



Laurelton, PA

Celebrating 200 years

1811-2011

Part III

At the turn of the 20th century the hub of activity in Laurelton was centered at the crossroads in the middle of the village. Laurelton's largest store was situated at that location. Also located nearby was the West End Hotel and tavern. Dr. Glover's office was located at the intersection, and later the Laurelton State Bank opened for business across the street from Pete Pursley's Store.

In this issue we will examine some of the stores and their owners as well as the hotel/taverns that were once located in Laurelton.

STORES/MERCHANTS

The historical writings of Richard VB. Lincoln identify Daniel B. Kerst, a native of Berks County, as one of the earliest storekeepers in Laurelton. According to Lincoln, Kerst opened his business in 1843. It seems that he continued his dry goods business for a number of years as the 1860 Hartley Township census records reveal that Kerst's occupation was again recorded as merchant. That same census also informs us that Jonas Miller (age 25) and E. B. Weidensaul (age 23), were both residing with Kerst and his wife, Catherine, in their Laurelton home. Both of these young men listed their occupations as "clerks". It seems likely that both were employed in Kerst's store.

When the enumerator was collecting information for the 1880 census 78-year old Kerst was a retired merchant. Residing with Daniel and Catherine Kerst at that time was their 24-year old nephew, Samuel W. Rutherford, who was also a native of Berks County. Two years later (1882) The Mifflinburg Telegraph reported that Samuel W. Rutherford was conducting a dry goods store in Laurelton. This store was at time known as the Laurelton Store Company.

In addition to his mercantile business Rutherford was instrumental in the establishment of the Laurelton Lumber Company, becoming president of that business. It seems reasonable to assume that Rutherford learned the storekeeping trade, and perhaps his other business savvy from his uncle, longtime Laurelton merchant, Daniel B. Kerst.

Rutherford was married to the former Bertha Braucher. Together they had eight children (five daughters and three sons), including J. Lincoln, Forrest, Helen, Miriam, Margaret, Samuel, Lucille, and Dorothy.

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The Millmont Times

NOVEMBER 2011

Hartleton Mailbox by Postmaster Gail Hanselman

As I am writing this we are having our first snow for this winter season and it's only Oct. It's too early to tell if we'll get what they are calling for; 6 to 10 inches. We'll just have to wait and see. It's a very wet heavy snow and the winds are to pick up. Since not all the leaves are down yet this could cause problems.

Since we are talking about snow I guess it's ok to talk about Christmas Mailing Dates for International and APO/FPO/DPO holiday cards and packages.

APO/FPO/DPO -	Express Mail	First Class	Priority Mail	Parcel Post
Zip codes 090-092	Dec 17	Dec 10	Dec 10	Nov 12
093	N/A	Dec 3	Dec 3	Nov 12
094-098	Dec 17	Dec 10	Dec 10	Nov 12
340	Dec 17	Dec 10	Dec 10	Nov 12
962-966	Dec 17	Dec 10	Dec 10	Nov 12
International -	Global Express	Express Mail	Priority Mail	First Class
Africa	Dec 20	Dec 10	Dec 2	Dec 2

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The Atlas of Union and Snyder Counties published by Pomeroy & Beers in 1868 has the name of one storekeeper in its business directory for Laurelton. That store was operated by Samuel Braucher who sold dry goods, groceries, Queens ware, hardware, boots, shoes, hats, caps, ready-made clothing, paints, oils, drugs, notions, etc. Braucher's establishment was located in the large building that was once situated on the lot where the current day Laurelton Post Office is located. Years later Braucher was operating a hotel and tavern at this location. (See Hotel/Taverns).

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In 1884 Joseph C. Raudenbush and Samuel W. Rutherford were both listed as dealers in dry goods. By 1888, D. C. Albright was also advertised as being in the dry goods business in Laurelton.

For a period of years Joseph C. Raudenbush (1855-1890) operated a store at the main intersection in Laurelton (11 Weikert Road). According to some sources Raudenbush had the large brick store built at that location circa 1880. The Raudenbush store was situated at the main thoroughfare in the village. In his Trail of History column published in The Mifflinburg Telegraph, Charles M. Snyder wrote that Raudenbush committed suicide. While I have not found any confirmation of that, J. C. Raudenbush was only 35 years old at the time of his death in 1890. He and his children, Edward (1880-1889), J. C., Jr. (1890-1890) and daughter Mary May (1889-1891), are buried in the Lincoln Chapel Cemetery. The whereabouts of Hattie Raudenbush, Joseph's wife, is unknown since her name is not etched on the pink granite obelisk located near the rear entrance to the Lincoln Chapel Church.

According to Snyder, Raudenbush's Store was subsequently managed by the Laurelton Lumber Company a.k.a. the Laurelton Store Company. David R. "Pete" Pursley later purchased this store. Pursley is known to have operated a cigar store in Laurelton as early as 1905. Upon entering the general store business Pursley was selling dry goods, groceries, shoes and boots, clothing, and hardware. According to long time Laurelton resident, Raymond E. Middleswarth, Jr., there was once a large warehouse located at the rear of Pursley's Store. This warehouse was used to house barrels of molasses, motor oil and other items. There was also a horse stable in a section of the warehouse. The second floor of the large brick building was used for storage while the west side of the large brick building was home to Pete and Clara Pursley.



A recent view of the former Raudenbush Store in Laurelton. The store has since been converted into a multifamily dwelling.

The second floor of the large brick building was used for storage while the west side of the large brick building was home to Pete and Clara Pursley.

An excellent narrative relating to Pursley's Store was included in a book written by the late Elizabeth (Hoffman) Fahringer in 1980. She recalled visiting the store on numerous occasions whenever she and her family (residents of Sunbury) stayed at their summer cottage located along Penns Creek off Nikomahs Drive (Trails End). Fahringer's book entitled "Chronicle of Windy Inn" included the following excerpt relative to Pete Pursley's Store in Laurelton:

A real treat was a trip to Laurelton and Mr. Pursley's Store. It was a typical country store with a little bit of everything. They carried lard, potatoes, kerosene, etc. (they were in the cellar) and a few staples, crackers and cookies in square tin boxes with glass fronts, the best "rat" cheese, and bacon sliced as you wanted it. And then there was the candy case.... It was too high for little kids,

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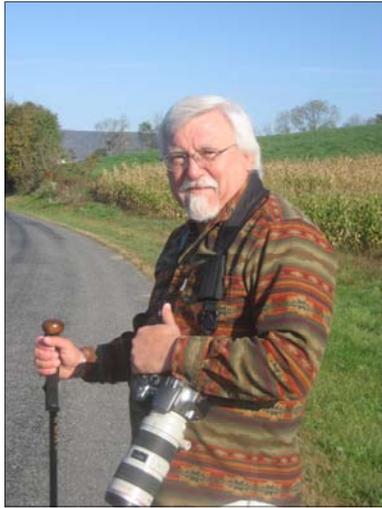
	Global Express	Express Mail	Priority Mail	First Class
Asia/Pacific Rim	Dec 19	Dec 15	Dec 9	Dec 9
Australia/New Zealand	Dec 19	Dec 15	Dec 9	Dec 9
Canada	Dec 21	Dec 16	Dec 12	Dec 9
Caribbean	Dec 20	Dec 15	Dec 12	Dec 9
Central & South America	Dec 20	Dec 10	Dec 2	Dec 2
Mexico	Dec 21	Dec 15	Dec 9	Dec 9
Europe	Dec 20	Dec 15	Dec 12	Dec 9
Middle East	Dec 20	Dec 15	Dec 12	Dec 9

Remember to mail on time to get it there on time.

New First Class stamp prices for January 2012 - First Class Letter - .45; First Class Postcard - .32. International First Class Letter to Canada and Mexico - .85; all other countries - 1.05

Remember if you have the Forever Stamps you do NOT need to buy any .01 make up stamps. These stamps are good forever no matter what the price is.

All post offices will be closed Friday November 11 for Veterans Day.



BIRD TALK

by Jim McCormick

October is one of those strange months; being the point between fall and winter, it is usually a mixture of warm and cold, with powerful winds thrown in for good measure. This October was mostly warm and wet. We didn't even get below freezing until the end of the month. We had the winds of October as usual but without the freeze the leaves didn't come down and without the freeze the leaves were not very vibrant either. There certainly were some beautiful autumn days, though. Those days when the mornings are cool and when the sun comes up you feel the warmth on your face. Those are the days when you say, "What a beautiful day!" After the heat and humidity of this summer, this is the relief I have been waiting for.

This lingering warmth has had an impact on the migratory birds, too, I believe. This month I have been seeing the Red-winged Blackbirds return to our area. In the past I might have seen a few come back to their breeding grounds, seemingly for a brief good-bye; but this year, probably because of the extended warm weather, there have been a few small bands in our area for most of the month. They should have already collected into those huge flocks of mixed blackbirds by now, getting ready for their trip south. Just before the first snowfall at the end of the month, I finally saw the return of the Dark-eyed Juncos. They arrived as the snowstorm was moving up the East Coast; they are, after all, also known as Snowbirds!

As I walked along Davis Road one day this month, I saw what I thought was a large moth fly up about ten yards away. I followed it as it flew a short distance and landed. I never thought I would find it in the open field, but I figured it was worth a try. I walked over to where I thought it had landed and began searching for it. Looking down in the grass I noticed a rather large insect clinging to a blade of grass. I couldn't believe my eyes; it was a Praying Mantis! I had been looking for these for the last few years. Some years ago I had seen one on the road and tried to photograph it, but I was never satisfied with the results. It had been an all green gangly looking insect that seemed to be struggling to get across the road. But this one had flown up in the field. I immediately began to photograph it, thinking it would just fly away, but it seemed to be watching me. I moved closer and began photographing from different angles, getting as close as I thought I could without scaring it away. As you can see in the photo it WAS looking at me with those huge compound eyes! According to some authorities the Mantis has excellent eyesight and can see objects up to fifty feet away; I was just a few feet away.

There is an interesting website with great information and photographs on all aspects of the Mantis at: <http://www.theprayingmantis.org/>. I am guessing this particular one is a Chinese Mantis; there are about twenty species in the United States. The Chinese and the European Mantises were introduced in the 1890s to control insect pests. The Mantis is a formidable predator of other insects with its powerful forearms and ability to strike with lightning speed. Unlike so many other introduced species, the foreign Mantises do have natural predators, so they have not become as much of a nuisance as House Sparrows and Starlings. In fact you can purchase Praying Mantis eggs by mail and raise them as pets!! Learn to enjoy all aspects of our natural world!



Photograph of the Praying Mantis is courtesy of Jim McCormick.

The small photograph in the upper left hand corner of page one shows a view of the Laurelton Elementary School that was constructed between 1952 and 1953. The schoolhouse was opened to students in September 1953. Earlier this year the Mifflinburg School Directors voted 7-0 to close this school. The formal dedication and open house took place at the Laurelton Elementary School on September 18, 1953, at 3:45 p.m. The final open house took place on August 18, 2011 from 4:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. Generations of West End students attended this school in Laurelton and many are sad to see this building shuttered. The future of the school building remains to be seen.

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so there was a long bench in front of it and the kids would climb on that, press their noses to the glass while Mr. Pursley or Asher, his son-in-law, stood patiently waiting for them to make their selection. When we left the store each child had his bag of "goodies". Tea berries and belly burners were favorites and still are with some.

Half of the store was for dry goods. They had work shoes, overalls, straw hats, etc. and these things were displayed in the windows with a collection of dead bugs and flies. In one corner of the store was the post office, a little cage like place, with a very pleasant postmistress.

We always thought we were the store's only cash customers for the natives bartered with eggs and some home grown produce or put their purchases "on the book." We paid cash and perhaps that was the reason they welcomed us and Mr. Pursley always gave us a banana from a bunch that hung by the side of the door, or occasionally, ice cream.

Pete's daughter, Helen, and her husband, Asher Harter, later took over the operation of the store. Helen served for many years as postmaster at Laurelton. During much of that time the post office was located in the front section of the store. Pete Pursley's office located in the rear of the store.

Later William Chappell took ownership of the store. Prior to moving his business to the 11 Weikert Road location, Chappell operated a grocery store a few doors to the west (65 Weikert Road). Chappell was succeeded by Merrill and Jean (Lukens) Buoy. Sometime during the early 1970's the Buoy's relocated their store into a new building located at 1415 State Route 235. Today it is known as Laurel Market and is owned and operated by Scullin Oil Company.

The large red brick Raudenbush/Laurelton Store Company/Pursley/Chappell/Buoy store building has since been converted into a multifamily dwelling.

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Albright J. Bingaman's obituary (May 1912) indicated that he was engaged in the mercantile business in Laurelton for a number of years prior to his passing at age 56. His name and business appear on Laurelton mercantile records listed in the local newspapers as early as 1898. Both the 1900 and 1910 census records from Hartley Township list his occupation as a general merchant. His business was located at 65 Weikert Road in Laurelton. At the time of his death Albright was residing with his brother-in-law, Amos Fauver.

Amos Fauver (1849-1929) was a long time resident of Laurelton. A native of Ohio, Fauver relocated to Central Pennsylvania while employed by a contractor working on the railroad as it expanded westward through Union County in the 1870's. According to his obituary he liked this area so much that he decided to make his residence in Laurelton. Fauver spent one term (1903-1906) as commissioner of Union County. He had one son, Harry.

For a period of time Frank and Lila (Baldwin) Schnure owned the property that was once home to Albright Bingaman's Store. In the 1920's Lila operated an ice cream parlor at that location. The building (65 Weikert Road) was subsequently home to Merrill W. Coup's Nationwide Store. Others who operated a store at that location include John Showalter, Bob Chambers, and Bill Chappell. During the time that John W. Showalter was operating the store his brother-in-law, Leroy Fetteroff, assisted in running the business. As mentioned above, Chappell subsequently relocated his store from 65 Weikert Road to 11 Weikert Road.

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According to his obituary John Lincoln Rutherford operated a store in Laurelton prior to his death in 1943. His obituary also notes that he spent ten years prior to his death as a bookkeeper and accountant for H. H. Herbstler and Son Feed Mill, as well as chief bookkeeper for the Laurelton Foundry. The 1930 Hartley Township census records show that J. Lincoln Rutherford (1884-1943) and Forest M. "Duly" Rutherford each listed their occupations as clerks in General Store.

John "Lincoln" Rutherford's store was located just north of 1540 State Route 235, now a vacant lot. According to Lois (Shirk) Pick of Laurelton her father, Ray F. Shirk (1895-1984), milked around 5 or 6 cows on their farm off Long Lane. Surplus milk not used by the family was sold to neighbors. They also churned butter, which along with their surplus eggs, was taken to Rutherford's Store in Laurelton and bartered for coffee, sugar and other grocery items they could not raise or grow on the family farm. The building that once housed Lincoln Rutherford's Store was subsequently home to the Laurel Inn. That building has since been razed.

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Field Notes, by WCO Dirk Remensnyder

One night after a basketball practice a fellow coach who is a non-hunter was following me back to my house. He was about 100 yards behind me coming up my driveway. When we pulled into my house he jumped out of his vehicle and said with excitement "did you see that elk that ran across your driveway in front of me?" First of all, elk have not come this far south yet and secondly I think he needs an identification class between elk and large rucked buck.

Deputy Maxfield recently had to help a trapper release a bobcat that was in his trap.

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During an April 2000 interview with D. Allen Johnson (1914-2001) he recalled his school days prior to graduating from the Hartley Township High School in 1932. While attending school he had a part-time job assisting Harrison M. "Bucky" Hanselman in his store located across the street from the high school. Prior to heading to school in the morning Johnson opened the business and performed odd jobs around the store. Some of those chores included stocking the shelves, sweeping the floors, and tending to the fire during the cold months of the year. How long Hanselman's Store remained in business is unknown. Some may recall when "Bucky" Hanselman served as an Associate Judge in Union County from 1948 until 1956.

Raymond Middleswarth, Jr. remembered when Joe and Dorothy Shively had a restaurant in this building in the 1940's after Hanselman had closed the store. Shively's sold soup, sandwiches, and cheeseburgers at their restaurant in the former "Tin Shop". This building was once home to Samuel Bingaman's Tin Shop. Years later this building housed Bill Schnure's large collection of clocks and watches.

After the Shively's exited the restaurant business Milfred "Bucky" and Iva (Berger) Dorman took over. They moved the restaurant to their house at 1770 State Route 235, where they operated Dorman's Lunch for a number of years. Dorman's Lunch was located adjacent to the Hartley Township High School, which proved to be a popular eatery for students. Bucky and his wife continued to operate their restaurant until the new Laurelton Elementary School opened. When the new school opened in 1953 it was equipped with a modern cafeteria, which had a negative effect on the restaurant.

Bucky Dorman (1903-1983) was a long time custodian at the Laurelton Elementary School, both the old as well as the new school. Earlier in life Iva Dorman (1904-1965) was employed at the Laurelton Shirt Factory, where she was a supervisor.

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In 1882: Daniel R. Smith (see Biography on page 6) was operating a drug store in Laurelton. The Laurelton columnists (obviously a female) who wrote for The Mifflinburg Telegraph in the November 1, 1882 issue of that newspaper had this to say about the druggist, D. R. Smith: "*D. R. Smith, or druggist, if you will call on him always greets you with his blandest smile, particularly if you buy an emetic, or a physic, or anything else for that matter. Daniel has quite a neat and nicely arranged store and not the least of attractions himself*".

Information garnered from the newspapers relative to merchants in Laurelton reveal that D. C. Albright and A. G. Robuck were operating in 1894. I. G. Braucher had a clothing store in the village in 1899. A year earlier Braucher had tried his hand in the same line when he opened a clothing store in Millmont. His venture in Laurelton was relatively short-lived.

The mercantile listing for 1905 indicates the following people were in the retail business: S. H. Bingaman, Albright Bingaman, Laurelton Store Company, D. R. Pursley (cigar store), Aaron L. Reedy, J. J. Showalter, and Zimmerman & Heimbach.

In the early 1920's Martin Emery operated a store in the building that formerly housed the West End Hotel. (See info in Hotels/Taverns). He lost his business when the building was destroyed by fire. At one time Emery and his family lived on the farm now owned by Randall Boob at 192 Weikert Road.

HOTEL/TAVERNS

According to Hartley Township census records, Laurelton resident Samuel E. Braucher listed his occupation as Tavern Keeper during the 1880 enumeration. Braucher's establishment, which included a hotel, was located at the intersection of State Route 235 and Laurel Road, where the present day Laurelton Post Office is located. Samuel Braucher's establishment was subsequently owned and operated by James Pursley. In 1892 when Pursley was operating the business at the intersection it was known as the West End Hotel. David R. "Pete" Pursley, succeeded his father at the West End Hotel.

The former hotel and tavern was destroyed by fire on October 26, 1922. At the time Martin Emery was operating a store on the first floor of the building and he and his family resided on the second floor. Pete Pursley owned the building. According to a newspaper account of the fire, the building was hit by lightning during a severe storm. The heat and smoke awakened Martin who was able to awaken his family and they escaped the burning building with only the clothes on their backs. The building and its contents were a total loss.

A bucket brigade saved the adjacent home of Calvin Weidensaul from the flames. For many years a depression in the ground was the only reminder of the large hotel that once stood at that location. Rubbish from Pursley's Store was carried across the street and burned in the open pit. No improvements were made to that property until the Laurelton Post Office was constructed at that site in 1961.

There were numerous taverns in Hartley Township over the years. Several that were operating during the 1930's and 1940's include Parker's and Buttorff's along State Route 45, Tharp's



The photograph above is a view of the West End Hotel in Laurelton (sidewalks were made of boards). This building was situated where the current post office is located. The only person identified in this photograph is David R. "Pete" Pursley in the white shirt standing at the rear of the horse. This photograph is courtesy of Jeanne Sampsell of Laurelton.

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Biography of Daniel R. Smith



The sketch of Daniel R. Smith, along with the following excerpt, were taken from the Commemorative Biographical Record of Central Pennsylvania published by J. H. Beers & Co., Chicago, 1898.

Daniel R. Smith, the popular and efficient treasurer of Union County, was born in Hartley Township, May 18, 1853, a son of John and Mary (Rockey) Smith, the former of whom was of the same nativity, born in 1809, and died in Hartley Township, in 1889. He was a son of Leonard Smith, also a native of Union County, who married and reared a family of four sons and three daughters: John, Leonard, Peter, Jacob, Susanna (who became the wife of John Diehl), Mary (who wedded Jacob Weirick), and Betsey (wife of Jacob Shively), all now deceased. The entire family were devout Christians, members of the Lutheran Church.

John Smith, the father of our subject, was a lifelong farmer, and passed his entire life in Hartley Township. By his wife Mary (Rockey) he had a family of six children, as follows: William, who lost his life in front of Petersburg, having enlisted during the Civil war in Company E, 51st P. V. I. ; Isaiah, who also served in the 51st Regiment, as a member of Company I, was taken prisoner at the battle of the Wilderness, and died of starvation in Andersonville prison; Mary Jane, who married J.W. Showalter, a farmer of near Hartleton, Union County, and has six children – Newton, John, Daniel, William, Hannah and Esther; Samuel, who wedded Miss Susan Knape, and took up farming in Centre County, but lost his life February 17, 1880, through an attack made on him by a vicious cow (he left a widow and one son); and Catherine and Daniel R. (twins), the former of whom married Isaac Walker, a farmer of Centre County, Penn., near Tyrone, by whom she has eight sons.

On the home farm Daniel R. Smith was reared to habits of industry and economy, attending during the winter seasons the common schools of the neighborhood. Building upon these good foundations, he made the best use of such opportunities as he could find for study, and proved himself to be an earnest, diligent and apt scholar. Thus qualifying himself, he at the age of seventeen commenced teaching school, first in Centre County, later in Hartley Township, Union County – one such term each; after which, with laudable ambition, he attended the Normal School at Shippensburg one term. Returning to his old home, he again took up the profession of teaching, and taught in Lewis Township, Union County, three terms, at the ending of which time, being desirous of further advancing his studies, he attended school at State College, Centre County, two terms. For two years thereafter he taught school in Buffalo and Kelly Townships, Union County some two years.

In 1881 Mr. Smith engaged with a surveying party to locate the Northern Pacific railroad crossing the Rocky Mountains between Bozeman, Mont., and Portland, Ore., Helena Mont., being headquarters, and was thus employed one year, being associated in the exploit with "Buffalo Bill" and other early border celebrities. He then returned to Union County (having during his absence purchased the old farmstead near Laurelton), and in 1882 was appointed postmaster at Laurelton, in which village he established the first drug store, which he conducted some four years, when his stock was destroyed by fire. Mr. Smith's next employment was as traveling salesman for Kline, Heitz & Co., of Millersburg, Penn., manufacturers of carpets, rugs, etc., and in that capacity he remained two years; then engaged with S. Lynd Fox, a grocery man of Philadelphia, continuing with him some three years, in all of which positions he earned for himself a well-merited confidence.

On February 15, 1896, he was nominated on the Republican ticket for treasurer of Union County, and in the fall of the same year, on November 6, he was elected by the flattering majority of 1,064 votes, defeating a candidate who had been solidly endorsed at the Democratic convention. On January 7, 1897, Mr. Smith took charge of the office, and it is unnecessary to add that his short term therein has already strengthened his unquestioned popularity throughout his native county. He is an active worker, doing his duty to his constituents in a manner that has won him both applause and honor.

On September 12, 1883, Mr. Smith was united in marriage with Miss Fannie Kate Barnitz, daughter of Rev. A.M. and Sarah Barnitz, and three children – two daughters and one son – have come to gladden their home: Nellie, Annie and McClain. In religious faith Mr. and Mrs. Smith hold membership with the M.E. Church, with which denomination he identified himself when eighteen years of age. Socially, he affiliates with the Royal Arcanum and P.O.S. of A., of which latter he was, in 1895, appointed district president. In 1895, by special appointment of Gov. Hastings, he was made one of

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Beer Garden in Pardee, Goodlander's in the village of Weikert, and Otts at Lindale. There were also two taverns located in the village of Laurelton. Bill Pursley's Laurel Inn was situated along Route 235, and Dan Pursley's tavern alongside Weikert Road.

The Laurel Inn was located in a building north of 1540 State Route 235 and was operated by Bill Pursley and later by Harry "Bob" Pursley. Both Pursley's lived next door to the Laurel Inn. Bob Pursley lived on the south side of the tavern and Bill Pursley lived on the north side. Bob Pursley and Pete Pursley were brothers.

According to Charles Mabus of Millmont the Laurel Inn served mainly alcohol along with a few snack type foods. Mabus recalled that Bill Pursley was a tough character, as he had earlier in life been employed as a railroad cop. Despite his age, Bill was not fearful of tossing someone out of his establishment if he thought they were getting out of line. Mabus also recalled when Bill Strickler was tending bar at the Laurel Inn during he time Bob Pursley was operating the bar.

Raymond E. Middleswarth, Jr. recalled when the Laurel Inn's liquor license was sold to the West End Fire Company in Glen Iron. The building that housed the Laurel Inn (and Rutherford's Store years earlier) was razed a number of years ago.

Middleswarth also recalled when Harry Pursley operated a little ice cream parlor at his residence located at 1540 State Route 235, now the home of Steve and Judy Moyer.

Dan Pursley (1883-1964) operated a tavern at 157 Weikert Road. This building was formerly home to a shirt factory in Laurelton. This place was sometimes referred to as Dan's Café and also "Dan & Dunk's Beer Garden". Kenneth Dunkleberger (1909-1997), who was a bartender there, lived in the rear of the building. When Middleswarth was growing up his parents lived in a house located near Pursley's establishment. He recalled the nights when he laid his head on the pillow to go to sleep, with his bedroom window open, he listened to the same familiar tune emanating from Dan Pursley's watering hole. That classic song from 1939 was - "Beer Barrel Polka", also known as "Roll Out the Barrel".

Dan Pursley lived at 192 Weikert Road. His obituary indicates that he served as tax collector in Hartley Township for a number of years.

Kenneth Dunkelberger also operated a coal yard in Laurelton and was Hartley Township Supervisor for a period of years.

TLS

Editor's Note: My thanks to the following people who provided information used in this article: Laurelton residents Raymond E. Middleswarth, Jr. and Lois (Shirk) Pick; Charles Mabus of Millmont; and Thomas "Tyler" Potterfield of Richmond, VA.

Sources: Historical writings of Richard VB. Lincoln; Union County Pennsylvania A Bicentennial History by Charles M. Snyder 1976; Louise Goehring Scott's Oral History Collection Transcribed by Emile F. Jansma of State College and Weikert; Union County Heritage Volume VIII; The Millmont Times Volume 5 Issue 5, and Volume 8 Issue 7; The History of the Susquehanna & Juniata Valleys published by Everts, Peck, & Richards in 1886; The Mifflinburg Telegraph; The Lewisburg Saturday News; Commemorative Biographical Record of Central Pennsylvania, J. H. Beers & Co., Chicago, 1898; The Atlas of Union County published by Pomeroy & Beers in 1868; Chronicle of Windy Inn by Elizabeth (Hoffman) Fohringer; Hartley Township High School Highlights published in 1938; and the late Darwin Allen Johnson.

Looking Back

The newspaper article below was originally published in the November 1, 1882 edition of The Mifflinburg Telegraph.

Laurelton Items

R. V. B. Lincoln, Esq, has taken all the old machinery out of his mill in this place, and proposes to refit and place therein new and improved machinery. When completed the mill will be the best in Centre or Union Counties.

Mr. S. W. Rutherford, one of our enterprising young merchants, has erected a neat and substantial dwelling in the southern part of the town, as also Messrs. S. S. Smith and Dr. Peter Rishel. The Dr. expects shortly to occupy his new house.

Hon. Chas. S. Wolfe is billed for a speech in this place shortly. Charley is making things somewhat lively in Union Co. for some. Come on Charles.

Geo. W. Stover has been confined to his bed by his wound, and has suffered very much; he is, however, convalescing slowly.

It is reported that Mr. Wm. Cook has purchased a lot in this place and broken ground for a dwelling. Oh yes, Laurelton is growing.

Chas. And Mook Mercer are attending school in Oberlin, Ohio, They are learning Telegraphy. Success to them.

Jake Deater, Esq., last week lost a valuable horse; too much "Pink Rye," Jake says, "I would sooner have losed one hundred and seventy five dollars."

J. C. Raudenbush, one of our active and enterprising merchants, left for Phila. Today to lay in his stock of winter goods. Joe combines business with pleasure, as he will take the Bicentennial in, but then, you see, he is one of 'em who accommodates all.

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a committee of ten to investigate all the public institutions of refuge throughout the State, for the purpose of ascertaining the exact number of aliens quartered in such institutions, and which investigation resulted in the passage of the "Alien Bill," which provides for the removal from the public institutions of Pennsylvania all unnaturalized foreigners to the States and countries from whence they came. This measure will result in saving of over one million dollars per year to the Commonwealth.

Mr. Smith is the owner of the old Smith homestead in Hartley Township, embodying 181 acres of highly-improved land, and considered one of the finest and most fertile farms in Union County, in addition to which he owns valuable property in Laurelton. He is one of the most popular men in the county, strong in his political party, and the longer he is known the more he is esteemed, respected and admired. In the heyday of mature manhood, possessed of a host of friends and a deserved prosperity, he is assuredly a man to be contented and to be envied.

Recipe of the Month
by Janice (Dorman) Shively
Microwave Baked Corn

2 T. sugar
1 ½ T. cornstarch
1 C. milk
3 eggs, beaten
1 15 oz. can creamed corn
2 T. oleo
½ tsp. salt

Mix all ingredients together and pour into a greased 1 qt. casserole. Microwave 8 minutes on hi. Stir well and microwave for another 9 minutes on hi.



Jeanne Jolly of Weikert shared this recipe with me a couple of years ago.

It is a simple and delicious baked corn recipe! If you run out of oven space while preparing your Thanksgiving meal, try this microwave baked corn recipe.

ENJOY!

Union County Historical Society
FALL 2011 PROGRAMS

Thursday, November 10, 6:00 PM

Leaves Driven Before the Storm:
The Civil War Service of the Seven Kline Brothers of Union County
and Its Effect on Their Lives
Program and Dinner at the Carriage Corner, Mifflinburg

Stan Zellers will present a narrative about seven brothers (one his great-great grandfather) who served during the Civil War, detailing their family life in the years immediately before the war, their service during the war years, and how the war affected them and their families. Zeller's presentation is based on about seven years of research - Civil War pension files and Military Service records, extensive reading, including regimental histories of two of the regiments in which several of the brothers served. At one time six of the seven served under John Hartranft, who went on to become Governor of Pennsylvania.

Civil War artifacts, photos and music will augment the presentation.

Our popular buffet dinner - with choices of entrees, sides, salad, dessert and beverages - will precede the program. The program and dinner are open to members and the general public.

Awards for historic preservation and service will be presented to area individuals and/or groups.

Local UCHS members will receive reservation forms for the dinner/program in the mail in October. Others interested in attending should phone or email the Society, or visit our website for more information.

Thank You!

I would like to thank the following people for making monetary donations toward the publication of this newsletter: Sam and Shirley Diehl, Judy Blair, and Loyce Osgood all of Millmont; Jim and Cam Hironimus of Coburn; Galen and Esther Keister of Penns Creek; and the anonymous donors from Mifflinburg.

I would like to welcome the following new subscriber: Beverly Webb of Aaronsburg.

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

I would also like to thank Jeanne Jolly of Weikert for donating several back issues of The Mifflinburg Telegraph and a pamphlet celebrating the 100th anniversary of the Weikert Post Office from 1977; and Bill Mattern of Mifflinburg for donating a copy of a poem written by Kenneth Erdley relative to the "Buffalo Valley Flyer".

Millmont residents, Mark and Dawn Shreckengast, would like to thank the anonymous person (or persons) who donated two truckloads of firewood that were delivered to their house by Lewis Hoover of Millmont.

Potpie Supper

Christ's United Lutheran Church (4 Bells) will be holding a potpie supper on Saturday November 5th . They will be serving three kinds of potpie, including ham, chicken/turkey, and beef from 3:00 p.m. until ? The price is \$8 for adults, \$5 for children age 6-12, and children 5 years old and younger can eat for free. Take outs will also be available. A one quart container can be purchased for \$6. A pint of pickled cabbage will be available for takeout at \$3.

Remembrance

Ava Geneice S. "Jean" Boob, 87, formerly of 192 Weikert Road, Laurelton, since 1955, peacefully entered into eternal rest at 11:35 p.m. Saturday, October 8, 2011, at RiverWoods, Lewisburg, where she had been a resident since 2007.

She was born November 4, 1923, in Cloe, Alabama a daughter of the late Charley and Ava (Pickett) Stephens. On December 1, 1946, in Orlando, Florida., she married Randall C. Boob, who survives.

She was a 1941 honors graduate of Orlando Senior High School.

Jean was employed as an administrative assistant to the controller at Southern Bell Telephone Company, Orlando, during World War II. She also worked as a clerk at the Laurelton Post Office for 27 years.

Jean was a member of Lincoln Chapel United Methodist Church, Laurelton, since 1965, where she served as treasurer, taught Sunday school and the Good News Club. Jean was a member of the Laurelton Womens Club, the Laurelton Senior Center, and taught at the West End Bible School. She enjoyed helping children and was a Girl Scout leader for seven years. She sang in the Buffalo Valley Singers and earlier in life was a soloist at many weddings.

Jean was a homemaker, wife, and mother. She was dedicated to her husband, helping him in the daily activities on their dairy farm.

Surviving in addition to her husband of 64 years, are one daughter and son-in-law, Linda and David Zechman, of Laurelton; two sons and daughters-in-law, Thomas and Donna Boop, of Sunbury, and James and Karen Boob, of Millmont; seven grandchildren, Charles Zechman, Nathan Boob, Ryan Boop, Garrett Boop, Jamie Goss, Ava Zechman, and Ellyn Ross; foster sister-in-law, Mabel Reinhart, of Orlando; and 10 great grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her foster parents, Frank and Ruby Reinhart; two brothers, Col. Charles Stephens and Charles Reinhart; three sisters, Marjorie Broche, Geraldine Ward, and Eva Rayburn; and one grandson, Adam R. Boop.

Burial was in the Mifflinburg Cemetery.

John R. Weaver, 52, gazed in awe on scenes of glory while passing away in his 18 Penn St., Millmont home, surrounded by his family at 1:00 a.m. Saturday, October 8, 2011. He had battled cancer since December 2010.

He was born June 20, 1959, in Salem, Ohio, a son of Howard and Arlene Weaver, of Middleburg. John's family relocated from Salem to Middleburg in 1965. On June 19, 1982, he married the former Brenda M. Furtak, who survives.

He attended Penn View Christian Academy, Penns Creek.

He worked on the Weaver family farm until he was employed by Rovendale Ag and Barn Equipment, Watsontown, where he worked for the past 14 years.

John managed for many years the strawberry business on the family farm located on Walnut Acres Road near Penns Creek. He was labeled "the world's best boss" by his faithful strawberry pickers and befriended many customers and marketers for more than 30 years of production.

He was a member of the Millmont Mennonite Church, and was involved with community outreach programs for many years.

John will be remembered for his quiet, faithful life, his love of infants and children, and his strong work ethic. An often-selected serviceman, he was the farmers' friend and problem solver.

Surviving in addition to his wife and parents, are five children and their spouses: LaNell and Nate Reiff, of Mifflinburg, Lori and Joseph Peachey, of Bay Tree, Alberta, Canada, Edward John Weaver, of Millmont, Stanton Weaver, of Millmont, and Holly Weaver, of Millmont; four grandchildren, Hans, Lynn, and Anya Reiff, and Adryen Peachey; three brothers and sisters-in-law, Ernest and Lois Weaver, of Middleburg, James and Joy Weaver, of Lewisburg, and Dan and Tina Weaver, of Lewisburg; and one sister and brother-in-law, Marilyn and John Stoltzfus, of Hillside, Colorado.

Burial was in the Millmont Mennonite Church Cemetery.

Inheritance

The dictionary defines inheritance as something handed down to a beneficiary, or beneficiaries, once the owner passes away, also referred to as a legacy. At some point, all of us will come face to face with the stark reality of death. When that time comes we will have an opportunity to impart our inheritance, or legacy, to loved ones we leave behind. While that inheritance may include wealth or property, we will also leave behind a legacy of principles, values, and character. The legacy and inheritance that John R. Weaver of Millmont left behind on October 8, 2011, is one that had consequence and significance.

A godly man, he chose to follow biblical teachings, and trusting His word from an early age. He was a respectful son, a loving husband, a devoted father, and an affectionate grandfather. He was a faithful attendee, follower, and worker at the Millmont Mennonite Church, including their local youth outreach program. He was an unassuming and humble man who was admired and respected by friends, acquaintances, and those in the community in which he lived.

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Blessings from the Bible

By Brenda Weaver

*“Wherefore I also, after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus...
Cease not to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers;
That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you
the spirit of wisdom...the eyes of your understanding being enlightened;
that ye may know what is the hope of his calling,
and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints,
And what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe...”
Ephesians 1:17-18*

It is said eyes are the windows to the soul. I believe it. Much can be determined by the eyes: Health or illness. Happiness or unhappiness. Trust or suspicion. Love or anger. Peace and rest or agony and unrest. Yes, eyes are windows.

The Bible has much to say about the eyes—our eyes and the eyes of God. For instance: *“The eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to shew himself strong in the behalf of them whose heart is perfect toward him,”* 2 Chronicles 16:9.

Recently I received a remarkable gift through the eyes of someone very dear to me. I have, in fact, received many gifts from those eyes. Those eyes were very blue and I first found them attractive when I was a teenager. I traveled with other young people to a short-term mission project in another state. For ten hours I watched those eyes in the rearview mirror, as they watched the road. Two years later the tall, young owner of those eyes asked if he might date me! Yes, I saw the gifts of love and admiration in John’s eyes. We married and had a family of five precious children. I often saw happiness in John’s eyes, and great delight in them when he played with the children! Rarely were his eyes angry or condemning. Often John used his eyes to enjoy the beauty of God’s creation while riding bike, hiking, hunting, or working on area farms as a serviceman.

Less than a year ago John’s eyes took on a new look—the look of illness. I fretted at what I saw, and determined to help him fight the disease that threatened his body. Often as he progressed through his course of chemotherapy I could tell how he was feeling by looking at those windows that tell so much.

I saw lots of hope and happiness in John’s eyes in June when he thought he “had it licked.” But when his cancer began growing with a new vengeance in July his eyes showed concern. After a second regimen of chemo failed to stall the growing monster, sickness and pain clouded those blue eyes. When the doctor consulted hospice care, and said all hope of remission was gone, I saw deep sadness in those eyes, mirrored in my eyes as well. But there was something else about his eyes I found difficult to identify. Maybe it was the thinning of his face or the progression of the disease that caused my husband’s eyes to look like they did in his first grade school photograph. Innocent and trusting, perhaps, but I believe it was the look of acceptance. Not only was John trusting God, he had accepted his illness as part of God’s will for our lives.

During the next difficult weeks I saw pain-filled eyes on numerous occasions. But I was glad to also see grateful eyes. Often John thanked me for taking care of him. He thanked visitors who came, including the hospice nurse. He thanked the children for visiting him or spending time with him after work or school. Always the grandchildren brought a smile to his face. Sometimes when he watched them play on the floor at his feet the sadness in John’s eyes was almost more than I could bear. I knew he wished he felt strong enough to be on the floor playing with them. And he wished to stay living to enjoy them. He wanted to stay with his family, but he knew God was calling him home to heaven to continue our family circle there.

It was difficult to see confusion set into John’s eyes and stay there for a few days. But on October 7th he was less confused and weakly asked me to stay nearby. I did.

Late in the evening and as October 8th arrived, John’s breathing changed and I knew the end must be near. The children and I gathered around his bed. John was very weak and could hardly even lift his hand or hold up his head, but he lifted his arm and laid it across my shoulders as I knelt beside his bed. He asked in a barely audible whisper about one of the children; I assured them they were all here. Each of them talked to him, expressing their love. John had not been able to fully open or close his eyes for twelve hours or longer, but suddenly he moved his head and raised it as if to look toward the ceiling. Simultaneously his weak eyelids burst open very wide. His eyes gazed in awe at scenes of glory. Briefly his eyelids drooped, only to burst open again as he saw more. For the next five or more minutes his eyelids stayed wide open, his pupils remained dilated, and his eyes sparkled brightly with delight and awe (even though the lights were dimmed in the darkened room). Around his bed, we gazed in wonder. I felt my heart leap with excitement as we encouraged John to the finish line. The children were telling him they would meet him in heaven. Holly told him to tell Jesus “Hi” for her. Eddie told him to have fun in heaven. I couldn’t take my eyes off John’s remarkable ones. I knew his destination was a grand one. Someone had to be causing his eyes to look the way they did. I knew who it was. The children knew who it was. It was Jesus. He was welcoming my soul mate home. I could see John’s wonder. I could feel his jubilation. My voice caught in my throat as I triumphed with him: “John! We did it! You’re almost home! You have ‘fought a good fight!’ You have ‘finished the course!’ You have ‘kept the faith! Henceforth there is laid up for you a crown of righteousness...!’”

His shoulders curled forward, his body shuddered as his soul departed, and his eyes—those windows to the soul—closed. He was gone.

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Looking back now, I realize again how special it was for God to speak volumes of hope and joy to me through the eyes I'd grown to love so much. I will be forever grateful for the last rapturous gift God gave to me through those eyes.

Prayer:

I can only thank and praise You, God, for loving us as You do! Thank You, thank You for Your wonderful blessings to me and the family as Your grace showered over us after the loss of our dear husband and father. Thank You for eyes and the windows they provide to the soul. Thank You for our eternal souls. And thank You, Jesus, for what You did so we can spend eternity with YOU!

Help us fight a good fight. Help us finish the course. Help us keep the faith. Amen.

(Continued from page 9)

He was a dedicated worker who spent years climbing up and down silos and repairing farm related equipment and machinery, working long days, sometimes far from home. Telltale evidence of the type of work John did each day for his employer, Rovendale Ag and Barn Equipment of Watsonstown, was etched on both of his hands. He and his family also devoted considerable effort to maintaining their strawberry patch, located near Penns Creek, Snyder County. Every spring people eagerly awaited the arrival of the sweet and flavorful harvest from Weaver's Strawberries.

Each day of John Weaver's life was lived in such a way that he was setting an example for his children and grandchildren to follow.

- **Ephesians 6:2:** *Honour they father and mother; which is the first commandment with promise.* John, and his siblings, Ernie, Jim, Dan, and Marilyn brought honor to their parents, Howard and Arlene Weaver of Penns Creek.
- **Matthew 19:5:** *For this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife: and the twain shall be one flesh.* John Weaver and Brenda Furtak were united in marriage on June 19, 1982 and have been faithfully joined together for more than 29 years.



The Weaver family December 2010. Left to right in front row: LaNell (Weaver) Reiff, Stanton Weaver holding nephew Hans Reiff, Holly Weaver holding niece Lynn Reiff, and Lori (Weaver) Peachey. Back row left to right: Nate Reiff, Eddie Weaver, John Weaver holding his granddaughter Anya Reiff, Brenda Weaver, and Joseph Peachey.

- **Proverbs 22:6:** *Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old he will not depart from it.* Each one of John's children, LaNell, Lori, Stanton, Holly, and adopted son Eddie were taught to follow God's word.

- **Matthew 19:19:** *Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself.* John Weaver was a helpful neighbor, always ready to lend a hand in the Millmont Community where he and his family have lived since 1997.

None of us know the day or the hour when we too will be faced with the realism that death is near. Hopefully we will not wait until that day to think about the heritage we will leave. While wealth and property may be a part of our legacy, there are other aspects of our inheritance that are equally important, including principles, values, and character. John Weaver left behind, to his wife, to his children, to his grandchildren, to his sons-in-law, and to his neighbors, a legacy that he can be proud of. His inheritance will yield rewards of eternal consequence and significance.

TLS

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:

November 27, 1934. We had about the same temperature throughout the day. Worked in the garage until noon. John Mitchell, George's son, called and told me that Harrison Walter was visiting with his brother, Benevil Walter at White Springs and offered to take me to see them both. Benevil has been blind for some time and recently fell and dislocated his hip. I was glad for the opportunity to visit with them. Harrison proposes to leave tomorrow for Kansas where he has been living for many years. He is 80 years old and yet very active. Mr. Walter was my first teacher (my first day at school was November 23, 1876). On my visit I took along with me the record of the years he taught. He was very much interested in looking them over. He passed with his finger down the column naming the pupils of long ago, associating some remark that his memory still retained with nearly every boy and girl, most of them who have since passed on.

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

All of the newsletters published between January 2004 to the current issue are now available on the website.

Please use the following address if you are interested in contacting the editor, subscribing to the newsletter, making a donation, sending a gift subscription, or changing your address: Tony Shively, Post Office Box 3, Millmont PA 17845, telephone: (570) 922.4297 or E-mail: tshively@dejazzd.com

Are You Moving?

If you are planning to move, or if your post office mailing address is about to change, please notify The Millmont Times at P. O. Box 3, Millmont, PA 17845, as soon as possible. This newsletter is distributed bulk rate each month, and therefore it will not be forwarded by the United States Postal Service to your new address. All undeliverable newsletters are disposed of by the United States Postal Service. 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: tshively@dejazzd.com

November Birthdays & Anniversaries

1 – Edwin Oberholtzer	10 – Joe White	19 – Esther Zimmerman
2 – E. Walter Shirk	11 – Ian Shively	19 – Angie Walter
3 – Frank & Helen Raker - 1941	11 – Paul Long	20 – Sam & Debbie Smith – 1993
3 – Leon Klock	11 – Shane Failor	20 – Rick & Wanda Kerstetter - 1999
3 – Bob Walter	12 – Jeanne Jolly	20 – Donald Hoy
4 – Lindsey Aikey	12 – Lucy Martin	20 – Betty Shively
5 – Eugene & Marian Kahley – 1956	12 – Tyler Hopta	21 – Grace Kovacs (101st birthday!)
6 – Holly Potoeski	14 – Tina Sholter	21 – Pat Gross
6 – Henry & Linda Dorman – 1965	14 – Ruth Kostenbader	22 – Wanda Kerstetter
6 – Roger & Betty Shoemaker – 1965	15 – Edward & Lucy Martin - 1984	23 – Spencer & Shirley Boyer - 1950
7 – Richard & Eunice Swain - 1964	16 – Steve Hackenberg	26 – Joe Smith
7 – John Renninger	17 – Charles Neese	27 – Shirley Kerstetter
7 – Bettie Catherman	17 – Kim & Sue Blyler - 1972	27 – Harry Mensch
7 – Mark Bingaman	17 – Stanley Catherman	29 – Amanda Salter
8 – Harvey Hoover	17 – Katherine Neal	29 – Paula Dorman
9 – Jonathan Potoeski	18 – Jim & Cam Hironimus – 2003	30 – Mary E. Jordan
9 – Robert & Fran Stroup - 1963	18 - Lois Page	
9 – Marie Zimmerman	18 – Amos Brubaker	
10 – Donald L. Groff	18 – Terry Kline	

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