

RAILROAD DREAM

A DREAM OF A RIDE ON THE L & T

By Emilie F. Jansma

Part II

As “Cool”, Charles McCool Snyder wrote in the “Trail of History” column, of the Mifflinburg Telegraph: “Brakemen on the four daily passenger runs eased their formal instructions (in order) to make informal stops between the whistle stops to serve passengers and to deliver merchandise”. An elder citizen recalls an accommodating brakeman stopping long enough at Camp Westfall to drop off a mattress. Cool remembers a stop to drop him off at the farm of his grandparents.

Louise Goehring Scott’s first train trip by herself occurred when her grandmother put her on the train in Mifflinburg and she went up to Camp Westfall. She couldn’t believe that this huge thing was going to stop for her. But it did, right in front of Camp Westfall.

Some of the railroad men brought additional social benefits to the communities. Cal Osman, a foreman for the railroad company, was a noted fiddler for dances in the area.

In 1930, Harry Paige, engineer on the only passenger train making the daily trip over the L & T, had a new one pulled on him by a little girl. Running along near Lindale in the Paddy Mountain section, the engineer saw the flag signal set against him and a little girl standing along the track. He brought his train to a stop and smilingly asked the little girl if she wanted to get on the train. “Oh no sir,” she replied, “but will you please mail this letter for me in your train post office?” And what could poor Harry do but mail it? ¹

It was fun but a little scary to catch a glimpse of one of the hobos jumping on a slow freight car or hiding out at a siding. It’s like a puzzle to try and figure out the signs in the “Code of the Road”, hobo language, carved on the Weikert Station. Luther Gette, “Luther the Jet”, and

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Passenger train stopped near Weikert. From the collection of Dr. Donald Mayes.

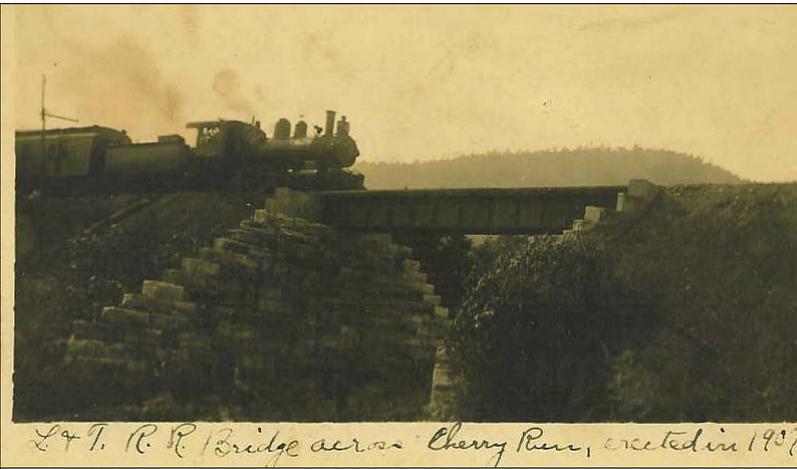
The Millmont Times

OCTOBER 2006

Millmont Mailbox by Postmaster Sam Smith

It's hard to believe that autumn is here already! I am looking forward to a week of vacation in Arizona, starting on October 14. If you guessed that baseball might be involved, you would be right! The Arizona Fall League will be in full swing, and I will be enjoying the sunshine and attending some games. Tony will take care of all your mailing needs in my absence. October is also National Stamp Collecting month. Stamp Collecting, or philately, is an educational, entertaining, and inexpensive hobby. Commemorative stamps depict American history and culture, and add color and personalize your mailings. While stamps may increase in value for collectors, they will never decrease in value as they will always be worth the face value on them! You don't have to spend a lot to build an enjoyable, educational collection. You can even start out by collecting used stamps from envelopes and packages you receive in the mail. Parents can spend quality time with their children, organizing their collections and learning more about each stamp subject. New stamps issued in October will include the Holiday stamps: Holiday Snowflakes: 4 different designs, Oct 5, Chacon Madonna and Child with Bird, Oct 18, and the Southern Florida Wetland stamp, a pane of 10 different stamps, the 8th in the Nature of America series. This would be a great time to start or continue your collection! The Post Office will be closed October 9th in honor of Christopher Columbus.

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L & T. R. R. Bridge across Cherry Run, erected in 1907.

An east bound Lewisburg & Tyrone train is photographed as it is about to cross the trestle at Cherry Run. This trestle was completely reconstructed in 1907. From the collection of Dr. Donald Mayes.

George Horton, past Kings of the Hobos, said that “R. Wolfe” and “Percy” whose names appear there, were nationally famous as through travelers. A local boy – definitely not a hobo – Owen Walter Everett, also clearly carved his initials, OWE, on the little building.²

Johnny Witmer shipped a red canoe from Be-gomey’s Sporting Goods Store in Sunbury to Cherry Run. Once the train did stop in Weikert to unload a house – well, pieces of a house really - be-ing shipped from Holsopple.³

If the train was not stopping in Weikert, William “Pappy” McColm, a Civil War veteran, would hang the outgoing mailbag on a post for the train-man to grab with a hook. He then carried the in-coming mailbag that the trainman had thrown off, back to the home of Postmaster, Mrs. Reed Pursley, for the mail to be sorted. For this work he received \$4.00 or \$5.00 per month.⁴

Sometimes the cars were too hot or too cold and always dirty from the coal dust. Ashes and smoke were blown back from the engine and tender. The phrase, “the wrong side of the tracks”, comes from the description of the usually poorer sides of towns that got the railroad dirt whenever the prevailing winds would blow.⁵

We knew that we were riding over land that was purchased from our families mostly during 1875 – 1877. Acres and perches were obtained for \$1.00 to \$393.00 from the Bohnestiehls, Bingamans, Galers, the Rote estate, McCurdys, Pursleys, Fees, Horners, Hironimus, Libbys, Dunlaps, Goodlanders and Marstons.⁶

Teenager Leona Sholter (now Wirt) rode the train to high school in Laurelton. She had to leave school early in the after-noon before the last class so that she could walk the mile and a half to the Glen Iron station and catch the westbound train home to Weikert. Frequently, mill owner, Andy Herbster, would be traveling through Laurelton and would give her a ride to the station instead of her having to do the hike. Leona says that he liked her because she was Ace’s daughter.⁷

The afternoon eastbound saw a young Mary Koons board the train in Mifflinburg after school and ride on a pass to Vicksburg, where her father served as the railroad agent. Things were slow enough at the Vicksburg stop in the afternoon that Mary and her father were able to work in the garden they had planted there. At the end of the workday, she particularly enjoyed the ride back to Mifflinburg with her father in the auto he had purchased when he got the job in Vicksburg.⁸

Tillie Catherman Folk took the train from Swengel to Mifflinburg for music lessons and for high school exams.⁹

Further west, Jimmy Snook hiked from his cabin near Butter Rock over the middle of Little Mountain to the tracks near Lindale Station. Then he would flag the westbound train and ride to Poe Paddy Tunnel where he disembarked. Slowly and successfully he would fish the hatches and the swarms working his way around the mountain to get on the eastbound train and ride home.

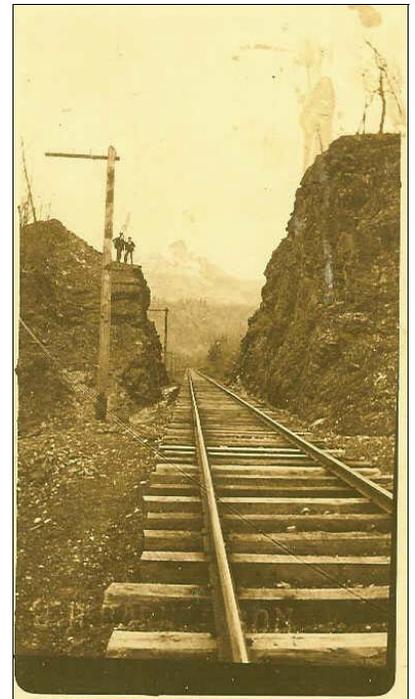
Quentin Snook, Jimmy’s son told of listening with his ear on the track for the thrill of hearing the train coming. We are not so brave or foolish, surely.¹⁰

There were very few unpleasant views on our ride but a disturbing area was 78 acres of woodland along the tracks, particularly near mile marker 30, from one to three miles west of Cherry Run. A fire started by sparks from the train had burned valuable timber on the land of George Sholter. H. Catherman, D.C. Johnson, D. Libby, A. Rote, J. F. Catherman, J. Libby, O. Goodlander and Z. T. Galer all owned land here as well.¹¹

We all were saddened though when we passed the spot where young David Dorman was killed by an eastbound passenger train in June of 1899 while tending his father’s cows. It was presumed that he sat down and fell asleep on the tracks and did not hear the afternoon eastbound train.¹²

Jenny Libby Lamey had a boyfriend named Andy from Mifflinburg who was killed while working on the railroad.¹³

In April 1898, well-known Hartleton huckster, William S. Moyer, was killed about a mile west of Millmont by the eastbound 11:30 am freight when he attempted to cross the



This photograph shows the deep cut through the ridge on the L & T line west of Weikert. From the collection of Dr. Donald Mayes.

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BIRD TALK

By Jim McCormick



“...but there was more, much more, to come.” A late August rain, combined with the remnants of Hurricane Ernesto, gave us about a foot of rain in a week, swelling the streams over their banks and awakening Penns Creek from its late summer trickle to become a roaring torrent. Wilson’s field on the edge of town became a lake, attracting a flock of about fifty Tree Swallows, appearing from nowhere. They lined up on the power lines seeming to take in all the excitement, some swooping down for a closer look. The water also filled the small dried-up ponds, rejuvenating the frogs, but unfortunately, judging from the bodies scattered on the roadway, this was a costly final fling.

On an early September weekend I took my regular walk. Saturday was so foggy I could hardly see more than a few feet around me. What was so frustrating was the fact that I could hear plenty of bird activity, seemingly very close to me—quite a contrast to most of August. The next day was completely different; the fog had lifted and everything was clear. I had only reached the edge of town and noticed several birds flying around in the trees next to the road. I stopped and saw that one of them was a Brown Thrasher. As I followed its movements, I noticed that there were two, then three others flying around in the same tree. This is unusual even when they first begin to appear in early May, but this was September. Before long I realized there were at least five flying from tree to tree. This event would normally have been enough to ‘make my day’, *“but there was more, much more, to come.”* I noticed more activity in the trees behind the Thrashers. I saw flashes of gray and white. There were two, then three, then four Northern Mockingbirds, seemingly ‘playing’ the same ‘chase me’ game. I watched this play for some time on this pleasant Sunday morning. I was about to leave the birds to their games when I saw a Gray Catbird fly up into one of the trees. Here was the whole Mimid family, all in one place. I did notice, however, that they seemed to have little to do with each other. I left this family of ‘mimics’ and continued on my walk; I didn’t get far though. Across the field I again saw a flurry of bird activity along the northern fence line. I could see flashes of blue and white moving in and out of the bushes along the fence. Then I saw the source of all the activity—an American Kestrel. There must have been at least eight Blue Jays harassing a single Kestrel. The Kestrel would fly up into the air and swoop right back down to the same branch. Several Blue Jays would then dive down and seemingly ‘hit’ the Kestrel. I couldn’t figure out why the Kestrel didn’t just fly away. I finally made it to Penns Creek with these early morning scenes still on my mind. When I reached the ‘dip’ along Canada Drive, I noticed something along the edge of the Creek. It was the back of a Great Blue Heron concentrating on something in the water. I stood there, frozen, watching this large bird as it was fishing for its breakfast. It is so interesting to watch Herons as they ‘cock’ their head and follow the slightest movements in the water. I noticed, too, that as it moved forward, it would thrust its leg almost straight backward. Was it using it as a rudder, so it could pivot in the current? Unfortunately, a car came down the road and the Heron took flight just before it made its move, but it was a pleasure to watch this expert fisher at work. All this and I hadn’t even made it half way around my walk. We are so fortunate to have such interesting creatures still living in our presence; we need only grab our binoculars and take it all in.

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George Sholter and Pappy” McCole at Weiker Station. From the collection of Dr. Donald Mayes.

tracks with a wagonload of produce.¹⁴

James Thompson, a brakeman, had a fatal fall from the top of a car between the Paddy Mountain Tunnel and the Beaver Dam Tunnel.¹⁵

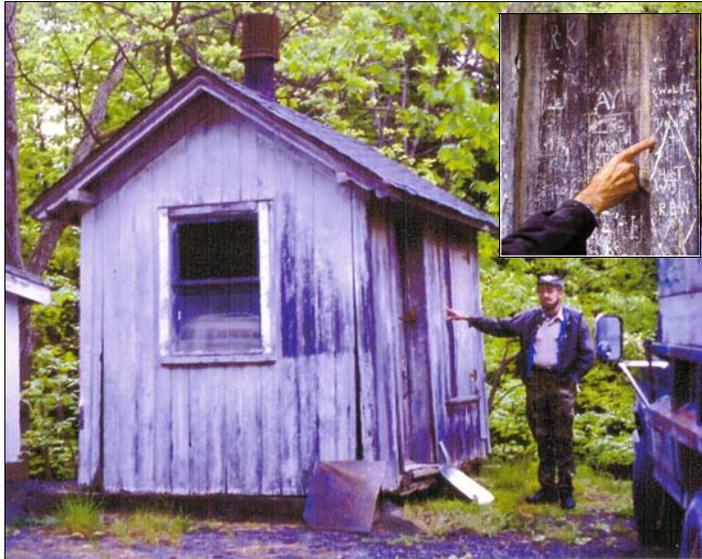
We had also heard the legend of the sadly ill-fated 19-year-old Liz who loved not too wisely but too well. Elizabeth, a boarding house waitress in Pardee, upon learning that her lover and soon to be father to her unborn child was leaving the area, supposedly lay down on the railroad tracks. Near Thomas Mill she was run over by the roaring work train.¹⁶

Occasionally, the eastbound train served as an ambulance – usually not successfully as the patients died, as did the child Clarence Dale Jolly, before reaching the hospitals in Lewisburg or Sunbury.¹⁷

More pleasantly, we noted the women boarding the train in Mifflinburg to travel to Laurelton to get their hats at the millinery shop of Ida Voneida. Jennie and Alice Libby were very well dressed when they rode into Mifflinburg to shop. They had beautiful clothes and dresses and

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Luther Gette, “Luther the Jet” points to markings (see insert) on the “Weiker” Railroad Station. These markings are evidence that hobos traveled through the valley during the operation of the railroad. Today this station is owned by Eugene Kahley of Weikert. From the collection of the author.

wore watches and gold bracelets.

The Bingamans also rode the train to Mifflinburg to shop for clothes and go to the dentist.¹⁸

It is suspected that many romances occurred on or about the trains. Probably the most extravagant event of this sort was the private train that was hired to bring guests from Philadelphia and return them there after Miss June Church’s wedding in Glen Iron. No less romantic, but definitely less showy, were the “chance” meetings of Amelia Kaler and Bob Ely near the railroad tracks after Amelia’s mother had forbade her to see Bob due to a slight automobile accident they had been in. The courtship and romance endured and they were married after six years.¹⁹

On the morning eastbound train, Johnny Witmer could frequently be seen riding from the flag stop near his family’s camp at Cherry Run on his way to his father, Judge Charles B. Witmer’s office in Sunbury. Johnny’s errand was to collect some appropriate signatures and pick up the office mail for Judge Witmer and bring it back to the cabin. He would go to his family’s home in Sunbury for a good home-cooked meal before boarding the afternoon train for the return trip to Cherry Run.²⁰

The beginning of the end –

It’s hard to imagine that this wonderful, and important to us at least, railroad line would ever be abandoned and most signs of it gone from many areas – except our hearts. But, the Pennsylvania Railroad Company, Bellefonte Branch of the Williamsport Division, began to petition to close portions. In early 1928, petitions were filed by the railroad to abandon one eastbound and one westbound train. June 1943 saw a petition by the railroad to close its non-agency baggage and freight station, Weiker, at Weikert. The switch points and their associated rails had already been removed a few years earlier. But Asa Roland Sholter and S. P. Carpenter, an attorney in the Witmer family, appeared at the hearing before the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission to protest this closing on behalf of 53 residents of Weikert and property owners of other communities. The petition to close the station was denied by the Commission.²¹

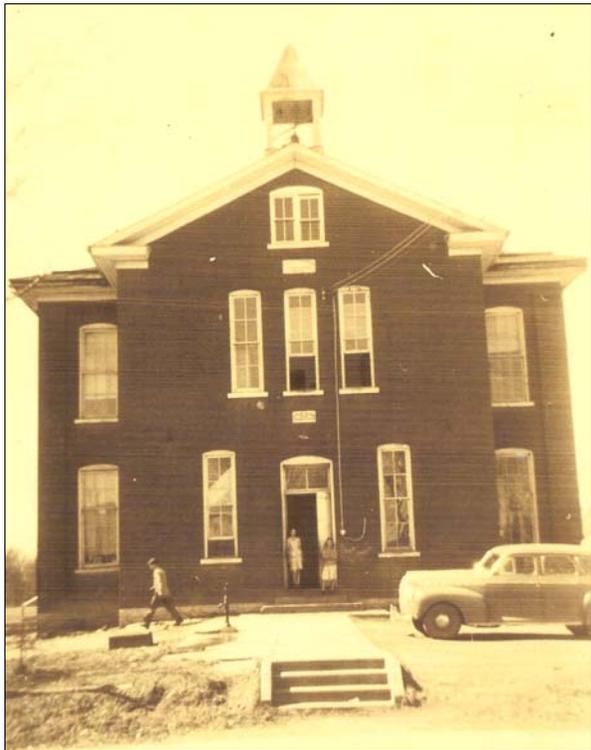
Tracks were pulled from Coburn to Mifflinburg in 1971.²²

With thanks to Michael Bezilla, Railroad Historian for additions; Nancy and Chris Clausen for corrections; Eugene Hoffman for suggestions; Bob and Jeanne Jolly for their support; and Dean Jansma for his continued patience with my projects.

End Notes

- Notes of Louise Goehring Scott in Author’s possession; Bingaman, Harry, Oral History Collection, Tape 117A. Democratic Watchman, April 18, 1930.
- Author’s correspondence with Luther Gette and George Horton, Past Kings of the Hobos. Photo in Author’s collection; Memory of Kitty Everett Fredericks.
- Witmer, John, Memories of Johnny Witmer, p 36, Author’s collection, Ott, Harold, Ott Recollections, 2003, Author’s collection.
- Union County Historical Society photo, “A Flag Stop and Pappy McColm”, Wirt, Leona Sholter, Union County Heritage, Vol. III p. 7, 1972.
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- Koons, Mary, Oral History Collection, Tape 153.
- Folk, Tillie Catherman, Oral History Collection, Tape 184.
- Quentin Snook, Oral History Collection, Tape 136B.
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- Mifflinburg Telegraph, June 16, 1899.
- Galer, Miriam, Oral History Collection, Tape 105AB.
- Millmont Times, May 1, 2004.
- Mifflinburg Telegraph, Aug. 1895.
- Steese, Dr. Charles M., “Folk Tale” column, Sunbury Daily Item.
- Barnet, Edward, Oral History Collection, Tape 158A. Newspaper article, Author’s collection.
- Galer, Miriam Lamey, Oral History Collection, Tape 105AB; Bingaman, H. Tape 117A.
- Bingaman, Harry L., Oral History Collection, Tape 117A. Ely, Amelia Kaler, Oral History Collection, Tape 100A.
- Memories of Johnny Witmer, Author’s collection.
- Newspaper article in Author’s collection – source unknown. Decisions of the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission, June 1943 – Author’s files
- Kerstetter, Rich, “Looking Back”, Centre Daily Times, March 14, 2005.

Editor’s Note: My sincere thanks to Emilie F. Jansma for submitting “A Dream of a Ride on the L & T.” It is an interesting and informative perspective on a lost treasure that once dissected the heart of Buffalo Valley. Emilie’s two part article certainly rekindled memories of those old enough to recall when passenger and freight trains regularly used the rail line. Hopefully this series of articles has enlightened those who have little or no memory of the Lewisburg and Tyrone Railroad.



Hartley Township High School in Laurelton.

The 2006 Hartley Township High School Reunion

By Eleanor (Hoffman) Hoy

The Hartley Township High School reunion was held the afternoon of September 9th at the Country Cupboard Restaurant in Lewisburg, with 30 people present. The classes represented were 1932, 1934, 1935, 1936, 1937, 1940, 1941, 1945, 1946, 1947, and 1948.

This event brought back many memories of the days I spent in first through fourth grades, and again in sixth grade at the old elementary school, which later became the West End Library and Laurelton Community Center. In eighth grade I returned to Hartley Township school district, and graduated from there in 1948. This was the last class to graduate from Hartley Township before it was consolidated with the Mifflinburg Area School District.

When I started as a freshman in 1944 there were 15 members in our class – Joan Alleman, Shirley Benner, Samuel Diehl, Dorothy Gross, David Hoffmaster, Clair Katherman, Isabel Kramer, Jean Lukens, Esther Pick, Peggy Saugher, Miriam Schell, June Shively, Mary Ellen Strouse, Roger Zimmerman, and me. By our sophomore year we were down to 11 students. During our junior and senior years there were 9 of us.

Paul Reamer was the principal and also taught Algebra, Geometry, Trigonometry, General Science, Chemistry and Physics. Martha Hackenburg taught History and Civics. Myrna Hines taught English, Literature, Latin, and Physiology until our senior year when she went to the

Mifflinburg High School to teach, and Mary Pollack took her place. The girls also had Mrs. Harold Hummel for Home Economics one day each week for two periods. Paul Reamer and Martha Hackenburg also went to teach at Mifflinburg the following year.

My mother was not happy with the instructions we were getting in Home Economics. Our one project was to make a skirt in sewing class. My mother made most of my clothes at that time and knew what size pattern I needed while the teacher insisted I needed a different size. We followed the teacher's instructions and when I finished sewing it I was unable to wear it because it was too small. The next black mark my mother gave the teacher was when we were taught to cook oatmeal. My mother's remark to that was "Who can't boil water and add oatmeal!" Now this was before the day of instant oatmeal. Another time we made marshmallows. Marshmallows were cheap to buy, so again my mother thought that was wasted time and money for the ingredients.

Latin was not a required subject but was offered. I took it for two years, now I wonder why. In literature class I remember reading Silas Mariner, Moby Dick and Lady of the Lake. This was not one of my favorite classes.

We didn't have a gym, or gym classes, but on nice autumn and spring days we would go out and play softball. Years ago Hartley Township was known for its excellent boys soccer and baseball teams. They still had a soccer team when I was a freshman, but in later years there weren't enough boys to make up a team.

Every day was started by the entire high school coming to Mrs. Hackenburg's room for assembly. A student read from the Bible, another led the singing of a couple of songs. We had several students who could play the piano to accompany the singing.

There were no business courses, although there was a manual typewriter we were allowed to use. However, there was no one to instruct us on how to use it. We also had a mimeograph machine, which the teachers used to print programs for different activities. I have our Baccalaureate, Class Night, and Commencement programs, but they have faded so much that I can't read all of the words on them.

The little pump in front of the high school furnished the drinking water, and there were no inside bathroom facilities, just the outhouse in the back of the school building. There also was no cafeteria. Everyone carried their own lunch boxes with sandwiches, cake or cookies and a thermos with hot soup or cold milk. The town kids were allowed to go home for lunch.

There were three school busses that brought the pupils to the elementary and high school buildings. The word middle school had not been heard of back then. Today we have another new term, Intermediate School. Jim Bingaman's bus route was the Laurel Park and Glen Iron area, while Donald Zimmerman's route included Weikert and Lincoln Chapel. Leroy Shirk's route included the Hartleton area, west on Route 45 to the dairy barn at the Laurelton Village, and then south on Route 235 into Laurelton.

Three of us came from Hartleton – Peggy Saugher, Dave Hoffmaster, and me. At this time Hartleton students had a choice

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Meanderings

by
Hertha S. Wehr

Idaho

Several weeks ago I attended the wedding of a granddaughter living in Idaho. It was a nice affair. As we saw a little of the area around Boise I began to think of the time several years ago when we took a mail boat cruise up the Snake river. I thought you might be interested in reading about that adventure.

I had read about the postal service having a mail route up the Snake River but it wasn't until several years later that we got around to planning a trip west that would include the Mail Boat Cruise.

In 1919 there were ranches along the Snake that could not be reached by roads on the Idaho side of the River. A mail route was started, running up Hell's Canyon to get service to the ranches. The contract called for a once a week delivery. A family by the name of Beamer has the contract for mail delivery. They have incorporated an excursion, along with the mail route, for people wanting to experience the rapids without going on a white river rafting trip. Hell's Canyon has a lot of rapids so they use jet boats to make the run.

We boarded the boat at Beamer's Landing, just outside of Lewiston, Idaho. As we proceeded up river the scenery was awesome, we went through gorges that were several thousand feet deep. Some places there were small beaches where wild life came to drink. I'm not sure what the wild life ate as we saw very little vegetation. Some of the walls had petro-

glyphs that are hundreds of years old, and possibly thousands. We cruised slowly to these remarkable drawings and held our position so we could examine them closely. This was evidence that someone had lived in the canyon, or at least visited there many years ago. We were told that at one time mining had taken place on the riverbanks.

I was interested to see that there were markers on the shores, on either side of the river that had navigational information on them. I first observed them when the pilot was steering in their direction. When I asked about the markers, the pilot explained that the Coast Guard had surveyed the river years ago. The markers were put there as navigational guides to avoid the massive rocks that cannot always be seen from the boats.

We stopped at ranches along the way. Some had the traditional mailboxes, large size, on the bank. Some had a closed container where the mail was placed. One stop had a man on an ATV waiting for the mail. We were up river about 70 miles when we stopped at a lodge the Beamers keep for over-night guests. There we had a very nice dinner and visited with the other people on the tour. The cottages were well kept. After breakfast we boarded the boat again and ran up river for several more miles, seeing a different kind of terrain. There is a dam on the Snake River called Hell's Canyon Dam. All navigation is forbidden for 17 miles below the dam. We returned to Lewiston about 3 o'clock in the afternoon.

On the way down the river we saw some quiet pools where rafters had pulled in and were resting after running some very wild rapids. The rapids have a higher rating where other rivers flow into the Snake. The Salmon River, Imnaha River, and the Grande Ronde River all flow into the Snake between Lewiston and the dam on the Snake. One would not think there was so much water flowing north, toward the Pacific Ocean, when much of Idaho is on the northern edge of the Great Basin. But then, one realizes that much of this water in the area we visited is contained within great gorges.

It was a great trip. Had wonderful scenery, lots of historical facts and sights, something to remember.

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of either going to Mifflinburg to high school or to Hartley Township, but you had to furnish your own transportation to either place. I wanted to go to Hartley Township since most of my elementary school days were there. Of course we rode Leroy Shirk's bus, which was driven by Pierce Feaster.

Our class started having fundraisers during our freshman year with the money to be used towards a class trip to Washington, D.C. We held several box socials during the years and also made salted peanuts and sold them to the other students. Our biggest fundraiser was our food stand at the West End Fair during our senior year.

The box socials were a lot of fun and well attended, even by some parents. The female class members decorated a box, usually with crepe paper, and filled it with sandwiches, sometimes carrot and celery sticks, maybe a bag of potato chips, cake, or cookies. The idea was that you didn't let anyone know how you decorated your box. They were then auctioned off to the boys attending the social. We were lucky as the boys were returning from World War II and had money to spend. Whoever bought a particular box ate with the person who filled and decorated it. Afterwards we would square dance. Several men from the area played musical instruments for us and called for the dances.

When we made peanuts we would go to one of our classmates homes, where we always had a good time. The one time we made them at our place my mother mixed up sugar and water to make pull taffy. She had us grease our hands with butter and go out on the back porch where it was cold to pull into taffy. You had to pull it while it was still hot. We threw it from one to the other and I don't remember if it was edible or not.

If I remember correctly, the West End Fair at that time was held from Wednesday through Saturday. First we had to pitch

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Members of the Class of 1948 at the Hartley Township High School. Front row, left to right: Peggy Saugher, Dorothy Gross, Miriam Schell, Jean Lukens, Shirley Benner, and Clair Catherman. Back row, left to right: Eleanor Hoffman, David Hoffmaster, teacher, Paul Reamer, Roger Zimmerman, and Martha Hackenburg.

a tent to serve as a kitchen, with help from parents . It was also a place for the boys to sleep, since they stayed there all night. In front of the tent was a counter made of wood, which was used by students in the years prior to ours. We sold hamburgers, hot dogs, soft drinks, milk, pie, and candy bars. We canvassed the area for people to bake pies and donate them to our stand. Our location on the grounds was very good, as we were right next to the stage where the entertainment was held. As people watched the acts on stage they also ate. We made a lot of money, but were lucky to have had it.

The Sunday following the fair we had to dismantle everything and as the afternoon went on we decided we would go for a ride up to the fire tower. At this time our moneybox, unlocked, was sitting on a tree stump near the stand. A lot of our bills were not paid at the time to the different people for the meat, buns, soft drinks, etc. Anyway, we got into cars and left the fair grounds for the fire tower, climbed it, and saw a very nice view of the area. All the time our moneybox was sitting on the tree stump. To our joy the box was still there when we returned, and we were a happy group. Can you imagine that happening today?

In looking over the items I've collected on the Hartley Township High School, I found that in 1938 the senior class put on a play named "Here Comes Charlie." The first night's performance was a disaster as there was a power failure from west of Mifflinburg to the west end of Union County. However, the play did go on by kerosene lights, according to the newspaper clipping.

Our senior class play ten years later was "Here Comes Hattie." We also had problems with the lighting system going off and on during our performance. However, this only affected the school unlike the 1938 power failure. Our stage consisted of sawhorses with boards over the top, which squeaked with every movement. The curtains consisted of a wire strung across the room with material attached to the wire, which someone had to open and close between acts. We performed for the inmates at the Laurelton State Village as well as two performances at our school. There again there was no auditorium, so the audience had to sit at desks, thus limiting the seating.

Our school also took field trips on a school bus. The two trips I remember were to Harrisburg and Penns Cave.

We finally reached the end of our education at Hartley Township High School. May 16, 1948 we had a Baccalaureate service in the Laurelton Lutheran Church. Rev. Fenstemaker was the minister. May 18th we had Class Night at the high school complete with Class History, Class Song written by Paul Reamer to the tune of "Now Is The Hour", Class Poem, Class Will, and Prophecy. Our Class Colors were blue and gold and the class flower was a yellow rose. The Class Motto being "Success is sweet but the secret of success is work."

May 20th was commencement at the Laurelton Lutheran Church. The class members were Shirley Benner, Dorothy Gross, David Hoffmaster, Clair Katherman, Jean Lukens, Peggy Saugher, Miriam Schell, Roger Zimmerman, and I. After graduation we all went up to Millheim to Dot & Bills Restaurant for something to eat.

Our Class Trip was to Washington, D.C. for several days by chartered bus. We had a great time together touring the historic places, a moonlight cruise, and a tour of Mount Vernon. This was the last time we were together as a class, as we never had a reunion. Two members of my Class of 1948 are deceased, Clair Katherman and David Hoffmaster.

Editor's note: My thanks to Eleanor (Hoffman) Hoy for submitting this article and for providing photographs of the Hartley Township High School and the Class of 1948. I appreciate Eleanor's continuing support of the newsletter, and for sharing her memories of growing up in the west end of Union County. Be sure to read Eleanor's next article that will be featured in the December issue of The Millmont Times. That article is entitled "My Memorable Christmas."

Public meetings to be held in the Lewis Township Municipal Building

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

The small photograph in the upper left hand corner of page one shows a view of the Lewisburg & Tyrone Railroad line (c. 1890's) looking east, from the east portal of the Paddy Mountain Tunnel. From the collection of Mike Bezilla.

Jonathan Bastian Needs Your Help!!!

In an effort to better understand the employees of the Pardee Lumber Company I am looking for information on the people listed below. I am looking for information such as dates of birth, dates of death, location of their tombstones, residency, spouse's names, children's names etc. If you have any other information relating to the Pardee Lumber Company, or any of the individuals listed below, I would greatly appreciate it. Thank you for any assistance that you may be able to provide. You can contact me at Jonathan Bastian, 393 Oil Well Road, Mifflinburg, PA, 17844. My telephone number is 966.6009. Or you can contact me at the following email address: jdbastian@dejazzd.com

"Polly" "Hawk"

Burt Adams
Calvin Ailey
Isaac or Isaiah Bell
Adam Blazer
Philip Blazer
Francis Blee
Wesley Boop
Charles Chamberlin
John Dauberman
Charles Dormer
Henry Eisener
Charles Erb
Forry Fetterolf
John Fetterolf
Horace Freed
John Goodlander
Oscar Goodlander
Otto Gordell
Frank Goss
Howard Harter
Charles Heimback
Sam Henry
Charles Hoff
William "Bill" Jordon
Henry Keister
Jonas Keister
Monroe Knepper
Penrose Knepper

Ammon Kuhns
Vergie Kuhns
John Kuhns
Albert Lichtenwalter
Ammon Long
Mrs. Frank Maze
William McColm
Charles Ocker
William Pursley
John Quigley
William Rhamstine
John Rheppart
Will Rowe
Sally Schreiner
Wesley Shamory
Henry Sholter
John Sipe
Mary Snook
Oliver Spacht
Christ Springer
Charles Stitzer
Mrs. Charles Stitzer
Bill Treaster
Harry Walls
Mrs. Harry Walls (Jesta)
Michael Wenrich
Anna Yarger
Mary Zimmerman

Thank You!

I would like to thank the following people for making monetary donations toward the publication of this newsletter: Harold and Catherine Shively, Geneva, OH; Wendy Wehr, Minneapolis, MN; John and Brenda Weaver, Millmont; Clifford and Diane Valentine, Millmont; Fred and Janet Miller, Mifflinburg; John and Teresa Crerand, Milford; James and Helen Camp, Millmont; and Shawn and Crystal Walter, Millmont.

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: Paul and Carol Kampa, Belleville; David Swartz, Millmont; Bill and Anne Little, Millmont; John and Teresa Crerand, Milford; Fred Klock, Millmont; Deb Hommel, Lewisburg; and Brooke Zechman, Millmont. If you would like to join the more than 220 subscribers who are currently receiving a FREE color version of The Millmont Times each month via the Internet, please sign up now at: millmonttimes@dejazzd.com

Welcome to the following new mail subscribers: Shawn and Crystal Walter, Millmont; David Sampsell, 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!!

I would also like to thank Emilie F. Jansma, of State College and Weikert, for furnishing numerous records pertaining to individuals and businesses located in the west end of Union County; Joyce Walter, of Hartleton, for allowing me to copy material from her collection; Shirley Walter, of Millmont, for allowing me to photograph a circa 1890's photograph from the logging era; and James Hartley, of Selinsgrove, for providing me with material relative to Colonel Thomas Hartley. Special thank you to Donald Shively for providing me with a 1970 photograph of the Jacob and Florence Shively family.

Thanks also to David W. Diehl, of Lewisburg, Eleanor and Donald Hoy, of Mifflinburg, and John Iddings, of Mifflinburg, for providing me with information relative to Hairy John's Park.

Letters and E-mails to the Editor

Tony, Thanks so much for sending the Sept. issue! It looks great and I was delighted to see the "color" photos, but especially love the old ones. It is also a treasure when they are submitted with the names of people in the photos. Save the postage on the rest of our subscription, which was a gift from my parents, August & Dolores Barnett who used to live in Laurelton but now are in Harrisonburg, VA. I already told them I was switching to receiving it by Internet. Use what is left to treat yourself to those phenomenal sized ice cream cones down there in Hartleton, or some such treat that would interest you!
Thanks again for your prompt reply!

Teresa Crerand, Milford, PA

Tony, while spending a few days with my mother (Hertha), I've picked up some back issues of The Millmont Times. The articles are entertaining and informative, plus they've led me to lots of reminiscing with my mom. Please accept this donation toward your publishing expenses. Also, I've wondered whether you're thinking about setting up a web site? Each month you could send your Internet subscribers a link to the latest issue, and your readers could enjoy access to back issues too. Thanks for giving local residents a voice for their thoughts and for preserving additional bits of local history.

Wendy Wehr, Minneapolis, MN

Tony & Janice, I really look forward to receiving T.M.T. I especially enjoyed the articles on the railroad and the C.C.C. camps. I am enclosing a subscription for my sister. Thank you so much for all that you are doing.

Shirley Walter, Millmont

Penlines From my Kitchen to Yours

August 12, 2006

Clarence and Ruth Reiff of Millmont have a daughter named Laura Mae. She has one sister and three brothers. Grandparents are Aaron and Laura Reiff of Millmont and Harvey and Ruth Horning of Mifflinburg.

August 20

Eugene and Lydia Ann Oberholtzer of Mifflinburg have a daughter named Mary Jane. She has four sisters and three brothers. Grandparents are Allen and Lucy Oberholtzer of Mifflinburg and Harvey and Martha Hoover of Kentucky.

August 24

Today was a nice day for the wedding at Daniel Martin's for their daughter Sarah Ann and Elvin Zimmerman.

Duane Shirk, son of Eli and Anna of Mifflinburg, and Grace Oberholtzer, daughter of Henry and Martha, also of Mifflinburg, have their special day planned for September 21, 2006.

August 30

This is the first day for the girls to go back to school again. It had been planned to start yesterday, but it rained very heavy at times, so it was postponed until today.

September 4

Floyd Weaver (54) of Lewisburg, is recovering from surgery. This was the second time within the last year that he has undergone surgery.

Tonight when I went to put clean towels in the bathroom cabinet, Pauline was taking her bath. She told me "I have lots of washcloths." She had so many in the tub that I decided to count them. There were a total of 18.

September 10

Merle Hoover, son of Lewis and Verna Hoover of Lewisburg, and Melissa Shaffer, daughter of Tim and Crystal Shaffer of Middleburg, are engaged to marry on February 17, 2007.

Today Beavertown God's Missionary Church had baptismal services. Merle and Melissa were both baptized, along with a large group of others.

What lies before, and what lies ahead,
Are small matters,
Compared to what lies within.

Tonight Carl Weaver (Ivan) of Beaver Springs, was ordained to be a minister. He is married to Curvin's cousin Vera. She is a daughter of Leroy and Eva Hoover of Millmont.

September 11

Duane Hoover, three-month-old son of Ervin and Carolyn Hoover, has pneumonia.

Our neighbors, Phares and Susan Reiff, have a son named Anthony. He has one brother and two sisters. Grandparents are Phares and Lena Reiff of Lewisburg and Harvey and Rachel Burkholder of Shilo, Ohio.

Looking Back

The article below was originally published in one of the local newspapers on October 17, 1890. It is copied verbatim.

MILLMONT

Millmont is a beautiful little village situated along the branch of the L. & T. R. R. The town is ornamented with some very beautiful residences, and is composed of three streets, running directly north and south and one running east and west. The first street running north and south leads to the old and well established grist mill formerly owned by J. D. Knauer and to the quiet little village of Hartleton 1 ½ miles north. The town is composed of three stores, one church, two dry goods and one clothing store, post office, shoe shop, blacksmith shop, a school house just located outside of town, a shutter factory conducted by Royer and Strickler and a box factory and planning mill, under the firm name of Smith, Cawley & Co. The latter building is a large one, two stories high and is 65x90 feet. They have in their employ twenty men who are doing all in their power to fill the many orders with which they are rushed. It was your reporter's pleasure to be shown through this well equipped factory by the foreman, Mr. R. H. Watson. The roof of the building is composed of tin. The population is about 300.

A citizen told me that they handled an immense amount of freight at the R. R. station, and, judging from the number of men employed in a few of the stores, they must be doing a rushing business. It is remarkable what a number of visitors tarry in this place to enjoy the cool breezes.

JOE.

Wanted

I am currently gathering information and photographs pertaining to people and places. Perhaps you can give me some help? I am searching for information and photographs relating to Hairy John's Park located near the Union/Centre County border. I am particularly interested in finding photographs of the concession stand that was located on the north side of Route 45. This stand was operated by Harry Mensch, George Hickernell, and Max Hosterman. If you have any photographs of this building that you would be willing to share, please contact me at the number below. If you have any memories you would like to share, I would appreciate that as well.

I am also interested in locating photographs of a number of individuals, including Miles Reeder, who served as Game Protector in Union County from 1920 until 1936, and Art Snyder who served as Fish Warden of Union County for a number of years. I would appreciate any assistance. My telephone number is (570) 922.4297, or you can email me at:

millmonttimes@dejazzd.com

My mailing address is: The Millmont Times,
P. O. Box 3, Millmont, PA 17845.

Recipe of the Month

By Janice (Dorman) Shively

Herbed Pork & Potatoes

1/2 C. olive oil
1 tsp. dried thyme or 3 tsp. minced fresh thyme
2 tsp. minced garlic
2 tsp. dried minced onion
(I use *Tastefully Simple Onion Onion Seasoning Blend*)
1 tsp. season-all salt
1 tsp. coarsely ground pepper
1 tsp. ground mustard
1 lb. pork tenderloin
1 pound small potatoes, quartered

In a small bowl, combine the first 7 ingredients. Place the pork in a large shallow baking pan. Drizzle with three fourths of the herb mixture. Place potatoes in a large plastic

bag and toss with remaining herb mixture; place potatoes around pork.

Bake uncovered, at 375° for one hour or until meat thermometer reads 160° and potatoes are tender. Let pork stand for 5 minutes before slicing. Yield: 3–4 servings.

This recipe originally appeared in a *Simple & Delicious* magazine. I've adjusted it to our liking, and have come up with this recipe. This makes a relatively small meal, and would be suitable for those cooking for one or two people, with some leftovers!



Enjoy!

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

Christ Lutheran Church will be holding a Pot Pie Supper on Saturday, November 4th, from 3:00 p.m. until ? Three varieties of pot pie, chicken, beef, and ham, will be served family style. For more information you can contact Shirley at 966.0034.

From the diary of the late Elder Greene Shively, born in White Spring in 1870 and a resident of Millmont from 1918 until his death in 1954:

Wednesday October 27, 1943. Forty two degrees again this morning, and rainy. Received a letter yesterday from Alfred George of Quakertown, Pa, inquiring as to whether I would be available as pastor. I replied stating that considering the circumstances I did not think advisable to undertake the duties of a pastor.

Thursday October 28, 1943. Still raining more or less. Rainy all day. Doing some reading.

Friday October 29, 1943. Clear, with high wind, 64 degrees at noon. Making another pen for the chickens. William Musser was buried this afternoon at 2 o'clock. Born July 16, 1866. Died October 26. Interment made in Lewisburg Cemetery.

Sunday October 31, 1943. "Why Total Abstinence" Lev. 10: 1-11, Prov. 31: 4, 5. Luke 1: 13-16 G.T. Judges 13:4 Present 44 Con. \$5.37. I taught my class. Mervyn (Mensch) spoke. David's came yesterday. David, Donald and Edgar were hunting yesterday. It was the first day of the season. Donald brought grandma and I a ring-neck. As I am writing it is six o'clock p.m., a very nice day. Thermometer at 65.

Upcoming Union County Historical Society Programs

On Thursday, October 12 Laura Ruckle will present a program on the history of dolls in general and, more specifically, on the clothes worn during the period prior to the Civil War to the present. Various dolls from the speaker's collection will be displayed during the program.

A charter member of the Susque-Hannah Doll Club, she has been active with the group for 38 years. Her collection of dolls stands at 1,400 dolls, most of which are housed in the "Doll House" built by her husband, Charles. Visitors to the Doll House are welcome, but it is necessary to call in advance for an appointment. She and her husband have lived in western Union County for 52 years. Laura was an art teacher in the Mifflinburg Elementary and Middle Schools for thirty years.

This program will be presented at 7:30 p.m. in the Laurelton Community Center, located in the village of Laurelton. The program is open to the public, and is free of charge.

The Annual John B. Deans Dinner and Program will be held on Thursday, November 9, beginning at 6:00 p.m. at the Car-

(Continued on page 11)

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riage Corner Restaurant in Mifflinburg. The post dinner speaker this year will be Bruce Teeple, and his topic will be "The Farringtons and the Political Culture of Moonshine in Central Pennsylvania." Bruce's talk will focus on how the people of the region, as well as their social and political institutions, responded to the Federal government's prohibition of alcohol.

Bruce Teeple is a local historian, free-lance writer, and community columnist for the Centre Daily Times. A graduate of Penn State in history and political science, Teeple worked in the University's Office and Physical Plant for over thirty years as an equipment operator. He also served as curator of the Aaronsburg Historical Museum for twenty years, and co-edited "Glimpses of the Past" and "In Schadde vun Rundhopp" (In the Shadow of Roundtop). In 2002 the Centre County Historical Society recognized Teeple's presentations on central Pennsylvania history in area schools and before various organizations. He has served on several committees for the American Association for State and Local History and recently was on the grant review committee for the History Channel's Save Our History program. Teeple is currently working on a book: "As Good As A Handshake: The Farringtons and the Political Culture of Moonshine in Central Pennsylvania."

Dinner will be buffet with choice of entrees and sides, salad, dessert and beverages. Annual awards in recognition of contributions to the Society will also be presented. Teeple's presentation will follow.

Reservations forms for the dinner and program will be sent to members. Others who wish to attend may contact the society office at 570.524.8666 to make reservations.

A Letter of Invitation to All

Reprinted from The Penns Creek Conservationist
with the permission of Charles Mattern

Getting the Lower Penns Creek Watershed Association started has been a long, slow process. The first meeting was in June 2004. By December 2004 our mission statement and some bylaws were written. In 2005 we had the first public meeting; forty-two people attended that meeting. We adopted the by-laws as written, and elected the board of directors. Since then we've filed articles of incorporation, are working on becoming a non-profit organization, and looking into insurance. We have also applied for a grant to do a baseline watershed assessment.

A small core group labored very hard to create the Lower Penns Creek Watershed Association. Meeting attendance has been small. Penns Creek and the Lower Penns Creek Watershed Association need your help! Our meetings are normally held the third Thursday of each month at the Penns Creek Adult Resource Center in the town of Penns Creek.

The Lower Penns Creek Watershed Association's responsibilities begin at the confluence with Cherry Run and end at the Isle of Que in Selinsgrove, where it enters the Susquehanna River. The watershed for this section of Penns Creek is over 160 square miles, and thus needs insightful and dedicated people to help enhance and preserve the environmental and esthetic values this area has to offer. The mission of the group is to protect, conserve and improve the Lower Penns Creek Watershed by promoting the wise stewardship of the land and aquatic resources.

The welfare of Penns Creek is in our hands. You can help by becoming a member, coming to meetings, and volunteering for projects. At one time Penns Creek was listed as one of the top 100 streams in the United States. We are going to work hard to restore Penns Creek to a pristine watershed and ultimately hope to return the creek to its prior glory.

The group is working on the construction of a webpage, and has an email address. The webpage can be seen at www.pennscreekwatershed.org and has an e-mail link. Tell us your thoughts, memories, or adventures along Penns Creek. There are a multitude of issues that beg for attention. In the years ahead we have much to do to restore Penns Creek's health. Know any problems or solutions? Get involved. People adopt highways to keep the roadside litter free. You can adopt a section of Penns Creek to keep it litter free. Or, inquire and take part in the watershed assessment that is about to begin.

What we're looking for is past and present assessments of the creek. Those of you who live along, or use the creek could become involved in data collection, research projects, or restorations to come. Do you remember the frog's serenade? What was it like where you live this past summer? Has anyone seen a hellbender in the past twenty years? They were water dogs when I was a boy. They're poisonous! That's what I was told. They are not! I encountered a few; most were squashed on the road or beaten to death by carp fishermen; but I did see several in their habitat. I believe, today they are all but gone from Penns Creek. Amphibians can tell us a lot about the health of the creek. So look for the frog's egg-clusters. Can you find any salamanders? Let us know what you see along the creek. How good is the fishing? See any crummy spots that need cleaned up? Contact our website and send us an email. Don't forget the location of your observation.

Memories that span fifty-seven years around the creek basically from Weikert to New Berlin, allowed me to see the hydro-geological and biological changes, the farming methods, building density, and the cultural shift in that area, from then until now.

If enough people within the boundaries of the Lower Penns Creek Watershed Association would participate from Cherry

Lower Penns Creek Watershed Association Board of Directors

Duain Shaw, President
Diane Lengle, Vice President
Ann Inderbitzin, Sec./Treas.

Mike Bilger
Dahle Bingaman
Ronald Keister
Charles Mattern

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(Continued from page 11)

Run to the Susquehanna River we could begin collecting information year by year to promote the creek's health. There are sources that cause Penns Creek ill health. They need to be investigated. For every ill there is a cure. It is the cure we seek. Building an eclectic network of this magnitude would create a database for those who are yet to come. I've noticed a dramatic increase in the snail population. Perhaps someone can enlighten us about snails. How about hellgrammites, stone cat-ties, or darters and daces? I see much smaller populations now compared to years ago. These are the types of things that should alert us and help spur conservation efforts.

October Birthdays & Anniversaries

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1 – Wendy Bilger | 17 - Kenneth & Kathy Groff - 1970 |
| 1 – Virginia Martin | 17 – Janet Renninger |
| 1 – Diane Martin | 18 – Sarah Boyer |
| 2 – Zachary Kline | 19 – Laura Dorman |
| 2 – Vernon Schramm | 19 – Thelma Brown |
| 2 – James Maust | 19 - Henry & Naomi Aurand - 1963 |
| 3 – Peggy Aikey | 20 – Maria Brubaker |
| 4 - Bob & Linda Walter - 1963 | 20 – Elisa Beaver |
| 4 – Michael Aikey | 21 – Heidi Weaver |
| 5 - John & Janet Renninger - 1968 | 24 – Richard Zechman |
| 7 – Harry Aikey | 24 – Scott Feaster |
| 9 – Betty Shoemaker | 25 – Laura Edinger |
| 9 – Teresa Yoder | 26 – Ella Mae Maust |
| 10 – Renda Shively | 26 - Marvin & Jane Benner - 1952 |
| 11 – Carol Yarger | 27 – Pauline Shively |
| 14 – Kenneth Catherman | 27 – Alvin Nolt |
| 14 – Annetta Oberholtzer | 28 - Kim & Carol Yarger - 1972 |
| 15 – Kathy Groff | 29 – Jacque Libby |
| 16 – Ralph Aikey | 30 – Arlene Martin |
| 16 – George Wert, Jr. | 31 – Elizabeth Yoder |

To make a man happy, fill his hands with work, his heart with affection, his mind with purpose, his memory with useful knowledge, his future with hope, and his stomach with food.
- Frederick E. Crane.

The Millmont Times is distributed during the first week of each month, and is available through mail subscription, a PDF through the Internet (Adobe Acrobat Reader is required), and over the counter at Dormans Country Store in Hartleton. Mail subscriptions are \$10 per year (12 issues). Internet subscriptions are FREE. Copies purchased at Dormans Store are priced at \$1.50 each.

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