in Union County's West End sits lonely, its cemetery wreathed in trees. To face it under a gray winter sky with dark Penns Creek Mountain in the background is to listen to the 1700s-era scream of panther and howl of wolf.

Driving west past the church (spelled "Hironimus" on USGS maps), Paddy Mountain looms on the right. Paddy Mountain? Poe Paddy, Centre County, sits at the mountain's western terminus. Paddy is a low, wet place for the raising of rice, says Webster. Not right for high, rounded Paddy Mountain stretching near to Union County's Hartleton. Why "Paddy?"

Elaine of the Union County Historical Society sent me to Tony Shively of Millmont. His ancestors came to what is now Union County very early. Shively writes, "Over the years I have questioned several older folks, some of whom are now deceased, about the origins of the name Paddy Mountain. Some of them I was sure would know the answer. But they did not.

"About one year ago I was in contact with a man from Montana, J. Randall Chambers. He was born near White Springs over 90 years ago. He stated that the mountain was named after Patrick Watson who was killed by Indians in 1780 near his White Springs home. "I have only heard this account from Chambers. It sounds plausible but nothing I can prove from any local history books. Some books, including the 1868 Atlas of Union and Snyder Counties, refer to the mountain as 'Paddy's Mountain.'"

Carla Watson at the Union County Historical Society appended some information about White Springs and New Berlin. White Springs lies south a few miles from Mifflinburg and close to Penns Creek. New Berlin is east. New Berlin? Most likely named by Germans who settled it and gave it a bit of Williamsburg character. A portion of Main Street was left extra wide. Other old town centers show a similar wide street. For a militia parade ground, I've heard.

Carla's text repeats the Watson story but does not link Patrick to Paddy Mountain. So we have only one reference, not enough for serious historians. We want more references and strong links. Carla's last name begs for one. Is she related to the Watsons of Porter Township, Clinton County, and to Hannah Watson, Civil War wife of Wilbur Loveland? Wilbur was quartermaster sergeant, 7<sup>th</sup> Pennsylvania Cavalry, Army of the West, and he wrote the letters held by the Clinton County Historical Society. His father Reuben ran the Loveland Axe Factory in Lamar.

Hannah and her family are buried in the stone-walled Lick Run Presbyterian Cemetery in Jacksonville, not far across the Clinton/Centre County line. The Watsons were early settlers close to the line. Patrick and his mother were in White Springs in 1780, and the Porter Township Watsons probably in the early 1800s.

Watson does not sound Irish but Patrick must have been, to give his heritage to the mountain. Was he an early explorer or hunter there? Since 1755, Indians had been hacking at central (and eastern) Pennsylvania settlers. They killed and scalped Patrick's mother when they mortally wounded him.

Fred Anderson who wrote "The War That Made America" said that some 1,500 Pennsylvania and Virginia frontier farmers were killed and an additional thousand taken captive during the last months of 1755. And that was just the start. Terror stalked Pennsylvania until the end of the Revolutionary War.

PBS based its French and Indian War series on Anderson's well-written book. Those who lived on the Eastern frontier were sometimes called Middle Borderers, and they bore the brunt of Indian fury.

Years after Native Americans were driven west, the Duke of Riansares came to Clinton County. Riansares Road off the Salona-to-Rosecrans road was named for him, husband of Maria Teresa, Queen consort and regent of Spain from 1829 to 1840. Her money built the Fallon House. It is said the duke came here and saw an empire from the mountain top connected to his road.

Rosecrans? Steve Weaver of Loganton says his great-grandfather George Wagner was at Chickamauga and served under "Old Rosie," a nickname bestowed affectionately by the troops of Major General William Starke Rosecrans. Wagner lived in the nascent village and after returning home, named it for his general. Wagner became post master and later a "squire," says Weaver.

*(Continued on page 6)*



# Meanderings

by

*Hertha S. Wehr*

## Memories

Since I've been writing this column I've shared some of the happy times of my life with you, and some of the hard times of years past. This month I've decided, with some reluctance, to share a very sad part of my life.

On February 10th my eldest son died; he was just 60 years of age. When I thought back over his life I guess we should not have been surprised that he became a civil engineer. His favorite toys as a boy were Lincoln Logs and then Lagos. When he was in high school he spent summers working for a local carpenter.

He leaned toward agriculture in high school, but decided on civil engineering for college. He opted for a co-op plan where, after his second year, he went to school for six months and worked for six months with an engineering firm. It was a five-year plan.

Soon after college, the military beckoned and he joined the Navy as a Sea Bee. Again he was in the building business.

After his military service he worked in Kentucky, and then in Sullivan County, New York. Later he established his own business. Along the way he married Mary Munson, a nurse. She was a support and comforter, and the go between with his doctors during his illness. They have two children, and one grandchild. His enthusiasm for his profession no doubt had a bearing on his son, since both have become civil engineers.

This short summary leaves so much out of his life and how it was intertwined with our life and his siblings. Thank you for letting me share a part of my life, which simply would not go away, and let me write on another subject.

Editors note: Janice and I send our condolences to Hertha, and the entire Wehr family on the loss of their beloved son, brother, husband, father, grandfather. Those wishing to express their sympathy to Hertha, and her family, may do so by writing to her at 1915 Strickler Road, Mifflinburg, Pa. 17845.

Roger W. Wehr, 60, of Narrowsburg, New York, formerly of Danville, PA., passed away on Friday, February 10, 2006, at his home. He was born May 25, 1945, in Danville, a son of Hertha (Shively) Wehr and the late Karl Wehr. He married the former Mary Munson, who survives.

Roger was a graduate of Indiana Institute of Technology, Fort Wayne, IN, where he received a degree in civil engineering.

Mr. Wehr was a Vietnam veteran, having served in the Navy. Roger was the retired owner of RBB Construction, Narrowsburg, and a former employee of the Sullivan County, PA, Department of Public Works from 1980 to 1992.

He was a member of St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Narrowsburg, where he also served as a member of church council. He was also a member of the American Society of Civil Engineers and served on the board of directors of the Weiden Lake Home Owners Association.

A family statement reads, "Roger's unique character is unable to be captured or described in words or sentences. His passing has left a large void in the lives of all he knew and loved, but his presence will live on in our memories and through his completed construction and public works initiatives. May he finally be at peace."

Surviving, in addition to his wife of 36 years, and his mother, are one son and daughter-in-law, Jason and Deborah of Harrisburg, PA.; one daughter and son-in-law, Jennifer and Jamie Ewing of NJ; one granddaughter, Meara; two brothers, Samuel Wehr of Woodbridge, VA, and Mark Wehr of Mifflinburg, PA.; two sisters, Diane Conneman of Ithaca, NY, and Wendy Wehr of Minneapolis, MN; and several nieces and nephews.

A memorial service was held on Saturday, February 25 at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Narrowsburg, with the Rev. Phyllis Haynes officiating. Burial was in the Hartleton Cemetery, Hartleton, PA.

Contributions can be made in Roger's memory to St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Narrowsburg, NY 12764, or to the American Cancer Society, 95 Schwenk Drive, Kingston, NY 12401.

*(Continued from page 5)*

**Rosecrans, Buffalo Crossroads, Tangascootac, Loganton, Vicksburg, Shikellemy, Kishacoquillas, Sinnemahoning, Young Woman's Creek, Susquehannah, Pohopoco Creek, Chillisquaque, and Paddy's Mountain sing of heritage. We can see history at those places. They teach it better than books.**

Editors note: My thanks to Harlan Berger, a columnist for the Lock Haven Express, and his supervisor, Bob Rolley, for allowing me to reproduce this column in my newsletter. Harlan Berger is a retired Penn State science writer and was editor of Research/Penn State, the university's award-winning science magazine. It is now on the Web. After retiring, he consulted for the university's Student Affairs division and for business. He has reported for the Centre Daily times and has written news and theatre reviews, plus a weekly column for the Lock Haven Express for four years. Harlan and his wife live in McElhattan within shouting distance of Logan's Trail, a path traveled by Chief John Logan, who according to Harlan, gave us Logan's Lament.

You can reach Harlan by Email at the following address: [hberger@kcnet.org](mailto:hberger@kcnet.org)

**Recipe of the Month**  
*By Janice (Dorman) Shively*  
**Bacon Wrapped Lit'l Wieners**

1 lb. Sliced smoked bacon  
1 (14 ounce) package beef cocktail wieners  
3/4 C. to 1 C. brown sugar, or to taste

**Directions:**

Preheat oven to 325°  
Cut 16 slices of the bacon in thirds and place in refrigerator until ready to use.  
Generously cover the bottom of a dinner plate with some of the brown sugar. Place a layer of the bacon, and alternate

brown sugar and bacon until all of the bacon is covered with brown sugar.

Wrap each wiener with a piece of the bacon and secure with a toothpick.

Layer the wieners on a large baking sheet in a single layer. Sprinkle remaining brown sugar over the wrapped wieners. Bake for 40 minutes in the preheated oven.

Enjoy!



**Thank You!**

I would like to thank the following people for making monetary donations toward the publication of this newsletter: Internet subscribers: George & Diane Conneman, Ithaca, NY, David & Anne Goehring, Lewisburg, and Deane & Jeanne Shively, Turbotville. Also the following mail subscribers: Wesley Watters, Millmont; Charles & Fay Zechman, Millmont; Roger & Doris Shively, Millmont; Robert & Linda Walter, Mifflinburg; and Earl & Faylene Rothermel, Mifflinburg.

The following people have agreed to accept this newsletter through the Internet as a PDF, thereby reducing the monthly expenses associated with printing and mailing this publication: Brian & Barb Shively, Millmont; Anne (Snyder) Elliott, Dodge City, MN; Gerald & Kay Shively, Platte City, MO; Diane Wright, Mifflinburg. Anyone interested in signing up to receive a free color version of the newsletter each month is encouraged to contact me at: [millmonttimes@dejazzd.com](mailto:millmonttimes@dejazzd.com)

The following are new mail subscribers: August & Delores Barnett, Harrisonburg, VA; Thelma Brown, Lewisburg; Eugene Hoffman, Mifflinburg; Curtis Stroup, Enola, PA; Philip Barnett, Monroe, NC.

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

Thanks also to Edna Oberdorf of Colonel John Kelly Road, Mifflinburg, for donating a "Class of '23 Program." The program was held at the Lyric Theatre on May 28, 1923.

From the diary of the late Elder Greene Shively (1870 - 1954) a resident of Millmont from 1918 until his death: *March 11, 1941 - The old saying, "Red in the evening indicates fair weather" failed this time. This morning there was a fresh snow of two inches, and it kept piling on ever since, and at 8 there is about eight inches. Edmunds school was closed on account of the bus not being able to get through. Most of his pupils come over on the bus from the Pike, or rather Route 45, where the schoolhouse burned away a few years ago.*

*From the Item, Union Co., again in the grip of a severe storm today, which covered the ground to a depth of nine inches. A total of 23 inches is reported. Another statement of interest in the Item "Fifty three years ago Sunbury was in one of the most severe snow storms in its history. A fall of 36 inches was recorded officially, and was accompanied by a gale, which reached a velocity of over sixty miles an hour.*

*Edgar was here most of the day shoveling paths and doing errands for grandma. I was busy reading and doing some writing.*

**Bible Quiz**

Ken Lepley, 111 Cambridge Lane, Lewisburg, Pa 17837, was the winner of the February Bible Quiz. As a result he won the \$10.00 cash prize. The answer to the question - Korah was the person who rebelled against Moses. The answer can be found in the Book of Numbers, Chapter 16, Verses 1-32.

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

The Bible Quiz Question for March: The gift of the Holy Sprit that was given in the Book of Acts was spoken by which Old Testament prophet? A \$10 cash prize will be awarded to the person selected with the correct answer.

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

Think you can, think you can't; either way, you'll be right.

Henry Ford

## Days of Yore

My thanks to E. Walter Shirk of Surfside Beach, South Carolina for submitting a photograph from the Swengel School Class of 1932 - 1933, of which he was one of the students.

The students in the front row left to right include: Neil Boop, Tobias Catherman, Charles Shipton, Charles Catherman, and Clarence Catherman.

Second row left to right: Lee Saxton, Franklin Knause, Florence Shipton, Marie Yarger, Cora Wenrick, Leona Shirk, Nora Boop, and Helen Haire.

Third row, left to right: E. Walter Shirk, Donald Boop, Theodore Catherman, Ruth Yarger, Beatrice Pontius, Margaret Walters, Freda Catherman, and Arabell Knause. The teacher, Melvin Adams, is not in the photo because he is behind the camera.



Swengel School Class of 1932 - 1933.

## Union County Historical Society Events and Programs

March 1 - 10 - Cabin Fever Antiques sale in the lobby of the Union County Courthouse and in the society's office. You will find early glassware, pottery, metalware, and vintage clothing, books, magazines, and postcards available for purchase.

March 9, 7:30 p.m. - A Trip with Charles Dickens on Pennsylvania's 19th Century Canals, presented by Tom and Mary Lou Rich, at the Presbyterian Church, 18 Market Street, Lewisburg. Tom Rich is a professor of mechanical engineering at Bucknell University. For over a decade he has studied the technological history of Pennsylvania. He has written an electronic book (CD) entitled Building Pennsylvania Part 1, on Pennsylvania's canals, lime and cement industry, iron and steel industry, and waterworks. He is currently working on Part 2 covering the coal, lumber and oil industries of the Commonwealth.

April 20, 6:00 p.m. Dinner and Program: CSI-Collective Strategies of Interpretation, presented by researcher Kim Mattern, at the Union County Sportsmen's Club, Weikert. Mattern is a highly regarded investigator of Native American history, culture and settlement in central Pennsylvania. He has an extensive collection of Native American artifacts, many acquired from his own fieldwork. A buffet dinner will precede the program. For more information or reservations you can call 524.8666.

May 13 - An all day bus tour of historic sites in Union County is scheduled. The Saturday tour will visit and learn about: the Buggy Museum in Mifflinburg, the Penns Creek massacre site, and our first county courthouse in New Berlin. A stop at Col. Slifer's Victorian home near Lewisburg, the White Deer train station, the site of Widow Smith's mill and more. Details will be made available in the spring. You can also visit the society's website: [www.unioncountyhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.unioncountyhistoricalsociety.org)

### Blood Mobile

There will be a blood drive held at the Carriage Corner Restaurant on Monday, March 20, 2006 from 1:00 p.m. until 7:00pm. The Carriage Corner Restaurant is located at 257 E. Chestnut Street in Mifflinburg. Reserve a time at [www.givelife.org](http://www.givelife.org) or call 1.800.GIVELIFE today. You must provide positive ID.

### Burd's Store, Swengel

I hope to include an article about Burd's Store, Swengel, in a future issue of the newsletter. Anyone with information relative to the Burd family, or the store they operated in Swengel is asked to contact me at The Millmont Times, P. O. Box 3, Millmont, PA, 17845, telephone 570.922.4297, or email [millmonttimes@dejazzd.com](mailto:millmonttimes@dejazzd.com)

### Public meetings to be held in the Lewis Township Municipal Building

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

The small photograph in the upper left hand corner of page one shows an early view of several of the mountainstone cottages at the former Laurelton State School and Hospital.

# Penlines From my Kitchen to Yours

January 20, 2006

Wilma came with Chris this morning when he came to work. She and I made chicken / turkey croquettes all day. I counted 918 croquettes; we divided them equally among us.

January 22, 2006

Amos and Susie Zimmerman of Mifflinburg had the wedding reception in their home for their son Harold and Arlene.

January 27, 2006

Darren and Ruth Martin of Mifflinburg have a son named Adam Jay. He has one brother. Grandparents are Earl & Mary Martin of Mifflinburg, and Phares & Ada Zimmerman of Millmont.

February 3, 2006

Mrs. Leroy Martin (Sarah), age 71, died early this morning. She was a widow for nearly 10 years. The funeral will be at Mountain View Church, Millmont, on Monday.

Minerva Zimmerman (22) daughter of Allen & Lovina was teaching school in Lancaster Co. She is not feeling well, and came back home to recover again. Her brother, Nevin (6), has a fractured skull because of a fall he had. Their address is 209 Rand Rd., Mifflinburg, PA 17844.

They are also getting ready for the wedding of Barbara A. & Jonathan Martin, son of Thomas and Lydia of Mifflinburg, on March 2, 2006.

February 7, 2006

Lester and Martha Nolt of Lewisburg have a son named Harry. He has four brothers, and six sisters. Grandparents are Ivan & Martha Oberholtzer of Millmont.

John and Esther Zimmerman of Millmont are having Public Auction to sell farm equipment on February 18, 2006. They moved off the farm, into a new house that is close by, in November 2004. (Their son John David & Esther live on the farm at the present.)

February 11, 2006

Alvin and Minerva Reiff of Mifflinburg have a singing in their shop, to sing German songs, tomorrow they will have another singing, to sing in English.

February 12, 2006

Earl and Emma Weaver of Mifflinburg have a daughter named Rachel. She has four brothers, and four sisters. Grandparents are Paul and Esther Weaver of Ephrata, and Eli and Sarah Horning of New Holland.

February 13, 2006

Kenneth and Dorothy Martin of Mifflinburg have a son named Michael Kenneth. He has one brother, and two sisters. Grandparents are Eli and Emma Reiff of Mifflinburg, and Sarah Martin (that died ten days ago) would have been his other grandmother.

February 14, 2006 Valentine's Day!

Elam and Maria Brubacker have their third daughter. Her name is Ellen. Grandparents are Mrs. Milton Brubacker of Millmont, and Phares and Anna Horning of Mifflinburg.

Abram and Wilma Zimmerman of Mifflinburg have a son named Nathan Ray. He has seven brothers and two sisters. Grandparents are Abram and Emma Zimmerman, and Allen and Mary Hoover, all of Mifflinburg.

February 15, 2006

There was an all-day comfort knotting at Harold and Lucy Nolt of Mifflinburg. The comforts will be sent to the needy.

## Looking Back

The article below was published in a local newspaper on March 14, 1913, in one of the county newspapers. It is copied verbatim.

### SLICK SWINDLERS WORK BOTH ENDS OF COUNTY

Landlord Dunkle of Lewisburg  
"Worked" for Board Bill, Etc.

Cashier Wolf Blocks Game

Of Dutchman Who Passes As State  
Road Contractor at Laurelton and  
Swindled a Few.

A slick swindler put up at the Cameron House, Lewisburg, one day last week, where, by impersonating the role of printer and setter-up of a lino-type machine for the "News" office, he got away with nice lodging—the best room in the house—a number of heavy cocktails, the table's choicest delicacies of the season, etc., etc., all before landlord Dunkle found out he was a blasted fraud of the first order. 'Tis said he also roped in other parties before he successfully skipped the burg.

But the above does not quite compare with the exploits of a dutchman trickster who operated at the west end of the county. Of this scoundrel the Sat. News gives particulars as follows:

The Laurelton Trickster registered at the Laurelton hotel over the signature of George Myers, of Berwick, and claimed to have a contract to build a State road from the Narrows to Woodward, a distance of eight miles. With such a big contract the people of that section fell easy prey for the shrewd gentleman, a genuine German, aged about 55 years.

The "road contractor" was in Laurelton eight days, and during that time pulled the wool over the eyes of every person with whom he came in contact. He soon made himself important and popular by talking "big business," and as every person was anxious to get a piece of the rake off, he had hosts of friends.

Twenty men and several horses were hired and put to work, and the swindler was busy driving up

*(Continued on page 10)*

(Continued from page 9)

and down the road, arranging for various little details, such as a place to establish his stone crusher, etc. He said he had just completed a State road at Oak Grove, where he had 75 horses and 200 Italians, which he would bring to Laurelton as soon as he could arrange for housing them.

In order to house the horses and road-building implements he had to first build a large barn, and accordingly contracted with James K. Reish of Mifflinburg, for the lumber, and with G. Ralph Feese, of Laurelton for posts and stringers. He put the twenty men to work leveling off the ground and erecting the barn, which was 190x30 feet. Mr. Reish had his men haul 12,000 feet of lumber to the barn site, at the Laurelton end of the road.

From County Commissioner D. R. Pursley, who conducts a general store at Laurelton, he secured tools of various kinds, picks, shovels, clothing, nails, shirts, shoes and money, and contracted with him to supply the hay and grain for the horses, and food for the 200 Italians. For the barn roof Mr. Pursley purchased from C. Driesbach's Sons 100 rolls and roofing and building paper, but this he returned when he found the fellow was a fraud.

In order to properly play his game the swindler said he left his eye glasses in his trunk at Oak Grove, and had Mr. Pursley write several letters to Samuel Lamb, his manager, at Oak Grove, one letter asking Lamb to ship at once his trunk, stone crusher and engine, but to keep the horses and Italians there until the barn was completed, which would be but a short time, as the lumber was on the ground and a supply of men were at work erecting it.

While at Freeburg, in company with James Pursley, where they went to purchase a horse, he borrowed \$20.00 from Mr. Pursley. From Harold Barber, of Mifflinburg, he purchased a driving horse for \$175.00, paying him by check, but fortunately the day Mr. Barber was to deliver the animal, the pranks of the shrewd swindler were discovered, and Mr. Barber kept both horse and check, the latter being worthless.

Shortly after landing in Laurelton Myers left it be known that he had two drafts aggregating \$32,000, one of \$11,000 on a Jersey Shore bank, and another for \$21,000 on a Hollidaysburg bank, and was free and anxious to show them, as it gave him a financial standing among those he was gradually entwining in his net.

The drafts he took to the Farmers' Bank of Mifflinburg to enter for collection, but Mr. Harry Wolf, the cashier, suspected that there might be something rotten in Denmark, and 'phoned the two banks on which the drafts were drawn, and learned that it was a clean case of fraud. Mr. Wolf immediately advised the Laurelton people of what he had learned over the 'phone, but Myers, foxy enough when taken to task about it, said his manager had likely given him the wrong banks, but the jig was up so far as being able to rope in any more people around Laurelton, and he skipped out, sticking Landlord Rokenbrod for his board and \$10.00 in cash, which he borrowed from him.

None of the men he hired, or in fact any one else, got any money from Myers and the workmen attached Pursley's tools and Reish's lumber for their pay. Amounting to nearly \$200.00. Pursley and Reish have since carted away the lumber, tools and materials that were not used in the partly constructed barn.

Many others were caught by the slick swindler, who played his game to perfection. He ordered a car of coal from J. J. Showalter and arranged with the station agent at Glen Iron for a siding to be used when his materials came in. He went to any amount of trouble in arranging matters that looked business like, and which would assist him in working his victims, and the only thing that saved the good people of the west end from further loss at the trickster's hands was the fact that Harry Wolf 'phoned the Jersey Shore and Hollidaysburg banks and got the information about the worthless drafts in an hour, which through the regular banking channels would have required at least four days.

## Passage

Sarah Zimmerman Martin, 71, of 2020 Swengel Road, entered into rest on Friday, Feb. 3, 2006, at 3:53 a.m. at the Geisinger Medical Center, Danville, where she had been a patient for 10 hours. Sarah had lived in Lewis Township, Union County, since 1969 and before that had lived in Caernarvon Township, Lancaster County.

She was born in West Earl Township, Lancaster County, on March 30, 1934, a daughter of the late Samuel Oberholtzer and Mary Elizabeth Zimmerman Weaver. She was married on Nov. 16, 1954, in West Earl Township, to Leroy Weaver Martin, who died on Aug. 9, 1996. Mr. Martin was the founder and president of Martin Steel Inc., Mifflinburg, at the time of his death.

She attended the Shaffer School, West Earl Township, and was an avid quilter.

She was a member of the Mountain View Old Order Mennonite Church, Millmont.

Sarah is survived by nine children and their spouses: Irvin W. and Esther Z. Martin of Mifflinburg; Anna Mae Martin of Mifflinburg; Mary Ella and Alvin N. Zimmerman of New Holland; Esther W. and Daniel Z. Martin of Lewisburg; Leon W. and Marian S. Martin of Millmont; Floyd W. and Katie B. Martin of Mifflinburg; Kenneth W. and Dorothy M. Martin of Mifflinburg; John David and Louise S. Martin of Mifflinburg; and Jerry W. and Elva W. Martin of Mifflinburg. Also surviving are 35 grandchildren; eight great-grandchildren; and the following brothers and sisters: Ivan Z. and Edna Weaver of New Holland; Anna Mary and Floyd E. Fox of Reinholds; Margaret Z. Fox of Terre Hill; John Z. and Alta Weaver of East Earl; Christ Z. and Mary Weaver of Leola; Samuel Z. and Miriam Weaver of Ephrata; Esther Mae and Levi Leinbach; and Aaron Z. and Elsie Weaver of Pen Yan, New York.

She was preceded in death by one son, Leroy Weaver Martin Jr., on April 14, 1979; one grandson; one great-grandson; and one sister, Susie Z. Zimmerman, who died in February 1993.

Interment was in the Mountain View Old Order Mennonite Church Cemetery, Lewis Township, Union County.

Serving as pallbearers were: David Martin, Derick Alan Martin, Edward Lee Martin, Eugene Martin, Jason Lamar Martin, and Harlan Ray Zimmerman.

## *Lewis Township News*

The regular meeting of the Municipal Authority of Lewis Township was held February 9, 2006, 7:30 PM at the Lewis Township Municipal Building, Millmont. The following, being members of the board of authority named in the articles of incorporation, were present: Jim Sanders, Renda Shively, Steve Bilger, Clair Kaler, who is filling out Ken Strowbridge's term and Marge Schmader. Also present were Solicitors Ray and Melissa Lobos, HRG Rep. Rob Rowe, Plant Mgr. Walt Scholl and Joe White.

The minutes from the Re-organization meeting and the regular meeting were approved as printed. The treasurer's report was given. The checking account balance for January was \$11,943.77 and \$97,204.70 in CDs and were approved and filed for audit. Steve made a motion to pay the bills and Clair seconded it – so moved.

**CORRESPONDENCE:** A list of our meeting dates, time and place were sent to the Mifflinburg Telegraph.

We received the bond for Jim Sanders from our insurance company.

A letter from DEP was received re: Sludge removal and Landfill disposal. Walt said it didn't have anything to do with us.

**ENGINEER'S REPORT:** Rob reported that they got a price from US Filter to replace the computer system. It will cost \$25,174.00 and there may be additional charges if anything is broken. Pressure transducers are not included. The transducers read the levels in the tanks. The cost for two will run between \$1200.00 and \$1400.00.

Marge made a motion to accept the bid from US Filter subject to change to add 2 transducers not to exceed a total of \$27,000.00. Seconded by Clair – so moved.

**PLANT OPERATOR UPDATE:** Walt reported that DEP made an inspection of the plant and we are fine. The report is on file. While DEP was there the computer was acting up, which validates our need for a new computer.

Also, Walt said the spare pump is finished.

**OLD BUSINESS:** A delinquent account was addressed.

**NEW BUSINESS:** No new business.

## *Letters and Emails to the Editor*

Tony - Great issue this month! I particularly liked the unfortunate legend of the spurned lover which tripped in me another memory. Years back I stumbled upon the a stone set upright on the shores of Penn's Creek just upstream from the old railroad tunnel and the point at which it crosses turn over to Poe Paddy Rd. There is a plaque mounted on the stone that states (from my foggy memory) Byron Krumrine died in the water of Karundinhah one fall night in the 1920's. I believe the plaque was erected 7 or so years later by a woman name of Lillian Schaeffer. Apparently, Krumrine had served in the "Great War." I was fascinated by what I'd found. How did the young man drown? What was the relationship between the two? I spent some time looking at microfiche in the Bucknell Library and found no clues. I asked several of the locals without any results. Can you or any of your considerable resources shed any light on the lonely stone and plaque? Keep up the great work.

-Jim Hostetler (Of the Blackford Family)

Hello Tony & Janice, Really enjoying your paper! Talking on phone with in-laws and they were very interested in several things we told them from your paper. We would like to get a subscription for them. Pop was raised in Weikert, his parents lived back the lane next to the church. He said he never heard the story of Liz and the railroad man that you had in this Feb paper. Please bill us & add them to your subscriber list.

Lois Bokano, Millmont, Pa.

Dear Tony & Janice, I am Hertha's oldest daughter and as I think you and mother have figured out, I forward my copy of The Millmont Times on to my daughters, Susan and Kathie. Thus you got the email note from Katie Dittmer. Your email list is really 2 more! I figured it was just as easy for me to forward the news as for you to have a longer list to deal with. We all appreciate the history and news we get each month. Writing each month keeps mother young. Keep up the good work.

Diane K. (Wehr) Conneman, Ithaca, NY

Hi Tony and Janice, Congratulations on the great work you are doing with the Millmont Times!!!!!! I would love to subscribe through the PDF each month. Glenda (Shively) Sheaffer is an old friend of mine and she sent me January and February recently, which I thoroughly enjoyed getting to read a piece of the area I grew up in....

I am the granddaughter of the late Benjamin and Lydia Lamey Snyder buried in Swengel cemetery. My father, Lawrence, and Uncle John are buried there as well....

Presently I am working on the genealogy of the Lamey and Snyder family.....

Anne Snyder Elliott, Dodge Center, MN

## **Moving?**

If you are planning to move or if your post office mailing address is about to change, please notify The Millmont Times immediately. This newsletter is distributed each month by bulk rate, and will neither be forwarded to your new address, nor will they be returned to me by the U. S. Postal Service. Please call me at (570) 922.4297 or email me at: millmont-times@dejazzd.com if there are any changes in your postal mailing address.

## *What's Happening at the 4-Bell Lutheran Church by Shirley Kerstetter*

\* Members of the church will be making peanut butter and coconut Easter eggs each Monday from March 6 through April 10th. Orders for the Easter eggs can be made by calling Bev Catherman at 922.1640, Tammy Boop at 966.1610, or Shirley Kerstetter at 966.0034.

\* The church will be holding an Ash Wednesday Service on March 1, 2006 beginning at 7:00 p.m.

\* Bible Study will be held at the church on the second Tuesday of every month. The group study will be begin at 11:00 a.m. and continue until 12 noon.

\* A Prayer and Healing Service will be held at the church on the second Thursday of each month beginning at 8:00 a.m.

\* A Pot Pie Supper will be held on Saturday, March 4, from 3:00 p.m. until ? The cost of the family style meal is \$7.00 for adults, \$3.00 for children ages 6 through 12, and children under 6 can eat for free. For more information you can call the church at 922.1860, Shirley Kerstetter 966.0034, and John Stamm 966.5714.

\* The church will be holding an Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday April 15 beginning at 10 a.m.

### **March Birthdays & Anniversaries**

2 – Donald G. Shively	18 – Tobias O. Catherman, Jr.
3 – Leah Bingaman	18 – Karen L. Fultz
4 – Donald Ruhl	19 – Doug Peffer
4 – David Hoover	19 – Laura Peffer
5 - William & Pauline Shively - 1948	20 - Donald & Kathryn Shively -1953
6 – Rita Kuhns	20 – Israel Yoder
7 – Glyn Hassenplug	21 – Kaitlyn Erdley
8 – Ervin Oberholtzer	22 – Joseph Martin
8 – Curvin Oberholtzer	22 – Doug Lyons
8 – Matthew Dorman, Jr.	23 – Stella Edmiston
9 – Sandi Failor	24 – Norman Groff
12 – Rick Kerstetter	24 - Norman & Evelyn Groff - 2002
12 – Betsy Gordon	25 – Robert M. Catherman
12 – Garrett Bingaman	25 – Ruth Zimmerman
14 – Michael Shively	26 – Don Fornwalt
15 – Roxanne Lyons	26 – Zac Salter
15 – Pearl Strickler	28 – James G. Shively
16 – Mary Martin	27 – Ray D. Bowersox
18 – Richard Hassenplug	31 – Evelyn Smith
18 – Luke Bilger	

The Millmont Times is distributed during the first week of each month, and is available through mail subscription, the Internet, and over the counter in Hartleton at Dormans Country Store. Mail subscriptions are \$10 per year (12 issues). Internet subscriptions are available FREE to those who would like to receive the newsletter as a PDF each month. Adobe Acrobat Reader is required.

Please contact the address below if you are interested in subscribing, making a donation, submitting a story or article for publication, sending a gift subscription, changing your address, providing me with your email address, or contacting the editor and publisher. So that your material can be included in the next issue, please be sure to submit your information or photos prior to the 20th of the month.

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

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

**PRSRRT STD**  
**U.S. POSTAGE PAID**  
**MILLMONT PA**  
**PERMIT NO. 3**