



# Memories of Laurelton

The history of the village of Laurelton can be traced to 1811. It was during the same year that Hartley Township was created from West Buffalo Township, and two years before Union County was established. According to noted historian Richard VB. Lincoln, names such as Slabtown, Weikerville, Eagleville, and Laurel Run were applied to the village during the first 46 years of its existence. None of those names became firmly established. When the post office was opened in 1857, the name Laurelton was given to the small community.

When compared to other communities in the West End, such as Hartleton or Millmont, the village of Laurelton was somewhat disadvantaged. Hartleton Borough grew because it was situated along a main highway, the Lewisburg, Youngmanstown, and Aaronsburg Turnpike.

Villages such as Millmont, Swengel, and Glen Iron came about as a result of the Lewisburg, Centre, and Spruce Creek Railroad. The turnpike was situated about one mile north of Laurelton while the railroad bypassed the village about one mile to the south. Despite these handicaps the village of Laurelton grew for a period of time during the late 1800's and early 1900's, and surpassed both Hartleton and Millmont in business and industrial endeavors.

Laurelton's prosperity in the last decade of the nineteenth century can be traced to the Laurelton Lumber Company. The company owned or leased



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**The Millmont Times**  
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## Millmont Mailbox by Postmaster Sam Smith

With the availability of communicating by email, telephone, cell phones, and Text-messaging, why would anyone want to just send a letter? I've heard that question many times and I'm sure you have also. When it comes to sending a message, and making sure it's delivered, it's hard to beat the value of First-Class Mail. First-Class Mail offers the highest level of privacy protection and preferential handling. Items sent by First-Class Mail are sealed against inspection and offer security for both the sender and receiver. People always tell me that e-mail is free. What about your monthly service provider fee? What about security? The same also applies to cell phones etc. What happens when you get a new email address? I know some providers will forward your emails, but we forward your mail free for 12 months with a completed change of address card, and if it can't be forwarded, it is returned free of charge. One thing I find important with First Class Mail is that it fits into our busy lives without being invasive and interrupting us constantly.

I mentioned changing your address and forwarding your mail. I want to stress how important it is to make sure all your information is correct, whether you use a change of address card or change it on the internet at [www.usps.com](http://www.usps.com). The forwarding system is automated and your local Post Office will be notified that you moved but will be unable to view any mistakes. When a family moves out of a residence that they were sharing with another family (parents etc.) especially if they have the same last name, everyone moving should file an individual change of address or else the whole household's mail will be forwarded. I've seen it happen and it can be difficult to correct after the fact.

New commemorative stamps include: Star Wars YODA, Kwanzaa, Hanukkah, the Madonna Christmas stamp and the Contemporary Christmas stamps inspired by traditional Norwegian sweaters and knitted Christmas stockings. All stamps are available for purchase now.

The Post Office will be closed Monday, November 12 to honor Veteran's Day, and Thursday, November 22 to celebrate Thanksgiving Day.

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Lois (Shirk) Pick celebrated her 91<sup>st</sup> birthday on April 11, 2007.

tens of thousands of acres of virgin timberland in the west end of the county. Harvesting, transporting, milling, and shipping the lumber to distant markets required the company to hire a number of laborers. As a result men living in the Laurelton area were able to find steady employment.

Another boon to the local economy was the establishment of the Laurelton State Village. Resident stonecutters found employment opportunities during the construction phase of the Laurelton State Village. When the doors of the state institution were opened to patients from throughout Pennsylvania, local residents applied for permanent employment opportunities. This state owned and operated facility was a steady source of employment for generations of area residents. There were also other employers that operated at various times in Laurelton, such as the Laurelton Foundry, the Shirt Factory, and Herbster's Mill.

Recently I had the pleasure of interviewing Lois (Shirk) Pick and her brother Bruce Shirk, who have witnessed many changes in the Laurelton area during the past eight decades. Lois Pick currently lives in the village of Laurelton, while Bruce Shirk lives in Middleburg. Lois and Bruce were able to speak about the Laurelton Foundry, the State Village, Herbster's Mill, and other business that operated in and around the village, since both had first hand experience working at several of these businesses.

Lois was born in 1916. She was married to Harry Pick who passed away July 26, 1970.

Bruce was born in 1918. He married Jenetta Bilger, who passed away in 1982. Bruce is currently married to the former Lois Phillips. Lois Pick and Bruce Shirk are the children of the late Ray F. and Sarah (Kleckner) Shirk. Their younger sister, Betty (Shirk) Koller, was born in 1927 and died November 29, 2002. Ray and Sarah Shirk farmed about 60 acres southwest of Laurelton, off Long Lane. According to Lois, their homestead is reported to be one of the oldest standing structures in the West End.

Ray Shirk milked 5 or 6 cows on the farm, which provided enough for family use. Any surplus milk was sold to neighbors. They also churned butter, which along with their surplus eggs, was taken to Lincoln Rutherford's Store in Laurelton and bartered for coffee, sugar and other groceries items they could not raise or grow on the family farm. Rutherford's Store was located north of the intersection of Route 235 and Weikert Road. The building, which was later used as a tavern, has since been razed. In addition to Rutherford, others who operated general stores in Laurelton during the 1900's included David Pursley, Bob Chambers, William Chappell, and Merrill Buoy.

Bruce recalled when he helped peddle sweet corn for his parents during the summertime to campers along Penns Creek in the Glen Iron, Laurel Park and Trails End area. Shirk hauled corn in the back of his parent's Model T Ford selling it for one cent per ear. He recalled with amusement how some campers complained because the corn was not husked.

According to Lois, selling vegetables from their garden during the summertime was a common practice. Farming during the 1920's and 30's was not a profitable business, and the extra cash income from selling vegetables was useful to the Shirk family. Lois's mother also dressed and sold fresh chickens.

As a youngster, Lois recalled attending the Red Men's Picnic in the grove southeast of Laurelton with her family in the 1920's. At the time her parent's had not yet purchased an automobile, so they traveled to the grove in the family's horse and buggy. She said that her mother prepared a picnic lunch to take along to the annual gathering. Adults listened as the politicians addressed the crowd concerning political matters while the young folks entertained themselves by playing games. Lois said attendees usually received goodies, including buttons, from politicians running for public office.

Lois and Bruce both attended school in Laurelton, which meant a lengthy walk to and from school each day. If the morning school bus was not filled to capacity, the driver would sometimes offer the Shirk children a ride to the schoolhouse.

After graduating from high school in 1933 Lois went to work at the Shirt Factory in Laurelton. Once again she recalled walking to her job in Laurelton from her home alongside Long Lane. While employed at the Laurelton facility she recalled making men's under shorts, pajamas, and women's dresses. Two rows of electric sewing machines lined the center isle. A trough was located next to each seamstress where she placed the item once she completed her part of the assembly. Lois said that her supervisor during the time she was employed at the sewing factory was Iva Dorman. Mabel Dorman was an inspector at the factory. Items not sewed correctly were returned to the seamstress who was required to make the necessary repairs on her own time. The ladies working at the sewing factory were paid for each piece they assembled. Lois recalled earning about 15 cents per day for her labor.

The sewing factory ceased operating in the 1930's and the operation was moved to a facility in Lewisburg. The closure



Bruce Shirk holds a cast iron rabbit that he molded during his employment at the Laurelton Foundry. He has seen two of these sold at public auctions, both of which sold for \$200 or more.

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# BIRD TALK

by Jim McCormick



**“...to the land of the Egrets.”** It is finally looking like fall, although when you wake up in the morning and it’s in the 70s, it doesn’t feel like fall. The mountainside is starting its beautiful yearly transformation. The subtle shades of green we watched moving across the mountainside have been replaced by shades of red, yellow and orange; a true feast for the eyes. We have all noticed that the colors are not exactly the same each year. The colors are determined by the temperature and by the amount of moisture present. There is a good explanation of the chemistry of the color of leaves at: <http://scifun.chem.wisc.edu/chemweek/fallcolr/fallcolr.html>. There is a new hypothesis that the red in the leaves is determined by the type of soil the trees are growing on. At the end of the month we finally got the much needed rain we needed.

We took a two week trip along the coast this month **“to the land of the Egrets.”** We have been going to the central coast of Florida for several years now and always end up spending several days visiting the Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge near the Kennedy Space Center. It consists of 140,000 acres of saltwater marshes and is visited by over 500,000 nature lovers every year. Fortunately for us, we were there when most of those visitors were somewhere else! We were able to see the Shuttle waiting on the launch pad. There are several single lane roads that traverse this unique habitat; a habitat filled with exotic birds and animals. When we were in Florida it was in the 90s and very humid. We were inching along these roads with the air conditioner going full blast and the windows down so we could more easily take photographs. The whole time we were in Florida it rained every day, but it didn’t rain all day and there was always a breeze to give us some relief. Last month I wrote about the Great Egrets in Pennsylvania, well, this is where they go when they leave our state. It was a pleasure to see them blending into this, to us, unusual habitat of salt marches and unique vegetation. On one of our excursions we were slowly inching along the Biolab Road after an overnight rain. We came to a fork in the road and in the right fork there was a puddle of fresh water. The day was very hot and in the middle of the puddle was an alligator enjoying a pleasant bath. My wife took a photograph out of her window as the alligator watched us through its reptilian eyes. I got out of the car and, with the car between me and the alligator, I took another photograph as it returned to its brackish home. Farther down the same road we saw what from a distance looked like a black steer. It actually turned out to be one the Feral Hogs which have started appearing in the Refuge. This place, though, truly is the land of the Egrets. We were fortunate enough to see many Great Egrets, and Snowy Egrets, as well as several Reddish Egrets. We also saw White Ibises, Glossy Ibises and many types of Herons. One of the more interesting birds we saw was the Wood Stork. For those of you interested, there is plenty of information and photographs on-line at: <http://www.fws.gov/merrittisland/>.



**“No this is NOT Millmont!” This alligator was lounging in a water puddle in the middle of the road at Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge in Florida. Photograph courtesy of Jim McCormick.**

While it is always fun to get away and see exotic places; it is also nice to get home to more familiar sights. As we crossed into Pennsylvania, we were glad to see the mountains again. I was also happy to get back to my regular walk and seeing all our local birds again. Many of the migrant birds have left for the season, but in their place we have the return of the Dark-eyed Juncos and the Black-capped Chickadees. Late in the month I saw a small flock of Common Mergansers in Penns Creek. They very well could be the same group I saw last month. The Common Mergansers are some of the first waterfowl to arrive in the spring, sometimes as early as February and appear to be some of the last to leave in the fall. I noticed that the Turkey Vultures have started to flock and will soon be leaving. The season is changing and there is much to see all around us; don’t miss any of it.

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The former Pursley Hotel was situated at the intersection of State Route 235 and Laurel Road, on the site of the current day U. S. Post Office. This building burned to the ground on October 27, 1922. Photograph from the collection of Jeanne Sampsell.

threw about 18 women out of work. Some of the co-workers Lois recalled from her days at the Shirt factory include Bessie Boop, Edith Middlesworth, Gladys Shively, and Frances Susan. Dan Pursley later converted the sewing factory into a tavern, which he operated for a period of time. The building, located at 157 Weikert Road, is now a private residence.

Lois also performed housekeeping duties for Dr. Oliver W.H. Glover and his wife, Effie Jane, in their Laurelton home. According to Lois, Effie was a lovely person. She stated that the study area of the Glover home had numerous bookcases filled to capacity. It was there that Lois recalled seeing Doc on a regular basis reading books and smoking stogies. Doc Glover operated a drug store in the village. Lois recalled times when Effie Jane assisted in operating the drug store.

Bruce noted that Doc Glover was highly regarded by West End residents for nursing them back to health during the flu epidemic of 1918. Prior to his death Doc had one of his legs amputated and he was more or less confined to the house. Lois recalled how many of Doc's

former patients insisted on seeking his medical expertise despite the fact that he was disabled and unable to make house calls. Doc Glover and Effie died in 1949 only days apart. Lois stated that Doctor Glover performed a valuable service to the Laurelton community for many years.

From 1938 until he entered military service in 1941 Bruce was employed as a molder at the Laurelton Foundry. Shirk thought that as many as 30 men were employed at the foundry during the time that he worked there. Nearly half of these men were molders. According to Bruce, molding was a tricky procedure. The end product depended on whether the sand had the right consistency and how well the molder had packed it. Bruce cast a variety of different parts during his employment at the foundry, including many of the legs and the griddles for the popular Mother's Range cook stoves.

Other cast iron products made at the foundry included hog troughs, kettles, globe stoves, heatrolas, jacks (for jumping jack game), ornamental frog doorstops, weathervanes and many other items. Jacks cast at the foundry were also used to clean the cast iron pieces after they were removed from the sand mold and placed in tumblers. The foundry paid its molders only for the saleable pieces they produced. He said that on a good day he could make as much as \$3. Bruce recalled how busy the Laurelton State Bank was when payday rolled around at the foundry. The financial institution, located at 10 Weikert Road, was chartered about 1920 and continued to serve the banking needs of folks living in the West End until it merged with the Mifflinburg Bank in 1941.

When Bruce returned from his military service business at the Laurelton Foundry was on the decline. He was uncertain how much longer the foundry continued to operate. The names of some of the employees of the foundry during the time he worked there include: George Hauck, Bill Schnure, Les Kerstetter, Fred Kaler, David Gross, Bruce Schnure, Harry Pick, Chip Schell, Carl "Bup" Sampsell, Ray "Punchy" Shirk, Larue "Rat" Shirk, Percy Weidensaul, and Chas Hunter.

Lois recalled when the small building that once housed George Miller's Barbershop was used for Civil Defense purposes during WWII. The building was manned 24 hours a day by local residents who volunteered to work in 2-hour shifts. When a plane was spotted flying above the village volunteers manning the office were responsible for gathering as much information (markings or numbers) and report that information into a central office. During that era, planes did not fly at the altitude they do today, which made it easier to gather the necessary information. Older men who were not in the military and women volunteered to serve in the CD office. Lois was one of those who volunteered to staff the CD office.

Following his discharge from the military Bruce worked at Herbster's Mill in Laurelton for about three years. Bob Middlesworth was the flour-maker and ran the mill while David Diehl was responsible for bookkeeping duties. Among other responsibilities Bruce delivered coal and grain to area farmers. He recalled that Herbster's produced one variety of flour that was bagged under two different labels. White Rose brand was sold locally, while the Drifted Snow variety was trucked to the Hex Warehouse in Shamokin for distribution.

Another business that Bruce and his sister Lois are familiar with was the pea viner operation that was located west of Laurelton. Both of them worked at the operation for a period of time. Lois worked in the office while Bruce was involved in the harvesting and transportation of the annual pea crop. The viner operation began operating about 1945 after a building was constructed on the Art Bilger farm off Lincoln Chapel Road. Bilger supplied the land, the lumber, and the material for the construction project. Jacob Barnett was responsible for erecting the building, which resembled a large pole shed. Lee Aumiller was the field man hired by Campbell's Soup Company to oversee the entire operation. Aumiller contracted with local

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# Penns Creek Angler

## by Bruce Fisher

This month I learned that the Black Gum and Sugar Maples are the first trees to change color in the fall. It was wonderful to see the trees finally start to turn color. Everyone I've talked to said we are about 2 weeks behind schedule. I'm so fortunate to be surrounded by people that are educators. The greatest education can be found at the feet of an older person.

Fishing Diary 6/3/2004.

I walked down to the secret hole and while crossing the creek I wondered if the monster was still on the far bank. I hooked him twice over the past 4 weeks but didn't land him. He has this huge mouth that doesn't close all the way and the fly always slips through the gap in his jaws or only catches an edge. Crawling to my usual casting position I made a few careful casts but I had the feeling the fish had moved to find cooler water near a spring or to the oxygenated fast water of the riffles above. After covering the area completely I poked my head over the grass and looked in his hiding spot and found he was gone. I felt an almost emptiness because I'd been working so hard to catch this fish. I had the feeling it would be another year before I saw him again. I learned of this spot about 3 years prior, during the famous Green Drake hatch. That year the creek was extremely high and chocolate in color but I knew the big drakes would bring fish to the surface. As I walked the footpath next to the edge of the creek I noticed a rise that was so close to the path and so close to me that all I had to do was stop, unhook my fly and drop it in front of the fish. I thought surely it would be a puny little trout that would become food for an Osprey. But I dropped the fly in front of the fish and it immediately rose and sucked the fly right down. That fish turned out to be the first honest 5 lb. brown trout I caught from Penn's Creek. During that day of high water fishing almost every fish I caught was a bank feeder and most were larger than average fish. That day forever changed the way I approach trout streams. Now I take my time and watch the bank for feeders and patiently observe what is happening around me. I take the time to sit and study what flies are floating down the creek before I ever attach a fly to my tippet. I can't imagine what would have happened if I didn't notice that big fish feeding so close to the bank. I certainly never would have thought that big fish feed in such shallow water. This feeding slot is only about 6-10 inches deep and most people walk right over this fish to cast to midstream. I showed this spot to a guy one time and told him how to cast and where the fish was located but he looked at the spot and made a few half hearted casts and said it didn't look like a big fish spot. When he stood up I saw the wake of the fish moving off to deeper water. So this brings us to June 3<sup>rd</sup> and the fish is gone. I can't even buy a bite in the big hole so I move up stream to the faster water but there are no takers. I'm casting and wondering why the fish are not feeding because I know they are there. It's a humbling feeling to know there's a fish right in front of you but you can't catch him. I fished the next 300 yards without so much as a follower and now I am at the head of the riffle and I'm ready to move to a different section of the creek. I decide a few more casts are needed to really cover the area well so I walked to the very top of the fast water and start casting. I saw the big fish roll on the streamer as soon as it floated over him. I was casting upstream and letting the fly drift down and stripping at the same time. What I actually saw was a huge flash of silver and then the commotion caused by his shaking body and head. At first he didn't move he just shook and dug his head into the rocks. So I put some pressure on him and he started moving up stream at a slow and deliberate pace. I could see him in the shallow water and I knew this was the fish from the pool below. I prayed that I would be able to land him and take a few pictures. I didn't want to let him swim around at will but I only had a 3x tippet and could only put so much pressure on him. I got him close to the bank a few times but he was a powerful fish that still had his strength and he moved off easily. After some more give and take I finally slipped the net under him. It was the best feeling after a month of angling to finally get my prize. I was shaking but quickly worked to get the fly out of his mouth. He lay there in the net with the sun shining on him until I put him back in the water. I held him faced into the current for a good 3 minutes. He just stayed right in my hand and pumped his gills. When he was ready, he slipped from my hand and moved about 3 feet and stopped. I sat on the bank for 10 minutes looking at him fining in the current then he just swam off. God I love fishing.... 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](http://www.pennscreekangler.com)



# Meanderings

by

*Hertha S. Wehr*

## Veteran's Day

We used to celebrate Veteran's Day on the 11<sup>th</sup> of November no matter what day of the week the 11<sup>th</sup> happened to be, but the date got shifted around so now it is celebrated on a Monday. I guess there is no harm in trying to give everyone a long weekend as long as we don't forget the meaning of the day. It used to be called Armistice Day, which was the day WWI was ended. However, we got involved in several wars, or conflicts, as some would have us believe, and Armistice Day no longer seemed an appropriate way to remember veterans, hence the change from Armistice Day to Veteran's Day.

We seldom think of veterans beyond WWI but I began to think back to previous wars and remembered seeing a postage stamp GAR-Grand Army of the Republic, and another about UCV-United Confederate Veterans. These stamps were issued in 1948 (GAR) and 1950 (UCV). There is a huge amount of issues for those years when postage was 3 cents. More people wrote letters, and prices were stable for a number of years. Therefore, a large number of topics were used. The GAR stamp was to commemorate the organization. The UCV stamp has, in very fine lettering, a note that it is the final reunion of that organization. I learned from John Deppen that the last GAR member, Albert Woolson of Minnesota died in 1950 and the GAR was dissolved.

The next organization I thought of was the VFW. I think I

always believed, if I thought of it at all, that the VFW was an outgrowth of WWI. I was surprised to learn that it was formed from a merger of three organizations of three previous wars.

In 1899 the American Veterans of Foreign Service was founded in Ohio. In the same year another group, Society of Army of the Philippines was started with its base in Colorado. A little later another group, American Veterans of Foreign Service was organized in Altoona, PA. In Denver, Colorado, in 1913, the three service organizations met and decided to merge into one, becoming the VFW.

The 1899 groups got together following the Spanish-American War. Since one was started in Ohio and one in Colorado one can only assume distance was the factor for the two, although the one in Colorado expressly said Philippines, they were both off-shoots of the same war.

I believe moving Veteran's Day to a Monday has diminished the spirit of what the day was supposed to commemorate. When it was on another day of the week the schools were closed. I can recall when the Mifflinburg Band gathered at the memorial next to the Mifflinburg Memorial adjacent to the borough building for a small ceremony. Now, it seems as if it just means another long weekend.

I would be remiss if I didn't mention the American Legion. It was founded to honor the service people who spent time in the service but never were sent overseas. They too, gave time and talent to serve their country.

The new movie by Ken Burns is worth watching. It tells a poignant over view of WWII. I don't recommend it for children. Whether or not you see it, do remember what Veteran's Day means. You might try reading the poem "Flander's Field". Just a vision of the crosses, "row upon row", is enough to sadden each one of us.

We have had wars every since we've had recorded history. We are still recovering human remains from past wars, bomb squads are still deactivating explosives that were used in WWII. You would think people would get wiser and stop the carnage. But it seems as long as leaders are willing to risk other people's lives for something they think will bring them glory, honor, or get them in the history books we will have veterans to honor and remember.



### *Field Notes, by WCO Dirk Remensnyder*

I recently received a bear complaint from an individual who wanted a bear trap set. This individual had no problem with what the bears were doing as long as they modified their behavior some. It seems a mother bear would bring her three cubs to the individual's swimming pool for a swim everyday but she forgot to teach the cubs to use the pool steps while exiting the water thus causing claw rips in the pool liner.

Every year one of the top violations of the game and wildlife code is using artificial or natural bait to lure game or wildlife. This practice, known as "baiting", is a law that all sportsmen know about and is heavily emphasized in hunter education classes. Unfortunately after doing my "preseason scouting" for baited areas it looks like another banner year for prosecutions under this section of the game law. Hunters, read your digest and don't do it.

The small photograph in the upper left hand corner of page one shows the Laurelton sign along State Route 235.

## Recipe of the Month

by Janice (Dorman) Shively

### Apple Cake

4 C. peeled and diced golden delicious apples  
2 C. sugar  
2 eggs  
½ C. oil  
½ C. milk  
2 tsp. vanilla  
2 C. flour  
1 ½ tsp. baking soda  
1 tsp. salt  
2 tsp. cinnamon

Mix apples and sugar and let stand. Beat eggs well, and add oil, milk and vanilla. Sift dry ingredients and add to oil mixture, then add apple mixture. Bake in a greased 13" x 9" pan at 350° x 50 minutes.



While this cake may not have the most attractive appearance, the aroma and taste are fantastic! Add a dollop of whipped cream or cool whip and sprinkle a little cinnamon on top, and you have a delicious sweet treat.

ENJOY!

## Union County Historical Society Programs & News

The Union County Historical Society announces the release of the 2008 Calendar containing wonderful historic photos from around Union County. Included in this year's calendar are photos of Lewisburg, Mifflinburg, New Berlin, Spruce Run and White Deer; Allenwood school children, the Glen Iron post office, the former Union National Bank, the West Milton Band and Winfield Railroad Station. The cover features Raymond B. Winter and the Halfway Dam, commemorating the 75th anniversary of R. B. Winter State Park. The calendar is available at the Society office in the county courthouse and by mail. It is also for sale at Mifflinburg Bank & Trust and West Milton State Bank branches, Ard's Market, Country Cupboard, Country Farm & Home, Laurel Market, Open Door Gallery, Susquehanna Valley Visitors Bureau, La Vieille Maison, Wagner's Stationery and Ziegler's Barbershop. This project is made possible through the work of Alan Richard of RichardHouse Photo Restoration, Winfield, *The Mifflinburg Telegraph*, and by contributions from those businesses whose ads appear in the calendar. Please let them know you value their support of the Historical Society. The Society accepts donations and/or loans of historic Union County photos for use in the calendar. For more information on this projects and to order calendars, please contact the society at 524-8666 or by email to [hstoriel@ptd.net](mailto:hstoriel@ptd.net)



## Hairy John Sign Stolen

In the final installment of the five part series on Hairy John's State Park I lamented the fact that the large sign that once stood along Route 45 at the park was replaced by smaller and less obvious one. It has been brought to my attention that the reason the sign was changed is because some unscrupulous characters stole the sign sometime last year. From talking with Department of Conservation and Natural Resources personnel, I learned that the theft of signs throughout the Bald Eagle District Forest is something that happens all too frequently.

It is not only the small signs that are being absconded, but also large signs such as the one shown to the left are removed from time to time. As you might imagine the cost of replacing these signs, both in material and manpower, is expensive. The new sign at Hairy John's was built and installed so that it will be more difficult for thieves to remove.

The Bald Eagle District Forest encompasses more than 191,000 acres. Not only is that a sizeable area to patrol, but it is also spread out over a wide area. Bald Eagle State Forest lands are located in Union, Snyder, Centre, Clinton, and Mifflin Counties. With a limited number of rangers available to patrol such a large area it becomes difficult to apprehend and prosecute those who would unashamedly steal or vandalize state owned property.

Common sense would dictate that more than one person was involved in pilfering the heavy 4' by 6' wooden Hairy John State Forest Picnic Area sign. There are likely several people who know the whereabouts of this unique sign. If you have information that would be helpful in recovering this sign please call the DCNR office at 570.922.3344. No one is more disappointed or saddened by the disappearance of the sign than the employees at the Bald Eagle District Forest office. Should the sign ever be recovered they would be delighted to place it right where it belongs – alongside State Route 45 at the Hairy John State Forest Picnic Area.

## Lewis Township News

The Lewis Township Board of Supervisors met on Tuesday, September 11, 2007, at 7:30 p.m., at the Municipal Building, Millmont, Pennsylvania. Those attending the meeting were as follows: Supervisors, Donald Shively, Wayne Klingman and Henry Sanders, Solicitor, Thomas Boop, taxpayers of the township and Karen L. Watters, Secretary.

Chairman Donald Shively called the meeting to order. He led the group with the pledge of allegiance.

The floor was opened for public comment, there being none.

The minutes and treasurer's report were reviewed; Wayne Klingman made a motion to approve the minutes and treasurer's report as presented and pay the bills for September, seconded by Henry Sanders.

Hearing of Visitors-None.

Correspondence- Letter from John Wagner.

Correspondence was received from PSATS regarding preparation of Newsletters for the individual municipalities.

Donald Shively received a letter regarding the county comprehensive planning.

Letter from DCNR regarding the state forest system and the social and economic benefits for local and statewide communities and economies.

Zoning Permits: John York, David Hoover, Brad Shively, David Anderson and Greg Strausbaugh.

Village Green Committee: Ron Sanders, Purdy Insurance was present to review his letter regarding the township's liability insurance policy. Mr. Bilger, Village Green Committee Member, made comments regarding the copy of Mr. Sanders' letter regarding the liability issues. Mr. Bilger said that he found that originally the Committee was appointed by the Township. Ron Sanders addressed the Village Green members and taxpayers regarding issues and responsibilities of the township officials and the protection of the individuals and the township. There was discussion of risk management and the township's responsibility for protection of losses. The township and the committee need to work together. There was some discussion regarding the upstairs storage area. The Village Green Committee would like to request that the supervisors appoint an official committee. A form will be prepared to have any organization who would like to use the township facilities to make a formal request with final approval by the board of supervisors. Attorney Boop discussed the legal issues regarding this matter. There needs to be a structure for the committee, guidelines, and more formality for the committee. There budget does allocate funds for recreation which could be used for projects and insurance for the committee. Volunteers are covered under the township policy if "their work is approved by the township". Attorney Boop suggested that the members be appointed, events approved in the minutes and guidelines established for the committee. Chairman Shively felt that the board was trying to resolve the storage issues for the Village Green. It was also brought up that there were several security bolts missing on the playground equipment which needed to be replaced and also some of the pc was cut and needed to be repaired. The supervisors will be scheduling a work session with the Village Green Committee to make preparations for guidelines for the committee.

An email was received from DCNR regarding the status of the grant payment. Everything was approved and the check would be mailed in a few weeks.

Ken Catherman spoke to the pastor at the Calvary Church and he said that they would move the concrete at their driveway.

*(Continued on page 12)*

## Blessings from the Bible

*by Brenda Weaver*

*"The earth is the Lord's, and the fullness thereof;  
the world and they that dwell therein."*

Psalm 24:1

"The fullness thereof..." This verse kept coming to mind last month as I gazed at the massive mountains of the Canadian Rockies. One certainly thinks of the fullness of the earth while driving through western Canada's Banff and Jasper Parks. Rather than fretting about an overcrowded earth (is it really?) and the fullness of people, I was again amazed at the fullness of wide open spaces and massive mountain ranges, pushed skyward by the finger of our Creator.

Graciously our children surprised us with practical incentive to go on a trip to celebrate our twenty-fifth wedding anniversary. Much to our daughter and new son-in-law's delight, we decided to visit them and enjoy other sights of Alberta, Canada. As John and I enjoyed each day of our journey, I recalled another Bible verse. "*Her children arise up, and call her blessed,*" Proverbs 31:28 says of the virtuous woman. Our children's gift to us was a tangible blessing. In turn I rise up and call them blessed!

The richest blessing a child can give a Christian parent is evidence of strong faith. "*I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth,*" we may echo the writer of 3 John 4. I recall being blessed many times by the faith of our children, especially at times when my own faith tottered under testing. Now our faith is tested again as we just learned the results of our son-in-law's routine MRI.

Kevin and Lori married in June of this year, knowing that they faced an uncertain future but willing to love and support each other through "better or worse, in sickness or in health." Now the remaining portion of his excised brain tumor, which had been shrinking and then dormant, has become active, growing deeper into his brain. As I write, they are at the hospital, being tested for eligibility to participate in a pilot study of a new cancer treatment—all of this in far away Alberta.

Where is faith now? Admittedly it trembles occasionally, but it is here inside me. It lives in the heart of my husband and the hearts of my children. It stands like a tower in the lives of the young newlyweds.

Tested faith grows in strength when we allow God to use the circumstances of life to mold us into the likeness of Christ. Faith is not just believing the best will come to pass; no, faith is much more than that. Faith is believing that God can *change* or *use* the circumstances and people in my life to bring about growth in my life, growth in the lives of others, and glory to his name.

*"That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honor and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ: whom having not seen, ye love...receiving the end of your faith, even the salvation of your souls."*

1 Peter 1:7-9

Prayer for today: *Thank You, Dear Father, for being the Author and Finisher of our faith. Thank you that in times when our own weak faith trembles we can be strengthened through Your Holy Word and by the faith of others. And thank You for the faith of children, a most precious gift to us as parents. Amen*

# Penlines From my Kitchen to Yours

*by Lucy Hoover*

*A day is full of many hours,  
Just waiting for your using.  
And there are many ways to spend them,  
So be careful of your choosing.*

## September 17, 2007

Ervin and Martha Oberholtzer have a son named Moses Aaron. He has two sisters. Grandparents are Harry and Alta Oberholtzer and Alvin and Lizzie Sensenig.

On this cool morning Marie and Pauline were cleaning out the swimming pool and filling it up with water. I said, "No don't it is too cool to go swimming." Then Marie said that they were filling it up so they can skate on it!

## September 30

Linus Martin, son of Linus and Irene, and Lucirose Weaver, daughter of Paul and Lucy, have their wedding planned for October 25, 2007.

## October 5

Larry and Miriam Nolt have a son named Andrew. He has one brother and two sisters. Grandparents are Lester and Martha Nolt, and Phares and Anna Horning.

## October 11

Abraham and Wilma Zimmerman have a son named Aaron Ryan. He has eight brothers and two sisters. Grandparents are Abram and Emma Zimmerman, and Allen and Mary Hoover.

## October 12

Curvin's cousin, Susan Hoover (40) of Honey Brook, was on her way home from work, at the crossroads a 19 year old boy went through without stopping and hit her vehicle. She died at the scene. The boy is OK.

Norman and Alta Reiff have a daughter named Kirsten. She has one brother. Grandparents are Isaac and Ruth Reiff, and Aden and Irene Weaver.

Wilma Brubacker, who broke her leg in a pony accident, is walking again. She will need therapy for a while yet.

Wayne Hoover son of Amos and Lizzie, and Emily Oberholtzer, daughter of Harry and Alta, have their wedding planned for November 8, 2007.

## **Lincoln Chapel United Methodist Church**

Lincoln Chapel United Methodist Church in Laurelton is a friendly, welcoming church. Service times are: 8:30 am and 10:30 am. A variety of Sunday School opportunities are available for all ages, and classes begin at 9:30 am. For further information, please call 922-1411. Everyone is welcome!

## **Blood Drive**

A blood drive will be held on Friday November 9 from 1:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. at the First Lutheran Church, 404 Market Street Mifflinburg. All persons 17 years of age and older and who weigh at least 110 pounds are encouraged to consider donating blood. For more information call 1.800.GIVE - LIFE.

## Looking Back

The newspaper article below was originally published in the November 29, 1912 edition of The Mifflinburg Telegraph.

## MORE TRAINS TO PASS THROUGH MIFFLINBURG

**Penny Will Complete the Lewisburg &  
Tyrone Line**

**From Fairbrook to Oak Hall**

**Giving Through Line from Tyrone to Sunbury, with Re-  
duced Mileage—Great Benefit to State College.**

Despite conflicting statements and denial upon the part of several railroad officials in Tyrone, it now seems an assured fact that the long discussed project of building the connecting link on the Lewisburg & Tyrone R. R. branch of the Pennsylvania Railroad system will be built.

Since a report of the rumors were published in local papers the gist of the report was denied in Tyrone, yet from reliable sources it has been ascertained that there is every probability of building the link from Fairbrook through State College to Lemont or Oak Hall. When the roads were first built this object was in view, but owing to the grades and other objections the road from Bellefonte to Montandon handled all traffic in this direction, while the branch from Tyrone was built through to Scotia to tap the ore mines at that place.

From time to time the project of building the connecting link has been strongly advocated by the Pennsylvania State College and residents of that community, but without avail. Since the location of the Western Penitentiary in Benner township, Centre county, however, a different aspect has been brought to bear upon the matter and the powerful influence will undoubtedly bear fruit ere long. The traffic of the Western Penitentiary from the West as well as from the East will within a few years at the longest be decidedly heavy. In order to give better facilities for the institution, and at the same time afford far better railroad facilities for State College and that section of the county, the proposed new line connecting the divisions would be a tremendous advantage. Within the past few weeks high officials of the Pennsylvania Railroad company have visited State College and gone over the proposition most carefully. Engineers have gone over the old survey and are working upon a right of way through from Fairmont to Lemont or Oak Hall.

With a through system from Tyrone to Montandon and Sunbury the distance by rail would be materially decreased and with the line completed, it is almost assured that aside from heavy freight traffic, a through passenger service would be inaugurated, in which event the tunnels at Paddy Mountain would have to be widened to afford accommodations. The natural and probable connecting point on the line from Bellefonte will be at Oak Hall, where the grade is far better, obviating the necessity of cuts through the hills in the vicinity of Le-

*(Continued on page 11)*

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farmers willing to set aside a minimum of 10 acres for growing peas for the company.

Campbell's Soup provided three stationary pea viner machines and other equipment. The operation was seasonal and lasted three to four weeks each year. Lois stated that it was a whirlwind of activity beginning about the third week of June and continuing over the next few weeks. In addition to keeping track of the farmers bringing their harvest to the viner Lois was also responsible for payroll for the twenty to thirty people employed at the seasonal jobs.

Bruce Shirk was more involved with the pea harvest. Machinery attached to a tractor cut the entire plant off below ground before mounding them on windrows. Next they were elevated onto wagons for transport to the viner operation. Following the harvesting process peas were oftentimes scattered around on the ground. Bruce said it was not uncommon to see many area residents walking through freshly harvested fields with bucket in hand picking peas off the ground.

Once harvested the pea plants were forked into one of three pea viner machines. Inside the machine they were gently tossed and turned while flappers struck the plants until the peas were extracted from the pods. The peas rolled into bins, or lugs. These lugs were placed into barrels and covered with crushed ice to prevent spoilage during transport. Bruce stated that during the peak harvest three viners were kept running almost around the clock. An early morning break allowed time for someone to grease the machinery. According to Bruce, Campbell's Soup had similar pea viner operations at Vicksburg and Jerseytown in addition to their pea viner operation at Laurelton.

From 1943 through 1953 Bruce worked for his father-in-law, Art Bilger, transporting milk for local farmers. He was responsible for loading 80-pound milk cans onto the truck and delivering them to the Sheffield plant in Lewisburg. At one time Bilger had three milk trucks operating simultaneously throughout the West End.

In 1953 Bruce was hired as a herdsman at the Laurelton State Village where he worked until his retirement in 1979. The state institution maintained a herd of approximately 60 cows. The herd produced a sufficient quantity of milk for use at the facility. The milk was put into cans and taken to each cottage for use by the residents. The end of the dairy operation at the state institution began when the state required the milk to be placed into small containers rather than in bulk. In addition to their own milk herd the institution raised beef cows, hogs, and poultry for use by the residents.

Lois was hired at the Laurelton State Village about 1961, where she supervised work in the cannery located on the grounds of the institution. About 45 girls housed at the institution were involved in the cannery operation. String beans, beets, applesauce, peaches, sauerkraut and other fruits and vegetables were packaged and sealed in # 10 cans. The canned items were then stored at the kitchen for use by the cooking staff. The Laurelton Village was more or less self-supportive for many years.

In the early 1970's institutional peonage ended, which prevented residents from performing any type of manual labor at the institution. Since it was not cost effective to hire laborers to do the tasks once performed by the residents the dairy barn and the cannery ceased to operate. Lois recalled how they had to fight with the girls in order to prevent them from working. The residents of the institution wanted to help and they became angry when they were no longer permitted to do so. Residents of the institution capable of doing physical labor were encouraged to involve themselves in educational, recreational, and craft activities.

Generations of area residents were employed at the state institution during the eight decades it operated. Its closure in June 1998 impacted the lives of many families living in the West End of Union County. Residents remain hopeful that one day the vacant buildings at the former Laurelton Center will provide new employment opportunities. The loss of employment at the Shirt Factory and the Laurelton Foundry in no way compares to the lost opportunities when the Laurelton Center closed. However, the effects were the same for the men and women who worked at those Laurelton businesses.

The Laurelton Center, Laurelton Foundry, Shirt Factory, Pete Pursley's Store, Miller's Barbershop, Rutherford's Store, and Herbster's Mill are now just part of Laurelton's history. For Lois (Shirk) Pick and her brother Bruce Shirk these places are more than just history, they evoke memories as well.

My thanks to Lois (Shirk) Pick and Bruce Shirk for sharing their memories of Laurelton with me. Thanks also to Jeanne Sampsell for providing a photograph of the Pursley Hotel, and to Nancy (Shirk) Wagner for her helpful information.

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

A Pot Pie Supper will be held in the fellowship hall at the church 3.5 miles west of Mifflinburg on Saturday November 3 from 3:00 p.m. until ? Meals will be served family style. The cost of adult meals is \$7; children 6 to 12 years of age \$4, while children under 6 eat for free. Take out will also be available. For more information you can call 966.0034, 966.5714, or 922.1860.

Christ's United Lutheran Church, locally known as the Four Bells Church, in Millmont has started a food program called Angel Food Ministries. It is a community outreach program that benefits everyone who eats and wants to save money on groceries. Angel Food Ministries is a non-profit, non-denominational organization dedicated to providing grocery relief to support communities throughout the United States. Angel Food Ministries is available in a quantity that can fit into a medium-sized box at \$25.00 per unit. Each month's menu is different than the previous month and consists of both fresh and frozen items with an average retail value of approximately \$50.00. Generally, one unit of food assists in feeding a family of four for about one week or a single senior citizen for about one month. The food is all the same high quality one would purchase at a grocery store. There are no seconds, no damaged or out-dated goods. Angel Food Ministries, like most other retail grocery stores, also participates in the US Food Stamp program.

If you are not in this area you can go to the Angel Food Ministries website: [www.angelfoodministries.com](http://www.angelfoodministries.com) and select a church closer to you. It is worth it; it's a great program. For more information call the AFM coordinator. Phone 966-5068, or email [afm@4bellschurch.com](mailto:afm@4bellschurch.com)

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mont.

Other interesting railroad rumors concern the Bald Eagle valley branch, which is now one of the greatest traffic branches in the United States. The work now being carried out on the Bald Eagle Valley road is only preparatory, according to good authority, to making a double track system of the branch from Tyrone to Lock Haven. It has been stated that this road will be completed as a double-track system within the next year, when it is more than probable that through limited trains from Elmira, N. Y., will be instituted.

A further rumor has it that the Bellefonte Central R. R. is soon to be acquired by the N. Y. Central for the purposes of extending their lines westward to Huntingdon and thus reach the coal fields in that part of the state.

Editors Note: I am not sure how many of the rumors noted above did come true, but one that did not come true was the connection of western part of the Lewisburg & Tyrone and the eastern section. The name Lewisburg & Tyrone Railroad was actually a misnomer, since the rail line that dissected Buffalo Valley actually terminated at Lemont, Centre County, and not at Tyrone. Mike Bezilla, a noted authority on the topic of the Lewisburg & Tyrone Railroad, has written numerous articles about this subject. One article in particular that deals with this subject is entitled "The PRR's Lewisburg & Tyrone Railroad: When Two Halves Didn't Make a Whole."

## Thank You!

I would like to thank the following people for making monetary donations toward the publication of this newsletter: Caroline Wenrick, Hartleton; William and Ethel Musser, Mifflinburg; Lee & Norma Sauers, Mifflinburg; Terry & Loyce Os-good, Millmont; Galen & Esther Keister, Penns Creek; Donald & Phyllis Ruhl, Millmont; and the Millmont couple who wish to remain anonymous.

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: Maynard & Jean Roush, Lewisburg; and Neal & Carol Schnure, West Palm Beach, FL. If you would like to join more than 280 subscribers who currently receive a FREE color version of The Millmont Times each month via the Internet, please sign up now at: [millmonttimes@dejazzd.com](mailto:millmonttimes@dejazzd.com).

Welcome to the following new mail subscribers: Tilly Mahon, Lewisburg; Margaret Kulick, Weikert; and Laura Campbell, 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 Richard King of Holbrook, NY for sending me copies of several old Millmont post cards via the Internet; Emilie F. Jansma of State College and Weikert for donating material relative to the West End of Union County; Bob & Jeanne Jolly for information relative to the Weikert area and the Burd family; Lois Pick of Laurelton for allowing me to copy a photograph of the Laurelton Foundry; and to Bruce Pick for allowing me to copy his photographs of the Laurelton Foundry and of Ned Church's wedding at Glen Iron.

## Letters and E-mails to the Editor

Tony, I see my subscription to The Millmont Times expires 11/1/07. Enclosed find \$10.00 to renew so I won't miss a paper. I am the former Mae (Kuhns) Sullivan. Since my late brother, Ralph, passed away in May the only ones left are my sister Ruth and I. I am still occupied in the Lord's work. I have services at a detention center here in South Texas. These are the people who are caught who have no travel papers to be in the USA. Two or three Sunday's a month I have Christian services with the ladies and give any new person a Bible (Spanish Bible) of their own. Still able to do my own work - inside and out. Just turned 80 years old in August. Don't feel that old - ha. Your friend, Mae (Kuhns) Sullivan, Lyford, Texas.

Tony, enclosed is a check in the amount of \$10.00 for the renewal of that wonderful paper, The Millmont Times. We sure enjoy it very much. It brings back good memories. Thank you, Lamar and Lois Kahler, Millmont.

Tony, A truly enjoyable history lesson every month. Keep it up.

Bill & Ethel Musser, Mifflinburg.

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:

*Monday November 6, 1933. Temperature 32 - 40. Cloudy, rained and snowed last night and this morning just enough to cover the ground. The 1st snow of the season. This evening I was to Directors meeting. We ordered books for the 1st and 2nd grades.*

*Tuesday November 7, 1933. Temperature 38 - 45. Cloudy. Florence took us to Election at 4:30. Mother was over to see Mrs. Speese. She has been sick for some time. Bro. Galer and son Arthur were here this p.m. to ask me to preach mother Galer's funeral sermon.*

*Wednesday November 8, 1933. Temperature 35 - 40. Stormy snow squalls. I worked in the garage today as usual.*

*Thursday November 9, 1933. Temperature 32 - 35. Rain & snow. This a.m. I worked in the garage. This p.m. I officiated at the funeral of Sister Galer. Mervyn assisting me.*

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An update on the Martin appeal. Attorney Wilson reported that the appeal was taken prematurely and raised the issue of timeliness of filing the appeal with the court.

The Advisory Committee was appointed as follows: Donald Shively made a motion to appoint, Donald Shively as a Planning Committee Member representative, Thomas Watters, Wayne Klingman as the supervisor representative, David Oldt as an alternate, seconded by Wayne Klingman. Attorney Boop will send a letter to Shawn McLaughlin regarding the committee member appointment.

Ken Catherman reported that the road project will commence next week. No further business to be conducted. Meeting Adjourned.

## November Birthdays & Anniversaries

- |                                    |                                     |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1 – Edwin Oberholtzer              | 17 – Stanley Catherman              |
| 2 – E. Walter Shirk                | 17 – Katherine Neal                 |
| 3 – Frank & Helen Raker - 1941     | 17 – Mervin Nissley                 |
| 3 – Leon Klock                     | 18 – Delphia Shirk                  |
| 3 – Bob Walter                     | 18 – Amos Brubaker                  |
| 4 – Lindsey Aikey                  | 18 – Terry Kline                    |
| 6 – Henry & Linda Dorman – 1965    | 19 – Dedra M. Wagner                |
| 6 – Roger & Betty Shoemaker - 1965 | 19 – Esther Zimmerman               |
| 7 – John Renninger                 | 19 – Angie Walter                   |
| 7 – Bettie Catherman               | 20 – Sam & Debbie Smith – 1993      |
| 7 – Mark Bingaman                  | 20 – Rick & Wanda Kerstetter - 1999 |
| 8 – Harvey Hoover                  | 20 – Donald Hoy                     |
| 9 – Robert & Fran Stroup - 1963    | 20 – Betty Shively                  |
| 9 – Marie Zimmerman                | 21 – Pat Gross                      |
| 10 – Donald L. Groff               | 22 – Wanda Kerstetter               |
| 10 – Joe White                     | 26 – Joe Smith                      |
| 11 – Shane Failor                  | 27 – Everett Bingaman               |
| 12 – Lucy Martin                   | 27 – Shirley Kerstetter             |
| 12 – Tyler Hopta                   | 27 – Harry Mensch                   |
| 14 – Ruth Kostenbader              | 28 – Terry & Cheryl Shively - 1970  |
| 15 – Edward & Lucy Martin - 1984   | 29 – Amanda Salter                  |
| 16 – Steve Hackenberg              | 29 - Paula Dorman                   |
| 17 – Kim & Sue Blyler - 1972       |                                     |

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

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