



The Millmont Times

MARCH 2008

Navigation of Penns Creek and The Story of Butter Rock



Many people have heard of Butter Rock but perhaps are uncertain as to how, or why, that name came to be. The story behind Butter Rock is one that was passed from generation to generation in the Peter Dorman family. Preservation of this interesting story is a result of the research conducted by the late Jacob G. Shively. His research included an interview with William Boop, a grandson of ark pilot Peter Dorman (1791–1874) who was involved in the accident at Butter Rock. Shively’s book, “Navigation of Penns Creek”, which he authored in 1963, was the culmination of his research efforts.

tion of his research efforts.

Shively had a lifetime interest and fascination with the topic of ark running on the Penns Creek. As a youngster he spent countless hours fishing, swimming, trapping, and hunting in and along the banks of the stream, only a short distance from his White Springs home. He also recalled his grandfather, Jacob S. Shively (1827-1912), telling stories from his childhood days about flat-bottomed arks that drifted downstream during the springtime. Years later Shively listened to narratives from men like William Boop (1870-1943), Franklin Culp (1858-1951), and others who also related stories they were told about arks and the pilots who guided them down Penns Creek.

Penns Creek was an important transportation route for those who settled in Union, Snyder, and Centre Counties during the late 18th century and early 19th centuries. The Pennsylvania Legislature passed several acts, including one in 1792, which declared Penns Creek a public highway from its mouth to Spring Mills. To improve the navigability of this stream individuals were authorized to remove natural obstacles that hindered that effort. Appropriations, including one passed by the legislature on March 26, 1821, authorized the expenditure of \$2,000 for improvements on Penns Creek from the Susquehanna River to the Union/Centre County border.

Arks were used on Penns Creek from the 1790’s through the 1850’s, but the heyday of their use was a two-decade period between 1795 and 1815. Their use came about as farmers began harvesting a surplus of crops. Those crops could be sold at a profit provided they could get them to markets in the eastern part of the state. As gristmills were built and operated along or near vast stretches of Penns Creek mill owners also needed to transport their products to more lucrative markets. Those outlets were often located many miles away.

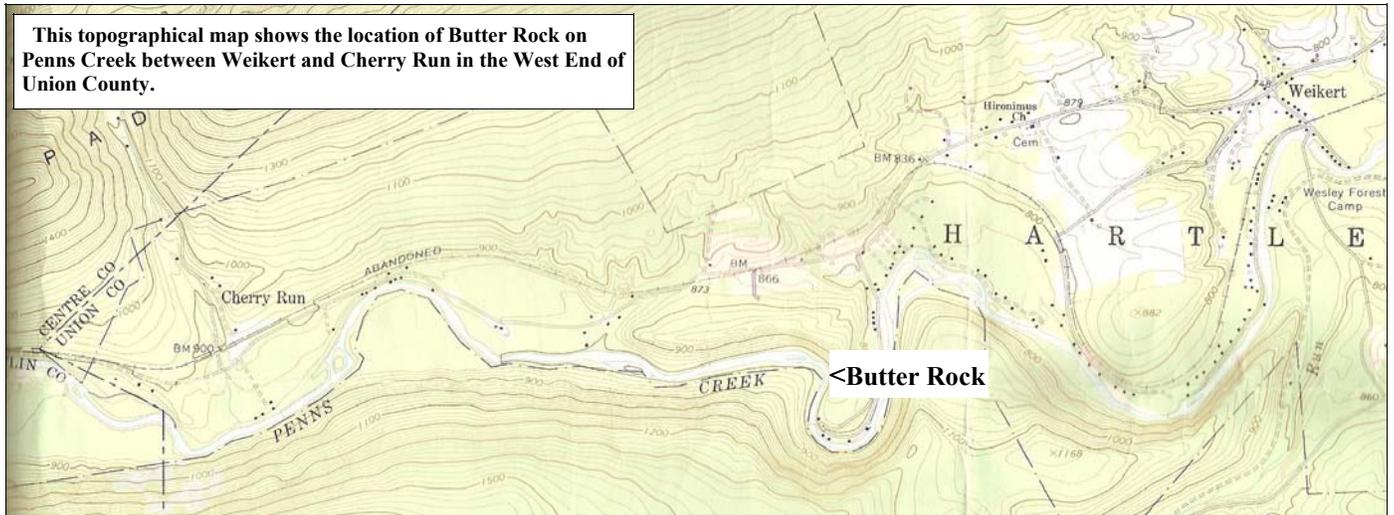
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Millmont Mailbox by Postmaster Sam Smith

Spring will finally be arriving shortly. With the arrival of Spring comes many changes in nature; Robins returning, flowers blooming, grass growing, and of course warmer temperatures. Change will unfortunately be occurring with postal rates. On May 12th the price of a first-class stamp will rise one cent to 42 cents. Postcards will cost 27 cents to mail. Letters to Canada and Mexico will be 72 cents and other countries will be 94 cents. I will advise you of all the rates in my May article. Now would be a great time to buy the Forever stamps to make the transformation easier for everyone and avoid having to buy 1-cent make-up stamps. Another change that will happen on March 3rd is the introduction of a larger size Flat-rate Priority Mail box. The new box (12 x 12 x 5) will be 50% larger than the largest previously available flat-rate box and will cost \$12.95 to ship anywhere in the US.

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This topographical map shows the location of Butter Rock on Penns Creek between Weikert and Cherry Run in the West End of Union County.



In the late 1790's men such as Christopher Seebold, Joseph Green, Robert Barber, David Smith, and Peter Fisher owned and operated gristmills alongside Penns Creek, or its tributaries. It is worth mentioning that several of these men were also noted ark pilots.

Arks of various sizes transported cargo such as wheat, flour, clover seed, split shingles, rye, cured meat, and butter from Snyder, Union, and Centre Counties to the Susquehanna River. Distilleries were commonplace at the time so whiskey was another important commodity that was transported on arks. It was not uncommon for arks laden with goods to continue beyond Selinsgrove and down river as far as the Chesapeake Bay.

One who used arks to transport his goods to distant markets was Henry Roush who operated a hotel, store, gristmill, and distillery at the entrance to the Seven-Mile-Narrows from about 1812 until 1840. Historian, Richard V.B. Lincoln (1822-1901) provides the following details concerning Roush's business:

There was then no mill at Laurelton, and no store in the county west of Hartleton. The farmers found a ready market for their wheat, corn, and rye at Roush's. The wheat was ground into flour, the corn and rye were made into whiskey, and the surplus of both not needed for home consumption was placed in barrels and hauled to a large storeroom, which Roush built on the bank of Penns creek, a short distance above the mouth of Laurel Run. It was kept there until the time of the spring freshet, when it was loaded into arks and ran down to Port Deposit, from which point the arks were towed to Baltimore and sold.

Farmers, mill owners, and those who intended to ship their commodities on arks via Penns Creek were always at the mercy of the creek. An opportune time to take advantage of the creek was during the spring freshet. A rain-swollen stream combined with melting snow provided ample water levels to run arks downstream. During other times of the year ark running on Penns Creek was sporadic, and depended entirely on heavy rains to raise the water to a sufficient level. Overland highways were rudimentary during this era and Penns Creek provided the fastest means of transporting goods.

Penns Creek, from Laurel Park to its mouth at the Susquehanna River, has relatively few sharp turns or bends. This allowed for arks as large as 70' x 16' to navigate with minimal difficulty. Due to the sharp twists and turns in Penns Creek to the west, arks half that length came downstream from Coburn. Richard V.B. Lincoln's historical writings provide the following description of ark construction that took place at Laurel Park:

Henry Keister lived on the south side of Penns Creek, opposite to Albrights flouring mill, in the house now Isaiah Shively's. He had a sawmill and an oil mill (to make oil from flaxseed) on the bank of Penns Creek, as well as a platform from which to turn arks, when they had reached the proper stage in their construction, for launching into the water. The "ark turning," as it was called, was equivalent to and meant about the same thing as the launching of a ship. In the first place, posts or piling were securely fastened in the water near to a moderately high bank, a log was then placed on the top of these posts or piles as long as the ark was expected to be, usually sixty to seventy feet long; from there timbers were extended to the bank, and on this platform the bottom timbers of the ark were placed. The planks intended to form the bottom of the ark were then spiked on to those timbers, which were hewed on two sides. The incipient ark then had to be turned in order to bring what was intended to be the bottom of the ark to the water. An ark turning required quite a number of men to perform the operation. When a sufficient number of men collected by previous invitation, and the prospect of having all the whiskey to drink that they wished, the embryo ark was pushed by handspikes off from the platform into the water, but in falling from the platform into the water it had to be managed so that what was the top of the platform would be the bottom in the water. After the ark had been successfully turned the ark was

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BIRD TALK

by Jim McCormick



“...running like the thief it is!” Fortunately February is the shortest month of the year. As unpleasant as the cold weather and snow have been, though, we have been luckier than most of the states around us. The amount of daylight is slowly increasing and, above all, the birds have started calling! There were several random calls by some birds in January but that was more like the tentative testing of their pipes. It was wonderful to step out into the winter air and hear the calling of the Titmice, Cardinals and House Finches. There was even the distant drumming of the Woodpeckers. The Cardinals have been less enthusiastic than they normally are, though. They are usually the most prominent calling birds in February. The Robins have been missing this month so far. They are normally here around Presidents Day weekend. They are definitely around; my wife

saw a tree filled with them in Centre Hall, and others have seen them, too. I did, however, see a pair of Eastern Bluebirds checking out a fencepost nesting site from last year. The Red-winged Blackbirds and Common Grackles should be here at the end of the month or the first week in March, but, the way things are going this year, I am a little leery about predictions.

One day this month, while I was in Lewisburg, I noticed a flock of ‘seagulls’ in the parking lot of the old Wal-Mart. That in itself is not strange; I’ve seen these birds many times over the years. Usually I would just have wondered what they were doing there and leave it at that. I took a few photos of the birds and went home, but I couldn’t get those birds out of my mind. I went to my computer and Googled: Pennsylvania and seagulls. The results were more than I could have expected. As I started to go to the links, I noticed they were all coming from the same source: “People Don’t See ‘Seagulls’” by Joe Kosack, Wildlife Conservation Education Specialist with the Pennsylvania Game Commission. Go to www.pgc.state.pa.us and search for Press Release #014-08. There are basically two gulls that winter in Pennsylvania--the Herring Gull and the Ring-billed Gull. The gulls (Kosack argues that the term ‘seagull’ should not be used) are spreading across Pennsylvania in the winter. They come to feed on anything they can find, or as quoted in the article “gulls will eat just about anything edible served hot, cold or frozen. They like fast food, dead fish, waste grain, even stuff that just looks like food. Presentation isn’t important. All that matters is accessibility and acquisition.” They are frequent visitors to dumpsters at fast food restaurants. When I saw the Ring-billed Gulls in the parking lot, I wondered why they are so commonly seen in parking lots. Apparently they find ‘safety’ in being able to see 360 degrees around them. They only winter here then return to Lake Erie and the lower Susquehanna and Delaware Rivers to nest and breed in the summer. That is one of the reasons they are not ‘seagulls’! Now, the next time you see those gulls in the parking lot, you will look at them in a totally new light. You may have seen the video clip of the Gull in Scotland that regularly steals from a local shop. It was on all the news channels. Go to www.youtube.com and type in “seagull stealing”. It shows a Gull calmly entering a shop in Aberdeen. As it enters the shop in looks around like a ‘regular’ customer, then quickly grabs a bag of Doritos, always Doritos. It hurriedly exits the shop, then begins **“running like the thief it is!”**



The Gulls above were photographed in the former Wal Mart parking lot in Lewisburg.



Field Notes, by WCO Dirk Remensnyder

This is the time of the year when most sportsmen’s clubs are setting up their yearly schedules which include: early outdoors shows, hunter education, archery, rifle, shotgun, and muzzle-loader shoots, youth field days and a whole host of other activities. Now is the time to start planning your calendar for any of the events that you want to take part in.

The bear harvest in Union county was down this year due to the weather. I anticipate a surge in bear complaints this spring. So to get ready for this I have taken my Bear traps to SUN tech vocational school where the students are readying the traps to make sure they work properly.

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The photographs above and below were taken by Jacob G. Shively. Above are the remnants of the barn which was built from the timbers and planking from the arks that crashed at Butter Rock. Below are close up photographs of those timbers showing the wooden pins and the one inch holes that were drilled into the planks.



ready for the operation of putting on the sides, &c., &c. These platforms for ark turning were numerous along the creek in its course through Hartley Township. It required the choicest of white pine timber to make ark sills from sixty to seventy feet long.

Navigating arks down Penns Creek was hazardous, even for seasoned pilots. It could also be deadly. Franklin Culp related an incident to Shively where an ark pilot drowned in a section of Penns Creek west of the Union/Centre County line. Culp stated that when he was a youngster the spot where the ark capsized was referred to as "Yuckley's Hole" in memory of the individual who drowned. Other names that have been preserved in the history of ark piloting on Penns Creek include brothers, Adam and George Wilt, John Fisher, Robert Barber, Jr., Thomas Treaster, Peter Dorman, Abbott Green, Leonard Karstetter, and Christopher Seebold, Jr. There were many other ark pilots whose names have unfortunately been forgotten.

Responsible for transporting cargo that was oftentimes not their own, ark pilots needed to be vigilant during their expedition down Penns Creek. However, it is also quite likely that some pilots found it necessary to imbibe some liquid courage prior to launching in order to provide them with the fortitude to face the task ahead. The crew usually consisted of three men. One man operated an oar at the bow end while another was positioned at the stern. The third person used a setting pole to help guide the ark.

A captivating account of several arks navigating Penns Creek on a journey that began at Coburn and ended abruptly at a place thereafter known as Butter Rock is preserved in the pages of Jacob G. Shively's book, "Navigation of Penns Creek." That account is as follows:

Back of Little Mountain, about two miles west of Weikert, there is a large rock known as "Butter Rock," because of the wreckage there of a number of arks coming down from Centre County, partly laden with butter. When the casks containing the butter were thrown against the rock, some of them burst, almost covering the rock with butter; and as "Butter Rock" it has been known ever since.

This story has become a sort of legend, and like all legends, has many versions. The number of arks involved varies with the narrator. I shall give it as related to me by the late Mr. William Boop, who had a very retentive memory and whose veracity was above question. He had it from his mother, who was a daughter of Peter Dorman, one of the pilots. He said that the right side of the creek (Jack's Mountain side) had been cleared for navigation, and that all of the pilots knew that they must hug the right shore immediately after rounding a sharp curve just a short distance above the rock. During the previous night there had been a great storm and downpour of rain, which caused a large tree to fall from the Jack's Mountain side, entirely obstructing the cleared channel. A number of arks had started from "The Forks" (now Coburn),

at daybreak, so spaced that there should have been little danger of collision. Mr. Boop could not recall the exact number of arks his mother said were involved, but thought there were at least four. The current was bearing the lead ark along at a good rate of speed – for there is considerable fall at this point – when on rounding the curve only a short distance above the rock, the fallen tree loomed in front of them. There was no time to attempt a landing and the pilot had to make a quick decision between striking the giant tree or trying to pass through the uncleared channel, which was studded with large rocks, some of them reaching almost to the surface, even during periods of high water. He chose the latter course, and in the parlance of arksmen "stoved." Unable to warn those following, the next ark crashed also, and so on until all were piled up. One or more of them struck the giant boulder, "Butter Rock," which projects from the left bank.

Although much of the cargo was lost, timbers and the planking from the ruptured arks did not go to waste. During his research of this accident Shively learned that the timbers and planking from the shattered arks were used to construct a barn not far from the accident site. This barn was situated on what was long known as the "Shaffer Place" on the north side of

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Penns Creek Angler

by Bruce Fisher

I did a lot of fishing over the past month and noticed a few things worth talking about. On sunny windless days I've always had my best fishing with stonefly nymphs cast directly upstream and floated back in a straight line to my casting position. If the fly line were to land incorrectly a belly would be created in the line causing the nymph to rise off the bottom in an unnatural way and the fish would not hit. The nymph needed to float down the creek in a straight line in order for the fish to take the fly. It really didn't matter how cold it was as long as the wind was light or slow and steady from the east. This is mostly due to the fact that Penns Creek flows mostly east and when the wind is from the west it pushes your line, leader and fly downstream faster than the current. This causes a belly or a push on your line and the nymph acts unnaturally and the fish can sense something is wrong.

I have always preferred the wind to be against the flow of water on any creek I'm fishing. So the old saying "Wind from the west and the fish bite best" doesn't always hold true. In most years the fish leave the riffles when the weather becomes the coldest in February. This is about the same time the deer drop their antlers. This year I've found most of my fish in the fast pocket water all winter. Don't overlook these spots, as they can be very productive even in the cold of winter. I've always known that there are only a few reasons for a fish to hold in the riffles. The first is that the fish is hungry and he's there to feed at a place where the current brings the most food. Some other reasons are the faster water contains more oxygen, but this is usually a summer event. The other reason is broken or riffled water provides cover from predators such as Bald Eagles, Osprey and Herons.

Another important discovery this season is the use of a new strike indicator that has come to the market. First let me say I have never used a strike indicator for fishing very heavy nymphs. This is not a reflection of any bias one way or the other about the use of "bobbers" strike indicators in fly-fishing. The reasons I didn't use them had to do with the fact that they were hard to adjust because most used glue to stick them to your line and when you removed them they would leave a sticky spot on your leader. Another reason I didn't use them was they sank even with a medium weighted nymph and this caused the fly to act unnaturally. This new style of indicator is made of an extremely light aerodynamic buoyant material. It has a slit down the side of the indicator with a rubber core that can be stretched to insert your line.

The only reason I mention this new indicator is its effectiveness and versatility. The reason this strike indicator works so well is the fact that it can support three very heavy nymphs and not sink under the water. When I fish nymphs I usually use more than one and in most cases I use three on droppers at different water depths. In my style of winter nymph fishing I get the most production from a nymph dropper system supported by an indicator that allows the nymphs to hang directly below the strike indicator or very close to vertical. This provides the most natural presentation of the nymphs, and if you achieve this goal you will catch more fish. This method provides constant contact with your flies. If a fish takes one of your flies you will know instantly something has changed because the indicator will either stop, pause, move sideways or simply get pulled under the water.

The only other things that will affect the natural movement of your strike indicator are an incorrect depth setting of the indicator that allows your flies to hit the bottom too often, or an underwater rock or snag. If your system is set right and everything is in a straight line from your indicator to your bottom fly you will catch more fish using this system during the winter months.

"Catch you Later" - Bruce Fisher



This picture was taken from Chimney Rock. The view is of the Spinning Wheel Hole. Courtesy of Bruce Fisher.

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



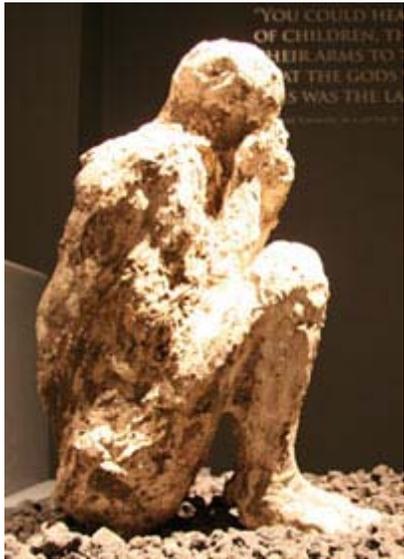
Meanderings

by

Hertha S. Wehr

Minneapolis

About a month ago I had an opportunity to visit Minneapolis. Yes, I'm aware this isn't the time of year to go there, but since I no longer travel alone I had the opportunity to travel with my granddaughter and her husband so I couldn't pass up the chance to visit. They are having a colder winter than they had for several years but it didn't dampen our enthusiasm for the many things Minneapolis has to offer.



Minneapolis has to offer.

The University of Minnesota has an arboretum, which I had previously visited in the summertime, but this visit was different as they were having a high tea one afternoon. The surroundings were quite festive and the high tea had a very nice choice of foods. However the highlight of the week, to me at least, was the Science Museum of Minnesota.

What made it so special was "A Day in Pompeii". St. Paul is one of only four cities in the U.S. to host artifacts from lost Pompeii. I think most of us have heard of the eruption of Mt. Vesuvius but a bit of background history might be helpful, it certainly was a help to me.

Pompeii was a major port and trading center in Italy, located near the Gulf of Naples. An earthquake had destroyed part of the city earlier, before the eruption of Mt. Vesuvius, so part of the city was rebuilt by the Romans, thereby giving the city a mix of Greek and Roman architecture. It was a city noted for its beauty and was frequented by the rich and famous as a resort. Quite a few people of wealth also lived in the city.

The audio tour told us the city had about 20,000 inhabitants. I was always of the opinion that practically all of the people perished during the eruption. However the audio stated that there were some 2000 people who perished. I found this a little perplexing but then, since Vesuvius erupted in 79 A.D. even the experts do not always agree on numbers, or other so called facts, after so long a period of time.

Some excavation was done on a piece-by-piece method until 1808-1815 when some houses and streets were excavated. Under the management of Fiorelli, who devised a method of making casts of human remains by pouring plaster into the hollows occupied by the bones of the victims, work went forward.

Several of these plaster casts were on display as well as some animals. There were some 250 priceless artifacts on display such as coins, household articles, jewelry, some wall sized frescoes, marble and bronze statues. This was also a lesson to me as to how they made the frescoes. Ingenuity abounded in so many areas. Rome's artistry and craftsmanship are to be envied. The body casts, or plaster molds, provide a haunting reminder of the people of Pompeii in their final moments.

I'm sure I haven't conveyed the real thrill and wonder I experienced at seeing the Pompeii exhibit. I wish you could have seen it and experienced the wonder with me. I think I am well blessed to have someone seek out such an exhibit to show me. Yes, Minneapolis was very cold while I was there but the cold was worth the visit.

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Little Mountain. Shively visited the site to determine if the rumor had merit. He discovered that the barn was constructed of two-inch thick white pine planks ranging in width from 12 to 20 inches. Closer inspection of the planks and beams revealed that indeed these boards had been used in an earlier era. Because of the one-inch pinholes at both ends of the planks and the wooden spikes, still in the beams, Shively concluded that they matched the description of the planks and beams used in the construction of arks. News about his finding spread following the publication of Shively's book. As a result individuals began salvaging planks from the dilapidated barn in order to preserve a piece of history.

The use of arks on Penns Creek declined as improvements were made to overland roads in the west end of the county. The opening of the West Branch Canal near Lewisburg in the 1830's also provided a safer means of conveying goods. By the 1850's the exhilarating era of ark running on Penns Creek was drawing to a close.

Butter Rock is located in a remote section of Penns Creek approximately one mile downstream from Cherry Run. Accessible only by foot, it is necessary to trek across private property in order to get a close up view. Perhaps the best way to view Butter Rock is from the same vantage point as those early day ark runners, from the middle of Penns Creek, in a canoe or kayak. While operating a canoe or kayak is not as difficult as maneuvering a 30' x 15' ark loaded with cargo, viewing the boulder from the middle of the creek would provide insight as to what ark pilots experienced 200 years earlier. Having visited Butter Rock on several occasions it is easy to see how this large boulder, jutting from the north side of the creek,

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Adventure on Penns Creek

by August "Pop" Barnett

In the early 1940's Eugene Kahley, his brother Carl, and I came down Penns Creek from Cherry Run to Weikert in a wooden boat we found. We decided to take it down the creek to Weikert so we could repair it, since some of the boards were rotten.

I had a dog named Woof, which is part German Shepherd and Lord knows what else!! She went along with the three of us adventurous boys on our boat excursion down Penns Creek. We got as far as the sand hole below Butter Rock, behind Little Mountain, near the old Hironimus homestead. The anchor chain got caught in some rocks and next thing we knew, the boat sank! To top it off neither Gene nor his brother could swim. I was the only one who could swim, other than Woof, the dog.

I went to the bottom of the creek and pushed Gene and Carl toward the shore. Finally one of them grabbed onto Woof's tail and she pulled him safely to shore. Each year in July we have a family get-together at the home of Harvey and Cora Boop, near Trails End. Cora is my sister. We all usually attend church services at Weikert. Eugene usually always brings up about our childhood adventure going down Penns Creek in the wooden boat that sank.

When I was a young boy I was told that Butter Rock got its name when a raft or boat taking a load of butter down stream, to be sold or bartered, was upset after hitting the rock. I do not know if that is fact or fiction.

August "Pop" Barnett
Harrisonburg, VA

Blood Drives

A blood drive will be held on Friday March 7th at the Mifflinburg Area High School from 9:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m.

Another blood drive will be held Wednesday March 12th from 1:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. at the Carriage Corner Restaurant.

Everyone 17 years and older, in good health, and who weighs at least 110 pounds is urged to consider donating blood. For more information call 1.800.GIVE.LIFE.

Blessings from the Bible

by Brenda Weaver

*"Thou art my hiding place and my shield: I hope in thy word.
Uphold me according unto thy word, that I may live: and let me not
Be ashamed of my hope."*

Psalm 119:114, 116

Hope is a blessed thing. Even doctors say it is one of the best things a sick or dying person can possess. Without hope life is well, the obvious: hopeless. What word lifts a weary head like the word "hope?" What word carries more despair than "hopeless?" While hope makes the heart leap, hopelessness makes it crumble.

While hope in this life can be fickle and fleeting, hope based on God and His word is eternal. I praise God for that firm, unfailing hope which is anchored in Jesus Christ.

If you want to exercise spiritually, do a word-study of "hope" each place it is used in the Bible.

Lately our family has bobbed up and down in an erratic dance with hope. While our young son-in-law succumbed to a brain tumor which has become aggressive, we hovered near his bedside, hoping that treatment might help him improve or God might heal him. Our hopes would rise with each improvement, no matter how small. Then hope of his survival would plummet as we viewed scans or observed the loss of more functions. With great sadness we said goodbye to his weak whispers, but still carefully watched for occasional mouthing of words. After he had been semi-comatose for days, we rejoiced when his eyes opened brightly again and we could communicate with him through his hand squeezes, blinks, and other gestures. We grieved when the tumor reached menacing tentacles into the area of the brain that controls swallowing. When, for two days, Kevin was able to swallow bites of soup and Jell-o, we happily spooned it to his mouth.

The day Kevin was transferred to a hospice I knew the doctors had laid aside hope. Hospices may be comfortable places to die, but I didn't feel ready to send our daughter's handsome 27 year-old husband to one. My hopes crumbled around me. Through my tears I watched our daughter adjust to the new change. As before, she helped the new nurses perform his care, making certain he was as comfortable as possible. In steady, child-like faith she said to me, "I figure if God's going to heal Kevin, He can do it in a hospice just as well as a hospital. If God were to heal him here it would bring Him even more glory because the doctors have given up."

While Lori trusted that God could heal, she also accepted His sovereignty; God may choose not to heal Kevin on earth, but to give him unsurpassed healing in heaven.

Yes, there we have it—the hope of the resurrection. The most glorious, hopeful hope there is. A hope that goes beyond the simple wishing-it-will-happen kind of hope. A strong hope, true and steadfast. A hope that says in all confidence:

"Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Savior Jesus Christ; Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works"

Titus 2:13.

Prayer for today: Our Father and Our God, Thank you for hope and the joy it brings to weary hearts. Thank you most of all for the certain, unfailing, everlasting, hope of the soul—Jesus came and died for our sins, He will come again to take us to our home in heaven. Teach us to accept that hope and never take it for granted. Our hope rests on naught unless it rests on Thee.

Recipe of the Month

by Janice (Dorman) Shively

Switched up Tuna Noodle Casserole

3 C. uncooked egg noodles
2 (6 ounce) cans tuna, drained
½ C. chopped celery
¼ C. sliced green onions
½ C. mayonnaise
⅓ C. sour cream
2 tsp. mustard
¼ - ½ tsp. dried thyme
2 small zucchini, sliced about ¼ - inch thick
1 ½ C. shredded cheese
1 tomato, seeded and chopped

Preheat oven to 350°. Grease a 2-quart casserole dish. Prepare egg noodles according to package directions, al dente; drain.

In a large mixing bowl, combine noodles, tuna, celery and green onions. Stir in sour cream, mustard, mayonnaise, and thyme.

Spoon ½ of the noodle mixture into the prepared casserole dish. Arrange a layer of zucchini over the mixture. Top with remaining noodles, followed by a layer of zucchini. Top entire casserole with cheese.



Bake, covered in preheated oven for 30 minutes. Uncover and bake an additional 15 minutes, or until hot and bubbly. Sprinkle the casserole with tomatoes before serving.

Try this tasty switch from traditional tuna noodle casserole. This recipe has been adapted from one I found on-line years ago. The original recipe calls for Monterey jack cheese for the topping. Use your favorite shredded cheese to top the casserole.

ENJOY!

Union County Historical Society Programs for March - May 2008 *Pennsylvania's Overlooked Treasures: Post Office Art of the New Deal*

March 13, 7:30 PM

First Evangelical Lutheran Church, 404 Market Street, Mifflinburg

During the New Deal era the federal government embarked on a massive public works building program including the charming post office buildings designed for small towns. Artists were often commissioned to create murals and sculptures and Pennsylvania has the second largest collection of these artworks. The most common themes are local industry, agriculture, historical events, and famous Pennsylvanians.

In a presentation illustrated with slides, David Lembeck will provide an overview of the major themes of the artworks around the state. Special emphasis will be placed on the post office art in Central Pennsylvania. David Lembeck is a graphic designer based in State College. His studio, C Factor, specializes in publication design. The program is free and open to the public.

April 10, 6 PM

Distilleries in Union County

Union County Sportsmen's Club, Weikert

Rick Reish, whose family was connected to distilleries in the county, will present a talk following our annual Spring dinner at the Sportsmen's Club in Weikert. The Reish family operated distilleries in Buffalo Township from 1820 to 1920. Daniel Reish, from Berks County, his son Benivel and grandsons James and Joel successively ran the family businesses. Some of their account books are in the Society's collection.

The dinner and program are open to the public. Call the Society at 570-524-8666 for details and to make reservations.

May 8, 7:30 PM

A General History of Lewisburg

Faith Lutheran Church, Route 45, Lewisburg

Lewisburg, Pennsylvania, was laid out in 1785 by German immigrant Ludwig Derr. This charming town on the Susquehanna River has seen many changes in the past 2 centuries, from a small settlement to a canal port to the county seat for Union County.

Rick Sauers, Executive Director of the Packwood House Museum in Lewisburg, will give a general history of Lewisburg that will coincide with the upcoming joint exhibit of Packwood House and the Historical Society. Dr. Sauers is a Lewisburg native with a Ph.D. from Penn State University. He is a noted Civil War historian and author. Residents *and* visitors will enjoy this presentation. This program is free and open to the public.

Penlines From my Kitchen to Yours

by Lucy Hoover

January 18, 2008

Warren & Louise Hoover of Millmont have a daughter named Mary Anna. She is named after both grandma's. They have one son. Grandparents are Mary Hoover and Phares and Anna Horning.

January 22

The teachers and students of our school walked over to sing to us for ½ hour. It was nippy outside. I'm sure it was a refreshing walk.

January 26

Clyde and Janette Martin have a son named Matthew Allen. He is their first child. Grandparents are Mervin and Annetta Martin and Luke and Vera Weaver.

January 31

My mom had her appointment with the heart specialist. She is doing well, and may start working now.

February 5

Samuel Horning, who just recovered from surgery, needed additional surgery.

February 10

Joseph Hoover was able to be at church again after recovering from triple by-pass surgery.

February 17

Amos Oberholtzer was able to be at church for the first time since his accident six weeks ago.

Luke and Ada Mae Hoover have a son named Nathan. He has three sisters and six brothers. Grandparents are Joseph and Margaret Hoover and Phares and Ada Zimmerman.

February 18

Aaron S. Martin was taken to the hospital. He needed to have surgery to remove his gall bladder.

Are You Moving?

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

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

millmonttimes@dejazzd.com

Looking Back

The following was copied from the March 3, 1927 edition of The Mifflinburg Telegraph.

Alanson Johnson Is Good Hiker At 80

**Celebrates Birthday At
His Home At Laurelton**

Family Noted For Longevity

**Is Youngest Brother of
Wm. Johnson Aged 84**

Alanson Johnson—sturdy pioneer lumberman, farmer, Civil War veteran, and leading citizen of the Upper End—celebrated his eightieth birthday anniversary on Saturday February 26, at his home at Laurelton.

Mr. Johnson was born February 26, 1847 on the old Johnson homestead one mile east of Cherry Run. He is a son of the late William and Catherine Johnson. He received his education in the public schools of Hartley Township and at the Central Pennsylvania College, which was located at New Berlin until its consolidation with Albright College at Myerstown in 1901.

Alanson Johnson spent his earlier years alternately teaching in the public school, and at work on lumbering operations. At the age of seventeen he enlisted in the Union Army for service in the Civil War. He is now one of only three surviving Civil War veterans remaining in the Upper End. Following the war he helped grade the railroad when it was put through to Centre County.

In 1878 he married Sarah Alice Catherman, daughter of the late John J. and Susan Catherman, who resided just west of Laurelton. Six children were born to this union all of whom are living. The children are as follows:

Federal Judge Albert W. Johnson, of Lewisburg; Elmer E. Johnson, of Laurelton; Mrs. Susie J. Showalter, of Lewisburg; Mrs. Minnie M. Boop, of Laurelton; Miles W. Johnson, of Spring Mills; and Miss Nellie V. Johnson, of Laurelton. There are seventeen grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

Mr. Johnson was a school director for more than thirty years and served as treasurer of the board at various times. He was treasurer when the present Hartley Township High School building was erected at Laurelton.

He was with the Whitmer-Steele company for a number of years as their superintendent of lumbering operations at

(Continued on page 11)

(Continued from page 6)



The sharp bend in Penns Creek, upstream from Butter Rock, can be seen on this photograph. Even during periods of high water these boulders would have presented challenges to ark pilots navigating their way down the creek.

could have presented a unique challenge to ark pilots.

Historians such as Richard V.B. Lincoln, Charles M. Snyder and others deserve credit for preserving many interesting aspects of life in the West End of Union County. Jacob G. Shively also deserves recognition for his efforts to preserve local history. One of the more captivating stories he preserved is that of ark runners navigating down Penns Creek and the story of Butter Rock.

To learn more about arks you can visit the West End Library in Laurelton where a copy of Jacob G. Shively's Book "Navigation of Penns Creek" is available to read.

Other publications available on this topic include a pamphlet entitled "A History of Centre County" by Fred Kurtz; and "Rafting Days in Pennsylvania" edited by J. Herbert Walker, and published in 1922.

Historian, Richard V.B. Lincoln includes numerous references to arks and ark pilots on Penns Creek in his writings published in the "History of the Susquehanna & Juniata Valleys", published in 1886.



Forrest Showalter of Millmont is shown holding a piece of an ark plank that his grandfather preserved. Beneath the plank is the scale replica of an ark he constructed.

"Thank God for Our Grandfathers"

Several months ago Forrest Showalter contacted me to let me know that he discovered a section of an ark plank in his mother's barn, just west of Millmont. He noted that the plank had been from an ark that came down Penns Creek and that it was preserved by his late grandfather, Dr. Forrest Showalter. At the time he called me he was looking for some specific information about arks since he was interested in building a scale replica. I informed him that my grandfather, the late Jacob G. Shively, had written a book about the topic and perhaps he could find the description he was searching for in that publication. Showalter was able to find the precise information he was looking for in Shively's book – Navigation of Penns Creek. With that information he began building his 30-inch by 15-inch scale replica (1 inch equals one foot).

Inscribed in the plank Dr. Showalter preserved are details relative to the fact that it was from an ark that crashed at Butter Rock c. 1835.

Forrest Showalter is particularly happy that his grandfather preserved a part of the local history. "Thank God for our grandfathers" Showalter exclaimed as he noted the fact that his grandfather preserved a plank from one of the arks, while my grandfather preserved the history of arks running down Penns Creek in the book form.

Were it not for the inscription in the plank, in all likelihood it would have been discarded as just another board. That inscription is what sparked Forrest Showalter to learn more about the arks on Penns Creek and at the same time produce a miniature version. He is planning to do another replica, which would show an interior view of the cargo area of an ark. Showalter, a retired state employee, would like to find a place where he can display his handicraft, as well as his ark plank. Displaying these items would provide visual insight into what the arks that floated down Penns Creek during the late 18th and early 19th century looked like.

Forrest Showalter is a resident of rural Millmont. He is the son of Delight Showalter and the late Robert Showalter. He enjoys history, especially that which pertains to the West End of Union County. His home is near another important historical icon, the Red Covered Bridge, just west of Millmont.



A close-up view of Forrest Showalter's scale replica of an ark., including the rudders and push poles.

(Continued from page 9)

Pardee, Linden Hall, and in Indiana county. He was connected with the state department of highways for fourteen years, being their first foreman when the state highway was taken over from Lewisburg to Hairy John's.

Mr. Johnson is a member of the Methodist Episcopal congregation of Lincoln Chapel, near Laurelton. He is one of the oldest members of the Mifflinburg Lodge No. 370, F. & A. M.

He has always been noted for his exemplary habits, never indulging in profane language or in the use of strong drink or tobacco. He is at present in excellent health and can walk several miles at a stretch without evident fatigue. Mr. Johnson's father was 98 years old when he died and was notably active at 80. William Johnson, a brother of Alanson Johnson, who resides at Cherry Run, is now more than 84 years old.

Email to the Editor

Dear Tony, Thank you for the assistance in obtaining the Millmont Times on-line. What a wonderful publication. I am from Mifflinburg and love exploring our local history. Special thanks to fellow subscriber Sandy Rudy whose generosity introduced me to your Times. I have spent a cold February weekend catching up on past issues. Again I just wanted you and your contributors to hear what a great job they are doing each month. Brenda Ocker

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:

Tuesday March 14, 1933. Stormy. Temperature 40-60 degrees today. Last night & today we had several very hard thunderstorms. The first of the season. I worked in the garage as usual. This evening I was to the school directors meeting at Charles Ruhl's home. Edmund was assigned to Millmont, Fred Showalter at the High School, Pearl Kaler at the Pike, Paul Reamer at Swengel, Mrs. Long at Salem. This evening Brother Daniel Boop was run over by a car opposite the church near his home. He had taken care of the church for a number of years.

Wednesday March 15, 1933. Stormy, temperature 40 degrees. Worked in the garage this morning. Florence took me to see Frank Feaster in regard to broom-corn seed to make tea for Samuel Strickler. Then we stopped at Brother Boop's home to give a word of comfort & had prayer with the family.

Friday March 17, 1933. Opened the garage. Temperature 25-35 and clear. Attended two funerals today. Brother Daniel Boop's at 10 o'clock. I spoke and Brother Mervyn Mensch spoke too. A very large attendance. At 2:30 cousin Elmer Boganreif was buried at Mifflinburg. Mervyn took us to Mifflinburg & Raymond brought us home.

Thank You!

I would like to thank the following people for making monetary donations toward the publication of this newsletter: Walter & Janet Russell, Panama City, FL; Grace Weidensaul, Laurelton; Betty Eyler, Mifflinburg; Carl & Jeanne Sampsell, Laurelton; Russell & Carriemae Bailey, Selinsgrove; Ruth Kostenbader, Lewisburg; Nancy Prutzman, Mifflinburg; Mary (Wenrick) Fox, Edwardsville, IL; and to Steve Hackenberg, Jim & Sandra Sanders, and Eugene Wertz all of Millmont.

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

Welcome to the following new mail subscribers: Bill & Joan Rachkoskie, Mifflinburg; Jean Hoffmaster, Millmont; Melanie Starr, Middletown; and Gregory & Nancy Ruhl, Mifflinburg.

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 Dorothy Shirk of Mifflinburg for donating a number of photographs taken in Millmont in July 1946; to Delphia Shirk for donating an old photograph taken in Millmont circa 1940's; and to Barry Blyler and his father Kenneth Blyler both of Levittown for their assistance in identifying people in two circa 1920's Millmont photographs.

The small photograph in the upper left hand corner of page one is the Glen Iron Railroad Station. This photograph was provided to me courtesy of Robert & Jeanne Jolly of Weikert.

What's Happening at Christ's United Lutheran Church by Shirley Kerstetter

Advent breakfasts will be served every Wednesday at 8:00 a.m. through March 19.

Members of Christ's United Lutheran Church will be making and selling peanut butter and coconut Easter eggs every Monday in Lent.

A Potpie supper will be held on March 1 beginning at 4:00 p.m. and continuing until ?

A Chicken BBQ will be held on April 26th.

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

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

March Birthdays & Anniversaries

2 – Donald G. Shively	18 – Tobias O. Catherman, Jr.
3 – Leah Bingaman	18 – Karen L. Fultz
3 – Charlene Yarger	19 – Doug Peffer
4 – Mervin & Esther Nissley - 1950	19 – Laura Peffer
4 – Donald Ruhl	20 – Melanie Starr
4 – David Hoover	20 – Donald L. & Kathryn Shively - 1953
6 – Rita Kuhns	21 – Douglas Lyons
7 – Glyn Hassenplug	21 – Kaitlyn Erdley
8 – Ervin Oberholtzer	22 – Joseph Martin
8 – Curvin Oberholtzer	22 – Heather Smith
8 – Matthew Dorman, Jr.	22 – Crystal Smith
9 – Sandi Failor	22 – Laura Smith
12 – Jacob Walter	23 – Breonna Catherman
12 – Rick Kerstetter	23 – Helen Hugar
12 – Betsy Gordon	23 – Stella Edmiston
12 – Garrett Bingaman	24 – Norman & Effie Groff - 2002
14 – Patricia Catherman	24 – Norman Groff
14 – Michael Shively	25 – Robert M. Catherman
15 – Roxanne Lyons	25 – Ruth Zimmerman
15 – Pearl Strickler	26 – Brad Catherman
16 – Mary Martin	26 – Don Fornwalt
17 – Christine Whitesel	26 – Zac Salter
18 – Megan Hackenberg	27 – Donald & Ellen Kahler - 1971
18 – Richard Hassenplug	28 – James Greene Shively
18 – Luke Bilger	27 – Ray D. Bowersox

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www.millmonttimes.com

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

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