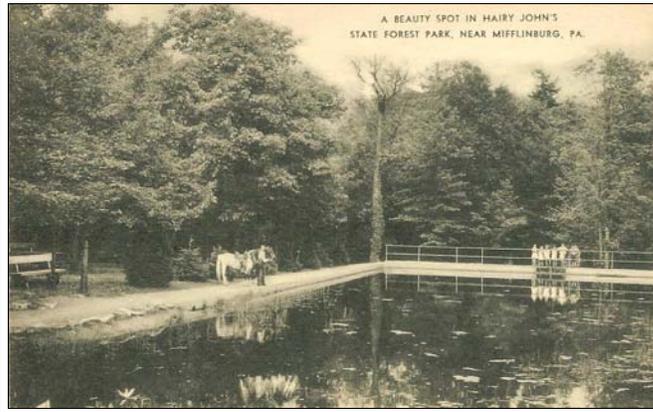




# The Millmont Times

SEPTEMBER 2007



The photo post card above shows the pond at Hairy John's State Park circa 1940. Note the saddled horse to the left waiting for a rider.

From the collection of Eugene Manbeck of Mifflinburg.

## Hairy John's State Park Part IV

As noted in part three of the series of articles about Hairy John's State Park, musical entertainment was commonplace during the summer months. That was especially true during the period when George Hickernell was the concessionaire. A number of people I have spoken with regarding entertainment at the park recalled some of the famous, and the not so famous, entertainers who performed there. From the information I have

gathered Hairy John's was the place to be on Sunday afternoons during the summer months if you enjoyed being entertained by live Country & Western, or Hillbilly musicians. It was a place where musicians, both professional and amateur, could showcase their talents before a live audience.

During interviews I have had with local residents who recalled being present at the park during several musical groups, or entertainers quickly came to mind. Those entertainers included Jim & Jane and the Western Vagabonds, Texas Lil, Rawhide and Tumbleweed, Smokey Pleacher, and Bob & Dean McNett. These performers and others entertained from the large porch at the rear of the restaurant at Hairy John's. Doris (Hess) Shively and Charles Mabus, residents of Millmont, both recalled attending performances at the park by Rawhide and Tumbleweed. "Buddy those guys could sing" exclaimed Mabus as he recalled listening to the music of Raymond Milburn (Rawhide) and Kenneth Clark (Tumbleweed).

Mabus and Shively both recalled being at the park during the performances by Jim & Jane and the Western Vagabonds. The large crowd enjoyed the Hillbilly tunes sung by this husband and wife team, neatly dressed in their western attire. Jim & Jane Claar were not only

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## Millmont Mailbox by Postmaster Sam Smith

School is back in session and it's time to be extra careful while driving, watching for school buses and children waiting for them or crossing streets. College students have also returned to classes, some of them far away from home. Even though they may be enjoying parties, rock concerts, or maybe even learning a thing or two, I'm sure they miss Mom's cooking. So if you decide to send your home-sick student a little "taste of home" here are some suggestions to help get that package there safe and sound. Pack your treats with care: make sure you select a container that is strong enough to protect your contents during handling. Our Priority Mail boxes are excellent for that purpose. For cookies, candies and such, cushion the contents to make sure they don't get broken moving around. Place the delivery address inside the box also, just in case the outside address might get detached. Use strong filament or reinforced tape to seal the flaps and seams. Make sure the address is correct: dorm name, box # etc. For more tips on successful packaging or supplies, go to [www.usps.com](http://www.usps.com) and search for "Shipping Supplies." Another thing students enjoy receiving is money! Please don't send cash through the mail though! Although 99% of the time things get delivered safely and correctly, why risk it when sending a Postal Money order is safe and inexpensive, (only a \$1.05 fee up to \$500.00!) A book of stamps is a great gift also and may encourage them to write to you!

Speaking of stamps, new issues for September include the Alpine Tundra scene of 10 different designs, and a very nice looking stamp honoring Gerald R. Ford. The Post office will be closed Monday, September 3, 2007 to enjoy Labor Day.

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Left to right: Jim & Jane Claar, Pee Wee, and Smokey Pleacher. Photograph courtesy of "The Life and Times of Jim and Jane and their Western Vagabonds", written and published by the Claar's daughter, Connie Rose, in 1992. This book was provided to me courtesy of Becky Wenrick of Aaronsburg.

well known for their own singing abilities, but for hosting many famous Country & Western entertainers at their popular "Radio Corral" near State College in the mid 1940's.

Lillian (Best) Vance, of Aaronsburg, recalled attending a Jim & Jane performance at Hairy John's Park as a teenager. Available for purchase at that performance was a booklet containing a collection of the group's western ballads at a cost of 10 cents. While she would have liked to purchase one of the booklets young Lillian Best did not have a dime to spare. Many years later while she and her husband were attending Stahl's Auction near Mifflinburg one of Jim & Jane's songbooks was offered up for sale. Lillian's husband was puzzled as to why she bid on this particular book. When the bidding was over Lillian was the owner of the 10-page Jim & Jane songbook.

Mabus also recalled the entertainment provided by musician and comedian "Smokey Pleacher." It was during the same era when Smokey was a regular on Doc Williams WWVA Wheeling Jamboree. One song in particular that sticks out in Mabus' mind was Pleacher's rendition of "Listen to the Mockingbird." Mabus said that large crowds gathered in the wooded grove north of the restaurant to watch the entertainment.

George Hickernell also promoted local talent at his establishment at Hairy John's Park. Doris Shively recalled the local talent contests that

were held in conjunction with the afternoon's entertainment. She said that her father, Stover Hess, encouraged her, along with siblings Wayne Hess and Opal (Hess) Hollenbach to showcase their talent during the open competition. Each of the Hess children sang solo. Until Doris had her tonsils removed at the age of 7, she enjoyed yodeling, and she gave it her best during her solo at Hairy John's. However, it was her sister, Opal Hess, who was chosen the winner by the judges with her song "Rocking Alone (in an Old Rocking Chair)."

Faye (Strickler) Lyons also recalled the time that she and her younger sister, Betty (Strickler) Klock, entered the amateur competition held on the porch at Hickernell's establishment at Hairy John's. Faye was about 13 years old at the time and her sister Betty was 7 years old. Lyons grew up in a family of talented musicians, the Zimmerman family from the Laurelton area. It was because of that family influence that she learned to play a guitar. When she entered the competition she used a guitar borrowed from Donald Zimmerman. It was the first, and only, time that the sisters ever entered the amateur competition at Hairy John's. What the young sisters did not know was that the song they chose to sing, "Beautiful Beautiful Brown Eyes" was the same song that brothers John and Ralph Aikey chose to sing in the competition. In the end, John and Ralph Aikey finished in first place while Faye and Betty Strickler finished second.

Kenneth Zechman, of Penns Creek, recalled his employment with George Hickernell from 1938 through 1941. Zechman enjoyed working with the horses and ponies that Hickernell stabled on his farm just north of Millmont. Once the horses were trained, and Zechman felt comfortable that they were suitable for riders, he and his younger brother Charles, and others, rode two horses and two ponies to Hairy John's where they were corralled at the park from May through September. For 10 cents the Zechman brothers led the horses, and their riders (usually young children), on a short stroll around the park. For \$1 per hour adults were permitted to take the horses on longer riding excursions by themselves up Winkelblech Mountain to Round Top and Stony Run Road.

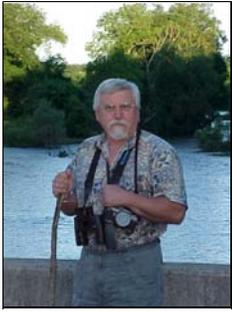
I have been unable to determine the exact timeframe when Hickernell operated the restaurant at Hairy John's State Park. Although uncertain as to the exact year, Charles Mabus recalled when George Hickernell's daughter, Helen, and her husband, Harry Sterling, also operated the restaurant. It was most likely during the time that Hickernell had the concession rights.

Lester Hosterman recalled that between 1946 and 1948 his grandparent's, Blaine and Mae Hosterman, operated the restaurant at Hairy John's. Blaine and Mae resided in the building that housed the restaurant, with bedrooms located on the second floor. Although health problems forced Blaine to relinquish his daily duties at the restaurant, Mae continued to operate the business until Blaine regained his health. Blaine and Mae later constructed "Mountain View Restaurant" at Woodward. Blaine's brother, Max Hosterman, and his wife Meda, subsequently operated the restaurant at the park from about 1948 through the early 1950's.

According to Betty Buttorff, of Hartleton, her late husband, Charles Buttorff, had control of the concession rights at the park during the period of time when Max and Meda Hosterman were running the restaurant at the park. Harold Orndorf, of Woodward, provided me with information indicating that Max Hosterman, and his employees, were operating the restaurant around the clock for a period of time.

Many people I have spoken with have particular memories of the era in which Max and Meda operated the restaurant. Rufus Balbin, of Woodward, stated that the Hosterman's served the "biggest hamburgers ever." While the term "fast food"

(Continued on page 3)



# BIRD TALK

By Jim McCormick

*"It seemed like they were coming from everywhere."* August 2007 is drawing to an end and, so too, is the summer. August is usually a sort of lazy, lost month, but this August seems to be mostly just a lost month. Even the pulsating, hypnotic chorus of the Cicadas seemed somewhat subdued this year. Was it because there were fewer of them due to the drought?

This summer was so dry Penns Creek slowed down to a trickle. Last month I described what effect this drought had on a small flock of Common Mergansers; this month I witnessed another consequence of the drought. It was mid-month and I was taking my routine morning walk. When I reached the concrete bridge on Millmont Road, I heard, and then saw, a Belted Kingfisher; this was nothing unusual, of course. Then I saw another come shooting down from the opposite side of the Creek. This, too, is not an unusual sight. This must be a particularly good fishing spot because I often see at least one Kingfisher there most of the year. When I see more than one Kingfisher, they are usually a pair, but these two were unusually aggressive with each other. Not only did they chase each other, they pursued each other from tree to tree, and branch to branch. As I was watching these two, I saw a third one come flying through and then a fourth. I'm guessing there was a 'second' pair that had been displaced by the low water and they were 'trespassing' on the first pair's territory. While I was watching all this activity, I started to lose track of which bird was coming or going where. I started wondering if there might not be even more than two pairs. *"It seemed like they were coming from everywhere."* I looked upstream and saw a Green Heron fly from the shoreline to a rock nearby. It was obviously stalking something, but, before it could strike, a Kingfisher appeared from the tree behind it and scooped up the fish. All this was getting more interesting by the minute, but then it started to rain. It had rained so rarely this summer, I hadn't even thought about the possibility of rain and had not worn a raincoat. I had to leave this interesting display and return home for my raincoat; unfortunately, by the time I returned to the Creek, things had calmed down.

August is generally a quiet time for bird-watching; most, if not all, breeding is over for this season—even the Robins are done. Here is a sampling of other bird sightings of the month. Walking along Shirk Road I heard the familiar screech of a young hawk. I looked up into the tree the sound was coming from and there was a young Red-tailed Hawk calling for its breakfast. It had fledged in early June and was still dependant on its parents for its food. It was nearly adult size, but still unable to feed itself. It reminded me of that old cartoon character Baby Louie, the giant chick that was twice the size of its parents. In preparation for this column, I spent some time trying to get a photo of some interesting bird. On my way home from work, I saw what looked like a Great Egret along the shore in Penns Creek near Penns Creek Pottery. I pulled over, tried to get my telephoto lens hooked up, and just as I was ready to focus on the Egret, it flew about a hundred yards downstream. At the end of one of my walks, however, as I was just crossing over Cold Run coming into town, I noticed something unusual in the middle of the stream. It was a pair of immature Wood Ducks still asleep on a rock. They had slept in late on this Sunday morning and I was fortunate enough to catch them at it! (See photo) All the sightings I have been describing happened in a month that is normally a 'slow' month for birding. There is always something interesting to discover in the world of bird-watching, so grab your binoculars and take it all in.



A pair of immature Wood Ducks asleep on a rock in Cold Run north of the Millmont Post Office.

Photograph courtesy of Jim McCormick.

*(Continued from page 2)*

may not have been coined at the time, that is what the Hosterman's provided at their remote mountain restaurant in the 1940's according to Anita Ruhl, of Mifflinburg. She said that she and her late husband, Ralph Ruhl, often went to the restaurant at Hairy John's in the 1940's to partake of Max and Meda Hosterman's hamburgers and French fries.

Audrey (Mitchell) VonNeida recalled her teenage years when she, her sister Jean, Dave Hoffmaster and other young folks congregated at Fisher's Store in Hartleton. When this group of young people wanted to go to Max Hosterman's Restaurant at Hairy John's they turned to the kindly John Wilson, who lived catty-corner from the store. Wilson was always willing to take them up to Hairy John's in his vehicle.

*(Continued on page 8)*

A peek into the lives of....



## Bill and Connie Bastian

Celebrating 50 years of marriage  
by Jonathan Bastian

Walter Bastian Sr. and Myrtle (Flexer) Bastian gave birth to William "Bill" F. Bastian on July 15, 1931 in Sunbury, PA. Bill's dad was a partner in the Sunbury Beauty & Barber Supply. Bill graduated from the Sunbury School System in 1949. He continued his education and graduated from Susquehanna University with a Bachelor of Science in education in 1954. Immediately following graduation he volunteered for the draft and trained with the 101<sup>st</sup> Screaming Eagles as a paratrooper and was then transferred to the 11<sup>th</sup> Airborne. He was discharged from the 82<sup>nd</sup>.

While serving in the armed forces in a paratrooper unit he was the chaplain's assistant where he played the organ and other duties. In 1956, he was discharged as a Specialist 3, which is an equivalent to a Corporal. Following his honorable discharge, Bill started employment as a high school social studies teacher with the Lewisburg School District. While teaching, he also completed his Master's of Education in 1957 from Pennsylvania State University. On September 5, 1957 he married his true love, Constance "Connie" Wirt of Sunbury, PA. Following graduation in 1966 from Lancaster Theological Seminary, he became the pastor at Dreisbach United Church of Christ. In 1969 he returned to teaching in a substitute position in the Milton School District. When he resigned as Pastor from Dreisbach he started a full-time position as a Social Studies teacher at Selinsgrove High School. He retired in 1989. Since 1977 he has been the choir director at Dreisbach.

Benjamin Wirt and Leona (Sholter) Wirt gave birth to Constance "Connie" E. Wirt on October 24, 1936. Ben was a teacher with the Sunbury School District. Connie graduated from Sunbury High School in 1954. She chose to continue her education and attend West Chester State Teachers College. She transferred after two years and graduated in 1958 from Bloomsburg State Teachers College with a Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education.

Since Bill and Connie have been married they have enjoyed 50 years of adventure. They are blessed with three children, Jeff, Ann, and Tim, as well as, six grandchildren. They both enjoy annual trips to Canada where they spend a week in June with some of their family fishing and relaxing. They cherish spending time with family and friends where they visit or play cards.

When Bill is at his home in Weikert you might find him in his garden tending to his plants or tinkering with something around the house whether it is to fix it or create it. Connie can be found around the house doing the daily tasks of a homemaker. Bill and Connie have volunteered for the American Red Cross which included two trips to Katrina ravaged areas as Disaster Relief workers. They both are currently active in volunteering for Haven Ministries in Sunbury, the Union County Historical Society, and different functions at Dreisbach UCC.

**Congratulations on your  
50th Wedding Anniversary!**



**Bill & Connie Bastian and family**

Seated in the front row: Shannon, wife of Tim, holding daughter Kelly Ann, Tim Bastian holding son Ryan and Connie's mother, Leona (Sholter) Wirt. Standing: Jeff Bastian, Amy Bastian, Emily Lepley, Connie Bastian, Brandon Lepley, Ann (Bastian) Lepley, Bill Bastian, Vickie (Mattern) Bastian, wife of Jeff, and Jonathan Bastian. Not in the photograph, Marlin Lepley, husband of Ann. Photograph courtesy of Jonathan Bastian.

# Penns Creek Angler

by Bruce Fisher

August wasn't too bad! For the most part the water level in Penns was low this year but the air temperatures at night were cool. We didn't have the scorching summer of 2005 and that helped the native trout of Penns Creek survive another year. I haven't fished for trout since mid July and I'm starting to get the itch. But I'll wait a few more weeks for the water to cool down and wait for the Slate Drakes and Blue Winged Olives to hatch in full force. All of the flies will be much smaller than the ones that hatch in the spring and summer. In some cases the Slate Drake will be a size 14 and the BWO will be a size 20 or 22. These flies will also hatch later in the afternoon because the weather will turn cooler and the warmer part of the day is in the afternoon. I'm sure a good amount of trout made it through this past summer. It will all happen suddenly the air will turn cool and the creek will become new once again. But during September it seems everyone's mind turns to the woods and scouting for game. This is a special time for the anglers that want more peace and solitude. The woods may hold more people but the water will have less fishermen. Late September is my favorite time of year to be in the woods or on the water. There's something special about crisp air, the smell of the woods and a good flannel shirt. I love the thick old Woolrich shirts and still have a few that were made in America. Each year I pull out a few different ones for the season. But it's too soon for that! As I write this it's late August and we have a few more hot weeks ahead so I'll fish for small mouth bass in Penns and the Susquehanna. The water on Penns is still too warm for good trout fishing. Recently I fished below several dams along the Susquehanna River and some rocky areas even farther downriver and did very well fishing with my fly rod and hellgram-mite imitations. I was surprised at the size of the fish and how powerful they were. They put up a tremendous fight and didn't ever seem to give up. I even caught a Channel Catfish that I would have bet was a walleye or musky until I got it to my feet. The Catfish fought great in the fast water and the disappointment only lasted a moment when I realized what it was. I should not have felt bad about catching that fish it was a good fighting fish. As the nights get cooler the Musky and Walleye will start to bite and I'll be down on the river trying my luck. When I was younger I fished for Musky and Large Mouth Bass on the Delaware River and always had good luck with huge wood plugs, I still have a few and will give them a shot. Good Fishing to everyone, "Catch You Later."



Pictured above is the Slate Drake. Photograph courtesy of Bruce Fisher.

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



## The Laurel Park Band

The photograph to the left shows the members of the Laurel Park Band in uniform circa 1905. The band had the following members.

Front row, left to right: Charles Zimmerman, George Zimmerman, William A. Keister, Homer Steese, Mark Hartley, and Clayton Hartley.

Back row, left to right: Leroy Yagel, Simon Bingaman, Clarence C. Hartley, Clayton Shively, William Shively, Harry Dermont, and George Bingaman.

This photograph was provided to me courtesy of Joseph Hartley of Spring Grove, Pa.



# Meanderings

by

Hertha S. Wehr

## Shively Reunion

By request I am writing about the Shively family and how we got together and explain how we happened to get to our 57<sup>th</sup> reunion.

Clarence E. and Mary Miller Shively had eleven children. Mother always tried to have the families know each other. She got the family together, usually close to Christmas. When we grew too numerous to comfortably fit at home she conceived the idea of having a summer picnic. Thus began our annual reunion.

First let me go back a few generations to clarify our lineage to Christian Shively, of whom we are descendants. Christian Shively came to America from Switzerland in 1736. He was with some of the family of Christian, Sr. Our Christian was seventeen years old at the time and it is with Christian, Jr. that we begin our family history. They landed at Philadelphia, and came through several counties before coming into this area to settle around White Springs. His settling here is where we begin to count generations. If you see some Roman numerals behind names it means the generation from Christian.

Dad wasn't much of a picnic person but he never objected to Mother's picnic plans. We first met at Woodward Cave for a few years. After that we met at Watsonstown Park for some years. In 1950 Mother passed away but we decided we would continue meeting even though she was no longer with us. Twice we met at Bucknell Recreation Center at Cowan, as the Watsonstown park was not available. (Years 1954,'55) Then we went back to Watsonstown. After the Mifflinburg Park began to upgrade we met there. We have been gathering there since. 1964. At first we only reserved a few tables; the past few years we have needed a whole pavilion. Our top number of attendees was this year, with 159 present.

Eventually there were thirty-three grandchildren. As we grew in numbers it began to get harder to keep in touch with everyone, especially as generation VII began to go away to school and jobs in different places. In 1951 it was decided to organize and get a system in place to better manage our affairs. Since we began to meet we have always asked for a free will offering to donate to the meeting place. There are no secretary minutes for meetings before 1950. When we call this our 57<sup>th</sup> reunion we do so because that is where the records began. Actually we met earlier but no one seems to know just what year it was.

We elected a president, and secretary-treasurer. In 1953 we decided we needed a historian to keep a record of births,

marriages and deaths. Nellie S. Mitch filled that position for some time and Judy S. Wagner has been doing it for years. I think all of generation VI has filled one office or another over the years. Generation VII has been active in many ways for several years, as well as people who have married into the family. Sometime later we separated the secretary and treasurer jobs. We have always purchased flowers, sent donations to preferred charities, or put a book in the library in memory of the deceased. We tried not to overburden any one person with taking care of the various activities. Volunteers make drinks, everyone brings a tureen (or two), and each family brings their own table service. Paper is put on the tables and volunteers clean up afterward. Volunteers lead children's games and sometimes there are things for the adults but most of the time the adults prefer to visit with relatives.

In 1950 we decided we had enough money in the treasury to give the cooks a rest, so we had a pig roast catered. (Most of the men liked the way we always did it, could it be because of the great variety, especially the abundance of yummy deserts) This was also the year a Shively Reunion Blessing was written. Sue Ellen Spotts wrote it and it is sung to the tune of "For The Beauty of The Earth."

*For the Shively's far and near  
For the gift of one more year,  
For the love of many kin  
Brought together once again:  
Lord of all, to you we raise  
This our hymn of grateful praise.  
For this table richly spread  
Children born and couples wed,  
For departed ones we love,  
For all the blessings from above:  
Lord of all, to you we raise  
This our grateful hymn of praise.*

Before our 56<sup>th</sup> reunion we had a request from an IX generation person if it would be possible to have homemade ice cream as we did sometimes when she was little. So, with the cooperation of a number of people the supplies and freezers were assembled and we made ice cream. The children were encouraged to take a few turns on the freezers, just to show them the toil that went into making your own ice cream. The freezers went home empty. Before the ice cream idea was put forward we had arranged an auction of whatever you wanted to bring for sale. There were all kinds of hand made items, pictures from days of yore (now scattered through the families who didn't have them), flowers, vegetables, hand made stationary and other things I can't recall. It was so successful that we were able to donate \$500.00 to the upkeep of the Old Lewis Cemetery, where some of our ancestors are buried.

I probably should mention that in 1989 we got together a cookbook of favorite recipes and in 1993 my brother Ned handed out a history of his growing up. This past year saw the death of the last of my brothers, so that leaves just two of us. Of course we wonder if the tradition will continue but everyone seemed to have such a good time that perhaps future generations will want to keep in contact. This year we had people from New York, Missouri, Utah, Virginia and lots of Pennsylvanians.

## Recipe of the Month

By Janice (Dorman) Shively

### Canned Sweet Peppers

30 peppers of assorted colors

Salt

Oil (any cooking oil)

Vinegar

Water

White sugar

Cut clean peppers and remove seeds. Slice into strips. Boil five minutes. Drain and pack into hot sterilized jars.

Put into each quart jar: 1 tsp. salt and 1 TBSP. oil

Put into each pint jar: 1/2 tsp. salt and 1/2 TBSP. oil

Combine 1-quart vinegar, 1-quart water, and 3 cups of white sugar. Bring to a boil, and then pour over peppers.

Place lids and rings on jars. Process in a boiling water canner 15 minutes for quarts, 10 minutes for pints.

These taste very similar to those sweet peppers you might get on a hoagie. They are delicious on a salad or sandwich. I found this recipe in an



old cookbook and tried it in the 2006-canning season. The peppers were a hit in our Christmas gift baskets. They are very easy to prepare. Thirty peppers will yield about 15 pints. If you don't want to can on that scale, simply reduce the number of peppers and liquid.

ENJOY!

## THE WEST END LIBRARY AND THE WEIKERT HERITAGE GROUP

Invite everyone to

### *Cracker Barrel Conversations*

*"Stories our folks told us"*

**Sunday, September 30, 2007**

**2:00 pm - 4:00 pm**

**At the**

**Hartley Township Community Center  
Rt. 235, Laurelton**

Topics for the program include: Animal Encounters; Building Laurelton Center; Fire & Disasters; Hermits, Hobos, Peddlers, & Local Characters; Iron Mining; Laurelton Foundry; Laurelton Lumber Company & Lumbering; Lewisburg & Tyrone Railroad; Penns Creek; Recreation - Baseball, Quilting, & Music; Religion - Services & Events; School Stories; Woodland & Environment; Work - Farming & Shops.

Speakers at the event will include: Herb Teichman, Carolyn (Bilger) Wenrick, Cora & Harvey Boop, Hertha (Shively) Wehr, and Les Johnson.

Moderator: Dahle Bingaman.

The Union County Historical Society will host the program "Alvira: Paradise Lost" on Thursday, September 13 at 7 PM at the Stone Church, Allenwood Camp Lane, Alvira. Susquehanna University professor Kate Hastings, who has family ties to the area, will discuss the settling of the valley, what it was like in its heyday, and the profound loss suffered by the trusting patriots who meekly surrendered their farms, churches, businesses, and homes. Seven weeks after the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, federal agents were knocking on the doors of farmhouses near Allenwood, Alvira, Elimsport, Kennedy's Crossroads, and Maple Hill. Within six months, more than 8,000 acres had been vacated by their owners who were promised they could return after their land had been used by the Army to manufacture TNT for the war effort. As Hastings will discuss, that was not the case.

This program will be given at the Stone Church (Christ Lutheran Church) located on the grounds of the Allenwood prison camp. From Route 15 almost five miles north of Allenwood, turn west at the signs to the White Deer Golf Course - "Allenwood Camp Lane." Pass the golf course and enter the federal prison grounds. About 1.5 miles from Route 15, the church is on the right with the cemetery across from it. This stone church was completed in fall 1907 and dedicated December 15, 1907. Therefore, 2007 marks the church's 100th anniversary.

The program is free of charge and open to the public. For more information, please call the society at 524-8666 or email to [hstorici@ptd.net](mailto:hstorici@ptd.net)

The Union County Historical Society  
Union County Courthouse, S. Second and St. Louis Streets  
Lewisburg, PA 17837, 570-524-8666, [hstorici@ptd.net](mailto:hstorici@ptd.net)  
[www.unioncountyhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.unioncountyhistoricalsociety.org)

*"Preserving the past for the future."*

## Remembrance

Laura E. Edinger, 101, of 727 Johnstown Road for more than 40 years, and most recently of 2055 Pleasant Grove Road, Mifflinburg, for the past four years, died at 4:25 a.m. Saturday, August 11, 2007, at Evangelical Community Hospital, Lewisburg.

She was born October 25, 1905, in Glen Iron, a daughter of the late Daniel and Emma (Diehl) Bingaman. On November 13, 1948, she married Howard A. Edinger, who preceded her in death on Dec. 15, 1997.

She grew up on a small farm along Zimmerman Lane, South of Penns Creek, where they raised just what was needed to sustain the family. Laura attended the Lincoln School, along Penns Creek at Laurel Park, through sixth grade. She then attended school at Laurelton, where in the first year she and her siblings walked to school, and then the next year transportation was provided by the school district by way of horse and wagon.

During her later school years, Laura lived at the Hass Farm near Mazeppa during the summer months, where she worked as a hired girl. She was later employed by the Milton Manufacturing Nut and Bolt Company and the Nite Kraft Company, Sunbury.

She enjoyed crocheting and sharing her handcrafted items as gifts to family and friends. Family gatherings were among her favorite things, and Laura helped organize the Bingaman family reunion for many years.

Surviving are one daughter, Miriam L. Wirth, of Pleasant Grove; one stepson, Donald Edinger, of Dewart; one grandson, Russel Eisenhuth, of Mifflinburg; three great-grandchildren; four great-great grandchildren; six step-grandchildren; 13 step great-grandchildren; two half-brothers, Daniel Bingaman, of Bradley, Maine, and Ronald Bingaman, of Lewistown; and one half-sister, Ruth Marks, of Middleburg.

Preceding her in death, in addition to her husband, were three brothers, Charles, Ammon, and Harry Bingaman; two sisters, Mae VonNeida and Doris Badger; one stepson, Howard D. Edinger; and one step-grandson, Brian Zimmerman.

Burial was in the Mazeppa Union Cemetery.

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

Christ's United Lutheran Church, locally known as the 4 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. September's menu: 1 4 lb. IQF Chicken Leg Quarters, 1 7 oz. Cheeseburger Dinner, 1 24 oz. Beef Back Ribs, 1 16 oz. Green Beans, 1 1 lb. 80/20 Lean Ground Beef, 1 16 oz. Baby Carrots, 1 2 lb. Breaded Chicken Tenders, 1 2 lb. Onions, 4 6 oz. Bone In Pork Chops, 1 1 lb. Pinto Beans, 1 1 lb. Ground Turkey, 1 1 lb. Rice, 1 18 oz. Stuffed Manicotti (Cheese), 1 7 oz. Blueberry Muffin Mix, 1 12 oz. Smoked Sausage, 1 10 ct. Home Style Waffles, 1 Betty Crocker Seasoned Potatoes, 1 Dessert Item. There are also specialty boxes offered such as steaks, chicken and pork. If you are not in this area you can go to the Angel Food Ministries website: [www.angelfoodministries.com](http://www.angelfoodministries.com) and select a church closer to you. It is worth it, it's a great program. For more information call our AFM coordinator. Phone 966-5068, or email [afm@4bellschurch.com](mailto:afm@4bellschurch.com)

*(Continued from page 3)*

Everett Bingaman, of Millmont, recalled stopping by Max Hosterman's restaurant for hamburgers or hot dogs when he was courting June Shrawver. He recalled how the truckers patronized the restaurant on their trips through Central Pennsylvania on what is today State Route 45. Bingaman also recalled the jukebox on the porch and watching folks dancing to the music. The jukebox was very familiar to Frank W. Royer Jr., of Pleasant Gap. He recalled servicing the jukebox at the restaurant at Hairy John's while employed by his father. Frank Sr. owned an amusement and vending company near Pleasant Gap. He stated that the Werlitzer Bubble Light Jukebox held twenty-four 78-RPM records, which patrons paid a nickel each to listen to.

Ruth (Stuck) Kostenbader, of Lewisburg, has fond memories of Hairy John's Park. One in particular was a trip to the park that she and her then fiancée, Clark Kostenbader, made on December 24, 1948, despite the fact that the weather and road conditions were not ideal. However, with their wedding day just two days away, Ruth and Clark decided they had to make the trip to Max Hosterman's restaurant at Hairy John's Park to pick up their wedding cake. All went well, and their wedding took place at the Mifflinburg Methodist Church on December 26, 1948.

I hope to conclude this series of articles about Hairy John's State Park in the October issue of The Millmont Times. In that issue I will examine some of the information in print, both fact and fiction, about the man—Hairy John Vonedea, whom the park was named after.

Due to limited space I cannot list all those who have provided helpful information for this series of articles. However, I will be certain to list the names of those people in the next issue.

# Penlines From my Kitchen to Yours

*By Lucy Hoover*

July 24, 2007

Mervin & Mabel Stauffer have a son named Michael. He has three brothers, and one sister. Grandparents are Edward & Lena Stauffer of Narvon, and Isaac & Lizzie Weaver of New Holland.

Jay Lamar Zimmerman (11), son of Leroy & Jane, had an accident while riding their pony. He broke his leg above the ankle.

Mrs. Chris Brubacker (Wilma), 27, was driving one of their ponies at home. She had an accident and broke her tailbone and her left leg, above the knee. She is the mother of four small children.

August 1

Wilma had a four-hour surgery on her leg. They put four screws in, and she will need to wear a knee immobilizer for 6 – 12 weeks.

Alson & Minerva Martin have a daughter named Anita Marie. She is their first child. Grandparents are Harvey & Martha Martin of New Holland and Allen & Lovina Zimmerman of Mifflinburg.

August 4

Duane & Grace Shirk have a daughter named Analisa Joy. She is their first child. Grandparents are Eli & Anna Shirk, and Henry & Martha Oberholtzer.

James Horning (5), son of James & Annetta, fell out of a tree. He fractured his wrist and his collarbone.

August 10

Marvin & Norma Reiff have a daughter named Angela. She has two sisters and one brother. Grandparents are Alvin & Minerva Reiff and Eli & Anna Shirk.

August 11

We were at the funeral of Nevin Martin (14 month old), son of Jason & Pauline. Nevin drowned in a children's swimming pool.

August 13

Esther Zimmerman of Mifflinburg came home after a three-day hospital stay.

## Blood Drive

A blood drive will be held Friday September 14 from 1 until 7:00 p.m. at the Mifflinburg United Methodist Church. All persons 17 years of age and older, in good health, and who weigh at least 110 pounds are urged to consider donating blood. For more information call 1.800. Give-Life.

## 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 by 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, please call me at (570) 922.4297 or email me: millmonttimes@dejazzd.com

## Looking Back

The newspaper article below was originally published in the September 17, 1920 edition of The Mifflinburg Telegraph.

## CHARLES BRAUCHER DIES SUDDENLY

WELL KNOWN GAME WARDEN IN  
UNION COUNTY VICTIM OF  
HEART TROUBLE

Mr. Charles L. Braucher, of Hartleton, died suddenly in New Berlin last Thursday afternoon, September 9th, about 2:30 o'clock, while seated in his automobile which was standing in front of Mr. S. E. Benner's barn. His sudden death was due to heart trouble and was a great shock to his family and many friends.

Mr. Braucher had gone to New Berlin on business, and drove up to Mr. Benner's barn to see him and Mr. Wm. Solomon about bounty due them on weasels which they had killed. He was seated in his automobile in the act of filling out the required papers when death overtook him. Mr. Reno Maurer who was helping Mr. Solomon re-roof the barn, was the first one to notice that something was wrong. He and Mr. Solomon lifted Mr. Braucher out of his car and placing the automobile cushions on a nearby wagon box laid him on it and sent for Dr. Wolf of New Berlin. Altho the doctor answered the call immediately death had claimed its victim before he arrived.

His body was taken to Mifflinburg by Undertaker Strunk, and prepared for burial after which the remains were conveyed to the home of Mr. Braucher in Hartleton, from which place the funeral was held on Monday forenoon.

Mr. Braucher had been a game warden in the west end of Union county for the past several years and was well known by almost everybody in that section. In fact throughout the entire county. He was a son of a distinguished citizen of Lewis Township, the late John Braucher.

Charles Braucher was born in 1864 in Lewis township, and was married to Miss Sarah Voneida, a daughter of Solomon Voneida, then a miller, residing at Laurelton. They had three children, Nellie, John and Bessie, all of whom together with his wife, survive. A brother Elmer, residing in Canada also survives.

Lincoln Chapel United Methodist Church in Laurelton is a friendly, welcoming church, located at 2350 Paddy Mountain Road. 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.

## The Dairy Dynamos

Submitted by Martha Boop

The Dairy Dynamos, a Union County 4H club, has had a very busy and rewarding year so far. August 8<sup>th</sup>, at the Union County West End Fair marked the midpoint in their busy calendar year with a successful 4H/FFA showmanship competition. They competed alongside other 4H/FFA members. There were three different levels that all the youths competed in: junior, intermediate and senior. The Dairy Dynamos did well in this competition. In the Junior division: Katie Boop, daughter of Jerry and Martha Boop of Millmont, placed first; Mallory Leitzel daughter of Lisa Leitzel of Mifflinburg placed third. In the intermediate division, Rachel Reaser daughter of Richard and Tammy Reaser of Mifflinburg placed first, and Douglas Boop son of Doug and Jennifer of Millmont placed second. Katie and Rachel went on to compete against the winner of the Senior division, which was Jennifer Mapes. They competed for the title of Master Showman where Katie Boop won the competition. Winning this title was special for Katie this year because the prize she won was a show halter that was donated by her grandparents Kathy and Jerry Boop Sr., in memory of the late Bruce Boop (Katie's great grandfather).

This has been the second year for the Bruce M. Boop award. The previous winner was Crissa Johnson daughter of Alanson and Bonnie Johnson of Lewisburg. The group had a Longaberger Basket filled with various items auctioned off after this show to help support them in the various activities and competitions that they attend throughout the year. The group would like to take this opportunity to thank them for their support for this auction: Doug Wolfe, Auctioneer, for donating his time to auction the basket; Sue Mapes of Mapes View Farm was the winning bidder; Barb Shively, Longaberger Basket; West Milton State Bank of Mifflinburg, Anniversary Crock; Weis Market of Mifflinburg, gift card; Darlene's Bears and Stuff, Boyds Bear heirloom edition; Doug and Jen Boop, 2007 Dairy Men's Club Penn State dairy bottle; Jerry and Martha Boop, bath and body works items; Lisa Leitzel, Amy's Frosty freeze gift card; Richard and Tammy Reaser, Purple Cow gift card, and the Kenamond family, cross stitch picture in frame. The funds from this auction help to pay for the competitions they attend throughout the year such as: The Northern Tier Championship Show in Meshopen Pa, Union County West End Fair, The National Holstein Show, Premiere National Holstein Show, Pa. Holstein Fall show in Harrisburg, Junior Holstein Convention and educational meetings other than the normal 4H meetings they hold during the year. Their next round of competitions will be September 15-17 in Harrisburg.



Pictured left to right: Mallory Leitzel, Rachel Reaser, Douglas Boop, and Katie Boop.

Photograph courtesy of Martha Boop.

## Blessings from the Bible

by Brenda Weaver

*“But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you and persecute you;*

*That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust.”*

Matthew 5:44, 45

Rain. What Pennsylvanian wasn't glad and relieved to hear the sound of it on rooftops, smell its unique scent, and benefit from its nourishment? I suppose we weren't quite as eager for it as Elijah and the people of his day. (See 1 Kings 17-19) Their drought lasted for three years as compared to our three month lack. Still it was good to hear “a sound of abundance of rain” as Elijah did.

The books of Job and Psalms speak most often of rain. In Job 38:28 God asks Job “Hath the rain a father? Or who hath begotten the drops of dew?” During this discourse God asked Job at least seventy questions (you can count them in chapters 38 and 39). When all the questioning was done, Job realized how little he knew and how dependent he was on God. I guess you might say three months with very little rain helped us all to realize how dependent we are on God.

Did you notice, ladies, how your hanging baskets, potted plants and flower gardens smiled after the most refreshing of waters—rain? Farmers and gardeners noticed the changes in crops and vegetables. Sun-scorched plants drank in the rain and revived enough to grow or produce, at least in part.

We can be thankful that rain and sunshine do not fall only on the righteous as the verse (above) from Matthew indicates. These words of Jesus are included in His “Sermon on the Mount” and include teachings that are more unusual than a dearth of rain in Pennsylvania. “Love your enemies. Bless them that curse you. Do good to them that hate you. Pray for those who persecute you.” These commands are impossible for humans to follow apart from the grace and strength of God.

How might our world be different if all of us who carry the name of Christ lived by the standards He set in the Sermon on the Mount?

*“Sow to yourselves in righteousness, reap in mercy; break up your fallow ground: for it is time to seek the Lord, till he come and rain righteousness upon you.”*

Hosea 10:12

Prayer for today:

Oh Lord God, You are almighty. You send sunshine and rain and we thank you for it. Rain righteousness on your children as well, for only by Your grace and strength are we capable of producing fruit for Your kingdom.

Thank you. Amen

### *Letters and E-mails to the Editor*

Hi Tony, I don't know if this will interest you or not. I know a lot of your subscribers and they also know my family. Alice Reitz is a cousin of mine. She mentioned the Wolfe & Tyson reunion at Hairy John's Park. Her grandparents and my great grandparents started this reunion. They were Sara Jane (Tyson) Wolfe and her husband, Charles Franklin "Frank" Wolfe. Sara Jane had passed away before I was born in 1936, but I knew my grandpa Frank very well. They had 10 children: Effie Hoff, Sally Royer, Anna Beachum, Katherine "Katie" Reamer, Jennie Hackenburg, Della Voneida (my grandmother), Lola Chappell, Ethel Bolig, Charles Wolfe (Elmer Wolfe's father) and Harry Wolfe. Harry Wolfe was Gladis Baker's father. Gladis is Alice Reitz's mother. A lot of your subscribers knew Elmer Wolfe. He sold International tractors and parts in Mifflinburg for many years. He just passed on recently.

My grandparents, Della (Wolfe) Voneida and Harry E. Voneida raised me from the time I was 2 years old, when my father, Lester L. Voneida passed away. My father was one of 12 children. My uncle, Robert Voneida was Union County Treasurer at one time. I have lost contact with the Tyson side of the family. The Voneida side was distant relatives of Hairy John. I think my great grandparents on the Voneida side were first cousins of Hairy John. Since he did not want to be bothered with anyone we never knew much about him. My great grandparents were David Edward and Anna Jane Voneida. They lived all their lives at Lewisburg RD. They were farmers, as were my grandparents. They had 4 children. Just a little bit of history. Sincerely, Betty Jane (Voneida) Shoemaker, Millmont.

Hello Tony, Sure enjoy The Millmont Times. Look forward to getting it. Since I lived in the Millmont area on a farm I remember a lot of people. And Janice, I enjoy your recipes. I made a lot of them. Thanks again, Phyllis Sholter, Lewisburg.

Hi Tony, Hope all is well with you and Janice. I thought I'd better get on the ball and renew my subscription for another year. I'm enclosing a little extra to help with expenses. God Bless you, Pat Bennett, Hartleton.

### **Thank You!**

I would like to thank the following people for making monetary donations toward the publication of this newsletter: Patricia Phifer, West Chester; Wesley Watters, Millmont; Gordon and Polly Libby, Millmont; Phyllis Sholter, Lewisburg; Robert & Linda Walter, Mifflinburg; Norma Bennett, Hartleton; Betty Buttorff, Hartleton; Harold Sampsell, Millmont; Donald & Kathryn Shively, Millmont; and Charles & Rebecca "Becky" Hagenbaugh, Mifflinburg;

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: Michele Maxfield, Mifflinburg; and Wayne & Karen Lauver, Rutherfordton, NC. If you would like to join more than 280 subscribers who currently receive a FREE color version of The Millmont Times each month via the Internet, please sign up now at: [millmonttimes@dejazzd.com](mailto:millmonttimes@dejazzd.com).

Welcome to the following new mail subscribers: Russell & Jane Zimmerman and Isabel Hassinger, Millmont.

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 Hilda (Boop) Zechman, of Lewisburg, for allowing me to copy a scrapbook of newspaper clippings from the 1950's through the 1970's that were preserved by her late mother, Margaret (Walls) Boop; Grace Kuhns, of Mifflinburg, for sending me a photograph of the Hartleton Union Church; Norman and Becky Wenrick, of Aaronsburg, for allowing me to borrow the following books The Life and Times of Jim and Jane, Sing'em Cowboy Jim and Jane's Collection of Mountain and Western Ballads, a booklet on the Laurelton State Village 1948-1950 and for the delicious sweet corn; Kathryn Fritz, of Pleasant Grove, for allowing me to copy several circa 1930's photographs relative to the Lewis Township High School and the West End Fair; and Michael Dreese, of Middleburg, for reproducing and donating several vintage photographs relative to R. B. Winter State Park.

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

*Monday September 4, 1944. Temperature a little cooler, slight showers during the afternoon. Had a card from David. Labor Day - Edgar's Birthday.*

*Tuesday September 5, 1944. Temperature 63 degrees at 7 a.m. Had a letter from Billy from Italy today. He is in combat duty now and says he can't write often he is so busy taking care of himself and wounded boys. Was to directors meeting tonight. Florence and George just returned from their trip to Mass.*

*Wednesday September 6, 1944. Temperature 63 degrees at 7, almost clear. Was to Sister's Aid at Mervyn's with Florence. Had a letter from Billy yesterday.*

*Thursday September 7, 1944. Temperature 62 degrees at 7 a.m. Bought twelve bushels of potatoes from Mr. Archie Walter for \$12.00. Two bushels large and 10 bushel of seconds. They are selling in the market for \$3.00.*

The small photograph in the upper left hand corner of page one shows the Smith/Miller mansion that was located west of Millmont. This was home to Jacob & Sarah Braucher, and later William and Hannah (Halfpenny) Smith. It was later used as a summer home by Rev. Dorsey and Anna (Smith) Miller. The property was subsequently owned by Joseph Perry-Hill, Dr. Forrest Showalter, and more recently by Delight and the late Robert Showalter. This unique home was razed a number of years ago.

## September Birthdays & Anniversaries

- |   |                                  |
|---|----------------------------------|
| 1 - Earnest & Margaret Boney - 1971     | 16 - Bryce W. Koonsman           |
| 1 - Charles Mabus                       | 17 - Mervin & Pat Kline - 1965   |
| 1 - Cecelia Rothermel                   | 18 - Morgan Kline                |
| 2 - Carl "Bup" & Jeanne Sampsell - 1950 | 18 - Earl Frantz                 |
| 3 - Martha Hoover                       | 20 - Doris Walter                |
| 4 - Joe & Kimmy Smith - 1993            | 21 - Harry & Terry Mensch - 1974 |
| 4 - Matthew Brubaker                    | 22 - Nancy Katherman             |
| 5 - Brad & Angie Walter - 1988          | 22 - Tiffany Fultz               |
| 5 - Darlene Hackenburg                  | 22 - Nathan Lee Martin           |
| 5 - Marjorie Bowersox                   | 22 - Kyle Fultz                  |
| 5 - William & Connie Bastian - 1957     | 22 - Julie Klingman              |
| 6 - Sue Hassenplug                      | 23 - Theron W. Conrad            |
| 8 - Ronald Koonsman, Jr.                | 23 - Donald Kahler               |
| 8 - William "Bill" Inch                 | 23 - Tiffany Radel               |
| 8 - Orvie Zimmerman                     | 23 - Bernie Schmader             |
| 8 - John & Betty Stamm                  | 24 - Kenneth Groff               |
| 10 - David & Vivian Shively - 1988      | 25 - Anthony Guida               |
| 10 - Marvin Englehart                   | 25 - Richard Rothermel           |
| 11 - Lewis & Mary Campbell - 1946       | 25 - Betty Stamm                 |
| 11 - Kafy Long                          | 26 - Joanna Vanatta              |
| 11 - Mary Bingaman                      | 28 - Eugene Hackenburg           |
| 11 - Eleanor Hoy                        | 28 - Lulu Hoffman                |
| 12 - Henry Aurand                       | 29 - James Camp                  |
| 15 - Emily Oberholtzer                  | 30 - Seth Weller                 |
| 16 - Doug & Lisa Bowersox - 2004        | 30 - Christian Brubaker          |
| 16 - Shayna Fultz                       |                                  |

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