



This CCC era pavilion is one of two such facilities available at Hairy John State Forest Picnic Area. A reminder to picnickers - what you carry in you must carry out.

Hairy John's State Park Part V

From the information I have gathered, Jake and Nina Bateman were the last to operate the restaurant at Hairy John's State Park. Their stint at the restaurant business lasted for about one year, concluding in 1954. When the Bateman's left the business the restaurant was vacated and closed, marking the end of an era.

Competition from restaurants located at either end of the Seven-Mile Narrows was bound to negatively impact business at

the remote mountain restaurant. It was during this same time frame that Hairy John's State Park experienced a decline in visitors. Hairy John's did not have as much to offer visitors as did nearby Poe Valley and Halfway Dam State Parks. The latter two state parks each had camping facilities and large lakes with sand beaches that provided swimming facilities during the hot summer months. Privately operated amusement resorts like Rolling Green Park in Hummels Wharf and Knoebels Grove near Elysburg had also become popular destinations for family outings.

Robert Klingman of Mifflinburg served as the Superintendent of Poe Valley State Park in Centre County. In addition to Poe Valley, Superintendent Klingman was responsible for a number of state parks located in Centre, Union and Snyder Counties. Those parks included Bear Gap, Ulsh Gap, Reed's Gap, Poe Paddy, Snyder Middlesworth, Rock Springs, and Hairy John's. When the Bureau of Parks ordered the restaurant be torn down, it was Klingman's responsibility to see that those orders were carried out during the summer of 1965. It was during this time period that the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation rebuilt Route 45 from the Centre / Union county line west through the narrows to the village of Woodward. This road-widening project was a contributing factor to the demolition of the former restaurant.

(Continued on page 2)

The Millmont Times

OCTOBER 2007

Millmont Mailbox by Postmaster Sam Smith

October is stamp collecting month, so it's a good time to try to write some interesting facts about stamps. Stamps were first used in the 19th century in Great Britain. Queen Victoria was portrayed on the first postage stamp. The first stamps issued in the United States were a George Washington: 10 cents, and Benjamin Franklin: 5 cents, in 1847. (Washington and Franklin have appeared on the most stamps in U.S. history.) Before stamps were used, the person receiving a letter would pay for it. The cost was very high, and many people couldn't afford to pay and would refuse them, causing the Post Office to lose money. Issuing stamps to prepay solved that problem. Stamp collecting is the world's most popular hobby. Many people collect stamps because it is relatively inexpensive, for the variety of stamps, and for the investment opportunity. Stamp values are determined by scarceness, condition, and desirability of the stamps. Stamp Price Guides are available at hobby stores. Different designs are used on stamps to help recognize the different values of stamps, keep interest in collecting, and to pay tribute to great citizens, celebrate natural wonders, recognize important historical events, and promote worthy causes and social issues. On October 1, the Polar Lights 41 cent stamp will be issued. The Post Office will be closed on Monday, October 8 to honor Columbus Day.

(Continued from page 1)

According to Klingman efforts were made to construct a new concession stand at the park. State Representative Karl H. Purnell of Union County helped to secure state funding for the construction of a small walkup concession stand within the park boundaries. This small stand was located a short distance from the highly traveled roadway. Summertime attendance at the state park continued to fade and it became difficult to find concessionaires to operate the stand. After a short time this concession stand closed and it was later dismantled.

Klingman stated that during Clifford Jones' tenure as head of the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, Hairy John's was transferred from the Bureau of State Parks to the Bureau of Forestry. Under new management the name of the park was changed once again. Instead of being named Hairy John's State Park, it was renamed Hairy John State Forest Picnic Area. This picnic area continues to be managed and maintained by Bureau of Forestry personnel from the Bald Eagle District.

Picnic tables, two pavilions, charcoal grills, and comfort facilities are available at the picnic area. The Mid State Trail, which begins at the Pennsylvania/Maryland border and continues through the heart of Pennsylvania to the New York border, meanders through Hairy John State Forest Picnic Area. The small spring fed pond is still present, although it is shrouded from the state highway by an understory of pine trees. The park bears little resemblance to what I remember from my childhood days when I spent time roaming the park during family gatherings. I recall when picnic tables lined both sides of Route 45 in the vicinity of the park. If your family wanted to reserve one of the pavilions it was not only necessary to get there first, but you had to get there early in the morning. It is not like that today.

The spring-fed pond, chasing chipmunks, playing with the frogspawn and catching tadpoles, insects and other critters always provided plenty of amusement for my pre teen siblings, cousins and myself during the late 1950's and early 60's. As youngsters we were captivated by Hairy John's State Park each and every time we visited.

No story about Hairy John's would be complete without delving into the life of the man for whom the park was named – John Vonada. Exactly who was this man and how and why did he become known as Hairy John? The mythology surrounding Hairy John is deeply rooted in the culture of those living in Penns and Buffalo Valleys. In addition to being a father and husband, I have read articles that describe John Vonada as a philosopher, nature lover, expert marksman, midget, patriot, a member of the Amish or Mennonite Sect, a recluse and a meek hermit who lived off the land. There have been numerous writers, including Henry Shoemaker, that seem inclined to support the presumption that Vonada murdered his wife, Susanna (Hoy) Vonada. Susanna was the mother of his four children. Speculation surrounding his wife's untimely death is alleged to have been the reason why he withdrew from society and moved to the remote forest picnic area that today bears his name.

While an abundance of information can be found about Hairy John Vonada, no known biography is believed to exist. There are wide discrepancies in this material surrounding the date and place of his birth, his life, as well as the date and place of his death. As a result of the stories, legends, and myths written about this man, it is difficult to separate fact from fiction.

People, including myself, have turned to the writings of the Rev. J. J. Weaver who wrote "Hairy John" Vonada's Life History, Colonel Henry W. Shoemaker, or other anonymous sources for information about Vonada. Shoemaker's writings are perhaps the

Lewis Township High School Alumni Gather at Hairy John's State Park

Carolyn (McClintock) Catherman has donated to me the secretary records for the Lewis Township High School Alumni covering the years 1962 though 1976. Those minutes were recorded by the alumni secretary, Miss Mildred Kleckner. It was during those years that the alumni met at Hairy John's State Park for their annual reunion. Each year Mildred recorded the names of those in attendance and some interesting facts about their get together. The group's 47th annual picnic occurred in 1962 with 52 people in attendance. As part of the record, Miss Kleckner wrote:

"Mrs. Irvin Ranck furnished music with her accordion. The men enjoyed pitching quoits while the ladies chatted with each other. Following the noon meal the President Mr. Fred Showalter conducted the business meeting. Mr. Sherman Kreisher was elected President. Mr. Harry Ruhl – Vice President. Mr. R. Ernest Ruhl – Treasurer. Miss Mildred M. Kleckner – Secretary. After a thoroughly enjoyable day, which was very hot and cloudy, everyone returned home planning to meet again next year at the same place. 1963. We regret the passing of two of our senior alumni, namely Mrs. Mary Lavina Spigelmyer Ruhl, Class of 1903, and Mrs. Carrie Hassinger Yarger, class of 1910 passed away Feb. 25 and July 27th 1963.

Also Mr. Leonard Shreckengast Class of 1925 passed away June 11, 1963, coronary thrombosis. Mr. Chester Fox passed away July 1963.

Editor's note: As the alumni aged and as members passed away, the number of attendees recorded in the minutes at the annual picnic continued to dwindle each year. By 1976 there were only 17 alumni and family in attendance at the annual reunion at Hairy John's. In all likelihood the 1976 gathering of Lewis Township Alumni at Hairy John's State Park was their last, since Kleckner's records end that year. It is also the last year for which records are known to exist.

(Continued on page 4)



BIRD TALK

by Jim McCormick

“...we had some interesting visitors.” September, with a few exceptions, seemed more like August this year--the dry, hot summer continued. Penns Creek is down to a trickle, and the lush green of summer has started taking on the colors of fall. Most of the roadside plants, once brightly colored, have matured and gone to seed. As I drive through the countryside, I see the sad reminders of this year’s drought everywhere—corn going to silage, and hay wagons only half full. Even the crickets, like the cicadas last month, have fallen silent early.

It has been a quiet month for birds as well. Late last month and into this month, however, “we had some interesting visitors.” I mentioned seeing Great Egrets near Penns Creek Pottery last month. I also mentioned the fact about trying to get a photograph of this elusive bird. Well, this month I finally got one. The Great Egret is not that rare of a bird, but it is an endangered species in Pennsylvania. I have seen them along the Susquehanna often over the years, but only rarely in our area. As I have found out, the Great Egret in Pennsylvania only nests on Wade Island near Harrisburg. There is a Great Egret rookery of about a hundred and fifty nests on the island. The island is a protected wildlife habitat and humans are banned. The Egrets breed on the island and then in late summer spread outward to ponds and shallow rivers and streams to feed on fish and frogs before migrating south for the winter. I have seen them all along Penns Creek from Selinsgrove to as far upstream as Penns Creek. They are a beautiful white bird up to forty inches tall with a long yellow beak and black colored legs. Next year start watching for these birds along Penns Creek in late summer.

Farther upstream I had some encounters with close relatives of the Great Egrets. I had been watching several Green Herons around the Covered Bridge for several weeks, and had been stalking them for a good photograph. I was watching an adult and an immature Green Heron when I heard the distinctive “cronk” of a Great Blue Heron as it landed near them. As soon as it noticed I was watching them, it instantly flew away. As it flew off I noticed another Blue Heron take off from nearby. It’s always interesting to see these creatures up close. Farther down the road, as I was coming into Millmont, I heard some Mallards obviously upset. I looked in the direction of the commotion and saw some large wings rising above the bank of Cold Run. It was another Great Blue Heron in a confrontation with the Mallards. I was only about ten yards away and the Heron noticed me standing there. Rather than immediately flying away as I expected, it lowered its long neck to ‘hide’ below the stream bank. I watched the spot for some time and the Heron slowly lifted its head up and was watching me watch it. It again lowered its head and I decided to just leave it alone. It must have really wanted to stay in that spot. Bird watching is filled with such surprises, so grab your binoculars and take it all in.



The photograph of the Great Egret is courtesy of Jim McCormick.



Field Notes, by WCO Dirk Remensnyder

Deputy Barry Cooper and I received good information about some poaching that was taking place, but we were having trouble deciding how to set up on the area to observe while also having a contact vehicle in the right location if something happened. With little planning we decided that Barry would take the state vehicle and hide and I, along with a prospective deputy candidate, would walk to the area and sit and observe. It didn’t take long to realize that Barry’s plan was a lot better than mine because as we sat out in the woods getting assaulted by mosquitoes all night, Barry sat in the comfort of the state vehicle while the owner of the property he was sitting at sent his daughter over to the state vehicle occasionally to take Barry milk and cookies.

Attention Bear hunters – Union County is still number one in the North Central Region in Bear complaints received for the year. Start making plans to scout Union County and hunt bear here this year.

(Continued from page 2)



The Mid State Trail runs through Hairy John State Forest Picnic area, which is open from sunrise to sunset.

most frequently quoted on the topic. His presentation before members of the Northumberland County Historical Society at Hairy John's State Park on July 25, 1940 is a common source of information about Vonada. That presentation was, and continues to be, widely available. However, Shoemaker was a folklorist who weaved together traditional beliefs, myths, and tales as related to him by natives of the region. While his narratives are appealing, imaginative, and colorful the information he gathered and what he wrote about Hairy John Vonada is not historical.

Evelyn McMillion, Nora Taylor, Sandra Tremain, and Joyce Adgate, all great-great-nieces of John and Susanna (Hoy) Vonada, have made attempts to research the facts and set the record straight. The courthouses in Clinton and Centre County were combed through by researchers in search of documents relative to the murder charge against Vonada. None were found. The idea that he spent the latter years of his life writing philosophically can probably also be dismissed. Shortly before his death he signed a deed by using an "X" because he could not write.

What we are left with is a short, shaggy, bearded hermit who lived off the land in a mountainous and remote region near the border of Centre/Union County. All of which sounds plausible, since courthouse documents prove that he owned land where the picnic area is located today. Whether he took in a housekeeper named Twila Monteray at his one-room cabin in the mountains is unknown. Like so many things alleged about Vonada, this too may be little more than conjecture.

Henry Shoemaker, his contemporaries, as well as modern day writers deserve credit for keeping Vonada's memory alive. However, it is Forester Arthur C. Silvius who deserves recognition for immortalizing the name of Hairy John Vonada. He worked tirelessly to transform a small patch of mountain wilderness into a beautiful state park, while at the same time unwavering in his desire to keep Hairy John's name linked to the park. Were he able to return to the park today Silvius might be disheartened by the appearance of the spring and the area around the small pond. He might also be saddened by how little the public makes use of the picnic facilities that he helped to create in 1918. However, I am sure that he would be delighted to know that the picnic area is still in existence, and that the appellation he chose for that mountain retreat - Hairy John's - remains in use today.

My thanks to following people who contributed information, photographs, or memories of Hairy John's Park: Dottie (Royer) Shirk, Mifflinburg; Emilie F. Jansma, State College & Weikert; Delphia (Jolly) Shirk, Millmont; David W. Diehl, Lewisburg; Helen (Rudy) Englehart; Randall Stover, Aaronsburg; Franklin W. Royer, Jr., Pleasant Gap; Anita Ruhl, Mifflinburg; Doris Iddings, Mifflinburg; Ruth (Stuck) Kostenbader, Lewisburg; Harold Orndorf, Woodward; Robert Klingman, Mifflinburg; Gene Manbeck, Mifflinburg; Charles Zechman, Millmont; Agnes (Shreckengast) Jernigan, South Carolina; Carolyn (McClintock) Catherman, Mifflinburg; Caroline (Bilger) Wenrick, Hartleton; Doris (Hess) Shively, Millmont; Kenneth Zechman, Penns Creek; Alice (Baker) Reitz, Millmont; Charles Mabus, Millmont; Faye (Strickler) Lyons, Mifflinburg; Betty (Strickler) Klock, Herndon; Isabel (Hosterman) Hassinger, Millmont; Rufus Balbin, Woodward; Everett Bingaman, Millmont; Marie (Rishel) VonNeida, Hartleton; Audrey (Mitchell) VonNeida, Hartleton; Marvin Benner, Mifflinburg; Shirley (Benner) Katherman, Laurelton; Wayne Benner, Millmont; Betty Buttorff, Hartleton; Lillian (Best) Vance, Aaronsburg; Donald & Eleanor Hoy, Mifflinburg; Lester Hosterman, Mifflinburg; Nancy Wenrick; the late Grace (Rudy) Englehart, the late Larue Shirk, and the late John Iddings.

Sources: Department of Forestry and Department of Forest and Waters 1895-1923 located at the Pennsylvania State Archives, Harrisburg, Pa.; Ellen

Forester Arthur C. Silvius wrote a letter to his supervisor, Robert S. Conklin in Harrisburg dated July 31, 1919. The park at Hairy John's had only been in existence for about one year. In the letter from Silvius to Conklin he included passages from the "Suggestion Book" that was made available for all visitors wishing to register their personal comments about the park. Below is an excerpt from that letter:

"We suggest that the first newspaper man or otherwise who visits this beautiful little mountain top park make a noise about it in his sheet. It is a beauty spot and should be made known to auto tourists. Mr. and Mrs. Clark." "A place as beautiful as this should be better advertised by road boards." "This is a fine place to spend idle hours as well as a resting place. Every thing lovely. J. A. C." "Great place. Kept in good condition too. No criticism, from Altoona." "I would suggest this place should be kept clean and nice as it is a beautiful place for the public to gather and spend many happy hours. We should appreciate the place, also the improvements which the forest man Mr. A. C. Silvius has done. Please use the books as they should be used. Always leave the place as you have found it. Be careful with your cigars and fire. F. D. P. Millmont" "Make cinder paths lined with white-washed stones." "Saws, slides and swings would be a great improvement. M. E. W." "Put trout in your spring and this place will be completed. C. F. Lontz, Mifflinburg." "Thanks, for the lovely time we had. Viola Blue, Milton, Pa." "I would suggest that a marker be erected to the memory of Hairy John. John H. Horner, Centre Hall, Pa." "I would suggest that improvements be continued from year to year, as finances warrant. This is a delightful spot and much appreciated by tourists. Edward E. Bailey, Centre Hall."

(Continued on page 8)

Penns Creek Angler

by Bruce Fisher

Well I was wrong; this summer was very hard on the native trout of Penns Creek. The fish had to deal with low water from mid-June until the present day. I've seen so many Osprey hit the water and come up with fish it's truly amazed me. I've seen two Bald Eagles and scores of Herons sitting in their favorite fishing spots all year. I know they are happy with this low clear water, as they can see everything. But this is nature's way of working on a stream. The water level is currently 48 CFS, the lowest I've ever seen. I can't imagine what the low of 1962 looked like at 33 CFS. In conjunction with the low is the highest recorded water flow in 1975 of 7210 CFS. I think the only thing that saved some of the fish was the low night air temperature and the lack of consecutive hot days. September seems committed to summer and doesn't want to follow its natural course to fall. But it will happen in time and this will complete the cycle of another year. I've noticed the ponds and lakes are not giving off fog in the morning, so they must be cooling down considerably. The Crappie and Bass fishermen will be happy once again as the air turns crisp and cool. It's all said and done now, we must look toward winter. I've included in this month's article an excerpt from my fishing diary from Oct 2004. This was the year I made the decision to move to this part of the state and start a tackle shop and new life. I hope you enjoy the story.

10.30.2004 - The Passing of a Season.

This morning at the Tunnel Hole a sudden cold front blew through the gap and I witnessed the summer disappear. It's with a stubborn sadness that I'll loosen my grip on the season and turn toward winter. The valley has fulfilled me this year and has given me the peace that can only come from nature. Beyond any doubt I know I belong to the riffles and runs that flow through Penn's Valley, I am haunted by my days on the creek. I can't say that I'm not tired because deep inside I'm ready to rest, but I already know I'll miss the smell of the woods and my quiet days on the creek. I've reached a point in my life where I can walk a little slower and serenity sometime comes. The mountains, creek and the canyon section of Penns have played a role in this. Everything seems to find its proper place when I spend more time outdoors. At the end of the day I walked down to the Wire Hole, I already knew I wouldn't see any fish rise. But I didn't care because the maples looked so nice and the pines were as green as they were going to get making a striking contrast. When I arrived at the top of the hole the trailing edge of the front was directly on top of me and the wind came up strong and blew all the leaves it could off the trees. It looked like a huge spinner fall and different color leaves covered the water like a blanket. I sat for a while leaning against a perfect rock and thought about the year and all the wonderful fish I caught. This was a magical year that I'll remember for many years. Lately I have been taking stock of my life and thinking about my next direction. I'm still young and I can cross the river to fish the pockets and runs, God I've never had it so good. After some time I walked back to the truck knowing this was the last time I would fish this section of creek for quite some time. (I have not been back there since, Sept 2007).

Bruce Fisher

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



The photograph above is courtesy of Bruce Fisher. You can visit his website at www.pennscreekangler.com to see other spectacular photographs of Penns Creek.

The small photograph in the upper left hand corner of page one shows the sign that was once located along State Route 45 at Hairy John State Forest Picnic Area for many years. This sign was very easy to see by motorists traveling both directions.



Meanderings

by

Hertha S. Wehr

Stop The World.....

Stop The World, I wanna get off!!! Now why in the name of common sense would I want to do something that stupid? Well, it has been building for some time but a couple of things happened this past week that finally made me wish for a less complicated world.

I wanted to use my computer and the mouse just didn't want me to do so. It didn't run and hide in a hole as any ordinary mouse would do, it just plain wouldn't move. I know next to nothing about how or why my computer works, I just put my thoughts on the screen, a little gremlin says it is saved, another gadget says I can print it and still another one lets me put it out in space and finally Tony gets it. That is, it goes to space if my server lets me get on-line. But I digress; let's get back to the mouse. Since it wasn't moving I couldn't even get it to move to let me shut down the computer. So, I called my daughter-in-law who knows much, much more about computers than I ever will and asked how I could shut it down without actually taking a hammer to it. She explained what to do and presto it finally quit. And I quit shaking and sweating.

Since I was sure that the mouse was the trouble, I'm still not sure how I knew that, but I decided I had to get a new one. I looked where it was connected but didn't touch anything for fear of getting shocked or not being able to put it back into the right place. So the next day I went to Staples for a new mouse. Would you believe they had just one in stock that fit my computer? The others were all for wireless outfits. The young lady who waited on me must have felt uncertain that I knew what

I was doing as she told me if it didn't fit I could exchange it. My unspoken question was, exchange it for what?

I came home, struggled getting it out of the package and argued with myself if I was going to unplug the old one and plug the new one in. I approached the tower with great caution and traced the cord down from the old mouse to the tower. With much trepidation I pulled the plug. I had the new one in my hand so as not to lose sight of the place to plug it in. With a sigh I turned the computer on and it worked. The mouse didn't squeak at me, it just worked. Whew!

Computers don't only refuse to work sometimes, they actually get sick. That's right, if you don't keep up their "shots" (i.e. all the things that repel the viruses) with which some geek is always trying to infect your computer, they get one or two or more viruses and then things happen which I don't understand, except that my computer refuses to do what I want it to do.

Recently I was given a DVD player. Imagine my surprise when I was told my TV set was too old to have a place to plug it in. However, my savvy son put it through my VCR and I can use it. The only problem is I have to use three remotes to play it. I understand when everything is broadcast in HD I will have to get a new TV (or some gadget to make it useable).

The final straw was the advertisement I saw about toothbrushes. Seems they now come with an automatic tune that lasts for two minutes, the exact time one should spend brushing ones teeth. Another ad I saw was where your toaster now has a computer chip that is guaranteed to give you perfect toast every time. It didn't say what happens when the chip wears out. A new toaster?

Thank goodness I still have a clock that I wind by hand. When the clocks on the microwave, the VCR, bedroom clocks and everything else that runs on electricity is either blinking or refusing to run I still know what time it is.

I'm not advocating that we go back to pre-electricity, pre-indoor bathrooms or the lots of other things that make life so much more pleasant. I would just like progress to hold long enough for me to get caught up-a little-or to depart this life in peace. Technology is making my life very confusing, expensive and very intimidating.

Thank You from the Lewis Township Village Green Recreation Association

Members of the Lewis Township Village Green Recreation Association would like to thank everyone who came out to support them at the September 11 Board of Supervisors meeting. Your support was very much appreciated.

Are You Moving?

If you are planning to move or if your post office mailing address is about to change, please notify me immediately at P. O. Box 3, Millmont, PA 17845. This newsletter is distributed each month at bulk rate, and will not be forwarded by the U. S. Postal Service to your new address. If there are any changes in your postal mailing address, or your email address, you contact me at (570) 922.4297 or email: millmonttimes@dejazzd.com

Recipe of the Month

by Janice (Dorman) Shively

Salmon Patties

1 16-ounce can salmon, drained
1 C. bread crumbs (seasoned or un-seasoned)
2 T. chopped red onion
1 T. butter or margarine, melted
1 T. Old Bay® seasoning
1/8 tsp. ground pepper
1/2 C. milk
1 egg, lightly beaten
Olive oil for frying patties

Flake salmon, discarding skin and bones. In a bowl combine salmon, bread crumbs, chopped onion, butter or margarine, Old Bay® seasoning and pepper. Combine milk and egg; add to salmon mixture and mix thoroughly. Shape into 6 or 7 patties. Coat a non-stick frying pan with olive oil and fry patties for 4 - 5 minutes on each side. Serve on a roll with a slice of cheese, lettuce, tomato, and mayonnaise.



ENJOY!

Union County Historical Society Programs & News

Architecture & History Walking Tour of Lewisburg will be held on Sunday, October 14 starting at 2:00 PM. Enjoy a guided tour through a section of old Lewisburg that will focus on architecture and town history. Originally called Derrstown, for the 1769 settler Ludwig Derr, the town was renamed Lewisburg in 1812 and incorporated as a borough in 1822. Many houses reflect the town's early growth during the Federal architectural period. Later homes are in diverse Victorian styles. This beautiful town is preserved and protected by its Historic District designation. Our guide Roger Curran is a resident of Lewisburg and has served as a guide for similar tours for seven years. He also gives tours of the Society's Dale/Engle/Walker House. In addition to being a member of the Historical Society, Roger is a member and Board Secretary of the Linn Conservancy. The tour will last about an hour and a half, with the starting point at the parking lot of the Union County Courthouse at South Second Street. This program is free of charge and open to the public. Note: Rain date is October 28, at 2:00 PM.

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

The Union County Historical Society is pleased to announce the release of *Heritage Volume XXI: Samuel Dale (1741-1804): A Life and Estate in Union County*. This *Heritage* volume tells the story of Samuel Dale and the Dale/Engle/Walker House. Forrest Fothergill explains the context of Dale's immigration from Northern Ireland to the frontier of Pennsylvania, describes Dale as a family man in his household, and highlights some of his accomplishments as a politician. Ted Strosser follows with an in-depth architectural description of the house, giving readers a feel for how life might have felt spatially in the home of a prosperous frontier citizen. One of the important pieces of information that comes down to us about Samuel Dale is a listing of the books in his library. James Clements identifies the books in the collection, gleaned from those titles a notion of Samuel Dale's personal interests and intellectual background. Jeannette Lasansky closes the collection of articles with a perspective on the Dale family as slaveholders. As one of the few slaveholders in the area, the Dale family owned slaves relatively late compared to others in the region. The practice of slavery in Union County is only recently coming to light. The Dale house plays its role in that practice. Samuel Dale purchased land in 1789 along Buffalo Creek and built his home there in 1793. Dale served the region and the Commonwealth as a Captain in the Revolutionary War, as one of Pennsylvania's first state assemblymen, and as an elected state senator who helped establish the early government of Pennsylvania. Subsequent generations of the Dale family owned or occupied the property until 1929, when it was purchased by Jacob and Maude Engle, who farmed it until 1957. The Engles sold the property to Ralph Charles and Rosemary Walker who, in their will, paved the way for the Union County Historical Society to assume ownership in 2001. The Historical Society has restored the house and property. Tours are offered on Sunday afternoons June through October, and by special request. Included in the tour is the Dale Library, an on-going project to replicate Dale's book collection with 18th century and/or contemporary editions. The property is the site of Rural Heritage Days events in mid-August, celebrating the traditions and skills of Union County residents. Programs are offered each February commemorating Black History Month. Copies of *Heritage Volume XXI: Samuel Dale (1741-1804): A Life and Estate in Union County* are available for purchase from the Society office located in the County Courthouse, S. Second Street, Lewisburg and at selected merchants. Members of the Union County Historical Society receive a copy of the book upon payment of dues for 2008. Please call the Society at 524-8666 for more information.

What's Happening at Christ's United Lutheran Church

by Shirley Kerstetter

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

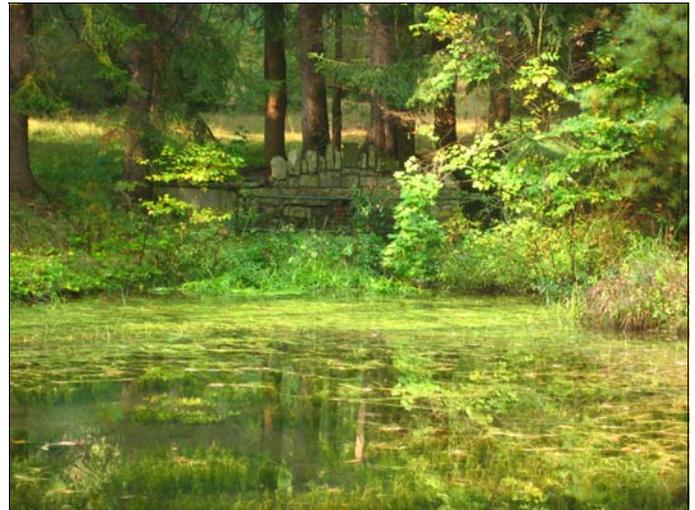
Christ's United Lutheran Church, locally known as the Four Bells Church, in Millmont has started a food program called Angel Food Ministries. It is a community outreach program that benefits everyone who eats and wants to save money on groceries. Angel Food Ministries is a non-profit, non-denominational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

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

(Continued from page 4)

Clarke Bertrand Library at Bucknell University, Lewisburg, Pa.; The Voneida Family History, published in 1995 by Evelyn McMillion, great-great-great niece of John Vonada; The Centre County Library, 203 N. Allegheny Street, Bellefonte, Pa., where I received helpful assistance from Joyce (Hoy) Adgate (great-great-great niece of Susanna (Hoy) Voneida).

I hope that you have enjoyed this five part series on Hairy John's State Park. Since I began this series of articles in June 2007 I have spoken with numerous readers about how various parts of this story rekindled their memories and recollections of Hairy John's State Park. I am glad that I was able to be a part of that. I would also ask all my readers who have additional photographs or information relative to the park that they would take time to share that material with me. I have debated the possibility of publishing a booklet at some future time relative to the park and the information that I have used in this series of articles, as well as information that I did not use. I am particularly interested in photographs from the 1920's through the 1960's concerning the restaurant, concession stand, entertainment, and family gatherings. If you have anything you would like to share, my telephone number is 570.922.4297. You can also send material to The Millmont Times, P.O. Box 3, Millmont, PA 17845, or you can email me at the following address: millmonttimes@dejazzd.com



Although difficult to see Hairy John's Spring is shown in the above photograph taken September 27, 2007. This view is similar to the August 25, 1926 photograph I featured on page 7 of the June 2007 issue of The Millmont Times. The photograph of the spring in the June issue was taken from a similar angle as the one above.

Thank you.

Unfortunately the large sign that was prominently displayed at the picnic area to inform passersby that they were at the site of Hairy John State Forest Picnic Area has been replaced with this modest and considerably smaller sign shown to the left. The current sign is nearly inconspicuous to those traveling Route 45. The large sign (see the upper left corner of page one) was a prominent feature of the picnic area for many years and was clearly visible to those passing by.

Penlines From my Kitchen to Yours

by Lucy Hoover

August 18, 2007

Lawrence Hoover (16) son of Earl and Anna Hoover had a three day stay in Hershey Medical Center. Fourteen months ago he had surgery after a head injury from playing ball. He now had swelling and a headache, which was caused by fluid. They performed surgery and are thankful that the infection had not gone to the brain.

August 19

Nelson and Miriam Zimmerman have a son named Jaydon. He has three brothers and two sisters. Grandparents are John and Esther Zimmerman and Eli and Anna Shirk.

August 25

Mrs. Amos Horning (Almeta) needs to stay off her foot for a week. She hurt her ankle when she stepped into a water gully.

August 26

Elvin and Charlotte Reiff have a daughter named Janice Lynette. She is their first child. Grandparents are Eli and Emma Reiff and Lester and Marlene Martin.

August 27

Lyndon Martin (3) son of Floyd and Helen Martin broke his leg above the ankle.

August 28

Lamar and Dolores Horning have a daughter named Maureen Ruth. She has one brother. Grandparents are Harvey and Ruth Horning and Lester and Marlene Martin.

August 29

Aaron and Joann Hoover have a son named Jordan Luke. He has two brothers and one sister. Grandparents are Amos and Lizzie Hoover and Ben and Esther Oberholtzer of Ohio.

August 31

Laurie Beth (7 month), daughter of Jerry and Lorraine Hoover, came home from Philadelphia Children's Hospital after a two week stay.

September 2

Dwayne and Virginia Reiff have a daughter named Alma Louise. She is their first child. Grandparents are Paul and Louis Reiff and Nathan and MaryElla Martin.

September 7

Laverne and Priscilla Zeiset have a son named Anthony. He has one sister. Grandparents are Jonas and Esther Zeiset and Lester and Marlene Martin.

September 8

Jennikah Zeiset (2), daughter of Laverne and Priscilla Zeiset, fell down steps and broke her arm below the elbow.

September 11

It is seven weeks since Wilma Brubacker broke her leg in the pony and wagon accident. She will be allowed to take her knee immobilizer off in two weeks and walk on it as much as she wants to.

Looking Back

The newspaper article below was originally published in the October 16, 1941 edition of The Mifflinburg Telegraph.

TUNA FISH SUPPER ENJOYED AT HAIRY JOHN'S

Mr. James Catherman and M. R. Case of Millmont, and Dr. Charles Wagner and Ernest Printzenhoff of Hartleton spent several days along the Atlantic Coast fishing. They returned with a heavy catch of fish, also bringing along a 40 pound tuna which Mr. Catherman presented to his employer, Harry C. Stuck of Mifflinburg. Mr. Printzenhoff dressed and prepared same in such a fine manner ready for the pan as only "Ernie" could. Mr. Stuck took the fish to Mr. and Mrs. Kennedy, proprietors of Hairy John's Restaurant who prepared the meal, furnishing all except the tuna and in a very delicious manner. Those present were: Mr. and Mrs. Rufus Beaver, Mr. and Mrs. Guy Diehl, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Beckley, Mr. and Mrs. Nevin Barnitz, Dr. and Mrs. R. D. Arnold, Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Chambers, Mr. and Mrs. Ryan Sechler, Mr. and Mrs. Lester Ruhl, Mr. and Mrs. George Grove, Mr. and Mrs. R. R. Finkel, Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Gardner, Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Miller, Mr. and Mrs. P. C. Shade, Mr. and Mrs. Wilbur Chambers, Mr. and Mrs. Myron Sterling and Mr. and Mrs. Harry Stuck.

It was the expressed opinion of all present to be the most delicious fish ever tasted, which is due to the careful and expert preparation of same.

Lincoln Chapel United Methodist Church

Lincoln Chapel United Methodist Church will have a Family Style Turkey Supper on Saturday, October 20, starting at 3:00 pm. To order take-outs call: (570) 922-1411 after 3:00 p.m. on the day of the supper. Lincoln Chapel is located on 2350 Paddy Mountain Road, approximately 1 mile west of Laurelton. Cost of the meal is: Adults--\$7.00, Children 10 & under--\$4.00

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

Everyone is welcome!

A peek into the live of....

Rosie Swale Pope



Rosie stands behind her three-wheeled cart that she refers to as "Charlie." This cart, the size of a one-man tent, serves as her sleeping quarters each night.

Rosie Swale Pope is a name that readers of this newsletter are not likely to be familiar with. However, this incredible lady has made friends everywhere she goes as she continues her solo adventure, to circle the Earth on as much land mass as possible – on foot. My wife, Janice, and I had an opportunity to meet this incredible lady on Sunday September 9, thanks to our neighbors, Richard and Susan Hassenplug. They encouraged us to drive to Route 45 in the vicinity of the Union /Centre County line for a once in a lifetime opportunity to meet someone who was attempting a feat few others have.

Rosie was running east on Route 45 with her buggy harnessed to her back as we passed by in a westerly direction. We immediately noticed the beaming smile that graced her face. We turned around so we could get a chance to speak with her and as soon as we pulled in behind Rosie, this thin built, muscular lady un-strapped herself from the bright red pull-behind cart she calls "Charlie" and greeted us in a warm and friendly manner. She suggested that instead of walking alongside her and putting ourselves in danger from the traffic rushing by, she would be happy to sit in our vehicle and talk.

What prompted this 61-year old lady to embark on such a mission? It was the untimely death of her husband, Clive, to prostate cancer in

2002. Since then she has been on a mission to encourage everyone she meets to take time to get screened for cancer. She is adamant when she states that early detection save lives. A business card she provided included her website so I could obtain additional information about her, and her mission.

Rosie's four-year odyssey on foot encircling the Earth began on October 2, 2003 (her 57th birthday) at her hometown in Tenby, Wales, UK where her first footfall is embedded in concrete on her front step. As of the day we met Rosie she had walked (and ran) about 22,000 miles and worn out 39 pairs of shoes.

Since the start of her journey she has crossed two large bodies of water, once at the English Channel and again at the Bering Straits. Her voyage has taken her through Europe, Holland, Germany, Poland and Moscow, before hitting the Trans Siberian Railway route. From there it was on to the Bering Straits into Alaska and then Canada before entering the lower 48 states. Portions of the trip have taken her through some of the coldest and harshest weather on Earth. She passed through Union County and the heartland of Pennsylvania during the middle part of last month as she continues her expedition.

Rosie's trip is far from over since she still has several thousand more miles to go before she can sit back and reflect upon her enormous undertaking. She will head in a northeasterly direction before crossing water to Greenland. From Greenland she will continue to Iceland, Ireland, Scotland and England, before returning to the start and finishing line at Tenby, her home in Wales. It will be a world voyage on two feet. Once her mission is completed and she returns to Wales she plans to write a book about her adventure. She is hoping to be home by April 2008.

Rosie Swale Pope is an incredible lady with a lot of guts, determination, mettle, and energy. Many folks along the way have wished her well. To date Rose has 52 notebooks filled with writings, photographs and memorabilia from well-wishers. She told us that she has found America to be the most honest and honorable country in the world. Americans are, according to Rosie, "The salt of the Earth."

This lady has felt the loss of a loved one to cancer, at which time she decided that she wanted to make a difference. In the process she has touched the lives of countless people she has met, or those she touched through radio, TV, and newspaper interviews. Janice and I know from personal experience how much she has touched our lives and we wish Rosie well as she continues her journey.

If you would like to see how far she has come, where she is today, and where she hopes to end her journey please visit her website: www.rosiearoundtheworld.co.uk



Rosie's first encounter with a forest ranger in the U. S. occurred in the West End of Union County when Ranger Tilghman Smith stopped by to see if she needed any assistance. She was thrilled to be photographed standing next to Ranger Smith.

Hartleton Borough's Sesquicentennial Celebration

by Wendy Styers

Hartleton Borough will be celebrating their 150th anniversary in February of 2008. The sesquicentennial celebration is scheduled to kick-off on December 1, 2007. We plan to have historical memorabilia on display for the December kick-off and we're planning a pictorial postmark for local residents, family, neighbors and friends to postmark their Christmas cards, etc. The postmark will feature the likeness of the Union Church. We are also planning an event in February as well since that is the official anniversary date.

Crocks and wooden miniatures of the Hartleton Union Church are available to the public. The crocks are priced at \$30 and the miniatures are \$15 each. Please call Wendy Styers at 922-1892, Dave Benfer Jr. at 922-0165 or Donna Purves at 922-1940 to place your orders.

Our intention is to make this a social event and we are looking for speakers, memorabilia that can be put on display or any ideas that would fit the occasion. Would you please let us know if you can offer any assistance with this planning?



Thank You!

I would like to thank the following people for making monetary donations toward the publication of this newsletter: Linn & Carol Mensch, Mifflinburg; Clifford & Diane Valentine, Millmont; Forrest & Mary Ellen Hoffman, Mifflinburg; James & Helen Camp, Millmont; David & Ada Sampsell, Mifflinburg; Mildred Jean Hostrander, Williamsport; Fred & Janet Miller, Mifflinburg; Seibert & Connie Teichman, Millmont; and Randall & Geneice Boob, Laurelton.

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: David Voneida, Fort Lauderdale, FL; and Lucien & Arlene Maurer, Mifflinburg. If you would like to join more than 280 subscribers who currently receive a FREE color version of The Millmont Times each month via the Internet, please sign up now at: millmonttimes@dejazzd.com.

Welcome to the following new mail subscribers: Dawn Wilson, Lansdale; Ray & Joan Peterson, Mifflinburg; Steven & Judy Moyer, Laurelton; Donald Dorman, West Palm Beach, FL; and Warren Emery, Mifflinburg.

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

Thanks also to Sandy Winegardner for donating a 1965 Shively's Garage calendar, and Mervin Kline for loaning me the book "Set up Running, The life of a Pennsylvania Railroad Engineer 1904-1949, John W. Orr."

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:

Friday October 1, 1943. 60 degrees this morning at 8. It rained some last night. It rained nice all day. We needed it badly as it was very dry for the past four weeks. Temperature was 62 degrees at 8 p.m.

Saturday October 2, 1943. 62 degrees at 8 a.m. it was cloudy most of the day. 62 degrees at 8 p.m.

Sunday October 3, 1943. Temperature 52 degrees at 8:00 a.m. and cloudy. "Jesus and the Ten Commandments" G.T. Matthew 5:17, Matthew 12:16-22, 20. John 5:39. Present 48. Con. \$5.31. I taught my class. Mervyn spoke. Kenneth and his mother were to services. They were at our place for supper.

Monday October 4, 1943. A beautiful day. Temperature about the same as yesterday. Officiated at the funeral of Charles F. Rudy. Born May 24, 1871, died September 30, 1943. Text - Eccl 12:13. Funeral service at Strunk's Funeral Parlor. Interment at Rays Cemetery. School board meeting this evening.

Wednesday October 6, 1943. A very nice day. Pruned apple trees. 66 degrees at 6:00 this evening. As I am writing this item Billy is playing the piano and mother is talking to him about the war.

Thursday October 7, 1943. 38 degrees at 8:00 a.m. clear. The temperature was 83 degrees at noon, and 62 degrees at 9:00 p.m. A nice day. Dug around the trees in Jacob's orchard and filled in some ground. Edgar was helping the afternoon.

Friday October 8, 1943. 59 degrees at 9. A beautiful day. Finished preparing the apple trees for winter.

Blood Drive

Members of Mifflinburg United Methodist Church invite the community to join them at a blood drive on Friday, September 14 from 1-7:00 pm. The church is located at 279 Market Street, and the drive will be held in the Family Life Center. Appointments are available for donors with busy schedules and can be made by calling 524-0400 or visiting www.givelife.org. Walk-ins will be accepted, but those with appointments will have priority. Anyone who is at least 17 years old, who weighs at least 110 pounds, and is in good health may be eligible to give blood. Please bring positive identification. For more information, call the Union County Chapter at 524-0400.

October Birthdays & Anniversaries

1 – Wendy Bilger	17 – Janet Renninger
1 – Virginia Martin	18 – Sarah Boyer
1 – Diane Martin	19 – Henry & Naomi Aurand - 1963
2 – Zachary Kline	19 – Laura Dorman
2 – James Maust	19 – Thelma Brown
3 – Peggy Aikey	20 – Maria Brubaker
4 – Bob & Linda Walter - 1963	20 – Elisa Beaver
4 – Michael Aikey	24 – Richard Zechman
5 – John & Janet Renninger - 1968	24 – Scott Feaster
7 – Harry Aikey	26 – Marvin & Jane Benner - 1952
9 – Betty Shoemaker	26 – Ella Mae Maust
9 – Teresa Yoder	26 – Sara Dorman
10 – Renda Shively	27 – Pauline Shively
11 – Carol Yarger	27 – Alvin Nolt
14 – Kenneth Catherman	28 – Kim & Carol Yarger - 1972
14 – Annetta Oberholtzer	29 – Jacque Libby
15 – Kathy Groff	30 – Arlene Martin
16 – Ralph Aikey	
16 – George Wert, Jr.	
17 – Bill & Anne Little - 1980	
17 – Kenneth & Kathy Groff - 1970	

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

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

Tony Shively
Post Office Box 3
Millmont PA 17845

Telephone: (570) 922.4297 or
E-mail:
millmonttimes@dejazzd.com

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