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PUZZLES &  
PRONOUNCEMENTS

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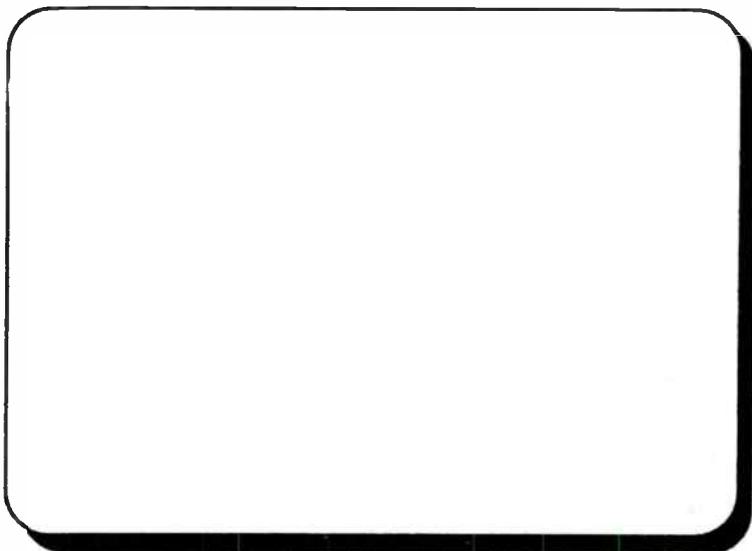
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## ♥ Love...

# Through the Eyes of Children

*A group of professional people posed this question to a group of four to eight-year-olds, "What does love mean?"*

*The answers they got were broader and deeper than anyone could have imagined. See what you think:*

♥ "When my grandmother got arthritis, she couldn't bend over and paint her toenails anymore. So my grandfather does it for her all the time, even when his hands got arthritis too. That's love."

*Rebecca - age 8*

♥ "When someone loves you, the way they say your name is different. You know that your name is safe in their mouth."

*Billy - age 4*

♥ "Love is when they put on shaving cologne and they go out and smell each other."

*Karl - age 5*

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♥ “Love is when you go out to eat and give somebody most of your French fries without making them give you any of theirs.”

*Chrissy - age 6*

♥ “Love is what makes you smile when you’re tired.”

*Terri - age 4*

♥ “Love is when my mommy makes coffee for my daddy and she takes a sip before giving it to him, to make sure the taste is OK.”

*Danny - age 7*

♥ “Love is when you kiss all the time. Then when you get tired of kissing, you still want to be together and you talk more. My Mommy and Daddy are like that. They look gross when they kiss.”

*Emily - age 8*

♥ “Love is what’s in the room with you at Christmas if you stop opening presents and listen.”

*Bobby - age 7*

♥ “If you want to learn to love better, you

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should start with a friend who you hate.”

*Nikka - age 6*

♥“Love is when you tell a guy you like his shirt, then he wears it everyday.”

*Noelle - age 7*

♥“Love is like a little old woman and a little old man who are still friends even after they know each other so well.”

*Tommy - age 6*

♥“During my piano recital, I was on a stage and I was scared. I looked at all the people watching me and saw my daddy waving and smiling. He was the only one doing that. I wasn't scared anymore.”

*Cindy - age 8*

♥“My mommy loves me more than anybody. You don't see anyone else kissing me to sleep at night.”

*Clare - age 6*

♥“Love is when Mommy gives Daddy the best piece of chicken.”

*Elaine - age 5*

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♥ “Love is when Mommy sees Daddy smelly and sweaty and still says he is handsomer than Robert Redford.”

*Chris - age 7*

♥ “Love is when your puppy licks your face even after you left him alone all day.”

*Mary Ann - age 4*

♥ “I know my older sister loves me because she gives me all her old clothes and has to go out and buy new ones.”

*Lauren - age 4*

♥ “When you love somebody, your eyelashes go up and down and little stars come out of you.”

*Karen - age 7*

♥ “Love is when Mommy sees Daddy on the toilet and she doesn’t think it’s gross.”

*Mark - age 6*

♥ “You really shouldn’t say ‘I love you’ unless you mean it. But if you mean it, you should say it a lot. People forget.”

*Jessica - age 6*

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Celebrating the 25th Anniversary  
of Book Bonanza  
July 16, 17, 18, 2004

Book Bonanza's annual used book sale has provided more than \$650,000.00 to support scholarships and the Summer Reading Program for Kids in all Berks public libraries. This is a monumental recycling program of collecting used books from the public and reselling them at reasonable prices. The sale tantalizes lovers of books from Berks, surrounding counties and states.

Mysteries, history, general fiction and all nonfiction categories can be found among the 50,000+ books sold every year at prices of 25 cents to a few dollars.

Collectible editions of local interest, rare books, and pristine gift quality books surprise collectors with below market value pricing. The selection varies widely; there is something for everyone.

The Children's section supports growing minds, from infant to teen, with a choice of

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books, puzzles, tapes, and home-schooling materials.

The finale on Sunday, Noon to 3 PM, is the "Bag of Books" sale, a time to stuff our sale bag with your choice of remaining books.

The 25th Book Bonanza opens the door at the Leesport Farmers Market Banquet Hall on Friday & Saturday, July 16 & 17, from 9 p.m. to 8 p.m.

County wide used book collections, held in fall 2003 and spring 2004, are announced on WEEU. More Book Bonanza information is available at 610-779-7297

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# BANANAS:

## Green? Yellow? Huh?

*Here is a handy description on the stages of bananas – when ripe, when to eat, etc.*

### **1. Green banana–**

Not ready to eat raw, but you can cook it. Basically, the banana is raw starch somewhat like a raw potato.

### **2. Partially yellow banana-**

The banana is yellow, but still has some green on it...This banana should also be eaten cooked, and not raw. The starches have not yet fully converted into sugar yet. You can cook as a dessert, or as a vegetable.

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### **3. Yellow banana-**

No more green – all yellow banana – The banana is now ready to be eaten raw. Most all of the starch has been converted into sugar and the tasty banana can now be easily digested.

### **4. Yellow banana with brown speckles-**

The banana is now at its peak for flavor and nutrition. It can be eaten by anyone, even those who have weak digestions.

### **5. Brown, with some yellow-**

Gone past its peak. Now ready to use in your banana bread recipe.

Did you know that bananas are considered to be the greatest body builders among the fruit foods? They have tissue building ability. Serve daily and you will have better health and save money! Do not keep bananas in the refrigerator.

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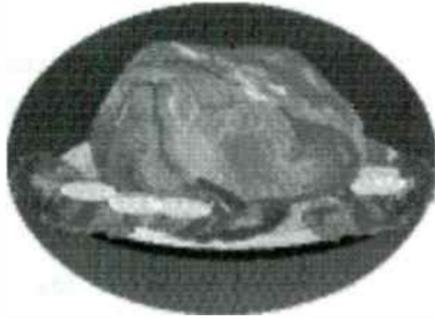
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# FOOD TRIVIA

## **The 4 Classes of Vegetarians:**

1. True Vegetarians – Will eat nothing from an animal, cooked or processed.
2. Lacto-Vegetarians – Will eat dairy products.
3. Ovo-Vegetarians – The only animal product allowed to eat is eggs.
4. Pesco-Vegetarians – Will not eat red meat, but will eat fish, chicken, eggs and dairy products.



The world's rarest coffee cost \$300 a pound. It is called Kopi Luwak and comes from Indonesia!



Each American eats approximately 22 pounds of tomatoes yearly. More than half

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of the tomato consumption is in the form of catsup and tomato sauce.

✱

Did you know that in the United States, Farmers use 1.5 billion pounds of pesticides and that these pesticides end up in about 1/2 the food we eat? Why? Only about 1 percent of food shipments in the US are tested for pesticides. Kind of scary, isn't it?

Some Apple Growers use 24 different types of pesticides on apples!

✱

Did you know there are more than 15,000 varieties of rice?

✱

Did you know that Brazil Nuts are only grown in Rain Forests?

✱

Did you know that butter is one of our oldest foods?

✱

Did you know that cabbage is 91 percent water?

✱

It takes nearly 2,000 coffee cherries to provide enough beans for a pound of roasted coffee!

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The world's rarest coffee costs \$300 a pound. It is called Kopi Luwak and comes from Indonesia!



In 1853, a one pound can of lobster cost a nickel! Some lobsters can live to be more than 100 years old. 99.9% of all lobsters do live past a month old. Lobsters are the least expensive the months of September and October.



The average American drinks 25 gallons of milk per year.



Did you know that about 88% of all milk is water and only about 12% is solid substance that has food value?



There are more than 400 varieties of natural cheeses!



There are more than 240 varieties of fish and shellfish sold in the fish markets and grocery stores!



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Ever wonder what animals are in a box of animal crackers?

1 lion  
1 buffalo  
2 sheep  
2 monkeys  
2 tigers  
3 rhinos  
3 rhinos  
5 bears  
6 gorillas

*Source: Professional Chefs Association*



Did you know that in Japan, the most popular topping for pizza at Domino's Pizza is Squid?



Last year, Americans ate more than eight billion quarts of popcorn!



Did you know it takes 50 gallons of maple sap to make one gallon of maple sugar?



Ever wonder how Hush Puppies got their name?

Hushpuppies are pieces of fried

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cornmeal batter which are a great southern tradition. Years ago, pieces of the fried batter were fed to hungry dogs that begged for food. After the scraps were given to the dogs, the owner would say “Now hush, puppy.”



Tootsie Rolls were the first wrapped penny candy in America.

The Tootsie Roll Company produces more than 16 million lollipops a day!



Kitchen forks trace their origins back to the time of the Greeks. These forks were fairly large with two tines that aided in the carving and serving of meat. The tines prevented meat from twisting or moving during carving and allowed food to slide off more easily than it would with a knife.

By the 7th Century CE, royal courts of the Middle East began to use forks at the table for dining. From the 10th through the 13th Centuries, forks were fairly common among the wealthy in Byzantium, and in the 11th Century, a Byzantine wife of a Doge of Venice brought forks to Italy. The Italians, however, were slow to adopt their use. It was not until the 16th Century that forks were widely adopted in Italy.

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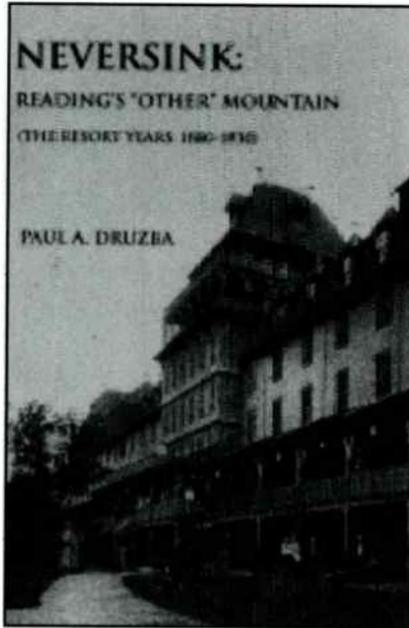
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*In 2003, WEEU commercial copywriter Paul Druzba published his first book, a history of Neversink Mountain in Reading. What follows is an excerpt.*



# Anna: A TB Story

©2003 by Paul A. Druzba

*Excerpted from "Neversink: Reading's 'Other' Mountain", a history of Neversink Mountain during its "Resort Years", from 1880 to 1930, published by Exeter House Books.*

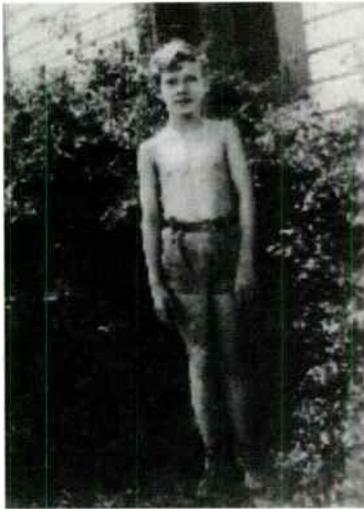
In 1921, there were 900 reported cases of tuberculosis in Berks County. And there were 75 beds at the Berks County Tuberculosis Sanatorium on Neversink Mountain. If all those on the waiting list

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for treatment were lined up, they would have stretched all the way down to Dangers Glen Hotel at Klapperthal.

One of the lucky ones in 1930 was an 8 year old girl from southeast Reading named Anna Moyer.

The doctor at her school noticed a cough, and a thin, frail body. Even though one of Anna's brothers had a "touch" of TB, Anna's was worse. Before long, she found herself in a strange bed, in a strange building on Neversink, sporting a very short haircut. (Lice were a problem at the TB Sanatorium).



*Anna Moyer, age 8, in her "summer uniform" at the Sanatorium*

Anna spent her first three months there confined to bed. Unlike her family down on South Third Street, Anna was well-fed, drank lots of milk,

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and enjoyed plenty of fresh air. Sound good?

It wasn't always. The fresh air was fine in the summer, but in winter, the windows were kept open. Hot, stuffy air was the enemy. The once-a-week Saturday bath was lukewarm or cold. The only time Anna ever got warm was at mealtime, when all patients ate at the dining hall together.

Anna was homesick, but visitors were infrequent, and few. Her family did not have a car, and the trolley did not run on Neversink any more. So they would have to take the Reading trolley up to 18th Street, and make the long trek up and over Neversink to see Anna.

Her family was struggling just to survive. Anna's dad was a fireman, but the City could not afford to pay him for a while during the Depression. So a local grocer, an Italian gentleman on South 4th Street, was kind enough to extend credit until payday arrived.

But life in the summer at the TB Sanatorium was better for Anna. Her "summer uniform" was short-shorts, high-top shoes and nothing else. (Older girls could wear a top). She could play ball with the handful of other children. There was a sandbox. And cherry trees to climb. And "sour grapes" outside – the legacy of a "Mr. Graeff". And Anna could walk over to the Mellvain Pavilion to take in a nice view of the City.

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Anna was lucky to get in, and lucky to get out alive. A baby died while she was there, as well as a number of “older people”. The TB kids watched with fascination as the corpses were taken to the morgue, right underneath where they slept. To a kid, this is something that happens to “other people, not you”.

After eight months at the Sanatorium, Anna was set free – sort of. She returned home, but under orders. For the next two years, Anna was bused to an “Open Air School” in northeast Reading. There, on the top floor, the windows were always open, all year round, just like up on the hill.

Anna, and about 20 other TB kids, took third and fourth grade at Northeast. But she doesn't remember it as a hard time. “It was the depression – we were happy for what we had.”

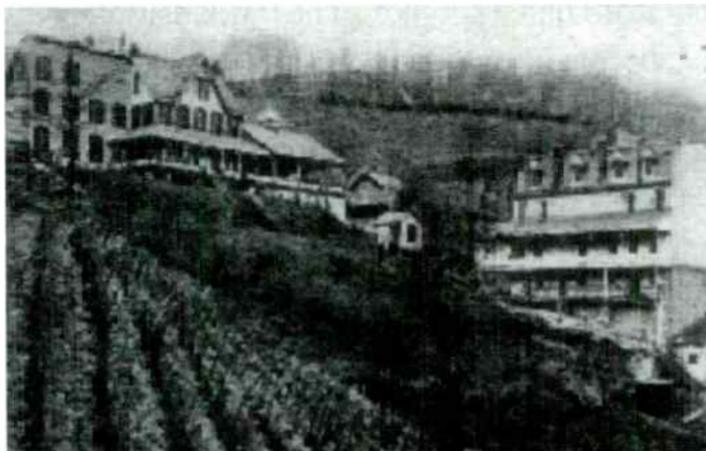
Anna ate well, and enjoyed a midday nap at school. And got well. And went on to marry a fella named Claude Wert.

Despite all the hardships, Anna considers herself lucky. We should all be so lucky to be able to feel that way.

***Note: By the late 1930s, it was reported that the number of TB cases in Berks County had decreased dramatically. So by that time, the Sanatorium on Neversink probably would have been of sufficient size to handle the need. If the construction of Berks Heim had been delayed for a few more years, who knows? We might now see a sprawling care facility***

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*at the eastern end of Neversink Mountain. Another victim of changing times.*



*The Berks County Sanatorium around the time of Anna's stay, about 1930*



*When you hear the Accu-Weather reports on WEEU, this is where they're coming from – the modern, high-tech world headquarters of Accu-Weather just outside State College, PA*



## **Pennsylvania food and wine combine for unique taste experience**

*Lower carbs and health benefits also make wine a smarter  
alternative to beer*

Good food and good wine were meant for each other. Thankfully, Pennsylvania has a mouth-watering variety of both.

However, unless you are a professional wine steward, or know someone who is, the marriage of food and wine can seem like a daunting task. With hundreds of wines to choose from among the more than 70 wineries that dot the state, the possibilities appear to be endless.

In an effort to simplify the process, wine lovers might consider pairing their local reds and whites with foods made right here in Pennsylvania. The concept is not only trouble-free, it's also an exciting way to inject some local flavor into your next party or friendly gathering.

But vital questions arise when sampling the

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expansive menu of Commonwealth delicacies. Which native wines compliment UTZ potato chips or Hershey's chocolate? Can you bring out the sweet flavor of a Tastykake with a carefully selected blush? Imagine, if you will, partnering a mid-state Cabernet Sauvignon with a Philly cheese steak, smothered in onions and mushrooms.

Unique? Definitely. Unthinkable? Not at all, according to Elaine Pivinski of Franklin Hill Vineyards, the oldest winery in Pennsylvania's Lehigh Valley.

Pivinski's experience with wine and food pairing stems from an annual customer appreciation dinner held each summer at her winery.

"People are amazed at the unique combinations that food and wine can create," said Pivinski, who recommends a dry red wine when satisfying your Hershey's chocolate urges.

Take the once unimaginably paired Philly cheese steak, for example.

"Protein rich, fatty foods, like beef or cheese pair very well with a tannic wine, which includes most wines made with the Cabernet Sauvignon grape," said Jenny Engle, executive director of the Pennsylvania Wine Association, a nonprofit agricultural trade association that represents each of the state's wineries. "Most people would be hesitant to pair some of our unique local foods with area wines, but after some lighthearted mixing and

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matching, I think they'd be pleasantly surprised."

The Pennsylvania Wine Association is a nonprofit agricultural trade association that represents 77 of the state's wineries. For more information about the PWA and each of Pennsylvania's wineries visit the web site [www.pennsylvaniawine.com](http://www.pennsylvaniawine.com). The web site, offers information about statewide festivals and events, award-winning wines and links directly to winery web pages.



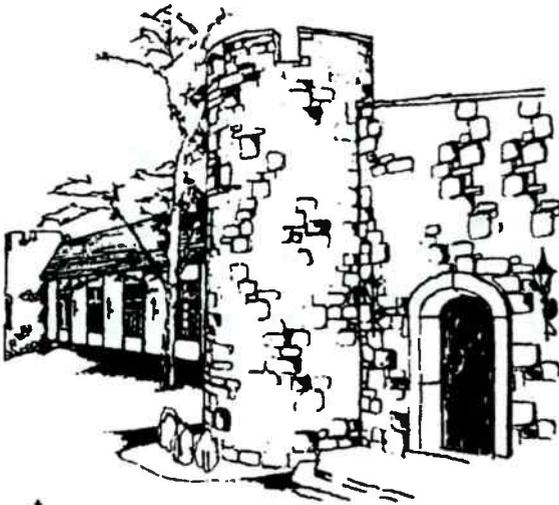
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Stokey says, "Come, celebrate the  
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# Take a Hike

by *“East Side Dave”*

For your sake, let's pretend that when someone tells you to “take a hike” they actually mean it as a good thing. If you follow their advice, you'll be doing your health a world of good! A sedentary lifestyle almost always results in a lower level of personal fitness and well-being. Think about the word itself, sedentary, it's like the word sediment, having the same root meaning. Knowing that sediment is the stuff that sinks to

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the bottom rather than the stuff that rises to the top, is sedimentary something you really want to be?

Anxiety, depression, inability to sleep, high blood pressure; these and many more “baddies” can work alone or as a team to erode the quality of our lives. As we age, more and more of these things add up to challenge us. While some things are simply out of our control, most of us have it within our control to at least move about a bit more in a day’s time and thereby increase our level of fitness, health and well-being.

A long time ago, while visiting a local nursing home, I was the recipient of a savvy quote by a woman who was well into her eighties. During a discussion about aging she simply summed it all up by saying “Aging isn’t for sissies, but it sure beats the alternative!” I’ll never forget her words. She was a salty and world-wise woman, very matter of fact in everything she said. It was always hard to argue with her logic and what she meant was, you have to deal with whatever your body throws your way and sometimes it isn’t pretty or fun, but you might as well do whatever you can to give yourself the best possible health because when it’s over, it’s over, at least here in this human plane of existence.

You can help keep the “baddies” at bay by moving a bit each day. Sediment forms from a lack of motion, so stir things up in your life! Don’t be sedentary.

There is a nifty daily activity/caloric burning

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chart located on the Worldwide Web at: <http://www.msnbc.com/modules/quizzes/caloriecalc.asp>. You simply type in the number of minutes you engage in various activities for the day and then receive a summary of how many calories you burned for that day. While it is based on averages, as most charts are, you can get a pretty fair idea of what you're burning, compared to what you're taking in by eating. As a rule, if you're taking in more calories than you're burning in a day's time, you'll probably have a tendency to gain weight.

Most of us find that it is very easy and enjoyable to eat and less enjoyable to exercise. So one of the tricks to adding some sort of exercise to your routine is to find something you enjoy and don't mind doing on a regular basis. Boredom and loathing are warning signs of failure for any exercise program. So keep it fun, don't stress out over it, relax and get to it! The way you'll feel physically and mentally after your activity is almost magical!

For me, hiking or even just casual walking is very enjoyable. If someone told me to "take a hike" I'd smile inside because I'd know that no matter what they really meant for me to think, they would have just told me to go and engage in a very noninvasive, low-impact activity that opens a person up to improved physical health and mental acuity!

According to the aforementioned calculator, during a casual stroll, (less than a 2 mph pace),

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one-half hour in length, I'd burn 71 calories. I've determined that my own personal "casual" walking pace is about 3 miles per hour. At that pace, in the same time I'd burn 125 calories. Increasing the level of exertion to a hiking pace where you find yourself walking up and down hills, and over varied terrain with more of a sense of purpose than a casual stroll, would yield a total caloric burn of 214 calories in that same half-hour! Taking a hike is a good thing!

For the sake of comparison, here are the caloric burn results from other activities you or I might do within that same one-half hour:

**Canoeing: 143 calories burned**

**Cooking: 89**

**Fishing: 143**

**Gardening: 179**

**Jogging on streets: 250**

**Mountain Biking: 125**

**Office Work: 53**

**Playing guitar: 107**

**Reading: 35**

**Running Cross Country: 322**

**Shopping: 82**

**Sitting and watching TV: 35**

**Skiing: 250**

**Sleeping: 32**

**Swimming: 286**

**Talking on the phone: 35**

**Writing: 35**

While running and some other activities can burn more calories, at some point during the aging process we must realize that we're probably

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not in it to win an Olympic Gold Medal anymore. Simply doing an activity in moderation for the sake of health and satisfaction is good enough.

The fringe benefits of walking and hiking include the opportunity to chat with a friend, (if you decide to chat with a friend, please remember to take one along on the hike because just hiking through the woods chatting to yourself could be observed as something a bit weird), observing and photographing nature, or simply granting yourself some personal time to think or make plans.

For me, the observation of nature is a favorite activity. While walking or hiking, I've been given the gift of several memorable observations! Walking along a country road I've seen two fawns, still spotted, shyly poking their heads up over the rows of corn, checking to see if I was a friend or foe until one of them bravely bounded up the road ahead of me and then crossed into the next field, allowing me to see it in all of it's beauty, while the other remained behind, content to do so until I was well past it's position. At the Route 10 parking lot for the trailhead of the Thun Trail, I observed a full-grown doe blast out of the woods and head off down toward the river. She was obviously spooked by someone or something. This in and of itself is not that remarkable of an observation as deer are very common in our part of Pennsylvania. What was unusual was what followed. Shortly after the doe took off, I heard the distinct bleating sound of a fawn. It made sense. The mother had taken flight and her baby

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was now calling to find her, seeking to be reunited. Just as I was thinking about how cute it was to hear the baby calling its mother, out of the woods gallop two fawns, bleating and looking a bit lost. They were about 50 yards from me, and me being someone who watches the Crocodile Hunter on TV, I tried to mimic that guy and soothe them, saying something calming to them like, "You're all right babies, it's OK...mama is just gone down the trail over there and she'll be back for you soon." No sooner was that said than the fawns stopped running, looked in my direction and began to trot straight toward me! Honestly, I was shocked! They came right up to within 15 yards of my position and I actually began to sense that I was going to have to pet these animals to calm them down further. Maybe they thought I was their mother because their vision at this early age wasn't yet up to par, and I was standing more or less in the general area they might have thought that their mother went off in. Whatever it was, they came right up close until they froze and just stared at me. At that point I didn't know what to do, so I froze too, savoring the moment which was supremely satisfying! In just a few seconds their little ears twitched back and I heard a noise from off in the direction that their mother had run off to and those little critters turned tail and took off as well. It was an encounter that was well worth the walk and here I was burning a few calories too! It was sweet!

On the Thun Trail I also like to look down

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from the high bridges and see what sort of fish might be swimming around in the Schuylkill River. It is fairly common to see some nice, big carp from that vantage point.

Blue Marsh Lake offers an extensive 30+ miles of trail and I enjoy walking there in Spring and Fall. Believe it or not, on one outing there one of my daughters noticed a critter up about twenty feet in the fork of a tree. When we walked over to investigate, it became clear that the critter was a groundhog! You may not think that a groundhog can climb a tree, but I can tell you from experience that if they want to, they can! I enjoy watching the hawks, eagles, herons and osprey at Blue Marsh and several times, from trails that skirt the shore, I've seen fair-sized "muskies" lazily sunning themselves in the shallows. Among other things at Blue Marsh, I've also seen a peacock walking around. To me, that was a peculiar sighting and I chalked it up to being a bird that had escaped from a nearby farm or ranch.

I try to climb up the trails from Reading's City Park to the Pagoda on Mount Penn at least once a month and you'd be surprised at how many deer and wild turkey are on that mountain. Once, with fresh snow on the ground and a winter fog providing a magical mist, WEEU's Mike Faust and I were climbing the trail when the silhouettes of several deer came into view. One of them was a substantial buck and his rack was magnificent. We both froze and enjoyed the animal until it tired

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of us and majestically moved off into a thicket. Mount Penn and Neversink Mountain offer numerous hiking trails for all level of ability. In fact, if the lure of wildlife isn't enough for you, maybe you'd enjoy discovering historic ruins from days gone by. They can really set your mind to thinking! WEEU's Paul Druzba has published a book about Neversink Mountain and does a great job of pointing out many historic facts about the mountain, as well as pointing out various historic sites on the mountain, many of which you can still visit by hiking or walking to them!

Walking at the Middle creek Wildlife Sanctuary always provides some sort of worthwhile wildlife observation. Looking back on the day I was walking amongst a flock or over 80,000 Snow Geese and 1,500 swans, always brings a warming thought to my mind. I, like so many other folks, also found great pleasure in watching a pair of Great Horned Owls fledge over a period of weeks and repeated hikes, and the resident Bald Eagles always raise your spirit when you can spot them. At Middle creek, you can choose to walk on paved roads or dirt trails.

The trail system in the Wyomissing Park is a very pleasant place to walk and here you'll find lots of company from fellow walkers, if that's your bag. I know for a fact that WEEU's Jack Holcomb frequents this park and trail system and with him I've seen hawks, bluebirds, and various other songbirds. One of my best sightings in the park happened one spring when I came across a

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mating pair of Northern Flickers. Their courting ritual was intricate, spirited, and entrancing, and combined an almost perfectly straight three to five foot vertical flight or “hop” with a display of feathers and ground maneuvers ending in the ultimate contact between male and female. This activity lasted for more than 45 minutes, which is more than can be said for many humans!

Some consider them a nuisance, and they can be very messy, but they can also be very comical as they amble along trying to get out of your way. Even though they could fly gracefully out of your way; they almost always seem to prefer the lazy way out and just waddle out of the way instead of flying. On the Gring’s Mill trail the Canadian Geese are almost always there to greet you! I like them and think we’re fortunate to have such a large and interesting bird in our midst. Maybe sometimes we have the tendency to take things for granted. For instance, if we did not have Canadian Geese, and we enjoyed bird-watching, we might long to go somewhere far away to see them, just like we long to travel to distant places to see penguins or puffins. Since we see them on a regular basis, we dismiss them as being an “unworthy” species. Yet I’ve watched mated pairs raise their young from goslings to mature birds with great patience and care. I’ve seen mothers protecting their nests by hunching as low to the ground as possible to blend in with the surroundings while the father honks away and moves off in a different direction to distract

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predators. I've been chased up and down trout streams in spring by geese that were just as surprised to see me as I was to see them. They work as a team for their common good. They're loyal to their flock to a fault and they mate for life. Maybe there are lessons for us to learn by walking amongst and observing the geese!

The Appalachian Trail crosses through Northern Berks County and I make a pilgrimage there several times a year. Through the years I've hiked, run, skied and biked my way from various valley departure points to its many notable summit destinations and back. Hiking on the "AT" offers a wonderful sense of connectivity with nature and with like-minded souls who tread its length all the way from Maine to Georgia!

A favorite destination is "The Pinnacle" which is a rocky outcropping overlooking the woodlands and fields below from a vantage point of some 1,500 feet above sea level. From this place my walks have rewarded me with the sounds of laughing coyotes, and the sight of nesting Copperhead, Timber Rattler, and other kinds of snakes. Just recently I saw three Copperheads peacefully sunning themselves right on the lookout rocks of the Pinnacle. They were intertwined and enjoying the warmth of the sun! I doubt that they appreciated the view, and I certainly gave them all of the respect and space that they deserved to have, (being armed with a fast acting neurotoxin for a weapon that'll turn your nerves into mush and all), but we did have

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the desire to be in the sun in common and so I gave them their space, they left me alone and we shared about a half-hour on the summit together! I know I know...many people are repulsed by the thought of snakes. The snake in the Garden of Eden has been etched into the collective psyche of our species and all, but truly, that "Garden of Eden" stuff is more about temptation and the wages of sin, than it is about the snake directly. The snake species didn't get the best PR deal from that part of the Bible. If you let them alone, they'll let you alone. (I must admit to having a tendency to pick up and more closely examine and interact with the nonpoisonous varieties.) They are not slimy and they do lots of good for the environment by eating their fair share of mice, rats, and other similar creatures. When I see them in the wild I feel that there is something to celebrate in the local environment because things must be in good balance for them to be there in the first place. The lesson of not judging a book by its cover comes to mind here. Please don't judge them by the way they look but rather, judge them for the good they do in our ecosystem. Consider yourself lucky to see a snake in the wild while on a walk!

Walking is something you can do almost anywhere and the experience can be as interesting as you make it. Even the routine or a short walk after your evening meal can give you tremendous benefits. To keep it from becoming boring, make observations. What sorts of plants

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and wildlife can you find? What is ordinary on your regular walking route in the neighborhood and what seems different or out of place?

Before many of us got all caught up in television and the Internet, we used to spend more hours outside on our porches or walking in our neighborhoods. Neighbors knew each other better. People even looked out for one another! If something seemed out of place, someone usually noticed it right away and reported it in the appropriate place.

Maybe in this era when many lament about the rise of crime, more of us should go on regular nightly neighborhood walks if for no better reason than to just take back our streets. Activity breeds an upwelling of positive energy. Inactivity and sedentary lifestyles produce the opposite result. So call a neighbor, friend or family member and invite them to take a hike! Like I said at the outset of this tome, it could do you and your immediate environment a world of good!

**About the author:** *"East Side Dave" produces and hosts a weekly, syndicated radio and web show called "Mountain Folk." Mountain Folk is heard on radio stations in various locations in the USA, and it's heard worldwide via the Internet. The show can be found on the web at <http://www.mountainfolk.com>. The Mountain Folk Radio & Web Show presents traditional mountain music and culture. Dave has been active in various aspects of television, recording, live theatrical presentations, and radio broadcasting,*

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*and is WEEU's General Manager. He has served the community on various boards and committees including the board of The Reading Musical Foundation, The Star Series, and the Reading Symphony Orchestra. Dave was vice-president of the Reading Symphony Orchestra from 1996 to 1997, and President of the organization from 1997 through 1999. A singer/songwriter, Dave has won various awards including a Gold Medal Award in the Campaign Theme division for a regional and national United Way campaign, and Best Country/Folk Song in the Commonwealth for a given year, from the Pennsylvania Association of Songwriters, Composers and Lyricists. Along with WEEU's Charles J. Adams, III, Dave co-wrote and recorded the Official Song of Reading's 250th Anniversary Celebration, "From the River to the Mountain," and he wrote and recorded the Official Song of Mount Penn's 100th Anniversary, "Let Us Sing of Mount Penn." Dave has entertained audiences in Europe and the USA with live musical concerts. He has performed with, opened for, or worked with entertainers such as Minnie Pearl, Grandpa Jones, Roy Clark, Charlie Daniels, Brenda Lee, Pam Tillis, David Bromberg, The Kendalls, and many others. He has also served as Master of Ceremonies for numerous nationally known artists and entertainers at their concerts. He is an avid fisherman, hiker, outdoorsman, and skier, and has led ski groups throughout Europe's Alps, the Southern Alps of New Zealand, Canada, and the USA.*

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### **KUTZTOWN UNIVERSITY FOOTBALL: IT ALL STARTED WITH AN AVALANCHE**



The tradition we know as Kutztown University football today began over 100 years ago, when KU was known as Keystone Normal School. Keystone won all five games it played during the initial 1895 season, including a 10-4 win over Reading High School. The school fielded a team until 1905, when the sport was suspended due to a serious on-field injury. With the exception of three years during World War II, football became a permanent fixture of the campus in 1923.

Those initial seasons set the foundation for football and athletics in general at KU. The early teams were nicknamed the “Golden Avalanche,” and featured many competitive players and teams before the current nickname of “Golden Bears” was adopted in the 1960s.

The Football program achieved national recognition beginning in 1974, when a still-active streak of Golden Bears playing in the National Football League, began.

Doug Dennison, who played at Kutztown from 1971-74, opened the doors to the NFL when he joined the Dallas Cowboys roster in 1974. A member of KU’s Hall of Fame, Dennison was a running back with “America’s Team” during the glory years of Coach Tom Landry and Hall of Fame quarterback Roger Staubach.

Bruce Harper (1973-76), a standout for the New York Jets from 1977-84, set an NFL record as a kick

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returner. He is also a member of the KU Athletic Hall of Fame.

Andre Reed (1981-84), was one of the top receivers in NFL history. Reed, who played in four Super Bowls for the Buffalo Bills, is a member of the Kutztown University Athletic Hall of Fame. In 2000, Reed played for the Washington Redskins before retiring in 2001. In 2002, Reed was inducted into the Division II Football Hall of Fame.

John Mobley (1991-95), represents KU in the NFL today. Mobley made history in April of 1996 when he became the first player in Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference history selected in the first round of the NFL Draft. Mobley was the 15th pick overall and the first pick of the Denver Broncos. Mobley has started at linebacker for the Broncos in each of his seven seasons, helping Denver to back-to-back Super Bowl Championships.

In 2000, Kutztown named its Top 30 Athletes of the 20th Century and the football program was well represented. Those included were running back Gene Blue (1951-54), record-setting quarterback Andy Breault (1989-92), All-American quarterback Beauty DeMatteo (1936-39), first faculty coach/player George B. Ely (1905-08), Harper, All-American lineman Steve Head (1974-77), Mobley, Reed, and record setting running back Mark Steinmeyer (1988-91).

Many other KU football alumni have moved on to successful careers in business, teaching, coaching and many other professions.

In addition to the success of its NFL players, Kutztown has enjoyed successes on the playing field. The 1980 season marked the school's first PSAC East division title. Kutztown was 6-5 that year and 4-1 in the division.

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The Golden Bears lost to Clarion in the school's only appearance in the PSAC "State Game" to end the 1980 campaign.

The coach of that team, George Baldwin, is the winningest coach in school history. Dave Keeny, the star running back of 1980, is now the man in charge of the Golden Bears.

Keeny has been coach of KU since 1998. He owns the school's best winning percentage and ranks third among Kutztown's all-time coaches in victories.



*In May, 2003, Mike Faust received his second Pennsylvania Association of Broadcasters' award at the Hershey Hotel. Pictured after the ceremony with Mike (center) are WEEU general manager Dave Kline and program director Jo Painter.*

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# **"FEEDBACK" HOST REMEMBERS DANCER/ACTOR GREGORY HINES**

*by Mike Faust*

Many people will remember Gregory Hines for his excellent style of tap dance while others will recall his movie, television, and Broadway career and some didn't realize that he recorded an album. I personally will reflect on this incredible performer with great pride. I had the wonderful opportunity of interviewing Gregory back in February of this year prior to his March the 9th performance here in Reading at the Sovereign Performing Arts Center.

I've been lucky and have had the good fortune of interviewing several entertainers. It is the norm that when you conduct an interview with a celebrity that there is always an aide, agent, or personal assistant that will call you right before the interview is ready to begin and then they will put you through to that personality.

My interview with Mr. Hines was scheduled for 4 pm. It is not uncommon for someone who works in show business to be late or even not call due to a scheduling

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conflict or something running long. I still remember answering the conference line at 3:59 pm EST. He was calling me from his home in Los Angeles. "Hello, is Mike Faust there, this is Gregory Hines..."

To say that he was a friendly, nice, personable human being is correct but it doesn't do him justice. He talked with me like he knew me his entire life. I found him to be a genuine, caring person who answered my questions about his upcoming performance, his start in show biz, and highlights of his career with much sincerity and style.

Watching him perform that Sunday night here in Reading was like watching a master at work. Gregory charmed the theatergoers with his wit, song, dance, and natural rapport. It was amazing to observe! My favorite part of the evening was when he invited all the local tap dance students onto the stage with him.

This was a common thing for him to do wherever he performed. He liked to showcase the local talent. To give them a real taste of what it's like to perform live in front of an audience. From the very young to the teen, young adult and even seasoned performer, it was neat to watch this legend take in the stars of tomorrow. You could see this brought a

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smile to his face.

My favorite Gregory Hines movie is “White Nights” from 1985. I would highly recommend this film. You laugh, cry, and are on the edge of your seat. It runs the full gamut of emotions. The ending is incredible!

Gregory Hines died August 9, 2003 from prostate cancer. He was only 57. When I heard the news it totally floored me. I think the whole world was shocked. Like many, I didn't even know he was ill. I'm sure it's something he didn't disclose to many people. There was a great sadness that filled the air.

Gregory Hines, thank-you! Thanks for entertaining us over the years with your eclectic multitalented act. It's easy to see that you put your heart and soul into all your performances and why so many people loved and adored you.

We here in Reading will never forget you...





## A New Way to Use Old Snapshots

*by LeAnn R. Ralph*

If you're like me, you have hundreds of photographs sitting in envelopes. Pictures from birthday parties, weddings, family gatherings, anniversaries, the Fourth of July, Thanksgiving and Christmas. You have already put the best snapshots into albums and these are leftovers. You don't want to throw them away, but you also don't know what to do with them.

Instead of letting your snapshots take up space and contribute to the clutter in

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your home, use them to make collages (at a cost of less than \$10 each) that you can give as Christmas gifts to family and friends. Here's how:

1. Assess your collection of pictures. Do you have several dozen of your spouse or significant other? Your parents? Your children? Grandparents? A friend? A beloved pet? Decide which person would like to receive these pictures and divide them into groups accordingly.

2. Buy a picture frame with glass (either 5x7 or 8x10) for each collage you are going to make. Department stores sometimes have sales on picture frames, and you can often purchase a suitable frame for \$5 or less.

3. Cut a sheet of paper (use card stock, 24# paper or light cardboard) to match the size of the opening on the picture frame.

4. Cut out the background of the pictures, leaving just the people (or pets). Cut out enough pictures to cover the sheet of paper.

5. Arrange the cutout pictures on the paper. Mix and match and experiment. Try placing the pictures at different angles.

6. After you have an idea of how you would like to arrange the pictures, glue

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them to the paper. (Check the label to make sure that you can use the glue with photographs.) Cover the entire sheet of paper with pictures.

7. When the glue is dry, insert the paper into the frame.

Collages are not only a good way to use your old snapshots, but the recipients also will cherish them for years to come as a special and thoughtful gift.



*WEEU morning newsman Len Carmen parlayed his trumpet-playing talents into “gigs” with the Exeter Community Band. Len is seen here during a break in one of the band’s rehearsals.*

# TOFU LASAGNA

**serves about 9-12**

- 1 (30 oz) jar Pasta Sauce
- 4-6 cloves garlic chopped fine
- 1(12 oz) Ricotta cheese
- 1 small onion chopped
- 1 cup shredded mozzarella cheese
- Parmesan cheese
- 1 lb firm Nasoya tofu
- 1 box Deboles
- or whole grain Lasagna noodles

Cook box of Lasagna noodles in large quantity of boiling water. In medium sized saucepan gently heat 1 tablespoon olive oil. Add chopped garlic and chopped onion. Sprinkle lightly with sea salt. While they are sautéing slice tofu in blocks. Holding 1/2 the tofu in your hands gently squeeze out excess water over sink. Crumble tofu in your hands as your drop into sauce pan. Add squeezed and crumbled tofu to sauce pan. Squeeze remaining blocks of tofu and add to sautéing garlic and onion. Sauté for several minutes until tofu begins to cook. Add 1 jar of Pasta Sauce. Stir and continue to simmer for 8-10 minutes. Add sprinkle of parsley flakes, oregano, basil if desired.

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Prepare 8"x11" with cooking spray. Spread thin layer of Pasta Sauce with tofu on bottom of pan. Over Pasta Sauce Layer 3 Lasagna Noodles, 1/3 of Ricotta Cheese, 1/3 of shredded Mozzarella. Sprinkle lightly with Parmesan.

Cover with Tofu Pasta Sauce. Repeat Layering using all ingredients in layers. Finish with a layer of noodles. Spread remaining tofu pasta sauce over top and sprinkle generously with Parmesan cheese. Cover and seal with foil. Bake in preheated oven at 375°F. for 35 minutes. Remove foil and bake uncovered for 10 additional minutes. Let sit about 10 minutes before serving.

SERVE with fresh green salad. Pre-washed and Precut salads in your grocers refrigerated case make it a snap. Put salad greens in large salad bowl. Using the best quality olive oil drizzle generously over greens. Follow with a generous drizzle of Balsamic Vinegar. Add a splash of Tamari (naturally aged soy sauce) Sprinkle with Parmesan Cheese. Toss well. Please chew well and enjoy. Remember, digestion starts in the mouth. respectfully

***Submitted by Susanne Fiori,  
Nature's Garden  
Natural Foods***

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# Courage Is A Gift

by: Gerri D Smith

***“It is not what happens to you, but how you react to it that matters.”***

**– Epictetus, First Century Greek Philosopher**

Courage is daring to be... Brave. Enterprising. Bold. In your business or personal life, how often do you question your thoughts, your actions, or your motives? When you don't exercise the ability to always test yourself, you may lose not only your confidence, but more importantly, you lose the ability to focus, to know yourself, your friends, and your customers.

When faced with decisions and challenges, asking yourself questions every day, every hour, every moment gives you the courage to discover what is important to you and what a particular situation means to you, and what result or solution you'd like to accomplish.

Not many people experience life the way they want it to be. If things don't work out the way you want, don't find someone else to blame. Know what goals you want, then question your actions in reaching them. Compare your answers to what others may wish for you. After all, having a successful

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business or a life of contentment, requires you to know yourself and the goals that are best for you.

Courage is getting in the habit of looking inward and going with your highest feeling of what's true and what feels right for you. Apply this inner evaluation in your business and in your personal life. This is important if you wish to grow and stay successful. It works!

Have the courage to be curious (not nosy!). A quest for knowledge about life and the people you interact with is good. Look for answers to whatever you plan to do. This keeps you thoughtful. Keep a journal if it helps. Over time, you can look back and discover the results of your actions (or reactions) to certain problems. Then when faced with future or similar problems, you'll have a ready solution.

Realize your weaknesses and work toward improving them. Continue to renew yourself and remember that life has a way of constantly testing your ability and courage to deal with it. When you can learn to appreciate the challenges in both your business and personal life, you find inner strength. Then you're able to bring about an inner peace and spirituality that gives you a good tool for building self-confidence and self esteem.

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There's something inside each of us that fuels our motivation, our passion, and our reason to succeed. Keep encouraging yourself to take the necessary risks to refuel your confidence. Question your motives. Then search for the answer. Question any doubts you or others may have about your courage to succeed. You are what's important.

Don't let negative thoughts get in the way of your progress and your goals. Control your thoughts. Think about what's important to you. When your thoughts are positive, they have a way of replenishing your courage. No matter how often unpleasant or difficult challenges get you down, don't give in to negative thinking. Just pick yourself up and move on. Focus on what gives you your strength and uniqueness.

Remember: Motivation, passion, and your reason to succeed in life, as well as in business, are essential requirements to reaching your goals. Live life in a constant state of awareness, with peaceful thoughts, a dash of forcefulness, and a good measure of faith and spirituality. You will then be exercising your gift of courage.



# “Mom & Pop” Stores What Happened?

*by WEEU Account Representative  
Janet Fehl*

It is so sad to say but today so many family businesses are fading away. More and more big chain stores are coming in and taking over. They are under cutting the little people and more and more people are flocking to them. What happened to supporting the mom and pop stores? Sure, their prices might be a little more expensive but do you get the service at the big chain stores that you get at the locally owned stores?

If you go into Wal-Mart and ask them a question about their grass seed, fertilizers, mulch, how to take care of the trees or lawn mowers, or even what is the best pet food to feed your dog or cat they would not have an answer for you. Does it not make sense to spend a few extra dollars and go to someone you can trust, someone whom has been a family owned business for years and is very knowledgeable on all the products they sell.

A locally owned business is not out to get you in with high prices. They just do not

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have the buying power that the big chain stores do. This means they can not buy truck loads at a time at a super price. But I can honestly tell you from being a part of a family owned business that when we go to buying shows we try to get the best price we can so that we can pass the savings on to you. I also know that my family bends over backwards to do everything possible to make their customers happy.

I often hear so many people say what a shame it is when a family business has closed, but what have you done to help prevent that from happening? Why not stop by one of your locally owned family businesses and check them out. You might be pleasantly surprised at what they have to offer and at their pricing. Support your mom and pop stores and help keep them in business.

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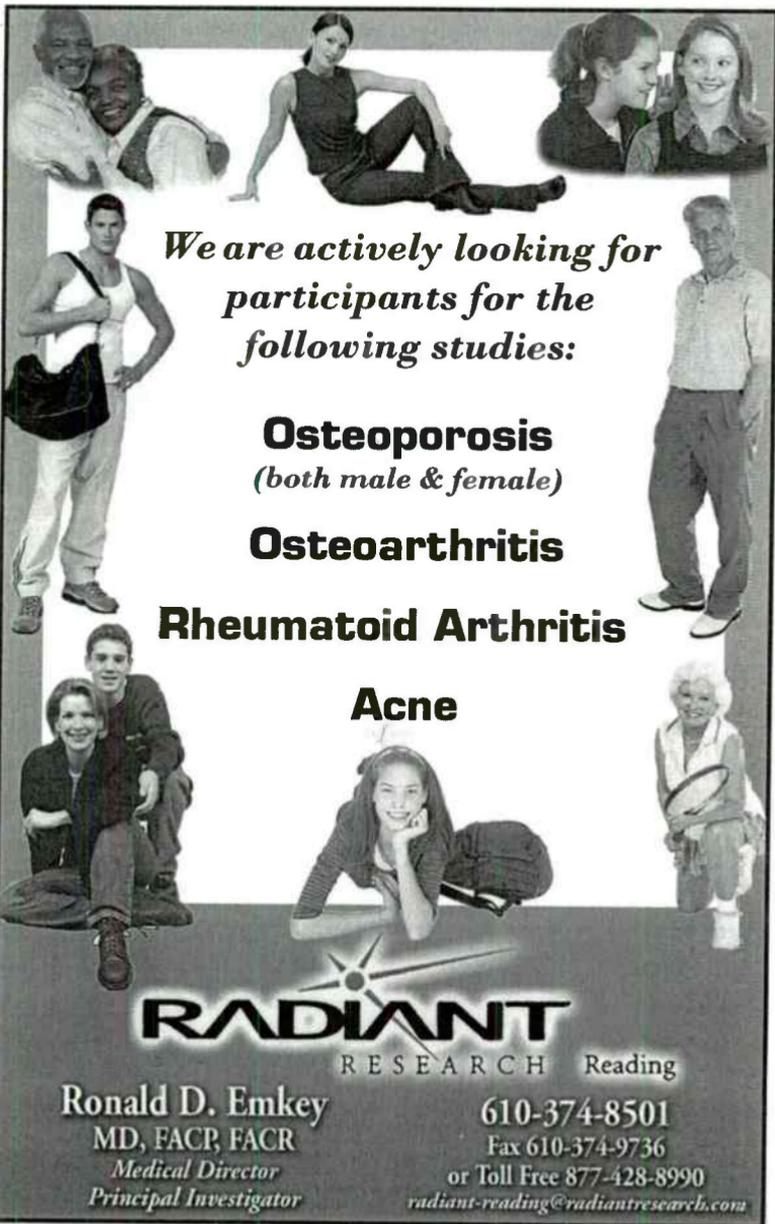
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### Those Were the Days, My Friend ...or were they?

The next time you are washing your hands and complain because the water temperature isn't just how you like it, think about how things used to be .....

Here are some facts about the 1500s:

Most people got married in June because they took their yearly bath in May and still smelled pretty good by June. However, they were starting to smell so brides carried a bouquet of flowers to hide the body odor. Hence the custom today of carrying a bouquet when getting married.

\* \* \* \* \*

Baths consisted of a big tub filled with hot water. The man of the house had the privilege of the nice clean water, then all the other sons and men, then the women and finally the children – last of all the babies. By then the water was

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so dirty you could actually lose someone in it. Hence the saying, “Don't throw the baby out with the bath water.”

\* \* \* \* \*

Houses had thatched roofs – thick straw piled high, with no wood underneath. It was the only place for animals to get warm, so all the dogs, cats and other small animals (mice, bugs) lived in the roof. When it rained it became slippery and sometimes the animals would slip and fall off the roof.

Hence the saying “It's raining cats and dogs.”

\* \* \* \* \*

There was nothing to stop things from falling into the house. This posed real problem in the bedroom where bugs and other droppings could really mess up your nice clean bed. Hence, a bed with big posts and a sheet hung over the top afforded some protection. That's how canopy beds came into existence.

\* \* \* \* \*

The floor was dirt. Only the wealthy had something other than dirt. Hence the saying “dirt poor.”

\* \* \* \* \*

The wealthy had slate floors that would get slippery in the winter when wet, so they spread thresh (straw) on the floor to help keep their footing. As the winter wore on, they kept adding more thresh until when you opened the door it would all start slipping outside. A piece of wood was placed in the entranceway. Hence the saying a “thresh hold.”

\* \* \* \* \*

In those old days, they cooked in the kitchen with a big kettle that always hung over the fire. Every day they lit the fire and added things to the pot. They ate mostly

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vegetables and did not get much meat. They would eat the stew for dinner, leaving leftovers in the pot to get cold overnight and then start over the next day. Sometimes the stew had food in it that had been there for quite a while. Hence the rhyme, "Peas porridge hot, peas porridge cold, peas porridge in the pot nine days old."

Sometimes they could obtain pork, which made them feel quite special. When visitors came over, they would hang up their bacon to show off. It was a sign of wealth that a man "could bring home the bacon." They would cut off a little to share with guests and would all sit around and "chew the fat."

\* \* \* \* \*

Those with money had plates made of pewter. Food with high acid content caused some of the lead to leach onto the food, causing lead poisoning and death. This happened most often with tomatoes, so for the next 400 years or so, tomatoes were considered poisonous.

\* \* \* \* \*

England is old and small and the local folks started running out of places to bury people. So they would dig up coffins and would take the bones to a "bone-house" and reuse the grave. When reopening these coffins, one out of 25 coffins were found to have scratch marks on the inside and they realized they had been burying people alive. So they thought they would tie a string on the wrist of the corpse, lead it through the coffin and up through the ground and tie it to a bell. Someone would have to sit out in the graveyard all night (the "graveyard shift") to listen for the bell; thus, someone could be "saved by the bell" or was considered a "dead ringer."

\* \* \* \* \*

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Bread was divided according to status. Workers got the burnt bottom of the loaf, the family got the middle, and guests got the top, or “upper crust.”

\* \* \* \* \*

Lead cups were used to drink ale or whisky. The combination would sometimes knock them out for a couple of days. Someone walking along the road would take them for dead and prepare them for burial. They were laid out on the kitchen table for a couple of days and the family would gather around and eat and drink and wait and see if they would wake up. Hence the custom of holding a “wake.”

\* \* \* \* \*

### **A BEAUTIFUL CHILD CAN INSPIRE YOU!**

I awoke from a dream about my granddaughter. She is now two years old. The dream was at some time in the future, when she had developed her conversational skills. Say ten or eleven years old. While visiting with me she asked, “Grandpa, why do you like hugs so much?” Being from a musical family I said, “Hugs, with someone you love, are like a very short dance when you don’t have time for a tune!”

—John Engle, WEEU Chief Engineer

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## **MEMORIES OF VETERANS STADIUM**

*by Len Carmen, WEEU News*

Since everyone and his brother has written about their memories of Philadelphia's Veterans Stadium, I thought I would add my own two cents worth. First, let me say that I never cared much for the Vet's concrete surface, covered with plywood and plastic grass. The whole stadium seemed cold and unforgiving. But, as I watched the ceremonies at the conclusion of the Phillies' last game at the Vet in September, 2003, I, too, shed a tear.

In the 33 years the Vet stood at Broad Street and

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Pattison Avenue, I saw the Eagles play only twice. I went to hundreds of Phillies games there, though I have no idea exactly how many. I even remember seeing a soccer match there when Philadelphia had a professional team known as the Atoms.

I attended several college football games at the Vet, and as a member of the Temple University marching band, I stumbled more than once on the uneven turf during pre-game and half-time performances.

One particular game stands out. The Owls scored a touchdown on the final play of the game against Penn State in 1976. But, instead of playing for the tie, Temple decided to go for the two-point conversion and the win. The conversion failed, but there was a penalty on the Nittany Lions and Temple had another chance. Alas, the second attempt also failed and Penn State escaped with the win.

As for baseball at the Vet, I don't remember the first time I went to a game there. But, I do remember the last. It was the next-to-last weekend of the 2003 season and the Phillies were still very much alive in the National League wild card race. The Phils beat up on lowly Cincinnati Friday night and I was so caught up in the playoff fever I decided to go again the next night. The Phils managed all of four hits and were shut out by the Reds, sending them into a tailspin that ended all playoff hopes.

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But, I do have some favorite Phillies memories at the Vet. Gary Matthews hit a home run in the final game of the 1983 National League Championship Series, solidifying his selection as series MVP. The win also exacted a measure of revenge for earlier playoff losses to the Dodgers. Less than a week later, I attended my first World Series game, but the Phillies came up short against Baltimore. The Orioles' Jim Palmer became the first pitcher to ever win a World Series game in three different decades when he came out of the bullpen to win the game. The O's went on to win the Series that year. I think they had some guy named Cal Ripken, Jr. playing shortstop. Several years later, I saw Sil Campusano (who??) break up a no-hitter by the Pirates' Doug Drabek with two outs in the bottom of the ninth inning.

So, when dawn breaks on the 2004 season, the Phillies will be playing in a new ballpark with real grass and a new atmosphere (not to mention higher ticket and concession prices). I will continue to have warm memories of that cold, concrete monster that has gone the way of the dinosaurs – Veterans Stadium.

But only because that's where the Phillies enjoyed their greatest success, and the only World Series championship, in their more than 120-year history!

**2004•WEEU JOURNAL•2004**

# **Food History and Lore**

*The first segment was published by the U.S. Food Administration during World War I for distribution to the general public. You will find it fascinating and still useful to an extent!*

## **WIN THE WAR BY GIVING YOUR OWN DAILY SERVICE!**

### **SAVE THE WHEAT:**

One wheatless meal a day. Use corn, oatmeal, rye or barley bread and non-wheat breakfast foods. Order bread 24 hours in advance so your baker will not bake beyond his needs. Cut the loaf on the table and only as required. Use stale bread for cooking, toast, etc. Eat less cake and pastry. Our wheat harvest is far below normal. If each person weekly saves one pound of wheat flour, that means 150,000,000 more bushels of wheat for the allies to mix in their bread. This will help them save democracy.

### **SAVE THE MEAT:**

Beef, mutton, or pork not more than once a day. Use freely vegetables and fish. At the meat meal serve smaller portions, and stews instead of steaks. Make made dishes of all leftovers. Do this and there will be meat enough for everyone at a reasonable cost. We are today killing the dairy cows and female

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calves as the result of high prices. Therefore, eat less and no young meat. If we save an ounce of meat each day per person, we will have additional supply equal to 2,200,000 cattle!

### **SAVE THE MILK:**

The children must have milk. Use buttermilk and sour milk for cooking and making cottage cheese. Use less cream.

### **SAVE THE FATS:**

We are the world's greatest fat wasters. Fat is food. Butter is essential for the growth and health of children. Use butter on the table as usual but not in cooking. Other fats are good. Reduce use of fried foods. Soap contains fats. Do not waste it. Make your own washing soap at home out of saved fats. Use 1/3 ounce less per day of animal fat and 375,000 tons will be saved yearly!

### **SAVE THE SUGAR:**

Sugar is scarcer. We have used 3 times as much a person as our allies. So there may be enough for all at reasonable price; use less candy and sweet drinks. Do not stint sugar in putting up fruits and jams. They will save better. If everyone in American saves one ounce of sugar daily, it means 1,100,000 tons for the year!

### **SAVE THE FUEL:**

Coal comes from a distance and our railways are overburdened hauling war

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material. Help relieve them by burning fewer fires. Use wood when you can get it.

### USE PERISHABLE FOODS:

Fruits and vegetables we have in abundance. As a nation we eat too little green stuffs. Double their use and improve your health. Store potatoes and other roots properly and they will keep. Begin now to can or dry all surplus garden products.

### USE LOCAL SUPPLIES:

Patronize your local producer. Distance means money. Buy perishable food from the neighborhood nearest you and thus save.

### GENERAL HINTS:

Buy less, serve smaller portions.

Preach the "gospel of the clean plate."

Don't eat a fourth meal. Don't limit the plain food of growing children. Watch out for the wastes in the community. Full garbage pails in America means empty dinner pails elsewhere. The more fortunate of our people will avoid waste and eat no more than they need; the high cost of living problem of the less fortunate will be solved.

The above information comes from a 1918 book, *LIPPENCOTTS'S HOME MANUALS; The Business of the Household* by C.W. Taber. Even though this was written nearly 100 years ago, and during World War 1, much

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of the information is practical, common sense.

•

Could you eat a Guinea Pig?

Not me, but a 16th Century painting shows Christ feasting on Guinea Pig and corn beer!

•

The first bubble gum ever marketed was called "Blibber-Blubber."

Manufactured by the Frank Fler Corp. 1906, it was never a hit with the public. The bubbles would burst into sticky fragments all over the chewer's face!

•

## YUM-YUM HA-HA: A Taste of Food Humor

During the depression everyone was eating frankfurters, and one man said, "These frankfurters taste like meat at one end and bread crumbs at the other." Someone retorted, "Yeah! these days it's impossible to make both ends meat."

•

**You can tell girl pancakes from boy pancakes by the way they are stacked.**

•

On a menu in a Texas restaurant: "Remember the ala mode!"

•

**College bred is a four-year loaf made out of the old man's dough.**

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**IF YOU'RE AFRAID OF IT...  
...THERE'S A NAME FOR IT!**

Ablutophobia: Fear of washing or bathing.

Acarophobia: Fear of itching or of the insects that cause itching.

Acerophobia: Fear of sourness.

Achluophobia: Fear of darkness.

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Acousticophobia: Fear of noise.

Acrophobia: Fear of heights.

Aerophobia: Fear of drafts, air swallowing, or airbourne noxious substances.

Aeroacrophobia: Fear of open high places.

Aeronausiphobia: Fear of vomiting secondary to airsickness.

Agateophobia: Fear of insanity.

Agliophobia: Fear of pain.

Agoraphobia: Fear of open spaces or of being in crowded, public places like markets. Fear of leaving a safe place.

Agraphobia: Fear of sexual abuse.

Agrizoophobia: Fear of wild animals.

Agyrophobia: Fear of streets or crossing the street.

Aichmophobia: Fear of needles or pointed objects.

Ailurophobia: Fear of cats.

Albuminurophobia: Fear of kidney disease.

Alektorophobia: Fear of chickens.

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- Algophobia: Fear of pain.  
Alliumphobia: Fear of garlic.  
Allodoxaphobia: Fear of opinions.  
Altophobia: Fear of heights.  
Amathophobia: Fear of dust.  
Amaxophobia: Fear of riding in a car.  
Ambulophobia: Fear of walking.  
Amnesiphobia: Fear of amnesia.  
Amychophobia: Fear of scratches or being scratched.  
Anablephobia: Fear of looking up.  
Ancraophobia or Anemophobia: Fear of wind.  
Androphobia: Fear of men.  
Anemophobia: Fear of air drafts or wind.  
Anginophobia: Fear of angina, choking or narrowness.  
Anglophobia: Fear of England, English culture, etc.  
Angrophobia : Fear of anger or of becoming angry.  
Ankylophobia: Fear of immobility of a joint.  
Anthrophobia or Anthophobia: Fear of flowers.

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Anthropophobia: Fear of people or society.

Antlophobia: Fear of floods.

Auptaphobia: Fear of staying single.

Apeirophobia: Fear of infinity.

Aphenphosmophobia: Fear of being touched. (Haphophobia)

Apiphobia: Fear of bees.

Apotemnophobia: Fear of persons with amputations.

Arachibutyrophobia: Fear of peanut butter sticking to the roof of the mouth.

Arachnophobia or Arachnophobia: Fear of spiders.

Arithmophobia: Fear of numbers.

Arrhenophobia: Fear of men.

Arsonophobia: Fear of fire.

Asthenophobia: Fear of fainting or weakness.

Astraphobia or Astrapophobia: Fear of thunder and lightning.

Astrophobia: Fear of stars and celestial space.

Asymmetriphobia: Fear of asymmetrical things.

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Ataxiophobia: Fear of ataxia (muscular incoordination)

Ataxophobia: Fear of disorder or untidiness.

Atelophobia: Fear of imperfection.

Atephobia: Fear of ruin or ruins.

Athazagoraphobia: Fear of being forgotten or ignored or forgetting.

Atomosphobia : Fear of atomic explosions.

Atychiphobia: Fear of failure.

Aulophobia: Fear of flutes.

Aurophobia: Fear of gold.

Auroraphobia: Fear of Northern lights.

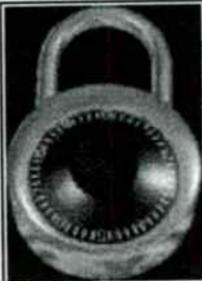
Autodysomophobia: Fear of one that has a vile odor.

Automatonophobia: Fear of ventriloquist's dummies, animatronic creatures, wax statues: anything that falsely represents a sentient being.

Automysophobia: Fear of being dirty.

Autophobia: Fear of being alone or of oneself.

Aviophobia or Aviatophobia: Fear of flying.



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### B

Bacillophobia: Fear of microbes.

Bacteriophobia: Fear of bacteria.

Ballistophobia: Fear of missiles or bullets.

Bolshephobia: Fear of Bolsheviks.

Barophobia: Fear of gravity.

Basophobia or Basiphobia: Inability to stand. Fear of walking or falling.

Bathmophobia: Fear of stairs or steep slopes.

Bathophobia: Fear of depth.

Batophobia: Fear of heights or being close to high buildings.

Batrachophobia: Fear of amphibians, such as frogs, newts, salamanders, etc.

Belonephobia: Fear of pins and needles. (Aichmophobia)

Bibliophobia: Fear of books.

Blennophobia: Fear of slime.

Bogyphobia: Fear of bogies or the bogeyman.

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can agree on.*



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Botanophobia: Fear of plants.

Bromidrosiphobia or Bromidrophobia: Fear of body smells.

Brontophobia: Fear of thunder and lightning.

Bufonophobia: Fear of toads.

### C

Cacophobia: Fear of ugliness.

Cainophobia or Cainotophobia: Fear of newness, novelty.

Caligynephobia: Fear of beautiful women.

Cancerophobia: Fear of cancer.

Carcinophobia: Fear of cancer.

Cardiophobia: Fear of the heart.

Carnophobia: Fear of meat.

Catagelophobia: Fear of being ridiculed.

Catapedaphobia: Fear of jumping from high and low places.

Cathisophobia: Fear of sitting.

Catoptrophobia: Fear of mirrors.

Cenophobia or Centophobia: Fear of new things or ideas.



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- Ceraunophobia: Fear of thunder.  
Chaetophobia: Fear of hair.  
Cheimaphobia or Cheimatophobia: Fear of cold.  
Chemophobia: Fear of chemicals or working with chemicals.  
Cherophobia: Fear of gaiety.  
Chionophobia: Fear of snow.  
Chiraptophobia: Fear of being touched.  
Chiophobia: Fear of hands.  
Cholerophobia: Fear of anger or the fear of cholera.  
Chorophobia: Fear of dancing.  
Chrometophobia or Chrematophobia: Fear of money.  
Chromophobia or Chromatophobia: Fear of colors.  
Chronophobia: Fear of time.  
Chronomentrophobia: Fear of clocks.  
Cibophobia or Sitophobia or Sitiophobia: Fear of food.  
Claustrophobia: Fear of confined spaces.  
Cleithrophobia or Cleisiophobia: Fear of being locked in  
an enclosed place.

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Cleptophobia: Fear of stealing.

Climacophobia: Fear of stairs, climbing or of falling downstairs.

Clinophobia: Fear of going to bed.

Clithrophobia or Cleithrophobia: Fear of being enclosed.

Cnidophobia: Fear of stings.

Cometophobia: Fear of comets.

Coimetrophobia: Fear of cemeteries.

Coitophobia: Fear of coitus.

Contreltophobia: Fear of sexual abuse.

Coprastasophobia: Fear of constipation.

Coprophobia: Fear of feces.

Coulrophobia: Fear of clowns.

Counterphobia: The preference by a phobic for fearful situations.

Cremnophobia: Fear of precipices.

Cryophobia: Fear of extreme cold, ice or frost.

Crystallophobia: Fear of crystals or glass.

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Cyberphobia: Fear of computers or working on a computer.

Cyclophobia: Fear of bicycles.

Cymophobia: Fear of waves or wave like motions.

Cynophobia: Fear of dogs or rabies.

Cypridophobia, Cypriphobia, Cyprianophobia, or  
Cyprinophobia: Fear of prostitutes or venereal disease.

### D

Decidophobia: Fear of making decisions.

Defecaloesiophobia: Fear of painful bowels movements.

Deipnophobia: Fear of dining or dinner conversations.

Dementophobia: Fear of insanity.

Demonophobia or Daemonophobia: Fear of demons.

Demophobia: Fear of crowds. (Agoraphobia)

Dendrophobia: Fear of trees.

Dentophobia: Fear of dentists.

Dermatophobia: Fear of skin lesions.

Dermatosiophobia or Dermatophobia or



*FEEDBACK host Mike Faust got married in the summer of 2003 to his best friend/fiance Tracy Gallagher. Mike met her at WEEU back in 1995 when she worked in the front office of the radio station.*

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- Dermatopathophobia: Fear of skin disease.  
Dextrophobia: Fear of objects at the right side of the body.  
Diabetophobia: Fear of diabetes.  
Didaskaleinophobia: Fear of going to school.  
Dikephobia: Fear of justice.  
Dinophobia: Fear of dizziness or whirlpools.  
Diplophobia: Fear of double vision.  
Dipsophobia: Fear of drinking.  
Dishabiliophobia: Fear of undressing in front of someone.  
Domatophobia or Oikophobia: Fear of houses or being in a house.  
Doraphobia: Fear of fur or skins of animals.  
Doxophobia: Fear of expressing opinions or of receiving praise.  
Dromophobia: Fear of crossing streets.  
Dutchphobia: Fear of the Dutch.  
Dysmorphophobia: Fear of deformity.  
Dystychiphobia: Fear of accidents.

### E

- Ecclesiophobia: Fear of church.  
Ecophobia: Fear of home.  
Eicophobia or Oikophobia: Fear of home surroundings.  
Eisoptrophobia: Fear of mirrors or of seeing oneself in a mirror.  
Electrophobia: Fear of electricity.  
Eleutherophobia: Fear of freedom.  
Elurophobia: Fear of cats. (Ailurophobia)  
Emetophobia: Fear of vomiting.  
Enetophobia: Fear of pins.  
Enochlophobia: Fear of crowds.  
Enosiophobia or Enissophobia: Fear of having committed an unpardonable sin or of criticism.

## 2004•WEEU JOURNAL•2004

- Entomophobia: Fear of insects.  
Eosophobia: Fear of dawn or daylight.  
Ephibiphobia: Fear of teenagers.  
Epistaxiophobia: Fear of nosebleeds.  
Epistemophobia: Fear of knowledge.  
Equinophobia: Fear of horses.  
Eremophobia: Fear of being oneself or of loneliness.  
Ereuthophobia: Fear of blushing.  
Ergasiophobia: 1) Fear of work or functioning.  
2) Surgeon's fear of operating.  
Ergophobia: Fear of work.  
Erotophobia: Fear of sexual love or sexual questions.  
Euphobia: Fear of hearing good news.  
Eurotophobia: Fear of female genitalia.  
Erythrophobia, Erytophobia or Ereuthophobia: 1) Fear of redlights. 2) Blushing. 3) Red.

### F

- Febriphobia, Fibriphobia or Fibriophobia: Fear of fever.  
Felinophobia: Fear of cats. (Ailurophobia, Elurophobia,  
Galeophobia, Gatophobia)  
Francophobia: Fear of France, French culture.  
(Galophobia, Galiophobia)  
Frigophobia: Fear of cold, cold things.

### G

- Galeophobia or Gatophobia: Fear of cats.  
Galophobia or Galiophobia: Fear France, French culture.  
(Francophobia)  
Gamophobia: Fear of marriage.  
Geliophobia: Fear of laughter.  
Geniophobia: Fear of chins.  
Genophobia: Fear of sex.  
Genuphobia: Fear of knees.

## 2004•WEEU JOURNAL•2004

- Gephyrophobia, Gephydrophobia, or Gephysrophobia:  
Fear of crossing bridges.
- Germanophobia: Fear of Germany, German culture, etc.
- Gerascophobia: Fear of growing old.
- Gerontophobia: Fear of old people or of growing old.
- Geumaphobia or Geumophobia: Fear of taste.
- Glossophobia: Fear of speaking in public or of trying to speak.
- Gnosiophobia: Fear of knowledge.
- Graphophobia: Fear of writing or handwriting.
- Gymnophobia: Fear of nudity.
- Gynophobia or Gynophobia: Fear of women.

### H

- Hadephobia: Fear of hell.
- Hagiophobia: Fear of saints or holy things.
- Hamartophobia: Fear of sinning.
- Haphephobia or Haptophobia: Fear of being touched.
- Harpaxophobia: Fear of being robbed.
- Hedonophobia: Fear of feeling pleasure.
- Heliophobia: Fear of the sun.
- Hellenologophobia: Fear of Greek terms or complex scientific terminology.
- Helminthophobia: Fear of being infested with worms.
- Hemophobia or Hemaphobia or Hematophobia:  
Fear of blood.
- Heresyphobia or Hereiophobia: Fear of challenges to official doctrine or of radical deviation.
- Herpetophobia: Fear of reptiles or creepy, crawly things.
- Heterophobia: Fear of the opposite sex. (Sexophobia)
- Hierophobia: Fear of priests or sacred things.
- Hippophobia: Fear of horses.
- Hippopotomonstrosesquippedaliophobia: Fear of long words.

## 2004•WEEU JOURNAL•2004

- Hobophobia: Fear of bums or beggars.  
Hodophobia: Fear of road travel.  
Hormephobia: Fear of shock.  
Homichlophobia: Fear of fog.  
Homilophobia: Fear of sermons.  
Hominophobia: Fear of men.  
Homophobia: Fear of sameness, monotony or of homosexuality or of becoming homosexual.  
Hoplophobia: Fear of firearms.  
Hydrargyrophobia: Fear of mercurial medicines.  
Hydrophobia: Fear of water or of rabies.  
Hydrophobophobia: Fear of rabies.  
Hyelophobia or Hyalophobia: Fear of glass.  
Hygrophobia: Fear of liquids, dampness, or moisture.  
Hylephobia: Fear of materialism or the fear of epilepsy.  
Hylophobia: Fear of forests.  
Hypengyophobia or Hypegiaphobia: Fear of responsibility.  
Hypnophobia: Fear of sleep or of being hypnotized.  
Hypsiphobia: Fear of height.

### I

- Iatrophobia: Fear of going to the doctor or of doctors.  
Ichthyophobia: Fear of fish.  
Ideophobia: Fear of ideas.  
Illyngophobia: Fear of vertigo or feeling dizzy when looking down.  
Iophobia: Fear of poison.  
Insectophobia : Fear of insects.  
Isolophobia: Fear of solitude, being alone.  
Isopterophobia: Fear of termites, insects that eat wood.  
Ithyphallophobia: Fear of seeing, thinking about or having an erect penis.

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## J

Japanophobia: Fear of Japanese.

Judeophobia: Fear of Jews.

## K

Kainolophobia: Fear of novelty.

Kainophobia: Fear of anything new, novelty.

Kakorrhaphiophobia: Fear of failure or defeat.

Katagelophobia: Fear of ridicule.

Kathisophobia: Fear of sitting down.

Kenophobia: Fear of voids or empty spaces.

Keraunophobia: Fear of thunder and lightning.

Kinetophobia or Kinesophobia: Fear of movement or motion.

Kleptophobia: Fear of stealing.

Koinoniphobia: Fear of rooms.

Kolpophobia: Fear of genitals, particularly female.

Kopophobia: Fear of fatigue.

Koniophobia: Fear of dust. (Amathophobia)

Kosmikophobia: Fear of cosmic phenomenon.

Kymophobia: Fear of waves.

Kynophobia: Fear of rabies.

Kyphophobia: Fear of stooping.

## L

Lachanophobia: Fear of vegetables.

Laliophobia or Lalophobia: Fear of speaking.

Leprophobia or Lepraphobia: Fear of leprosy.

Leukophobia: Fear of the color white.

Levophobia: Fear of things to the left side of the body.

Ligyrophobia: Fear of loud noises.

Lilapsophobia: Fear of tornadoes and hurricanes.

Limnophobia: Fear of lakes.

Linonophobia: Fear of string.

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- Liticaphobia: Fear of lawsuits.  
Lockiophobia: Fear of childbirth.  
Logizomechanophobia: Fear of computers.  
Logophobia: Fear of words.  
Luiphobia: Fear of lues, syphillis.  
Lutrathobia: Fear of otters.  
Lygophobia: Fear of darkness.  
Lyssophobia: Fear of rabies or of becoming mad.

### M

- Macrophobia: Fear of long waits.  
Mageirocophobia: Fear of cooking.  
Maieusiophobia: Fear of childbirth.  
Malaxophobia: Fear of love play. (Sarmassophobia)  
Maniaphobia: Fear of insanity.  
Mastigophobia: Fear of punishment.  
Mechanophobia: Fear of machines.  
Medomalacuphobia: Fear of losing an erection.  
Medorthophobia: Fear of an erect penis.  
Megalophobia: Fear of large things.  
Melissophobia: Fear of bees.  
Melanophobia: Fear of the color black.  
Melophobia: Fear or hatred of music.  
Meningitophobia: Fear of brain disease.  
Menophobia: Fear of menstruation.  
Merinthophobia: Fear of being bound or tied up.  
Metallophobia: Fear of metal.  
Metathesiophobia: Fear of changes.  
Meteorophobia: Fear of meteors.  
Methyphobia: Fear of alcohol.  
Metrophobia: Fear or hatred of poetry.  
Microbiophobia: Fear of microbes. (Bacillophobia)  
Microphobia: Fear of small things.

## 2004•WEEU JOURNAL•2004

Misophobia: Fear of being contaminated with dirt of germs.

Mnemophobia: Fear of memories.

Molysmophobia or Molsomophobia: Fear of dirt or contamination.

Monophobia: Fear of solitude or being alone.

Monopathobia: Fear of definite disease.

Motorphobia: Fear of automobiles.

Mottephobia: Fear of moths.

Musophobia or Murophobia: Fear of mice.

Mycophobia: Fear or aversion to mushrooms.

Mycrophobia: Fear of small things.

Myctophobia: Fear of darkness.

Myrmecophobia: Fear of ants.

Mysophobia: Fear of germs or contamination or dirt.

Mythophobia: Fear of myths or stories or false statements.

Myxophobia: Fear of slime. (Blennophobia)

### N

Nebulaphobia: Fear of fog. (Homichlophobia)

Necrophobia: Fear of death or dead things.

Nelophobia: Fear of glass.

Neopharmaphobia: Fear of new drugs.

Neophobia: Fear of anything new.

Nephophobia: Fear of clouds.

Noctiphobia: Fear of the night.

Nomatophobia: Fear of names.

Nosocomophobia: Fear of hospitals.

Nosophobia or Nosemaphobia: Fear of becoming ill.

Nostophobia: Fear of returning home.

Novercaphobia: Fear of your step-mother.

Nucleomitophobia: Fear of nuclear weapons.

Nudophobia: Fear of nudity.

Numerophobia: Fear of numbers.

## 2004•WEEU JOURNAL•2004

Nyctohylophobia: Fear of dark wooded areas, of forests at night

Nyctophobia: Fear of the dark or of night.

### O

Obesophobia: Fear of gaining weight. (Pocrescophobia)

Ochlophobia: Fear of crowds or mobs.

Ochophobia: Fear of vehicles.

Octophobia: Fear of the figure 8.

Odontophobia: Fear of teeth or dental surgery.

Odynophobia or Odynephobia: Fear of pain. (Algothobia)

Oenophobia: Fear of wines.

Oikophobia: Fear of home surroundings, house.

Olfactophobia: Fear of smells.

Ombrophobia: Fear of rain or of being rained on.

Ommetaphobia or Ommatophobia: Fear of eyes.

Oneirophobia: Fear of dreams.

Oneirogmophobia: Fear of wet dreams.

Onomatophobia: Fear of hearing a certain word or of names.

Ophidiophobia: Fear of snakes. (Snakephobia)

Ophthalmophobia: Fear of being stared at.

Opiophobia: Fear medical doctors experience of prescribing needed pain medications for patients.

Optophobia: Fear of opening one's eyes.

Ornithophobia: Fear of birds.

Orthophobia: Fear of property.

Osmophobia or Osphresiophobia: Fear of smells or odors.

Ostracophobia: Fear of shellfish.

Ouranophobia: Fear of heaven.

### P

Pagophobia: Fear of ice or frost.

Panthophobia: Fear of suffering and disease.

Panophobia or Pantophobia: Fear of everything.

## 2004•WEEU JOURNAL•2004

- Papaphobia: Fear of the Pope.  
Papyrophobia: Fear of paper.  
Paralipophobia: Fear of neglecting duty or responsibility.  
Paraphobia: Fear of sexual perversion.  
Parasitophobia: Fear of parasites.  
Paraskavedekatriaphobia: Fear of Friday the 13th.  
Parthenophobia: Fear of virgins or young girls.  
Pathophobia: Fear of disease.  
Patriophobia: Fear of heredity.  
Parturiphobia: Fear of childbirth.  
Peccatophobia: Fear of sinning. (imaginary crime)  
Pediculophobia: Fear of lice.  
Pediophobia: Fear of dolls.  
Pedophobia: Fear of children.  
Peladophobia: Fear of bald people.  
Pellagrophobia: Fear of pellagra.  
Peniaphobia: Fear of poverty.  
Pentheraphobia: Fear of mother-in-law. (Novercaphobia)  
Phagophobia: Fear of swallowing or of eating or of being eaten.  
Phalacrophobia: Fear of becoming bald.  
Phallophobia: Fear of a penis, esp erect.  
Pharmacophobia: Fear of taking medicine.  
Phasmophobia: Fear of ghosts.  
Phengophobia: Fear of daylight or sunshine.  
Philemaphobia or Philematophobia: Fear of kissing.  
Philophobia: Fear of falling in love or being in love.  
Philosophobia: Fear of philosophy.  
Phobophobia: Fear of phobias.  
Photoaugliaphobia: Fear of glaring lights.  
Photophobia: Fear of light.  
Phonophobia: Fear of noises or voices or one's own voice; of telephones.

## 2004•WEEU JOURNAL•2004

- Phronemophobia: Fear of thinking.  
Phthiriophobia: Fear of lice. (Pediculophobia)  
Phthisiophobia: Fear of tuberculosis.  
Placophobia: Fear of tombstones.  
Plutophobia: Fear of wealth.  
Pluviophobia: Fear of rain or of being rained on.  
Pneumatophobia: Fear of spirits.  
Pnigophobia or Pnigerophobia: Fear of choking or of being smothered.  
Pocrescophobia: Fear of gaining weight. (Obesophobia)  
Pogonophobia: Fear of beards.  
Poliosophobia: Fear of contracting poliomyelitis.  
Politicophobia: Fear or abnormal dislike of politicians.  
Polyphobia: Fear of many things.  
Poinophobia: Fear of punishment.  
Ponophobia: Fear of overworking or of pain.  
Porphyrophobia: Fear of the color purple.  
Potamophobia: Fear of rivers or running water.  
Potophobia: Fear of alcohol.  
Pharmacophobia: Fear of drugs.  
Proctophobia: Fear of rectum.  
Prosophobia: Fear of progress.  
Psellismophobia: Fear of stuttering.  
Psychophobia: Fear of mind.  
Psychrophobia: Fear of cold.  
Pteromerhanophobia: Fear of flying.  
Pteronophobia: Fear of being tickled by feathers.  
Pupaphobia : Fear of puppets.  
Pyrexiphobia: Fear of Fever.  
Pyrophobia: Fear of fire.

### **R**

- Radiophobia: Fear of radiation, x-rays.  
Ranidaphobia: Fear of frogs.

## 2004•WEEU JOURNAL•2004

- Rectophobia: Fear of rectum or rectal diseases.  
Rhabdophobia: Fear of being severely punished or beaten by a rod, or of being severely criticized. Also fear of magic. (wand)  
Rhyphobia: Fear of defecation.  
Rhytiphobia: Fear of getting wrinkles.  
Rupophobia: Fear of dirt.  
Russophobia: Fear of Russians.

### S

- Samhainophobia: Fear of Halloween.  
Sarmassophobia: Fear of love play. (Malaxophobia)  
Satanophobia: Fear of Satan.  
Scabiophobia: Fear of scabies.  
Scatophobia: Fear of fecal matter.  
Scelerophobia: Fear of bad men, burglars.  
Sciophobia Sciaphobia: Fear of shadows.  
Scoleciphobia: Fear of worms.  
Scolionophobia: Fear of school.  
Scopophobia or Sceptophobia: Fear of being seen or stared at.  
Scotomaphobia: Fear of blindness in visual field.  
Scotophobia: Fear of darkness. (Achluophobia)  
Scriptophobia: Fear of writing in public.  
Selachophobia: Fear of sharks.  
Selaphobia: Fear of light flashes.  
Selenophobia: Fear of the moon.  
Seplophobia: Fear of decaying matter.  
Sesquipedalophobia: Fear of long words.  
Sexophobia: Fear of the opposite sex. (Heterophobia)  
Siderodromophobia: Fear of trains, railroads or train travel.  
Siderophobia: Fear of stars.  
Sinistrophobia: Fear of things to the left, left-handed.

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- Sinophobia: Fear of Chinese, Chinese culture.  
Sitophobia or Sitiophobia: Fear of food or eating.  
(Cibophobia)  
Snakephobia: Fear of snakes. (Ophidiophobia)  
Soceraphobia: Fear of parents-in-law.  
Social Phobia: Fear of being evaluated negatively in social situations.  
Sociophobia: Fear of society or people in general.  
Somniphobia: Fear of sleep.  
Sophophobia: Fear of learning.  
Soteriophobia: Fear of dependence on others.  
Spacephobia: Fear of outer space.  
Spectrophobia: Fear of specters or ghosts.  
Spermatophobia or Spermophobia: Fear of germs.  
Spheksophobia: Fear of wasps.  
Stasibasiphobia or Stasiphobia: Fear of standing or walking. (Ambulophobia)  
Staurophobia: Fear of crosses or the crucifix.  
Stenophobia: Fear of narrow things or places.  
Stygiophobia or Stigiophobia: Fear of hell.  
Suriphobia: Fear of mice.  
Symbolophobia: Fear of symbolism.  
Symmetrophobia: Fear of symmetry.  
Syngenesophobia: Fear of relatives.  
Syphilophobia: Fear of syphilis.

### **T**

- Tachophobia: Fear of speed.  
Taeniophobia or Teniophobia: Fear of tapeworms.  
Taphophobia Taphophobia: Fear of being buried alive or of cemeteries.  
Tapinophobia: Fear of being contagious.  
Taurophobia: Fear of bulls.

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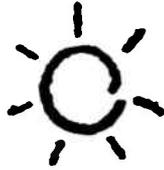
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services, give us a call!



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OFFICE OF AGING**

**County Services Center  
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**610-478-6500**

**Serving county residents  
age 60 and over**

*This project funded in part under contract with the  
Pennsylvania Department of Aging*

**An Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Agency  
County Commissioners: Timothy A. Reiver,  
Judith L. Schwank, Mark C. Scott**

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- Technophobia: Fear of technology.  
Teleophobia: 1) Fear of definite plans.  
2) Religious ceremony.  
Telephonophobia: Fear of telephones.  
Teratophobia: Fear of bearing a deformed child or fear of monsters or deformed people.  
Testophobia: Fear of taking tests.  
Tetanophobia: Fear of lockjaw, tetanus.  
Teutophobia: Fear of German or German things.  
Textophobia: Fear of certain fabrics.  
Thaasophobia: Fear of sitting.  
Thalassophobia: Fear of the sea.  
Thanatophobia or Thantophobia: Fear of death or dying.  
Theatrophobia: Fear of theatres.  
Theologicophobia: Fear of theology.  
Theophobia: Fear of gods or religion.  
Thermophobia: Fear of heat.  
Tocophobia: Fear of pregnancy or childbirth.  
Tomophobia: Fear of surgical operations.  
Tonitrophobia: Fear of thunder.  
Topophobia: Fear of certain places or situations, such as stage fright.  
Toxiphobia or Toxophobia or Toxicophobia: Fear of poison or of being accidently poisoned.  
Traumatophobia: Fear of injury.  
Tremophobia: Fear of trembling.  
Trichinophobia: Fear of trichinosis.  
Trichopathophobia or Trichophobia or Hypertrichophobia: Fear of hair. (Chaetophobia)  
Triskaidekaphobia: Fear of the number 13.  
Tropophobia: Fear of moving or making changes.  
Trypanophobia: Fear of injections.  
Tuberculophobia: Fear of tuberculosis.  
Tyrannophobia: Fear of tyrants.

## 2004•WEEU JOURNAL•2004

### U

Uranophobia: Fear of heaven.  
Urophobia: Fear of urine or urinating.

### V

Vaccinophobia: Fear of vaccination.  
Venustraphobia: Fear of beautiful women.  
Verbophobia: Fear of words.  
Verminophobia: Fear of germs.  
Vestiphobia: Fear of clothing.  
Virginitiphobia: Fear of rape.  
Vitricophobia: Fear of step-father.

### W

Walloonophobia: Fear of the Walloons.  
Wiccaphobia: Fear of witches and witchcraft.

### X

Xanthophobia: Fear of the color yellow or the word yellow.  
Xenoglossophobia: Fear of foreign languages.  
Xenophobia: Fear of strangers or foreigners.  
Xerophobia: Fear of dryness.  
Xylophobia: 1) Fear of wooden objects. 2) Forests.  
Xyrophobia-Fear of razors.

### Z

Zelophobia: Fear of jealousy.  
Zeusophobia: Fear of God or gods.  
Zemmiphobia: Fear of the great mole rat.  
Zoophobia: Fear of animals.



# **The Great Smoky Mountains Vacation, '03**

*by Jack Holcomb*

*Host of "Jack's Back Yard" on WEEU*

I keep asking myself, "What is this magnet that draws me to the Great Smoky Mountains?"

I have read, philosophized, and tried to figure out the pull to this vast expanse of Mother Nature's bounty. While hiking one of the trails on the first day of May (my 70th birthday) I suddenly thought to myself, does this really matter?

Just continue your hike, appreciate the birds, wildflowers, scenery, the company of

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your wife, and take pictures that will verify all of the natural “highs” of the region.

If you love the mountains and the views they provide, you will truly love the Great Smoky Mountains. Whether the sunshine and the way it shadows the forests, the clouds (sometimes below you) that cover the valley, or the varied shades of green the morning light provides, you will find reasons to return again and again.

One cannot neglect the history of the “mountain people,” either. I still can’t imagine all of the hardships these people faced day after day in the rugged hills with the changing seasons. The simplicity of their lives, compared with the complexities of today, draw sighs of disbelief and admiration. The deep faith of the people, evidenced by the number of small rural churches, is ever-present and those wonderful folk tales still echo through the generations.

Perhaps some of this magnetism comes from the Scottish connections in my bones as many of the settlers carried that heritage along with the Irish, English, and even the “Pennsylvania Germans.” As many of you know, the Cherokees inhabited a good part of the area as well, before the immigrants arrived.

I guess these words have given you a

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general idea of why I love these mountains so much. I have now been there twice, covering some new areas each time and discovering something new either through nature's gifts or historical offerings. We hiked for two days, enjoying the oft-hidden migrating birds and their songs, the variety of wildflowers, the colorful scenery, and the steepness of the trails. Of course, everything we saw offered some photographic opportunities. Well, almost—as birds don't pose long enough!!

We stayed in Gatlinburg and ate a variety of pancakes every morning for strength and energy, considering the day's activities. One restaurant offered thirty kinds of pancakes. I enjoyed the buckwheat, corn meal, and apple cakes. Have you ever noticed the difference in the taste of southern bacon?

The weather was most cooperative, with sun most of the day with rain and thunderstorms arriving after four o'clock in the afternoon. I guess that was Tennessee's birthday gift to me. However, the state came under severe weather the day after we left.

Will I return to these mountains? Yes, the good Lord willin' and the creeks don't rise! I want to learn more about the people, see more flowers, birds and animals; eat more pancakes, and find my wife some bears and snakes. She missed seeing them.

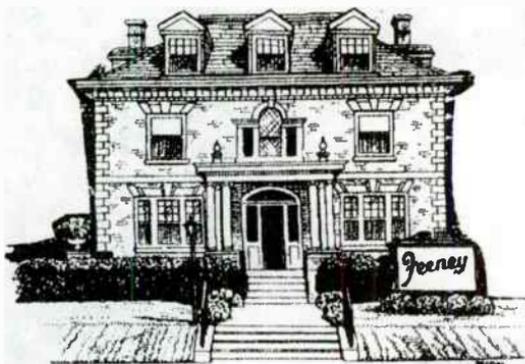
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Well...not exactly!

Thanks for letting me ramble on about this wonderful vacation. I should tell you that the highlight of the journey was spending a birthday celebration with my family in Atlanta after we came down from the mountains.

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What do Reading Phillies' mascot "Screwball" and WEEU morning guy Charlie Adams have in common? Both were guest conductors of the Exeter Community Band in 2003! Uh. . . that's Charlie on the right. (Photos courtesy of Sharon L. Bailey, Exeter Community Band)

## 2004•WEEU JOURNAL•2004



# 2004•WEEU JOURNAL•2004

2004	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	2004	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
JAN.	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	JULY	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
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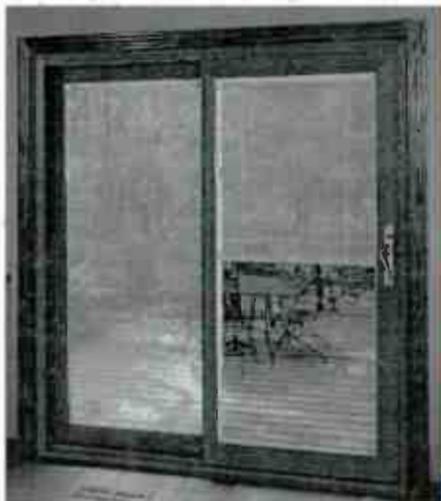
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	26	27	28	29	30				25	26	27	28	29	30	31	

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# **JACK HOLCOMB: THE BIG 4-0 IN RADI-O**

*by Jack Holcomb*

1996 is a very special year for your “Feedback” host. This year marks my 40th year as a staff member at radio station WEEU. How time flies when you are having fun!

And, in all honesty, I can’t comprehend the speed of the passing decades.

When K. Richard Creitz hired me in October, 1956, he had no idea, except for a tape of my voice and some background information, what he was getting for his sixty dollars a week.

My local connection at WEEU was the afternoon personality, Bill Wheeler, who was a good friend of mine from Ithaca College. I was somewhat petrified of the “big” city that awaited me. After all, at that time Reading had a population of just over 110,000 people. It was usually the custom in radio at that time to start the beginners with the late shift. I was assigned the 4:15 p.m. to 12:15 a.m. hours. The work load included some preparation time, a sports show, and then-popular record shows from 6:15 until 11 p.m.

When I started at WEEU there was a 15 minute newscast, mostly local, and then a program of relaxing bedtime music called House of Dreams. We signed off at midnight then, and Jack Gounder woke everyone up at six in the morning.

In today’s fast-paced technological age it is very hard to comprehend a radio world without tape recorders and transistors. Back in those dark ages we even had commercials on disc and some radio announcers that held their hand to their ear so they could better hear their voices.

As a matter fact, when I started we only had a wire recorder and that wasn’t broadcast quality! The station was

# **1996·WEEU FEEDBACK JOURNAL·1996**

truly a broadcast museum of radio artifacts. Thank goodness we have kept pace with basic state-of-the-art equipment that produces a sound unknown to us in the late 50s. We didn't even have stereo records then...

There have been many changes, too numerous to mention, and many stories, too many to tell (funny and otherwise), over this span of time. I will, however, relay one that was very important to me.

When I first came to Reading I had a great deal of difficulty with many of the names of people and places. At 11 o'clock at night, the engineer was at the transmitter so I was alone at the station.

Who could I check with for pronunciations? I stumbled through the late news trying hard to be "right" and never quite made it without blowing at least two or three words. After I finished the news and got into House of Dreams I started to receive phone calls from a dear lady (she never gave her name) and she would say, "Now Jack, it is time for our lesson in Berks County name pronunciation!"

She was absolutely wonderful, and such a help. She continued with me for almost a year until I got everything right. I will never forget this wonderful woman and will be eternally grateful.

You see, that is one thing that has never changed over these forty years....the people. The helping hands, from all walks of life, have always been there and from these has come a wealth of wonderful friendships. I have been truly blessed and now have an opportunity to say 'thank you.'

Since I have been involved in talk radio (1965 to the present) this association with people, on the air and off, has increased to my benefit.

Thank you Berks County for taking me in, giving me a wonderful home, and nurturing me for forty years.

YOU are the reasons, not only for my success, but for the success of WEEU.



## **1996·WEEU FEEDBACK JOURNAL·1996**



*This December, 1956 shot is the earliest known photograph of Jack Holcomb behind a WEEU microphone. Sometime, call FEEDBACK and ask Jack if he still has the spiffy sportcoat!*

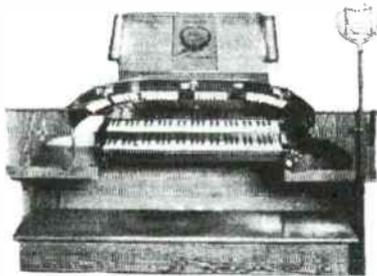
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*Early in his career, Jack Holcomb's many interests (and peculiar talents—check his left foot) were humorously detailed in this caricature by noted Reading Eagle artist Leroy Gensler.*



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J. Calvin Jackson  
Robert S. Hedder

Date

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WEEU listener Shirley Blackerby found this certificate, issued to her grandmother, Mrs. Daniel E. Hedger, in 1935. She in turn passed it on to WEEU news reporter Suzie Sands, who thought it might make a nice addition to the Feedback Journal. Anyone remember the "Friendly Club?"

# **OLD-TIME RADIO: THE KING OF COMEDY**

**by Joe (Captain Radio) Hehn,  
Old Time Radio Shows,  
Hellertown, Pa.**

When radio was King of Entertainment in America from the late 1920s to the early 1950s, Comedy was King of Radio.

Radio's official beginning in 1922 over KDKA, Pittsburgh, brought a torrent of musical programs. But these were the very early days of radio—before the networks. By 1927, both NBC Red and Blue as well as CBS had been established. The Mutual Radio Network followed in 1934. And with the networks came a trickle, then a deluge of comedy programming.

Let's trace the history of Radio Comedy as defined by those world class comedians who brought comedy to the fore both as an art and a science. We can touch only briefly by name the *best* among the hundred of comedy shows aired. In a few cases such as **Fred Allen** or **Jack Benny**, we will highlight some of the program's endearing trademarks. We must leave to some future article all the exciting dramatic details. In mentioning some of these long-forgotten programs we hope to jog your memory and stimulate you to call in to **Captain Radio** when he next appears over WEEU.

The 1929-30 season was the first to introduce

## **1996·WEEU FEEDBACK JOURNAL·1996**

some of comedy's greatest performers. The **Cuckoo Hour** made its debut over NBC. It starred **Raymond Knight** and his mythical radio station KUKU. Knight exerted tremendous influence over future radio greats including **Bob Elliott** of **Bob and Ray** fame. The same season featured **George Moran** and **Charlie Mack** as **The Two Black Crows**; along with two CBS programs: **Buster Brown** and **Mr. and Mrs.** .

But 1929 is best remembered for the introduction of **Amos and Andy** as well as scores of other characters. By 1930, the nightly 15-minute comedy-type serial had become a radio sensation. Theaters throughout the country would wheel a large radio on stage a few minutes before 7 o'clock so that the theater audience could listen to Amos and Andy. Fifteen minutes later, the audience would then settle down to their favorite Western, Musical, or Comedy movie. Amos and Andy would continue on for a record-setting 25 consecutive years!

Let's move ahead to the 1931-32 season which featured the **Nit Wit Hour** on CBS; **Raising Jr.** on NBC Blue and **Uncle Abe and David** over NBC Red. It also saw the debut of one of radio's all-time greats; even surpassing Amos and Andy in the early ratings.

**Eddie Cantor**, born Edward Israel Iskowitz, was already a movie star when he came to radio with the **Chase and Sanborn Hour** in September, 1931. By the following season, the **Eddie Cantor Show** had garnered radio's highest ratings and had earned Eddie the title: "King of Clowns." His program initiated many radio firsts, such as performing before a live audience that could be heard over the air actually laughing and applauding. Along with **Rudy Vallee**,

## **1996·WEEU FEEDBACK JOURNAL·1996**

Eddie Cantor discovered more great stars than any other radio host. **Bobby Breen, Burns and Allen, and Deanna Durbin** were among his most notable. And in 1942, a certain **Miss Dinah Shore** became his featured singer.

1932 also saw the debut of another top-rated comedy program, **Stoopnagle and Budd**. **Fred Taylor** assumed the name of **Col. Lemuel Q. Stoopnagle**, a fast-speaking double-talker while **Budd Hulick** played his straight man. Stoopnagle established a forum for his listeners that he dubbed Stoopnocracy. Budd would read listeners' pet peeves and Stoopnagle issued witty replies and comments. The show maintained a large following for upwards of five seasons.

The 1932-33 comedy season has to rank among the greatest that radio has ever produced. It saw the debut or rise of such world-renowned comedians as: **The Marx Brothers, Burns and Allen, Jack Pearl/Baron Munchausen, Fred Allen, Ed Wynn, and Jack Benny**. What a lineup!

George Burns was born Nathan Birnbaum in 1891. In 1922-23, Gracie Allen joined George in vaudeville and later married him. She was and always remained the perfect partner for his poker-faced demeanor. On February 15, 1932, they appeared over CBS with the **Guy Lombardo Orchestra**. At one point several years later, Gracie instituted a situation on radio that attracted national attention. She would break into other comedy shows like Jack Benny or Fred Allen while they were on the air, claim she was searching for her brother and ask if they had seen him. Before long, the entire country was looking for Gracie's brother. By 1950, they had eased gracefully into

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television. Today, George Burns is a living legend.

Another top comedy show was **Baron Von Munchausen**, 60 minutes of mirth over NBC. **Jack Pearl**, an outstanding dialectician, portrayed the Baron. **Cliff Hall** played his friend Sharlie. The Baron's favorite line: "Was you der, Sharlie?" became a household password. The program, however, lost steam quickly and soon faded from the national scene.

John Florence Sullivan, alias **Fred Allen**, married **Portland Hoffa**, who became a regular on her husband's program. Fred's first show was titled the **Lint Bath Club Revue**. Allen wrote and rewrote many of the scripts himself; sometimes changing them even up to air time. His famous (mock) radio feud with **Jack Benny** began in 1936, continued for years and years, and attracted national interest. His original, sharp wit and humor remained Allen's trademark. He especially loved to take jabs at the networks and musicals, which he spoofed. Over the years, he gathered an outstanding array of talent that kept the Fred Allen Show fresh and stimulating: **Alan Reed**, **Parker Fennelly**, **Kenny Delmar**, and **Minerva Pious** among them.

**Benjamin Kubelsky**, alias **Jack Benny**, was born in Chicago but moved to Waukegan, Ill., at an early age. He developed a talent for the violin at eight; realized he possessed the ability to make people laugh while in the Navy, and worked his way up the vaudeville ladder until he was starring on Broadway in 1931. In May, 1932, he appeared on radio for the first time over NBC under the sponsorship of Canada Dry. His wife **Sadie Marks** became a regular as **Mary Livingstone**, who gained notoriety with her poems

# 1996·WEEU FEEDBACK JOURNAL·1996

and letters from Mama.

Two outstanding qualities helped Jack establish one of radio's consistently hilarious programs and kept him number one and in the top five for most of his 23-year run. Jack was a master of timing, and a master of poking fun at himself.

His vanity, his thinning hair, his beautiful blue eyes, his perpetual age of 39, his stinginess, and his hoarding of money—all successful "schticks."

Over the years he assembled a superb cast and allowed them complete freedom to make fun of him: **Don Wilson, Rochester, Mary, Dennis Day, Frank Nelson, Mel Blanc, Sheldon Leonard** and band leader **Phil Harris**. Jack Benny will always be synonymous with the very best in comedy.

1933 saw the rise of **Easy Aces** and **Kaltenmeyer's Kindergarten**. But these classic programs and many others will have to wait for their turn in the spotlight until the 1997 *Feedback Journal*.

•

## **A Bit of Wit....**

contributed by WEEU listener **Charlie Haldeman**

I think that I shall never see  
A billboard lovely as a tree  
Indeed, unless the billboard fall  
I'll never see a tree at all!

•

Celery raw,  
Develops the jaw.  
But celery stewed  
Is more quietly chewed.

•

Growing old is no more than a bad habit which a busy person  
has no time to form.



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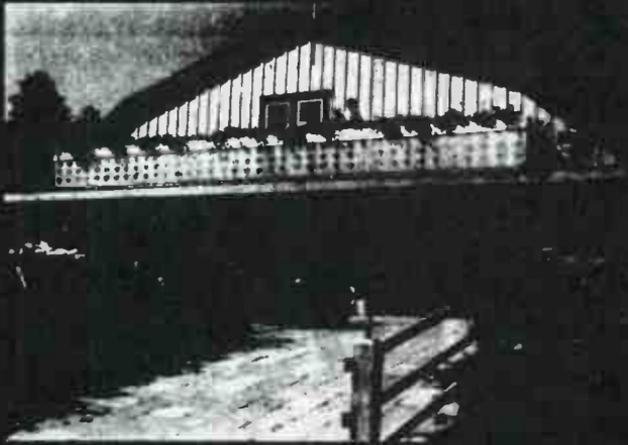
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## **Meeting My Idol**

**by Matt Anspach**

(Conrad Weiser High School graduate Matt Anspach served as a WEEU student intern in 1994 and 1995, and hopes to pursue a career in communications)

I have no idea when I started listening. I just recall, in my most distant memory, listening to Jack Holcomb, and Feedback.

For Christmas one year, I received a "He-Man" radio. Well, the very next day, I spent more than 20 minutes until I had Feedback, and Jack, tuned in.

By the time I was three I knew, by heart, the phone numbers that Jack recited every day. And, I would also tirelessly practice the numbers, in the best Jack Holcomb voice I could. I also tried my best to mimic the Jack Holcomb laugh.

I listened as often as I could, until I started school. When school was in session, I couldn't listen to Feedback. However, I never lost interest, and would tune in every so often during the summer, to hear the voice I enjoyed hearing.

I always wanted to call Jack. Most of the time there were "adult topics" on, that a child of three or four couldn't comment on. My father said he was going to let my brother and I call Feedback when Santa Claus was on. I was very excited, until we found out we missed Santa's appearance.

One time, in school, the teacher asked the class a trivia question. No one knew the answer. To encourage our research skills, he asked us to think of a way to obtain the information without looking it up in a book. Someone came up with the idea of calling Feedback. When the teacher

## **1996·WEEU FEEDBACK JOURNAL·1996**

asked what the phone number was, only one hand shot up—mine. In my best Jack Holcomb voice, I recited the numbers. Unfortunately, when someone was selected to call, it wasn't me.

It was Memorial Day, 1991, when I finally called Jack. When bluebirds moved into the house that we built, who better to call than Jack Holcomb?

The conversation lasted all of two minutes, but it was the highlight of the month for me. In fact, I still have the conversation on tape.

When my senior year in high school rolled around last year, I had no idea what I wanted to do for a job. I was always interested in radio, so I contacted Charlie Adams, who allowed me to observe him for a day.

Well, when I got to Fourth and Court that day, guess who showed me the way to the control room? Yes, it was Jack. He looked as I always imagined him.

And when I started my internship at WEEU, the first person I worked with was Jack Holcomb.

I have often heard, and read about people who got to meet their idols. A large percentage of the time, the idol doesn't fit in the image that the person thought, and turns out to be disappointing.

Well, I feel very happy to say that in the year I have worked alongside Jack, I have not been disappointed!

•  
**The next time you feel stressed—  
remember that “stressed”  
is only  
“desserts”  
spelled  
backwards!**

# Birth: Pennsylvania Dutch Style

by Charles J. Adams III

Life, to me, is a rainbow. From a mysterious source, it rises to a glorious apex, then falls into a pot of gold. Like a rainbow, life has color. Many shades signify love, hate, success, failure, etc. Whether a pot of gold awaits after life, I cannot be sure.

Today, the miracle of birth is too often overlooked. An American humorist quipped, "The only two certainties in life are death and taxes."

Well, somewhere along the line, he forgot birth! Surely, without birth, death and taxes would not be inevitable.

In our land of shoofly pie and hex signs, birth is highly regarded. Among the old-line "Dutchmen," many rituals and superstitions

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formed preludes to the birth of a new "Chakie" or "Amos."

Several of these ancient beliefs were held in high esteem by the prospective fathers and mothers. While inquiring about these tales, my own mother related one occurrence that applies to one of my idiosyncrasies.

Quite honestly, I have a strange and strong compulsion to smell things. An admitted sniffomaniac, I feel a need to take a whiff of anything that passes my way. My favorite smells are the pages in a new book, new wallets, cold newspapers, and a host of other aromatic wonders.

My mother worked for several months while she was carrying me. One of her bosses at the Hamburg knitting mill in which she was employed was also a compulsive smeller. He would enter the mill, sniff around, his nose seeking a new thrill. My mother, along with several other girls in his employ, noticed the oddity, and it became a focal

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point for conversation and mild jesting throughout the mill.

One day, an old philosopher/housewife told my mother, "If you criticize somebody's peculiarity while you're pregnant, your child will inherit the same peculiarity."

Although it is seemingly unexplainable, improbable, and medically impossible, here I am, living proof that sniffomania is a communicable, hereditary disorder!

Another strange tale comes to us from northern Berks County, near Bethel.

The old adage says that if a woman is scared by a mouse during her pregnancy, the baby will be born with a hairy birthmark.

This apparently came true in the case of one man. His mother can distinctly remember being frightened nearly out of her wits by a mouse one day. Her baby boy was born with a very distinct, mouse-shaped, hair birthmark!



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If a pregnant woman stoops to go under a fence, the baby will be stillborn, with its umbilical cord causing death by strangulation. Although I have never heard any evidence of this happening, I haven't seen many pregnant women passing under fences!

One elderly woman told me that the first shirt a baby wears should be taken off him inside out. This, she said, will make the child immune to whooping cough.

Here's a cure for stammering—do not tickle a child before he becomes one year old and he'll not stammer. Also, if rain falls upon a child's face, he or she will have freckles.

To prevent freckles, wash his or her face in the early morning dew.

To prevent bad luck, do not cut an infant's fingernails. Have the mother bite them off!

For good luck, burn the baby's first diaper.

Apparently, the Pennsylvania Germans held

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left-handedness in low esteem. They offered two precautionary measures that should make the child a right-handed individual.

One, when the baby dons his or first clothing, the right sleeve should be worn first to prevent southpawishness. And, if you nurse the infant with the right breast first, he or she won't be called "Lefty."

There are many other tales surrounding the miracle of birth here in the land of hex signs and powwowing, but what I've given you should serve as a primer in the care and feeding of your offspring.

•

*George Washington's mother did not care much for her famous son's politics. She was a Tory at heart and refused to appear at either of George's presidential inaugurations.*

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*"...one stuffed pig...one stuffed cow...and one stuffed Mrs. Claus...."*

## **SANTA CLAUS OPENS MAILBAG**

*(Ed. Note: WEEU "Feedback" host Jack Holcomb sought and obtained a submission for the 1996 Feedback Journal from Santa Claus. In this rare communication from the North Pole, old Kris Kringle shares some excerpts from letters he received last year while compiling information for his popular "Santa's Workshop" heard during the holiday season on WEEU)*

**Dear Mr. Holcomb:**

**Thank you for your kind invitation to include some of my favorite letters in your Feedback Journal. As you might imagine, the North Pole is a busy place during the months of November and December. It's not at all uncommon for the elves to work into the wee hours of the morning in my workshop. In fact, Mrs. Claus finds the late-night hours to be the best time of day for baking her scrumptious cookies!**

**You might be interested to know that Rudolph's favorite radio program is "Feedback." He now refuses to play any reindeer games weekday**

# 1996·WEEU FEEDBACK JOURNAL·1996

mornings between nine and noon!

Mrs. Claus and I truly enjoy our weekly visits with the children of Berks County during "Santa's Workshop." What a joy to share in their excitement for the season. Continued success as you enter your 40th year at WEEU. I hope you've been a good boy!

Warmest Regards,

**Santa Claus**



*Dear Santa Claus:*

*For Christmas I would like one stuffed pig. And I would like one stuffed cow, one stuffed Rudolph, one stuffed Santa Claus, and one stuffed Mrs. Claus. I am 7 years old.*

*Megan O.*

**Dear Santa:**

***I would like a pottery wheel and sand art and a big teddy bear. I will have cookies and milk on the table. My house is the one with the star on top.***

***Katie W.***

# 1996·WEEU FEEDBACK JOURNAL·1996

Dear Santa:

I would like lipstick, a frog, a bird, a Barbie, babies, and a kitchen set. My sister and I would like a wagon.

We will put cookies and milk out for you.

Love, Katie P.

Dear Santa:

I am now four years old. I try to be good, but sometimes I'm a little naughty. I would like Hollywood hair, and anything else you think is nice.

Rebecca P.

Dear Santa:

I was a very good girl this year. I talked to you on the phone last Saturday. I know you must keep track of a lot of boys and girls, so I would like to give you my list in writing.

I will leave you some cookies and milk. Say hi to Mrs. Claus for me.

Erin

## Better than Store-Bought!

### **ALTERNATIVE HOUSEHOLD CLEANING SOLUTIONS**

Many of the commercial cleaning solutions we purchase to clean and maintain our homes contain poisonous or toxic chemicals. While the labels on these products contain signal words (caution, warning, danger, or poison) to alert us about proper use or potential harm, many do not list the chemical ingredients in the product or hazards associated with the chemical. In most cases, safe alternatives are available.

Here are a few suggestions for safer alternative household cleaning solutions:

#### **All-Purpose Cleaners**

1. Mix 1 teaspoon Borax with 1 quart of warm water. Add a splash of lemon juice or vinegar to cut grease.

*Audrey Ann* 

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*seeds	*azaleas
*fruit, gift & snack baskets	*mulch
*balloons	*dish gardens
	*roses

**WEEU  
LISTENERS**  
Present this add  
and receive a  
free green plant.

## **1996·WEEU FEEDBACK JOURNAL·1996**

2. Mix 2 teaspoons Borax and 1 teaspoon soap in 1 quart of water. Can be stored in a spray bottle.
3. Mix 3 tablespoons of washing soda per quart of warm water.

### **Disinfectant**

1. Mix 1/4 cut Borax in 1/2 gallon hot water.

### **Tile/Tub/Toilet Cleaner**

1. Use soap and sponge, or a stiff brush and one of the following: Baking soda, Borax, or salt.



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## Sentinels of the Sea: **A Guide to New Jersey's Lighthouses**

*by Dave Landis*

*(WEEU's morning and afternoon "drive time" traffic reporter is also an aficionado of lighthouses. Perhaps in another life, he kept his eyes on passing ships instead of cars and trucks!)*



Many of New Jersey's lighthouses have been lost to time. Fire has taken its toll, as well as Mother Nature. However, 19 of these amazing structures still stand in silent splendor.

When you visit a lighthouse, you will always find plenty of adventure. You will discover the history of each lighthouse and be intrigued by many a tale of the high seas.

While touring a lighthouse, you will find that each individual lighthouse has its own individual color and individual shape as well as its own individual special code for flashes and foghorn blasts.

Let's begin our tour of these splendid sentinels:

## **1996·WEEU FEEDBACK JOURNAL·1996**

**SANDY HOOK LIGHTHOUSE:** This is New Jersey's and the nation's oldest lighthouse, in use since 1764. Located at the northern end of Sandy Hook Peninsula, it is on the grounds of the Fort Hancock section of the Gateway National Recreation Area.

**ROBBINS REEF LIGHTHOUSE:** Kate Walker was the lighthouse keeper from 1885 to 1919. Kate began her career as assistant lighthouse keeper at Sandy Hook. She rowed her children to a school located on Staten Island. Her husband died and he told her, "Katie, tend the light," on his death bed. It is located in New York Harbor.

**ROMER SHOAL LIGHTHOUSE:** This lighthouse can be seen from Navesink. It, too, is located in New York Harbor.

**TWIN LIGHTS OF NAVESINK:** The twin beams of this lighthouse were so bright at night, they kept cows awake. To remedy this problem, black-out panels were installed in the late 19th century. It is located in Highlands, N.J.

**CONOVER BEACON:** Along with Chapel Hill Lighthouse farther inland, it formed a pair of "range lights" to facilitate access into Sandy Hook Bay. Sea captains would line up front and rear lights to find the middle of the channel. It is located in Leonardo, N.J.

**TINICUM NEAR RANGE LIGHTHOUSE:** It is located in Billingsport, N.J., west of Paulsboro, by the Delaware River.

**SHIP JOHN SHOAL LIGHTHOUSE:** This lighthouse is named after a ship that sank in 1797. This lighthouse is still being used to guide ships into the Port of Philadelphia. It is located in Delaware Bay southwest of Sea Breeze, N.J.

**MIAH MULL SHOAL LIGHTHOUSE:** This lighthouse is named after a river pilot who drowned in a storm. It is still being used to guide ships up and down river. It is located in the Delaware Bay, off Fortescue and Egg Island Point.

## **1996·WEEU FEEDBACK JOURNAL·1996**

**CAPE MAY LIGHTHOUSE:** If you were one of the first lighthouse keepers at this lighthouse, you earned 400 dollars a year. Your largest chore was to carry wick oil for the beacon lamp up two hundred stairs. It is located at Cape May Point, N.J.

**EAST POINT LIGHTHOUSE:** This lighthouse was built in the early 19th century. It is located at the mouth of the Maurice River in Cumberland County.

**FINNS POINT REAR RANGE LIGHT:** This lighthouse is also known as the Fort Mott Range Light. It is located in the Fort Mott area of Pennsville, N.J.

**BRANDYWINE SHOAL LIGHTHOUSE:** This lighthouse was built in 1850. It is built on screw piles because of the channel's sandy bottom. It is located north of Lewes, Del., in the Delaware Bay.

**CROSS LEDGE LIGHTHOUSE:** Like many other lighthouses, it had to be rebuilt several times. Following destruction by a ship (date unknown), only an automated beacon and a steel skeleton remain today. This lighthouse is also known as Elbow of Cross Ledge Light. Located by the Brandywine Shoal in the Delaware Bay.

**GREAT BEDS LIGHTHOUSE:** This lighthouse can be seen from South Amboy, N.J. It is located in the Raritan Bay.

**CHAPEL HILL LIGHTHOUSE:** Situated on the bayside, this is an abandoned lighthouse. Along with Conover Beacon, it formed a pair of "range lights" used by captains to navigate the channel. It is located in Middletown, N.J.

**SEA GIRT LIGHTHOUSE:** This was the lighthouse in New Jersey equipped with a radio fog signal. It is located in Sea Girt, N.J.

**BARNEGAT LIGHTHOUSE:** Old gold coins occasionally are found on the beach area of this lighthouse. Could it be that Capt. Kidd may have hidden treasure there? It is located on the northern tip of Long Beach Island.

# **1996·WEEU FEEDBACK JOURNAL·1996**

**ABSECON LIGHTHOUSE:** This lighthouse was designed by Lt. George Meade in 1857. Meade, who became a bit more famous for leading the Union Army at Gettysburg, also designed Barnegat Lighthouse. It is located in Atlantic City, N.J.

**HEREFORD INLET LIGHTHOUSE:** This lighthouse is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. It is located in Wildwood.

This ends our brief tour of New Jersey's lighthouses. Try to imagine, after weeks at sea and at night during a raging gale, finally spotting a lighthouse on a strange and forbidding shore.

For more information on New Jersey lighthouses, call the state division of tourism, 1-800-JERSEY-7.



## **Some Thoughts on Today**

Today is a most unusual day, because we have never lived it before; we'll never live it again; it's the only day we have.

•  
Today can be a beautifully unusual day for you, and for others.

•  
Take time to give someone a smile, to express a word of kindness, to lend a helping hand to someone in need, to write a note of gratitude, to give a word of encouragement to someone who is temporarily overcome with problems, to share a portion of your material possessions with others.

•  
Make today unusual, triumphant, and rewarding.

•  
We've been given today.  
Let's rejoice and be glad we have it!

# Reading about

# Pennsylvania

*Neat things about Pennsylvania...from the  
Pennsylvania Department of Commerce*

- Memorial Day was first celebrated in Boalsburg in 1864, five years before the U.S. government passed formal legislation. Citizens decorated military graves, a practice that still continues, accompanied by parades and community picnics.
- There is a Pennsylvania state park within 25 miles of every person living in the Keystone State.
- Pennsylvania has the nation's largest rural population as measured by the U.S. Census Bureau.
- The oldest golf course in continuous use in the



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R  
T**

# **1996·WEEU FEEDBACK JOURNAL·1996**

United States is located at the Foxburg Country Club in Clarion County. It also is the home of the National Golf Hall of Fame

- The famous "Untouchable," Elliot Ness, started a wallpaper business above Halloran's Hardware in Coudersport, Potter County, after he retired from the FBI

- Mifflinburg earned the nickname of "Buggy Town, USA," a century ago, because it turned out more horse-drawn carriages than any town of its size in the United States. The Mifflinburg Buggy Museum and the annual "Mifflinburg Buggy Days" celebrate the town's legendary past.

- 58% of Pennsylvania is covered by forests

- Pennsylvania has more covered bridges than any other state, with nearly 300 of the remaining 1,500 bridges in the United States

- At the Linesville Spillway in Lake Pymatuning, Crawford County, fish crowd so closely that "the ducks walk on the backs of the fish"

- Pennsylvania has one of only two herds of wild elk east of the Rocky Mountains. The herd still roams protected from hunting in the eastern section of—where else—Elk County

- In July, 1864, Confederate troops burned 537 buildings in Chambersburg, making it the only town north of the Mason-Dixon



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# 1996·WEEU FEEDBACK JOURNAL·1996

Line to be destroyed during the Civil War

•The Starrucca Viaduct, built in 1848, drew so much criticism about its structural integrity that the bridge's builder committed suicide under the pressure. Today, trains with four engines continue to pass over this bridge made of natural blue stone. The Starrucca Viaduct is located in Pennsylvania's Endless Mountains region.

•The Stourbridge Lion was the first steam locomotive in the United States. The train made its run from Carbondale to Honesdale in 1829

•In 1882, the Kinzua Bridge (301 feet high and 2,053 feet long) was the highest railroad bridge in the world. More than a century later, the structure which connects Forest and McKean counties, is still in use

•The Battle of Gettysburg was the biggest ever fought on the American continents with 51,000 casualties (dead, missing, or wounded). Today, more than 1,000 monuments mark this battle

•The oldest brewery in the United States is the Yuengling Brewery in Pottsville

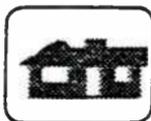
•The "Dred Scott Decision" was discussed by the Supreme Court on the porches of the Bedford Springs Resort. Hailed for its curative powers, the springs of Bedford became a fashionable resting place for the wealthy and influential of the 19th century. President James



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# **1996·WEEU FEEDBACK JOURNAL·1996**

Buchanan had his summer White House at Bedford Springs

- The Wendell August Forge in Mercer County is the largest metal-working forge in the United States
- Established in Lebanon County in 1753, Michter's Distillery is the oldest operating and smallest legal distillery in the nation.
- The Conestoga Wagon was invented in Lancaster
- Built in 1742, Cornwall Iron Furnace in Lebanon County is the only completely intact 19th century charcoal iron-making complex in the United States
- Lancaster County is home to the oldest and largest settlement of "Plain" people—the Amish, Mennonite, and Brethren
- An annual event in Apollo, Pa., celebrates the first landing on the moon
- During the siege of Philadelphia, the Continental Congress moved to York, where it adopted the Articles of Confederation. The Continental Congress resided there from September, 1777, to June, 1778
- The Flying W Ranch in Forest County is the largest dude ranch in the East, and the only one in Pennsylvania
- The first oil well was drilled by Edward Drake in 1859 along Oil Creek near Titusville. Oil was discovered 69 feet down and a museum

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# **1996·WEEU FEEDBACK JOURNAL·1996**

details the history of the early oil days

- Erie is the home port of the US Brig Niagara, one of only three surviving early 19th century warships of the U.S. Navy. The Brig Niagara was one of a fleet of nine small ships that defeated a British squadron in the Battle of Lake Erie on September 19, 1813, the turning point of the War of 1812. It is now the official flagship of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
- The Millersburg Ferry is the only ferry in the country still using wooden stern-wheelers
- The Union Canal Tunnel is America's oldest existing transportation tunnel. Built between 1825 and 1827, it links the waters of Quittaspahilla Creek and Clark's Run in the Lebanon Valley
- Lebanon bologna was first made by Pennsylvania German settlers in the 1800s
- The "Pennsylvania Grand Canyon" provides a 40-mile vista of woodlands. Pine Creek, known for its stocked streams and white-water rafting, cuts a 1,000-foot deep gorge through Tioga County
- The Conomaugh Gap (1,350 feet deep by seven miles long) in Cambria County, is the deepest mountain gorge east of the Mississippi River

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# **1996·WEEU FEEDBACK JOURNAL·1996**

•Tom Mix, the “King of Cowboys,” was born in Driftwood, Pa. The Cameron County town honors its most famous citizen with an annual July festival of country music, horses, and wagons

•Four flags fly at Warren’s Heritage Park on the Allegheny River, honoring its settlers: The Seneca Nation of Indians, the Fleur-de-Lis, Union Jack, and the Stars and Stripes

\*

## **HOW'S THAT AGAIN???**

*WHEN GOD GAVE OUT BRAINS, I THOUGHT HE SAID TRAINS...*

*I MISSED MINE!*

*WHEN GOD GAVE OUT LOOKS, I THOUGHT HE SAID BOOKS...*

*I DIDN'T WANT ANY*

*WHEN GOD GAVE OUT NOSES, I THOUGHT HE SAID ROSES...*

*I ASKED FOR A BIG, RED ONE*

*WHEN GOD GAVE OUT LEGS, I THOUGHT HE SAID KEGS...*

*I ASKED FOR TWO FAT ONES*

*WHEN GOD GAVE OUT EARS, I THOUGHT HE SAID BEERS...*

*I ORDERED TWO LONG ONES*

*WHEN GOD GAVE OUT CHINS, I THOUGHT HE SAID GINS...*

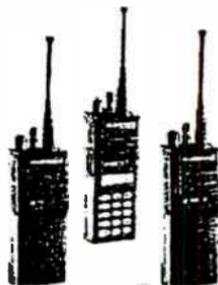
*I ORDERED A DOUBLE*

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**THE  
JUNGLE**                      **'NEATH  
THE  
DOME**



WHEN YOU TOUR THE HALLS OF THE UNITED STATES CAPITOL. IF YOU FEEL THE GAZE OF DOZENS OF TINY EYES UPON YOU. DON'T PANIC...TAKE A GOOD LOOK AT THE WALLS INSTEAD.

THE ARCHITECTS. SCULPTORS. AND PAINTERS WHO LENT THEIR TALENTS TO THE U.S. CAPITOL SEEM TO HAVE HAD A SOFT SPOT FOR THE SMALLER. FURRED. AND FEATHERED CREATURES OF THE PLANET.

TAKE. FOR EXAMPLE. THE CORRIDORS LEADING TO THE SENATE CHAMBER DECORATED BY CONSTANTINO BRUMIDI. SQUIRRELS ABOUND. FIELD MICE CAVORT WITH GARTER SNAKES. DEER LEAP GRACEFULLY UP STAIRWAYS. AND PARROTS KEEP A WATCHFUL EYE ON THE JUNE BUGS AND BUTTERFLIES.

AS FAR AS BIRDS ARE CONCERNED. EAGLES RULE THE ROOST. WHETHER SPREADING THEIR WINGS IN THE STAINED-GLASS WINDOW OF THE WEST STAIRCASE IN THE SENATE WING. PRESIDING OVER THE OLD SENATE CHAMBER IN GILT SPLENDOR. OR DECORATING THE HELMET OF THOMAS CRAWFORD'S STATUE OF FREEDOM ATOP THE DOME. THEY ARE PERCHED AT EVERY

## 1996•WEEU FEEDBACK JOURNAL•1996

CORNER. AND WHAT WOULD A JUNGLE BE WITHOUT GREENERY? VINES CLIMB THE WALLS. ABUNDANT WITH FRUIT AND EXOTIC BLOSSOMS. EARS OF CORN AND TOBACCO LEAVES SPROUT FROM TOWERING COLUMNS. SHEAVES OF WHEAT APPEAR IN PROFUSION. AND ABSTRACT FLOWERS DOT CEILINGS LIKE BOTANICAL STARS.

SO WHETHER YOU ARE A FIRST TIME VISITOR OR A FAMILIAR FACE. THE NEXT TIME YOU ARE IN THE CAPITOL IN WASHINGTON. TAKE TIME TO LOOK AT THE DETAILS. YOU MAY FIND THEM LOOKING BACK!

### ***Father Fodder:***

*George Washington, the father of our country, was personally childless.*

*Martha had four by a previous marriage.*

*Abraham Lincoln became president, and the following year,*

*his son, Willie, died at age 11. Thereafter, Lincoln took great comfort in the company of his eight-year old son, Tad.*

*President Theodore Roosevelt, father of six, said of his outspoken daughter, Alice, "I can do one of two things. I can be president of the United States, or I can control Alice. I cannot possibly do both!"*

*Mrs. Sonora Louis Smart Dodd conceived the idea of Father's Day to honor her dad, the widowed William Jackson Smart, veteran of the Civil War and father of six.*



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# **1996·WEEU FEEDBACK JOURNAL·1996**

## **ABSENTEEISM**

**(ATTENTION ALL EMPLOYEES)**

It has been brought to the attention of management that the attendance record of this department is a disgrace to our gracious benefactor who, at your own request, has given you your job. Due to your lack of consideration for your job with so fine a company, as shown by such frequent absenteeism, the following changes are in effect as of today:

### **SICKNESS**

**NO EXCUSE:** We will no longer accept a doctor's statement as proof, as we believe that if you are able to go to a doctor, you are able to come to work

### **DEATH**

**OTHER THAN YOUR OWN:** This is no excuse. There is nothing you can do for the deceased and we are sure that someone else with a lesser position can attend to the funeral arrangements. However, if the funeral can be held in the late afternoon, we will be glad to let you off one hour early, provided that your share of the work is ahead enough to keep the job going in your absence.

### **LEAVE OF ABSENCE**

**FOR AN OPERATION:** We are no longer allowing this practice. We wish to discourage any thoughts that you need an operation, as we believe that as long as you are employed here, you will need all of whatever you have and you should not consider having anything removed. We hired you as you are and to have anything removed would certainly make you less than we bargained for.

### **DEATH**

**YOUR OWN:** This will be accepted as an excuse, but we would like a two-week notice, as we feel it is your duty to teach someone else your job.

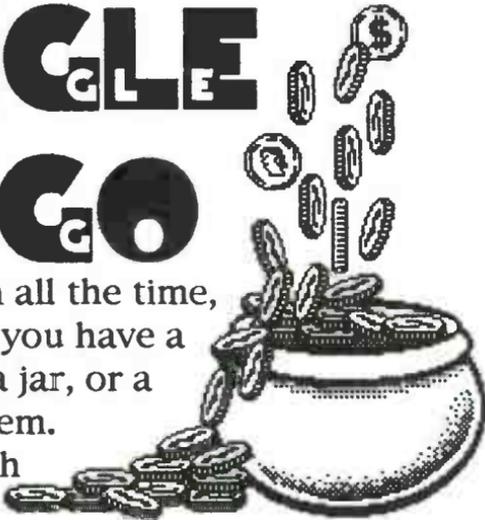
Also, entirely too much time is being spent in the restroom. In the future we will follow the practice of going in alphabetical order. For instance, those whose names begin with "A" will go from 8 to 8:15 a.m., "B" from 8:15:08:30, and so on.

**JINGLE**

**LINGO**

You see them all the time,  
and perhaps you have a  
piggy-bank, a jar, or a  
bag full of them.

But how much  
do you know



about the coins that jingle in your pockets  
and purses? From the Customer Service  
Center of the United States Mint (1001  
Aerospace Road, Lanham, Md. 20706,  
comes this glossary of numismatic terms.

**Obverse:** The side of a coin bearing the  
principal design (heads).

**Reverse:** The side opposite from the  
obverse side of a coin (tails).

**Uncirculated Coin:** A coin that is struck  
only once on coin presses used for  
production of circulating coinage, which  
creates a lustrous finish.

**Proof Coin:** A coin that is struck at least  
twice using specially-prepared blanks and  
dies to give a mirror-like background.

**Pre-Issue:** The fixed period of time,  
following the announcement of a  
commemorative coin's availability, in  
which the Mint offers a discount price for

# 1996·WEEU FEEDBACK JOURNAL·1996

orders received.

**Legal Tender:** Coins that have been authorized by Congress. This includes the circulating coins that we use every day, and all commemorative coins legislated by Congress.

**Mint Mark:** The identification on coins ("SF"=San Francisco; "D"=Denver) showing the Mint facility that produced them.

**Bullion Coin:** A precious metal coin that is bought and sold mainly for investment purposes. The American Eagle Bullion coins are the only bullion coins produced by the U.S.

Mint, and they come in 1 oz., 1/2 oz., 1/4 oz., and 1/10 oz. gold coins and 1 oz. silver coins.



**OK,**

**So Why IS a pie round?**

The shape of a pie dates back to early America with Colonial home-makers who made pies shallow and round, trying to stretch dry ingredients—thus, “cutting corners”

*There once was a man from St. Paul  
who moaned about being so tall.*

*At night, in his bed, was his body and head...  
His feet had to sleep in the hall.*

# **1996·WEEU FEEDBACK JOURNAL·1996**

## **ALL ABOUT HUMMMINGBIRDS**

COURTESY OF THE CHATEAU WHISTLER RESORT  
WHISTLER, BRITISH COLUMBIA, CANADA

The hummingbird's name comes from the noise of the wing beat: In flight, their wings beat 80 times per second, and rise to an incredible 200 times per second during courtship.

•

The range of the Rufous Hummingbirds is 3,000 miles, from Mexico to Alaska.

•

The diet of hummingbirds includes nectar from flowers, sap from trees, the juice of fruits, and insects.

•

These birds feed every 10 to 15 minutes during their active period: That is as much as 90 times a day at the height of the summer.

•

If a normal, 170-pound man expended energy at the rate of a hummingbird, he would have to eat—in a single day—285 pounds of hamburger or double his own weight in potatoes.

•

The hummingbird heart beats 1,200 times a minute.

## 1996·WEEU FEEDBACK JOURNAL·1996

•  
Hummingbirds build their nests of spiders' webs and plant down, and they lay two eggs.

•  
Wild flowers that hummingbirds like include fireweed, elderberry, honeysuckle, Indian paintbrush, columbine, pentstemon and louswort.

•  
A man expending energy at the rate of a hummingbird would have to evaporate about 100 pounds of perspiration per hour to keep his skin temperature below the boiling point of water.

•  
Hummingbirds belong to the Trochilidae family and are related to swifts. There are about 300 species of hummingbirds worldwide.

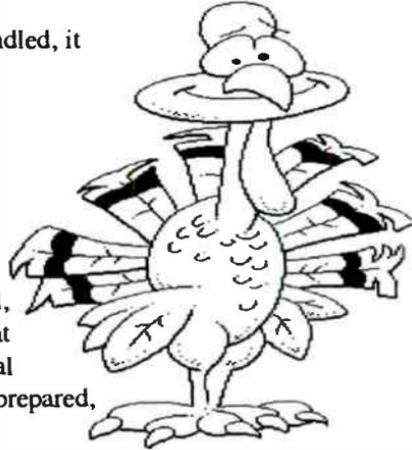
•  
To attract hummingbirds to your garden, plant fuchsia, begonia, phlox, lilac, petunia, and clematis plants.

•  
*Old saying: If you frown all day, you're likely to feel dog tired.*

# **Gobbler Goodies**

Low in fat and cholesterol, turkey is a healthful food choice for the holidays. But if improperly handled, it can become a breeding ground for bacteria that cause food-borne illness.

“Salmonella bacteria sometimes are present in small numbers in all raw animal products, such as poultry, eggs, meat and dairy products,” says Dr. Stephen Knabel, assistant professor of food science at Penn State’s College of Agricultural Sciences. “If properly handled and prepared, these foods are safe to eat.



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# 1996·WEEU FEEDBACK JOURNAL·1996

"Illness due to Salmonella and other microorganisms found on raw poultry can be prevented since the bacteria can be killed easily by heat," he says. "To prepare turkey safely, follow a few common-sense procedures."

•*Always thaw a frozen turkey in the refrigerator, not on the counter top. Harmful bacteria can multiply once the exterior of the bird reaches 45 degrees F. "Plan ahead to thaw the turkey in the refrigerator, allowing about 24 hours for each five pounds," Knabel says. "For example, a 10-pound bird will take about two days."*

•*Stuff the turkey immediately before cooking. "If you put warm stuffing inside the turkey, then put the bird back into the refrigerator, you give bacteria a chance to grow," Knabel says. "Avoid buying a refrigerated, fully cooked and stuffed turkey."*

•*Never partially cook a turkey or other raw animal foods. Plan to cook the turkey in one continuous stretch until the meat is done. Always cook it an oven temperature at or above 325 degrees F.*

Cookbooks and labels only can estimate how long the bird will take to cook. "The only sure way to tell when the turkey is safe to eat is to insert an accurate meat thermometer into the center of the breast,he says.

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# **1996·WEEU FEEDBACK JOURNAL·1996**

"The temperature should reach a minimum of 170 degrees F. The center of the stuffing should reach at least 165 degrees F."

•*Avoid contaminating other foods with bacteria from raw poultry. "Cooks should wash their hands with soap and water immediately after handling raw turkey," he says. "Cutting boards, utensils, and dishes used to prepare the raw bird also should be thoroughly cleaned and sanitized with one tablespoon of chlorine bleach per gallon of water before they come into contact with cooked turkey or other ready-to-eat foods, such as fresh vegetables."*

•*Remember the two-hour rule—don't let leftovers sit out on the table or counter top for more than two hours. After the turkey is served, leftover meat should be cut off and placed in shallow, covered containers and refrigerated immediately. Rapid, even cooling will help prevent bacterial growth.*

•*Leftovers should be eaten or frozen within three to four days. Gravy and stuffing should be eaten within one to two days. Heat all leftovers to at least 165 degrees F before serving. Bring liquid leftovers, such as gravy, to a rolling boil.*

The effects of Salmonella food-borne illness may appear within six hours after eating contaminated food.

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# **1996·WEEU FEEDBACK JOURNAL·1996**

Symptoms include diarrhea, abdominal cramps, fever, nausea, vomiting, chills, and headache.

In healthy adults, the symptoms may last up to three days. For children, the elderly and those whose immune systems aren't working properly, Salmonella can spread to vital organs and sometimes result in death.

*(SAFE TURKEY HANDLING TIPS courtesy of the Penn State University College of Agricultural Sciences)*

## **What's in a Title?**

Your favorite movie probably started out with a title different from the one you know. For example, "Casablanca" was formerly called "Everybody Come to Rick's." "E-T: The Extra-Terrestrial" was once titled, "A Boy's Life," and "Pretty Woman" was first called "3000." Other changes happened with "When a Man Loves a Woman." It started out as "Significant Other." "Untamed Heart" began as "Baboon Heart."

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# Poems

*by Mike Faust/WEEU evening personality*

## Too

There are two types  
of people in the world:  
Happy and sad.

And sometimes  
The happy people  
Get sad too.

## Age

Age is just a number  
From birth to present day.

Symbolic of how you're feeling  
Or if you want to play

A status in society—  
Young, middle, and old

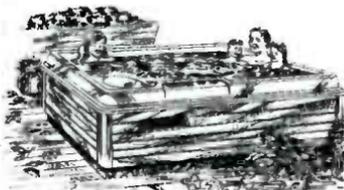
The years go by  
I stop to wonder why  
We age like we do.



APOLLO POOLS, INC. was founded in 1969 by Luke Hertzog a native of Reading, PA. Luke set a goal to have APOLLO POOLS become the best pool company in the business. Through the years APOLLO grew, starting in a small building in Stony Creek and moving to its current location on Perkiomen Avenue in the late 1970's and the addition of its "satellite" convenience store on the 5th street highway. In 1990 APOLLO tripled its floor space at its main location on Perkiomen Avenue and created a "State of the Art Pool Store." Luke and his wife Ann will look to their children Scott and Kathy to carry on the tradition when they retire.

Some of the products APOLLO can provide include Jetted Tubs, Spas, Saunas, Chemical programs including chlorine and non chlorine, Accessory Chemicals, Parts, and Service as well as inground and above ground swimming pools.

Today APOLLO POOLS is recognized in the industry as an innovator and professional company. Recently, APOLLO has been nominated by its peer companies and suppliers to be recognized as one of the top 100 pool companies in the UNITED STATES AND CANADA. APOLLO has also been recognized by BIOGUARD, the second largest supplier of pool chemicals in the country, as having the largest CONSUMER SEMINAR in the country. This seminar is a yearly event, free to the consumer, which teaches the consumer about water chemistry, maintenance of the pool system, safety and new technology in the industry. The annual attendance averages 700 attendees. APOLLO has always prided itself in making the customer feel like part of the APOLLO FAMILY with personal attention to each and every customer.



**3711 Perkiomen Avenue  
Reading, PA 19606  
610-779-1228**

# **Gardens of the Mind**

*by Shirl Whitnack, WEEU Account Representative*

I was thinking about the role gardens and plants play in memories.

I remember grandma's snowball bush; heavy with white blossoms, in the side yard.

Granddad's parsley patch, which always provided a mouth-freshening snack. The seckel pear tree played a major role in our young lives. The small, unripe missiles were great for pelting foes and delicious, chewy, eating when ripe.

My father had a Victory Garden as most people did during the war years of the 1940s. We rented a serviceman's house and when the war was over, we moved.

Lilies of the Valley grew two feet deep down the side of that bungalow. When they were in bloom, you could have gone balmy from their heady aroma.

Some growing things were mixed blessings, like the ox heart cherry tree which provided wonderfully dark, sweet fruit and the best switches my mother ever found....a few leaves left on the tip made the back of the legs tingle for hours.

I've also witnessed the impression growing

## **1996·WEEU FEEDBACK JOURNAL·1996**

things have had on my children.

When we lived on a lovely corner lot in Bethlehem, Pa., a trumpet vine graced the fireplace wall. It was like Jack's bean stalk, and forever seemed heaven bound...either it would get there on its own power or my husband would send it. He was always complaining about its phenomenal growth and threatening to chop it down.

I was always leaning out the third floor window, cutting off the offending branches.

One of the children innocently settled the dispute. In kindergarten, she was asked to draw a picture of the house. She chose the side with the fireplace wall. Her "home" included the trumpet vine.

I rested my case.

Enjoy the memories of the gardens that grow in your mind.



**SIGN ON A MOTORCYCLE FOR SALE:**

**“VROOM FOR TWO”**



## It's Wonderful to be an American

There is a great unspoken pride in being an American. This country, by any means of measurement, is the greatest nation in the greatest century of mankind. And this is a nation made up of divine miracles. The colonists were few, poor and weak, but they fought the mightiest power to achieve Independence and they won it. And when they finally hung their cool muskets on the walls of log cabins, they told the world: "SEND US YOUR POOR...YOUR UNWANTED."

And they came. From Italy, from France, from Germany, from Norway. In the past century, millions of them climbed up the stairs from steerage to see the great Statue of Liberty with the torch of freedom held forever high.

The men were filled with the juices of courage, and they braved the unknown just to see, to settle what God had wrought. They fought enemies, they fought among themselves; they killed and they gave birth. They criticized their leaders in Washington, not with spite or hatred, but because they had a right to disagree. In California and far north of the Yukon, they found gold. In this century when Fascism oppressed science, Dr. Einstein came here, and so did Neils Bohr, and Enrico Fermi. The United States of America became rich in men and women who could permit the beauty of the land to touch their eyes and make it more beautiful.

There were mountains wearing white mantels in the middle of the summer. And trees that were so tall, so straight, so thick that the seedlings must have been here before the Creation. They saw leaping salmon in Puget Sound and the glistening backs of slow moving whales, bigger than a coyote. The pioneers looked at Iowa and Nebraska and saw the miles and miles of waving wheat and at corn before it was ever planted. They hammered little churches and temples and they worshipped in their own ways, and in their own services.

The land has not changed a whit. Being an American is

## **1996·WEEU FEEDBACK JOURNAL·1996**

still the most noble privilege to be conferred on anyone. Riches are still here, the goodness is almost indestructible, and every good citizen has a right to criticize his president, his school board, his senator. Out of sincere criticism sometimes comes a better way of conducting our affairs.

It is time for us who love this land to hang out that striped flag every day, so that those who are choked with the love and loyalty can speak our patriotism in a snapping breeze.

*Submitted by Feedback listener Sally Luckenbill*



### **HOW TO MAKE COATED PRETZELS**

**·TWO POUNDS OF BROKEN PRETZELS**

**·IN A BOWL, MIX:**

**ONE PACK HIDDEN VALLEY ORIGINAL RANCH**

**DRESSING MIX**

**ONE CUP OF CRISCO OIL**

**ONE AND ONE-HALF TEASPOONS GARLIC POWDER**

**ONE AND ONE-HALF TEASPOONS LEMON PEPPER**

**·POUR MIXTURE OVER BROKEN PRETZELS...STIR**

**GENTLY TO COAT PRETZELS**

**·SPREAD PRETZELS ON A COOKIE SHEET (USE A**

**COOKIE SHEET WITH SIDES)**

**·BAKE 15 MINUTES AT 350 DEGREES**

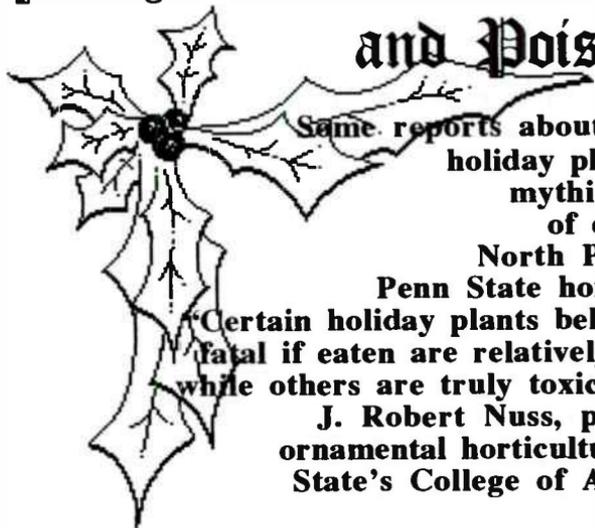
**·LET STAND FOR SIX HOURS.**

**PRETZELS WILL KEEP FOR WEEKS IN A SEALED**

**CONTAINER**

# 1996·WEEU FEEDBACK JOURNAL·1996

**Pretty....**



**and Poisonous?**

Same reports about poisonous holiday plants are as mythical as tales of elves at the North Pole, says a Penn State horticulturist.

"Certain holiday plants believed to be fatal if eaten are relatively harmless, while others are truly toxic," says Dr.

J. Robert Nuss, professor of ornamental horticulture in Penn State's College of Agricultural Sciences

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“Of course, children and pets can’t make the distinction between what’s dangerous and what isn’t. It’s best to keep all plants out of their reach.”

Many people persist in believing that the most popular Christmas plant, the poinsettia, is extremely poisonous.

“People who are allergic to the plant’s milky sap can develop a rash if it gets on their hands,” says Nuss. “But the poinsettia isn’t fatal if eaten. If children or pets eat any part of the plant, at worst they might experience some stomach discomfort.”

About 20 years ago, two Ohio State researchers fed large quantities of poinsettia parts to rats, with no ill effects. In 1975, the U.S. Consumer Products Safety Commission exonerated the poinsettia of the false charge that it is lethal if ingested.



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# **1996·WEEU FEEDBACK JOURNAL·1996**

The commission also refuted allegations that the berries of American mistletoe are fatal if eaten. "But that doesn't mean mistletoe berries are edible," says Nuss. "Mistletoe should be hung out of the reach of children and pets, and berries that drop should be removed from the floor immediately."

About 400 plant species in the United States are known to be poisonous, according to *Poisonous Plants of the United States*, by Walter Conrad Muenscher. Among them are holly, ivy, Jerusalem cherry, laurel, rhododendron and yew—all commonly used in holiday decorations.

If a child or pet accidentally ingests these plants, consult a physician or veterinarian immediately. Do not induce vomiting.

•  
*MYTHS PERSIST ABOUT POISONOUS HOLIDAY PLANTS*  
*courtesy of the Penn State University College of Agricultural*  
*Sciences.*

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# 1996·WEEU FEEDBACK JOURNAL·1996

## ...--...--...--...--Shoe Stuff

From the folks at the Bata Shoe Museum, Toronto, Ontario, Canada, come several interesting facts and figures related to something every one of wears—shoes.

*Shoes are intriguing sources of information about human identity: Who we are, where we live, what we do. But did you know that they're the inspiration for countless songs, poems, stories, and plenty of gossip, to boot (so to speak)? Here's a sampling:*

*Shoe Terms:*

**BOOT CAMP:** *Servants who cleaned boots were themselves called "boots." The term came to mean the lowliest, and often the newest, servant. Thus the name "boot camp" for new army recruits.*



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**WELL-HEELED:** *Developed in the 17th century when it was the elite who wore heels. The term came to mean anyone who was privileged.*

**BOOTLEGGER:** *The term referred to smugglers of the 17th and 18th centuries who hid contraband goods inside their boots.*

**SABOTAGE:** *From "sabot," the French word for wooden shoes. During the French Revolution, disgruntled peasants threw their shoes into the machinery of mills in defiance of the upper classes. It was considered an act of "sabotage."*

.....  
**SHOE SONGS**

- Shoe Shine Boy (Louis Armstrong)*
- In My Shoes (Drifters)*
- Cha Cha Heels (Eartha Kitt & The Pet Shop Boys)*
- Blue Suede Shoes (Carl Perkins & Elvis Presley)*



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The advertisement is enclosed in a double-line border. On the left, a cartoon baker wearing a tall white hat and a white apron over a dark shirt and pants is walking towards the right. He is holding a tray with a loaf of bread on it. The text is positioned to the right of the baker.

# **1996·WEEU FEEDBACK JOURNAL·1996**

•*Diamonds on the Soles of Her Shoes (Paul Simon)*

•*Hang Up My Rock 'n' Roll Shoes (Hank Williams)*

•*New Shoes (Bus Boys)*

•*Boogie Woogie Dancing Shoes (Claudja Barry)*

•*Pink Shoelaces (Dodie Stevens)*

•

•• The foot measurement is believed to have been developed in 1320 in England by Edward II. He standardized the foot measurement, setting it at the equivalent of 36 barleycorns. Each barleycorn was one third of an inch, which added up to 12 inches, or one "foot."

•

•• A special pair of boots made in England in 1944 for a spy concealed a map in the heel, a flexible hacksaw blade in the lace, 2,000 francs in the leg of the boot, and had magnetic



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## **1996·WEEU FEEDBACK JOURNAL·1996**

tags. It remains a state secret whether they were ever used or not.

•

*Evidence of shoemaking exists as early as 10,000 B.C.*

- *Napoleon Bonaparte had his boots worn by servants to break them in before he wore them*
- *The average person walks the equivalent of three and one-half times around the earth in a lifetime*
- *One quarter of all the bones in the human body are found in the feet*
- *People who are left-handed are also left-footed, having the tendency to put their left foot forward first instead of the right*
  - *The average person takes 9,000 steps per day*
  - *Women are four times as likely to develop foot trouble as men*
- *North Americans spend almost \$18 billion dollars a year on footwear*

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# **1996·WEEU FEEDBACK JOURNAL·1996**

- The average North American buys five pairs of shoes per year, as do the English and Germans. The French tend to buy slightly more, or almost six pairs per year. The Italians, Spanish, Russians, and Swedes manage with about 3.5 new pairs per year*
- According to psychologists, the shoe and foot are the most common sources of sexual fetishism in Western society*
- Eight pairs of ruby slippers were made for Judy Garland when she played Dorothy in "The Wizard of Oz." The last pair to be auctioned sold for \$165,000*
- The boots worn by Neil Armstrong for his walk on the moon in 1969 were jettisoned before returning to earth to prevent contamination*
- The original French version of the Cinderella story features a fur slipper instead of a glass one. The confusion arose in the similarity of a French word for white fur (vair), which resembled the word for glass (verre)*

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by Charles J. Adams III

....with apologies to Jack Holcomb

you're a  
dirty  
blue-footed  
booby!

Ever hear the hackneyed insult, "You Dirty Bird!?" The antiquated "cut" has now been overshadowed by more explicit and graphic Bronx cheers.

But for years and generations, the bird was the namesake of man's most offensive idiom.

What if, instead of simply referring to the general species name, we would have singled out one particular family of fine feathered friends?

For instance, "You dirty Pechera Pipit!" sound? Well, the Pipit family, including Pechera and his four cousins, is just one of perhaps thousands of different "breeds" of American birds.

When you look into the air and see a bird, be aware that what you're looking at may not be just "a bird." It may turn out to be an Olivaceous Cormorant. Heck, it might even be something more impressive such as a Magnificent Frigatebird!

Now, as we soar into skies uncharted and concepts unapproved by "Hokey," the "Bird Man" of WEEU, allow me to explore the varied, often humorous, and certainly fascinating world of bird names.

The elders of the bird world are represented

## 1996·WEEU FEEDBACK JOURNAL·1996

by the Oldsquaw and the Ancient Murrelet. These "Senior Citizens" of the bird world always feel a bit aged when a Pygmy Nut Hatch flies into the neighborhood.

The Solitaire spends many lonely days waiting to meet an eligible Solitary Vereo, but the monotony of loneliness is shattered by the Laughing Gull, and his everpresent zany buddies, the Loon and Mockingbird. Only a visit by a Mourning Dove could jar their joviality.

Chuck Will's Widow is often seen lamenting for Poor Will. What she needs to pep her up is some sacred humor from that crazy Godwit.

The Bald Eagle is constantly chiding the Tufted Titmouse. But, the TT's friends, Whiskered Owl and Bristle-Thighed Curlew, rally to his defense. What they need is a visit from a Razorbill! After all, look what he did for the Beardless Flycatcher!

Birds of burden include the Cowbird, Bullfinch, and that toughie—the Canvasback. While they handle the big tasks, the Shoveler, Skimmer, Dipper, and Creeper all perform lesser tasks.

In addition, we notice the White-Collared Seedeater doing the "clean" work. Other laborers include the Nutcracker, Oystercracker, Honeycreeper, Gnatcatcher, and the heartless Killdeer.

Love affairs abound in the branches of Berks trees. Have you heard the "billing and cooing" of Blue-Footed Booby and Melodious Grassquit?

And, we hear tell that White-Rumped Sandpiper is courting Snowy Plover. Nothing firm on that yet, though.

It's rumored that the Catbird and Guided

# 1996·WEEU FEEDBACK JOURNAL·1996

## ...watch for the wandering tatter!

Flicker are both mad about the irrepressible hobo, the Wandering Tatter, wandering their way.

The Redpoll brothers, Common and Hoary, are planning a party with other colorful members of the society. The impressive guest list includes Bluethroat, Goldeneye, Redwing, Black-Tailed Gnatcatcher, Black-Eared Bushtit, Sulfur-Bellied Flycatcher, and the most respected of all, the Black-Bellied Three-Toed Woodpecker. There's even talk that Yellowlegs and Yellowthroats will also show up. Oh, what a thrill it shall be! A splendid time is guaranteed for all!

The Coot, Crake, Cuckoo, Kite, and Pewee are all meeting to decide the fate of that notorious outlaw, the Masked Duck. He and Hooded Crow were arrested and suspected of being members of a gang headed by the infamous Mongolian Plover.

The prominent plastic surgeon, Dick Cissel, is currently operating on Groove Billed ani, while Spoonbill, Bufflehead, and Scalynape Pigeon await treatment.

The new rock band, Falcated Teel, is making waves with their new songs, Chachalaca and Caracara. The Nashville Warbler, their lead singer, is involved in a scandal with the mysterious Bohemian Waxwing.

And, many more activities take place daily in the trees, shrubs, and skies above and around you. So be aware of that the next time you see a row of crows perched upon an overhead telephone wire.

There may be as much buzzing going on outside the wire as there is inside!

# Morgantalk

*As a WEEU listener, you know Tom Morgan from his "Moneytalk" show that we carry every weekday. You may hear him chat with Jo Painter, and you may be a fan of his popular column, which the Reading Eagle carries. We asked Tom a few personal questions for our 1996 Feedback Journal.*

(FJ) How do you do it all? The syndicated columns, the syndicated radio work—you have a public TV show up in New York...and on top of this you work as an investment advisor for a large number of clients. How do you manage it all?

(TOM) Wonderful staff, of course. And a wonderful partner, my wife. And over the years I've learned to work quickly. My wife worked in newspapers and in some big broadcasting jobs, including NBC News from Rockefeller Center. She says I write more quickly than anyone she has ever met. You may not think of radio as writing, but all those programs have to be written first.

(FJ) Where did you learn to write so quickly?

(TOM) In New Zealand. In my early 20s, I moved there and got a job writing advertising and public relations stuff for a ton of big clients. And I syndicated a column over there, in fact two of them. I had to learn to write quickly or die. I had this thing, this anxiety, about not dying. It served me well. I learned to write quickly.

(FJ) How did you get into investments, and economics?

(TOM) It became a hobby with me, then an intense hobby. I wrote a book for young people, which Putnam's published. that led me into public TV, which led me into radio. But back to the hobby. I think the origin of the financial stuff was that I did

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not understand any of it when I was young. My father was a financial guy. He despaired of ever getting me to understand mortgages or stocks and bonds and companies. I was too thick.

(FJ) So how, then, did you take the direction you did?

(TOM) Well, because I had difficulties learning about things economic, I had to break the material down. I couldn't digest it until it was broken down into small, simple, easy-to-understand pieces. Having broken it down, I found I could easily write about it. When it had finally become simple to me, I could make it simple for others. To this day, I break down stuff out of habit. If some big economics prof starts flinging fancy terms around, my first thought is to simplify what he is saying.

(FJ) That seems to serve you well.

(TOM) I think it does. It helps me to help investors understand things. That's so important for them.

(FJ) Does the travel and all this work ever wear you down?

(TOM) It used to, but not any more. I try to stay fit, get lots of exercise. That gives me the energy and keeps the mental spark plugs sparkin'. And somewhere along the way I learned to stop sweatin' things. The result is that I enjoy this work so much I sometimes wonder if I should be paying somebody to let me do it. The radio and TV work and the column are just plain fun to do.

(FJ) Do you ever run out of ideas?

(TOM) In fact, I write down ideas and I rip articles out of papers and magazines when they look like they might make the basis for a program or a column. (I'm deadly in doctors' waiting rooms). These end up in stacks in my studio. They are in stacks because I collect twenty ideas for every one I use. Once a year my wife makes me toss out a few stacks. I could write all day, every day, and never run out of material.

# **1996·WEEU FEEDBACK JOURNAL·1996**

(FJ) Last question. Any projects coming up?

(TOM) If the column gets wide enough syndication I might do a book of them—maybe a book of my recollections of the Empire Hotel. That was the village hotel my parents ran when I was young. We are trying to pull off a major coup in the investment field, but I can't tell you about it yet. And, I've been learning to play the piano. When I'm ready to debut, will you let me do so on Feedback? Think of it, a world premier on WEEU! With Jack Holcomb's rich voice, maybe he could sing while I play!

☆

## **FEEDBACK FACTOIDS**

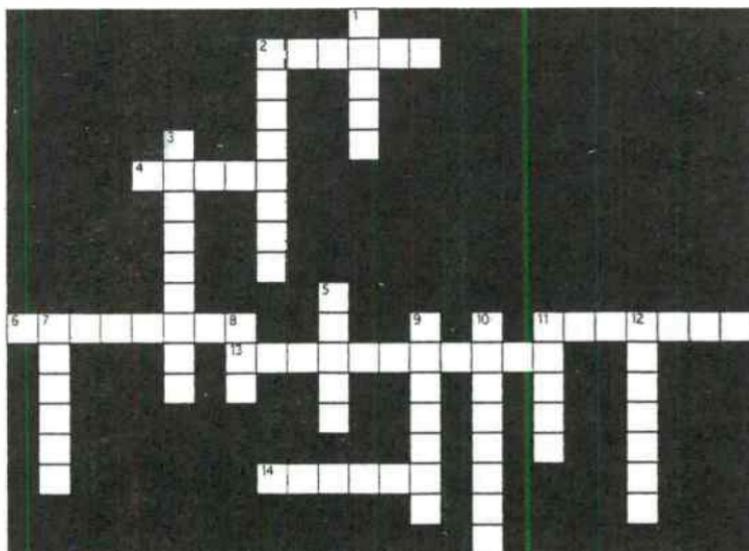
Silly Putty was developed by engineer James Wright while working for General Electric. G.E. wasn't interested in the stuff. Ad man Peter Hodgson discovered it in a New Haven toy shop in 1949. He borrowed \$147 to start his business by buying a batch of the stuff and packing blobs of it in plastic-egg containers.

●

The Barbie Doll is named after Barbara Handler, daughter of Elliot and Ruth Handler. The Handlers developed Barbie and introduced her to the market in 1961. Their company, Mattel, Inc., did quite well. For two years, a "Growing Up Skipper" doll was marketed—you turned her arms, and her breasts grew.

●

Tom Selleck was unable to get out of a TV commitment, so Harrison Ford was chosen by Steven Spielberg to play "Indiana Jones"



## WEEU PERSONALITY PUZZLE

Find the names of WEEU personalities  
and programs in the crossword puzzle.

Answer on next page.

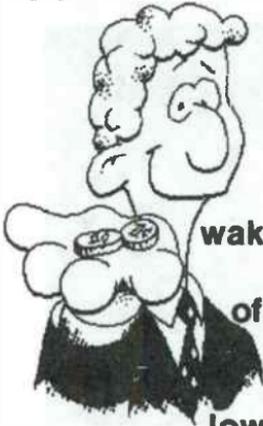
### ACROSS

- 2 HIS EYES ARE ON  
THEROAD
- 4 A WEEKEND GUY,  
BOB \_ \_ \_ \_ \_
- 6 JACK'S CHAT
- 11 A SPORTY KIND OF  
GUY
- 13 SOMETIMES IT'S  
ALL WET
- 14 THE EARLY BIRD

### DOWN

- 1 MR. MORNING
- 2 HE'S ALWAYS  
"RIGHT"
- 3 PERENNIAL  
POWERHOUSE
- 5 MIKE AT NIGHT
- 7 THE GREEN AND  
SILVER
- 8 HE PLAYS HAPPY  
MUSIC!

- 9 WEEU'S AFTERNOON  
DELIGHT
- 10 THE BOYS OF  
SUMMER
- 11 THE NIGHT MAYOR
- 12 HE'S ALL TALK

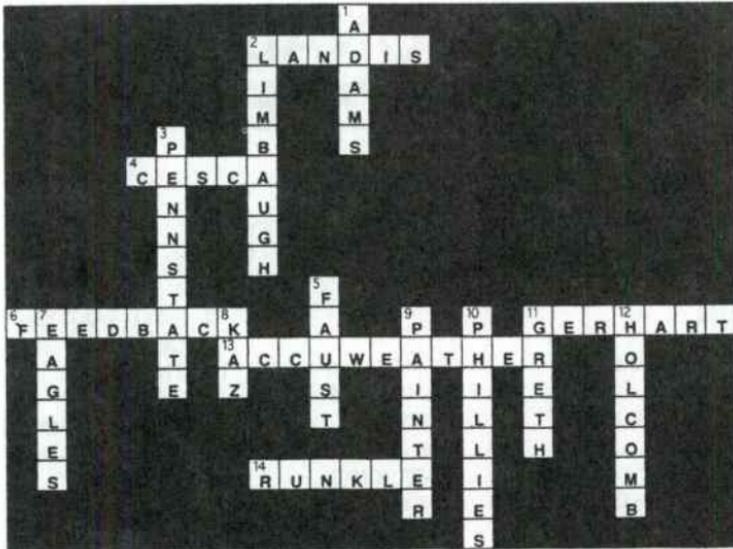


## TWO-CENTS WORTH OF KITCHEN HINTS

For a Monday morning wake-up, treat yourself to orange-broiled pears. Take halves of canned Bartlett pears and top each with fresh orange segments. Place them in a shallow baking dish and add one-half cup pear syrup. Top the filled pear halves with a brown sugar-butter-cinnamon mixture. Broil until bubbly. A great call to breakfast!

**STUFFIN' STUFF**— *Hollow out radishes and fill with a cheese spread...Stuff baked*

### SOLUTION TO WEEU PERSONALITY PUZZLER



# **1996·WEEU FEEDBACK JOURNAL·1996**

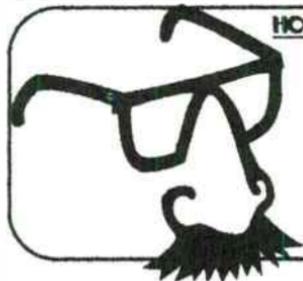
## **TWO-CENTS WORTH OF KITCHEN HINTS**

*apples with nuts, dates, and figs. Honey adds a nice touch, also...Fill pitted dates with nuts or cut-up marshmallows...Stuff celery with peanut butter and top with any of the following: Peanuts, raisins, sour cream, jam, or garlic salt....Hollow out tomatoes and fill with tuna or other seafood salad, or, fill with ham, chicken, or egg salad.*

**FRUIT PUFFS**—Fold drained canned fruit cocktail, toasted flaked coconut, and a little grated orange rind into sweetened whipped cream. Spoon into baked cream puff shells and serve sprinkled with powdered sugar.

**BUFFET ONIONS**—Include these tasty onions in sour cream in your next buffet menu. Thinly slice one large sweet Spanish onion and one large cucumber. Separate onion slices into rings. Arrange in shallow serving dish and sprinkle with salt and freshly ground pepper. Combine one cup sour cream, two tablespoons lemon juice, and two tablespoons vinegar. Pour over onion and cucumber. Serve chilled. Makes six servings.

**TRY ADDING DEVILED HAM TO SCRAMBLED EGGS.**



### **HOW TO BE HAPPY AND STAY THAT WAY**

If you wish to be happy for an hour,  
Get intoxicated.

If you wish to be happy for three days,  
get married.

If you wish to be happy for eight days,  
Kill your pig and eat it.

If you wish to be happy forever,  
Learn to fish.

# **1996·WEEU FEEDBACK JOURNAL·1996**

## **Of Joeys, Jennies, and Boars....**

Just when you thought you knew absolutely everything about absolutely everything, WEEU loyal listener Ed Holland provides this handy listing of animals and their name variations.

<b>ANIMAL</b>	<b>GROUP</b>	<b>MALE</b>	<b>FEMALE</b>	<b>BABY</b>
Deer	herd	buck	doe	fawn
Donkey	pace	jackass	jenny	foal
Horse	team	stallion	mare	foal
Kangaroo	troop	buck	doe	joey
Rabbit	nest	buck	doe	bunny
Seal	trip	bull	cow	whelp
Sheep	block	ram	ewe	lamb
Swan	flock	cob	pen	cygnet
Turkey	flock	tom	hen	poult
Whale	pod	bull	cow	calf
Bear	sloth	boar	sow	cub

***WOULD AN EYE DOCTOR WHO LIVES ON AN ISLAND IN THE  
BERING SEA BE CALLED AN OPTICAL ALEUTIAN?***

***...THINK ABOUT IT!***

***AND WOULD A JILTED TRACTOR SALESMAN RECEIVE A JOHN  
DEERE LETTER?***

***...THINK ABOUT THAT, TOO!***

***AND WHILE YOU'RE THINKING, CONSIDER THAT WHEN A  
MOBSTER IS BURIED IN CEMENT, HE TRULY BECOMES A  
"HARDENED CRIMINAL"***

**Recipe File**  
**Andy Musser's**  
**"White" Bread Recipe**

*one-half cup corn germ*  
*one and one-half cups whole wheat flour*  
*four cups bread flour*  
*pinch sugar*  
*one-half teaspoon salt*  
*two tablespoons active dry yeast*  
*two cups water*  
*one-fourth cup pure vegetable oil*

Butter two loaf pans. Heat water to lukewarm, pour over yeast, add sugar. Allow to foam, about ten minutes.

Mix flours, corn germ, and salt. When yeast has foamed, add oil. Add flour mixture by cupful to yeast mixture stirring to blend. On floured surface knead dough about ten minutes. Place dough in a greased bowl, cover with cloth. Let rise in a warm place until doubled, about one and one-half hours.

Punch down dough to remove air bubbles. Divide into two parts, shape into loaves, place in buttered pans and allow to rise another 45 minutes to an hour-until dough is just over the top of the pan. Bake in a preheated 375-degree oven for one hour. Remove from pans immediately and cool on a rack. Recipe makes two loaves.

## **1996·WEEU FEEDBACK JOURNAL·1996**

**“...the bigger and tougher the storm, the more fired up I get”**

*Some thoughts on weather, bodybuilding, and life....by ACCU-WEATHER meteorologist Joe Bastardi*

 Ever since I was a kid, there were two things I really enjoyed: Competition, and the weather. I really believe the good Lord gives each of us certain gifts and it's our job to make the best use of these gifts. I look at my competitive nature and my talent as a meteorologist as gifts I could never repay.

 I certainly get a chance to use them every day at ACCU-WEATHER since trying to put out the best forecast is competition. In fact, it's a lot like wrestling, which I did all through high school and college. You have to be like a bulldog and stay on your opponent, never letting him have a chance to get the upper hand on you. Consequently, the bigger and tougher the storm, the more fired up I get. But one mustn't ever let down and let the little weather situations beat you, either.

 I compete in bodybuilding along with my wife, and in 1994 placed third in the heavyweight division of the United States Natural Bodybuilding Championships. My wife

## **1996·WEEU FEEDBACK JOURNAL·1996**

placed second in the women's division, so I better keep lifting if I know what's good for me!

☀️ The bodybuilding serves me in two ways, in that it allows me to compete in something physically, but I think more importantly it has affected my work in a very positive way. I work more than 3,000 hours a year, and I think it's because bodybuilding has made me healthy, I am physically able to do this. In addition, I have a different perception of what hard is, as far as work goes. I don't think working 16 hours a day is that big a deal in something you love, since my workouts are so intense it makes long work shifts seem like a breeze.

☁️ Even though it was non-intentional at first, I have recognized that it also helps me as far as my work goes directly, since it's not every station that has a meteorologist who has placed at a national level in bodybuilding—or, in Kathy Francis' case, run several marathons. In fact, when I visit my clients, I get as many questions from the younger folks about my training routines as I do about the weather. Since I gab so much about it, I'd better stay in shape. I can't show up at an appearance with "Dunlap's Disease" (that's where your belly dun-lapped over your belt!). I am sure if I

## **1996·WEEU FEEDBACK JOURNAL·1996**

were not so active in this aspect of my life, my job performance would suffer a great deal, and I probably would not have had the amount of success and enjoyment that I have had here at ACCU-WEATHER.

 I am a strong believer that doubt and challenges are put in front of us to make us better people, and that competition is what sharpens the sword of success. So, I've been blessed with the gifts of the weather and a competitive nature, and I make sure I challenge both of them every day.



### **FEEDBACK FACTOIDS**

- Bulls are color blind. They will charge anything waved in front of them
- When James Cash Penney opened his first store—in 1902 in Kooneror, Ohio—he called it the Golden Rule
- The Shell Oil Company started out as a seashell shop
- The name E.J. Korvette has been the source of great speculation. It was once said to stand for "Eight Jewish Korean Vets." Actually, the E stood for Eugene (Korkauf, founder of the department store) and the J was for Joseph (Zwillonberg, one of Korkauf's partners), and the Korvette is a misspelling of corvette, the small warship
- Paul Simon and Art Garfunkel went to the same grammar school in Queens, N.Y. They made their first appearance together in a school production in which Simon played a rabbit

# 1996·WEEU FEEDBACK JOURNAL·1996

## Some Garden Tips

from Judith L. Schwank  
County Agent-Horticulture  
Berks County Cooperative Extension



Interested in reflowering a poinsettia for Christmas bloom?

Starting October 1, the plants must be kept in complete darkness for fourteen continuous hours each night. Accomplish this by moving the plants to a dark room or by placing a large box over them. During this period, the plants require six to eight hours of bright sunlight with nighttime temperatures between 60 and 70 degrees F (temperatures outside this range may also delay or prevent setting of flower buds).

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# Garden Tips

Continue the normal watering program. Follow this regimen for approximately eight to ten weeks to develop a colorful display of blooms for the holiday season.



**Fertilizer can make an excellent ice melter. Urea fertilizer is a good melter at temperatures down to 11 degrees F, and is best applied at temperatures between 25 and 30 degrees F. Urea can be used at rates of ten pounds per 100 square feet. A mixture of about three pounds of urea per 100 pounds of sand can melt ice well and**



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## Garden Tips

give traction. Sawdust can also be used as a carrier for the urea and provides traction also, but the sawdust mix will stick to shoes and boots and you may track it indoors.



Green tomatoes can be easily ripened in the house when cold weather threatens in the garden. Here's what to do: Pick undamaged, disease-free fruit just before the first frost. Wash them and let them dry before storing. Separate the partially ripe tomatoes from the green ones. Many home gardeners prefer to wrap each tomato in newspaper before storing. However, when tomatoes are stored properly, the

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# Garden Tips

paper wrap may not be necessary. Pack the tomatoes one or two layers deep in shallow boxes or trays. Place them in a dry basement or cool room with subdued light. Examine the stored tomatoes every five to seven days. Separate the fruits that show red and use them first. Discard any that start to decay. With a little luck this could extend your enjoyment of fresh tomatoes well into November.



When growing house plants in water, occasionally change the water completely (rather than just adding more) to keep mineral salts and algae from building up in the container.

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# Garden Tips

If a bank exceeds one foot of drop per two feet of horizontal distance, plant a ground cover. A steep slope is hard to mow and susceptible to erosion.



To prevent slugs and other pests from entering the drainage holes of potted plants set into the ground during the summer, slip the pot into the toe of an old nylon stocking. This allows water to get through but keeps out pests.



Fall cleanup and planting in the garden can provide enjoyable exercise on sunny days



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# Garden Tips

as one hour of gardening chores  
(cultivating, pruning, weeding) burns about  
300 calories!



A jar of germinating grain is an old-time propagator's trick that is worth a try. After the grain has soaked for a day or two, dip the bases of cuttings in the sprout water. The hormones produced by the sprouting seeds may stimulate rooting of the cuttings.



Pruning aging apple trees is largely a job of renovation followed by renewal of fruit-

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# Garden Tips

ing wood. The pruning must be moderate and spread out over two or three years to avoid stimulating excessive growth and/or causing injury to large limbs from sudden overexposure to sunlight. Such pruning consists of gradually lowering tree height to eighteen feet or less, removing surplus scaffold limbs, and eliminating weak, damaged, and dead wood.



*Garden Tips courtesy of the Penn State  
Cooperative Extension/Berks County*

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# Home and Family

*hints for better living by Fay Strickler,  
Penn State Cooperative Extension/Berks County*

## Ways to Strengthen the Family

1. Spend time with each other, do things together as a family.
2. Plan ahead with your family so things *will* happen and not *just* happen.
3. Establish a reasonable balance between outside activities, work schedules, and your family.
4. Talk with each other and listen carefully to understand the other's viewpoint.
5. Show each family member consideration and appreciation, especially in everyday ways.
6. Respect each person—his/her ideas, thoughts and



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## Home and Family

hints for better living by Fay Strickler,  
Penn State Cooperative Extension/Berks County

feeling.

7. Resolve problems and conflicts in a constructive way.
8. Help each other and be willing to let others help you.
9. Take part in community affairs and use community services.
10. Develop a spiritual focus with your family.

### Say "Do" Instead of "Don't"

Sometimes adults get into a rut and constantly say "don't," "stop," and "quit" over and over when talking with children.

Telling a child what *not* to do does not prepare him or her for *what* to do. Simply yelling "stop" doesn't teach the

Pat C. Lupia

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child how to handle a situation in a better way. Try using "do" instead of "don't"—it will help the child learn a more acceptable way of doing something.



## HERE ARE A FEW WAYS TO CHANGE THE "DON'Ts" TO "DO's"

**DON'T PUT YOUR FOOD ON THE TABLE!**

JOEY, KEEP YOUR FOOD ON THE PLATE.

**DON'T THROW THE BALL!**

ROLL THE BALL ON THE FLOOR.

**DON'T PINCH THE DOG!**

PAT THE DOG GENTLY.

**DON'T DRAG YOUR COAT IN THE MUD!**

TIE YOUR COAT AROUND YOUR WAIST SO IT DOESN'T GET IN THE MUD.

**DON'T SCREAM AT ME!**

PLEASE TALK TO ME IN A SOFT VOICE.

**DON'T TALK WITH YOUR MOUTH FULL!**

TALK AFTER YOU HAVE FINISHED CHEWING YOUR FOOD.

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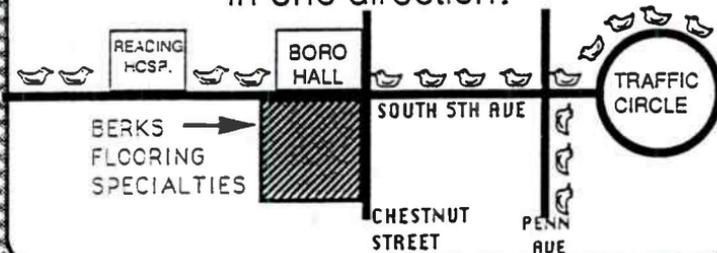
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6. Use salt and sodium only in moderation.
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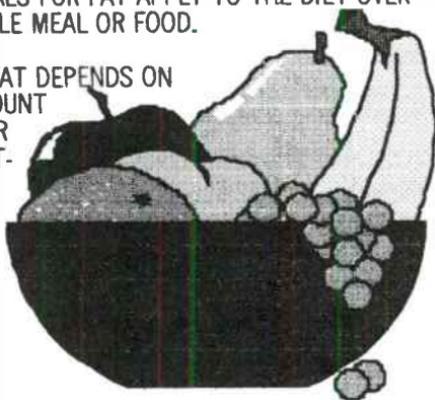
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2200	73 OR LESS	LESS THAN 24
2800	93 OR LESS	LESS THAN 31

## Presidential Trivia

- George Washington had size 13 feet.
- Warren G. Harding was the first president whose father was alive when he was elected president. He was also the first president to be survived by his father.
- The first photograph of a president in office was made of President James Knox Polk on February 14, 1849.

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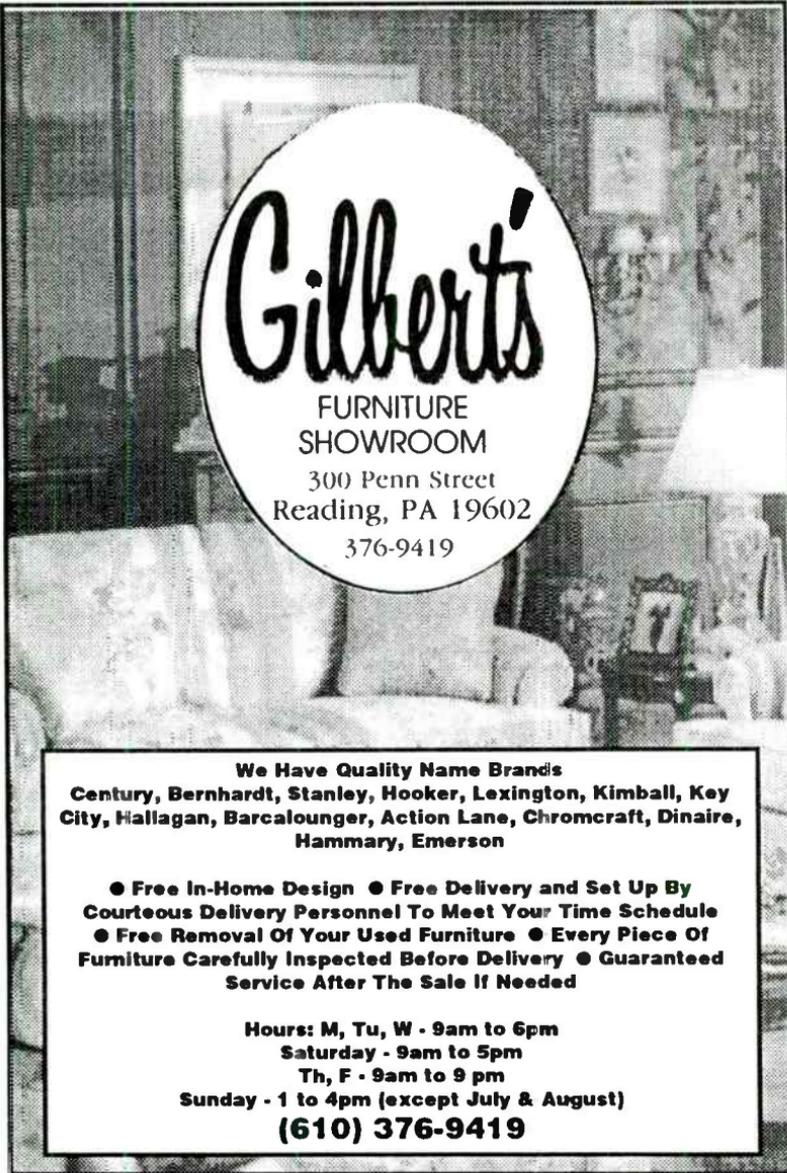
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# **PEANUT BUTTER TRIVIA**

**\*In 1890, a St. Louis physician convinced a food company to produce a ground peanut paste as a nutritious protein substitute for people with poor teeth who couldn't chew meat.**

**\*In the early 1900s, George Washington Carver began researching better ways to cultivate peanuts. In addition, he came up with more than 300 uses for them. He is considered to be the father of the peanut industry.**

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**\*Peanut butter began to be packaged in glass jars during World War I, when tin was in short supply.**

**\*Peanut butter is consumed daily by 40 million Americans, and 800 million pounds of peanut butter are consumed each year.**

**\*In 1923, Harry B. Reese began producing a chocolate-coated peanut butter cup, now known as the Reese's peanut butter cup. In 1963, Reese sold his candy company to Hershey Foods Corporation.**

*PEANUT BUTTER TRIVIA courtesy of  
Hershey Foods Corporation.*

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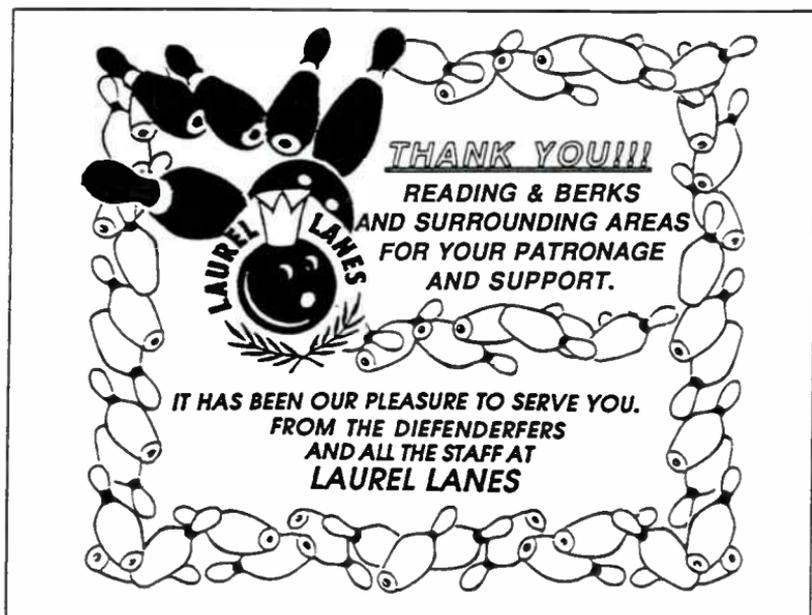
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## IDAHO: Yes, Idaho!

Okay, so it's not that often you read an Idaho trivia feature. But, the folks at the Idaho Department of Commerce have provided the *Feedback Journal* with some interesting bits and pieces about the potato state. You may be surprised!

- The poet Ezra Pound was born in Hailey, Idaho. The novelist Ernest Hemingway killed himself in Ketchum, Idaho, about 11 miles north of Hailey.
- Ski champs Gretchen Fraser (Olympic gold, 1948) and Christin Cooper (silver, 1984), are from Idaho.
- Television inventor Philo T. Farnsworth (1906-1971) is from Rigby, Idaho.
- Julia Jean Mildred Francis Turner, of Wallace, Idaho, changed her name to Lana Turner and became a star!
- Edgar Rice Burroughs, creator of Tarzan, once ran a stationery store in Pocatello, Idaho.
- Walter Johnson, of Weiser, and Harmon Killebrew, of Payette, are Idaho's two contributions to the Baseball Hall



# 1996·WEEU FEEDBACK JOURNAL·1996

of Fame.

•Gutzon Borglum, who sculpted Mt. Rushmore, was born near Bear Lake, Idaho.

•The world's first Alpine skiing chair lift was built by Union Pacific Railroad engineers in Sun Valley, Idaho. It was designed after a banana-boat loading device.

•The world's first nuclear power plant was built in 1953 near Arco, Idaho.

•The deepest river gorge in North America is not the Grand Canyon, it's Hell's Canyon, Idaho—7,900 feet deep.

•Nearly 85 percent of the commercial trout sold in the United States is produced in the Hagerman Valley, Idaho.

•Shoshone Falls, near Twin Falls, drops 52 feet further than Niagara Falls.

•"Bus Stop," the 1956 film starring Marilyn Monroe, was filmed near Sun Valley. Clint Eastwood's 1984 "Pale Rider" was filmed north of Ketchum. The 1979 movie, "Heaven's Gate," was made in Wallace.

•The name "Idaho" was made up by a mining lobbyist, and is not of Indian derivation. It was simply made up.

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- Between 1863, when Idaho became a territory, and 1890, when Idaho became a state, the Idaho Territory had 16 governors—four who never set foot in Idaho.
- Idaho has an interesting seagoing heritage. The engineering prototype of the first nuclear submarine, the Nautilus, was built and tested in the Idaho desert on the Snake River Plain near Arco.
- Idaho's Salmon River is known as the "River of No Return" because of its difficult passage. It is the nation's longest free-flowing river that heads and flows within a single state. And, Idaho has a seaport. From Lewiston, millions of bushels of grain are shipped down the Snake and Columbia Rivers for overseas exportation.
- The Statehouse in Boise and dozens of other buildings in the city are geothermally heated from underground hot springs.
- The Frank Church River of No Return Wilderness is the largest wilderness area in the 48 contiguous states—2.3 million acres of rugged, unspoiled, back country.



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## **...who taught the band to play?**

**A QUIZ FOR BEATLES FANS: COMPLETE THE LINE OF THESE**

**LYRICS FROM "SGT. PEPPER" SONGS**

1. "STANDING BY A PARKING METER, WHEN I CAUGHT...."
2. "IT'S WONDERFUL TO BE HERE..."
3. "I READ THE NEWS TODAY, OH BOY..."
4. ("DO YOU NEED ANYBODY?")..."
5. "I'M PAINTING MY ROOM IN A COLORFUL WAY..."
6. "FRIDAY MORNING AT 9 O'CLOCK SHE IS FAR AWAY..."



**ANSWERS:**

1. "...a glimpse of Rita, filling in a ticket in her little white book" (Lovely Rita)
2. "...it's certainly a thrill, you're such a lovely audience, we'd like to take you home with us, we'd love to take you home (Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band)
3. "...about a lucky man who made the grade" (A Day in the Life)
4. "...I need somebody to love" (With a Little Help From My Friends)
5. "...and when my mind is wandering, there I will go" (Fixing A Hole)
6. "...waiting to keep the appointment she made" (She's Leaving Home)

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# **LEADER**

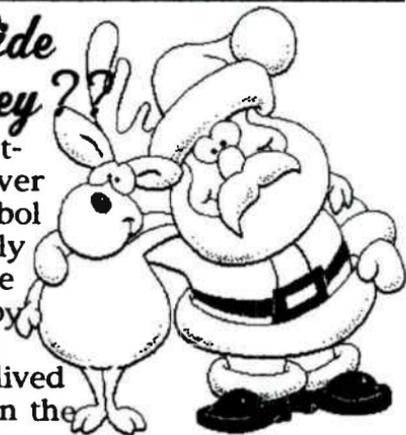
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## *Santa's Sleigh Ride Started in....Turkey??*

Santa Claus, Father Christmas, Kris Kringle-whatever you call the beloved symbol of Christmas-you probably imagine him living at the North Pole, surrounded by elves and reindeer.

But the real St. Nicholas lived in a warm, sunny town on the Mediterranean-in what is now Turkey!



According to Catholic Church history, St. Nicholas was born in the town of Patara in 245 A.D. When he was a young man, his wealthy father died and left Nicholas a great fortune. Instead of spending it on himself, Nicholas started anonymously giving

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# **1996·WEEU FEEDBACK JOURNAL·1996**

money to the needy, especially children. Nicholas eventually moved to Myra (modern-day Demre) after a trip to the Holy Land. One morning, he walked into a church to find the town elders congratulating him as the municipality's new bishop. According to Turkish legend, the elders had gathered the previous evening and heard a voice tell them that the first man to enter the church the next day would be bishop.

During his many years as Bishop of Myra, Nicholas reportedly performed several miracles, including saving sailors from drowning and resurrecting three boys who had been killed by an evil butcher. In Catholicism, St. Nicholas is the patron saint of children, sailors, teachers, students, and merchants. The most famous St. Nicholas story led to the legend of Santa Claus. A nobleman who had fallen on hard time lived near Patara with his three beautiful daughters. Because he could not pay their dowries, the daughters had no chance of marrying.

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# **1996·WEEU FEEDBACK JOURNAL·1996**

One night, Nicholas threw a sack of gold through a window of the nobleman's shabby castle. The nobleman and his daughters were delighted, but the money was only enough to pay for one wedding. So, another night, Nicholas threw another sack through the window.

But when Nicholas returned with a third sack, he found the window closed. He climbed onto the roof and dropped the sack down the chimney. The next morning, the daughters found gold in the stockings they had hung to dry by the fireplace the previous evening.

Almost 1,700 years later, stockings are still hung-in hopes a visit from St. Nick.  
(Courtesy of News USA)



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Stories From My Mountain Journal  
**GLACIAL ADVENTURE IN  
CHAMONIX, FRANCE**

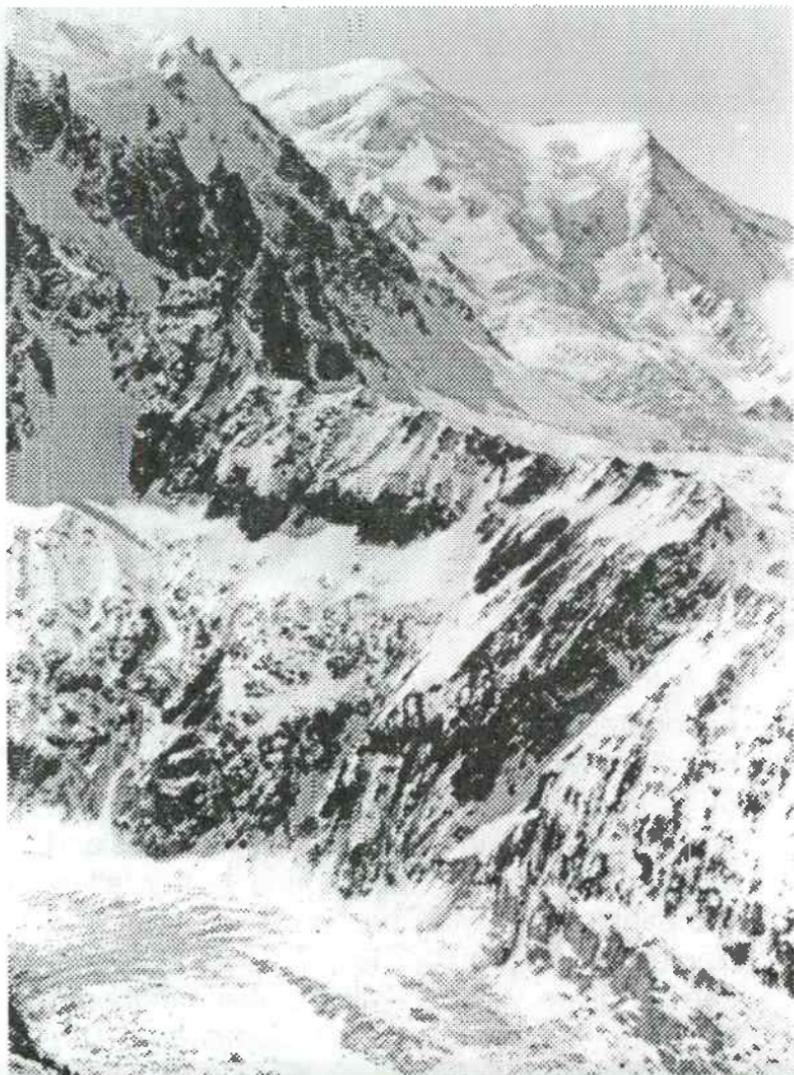
Pictorial by "East Side" Dave Kline



It is early morning and the sun has not yet penetrated the morning fog. Nevertheless, I find myself on Mt. Blanc, at the Aiguille du Midi drop off point...3,842 meters, or about 12,000 feet above sea level. In a curious array of ropes and safety gear, I am literally bound to my fellow companion Matt Marcinek, a U.S. Parks and Recreation Department Ranger, two Germans and our guide Michael. Michael is a member of the elite and world-revered *Compagnie Des*

**Above: Western Europe's highest peak rises up and out of the clouds at over 15,000 feet above sea level. The photo was taken from below on the Mer De Glace glacier.**

*Guides De Chamonix ...*The Chamonix Guide Company, one of the true legends of Chamonix, in the French Alps. We have rushed this morning to gather up



**Above: The advance of the glacier has carved impressive canyon walls in the French Alps.**

our gear and hire Michael, paying about 300 French Francs each for the privilege of having Michael bind us all together in ropes while he anchors the group by attaching ice crampons to his ski boots to keep us from sliding into an abyss that surrounds us on both our left and our right. Basically, we have engaged the services of this guide in the fervent hope that his desire to live outweighs even ours as we have planned and prepared ourselves for a ski descent on the fabulous Vallee Blanche run that snakes down a series of glaciers, including the Glacier du Giant, the LaSalle a Manger Glacier, and finally, the Mer de Glace, an arduous, scenic, and at times, life-threatening trek of about 12 miles.

We had arrived in Chamonix earlier in the week and began by skiing the steep, but forgiving slopes of Le Brevent, one of several fantastic ski areas that ring the town of Chamonix like some sort of surrealistic necklace of snow and ice. At one point on our tour of Le Brevent, Matt and I notice a well-worn set of ski tracks that exited the regular boundary of the groomed ski run and ran off toward a seemingly endless array of rolling, ungroomed snowfields. We exit the marked trail and decide that we will go off in search of adventure. If we have to hike back we will, but surely we will be able to find some way back down to the city far below. After all, others have done it so we could too. Added to our enthusiasm was the fact that both Matt and myself are fairly well versed in outdoor survival tactics, even in winter conditions, and a quick check in our packs reveals that we have extra food, water, fire-starting materials, and other "luxuries", so what the heck...if we get too far back-country and can't successfully negotiate a way out of the high-peaks region by dusk, we'll

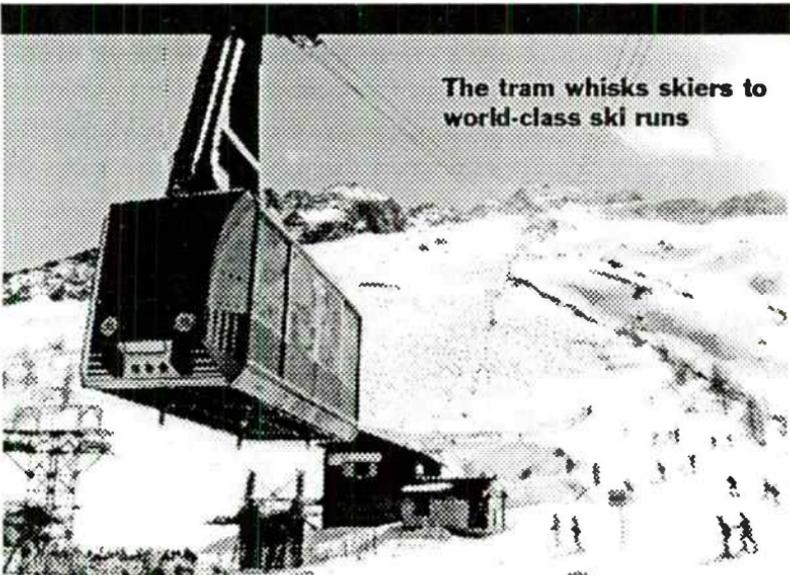
just dig an igloo in the side of one of the massive snow piles and call it a night, forever after having the memory and story to tell about the night we spent in the French Alps! That was truly our mind-set as we set out! You can't have a more free-spirited and unbridled sense of adventure than that! It's actually a very interesting feeling, once you've relaxed your mind and put aside your fears.

Off we went, descending and traversing, all the while keeping our eye on the target village below, and all the while looking for a negotiable route out of the high spires that punctuate this region of the Alps. Time after time, we followed other tracks, or made fresh ones to the brink of what appeared to be a leap into thin air. What we were actually experiencing was the exploration of a sort of ledge that went on and on. Apparently, the French skiers who know the area like the back of their hand, were willing to take a leap of faith over any one of a myriad of cliffs and cornices, confident that their first edge-set on the snow below would be proficient enough to offset the impact and the forces of gravity. We were not that eager to leap into thin air however, no matter how adventurous we were feeling. On and on we went, stopping here and there to snap a photo of each other. Being completely isolated in an area like this is one of the true gifts of God and Nature. The profound sense of beauty and wonder that entralls you as you examine all that surrounds you is very intoxicating. Once you get a taste of it you need, and must have more! There is no work of art created by even the most gifted of men to compare with the genius of the Creator. Those shades of glistening white, the blues, greens and grays of the ice, the earthy browns and blacks of the rock, the brilliant yellow and white hue

of the sun high above the clear sea we call the “sky”, the texture of your breath, your life-force, as it leaves your body and mingles with the mountain air making you a part of this scene, and the intense silence...it all puts a lot of things in a better perspective.

Finally we arrive at an obvious “way-in”, a slang word skiers use to describe an entry point into a chute, wall or other feature. As we peer through the narrow opening between two jagged rocks we are both thinking, but neither of us is talking. It is really kind of funny that smoke wasn’t coming out of our ears at this point because we were *REALLY* thinking! Below the “way-in” was a truly steep headwall that followed the angle of a ravine which led right down to where we wanted to ski toward our final destination in the town. Looking back, that headwall was steeper than anything either of us had ever attempted before and it was not clear what the snow conditions were like, the only way to tell being an actual survey once we were on the wall.

We were now at the point of no return wherein if we



did not select this entry point, we could not, in good conscience, continue any further without going so far off the beaten trail that we might never be heard from again. The earlier bravado-induced plan of spending a night in the Alps may well have become a reality if we pressed on past this point. At this point too, several hours in our adventure had clicked by like minutes and we were well aware that if we did not enter here, we had no other options but to go forward or go backward. If we went backward, we could retrace our tracks, but that meant considerable hiking with full packs and skis. Somewhere in the midst of all of this thinking and evaluating Matt finally summoned up a few words. *"Well Dave...I'll do it if you do it."* To which I replied by jumping into the "way-in" chute, negotiating a quick, almost weightless hard left arcing turn across the wall where I gingerly ground to a halt, leaning cautiously, left shoulder against the actual "hill" we were going to attempt to ski down.

As I waited for Matt to enter I sized up the conditions and was both alarmed and disappointed to see and feel that the snow here was not good! It was deep crud. The kind of snow that will make every attempt to reach up and trip you, or to submarine at least one of your skis sending you tumbling down the headwall at best, off into space at worst! Making matters even more ridiculous were a series of huge boulders that couldn't be seen before from our entry angle. These monoliths jutted out at various angles almost across the entire face of the headwall about three hundred yards down slope from us, at just about the point where our legs would be screaming for mercy and oxygen. The path through any one of these boulders was narrow at best, and while Matt and I could easily negotiate such an

obstacle under good conditions, this gauntlet of stone became the final red light that forced us to decide to abort the adventure. Matt quickly agreed that we should turn back after his downhill ski briefly stuck in the uneven snow upon his entry onto the wall. There is a very good rule that most experienced mountaineers or extreme skiers follow. It simply warns that; *If it doesn't feel right...one hundred percent right...don't do it!*

So, off came the packs and lashing materials, and off came the skis. Moments later, like some weird duo of alpine camels, Matt and I emerged back over the lip of the “way-in”, packs and skis on our backs, prepared for the next and final part of this day’s adventure. Between skiing and hiking it took us all but three hours to retrace our steps to the point where we had exited the marked trail. Here we simply reentered the groomed trail system and returned to Chamonix. Most people would wonder, (and for good reason), why, after buying a lift ticket, a person would not use the lifts all day, but spend almost an entire day wandering around in the middle of nowhere without seeing any other humans, hiking, sweating, expending enormous amounts of energy while all the time the lifts were smoothly functioning back in the “civilized” section of the resort. I suppose the answer is the same one mountain climbers have offered for decades... *“Because it was there!”* These kind of days in one’s life are few and far between and I savor them...like a fine wine or delicious meal...the intense emotion of hearing a symphonic orchestra perform Beethoven’s 9th Symphony to perfection...that first electrifying kiss from a passionate lover... these are the moments in time that you remember forever...the spice of life...the pages of your own book, which we’ll

talk about later.

As usual we spend the night enjoying both the traditional and the contemporary culture of our host town. There is an awesome sense of history in Chamonix as many of the world's best and bravest mountaineers have either been raised or trained in this region. Our group includes many who have traveled to mountainous regions with me in the past and several that have never traveled before! It is our tradition to meet up at the end of each ski day with my friend Kaz Wulkowicz, the always-smiling host for the "room parties". He provides his room as a great place to enjoy all manner of beverage and tall-tales! (I generally use my room as a nap-sanctuary...like crawling into a cave!)

The new morning brings fresh powder snow and after that, shimmering sunshine. Today's destination is Les Grands Montets. Everyone from beginning skiers to the best skiers on the planet flock to Les Grand Montets area because it is massive and offers slopes of all degree of difficulty, all the while providing spectacular views and the ability to stop in at any one of numerous on-slope chalets for a rest and a bit of conversation, if not a portion of home-made food. Offering breathtaking views of Western Europe's highest peak, Mont Blanc, Les Grands Montets in and of itself would make the trip to Chamonix worthwhile, even if no other ski areas in the region had been developed! We spend two days on the slopes of Les Grand Montets exploring every nuance of the mountain, both on the groomed trails, and on the glaciers that surround her on either side. At the end of one day we make another truly memorable run as we follow some knowledgeable locals all the way from the top of the mountain to the Argentiere Valley about 9,000 feet

below. We glide through woods, over mogul fields, past private property, ending up at a local pub where we promptly order several of the largest mugs of ale that the establishment offers. There, myself, Ranger Matt, and another of our fellow travelers who is a chiropractor...(we call him "*The Good Doctor*")...Ron Saggese, meet up with a transplanted U.S. Citizen named Karl. Karl has made his living in Europe over the past few years selling ladies feminine hygiene products for a major U.S. firm. He agrees to drive us back to our hotel so we buy him a beer and make a new friend. Karl skied with us for most of the remainder of our trip! (He also gave us a bunch of free samples like toothbrushes and stuff! We liked Karl!)

More sunshine the next day leaves Matt and I thinking again...(not always a good thing!) If we get a guide, today would be the perfect day to attempt the famous ski descent known as the Vallee Blanche. People arrive from all over the world to ski it. In a year's time many die in the attempt. In fact, our pre-trip homework revealed that the French Guide Service Company of Chamonix considers an average of five people per season to be "acceptable loss of life". Due to extreme fluctuations of terrain and weather on the run, combined with the ever-present fear of avalanches and crevasse rifts, even about 2 guides per year die here, mostly while they are trying to protect or save their clients! Knowing all of this, Matt and I both realize that the vast majority of people who attempt the run do succeed and this single run is one of the main reasons we have come to ski in Chamonix. We simply must do it. It is a compelling urge. In a way, it is not unlike the moth to a flame.

Fate has a different plan for us on this day however

as the group has decided that they would like me to take them to Italy, on the other side of the Mont Blanc range, to ski at renowned Courmayeur. That being the case, we arrange to have a bus transport our entire contingent through the recently constructed tunnel that connects France to Italy. It goes right through Mont Blanc, an amazing feat of civil engineering. In a short time we are in the land of my forefathers, (on my mother's side of course, the paternal side coming from Bavaria and the Rhine region). Here awaits yet another fabulous day of skiing and sightseeing. The quaint little town of Courmayeur is dwarfed by the ski slopes that seem to rise up into the sky beyond sight like Jack's fabled beanstalk! The upper-most skiable portion of the area is called Cresta D'Arp, and is about 10,500 feet above sea level. Here we find an awesome headwall. It is wide, steep and can only be accessed by means of a very narrow catwalk, a feature that wards off most "*Sunday skiers*". To me the snow looks perfect, so in an instant I'm there...literally flying down a wall of ice and snow...hooting, hollering, yodeling, and summoning up a heartfelt rebel yell! The experience is the next closest thing to skydiving. You really release the confines of gravity and with each turn you accelerate faster and faster. Your skis literally carve through the ice and snow like a knife. You throw up huge roostertail-like whisps of snow and the chunks of snow and ice you've dislodged begin to descend with and around you, a sort of mini-avalanche. At the bottom Matt and I meet up with another old friend in our group, "Big Al" Gursky, former Penn State and New York Giant football standout and current proprietor of Kutztown Auto Company. Al is so cool...he has watched our entire descent and simply says something

like, "*looked good*", when we arrive at his position on the mountain. Al, Matt and I, and several others, spend the entire day going up and down this fantastic mountain. We stop when we are exhausted and take a final run to the gondola which whisks us down into town where we finish the day by sunning ourselves on the outdoor patio of a local bistro, all the while being served delicious red wine by a very attentive and congenial Italian hostess.

**This region of the Alps  
is "young" and rugged**



On the bus ride back to France several in our group begin to share the souvenir liquors they had purchased in Italy. By the time we arrive back in Chamonix we have yodeled and sung our way through a wide repertoire of alpine tunes, making several new friends from among the people on the bus not with our group. What a party! What a day! What a place!

It is later that evening when Matt and I decide that tomorrow will be the day to "do" the Vallee Blanche run. We discuss this at supper with the others in our group and everyone else is content to let us go on ahead without them, preferring to hear our story "if" we get back! That word is almost funny..."if"...but it sends a slight shiver through me, as Matt later confessed it did to him as well. Not more than an hour after announcing our plans to the group, word arrives at our hotel, (the word is circulating like wildfire all through the town)...two skiers and their guide were killed today on the Vallee Blanche when one of the skiers failed to negotiate a tight turn and ended up skiing into a deep crevasse pulling his partner and guide along into the void in the process. The slight shiver I had experienced earlier turned into a brief wave of actual fear, an interesting mental process. After all, what did we have to fear? The skiers that were killed had their destiny and that of their guide in their own hands. Were they accomplished skiers? Were they in over their heads? Did we have the skill and resultant experience to negotiate this treacherous, yet wonderfully scenic run? I knew the answer to the last question, so the only answer possible was "yes" to the attempt.

That night went by in an agonizingly slow parade of restless sleep and visions. Clammy hands often reached up to wipe dry a moist brow. The Vallee Blanche was

waiting, would she be gentle or ferocious? Would she understand that my wife and children needed me back home after this trip? Would she understand that I had to fulfill the mission that led me across the Atlantic Ocean and high up into the romantic, wondrous, yet hostile environment of the Alps? Would she let me ski her, be in union with her? Would she appreciate the fact that Matt and I wanted to be one with her for just the briefest period of time compared to her long and glorious existence? Could we court each other for just one day...for just one moment in time? (And still be alive later to tell about it? *The "kiss and tell" aspect of this line of thinking suddenly became disconcerting!*)

The new day dawned in an ominous display of grayish-blue clouds, the high peaks were totally obscured in what resembled a shroud! In fact several thousand feet of the upper peaks were no longer visible, a drastic change from the clear blue skies we had enjoyed thus far. Matt and I stood outside the hotel, gear all prepared, just looking up into the sky, into the gray mist. The concierge at the hotel claimed that the skies would be much the same all day, which meant that if we did go up there, the best we could expect was a sort of milky view at the higher elevations, the visibility only getting better at lower elevations. The worst that could happen was that we could find ourselves in a complete "whiteout" wherein you really can't deduce even simple things like up from down and motion from non-motion. Many people in this situation become very disoriented and even get violently ill from motion-sickness, or vertigo. After all of the months of planning it seemed that our rendezvous with the Vallee Blanche would have to be postponed until another time, if we ever got to do it at all. But, shortly after consulting the

guide service and while we were still thinking it through, a brief ray of sunshine punctured the upper peaks revealing Mont Blanc for just a moment. It was at that point that we made up our minds to go up there. To face the unknown. To look the Vallee Blanche directly in the eye and accept the challenge.

As we emerge from the tram car at the upper end of the lift, we enter a tunnel carved through solid rock. It is dimly lit with the soft glow of electricity. Condensation glistens and seems to form a kind of varnish on every exposed surface. It seems a primitive setting. In this "cave" we receive final instructions from Michael our guide. In his charming French accent he says things like, "*Do you know how to self-arrest, that is, how to stop yourself from sliding too far in the event of a fall, or in case you're pulled down by your partner? Do you know how to anchor yourself to the ground and hold the others from falling into oblivion in case you're the only remaining member of the team who does not fall into a crevasse?*" And after a few more admonitions and words of confidence about what to expect, he methodically ropes us together, each to the other, then quietly tests the knots before he bends to strap his ice crampons onto his ski boots to prevent cataclysmic slipping. We carry our skis, he carries everyone's poles in a sort of canvass bag. As we emerge from the stone tunnel, which in just a few short moments has been turned into a metaphoric-type tomb by the power of my imagination, we are instantly blasted by a cold, severe dose of reality as the winds are howling, the snow is blowing, and there is absolutely no visibility. Everything is white. No matter which direction you look...up, down, to the right or left...everything is white. Temperatures up here have frozen the snow beyond something

representing beauty to something resembling a frozen wasteland and the snow creaks, groans and squeaks in response to our measured footsteps. I can feel the plastic in my ski boots stiffen up. I know that the skis will react in a stiffer way too. Still we press forward, down a sort of rough-hewn series of ice steps carved across and down a narrow bridge which is bordered on both sides by sheer cliffs that drop away for thousands of feet toward the valley below. *"If you drop anything here, including your ski", warns Michael, "do not attempt to retrieve it. Don't even lean too far in any one direction. This is where most people are lost. There is no return from either side."* He is indeed right, although the visibility is so poor that we really can't gage the severity of our situation. Only on the following day, (another part of this story which will be revealed later), do I confirm how steep the walls on either side of us really are! For now, we must be content to put every ounce of our trust into Michael's hands. The combination of exhilaration, inhibition, fear, adrenaline, bravado, and other emotions too numerous to remember, all create the perfect recipe for the ultimate adventure. We move down and across the ice-bridge at a rhythmic, steady pace...Matt, myself, two Germans who are total strangers, and Michael. During the ice-bridge crossing all of us but Michael slip at least once to which all others respond by tightening up their stance and bracing against the resultant pull. Total actual time to cross the bridge is about 15 minutes but they seem eternally long. Finally we arrive across the bridge to an expansive, flattened out plateau. This is where we take off the ropes and put on the skis.

There is still no visibility and I whip out my camera and flash and snap a photo of Michael. He looks almost

military in his official French Ski Guide uniform. As the flash goes off, the red in his jumpsuit ignites and illuminates the white shroud that surrounds him on all sides. The picture remains one of my personal favorites because all there is is Michael appearing to be floating in the clouds...like a vision of heaven. He was certainly our Guardian Angel on this day!

I have skied in white-out situations many times before, but never in a place where a wrong turn of a few mere feet could spell the difference between drawing another breath or not. Michael leads us. He shouts out commands, "*turn left here, now right, now straight ahead...no, no...don't go too far out of my line!*" All of us are using our abilities to the fullest. There are times when we find ourselves on the brink of a major descent with nothing more to prove it than the sense of upcoming angle, or degree of slope fallaway. Not knowing how far the steepness will go on and what the runout looks like, strength also becomes a major factor as you must control your speed and angulation. This sort of ultra-controlled descent also begins to sap your energy as the amount of available oxygen at this altitude is far less than at sea level, or even in the village below, and your muscles begin to cry a bit from oxygen deprivation. On and on we go, challenging ourselves to the limits. Feeling every inch of the descent, not taking anything for granted. After about an hour of this we actually ski right out from within the clouds and exit the thick cloud cover. Now the scene is still gray, but there is some depth perception available and we begin to loosen up a bit. Not long after this Michael stops us cold and gives us a precise heading to follow across what seems to be an innocent enough flat section in between a cliff to one side and a drop off to the other.

“Go exactly in the direction I go”, he says, “your skis must point exactly as mine do when I cross this section. If you fall, don’t move. Don’t stand up, especially if your ski comes off!” Then, off he goes down and across the bland looking section of terrain. One by one we follow and each in turn audibly gasps as they cross the flat. We have skied over a deep crevasse, one that cannot be seen from the angle of approach prior to arrival. Our skis have crossed and intersected the faultline of the crevasse, skis moving ahead vertically, crevasse stretching to both sides horizontally. The gap where we have crossed is about fourteen inches wide. A wrong angle of approach here would certainly result in at least a broken leg, if not worse. Michael instructs us to face the crevasse and gently slide back toward it on our skis. He explains that as long as we have our skis on, the surface tension of the long “boards” spreads out our weight, but if we were to take our skis off and take a step, there is a good chance that we would follow the fate of many unfortunate alpinists from the past as our weight, centered in just one spot, would most likely puncture the fragile snow and ice and send us down a one-way elevator shaft toward the center of the earth! The crevasse is amazingly beautiful, with blue-ice walls gouging their way down toward a hidden ravine floor far below. As the crevasse grew deeper it expanded forming a cavern of sorts. What a wondrous sight!

A few more hours pass as we continue to ski down past amazing ice sculptures formed by the relentless forward advance of the glacier. We ski into ice caves and back up over snow bridges. We enjoy wide open sections and steep, narrow sections. Just before our lunch break the sun penetrates the clouds and the

warming light gives us the best perspective and vision we've had all day. Off come the heavy clothes, they are exchanged for the simple comfort of our polarfleece tops and pants. (The great thing about carry a full pack while you ski is the versatility it affords you in



adapting to changing conditions on the mountain.) Out come the sunglasses, sunscreen and attitude! This is the life! Michael instructs us on our final obstacle before we reach the mountain chalet that will serve us lunch. It is a section of ice blocks through which narrow



bands of snow form little pathways for ski negotiating. There is no room for error...absolutely none! This is a section on the glacier where the flow has taken it across and down an embankment of about a half a mile and as the glacier moves downward it cracks and falls apart forming huge, gaping holes, crevasses and ice boulders. It is a sort of slow-motion frozen waterfall. To me it looks like an accident waiting to happen. I look long and hard before I choose my line because it is very obvious that once you're committed to a path, it had better be the right one for your skill level or else!

The sensation is incredible as I wind my way through this maze of twisted blue-ice and snow. The feeling of speed and lightening-quick decisions is enhanced by the occasional occurrence of my shoulder rubbing against an icewall. Hello...what a wake up call! Suddenly I pop up over a snow ridge and onto a gentle flat just in time to hear Matt, somewhere behind me, screaming a hearty *YEEEEEEHAAAAAAA!* The smile on my face as I approach Michael at the chalet is enormous. We have faced our fears and the mountain, and so far we have prevailed. I know there is still a lot more skiing ahead, but I am now ready for anything. Lunch is superb...homemade soup, sausages and sparkling mineral water. We rest for about one half hour before setting out on the second half of our adventure.

During lunch, Matt and I rested in a secluded spot and discussed the awesome adventure so far. We both agreed that it could not get more exciting, more scary, more scenic, or more thrilling than it had been before lunch. We then agreed about how nice it would be to finish the second half of the day on smoother, less steep terrain as we headed back toward Chamonix.

After all, we were tired and the final descent would actually be relaxing, right?!? Wrong!

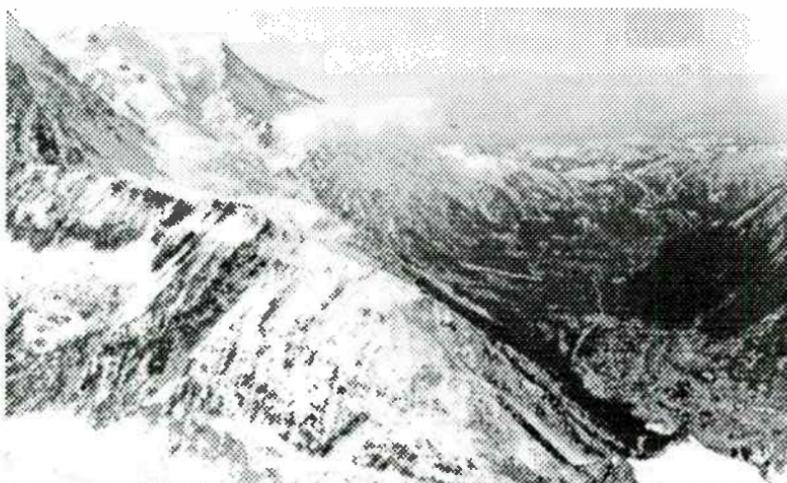
No sooner do we get started than Michael takes us off the beaten path and heads us across a sheer catwalk, traversing a long ridge which leaves us high above the glacier floor in no time at all. Far below we can see the easier line down the glacier and the skiers who have taken it, (a group representing the vast majority of those on the glacier). From our new vantage point Michael instructs us and helps us to select a line of descent. He also points to a feature far below and tells us that we will soon not only be skiing on the glacier, but in it as well. Words cannot describe the beauty of this new glacier we were looking at from a distance. A quick glance and you'd swear that you were looking out onto a fabulous blue-green sea of water. You can even be tricked into thinking you see waves! In fact, later that evening, Al Gursky, who had taken a train out of the valley to a nearby observation deck told me that he thought it *was* water. I assured him that it was ice and snow and that we had skied on and through it! This work of art is the Mer de Glace, or the *Sea of Ice...the Ocean Glacier*. Here the terrain begins to roll into heavy waves of frozen, but rhythmic ice and snow formations, and the sunlight refracts and reflects in radiant hues of emerald green, royal blue, and every shade in between.

After soaking up all of the view we again turn our attention to the fact that we are standing at the top of a very, very sheer and steep side of a mountain! But hey...no guts...no glory! Off we go, screaming all the way. Cranking out only a few turns as we accelerate towards the Mer de Glace. What a rush!

Once on the Mer de Glace you feel as if you have

entered another universe. It is different and more beautiful than any other glacier I've ever been on before or since. It's stunning! The terrain is punctured here and there by ice caves which were formed as huge boulders carried by the ice were deposited near the terminal moraine, or ending point, of the glacier, and then moved ever so slightly due to melting and water runoff, leaving not just the caves but various fissures, crevasses and depressions as well. Michael leads us over, under, into and around a wild assortment of glacial features. It is a wonderland of epic proportion.

As we finish, after a full day of constant descending interrupted only by lunch and photo-taking, we are giddy and struck with the true nature of what we have undertaken. We leave the base of the Mer de Glace and the Vallee Blanche run by way of train and head back to Chamonix. We are wild with enthusiasm and



**Above: Nestled in the lower right hand corner of this photo, the French village of Chamonix is dwarfed by the surrounding Alps.**

filled with pride. Matt and I tell the story over and over again, even though we were both there, almost as if we're really trying to convince ourselves that it was not a dream. Later that evening we meet up with everyone else in our group. They have gathered in the usual spot, Kaz's room, with both a morbid sense of curiosity to see if we'd actually return that day, and a sense of great anticipation to hear our story if we did! Over a bottle of freshly popped French Champagne, we tell the tale with great gusto and relish. We have carried the hopes and aspirations of many in our group with us this day, they being with us in spirit throughout the day. We have all accomplished something and we share in the mutual delight and fulfillment. After the champagne and supper I crash into bed in a heap of spent emotion and energy.

As I'm eating breakfast next morning, I quietly express my desire to ski the Vallee Blanche again. The sun is blazing and the day is perfect. I have learned the lesson of the Vallee Blanche well. I have studied and been a good student. I am ready for the final challenge...a solo descent without a guide. Another in our group, Jim Kopenhaver, an expert skier with excellent technique, after hearing our tale from the previous day, quietly leans toward me and tells me he will go along and follow me. Not making a big deal out of it, we gear up and set off. When we arrive at and exit the stone cave from whence we began our odyssey on the previous day, the length and severity of the cliffs on either side of the ice-bridge is phenomenal. If you fall, you will drop more than the height of two Empire State Buildings on top of each other before you hit anything. (Falling is not a good option here!)

Having set the stage for the day with that view and thought, we set out and have another fantastic adventure. Jim is often wide-eyed and childlike in his enthusiasm. By now of course, (ahem), I am a veteran of the Vallee Blanche and am not so easily impressed! (In truth, it is even more beautiful than the day before because of the favorable weather and I am much less tense because I can actually see where I'm going on the upper half of the mountain.) I am at ease...making my own decisions...fate squarely on my own shoulders. When this day ends I have sought, found and earned a new level of self-confidence. After a few more vastly memorable days of sunshine, skiing, fellowship and mountain culture, we leave Chamonix but take with us mountains of memories.

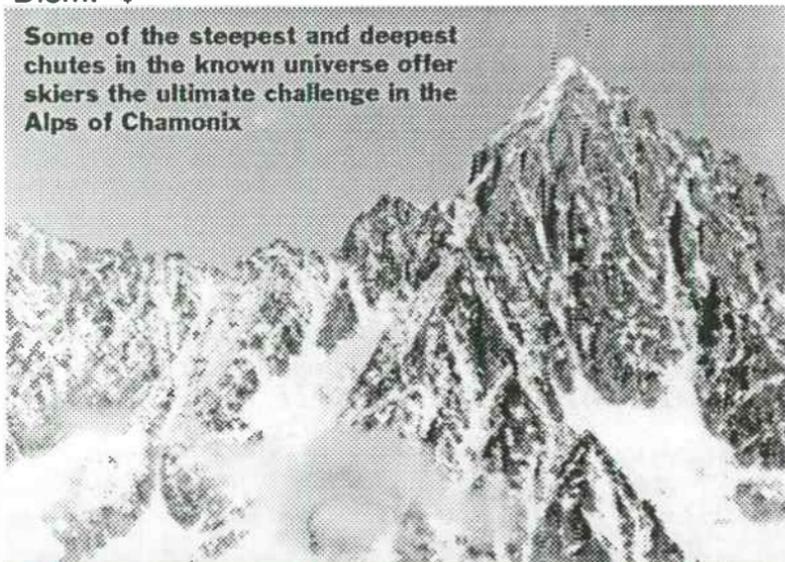
It is a wonderful thing when you can accomplish something and no one, at no time, can take it away from you or erase it from the book of facts that comprise the details of your life. I am convinced that this is a main reason which explains why people engage in such undertakings...why certain people work so hard at



**Above: Majestic Mont Blanc and surrounding peaks.**

maintaining a rugged sense of individualism. They are just trying to put interesting chapters in their personal "*book of life*". Be certain that you write a chapter or two filled with adventure in your own book before the final page brings it to a close. Always be ready to seize the day and don't turn your back on too many opportunities when they arise and while you have your health. Carpe Diem! ❄

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**Be sure to mention that you'd like to find out more about discovering the Alps, and be sure to include your name, return address and zip. Phone number optional. If you write, I will send a personal response!**



# **1996·WEEU FEEDBACK JOURNAL·1996**

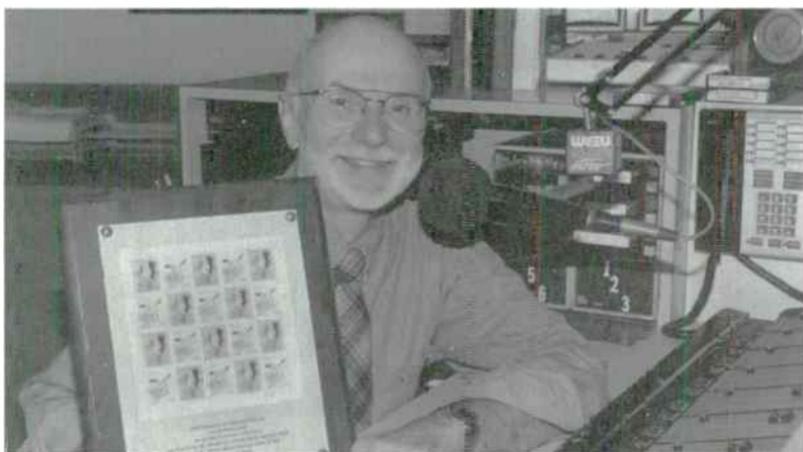


*WEEU morning personality Charlie Adams lived out a childhood dream—twice—in 1995 when he sang the National Anthem before a Reading Phillies baseball game at Municipal Stadium. (PHOTO BY TODD PARNELL, Reading Phillies)*



*Nearly 50 lucky listeners filled a "Rush Bus" which took them to a taping of the Rush Limbaugh television show in New York City.*

## **1996·WEEU FEEDBACK JOURNAL·1996**



*Yet another kudo for Jack Holcomb: The feedback host displays a plaque presented by the U.S. Postal Service during National Consumer Education Week, 1995.*



*In this vintage photo, WEEU “Early Bird” Lew Runkle is surrounded by (from left) Jack Holcomb, and former staffers Joe Shivers and Ed Birch. The occasion was the retirement of former WEEU news director Bob Smith—and the pitchers on the Peanut Bar tables are filled with, er, iced tea!*

## **1996·WEEU FEEDBACK JOURNAL·1996**



*In another scene from the Bob Smith retirement party several years ago (call Jack on Feedback and find out how many years ago), Jack (with beard, of course) offers some words of wit at a table full of his former co-workers.*



*Hundreds of WEEU listeners turned out for an exclusive open house of the Mid Atlantic Air Museum in May, 1995. The event was a preview of the museum's annual World War II Commemorative Weekend.*

## ***1996·WEEU FEEDBACK JOURNAL·1996***



*There was fun, food, and fraternizing at the Mid Atlantic Air Museum open house, staged exclusively for listeners of WEEU, the official station of the museum's World War II Commemorative Weekend.*



*Sporting their spiffy WEEU sunglasses are, from left: Sue Seidel, office manager; Chris Bach, newscaster; Nick Morrow, account executive; Bob Cesca, weekend air personality; and Dave Landis, traffic reporter. Oh, yeah, that's afternoon personality and program director Jo Painter behind the control room mike.*

# 1996·WEEU FEEDBACK JOURNAL·1996

## PHOTO GALLERY

*In the next five pages, we tease your memory with vintage photographs of what was one of Berks County's most popular gathering spots for many years—the Reading Fairgrounds. These pictures were taken by WEEU personality Charlie Adams just before the fairgrounds were demolished to make way for the Fairground Square Mall.*



# **1996·WEEU FEEDBACK JOURNAL·1996**



# 1996·WEEU FEEDBACK JOURNAL·1996



# 1996·WEEU FEEDBACK JOURNAL·1996



# 1996·WEEU FEEDBACK JOURNAL·1996



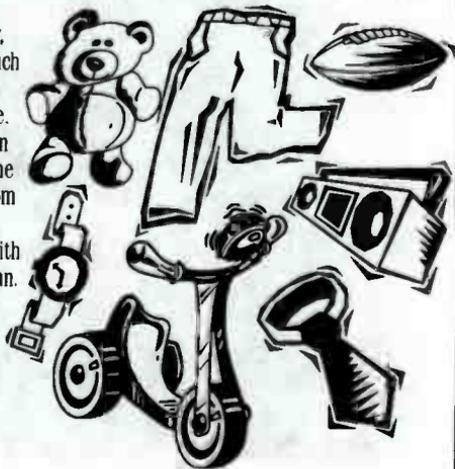
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## 1996·WEEU FEEDBACK JOURNAL·1996



*“Intern Matt” Anspach, versatile and energetic, has performed many varied duties at WEEU, and became a familiar voice to both those who listened to the station and those who called the Feedback program when he was screening the calls.*

## ***1996·WEEU FEEDBACK JOURNAL·1996***

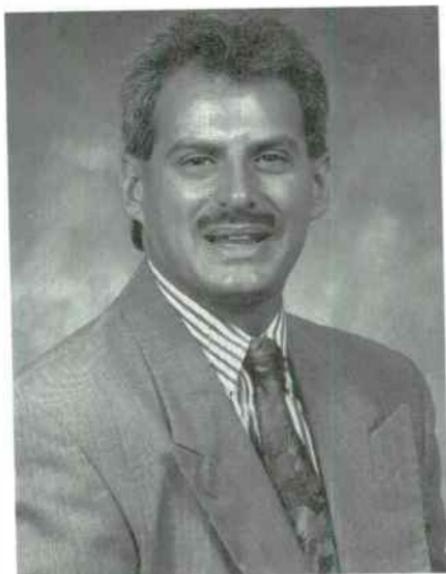


*She's in the "nerve center" of operations at WEEU, and she's the indefatigable Sue Seidel, the station's office manager.*



*The very model of the modern account executive, Nick Morrow takes a breather from his tasks to pose for this rare photo of the sales staff heart throb.*

## **1996·WEEU FEEDBACK JOURNAL·1996**



*Active in the musical community of Reading and Berks County, and the general manager of WEEU, David L. Kline is also very involved in civic and social affairs. As witnessed in his feature story on page 101, Dave's a heck of a writer, as well!*



*The voice you'll hear when you call the WEEU switchboard is that of the affable Tracy Gallagher, telephone and front desk receptionist at the station.*

## **1996·WEEU FEEDBACK JOURNAL·1996**



*WEEU morning personality Charlie Adams chats with singer Leon Redbone backstage prior to a show at a local nightspot. (PHOTO BY JIM JONES)*



*Anyone for a glazed donut? Saturday mornings have never been the same since the wacky Bob Cesca took over the airwaves. Bob usually prefers to “grab a waffle” in the early A.M., but when somebody drops donuts in the WEEU lunch room, Bob forces himself to have one or two.*

## **1996·WEEU FEEDBACK JOURNAL·1996**



*A bright, new voice on the WEEU airwaves in 1995 was Belinda Brinton, who can be heard doing news and other assorted assignments from time to time.*



*Taking over the 6 p.m. evening shift on WEEU in 1995 was the popular and talented Mike Faust. Look closely...some folks say he looks a lot like Kermit The Frog!*

# 1996·WEEU FEEDBACK JOURNAL·1996



*Air personalities Mike Faust (left) and Bob Cesca ham it up for the cameraman during a whimsical moment at WEEU. Of course, for these two, every moment is a whimsical one.*

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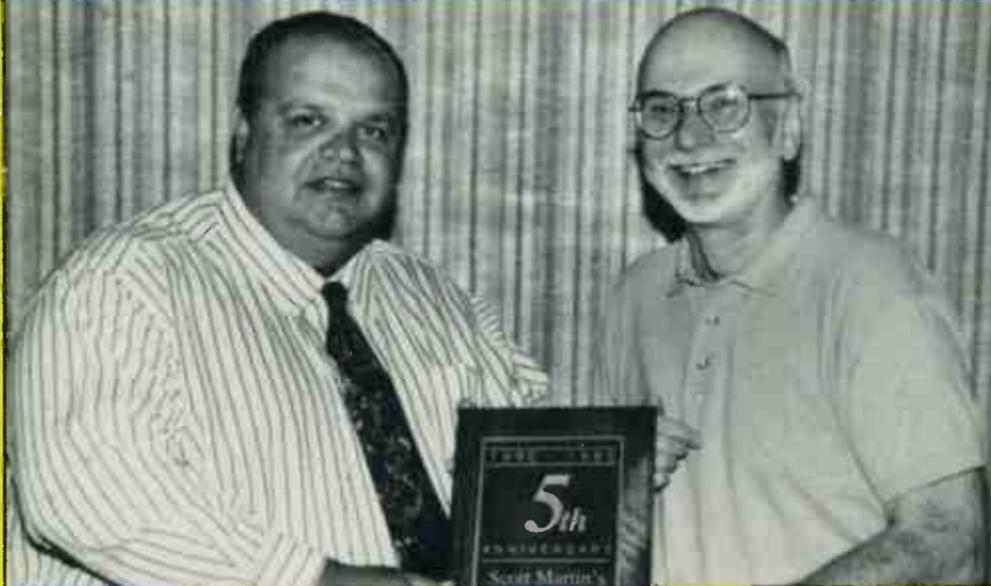
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# What is a "friend"?

by FEEDBACK host Jack Holcomb

While wandering through the dictionary the other day I stumbled across the word "friend."

Of course, this is a familiar word to everyone, but how many really know what it means?

According to Webster, "one well known to another and regarded with affection and loyalty." The definition continues, "intimate associate and supporter."

When all is said and done "friends" are really special people! How many do you have? We all have the habit of calling an acquaintance a friend and we even call people we have known for years "friends" and yet, in most cases, we see them or talk with them once a year!

There are some of us—myself included—who have been truly blessed with a friend or friends as defined by Webster. Trustworthy souls who take us for what we are, allow us our space and always know they can count on us to lend a hand any time even if that means just to listen.

Our spouses can be our best friends and we have children who have become friends beyond the joys of family. We have soul mates who follow our thought-lines better than others and we enjoy those

# 1997·FEEDBACK JOURNAL·1997

friends who share hobbies and chores with us.

Friends can be there for all of us but, as someone once said, you must be a friend to have a friend!

I believe all of the psychologists I have chatted with on “Feedback” and even medical doctors and lawyers have alluded to the importance of a friend. Friendship is a giving situation, an unselfish act, if you will, that benefits everyone. To turn against a friend, after engaging that trust and loyalty, is a selfish move.

Maybe, as I paused to read the definition, the loyalty part struck me as I remembered all of my loyal listeners over these many years. Perhaps I have returned a bit of that in some manner and I find that to be a fair exchange between friends. I have also found this among my co-workers who, through their loyalty and friendship, have made my job a pleasure and so much easier.

If we would all follow through with our everyday thoughts of “friends and friendship” and took the meaning to heart, it seems to me we would be better neighbors, there would be more honesty, business and government would flourish, and there would be a clearer path to peace.

*Jack Holcomb*

The ability to laugh at life is right at the top, with love and communication, in a hierarchy of our needs. Humor has much to do with pain; it exaggerates the anxieties and absurdities we feel, so that we gain distance and through laughter, relief.

—Sara Davidson

# When Radio Was King of the Airwaves

(Part II) by Joe (Capt. Radio) Hehn

As we concluded Part I of When Radio Was King of the Airwaves for last year's issue, we looked at some of radio's greatest comedians from the 1932-33 season: George Burns, Jack Pearl, Fred Allen, and Jack Benny.

Space did not permit us to include two more super hits from that season: Easy Aces and Ed Wynn.

From 1932 until January, 1945, the 15-minute comedy drama of Easy Aces—with an introduction of Manhattan Serenade—found Goodman Ace and his wife Jane discussing last night's bridge game. This discussion would break out suddenly into palaver about murder or branch out in any direction. Jane became radio's undisputed queen of "Misinformation and malaprops." To wit... "I've been working my head to the bone" and "Time wounds all hells"—all time classics!

Ed Wynn created the Perfect Fool for the Broadway stage in 1921. The following year, over WJZ, Newark, the Perfect Fool first appeared before the microphone. It was the first entire comedy show to be broadcast. Wynn was at his peak from 1932-35 where, as the Texaco Fire Chief, he received \$5,000 a week!

The 1933-34 season saw the arrival of Will Rogers, Phil Baker, Joe Penner, Olson and Johnson, and Al Pearce.

Will Rogers, the great American humorist and satirist, first appeared on radio over NBC Blue in May, 1933 on the Gulf Show. He was the Rush Limbaugh of his day as his lengthy monologues unmercifully castigated the president, both political parties, and both the senate and the house. A plane crash in August, 1935, ended his brilliant career.

# 1997·FEEDBACK JOURNAL·1997

Phil Baker may be remembered best as emcee of Take It or Leave It. But his Phil Baker comedy show from 1933-39 was worthy of an occasional top ten rating. It featured Phil on the accordion and skits with his butler, Beetle. The highlight of the program was Phil's constant harrassment by a mystery voice—a ghost named Bottle.

Discovered by Rudy Vallee, Joe Penner came to CBS IN 1933 and had a spectacular run for three years. In 1934 he was voted radio's top comedian. His Baker's Broadcast, as the show was known, featured young Ozzie Nelson and his orchestra with vocals by Ozzie's discovery, Harriet Hilliard. Joe was best known for his crazy one-liners and his use of absurd phrases to interrupt people. His "Wanna-buy-a-duck?" phrase was estimated to have earned him a million dollars! Not bad for the economy of the 1930s. A heart attack killed him at the young age of 36.

Al Pearce and his gang roamed the airwaves from 1933 through 1942. Al is best remembered for the character of Elmer Blurt—super non-salesman who always prayed, "Nobody home...I hope, I hope, I hope!" The rest of his radio gang included the human chatterbox, Arlene Harris; the laughing lady, Kitty O'Neil; and the nation's expert on cooking and health, Tizzie Lish. Pearce's group was indeed a strange assemblage of characters.

Lesley Townes Hope of England burst onto the American radio scene in 1935. Bob Hope first appeared on the short-lived program entitled Intimate Revue, which featured two established stars, James Melton and Jane Froman. Bob's big break came when he was featured in the movie, The Big Broadcast of 1938. One of the film's outstanding songs, Thanks for the Memory, became Bob's radio theme song when his Pepsodent Show premiered in September, 1938. Through the early 1950s, it garnered high ratings and for several years it was rated number one.

Bob's trademark was his opening monologue during which he took potshots at everybody and everything. He surrounded himself with superior talent: Frances Langford, Prof. Jerry Colonna, Vera Vague, and Brenda and Cobina.

# 1997·FEEDBACK JOURNAL·1997

All the great stars of Hollywood appeared on Bob's show. Bob became a living legend, not only because of his greatness as a comedian but also for his worldwide humanitarian work. He traveled all across the United States and around the world, entertaining our servicemen and women.

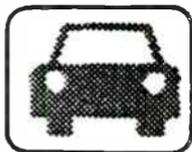
It is nothing short of phenomenal that during the few years we have covered in this story, so many outstanding comedians appeared on the radio scene.

Isn't it coincidental that nearly all of them were experts in poking fun at themselves?

As Will Rogers once said, "Everything is funny as long as it is happening to somebody else!"

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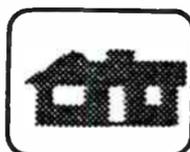
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# Alive and Well in (gasp!!) the City of Reading!

by WEEU Account Executive (and proud Reading resident)  
Shirl Whitnack

While people who live in the suburbs are wringing their hands and complaining about the city, we who live here are going merrily about our business.

Like W.C. Fields, reports of our deaths have been grossly exaggerated!

We're planting our petunias, paying our property taxes—whoo, are we ever!—sitting on our porches, talking over the fences with neighbors, painting our back bedrooms, hanging out our wash, watching the games on our TVs, grilling our steaks and hot dogs and burgers, lying on the couches with headaches, and caulking our windows against the winter cold.

It's called "living" and believe it or not, you can do it anywhere!

People look at the city and complain because it's not like it was when they were young or "back in the '40s," or whenever. Are city dwellers complaining about, say, Exeter or Spring townships? Oh, yes, we could spread the bad news. Just as things are not the same "here," they are not the same "there," either.

Urbanphobia has driven builders to bulldoze forests and hillsides, rape farmlands and construct mini-cities on all sides, leaving us yearning for "the good old days" of open fields and quaint farms just minutes from downtown.

# 1997·FEEDBACK JOURNAL·1997

So what's "bad" about the city? It provides affordable housing for many people...starter homes for young couples...homes for one-parent families...homes for the elderly and those retired on fixed incomes...homes for new citizens and minorities from many nations.

If you encountered the conditions you disdain in our city, in another place—New York, for example—you would probably find the cultural diversity exciting. In a Third World country, you might think it "exotic." Here, it frightens and angers you.

While many see only negatives, we city dwellers know the positives. We have well-built houses (quality and craftsmanship were important a hundred years ago), baseboards a foot deep, leaded and stained glass, impressive chandeliers, solid oak woodwork and solid wood doors. We have old trees for shade and breezes. We have attics and basements, marble in the foyer, hardwood floors, and claw-foot tubs. We can get a bus on the corner, walk to the drug store, the grocer, and other conveniences.

We're really OK, and we don't appreciate it when "they" start spreading the news about how "bad" things are where "we" live.

You know, whether it's a suburban tract house, a country estate, a third-floor walk up or a Queen Anne brownstone, when you close that door on the outside world, it's your home...your castle...your place.

It's your sanctuary and mine.



"As to moral courage, I have rarely met the two o'clock in the morning kind. I mean unprepared courage, that which is necessary on an unexpected occasion, and which, in spite of the most unforeseen events, leaves full freedom of judgment and decision.

—Napoleon Bonaparte

The only reason some people get lost in thought is because it's unfamiliar territory.

—Paul Fix

# I'm Just a Steering Wheel

By Joe Dorn



I'm just a wheel. A steering wheel. And you're my captain.

Behind me, you're the lord and master of a miracle. You can make me take the kids to school. You can turn me down the sunny road to town. With me you can guide your goods to market...you can rush the injured to be healed...you can go, in minutes, to places that once were hours away.

You can do magic.

Yet in the blink of an eye, in the tick of your watch, I can turn deadly killer. I can snuff out the life of a kid still full of life—maybe your kid.

I can twist a smile into tears. I can wreck and cripple and destroy. I can deal out death like the plague.

And I'm no respecter of persons. A child...a grandmother...even you, my friend...they're all the same to me.

I'm sensitive. I respond instantly to the hands you give me. Give me calm hands, steady hands, careful hands, and I'm your friend. But give me unsteady hands, fuzzy-minded hands, reckless hands, then I'm your enemy—a menace to the life, the happiness, the future of every person, every youngster riding, walking and playing.

I was made for pleasure and usefulness. Keep me that way. I'm in your hands.

I'm just a steering wheel, and you're my captain. Behind me you are the lord and master of a miracle.

Or a tragedy.

It's up to you.





## **WHAT'S GOOD FOR YOUR AUTO IS GOOD FOR THE ENVIRONMENT**

Good driving habits and periodic vehicle maintenance will help you, your car, and the environment.

The following tips from the experts at the nonprofit National Institute for Automotive Service Excellence should put you on the road to environmentally conscious care:

- Don't put off routine car maintenance! A vehicle that is properly maintained and operated runs more efficiently, is safer, lasts longer and commands a higher resale value than a neglected vehicle. What's more, you'll be helping the environment.

- Keep the engine running at its peak. A misfiring spark plug can reduce fuel efficiency as much as 30 percent. Replace filters and fluids as recommended by the owner's manual. A well-tuned vehicle pollutes less.

- Underinflated or misaligned tires waste fuel by forcing the vehicle's engine to work harder. Moreover, properly maintained tires last longer, saving you money and lessening the burden at landfills.

- Weekend mechanics should dispose of used motor oil, anti-freeze/coolant and old batteries properly. Some repair facilities accept these items; otherwise, call your local government for recycling sites.

- Your car's air conditioning should be serviced only by a technician certified competent to handle and recycle refrigerants. The air conditioners in older vehicles contain ozone-depleting chemicals. Improper service can vent these chemicals into the atmosphere.

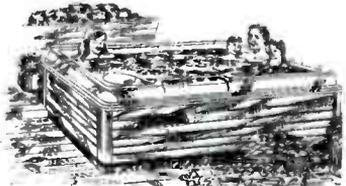
- Remove excess items from the vehicle. Less weight means better mileage. Store luggage/cargo in the trunk rather than the roof to reduce air drag.



APOLLO POOLS, INC. was founded in 1969 by Luke Hertzog a native of Reading, PA. Luke set a goal to have APOLLO POOLS become the best pool company in the business. Through the years APOLLO grew, starting in a small building in Stony Creek and moving to its current location on Perkiomen Avenue in the late 1970's and the addition of its "satellite" convenience store on the 5th street highway. In 1990 APOLLO tripled its floor space at its main location on Perkiomen Avenue and created a "State of the Art Pool Store." Luke and his wife Ann will look to their children Scott and Kathy to carry on the tradition when they retire.

Some of the products APOLLO can provide include Spas, Saunas, Chemical programs including chlorine and non chlorine, Accessory Chemicals, Parts, and Service as well as inground and above ground swimming pools.

Today APOLLO POOLS is recognized in the industry as an innovator and professional company. Recently, APOLLO has been nominated by its peer companies and suppliers to be recognized as one of the top 100 pool companies in the UNITED STATES AND CANADA. APOLLO has also been recognized by BIOGUARD, the second largest supplier of pool chemicals in the country, as having the largest CONSUMER SEMINAR in the country. This seminar is a yearly event, free to the consumer, which teaches the consumer about water chemistry, maintenance of the pool system, safety and new technology in the industry. The annual attendance averages 700 attendees. APOLLO has always prided itself in making the customer feel like part of the APOLLO FAMILY with personal attention to each and every customer.



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  - A. 265 feet
  - B. 444 feet
  - C. 1,101 feet
2. What county does *not* border Berks County?
  - A. Lebanon
  - B. Bucks
  - C. Chester
3. The Reading Hospital and Medical Center is in the city of Reading.
  - A. True
  - B. False
4. The word "Schuylkill" is from the language of the:
  - A. Lenni-Lenape Indians
  - B. Dutch
  - C. Algonquin Indians



## Leave Grass Clippings on the Lawn

Leaving grass clippings on the lawn will not harm your turf—in fact, it may be beneficial, says a Penn State turfgrass expert.

“It’s estimated that 20 percent of what goes into landfills is yard debris such as leaves, hedge prunings, and grass clippings,” says Dr. Peter Landschoot. “Recycling grass clippings not only is civic-minded, but it can also be beneficial to the lawn and saves the work involved in bagging. “If you leave the clippings on the lawn, you can reduce fertilizer needs by as much as one-third. When turf is mowed on a regular basis, clippings break down easily, returning nitrogen and other nutrients to the soil.

“Some people are concerned that returning clippings to the lawn may result in thatch accumulation,” says Landschoot. “But, because the clippings decompose rapidly, they do not contribute to thatch.”

For clippings to break down rapidly, the lawn must be mowed frequently enough so that large amounts of leaf residue don’t remain on the surface of the turf. “Weekly mowing often isn’t frequent enough, especially during the peak period of leaf growth in spring,” he says. Excessive accumulations of clippings remain on the surface for long periods and can smother the grass.

“When you’re mowing, you shouldn’t take off more than one-third of the leaf blade at one time. Otherwise, you may scalp the grass and make it more vulnerable to stress.”

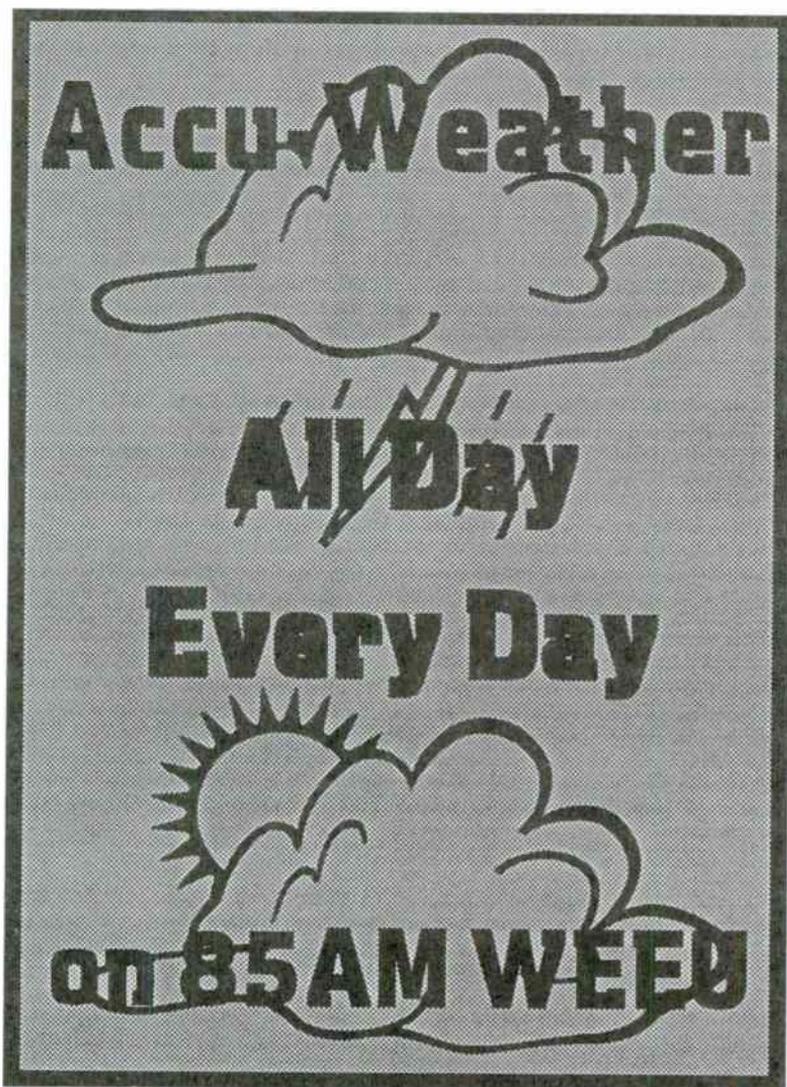
If no herbicides have been applied to the grass, homeowners can rake the dried clippings and use them as mulch around trees, shrubs, or flowers, says Landschoot.

Lawn mower manufacturers offer mulching mowers that keep the clippings circulating under the mower deck, chopping the grass blades into finer pieces. “This hastens the decomposition of the clippings and reduces the amount of residue left on the lawn,” says Landschoot. “However, you don’t have to buy a mulching mower to recycle clippings.

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Ordinary lawn mowers also will provide good results.”

Grass clippings also can be composted. “If you combine clippings with tree leaves, the two sources of yard waste will complement one another in the composting process,” Landschoot says.



# the "plant lady" speaks

by Christine Weld  
"The Plant Lady"  
of FEEDBACK



I am often asked, "How is it that you have come to love plants so much?" The answer is at once simple, yet complex.

Besides the obvious (they don't jump on guests and leave hair on the furniture), the love one has for flowers and plants is as simple as loving the texture, smell, and ease of growth.

It is amazing how one green plant can enliven a room, providing a focal point as well as soothing the soul. A well-placed and planned border can make the difference between a house and a home.

Granted, many has been the gardener whom has decided, willy-nilly, to place a garden, filling it with the most exotic, sought after items money can buy, only to find in a few months, or even years, that the Japonica that was so very sweet and tiny has grown to a ten-foot monster, crowding the calendulas and towering over the tops of the Tritoma!

One must be sure to write a wish list and check that list against books easily found in book stores or the local library to ensure that the Trumpet Vine wanted so very badly will stay on the arbor and will not terrorize the neighbors!

Time-consuming, yes, but in the long run, time-saving, as well. There is nothing that breaks my heart more than having a person on the phone whom is devastated that a seemingly innocent planting around the base of Gram's Antique Rose has devastated the treasure beyond all hope, and nothing as back-breaking as having to rearrange an entire garden which has grown to mammoth proportions in the wrong places.

Now I shall tell you the "complex." Throughout

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time, the flower has been a symbol of love, trust, and yes, even hatred. Red and white roses symbolized the warring of two families, yet the rose is a symbol of undying love and beauty as we live today. When I think of my Nanna, I think of the plants rooting in multi-colored jars on the windowsill, the light casting stained-glass colors on the kitchen table, across my hands. I think of the smell of freshly-turned earth, digging with a trowel, side by side with her in easy, silent companionship.

I also think of the single white rose placed with my Pop as a remembrance of his great-granddaughter, still an infant, when he passed away.

Who can forget the magic of Gram's wisteria arbor, or the prized lilacs which perfumed the kitchen, mingling with the scents of apple pie and bread baking in the oven?

The flower, and all it stands for, follows us unbidden throughout our lives. Birth, marriage, and death, and those moments in between, are graced with the silent, yet powerful, beauty of the flower.



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# 12 things to remember

A businessman we know, after a successful career in a very competitive, high-pressure industry, has endeavored to put down the lessons in living which experience has taught him.

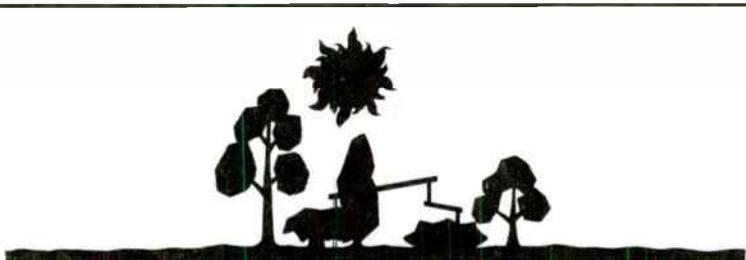
He wanted to leave his children and his employees and whoever else might be interested a kind of road map of priorities, something which he hoped would help them make their journey through life a little easier. He calls his distilled wisdom, simply,

## **Twelve Things to Remember:**

- 1. The value of time**
- 2. The necessity of perseverance**
- 3. The satisfaction of working**
- 4. The dignity of simplicity**
- 5. The worth of character**
- 6. The power of kindness**
- 7. The influence of example**
- 8. The obligation of duty**
- 9. The wisdom of economy**
- 10. The virtue of patience**
- 11. The gift of our body**
- 12. The joy of creating**

How many future national and international problems might be avoided if a concerted effort by parents and schools was made to inculcate these simple precepts into the minds of the youth of the world!

*—Anonymous*



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# Buried Treasure in Reading:

## The Rich History of the Charles Evans Cemetery

*by Paul Druzba, WEEU Copywriter*

Young children can see history in terms of only a few years at best. Young adults have a few decades to reflect upon, along with as many dates and events as they might remember from school. Older adults can remember back 80 or 90 years if they're lucky. But it can be very difficult for even the oldest among us to imagine what life was like in Reading 150 years ago. Fortunately, we have some rich sources of history available to us, like the Historical Society of Berks county, Reading historian George Meiser IX, and the Charles Evans Cemetery- the last of which is celebrating its 150th anniversary in 1996.

History at its best is not simply a list of dates and events. It should be as alive as the present, giving us as clear a picture as possible of what real people's lives were like back then, and even what people were thinking when they did what they did in order to be remembered by us today. So in (pardon the expression) undertaking this article, I set out to bring a 19th Century man to life, as well as his surroundings, to compare his time to ours, and to take you on a short tour of his legacy.

Charles Evans was born in the British colonial city of Philadelphia on March 30, 1768, the son of Quaker parents. Their influence was apparent in Charles' orderliness, and respect for things divine. At the age of 20, Evans began practicing law in the office of Benjamin Chew, one of the best-known lawyers in the country. Mr. Chew had been the attorney general of the Pennsylvania colony before the Revolution, and would also serve as Chief Justice. Though Mr. Chew was well-respected as a lawyer, he did not sympathize with the cause of the Revolution, and his preference for British society and law also influenced the young Mr. Evans.

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In 1791, the year the Bill of Rights was adopted, Charles Evans was admitted to the Philadelphia bar. But, along with two other lawyers admitted at the same time, he decided he would do better in the country than in the already over-lawyered City of Brotherly love. Besides being a large, busy city, Philadelphia was still serving as the nation's capital, and would until 1800.

Evans moved to Reading, and soon developed a very successful practice in this smaller, less-hectic town. Once his list of clients became large enough to ensure a steady income, Evans married a woman from Philadelphia, Mary Keene, on August 23, 1794. By all accounts, Mrs. Evans was not particularly attractive, but was the perfect wife. She was well-known for her social graces, good sense of humor, and devotion to her husband. In those days, a young lawyer had to travel quite a bit to other courts in his region. And Evans would often pack his legal briefs in his saddle bag, and ride off to Easton, Orwigsburg and Allentown. These conditions can strain the relationship of any young couple, but the Evans' devotion to each other proved stronger than his frequent absences.

A tall, good-looking man, Evans was known for his stately manner, good command of the King's English, and his undying love for ancient culture and laws. When he began his law practice, American law was still in its infancy. And, since it became illegal after July 4, 1776 to quote current British cases in American courts, American lawyers had to rely largely on the comparatively ponderous, pre-Revolution British case histories, as well as the few American cases that had yet been written. This suited the young Mr. Evans just fine, since, like his mentor Mr. Chew, Evans found the Americanizing of British law distasteful.

They say two things you should never argue about, are politics and religion. Though he felt very strongly about both-being a conservative, and with deep religious convictions from his Quaker upbringing- Evans preferred to practice rather than preach. He had no personal interest in politics, but was happy to support those whose views he shared. And

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Evans was a generous man, known by his family and close friends for his acts of kindness to all, including his servants. Eventually, Evans' wife Mary began to attend religious services at Christ Episcopal Church in Reading, whose more formal, solemn ceremonies also appealed to Charles. Both became members of the Church, but continued to attend services a few times a year at the Friends Meeting Houses in Exeter and Maiden creek.

Mr. and Mrs. Evans enjoyed a happy life together, and although some sources suggest they had "many children, none of whom survived to become heirs" to the growing Evans fortune, I could find no evidence of any births to the Evans household. What happened to these children, if they ever existed, is a mystery. After a long illness, Mary Evans died on August 30, 1838, and was buried the next day at Christ Episcopal Church. So Charles, growing old, without wife or heirs, began to think about how his fortune could be used to make life better for the people of Reading, who had helped him create his fortune. But why did he decide on a cemetery?

In 1800, the population of Reading was 2,385. By the mid 1840's, it had grown to well over 10,000. At that time, city churches each had an adjacent graveyard, all of which were at or near full. But a new concept in burial places was taking root- the public cemetery. The first in England was the Necropolis, in Liverpool in 1825. Landscaping began to be incorporated, and by the time the public cemetery spread to America in the 1830's, it became known as the "garden cemetery"- a place to reflect not only on the dead, but also on the living beauty of nature. America's second garden cemetery was Philadelphia's "Laurel Hill" in 1836. And Evans, being a native of Philadelphia, with family there, was no doubt aware of Laurel Hill.

Evans' church of choice, Christ Episcopal in Reading, needed to expand, as did other city churches. But the only place the church could expand was over the graveyard, where Evans' wife was buried. So it's quite possible that Evans, to help Christ Episcopal Church to expand, as well as other city churches, decided to follow the example of Laurel Hill, and to

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create a garden cemetery in Reading. But instead of forming an association of people, like those who had created other public cemeteries in America, Evans decided to do it all by himself.

So he purchased 25 acres of land on the Centre Turnpike, and on February 24, 1846, the Pennsylvania General Assembly enacted the incorporation of the Trust for the Charles Evans Cemetery. The cemetery was established with an original donation by Mr. Evans of the 25 acres, and \$2,000. But, in his will, he further bequeathed more than three-quarters of his estate to the trust, for a total of more than \$84,000- quite a substantial fortune in those days.

The cemetery's charter specified that thirteen trustees would handle all the cemetery's affairs, and ensure that all proceeds from the cemetery's operation, after administrative costs, were to be returned to the cemetery for upkeep and beautification. So the cemetery truly is a nonprofit organization. A remarkable thing about the Charles Evans Cemetery is that, while there had been a few other public cemeteries established in America before it, none had been the result of the benevolence and public-mindedness of just one person. What's even more remarkable is that, despite this striking example of individual good will, no one else from Reading has since then returned so much of their good fortune to the people of this community.

Although the Charles Evans Cemetery was located a mile from the center of Reading, beyond the city limits, Evans had the foresight to specify in the charter that the city would build no roads through the cemetery. This proved to be a wise precaution, since the city limits of Reading eventually grew beyond the cemetery.

The opening of the Charles Evans Cemetery proved a relief to the overcrowded city church plots. Some of the first "residents" of the new cemetery were disinterred from Reading churchyards, to make room for growing demand for wider streets, and bigger churches. Reading historian George Meiser IX estimates that 3,000 to 4,000 bodies were moved to the Charles Evans Cemetery after its opening. That explains

## VII.—CHARGES FOR PREPARING GRAVES.

For grave not exceeding 2 feet in length.....	\$1 00
“ between 2 feet and 3 feet in length.....	1 50
“ “ 3 “ 4 “ “ .....	2 00
“ “ 4 “ 5 “ “ .....	3 00
“ “ 5 “ 6 “ “ .....	4 00
“ “ 6 “ 7 “ “ .....	5 00
“ “ 7 “ 8 “ “ .....	6 00
“ “ “ “ “ “ .....	4 00

Two or more graves for adults prepared together, each \$1

Digging for walled graves, in addition to above prices, \$1 for adults; for children 50 cents.

Digging graves extra depth, \$1 per extra foot.

For disinterments, same charge as for original interment. For ground in single grave lot; for adults \$3; for children, same as for digging.

For preparing private vaults, the charges will be by special contract.

## VIII.—CHARGES FOR WALLING GRAVES.

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“ “ “ “ “ “ .....	7 00
“ “ “ “ “ “ .....	50

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Superintendent.

A receipt and a page from an old cemetery directory provide interesting insight on the comparatively low cost of dying many years ago.

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why some of the gravestones in the cemetery show dates of death considerably earlier than the cemetery's opening in 1847. In fact, some Revolutionary War veterans are buried there, as well as four Congressional Medal of Honor winners—three from the Civil War, and one from the Boer War.

The Charles Evans Cemetery caused a revolution of its own. Never before in Reading had people been seen picnicking and strolling in a cemetery. Although Penn's Common (later City Park) was long established, it was then used as a common grazing ground for goats and sheep. So the beautifully landscaped grounds of the cemetery became a haven from the increasingly crowded city. Its popularity created pressure on the city to clean up Penn's Common in the 1870's, and it was transformed into City Park. But let's get back to the Charles Evans Cemetery, and go for a stroll.

The cemetery contains the graves of, or monuments to, some of Reading's most notable citizens. As you walk through the grounds, a good place to begin is at the original, elaborate, Gothic Revival-style Centre Avenue entrance, built in 1847. This was actually designed to serve double duty— as an entrance, and also as the home of the cemetery's superintendent. Though the structure is striking, it was poorly designed for its dual purpose, and its role as a home had to be abandoned, because the rooms were too small and dark. The projected cost of the structure by the architects is not known, but it had to be a small fraction of its badly cost-overrun price tag of well over \$18,000. That's just a bit more than the price of the spectacular cemetery chapel, built almost ten years later!

Inside the entrance, you encounter a monument to the cemetery's founder who, contrary to a cemetery brochure and some other accounts, is not actually buried at that spot, but actually rests alongside his wife Mary, several hundred yards away. Mary had been moved from Christ Episcopal to the newly opened Charles Evans Cemetery in 1847, just before Charles died. Despite his advanced age of 80, Evans had traveled to Bethlehem in August, and was returning home when he was stricken by paralysis while exercising at

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Trexkertown, and died on September 5, 1847. He was buried at his own cemetery four days later. The same minister from Christ Episcopal who had officiated at Mary's funeral in 1838, the Rev. R.U. Morgan, also performed the service for Charles. But before we wander any farther, there's an interesting story about that monument to Charles Evans.

After the death of Charles Evans in 1847, the trustees decided to erect a monument with his likeness at the cemetery entrance. But no pictures of Evans could be found for the sculptor to use as a model. One of the cemetery's trustees had an acquaintance in New York who resembled Mr. Evans, and the idea was to use this man as a model for the statue. But, before the model was hired, one of Evans' housekeepers produced a portrait of Mr. Evans, and the monument was executed from this portrait. The original portrait, as well as one of Mary, can still be found in the cemetery office- that beautiful brick building near the entrance. Though the office looks old and charming, it was built in 1926, to replace the original, which more closely resembled the cemetery entrance in its design.

Now we continue our stroll. Notice the many gravestones and monuments with carved decorations using themes that are unfamiliar to us today. These include a basket of spilled flowers, representing a young life wasted and poured away; a broken column and the cut tree stump, symbolizing the premature death of an adult.; also draperies and wreaths, symbolizing death; poppies for peace, and roses for innocence.

Today's gravemarkers and stones seem plain and simple compared to the elaborate styles preferred in the 19th Century. Around 1850, the Egyptian obelisk became very popular among those who could afford it. Among these elaborate memorials in the oldest part of the cemetery, in what could be described as "Obelisk Park", is the memorial and burial site of Charles and Mary Evans.

Among the most interesting, are the brownstone pyramid of Reading brewer Frederick Lauer, and the columned mausoleum of William Luden, the candy company mogul.

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Despite the fact that this name is carved on the building, Mr. Luden does not actually rest inside. His first wife does, along with some other family members. But after his first wife died, Mr. Luden remarried, to a woman from Philadelphia. An identical mausoleum was erected for them there, in West Laurel Park, identified on the outside by the names "Luden-Fasig."

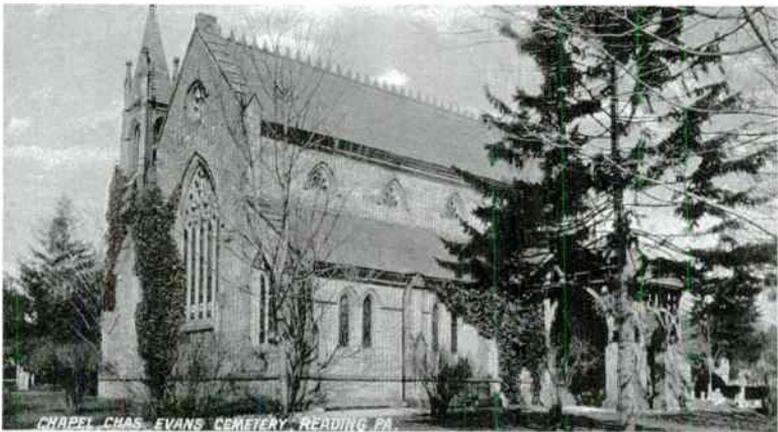
As we continue our stroll, we encounter the resting places of Captain Peter Nagle, who joined General Washington at the siege of Boston in 1776; Major General David Gregg, commander of the Union cavalry at Gettysburg in the Civil War; and Colonel Joseph Hiester, a Governor of Pennsylvania in the 1820's.

You'll also find some interesting monuments to some immigrant soldiers. The monument to Capt. Charles A. Knoderer, who was born in Germany, refers to him as a victim of "that wicked rebellion"—the Civil War. You can see the grave of General Schimmelfenning, who fought for the Republican cause in Germany, and later for the Union cause in America. And don't miss the spectacular Soldier's Monument, dedicated to the Reading soldiers who died in the Civil War. Incidentally, the figure of the soldier on the monument was carved by P.F. Eisenbrown, whose name survives today in a well-known Reading monument carver business, and who is also buried here at the cemetery.

Those of us who were lucky enough to visit the Charles Evans Cemetery in the first half of this century will remember the beautiful brownstone chapel, designed by Philadelphia architect John Gries, who is buried here. The chapel, built in the style of the cemetery entrance building, was completed in 1855, and the trustees at that time were outraged that the chapel's original cost estimate of \$7,000 had grown to just over \$18,000! But the chapel was a bargain compared to the relatively modest entrance building. Unfortunately, the chapel was torn down in the 1950's due to weather damage. Current cemetery superintendent James Hart wishes the chapel could have been restored, and would have made an excellent mausoleum, while retaining the cemetery's original look.

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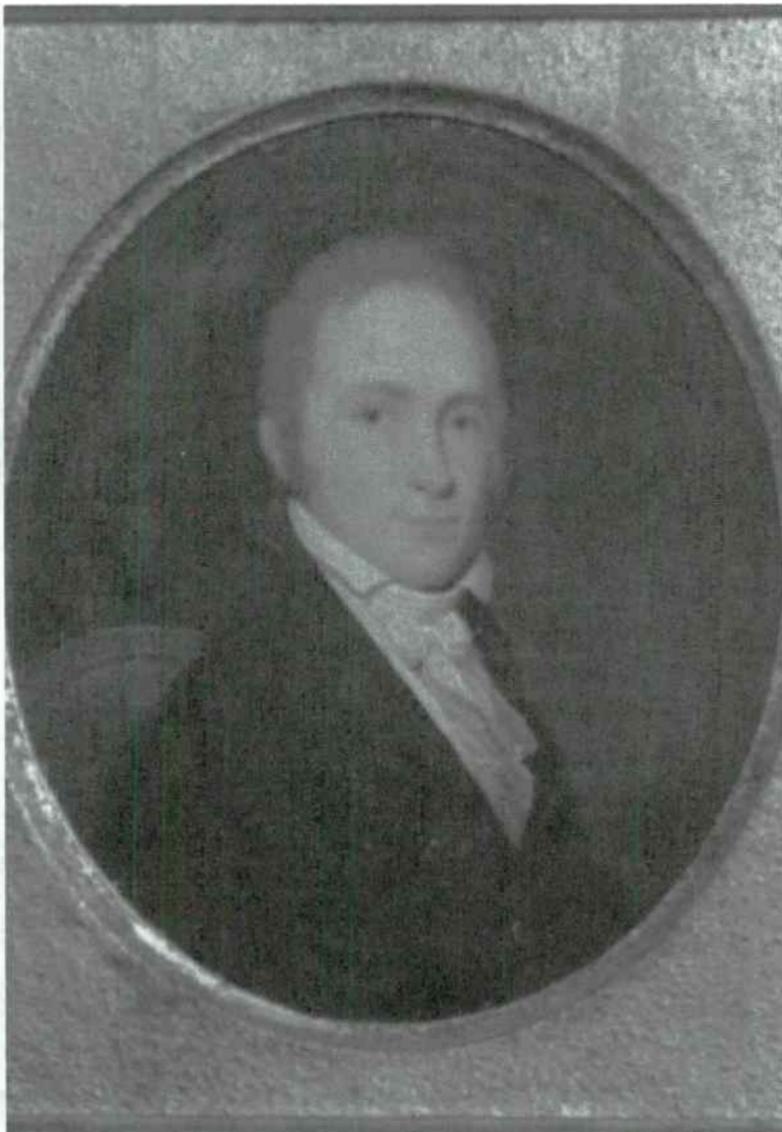
***Which of these buildings cost more?  
(Read the story to find out!)***



***The main entrance building at Centre Avenue as it appeared in 1908. It was built in 1847.***



***The Cemetery Chapel, built in 1855, from a 1909 post card.***



*This is the portrait that cost a New York man a modeling job. See story for details.*

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*Cemetery burial records from the early 20th century. Notice how big the books are from 1917-1918, the "Great Influenza" years.*

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*"Obelisk Park," with many of early Berks County's most prominent people.*



*The soldier's monument, which earned a Reading stone carver his reputation.*

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*Monuments with styles and motifs which are typically 19th century.*



*The look of sweet success. But is he really buried here?*



*Reading brewer Frederick Lauer's "Pyramid Power."*



*The actual resting place of the cemetery founder and his wife.*

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*A 19th century Reading child, at rest under a tree.*



*The present-day chapel and columbarium, with the crematorium at left.*

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Today, the site of the former chapel is an open field, giving its name to the nearby "Chapel Garden Mausoleum".

The rich, historical heritage of the Charles Evans Cemetery continues today. In 1996, Gertrude Sternburgh, a great patron of the arts in Reading, and to whom a concert was recently dedicated by Reading Symphony Orchestra, was buried here. But if you're thinking that this is just a city of the dead, you're dead wrong. The cemetery's tradition as a haven for nature lovers continues. Any day of the week, you'll find joggers and strollers on the grounds, taking in the beautiful surroundings, just as the Sunday strollers did in the 19th Century.

Jack Holcomb, one of Berks County's premier birdwatchers, holds the cemetery near and dear as a favorite birding site. Jack has been birding there since 1970, and has been sighting nesting Cooper's hawks on the grounds in the past few years. What makes the cemetery such a good birdwatching spot? Jack says, "most cemeteries are good, because they're quiet. But the Charles Evans Cemetery is the best one I've found, because of its forest-like setting, at the top of a hill. The best time to go is the first and third weeks of May."

While many things designed or built in the 19th Century are obsolete, the Charles Evans Cemetery still has plenty of room to fulfill its original mission. Up until 1900, the cemetery acquired all the available surrounding land, which now totals 119 acres. Of these, only 80 are in use, leaving plenty of room for more Berks County history.

You can easily spend a day wandering the seven and a half miles of winding roads in the cemetery, under thousands of trees, and still not see everything. After all, more than 65,000 people are buried here. By the way, those trees didn't come easily. The original trustees complained in 1847 that, while the soil in the cemetery was perfect for use as a graveyard, many of the original tree plantings died. The majestic old trees you see today had to be nursed along carefully 150 years ago.

But that's in the past, and the Charles Evans Cemetery

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does not live strictly in the past. The facilities today include modern mausoleums for above-ground interment, and a crematory, adjacent to the columbarium and a lovely new chapel. In case you're wondering, a columbarium is a structure containing niches for cremated remains.

I confess that, when I began research for this article, I knew virtually nothing about the Charles Evans Cemetery, outside of a few old postcards I had collected. I also confess that this tour has only scratched the surface of all the treasure of Berks County history at the cemetery. If possible, I suggest you set aside a nice, sunny day for a visit of your own. If you're like me, your first visit won't be your last.

*NOTE: Thanks to: Jim Hart, the very helpful and hospitable superintendent of the cemetery, who starting there in grounds maintenance in 1970, fell in love with the place, as I have, and became superintendent in 1992; John E. Livingood and Michelle Lynch, whose helpful articles recently appeared in the Historical Review of Berks County; The Historical Society of Berks County, for their fine facility, and helpful staff; And Charles J. Adams III, for his insight and support.*

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When it's time to fight the insects in your garden, who 'ya gonna call?

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Bug-fighting bugs are a natural and time-tested way to control unwanted insects in your garden. Whether it's potato worms or aphids, fire ants or whiteflies, Mother Nature has given garden pests some natural enemies of their own.

Tiny wasps no bigger than the dot on this "i" have been recruited to protect cotton crops in Texas and apples in Washington state. Now, beneficial insects are becoming more readily available as handy weapons for the home gardener.

"People are interested in trying to do something to control their environment in a safer way," says Bruce Butterfield, research director for the National Gardening Association.

Here are some helpful hints for using insect fighters in your garden:

- Be sure you know who you're fighting. Accurately identify the critters you're trying to control. A magnifying glass and a book with photos of common garden pests can be helpful.

- When buying insects mail-order,

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carefully follow all of the care instructions when the package arrives.

- Welcome beneficial insects into your garden with adequate moisture and food. Sprinkle the garden area regularly or set out small containers of water to help provide the moisture.

- Use “good” insects in conjunction with other earth-friendly gardening techniques, such as hand-picking, trapping, and companion planting. Keep your garden free of trash, fallen fruit, or other garden debris.

- Don’t make the bugs’ jobs any harder than necessary. If you’re using more than one type of beneficial insect, make sure they’re compatible. The praying mantis will eat ladybugs along with “bad” bugs. And don’t spray or dust with pesticides shortly before or after a release.

- Be patient. Give the “good bugs” time to do their jobs. It may be two to five weeks before you see results.

For more information about “good bugs,” you may wish to contact the county extension office at the Agricultural Center.





## Feed the birds in the summertime? Sure!

Is it OK to feed birds in the summer? The answer is a resounding YES!

There is an old wives tale that still persists that says if you feed birds in summer, they will become lazy and dependent on humans for their nourishment and they won't eat insects.

Nonsense!

According to several sources, among them the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, and noted birding experts Scott Shalaway and George Harrison, summer bird feeding is very rewarding for both the birds and the people who feed them.

Putting out such foods as seed, suet, and fruit encourages birds to nest in your yard, as they like to be near a dependable food source.

The adults will use the feeders regularly to feed themselves and then go off in search of insects for their nestlings. When the babies are old enough, the parents will bring them to the feeders to teach them to eat seed.

A necessary component of any summer feeding program is water. Anything from a

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simple sauce pan to a traditional concrete pedestal bath to an elaborate pond with waterfalls or fountain will do.

Birds find the sound of moving water attractive, so a dripper or mister makes even a simple bath even more appealing. Just be sure to change the water daily and scrub the bowl several times each week.

Summer can be a backyard birder's most rewarding time of year. Adding fruit, nectar, live bait and water to the regular menu of seed and suet can make any back yard a more exciting and colorful place for birds and watchers alike.

What are you waiting for?

*—Courtesy of Wild Birds Unlimited*



## ❁ **Some Facts About Snow** ❁

- ↻ *On the average, one inch of rain equals ten inches of snow. The colder the weather, the more snow.*
- ↻ *A shovel full of snow can weigh around seven pounds, not counting the shovel.*
- ↻ *About 100 million tons of snow fell in New York City last winter, about 20 million tons in Philadelphia.*
- ↻ *In much of the northeast last winter, a homeowner had to shovel an estimated four tons of snow to clear a 20X20-foot driveway!*
- ↻ *From 300 to 500 pounds of rock salt are needed to cover one lane for one mile.*
- ↻ *At 30 degrees fahrenheit, one pound of salt will melt 46 pounds of ice. At zero degrees, one pound of salt will melt only four pounds of ice.*

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## **No wonder I'm tired!**

Let's say there are 200 million Americans.

85 million are over 65.

76 million are under 21.

That leaves only 39 million to do the work.

But, 5 million are in the armed forces.

That leaves 34 million to do the work.

But, 15 million work for the government.

That leaves 19 million to do the work.

But, 18 million are in school.

That leaves one million to do the work.

But, 750,000 are disabled or sick.

That leaves 250,000 to do the work.

But, last week there were 249,998 people in jail!

So, that leaves 2 people to do the work.

And, since you don't do a whole heck of a lot...

...no wonder I'm tired!

*Stitch 'N Stuff*  
by Dix and Debbie

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## **The Anteaters meet the Zips...**

*a look at college team nicknames by  
WEEU Sports Guy Bob McCool*

**T**here are more than 300 colleges which participate in Division One athletics.

With so many schools from which to choose, the official nickname some schools use often borders on the unusual.

Some nicknames relate to something indigenous to the area, much like our own Nittany Lions from Penn State.

Some names are built from lore. The very politically-incorrect Fightin' Irish of Notre Dame actually stems from a derogatory chant from an opponent of one of Knute Rockne's football teams. Ever the motivator, Rockne turned the bad moniker into a rallying cry for victory.

With so many schools to choose from, there are bound to be duplications. There are Owls at Temple as well as Rice University. There are Dukes at Duquesne and at James Madison, but don't confuse them with Duke—they're the Blue Devils.

Lions and Tigers and Bears are ever present, but did you know the Kangaroos were at the University of Missouri at Kansas City? Wile E. Coyote should head to Texas-San Antonio, because that's where the Roadrunners reside. You might be shocked to find out there are Fighting Camels at Campbell University, and there are Anteaters at the University of California-Irvine.

A college education is necessary to explain some teams' nicknames. How about rooting for the Chanticleers of Coastal Carolina. There are Paladins at Furman, and Jaspers in Manhattan. Have any idea what they were thinking in Vermont when they nicknamed the school the Catamounts?

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Don't laugh, Western Carolina liked the name so much they copied it! It is doubtful anybody wanted to copy St. Louis' Billikens, or Southern Illinois' Salukis.

Some schools opted for the "Golden" touch. There are Golden Bears at California, Golden Panthers at Florida International, and Golden Griffins at Canisius. There are Golden Eagles at Northeastern Illinois, Oral Roberts, Southern Mississippi, and at Tennessee Tech.

They call themselves the Golden Flashes at Kent University, where they used to call themselves Kent State University. Did you know that there's a Golden Hurricanes in Tulsa, Oklahoma?

You probably would not want to get anywhere near the Mean Green Eagles of North Texas. Head indoors when the Thundering Herd of Marshall is coming to town, and lock the doors when the Vandals of Idaho show up.

Instead, it might be a better idea to get to know the Gentlemen of Centenary University. More than likely they will be wearing the Hatters of Stetson University.

Next time you see your letter carrier, ask if he or she is from Akron University, the home of the Zips.

You will never see WEEU Morning Guy Charlie Adams at a Richmond game—they're home of the Spiders!

But, you might see Feedback's own Jack Holcomb at a Virginia Tech game. After all, they are the Hokies!

As for me, I would prefer to sit back with a Boilermaker (Purdue), ride a couple of Waves (Pepperdine), and maybe catch a Rainbow (Hawaii).



**EDITOR'S NOTE:** *Great job, Bob. But were you afraid to tackle a couple more mysterious monikers? How about the Hoyas (huh?) of Georgetown? Or the Blue Hens of Delaware?*

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## **Mister Maestro**

### **An interview with Sidney Rothstein, Music Director Reading Symphony Orchestra**

*(FEEDBACK JOURNAL) How long have you been music director of the RSO?*

**(SIDNEY ROTHSTEIN)** Twenty years. But it doesn't seem that long, because of all the changes which have occurred. The music is always different from year to year, and there are always new challenges and opportunities, so each season seems like a new beginning.

*(FJ) Where else have you been, or are you still, music director?*

**(SR)** Currently, the RSO in Pennsylvania, and the RSO (Ridgefield Symphony Orchestra) in Connecticut. My conducting career began when I organized my own orchestra when I was 18 years old—the Wynnefield Symphony Orchestra, in Philadelphia. In 1964, I became the music director of the Orchestra Society of Philadelphia. In 1976, shortly after being offered the position with the Reading Symphony, I received an offer to become the associate music director of the Honolulu Symphony. I commuted between Honolulu and Reading for four years. In 1980, an offer from



*Sidney Rothstein at age three.*

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the West Virginia Symphony brought me back east and, in 1982 I was offered the position of music director of the Florida Symphony. Three orchestras was a bit much, and I seemed to be spending more time in airplanes than on the ground. I resigned from the West Virginia orchestra, and in 1986 from the Florida Symphony. All that time, I maintained my relationship with the RSO. When I moved to Reading in 1989, I made a commitment to devote my best efforts to building the RSO.

*(FJ) How does Berks County compare with other communities in our support of symphonic music?*

*(SR)* There is a tradition here which many other cities would envy. This is the reason I left West Virginia (where the orchestra was more active and the salary higher for the music director) and stayed with the RSO. For a community our size, the support for both the visual and performing arts exceeds that which is found in many larger cities. This is a great legacy left to us by all the past performers and artists, and by the hundreds of community and business leaders in Berks County throughout the years. It's really something of which to be proud.

*(FJ) What are some of your most memorable musical moments during your tenure with the*

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*RSO?*

(SR) There have been many performances which exceed expectations. To cite a few, the Beethoven 3rd, 5th, and 9th Symphony, the “Rite of Spring” of Stravinsky—but the greatest musical achievement was the performance of the 1992 concert of the Mahler Symphony No. 6. This music is an emotional as well as a technical challenge for any orchestra, in any city of the world. The level of performance we reached will be preserved for history on the CD of the actual live performance. That was a rare and thrilling experience.

*(FJ) What were the major influences in your life which led you into the profession of music, and conducting in particular?*

(SR) I was fortunate to have the great support of my parents when I was a student of the violin, beginning at age nine. One major influence was my violin teacher, Edgar Ortenberg, a former member of the famed Budapest String Quartet. Mr. Ortenberg passed away in 1996 at the age of 96, and I had the honor of conducting a memorial concert in his honor. The Philadelphia Orchestra and its music director, Eugene Ormandy, was another strong influence during my early years. I entered conducting because I felt it was the best way I could serve music.

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# A League of their own...

## Reading Symphony Orchestra League Provides Solid Support

The "League" began in 1932 when 15 women got together and decided to form a group called the Women's Committee for the Reading Symphony Orchestra.

The membership was by invitation only and it was for people who were "musically minded," such as musicians and music teachers who wanted to support the RSO. Committee chairpersons were named for each of Berks County's municipalities.

This "committee" created and implemented the Youth Auditions Program and the Youth Concerts. The programs, initiated in 1955, gave young musicians the opportunity to perform with the symphony orchestra. Many of the audition winners went on to careers in music.

Some of the other activities the League is involved in are Musical Adventure Trips, Dine-Around Programs, Art Auctions, and Know Your Symphony lectures.

In August, 1966, the League sponsored its first Golf Tournament.

In 1995, the Women's Committee decided to open its membership to men, thus necessitating a name change to Reading Symphony Orchestra League.

Membership is open to all, and available by calling the RSO office.

*Dee Miller, Publicity Chairman, R.S.O.L.*

# The Resurrection of Reading Fairgrounds Glory

*by Kenny Fidler*

We first want to thank Dave Kline and WEEU for this opportunity to share this unique story with you. In the racing world, the find of these two cars you will to read about—some 20 years after their last race—can be compared to a great archaeological find.

We hope that through this story, many memories of the Reading Fairgrounds will be brought back to older Berks Countians. And the younger generations will discover an historic site they know only as a shopping mall.

An important decision in Berks County history took place in 1924 when Reading Fair president Abner Deysher gave the OK for the first auto race on the Fairgrounds horse track.

For the next 55 years, from the first race which was won by Grady Garner on September 20, 1924, to the final race won by Dave Kelly on June 29, 1979, auto racing was a way of life for many Berks County families.

The kids wanted to be like their heroes on the track, and some actually did grow up to become famous race drivers themselves.

Nationally-known drivers such as A.J. Foyt, Mario Andretti, Bobby Unser, Lee Petty, Junior Johnson, and Berks County's own Tommy Hinnershitz all competed at the Reading Fairgrounds.

The heart and soul of the Fairgrounds were the local drivers and their following of at least 7,000 spectators who came to the track each week during the summer.

Some of the local stars, from the flathead stock car era of the 1950s to the modified stock car era of the 1970s included Charlie Bailey, Hal Reifinger, Russ Delp, Russ Smith, Kenny Brightbill, Jim Keppley, Freddy Adam, Gary Gollub, Lauden

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Potts, Don Kreitz, and the Leinbach brothers.

They were challenged by the stars from outside Berks County such as Bobby Abel, George Speck, Dick "Toby" Tobias, Leroy Felty, Gerry Chamberlain, Al Tasnady, Bobby Gerhart, and Frankie Schneider.

As a kid, you were fascinated by the cars, the drivers, and the whole spectacle of what was unfolding around you. The legendary track announcer, Warren Ruffner, would get everyone excited with his calling of the lineups and the racing action.

You would dream that one day, you might own one of those cars and drive it. In this story, that dream came true—but with two famous cars, not just one.

On Sunday, June 16, 1996, my friend Mabel Simmers and I attended the Dick "Toby" Tobias Memorial Race at Penn National.

My family has been friends with the Tobias family for more than 30 years, as my father Ralph, who passed away in 1994, was a good friend of Toby's.

We talked to Toby's son, Ronnie, who was the youngest driver to ever win at the Fairgrounds and who is a champion in the modifieds today, and he told us that a member of his pit crew, Mike Moore of Reading, new where two old Reading cars were being stored.

Mike told us that he was in a local department store's warehouse in Laureldale when he spotted the two cars. He said that the manager was pressed for space in the warehouse and gave him only a day or so to find someone who wanted the cars or they would have to be scrapped.

We found out later that four other cars had already been scrapped, so we made arrangements with Mike to see them.

On June 18, 1996, Mabel and I met Mike at the warehouse and we were stunned to see what excellent condition both cars were in. Both cars had Mustang bodies on them, and seemed to be from the 1970s racing era. They even had dirt in them from their last race!

How and why the cars got there to the warehouse from their last race is unknown. The store must have repainted the cars, though, as the colors and numbers were not authentic.

It seemed that the two cars were never displayed by the store, and sat one on top of the other in the warehouse for at least 15 years. Mabel told Mike that she wanted them, so we

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made plans to pick them up the next day.

On June 19, my brother, Jim, loaned us his truck and trailer so we could pick them up. We had to drop them both out of a six-foot high loading dock, which made it a little tricky.

We took the white #85 first and then came back for the orange #60. Everyone was happy, including the warehouse manager, who told us again that he ordered the cars to be scrapped the following day if we had not gotten them.

Thus, we saved the cars with fewer than 24 hours to spare!

When we got the cars home, we started to do some research as to whose cars they really were. We found out by looking through our vast collection of old Reading Fairgrounds programs that the white #85 was last raced in 1975 by Johnny Kozak and was painted gold with an orange #31 on it. The orange #60 was last raced in 1977 by Freddy Brightbill and was painted white, yellow, and green with a #13 on it.

Upon further research, we were excited to find out that both cars we saved were built and driven originally by Kenny Brightbill. Kenny was the all-time feature winner at the Fairgrounds with 135 wins and is one of the all-time greats of modified racing, even today.

The white #85 was originally the famous Pleasant Hill Golf Course #57 sedan that Kenny ran in 1972. The orange #60 was Kenny's white #19 Pinto that he ran in 1973. In fact, Kenny ran both cars in 1973.

The white #85, originally the #57, was owned by Bob Wertz and ran from 1972 to 1975 at Reading. In 1972 at Reading, Kenny Brightbill and the car set the one-lap track record twice. It won nine features and finished third in points.

Also in 1972, Kenny and the car won the first three races ever held at the Bridgeport Speedway in New Jersey; won two races in New York—both on the same day. It took the New York State Fair race on the Syracuse mile and then the race at Rolling Wheels. It set the track record for one lap at Syracuse in the very first Super Dirt Week Championship race.

They won four features at Reading in 1973, including the opener, before selling the car midway through the season to rookie Johnny Kozak.

Kozak painted the sedan gold with the number 31. For the rest of 1973 and 1974, Kozak steadily improved with the car, even though the car was nearly destroyed in two severe crashes.

Each time Kozak repaired the car, and in 1975 he mounted

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*The white #85 and the orange #60 were found in this condition in a warehouse.*



*Workers lower the former Reading Fairgrounds modified stock car out of a warehouse and into newfound glory.*

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the Mustang body that was on when we found it. Kozak had a fine year and was named the most improved driver at Reading. He retired the car after the 1975 season.

The orange #60 was originally built in 1973 by Kenny Brightbill and was his famous white Pinto #19. In 1973, it was Kenny's backup car until he sold the sedan to Kozak. By the end of 1973, Kenny and the car were spectacular in Reading. They won ten of the last 12 features, including all four 25-lap features in one day; the twin-50 lap features in one day; the one-lap track record at 23:78 seconds (the first stock car ever under 24 seconds at Reading); the 35-lap track record; second in points; and 16 wins.

In 1974, the car was backup to Kenny's new Pinto and was eventually sold to Kenny's cousin, Freddy Brightbill.

For 1975, Freddy put on the Mustang body that was on when we found it, and ran the car at Reading through 1977. He was the rookie of the year in 1975, and in 1977 won his very first feature at Reading.

To do it, he had to beat his cousin Kenny and Gerry Chamberlain, both legends at Reading.

After 1977, Freddy retired the car.

Mabel Simmers and I, with the help of Tobias Speed Equipment, are restoring both cars back to when they were driven by Kenny Brightbill.

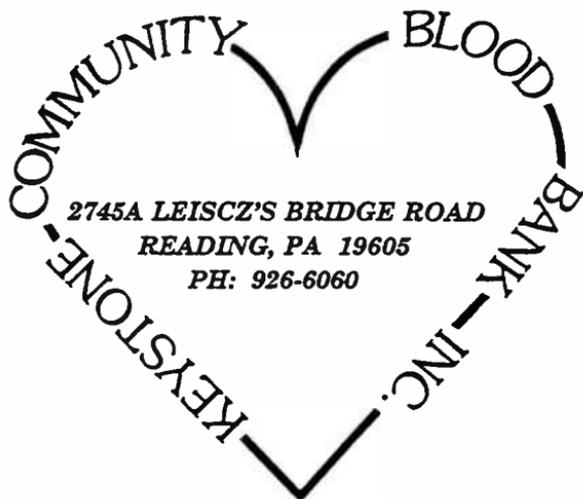
The white #85 will once again become the 1937 Chevy sedan #57, and the orange #60 will once again become the white Pinto #19. All parts that are on the cars now and not used in the restoration will be saved.

We plan to have the cars restored in time for the Fairgrounds Mall Reading Racing Reunion in February, 1997, and return them to when their glory was achieved more than 20 years ago.

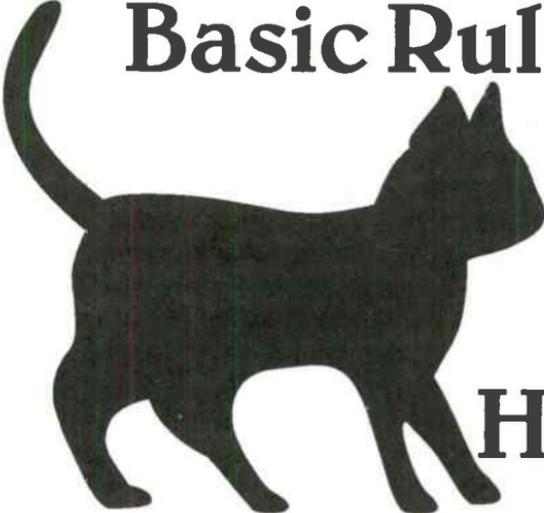


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# Basic Rules for Cats Who Have a House to Run!

1. **Chairs and Rugs:** If you have to throw up, get into a chair quickly. If you cannot manage in time, get to an Oriental rug. If no Oriental rug, shag is good.

2. **Doors:** Do not allow closed doors in any room. To get door opened, stand on hind legs and hammer with forepaws. Once door is opened it is not necessary to use it. After you have ordered an outside door opened, stand halfway in and out and think about several things. This is particularly important during very cold weather, rain, snow, and mosquito season.

3. **Guests:** Quickly determine which guest hates cats the most. Sit on that lap. If you can arrange to have Friskies Fish 'n' Glop on your breath, so much the better. For sitting on laps or rubbing against trouser legs, select fabric color which contrasts well with your fur. For example: White furred cats go to black wool clothing.

For guest who claims, "I love kitties," be ready with aloof disdain. Apply claws to stockings or use quick nip on the ankle.

When walking among dishes on dinner table, be

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prepared to look surprised and hurt when scolded. The idea is to convey: "But you allow me on the table when company is not here!"

Always accompany guests to the bathroom. It is not necessary to do anything, just sit and stare.

4. **Work:** If one of your humans is sewing or writing, and another is idle, stay with the busy one. This is called helping, otherwise known as hampering. Following are the rules for hampering:

- When supervising cooking, sit just behind left heel of cook. You cannot be seen and thereby stand a better chance of being stepped on, picked up, and consoled.

- For book readers, get in close under the chin, between eyes and book, unless you can lie across the book itself.

- For knitting projects, curl quietly into lap of knitter and pretend to doze. Occasionally reach out and slap knitting needles sharply. This can cause dropped stitches or split yarn. Ignore it. Remember, the aim is to hamper work.

5. **Play:** It is important. Get enough sleep in the daytime so you are fresh for playing catch mouse or king-of-the-hill on their bed between 2 and 4 a.m.

Begin people training early. You will have a smooth running household. Humans need to know the basic rules. They can be taught if you start early and are consistent.

*—Courtesy of Laurie A., Parastudy, Inc.*

*Submitted by FEEDBACK Chaplain, Philip Smith*



# TRAFFIC UPDATES WITH DAVE LANDIS

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ON 85AM WEEU**



## A Day on the Links

The first WEEU golf tournament was held in 1996, with dozens of WEEU sponsors and friends taking to the Willow Hollow Golf Course.



*The All-Star Distributing team won first place with members (l. to r.) Dane Kissling, Brian Miscobitz, Jim Beidler, and Steve Westley.*

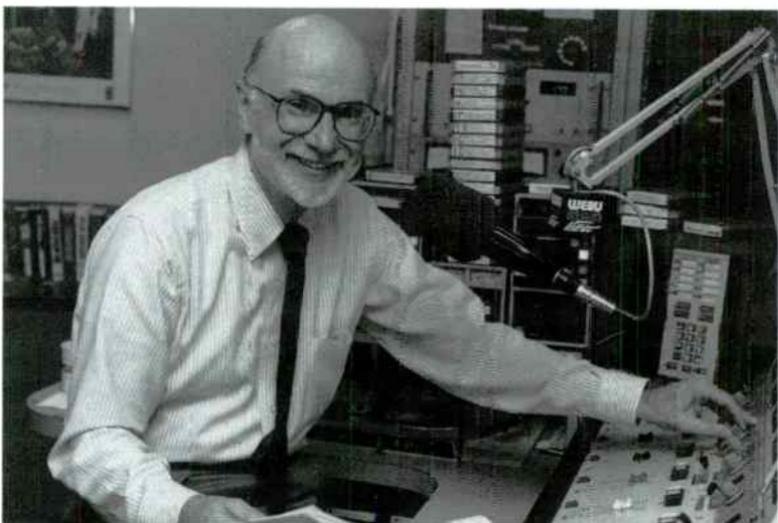


*Taking second place was the team from La-Z-Boy. (l. to r.) John Gomery, Eric Sotzin, Hank Stenson, and C.K. Rosenberger.*

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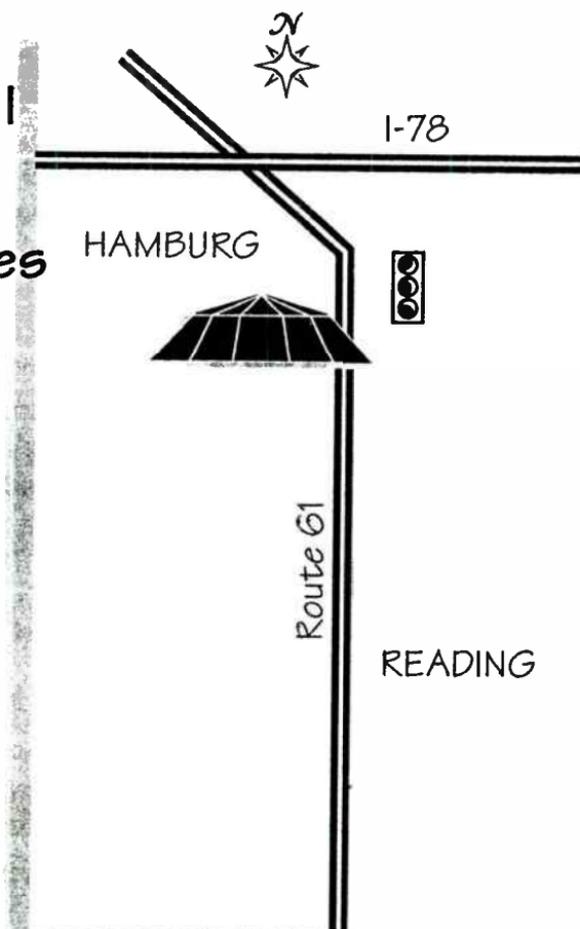
*Third place in the WEEU Golf Tournament was won by the team from Reading Saturn. • (l. to r.) John DeNapoli, Jay DeNapoli, John Miller, and WEEU "ringer" Bob McCool.*



*Feedback host Jack Holcomb "hard at work."  
(Or, at least that's what he ordered us to say in this caption!)*

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*The WEEU sports team of Bob McCool (l) and Sports Director Mitch Gerhart flank legendary journalist David Brinkley as the local guys accept their "Award of Excellence for Sports Broadcasting" at the Pennsylvania Association of Broadcasters convention.*



*Joe and Jo: That's Bastardi (left) and Painter (right), as the ACCU-Weather meteorologist (that's Joe) pays a visit to the WEEU afternoon hostess (that's Jo).*

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*When the community got in an uproar about the state's failure to fund the Route 222 extension, WEEU roared the loudest. Morning Guy Charlie Adams broadcast live from "Heartbreak Ridge," and is seen here with Program Director Jo Painter and General Manager Dave Kline.*



*What would an issue of the Feedback Journal be without a picture of Mabel Adams? Above, the mom of the host of Charlie & Co. is seen with his sonny boy (l), Jack Holcomb, and Mitch Gerhart at a Reading Phillies game.*

# Waste Not...

Whatever's Old  
is New Again

Lawn and Garden Tips using  
household Items

by Christine Weld

*Before the advent of pesticides and fertilizers, gardeners of old had to rely on those things which could be found in the pantry of nature.*

*Nothing went to waste. Ashes from the fireplace were*



## Charles Evans Cemetery

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*spread liberally amongst the vegetables, and dirty dishwater was used to water the flower beds.*

*Archaic? Old-fashioned? Absolutely not!*

*Because of the rise of environmentalism, coupled with the worries of poisonings, the "old way" is very quickly giving rise to the "new." The following are some of the recipes I have used myself with success. Give them a try. You will be surprised with the results and the money you will save!*

*The following call for a 20-gallon hose-end sprayer. It is the type commonly found with Miracle-Gro Lawn Food. They will cover 2,500 square feet.*

## **For Bugs and Crawly Critters**

1 cup dish soap

1 cup chewing tobacco juice, made by soaking three fingers worth, put in a nylon stocking, in hot water until the water is dark brown

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1 cup antiseptic mouthwash  
Fill the rest of the sprayer jar with warm water

**For Rabbits and Other Chewing Animals**  
Add 1 cup tobasco or red pepper sauce to the above mixture along with 1 tablespoon alum (dissolved first in hot water)

## **For Voles, Moles, and Shrews**

1 cup liquid dish soap

1 cup castor oil

1 tbsp alum (dissolved in hot water)

Be sure to spray underneath evergreens and to soak the ground liberally. If you like, put pieces of Juicy Fruit gum in the holes to make sure the critters get the full effect of the mixture. It should work either way.



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## **The Best Rose Mixture in the World for Insects and Diseases**

I have had rave reviews about this mixture. It should be sprayed on the undersides as well as the tops of the leaves, and used once a week. It may be used on all plants and flowers:

1 tsp Vegetable/Rose Dust (sulfur)

1 tsp instant tea, unsweetened

1 tsp ammonia

1 tsp liquid dish soap

Mix in one gallon of warm water and transfer to a hand sprayer of your choice.

*As you can see, these solutions are easy, thrifty, and effective. Have the kids or grandkids help you with the measuring and mixing. Of course, one must be careful with very young children and remember that while tobasco won't hurt, a good dose of castor oil will. So, be careful!*

## **Make the most of your health.**

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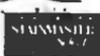
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*With a view of Kachina Peak, "Ridgerunners" in Taos Ski Valley, N.M., hike up to Highline Ridge. (Photo by Ken Gallard)*

## **A NATURAL HIGH OF MOUNTAINS AND CULTURE AT TAOS, NEW MEXICO**

*- by "East Side" Dave Kline*

Tracks...tracks...tracks. Old Coyote roams the American Southwest in a never-ending journey of adventure, discovery, creation and harmonic interaction with all fellow inhabitants. Coyote is one of the oldest creatures in Native American folklore and legend. Given the special powers of reincarnation and the ability to make real his dreams and imaginary manifestations, Coyote was sent forward by the Creator to pave the way for man. So Coyote made tracks, roamed, imagined, and dreamed into reality all manner of places for man to labor in and play.

One such place is Taos, New Mexico, where founder Ernie Blake took over in the ideal Sangre de Cristo ("Blood of Christ") mountains that Coyote had "imagineered", and brought into existence the wonderful Taos Ski Valley. The southwest flavor of sagebrush-strewn flatlands, Native American culture, and rugged mountains that cut

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into the clear blue sky, have been married to a decidedly European approach to integrating a world-class ski resort with a truly gorgeous alpine region without compromise to the surrounding environment.

At the Taos Ski Valley, Blake and his contemporaries have produced an alpine playground, retreat, and haven for any who would aspire to challenge themselves to grow beyond the constraints of where their ability level now resides. The Taos Ski School approach is one of the most fundamentally sound in theory and practice that you will find anywhere!

With terrain ranging from gentle beginner, to long intermediate cruising, to screaming expert chutes, bump-runs, and glades, the skiing experience at Taos can be anything you want it to be. And, with a base elevation of 9,207 feet, you will literally get "high" from the skiing!

Getting high at Taos on our first day went kind of like this: The night before, we...(one of my favorite ski buddies, Bob Majowicz of Pinnacle Sports and myself), had flown into Albuquerque and drove through the wee hours of the morning, past the Rio Grande River, past roadside Indian Shrines, up into the mountains where our home for the next week would be the adobe-style Quail Ridge Inn. At 3:03 in the morning we pass out in our more than comfortable room, sleeping soundly until the morning rays of light pierce through the shades to bring us back to reality. I yank back the shade and am presented with a spectacular view of tumbleweed, sagebrush, and a flat landscape that stretches toward the mesa and mountains directly up the road from our room. The brilliant blue sky belies the fact that we are here in early December and it is actually winter-like in temperature out there. What gives the season away is the awesome view of snow-capped peaks...snow, snow, and more snow. We have arrived just after a few weeks of early season snow have left the higher elevations blanketed in several feet of this glorious winter mantle.

We have breakfast at the Amizette Inn, a charming European chalet on the mountain road that leads up to the slopes of Taos. Desiring to get in the spirit of the region immediately, I order Huevos Rancheros, (eggs with hot green chili peppers), and while enjoying these with fresh hot coffee, we take in the beautiful view beyond the window. A tree-lined, steeply sloping hillside drops to a clear, rapidly flowing stream. Our waiter assures us that there our three species of trout inhabiting this mountain ribbon of blue and white. We contemplate this and decide that

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someday we should return in spring to attempt a harvest! At 9,000 feet above sea level, the Amizette Inn is on your left hand side as you climb towards the ski area. Their phone number is 505-776-2451. Aside from the great food and view, they also offer lodging. If you go, give the inn a try, we really liked it!

A well-managed shuttle bus system allows for convenient parking and transfer to the base lodge area at Taos. Here we meet up with Marketing Director Chris Stagg who gives us a briefing and sends us on our way on an adventure filled week during which all of our main plans, including interacting with many permanent residents of the mountain, come to life. We ski all over the mountain and then settle into skiing mostly on the runs served by the number four Kachina lift. Lunch at the Phoenix restaurant, where the elevation is about 10,000 feet, is great! Lots of sun, good food and picnic tables enable us to soak up the rays, recover a bit from the altitude, take in some essential water, and huddle up to choose the runs we'll make during "round two". These runs include Shalako, Upper Patton, and Baby Bear...intermediate cruising runs that provide the well-groomed and moderately steep ski experience that makes everyone feel like a hero. Big rhythmic giant slalom style turns are easily cranked out here at high speed, simply due to the fact that there's more ski acreage than ski practitioners. For the more advanced, black diamond runs like Hunziker Bowl, High Noon, Staub, El Funko, Papa Bear, Ruby Gully, Show Off, and Street Car, dish up vertical free-for-alls equal in spice to the local red and green chile peppers! Take your camera because the view from the upper drop off point of the lift is inspiring looking both down the hill and up towards the walls of 12,481 foot Kachina Peak. At the end of the day we return to the main base lodge via a long and easy mountain path named Rubezahl. This trail is a gentle way back to home after a not so gentle day of all-out skiing.

I must confess, I was surprised by the effect that the altitude had on me. In considering the relatively high altitude of this area, I should probably advise you to take it easy on your first day, spend more time cruising than bashing. But, once you're here, you'll probably get caught up in the exhilaration that this mountain exudes and end up like me on the first day...one tired hombre, legs exhausted from a combination oxygen debt and outright vertical abuse, but smiling and ready to go out and party in the ski village! (All kidding aside, the best way to really

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keep yourself tuned for this and any skiing at higher elevations is to drink lots of fresh water throughout the day. Proper hydration is essential for adequate endurance and subsequent performance.) Getting back to the partying...we decide that this is a mandatory first move in our quest to meet and learn from the "locals". So off to the base lodge we go. A live band is cranking out great tunes, the first beer and schnapps leads to the second, which leads to the third, and after that we ceased counting rounds. On this night we meet up with Bob, the "Boot Doctor", Chris Stagg's brother, Peter Donahue, (a PSIA instructor from the Taos Ski School), and others. We engage in an animated conversation on ski teaching, the philosophy of proper boot fitting, and the Taos Hum.

The Hum, it seems, is a recent phenomenon that some residents swear they "hear" regularly. Actually, you really feel the Hum more than hear it. It is apparently some sort of low-frequency, vibrational sort of experience. Peter Donahue, who lives in a cabin on the mountain side with no access road, (thus relegating him to hiking 15 minutes to and from his abode everyday), tells us that the hum is readily apparent from his residence. We decline the invitation to hike up and find out. The prevailing local theory of what the Taos Hum is revolves around some kind of spiritual/metaphysical focal point. With the Los Alamos Research Center, (you remember...Uncle Sam's headquarters for the guys that gave birth to the bomb), located in the region, my theory is more pragmatic in that I believe the Taos Hum is probably the byproduct of some new government experiment in low frequency energy resonance. Low frequencies require less energy to produce and transport, and they can travel over great distances enabling you to communicate with things like nuclear submarines submerged in deep and far off places. Build up enough of a wave of these babies and you shake a mountain right down to its bedrock, or a building off of its foundation...(the most likely diabolical application if the military is involved.) All of this makes for great apres' ski chatter, especially because there's no where else on earth like Taos, New Mexico! After still more beverages and conversation, and after having made some new friends, we retreat to the Inn at Snakedance, located at the heart of the ski village, and enjoy a scrumptious gourmet meal of calamari with fresh prawns and vegetables.

On our second day we wake to another blue sky-dream-come-true of a morning. Tim's Stray Dog Cantina, located in the base mountain

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village, was the purveyor of our breakfast on this day. Renown for their home-roasted preparation of local hand-picked chile peppers, Tim's will get your blood pressure cranked up long before you hit the slopes. I indulge in another regional delight...a large bowl of green chiles with sliced potatoes, eggs, and coffee. About half way through my meal I literally light up with that special warmth that only Taos green chile peppers from Tim's Cantina can produce. My buddy Bob is having a similar meal, only his has a mixture of red and green, (also called Christmas, due to the color combination), chiles. His gastro-intestinal tract gets fired up about the same time as mine. As we look at each other you'd swear you see steam puffing out of our ears. Our faces turn bright red, and we begin to sweat with great vigor. Colors seem to change before our eyes. Once again we experience a natural high in Taos, and we haven't even left the restaurant yet!

We're having great fun! Most of the morning is spent at the "Boot Doctor" shop where Bob Gleason, the Doctor, works on our old ski-racing boots and transforms the tired old boxes into custom fitting, high-performance gear again. Gleason teaches us about the anatomy of the human foot, along with how those mechanics interact with the endeavor of alpine skiing. The instantaneous transference of energy from the brain, to the leg, to the foot, through the boot, into the ski, and ultimately onto the snow, is best achieved when time is spent in maximizing the proper fit of the boot. Since each human foot is different, skiers should demand a custom fit from a reputable dealer. Bob Gleason, the Boot Doctor, has one of the best reputations in the country and skiers come to him from near and far for a proper fit. He and his business are also well thought of within the confines of local circles, and it is not uncommon, when in his presence, to hear passersby offer him congenial greetings. We spent most of the remainder of the day in his presence and in his rooster tail. Along with his young daughter Kelli, Bob showed us around the "front" side of the mountain. Skiing black diamond runs like Castor and Pollux, Winston, Reforma, Blitz, Psycho Path, Rhoda's, Spencer's, Inferno, Jean's Glade, Al's Run, Al's Glade, Snakedance, Showdown, Edelweiss, Edelweiss Glade, Tell Trees, and Tell Glade, you find out how out of shape you really are, especially this early in the season, and especially when following two residents, (already accustomed to the high altitude), who are carving flawless GS turns down the fall line and rhythmic paths through the undulating bump fields.

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In the area called Rhoda's we arrive at a lip that overlooks a huge mogul field. Thrown into the scenario is lots of powder, a fairly steep degree of pitch, and...oh yes...did I mention the trees? Spaced just a few feet apart, the trees present an imposing reality of both challenge and potential abrupt stoppage. Bob Gleason, thinks nothing of any of these punctuations and squirts right over the lip into the wooded abyss. I stand perfectly still, poised on the lip. To my left is Bob Majowicz, he's a darn good bump skier. He looks over at me, we both smile...you know the sort of smile, a sort of "no guts, no glory smile", combined with a Cheshire Cat grin, combined with the "surprised deer in the headlights" look. I am determined to watch Bob M's line so that I can get a feel for just how deep the powder is before I launch. After a few seconds he hops over the lift and immediately goes for the right-hand side hoping that our favorite formula for really steep slopes serves him well...gravity=speed+control+edge set=safety at the bottom of the hill.

His next position is a face down swan dive into the powder. Now it is rare to see Bobby bite the big one so I'm treating myself to a smug little internal chuckle, and it is in this instant that I decide to go over the lip with a straight face and perhaps slime him with a white rooster tail on my way past. I do manage two turns before my third one is accomplished with such forward pressure as to firmly implant the tip of my right ski downward into what seems like a bottomless quantity of powder. As I begin to tail-spin, (a result of the instant stop my right ski achieved, the "gravity" of the situation, and my 215 pounds of mass following the natural laws of physics..."a body in motion tends to stay in motion"), I notice a nicely proportioned tree intercepting my line of descent. Since I am not fond of hard impacts with immovable objects, I throw my torso to the side as far as I can. The end result leaves me with my right ski embedded in snow, while the rest of me is lying, face-up, head down the fall line, looking at Bob upside down as he tries hard to ignore me while he is putting his skis back on. We basically try hard to out-ski and ignore each other all the way down. Several action packed falls later, and with the development of tumbling skills that could lead to a career in the circus, we both grind down to the main trail system where Bob Gleason calmly waits for us. In the end, we both realize that, while we have skied all over the world, our main technique has evolved in our home territory back east, where years of skiing icy slopes with steep vertical have forced us to evolve hard edge-setting and strong forward lean

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and pressure over the downhill ski.

It seems funny to both of us as we reflect. To ski Taos, we have to allow ourselves to be in less control; we have to ski more freely, with a lighter touch, in a manner more like floating than hammering...we need to become more harmonic with the mountain. Very ironic, as this entire region of the southwest seems to be alive with this same sort of demand for harmonic interaction. Once we modify our approach we spend less time eating the snow and more time sailing on it. On our final run with Bob Gleason, we fly down the mountain from top to bottom on a non-stop excursion of dynamic fall-line engagement. Giant rooster tails of snow arc up into the sky forming and displaying rainbow like waves of color when back-lighted by the setting sun. On the lower part of the mountain, heading toward the base lodge, we drop into a ravine-like chute. It is ultra steep, real long, and a bit icy after being scraped off due to a full day of ski traffic. I actually enjoy steep and icy descents. As long as your edges are properly sharpened, the quick edge-to-edge technique required for successful negotiation, combined with the unmistakable sound of true edge carving is a joy to experience rather than a nightmare to be avoided. Back at the lodge we bid farewell and thanks to Bob Gleason and retire to our room at the Quail Ridge Inn. (By the way, the Quail Ridge Inn is a comfy place, if you want to try a stay here you'll find the location, about halfway between the actual town of Taos and the Taos Ski Valley complex, a good strategic point from which to launch adventures in either direction. Call them at 1-800-624-4448.)

This night we dine in downtown Taos. Naturally, we consume mass quantities of indigenous fare, including giant Burritos topped with Christmas chiles. For after-dinner activity we have booked one hour full body massage therapy sessions with Mary Page of Alpenglow Massage. Located in a little building nearby to a ski shop, (a shop that is run by a former member of the French National Ski Team and is said to provide the best ski tuning at Taos), Alpenglow Massage is perfectly situated in the Taos base ski village to provide end of the day muscle reinvigoration to a tired skier's legs. Mary Page is also a musician and her selection of recorded music, combined with her skill in the art of massage put me into a state of deep relaxation. I am transported into a tranquil and warm envelope of emotional and physical care that is, in its own way, spiritual in nature. On a more practical side, massage therapy does rid the muscle

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tissue of debilitating lactic acid while infusing the muscle with energy-giving oxygenated blood. Exercise also tends to shorten muscle fibers thus causing stiffness. Stretching and massage therapy tend to re-lengthen those fibers and can prevent tightness, soreness, and advanced muscle fatigue and failure. When you travel to Taos, ski your heart out, but on about the third day's night, go get yourself tuned back up at Alpenglow Massage. You'll be shocked at how much better you feel the next day on the hill. Get in touch with Mary Page at Alpenglow by calling 505-776-1334.

There's a new morning and on this one we decide to take a break from alpine skiing in an effort to burn off a few of those mega-calories we've ingested while satiating our post-ski-day appetites with burritos and beer. Today we shall cross country ski in the Enchanted Forest. But first, we have breakfast in Taos at a really local eatery, the Cafe Pueblo. More hot chile peppers, eggs, and toast...an arterial roadblock waiting to happen, but mmmmm, good!

Our first destination prior to skiing is the Rio Grande River and the Rio Grande River Gorge Bridge. Just 8 miles northwest of Taos on U.S. Route 64 this bridge is one of the highest highway bridges in the nation. The historic Rio Grande River flows freely 650 below the bridge. A walk out onto the bridge, and a look straight down from the highest point over the river, can really get your equilibrium cranked up in a new and exciting way. The real fun begins when you're out there looking down and a huge eighteen-wheeler rumbles over the span. You can actually feel the bridge move, an experience not for the faint of heart! But, once again, we're "high" at Taos! Tourist alert, tourist alert...take your video and still cameras to this place. The gorge and the resultant canyon are absolutely spectacular!

Moving on, we travel on the "Enchanted Loop", a circular road system that carries you up toward northern New Mexico and then back down toward Taos. Scenery abounds with every mile. About halfway through the loop we arrive at the Enchanted Forest Cross Country Ski Area near the town of Red River, New Mexico. 36 kilometers of groomed track provide a fantastic opportunity to explore and enjoy. A base elevation of 9,800 feet and a peak elevation of 10,030 feet provide yet another "high" experience in New Mexico. With the assistance of one of the area's expert patrollers we select an intermediate loop for our day of adventure. We ski at an average altitude of about 10,000 feet.

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With us we carry water, power bars, cheese, and other rations. In the backpacks, cameras are poised to record fleeting moments of communion with nature in this magnificent wilderness. We ski to the "Old Homestead", a broken down ruins of a log cabin home and out-buildings where an early-century pioneer attempted to settle in and establish a potato ranch. The attempt failed, the settler left, the ruins now stand as a stark testimonial to the resolve of Mother Nature. She either accepts you or she doesn't. And, when she doesn't, she, in her own good time, absorbs any lingering sign of your intrusion. Lunch at the "Old Homestead" gives way to a photo session. After this we begin a fairly arduous climb up and out of the little valley in which the homestead was built.

We have been out here for hours and haven't seen another human until we crest the ridge and meet one lone gentleman. He is out for a quick circuit of this wonderland. His name is John Miller, and like magic, in the middle of nowhere, our paths have crosses. John is the proprietor of the Enchanted Forest! He welcomes us and tells us animated stories about this territory, and members of his lineage that carved a name for themselves out of the wilderness by slinging guns as gunfighters in the Old West. We compliment him on his area, he thanks us and we part company...John exits by skating up another ridge, we plow forward in the traditional kick and glide style. By this time it has become more like the "step and inch your way forward" technique. Oxygen debt is an amazing deal...it takes a normally healthy specimen and virtually turns it into one big bag of manure. You know you're there when you feel totally exhausted and even little movements take on the aura of heroic effort.

After miles and miles of cross country skiing, through evergreen forests and white clear-cut areas, past massive deciduous trees and over seemingly enchanted woodland trails, we arrive back at the Enchanted Forest Warming Hut and enjoy a bit more conversation before we set back toward "home" along the Enchanted Loop. A further word about the cross country ski experience at the Enchanted Forest is "go"! Even if you've never skied cross country, go! Rental programs and lessons are offered. Cross country skiing offers a day of refreshing enjoyment and provides a good change of pace from alpine skiing. I now try to include at least a day of x-country skiing during every ski adventure I undertake. Another benefit is that you can quickly progress

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to the level where the sport offers tremendous cardiovascular and conditioning benefits. Call the Enchanted Forest X-Country Ski Area at 1-800-348-6444.

On the way back, just before Taos, we encounter the Angel Fire Ski Area. While we don't have time to ski here, we do pause to watch a glorious sunset. Bob whips up a spaghetti & sausage supper. The Philadelphia Eagles lose to the Dallas Cowboys on Monday Night Football. Content and well-exercised for the day, I pass out!

In the morning, the liberal quantities of red and green chiles consumed over the past few days with breakfast, lunch and supper have finally done me in! There's a fire cookin' me from the inside out. I will spare you the real details, but let's just say that moderation in the chile department is probably advice well-heeded! I did come up with a unique and effective cure for one of the more painful symptoms. While I won't "stoop" to telling you about it in this article, I will "pass" the information along to you, if you ever have occasion to ask me about it in person. For a change of menu we fuel up on this morning with good old oatmeal, orange juice, coffee and toast.

We hit the Taos slopes hard, spending the morning mostly on the north face. Bambi, an intermediate run, allows you to warm up by putting on the cruise control until you reach the black diamond runs of Zagava and Al's Run. The latter two trails literally plunge into the valley. Loaded with bumps and plenty of steeps, Taos Valley's Founder Ernie Blake was once purported to have told a visiting member of the press that these trails were not to remain open all day long because he wanted them to always remain in a relatively pristine condition. Since Al's Run is the first thing you see when heading toward the base village, Blake figured that it was as good a bit of advertising as anything else the resort could or should use. Al's Run is intimidating in its display of steep and deep. In fact, this plan to use a showcase trail to spread word-of-mouth news about the challenges awaiting skiers at Taos, may have worked too effectively! A large sign is now posted at the bottom the this area where the lifts begin. The sign proclaims that new arrivees should not get too nervous..."you are only looking at a small portion of Taos...many intermediate trails await skiers of that level on the upper portion of the mountain, out of the field of view from this vantage point".

We pump our quads through repeated runs on this part of the

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mountain. The early season snow has held up well here because it is often sheltered from the sun at this time of year. Although ambient air temperatures are moderate, we enjoy powder and packed powder skiing. Just before lunch we stop on one of the headwalls above the village and peer down toward the sun-drenched patio deck of the St. Bernard Hotel. Smoke from an outdoor charcoal grill is wafting into the air and the bartender appears to be busily filling the orders of several dozen skiers who have selected this spot for their afternoon delight. The place is called "Paradise Cheeseburger"...(shades of Key West)...and the burgers, fries, fixins, and beers go down just fine! I opt for a vegetarian cheese burger, made out of soy and vegetable fiber or something...it's delicious. We eat, relax, and soak up the sun. From this day on, we reconvene on this deck for every lunch. It is that good! If you ski Taos, at least one stop here is a must!

When we resume skiing for the afternoon, we stick to the intermediate Upper Powderhorn. This trail is a wide-open piste which again allows you to relax and open up your skiing a bit from the usual tight-patterned style most of us "easterners" employ. From here you drop into the Powderhorn Bowl, another real treat. Next you drop onto the remainder of Powderhorn and glide your way effortlessly toward the White Feather collector trail which takes you back to the base village. We retire from the mountain a bit earlier than usual today so that we can get a little shopping done in downtown Taos.

Supper is at the Outback, a gourmet pizza place that we got word of from local folks. I enjoy "Greek Pizza" complete with artichokes, black olives, feta cheese, and sprouts. A local beer sets the meal off. An evening of events that again seem to be under the control of destiny follows. While reading a local newspaper, we admire photographic reproductions by a local Native-American artist named Robert Arnold. Upon visiting his shop, we discover that he is not only there, but he is also ultra-congenial. Almost an hour goes by as he answers all of our questions about his work. We purchase several pieces by Arnold and he obligingly signs each one personally. Next we visit the Southwest Moccasin & Drum Company. (1-800-447-3630) I am looking for indigenous music, music produced by local Native Americans. As I introduce myself to the counter-person, I explain what I am looking for, and further explain that I use these sort of things on my syndicated Mountain Folk radio show. No sooner do I utter these words

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than the woman standing aside of me, (I never met her before in my life), gets wide-eyed and tells me that she and her husband are natives of the area and they would love for me to accept, as a gift, their latest recorded project featuring flutes and drums. I thank her, look her right in the eyes and say, "this was meant to be you know!" She acknowledges by saying, "yes, I know!" Then she says something that phonetically sounds like "O-MA-HA". A rough translation of this Indian phrase is, "go in peace with the Spirit of the Mother and Father Gods."

We have come to ski, explore and meet people. Things are now happening almost as if designed by higher powers. There is a lot of spiritualism in and around Taos. Some is due to traditional Native American culture, some has been entirely made up by charlatans. But, there is no denying that thus far we have had more than our fair share of "chance" meetings with the very sort of people and culture we have come here to seek. Again I must wonder if it is, perhaps, more than "chance".

Having bought the old wallet dry in town the night before, we head toward the mountain this morning filled with great anticipation. Today we will ski with Taos Ski School Instructor Peter Donahue. We will also determine if a safe passage down any of the sheer and narrow vertical chutes connecting West Basin Ridge, Highline Ridge, or Kachina Peak Ridge, is possible. Not serviced by any lifts, you must hike to where you want to ski from on these breathtaking ridges. About ten thousand skiers a year do so! A "ridge run" is one of the quintessential elements of the Taos Valley Ski Experience. Peter is an expert skier, his grace and line are inspiring. He shows us around the mountain and points out ways to descend that we would have never found on our own. This points to the fact that enrolling in the Taos Ski School upon your arrival at Taos is a great idea. You'll not only learn from a pro, but you'll also be treated to areas of the mountain that most tourist-type skiers miss. (The Taos Ski School information number is 505-776-2291.) Peter guides us to Lorelei Trees and the Lorelei trail, an expert region of terrain. We blast into a steep freefall toward the trees which harbor what seems like at least two feet of fairly light powder. We ski through a magnificent forest where you pick your line based on your level of intestinal fortitude rather than the strict path that snowcat groomers have prepared for you. It is real close to a back-country ski experience, only here you have the eventual convenience of a lift system to rapidly transport you back up the mountain so that you can play in

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the woods all over again. We are having big fun...exhausting fun...but fun of major proportions! This is a fantastic resort!

Peter shares in our desire to hike up onto the Highline Ridge, so he leads us to the Ski Patrol Headquarters located at 10,000 feet, where the #2 and #6 lifts unload skiers. It is from here that you hike the remaining few hundred vertical feet toward the ridges. We are introduced to Ski Patrol Snow Safety Director Ray Deveaux. Aside from serving on the Taos Valley Patrol, Ray is also the proprietor of the "Gearing Up Bike Shop" in downtown Taos. Because we have arrived in early December, Ray advises us that he would not be comfortable with any descents from the ridges at this point due to unpredictable conditions. We will have to do this some other time. We do agree to hike up to the Highline Ridge in order to take a group self-portrait and to enjoy the intoxicating view. After what seems, to my oxygen-hungry legs, a long climb, we arrive at the summit of the ridge. And, after I look down into the chutes and folds that we had proposed to ski in, I am content to simply take a photo and enjoy this latest "high" in Taos. As I look over toward Kachina Peak and Wheeler Peak, I do see a line off of the ridge that I would feel comfortable skiing down. Ray explains that this line down is called "Main Street", and is often the first choice for descent by virgin ridge runners. Still, snow conditions do not warrant the attempt, so we are invited back sometime later in a season when all is covered by a stable base. Looking at the unending selections for descent from the ridges it is easy to understand why Taos is a mecca for advanced and extreme skiers. No matter how good you think you are, you can access something that will get your attention! Peter and Ray really made this day on the mountain memorable for us, again proving that the hospitality in Taos is second to no other. These guys are exactly the sort of people we had set out to meet and learn from. The day ends when Peter has to go off and instruct an afternoon class and Ray must get back to his patrol duties. Bob and I ski the black diamond and intermediate trails off of the #1 lift and a finer day on or off skis would be hard to imagine.

As we wrap up our visit to Taos and the Taos Ski Valley, we are content in the knowledge that we have accomplished all that we came here to do. New friends, new cultural understandings, and new memories of all that we learned, shared, and enjoyed.

Frankly, I have not even begun to tell you all that there is for

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you to discover in the region of Taos! There's also the revered Taos Native American Indian Pueblo, the home of pioneer Kit Carson, and on and on. Want to really taste the unique cultural experience of the American Southwest while having quick and easy access to high peaks and unbeatable ski adventure? Plan your next ski vacation around Taos, New Mexico. (Taos Snow Phone is: 505-776-2916, and the ski & stay reservation phone is: 1-800-776-1111.)

Regional Native Americans around Taos have a chant to the Creator. Roughly translated it goes, "I praise You for Your Glory, the mountains and the streams, I praise You for Your Glory, the visions and the dreams". And so, with a shared reverence and exhilaration, I move on but will always remember what was experienced here. Like Old Coyote it is time for me to again make tracks...tracks...tracks.



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## **BRINGING HOME THE LOCAL FLAVOR**

One of my favorite diversions during any ski adventure is to attempt to immerse myself in the local flavor, or culture. This pastime can manifest itself in many forms. My personal choices tend to run toward music, food, beverages, folk culture and art. Each time I venture forth I make an effort to return home with some artifacts, aside from the ever-pleasant memories, that serve to articulate the essence of the region from which I have just explored. Because of this my wife and I often joke about the distinct lack of a singular motif in our home. Rather it resembles a sort of museum with various areas of singular cultural devotion, and other areas where everything is basically all jumbled up together.

To each his own, I say, and discovering the great cultural aspects of Taos, New Mexico, and the flavor of the Southwest in general, gave me hours of pleasure as I browsed past numerous shop windows taking time to marvel at the full range and different mediums used to express the emotion of this place. There are several fine New Mexican wineries and a visit to any grocery store or liquor store will give you an opportunity to grab a bottle for apres' ski festivities, as well as provide the perfect enhancement for reliving those memories months or years later at home. I generally bring back at least two different vintages. Incidentally, the Balagna Winery in Los Alamos, N.M., is now offering vintage bottles of wine commemorating the 50th anniversary of the Los Alamos National Laboratory's inception...you know the place...the cradle of the atomic bomb. A red zinfandel, the wine has been dubbed La Bomba Grande and the label features a mushroom cloud. HmMMM!

As for music, there are many fine stores that specialize in selling Native American Indian instruments and recordings. With spiritualism, reverence, musicianship, history and meaning all wrapped into one outpouring of musical expression, the sounds of flutes, drums and chanting provide an ethereal platform for your mind and spirit to relax and soar. Perhaps the best example of this type of music is conveyed through the musicianship of R. Carlos Nakai. In fact, if you wanted to purchase only one recording to best exemplify the culture and emotion in the land of our Indian brothers in the Southwest, any of Nakai's numerous recorded works would

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serve well. You need not wait to visit New Mexico to procure a Nakai recording, his work is readily available from any reputable dealer of recorded music by ordering through the various music catalogs that are found in such shops. Local readers of the WEEU Feedback Journal can also seek out these recordings at a place in our home region called Hawk Mountain near Hamburg, Pennsylvania, or the CD Exchange in Berks County.

Still, if your taste runs more toward the specifically indigenous rather than the more commercially available, (as does my taste), you need to seek out recordings by locals like, "Beyond Words - Native American Flute Music", by Wolf. Recordings like this can be found by asking around once you arrive in town. Find out if any local folk artist is performing anywhere nearby during your stay. If there is such performance adjust your plans so that you can attend. Most artists do offer recordings in some form or another, and even if they don't, you'll still get to experience something new that you won't be exposed to at home. If all else fails visit the Southwest Moccasin and Drum Company just a bit north of town on the main drag through the town of Taos. Phone: 1-800-447-3630. Here you'll find a complete assortment of instruments, recordings, and other interesting "take-homes".

Another important aspect of Native American Indian Culture is the aspect of story-telling. If you have children you almost certainly want to find a collection of Coyote Stories to take home. If you don't have kids but just appreciate the culture for what it is, you may want to buy a book of stories that also contains explanations of when and why the stories were used by the Indians. Either way its a very interesting aspect of the region. In most cases these stories were passed along to the Indian children by the elders of the tribe. Usually a grandmother figure would relate the tales. In each tale an explanation of some event is described and during the course of the story a sub-plot or bit of worldly wisdom was also woven in. Rather than being frivolous, these stories were designed to be entertaining, but also informative so that the next generation could understand and appreciate the world in which they would soon inherit a stewardship. As with their music, a reverence, respect, and harmony of existence was passed along from generation to

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generation in this manner. One of the places in Taos that I enjoyed shopping in for this sort of thing and other items was the Taos Toy Store. The Toy Store (is the actual name of the place and it is located right on the main corner of the main intersection of town, on your right-hand side as you head through town towards the Taos Ski Valley. The proprietors here are friendly and helpful. They suggested a book, which I did buy, called "Keepers of the Earth". The book was written by Michael J. Caduto and Joseph Bruchac and was published by Fulcrum, Inc., Golden, Colorado. This particular book is designed to relate stories to the children focusing primarily on knowledge of the environment, and is also accompanied with suggested activities that parents or group leaders can do with their children to follow through with the teachings of the stories in ways that even today's young people will readily relate to and enjoy. As the father of four children, I have found this book to be marvelous. There is even a supplementary "teacher's" guide designed to assist you in maximizing the educational value of the stories and lessons. This guide must be purchased separately. If you're interested, it both can be ordered by mail from the Taos Book Store.

Something to hang on the walls of home is always nice. In Taos you'll find shop after shop of art. Early in its history Taos became a mecca for artists and art lovers and today there are scores of styles to choose from. Personally I prefer to wait to make an art purchase until the final days of any adventure. This wait allows me the opportunity to absorb the local culture and then begin to sort out, according to my taste, art that best represents that culture. Generally, by the close of a journey, you will have been exposed to enough information to assist you in making an informed choice. Every once in awhile a particular work leaps out at you and says, "take me home!". This matter is a very personal area and I would not presume to impose my taste on you. However, in Taos one artist, his gallery, and his work did leap out at me as a perfect expression of Southwestern Culture. A blend of Native American Indian subject matter, indigenous landscapes, spiritualism with overtones of natural, supernatural, and a bit of psychedelic surrealism, (the latter being a certified part of Native American Indian Culture due to rituals involving the use of certain

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mind-altering natural substances produced from plants and cacti). The work of Robert Arnold to me best defined and brought together the impact of all of the cultural elements a receptive person will be exposed to in New Mexico. I think that the summation of my feelings regarding how Arnold's work inspired me could be best described by simply saying that, by looking at his work that now hangs in my home, I can be instantly transported back to New Mexico. I can see the mountains, gorges, mesas, and adobe structures. I can taste the delicate flavors of food and beverage. I can feel the inner emotions of joy and pathos associated with the proud Native American. And best of all, I can remember the interesting conversation we engaged in during our visit to his studio. As fate would have it, the evening I selected to make this particular purchase was, (as usual), late in the trip but upon arrival we were greeted by a very upbeat and effusive Robert Arnold and his wife. He went to great lengths to accommodate questions about his art. His explanations about his selections for subject matter and medium were highly educational. In the end, I know I came away with more than just a work of art in the physical sense. Robert Arnold is, (by this definition borrowed from the brochure in his studio), ... an artist who has entertained many people with his unique approach to Southwestern Art. A native of Southern California, Arnold's blood-line ties him to the Houma Indians in Louisiana. He traveled to Denver, Colorado in 1975-1979 to attend the University of Colorado at Boulder. As a Fine Arts major he explored many mediums which include oils, pastels, acrylics, photography, and mixed-media paintings. His current work, a study of graphic gradation, encompasses the use of subtle shade and tonal changes due to color and light. Arnold's images consist of architectural, figurative, and landscape scenes of the Southwest. The use of gouache (an opaque watercolor) enables him to display large, bold areas in a soft, romantic fashion. Arnold's work is steadily gaining in popularity across the United States. Collectors would be well advised to snap up what is available now and avoid the inevitable monetary inflation associated with artistic success and popularity. While I can't promise you that you'll actually meet Robert Arnold as we did if you visit Taos, its certainly worth a try to make contact. His studio is easy to find, located right on the

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main street that runs through Taos. As you head north toward the Taos Ski Bowl, Arnold's studio will be on your left, just a few hundred feet south of the main town square. Or you can reach him by using this information: Robert Arnold - Southwest Art, P.O. Box 814, Ranchos de Taos, New Mexico 87557. Call: (505) 751-0420.

Taos offers so many opportunities for experiencing local flavor that it becomes an impossible task to describe everything in one article, let alone visit it all in one trip. From the Taos Pueblo to the Kit Carson Home and Museum, to everything else described in this issue and more, you would be well advised to layout a general plan for yourself before visiting, before you leave home. Stick to your plan when appropriate, but as always, leave room in the plan for unplanned adventures. Many times they are the best! In the Southwest, culture, flavor, adventure and wonder await in every direction.



*"Mesa Belle": This surrealistic interpretation of the Southwest is an example of the work of Robert Arnold. The artist utilizes an opaque watercolor called gouache, which enables him to display large, bold subjects in a soft, romantic fashion. Used by permission.*

## "BIRDFOOT'S GRAMPA"

The old man  
must have stopped our car  
two dozen times to climb out  
and gather into his hands  
the small toads blinded  
by our lights and leaping,  
live drops of rain.

The rain was falling,  
a mist about his white hair  
and I kept saying  
you can't save them all,  
accept it, get back in  
we've got places to go.

But, leathery hands full  
of wet brown life,  
knee deep in the summer  
roadside grass,  
he just smiled and said  
they have places to go too.

--- *Joseph Bruchac*

This is a contemporary poem emulative of the types of traditional tales passed from generation to generation throughout traditional Native American Indian Culture. While entertaining, most Native American Indian Stories also pass along additional wisdom designed to teach respect and dignity toward the fulfillment of a harmonic relationship between man and his natural habitat. This poem is from Joseph Bruchac's *Entering Onondaga* (1978) published by Cold Mountain Press. We found it in a book entitled *Keepers of the Faith, Native American Stories and Environmental Activities for Children*, by Michael Caduto and Joseph Bruchac. The book is discussed further in another section of this article entitled *Local Flavor*. When you visit the Southwest and the Taos Ski Valley you cannot help but be taken in by the natural beauty of the region. A healthy respect for this, and all of the Earth's environments and creatures is sure to allow us, and those that follow, to explore and engage in adventure for generations to come.

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## *From my Mountain Journal....*



*Many of the lift-served runs at Taos, N.M., run you right to great relaxation spots like the Swiss-inspired Saint Bernard Hotel, pictured here. (Photo by Dave Kline)*



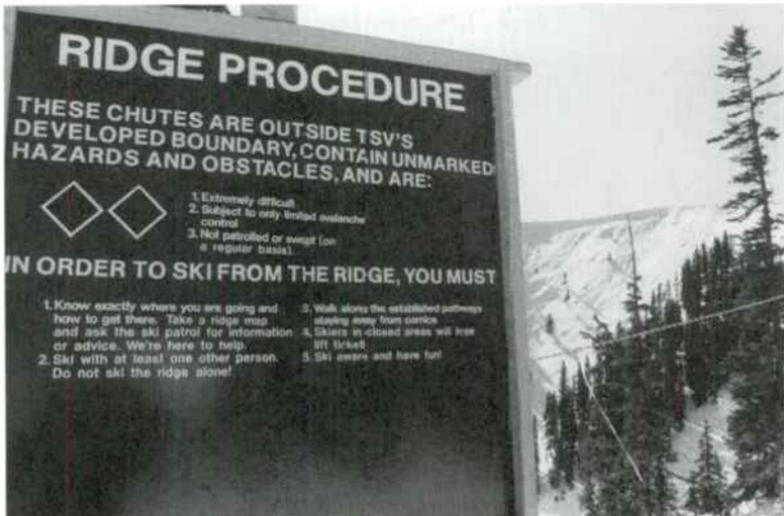
*A view of some of the pristine forests and high ridges at Taos, N.M. (Photo by Dave Kline)*

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## From my Mountain Journal....



*Friend Bob Majowicz (left) and Dave Kline pose for a self-portrait during a back country cross-country ski trek within the "Enchanted Forest" of New Mexico. (Photo by Dave Kline)*



*First read the "warning label," then if you still have the will and strength to climb several hundred feet to the top of the ridge (right), you can ski the steep and deep at Taos, N.M. (Photo by Dave Kline)*

# WEEU-TV

by Charles J. Adams Jr.

*(This story, by WEEU morning personality Charlie Adams' father, appeared first in the Boyertown Area Times newspaper. What you read in the headline is not a misprint)*

In the early 1950s as TV spread across the nation, radio station WEEU applied for a TV license.

It was advised that only a few VHF channels, 2 through 13, were available in this area, and they were taken.

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) offered WEEU choice: A UHF channel—or none.

WEEU decided to take the plunge. It was assigned UHF channel 33 in 1953.

The experiment was well-financed by WEEU's owners,

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the Reading Eagle Co., and studios were speedily constructed at 433 Penn Street.

Channel 33 took to the video air waves on April 15, 1953. Initially, it carried mostly NBC shows such as Milton Berle at his peak, Sid Caesar, and Network News with host John Cameron Swayze. Some ABC network shows were transmitted as the new station was not a full affiliate of either network.

Local programming started at 2 p.m. with such shows as "Camera on the Square," hosted by a young radio staffer named Jack Gounder. There was a game show, "Know Your Reading," and musical shows such as "The Eckert Brothers Band."

Two local news shows were presented at 6 and 11 p.m., both anchored by the versatile Jack Gounder. A late night show, "Showcase," was added later.

None of the aforementioned programs was very

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successful or long-lasting. Government obstacles and economic problems plagued the Johnny-Come-Lately TV venture, all leading to failure.

VHF stations in Philadelphia and Lancaster were now allowed higher transmitters, giving them a wider range—more readily accessible to Berks County viewers.

WEEU's advertisers became fearful that local viewers were no longer watching channel 33. Accordingly, advertising revenues declined. Without the life blood of commercial TV, its sponsors, the fledgling station was condemned.

Channel 33 shut down operations on June 30, 1955, only two years and two months after its long-heralded arrival on the TV scene.

At about the same time, another local radio station, WHUM, tried a similar venture on channel 61. It, too, was doomed to an early demise.



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•Native vegetation (trees, shrubs, vines) thrives with the least amount of care. It is also more attractive to native bird species and better resists drought.

•When planting native ornamental trees, take into account the food value to wildlife. Many trees produce beneficial fruits and flowers at different times of the year.

•Insects are an important food source. Birds can help regulate insect populations, so avoid the use of pesticides and bug lights. As an alternative, place a bat house in your yard. Bats help control nighttime insects, catching more than 600

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mosquitoes in an hour.

- Perennial and annual flowering plants provide nectar for butterflies and hummingbirds.

- Evergreen trees cover year round and provide an important food source for birds and other wildlife.

- Brushy thickets provide a protected place for birds and small mammals to nest and hide from predators.

- A mulch or brush pile can be placed near winter feeders to offer cover.

- Nest boxes provide shelter for hole nesting birds such as screech owl, American kestrel, chickadees, bluebirds, wrens, purple martins, and more.

- Leave dead or hollow trees standing (unless they pose a hazard) to provide habitat for nesting, roosting, and shelter.

- A bird bath is a simple way to provide water.

- Different size ponds can be dug to provide water for drinking and bathing.

- If birds fly into windows, place a hawk silhouette in the window to break up the reflection of the outdoors.

(Courtesy of the Cincinnati Zoo and Botanical Garden)

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## Ode to Little Red...

...by Dave Landis

Silent it stands in the shadow of the Great Gray Behemoth.

Silent and dark it keeps vigil at the sinewy steel fleet of its Great Gray Companion.

Its flashing eyes shut—its clanging voice still—yet steadfast and strong it stands.

As in the days of yore, the mighty blue-green Hudson flows on its search, still seeking the sea.

The river, like the tiny red river guardian, has been silent for too many a year.

Many decades before, the diminutive river

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beacon was never lonely.

Chuffing, chugging, steaming vessels passed by in steady parade.

Fat red ferries and stubby, sooty tugs—graceful excursion steamers with their decks swarming with money makers—boats screeching, tooting, and honking—as if to salute their Little Red Guardian.

Long ago deemed outmoded, then darkened and shut—vandals and vagrants its only companions.

From high above comes the sound of commerce—traffic relentlessly scuttling back and forth from shore to shore.

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“CHACKIE” HOLCOMB’S WET-BOTTOM  
SHOOFLY PIE

(MAKES TWO NINE-INCH OR THREE SEVEN-INCH PIES)

LIQUID PORTION:

1 cup brown sugar

1 cup molasses

1 egg

1 teaspoon baking soda

1 tablespoon flour

Mix all ingredients together and then add two cups boiling water and mix well. Chill (and that is important!)

CRUMBS:

2 cups flour

1 cup brown sugar

1 teaspoon baking powder

1/2 cup shortening, margarine, or butter

pinch of salt

Combine all ingredients until very crumbly...

...and then...

Divide the liquid, pouring equal amounts into each pie shell (unbaked)...Sprinkle the crumbs over the top...Bake in a 375 to 400-degree oven for 30 to 35 minutes.



# LAMB JAVANESE

(and Why the Phillies Won the World Series in 1980)

FROM JACK CZARNECKI, OWNER OF JOE'S RESTAURANT—FROM  
HIS BOOK, "JOE'S BOOK OF MUSHROOM COOKERY"

*Used by permission*

APPROXIMATE PREPARATION TIME: 1 HOUR  
MAKES 4 SERVINGS

This is a spicy dish done in the kabob style and is ideal for outdoor grilling. I think the marinade used is one of the best I've ever come across.

We ate Javanese Lamb one afternoon in August, 1980, a time when the Phillies were rolling along in what looked to be another so-so



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season. I'm a big Philadelphia Phillies fan, and that afternoon we had invited ballplayers Steve Carlton, Tug McGraw, and Tim McCarver and their wives and some friends for a day of serious wine tasting, swimming, and food. We ate, drank, told stories, and otherwise had a good time eating Lamb Javanese, lobster, and wineberries.

The following weekend, the Phillies swept four games from the Pittsburgh Pirates, and that ignited the spark that ultimately sent them to the world championship two months later—the first World Series the Phillies ever won! Now, I don't intend to take credit for the Phillies' triumph that year, but if anyone notices the connection, well...

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## LAMB JAVANESE

*20 pieces well-trimmed lamb loin, cubed into 1-inch pieces*

*12 medium fresh domestic mushrooms*

*1 large green pepper, cut into 1-inch squares*

*3 ounces Brazil nuts, chopped fine*

*2 teaspoons coriander, ground*

*2 teaspoons chili powder*

*2 teaspoons garlic, chopped fine*

*2 tablespoons lemon juice*

*1 tablespoon brown sugar*

*1/4 teaspoon fresh ground pepper*

*5 tablespoons soy sauce*

*3 tablespoons salt*

*1 large onion, chopped fine*

*1/2 cup red wine*

*2 tablespoons vinegar*

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# LAMB JAVANESE

1. Place the lamb, mushrooms, and peppers on a skewer, alternating the three until everything is used up.
2. Combine the rest of the ingredients, and blend well.
3. Pour the marinade into a wide, shallow pan, and place the skewers of meat and mushrooms into the marinade. Turn frequently to cover completely. Let the meat sit at room temperature in the marinade for 30 minutes.
4. Broil the meat for 3 minutes on each side, adding more marinade as needed. Serve over rice.



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## RHUBARB SPONGE PIE

2/3 cup sugar

2 tablespoons butter

3 tablespoons flour

1 cup milk

1 cup chopped rhubarb

2 eggs, separated

Cream sugar and butter. Add flour, egg yolks, milk, and rhubarb. Fold in beaten egg whites. Bake in unbaked pie shell for 20 minutes at 425 degrees and 325 degrees for 20 minutes or until knife inserted comes out clean.

...Anita Breniza, Shippensburg

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## STRAWBERRY SOUP

1 quart fresh strawberries (1 lb. frozen berries may be substituted)

1/4 cup sugar (or more to taste)

1 cup low fat sour cream

1/2 cup half and half

1 tbl. white wine

Combine strawberries and sugar in food processor. Add remaining ingredients and mix well. Serve in chilled soup bowls and garnish with whole or sliced strawberries, mint leaf and whipped cream. Serves four.

*Courtesy of Richard E. Frank, Innkeeper, Golden Oak Inn, Troy, Pa.*

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## STUFFED FRENCH TOAST

1 cup ricotta cheese

2/3 cup orange marmalade

1 tbl. honey

5 eggs

1 cup orange juice

1 loaf slightly frozen Italian bread (cut into 12 slices)

confectioners sugar

orange slices

Combine ricotta cheese and marmalade in small bowl and mix until well blended. Wisk together eggs, orange juice and honey in medium size bowl. Spread the cheese mixture on each slice of bread and top with another slice of bread. Dip the sandwiches in the egg mixture and place into large frying pan that was preheated with 1/8 inch oil or clarified butter. Brown on each side and place in preheated 350 degree oven for approximately 10 minutes. Sprinkle with powdered sugar and garnish with orange slices. Serves 6.

*Courtesy of Richard E. Frank, Innkeeper, Golden Oak Inn, Troy, Pa.*



# SPORTS?

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## Old Fashioned Rice Pudding

6 cups milk  
3/4 cup long-grain rice  
1 cup heavy or whipping cream  
3/4 cup sugar  
3 egg yolks, beaten  
2 tsp. vanilla extract  
1/4 tsp. salt  
about 1 tsp. cinnamon or a little nutmeg

Rinse a medium saucepan with cold water (don't dry); pour in milk and bring to a boil over medium heat. Stir in rice and return to a boil. Reduce heat and simmer uncovered, until rice is tender, about 55 mins., stir occasionally. Meanwhile, in a small bowl, combine cream, sugar, egg yolks, vanilla and salt; set aside. When rice is tender, stir in cream mixture until completely combined; heat to a boil. Remove from heat and pour into two-quart serving dish. Fold in beaten egg whites, if desired and sprinkle with cinnamon or nutmeg. Chill.

We prefer the egg whites beaten stiff with about two tbs. of sugar beaten into them and the nutmeg for the top of the pudding. I also add a cup of raisins.

*-Thanks to an anonymous Feedback listener*

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## Applesauce diet cookies

- 2 cups unsifted flour
- 4 teaspoons cinnamon
- 2 teaspoons baking soda
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 teaspoon allspice
- 1 teaspoon nutmeg
- 2 cups Mother's Minute Oats
- 2 cups raisins
- 2 cups applesauce (unsweetened)
- 4 teaspoons vanilla
- 4 teaspoons liquid sweetener
- 1 cup corn oil
- 1 package egg beaters or 4 eggs

Mix all ingredients well and drop by heaping teaspoonsful on a greased cookie sheet. Bake for 12 minutes at 375 degrees. These cookies freeze well



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Reservations Suggested. Thursday is always Mexican Night!

# Zucchini Relish

Mix (in large pan):

10 cups grated zucchini

4 cups chopped onions

2 t. salt (canning, if possible)

Let stand overnight in refrigerator without lid (about 8 hours). Rinse with cold water and drain well in colander.

Return to large pot and add:

2 1/2 cups vinegar 1 teaspoon tumeric

4 cups sugar 1/2 teaspoon black pepper

1 teaspoon celery seed 1 teaspoon nutmeg

3 teaspoons cornstarch

Bring to a boil and let boil three minutes. Seal in sterilized jars immediately. Makes about 7 pints of relish.

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## New England Clam Chowder

1 quart clams	1 tablespoon salt
4 cups potatoes, cut in 3/4" cubes	1 teaspoon pepper
1 1/2 inch cube fat salt pork	4 tablespoons butter
1 sliced onion	4 cups scalded milk
8 common or Boston crackers	

Clean and pick over clams, using 1 cup cold water; drain, reserve liquid. Heat to boiling point and strain. Chop finely hard part of clams. Cut pork in small pieces and try out. Add onion, fry 5 minutes and strain into a stewpan. Parboil potatoes 5 minutes in boiling water to cover; drain and put a layer in bottom of stewpan. Add chopped clams, sprinkle with salt and pepper, dredge with flour, and add 2 1/2 cups boiling water.

Cool 10 minutes. Add mild, soft part of clams, and butter. Boil 3 minutes. Add crackers split and soaked in enough cold milk to moisten.

Reheat clam water to boiling point and thicken with one tablespoon butter and flour cooked together. Add to chowder just before serving.

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# The Thrill of the Grill



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# 1997·FEEDBACK JOURNAL·1997

Modern grills are designed to increase our pleasure in grilling even more. They're extremely versatile, not only in terms of what you can prepare on them, but also how you can use them.

Here are some tips on how to maximize

•If you want to extend the months you enjoy outdoor cooking, then gas grills are for you. Gas grillers are more likely to cook year-round...maybe that's because the fire is so much easier to light and maintain than with charcoal grills.

•Experienced grillers are demanding more from grills than just a fire over coals. They want larger cooking surfaces, shelves, easy ignition, and other convenience features.

•A particularly popular feature on a gas grill is a side burner. This attachment is similar to the burner on your indoor stovetop. You can use it to heat a pot of beans, simmer soup, whatever.

•Many grillers today grill enough for two meals, then reheat later in the microwave. That's a great way to extend that wonderful outdoor taste.

Hamburgers are still the most popular barbecued food, followed by steak, chicken, and hot dogs.



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## CORN FRITTERS

by Verna Dietrich, Dietrich's Meats, Krumsville, Pa.

*2 cups crushed corn*  
*1/2 teaspoon salt*  
*1/2 teaspoon sugar*  
*1/4 cup flour*  
*1 teaspoon baking powder*  
*1/8 teaspoon pepper*  
*2 tablespoons milk*  
*2 eggs, lightly beaten*  
*Shortening for frying*

Put all ingredients except the shortening in the blender and mix well.

Melt shortening in frying pan and drop corn mixture by spoonfuls into hot shortening. Brown on both sides.

Makes about 16 fritters.

## TIMMY'S PASTRY SHOP

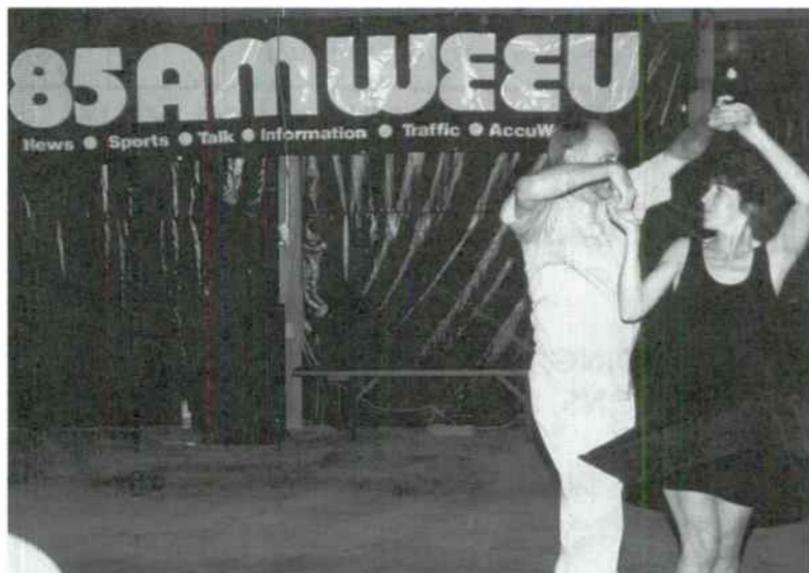
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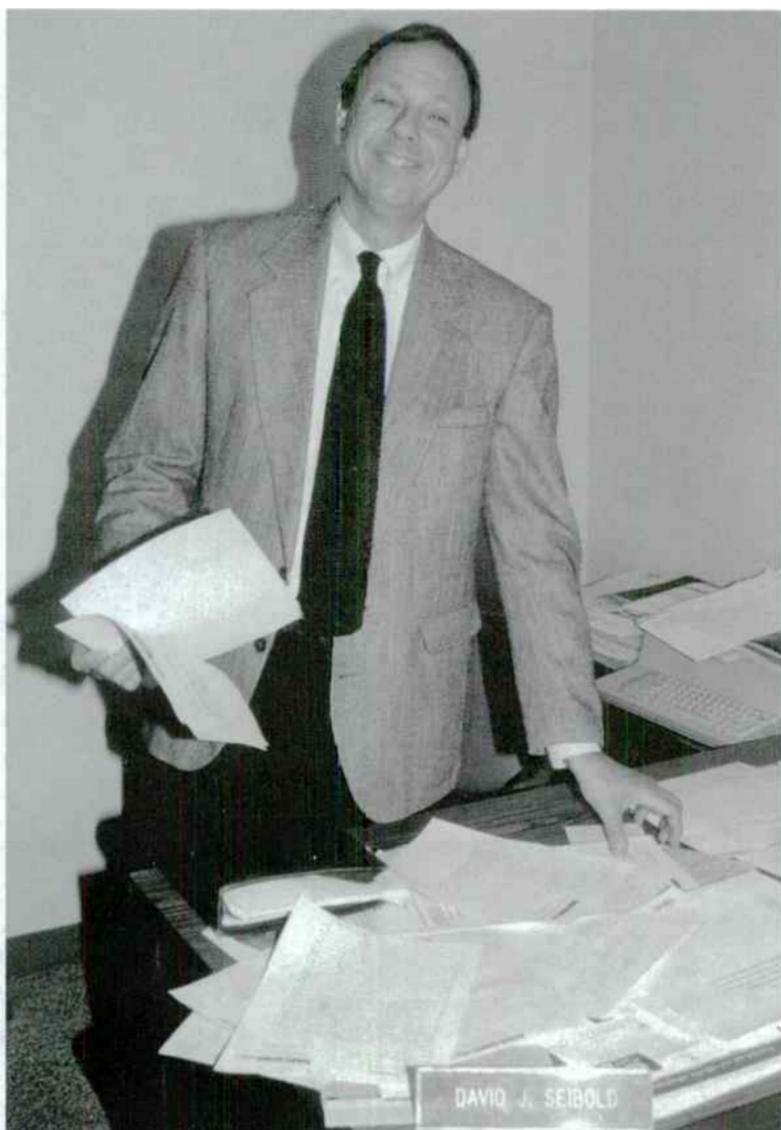


*From a Macarena contest (above) to a ballroom dancing exhibition, WEEU's personalities kept the party moving at the annual Berks County Chamber of Commerce picnic held in August, 1996, at Shearer's Grove.*

# 1997·FEEDBACK JOURNAL·1997



*He's tall, he's talented, and he's the host of the evening hours on WEEU...he's Mike Faust.*



*The cat that ate the canary? No, it's WEEU Senior Account Executive (and host of Seas & Streams) "Captain" Dave Seibold.*



*Caught by the roving lensman is WEEU Chief Engineer John Engle, hard at work behind the scenes at the studio.*

# 1997·FEEDBACK JOURNAL·1997



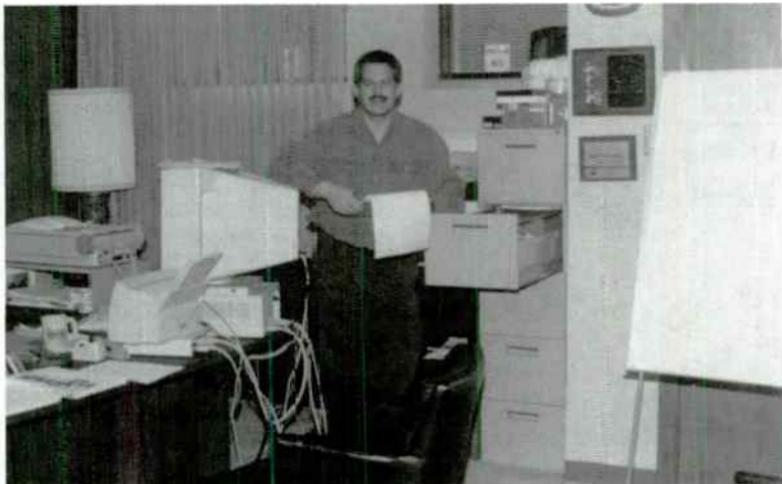
*Surrounded by the tools of his trade, WEEU copy writer Paul Druzba smiles—perhaps because he won first place in the Pennsylvania Association of Broadcasters competition in radio commercial writing in 1996!*



*Look closely and you'll see the "A Clean Desk is the Sign of a Sick Mind" sign somewhere near Charlie Adams' desk...somewhere.*



*Gathering the latest sports news is Sports Director Mitch Gerhart.*



*When he's not on some adventure somewhere in the world, WEEU General Manager "East Side" Dave Kline can sometimes be caught working in his spacious office.*

# 1997·FEEDBACK JOURNAL·1997



*Competitors race all-out to win top honors in Race No. 1 of the WEEU Cycle Series at Maple Grove Raceway. (PHOTO BY DAMON STUEBNER)*



*On the road again is Morning Guy Charlie Adams, seen at Shupp's Grove on a live remote. Moments after this photo was taken, an enterprising dealer tried to sell Charlie as an antique! He was not amused.*

# 1997·FEEDBACK JOURNAL·1997



*'tis a colorful Kaz, the Sunday morning German-Bavarian Show host. That fellow peeking over Kaz's shoulder is Jim Burton, and the chap in the background is Traffic Updater Dave Landis.*



*Jack Holcomb packed 'em in at Bender's Bakery in Hamburg for one of his very popular Feedback Journal book signings.*

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morning  
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You don't hear the Traffic Updates, Sports Checks, Local and ABC News, ACCU-Weather reports, silly songs, sillier jokes, Paul Harvey, Rush Limbaugh Morning Update, and who knows what else.

**Now....How does that make you feel?**



*Chowin' down on (health) pizza is your Feedback host Jack Holcomb. He prefers millet seed on his pizza, we're told.*



*Assistant office manager Rebecca Drey strikes a pose while hard at work. Or, at least that's what she told us.*



*WEEU copy writer Paul Druzba peeks around the corner as station receptionist Tracy Gallagher answers a call.*

# 1997·FEEDBACK JOURNAL·1997



*An "ice guy" is Roger Mallon, of the Sunday morning "A Great Day Outdoors" show on WEEU. He's seen here fishing in February on frozen Hopewell Lake.*



*You may not want to be reminded of the blizzard of '96, but WEEU folks (l. to r.) John Engle, Dave Kline, Jo Painter and Jack Holcomb remember it all too well!*

# 1997·FEEDBACK JOURNAL·1997

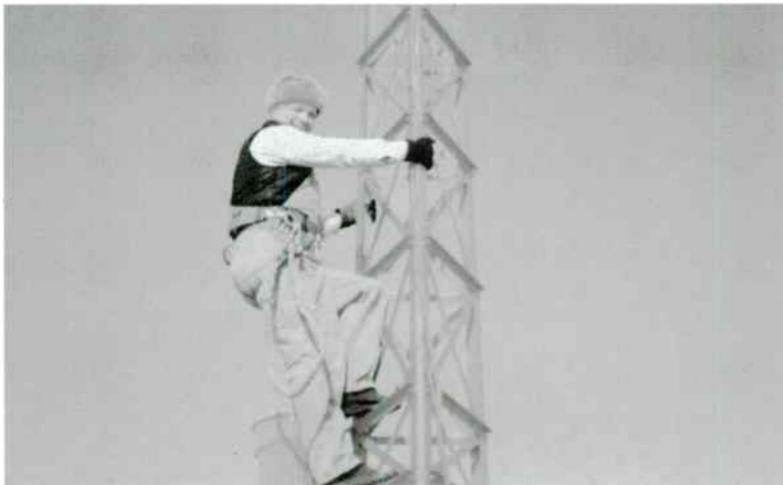


*When news breaks, WEEU is there. Suzy Sands casts a long shadow at Air Force One when President Clinton visited Kutztown University in 1995.*



*East Side Dave Kline, Charlie Adams and Jo Painter interview Luanne Lesperance, executive director of the Reading Musical Foundation, at the Holiday Jam at the Peanut Bar in November, 1996. (PHOTO BY DAN DEVINE)*

# 1997·FEEDBACK JOURNAL·1997



*We'll bet electrician J.I. Miller can spin some "tall tales" after replacing a light bulb atop the broadcast towers of WEEU in Spring Township!*



*The WEEU Ski Team is all dressed up for the annual Winter Mardi Gras on the skis at Alpine Mountain.*

# JO PAINTER

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# Scott Martin's Autorama

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## Thank You!

Another year has passed, and during that time, I have had the privilege to personally meet many of the Feedback listeners.

I enjoy the private relationships that have evolved as part of this "Feedback Family."

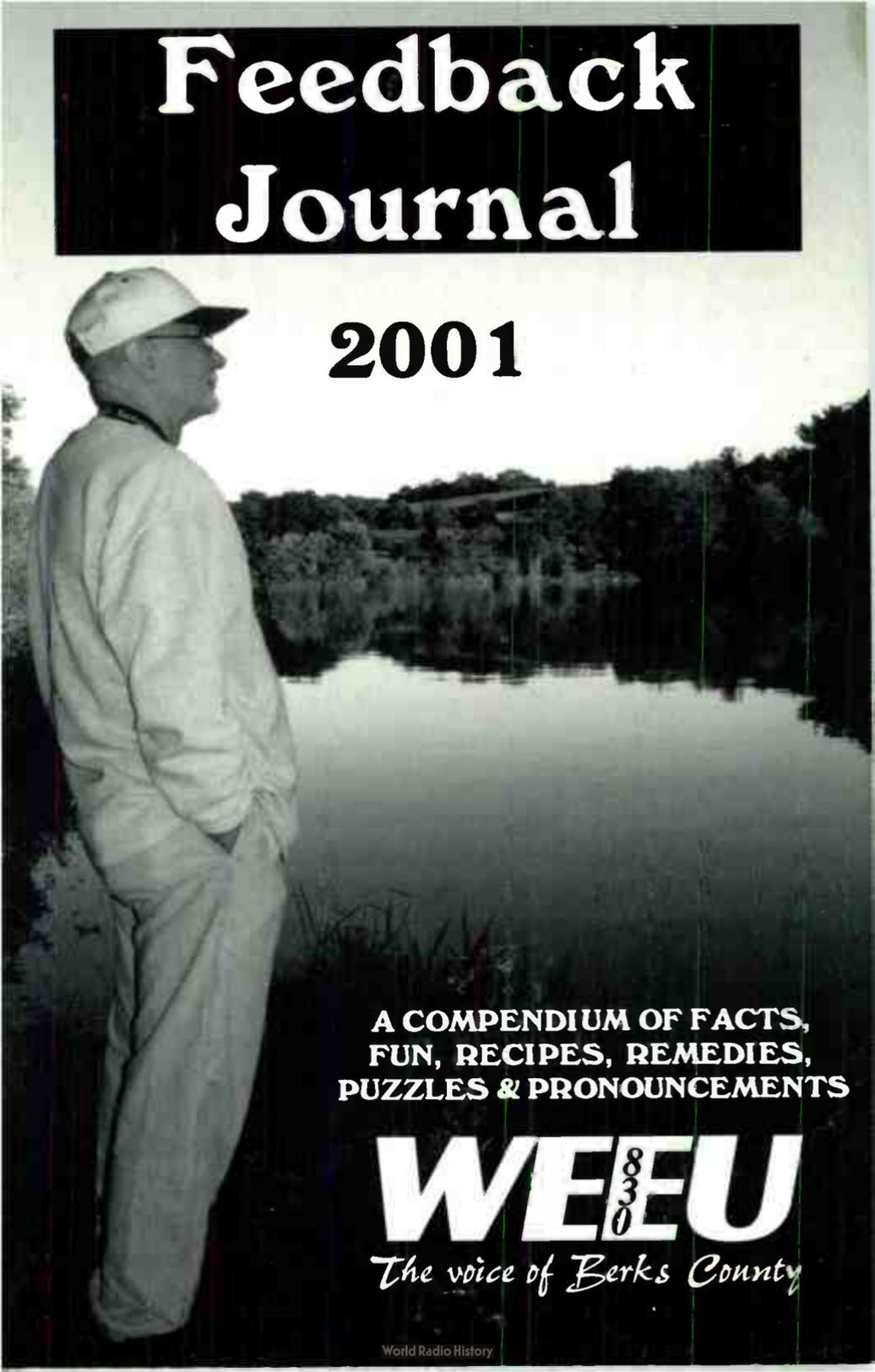
My expression of thanks is just a small way to say how much I appreciate the opportunity to serve you.

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# Feedback Journal

**2001**



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**2001  
Feedback  
Journal**

**Published by**

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PRESENTS THE Autograph PAGE

*Irene  
Thanks for  
listening*

*Jack  
Holcomb*



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# **FEEDBACK JOURNAL**

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**NOT FOR RETAIL SALE**

**Charles J. Adams III, Editor**

**PRINTED IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

# Farewell...

*“Well, I’m lonely now but my heart is free,  
I enjoy a beer and watch a tree,  
I can see a cloud and feel the breeze,  
I can buy some bread and a bit of cheese.  
And I know full well it is my right  
To begin to live the rest of my life.”*

James Kavanaugh  
from “To Begin To Live The Rest Of My Life”

Perhaps the words aren’t there to express exactly how I feel, but it conveys the idea. I have been struggling with this Feedback Journal piece for some time, searching for those “just right” words to express my goodbye to this program and to WEEU.

I have always found it difficult to say goodbye to family and friends even if it would be just a matter of hours until I saw or talked with them again. There has always been an emptiness—and that exists now.

Please let me do it with thanks. Thanks to my WEEU family who has always been there for me.

## 2001•Feedback Journal•2001

The faces have changed over these 44-plus years, but the sentiments have almost always been the same—a kinship that has certainly made my job easier and very worthwhile. I will always be here for you.

My many friends, many met through this radio show, know how I feel about them. They have stuck by me, through many difficult times, and have earned a very special place in my heart. I thank them every time we meet.

Thanks are certainly in order to all of the many dedicated sponsors who have stayed with me over the years securing a faith in my abilities. Please remember that I believe in you, your products and services, and will continue to patronize every one of you. It has been this “connection” that has served us all well.

I would be remiss if I didn’t also thank all of those folks from our community and beyond who joined us as guests. They gave of their time and expertise to share their knowledge, talent, and information with you and me.

Finally, to all of the listeners and callers, THANK YOU! I can never forget that without listeners and callers talk radio is nothing! You have been my backbone, my strength and the encouragement to keep going.

You have given me smiles, tears, and an increasing belief of good in my fellow man and woman. I sat, as a moderator, enjoying the simple and complicated conversations that made “Feedback” unique among radio talk shows—the

## 2001•Feedback Journal•2001

variety of views expressed and always the helping hands.

Although I have had the opportunity to meet many of you there are still those voices that don't have faces for me. I love you all the same and always will. Again, I write a sincere thank you for my success over these many years.

There are many dreams I have yet to fulfill. I'm hoping to find some of them and hopefully, along the way, we will meet again.

I'll be around, looking at birds, photographing butterflies, hiking, reading, cooking, enjoying my distant family and always remembering the joys all of you have given me.....

Be well, and have a bluebird day.....

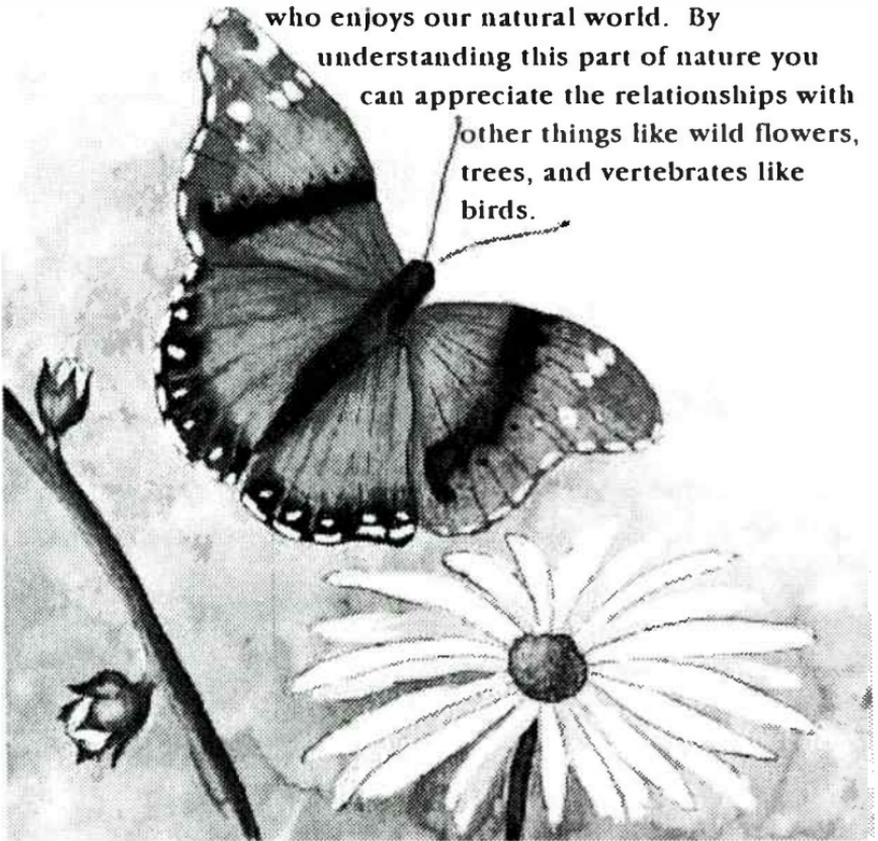
A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "JACK Holcomb". The word "JACK" is written in a simple, blocky font, while "Holcomb" is written in a more fluid, cursive style. A horizontal line is drawn above the signature.

# **BUTTERFLIES IN BERKS COUNTY**

by Ryan Woolwine

According to historical and present-day records, there are close to 100 species of butterflies that have been seen in Berks County. Although not as popular as bird watching, viewing and understanding butterflies is a rewarding experience for anyone who enjoys our natural world. By

understanding this part of nature you can appreciate the relationships with other things like wild flowers, trees, and vertebrates like birds.



## 2001 Feedback Journal 2001

Generally, butterflies can be seen from mid-March through late October and even later depending upon temperatures. The most widely distributed and abundant is the Cabbage White butterfly. This species introduced from Europe is common everywhere and can sometimes be seen flying in December. It is usually the first butterfly seen every year, but others appear early as well. Mourning Cloaks and Question Marks wake from their winter hibernation at the first sign of warm weather. With the ability to withstand colder temperatures, these butterflies can return to their hibernation spots and wait for consistently warmer weather to arrive.

At the onset of warmer temperatures the variety of species increases dramatically.

The iridescent blue Spring Azure, black and yellow Tiger Swallowtail and Black Swallowtail are some of the more commonly-seen species. If you are looking in the right areas you can also see the American Painted Lady, Juvenal's Dusky Wing, Spicebush Swallowtail, and Red Admiral.

While most butterflies are common in fields and gardens, all depend on hostplants (plant species suitable for egg laying and caterpillar development) to perpetuate their species. Less commonly seen species like the Cobweb Skipper, Pine Elfin, Brown Elfin, and Baltimore Checkerspot have certain habitat requirements that can only be met in very small and isolated areas of the county.

These colonies depend upon the correct hostplant to be present every year for their caterpillars to develop. Unfortunately, with habitat destruction and the spraying of pesticides and herbicides, many butterflies throughout the country have been pushed into smaller and fewer suitable habitats. The majestic orange, black, and silver Regal Fritillary was once a resident of Berks County and elsewhere.

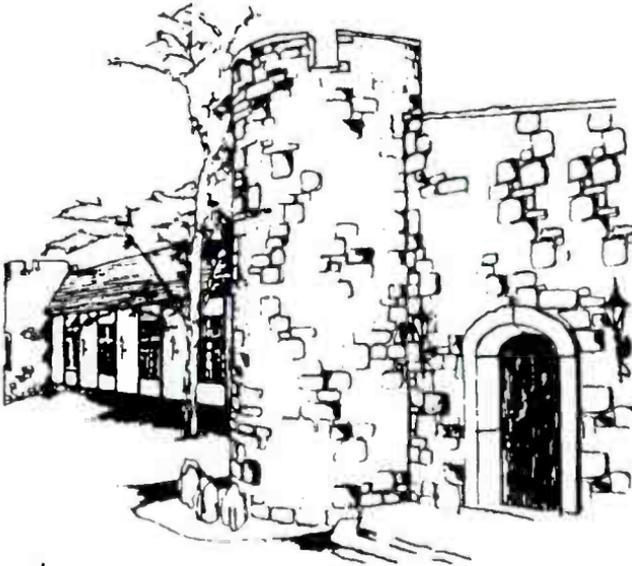
## 2001 Feedback Journal 2001

The large prairie-like grasslands this butterfly required were plowed under and divided, causing the extirpation of the Regal Fritillary from almost its entire eastern range. Today only one sustainable colony exists east of the Mississippi River. While hope for this butterfly still burns strongly for conservationists, it is doubtful the range of this beautiful butterfly will ever return to its former glory.

There is much we can do to benefit local butterfly populations as a whole. Introducing native hostplants to our own landscapes and eliminating harmful pesticides are the two biggest contributions we can make. Many native plants integrate well into existing landscapes and are generally disease and drought resistant.

More than planting a Butterfly Bush to attract adults, we can all commit a small part of our gardens for growing hostplants. Plants like Queen Anne's Lace, Swamp Milkweed, Butterfly Weed and Asters all give showy flowers, but more importantly provide hostplants for some of our most conspicuous butterflies. In particular, the caterpillar of the well-known Monarch butterfly depends upon Milkweeds entirely for its continuation. The nectar of these plants also provides excellent adult energy sources for delicate Hairstreak butterflies, among others. The seeds of many native hostplants can be easily collected when flowers are finished blooming and seedpods open. Most seeds should be scattered during the fall to grow the following spring. Once established, many flowers will self-sow and usually require little if no future care.

Many of the names and facts written here can only be appreciated by experiencing them first hand out in nature. A field guide and a willingness to explore our world is all that is needed to appreciate some of the most beautiful creatures on earth



  
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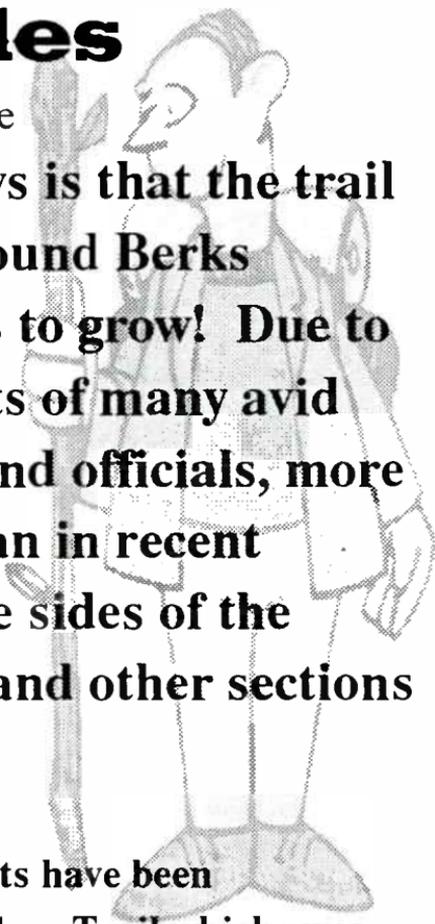
  
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# **Trail Tales**

by East Side Dave Kline

**The good news is that the trail system in and around Berks County continues to grow! Due to the diligent efforts of many avid trail volunteers and officials, more miles of trails than in recent memory grace the sides of the Schuylkill River and other sections of the county.**



**Major improvements have been accomplished on the Thun Trail which runs from Route 10 near Angelica Lake to Birdsboro and beyond! And more plans are in the works to expand that and other trails, providing peaceful portals through woods and fields for**

## 2001•Feedback Journal•2001

hikers, bikers, cross country skiers and in some cases, folks on horseback!

If there's any bad news at all, it is that perhaps some of the trails are currently under-utilized! While most Berks Countians have heard of or used the wonderful Gring's Mill Path, which connects Reber's Bridge Road out near Blue Marsh Lake to the Stone cliff Park and beyond, many have not yet discovered the "other" trail opportunities that await them.

For instance, Blue Marsh Lake offers about 30 miles of well marked trail around its shores. Winding up and over hills and valleys, across streams and coves, this trail has been heralded as one of the "nicest in the country" by many enthusiasts! It is a common practice for some gung-ho-type mountain bikers to navigate the entire trail system in one outing! But many people that come to enjoy "casual" recreation on the trails at Blue Marsh Lake tend to stick to shorter jaunts of five miles or less on the "front" side of the lake, hiking or biking along the trail between Stilling Basin and the State Hill Boat Ramp, or on the trail in the Dry Brooks Recreation Area. Enjoyable as these trails are, they are surpassed in beauty and length by the trails found on the "back" side of the lake. These trail sections arguably offer the best environment of all on the Blue Marsh trail system.

Once you find the appropriate parking areas, and explore these sections of the trail, (leaving behind the, at times, exuberant, high-decibel reminders of "civilized" recreation on the main lake which are created by legions of enthusiastic power boat and jet ski sportsman), you

## 2001•Feedback Journal•2001

will find a great degree of peace and tranquility.

Therefore, it stands to reason, that if you enjoy nature and the sights, sounds and smells one can enjoy while out in “it”...you’ll seldom return to the “front” side of the lake, preferring to find your own space and place in the calmer “back” sections of the trail.

There are places for you to park near where Spring Creek crosses under the Brownsville Road, as well as trailhead at Lamb’s Hill Road, Peacock Road, Skinner Peninsula off of Church and Lake Road, and right out on Church Road where it turns from Route 183 and crosses the main channel of the lake. (This section of the lake is posted as a no-wake zone, so dutiful power boaters and jet skiers keep their craft down to a speed that not only decreases wake and wave height, but also reduces engine noise.) Best of all, the Army Corp of Engineers provides a well detailed trail map and you need only get one of those, (at almost any trail head or in the main ranger office), to assist you in finding your way to the “back” parking areas and trail sections.

If you’ve ever been frustrated while trying to enjoy birdwatching on the “front” side of the lake, on the “back” side you’ll find all manner of habitat. In one outing, at a peaceful cove near a little creek, our own Jack Holcomb identified several species of birds, including a Belted King Fisher, Red-Tail Hawk and even a Yellow-Billed Cuckoo!

The back coves at sunset are a sight to behold because as the sun sets, the fish rise, forming countless circular wave pools that lazily spread out across the cove creating

## 2001•Feedback Journal•2001

a pattern of sheer beauty as the delicate last rays of the day play across their crests in what seems like a shimmering array of watery jewelry! To watch Jack at peace in this peaceful place is a real treat. He quietly watches and listens. While “observing” he is unlike the gentleman who has, for decades, made a living by chatting with folks from near and far on the “Feedback” radio show. He stands still...motionless...binoculars in hand...then all at once he speaks...

“*Catbird*”...

that’s it...

just...

“*Catbird*.”

Once the identification has been made and offered, the quiet regains the moment and we slip back to the kind of solitude that empowers one to truly study, listen, learn and appreciate.

Far up the cove a familiar “squawk” arouses the ear and soon enough a Great Blue Heron flies past on it’s way to the evening roost. As it passes over the water, hundreds of carp react at once, as if they are one entity! Throughout the length of the cove, they flip and dive for cover as the bird flies on, low over their domain! Too low for comfort!

Just after sunset, the dusky light reveals that members of the resident census of bats have come out to gorge themselves on bugs which are quite numerous in the evening sky. As they dart to and fro one can only wonder how they really manage to eat anything, especially anything as tiny and elusive as a bug on the

## 2001•Feedback Journal•2001

wing!

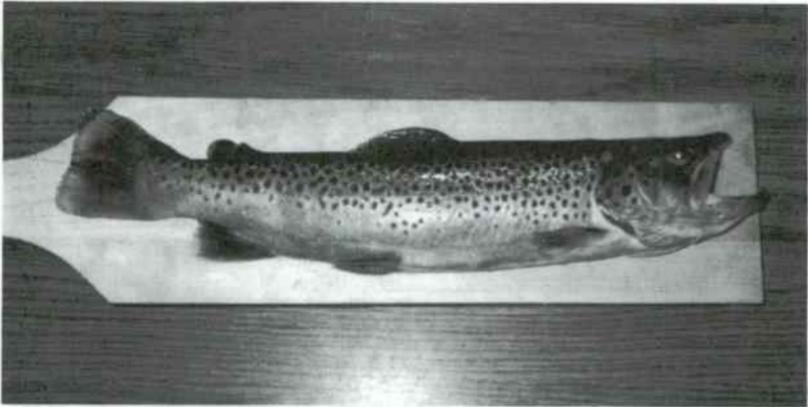
For those who have been frustrated by the sometimes-difficult fishing presented on the “front” side of the lake, the “back” coves offer plenty of action if you just take some time to learn the right time of day and bait patterns that plentiful species like Rainbow Trout, Brown Trout, Carp and Catfish prefer. You’ll also have to do some legwork to find your own special “hole” near where one of many ice-cold springs bubble up to join the lake’s watershed. Once you get through this phase of your exploration, you’ll soon find that fishing in the coves is very productive, exciting and rewarding! Back here there is no need for a boat and engine. Just find your own little piece of the miles of shoreline and have yourself a memorable time! (Please be cautious to always take out whatever refuse you bring in. Nothing spoils the “look” of the shoreline like old, discarded Styrofoam worm containers and such. And, although temptation is always very high, you may want to consider practicing “catch and release” fishing whenever possible.) Be sure to take a camera just in case you catch that “really big” one!

All in all, spending time on the “back” acreage of Blue Marsh Lake will treat you to many hours of splendid recreation. And in the end, those moments will reward you with a lifetime of happy memories and a vast collection of your very own interesting trail tales!

•  
LISTEN TO EAST SIDE DAVE AND  
“MOUNTAIN FOLK”  
SUNDAY MORNINGS ON WEEU



*Daniel Webster shows off a nice catfish caught in the evening in one of the many productive back coves of Blue Marsh Lake.*



*The many spring-fed creeks that flow into Blue Marsh Lake are great places to fish for species like this Brown Trout. This one was taken from the no-wake zone of the lake.*



*Bob Entler and his faithful dog "Jesse" take a break from the fishing action at Blue Marsh Lake. Bob co-hosts the "A Great Day Outdoors" radio show with Roger Mallon on WEEU*

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and  
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Where Do You Find Them?

## WHERE YOU FIND THEM OF COURSE!

by Scott Fraser. Fly Fish America

"Trout are where you find them," said the old fisherman standing next to me on the river. He must have picked up on my "where in the heck do I cast my fly" expression, and figured I needed a hint. I thanked him for the advice and headed downstream to a place I had caught a fish last summer. I began casting to a spot behind a rock, still puzzled by what he meant.

That was sixteen years ago, and a lot of trial and error has brought an understanding of the magic and basic biology in what the old fisherman said. Trout are "where they are" because of a simple biological equation in which they must come out ahead: Calorie intake must be greater than calorie expenditure. Life is good only for those trout that can find a place secure from predators and heavy currents (minimizing calorie expenditure), with a good food supply (maximizing calorie intake).

Trout inhabit specific lies in the river based upon their size. The largest trout will be found in the "best" spots: where current brings the greatest amount of food to places where structure permits fish to hold with the least amount of energy expenditure. It's sort of like being able to reach the peanuts without having to get up off the couch. When you find one of these "big fish cafes" write down its location in your fishing journal.

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An excellent spot for trout to find their dinner requirements is a current seam: an area where slow and fast water meet. Trout can simply laze around in the slower water waiting for dinner to arrive. Current seams are high percentage lies, especially during a hatch. They're also great places to try first if you're new to a stream.

Remember to think in three dimensions, the most important dimension being "down." Look below the surface for structure that may create sheltered pockets, then explore them. If you're nymph fishing, watch how your line and fly behave: If either stops or slows abruptly, then you've found a pocket. A great technique for locating pockets is to fish a two-fly rig: a nymph on a dropper under a dry fly. If your dry fly starts to drag, chances are your nymph is in a sheltered pocket (or you're hung up, or you have a fish on!).

The best piece of gear you can own is a good pair of polarized sunglasses. The \$6.95-variety "polarized" sunglasses don't provide sufficient contrast or light transmission to be of much help at depth.

When fishing current seams-with dry flies or nymphs-drop the fly at the top of the seam just to the fast-water side, then let it drift. Trout will be sitting in the slower water watching for food. Depending on the hydrodynamics of the seam, insects will either spinout from the faster water into the slower water, or the trout will move out into the current to feed.

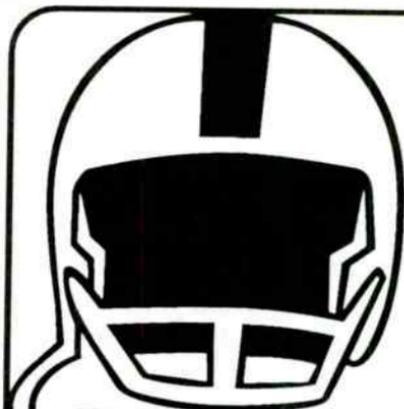
Another favorite spot of mine is a back eddy, which can be created by a ledge or other type of structure protruding out from the bank into deeper water. Eddies sometimes look like small coves, and always have three important characteristics: a current seam at the outer edge; an area of very slow moving

## 2001•Feedback Journal•2001

water in the center; and a moderated current flowing upstream along the bank.

Eddies are gold mines! Trout can be found sitting along the inside edge of the seam (facing upstream); or cruising the slow middle section looking for food that has washed in from the main river or is left over from an earlier hatch; or holding (facing downstream) in the moderated upstream current along the bank, waiting to pick off insects entering the eddy from the main river.

Remember that most food enters an eddy at its downstream end, so as long as there's some shelter from the current-even if it's just the center section of the eddy-the big guys are going to stake out this prime territory.



Penn State Football  
Philadelphia Eagles  
Philadelphia Phillies  
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Regional College  
Bowl Games  
...sport checks 'round the  
clock...

# SPORTS

**WE GOT GAME(S)**

**WEEU**

# New York's Canal Region: Miles Of History

The New York Canal System, which recently celebrated its 175th anniversary, is a destination for Berks Countians to consider for a driving vacation not really that far from home.

The Canal System stretches from Lake Erie to the Hudson River, and offers a combination of outdoor, entertainment and historical experiences—from the celebrated Ozfest (as in, *The Wizard of Oz*) to canal cruising aboard luxurious houseboats, cruise ships and even mule-drawn packet boats. In fact, the Canal System offers more miles of historic sights than any other single location in the United States.

Governor DeWitt Clinton broke ground for the Erie Canal on July 4, 1817. The first section was completed in 1820, and the entire 363-mile length was finished in 1825. The project more than recouped its \$7 million cost. Between 1825 and 1882, the state collected more than \$121 million in tolls along the canal. By 1918, the Erie Canal had joined with three shorter canals to form the New York State Barge Canal System, which measured 524 miles long.

Today, the Canal System remains one of New York's premier tourist destinations, with a number of splendid attractions for a sophisticated vacation, including:

•**Whitehall.** The birthplace of the American Navy in the Revolutionary War can be seen at the Whitehall Urban Cultural Park Visitor Center/Skenesborough Museum, located along the Champlain Canal (mid-June through October).

•**Waterford.** Gateway to the Erie Canal from the Hudson, it's where one can find the historic "Flight of Five," a series of five locks with a total vertical lift of 165 feet—higher than any other canal in the world.

•**Rome.** The 1840-1860 era Erie Canal village is an outdoor, living history museum located alongside a portion of the original Erie Canal (May through September).

•**Chittenango.** For family fun, visit *Wizard of Oz* author

## 2001•Feedback Journal•2001

L. Frank Baum's home and stay for the annual Ozfest (summer). There's even a yellow brick road in the center of town.

•**Syracuse.** The nation's leading maritime museum specializing in Erie Canal history, the Erie Canal Museum/Syracuse Urban Cultural Park Visitor's Center is located in a landmark 1850s "weighlock" building, the only surviving canal boat weighing station (year-round).

•**Lockport.** Take a guided tour on the Erie Canal through 2,430 feet of tunnel, blasted out in 1858-59 at the Lockport Caves and Underground Boat Ride (late May through mid-September).

•**Cayuga-Seneca region.** Take a boat along the canal and cruise one of the lakes to take in some of New York's finest vineyard productions.

•**Seneca Falls.** In 1848, the first Women's Rights Convention was held. The site is now home to the Women's Rights National Historical Park and one of the Canal's newest harbors.

For cyclists, hikers and in-line skaters, the Canal area features more than 220 miles of trails. Anglers may "cast" their eyes toward the Oswego Canal, famous for bass and salmon fishing.

In addition, throughout the Canal area, visitors can rent old-fashioned lockmaster boats; check out romantic canal-side inns, boutiques, shops, spas and restaurants; explore numerous historical battle sites; and enjoy more than 50 food and music festivals scheduled yearly.

For more information about how your family can enjoy a New York Canal vacation, call 1-800-4-CANAL-4, ext. 100 or visit the website at [www.canals.state.ny.us](http://www.canals.state.ny.us).

### **Berks County Scholastic Sports**

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When a hurricane leaves in its wake a major disaster, the name of that hurricane is "retired." Actually, it is retired from use for only ten years. Here is a list of the names of hurricanes that have been retired, and when they were retired.

AGNES, 1972	CAROL, 1954	HATTIE, 1961
ALICIA, 1983	CELIA, 1970	HAZEL, 1954
ALLEN, 1980	CLEO, 1964	HILDA, 1964
ANDREW, 1992	CONNIE, 1955	HUGO, 1989
ANITA, 1988	DAVID, 1979	IONE, 1955
AUDREY, 1957	DIANA, 1990	INEZ, 1966
BETSY, 1965	DIANE, 1955	JANET, 1955
BEULAH, 1967	DONNA, 1960	JOAN, 1988
BOB, 1991	DORA, 1964	KLAUS, 1990
CAMILLE, 1969	ELENA, 1985	LUIS, 1995
CARLA, 1961	ELOISE, 1975	MARILYN, 1995
CARMEN, 1974	FLORA, 1963	OPAL, 1995
	FREDERIC, 1979	ROXANNE, 1995
	GILBERT, 1988	
	GLORIA, 1985	

# 2001 Feedback Journal 2001

FROM Allison  
to Wendy...



When a storm brews in the tropics and intensifies with rotary circulation and speeds of about 39 miles per hour, the National Hurricane Center gives it a name and it's on its way to becoming a possible hurricane. Here is the list of names which will be used in 2001 for those hurricanes:

Allison  
Barry  
Chantal  
Dean  
Erin  
Felix  
Gabrielle

Humberto  
Iris  
Jerry  
Karen  
Lorenzo  
Michelle  
Noel

Pablo  
Rebekah  
Sebastien  
Tanya  
Van  
Wendy

## **DID YOU KNOW?**

**The names of hurricanes are recycled. In 2002, the names used in 1996 will be re-used. In 2003, the 1997 names will be used.**

**The letters Q, U, X, Y, and Z are never used because there are just not enough names starting with those letters.**



# Extreme Weather

THE ULTIMATE GUIDE:  
COURTESY, DISCOVERY CHANNEL

☀️ **100 Percent of weather occurs in the troposphere, the seven-mile distance above the earth's surface.**

☁️ **Hurricanes, typhoons, and cyclones are one and the same—different names in different languages. They all refer to the murderous mass of waterlogged air with the power equivalent of all the world's nuclear armories.**

☀️ **Heat, water, and gas are the three things necessary for weather. These three basic ingredients produce a sunny day, a gentle breeze and a shower of rain or killer storm.**

☁️ **In World War II, more damage was done to the U.S. Navy by weather than by any enemy.**

## 2001•Feedback Journal•2001

 Every year in the United States, lightning strikes 40 million times. The Empire State Building gets hit, on the average, 23 times a year.

 The best place for a golfer to go in an electrical storm is in his car with the windows closed. The metal body attracts the lightning and conducts it away from anything inside and into the ground.

 A tornado, the fastest wind on earth, starts as a thunderstorm. Tornadoes spiral across the landscape containing wind-speeds of up to 300 miles an hour. Harmless unless they touch down, they're killers if they do.

 Monsoons are the world's heaviest rain. They occur in Africa and throughout Southern Asia, but the Indian monsoons are the biggest.

 The hillside town of Cherrapunji in the Himalayas is the wettest place on earth. It has a yearly average of 36 feet of rainfall, and it has been known to rain there as much as 75 feet per year!

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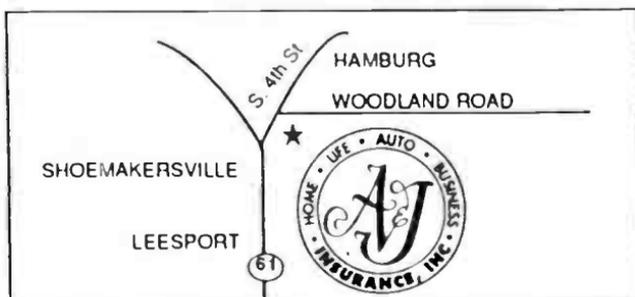
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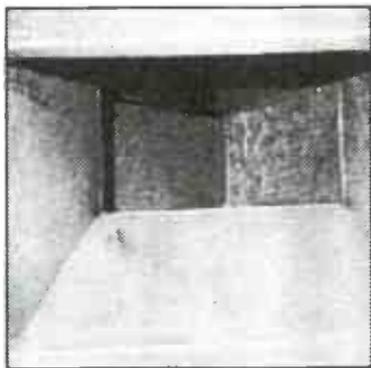
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# ANAGRAMANAG RAMANAGRAMA

An anagram, as you all know, is a word of phrase made by or rearranging the letters of another word or phrase.

The following are exceptionally clever.

Desperation  
The Morse Code  
Slot Machines  
Animosity  
Mother-in-law  
Snooze Alarms  
Alec Guinness  
Semolina  
The Public Art Galleries

A Decimal Point  
The Earthquakes  
Eleven plus two  
Contradiction  
Astronomer  
Princess Diana

A Rope Ends It  
Here come Dots  
Cash Lost in 'em  
Is No Amity  
Woman Hitler  
Alas! No More Z's  
Genuine Class  
Is No Meal  
Large Picture Halls,  
I Bet  
I'm a Dot in Place  
That Queer Shake  
Twelve plus one  
Accord not in it  
Moon Starer  
End Is A Car Spin

•  
WHEN A KANGAROO IS NERVOUS, it licks its FOREARMS.  
NO ONE KNOWS why.

## *Try this test....*

### ARE YOU ANOTHER EINSTEIN.?

A quick test of intelligence (?).

***Don't cheat!*** Because if you did,  
the test would be no fun.

We PROMISE, there are no tricks to the test.

Read this sentence:

**Finished files are the result of years  
of scientific study combined with  
the experience of years.**

Now count aloud the F's in that sentence.

Count them ONLY ONCE:

Do not go back and count them again.

ANSWER:

*There are six F's in the sentence.*

*Most people find three of them.*

*If you spotted four, you're above average.*

*If you got five, you can turn your nose at most anybody.*

*If you caught six, you are a genius.*

*There is no catch. Many people forget the "OF"s.*

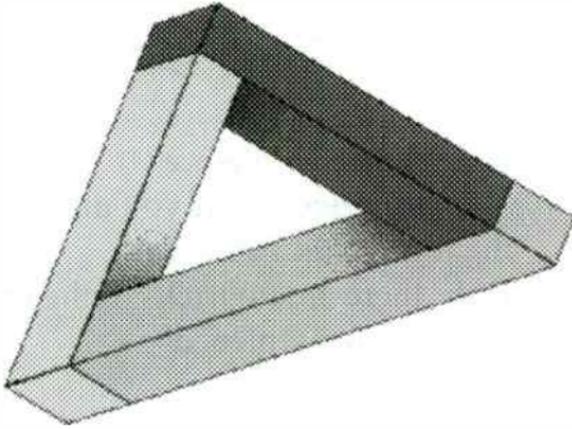
*The human brain tends to see them as V's and not F's.*

*Pretty weird, huh? It fools almost everybody.*

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## EYE TWISTER #1

*Figure out where this triangle's going!*



*life*  
*business*



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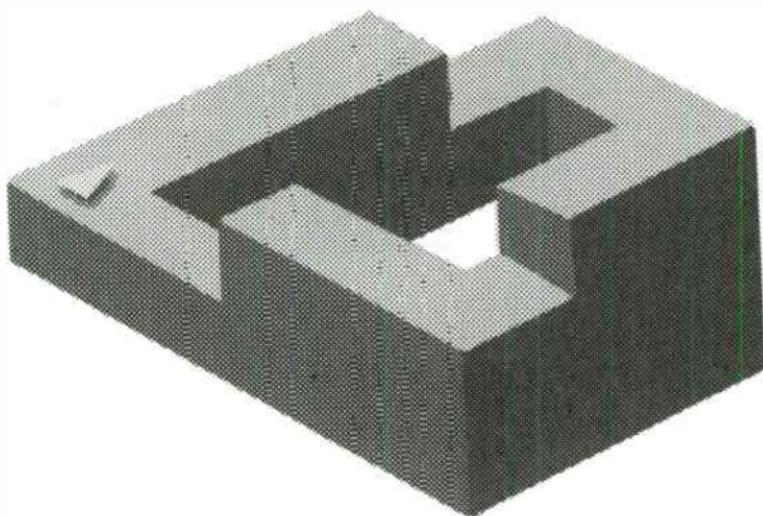
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2001 Feedback Journal 2001

**EYE TWISTER #2**

*Up, up, up???*



**OWN A  
MASTERPIECE**

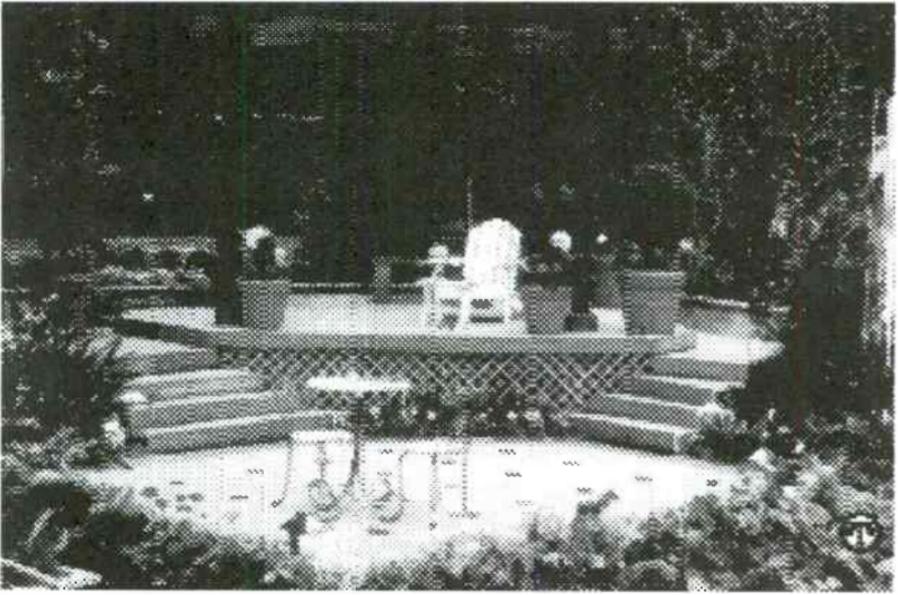


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## **You: A Low Maintenance Gardener?**

If you're thinking of walking the planks-the planks of your own garden deck-you may want one that stands up to the elements in addition to being beautifully designed. That is just one of the reasons that a growing number of homeowners are choosing plastic or composite lumber when designing their gardens.

There are a number of ways that can help make a garden "greener."

- By choosing recycled plastics, homeowners save themselves the time, labor and expense of replacing unsafe, rotted, warped or splintered wood. Plus, no stain is needed because the color is molded in. No sealant is needed because plastic is inherently water-and pest-resistant.

- Many gardeners already rely on plastics to help them maintain the right levels of moisture in their lawns, gardens and flower beds. Hoses, bed liners and drainage pipes are some of the most commonly used examples. You can even collect rainwater in special rain recyclers. What is less widely known is that many of these items are available made with recycled plastic content.

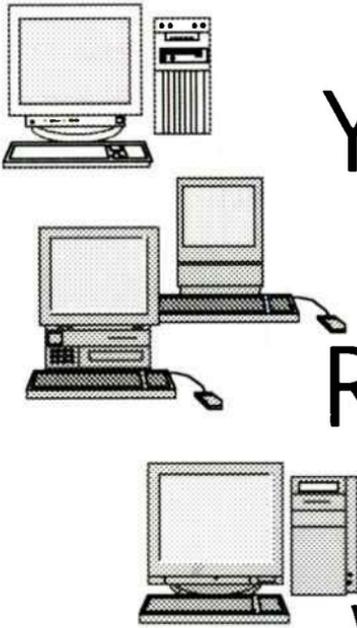
## 2001 • Feedback Journal • 2001

By using recycled products, we are giving new life to those materials we recycled. Plastic milk jugs are transformed into raised bed timbers and chairs, just to name two examples.

Each product lends a certain beauty to the garden and a second breath to the materials we recover.

A free booklet called Garden and Landscaping Recycled Products is available from the American Plastics Council by calling 800-2-HELP-90 or by visiting the American Plastics Council's web site at [www.plastics.org](http://www.plastics.org).

For a growing number of gardeners a green thumb not only refers to plants, but to designing and maintaining their gardens in ways that conserve resources. That lovely Adirondack chair in the background is no exception. It was made from 240 recycled plastic milk jugs.



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# 2001 Feedback Journal 2001

The following poem was selected for the Feedback Journal by WEEU morning personality Charlie Adams. It is one of his favorites, by the Irish poet William Butler Yeats.

## When You Are Old

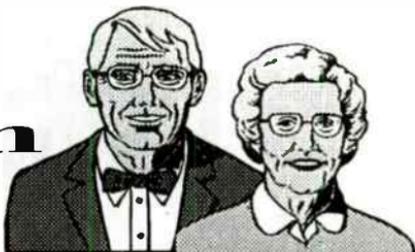
When you are old and grey and full of sleep,  
And nodding by the fire, take down this book,  
And slowly read, and dream of the soft look  
Your eyes had once, and of their shadows deep;

How many loved your moments of glad grace,  
And loved your beauty with love false or true,  
But one man loved the pilgrim soul in you,  
And loved the sorrows of your changing face;

And bending down beside the glowing bars,  
Murmur, a little sadly, how love fled  
And paced upon the mountains overhead  
And hid his face amid a crowd of stars.

W.B. Yeats

# I am a Human Being



I am a Human Being, who, through my contribution to society during my productive years, helped to mold a decent place in life for my generation and the generations that followed me.

I like to be treated with respect and dignity just as I have always tried to treat others.

I am and have been "somebody" over the years, to many people, such as:

My sweetheart

My wife

My husband

My mother

My father

My daughter

My son

My many friends.

If the waning years have been unkind to me, please don't blame me if:

I don't see too well

I don't hear too well

I spill my food

I am incontinent

I need help often

I am cranky (though I don't want to be)

I could be your:

Mother

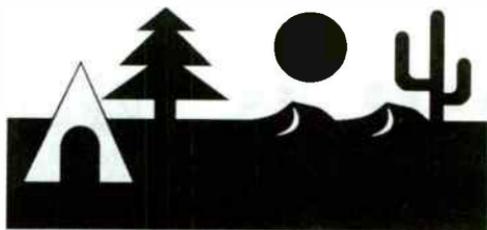
Father

Grandmother

Someday, you may be a "ME!"

A little kindness, a soft word, some acknowledgement by you that I am still a person, not a "thing"....this is all I ask.

*Is it too much?*



# See the World At Any Age

Traveling alone in the mature years is immeasurably more satisfying than the alternative: sitting at home alone.

The trick is overcoming the fears of doing it. According to mature travel expert Jerry Shilan, there are a number of ways for mature travelers to overcome their fears of traveling alone and ensure a safe trip.

"The social benefits of travel provide older persons the opportunity to exercise their mind and body," says Shilan. "For example, one tour operator offers hands-on educational adventures called Road Scholar programs." Shilan has this advice to help mature travelers conquer any fears of going solo and maximize their independent experience.

- Don't Roll the Dice with a Destination:** Traveling solo can be a bit daunting if you've never done it before, so make sure you feel comfortable with the type of destination.
- What do You Want from the Trip:** Reexamine precisely what you want from your journey—a relaxing vacation or an educational experience.
- Traveling Solo or Not So Solo:** Traveling completely

## 2001•Feedback Journal•2001

solo can be a daunting experience. So decide just how solo you want to be. Participating on a group tour is a great way to journey but never be lonely.

•**The Roommate Decision:** Many tour operators offer to pair solo travelers together in a double room. Be honest with yourself.

•**Keep Your Options Open, You Never Know Who'll You'll Meet:** Traveling with a group far from home is often a bonding experience for solo travelers, and many travelers become fast and long-time friends—some even find romance.

•**Is There a Doctor in the House?:** Always put your prescription medications in your carry-on luggage. If your luggage gets lost, you don't want your (possibly) life-saving medications lost with it.

•**Get Connected:** Sign up for a free email account from any of the well-known Internet search engines like Yahoo, Hotmail or Excite, and email your family a postcard while on your trip. You can access your email account from most hotels.

•**Leave the Hassles to Us:** Choosing an organized tour also makes it easier to handle technical travel issues. A tour director takes care of all the baggage, itineraries, tickets, obtaining travel visas, exchanging money, and more.

•**Players, Beware:** If you have any money in the stock market and are going on a tour, ask a trusted individual back at home to monitor the stocks for you. Provide them with your itinerary and telephone numbers to contact you in case of a fluctuation in the market.

•**Home Sweet Home:** To combat homesickness, bring some tastes of home to keep in your hotel room--family photos, familiar-scented sachets, etc. This way, being thousands of miles from home won't feel so unfamiliar and home is only a photograph away.

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question about  
aging issues and  
services, give us a  
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  - *Educating residents about their rights.*

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# OLD AGE ADAGES

I have found at my age going bra-less pulls all the wrinkles out of my face.

You're getting old when you don't care where your spouse goes, just as long as you don't have to go along.

Statistics show that at the age of seventy, there are five women to every man. Isn't that an ironic time for a guy to get those odds?

Middle age is when it takes longer to rest than to get tired.

By the time a man is wise enough to watch his step, he's too old to go anywhere.

A man has reached middle age when he is cautioned to slow down by his doctor instead of by the police.

Middle age is having a choice of two temptations and choosing the one that will get you home earlier.

You know you're into middle age when you realize that caution is the only thing you exercise.

At my age, "getting a little action" means I need to take a laxative.

You're getting old when "getting lucky" means you find your car in the parking lot.

You're getting old when you wake up with that morning-after feeling, and You didn't do anything the night before.



# Benefits of Growing Older

In a hostage situation you are likely to be released first.

No one expects you to run into a burning building.

People call at 9 p.m. and ask "Did I wake you?"

People no longer view you as a hypochondriac.

There's nothing left to learn the hard way.

Things you buy now won't wear out.

You consider coffee to be one of the most important things in life.

You have a party and the neighbors don't even realize it.

Your back goes out more than you do.

Your investment in health insurance is finally beginning to pay off

Your joints are more accurate than the National Weather Service.

Your secrets are safe with your friends because they can't remember  
them, either.

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11. Our Underwear is \$10 a three-pack
12. If you are 34 and single nobody notices
13. Everything on our faces stays the original color
14. Three pair of shoes are more than enough
15. We don't have to clean the house if the meter reader is coming
16. Car mechanics tell us the truth
17. We can sit quietly and watch a game with a friend for hours without thinking "He must be mad at me."
18. Same work-more pay
19. Gray hair and wrinkles only add character
20. We can drop by and see a friend without having to bring a gift
21. If another guy shows up at a party in the same outfit you just might become lifelong friends
22. My pals will never trap me with: "So, notice anything different?"
23. We are not expected to know the names of more than 5 colors
24. We almost never have a "strap problem" in public
25. We are totally unable to see wrinkles in our clothes
26. The same hairstyle lasts for years-maybe decades
27. We don't have to shave below the neck
28. A few belches are expected and tolerated
29. Our belly usually hides our big hips
30. One wallet, one pair of shoes, one color, all seasons
31. We can do our nails with a pocketknife
32. We have freedom of choice concerning growing a mustache
33. Christmas shopping can be accomplished for 25 people on the day before Christmas in 45 minutes.

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*Charlie Paplosky*



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# *Extra Fudgy Raspberry Swirl Bars*

Preparation time: 15 minutes

Baking time: 35 minutes

Yield: 20 bars

- 1 cup (6 ounces) real semi-sweet chocolate chips
- 1/2 cup butter
- 1 cup sugar
- 2 teaspoons vanilla
- 2 eggs
- 1 cup all-purpose flour
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 3 tablespoons raspberry preserves

Heat oven to 350°. Melt chips and butter in 2-quart saucepan over low heat, stirring occasionally, until smooth (5 to 8 minutes). Remove from heat; stir in sugar and vanilla. Add eggs, one at a time, mixing well after each addition. Add flour and salt; mix just until flour is moistened.

Spread batter into greased 9-inch square baking pan. Drop spoonfuls of preserves on batter in the corners and edges of pan; gently pull knife through batter and preserves toward center for swirled effect. Do Not Over Swirl. Bake for 35 to 40 minutes or until bars just begin to pull away from sides of pan. Cool completely.



### DE-GREASING PIZZA...

### JUST A PAT AWAY!

What's your favorite pizza topping -- pepperoni, mushrooms, anchovies or grease? Grease!? It may not be listed as a topping on the menu, but chances are your pizza is dripping with it. You don't have to eat all that fat -- just do the "Pizza Pat!" According to a recent study, patting pizza with paper towels can be an effective way to help remove excess grease. Results showed that patting the surface of a pizza with an absorbent paper towel can remove up to 14% of total fat (approximately 8 grams per 15" pizza) and up to 17% of saturated fat. The study also showed that paper towels can remove up to 17% of the total cholesterol. So, how do you do the "Pizza Pat?" It's easy: simply lay a paper towel folded into quarters on top of the pizza and pat the surface. Wait for a moment to allow the paper towel to soak up the excess fat and oil, flip the paper towel over or turn it inside out and pat again to pick up any missed grease. Then, just throw the greasy paper towel away. Repeat as necessary.

# 2001 Feedback Journal 2001

## Zucchini Bread

*Amy Riegel was a WEEU intern in 2000. On her last day at WEEU, she brought in some delectible zucchini bread made by her mother, Pam Riegel, to share with the WEEU staff. This is Pam's recipe:*

### Combine in a large bowl:

3 eggs, slightly beaten; 1 cup shortening (Crisco with butter flavor); 3 cups granulated sugar; 3 cups pureed and peeled zucchini (I puree it in the blender and then measure out the 3 cups. This makes the bread really moist.

### Add the following:

3 cups flour; 1 tsp. salt; 3 tsp. cinnamon; 2 tsp. baking powder; 2 tsp. baking soda; 3 tsp. vanilla.

\*Optional: You can add raisins or nuts (1 cup of each)

Preheat oven to 350 degrees, mix ingredients together. Grease and flour 2 loaf pans. Divide batter between 2 pans and bake for one hour.

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## Cheery Idea For Children: Cook With Cherries

A growing number of families are finding a great way to get the warmth of togetherness is to get cooking. Teaching little ones to cook can present big rewards in the form of good eating, time spent together and such educational concepts as math, measurements...and patience.

One dish youngsters love to help make is dessert. Making desserts with cherries helps make them nutritious as well as fun. For example, try this improvement on the ice cream cone.

### Dessert To Go

- 1 (10-ounce) jar maraschino cherries
- 3 cups whipped topping
- 1 (4-serving-size) package any flavor instant pudding (*chocolate is good!*)
- 1-3/4 cups cold milk
- 6 flat-bottom ice cream cones
- Colored sprinkles and/or maraschino cherries, for garnish

1. Put a colander or strainer in a bowl. Pour cherries into the strainer, draining the juice into the bowl. Save the juice to add to orange juice or other drinks; you do not need the juice for this recipe.
2. Put the drained cherries on a cutting board. With a sharp knife, carefully cut each cherry in half. Have an adult show you how to use the knife. Set aside.
3. Prepare pudding according to package directions using 1-3/4 cups cold milk. Refrigerate pudding 10 minutes.
4. Meanwhile, put cherry halves in a large mixing bowl. With a rubber spatula, scoop whipped topping into the bowl. Stir gently until cherries are mixed with whipped topping.
5. Fill each cone with 1/4 cup pudding. Top each with 1/2 cup cherry mixture. Decorate with colored sprinkles or a maraschino cherry. Serve immediately. This dessert is best eaten with a spoon.

## **Celebrating Cinco de Mayo: A Fiesta To Remember**

A fiesta to remember. That's a great way to celebrate May 5, also known as Cinco de Mayo.

"Cinco" honors the victory of Mexican troops at the 1862 Battle of Puebla. It is celebrated throughout Mexico and in Mexican communities in the U.S.

Here in the U.S., the holiday has become a welcome excuse for friends and family to gather for Tex Mex style food. Set the stage by stringing red, white and green pepper-shaped lights outside your home, purchasing brightly colored pinatas for the children to break and playing authentic mariachi music with contemporary Latino favorites.

To make the festivities really sizzle, here's a sensational recipe for Dave's Deep Dish Nachos, created by David Pace. His passion for food, expressed in bold, fresh-tasting Pace sauces, can transform an ordinary meal into a fiesta.

### **DAVE'S DEEP DISH NACHOS**

Prep/Cook Time: 15 min.

Tortilla chips  
Assorted Toppings\* (optional)  
Shredded Cheddar cheese  
Chunky Salsa or Picante Sauce  
Sour Cream

**LAYER** half the tortilla chips in pie plate. Sprinkle with half the toppings. Cover with half the cheese. Repeat layers.  
**BAKE** at 400°F. for 10 min. or until cheese is melted. Top with salsa. Garnish with sour cream.

\*Use one or a combination of the following: Sliced pitted ripe olives, sliced green onions, black beans, chopped cooked chicken.

## **Traditional Italian Biscotti Make Great Homemade Treats**

Americans' love affair with Italian cuisine goes way beyond cappuccino and pasta. Biscotti, crunchy Italian cookies, are another treat savored by Americans for dessert, breakfast or a mid-day snack.

Biscotti, which translates to "twice cooked," are named after the baking process that gives the cookie dough a light flavor and dry, crunchy texture. First baked in loaves, biscotti dough is removed from the oven, sliced while still warm, then returned to the oven. The second baking makes them slightly hard so they can be dipped into a beverage without breaking apart.

While Italians have enjoyed biscotti for centuries, Americans only embraced these crispy cookies recently. Often found at coffee and gourmet shops, biscotti are the perfect treat to accompany hot drinks like lattes, cappuccinos or tea. They also taste great on their own.

Chef Walter Potenza of the acclaimed AquaViva and La Locanda Del Coccio restaurants in Providence, RI, along with the American Butter Institute (ABI), developed some quick tips and an easy, delicious chocolate biscotti recipe for home chefs to try.

- Use real, unsalted butter when making biscotti. Real butter adds a flavor that can't be duplicated.

- Experiment with spices, nuts or chocolate chips. The basic biscotti recipe always includes real butter, sugar, eggs, flour and baking powder and usually a dash of vanilla or almond extract. But when it comes to additional ingredients, the sky's the limit. For a traditional Italian taste, add a teaspoon of ground fennel or anise seeds, which give biscotti a licorice-like flavor. Or, stir in one cup of blanched almonds or toasted hazelnuts before baking. Fresh lemon zest or dried fruit are other delicious additions that can enhance the flavor.

- Biscotti make a terrific gift and can be made several days ahead of time and kept fresh by storing in an airtight container. Take a batch to a dinner party as a hostess gift so

## 2001•Feedback Journal•2001

they can be served with coffee after a meal.

•For an extra boost of chocolate, melt eight ounces of semisweet chocolate with three tablespoons of unsalted butter and drizzle over one side of baked biscotti. Cool on a rack until the chocolate is firm.

### **Chocolate Biscotti**

Makes 2 loaves or

24-30 3" x 1"-long cookies

Prep time: 35 minutes

Cook time: 45 minutes

1/2	cup (1 stick) unsalted butter
1	cup granulated sugar
3	eggs
1	tablespoon vanilla extract
3	cups all-purpose bleached flour
1/4	cup cocoa powder
1	tablespoon baking powder
1	cup toasted hazelnuts, coarsely chopped or slivered blanched almonds

Preheat oven to 375°F. Line two baking sheets with parchment paper. Set aside.

Use an electric mixer to cream together butter and sugar until combined. Beat in eggs, one at a time until well absorbed and mixture is light and fluffy. Add vanilla. In a separate bowl, combine flour, cocoa powder, baking powder, and nuts. Stir into batter one-third at a time to form dough.

Divide dough in half and shape each half into a log about 12-inches long and 2-inches wide. Carefully place each log onto separate baking sheets. Bake for about 30 minutes, until slightly risen and beginning to crack on top. Remove loaves from oven, cool for about 10 minutes. (Do not turn off oven). Carefully transfer to cutting board. Using a serrated knife cut into 1/2-inch thick slices on a diagonal (45-degree angle).

Return slices to baking sheets and bake in oven for an additional 15 minutes, until dry and crisp.

Store in airtight containers for up to two weeks.



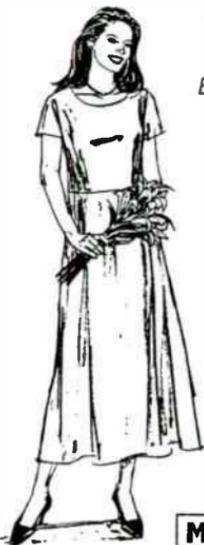
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# BOUNCING MOTH BALLS

## A FEEDBACK JOURNAL FUN RECIPE

Take one gallon of water, four  
ounces of citric acid crystals,  
two or three dozen moth balls,  
two heaping dozen acid crystals,  
baking soda...mix it together  
and see what happens.  
(And blame the FEEDBACK caller who submitted this if  
your results aren't what you expected.)

# 2001 Feedback Journal 2001

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**Go Fly A Kite Day** Sun., April 22<sup>nd</sup>



**Fiddle & Acoustic Music Mini Fest** Sun. June 3<sup>rd</sup>



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## **Postal Inspectors Fight Fraud On The Internet**

To catch a thief, follow the money. That basic idea has served as a guide for crime-fighters over the years. Today many criminals are following the money by moving their operations to the Internet.



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As the amount of business transacted over the Internet continues to grow, so does the number of scams and schemes.

For over 200 years Postal Inspectors have safeguarded the customers of the U.S. Postal Service. Now, that familiar group of crime fighters is joining the effort to stamp out Internet fraud. Fraud on the Internet becomes mail fraud when the U.S. Mail is used in any phase of the illegal scheme. According to the National Fraud Information Center, the top ten Internet scams involving mail fraud are online auctions, bogus services, fraudulent merchandise offers, misrepresented computer sales, business opportunities, work-at-home schemes, advance credit card scams, illegal sweepstakes or prizes and fraudulent book sales or subscriptions.

The U.S. Postal Inspection Service maintains a home page containing information on the mission of the Service and tips on how to avoid getting taken by various schemes. To learn more, visit the Web site: [www.usps.com/postalinspectors](http://www.usps.com/postalinspectors)

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# Easing the Pain

Are "Ouch!" or "Ow!" the only words you can think of to describe the pain you occasionally feel? Have you ever been tongue-tied when trying to explain what you feel to your doctor?

While it may not be easy to talk about your pain, describing it to your doctor may be your first step toward finding relief from arthritis and other painful conditions.

Unfortunately, for many, pain is something that is simply accepted.

According to a recent Gallup survey, Pain in America, four of 10 (42 percent) adults say they experience pain daily, yet more than half (60 percent) believe that pain is just something "you have to live with." But pain is not necessarily something you have to accept. It's okay to admit you have



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pain and to take action to relieve it.

One of the best ways to gain control of your pain is to talk to your doctor about it. This will help your doctor to better understand the cause of your pain and how he or she can help you relieve it. According to Jack Klippel, M.D., medical director of the Arthritis Foundation, "Unlike a broken bone, pain cannot be identified by a medical test or x-ray, so these patient-doctor conversations are important in helping health care providers better understand and treat pain."

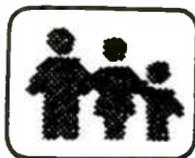
Among the most commonly cited causes of pain among adults is arthritis, a condition that affects more than 43 million Americans. "Arthritis and other types of pain significantly impact the lives of most Americans, but many aren't comfortable taking the first step to find relief—talking to their doctor," said Dr. Klippel.

That's the bad news. The good news is that you can work with your doctor to help control your pain.

Speaking of Pain, an educational campaign being introduced by the Arthritis Foundation and other leading organizations,



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CHOOSE TO STAY ALIVE....DON'T DRINK AND DRIVE

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aims to help people gain control of their pain by better communicating with their health care professionals about it.

Through Speaking of Pain workshops, people will learn more about assessing the nature of their pain, describing it to, and working with their health care provider to relieve their pain.

The Arthritis Foundation and partnering organizations also are offering a free booklet, "Speaking of Pain: How to Talk with Your Doctor about Pain," with a pain card through the Foundation and through workshops across the country.

To request a free booklet call the Arthritis Foundation at 1-800-283-7800 or visit [www.arthritis.org](http://www.arthritis.org).

The Speaking of Pain program is supported by the Arthritis Foundation along with American Society on Aging; Business and Professional Women/USA; General Federation of Women's Clubs; MANA, A National Latina Organization; and the National Council of Negro Women.

Some believe that keeping an elderberry in the pocket protects against poison ivy.

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# Dogs vs Cats: The Top Ten Differences



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7. Dogs will bring you your slippers or the newspaper. Cats might bring you a dead mouse.
6. Dogs will play Frisbee with you all afternoon. Cats will take a three-hour nap.
5. Dog will greet you and lick your face when you come home from work. Cats will be mad that you went to work.
4. Dogs will sit, lie down, and heel on command. Cats will smirk and walk away.
3. Dogs will tilt their heads and listen whenever you talk. Cats will yawn and walk away.
2. Dogs will give you unconditional love forever. Cats will make you pay for every mistake you've ever made since the day you were born.
1. Dogs look much better at the end of a leash.

# Former Philly TV Anchor Tells Tales of Tails

*Mort Crim expresses his love for dogs in  
new book*

**Part loving memoir of canine companions, part tribute to the lessons learned from man's best friend, former Philadelphia TV news anchor and author Mort Crim has set out to explore the innate wisdom of dogs and what we can learn about life and living from our pets.**

"When it comes to unconditional love, caring for others and just being yourself, dogs share affection and wisdom in ways that warm your heart," said Crim, now host of the nationally syndicated radio program *Second Thoughts with Mort Crim*.

In a touching selection of essays, Crim, a master storyteller, shares the lessons he learned not from the presidents and prime ministers he's covered—but from his dogs, Golum, a gentle Doberman, and Bogey, a cocky little Dachshund. They welcomed him home each day and helped him through the death of his wife. Now, Crim celebrates the comfort and joy his dogs brought into his life.

Crim shares heartwarming—even heartbreaking stories of canine values & wisdom, and what we can learn about life and living from our dogs. From the value of loyalty and the importance of play, to being happy with what you have and taking criticism without holding a grudge—Crim sees man's best friend as man's best teacher, mentor and role model.

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# JOHN PHILIP SOUSA'S DEATH AT THE HOTEL ABRAHAM LINCOLN

MARCH 6, 1932

An Historical Retrospect

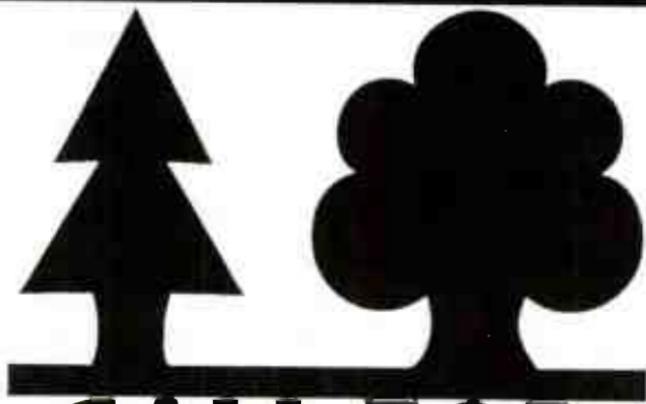
by Charles J. Adams III

- Sousa was invited by Reading musician Eugene Weidner to be guest conductor for the Ringgold Band's 80th anniversary concert. That concert was scheduled for 3:30 p.m., March 6, at the Park Theater in Reading. The Ringgold Band was named after Maj. Samuel Ringgold of the Ringgold Light Artillery, which fought in the Mexican War. A descendent of Maj. Ringgold, Margaret Ringgold, of Tulsa, Oklahoma, was in Reading for the occasion. She was an accomplished musician and composer, and the program was to include some of her works.
- Sousa arrived on 5:44 p.m. Pennsylvania Railroad train at foot of Penn Street, March 5, 1932
  - Taken to Lincoln Hotel, registered in suite of rooms 1414-20
  - Taken to 133 N. 4th St., American Legion Hall, to conduct rehearsal of Ringgold Band. The one-hour rehearsal ended with Sousa conducting his "Stars and Stripes Forever."
- Several of the 42 band members said the 77-year old "March King" appeared somewhat frail.
- Sousa was then the guest of honor at a banquet in the Wyomissing Club, a block north of the hotel. He was gracious, and the 113 guests in attendance were thrilled...but Sousa was noticeably ill, eating little and coughing often.
- During the banquet, he was photographed by the

## 2001•Feedback Journal•2001

Reading *EAGLE* newspaper and signed a few autographs, with a shaky hand.

- At about 11 p.m., Sousa was taken back to the Lincoln Hotel where he and Albertus Meyers, a Reading musician and friend, chatted until around midnight, when Sousa retired in his room.
- In the adjoining room was Sousa's secretary, Lillian Finnegan. Shortly after midnight, Ms. Finnegan heard Sousa coughing convulsively and went to his room. Sousa was obviously in distress and Finnegan called for help. The hotel physician, Dr. Merrill DeWire, responded from his home around the corner. He and a hotel clerk attempted to perform "C.P.R." on Sousa, but to no avail.
- In the early morning hour of Saturday, March 6, 1932, John Philip Sousa was pronounced dead in his suite on the 14th floor of the Hotel Abraham Lincoln.
- Later that morning, Sousa's body was transported to the Auman Funeral Home in Reading where it was prepared. In a flag-draped coffin, and in a fierce, blizzard-like snowstorm, the "March King" was taken in a somber procession down Penn Street to the PRR Station. Even during the terrible weather, the Ringgold Band played "Nearer My God to Thee" as Sousa's body was taken to a special train which would transport it to Philadelphia and then to Washington D.C., where he would be buried at the Congressional Cemetery.
- The Sunday, March 6th Reading *EAGLE* newspaper would report the death of the great band leader...but it would not be the major story of the day. Above the news of Sousa's death in Reading were screaming headlines which reported the kidnapping of the son of Charles Lindbergh.

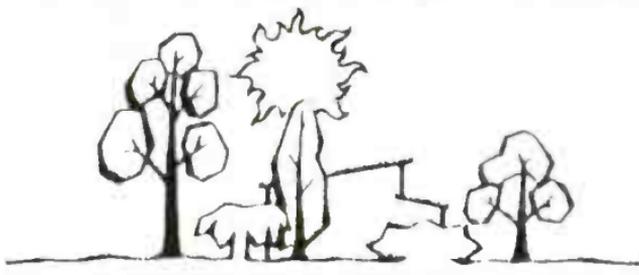


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1. Toothpick: To remind you to pick out the good qualities in others.
2. Rubber Band: To remind you to be flexible. Things might not always go the way you want, but it will work out.
3. Band-Aid: To remind you to heal hurt feeling...yours or someone else's.
4. Pencil: To remind you to list your blessings every day.
5. Eraser: To remind you that everyone makes mistakes, and it's OK.
6. Chewing Gum: To remind you to stick with it and you can accomplish anything.
7. A mint: To remind you that you are worth a mint to your family and friends.
8. Candy Kiss: To remind you that everyone needs a kiss or hug every day.
9. A Tea Bag: To remind you to relax and go over that list of your blessings.
10. This is my gift to you: May you be richly blessed. To the world, you may just be somebody. . but to somebody, you may be the world!

### The Essence of Today

*"I expect to pass through this world but once.  
Any good I can do, or any kindness that I can  
show, let me do now for I shall not pass this way  
again."*

## *It's all in the family...*

**F**amily reunions are a marvel of careful preparation.

Detailed planning will make family reunions successful, memorable events.

After resolving the who, when, and where questions, one area of planning that requires much thought and effort is providing a program of activities that has something of interest for family members young and young at heart.

"Families have myriad activity choices so filtering out what won't interest versus what will intrigue and excite is the organizer's main dilemma," says Edith Wagner, editor of Reunions Magazine. Wagner notes that reunion programming focused on family origins, history and stories offers a great way to bring generations together in engaging activities.

Some ideas for making your next reunion an entertaining, meaningful one include the following:

- Grow a family tree and see connections revealed. Because the picture probably won't be complete, mystery and intrigue sustain the wonder of who's missing? And why? When were they last seen or heard from?

- Encourage active storytelling and set aside time during your reunion for tales, legends and myths. Everyone has a story. The older the relative, the richer the stories; covered wagons, wood burning stoves, life without cars, airplanes, radio, TV or computers. Kids love stories about elders when they were the kids' ages. To enhance storytelling, encourage members to visit relatives too frail to attend to listen to their stories as well as those of long deceased ancestors. Retell their stories at the reunion. Storytelling is a great foundation to begin developing an oral history. Add tape and video recorders to begin your collection.

- Schedule a heritage excursion. Explore locations from family stories. For example, families whose ancestors passed through Ellis Island will be interested in where they landed and about their first hours/days in the New World. Some families visit plantations where their ancestors were

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enslaved. Visiting places like homes, schools, churches and parks bring some reality of ancestors' lives to their young descendants. Cemeteries may seem macabre to some, but presented as part of family history, are fascinating to everyone.

- Stage skits, plays, reenactments and fashion or talent shows to highlight family history and discover hereditary talents. Reenact a heroic act by an ancestor or trekking west in covered wagons (throw a white sheet over a couple of hula hoops held high by a couple of kids and *voila!*: a covered wagon!).

- Create a portable museum of your family's heritage from 20th century decades and before. Everyday implements, tools, furniture, crafts, fashions, accessories and displays of all kinds at reunions add to the depth of understanding ancestors' lives.

- Celebrate your family's ethnicity. Display and explain artifacts from the old country. Wear costumes, savor foods and teach songs, dances and games. Whether you resort to packaged entertainment or develop your own activities from these suggestions, remember your primary focus is to engage people of all generations and most importantly, have fun!

•

*A bee has 5,000 nostrils.*

•

*Crab-eating seals don't eat crabs.*

•

*Humphrey Bogart's first line as an actor: "Tennis, anyone?"*

•

*In ancient Egypt, only pharaohs were allowed to eat mushrooms.*

# Luring Bird Food

Compliments of Jack Holcomb

THIS RECIPE IS FOR AVID BIRD-FEEDERS ONLY!  
IT MAKES A LARGE AMOUNT. OR, MAYBE YOU COULD  
MAKE A LARGE BATCH AND SHARE IT WITH NEIGHBORS,  
OR GIVE PACKAGES OF IT AWAY FOR CHRISTMAS.  
MIX IT IN SOMETHING LARGE, LIKE A BIG DISHPAN. YOU  
CAN STORE IT IN THE FREEZER IN SMALL PACKAGES.

4 CUPS BOILED WATER  
1 3/4 CUPS PEANUT BUTTER  
1 POUND OF LARD (FAT DRIPPINGS)  
5 1/2 CUPS ROLLED OATS  
3 1/2 CUPS CREAM OF WHEAT  
3 1/2 CUPS CORNMEAL  
GRAVEL (GRIT), IF POSSIBLE—SMALL AMOUNT

Mix 2 cups rolled oats and 4 cups boiling water together,  
bring to boil and again and cook for 2 minutes, stirring  
often.

Remove from heat and pour into a large dish pan. Add  
remaining ingredients and stir until well mixed. Put into  
cupcake papers or other containers suitable for your feeder  
(tuna fish cans, sardine cans, etc.). It also can be spread  
over and into pine cones and hung in trees or shrubs.  
Those packages not to be used immediately may be put into  
plastic bags, tied with string and stored in freezer until  
needed.

# Say Ahhhh.....

Oral health is often a good indicator of what is happening in the rest of the body. Therefore, a visit to a periodontist may benefit more than an older person's gums. According to a recent on-line poll about patients over age 60 conducted by the American Academy of Periodontology (AAP), periodontists often refer their patients to medical doctors for serious health problems. Of the 173 periodontists polled, 78 percent said they have referred patients to medical doctors to evaluate for diabetes, 66 percent have referred patients for a cardiovascular disease evaluation and 21 percent for osteoporosis based on their exam of the patient. One respondent wrote in that if he notices a skin lesion on the face or neck he notes it and encourages the patient to see a dermatologist for a skin evaluation. "It is good to see that so many periodontists are referring their patients to physicians when patients exhibit conditions consistent with diabetes or cardiovascular disease," said Jack Caton, D.D.S., M.S., president of the AAP. Periodontists report more than half of older patients do not understand taking certain medications may affect the health of their mouth. For example, many medications, including diuretics, may reduce salivary flow.

Dry mouth can cause increased plaque buildup, which increases the risk for periodontal disease. In addition, some calcium channel blockers may cause the gums to grow over the teeth. "I recommend older patients take a list

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of medications they are taking with them to their periodontists," said Caton.

The majority of periodontists reported that most of their older patients believe they can keep their natural teeth for a lifetime. They also said their older patients are concerned with the aesthetic look of their smile.

However, their older patients are less likely than younger patients are to have cosmetic periodontal surgery. A referral to a periodontist or free brochures titled "Ask Your Periodontist About Periodontal Disease & Heart Disease," "Something To Smile About" or "Diabetes and Gum Disease" are available by calling 1-800-FLOSS-EM, or visit the AAP's Web site at <http://www.perio.org>.

The American Academy of Periodontology is a 7,000-member association of dental professionals specializing in the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of diseases affecting the gums and supporting structures of the teeth and in the placement and maintenance of dental implants. Periodontics is one of nine dental specialties recognized by the American Dental Association.

•  
According to folklore, if a candle burns with a blue flame,  
there is a ghost in the house.

•  
Ants have five noses. Each one smells a different color.

•  
Clams live as long as 150 years.

•  
A "bungalow," a one-story house, takes its name from the  
Indian word bangle, which means "from Bengal."

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# Little-known Malady May Be Right At the Tip of Your Fingers...and Toes

The aging population and expanded interest in exercise are contributing to a rising incidence of nail fungus, a painful and embarrassing infection of the toenails and fingernails that can lead to serious complications if untreated.

Nail fungus is a persistent infection that attacks the nail plate, causing changes in the color, texture and thickness of the nail.

The nail may be easily broken, and may thicken and cause discomfort, especially when shoes are worn. People with nail fungus may have difficulty walking, and the infection can spread to other nails and to other people.

For some people, such as those with diabetes, the condition can lead to major medical problems, including foot ulcers and bone infection. Nail fungus may also affect quality of life as sufferers may avoid gyms, pools and other places requiring them to remove their shoes because of the appearance of their feet.

## **Age, Sweaty Feet Are Risk Factors**

Nail fungus may first affect people in their middle years, although the incidence is higher in older age groups.

People with diabetes and poor immune systems are especially vulnerable.

The condition can be caused by footwear that promotes sweaty feet, such as athletic shoes and boots, and walking barefoot in areas of possible contamination, such as communal showers.

The best way to prevent nail fungus is by practicing good foot hygiene, such as bathing and towel-drying feet regularly, and using footwear that do not promote infection, such as cotton socks. But if you suspect that you have nail fungus, see a healthcare professional, and for more information about this condition, go to [www.nailfungus.org](http://www.nailfungus.org) or call 1-877-7FUNGUS.

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## **Feel Good Medicine: Touch Benefits Moms and Babies**

*by Dr. Tiffany Field*

Scientific data reveals that touch can improve the health of mothers and babies during childbirth and infancy. Health care professionals have long understood the importance of touch in parent-infant bonding. A growing body of research continues to show that touch is potent enough to be used as a treatment and approach to wellness.

### **Touch During Labor**

During labor and childbirth, women benefit from continuous and uninterrupted emotional and physical support. Partners, usually fathers, tend to play this critical role. In addition, some expectant parents choose to use a doula.

A doula is a lay person who is trained in the processes involved in labor, gives support to the woman and her partner throughout childbirth and the newborn's first days. In the United States, most doulas work as independent providers and are hired as an addition to the "birthing team." Studies show that mothers who have doulas report less pain and have shorter labors.

A woman's labor partner can offer many kinds of touch and massage, depending on what she finds helpful for the laboring mother, for example she can:

- Gently stroke the mother's shoulder, hand or foot while offering reassurance
- Cradle the mother and wipe her brow
- Support the mother while walking, sitting, leaning or

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squatting

- Rub her back and apply warm cloths
- Regularly confirm what type of touch and body positions the mother finds beneficial and alter the touch to meet her needs

## **Touch's Benefits After Birth**

Early physical contact and touching are so important that in many hospitals and birthing centers, newborns are placed on the mother's chest to give them the benefit of intense skin-to-skin contact. Researchers have observed that mothers who were actively touched during labor were more likely to touch, communicate and bond with their newborns.

Loving touch is vital to a baby's growth. One study we conducted showed that premature infants who were massaged for 10 days gained more weight, and were more active, alert and responsive than the babies who weren't massaged. Touch benefits all babies.

Touching occurs during everyday activities such as feeding, bathing and rocking. In addition, parents should try to regularly massage their babies.

The value of touch in health, development and communication between parents and babies should encourage us to make it a part of our daily lives.

*Dr. Tiffany Field is a professor at University of Miami Medical School; director of the Touch Research Institutes, Nova Southeastern University and advisor to the Johnson & Johnson Pediatric Institute.*

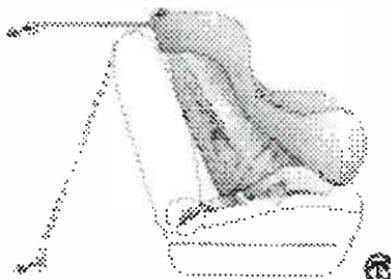
**Patient:** "Please, doctor, you must help me. I think I'm losing my memory."

**Doctor:** "Oh, my. For how long have you had this problem?"

**Patient:** "What problem??"

**Patient:** Doctor, you must help me. I feel like a deck of cards!"

**Doctor:** "Please sit down. I'll deal with you later."



## New Standards Help Keep Kids Safer

Child safety seats do save lives, but only if they're installed correctly. But many parents worry that they haven't attached them securely.

Fortunately, new regulations are creating seats that are easier to install and they're also helping to create features in cars that make it easier to attach child safety seats.

The system, known as the Lower Anchors and Tethers for Children (LATCH), is required by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) for all new motor vehicles and child safety seats.

Since September 1, 1999, child safety seats have had to meet stringent new requirements. The first phase of these new requirements may necessitate the use of a top tether that will fasten the top of the child seat to the vehicle. This strap keeps the seat from moving too far forward and reduces the potential for head injuries during a crash. Most new passenger cars, except convertibles, will have a special attachment to secure the top tether strap.

As of September 1, 2000, all new vehicles, including light trucks, minivans, and SUVs, will also feature the attachment.

The second phase involves adding two lower attachment points on the child seat to fit into two attachment points in the vehicle seat. Although this is not required until 2002, some car manufacturers may already be offering the improvement.

The whole new system will consist of three parts. The lower parts are round rods or bars where the seat cushion meets the seat back. The upper attachment is a ring-like object

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that's usually attached to the car's rear window shelf, or rear vehicle floor, or vehicle seat back.

New child safety seats will fasten onto the lower bars and feature an adjustable tether strap that will fasten the top of the child seat to the vehicle.

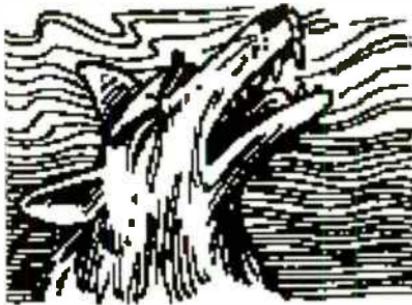
At least two rear seating positions in each new vehicle will be equipped with the system.

The new system may help resolve the problems created when child safety seats are not installed properly. New child safety seats will fit an older car and the older models of child seats can still be used in new car models. However, older child seats will need to be installed using the vehicle's belt system.

The NHTSA estimates that the new system can potentially save 50 lives a year and prevent 3,000 injuries. To get the new system, ask your car dealer which new models are equipped with the upper or lower anchorages.

For more information, call the toll-free Auto Safety hotline at 1-888-DASH-2-DOT or log on to the Internet at [www.nhtsa.dot.gov](http://www.nhtsa.dot.gov).

•



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## What Career Path Were You Born To Follow?

Could your love of daredevil amusement rides help you figure out which career path you were born to follow? Definitely, according to DeVry Institutes' Success Fundamentals workshop. Presented in high schools across the country, Success Fundamentals is geared toward helping teens navigate the career and education maze, and choose career fields that make sense to them.

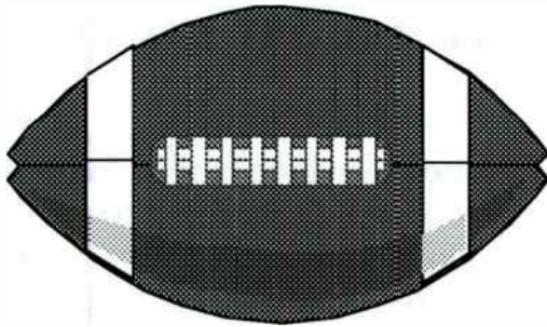
The Success Fundamentals concept is simple. Teens look at their natural abilities and learn how these apply to some of today's top careers. By answering questions like: "Do I hear words in my head before I speak or write them?" or, "Do my friends always come to me for advice?," young people uncover talents that apply or match to previously unconsidered job descriptions. As off-beat as these questions may seem, the answers are directly related to one of eight innate intelligences which are fairly strong indicators of the kind of employment for which you are best suited.

So what does it mean if you like daredevil amusement rides? It means you have bodily-kinesthetic intelligence, a common trait among physical therapists and surgeons. Surprised? Well, then take another look at the things you have an aptitude for, your likes and your dislikes, you might just have a whole new world of opportunities waiting for you.

For more information about Success Fundamentals, call 1-800-295-8694 or visit [www.devry.edu](http://www.devry.edu).

The historian is a prophet in reverse.

*Friedrich von Schlegel*



***Penn State Nittany Lions***

**2001 SCHEDULE**

- Sept. 1 MIAMI  
Sept. 8 SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI  
Sept. 15 at Virginia  
Sept. 22 WISCONSIN  
Sept. 29 at Iowa  
Oct. 6 MICHIGAN  
Oct. 20 at Northwestern  
Oct. 27 OHIO STATE (Homecoming)  
Nov. 10 at Illinois  
Nov. 17 INDIANA  
Nov. 24 at Michigan State

Follow the Nittany Lions on the  
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## **To SPRAY or not to SPRAY!**

*Courtesy of the National Gardening Association*

*Be sure to consider the alternatives before deciding to spray herbicides. Perhaps you can harvest the crop early, or wait for helpful garden predators to restore the balance of power in your garden, or try natural insecticides or home sprays.*

Look carefully at the damage to your crops and try to observe the pest in action if you can. This way you'll be sure the damage is insect caused, and you'll have an easier time correctly identifying the pest.

Ask yourself if the damage is serious enough to warrant spraying for control. Insect activity is normal for any garden, and good gardeners often plant a little extra of every crop, realizing that they will share some of the harvest with various insects that live in or visit the garden.

If you opt for a spray or dust remedy for an insect or disease problem, follow these guidelines for best results.

Once you select a spray to use, read and follow all directions on the label carefully. Pay special attention to waiting times between spraying and harvesting. The "days to harvest" information may change your pest control strategy. Some insect sprays are long lasting, so be careful about using them on crops near those you want to harvest soon. Keep a logbook on all your pest control activities.

Your spray equipment should always be in good working condition. With some chemicals, it's safer to spray only at certain hours of the day. Sevin, for example, should be used very early in the morning or late in the evening because it is toxic to bees. (Bees don't work early and late in the day.) Dusts are more effective when applied early in the day while the dew is still on the plants.

Chemical control for diseases is usually recommended on a season-long basis. Sulfur, or fungicides such as captan, are often contained in the multi-ingredient, all-purpose tomato and potato sprays. These are used every 7 to 10 days through the season, usually starting within a week or two of planting and not just when disease is evident. As with other substances, fungicides must be handled and applied carefully.

Pesticides, used only when necessary and with caution, common sense and consideration for the environment, are available as a last resort. If the insect situation warrants chemical control, choose the weakest chemical remedy to control the insect. Your local extension agent can provide you with regional guides to insect identification and recommended substances for control of most pests.

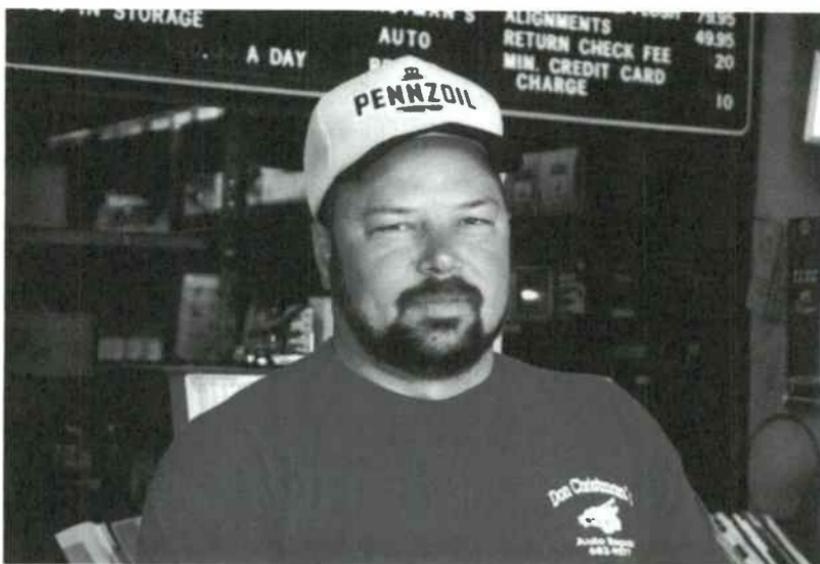
## *Don Christman: His Own Best Customer*

Don Christman, owner and founder of Don Christman's Auto Repair, set up shop in the back yard—literally.

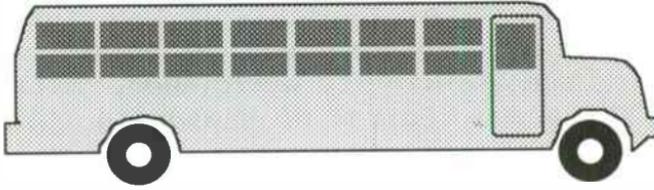
While working at various local General Motors dealerships, he continued his education by completing a myriad of GM courses and became an ASE Master Technician. In his "free time," his sideline business continued to steadily grow out at the seams and a garage was born. This early enterprise consisted mostly of engine rebuilding and auto inspection.

Spurred by continued growth, his auto repair center moved to its current New Jerusalem location three years ago. Today, the business has grown to five employees performing any and all repairs on domestic cars and trucks, state inspections on all cars, trucks, and motorcycles. It is also a complete NAPA Auto Care Center that specializes in engine and transmission repairs and gives that "added personal touch" to any classic car.

Don's restoration work continues but has since branched outward to include race cars, the majority of which are Corvettes. As his own best customer, Don concurrently restored and maintains his personal stock 'Vette which he periodically races at Maple Grove Raceway for fun—as well as a stress release.



## 2001 Feedback Journal 2001



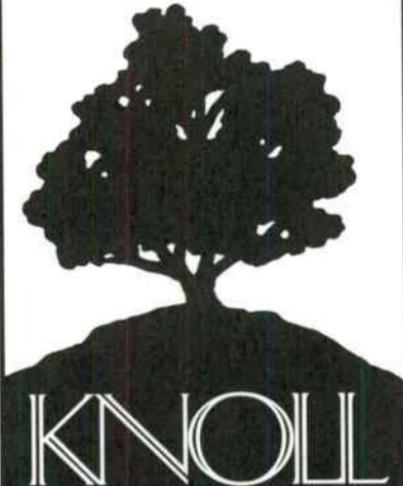
# Connect With Your Kids: Leave a Note

If you're looking for a simple, effective way to stay connected with your children during the day, try placing a loving, encouraging note in their lunch boxes or knapsacks this school year.

Each one will nourish their souls just as the food you pack nourishes their bodies.

These notes bestow upon your children one of

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the most precious gifts you can give them—the recognition that they are loved and valued enough for you to take the time to write them, according to Bill Zimmerman, editor of Newsday's "Student Briefing Page" and co-author of "Lunch Box Letters."

"I began writing them when my daughter started school, and have never stopped," says Zimmerman. "I continued them when she went off to college and began her first job, and do it today, although she is grown and we live miles apart."

Today's youngsters are growing up in a rapidly changing, stressful, and occasionally dangerous world. Every day kids and parents fly off in different directions, busy with work, school, and social activities.

"Life's fast pace often makes it difficult for

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families to stay in touch with each other," says Zimmerman. "These notes are a way of keeping the lines of communication open."

The content is less important than the link it provides. A smiley face with "I love you" scrawled across the bottom will suffice. You can use them as an opportunity to give encouragement on a test day or compliment them on a new achievement, like learning to ride a bike. You can share your activities for the day, write a silly one to make them giggle, or even offer an apology.

Over time, you will find that your children treasure these notes more than any expensive gift you gave them. None of us, child or adult, can ever be told often enough that we are loved and special.

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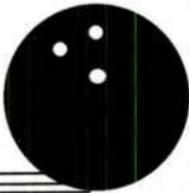
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Think for a moment. How would your own life have been different if people who were important to you had taken time to place hidden notes in your lunch bag that said simply: "Dear child, I love you so much, Dad"?

Whether you put them in lunch boxes, slip them under the bedroom door, or post them on the refrigerator, these "lunch box letters" create a bond between adult and child that will last a lifetime.

Now it's your chance to do this special deed for a young person in your life!

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# Fitness: Take Charge!!

Studies today show that over half of the nation's adult population is overweight. This rise in obesity is expected to directly correlate to a greater number of cases of heart disease, high blood pressure and diabetes.

Indeed, incidences of adult onset diabetes, in large part brought on by weight gain and inactivity, were recently reported to have risen over 70 percent in the past decade.

"In addition to the health benefits, people like the way they look and feel when they are more active," says Chris Jensen, Ph.D.

"However, most people don't have any idea how to achieve their fitness goals. Some end up hurting themselves rather than increasing their level of fitness."

How can you take charge of your fitness routine? Dr. Jensen offers some easy-to-use nutrition tips to help increase your performance, whether you are just starting out or training for a marathon:

- Be sure to pre-hydrate before an exercise bout, but not so much that you start with a sloshy feeling in your stomach.
- Don't change your nutrition regimen on an exercise day; stick to the basics.
- Consume 16 to 32 ounces of fluids per hour during any strenuous activity session.
- Remember that every "body" is unique. Figure out what variation on the general guidelines works best for you.

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-- Mixing carbohydrates with protein and leaving out the fat helps speed the recovery of your glycogen stores after exercise. Workout maximizing supplements can help take the guesswork out of this process.

-- Longer training sessions? Snacking on dried fruits or nuts will keep you moving.

-- You're not fully hydrated after a tough workout until you weigh about the same as you did when you started the workout.

-- Calorie restriction for weight loss can hamper recovery from strenuous exercise. Eat to win, not to lose!

-- Intensive physical activity can help suppress immune functions for a while after exercise, so make sure to get plenty of rest after a tough race or a long period of exertion.

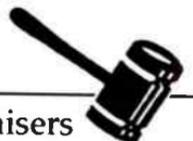
-- Increasing your caloric intake is a must for most athletic training, but avoid overdoing it with a lot of empty calories. Grab a protein shake instead of a sundae.

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# 2001•Feedback Journal•2001

## Assisted Living A Lifestyle for Seniors

Assisted Living is a residential lifestyle package of services for seniors, according to Christopher Henderson, Manager of Market Development at Chestnut Knoll, Boyertown.

The basic amenities package which is available at Chestnut Knoll would include:

- Spacious studio suite apartment-style living. Each resident may choose from a variety of suite styles and sizes—private or shared with a roommate. All have private baths, individual climate control, and a monitored emergency call system.

- An executive chef prepares three nutritionally balanced meals each day served restaurant style by a wait staff to each table, in a well-appointed dining area.

- Studio suites are cleaned by a housekeeping staff on a weekly basis. The bedroom and bath linens are changed weekly.

- Activities are provided so residents maintain a high level of social stimulation.

- Residents are provided with 24-hour assistance in dealing with everyday tasks and health-related services.

- And, Chestnut Knoll also provides a special dementia care unit.



## 2001 Feedback Journal 2001

### **Are You a DRILL SERGEANT or a JELLYFISH?**

If you're like most Americans, you think being a teenager used to be a lot easier.

An independent survey indicates 73 percent of adults believe the choices teenagers face have "potentially more dangerous consequences" than the ones they made during their teenage years. Only 11 percent believe teenagers' decision-making abilities have improved from a generation ago. Forty-four percent believe it has worsened.

More than half of the survey's 1,015 respondents believe children are first tempted to experiment with drugs, alcohol, and sex before the age of 14.

And while 41 percent think peers influence



## 2001 Feedback Journal 2001

children and teens about the same amount today as a generation ago, a full 46 percent believe friends now have a greater influence on youth.

"Today's world has the potential to create a stressful and chaotic life for kids and their parents," says Jim Fay, a parenting and positive discipline expert. "But there is an easy, straightforward way you can help children learn responsibility and make family life fun and rewarding."

Fay is co-founder of the Love and Logic Institute and co-author of the national bestseller *Parenting with Love and Logic*. His work is based on the philosophy that children learn best by providing limits in a loving way, and giving them choices.

"By allowing our children to choose and make mistakes in safe situations, they develop a deep



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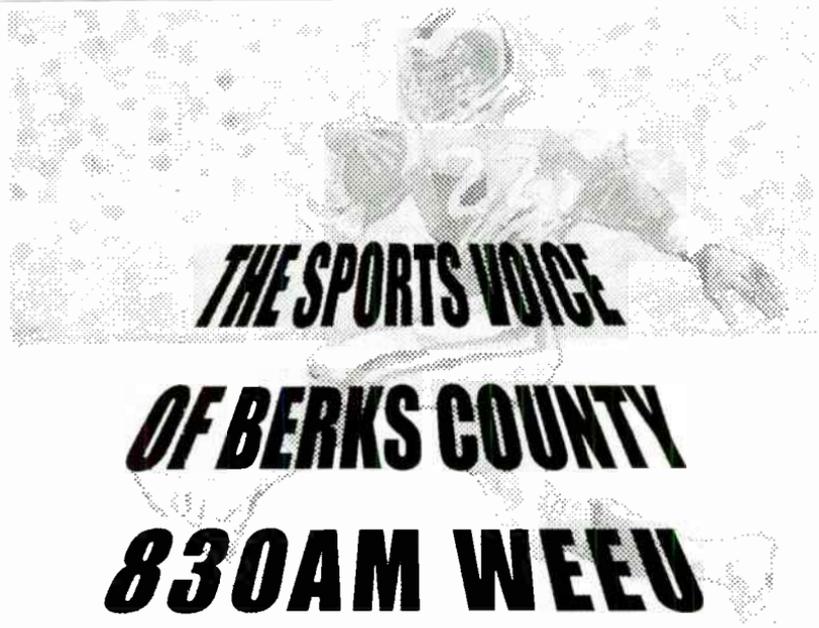
## 2001 Feedback Journal 2001

understanding of consequences and the importance of good decision making."

Adults responding to the survey said television (29 percent), peers (27 percent), and the Internet (19 percent) were the leading negative influences on children, while movies (9 percent) and music (7 percent) were distant contenders.

**A Public Perspective on Parenting: What Would You Do?**

A series of survey questions asked respondents how they would handle a typical parenting situation, such as feeding a fussy toddler or handling a teenager's speeding ticket. The answers were tied to four very different parenting styles defined by the Love and Logic Institute: The Drill Sergeant, the Hovering Helicopter, the Jellyfish, and Love and Logic.



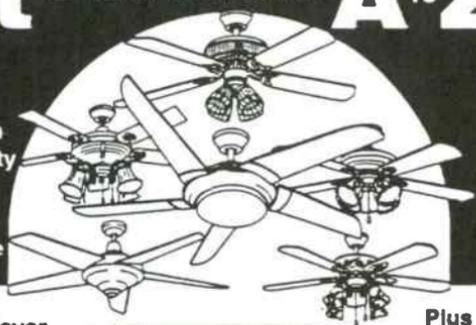
## 2001 Feedback Journal 2001

For example, if you were feeding a 1-year-old child some carrots and she spit them out, what would you do? Forty-one percent of respondents said they would mix the carrots with applesauce. Fay calls this the "Hovering Helicopter" approach. A "Drill Sergeant" would insist that the child eat the carrots and a "Jellyfish" parent would simply change from carrots to applesauce.

Fay says the "Love and Logic" solution would be to put the child on the floor to play until she is ready to eat what you're serving her. While the child may be hungry until the next mealtime, Fay says, "No child has ever starved from missing one meal, but even toddlers can learn from this experience that mealtime is over when you spit out your food. However, parents cannot expressly state the lesson, and they must provide equal doses of consequences and empathy. Otherwise, it

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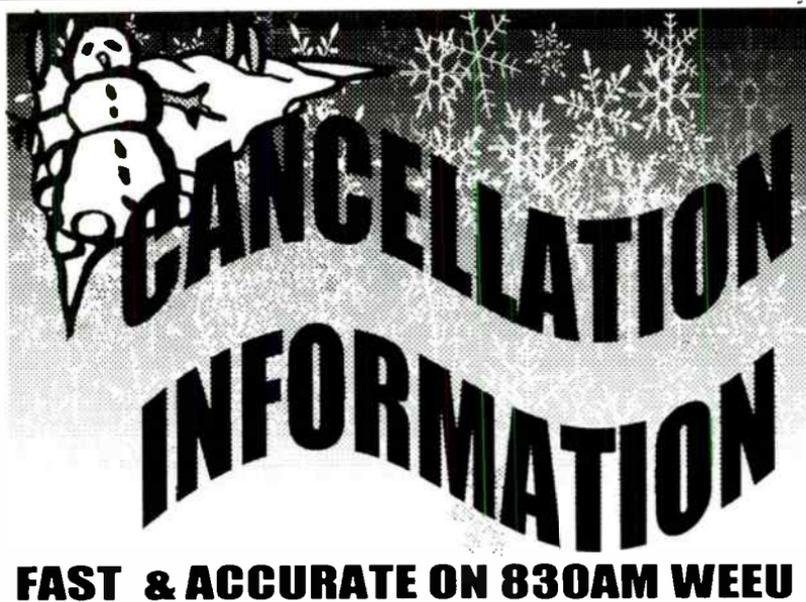
## 2001 Feedback Journal 2001

doesn't work."

When asked what they might do if a 7-year-old refused to take a raincoat on a rainy day, almost half (48 percent) of the respondents said they would make the child wear a coat. "Many parents take this 'Drill Sergeant' approach because they feel, as a rule, they must dictate what a child should do, especially when a child is testing their limits," Fay says, "But this teaches children to listen to a voice outside their own head."

In this case, a Love and Logic response would be to ask the child if she would like to wear a raincoat or carry an umbrella (37 percent responded with this tactic).

Fay says the only way for an adult to gain control of a situation like this is to give away the control that isn't needed. When adults give kids small responsibilities and decisions, children develop the skills and



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confidence teenagers and adults require to deal with life's greatest challenges.

"If our ultimate goal is to teach children to think responsibly for themselves and live in the real world," he says, "then we should concentrate on giving kids choices we can live with in safe situations. Let them learn important lessons when the price tag is small."

The Love and Logic Institute is dedicated to making parenting and teaching fun and rewarding. The company provides practical advice and solutions based on the Love and Logic philosophy: Love allows children to grow through their mistakes. Logic allows them to live with the consequences of their choices. Parents can take control of the home, while teaching kids to be responsible and think for themselves.

---

# Up and Adams



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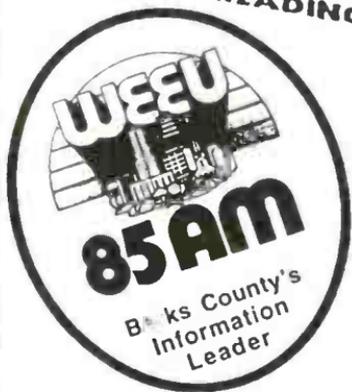
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**THANKS FOR BEING THERE  
THROUGH THE YEARS!**

# Keep **STRESS** in Check

Stressed-out employees who act out their angst in fits of “desk rage” can damage their relationships, careers and health.

“Some stress is good, distress is destructive,” said Dr. Victor Scarano, director of occupational and forensic psychiatry services at Baylor College of Medicine in Houston.

Decades of corporate downsizing have left many workers with employment insecurities, said Scarano. Employment-skittish workers can feel trapped, driven to work long hours, skip vacations, and keep quiet about heavy workloads to show their commitment.

And, gadgets like e-mail, pagers and cell phones, intended to make work easier, can actually increase stress.

“Human beings are not designed to handle situations that require a constant, high level of attention,” Scarano said. “Everyone needs to be able to get away from the demands of work.”

A happy home life can generally counteract workplace stress, said Scarano.

But, when office stress spills over and affects family relationships, serious problems can begin to surface.

“When stress is internalized too long, it can affect physical and mental health and trigger self-destructive behaviors like drinking, smoking, drug abuse and violence,” he said. “So, it’s extremely important to identify and address problems early.”

Long before co-worker conflicts erupt into shouting matches or fistfights, there are usually signs that stress is getting out of control. These include chronic complaining, increased irritability and anxiety, frequent illness-related work

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absences, decreased morale, sleep and eating pattern changes, and social isolation. “An unhappy, angry employee is usually left alone, which can make matters worse,” Scarano said.

To help keep your office stress in check, Scarano offers these strategies:

- Remember the big picture. Although important, work is only part of life. Don't let it overshadow time needed for family, hobbies and other pleasures that replenish your energy and sense of self-worth. A desk photo of loved ones can help you keep priorities straight.

- Strive to preserve positive relationships with family members, friends and co-workers.

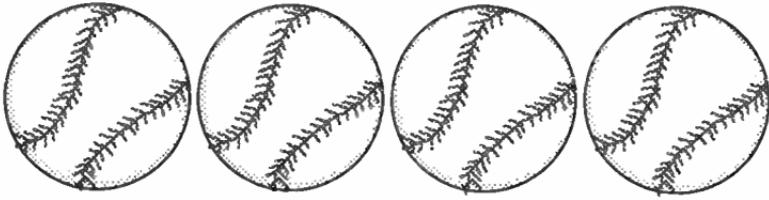
- Put a limit on workday hours, get away from the desk at lunch and break times and don't forget vacations. Everyone needs and deserves time to restore their energy.

- Exercise, eat healthy, stay hydrated and get enough sleep. Physical activity reduces mental stress. Sleep deprivation, hunger and dehydration drain you physically, increase irritability and impair concentration, which makes you more susceptible to negative stress.

- Don't be afraid to talk to your supervisor. He or she is in the best position to understand your workload, offer guidance and help you set priorities. Also, ask for feedback. You might find that you have been holding yourself to unnecessarily high and unattainable standards.

- Take advantage of company-sponsored counseling services and stress-relief programs like yoga and exercise classes.

“Everyone has an occasional bad day,” Scarano said. “But when pent-up stress strips away any semblance of workplace civility and affects relationships and health, it's time to get help.”



# How to Fix Baseball

## *(I'm Not Kidding)*

By Paul Druzba

I'm reading a lot these days about what's wrong with baseball. A lot of writers are nibbling around the edges of the problem, but nobody's really sinking their teeth into it.

Yes, baseball doesn't work that well on TV. It's true, for the same reason that chess doesn't work on TV—the excitement and fun of baseball and chess, is in the tension and the strategy. That's why the bloodthirsty football and rasslin' fans don't watch baseball. Let's be honest—baseball just isn't based on violence. George Carlin did a very funny and insightful piece on that years ago.

There are only two ways to enjoy a baseball game—at the park, and on the radio if the announcers are good and know the game.

Yes, players make too much money. Is that their fault? Of course not!

Who pays them? If a garbage collector is making 20 million dollars a year, who's stupid—the garbage collector, or the trash hauler who's paying him?

Some people claim that their team would have better attendance if they had a new stadium. Bull! People in Reading are more than happy to fill the 50 year old park the Reading Phillies play in, but somehow the 30 year old Vet isn't good enough anymore. Guess what? It's not the stadium, it's the price of the hot dogs. A hot dog at a Reading Phillies game is the best buy in professional sports.

Reams have been written about what's wrong with

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baseball. But nobody is saying much about how to fix it, because nobody has the nerve to do what needs to be done.

To fix baseball, you need to do the same thing you'd do with an overweight person who just eats too much—you put it on a diet, and set some strict rules.

For most of this past century, the highest-paid baseball players made an average of seven times what the average person made. That resulted in a pretty good living for the players, and not much resentment from the fans. But now?

If you're optimistic, and say the average person makes \$50,000 (I know, but I'm just trying to make a point), that means that the highest paid player should be making about \$350,000 a year. Is that such a hardship? How well would YOU be living on \$350,000 a year? For working nine months a year? (No, I'm not going to talk about teachers here— *they're* worth it)

How did we get from \$350,000 a year to \$20 million? We're not even talking about endorsements yet. This is SALARY! As you well know, it's the owners who pay the salary, and the owners get their money from you, the fan. So I have nothing against a player raking in whatever he or she can from endorsements of sneakers or long distance services. The sneaker company pays for the endorsement, not you—unless you buy the sneaker.

You've probably noticed by now that this all boils down to money. There is nothing wrong with the game of baseball. It's exciting, fun, and not recommended for TV. But fans love to watch it at the park, if they can afford it. So here's how to fix it.

1. Minor League emphasis. Baseball is the only major sport I know of, besides hockey, that relies on a farm system. This is good, and it's why baseball isn't subject to all the money scams associated with college football and basketball. (But that's for another article)

When a player is signed to a contract by a club (say the Phillies), he is brought up through the farm system, from Clearwater, to Reading, to Scranton-Wilkes Barre, and maybe to the Big Show. A minor league player must be contracted to stay with the signing club until he a), makes it to the majors, or b), washes out.

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2. Once a player has made it to the majors, he must be required to stay with that club until he has been with it for at least five years, or a trade is mutually agreed upon by both the player and the team. This would solve the problem of fans never knowing the players without a scorecard. There is something to be said about fan loyalty.

How long did Mike Schmidt play with the Phillies? He might have made more money elsewhere, but to Philly fans, he will always be loved, because he was ALWAYS a Philly.

3. Salary. A player must be limited to \$500,000 a year, even if he's Mark McGuire. I don't care about endorsements—the more, the merrier for the player. But the TEAM should only pay a half million, and not a penny more. This would keep ticket and concession prices low.

And there would be no TV contracts, since baseball doesn't really work on TV anyway.

This would tend to equalize the financial positions of teams from New York to Milwaukee.

Granted, the players would hate it. But what they don't realize is that, unwittingly, they are ruining the game with high salaries. And if baseball collapses, there won't be ANY salaries. We need to take control of the game away from the owners, and put it back where it belongs—in the hands of the fans.

The owners would hate it, too, because it would keep them from leeching off the fans, and gullible local governments, all in the name of higher profits.

But the fans would love it. They could once again root for the home team, and players who they knew from year to year. They could actually afford to take their kids to the ballpark to enjoy a game in its natural setting—on grass, and not in front of a TV.

True, these are drastic measures. But they will work. And I'll show you, as soon as I become the next baseball commissioner. No, not a Bud Selig type of commissioner, but a REAL commissioner, who acts in the best interest of the game, and not of the owners. Commissioners like that are what have turned Americans away from baseball.

I know I can do it. I'm just waiting for the phone call.

# You Didn't Know Jack

You listened to Feedback for years. Maybe you tuned in to the old "Birdwatching Society" show before that.

Very well, you might even remember "Rangers on Record," or play-by-play sportscasts, or just the Jack Holcomb record show.

You go back 10, 20, 30, maybe even 40 years with Jack Holcomb as that friendly voice in your living room, kitchen, bathroom, bedroom, or car.

You think you know that man behind the microphone?

Let me assure you—in the vernacular—

*You Didn't Know Jack!*

You didn't know the man who would show up at the studio promptly at 5:31 every morning—a full three and a half hours before he would go on the air.

You never watched him scrub the coffee pots, clean and tidy up the employees' lunch room, and brew fresh pots of java for all. He didn't have to do any of that, but he did.

You probably never knew that Jack took as many or more calls *before* and *after* the on-air talk show as he did *during* the show. With each, he maintained his decorum and legendary level of patience—even if we at WEEU would hear hang up and occasionally let out a shriek of frustration.

We watched as he spent tireless time and effort seeking answers and solutions, recipes and remedies, for those off-air callers. He didn't have to do that, but he did.

Jack didn't have to do lots of things, but he did.

He greeted every Feedback guest with a handshake, a genuine smile, a cup of ice water, and a *Feedback Journal*. He was an inveterate "thank you" card writer and sender.

He was and is a gentleman and a gentle man. He smiles through pain. He comforts those in pain.

You have heard his exhortation, "Have a Bluebird Day..." When he was around, he truly could turn a grackle day into a bluebird day.

You know of his passions for bird and butterfly watching, hiking, and basking in the bounty of nature. You might not have

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known that over and above all that was his passion for his children and grandchildren. Given the choice between birdwatching and babysitting, he'd take the latter.

You may not have known that Jack attracted more cakes, pies and cookies than a bake sale at a fire hall. His listeners were good cooks.

You were never there when he signed onto the transmitter log a full half-hour before he had to. You never witnessed the arrival of "The Book"—an overstuffed notebook bulging with notes, recipes, contact numbers and the accumulation of years of Feedback fodder. When Jack walked into the control room of the radio station in almost ceremonial fashion with "The Book," you knew Feedback was nigh.

This is not a eulogy, not an epitaph. Certainly not. It is only a pitifully inadequate tribute to a grand communicator who personified the professional and proficient radio broadcaster. There are few "Jack Holcombs" left in this business.

He did not only make a mark at WEEU, or in the history of Reading radio, he made marks on countless lives throughout the community. He made differences. He made something very special out of a medium that can be very mundane. He brought depth to a profession that can be quite shallow.

Having said all of that, I must note that in many ways Jack was the antithesis of the slick "radio guy."

To him, Berks County was not a "market." It was home.

His listeners were not an "audience." They were friends.

His fellow WEEU staffers were not "coworkers." They were family.

And forever may that be.

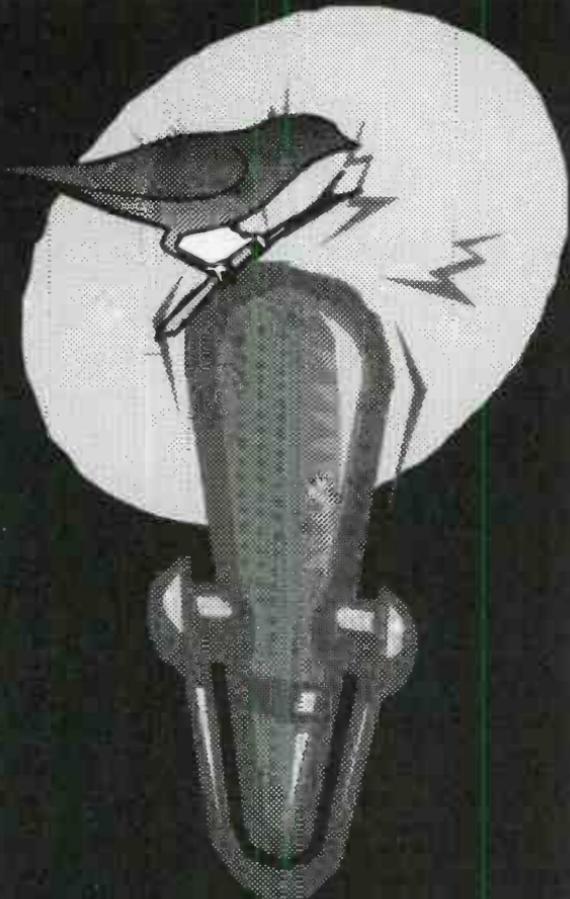
*Charlie Adams*











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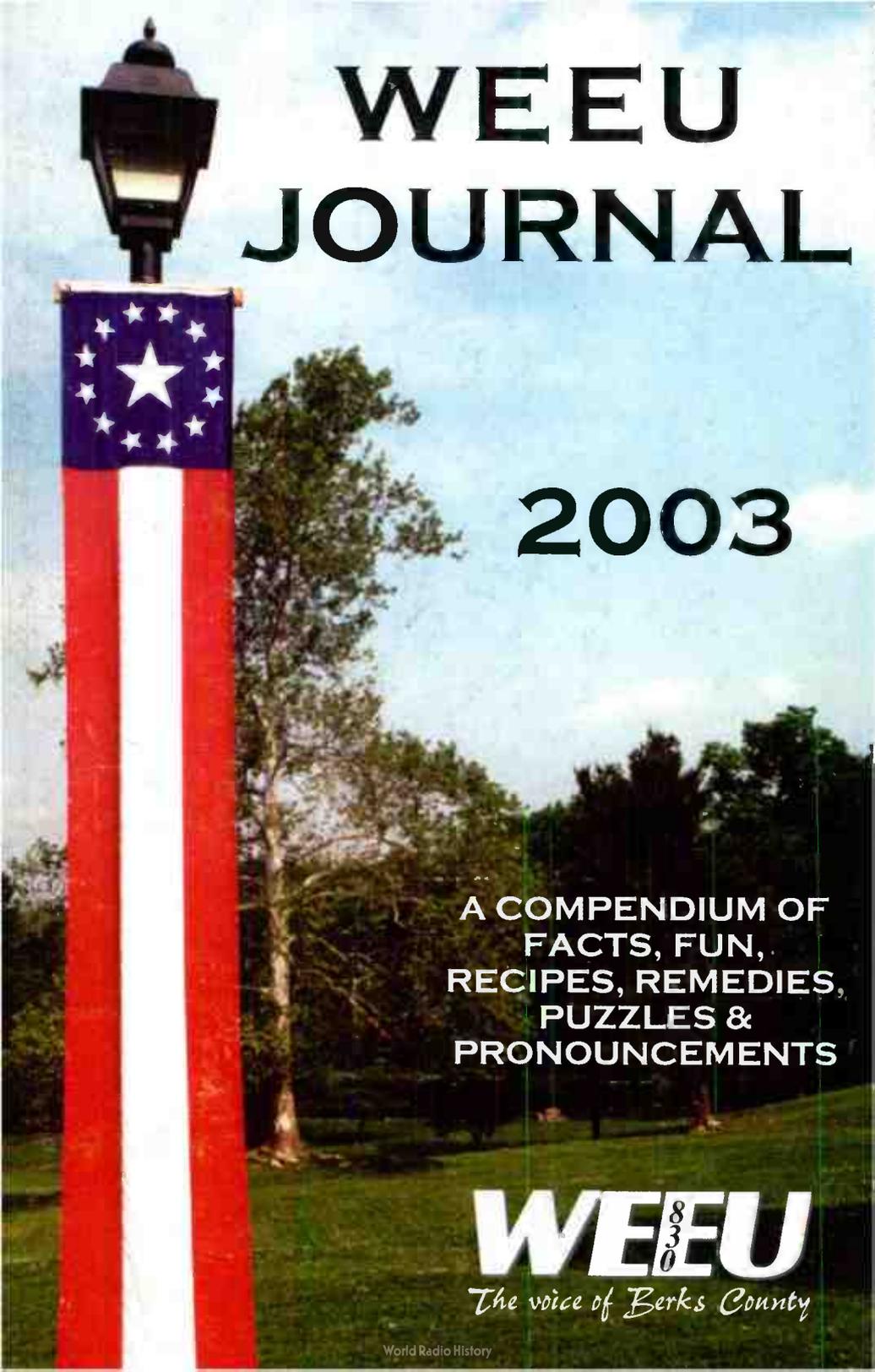
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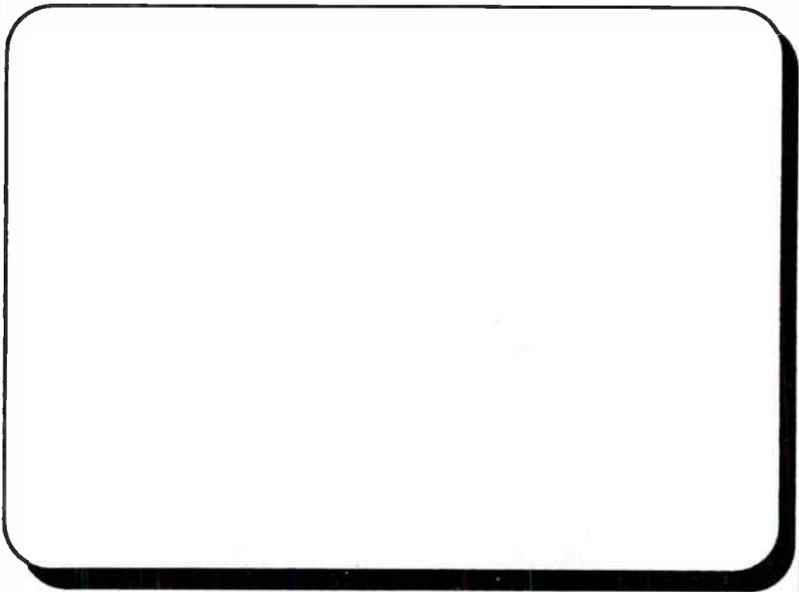
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# **Berks County: The First 250 Years-**

## *An Insider's Look*

*By the Writer and Producer of the video, Paul Druzba*

2002 was a wonderful year for me, all in all. Despite some setbacks, it provided some fantastic opportunities, one of the best of which was writing and producing the Berks County history video. Sorry I couldn't write this article for the 2002 Journal, but the events in it hadn't happened yet.



Starting way back in 1999, I served on the Executive Committee of the Berks County 250th Celebration. Yes, we started planning for it that early. Mike Reinert of Channel 69 Berks Edition and I were co-chairs of the Publicity

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Committee. I was mainly responsible for making sure that the media was informed of events throughout the celebration year, as I had done during Reading's 250th Celebration in 1998.

What does that have to do with a history video? Nothing, really. That's the interesting part.

Around Thanksgiving, 1999, the subject of the video came up at a Berks 250th Executive Committee meeting, as it had several times before. The man who was originally supposed to write the screenplay for the video, Chet Hagan, was ill. Chet has since passed on. If the name Chet Hagan doesn't ring a bell, you need to catch up on Berks County history.

A faculty member from Kutztown University was a possible substitute for Chet, but he was unable to tackle the project at that time.

Time was running out. The Berks 250th Committee had applied for a state grant to fund the project, with the intention of making this video a teaching tool in Berks County schools. And it was imperative that the video be available during the anniversary year- 2002.

Someone on the committee (bless her heart) suggested that "Paul's a writer- maybe HE can do it". Terrified and gratified at the same time, I accepted, and started working on the script while most people were working on their Christmas lists.

I've always loved history, and readers of this publication over the years may be familiar with stories I've written about City Park, Charles Evans Cemetery and other

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historical subjects. In addition to writing more than 25,000 radio commercials during my career, I've also written scripts for corporate videos, and voiced one or two, but I had never written AND produced a video myself.

Where do you begin? There's so much to be told about Berks County that Ken Burns could do another 10-hour documentary on it. But, due to the budget and the purpose in mind, the video would have to be about 30 minutes.

A good quality video costs about \$1,000 a minute to produce, and it was decided that the video should be short enough to be shown in the space of one classroom session, about 40 minutes.

How do you condense 250 years of history into 30 minutes? Focus on the people and events that made the most impact. Concentrate on the things that most changed our lives.

People like Conrad Weiser and Daniel Boone could not be ignored. Wars have always had a dramatic impact on life throughout our history. The railroads played a major role in our prosperity and history. And, since all of our families were once immigrants to this country, the role of culture could not be ignored.

I wrote the script, which was checked for accuracy by George Meiser IX and Kathy M. Scogna of the Historical Society of Berks County.

The writing of the screenplay was a compromise. I wanted the video to be fast-paced enough not to bore the pants off an ten year old in fourth grade. (This is the MTV

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generation, accustomed to fast-paced edits). I also wanted the video to be interesting to an adult.

Realizing that the video might still be in use in Berks County schools in 2010, I wanted it to be the best quality possible, and as accurate as possible. The script was written as a "story", and so the narrator had to be a good storyteller. I know of no better storyteller in Berks than Charles J. Adams III, and he was a natural choice for narrator. I also wanted good quality, so I enlisted VideoWorks Production Company, which I had worked with many times in the past.

After checking with some local stores, I realized that, while VHS was still fairly predominant in Berks County homes, it was quickly being overshadowed by DVD digital, so I decided that the video should be produced on both formats.

Once the shooting began, I realized exactly what being a producer entailed. Coordinating the schedules of the narrator, the writer, the video crew, and the location of the shots. And I learned that the people of Berks County can be very accommodating and cooperative. You can see some of their names listed in the credits at the end of the video.

Charlie was wonderful. We decided on a "uniform" for him to wear, including a particular tie, a Berks 250th shirt, etc. Since shooting was often done on consecutive days, it was a good thing that Charlie had several versions of the shirt, since he sometimes had to wear one three days in a row!

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The shooting was done at the worst time of year-over the winter. It had to be- there was no time to wait for beautiful spring or summer scenes.

Some of the earliest footage for the video was shot without a script being ready yet- to capture some of the beautiful fall foliage while it was still around in 1999.

Most of the shooting was done in January, 2002. Two scenes in particular take full advantage of the time of year.

One was the scene at Peacock's Lock near Leesport. In summer, the area is so densely overgrown with vegetation that even experienced historians have trouble finding the spot! The barren months of winter are the best times to photograph this historical landmark.

You can also see some snow falling in City Park in the Civil War scene, at the First Defenders' Monument. It seems to be very appropriate.

If you look closely near the beginning of the video, as Charlie is walking along the banks of the Schuylkill River, he seems to slip just a bit. This was the best of several takes. On an earlier shot, Charlie actually slipped into the river! Fortunately, only up to his ankle, and shooting could continue.

Since I am a third-generation immigrant to this country, I was particularly proud of certain scenes.

I am especially proud of the scene near the end at the Berks County Liberty Bell at the Historical Society. I decided to include some children, of various ethnic backgrounds, in the shot. I'm still amazed at the generous

and flexible cooperation of the principal of Riverside Elementary in Reading, in supplying and delivering the children, mostly with short notice.

One very important lesson I learned about videomaking was the importance of having visual representations for everything that is spoken. Despite the vast resources of the Historical Society of Berks County, there were a few instances when there were no pictures to go with the story. So I had to improvise.

One shot of an immigrant worker is of my grandfather, Paul W., which was supplied at the last minute by his daughter, Virginia. Thanks, Sis.

Another shot of "women at work" is of my mother, with some co-workers at Penn Optical in the 40s. Thanks, Mom, not just for the picture, but also for being part of the history.

Speaking of thanks, the crew at VideoWorks was fantastic. I spent long hours with Randy Bjorken, searching through the hundreds of shots we took to choose just the right one for the right scene. What he did with those shots was nothing short of inspiring. He is truly the "master of Avid"- a reference on his business card to the video system he employs to work his magic.

Thanks would not be complete without mentioning the Executive Committee of the Berks 250th Celebration, which placed complete trust in me to get this project completed, on time, and into the schools of Berks in 2002.

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I need to thank the management of WEEU Radio, who put up with me "disappearing" for hours on end for many days during shooting and editing.

And to State Senator Mike O'Pake, for working his magic in getting the grant from Pennsylvania to make this video possible.

One of the nicest comments I've heard, in showing the video to people around Berks, has been, "I didn't know that". I learned a lot about Berks County history in the making of this video, and I feel proud to have been able to pass it along to others.

"Berks County, the First 250 Years" was duplicated in VHS and DVD format. It was a limited printing, and after 2002, will be available while supplies last at the Historical Society of Berks County.

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# THE ITCH...

By Jack Holcomb

Host: "Jack's Backyard" on WEEU

Most of you know that I consider myself an amateur naturalist with a great deal to learn. This interest was fostered by a n early mid-life fascination with the birds brought on by WEEU's *Bird Watching Society*.

Since 1955 I have been watching our feathered friends learning to identify them by sight and sound. I might be sixty percent there! I learned early on when in the field or forest, looking and listening, there were times when I saw or heard very little. Through birdwatching I also learned from others this can be a tool introducing me to many other aspects of nature. I became fascinated with butterflies, mushrooms, and wildflowers...and nature photography.

Perhaps I should explain that I focused on those joys of Mother Nature because they would hold still for their photos! Nature photography can be so very satisfying and even a little expensive so I would be very selective of the pictures I would take.

So, in addition to my binoculars, I take one of my cameras wherever I go, not knowing what might lurk along the bath, by the stream, or in the deep woods. The uniform always depends on the weather; shorts in the spring, summer, and early

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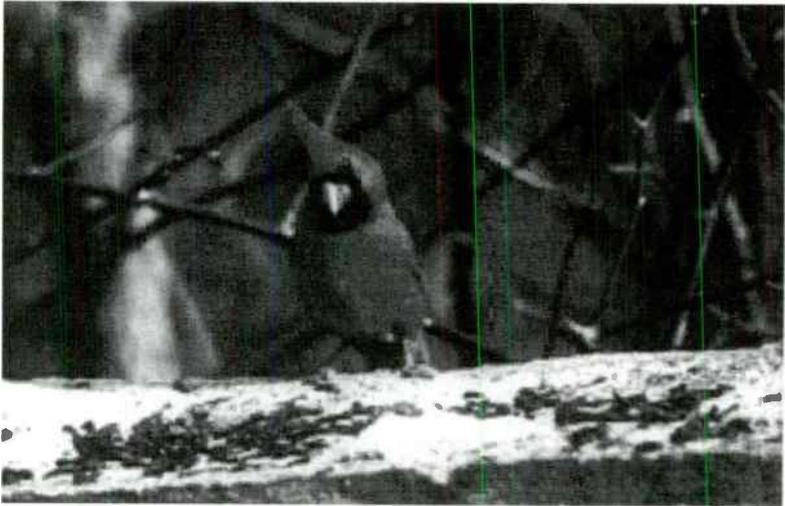
fall and jeans in the late fall, winter, and early spring. That is, until now.

You see, this spring, while wearing shorts and a short-sleeved shirt, I contracted poison ivy while taking a picture of a pink lady-slipper. This unwanted skin ailment hadn't occurred since I was young and hung out with my friends in the fields and woods playing ball and stalking unknown wild things. Please know that I can identify poison ivy! This time, my wife came to my rescue and suggested a number of over-the-counter cures. I tried them all and found little relief and, much to my surprise, discovered none worked and one of them made the rash worse and produced more itching and red blotches. There was no relief, not even after a Fels-Naphtha soap scrub! There was very little sleep and I was a bear, not a bird, around the house. I believe you have the picture now.

Now an itching and bitching fool, I decided it was time to check in with my dermatologist. He is a gentle man armed with hundreds of jokes and a quick diagnosis...contact dermatitis! This was a result of a reaction to one of the over-the-counter medicines. So, armed with two prescriptions (one for Prednisone and one for a skin cream) I felt psychological relief before I left his office.

It took about one week and I was on my way to becoming totally itch-free with the rash diminishing. So, I returned to my hiking, birding, and photography in June, ready to avoid poison ivy at all costs.

I'm also sure there is a moral to this tale, and I will continue to look for it probably in my shorts and tee-shirt.



*Photo by Jack Holcomb*

### *\Blink...Blink...*

*The firefly's glow kindles a summer's night  
With an eerie, mysterious, and erotic light  
While I watched...electrified!*

*By Jack Holcomb*

•  
The storms of our life prove the strength of our anchor  
•  
Biscuits and sermons are improved by shortening.  
•  
Some people find fault as if it were treasure.

# 2002 All Star Game A Winner

*A look back...by Paul Druzba, WEEU Copy Writer*

All I know right now, the day after the 2002 All Star Game, is that a lot of people are upset. Mostly at Bud Selig, the Commissioner of Baseball.

I think I know why, but I don't share their feelings. I'm pretty happy about the way the All Star Game turned out- in a 7-7 tie. There's a larger lesson here, so stay with me.

The first thing you have to remember is that the All Star Game is show biz. The fans vote for the players they'd like to see in the game, and that's who plays. The managers, in the interest of not arousing fan hostility, feel obligated to put every player on the All Star roster into the game, so the fans can get a look at their favorites, albeit briefly in some cases.

I think that All Star managers are honestly trying to win the game, but it's not their highest priority. They want to give TV "face time" to every player, and they don't want anyone to get hurt unnecessarily. So they "pace" the game, substituting as necessary to get all the players in over the course of nine innings. Something they would never do in the regular

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season.

But this one didn't GO nine innings, did it? It went longer—to eleven.

And the managers flat out ran out of players. Which leads us to an interesting enigma.

When faced with an extra-inning All Star tie, what does one do? Bend the rules of the game to ensure a victory, or call it a tie?

Bud Selig did what baseball traditionalists like myself love to see. He decided that, if a victory was not secured by the end of the eleventh, the game would be called a tie. What does this mean to Americans? I told you there was a larger lesson here, and here it is.

According to baseball rules, no player who has been substituted out of a game may return. So, in order to let the game play out to a victory/defeat, the rules must be bent in a late inning tied All Star game. Players who are "out of the game" must be brought back in to see it to a conclusion.

The problem is, Americans can't stand to see a tie. That's why they've never really accepted soccer to the extent that Europeans have. If, as Vince Lombardi said, "Winning isn't the most important thing- it's the ONLY thing", then soccer,

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and ties, are evil.

But to me, and most Europeans, a tie simply means that it was a darned good game, with both teams playing well. That's nothing to be ashamed of.

Think about it- the only major American sport that allows ties is ice hockey- and Americans only accept hockey because it's so violent. The brutal checking makes up for the fact that the game may end in one of those "sissy" ties.

Maybe it's time we all grow up a little, and learn to accept sport for what it really is—competition, and the thrill and pride of doing your best.

Bud Selig did the right thing- he made a decision which preserved the integrity of the rules of baseball, at the expense of extreme criticism.

I'm not sure if Selig was thinking about integrity at the time. He may have been thinking about the time constraints of network TV instead.

But I'd like to think it was integrity. Despite the fact that an All Star Game is a show, it's still played strictly by the rules. And the 2002 All Star Game did just that, right until the very end. A tie.

*Hallelujah!*

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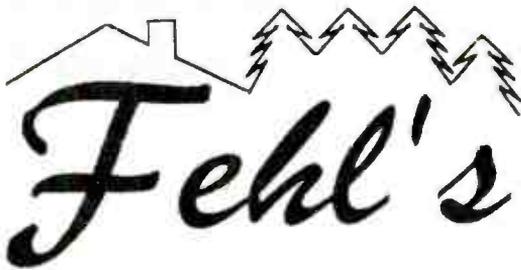
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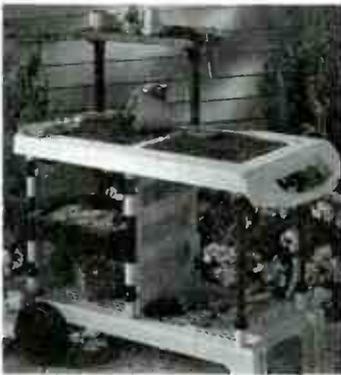
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# What's the Most Important Item to Take on Vacation?

Answer: A toothbrush.

The American Academy of Periodontology (AAP) surveyed 71 periodontists to offer oral health tips and ensure consumers stick with their oral hygiene regimen while on vacation.

"Most consumers naturally spend more time thinking about which outfits they are going to pack for their vacation than their oral health needs," said Kenneth Buelmann, D.D.S., president of the American Academy of Periodontology.

"This is unfortunate because there are several things to take into consideration regarding your oral health especially if you are traveling abroad."

For example, 59 percent of periodontists (a dentist who specializes in periodontal diseases, a disease of the gum and underlying bone) surveyed recommend storing toothbrushes in containers with air holes that allow bristles to completely dry, killing oral bacteria, and keep other family members' toothbrushes from touching. Ninety-seven percent recommend cleaning these travel containers before and after travel. Yet more than one-third of all patient respondents indicated that they never thought to clean their containers.

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In order to avoid bacterial growth when traveling or at home, some periodontists recommended that patients wash their toothbrushes periodically in the dishwasher, store it in the refrigerator or place it in a cup with mouthwash.

"It is important to disinfect your toothbrush and storage container frequently to kill potentially harmful bacteria," said Bueltmann. "In addition, allow your toothbrush to dry completely in an opened-air environment after each brushing. Many of the bacteria in the mouth are anaerobic, which means they will die if they are exposed to oxygen."

For those traveling out of the country, 74 percent of periodontists suggest using bottled water when brushing teeth to avoid the possibility of becoming ill due to the various microorganisms sometimes found in water supplies. Other respondents recommended boiling water if bottled water is not available.

The majority of periodontists indicated that toothbrushes should be kept a safe distance away (2-5 feet) from the sink and toilet to avoid water contamination.

### Putting It In A Nutshell:

- Pack extra oral hygiene accessories, as they may not be available in remote areas.
- Disinfect your toothbrush before and after your trip.
- Keep oral hygiene instruments dry and clean.

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- Store your toothbrush in a container that has air holes when traveling.

- Keep toothbrushes safely away (approx. 2-5 feet) from the sink and toilet to avoid water contamination.

- Wash your hands thoroughly before flossing and brushing.

- Use bottled water to brush teeth when you are traveling abroad.

- Floss and use mouthwash if you forget your toothbrush and are unable to purchase a new one.

- When purchasing a toothbrush while traveling abroad, make sure you select a soft-bristled brush.

- If you run out of toothpaste, brush with water. As long as your technique is correct, plaque will still be removed.

- Do not share toothbrushes. Oral bacteria can be passed to other family members and can potentially spread periodontal diseases.

The good news is that more than 91 percent of patients surveyed continue their normal oral care routine while on vacation. The bad news is that only 27.5 percent of patient respondents brush their teeth two minutes or longer, while more than double the percentage of periodontist respondents (67.6 percent) recommend this regimen. Moreover, more than one-third of patient respondents don't feel either they're using the proper brushing technique or are not certain if they are.

Dr. Bueltmann explains that technique is everything. "If you don't have the proper technique when brushing and flossing teeth, you won't be cleaning as well as you should and you might be harming your teeth and gums."

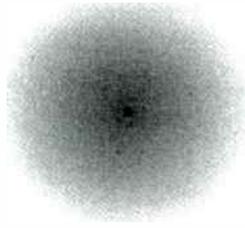
You can obtain a free brochure explaining the proper techniques for brushing and flossing by calling the American Academy of Periodontology at 800-FLOSSEM or visiting the AAP's Web site at <http://www.perio.org> .

Periodontal diseases (serious bacterial infections that destroy the attachment fibers and supporting bone that holds teeth in the mouth) are silently making their way into millions of Americans' mouths and may represent a far more serious threat to their health than previously realized.

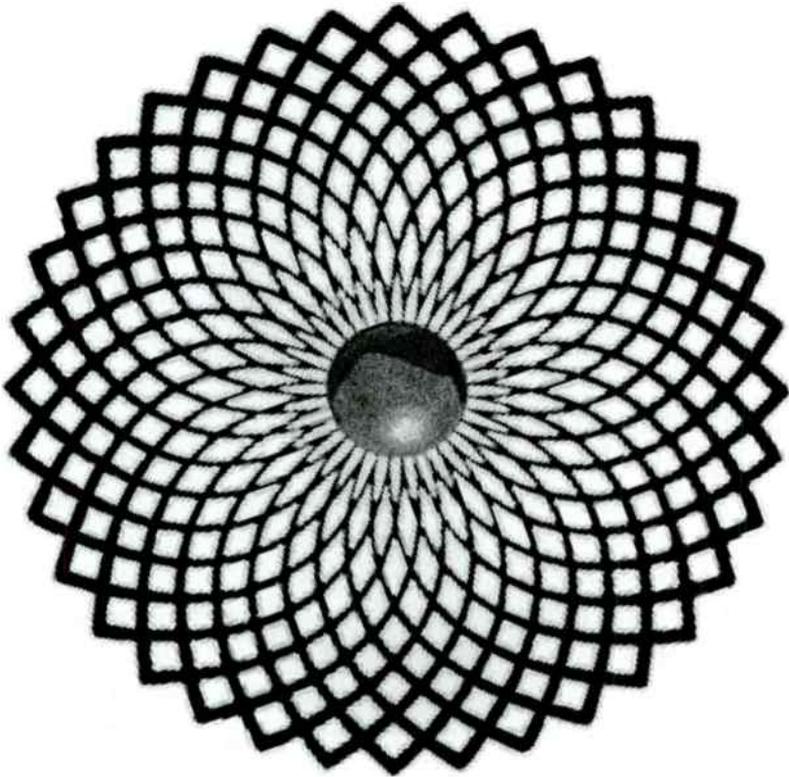
Approximately 15 percent of adults between 21 and 50 years old and 30 percent of adults over 50 have periodontal disease. Recent research has revealed that periodontal infections may contribute to the development of heart disease, increase the risk of premature, underweight babies and pose a serious threat to people whose health is already compromised due to diabetes and respiratory disease.

The American Academy of Periodontology (AAP) was established in 1914 to focus on the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of diseases affecting the gums and supporting structures of the teeth and in the placement and maintenance of dental implants. To date, more than 7,500 dental professionals are members of AAP.

# OPTICAL ILLUSIONS



*Stare at the black dot...watch as the grey begins to fade away!*



*Stare near the middle! Does this appear to be moving?*



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- In 1998, airplane operations and maintenance documents required 310 million pieces of paper. If stacked, the pages would be 24 miles high. By the end of 2004, Boeing expects to replace most paper documents with electronic ones.

- A modern Boeing airplane with 70 percent of the seats occupied is more fuel efficient than a new automobile carrying two people.

- The air flowing through a 767-400ER engine at takeoff power could inflate the Goodyear Blimp in seven seconds.

- The Boeing 777 is the first jetliner to be 100 percent digitally designed using three-dimensional solids technology. Throughout the design process, the airplane was "preassembled" on the computer, eliminating the need for a costly, full-scale mock-up.

- Boeing's primary Product Development effort is the Sonic Cruiser—an airplane that will travel 15 to 20 percent faster than today's airplanes, saving passengers about one hour for every 3,000 nautical miles flown. It will achieve this performance while maintaining the same excellent fuel-use per passenger rates as today's slower airplanes.

- Final assembly of the 717 takes

place on a continuous moving line at the Boeing plant in Long Beach, Calif.-just like an automobile factory. Airplanes move about one-half inch every minute during production.

- The current Boeing 747-400 is about 25 percent more fuel efficient and twice as quiet as the original 747.

- The 757 serves the world's highest-altitude commercial airport at Bangda, Tibet, at 14,219 feet). The exceptional performance of the 757-200 allows it to operate from almost any airport in the world including those with short runways, heat- and cold-extremes and high altitudes.

- A pilot certified to fly a 757 also can fly a 767 with minimal additional familiarization because the technologically advanced cockpits have a common design.

- According to the United States Environmental Protection Agency, airplanes contribute only about 2

percent of all carbon monoxide and nitrogen oxide emissions and an even smaller portion of hydrocarbon emissions.

- In 1999, Boeing recycled enough aluminum to build 233 Boeing 747s, enough steel to manufacture more than 58,000 midsize cars, and enough paper to save 25,000 pine trees.

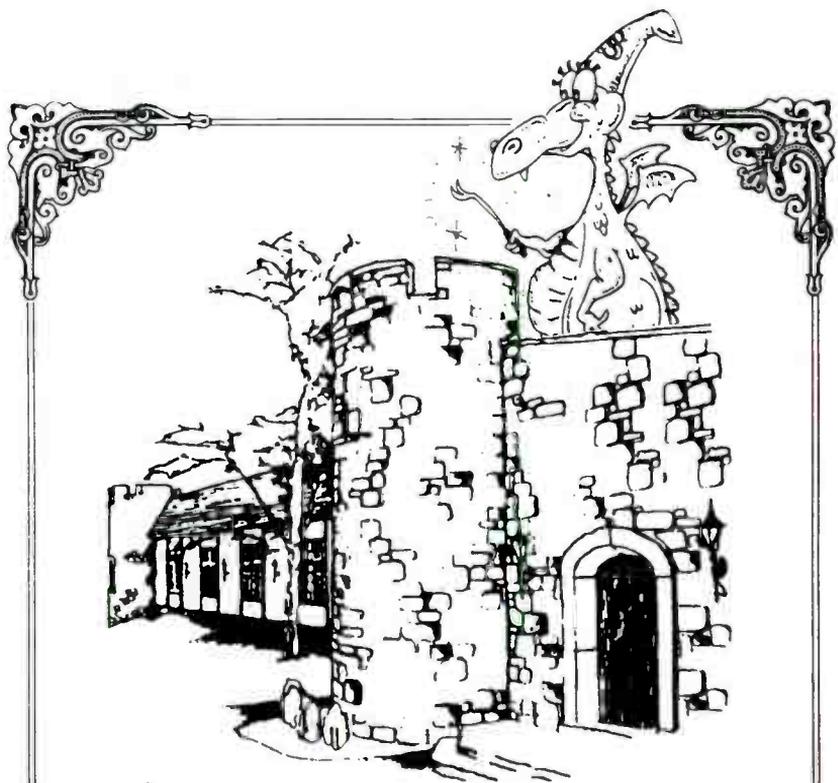
- Both the 757-200 and 757-300 have high-bypass-ratio engines and a wing design that help make them two of the quietest, most fuel-efficient jetliners in the world. The 757 Freighter is so quiet that it is allowed to operate without night restrictions at even the world's most noise-sensitive airports.

- The 767 was the first large commercial airplane to use efficiency-enhancing "raked" wingtips, which achieves a 4 to 5 percent fuel-efficiency improvement on the 767-400ER. That equals a savings of 1.3 million pounds of fuel and 4 million pounds of global warming CO<sub>2</sub> per year, per airplane.

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# **A BERKS COUNTY FIRST LADY IN THE WHITE HOUSE? WE CAME *THAT* CLOSE!**

*BY CHARLES J. ADAMS III*

Take an aborted election campaign, a couple of presidents with historical asterisks attached to their biographies, and a candy bar, and you have an unusual story about the race for the White House in 1892.

Oh yes, add to this mix a widow of a Reading mayor and a chance encounter in Charles Evans Cemetery and you have an interesting sidebar in Berks County history.

This is not a political science lesson, and I will breeze through the chain of events that made the run-up to the presidential election of 1892 an interesting era in American politics.

The principals were Grover Cleveland, who had served one term as president but was bumped from office by Benjamin Harrison. Harrison's political asterisk is that he was the first grandson of a former president to be elected to the same office.

Cleveland earned his asterisk when he defeated Harrison in the 1892 election and became the only man to serve two non-consecutive terms as president. But, he did so only after a series of unusual circumstances unfolded.

Harrison, a republican, had a tough campaign and little support from his party. The *coup de grace* of his lackluster quest for office came just two weeks before the election when his wife, first lady Caroline Harrison, died and he simply stopped campaigning.

Out of respect for his opponent's grief, Cleveland also stepped off the stump, but the decision was already made by the voters. Cleveland claimed a healthy victory and moved back into the White House in 1893.

He and first lady Frances Cleveland did so with a new addition. In October, 1891, the couple had given birth to a baby whom they named Ruth.

The press, and thus the public, embraced the baby named Ruth. So, too, did a candy manufacturer—enough to eventually name a new candy bar after her.

During the political maneuvering in the primaries and political conventions, enough fissures and fractions opened up that at any time, any viable politician could have stepped up and won the nomination for the presidency in either party.

One of them was Senator Arthur Pue Gorman of Maryland. A dark horse indeed, Sen. Gorman had nonetheless gained some support and could well have led the Democrat ticket. That, obviously, did not happen.

Sen. Gorman had quite an interesting political career. He had been a page in the House of Representatives and later, with the help of Sen. Stephen A. Douglas, the postmaster of the

Senate. After getting his political feet wet in those houses, he rose through the ranks of Maryland politics to eventually become U.S. senator in 1880. He served on prestigious and powerful senate committees and served as chairman of the Democratic party.

It is through Sen. Gorman that the Berks county connection was made.

As senator, Arthur Pue Gorman met a gentleman named A. Jordan Swartz, who had been an attorney in Reading and the city's mayor in 1857-58. Swartz left this city when he was appointed as a clerk in the U.S. Treasury Department.

Swartz was eventually promoted to the post of second auditor of the Treasury, and was in that position when he died in Washington just after the Civil War.

His wife, Reading native Hannah Donagan, instructed that her late husband's body be buried in the Charles Evans Cemetery.

During his career in Washington, Swartz had become a friend of Sen. Gorman's, and the Maryland senator accompanied Swartz's body from Washington to Reading.

Not long after the former mayor had been interred, Sen. Gorman, in the words of one newspaper article in April, 1892, "wooed and won the widow of Mr. Swartz" and the the two were married just as the senator was becoming a rising star in the Democrat party.

It was during the primary campaigns and Democrat Convention of 1892 when Sen. Gorman was considered as an alternate to the embattled

Benjamin Harrison as a candidate for president. It was also then that the Reading newspapers bristled with the news that a local woman might, just might, become first lady.

“Stranger things than that have happened,” wrote a reporter in the April 17, 1892 Reading *Eagle*. The story continued, “If Senator Gorman should be taken up and elected to the presidency, then, of course, his brilliant and accomplished wife would become the first lady in the land.”

The article recalled Hannah Donagan Swartz Gorman’s life in Reading a quarter of a century ago. “Many of the older citizens of Reading have pleasant recollections of Mrs. Gorman as the beautiful Hannah Donagan and a member of the First Presbyterian church. She was of fair complexion, brown hair, very pleasing countenance, rather above the medium in height, fine figure, an excellent conversationalist, sweet tempered, and a general social favorite.”

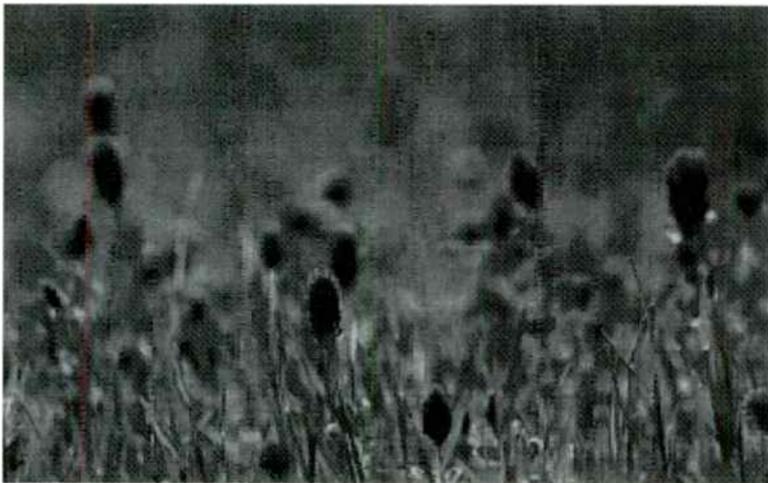
Obviously, Hannah was not to become the “first lady in the land.” Sen. Gorman continued as a respected member of the senate and is relegated to the land of political footnotes. But, in that springtime of 1892, Berks Countians held a slim hope that one of their own might reside in the White House.

•

*Nostalgia is like a grammar lesson...you find the present tense and the past perfect.*

•

*The time you enjoy wasting is not wasted time.*



# Mystery Horticulture

*by Wanda J. Druzba*

I love surprises. I guess that's why I love gardening.

You may not say I'm a very good gardener by the look of things. I mean, I've got hollyhocks growing in the green bean bed and two cherry tomato plants have bedded down with the Hungarian peppers. Longwood Gardens it ain't. But, like I say, I like surprises. I did not plant the hollyhocks in my green bean bed. And although I have hollyhocks growing alongside my house, they are pink ones and the mystery plants are purple. This is so cool. The beans are twining around the hollyhocks and the effect is pretty interesting. As for the cherry tomatoes... they grew in the pepper bed last year and some decided to take an encore. And nearly every year something edible pops up alongside my mulch pile.

Now, don't get the impression my yard is just a weedy plot, I must insist that I DO pull weeds, but I give unidentifiable sprouts a little time to impress me before I yank. A holly tree germinated in my lilly of the valley bed. He got dug and moved. A yew tree popped up next to the day lillies. He's now a foundation plant

along the back of the house now. And baby tulip poplars and dogwood trees have also been acquired this way. But the fun of growing a tree from a sprout is not the satisfaction of not having to spend money for stock, but just the surprise of: What have we here? Sometimes a lovely hybrid annual flower drops seed for a sprout next year. This will not look like last year's model. I had some beautiful tall hybrid magenta snapdragons one year.

The following year: snapdragon sprouts; so I left them in and I got a huge mass of stubby salmon snapdragons. They were pretty neat so I let 'em live.

It takes some time to figure out what's a weed. It took me a while to figure out that that lacy plant beside the hostas was Queen Ann's Lace.

A weed in most people's book. But my kids loved it, "Look, Ma, it's a bee-you-tee-ful flower, with teeny white flowers and one black flower in the middle." And, yeah, it really is lovely flower, when you're not prejudiced to call it just a weed. The wild daisies and Black-Eyed Susans and Queen Ann's Lace got picked by my kids every summer as surprise bouquets for me, and this summer when my daughter got married, she had to have Queen Ann's Lace as part of her flowers.

Volunteer plants can be such an unexpected blessing. One spring I was so looking forward to seeing the tulips I had planted. I watched the sprouts take off and kept an eye on the flower buds as the stems lengthened every day. But just as the tulips were about to open, a gang of renegade rabbits ate the blossoms, leaving me with green leaves and stems. Rats. I ignored that bed, but then something wonderful happened, the wild violets that are sprinkled in my lawn, made a mass invasion of the tulip bed and surprised me with vigorous deep purple violets, pale blue violets, nearly white violets. I picked them and put them in little glasses throughout the house. Yes, I love surprises, that's why I love gardening.

•  
*I asked a lady at church what she did with her hair. She told me she set it. I asked, "What time does it go off?"*

•  
*Don't worry about bills...even birds have them!*

# Baking Tips

by Ann Nonymous



- \*Always use a timer. If your stove does not have a timer that can count individual minutes, buy an inexpensive one that does. When I don't use a timer, I burn everything.
- \*While something is baking in the oven, don't keep opening the door to check it! The temperature drops considerably and the air rushing in does not help. I am fortunate to have an oven with a glass window and light that I can turn on and check. Make sure you have placed the oven rack low enough so you can see whatever you are baking, but not too low to the heat.
- \*A rack placed halfway from the top or bottom seems to cook everything evenly.
  - \*Use a candy thermometer when cooking candies and confections. It helps to gauge when you are close to the "soft-ball" or "hard-ball" stage.
  - \*I just recently started using a double boiler. What a difference. I no longer burn the chocolate or sugar, or whatever I need to melt for a recipe. A glass heat-resistant bowl placed over a pan of hot water works well if you don't have an actual double boiler.
  - \*Make sure you have all your ingredients

before you start baking! I sometimes think I do then at the last minute realize that something is missing. By that time, the oven is usually preheating and I have prepared some of the other ingredients. I have to put everything away, shut off the oven and run to the store and waste valuable time! Plan in advance!

- \*Use fresh or newer ingredients. If you are like me, I do the majority of my baking after Thanksgiving for Christmas. The non-perishable ingredients just sit in the cabinet year around. Get new baking soda and baking powder if they have been sitting around all year. I use the baking soda in warm water to clean the refrigerator and to scour the sink. It leaves them smelling fresh. Sweetened condensed milk turns a caramel color when it has been sitting a long time. It is still usable, but turns whatever you are making darker.
- \*Keep your flour, sugar and other ingredients in airtight, bug-proof containers. Even if you keep your kitchen spotless, bugs still find a way to get into everything.
- \*Light brown sugar works best in cakes and desserts.

•  
**KINDER, GENTLER WAYS TO SAY  
SOMEONE IS STUPID:**

- \*Doesn't have all his cornflakes in one box.*
- \*All foam, no beer.*
- \*Couldn't pour water out of a boot with instructions on the heel*

# A History of Hot Chocolate



Did you know that cocoa has been a popular beverage for thousands of years? The Olmecs, the oldest civilization of the Americas (1500-400 BC), were probably the first users of cacao. As early as 600 AD, the beans were passed on to the Mayans and Aztecs, who consumed cacao-based drinks called 'xocolatl' made with beans from their plantations. They believed cacao beans to be so valuable that they also used them as currency. When Christopher Columbus first visited the New World in 1492, he encountered many new foods. Amidst these wondrous findings, he came across cocoa beans being used as currency, but didn't know that they were also a food! It took another Spaniard, Hernando Cortez, to make the key realization while fighting the Aztecs. Before Cortez defeated the Aztec emperor, he toasted Montezuma with a golden goblet full of the Aztecs' favorite libation. Cortez brought cocoa beans back to Spain in 1528, where the cocoa drink soon became popular as an accompaniment to breakfast. The Spaniards mixed the beans with sugar, vanilla, nutmeg, clove, allspice and cinnamon. The resulting concoction became the beverage of the nobility – a secret Spain managed to keep from the rest of the world for almost 100 years. But as with most good things, you can't keep them a

secret for long: the sweet reputation of the drink began to drift throughout Europe. Chocolate houses and clubs soon became all the rage in London, with literary and social figures of the time gathering to gossip and drink the rare new delicacy. The English found that hot cocoa mixed with milk made an excellent after-dinner treat. Hot cocoa was so in vogue with London's fashionable set that in 1660 the British Parliament instituted a tax on every gallon of chocolate made and sold.

Helping to increase demand was the belief that chocolate was good for all that ails you. Dr. Stephani Blancardi of Amsterdam declared around 1705 that tasty chocolate "is also a veritable balm for the mouth, for the maintaining of all glands and humors in a good state of health." One of his countrymen backed that claim with a report of a man who had died at the age of 100: "He subsisted for 30 years on nothing other than chocolate and some biscuits. Occasionally he would take a little soup to eat. Yet he was so fit that, at the age of 85 years, he could still mount his horse without stirrups."

Over time, as people got busier with other aspects of life, they had less time to spend in the kitchen. Fortunately, the Carnation Company realized this, and introduced the world's first instant hot cocoa in 1935.

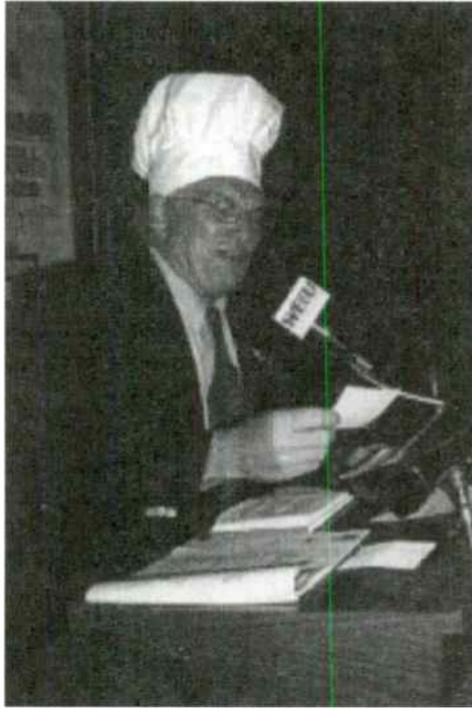
Some people are like blisters—they don't show up until after all the work has been done!

What do you get when you cross a snowman with a vampire?

Frost Bite.



*A capacity crowd filled the Scottish Rite Cathedral in West Reading when WEEU sponsored the “Taste of Home Cooking” show in September, 2002. Attendees were treated to special displays by local sponsors, dozens of valuable door prizes, and a superb cooking demonstration staged by the nationally-known “Taste of Home Cooking” publishing firm.*



*WEEU morning personality Charlie Adams donned a chef's hat to emcee the "Taste of Home Cooking" show at the Scottish Rite Cathedral.*

•

*If you can't sleep, try laying on the edge of the bed-you'll soon drop off!.*

•

*Old saying: "Don't go to bed mad. Stay up and fight!"*

•

*Hear about the guy who stole a calendar?  
He got 12 months!*

•

*Even disasters, and there are always disasters when you travel, can be turned into adventures  
....Marilyn French, American travel writer*

## *Baseball: A Love/Hate Relationship*

*By Len Carmen, WEEU News Anchor*

My love affair with baseball began on a warm, sunny Sunday afternoon in June, 1963.

Although it was 40 years ago, I remember most of what happened as though it were yesterday. Back then, you didn't have two or three games on television every day, so I would watch whenever the Phillies were on. But, this day would be different.

My dad told my brother and me to get in the car because we were going to my grandfather's house. When we arrived, we didn't even get out of the car. My grandfather was waiting for us at the curb.

Dad didn't tell us where we were going, but my brother and I had an inkling that we were going to see our first major league baseball game. As we rode through North Philadelphia we became giddy with anticipation.

The drive seemed endless as we passed rows of homes and stores on Lehigh Avenue. Finally, still a few blocks away, we saw the light towers above Connie Mack Stadium. Our hunches were right.

We parked the car and walked to the stadium ticket window. Four seats in the front row of the upper deck along the first base line. As we walked up the ramp through the tunnel to our seats the field came into view.

The grass was greener than any I had ever seen before or since. The aroma of hot dogs and, yes, fresh-roasted peanuts, and the smoke from all the men smoking their *Phillies* cigars hung in the air beneath the grandstand roof.

The Phillies, with players like Tony Taylor, Don Demeter, Chris Short, and Art Mahaffey, were playing a double-header against Cincinnati. The reds had players named Frank Robinson, Vada Pinson, Jim Maloney, and Joe Nuxhall.

I remember Johnny Callison hitting an inside-the-park home run to help the Phillies win the first game. The Reds won game two when their brash rookie second baseman Pete Rose hit an

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inside-the-park homer. Inside-the-park home runs are rare in baseball, but we saw two in one day!

Before long, baseball began to grow and the old ballparks were replaced by concrete Jell-o molds with plastic grass. My love started to fade like that “fuzzy cement” from overexposure to the elements. Later in life I tried to rekindle the flames. I saw the Red Sox play at Fenway Park, the Cubs at Wrigley Field, and the Tigers at the old stadium in Detroit. It was a treat to see games at some of the old ballparks with their real, green grass and the aroma of hot dogs, peanuts, and cigars wafting through the grandstand. The love was there again.

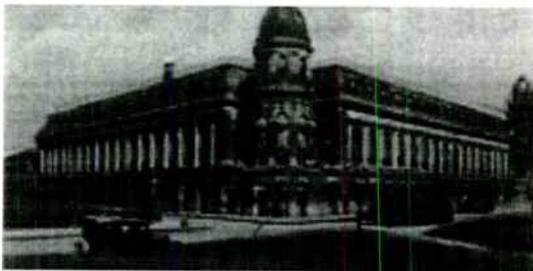
But the players and owners threw buckets of cold water on those flames over and over again with their constant labor difficulties, strikes, and lockouts.

I find it increasingly difficult to justify a trip to a major league ballpark with the outrageous prices for tickets, parking, food, and beverages.

Now I go to minor league games here in Reading where they still have reasonably-priced tickets, food and beverages...and real grass.

I have probably been to hundreds of baseball games since that warm, sunny day in 1963. But none will ever come close to the excitement of my first visit to old Connie Mack Stadium.

Thanks, dad.



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*WEEU's Jack Holcomb continues to delight and inform listeners with his weekly radio broadcast of "Jack's Backyard" which airs on WEEU Radio from 9 to 10:00am on Saturday mornings. Jack is well known for his love of birding and his knowledge of flora and fauna in the natural world. Here's a little reflection of how the day went when Jack tried "something new" ... a different approach to birding ... not by land, not by air, but by water on a kayak! It just goes to show that you should always keep an open mind to trying a new approach to something...there just might be a world of new things to experience!*

# **Jack On The Yak: Tales From The Trails**

*Story and photos by "East Side Dave"  
Dave is the host of the weekly "Mountain Folk" show on  
WEEU Radio from 9 to 10:00 am  
and an avid outdoor enthusiast.*

It was a typical summer day...hot and muggy! Perfect weather for putting the kayaks or "yaks" in the back waters of Blue Marsh Lake in preparation for a calm-water paddling expedition for the purpose of logging whatever wildlife we could find.

The back waters of Blue Marsh Lake around Spring and Peacock Creeks are administrated and posted as "no-wake zones" and power boats are not

allowed to be underway at any speed which would create a wake. This rule enables the back portions of the lake to support populations of wildlife that prefer calm to the sometimes frenzied hubbub of the jet skis, roaring power boats, and general noise associated with large gatherings of the human species which so often populate the main body of the lake.

In and around the back coves of Blue Marsh Lake you'll mostly find fishermen, canoeists, kayakers, mountain bikers, hikers, naturalists and the occasional kid on the way to a favorite summer swimming hole. For the most part, it is a peaceful place. A place where you can listen, watch and learn.

I always enjoy sharing an experience out in nature with Jack and I've written about it before. Each time the experience is different, which makes it interesting. Each time there's something new to learn, something to share, something to appreciate and something worth remembering. Jack's reputation as a "nature-lover" is legendary and well-deserved.

What may not be as commonly known about this gentle man is his equal love of the learning experience which accompanies excursions out in the wild. His child-like enthusiasm for discovery yet stoic and efficient proper notation of detail is inspiring! Instead of having a closed mind because... "that's not the way we do it" ... Jack is open to try something like birding in a way that is "new" to him.

So, after talking about it for quite some time, the water temperatures warmed up to a pleasant degree, our schedules meshed, a plan was made, and Jack found himself on a kayak for the first time in his long and illustrious career!

Before we set off across the lake, Jack received a little instruction for "yaksmanship" and then we put in and Jack began to paddle and observe. When kayaking on calm water, one of the first things you notice is the ease with which you can propel and maneuver the craft.

It is almost like floating on air and the lake-level view

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offers a superb platform for sighting various species of wildlife in the water, on the shore and in the air. Perhaps a bit uncomfortable at first, getting used to the proper posture in the kayak is something that takes a bit of time and equipment adjustment.

Those adjustments beings made, Jack and I were off, and Jack, who is normally very quiet while observing wildlife, began to very willingly offer comments to himself, me and nobody in general, about how "neat" it was to float and paddle in this environment, observing that kayaking actually offers a high degree of stealth for observations because you float across water rather than rustle through bushes.

Once you get the hang of it, you can often float right up to a bird or turtle before it gets spooked. This provides good opportunities for photography and species identification.



*Jack in the Yak!*

We weren't out on the water long before a very distinct birdcall filled the air just above the shoreline in a dense group of pine trees. We stopped paddling and quietly listened. The call repeated itself several times.

Then, as is his style, came the words... "Yellow-Billed Cuckoo." That's it...just those words. And me, I'm all excited...we're hearing a Cuckoo Bird!

To me that's like something very magical! Cuckoos have inspired artists, poets, painters, composers and musicians since the dawn of man. Beethoven and many other classical composers often included "Cuckoo" passages in their more pastoral compositions.

Wagner wrote Cuckoo sounds into his "Alpine Symphony." So for me, (being fixated on mountains and all), hearing this Cuckoo was one of the highlights of my year! (Something like this always happens when I'm out in the wild with Jack. I suppose we just get lucky.

But, on the other hand, if you don't go out and seek you will never find.)

To further make my point...there are no Pigeon Clocks, Turkey Clocks, or Eastern Wood Pewee Clocks...but go almost anywhere and it won't take you long to find a Cuckoo Clock! So...I was excited! Jack gets excited too, but he remains calm, smooth and reserved...always observing...not tittering on and on about it like me.

As I've already mentioned, Jack usually just says the name of the species and that's it. "Yellow-Billed Cuckoo" ... to which I erupt with words like "wow, cool, neat, awesome, fantastic, gee whiz" ... and so forth. After which Jack continues, in an almost clinical way, "Probably a mature bird from the sound of the call."

After a bit more paddling we arrived at one of my favorite spots because it is here that several huge deadfall tree remains poke out of the water and pierce the fluid with branches outstretched toward the sky.

On hot days like this one, turtles come to these places to crawl out of the wet and sun themselves. Sometimes they lineup on the branches one atop the other in a chain, looking like a set of dominoes that have been lined up and tipped over onto themselves. It is wondrous to observe how far up the tree branches the turtles are willing and able to climb to enjoy a little sunbathing!

Turtles in the back coves are wise and wary and they seldom let you get more than a few dozen feet near them before the first one steps off of the branch and hits the water swimming with a comical "plop."

And once one turtle performs the turtle highdive, the rest

always follow. If you want to photograph them, do it while you can because these critters definitely possess a "turtle-see-turtle-do" mentality!

An abundance of Blue and Green Herons greeted us along the way of our yak excursion.

Seeing these magnificent birds inspires one to try and capture the creature on film. But, even with the quiet and efficient kayaks gliding smoothly along the surface of the water.

It is one thing to spot and observe these birds with binoculars, and quite another thing to get in close enough to use a telephoto camera lens with any success.

On at least four different occasions, we got to within several yards of the subject bird, but before snapping a photo, the "urge" took over.

The "urge" is that feeling that compels you to try to press in another few yards, feet, or even inches.

You're just certain that if you can only get a bit closer to the subject, the resulting photograph will become a wall hanging in a famous wildlife gallery or something.

So much for inflated ambition and self-opinion.

Inevitably, that extra inch, foot or yard is just enough to spook the bird and as you adjust the focus on your camera, the bird has already taken wing.

Yes, more than a few expletives accompanied our photographic attempts on this day. (The expletives were mostly issued from me. Jack pretty much remains calm.)

One Great Blue Heron kept allowing us to get within a few dozen yards before taking off.

Then the Heron would land again, not far from where we were paddling to, and the entire process would begin anew.

Often as it circled overhead, it issued a loud "gawk" which made it seem all the more like some sort of prehistoric creature lost in time.

The boggy, overgrown scenery in the back coves where we were paddling really completed the illusion.

Being out on calm water for an extended period of time provides a sense of peace and tranquillity that is hard to find anywhere else. If you can't go out on a kayak or canoe, try just relaxing with a picnic lunch on a shoreline by a lake or



*A Great Blue Heron on the Log*

stream, or maybe even try a little fishing from shore. In this setting, it's not the actual catching that's important. It's the calm and quiet...the harvesting of inner peace...that provides the greatest benefit.

As our adventure continued I could see that Jack was becoming more and more familiar and comfortable with the yak. I've seen it so often with people out on calm water...the eyes roll back a bit, the shoulders soften their usually stiff angles, the whole body seems to round off a bit as stress-weary muscles begin to let loose and true relaxation takes place.

Calm water paddling offers all of this, plus the opportunity for constant discovery of unusual critters and plants. Yes indeed, as we approached the midway point in our journey I could see that Jack was relaxing and feeling very much at home in this...his...element.

We paddled up the Spring Creek until we could go no further without cumbersome kayak dragging on shore. Finding a nice little clearing in the woods, we unpacked our lunches, enjoyed some beverages and sat back to watch nature live all around us. Here we observed various species of butterflies and all manner of dragonflies.

Jack is into photographing butterflies and dragonflies and even though we were to be taking time out for lunch,



*Jack Looking Very Relaxed*

Jack just could not resist the opportunity to shoot a photo of a particularly brilliant, green dragonfly. Watching Jack do his thing got me antsy so next thing you know I'm up and asking questions about a cluster of little white butterflies that most of us see every time we're around water, but never bother to research further.

Jack tells me that they are called "White Cabbage Butterflies" and they cluster like that on damp soil so they can extract the minerals from the wet earth and gravel! I find this fascinating. My camera lens will not focus on something that small, that close, so Jack teaches me how to use his Macro lens and this allows me to capture these little marvels hard at work getting their daily nutritional requirement. Juxtaposition this with how easy it is for you to take your daily multi-vitamin with minerals! Just open the bottle, pop the pill and off you go! No searching, no putting your tongue and nose on wet gravel to absorb nutrients. Gee...we in the human species have it pretty good!

As we get ready to pack up and shove off, a young couple approaches on the nearby trail and it is obvious that they want to fish in this spot. We assure them that we are going to be on our way now and that, from our observations, there are

plenty of Sunfish and even a Trout or two in this section of the creek. They are very thankful for the news. Just after this,



*Jack's Dragonfly – by Jack Holcomb*

Jack treats all of us to a bit of water ballet almost unequaled in the annals of calm-water kayaking! As he attempts to remount his yak, the slippery stones on the creek bed, combined with the slippery surface of the kayak and the moderate "urging" of the creek's current, combine to challenge Jack to a rousing game of "Will-You-Or-Won't-You-Fall-Into-The-Creek?"

I don't recall ever seeing Jack dance before so watching this unplanned recital unfold is amusing and informative. After what seems like endless seconds, Jack finally loses the battle with the forces of nature and gravity. And then, with a fairly impressive "KERPLOP"... we get to witness Jack sitting in the creek, up to his armpits in the fabulously cool and refreshing waters of the Spring Creek! I assure Jack that this has happened to me many times and I congratulate him on being open to being baptized in the waters of kayak adventure! He's a good sport and recovers quickly, no worse for the wear! We reload his yak, (this time with him in it), and paddle off toward our starting point and the completion of our journey.

After we arrive back at our "port of origin" in the Peacock Creek, Jack and I discuss the variety of species we were treated to on this day. I asked Jack to make the actual log entries because he is very good at it and I know he'll record all of the various birds we saw or heard. (Plus, I'm tired and I can't remember all of these birds like he can!)

In addition to the myriad of frogs, turtles, insects and fish we observed, we were able to produce a total log of 42 species of birds! Just for the record, here's what we logged:

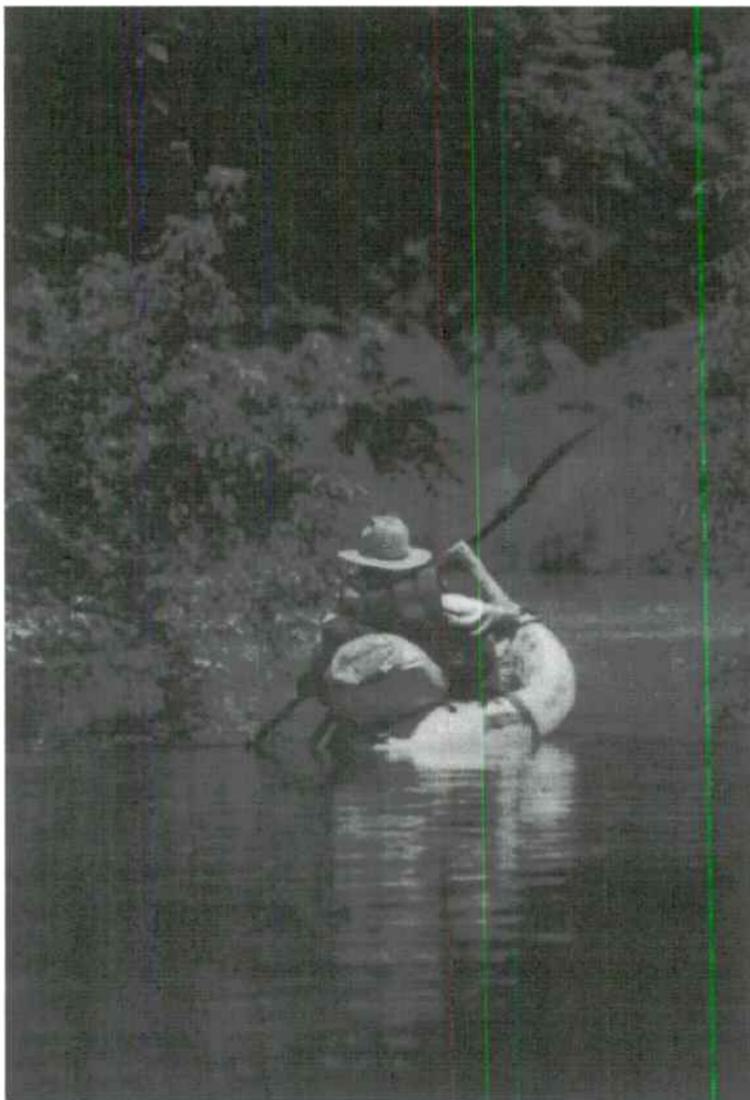
*Cormorants, Great Blue Herons, Green Herons, Canada Geese, Red-Tailed Hawk, Rock Dove, Mourning Dove, Yellow-Billed Cuckoo, (yeah), Chimney Swift, Belted Kingfisher, Red-Bellied Sapsucker, Downy Woodpecker, Least Flycatcher, Eastern Phoebe, Eastern Kingbird, (Jack seems to really like this species), Red-Eyed (something or other), Blue Jay, American Crow, Fish Crow, Tree Swallow, Rough-Winged Swallow, Barn Swallow, Black-Capped Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, (I wonder who names these birds and why anyone would call anything a "Titmouse"?!? What is the plural of this? Titmice? Why?!?), Carolina Wren, Wood Thrush, American Robin, Gray Catbird, Northern Mockingbird, Brown Thrasher, European Starling, Yellow Warbler, Common Yellowthroat, Eastern Sparrow, Field Sparrow, Song Sparrow, Northern Cardinal, Red-Winged Blackbird, Common Grackle, House Finch, American Goldfinch and House Sparrow.*

I dunno...maybe I got a few of these names wrong, but you get the idea. The best rule to follow when planning such an activity is to simply have fun and be sure to get out in nature and do it! Don't just talk about it! Yak and ye shall float! Seek and ye shall find! Observe and ye shall learn! Learn and ye shall grow! Share and ye shall enrich! Enrich and ye shall have passed along part of the Sacred Message of life!

I am reminded of these things every time I share time with Jack. Jack paddling off into the sunset presents the perfect picture of tranquillity and "oneness" with the great outdoors. Jack...Nature...discovery...sharing...enrichment...lucky me!!!



*Jack paddles off into the sunset.....*



# Money: The Root of All **HEADACHES!**

Rollercoaster financial markets, the high cost of living, and not having enough money in the bank.

Nowadays, managing your money has never been so stressful. In fact, personal finances are one of the top tension triggers in the United States, according to a landmark survey.

The survey found that 58 percent of Americans say finances are a great source of tension in their lives. Of that number, more than 80 percent say not being able to save enough money causes stress; 74 percent point to the high cost of living; 69 percent cite bill-paying; and 34 percent say it's the declining stock market. The findings of the survey, conducted by Harris Interactive, are based on 1,805 telephone interviews among a representative sample of Americans 18 years or older.

As Americans stress over their piggy banks, they're also worried about bringing home the bacon. Three in five employed Americans named work as a great source of stress in their lives: specifically, too much work, too many hours at the office, and too little

pay. And employees are feeling the squeeze: 54 percent work through lunch on a weekly basis, and more than three in ten Americans say that fear of losing their job causes stress.

Indeed, money and work issues contribute to an environment in which Americans are finding it increasingly difficult to cope. Forty-four percent said their level of stress has increased over the past year.

Living with high levels of stress on a regular basis can be dangerous to your health, warns stress expert, Dr. Pamela Peeke. "Living with chronic stress is becoming the norm for a huge number of Americans, and that is exactly when it becomes a health hazard," she explains. "There are direct physical consequences, such as increased muscle tension, fatigue, irregular heartbeat, and tension headaches."

For many Americans, all things considered, money and work problems are just one big headache—literally. A majority of Americans suffer from headaches at least once a month, the survey found, and headaches have caused 25 percent of American workers to call in sick and 30 percent to leave their jobs early or arrive late—leaving co-workers to pick up the slack.

**Often the most difficult math to master is  
counting your blessings.**

# **WEEU'S COMMUNITY CAFÉ SETS SIGHTS ON SECOND YEAR AT FAIRGROUNDS SQUARE MALL**

*By Chris Reinbold, WEEU Account Executive  
and Community Café Coordinator*

Looking for some fun and don't want to spend a fortune to entertain the family? Do you want to get out and see the county, but hate filling up the car with gas more than once a week?

Then, you need to check out the WEEU COMMUNITY CAFÉ at Fairgrounds Square Mall.

WEEU's goal has always been to provide the very best in entertainment to our listeners. The same goes for WEEU's off-air endeavors, whether that might be a home cooking show, a night out at the Reading Phillies, or our Community Café at the mall.

The WEEU Community Café began its operation on April 19, 2001 with members of the Berks Bards performing poetry readings. The café has seen its fair share of different acts that reflect the wide variety of talented people in the Berks County area.

We've had a wide variety of musical acts from the county—bluegrass, contemporary, Gaelic, rock, and jazz.

The Community Café isn't just about music, though. We've presented historical slide shows, put on fire safety demonstrations, held magic shows, hosted ghost storytelling, and even presented the public debut of the Berks 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary video. We even had a celebrity or two stop by. In April, 2002, British film and television star Nicholas Smith

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(from the British sitcom "Are You Being Served") graced the Café and recounted many fond memories of his work.

During the Café's planning stages, one of the central ideas was to provide *free* entertainment to the general public. Now, more than a year and a half later, the same mindset holds true—provide a reasonable, accessible location where the public can come and catch the best in Berks entertainment free of charge.

The Community Café is open two days a week (Tuesdays and Thursdays) unless otherwise noted, with all shows beginning at 7 p.m. As an added bonus, the radio station provides many different premium giveaways to the patrons of the Café. Our famous *WEEU JOURNAL* is available in limited quantities, as well as pens, pencils, bumper stickers, Emory boards, and cookbooks—just to name a few.

There is also free coffee and spring water provided courtesy of the Water Guy in Wyomissing.

You are always welcome to bring in food from any of the mall vendors to enjoy as you are entertained. Just don't be surprised if the talent asks for some of your fried during the performance!

To find out the performance schedule you can check out [www.weeu.com](http://www.weeu.com), and then click onto the Encore Café icon. There, you scroll down the page to the Community Café section.

If you're not up to speed with modern technologies, all you have to do is what you've been doing all along—keep listening to WEEU and we'll keep you posted as to who's at the Café for the week.

So, make plans to attend a show—you'll be glad you did!

•

*You have reached middle age when you have learned to take care of yourself—and intend to start any day now.*

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# Morning in Montecarlo

*By Charles J. Adams III, WEEU Morning Show Host*

On my walls hang the art and on my shelves rest the relics of travels near and far.

But these mementos and the thousands of pictures in dozens of photograph albums are mere tokens when compared to the treasures locked forever within me as memories.

I take you now to a 14<sup>th</sup> century village that's propped on a 500-foot high hill overlooking a valley that is created by the A11 autostrade in the heart of northern Tuscany.

That village is Montecarlo. It is so small, so insignificant when compared to larger towns nearby, that I had to search through many maps of Italy to even find its tiny dot and the one road that leads into and out of it.

The valley below is spotted with small manufacturing plants and distribution facilities that swim in a sea of olive groves, orchards, and vineyards. The location, less than an hour's drive from Florence to the east and Pisa and the Mediterranean coast to the west is at once a blessing and a curse for little Montecarlo.

The blessing is obvious. Many major cultural and commercial places are close by. That is why, after extensive research, I picked Montecarlo as a base for a stay in Tuscany last summer. The curse is that the proximity to those places has brought widespread development around, but not in, Montecarlo in recent years.

Nearby towns such as Pescia, Altopasio, and Poracari are busy and blue-collar. Others such as the walled wonder that is Lucca and the spectacular spa town that is Montecatini Terme are bullseyes in the tourists' targets.

And then, there's Montecarlo. Sleepy, sweet little Montecarlo.

You can count the streets of town on one hand and you could walk every one of them in one hour. There is a jewelry store, a pottery shop, a wine shop, a couple of restaurants, pizzerias, and taverns, and there's a catchall general store. But, Montecarlo lacks the busy, shop-lined streets and broad *ristorante*-ringed piazzas of nearby storybook towns such as Montecatini Alto, Cortona, Lucca, Volterra, and Siena.

Quite honestly, Montecarlans don't seem to mind it a bit. And, anyone who stays there will find it quite refreshing and relaxing. It is a medieval theme park.

Montecarlo has a storybook feeling all it's own. It is the factual tale of life in a workaday Tuscan hilltop town, not the fiction of others that have sought and succumbed to hordes of tourists who have made them caricatures of themselves.

Therein lies the ultimate charm of Montecarlo. If there is a cinematic parallel in the roughest terms, it is the Bill Murray comedy, "Groundhog Day," in which the hero

Every morning during our stay in Montecarlo, I would rise early and sit on the stoop in front of Casa Satti, our in-town villa for the week. Every morning, the village shook off the sunrise and came to life in a familiar and reassuring routine.

Two town dogs, one with a slight limp, rambled down the street at 7:04. A town cat dodged the dogs and skulked from one alley to another at around 7:07. At almost precisely 7:15, a gray Fiat passed slowly by and the town cop alighted to begin his day at the police station.

A minute or so later, an older gent hobbled by, nodded, and proffered my first *buongiorno* of the day. Simultaneously, pigeons fluttered as a woman flung open the shutters of her second story home across Via Roma as young Fabrizio wheeled open the gates of his *tabaccheria* just up the street. A delivery truck dropped off newspapers and boxes of all sorts. A street cleaner rambled by. Two

leggy maidens strolled by on their way to work at the tiny town hall.

And on, and on and on, day by day by day.

Part of me thought I was not so much an observer of all of this, but an intruder. But, as the sun rose each morning and as I sat on that stoop watching, I realized that I had become a cast member, “the stranger on the stoop” in this street theater.

I came to that realization when, on just the second morning I had done so, I wandered up to Fabrizio’s shop and was—before I could even ask for one and because I *had* asked for one the previous morning—a beaming Fabrizio handed me a copy of the International Herald-Tribune. I had unwittingly, but quite willingly, taken my role in this revue of the routine.

That role was small and transitory, but I seemed to be embraced by the rest of the *dramatis personae*. On the third morning, the cop nodded, the leggy maidens cast doe eyes my way, the shutter lady smiled, and even the limping dog acknowledged my presence with a nervous growl.

One evening, while enjoying bruschetta *al fresca* on Piazza Garibaldi, Fabrizio dropped by our table, winked, smiled, and in broken English said, “Tomorrow! Herald-Tribune for you!” I winked, smiled, and in broken Italian replied, “*Si! Domani! Grazi!*”

My tomorrows would run out on that stoop, in that sweet town. We had to leave to return home. I am certain, though, that the morning after we left, the curtain rose once more and those dogs, that cat, the old chap, the cop, and all the other players of those Montecarlo mornings continued their morning rituals. And up at Fabrizio’s, one copy of the Herald-Tribune went unsold.

Time may end a vacation and fade a photograph. But time can never dim my memories of my mornings in Montecarlo.

# Moonlight Over Moncontour

*By Charles J. Adams III, WEEU Morning Show Host*

The full moon seemed to rise not in the firmament, but from the edge of the woods just beyond the weathered walls of the Medieval village of Moncontour.

It was fifty minutes until midnight when the silvery disk ascended gracefully from the forest silhouette. It lingered awhile as if tickling or being tickled by the treetops.

Framing a tulip-shaped tree for a moment, the moon's brilliant glow filtered through branches and bathed the leaves before it broke free and swept slowly across the night sky.

The higher it rose, the smaller it seemed. It was what I once learned to be the "moon illusion." The moon is, of course, always the same size. It only appears larger on the horizon because there are landmarks by which to compare it. Even though its diameter seems to diminish as it climbs higher, it is but an illusion.

But, I digress. This moon over Moncontour took its time along its eternal orbit that night. The rooftops of the town gleamed briefly and then slipped under shadows as the night sky darkened.

It was summer in Brittany, an enchanted appendage of France. In this place, the ubiquitous toll roads that lace the landscape in the rest of the country become free in adherence to an ancient charter.

In this place, there are those who drink more cider than wine. In this place, there are street signs with both Gaelic and French verbage. In this place, some folks speak a language and listen to music that seems more appropriate for Galway than Gaul.

In this place, along a spectacular northern coastline, the granite is pink, the heather is a quilt of color, and islands are sprinkled just offshore as if dropped from heaven.

And, in the heart of summer in this place, this *Bretagne*, sunlight stubbornly clings to the golden domes of cathedrals, rugged rooftops of villages, and tulip-shaped trees. It gives way ever so reluctantly, it seems, to the starlight only at the eleventh hour. Ninety minutes before midnight, it is still possible to read a book under the fading embers of the sun.

IN the depths of night, when the moon is not full, this place is eerily dark and quiet. The City of Light is hundreds of miles away and the fabled forests of Brittany are always near.

These are forests where Merlin worked his magic, where wars have been waged sporadically for centuries, and where the *Briezh* now while away their idle hours.

Here, in this arrowhead of a peninsula between the Cote D'emerande and the Gulf of Morbihan, commerce is concentrated in the cities and large towns. And they, thankfully, are few and far between.

The country villages, even in the middle of the workday, seem deserted and devoid of their denizens. Homes seem, but are not, abandoned. What shops there are keep odd hours. Life is different in this place.

From Belle Ile to Brehat, this Brittany has inspired the likes of Chateaubriand and Gauguin. It has spawned great literature, art, and the storied ceramics of Quimper.

Paris and Provence get the press. The Riviera is to be revered, they say. Normandy is forever seared in our memory.

In Brittany, where the sea crashes against craggy cliffs; where the wine has a special sweetness and the cider a tasty tartness; and where the moon seems to rise more slowly and much later, there is a special sense of tranquility.

A good traveler is one who does not know where he is going.  
A perfect traveler does not know where he came from.



*Winter, summer, spring, or fall....WEEU is there for the big events in Berks County. Above, at the Downtown Reading Holiday Parade WEEU's "Frosty" cavorts with morning newscaster Len Carmen (left), receptionist Linda White, and "Santa" Kaz, our irrepressible Sunday German/Bavarian/Polka music show host.*

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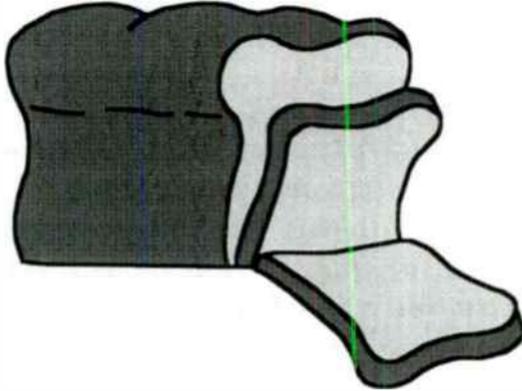


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# A GOOD DAY AT SCHOOL



## STARTS IN THE LUNCH BOX

While reading, writing, and arithmetic are key to a child's academic success, understanding the ABCs of good nutrition—and a good lunch—may be just as important. After all, what a child eats will serve as his or her primary source of fuel for the muscles AND the brain during the busy school day.

With obesity rates among children at their highest levels ever, experts are focusing on the importance of establishing good eating and exercise habits early, according to the Wheat Foods Council. The Food Guide Pyramid provides the foundation for healthful, well-balanced eating and recommends choosing variety of

foods, including grains, fruits, vegetables, dairy, and meat. In fact, grain foods (also known as brain foods) form the base of the pyramid and are an excellent source of complex carbohydrates, the best choice for fueling growing muscles and brains.

To make sure your child is setting the foundation for a healthy future, try these lunch-packing tips:

***•Take your kids grocery shopping—and use the time to talk about healthful eating. Find out what they are learning in school about nutrition and ask your child to apply that nutrition knowledge to their lunch selections. Be sure they include foods from each food group, including grain foods such as bread, bagels, crackers, tortillas, and even animal crackers.***

***•Expose your children to additional healthful foods one step at a time. We all know kids love white bread, but why not try making a sandwich with one piece of enriched white bread and one piece of whole grain bread? That way your child gets the best of both worlds -- iron, thiamin, niacin, riboflavin, and folic acid from the white bread, and fiber and antioxidants such as vitamin E from the whole grain bread.***

***•Let your kids be the ones with the "cool" lunch that all the other kids want. Allow your kids to get a little creative and pack a non-traditional lunch on occasion. Dry cereal with a thermos of milk to add later, pasta salad, or cracker stacker sandwiches they can make themselves are all great examples of healthful foods that will help fulfill your children's need for nutrition, energy, and fun.***

# SITTIN' IN THE FEEDBACK CHAIR...

*By "Mighty Mike" Faust,  
Host, WEEU'S Feedback*

Many people have asked me, "Mike, what's it like to host Feedback?" My usual quick-fire response is the "it's better than getting a real job". Which I must admit is an honest and sincere answer. But I thought I would go a step further than that.

Early summer, 1995. I am called into the Program Director's office. Having finished up my four-year degree along with completing my

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teacher certification in Elementary Education, I was happy just to have a full-time radio gig as the night-time guy at WEEU.

I substituted here and there during the day and then it was off to 4th & Court for my position as Music Director and "Soft Touch" host. When asked if I wanted to host a whole week of Feedback for the radio legend Jack Holcomb my initial response was...absolute shock. My head was nodding yes. "Sure I'll sit in and host Feedback."

Meanwhile, my subconscious is telling me, "What in the world are you doing? Did you just do what I think you did? Are you absolutely nuts?"

The rest, as they say, is radio history. The Feedback audience has more than accepted me and I...well, I put up with them. It's a nice

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arrangement we have. (just kiddin').

What do I like best about hosting Feedback?

Sure there's an easy formatted answer here:

The callers, listeners, special guests, topics, bumper music. But the one item that keeps me coming back for more is the fact that every day is different than the previous day. Where else can you talk about heroic achievements your dog or cat has done for an entire show? Feel good stories.

Like the time a woman's cat woke her up in the middle of the night to let her know the house reeked of natural gas. Then *BAM!* right into a day's worth of talking about property taxes and the dire need for some kind of reform, relief for seniors, veterans, and the middle class. Yes, this, my friend, is the exciting world of talk radio.

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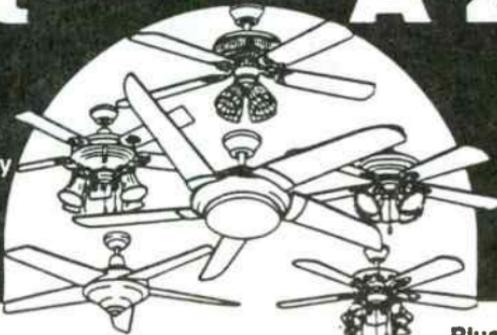
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I try not to label people. Although this can be tough sometimes when they stick out like a sore thumb. Everyone who picks up that phone and calls the program is offering something. Whether it's a positive, negative, or neutral stance on current events. They are an individual; a neighbor, friend, church member, taxpayer, city resident, native of Berks County. They all bring something different to the table, their perspective. By 11:45 in the morning I have a much better idea of how this part of the world feels on the issues of the day. Whether they be local, state, or of national significance. Their voices are being heard and most of the time they feel a tad bit better knowing that other people understand where they are coming from.

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There are many past programs that stick out in my mind as being incredible. Too many to mention right now. Where I really feel this show has had an impact, made a difference in people's lives. I recall having Al Boscov on the program a couple of times promoting the revitalization of Reading. It was amazing to see how the listeners responded to this well-known,

Entrepreneur/Humanitarian and his effort to bring prosperity back into this city that some believe is dying. One gentlemen called on the air, not to complain, not to suggest how to do it better, but wanted to donate his home to this very worthwhile cause. That my friend is powerful stuff!

There are many shows that always bring a



smile to my face when I think of them. Like an entire week of shows devoted to World War II leading up to the Mid-Atlantic Air Museum's W.W.II Memorial Weekend in early June.

Speaking with Colonel Robert Morgan of the famous Memphis Belle or chatting with Sgt. Tom Begay—a codetalker who helped defeat the Japanese by using the Navajo Indian language. It was a living history lesson that no classroom instruction could have ever taught.

What a delight it was to speak in the studio with actor Nicholas Smith of the BBC from the hit TV comedy "Are You Being Served?". Mr. Smith portrayed the lovable Mr. Cuthbert Rumbold manager of Grace Brothers Dept. Store. Many listeners called in just to say "hello" and "thank-

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you" for all the laughs he gave us over the years. And, if we're talking about television,

I wouldn't want to leave out Christopher Kent from the "Flea Market Mania" show. Christopher stopped by to do on-air appraisals when he was in town taping his popular cable TV show on the GoodLife Television network. Callers got to find out how much their attic treasures are worth.

Whether its a discussion about Fersommling the PA German way or West Nile Virus with expert public health ecologist Dr. Rexford Lord, there is always something exciting and new to learn on Feedback. From the callers to the guests, every day is different...

...sittin' in the Feedback chair.

•

## **60 Second Chocolate Mousse**

Yield: 4 Servings

### **Ingredients**

1 c chocolate chips

1 c heavy cream

1 egg

1 whipped cream

1 ts vanilla

### **Instructions**

Place chocolate, egg, and flavoring in blender and chop. Heat cream until small bubbles appear at edge. Do not boil. With machine running, pour in hot cream. Blend until chocolate is melted and mixture is smooth. Pour into dessert dishes, cover with plastic and chill.

# Americana Key Lime Pie

## *Ingredients*

(6 servings)

1 tb Unflavored gelatin (1 env.)

1/2 c Sugar

1/4 ts Salt

4 ea Egg yolks

1/2 c Lime juice

1/4 c Water

1 ts Grated lime peel

1 x Few drops green food color

4 ea Egg whites

1/2 c Sugar

1 c Heavy cream, whipped

1 ea 9-in baked pastry shell

1 x Pistachio nuts, chopped

1 x Lime slices for garnish

1 x Heavy cream, whipped, to top

## *Instructions*

Thoroughly mix gelatin, 1/2 cup sugar, and salt in saucepan.

Beat together egg yolks, lime juice, and water; stir into gelatin mixture. Cook and stir over medium heat just till mixture comes to boiling. Remove from heat; stir in grated peel. Add food coloring sparingly to tint pale green. Chill, stirring occasionally, until the mixture mounds slightly when dropped from a spoon. Beat egg whites till soft peaks form; gradually add 1/2 c sugar, beating to stiff peaks. Fold gelatin mixture into egg whites. Fold in whipped cream. Pile into cooled baked pastry shell. Chill till firm. Spread with more whipped cream; edge with grated lime peel. Sprinkle chopped pistachio nuts in center. Garnish with thinly sliced lime placed in whipped cream mounds around edge of pie.

## **All-American Burger Topping**

Yield: 1 Servings

### **Ingredients**

- 1 c mayonnaise
- 1/4 c ketchup
- 1/4 c chopped dill pickle
- 1/4 c chopped onion
- 2 tb prepared mustard

### **Instructions**

Combine all ingredients.  
Serve on beef, poultry or seafood.

•

## **Arroz Mexicano (Mexican Rice)**

Yield: 6 Servings

### **Ingredients**

- 1 onion; chopped
- 1 garlic clove; minced
- 3 tb lard or cooking oil
- 1 c uncooked rice
- 2 c bouillon (or more)
- 1 c tomato puree
- 1 tb minced parsley
- 1 ds salt to taste
- 1 ds pepper to taste

### **Instructions**

Cook onion and garlic in lard until golden. Add rice and cook until the rice is colored; then add remaining ingredients and cook covered over low heat. After 12 minutes; check and add more bouillon if necessary.

Recover and cook until rice is tender and liquid is absorbed.

This may be served with grated cheese, or sliced cooked Chorizo, or mushrooms may be added.

# **All American Hot Dish**

Yield: 6 Servings

## ***Ingredients***

1 lb lean ground beef  
8 oz whole kernel corn, 1 cn  
1/4 c ripe olives; pitted, halved  
2 c water  
1/2 ts salt  
1 c cheddar cheese; shredded  
1/2 c onion; chopped, 1 md  
8 oz tomato sauce; 1 cn  
4 oz noodles; uncooked, abt 2 c  
1 ts oregano leaves  
1/4 ts pepper

## ***Instructions***

Cook and stir the meat and onion in a large skillet until the meat is brown. Drain off the excess fat. Stir in the **UNDRAINED** corn and the rest of the ingredients. **TO COOK IN A SKILLET:** Heat the mixture to boiling then reduce the heat and simmer, uncovered, stirring occasionally, until the noodles are tender, about 20 minutes. Serve hot. **TO COOK IN THE OVEN:** Pour the mixture into an ungreased 2-quart casserole. Cover and bake in a 375 degree F. oven for 30 minutes, stirring occasionally. Uncover and bake until the mixture thickens, about 15 minutes. Serve hot.

# Flaming Eggs

## *Ingredients*

- (2 servings)
- 1 tb Olive oil
- 1/2 sm Onion
- 1/2 sm Red pepper
- 1/2 ts Chopped red chilli
- 220 g Crushed tomatoes
- 1 tb Tomato paste
- 3 Eggs
- 1 tb Parsley

## *Instructions*

Preparation time: 25 minutes Cooking time: 25 minutes

1. Preheat the oven to 160C. Heat the oil in a medium pan, add the onion and cook over a medium heat until soft and lightly golden. Add the pepper and chilli and cook for a further 2-3 minutes. Add the tomato paste and cook , uncovered, over a low heat for 10 minutes, stirring occasionally.
2. Transfer the tomato mixture into a shallow, ovenproof dish. Using the bowl of a soup spoon, press two hollows into the mixture to hold the eggs (one per number of servings). One-by-one break each egg into the hollows.
3. Bake for 20-30 minutes or until the whites are set and the yolks are still soft.
4. Sprinkle with parsley and serve immediately.



*Just how BIG is "Mighty Mike" Faust? He towers over Sarah Besterman (l) and Beth Setley, from the Berks Deaf & Hard of Hearing Services in this photo taken after they appeared on FEEDBACK*

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The screenshot shows the St. Joseph Medical Center website interface. On the left is a navigation menu with links like 'Home', 'About SJMC', 'Areas of Excellence', 'Human Resources', 'Directory Services', 'Getting Here', 'Information Center', 'What's Coming', and 'Web Nursery'. The main content area features a 'Home' banner with a photo of a group of people, a 'Medical Center News' section with an article about a golf tournament, a 'Weekly Photo' section, and a 'Latest Press' section with dates from August 13, 2001, to July 04, 2001. There are also buttons for 'FIND A DOCTOR & DIRECTIONS', 'SIGN UP FOR UPDATES DELIVERED TO YOUR E-MAIL', and 'APPLY FOR A JOB'. The website footer includes '© 2003 SJMC' and 'All rights reserved'.

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*WEEU “Feedback” host Mike Faust (top) proudly displays his “Award for Excellence in Broadcasting” presented to him at ceremonies in Hershey in 2002. “Mighty Mike” won the coveted award at the Pennsylvania Association of Broadcasters’ ceremonies at the Hotel Hershey. In the lower photo, Mike holds the award and is flanked by former WEEU General Manager Richard Schilpp, WEEU Program Director Jo Painter, and a representative from the Pennsylvania Association of Broadcasters.*



*A popular attraction at many WEEU parade and special event appearances is our mascot, "WEE-U Bear." Note, as he paraded in the Reading Labor Day Parade, that he was wearing roller skates!*

# **Berks County's Wake-up Call**



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# A Wondrous Walk

*Story by Dave Kline, Illustrations by HLK.*

It had been some time since WEE-U Bear had gone on a long walk in the forest. Even though he is a bear, he is a *mascot* bear and so he spends most of his time doing fun things for WEEU Radio station like attending parades and special events. When he has spare time he enjoys reading and listening to music. But, going on nature walks is something that he also likes to do when he can find the time.

On this bright, sunny day, WEE-U decided that it would be very pleasant to take a walk into the nearby woods to see which of his woodland friends might be home.

No sooner did WEE-U get to the edge of the forest than he heard the familiar "Caw-Caw" of his old friend Calvin Crow. "I thought that was you," said Calvin, "We haven't seen you in these woods for a long time!"



“Calvin! Good old Calvin,” shouted WEE-U, “I have been busy working and reading and such, but I sure did miss all of my friends! How have you been? How’s everyone else? What can you see from the branch so high up on the good old Oak tree?”

“Caw-Caw,” sputtered Calvin Crow, “So many questions...well, let’s see...I have been well, flying more than ever, trying to learn a bit more about gliding. As for the others, they are all fine and I’m sure you’ll see most of them during your walk today. This is my favorite tree and branch because it sits right at the edge of the forest and I can see everyone and everything coming and going. The view up here today is very nice because it is a clear day. Too bad you can’t fly!”

“Yes indeed...too bad,” said WEE-U, “But I’m happy to hear that all is well in the woods! I suppose I’d best be off on my walk now before the day slips away from me. See you later Calvin!”

“See you later,” said Calvin. And with that WEE-U stepped into the forest on a trail surrounded on all sides by bright green, happy looking Pine trees.

As WEE-U strolled along he marveled at the many different plants and trees along the trail. There were giant ferns, sunny looking daisies, great swaying White Birch trees and of course, the very good smelling Pines.

When WEE-U was just a little cub he often slept out under the stars in a bed of Pine branches. He would wait until the end of the day and then he would go to the Pine part of the forest to collect the softest, most tender Pine branches. Then he would carefully arrange them on the ground so that they rose up from the ground just a few inches. Then he would gently pat them down, sit down, lay back and enjoy his newly made bed of Pines.

“Ummmm,” WEE-U sighed, “That sure was a comfy bed.”

“Looked more like some sort of giant bird’s nest to me,” came a voice from the forest, “I often wondered what sort of egg you were going to lay!”

“Who’s there? Who said that? Who are you?”

While he was daydreaming about his old habit of making Pine beds in the forest, WEE-U hadn’t noticed that someone had joined him and was sitting directly overhead on a Pine branch which was particularly full of Pine cones.

“Who indeed, “ said the voice, “or rather HOOOOOOOOO indeed!”

It came to WEE-U in an instant! It could only be one friend. And then he looked up and shouted aloud, “Hooty Owl, why Hooty Owl, I didn’t think I’d see you in here in the daytime. To what do I owe this pleasure?”

“Word travels quickly in the forest WEE-U. Many of your friends have already heard that you’ve come back for a visit and everyone’s anxious to have a little chat with you! They actually woke me up from my roost but that’s fine because I wanted to chat with you myself!”

“I remember when you were just a fledgling and I was just a cub and we’d both play in the Pines most of the evening,” said WEE-U, “Those were the days. I remember the time when you were learning how to fly and land and you accidentally landed and sat on a big Pine Cone...”

“OK, OK,” said Hooty, “We all make mistakes! I remember the time you were trying to get honey out of that bee’s nest and all you got was a big old bee sting right on the tip of your nose! Now that was funny looking. Your nose turned red and grew a size larger as I recall!”

WEE-U and Hooty laughed and remembered lots of happy adventures together.



Throughout the day WEE-U and his many friends frolicked in the deep, cool woods and it wasn't until early evening that one of the raccoons mentioned that it might be fun to go to the deep, clear, lake for a refreshing swim!

All of the critters wandered down the dusty trail to the edge of the lake, which was a beautiful lake indeed! The water stretched off into the distance as far as the eye could see and the shores were surrounded by all kinds of bushes and trees. While standing at the water's edge, WEE-U noticed how pretty it looked when the evening sun reflected off of the surface of the water.

"I see a very, very handsome bear in that water's reflection," WEE-U announced, "and it's me!" With that he giggled and all of his friends laughed as well. There was a very pleasant mood as they they passed away the time by floating sticks out onto the lake and then imagined the sticks were some sort of boat or ship.

One by one the friends took part in carefully selecting stones with just the right shape for water skipping. Not too round, best if flat, not too big...a perfect stone for skipping gave you the best chance to be the best stone skipper at the lake for the day!

When everyone had a stone, they lined up, one by one, side by side, along the edge of the lake. They were careful to not get too close to each other so that they would have plenty of room for their wind up and stone release.

There were some grand skips! Several throws produced ten and twelve hoppers! Finally it was WEE-U's turn to throw. He patiently waited until there was very little wind which made the surface of the water on the lake as smooth as glass. He gingerly wound up his throwing paw and then, with a funny grunt, he threw with all of his might!

Out over the water WEEU-s stone sailed. After about twenty feet, it finally came down and made contact with the lake. It skipped six times very quickly. Everybody counted out loud. "Four-five-six"...

Then it took a high bounce and went on skipping.

"Seven-eight-nine-ten-eleven-twelve-thirteen-fourteen-fifteen-sixteen-seventeen-eighteen-nineteen-twenty!" Everyone shouted together, "A twenty hopper, a twenty hopper!"

After twenty skips WEE-U's stone finally stopped and sank to the bottom of the lake. On the way down all kinds of fishes swam round and round the stone admiring its perfect shape and celebrating this outstanding throw of twenty hops and skips!

As WEE-U and his friends celebrated on shore, a brightly colored Sunfish swam up to them and from the water announced himself.

"Ahem...please allow me to introduce myself. I am Simon Sunfish, President of the Lake's Bubble and Fin Welcoming Committee and Chief of the Society of the Fishes of the Lake!"

"Um...pleased to meet you," said WEE-U.

"Yes indeed," replied Simon the Sunfish, "Ahem...WEE-U...I am here on behalf of all of the fishes in the lake to welcome you and to announce that your skipping stone today set a lake record for the most number of hops in the history of the lake! Only one throw ever came closer and that was one thrown by old Nanny Goat many, many years ago! WEE-U, you are our new champion of the lake!"

"Hurray," shouted everyone at the lake!

"And now, as is our tradition," continued Simon Sunfish, "We present a special treat just for you and your friends!"

## 2003 • THE WEEU JOURNAL • 2003

And with that, twenty Crappie Bass swam by in formation, flipping their fins as a sign of approval. They were reminding everyone that the stone had skipped twenty times! The Crappie Bass were silver, white and black and they looked quite impressive as they swam by, fins held high in honor of WEE-U's achievement!

Next came several dozen Small and Largemouth Bass, they jointly sang a song to WEE-U. It went like this...

*It was a peaceful day on the lake...  
A good day for a stone skipping record to make...  
Along came WEE-U Bear...  
With his paw held high in the air...  
He threw his stone quite well...  
And now we've got a tale to tell...  
Of the day on this here lake...  
When the record WEE-U did break!*

*Twenty hops skipped right across...  
This makes WEE-U the boss...  
No stone did ever fly...  
Like WEE-U's mighty try...  
Throughout time we all shall sing...  
Of this most amazing thing...  
When WEE-U won the toss...  
Now he's our new stone skipping boss!*

*Hurray!!!*



As the song was ending and everyone was cheering, a group of fifty or more Carp swam up to the shore and began laying over on their sides which reflected the golden rays of the setting sun off of their gorgeous golden scales. They directed the reflection right at WEE-U which made him light up with a golden color that was very royal looking. Then the Carp began to chant...

*WEE-U, WEE-U, WEE-U, WEE-U...*  
*Our new King of Stone Skipping...*  
*WEE-U, WEE-U, WEE-U, WEE-U...*  
*You the Bear! You the Bear!*

WEE-U laughed and was kind of embarrassed by all of the attention. "What a grand fish parade," he said out loud.

"Yes," said Simon Sunfish, "All for you and your friends. And there's more to come! I'd now like to introduce you to our precision troop of swimmers known as *Cats, Perch and Sunnies!*"

No sooner had Simon Sunfish said the words than thirty silver-colored Catfish leaped from the water and while in mid-air,

thirty Yellow Perch leaped right behind them, followed by one hundred blue, yellow, red and white Sunfish which formed what looked like a fish rainbow of every color imaginable!

Then, as the other fish were still in the air, two hundred Pickerel puckered up and stuck their little fish lips just above the surface of the water in a circle and began to spurt water up into the air surrounding the other leaping fish with a very impressive wall of water.

It looked like the grandest water fountain ever! Everyone on shore was totally amazed!

From amidst the spray of water came a very large fish swimming right toward WEE-U on shore. This fish was the largest any of them had ever seen! It was at least six feet long and very sleek looking, but with a strong body. As the water calmed again, the fish surfaced and Simon Sunfish spoke again.

“WEE-U, may I please introduce the pride of the lake, the one and only Mighty Mel the Muskie! Mighty Mel is here to take you all on a cruise around the lake. Hop right on, don't crowd, Mel's a strong and excellent swimmer. This is your victory lap around the lake! Enjoy the ride!”

What a sight it made, Mel the Muskie with WEE-U and his friends on his back, cruising the lake in all their glory! First behind Mel's head was Calvin the Crow, next was Hooty Owl, and then WEE-U, proudly surveying the lake as the new champion stone skipper.

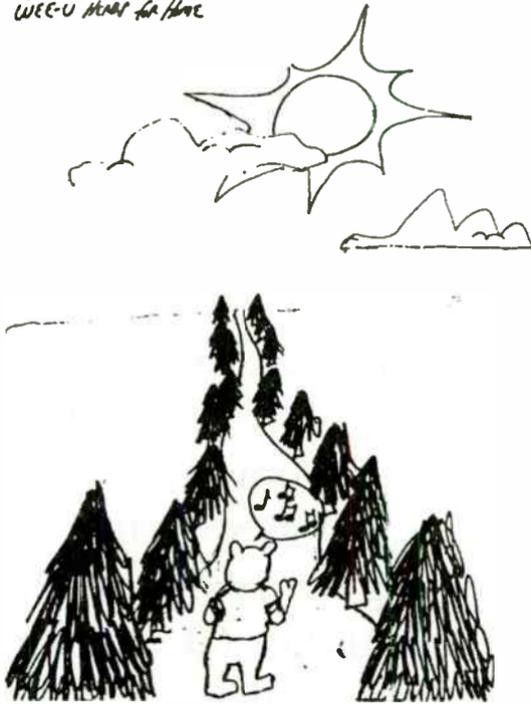
While the happy little group was out cruising the lake, the raccoons, chipmunks and squirrels gathered up all kinds of delicious ripe berries and nuts and had them waiting on shore when their friends returned. Everyone had a big feast and ate until their bellies were full and every last nut and berry was gone!

## 2003 • THE WEEU JOURNAL • 2003

WEE-U's friends then walked with him back to the edge of the forest where they wished him well and reminded him to come visit again soon!

As WEE-U walked home he thought over and over again about the wondrous adventure he shared with his friends on this day. The walk helped his tummy to not feel so big and full from the feast of nuts and berries and when he finally went to sleep that night, he dreamed of the fish parade and his royal ride on Mel the Muskie!

*WEE-U HEARD FOR HOME*



Ah...what a grand day it was and WEE-U could hardly wait for his next adventure!

**THE END!**

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CARTOONS by Charles J. Adams Jr.....father of WEEU  
morning personality Charlie Adams (III)  
Read Charlie Jr.'s column, "Adams Apples" in the Berks-Mont  
Newspapers every week, and inquire about  
"Checkers" books at LST 281@aol.com



---AND TO MY NEPHEW CHARLIE WHO SAID  
I WOULDN'T REMEMBER HIM IN MY WILL:  
"HELLO CHARLIE"



TO US BACHELORS A WEDDING RING IS LIKE  
A TOURNIQUET. IT STOPS OUR CIRCULATION



THINGS ARE DIFFERENT DOWN IN FLORIDA.  
IT'S EASY TO SPOT POLITICIANS ON THE  
TAKE. THEIR PALMS ARE ALL SUNBURNED.



Charles Adams, Jr.

MY WIFE WOULD LOVE TO DIVORCE ME.  
IF ONLY SHE COULD FIND A WAY OF  
DOING IT WITHOUT MAKING ME HAPPY.



WHEN I WAS YOUNG, ANY MAN THAT REFUSED TO FIGHT WAS CALLED A COWARD. NOW THEY CALL US BACHELORS



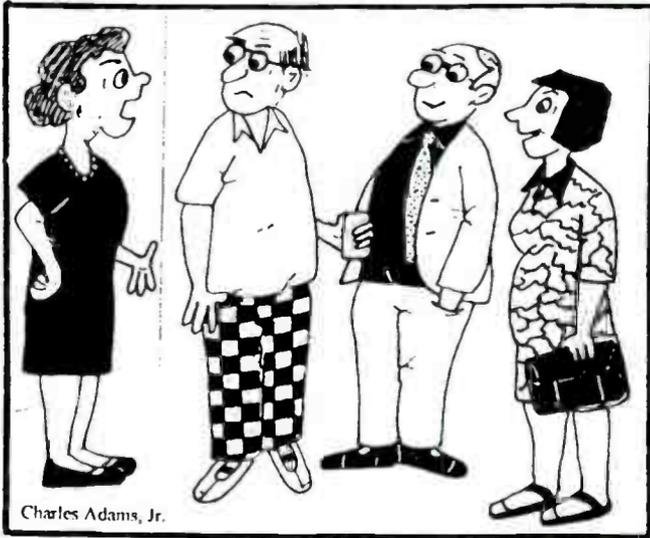
Charles Adams, Jr.

A FEW SNORTS OF THAT GOOD OLD MOONSHINE AND I'M EIGHT FEET TALL



Charles Adams, Jr.

UNCLE JOE SAID HE WANTS SOME OLD-FASHIONED LOVING, SO I INTRODUCED HIM TO MY GRANDMOM



Charles Adams, Jr.

YOU DID GET THE LAST WORD DEAR.  
THIS IS A NEW ARGUMENT



Charles Adams, Jr.

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2003	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	2003	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	<b>JAN.</b>	5	6	7	1	2	3		4	<b>JULY</b>	6	7	1	2	3
	12	13	14	15	16	17	18		13	14	15	16	17	18	19
	19	20	21	22	23	24	25		20	21	22	23	24	25	26
	26	27	28	29	30	31		27	28	29	30	31			
<b>FEB.</b>							1	<b>AUG.</b>						1	2
	2	3	4	5	6	7	8		3	4	5	6	7	8	9
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	16	17	18	19	20	21	22		17	18	19	20	21	22	23
	23	24	25	26	27	28		24	25	26	27	28	29	30	
<b>MAR.</b>							1	<b>SEPT.</b>	31						
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	16	17	18	19	20	21	22		14	15	16	17	18	19	20
	23	24	25	26	27	28	29		21	22	23	24	25	26	27
	30	31						28	29	30					
<b>APR.</b>			1	2	3	4	5	<b>OCT.</b>				1	2	3	4
	6	7	8	9	10	11	12		5	6	7	8	9	10	11
	13	14	15	16	17	18	19		12	13	14	15	16	17	18
	20	21	22	23	24	25	26		19	20	21	22	23	24	25
	27	28	29	30				26	27	28	29	30	31		
<b>MAY</b>					1	2	3	<b>NOV.</b>							1
	4	5	6	7	8	9	10		2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	11	12	13	14	15	16	17		9	10	11	12	13	14	15
	18	19	20	21	22	23	24		16	17	18	19	20	21	22
	25	26	27	28	29	30	31		23	24	25	26	27	28	29
<b>JUNE</b>	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	<b>DEC.</b>	30						
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	22	23	24	25	26	27	28		14	15	16	17	18	19	20
	29	30						21	22	23	24	25	26	27	
								28	29	30	31				

2004	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	2004	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	<b>JAN.</b>	4	5	6	7	8	9		10	<b>JULY</b>	4	5	6	7	8
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									31						
<b>MAY</b>	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	<b>NOV.</b>		1	2	3	4	5	6
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	20	21	22	23	24	25	26		19	20	21	22	23	24	25
	27	28	29	30					26	27	28	29	30	31	



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# 1999

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# 1999 Feedback Journal

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## **FEEDBACK JOURNAL**

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# **Thanks...**

**by Jack Holcomb**

*Last year it was "Happy 250th Birthday, Reading."*

*This year it is "Happy 20th Birthday, Feedback!"*

*Time flies when you're having fun.*

*My dad often said to me, "The older you get, the quicker the time goes," and he was certainly right on the money.*

*It is really hard for me to believe that twenty years have past since that day in December, 1979.*

*Like everything else in this life there have been ups and downs, smiles and frowns, but we have persevered with the help of a great WEEU support team that never quits.*

*From the general manager to the cleaning crew, this "thanks" is for you.*

*As I started to write this short piece I felt I should mention the names of all the staff because, in some way, everyone has contributed. However, I know you don't want to just read names. Many have come and gone or been moved around but have always taken time for the "Feedback" host.*

*The sponsors, they are the ones who invest in "Feedback" so I can get a paycheck every week, certainly deserve a big thank you. We have several who have been on the show since its beginning, so maybe we have helped them, too!*

*As I have said before, it is truly the listeners and callers who make a talk show. You are the ones who respond to or initiate topics and solve the problems that come up. Without you, talk radio is nothing. There needs*

## **1999•WEEU FEEDBACK JOURNAL•1999**

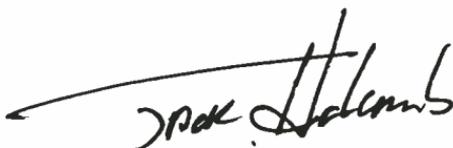
to be special kudos for the guests who have joined me, too. Over these years around 1,882 have taken time from busy schedules to spend time with us on a variety of special subjects. I thank them one and all for their generosity.

Quite obviously I will not be around to celebrate another 20 years of this meaningful three-hour segments. Thoughts of retirement do dance around in my head as there are many other things I would like to do in my lifetime. However, no date has been set for this happening so I will just continue and hope you will do the same, regardless of your role.

"Feedback," with everyone who's connected to it, has been my family for such a long time. When I glance back over these twenty years and then to the 43 years I have been at WEEU, how can I not give you a hug and say thanks for the ride!

Happy Birthday to Us!...and many more.

Have a bluebird day....

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jack Holcomb". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke extending to the left.

Jack Holcomb

## **SCHOLASTIC SPORTS**

**7:15 AM**

**MONDAY-FRIDAY**

**ON WEEU**

# THE READING 250 ILLUSTRATED HISTORY MINUTES

Throughout 1998, Reading's 250th anniversary year, WEEU (the Official Celebration Station of the anniversary events) aired "History Minutes" as part of its sweeping tributes and comprehensive coverage of the "Bicentinquagenery." As a lasting remembrance of the observance, we present the text of each "History Minute," as heard on WEEU.

*by Charles J. Adams III*

●

HIS NAME WAS HENRY W. SPANG, AND HISTORY RECORDS HIM AS THE MAN WHO BROUGHT THE TELEPHONE TO READING....THE YEAR WAS 1879 WHEN SPANG RAN OVERHEAD WIRES FROM CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS TO THE READING EAGLE OFFICES, THEN AT 6th AND PENN....BY THE END OF THAT YEAR, 121 READINGITES WERE LINKED BY PHONES....AND BY 1895, A TANGLE OF TELEPHONE WIRES DANGLING FROM POLE TO POLE LED THE RAPIDLY-GROWING PHONE COMPANY TO RUN THE WIRES IN UNDERGROUND CONDUITS....THAT MADE READING ONLY THE THIRD CITY IN PENNSYLVANIA TO HAVE UNDERGROUND PHONE LINES.

●

WE ALL KNOW ABOUT VALLEY FORGE....THAT IT WAS WHERE THE CONTINENTAL ARMY CAMPED OVER THE WINTER OF 1777-78....WE KNOW THAT....BUT HOW MANY KNOW THAT READING MIGHT WELL HAVE BEEN THE SITE OF THAT LONG, WINTERS ENCAMPMENT?...WHEN AIDES TO GEN. GEORGE WASHINGTON WERE LOOKING FOR A PLACE FOR THE ARMY TO SPEND THE WINTER AFTER THE BRITISH CAPTURE OF PHILADELPHIA,

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THE TOWNS OF WILMINGTON, DELAWARE, AND READING WERE MENTIONED....SOME ACCOUNTS SAY SOLDIERS HEARD OF THE READING PROPOSAL AND HOPED IT WOULD BE THEIR DESTINATION....BUT TOP ARMY OFFICERS CONCLUDED THAT READING WAS TOO FAR FROM PHILADELPHIA AND ALREADY CROWDED WITH REFUGEES AND PRISONERS OF WAR....SO, IT WAS ON TO VALLEY FORGE, NOT READING, FOR THE WINTER



THE READING ZOO....YEP, A ZOO IN READING....IT WAS 1913, AND COL. HENRY SHOEMAKER DONATED TO THE CITY SEVERAL ANIMALS THAT WERE PUT ON DISPLAY IN WHAT BECAME READING'S FIRST AND ONLY ZOO...AFTER A FEW YEARS, THE CITY AND THE HUMANE SOCIETY AGREED THEY COULD NOT GIVE THE ANIMALS THE CARE THEY DESERVED, SO IN 1924, THE ANIMALS WERE SENT TO A ZOO IN WILLIAMSPORT....AND WHERE WAS THIS "READING ZOO"?...IN WHAT WE NOW CALL PENDORA PARK

HE WAS THE SON OF A SHERIFF, HE BECAME A

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STATE REPRESENTATIVE, A DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL, A BURGESS, AND THE FIRST MAYOR OF READING....LONG AGO, WHAT WE CALL MAYORS OF BOROUGHS WERE CALLED BURGESSES....AND IT WAS PETER FILBERT WHO HELD THE BURGESS OFFICE IN THE BOROUGH OF READING UNTIL 1847, WHEN THAT BOROUGH BECAME A CITY, AND PETER FILBERT BECAME THE FIRST MAYOR OF READING...

THERE ARE PRECIOUS FEW DETAILS ABOUT IT, BUT IT IS RECORDED DEEP IN READING'S HISTORY THAT THERE WAS ONCE A DUEL HERE...IT WAS WHEN BUTLER'S REGIMENT CAMPED HERE, AND A CAPTAIN IN THAT OUTFIT BELIEVED THAT A MAJOR IN THAT SAME COMPANY HAD MADE FUN OF HIM IN FRONT OF TWO GIRLS AT A DANCE IN TOWN....THE NEXT MORNING, ALL NECESSARY PREPARATIONS WERE MADE, AND THE DUEL WAS CARRIED OUT....THE CAPTAIN HAD A BUTTON SHOT FROM HIS COAT, AND THE SECONDS SETTLED THE ARGUMENT....TURNS OUT, THE MAJOR WASN'T MAKING FUN OF THE CAPTAIN AT ALL....AT THE DANCE, THE MAJOR HAD NOTICED THAT A BLIND FIDDLER HAD BROKEN A STRING ON HIS FIDDLE....HE QUIPPED TO THE GIRLS THAT SOMEONE SHOULD LIGHT A CANDLE FOR THE BLIND FIDDLER SO HE COULD "SEE" TO CHANGE STRINGS....THE GIRLS CHUCKLED, JUST AS THE QUICK-TEMPERED CAPTAIN STROLLED PAST

MANY U.S. PRESIDENTS HAVE COME TO CALL IN READING....SEVERAL DROPPED BY LONG BEFORE THEY BECAME CHIEF EXECUTIVE....ONE SUCH PRE-PRESIDENTIAL VISITOR WAS A 20-YEAR OLD QUARTERMASTER IN THE CONTINENTAL ARMY WHO WAS OUT OF ACTION AFTER BEING WOUNDED AT THE BATTLE OF TRENTON....THE MAJOR STAYED AT THE BALD EAGLE HOTEL ON FIFTH STREET NEAR FRANKLIN, AND SPENT A SHORT TIME ENJOYING THE HOSPITALITY OF HOTELIER

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**EBERHARD ROSE....AND THEN, HE WENT ON HIS WAY.....EVENTUALLY ALL THE WAY TO THE WHITE HOUSE....WHO WAS THAT YOUNG MAJOR?...HE WAS MAJOR JAMES...MONROE**

•



**.....HOPE.....LAFAYETTE.....SUN.....WHAT WERE THEY?...WELL, IN THE EARLY DAYS OF READING, THEY WERE NAMES OF SOME OF THE MANY VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANIES WHICH HAVE LONG GONE THE WAY OF MANY....ORGANIZED FIRE FIGHTING IN READING DATES TO MARCH 17, 1773, WHEN THE RAINBOW FIRE COMPANY WAS ORGANIZED....IT REMAINS AS THE OLDEST ACTIVE COMPANY IN THE COUNTRY....THERE WAS A TIME, THOUGH, THAT THE RAINBOW FIRE COMPANY NEARLY WENT OUT OF BUSINESS--THE TIME OF THE REVOLUTION, WHEN THE WAR DRAINED THE MANPOWER AND FIRE FIGHTING IN TOWN WAS A BIT "IFFY"....BY THE WAY, THE OLD BUCKET BRIGADE BECAME A THING OF THE PAST IN 1820, WHEN CITY WATER PIPES WERE INSTALLED...AND BY 1824, THERE WERE 18 FIREPLUGS IN READING**

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**MOUNT PENN, IN ITS PRIME AS A TOURIST DESTINATION, BOASTED A GRAVITY RAILROAD LINE, HOTELS, WINERIES, BEER HALLS, GROVES, AND, OF COURSE, DURYEA AND SKYLINE DRIVES..AND, FOR A PRECIOUS SHORT TIME, PENN'S NEIGHBOR, NEVERSINK, BOASTED MUCH THE SAME...A GRAVITY RAILROAD, EVEN AN INCLINED PLANE LINE—AND TWO BIG RESORT HOTELS...ONE WAS THE NEVERSINK MOUNTAIN HOTEL, CONCEIVED AS A LUXURY RESORT—FIVE STORIES, 166 ROOMS, AND, AS ITS BROCHURE BOASTED, “ENTIRELY FREE FROM MALARIA, FLIES, AND MOSQUITOES”...THE HOTEL WAS A MASSIVE, MAGNIFICENT PLACE, AND IT WAS DOOMED TO FINANCIAL FAILURE AND TRAGEDY...IN 1905, ITS 13TH YEAR, THE NEVERSINK MOUNTAIN HOTEL BURNED TO THE GROUND IN A BLAZE WHICH COULD BE SEEN SOME 25 MILES AWAY...TODAY, A BROADCASTING TOWER RISES WHERE THE OLD HOTEL ONCE STOOD.**

**EVER HEAR OF THE “WILHELM” BICYCLE?...WELL, HAD YOU BEN IN READING AROUND 1889, YOU MIGHT HAVE OWNED ONE!...OR MAYBE A “NEVERSINK” OR A “STORMER”...BIKE-BUILDING**

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WAS BIG BUSINESS IN TOWN PRIOR TO THE TURN OF THE CENTURY...MORE THAN A THOUSAND MEN WERE EMPLOYED IN THE BICYCLE FACTORIES, AND THE "STANDARD" MODEL WAS KNOWN WORLDWIDE...AND, THAT BIG BIKE BIZ SPAWNED ANOTHER LITTLE BIZ-BIKE-BELL MAKING...IF YOU EVER COME ACROSS A SHINY, OLD "McCONNELL BICYCLE BELL," CHERISH IT-IT WAS MADE HERE AND THAT BIKE BELL COULD BE WORTH BIG BUCKS!

•

THE "MARCH KING" OF READING!...ALTHOUGH BORN NEAR LEESPORT, MONROE ALTHOUSE MADE HIS MARK IN READING-BY WRITING MORE THAN 150 MARCHES, PLAYING IN OR LEADING SEVERAL MUSICAL AGGREGATIONS-AND CO-OWNING A DOWNTOWN MUSIC STORE...HE MADE HIS MARK IN MUSIC BY PLAYING IN THE BUFFALO BILL'S WILD WEST SHOW BACKUP BAND, AND STRIKING UP A FRIENDSHIP WITH MANY NATIONALLY-RESPECTED MUSICIANS, INCLUDING JOHN PHILIP SOUSA (WHO, BY THE WAY, DIED IN READING)...ON MARCH 4, 1912, ALTHOUSE AND THE RINGGOLD BAND OF READING PERFORMED AT THE INAUGURATION OF PRESIDENT WILSON...MONROE ALTHOUSE DIED IN 1924, BUT LEFT US MANY STIRRING MARCHES-MANY OF WHICH WERE PERFORMED BY, UH, THAT "OTHER" MARCH KING

•

LUDEN'S...A NAME WHICH HAS COME FROM READING TO THE WORLD-ONE BOX OF COUGH DROPS AT A TIME...HOW?...THROUGH AMSTERDAM, HOLLAND, AND THROUGH JEWELRY!...JACOB-LUDEN CAME FROM HOLLAND TO READING IN 1850 AND SET UP A JEWELRY STORE AT 35 N. 5th STREET...HE AND THE FORMER SARAH MUSSER OF REAMSTOWN, HAD SIX CHILDREN...ONE WAS WILLIAM H. LUDEN, WHO CHOSE CANDY RATHER THAN JEWELRY AS HIS TRADE...HIS FIRST CANDY-

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MAKING SHOP WAS IN HIS HOME, AND IT PROVED SO SUCCESSFUL THAT IT SOON EXPANDED TO A LARGE PLANT AT SIXTH AND WASHINGTON STREETS...ALTHOUGH LUDEN'S PRODUCED A WIDE VARIETY OF CONFECTIONS UP TO AND BEYOND THE TURN OF THE 20th CENTURY, ONE PARTICULAR PRODUCT—LUDEN'S MENTHOL COUGH DROPS—BECAME ITS BEST KNOWN, ONE BOX—AND A NICKEL A BOX BACK THEN—AT A TIME!

THE CORKERS...THE SNAPPERS...THE COPPERHEADS.....NAMES THAT PLAYED ROLES IN THE PROUD HISTORY OF READING FIREFIGHTING....IN THE MID-19th CENTURY, VOLUNTEER FIREMEN WERE QUITE COMPETITIVE....TWO NAMES WHICH REGISTER IN HISTORY ARE THE CORKERS AND THE SNAPPERS—BOTH NICKNAMES FOR GROUPS OF "VOLLIES," GROUPS WHO OFTEN BATTLED EACH OTHER FOR VALOR AT A FIRE SCENE....AND THE COPPERHEADS?...THEY WERE RURAL BERKS COUNTIANS WHO SYMPATHIZED WITH THE SOUTH DURING THE CIVIL WAR...WHEN SOME OF THE WOULD-BE REBELS WERE ARRESTED BY SHERIFF BULLY LYONS AND CONFINED TO THE OLD BERKS COUNTY JAIL, SOME OF THEIR COMPATRIOTS CAME TO READING TO TRY TO SPRING THEM....SHERIFF LYONS SUMMONED MEMBERS OF THE JUNIOR FIRE COMPANY, WHO TURNED THEIR FIREHOSES ON THEM AND CHASED THEM OUT OF TOWN AND BACK INTO THE BACK WOODS OF BERKS COUNTY

FROM A FERRY AT THE FORD TO A BRIDGE WITH A ROOF TO A *VERY EXPENSIVE* SPAN....FROM 1783 TO 1815, FOLKS CROSSED THE SCHUYLKILL RIVER AT THE "FORD"....IN 1815, A COVERED BRIDGE CARRIED RIDERS AND WALKERS OVER THE RIVER....AND ALMOST A CENTURY LATER, THE BRIDGE WE KNOW NOW AS THE PENN STREET

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BRIDGE WAS OPENED....IT WAS MAY 23, 1914, AND SOME 5,000 PERSONS TURNED OUT FOR A TWO-HOUR PROGRAM AND PARADE....THREE PHILADELPHIA MEN WERE ARRESTED FOR PICK-POCKETING AT THE CELEBRATION, BUT MOST FOLKS WERE OVERJOYED BY WHAT EVENT CHAIRMAN JOHN D. MISHLER CALLED "A GREAT LINK BETWEEN THE CITY OF READING AND BEAUTIFUL BERKS COUNTY"....AND, THERE WERE SOME WHO WERE LESS THAN THRILLED ABOUT THE COST OF THE PENN STREET BRIDGE--A WHOPPING \$600,000!

Penn Street Viaduct, looking Northwest,  
Reading, Pa.



•

THE COURT HOUSE IN THE SQUARE....YEAH, SMACK-DAB IN THE MIDDLE OF PENN SQUARE--WHERE THE TRAFFIC CIRCLE USED TO BE....THAT'S WHERE THE FIRST BERKS COUNTY COURT HOUSE WAS LOCATED...THE SMALL, STONE, TWO-STORY STRUCTURE WAS PUT UP IN 1762 AND SERVED ITS PURPOSE UNTIL 1841...COURT SESSIONS WERE HELD ON THE FIRST FLOOR, JURY ROOMS WERE ON THE SECOND FLOOR, AS WAS THE VOTING ROOM...BEFORE THE COURT HOUSE WAS BUILT, INCIDENTALLY, COURT PROCEEDINGS WERE HELD IN TAVERNS....IT WAS

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IN 1840 THAT THE PREDECESSOR OF THE PRESENT COURT HOUSE WAS BUILT ON THAT SAME SITE AT SIXTH AND COURT STS....THAT SECOND BUILDING COST ALL OF \$59,000 TO BUILD, AND WAS EASILY RECOGNIZABLE FOR ITS 142-FOOT HIGH STEEPLE WITH A STATUE OF "JUSTICE" ON TOP

SO...DID GEORGE WASHINGTON EVER SLEEP HERE?.....WELL, AT LEAST WE KNOW HE VISITED HERE...IT WAS OCTOBER 1, 1794 WHEN THE GENERAL RODE INTO READING WITH FOUR HORSES AND A MILITARY ESCORT....WASHINGTON WAS ON HIS WAY WEST TO ASSERT HIS POWER TO QUELL THE "WHISKEY REBELLION" IN WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA...THE GENERAL'S ENTOURAGE STOPPED BY MICHAEL WOOD'S "FEDERAL INN," WHICH STOOD ON THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF FIFTH AND PENN STREETS...THE OLD INN WAS BUILT BY ADAM WITMAN IN 1763, AND IN 1814 BECAME THE FARMER'S BANK....IT HAS BEEN A BANK BUILDING EVER SINCE.

EVER HEAR OF "DER NEUE UNPARTEIISCHE ZEITUNG"?....HAD YOU BEEN AROUND READING IN 1789, YOU WOULD HAVE....IT WAS THE FIRST WEEKLY NEWSPAPER IN TOWN...IT ONLY SURVIVED ABOUT FOUR YEARS....AFTER THAT, PAPERS LIKE THE WEEKLY ADVERTISER, READING HERALD, READINGER ADLER, BERKS AND SCHUYLKILL JOURNAL, CHRONICLE OF THE TIME, AND DOZENS OF WEEKLIES WERE PUBLISHED HERE...AS FOR DAILIES....THE WEEKLY "GAZETTE" WAS THE FIRST, IN 1847--BUT ONLY FOR NINE DAYS...THEN, THE SAME PUBLISHER TRIED A DAILY AGAIN IN 1857 BUT FAILED AGAIN AFTER THREE WEEKS OF DAILY PAPERS....IT WASN'T UNTIL 1858 WHEN THE "READING DAILY TIMES" CAME ALONG, AND TEN YEARS LATER WHEN THE "READING DAILY EAGLE" WAS FIRST PUBLISHED....AND, STILL IS!

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ALVERNIA COLLEGE...THE READING AREA COMMUNITY COLLEGE...AND SCHUYLKILL COLLEGE...READING'S INSTITUTES OF HIGHER LEARNING...SCHUYLKILL COLLEGE?...WELL, IT STARTED AS THE SCHUYLKILL SEMINARY IN 1902, AND GREW INTO A FINE CAMPUS AND COLLEGE...ITS ATHLETIC FIELD WAS A GRAND PLACE CALLED THE "CIRCUS MAXIMUS," AND ALTHOUGH IT WAS A COLLEGE OF THE EVANGELICAL CHURCH, IT ACCEPTED STUDENTS FROM ALL FAITHS...IT HAD A FOOTBALL TEAM, BASKETBALL TEAM, AND MANY BACCALAUREATE PROGRAMS FROM B.A. TO B.S. TO BACHELOR OF DIVINITY.....IT WAS A LIVELY, DIVERSE COLLEGE-- AND STILL IS...ONLY TODAY, WE KNOW SCHUYLKILL COLLEGE AS *ALBRIGHT COLLEGE!*

BELONG TO A ROTARY CLUB?...WELL, YOU BELONG TO AN ASSOCIATION WITH ROOTS THAT GO AS DEEPLY AS 1905...THAT'S WHEN A CHICAGO LAWYER AND THREE OTHERS FORMED A SERVICE CLUB AND CALLED IT "ROTARY"....ROTARY WHEELED ITS WAY INTO READING IN 1913 WHEN WILLIAM W. KECK SPONSORED THE CLUB, AND WITHIN TEN YEARS, 115 BUSINESSMEN CALLED THEMSELVES ROTARIANS....THE FIRST MEETING WAS HELD BACK IN 1913 AT KECK'S OFFICE IN THE CROLL & KECK MEN'S STORE...ITS FIRST DINNER MEETING WAS AT THE MINERAL SPRINGS HOTEL, NOW THE EAST ENDS A.C., ON SEPTEMBER 23, 1913...THE READING ROTARY RECEIVED ITS CHARTER IN 1914, AND CONTINUED TO GROW IN MEMBERSHIP AND SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY

ON A MONDAY, JANUARY 27, 1913, A GROUP OF BUSINESS LEADERS IN READING MET AT THE RAJAH TEMPLE, THEN LOCATED AT FRANKLIN AND PEARL STREETS....THEY DISCUSSED COMMON GOALS AND CHALLENGES, AND THE BURGEONING

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BUSINESS COMMUNITY IN THE GROWING CITY...THEY ELECTED OFFICERS, SET STRATEGIES FOR MEMBERSHIP, AND OUTLINED PROGRAMS THEY COULD UNDERTAKE AS A UNIFIED BODY OF BUSINESSMEN AND INDUSTRIALISTS....THEY ESTABLISHED AN OFFICE IN THE SECOND NATIONAL BANK BUILDING, AND APPLIED FOR A COURT CHARTER, WHICH THEY RECEIVED ON APRIL 8, 1913....THEY BEING THE ORGANIZERS OF THE READING CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

•

HE IS THE THIRD KNOWN PHYSICIAN TO PRACTICE IN BERKS COUNTY....HE WAS ONE OF THE FIRST PROPONENTS OF VACCINATIONS, AND AFTER HE SET UP SHOP IN READING IN 1768 HE HELPED GREATLY TO CONFINE THE TRAGIC SMALLPOX EPIDEMIC WHICH KILLED 106 CHILDREN HERE IN 1770....IT COULD HAVE BEEN FAR WORSE WITHOUT HIM....HIS BROTHER, SAMUEL, ESTABLISHED AN IRON FURNACE AND FOUNDRY IN POTTSTOWN....HE SERVED AS A DELEGATE TO THE PROVINCIAL CONVENTION IN 1775, AND HE WAS NAMED SURGEON GENERAL FOR THE CONTINENTAL ARMY IN 1776....HE WAS DR. JONATHAN POTTS....AND ALTHOUGH HE WORKED DILIGENTLY FOR AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE, HE NEVER SAW A FREE UNITED STATES....DR. POTTS, BORN IN COLEBROOKDALE, EDUCATED IN SCOTLAND, AND A LEGEND IN READING, DIED IN 1781

•

JUST WHO WERE THOSE HESSIANS OF HESSIAN CAMP?....IN 1775, THE KING OF ENGLAND RECEIVED 17,000 MEN FROM A TREATY WITH GERMANY....MANY FROM THE GERMAN STATE OF HESSE, THESE MEN WOULD HELP THE BRITS IN THEIR STRUGGLE TO SUBDUE THE AMERICAN COLONIALS....A YEAR AFTER ENTERING THE FRAY, HUNDREDS OF HESSIANS WERE TAKEN PRISONER AT THE BATTLE OF TRENTON....MOST OF THOSE

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P.O.W.s WERE BROUGHT TO READING, AND TO A PRISON CAMP NEAR WHAT IS NOW THE BINGAMAN STREET BRIDGE....LATER, THE CAMP WAS MOVED TO A RAVINE JUST EAST OF PENN'S COMMON, NEAR THE LINDBERGH VIADUCT...SOME PRISONERS WERE SENT TO WORK AT IRON FORGES IN THE AREA....THE WINTER OF 1776-77 TOOK ITS TOLL ON THE PRISONERS....MANY HESSIANS DIED, AND WERE BURIED IN WHAT IS NOW 6th AND WALNUT STREETS...THE BODY COUNT WAS SO HIGH THAT TWO AND EVEN THREE BODIES WERE BURIED IN A SINGLE GRAVE.....WHEN IT WAS TIME TO BE RELEASED, MANY HESSIANS ASKED TO STAY...THEY LIKED IT AROUND HERE....AND BY THE WAY, HUTS OCCUPIED BY HESSIAN PRISONERS STILL STOOD IN HESSIAN CAMP UNTIL THE EARLY 1840S!

•

IT'S GENERALLY REGARDED THAT THE FIRST BANK IN THE COUNTRY WAS THE BANK OF NORTH AMERICA, ESTABLISHED IN 1781...AND AFTER YEARS OF DEVELOPMENT, A STATE BANKING SYSTEM WAS ESTABLISHED....IN 1793, THE "BANK OF PENNSYLVANIA" AUTHORIZED A BRANCH IN READING...AN ATTEMPT TO ACTUALLY OPEN THE BRANCH FAILED....AND, IT WASN'T UNTIL 1808 THAT "THE READING BANK OF DISCOUNT AND DEPOSIT" BECAME THE FIRST BANK IN TOWN....THAT BANK FAILED IN 1857...THE SECOND BANK IN READING, WHICH WAS FAR MORE PROFITABLE AND LONG-LASTING, WAS THE FARMERS' BANK, WHICH CAME ALONG IN 1813 AND OPENED AT FIFTH AND PENN STREETS.

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THE DATE WAS THE 11th DAY OF THE 11th MONTH...AND IT WAS 1918....SCHOOL BELLS RANG, FIREHOUSE AND FACTORY WHISTLES BLEW, AND JUST ABOUT EVERYONE TOOK OFF WORK THAT MONDAY TO CELEBRATE...THE RAILROAD SHOPS, THE MINES, THE STEEL MILLS, THE

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STORES—ALL GAVE THEIR EMPLOYEES THE DAY OFF...EVEN BEFORE DAWN, THOUSANDS OF READING CITIZENS GATHERED DOWNTOWN.....IMPROMPTU PARADES STREAMED THROUGH THE STREETS, AND AMERICAN FLAGS WERE IN ABUNDANCE...AT NIGHT, SONGS FILLED THE AIR, FIREWORKS BLASTED IN THE NIGHT SKY, AND EUPHORIA SPREAD OVER THE COMMUNITY....WHY?.....BECAUSE READING'S RESIDENTS FOUND OUT—IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT—THAT FAR AWAY, AN ARMISTICE WAS SIGNED WHICH ENDED WORLD WAR I AND SPARKED ONE OF THE MOST MEANINGFUL CELEBRATIONS EVER STAGED IN THE CITY

•

IT WAS HORRIBLE—A CALAMITY—A TRAGEDY THE LIKES OF WHICH READING HAD NEVER BEFORE EXPERIENCED...JANUARY NINTH, 1889...WORD REACHED TOWN THAT A SAVAGE STORM—CALLED A “CYCLONE” AT THE TIME—HAD WREAKED HAVOC ACROSS THE WESTERN AND CENTRAL PARTS OF THE STATE, AND WAS BEARING DOWN ON READING...SHORTLY AFTER FIVE P.M., THE STORM HIT TOWN WITH A VENGEANCE!...THE ROOF OF THE MOUNT PENN STOVE WORKS AT THIRD AND GREENWICH WAS RIPPED APART...THE ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC CHURCH AND SEVERAL HOMES SUFFERED THE SAME FATE...HOMES WERE LEVELED—WINDS PUMMELED THE PAINT SHOP IN THE RAILROAD YARDS—FIVE MEN DIED...BUT THEN, THE “CYCLONE” BLASTED A SILK MILL AT ELEVENTH AND MARION STREETS...DARKNESS FELL AS THE MILL LAY IN RUIN AND THE BODIES OF 17 WORKERS WERE PULLED FROM THE RUBBLE OF THE WORST WEATHER DISASTER IN READING'S HISTORY.

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IF YOU KNOW WHERE TO LOOK—ALONG THE WEST SHORE BYPASS JUST NORTH OF THE BINGAMAN STREET BRIDGE—YOU CAN ALMOST SEE THE

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SHAPE OF INDEPENDENCE ISLAND...IT'S NOT AN ISLAND ANYMORE, JUST A DEBRIS-STREWN FLATLAND...BUT, THERE WAS A TIME WHEN-IN THE MID-19th CENTURY-FOLKS FISHED THERE, HAD PICNICS THERE, AND PLUNGED INTO THE SCHUYLKILL FROM ITS BATH HOUSE...THERE WAS A SPRING ON THE ISLAND, A BANDSTAND, AND GAME FIELDS...POLITICAL RALLIES WERE HELD THERE, AND WHEN THE MEXICAN WAR ENDED, RETURNING READING ARTILLERISTS (800 OF 'EM) WERE HONORED THERE WITH A FEAST...ON THE ISLAND WHICH WAS ONCE ONE OF READING'S SUMMER PLAYGROUNDS-INDEPENDENCE ISLAND.

ANYONE'S WHO'S EVER BEEN PROGRAM CHAIRMAN FOR THEIR CLUB KNOWS HOW DIFFICULT IT CAN BE TO GET A SPEAKER FOR A MEETING...A CENTURY-AND-A-HALF AGO, THE MECHANICS' INSTITUTE OF READING HAD A TOUGH TIME OF IT, INDEED...THEY INVITED A PHILADELPHIA LITERARY CRITIC AND SHORT-STORY WRITER TO COME HERE AND SPEAK...THE INVITATION WENT OUT DECEMBER 29, 1843...FOR THREE MONTHS, INSTITUTE BOARD MEMBERS WAITED, AND JUST ABOUT GAVE UP ON GETTING THE SPEAKER TO READING...FINALLY, IN EARLY MARCH, 1844, A REPLY CAME-WITH AN APOLOGY-AND AN ACCEPTANCE...THE WRITER WOULD BE HAPPY TO MAKE THE JOURNEY AND ADDRESS THE GROUP IN A PUBLIC LECTURE....WELL, THE PROGRAM EVENTUALLY CAME OFF WITHOUT A HITCH...THE CITY PAPERS GAVE LITTLE NOTICE, AND EVEN MISPELLED THE GUEST'S NAME...THE ONE THREE-LINE BLURB LISTED THE SPEAKER'S MIDDLE INITIAL AS "E"...BUT LOOKING BACK, WE KNOW IT WAS AN "A"...AS IN ALLAN...AS IN EDGAR ALLAN POE!

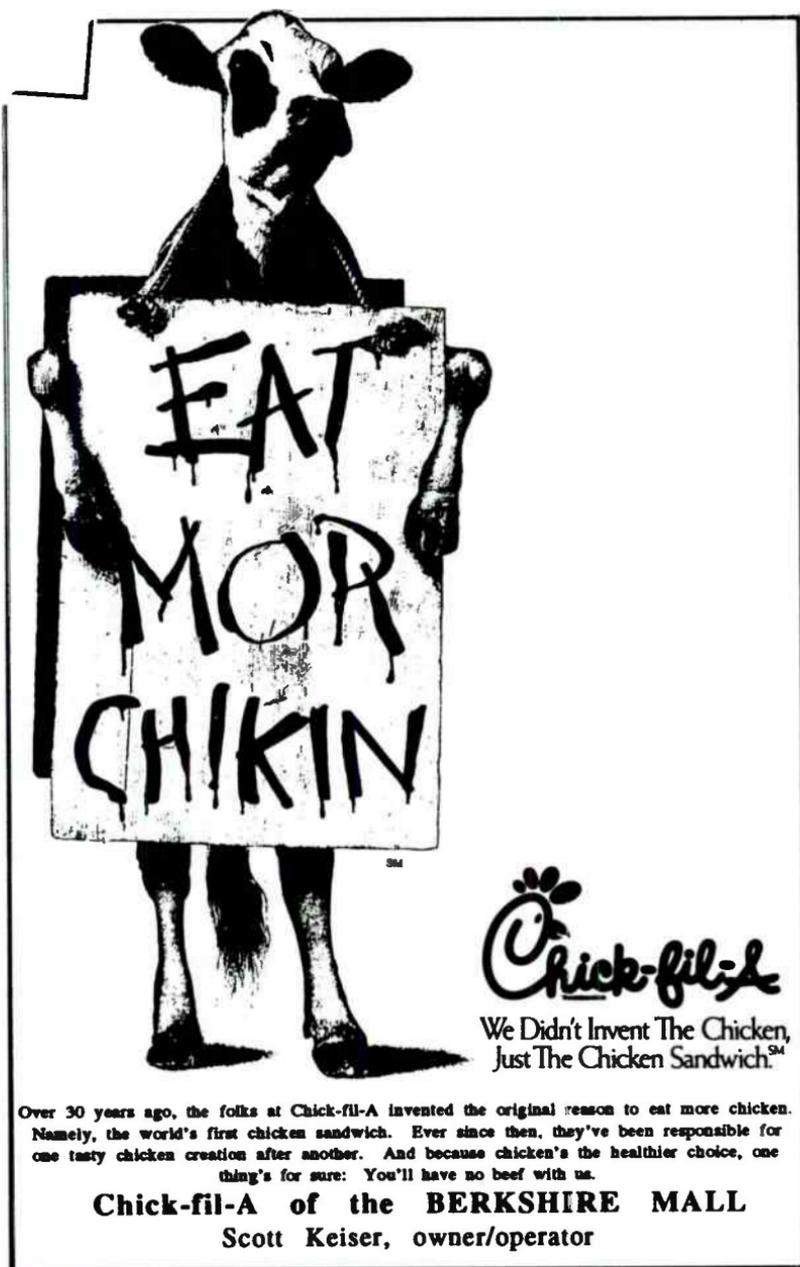
MIFFLIN ISLAND...WHERE WAS IT?...KEEP LISTENING...IT WAS, A HUNDRED YEARS AGO, THE

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SITE OF AN ACTIVE IRON MINE—WITH DEEP SHAFTS, A WHARF FOR CANAL SHIPPING, A BLACKSMITH SHOP, AND A CLUSTER OF OUTBUILDINGS...AND, IT WAS THE SITE OF A TUNNEL COLLAPSE IN 1883 WHICH SENT MINE WORKERS SCURRYING FOR THEIR LIVES...THE ISLAND WAS IN THE SCHUYLKILL, SEPARATED FROM THE MAINLAND BY A CHANNEL KNOWN AS "MIFFLIN'S ARM"...THERE WAS AN ISLAND RIGHT NEXT TO IT—YOST ISLAND—WHICH IS LONG GONE...SO IS THE WEST CHANNEL OF THE RIVER...BUT WE STILL CALL THE SPIT OF LAND AN ISLAND, AND SOME MINING—OF A SORT—IS DONE THERE...ON WHAT OUR ANCESTORS CALLED MIFFLIN ISLAND—AND WHAT WE CALL FRITZ ISLAND!

THE DEPRESSION—IT HIT HARD IN READING...SOUP KITCHENS OPENED TO FEED THE POOR, SPECIAL FUNDS WERE FREED UP BY COUNCIL TO SHORE UP THE FINANCES OF STRUGGLING MERCHANTS, AND ONE OF THE BIGGEST BANKS IN TOWN FAILED...BUT BECAUSE OF READING'S BROAD AND DIVERSE MANUFACTURING BASE, THE AREA WEATHERED THE ECONOMIC EMERGENCY...AND THOSE CITY-AUTHORIZED LOANS TO BUSINESSES?...WELL, THOSE WHO APPLIED COULD GET A LOAN UP TO THOUSANDS, OR FOR THREE BUCKS, OR IN ONE CASE, FIVE CENTS...A NICKEL LOAN?...WELL, IT WENT A LITTLE FARTHER DURING THE DEPRESSION—OF 1837.

THESE DAYS, GETTING FROM READING TO PHILADELPHIA CAN BE A CHORE...ROUTE 422 BETWEEN THE READING AND POTTSTOWN BYPASSES IS A DRAG—AND THE 422/202 TANGLE AT KING OF PRUSSIA OFTEN BOTTLENECKS BEYOND BELIEF...BUT IN 90 MINUTES OR SO, YOU CAN USUALLY GET FROM HERE TO THERE...BUT LET'S TURN THE CLOCK WAY BACK TO 1786, WHEN



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MOR  
CHIKIN**

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Just The Chicken Sandwich.<sup>SM</sup>

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**Chick-fil-A of the BERKSHIRE MALL**  
Scott Keiser, owner/operator

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A "LIGHT WAGON," A STAGE COACH, MADE ITS FIRST RUNS FROM THERE TO HERE...LEWIS NICOLA'S STAGES OPERATED FROM PHILADELPHIA ON MONDAY AND THURSDAY MORNINGS—LAID OVER HERE THOSE NIGHTS, AND MADE THE RETURN JOURNEY...AND QUITE A JOURNEY THOSE 55 MILES WERE!...AFTER THE STAGES DEPARTED FROM A VINE STREET TAVERN AT 5 A.M., THEY PROCEEDED UP THE RIDGE ROAD TO NORRISTOWN AND BREAKFAST, COLLEGEVILLE TO CHANGE HORSES, AND POTTSTOWN FOR DINNER—BEFORE ARRIVING IN READING IN THE EVENING...PASSENGERS PAID 18 SHILLINGS FOR A ONE-WAY TICKET AND WERE ALLOWED 14 POUNDS OF LUGGAGE...ON THE VERY FIRST STAGE COACH FROM PHILLY TO READING, IN APRIL, 1786.

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EVER HEAR OF NEFF E. PARISH?...WELL, MOST OF YOU, IN A WAY, PROBABLY HAVE...IT WAS BACK IN 1906...AUTOMOBILE MANUFACTURING WAS IN FULL SWING IN READING...SPECIALTY PARTS, FRAMES, AND OTHER HEAVY, STEEL ITEMS WERE NEEDED...SO, NEFF STARTED A FACTORY WHICH MADE CAR FRAMES IN A FORMER RAILROAD SHOP AT SEVENTH AND CHESTNUT STREETS...IT WAS A BIG SUCCESS...IN 1919, NEFF SOLD THE BUSINESS TO SPICER MANUFACTURING CORPORATION WHICH LATER MOVED THE PLANT TO 13 ACRES AT ROBESON AND WEISER STREETS...BY 1937, THE SPICER PLANT WAS MASS-PRODUCING FRAMES, AND BY THE LATE 1940s THE OPERATION WAS SOLD TO YET ANOTHER FIRM—THE DANA CORPORATION...THE PARISH, AS IN NEFF E. PARISH...DIVISION OF DANA.

•

WE'RE GONNA THROW OUT SOME NAMES AT YOU...SEE IF YOU KNOW WHO THEY WERE: DANIEL LEVAN...PETER FILBERT...OR HOW ABOUT GOTTLÖB JUNGSMANN...DANIEL OYSTER?...WELL, DANIEL LEVAN WAS THE FIRST BURGESS OF

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READING—WHEN BOROUGHES, SUCH AS READING WAS BACK IN 1793—WERE BOSSED BY BURGESSES...PETER FILBERT WAS READING'S FIRST MAYOR, AFTER THE BOROUGH BECAME A CITY...GOTTLOB JUNGSMANN?...WELL, IN 1793, HE SERVED AS READING'S FIRST POSTMASTER...AND THAT OYSTER FELLOW?...AMONG OTHER THINGS, DANIEL OYSTER SERVED ON A COMMITTEE WHICH HOPED TO DIG A CHANNEL IN THE SCHUYLKILL RIVER FOR THE DREAM OF STEAM SHIPPING FROM READING TO PHILADELPHIA...THAT "SOCIETY FOR PROMOTING THE CLEARING OF THE RIVER SCHUYLKILL" WAS FORMED IN 1807...AND THAT DREAM, OF COURSE, NEVER CAME TRUE.

•

THIS WILL NOT BE A PLEASANT HISTORY MINUTE...WE GO BACK TO 1758 AND PEER AT THE POLICE LOG OF THAT YEAR...AND WE SEE THIS: A WOMAN HANGED IN PUBLIC AFTER BEING CONVICTED OF KILLING HER ILLEGITIMATE NEWBORN...TWO MEN "BURNT BY THE HAND"—BRANDED—FOR MANSLAUGHTER, AND ANOTHER BRANDED FOR ARSON...AND LATER, A YOUNG WOMAN NAMED ELIZABETH GRAUL, HANGED...THOMAS FOWLER, BURGLAR, HANGED...CATHERINE KREPS, MURDERER, HANGED...ALL HANGED BEFORE CURIOUS AND OFTEN LARGE CROWDS...AND WHERE WAS GALLOWES HILL?...IN WHAT'S NOW CITY PARK—WHERE BASKETBALL NETS HAVE REPLACED NOOSES.

•

SO JUST WHAT DID READING LOOK LIKE IN 1748, WHEN IT BECAME READING?...WELL, TAKE THE CITY NOW, TEAR DOWN EVERYTHING BUT THAT LOG HOUSE ON THE SOUTHWEST CORNER OF FOURTH AND CHERRY STREETS, AND YOU GET A ROUGH IDEA...JOSEPH AND SARAH FINNEY SETTLED OUT NEAR MANATAWNY IN ABOUT 1715...THEIR SON, SAM, PURCHASED LAND AT WHAT IS NOW READING

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IN 1733...ABOUT THAT SAME YEAR, THE FIRST HOUSE, A LOG CABIN, WAS BUILT...AND THE NEXT YEAR, THE MALE FINNEYS DIED—SO, THE OUTPOST BECAME KNOWN AS “WIDOW FINNEY’S”...THE WIDOW’S CABIN WAS PROBABLY ALL THAT STOOD HERE WHEN READING BECAME READING.

IT WAS APRIL, 1925, WHEN 16 AGENCIES IN READING DECIDED TO JOIN TOGETHER IN AN UNPRECEDENTED COMBINED FUND-RAISING EFFORT...THEIR DIRECTORS AND FINANCIAL ADVISORS MET AND AGREED THAT IN THEIR SEPARATE CAMPAIGNS TO SOLICIT MONEY FROM THE GENERAL PUBLIC THERE WAS A LEVEL OF DUPLICATION AND WASTE...SO, THE RECREATIONAL, WELFARE, AND HEALTH-ORIENTED ORGANIZATIONS BANDED TOGETHER, AND IN THEIR FIRST YEAR OF A COMBINED SOLICITATION THEY RAISED \$225,000 WHICH WAS DISTRIBUTED EVENLY TO THE AGENCIES...THAT WAS THE FIRST SUCH DRIVE IN READING, AND IT WAS CALLED THE “COMMUNITY CHEST”...WE KNOW ITS MODERN COUNTERPART, AND DIRECT DESCENDENT, AS THE “UNITED WAY.”

YOU MAY NEVER HAVE HEARD OF EDWARD BIDDLE...BUT IF HE HADN'T TAKEN ILL ON ONE PARTICULAR DAY, THE ENTIRE NATION WOULD HAVE REMEMBERED HIS NAME...BIDDLE WAS A POWERFUL LAWYER IN READING IN THE 1770s, HANDLING, SOME SOURCES BELIEVE, UP TO 75% OF ALL LEGAL MATTERS IN TOWN!...HE WAS AN OFFICER IN THE FRENCH & INDIAN WAR, WAS A 15-YEAR MEMBER OF THE ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA AND ITS SPEAKER IN 1774...AND WHEN THE COLONIES EDGED TOWARD INDEPENDENCE, EDWARD BIDDLE WAS AT THE FOREFRONT...HE WAS A DELEGATE TO THE FIRST AND SECOND CONTINENTAL CONGRESSES—AND HE WAS READING'S REPRESENTATIVE WHEN THE

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DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE WAS SIGNED...BUT DOES EDWARD BIDDLE'S NAME APPEAR ON THE DOCUMENT?...NO....A SUFFERER OF INFLAMMATORY RHEUMATISM, BIDDLE TOOK ILL WHEN THE DECLARATION WAS SIGNED...WELL, AFTER INDEPENDENCE WAS ACHIEVED, EDWARD BIDDLE BECAME ONE OF PENNSYLVANIA'S FIRST CONGRESSMEN...NOW, ONE CONTEMPORARY BELIEVED BIDDLE MAY NOT HAVE SIGNED BECAUSE HE BELIEVED THE NEW NATION SHOULD BE ORGANIZED AS A MONARCHY UNDER KING GEORGE-WASHINGTON.

•

WHO WAS THAT 23-YEAR OLD MAN STANDING IN THE MIDDLE OF PENN SQUARE, BEATING A DRUM LOUDLY AND SHOUTING TO ALL WHO PASSED BY?...THE YOUNG MAN WAS JOSEPH HIESTER, PATRIOT...LEGEND HAS IT THAT AS REVOLUTIONARY WAR FEVER STRUCK READING, YOUNG HIESTER WAS AMONG THE FIRST TO CATCH IT...ON JULY 10, 1776, HIESTER TOOK TO THE SQUARE WITH DRUM AND CONVICTION AND PROCLAIMED HIS DESIRE TO RAISE A VOLUNTEER COMPANY TO MARCH WITH GEORGE WASHINGTON'S TROOPS...HE SAID HE'D HELP FINANCE THE COMPANY AND OFFERED FORTY BUCKS TO THE FIRST WHO'D SIGN UP...MATTHIAS BABB TOOK THE OFFER AND BECAME AN INSTANT SERGEANT, 40 DOLLARS RICHER...HIESTER WAS ON HIS WAY TO AN ILLUSTRIOUS CAREER IN THE MILITARY AND THEN GOVERNMENT...A VERY ILLUSTRIOUS CAREER....THE MAN WHO BEAT THE DRUM ON PENN SQUARE EVENTUALLY BECAME GOVERNOR OF PENNSYLVANIA IN 1820!

•

BACK IN THE 20s, 30, AND 40s, SEVERAL MOVIE THEATERS WERE SITUATED THROUGHOUT READING'S NEIGHBORHOODS...BUT ONE STOOD OUT-AND STILL STAND OUT IN THE MEMORIES OF MANY...AT 1,750 SEATS, IT WAS BY FAR THE

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LARGEST OF THE THEATERS "OFF PENN STREET"...ITS STAGE HOSTED VAUDEVILLE SHOWS, PLAYS, AND EVEN THE KICKOFF OF BANDLEADER PAUL WHITEMAN'S NATIONAL TOUR OF 1925...READING HIGH USED IT FOR PEP RALLIES AND SPECIAL ASSEMBLIES, AND LOCAL INDUSTRIES HAD PARTIES AND MEETINGS IN ITS CONFINES...THERE'S LOTS OF FOLKS STILL AROUND WHO REMEMBER WHEN THEY LINED UP TO SEE THE WIDE-SCREEN BLOCKBUSTER "AROUND THE WORLD IN 80 DAYS" ON ITS BIG SCREEN...BUT ARSON CLAIMED THE THEATER IN 1970, AND THE RUINS OF THE CORNER BUILDING WERE TORN DOWN...AND NOW, WHEN YOU GOBBLE A BIG MAC AT 9th AND SPRING STREETS, LISTEN FOR THE DISTANT ECHOES—FROM THE OLD STRAND THEATER.

•

CALVIN KLINE...IN READING...ABSOLUTELY!...IT WAS IN LITTLE SPANGSVILLE WHERE CALVIN KLINE GOT HIS START IN MERCHANDISING—IN HIS DAD'S STORE...CALVIN MOVED HIS ENTREPRENEURIAL EFFORTS TO READING, WHERE HIS STORE WAS OPENED IN PENN SQUARE...LOCAL FOLKS MARVELED AT THE STORE'S BEAUTY, AND CALVIN KLINE'S SELECTION OF FINE FASHIONS...CALVIN BECAME QUITE ACTIVE IN TOWN, AND HIS STORE FLOURISHED FOR DECADES...IN FACT, CALVIN KLINE SET THE STANDARD FOR CLASS IN RETAILING...BUT NOW, CALVIN KLINE IS JUST A MEMORY IN READING—THIS CALVIN KLINE—"C.K." TO HIS FRIENDS—WAS CALVIN KLINE WHITNER, WHO OPENED A DEPARTMENT STORE MANY FOLKS WILL MOST CERTAINLY RECALL.

•

CALL IT THE CARPENTER CORPORATION...CALL IT CARTECH...CARPENTER STEEL...CALL IT WHAT YOU MAY, BUT CALL IT A REAL READING TRADITION...IT WAS 1888 WHEN ANNAPOLIS GRADUATE JAMES H. CARPENTER WAS

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CONVINCED BY FRIEND JOHN KEPPELMA, A READING CITY COUNCILMAN, TO ESTABLISH A STEEL MILL IN TOWN...CARPENTER'S NEW TOOL-STEEL FIRM PURCHASED THE OLD UNION IRON FOUNDRY AT THE FOOT OF EXETER STREET AND FIRED UP THE FURNACES...SO, WHAT FANNED THOSE FIRES?...WARI!...IN 1890, CARPENTER STEEL WON A MAJOR CONTRACT FROM THE ARMED SERVICES TO PROVIDE ARMOR-PIERCING PROJECTILES, WHICH RANGED IN SIZE FROM A COUPLE POUNDS TO A HALF A TON...AND, WHEN THE SPANISH-AMERICAN WAR BROKE OUT IN 1898, THE "CARPENTER" SHELLS WERE INSTRUMENTAL IN THE BOMBARDMENT OF THE SPANISH NAVAL FLEETS.



B.C.P. IN READING?...SURE!...AROUND 1752, A SMALL LOG CABIN NEAR CHURCH AND WASHINGTON STREETS SERVED AS THE FIRST REAL JAIL FOR READING...THE CRUDE SHACK SERVED THE PURPOSE UNTIL A MORE SUBSTANTIAL PRISON WAS BUILT WHERE THE BERKSHIRE NOW STANDS AT FIFTH AND WASHINGTON...THAT WAS 1770...IN 1847, A CASTLE-LIKE STONE PRISON WAS BUILT AT THE

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EAST END OF PENN STREET IN CITY PARK...ITS TOWER SOARED ALMOST 100 FEET HIGH AND ITS FAMILIAR PROFILE BECAME ONE OF THE CITY'S BEST-KNOWN LANDMARKS...THE STONES USED FOR ITS WALLS WERE CARVED OUT OF THE QUARRIES ON THE SLOPE OF MOUNT PENN.

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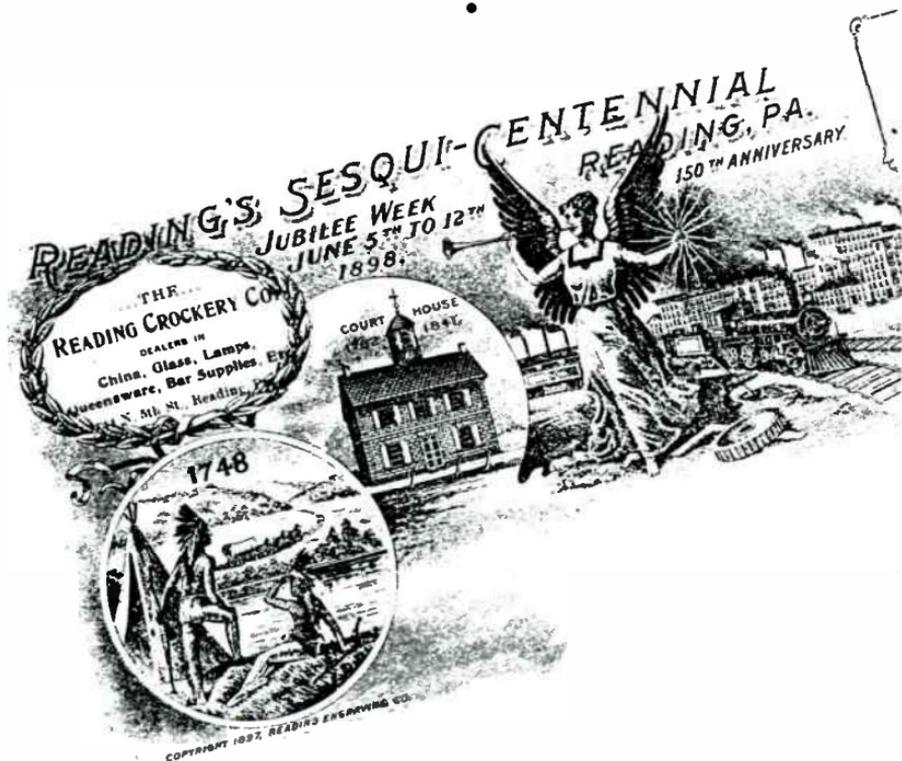
YOU CAN STILL SEE THE OLD PATHWAY—STRAIGHT UP THE MOUNTAINSIDE, PAST THE CEMETERY, UP NANNY GOAT HILL TO A FLAT SPOT...THE MOUNTAIN IS NEVERSINK...THE FLAT SPOT WAS THE SITE OF THE HIGHLAND HOUSE RESORT...AND A LITTLE MORE THAN A CENTURY AGO, THERE WERE OTHER HOTELS, SCENIC SITES, AND ATTRACTIONS ON NEVERSINK...AND THAT OLD PATHWAY FROM SOUTH STREET TO THE TOP OF THE HILL?...IT WAS WHERE THE TRACKS OF AN INCLINE PLANE—A 1,700-FOOT SYSTEM WHICH CARRIED PASSENGERS TO THE HOTEL—TO A 16-MILE GRAVITY RAILROAD—AND TO MANY GOOD TIMES IN A MUCH SIMPLER TIME IN READING...THE INCLINE PLANE WAS ABANDONED AND DISMANTLED IN 1907, BUT ITS ODD IMAGE REMAINS INDELIBLE ON THE HILLSIDE.

•

LITTLE REMAINS FROM THE HUGE, OLD, LAUER'S PARK, THE LAUER'S PARK STADIUM, OR THE ONCE-THRIVING LAUER'S BREWERY...BUT WHAT REMAINS IS INTERESTING...FREDERIC LAUER CAME TO TOWN FROM BAVARIA IN 1826 AND BROUGHT HIS FAMILY'S BREWING PROWESS WITH HIM...IN THAT SAME YEAR, HE SET UP A TINY "BREW HOUSE" NEAR THIRD AND CHESTNUT STREETS...EVENTUALLY, THE LAUER'S GARDEN HOTEL WAS BUILT ON THE NORTHWEST CORNER THERE—USED TO BE BORELLI'S CAFÉ...IN 1866, A BIG BREWERY ROSE ON A SEVEN-ACRE SITE WHERE THE LAUER'S PARK SCHOOL IS NOW SITUATED...THEN, A BIG BALLYARD—WHERE READING INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE TEAMS MET

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SUCH RIVALS AS THE BALTIMORE ORIOLES, AND WHERE BABE RUTH ONCE PLAYED IN AN EXHIBITION GAME...PROHIBITION CLOSED THE BREWERY...BUT WHAT DID FREDERIC LAUER LOOK LIKE?...CHECK THE STATUE OF HIM IN CITY PARK-A STATUE ERECTED BY THE U.S. BREWERS' ASSOCIATION IN 1885...AND WHERE DID HE LIVE?...CHECK OUT THE ELKS LODGE AT 235 WALNUT STREET-ALL THAT REMAINS OF THE OLD LAUER'S EMPIRE.



AUGUST 5, 1869...A DAY WHEN HISTORY IN READING AND THE REST OF THE COUNTY REALLY DID CHANGE...THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF BERKS COUNTY WAS CHARTERED WITH 49 MEMBERS WHO COUGHED UP \$10 A PIECE FOR DUES...THE

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SOCIETY SEEMED TO STALL FOR SEVERAL DECADES...IT WASN'T UNTIL THE TURN OF THE CENTURY UNTIL THE SOCIETY STEPPED UP ITS ACTIVITY-AND IT'S BEEN A STEADY CLIMB EVER SINCE...IN 1904, THE SOCIETY ESTABLISHED ITS FIRST HOME AT 519 COURT STREET-WHERE THE POST OFFICE IS TODAY...IN 1916, THE FORMER JOHN BOWMAN MANSION BECAME THE SOCIETY'S HEADQUARTERS AND MUSEUM...AND IN 1929, THE ORGANIZATION MOVED INTO ITS PRESENT BUILDING AT CENTRE AVENUE AND SPRING STREET...OH, YES...THAT OLD BOWMAN MANSION-FOR MORE THAN A DECADE THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY MUSEUM?...WHERE WAS IT?...WELL, STAND AT THE FRONT DOOR OF WEEU AT 34 N. 4th ST., LOOK TO THE LEFT-TO WHERE 38 N. 4th ONCE STOOD-AND USE YOUR IMAGINATION.

•

AH, THE OLD READING FAIRGROUNDS...MANY OF YOU REMEMBER IT, AND KNOW WHAT'S THERE NOW...OR DO YOU?...FAIRS WERE HELD IN DOWNTOWN READING-IN HOTEL AND OFFICE LOBBIES-UNTIL THE FAIRGROUNDS MOVED TO ITS BIG SITE ON THE EDGE OF TOWN...THERE WAS A MIDWAY, OF COURSE...SPACE FOR LOTS OF RIDES...A GRANDSTAND, RACE TRACK, EXHIBITION BUILDINGS, BEER HALLS AND, WELL, YOU KNOW...YOU WENT THERE...OR DID YOU?...IF YOU WERE HERE BETWEEN 1889 AND 1914, YOU MIGHT HAVE...MIGHT HAVE GONE TO THE FAIR AT THE READING FAIRGROUNDS OUT ON 11th STREET JUST NORTH OF ROCKLAND ON THE EAST SIDE OF 11th!

•

BEFORE BLUE MARSH, FLOODS OFTEN WREAKED HAVOC IN READING...WHO CAN EVER FORGET THE FLOOD IN THE WAKE OF HURRICANE AGNES IN 1972?...WELL, 200 YEARS AGO, FOLKS IN READING MIGHT HAVE ASKED "WHO CAN EVER FORGET THE PUMPKIN FRESHET OF 1786?"...IT WAS OCTOBER OF '86 WHEN HEAVY RAINS SENT SCHUYLKILL

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RIVER WATERS RISING NEARLY 21 FEET HIGHER THAN NORMAL...NOW, OF COURSE, THERE WAS NOT US MUCH-NOT NEARLY AS MUCH-DEVELOPMENT ALONG THE RIVER THEN...BUT THERE WAS CONSIDERABLE DAMAGE-OF A DIFFERENT KIND...THAT "PUMPKIN FRESHET?"...IT WAS SO NAMED BECAUSE UPSTREAM, IT WAS PUMPKIN SEASON....AND IT WAS ALL BUT DEVASTATED IN 1786 WHEN THOUSANDS UPON THOUSANDS OF BIG, PLUMP PUMPKINS-THOUSANDS OF 'EM-CAME WHIRLING, SWIRLING, BOBBING, AND BOUNCING DOWN THE SCHUYLKILL.

THERE'S AN OLD STORY OFTEN TOLD BY ALBERT BOSCOV-ABOUT HIS FATHER WHO WANDERED INTO READING, HEARD WHAT HE INITIALLY THOUGHT WAS A BUNCH OF LOCALS SPEAKING YIDDISH-ONLY TO DISCOVER THAT IT WAS NOT THAT DIALECT, BUT WAS REALLY PENNSYLVANIA "DUTCH"...BUT LONG BEFORE SOLOMON BOSCOV'S INTRODUCTION TO SCHNITZ, SCHMUTZ, AND AYE-AYE-AYE, JEWS HAD PLAYED A VITAL ROLE IN THE CITY'S DEVELOPMENT...WE'VE ALL HEARD OF CONRAD WEISER'S STORE ON PENN SQUARE...BUT WHAT OF HIS NEIGHBOR DOWN THE STREET-MEYER JOSEPHSON?...OR SHOP OWNED BY MOSES HEYMAN, ABOUT THE SAME TIME?...AND IN WHAT WAS A LITTLE METHODIST CHURCH-MT. ZION-AT 524 CHESTNUT STREET, A BUDDING CONGREGATION OF JEWS ESTABLISHED, IN 1885, A SYNAGOGUE KNOWN THEN, AND NOW (AT A DIFFERENT LOCATION) AS OHEB SHOLOM.

THERE WAS A LOT OF GRUMBLING BACK IN PENNSYLVANIA'S CAPITAL CITY IN 1795...IT WAS TOO FAR AWAY FROM GROWING SECTIONS OF THE STATE, AND LOCAL POLITICIANS HAD TOO MUCH POWER IN STATE AFFAIRS...THE CAPITAL WAS PHILADELPHIA, AND WHEN THAT GRUMBLING

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TURNED INTO A GROWL, READING OFFICIALS LET IT BE KNOWN THAT THEIR TOWN WOULD BE MORE THAN HAPPY TO BECOME THE NEW CAPITAL OF THE COMMONWEALTH...BUT WHEN THE DECISION WAS FINALLY MADE TO MOVE THE SEAT OF GOVERNMENT, THE LEGISLATURE DECIDED ON ANOTHER CITY...LANCASTER...THE RED ROSE CITY WAS THE CAPITAL FROM 1799 TO 1812, WHEN HARRISBURG GOT THE NOD...BUT WHAT TOWN FINISHED SECOND IN THE EARLY 19th CENTURY CAPITAL CITY SWEEPSTAKES?...READING—WHICH LOST OUT TO HARRISBURG BY ONE VOTE!

•

MIKE O'PAKE AND JOSEPH HIESTER...DANTE SANTONI, TOM CALTAGIRONE, AND MOSES STARR...OK, WHAT'S THE RELEVANCE?...WELL, THE YEAR WAS 1790—A GROWING COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA WAS DIVIDED INTO DISTRICTS TO BE REPRESENTED BY ELECTED OFFICIALS CALLED STATE SENATORS...AFTER THE DIVISION, BERKS AND DAUPHIN COUNTIES, WHOSE BORDERS WERE NOT AT ALL WHAT THEY ARE TODAY, WERE COMBINED AS A SENATORIAL DISTRICT...IN 1808, BERKS BECAME ITS OWN DISTRICT UNTIL 1811, WHEN SCHUYLKILL COUNTY WAS FORMED AND ADDED TO BERKS AS A DISTRICT...THEN, IN 1836, BERKS WAS SINGLED OUT AS A DISTRICT UNTO ITSELF ONCE AGAIN...ALL THAT IS ALL DIFFERENT, OF COURSE, TODAY...OH—JOSEPH HIESTER?...HE WAS OUR FIRST STATE SENATOR FROM 1790 TO 1794...AND, HE BECAME GOVERNOR OF PENNSYLVANIA IN 1820...AND SANTONI, CALTAGIRONE, STARR?...THE FIRST TO REPRESENT READING IN THE LEGISLATOR NOW, AND MOSES STARR DID SO—FIRST—WHEN THE STATE ASSEMBLY WAS CREATED IN 1752.

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YOU'VE HEARD OF ROGER TORY PETERSON...JOHN JAMES AUDUBON...JACK HOLCOMB...GREAT "BIRD MEN," RIGHT?...WELL, EVER HEAR OF SPENCER

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FULLERTON BAIRD?...HE WAS A LAWYER, A DOCTOR, A PROFESSOR, A SCIENTIST, AND—HE WAS A READINGITE...AMONG HIS MANY ACCOMPLISHMENTS WAS BEING DIRECTOR OF THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION, DIRECTOR (AND CO-FOUNDER) OF THE UNITED STATES NATIONAL MUSEUM, U.S. COMMISSIONER OF FISH AND FISHERIES, AND LEFT A LEGACY EVERY BIRDWATCHER SHOULD REMEMBER...AS A TEEN, HE'D HIKE HUNDREDS OF MILES—THOUSANDS, PERHAPS—IN THE APPALACHIANS...AND IN 1850, AT AGE 27, HE BECAME ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF THE SMITHSONIAN, TAKING WITH HIM MORE THAN 3,000 BIRD SKINS, FOSSILS, PRESERVED REPTILES, AND A VAST KNOWLEDGE OF BIRDING...THAT KNOWLEDGE WAS GAINED, NO DOUBT PARTIALLY THROUGH HIS CORRESPONDENCES WITH AUDUBON, EMERSON, AND THOROUGH...BAIRD WAS A PROLIFIC WRITER, PLAYED A PIVOTAL ROLE IN THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE READING PUBLIC MUSEUM, AND WAS INSTRUMENTAL IN THE GROWTH OF THE SMITHSONIAN...ALL THAT, FROM A MAN BORN IN 1823 AT FIFTH AND WASHINGTON STREETS.

•

WHEN IT OPENED IN 1917, AFTER COSTING A QUARTER OF A MILLION DOLLARS TO BUILD, THE BIG THEATER AT 651 PENN STREET WAS A THING OF WONDER...WHEN THE LOEW'S CORPORATION BOUGHT IT IN 1925 AND PLACED A MASSIVE PIPE ORGAN INSIDE IT, THE "LOEW'S COLONIAL" BECAME A SHOWPLACE OF BIG-TIME PROPORTIONS...BIG STARS TROD ITS STAGE...IT WAS ONE OF ONLY SEVEN THEATERS TO PREMIER "GONE WITH THE WIND" IN SEPTEMBER, 1939...BUT AFTER A LONG, PROSPEROUS RUN AS READING'S MOST NOTEWORTHY THEATER, HARD TIMES HIT...DOWNTOWN MOVIE THEATERS WERE LOSING THEIR APPEAL—AND INDEED DOWNTOWN READING WAS DETERIORATING...IN 1970, THE OLD

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**“COLONIAL” THEATER WAS DEMOLISHED FOR A PROPOSED “PENN MALL”—A MALL WHICH NEVER MATERIALIZED.**

**JANUARY 27, 1913...A GROUP OF INTERESTED CITIZENS GATHERS AT THE OLD RAJAH TEMPLE—A BUILDING STILL DOWN AT FRANKLIN AND PEARL STREETS...THE READING BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY REPRESENTATIVES DISCUSS THEIR COMMON PROBLEMS, THEIR CHALLENGES, AND THEIR ACHIEVEMENTS...THE MEETING PROVES QUITE FRUITFUL...THEY AGREE TO MEET EXACTLY ONE MONTH LATER, ON FEBRUARY 27, 1913...THEY DO, AND THEY CHOOSE OFFICERS, INCLUDING PRESIDENT DANIEL F. PRINTZ...SOON, THE GROUP RECEIVES A CHARTER AND UNDERTAKES A MEMBERSHIP DRIVE—AND BY THE FALL OF 1913, 750 MEMBERS ARE ON THE ROLLS...THEY ADDRESS THEMSELVES TO ISSUES INCLUDING CIVIC PRIDE AND PATRIOTISM, ELIMINATION OF SMOKE, PRESERVATION OF THE MOUNTAINSIDES, A COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION, AND ALL MATTERS RELATED TO BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY...AFTER ALL, THIS GROUP WHICH MET FIRST ON JANUARY 27, 1913, BECAME THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OF READING!**

**THE REV. DR. WILLIAM STOY WAS ONE OF EARLY READING'S BEST-KNOWN RELIGIOUS FIGURES...HE CAME HERE FROM EUROPE AND WAS THE FIRST PASTOR AT THE FIRST REFORMED CHURCH IN READING IN 1753...FROM OUR TOWN, REV. DR. STOY WENT ON TO OTHER ASSIGNMENTS AS PASTOR AND MISSIONARY...BUT SOMETHING ELSE THE GOOD MINISTER DID VAULTED HIM INTO PROMINENCE...THERE'S EVIDENCE THAT GEORGE WASHINGTON SOUGHT HIS ASSISTANCE, AND REV. JOHN WESLEY WAS IMPRESSED BY REV. DR. STOY'S INVENTION...IT INVOLVED THE BREWING OF RED CHICKEN WEED AND BEER TO CREATE A KIND**

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OF TEA...BUT THE TEA WASN'T BREWED AS A COMPANION FOR SCONES OR BISCUITS...REV. DR. STOY'S RED CHICKEN WEED-AND-BEER TEA WAS A POTION FOR TREATMENT OF A MAD DOG'S BITE!

•

WE KNOW THE NAMES OF READING'S STREETS...BUT LET'S GO BACK BEFORE 1833 WHEN MANY OF THE PRESENT NAMES WERE ADOPTED...WE STAND ON PENN STREET—IT WAS PENN STREET FROM THE VERY START...BUT WE WALK NORTH, PAST THOMAS AND THEN MARGARET STREETS...OR, WE HEAD SOUTH AND CROSS RICHARD AND THEN HAMILTON...AND THE NORTH/SOUTH STREETS WAY BACK WHEN?...KING, QUEEN, CALLOWHILL, PRINCE, DUKE, EARL, CLEMENT, LORD, AND VIGOUR...AND, OH YES, HAD THERE NEVER BEEN A COURTHOUSE ERECTED ON IT, AND THUS NO REASON FOR "COURT STREET," YOU WOULD HAVE ADDRESSED A POST CARD TO WEEU, 4th AND LIBERTY STREETS.

•

IN THE LAST HISTORY MINUTE, WE WALKED UP PENN STREET IN 1748 AND DISCOVERED THAT WHAT WERE SECOND, THIRD, FOURTH STREETS, ETC., HAD OTHER NAMES THEN—KING, QUEEN, PRINCE, DUKE—NAMES LIKE THAT...THOSE NAMES HAVE OBVIOUS DERIVATIONS...BUT WHAT OF "CALLOWHILL" STREET, NOW FIFTH?...IT WAS NAMED AFTER HANNAH CALLOWHILL, WILLIAM PENN'S SECOND WIFE AND THE MOTHER OF READING'S FOUNDERS, THOMAS AND RICHARD PENN...SIXTH WAS PRINCE, SEVENTH WAS DUKE, EIGHTH WAS EARL...NINTH STREET WAS CLEMENT STREET, NAMED FOR SIMON CLEMENT, A GOOD FRIEND OF WILLIAM PENN...TENTH STREET WAS LORD, AND ELEVENTH STREET WAS VIGOUR STREET, AFTER WILLIAM VIGOUR, ONE OF TOM PENN'S BEST BUDDIES.

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IT'S 1912...A GROUP OF OUTSTANDING AREA

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MUSICIANS HAVE PLAYED TO AN APPRECIATIVE CROWD AT CARSONIA PARK...EXCITED ABOUT THE FAVORABLE RECEPTION THERE, THEY CALL UPON THE "BIG GUNS" OF READING—GUNS WITH NAMES LIKE THUN AND LUDEN—AND SEEK FINANCIAL HELP TO FUND A WILD DREAM...THE GOING IS TOUCH, BUT THE MUSICIANS KEEP GOING...THEY HIRE A NATIONALLY-KNOWN MUSIC DIRECTOR—THEY STAGE PUBLIC CONCERTS—THEY ATTACH THEIR DREAM TO YOUTH IN THE SCHOOLS AND TO SOME NEWFANGLED MEDIUM CALLED RADIO...THAT MUSIC DIRECTOR, HANS KINDLER, MOVES ON TO CONDUCT A NATIONAL ORCHESTRA, BUT THE READING MUSICIANS SEEK AND FIND COMPETENT REPLACEMENTS...IN THE EARLY 1920S, LONG BEFORE MOST CITIES OUR SIZE HAD ONE, *READING* HAD ONE—AND STILL DOES...THE READING SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA!

READING'S DOWNTOWN SKYLINE IS PRETTY ATTRACTIVE AND IMPRESSIVE WHEN VIEWED FROM THE WEST SHORE BYPASS.....THE COUNTY'S



COURTHOUSE IS OUR TALLEST BUILDING, AT ABOUT 280 FEET...BUT LET'S HEAD BACK TO 1876

## **1999-WEEU FEEDBACK JOURNAL-1999**

WHEN JOSIAH DIVES, GEORGE S. POMEROY, AND JOHN STEWART GAVE UP THEIR CLERKS' JOBS IN HARTFORD, CONN., AND BOUGHT A STORE AT 533 PENN STREET IN READING...THEY CALLED IT THE "GLOBE STORE"...BUSINESS WAS GOOD, AND IN 1900, THE STORE CHANGED ITS NAME AND BUILT WHAT WAS THEN THE TALLEST BUILDING IN TOWN...THE BUILDING'S NO LONGER THERE, BUT SEVERAL GENERATIONS REMEMBER THE STORE-AND THE BUILDING-POMEROY'S.

•

YOUNGER READINGITES KNOW LITTLE OR NOTHING OF THE TROLLEYS WHICH ONCE RUMBLED ON CITY STREETS, AND FAR BEYOND...A STREET RAILWAY COMPANY WAS INCORPORATED IN 1865, BUT IT WASN'T UNTIL 1873 WHEN TRACKS WERE LAID OUT ON STREETS...IN THAT YEAR, THE FIRST HORSE-DRAWN TROLLEY OPERATED ON A LINE FROM PENN STREET TO THE OUTER STATION...AND INCIDENTALLY, YOU CAN STILL SEE-AND SIT IN-THAT CAR IN THE LOWER LEVEL OF THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY...BY 1886, HORSE-DRAWN CARS TROTTED ON SEVERAL STREETS, AND IN 1886, THE FIRST ELECTRIC TROLLEY LINE WAS EXTENDED TO BLACK BEAR HOTEL IN ST. LAWRENCE...THE TROLLEY SYSTEM WAS TOTALLY ELECTRIFIED IN 1893 AND MORE LINES FANNED OUT BEYOND THE CITY LIMITS...BUT IN 1947, THE TROLLEY LINES WERE ABANDONED IN FAVOR OF A NEW TRANSPORTATION MODE...THE BUS.

•

***Phollow the Phortunes  
of the Philadelphia Phillies  
exclusively on  
WEEU***

# Old Time Radio's Top 20 Programs

as determined by  
"Captain Radio," Joe Henn

During the past four decades I have been a guest on numerous radio talk shows, as well as various TV shows, on the local, regional, and national level. On a rating scale of one to ten, my hosts have ranged from one to nine.

Among these scores of hosts there is only one I can sincerely and objectively rate a perfect ten. His name, *Jack Holcomb*.

In the greater Reading area, where I have often presented my "Captain Radio" program, numerous men and women have remarked that they heard me on my annual "Feedback" appearance with Jack. They speak about Jack Holcomb in almost reverential tones, and with the greatest love and respect.

In honor of the 20th anniversary of "Feedback," I would like to list "Captain Radio's Top 20 Old Time Radio Shows (1930-1960). These are not only the programs I enjoyed the most, but the ones that had the greatest impact on my

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life as I grew up. In alphabetical order, here they are:

Bill Stern's Sports Newsreel.....Drama/Sports  
Bing Crosby Kraft Music Hall.....Music/Variety  
Captain Midnight.....Juvenile Aviation Adventure Serial  
Counterspy.....Crime Mystery Thriller  
Gang Busters.....Crime Drama Thriller  
Greatest Story Ever Told.....Biblical Drama  
Green Hornet.....Crime Drama Thriller  
Gunsmoke.....Western Drama  
I Love a Mystery.....Detective Mystery Thriller  
Jack Armstrong.....Juvenile Mystery Serial  
Jack Benny.....Comedy Variety  
Little Orphan Annie.....Juvenile Adventure Serial  
Lone Ranger.....Western Drama  
Lux Radio Theatre.....Motion Picture Drama  
Major Bowes' Amateur Hour.....Music Variety  
Shadow.....Detective Horror Mystery Thriller  
Sherlock Holmes (Rathbone/Bruce).....Detective Thriller  
Suspense.....Suspense Drama  
Tom Mix Straight Shooters..Juvenile Western Mystery Serial  
Twenty Questions.....Quiz Show  
Various Newscasters.....Drew Pearson, Fulton Lewis Jr.,  
Gabriel Heatter, H.V. Kaltenborn, Lowell Thomas, Raymond  
Gram.

Of these twenty it is very difficult to single out my super favorites. But, if forced at gunpoint to choose my top five, here's how I would vote. There would be a three-way tie for Number One: I Love a Mystery, The Lone Ranger, Tom Mix.

Tied for second would be these seven programs: Bill Stern Sports, The

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**Greatest Story Ever Told, Jack Armstrong, Jack Benny, Little Orphan Annie, The Shadow, and Sherlock Holmes.**

The remaining ten shows would all tie for third.

And now, a little background on some of the best of the best.

*THE GREATEST STORY EVER TOLD...first aired January 26, 1947, over ABC, and was based on Readers Digest's religion editor Fulton Oursler's famous book of the same name. The book simply but effectively, dramatized the life and times of Jesus Christ as written by the four Evangelists. This highly-acclaimed program was exceptional in many ways. It featured a full orchestra, a 16-voice chorus, was the first radio series to simulate the voice of Christ as a continuing character (portrayed by Warren Parker), and made use of the very special sound effects which portrayed ancient times. Finally, and the only time up to then in radio history, only one announcement by the sponsor came at the program's end when the announcer, Norman Rose, said: "The Greatest Story Ever Told has been brought to you by the Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company." The final broadcast was December 30, 1956.*

*THE LONE RANGER: An original American hero and one of its best-loved and remembered programs I reviewed for you in the 1995 Feedback Journal.*

*I LOVE A MYSTERY: I wrote about it in the 1994 Feedback Journal where I said that the program featured Jack, Doc, and Reggie as soldiers of fortune who became international detectives operating out of Hollywood. Between 1939 and 1943, in 15-minute*

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segments, the trio solved 46 of the most baffling and bloodcurdling mysteries imaginable.

**TOM MIX STRAIGHT SHOOTERS:** The show was sponsored by Ralston cereal at Checkerboard Square in St. Louis. Considered by many to be America's greatest cowboy actor, Tom Mix never appeared on the radio program that bore his name. The show was first heard on NBC Red on September 25, 1933, three times a week. In its early years the shows were based on Mix's incredibly action-filled life which came to a tragic end in an auto accident on October 12, 1940. Ironically, just six months later, Earl Graser, the radio voice of the Lone Ranger, also died in an auto crash.

When the program moved to the NBC Blue network in 1939, the show changed gears. Tom moved to the Texas town of Dobie where his TM Bar ranch was located. He settled down with his wards Jimmy and Jane...his sidekicks the Old Wrangler and Sheriff Mike Show...his pal Wash, the TM Bar's cook and man of all trades...Pecos Williams, a buddy...and Amos Q. Snood—a friend who tried Tom's patience. On any peaceful day Tom and Tony, his wonder horse, along with Tom's friends, could be found working hard at ranch chores; or relaxing at a fun-filled picnic. Suddenly a horrifying lightning bolt would strike. In the form of an incredibly baffling mystery involving murder, malefactors, and mayhem cattle, people and ranches would disappear. People would die from poisoned darts...killers known as the Green Man or the Nursery Rhyme Killer would appear...other killers would become invisible or vanish. Even a giant threatened to destroy Tom and his friends forever. Scores of exciting giveaway premiums were offered over the program such as maps, rings, magnifiers and even decoder badges that were woven into the plot and provided vital clues to the perplexing mysteries. Many a night found me awake long after bedtime studying my

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notes trying to discover that vital clue which would help me unravel the thrilling mystery.

**SHERLOCK HOLMES:** With Basil Rathbone and Nigel Bruce, is the the world's greatest and best-known detective. Created by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, the great detective did not appear on American radio until October 20, 1930, over WEAf-NBC, New York. Edith Meiser, a one-time vaudevillian and actress, and her radio scriptwriter husband loved the Holmes stories and had always felt that he would be a popular radio character. She completed a number of scripts but could not find a sponsor or producer until she saw William Gillette play Holmes on Broadway in one of his many "farewell" appearances. Once again Edith made the rounds of producers and sponsors until she met Mr. G. Washington, president of the coffee company of the same name. He agreed to have his company sponsor a series of half-hour dramas to be written, produced, and directed by Miss Meiser. William Gillette was naturally chosen to be the first Holmes on the first broadcast of Sherlock Holmes. The program was an instant hit and continued with various actors in the roles of Sherlock and Watson until December 24, 1936. But, despite its incredible popularity and success, something was missing. As legend has it, during one of Hollywood's much publicized cocktail parties, Darryl F. Zanuck turned to Rathbone and remarked, "You know, you would make a perfect Sherlock Holmes." The first film with Rathbone and Bruce was "The Hound of the Baskervilles," released in 1939. It was so well received that a second one was rushed into production: *The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes*. It was inevitable that the super-popular pair would be called on to play these roles on radio. So, after a nearly three-year lapse from radio, Rathbone and Bruce teamed up for the "Sussex Vampire" on October 2, 1939, over WJZ-NBC. It was the beginning of 218 programs that ran through May, 1946. By 1946,

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*Rathbone and Bruce had become disinterested in both the movie and radio series. Originally sponsored by Bromo Quinine, the Petrie Wine Co. assumed sponsorship in 1943. The American radio version was heard until March 8, 1950. Various actors played Holmes and Watson and the program had various sponsors. Many versions of "Sherlock Holmes" appeared over the BBC in England and continue to do so.*

*The movie as well as radio version of Holmes with Rathbone and Bruce were the most popular and widely acclaimed of all American versions. When the movie versions were first aired over television they received some of the highest ratings ever registered by a TV audience. They continue to be just as popular today. The radio series always ranked in the top 25 radio shows.*

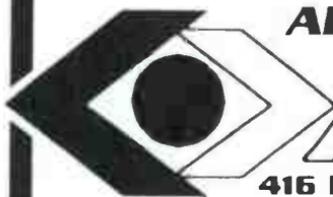
*On September 25, 1938, Orson Welles' "Mercury Theatre on the Air" presented his adaptation of William Gillette's play, "Sherlock Holmes," over WABC-CBS. He opened the program with these remarks: "Good evening. Well, tonight it is back to Baker Street, back to the unlikely London of the 19th century where high adventure awaits all who would seek it in a hansom cab, or under gaslight in Inverness cape. For tonight, we pay tribute to the most wonderful member of that most wonderful world, a gentleman who never lived and will never die—a permanent profile, an everlasting silhouette on the edge of the world—Sherlock Holmes."*

*And I would add that the real name of Sherlock Holmes is Basil Rathbone—and Dr. Watson is really known as Nigel Bruce!*

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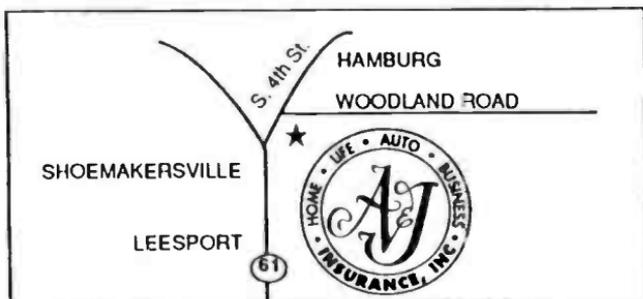
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# **MONEYTALK:**

**by Tom Morgan**

Creator of "Tom Morgan's Moneytalk," heard during the  
AFTERnoon News Update (5-5:30) on WEEU

We asked Tom for his thoughts for this years Journal. He felt his column about "the girl who danced in the street" might work to brighten your day. It brightened his when he wrote it. And, so many readers have mentioned it to him he suspects it must be the readers' favorite of all the columns he has written.

So...here it is...

## **THE JOYS OF LIFE ARE ALL AROUND US**

I saw a young woman with purple hair dance in the street today. She lifted her arms high, fluttered her fingers, tossed her head toward the sun and whirled on her toes. She looked the essence of happiness.

I saw a toddler rub noses with his puppy and giggle. They both wanted more.

I saw a father wave goodbye to his daughter on the school bus.

I saw the morning sun peep over the ridge and fling its rays down the valley muffled with mist.

I saw an aged couple grasp each others's hand on a park bench.

In a parking lot I saw a younger couple hold each other close. Was this a greeting? A farewell? Grieving? Happiness? I watched them for a minute, a man and woman entwined, motionless.

Outside a diner I saw two old pals swat each other toward the door with their newspapers. Each swat

## **1999•WEEU FEEDBACK JOURNAL•1999**

brought another round of laughter. One of them nudged the back of the other's hat so that the front slid down to the nose.

At the bakery I saw a woman treat her mother to lunch. "You should eat more of this," the daughter said. "It is so good for your bones."

At a busy corner I saw a grandfather bend to take his granddaughter's hand to lead her across the street. He watched for traffic. She only had eyes for him.

At the hairdresser's, I saw a mother clip her little boy's auburn-colored hair. He wanted her to shave his head. They settled on very short sides.

In an office I saw a man buff up the glass on the photo of his wife on his desk.

Near the YMCA I watched a mother walk her kids hand-in-hand toward the day care.

I saw a city bus driver, Louie, toss a kiss to a woman walking. She tossed one back.

I saw a crossing guard squat and pull off his gloves to tie a youngster's sneakers.

Late in the day I saw boys skateboard around the parking garage. They thumped up and down curbstones and flung themselves and their boards over various obstacles.

I saw the men at Zim's Shoes carry shoes to the curb for an elderly woman to try on in her car.

I saw the handwriting of my son on his latest letter.

I saw the painting from my daughter that hangs above my door.

I listened to Rob, the pianist, play some Ellington on his grand piano.

I exchanged smiles with the young man who was tossing pizza dough above his head in the window of Ruffino's Pizzeria.

## 1999•WEEU FEEDBACK JOURNAL•1999

I saw the city judge lumber off to court. His rolling gait is so distinctive I wish someone would videotape it for the city's archives.

I saw a friend whose arms overflowed with flowers for his wife on this, her birthday.

I saw teenagers rake leaves into a huge pile atop their pal.

I saw oak trees, despite the autumn, clinging to their leaves so bronzed.

I saw the college football coach chugging out his road miles. He looks slimmer these days.

I saw the new blooms that appeared on our impatiens. It is thanking us for rescuing it from October's frost.

I found a favorite book again and lay it near my pillow.

All these wonders did I see and hear and touch and feel.

And best of all, I saw that young woman with the purple hair dance in the street this day.

Today I saw so many joys of life.

From Tom...as in Morgan.

•

**IF YOUR GROUP, CLUB, CHURCH, OR  
ORGANIZATION HAS A SPECIAL EVENT COMING  
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***Please print or type all information on the back of a post card and include a contact number.***

**Opening Lines...**

*So, you think you're good at guessing song titles!*

What we've done here is provide the first letters of the first words of some very familiar tunes. Read the clues and the letters, and figure out the opening line of the song in question. It's not the title, mind you, but the opening line. Good luck!

A Beatles' signature song:

SLYYYY

The Chairman's ode to the apple:

SSTNILT

A "stand up" kind of song:

OSCYS

A pilfered patriotic melody:

MCTOT

Once a year!

HBTY

A rodent's association anthem:

WTLOTCTMFYAM

Babs' ode to all:

PPWNP

A diamond song:

TMOTTBG

From a knight to a princess:

GER

Gyrate and yell:

SIUB

An OK villain's dirge:

PJID

Place of a grand terpsichores:

NNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNN

(answers coming up...DON'T PEEK!!)

# Berks Words

Here are the partial names of communities in Berks County. Fill in the blank spaces to discover the full names. Answers on the next page, but don't you dare peek!

•  
\_ \_ MBU \_ \_  
\_ \_ ICET \_ \_ \_ \_  
\_ \_ AND \_ \_  
\_ \_ TYV \_ \_  
\_ \_ \_ \_ MEK \_ \_  
\_ \_ ESPO \_ \_  
\_ \_ EET \_ \_ \_ \_  
\_ \_ MPT \_ \_  
\_ \_ RDSB \_ \_ \_ \_  
\_ \_ NHO \_ \_  
\_ \_ NNSI \_ \_  
\_ \_ CET \_ \_  
\_ \_ TZI \_ \_  
\_ \_ RNV \_ \_  
\_ \_ OBESO \_ \_  
\_ \_ RAL \_ \_  
\_ \_ YO \_ \_  
\_ \_ L \_ \_  
\_ \_ P \_ \_  
\_ \_ ONO \_ \_  
\_ \_ CHT \_ \_ \_ \_



## **Things We Can Learn From A Dog**

**If what you want lies buried, dig until you find it.**

**Allow people to touch you, and thrive on attention.**

**Avoid biting when a simple growl will do.**

**Never pretend to be something you're not.**

**Be loyal.**

**No matter how often you are scolded, don't buy into the  
guit thing and pout...run right back and make friends.**

**When someone is having a bad day, be silent, sit close  
by and nuzzle them gently.**

**Run, romp, and play daily.**

**Savor things that are good.**

**Never pass up the opportunity to go for a joyride.**

**When it's in your best interest, practice obedience.**

**Take naps and stretch before rising.**

**On hot days, drink lots of water and lie under a shade  
tree.**

**Let others know how you feel...when you're happy,  
dance around and wag your entire body.**

**When loved ones come home, always  
run to greet them.**

**If you're feeling poorly, allow others to pamper you.  
Show your appreciation openly and with enthusiasm.**

**Delight in the simple joy of a long walk.**

**Allow the experience of fresh air and the wind in your  
face to be pure ecstasy!**

**Never forget the way home.**

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**ANSWERS TO "OPENING LINES":** "She loves you, yeah, yeah, yeah..." (She Loves You); "Start spreading the news, I'm leaving today..." (New York, New York); "Oh, say can you see..." (Star-Spangled Banner); "My country 'tis of thee..." (America); "Happy birthday to you..." (Happy Birthday); "Who's the leader of the club that's meant for you and me..." (Mickey Mouse Club March); "People, people who need people..." (People); "Take me out to the ball game..." (Take Me Out to the Ball Game); "Goodbye, England's rose..." (Goodbye England's Rose); "Shake it up, baby..." (Twist and Shout); "Poor Jud is dead..." (Poor Jud is Dead); "Na, na, na, na, na (etc.)..." (Land of 1,000 Dances).

**ANSWERS TO BERKSWORDS:** Hamburg, Pricetown, Blandon, Amityville, Limekiln, Leesport, Fleetwood, Birdsboro, Kenhorst, Pennside, Kutztown, Bernville, Robesonia, Gibraltar, Lyons, Oley, Mt. Penn, Monocacy, Bechtelsville.

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# Enjoying Rails to Trails

*pictorial by "East Side" Dave Kline*

A simple stroll or bike ride along any "Rails to Trails" corridor offers the participant obvious and some times not so obvious benefits. Consider the obvious first. A safe recreational trail allows for desirable and repetitive use, which encourages fitness, along with good health and well being. The not-so-obvious include an insight into a region's history, the chance to explore and learn, the opportunity to catalog all sorts of wildlife encounters in your own life's journal, and an increase in tourism and commerce due to the attraction of the trail.

Basically a "Rails to Trails" trail is one that has been recovered from a railroad company, tracks have been removed, and instead of allowing an old, unwanted railway to languish in wasteful decay, the land is now reclaimed, graded,



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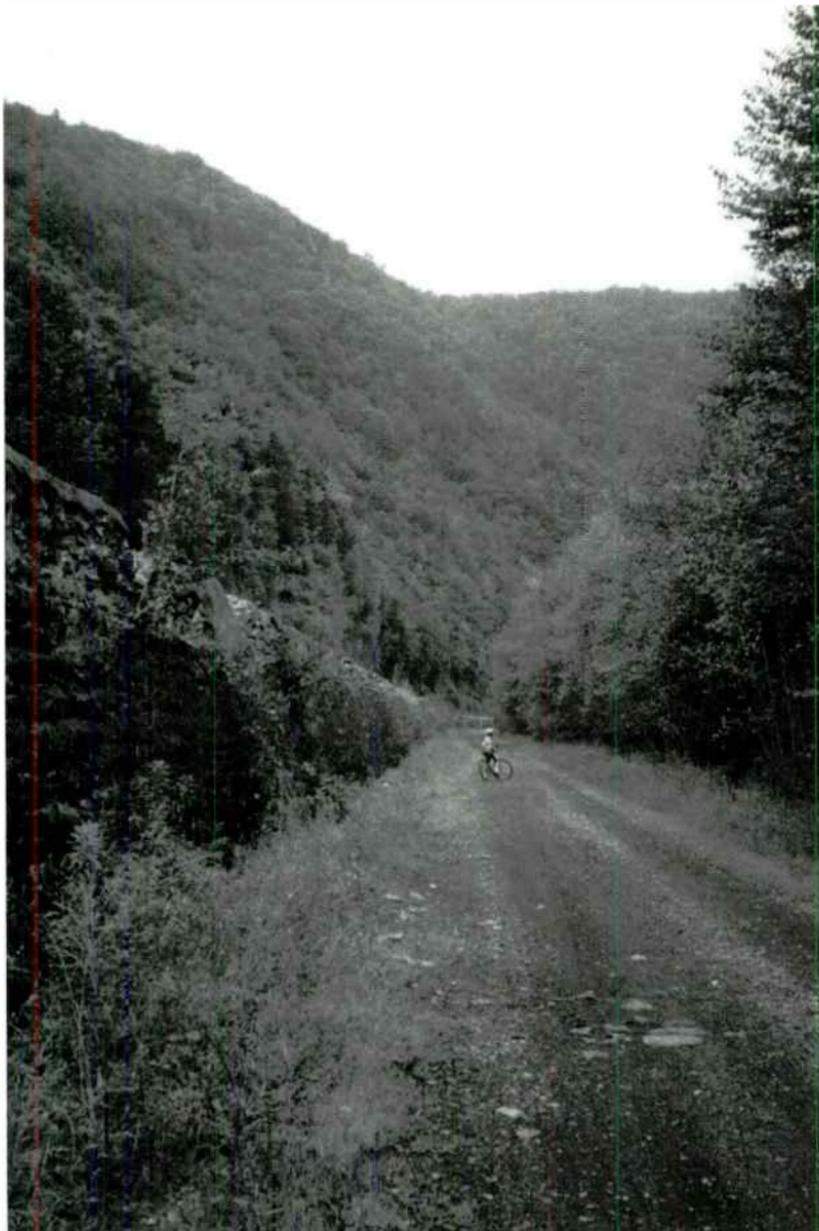
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*A still-used elevated railway bed lies just to the left of the Lehigh Gorge Trail.*



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weed-whacked, and generally spruced up so as to provide a pleasant trail for any and all persons lucky enough to live close enough to one to use it regularly.

A simple uncrowded path on which you can walk with a friend and talk about mutually interesting pastimes without worrying about being run over by a car is something we should not take for granted in today's age of development. Far too often in America, highways are built, housing and industrial tracts are laid out, and concrete is poured without any thought to non-combustible engine or alternative transportation corridors. One exception in the USA is the state of Washington, where most new highways are being built with pathways along their side by mandate. This way people can commute without having to rely on expensive and environmentally unclean combustible engine vehicles. In Europe in countries like Switzerland, it is hard not to find pathways and trails along side of existing railways and highways. There almost the entire country is linked up by trails.



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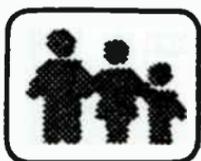
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Our own Schuylkill River Greenway Association has been working diligently, sometimes with the National Rails to Trails program, to secure fallow land along railroad and river corridors and transform it into miles and miles of scenic trails. The dream and vision of the organization is to one day link a trail system from Philadelphia to Pottsville and beyond! One important link in that system is the newly reclaimed Thun Trail between Reading and Birdsboro. The Thun Trail is a work in progress but is perfectly usable right now for walkers and bicyclists. No motorized vehicles are permitted on the Thun Trail. Passing over several sturdy railroad bridges, high above the Schuylkill River below, the Thun Trail offers several miles of uninterrupted trail pleasure. There are numerous side trails along the way that one can explore too. I know of one gentleman who commutes to and from work almost everyday from his home in Birdsboro, to Reading and back. Having a place of employment that encourages wellness is also helpful as these forward-thinking establishments understand the value of human-powered commuting and often

---



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provide shower and locker facilities for their employees. In the long run, the cost savings derived in health plans featuring wellness incentives more than makes up for the investment in the shower and locker facility. Many modern companies are looking to locate in communities that have the usual amenities like good museums, great cultural offerings and so forth...but the really far-seeing firms are also looking into the infrastructure of the community and asking about hiking trails and corridors for safe recreation, along with alternative commuting opportunities.

Berks County offers many nice trails, and we can only hope that the future will introduce more trails and alternatives. With her historic roots firmly grounded in the railroad, Reading could become a major center for trail tourism. With some vision and leadership, Reading could link up several of her key trails and become a place where people come to from around the world to experience the history and beauty of a city that was built from the river to the mountain.

A nearby town that has invested tons of time and energy

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by DLE and Debbie

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*The Thun Trail is perfect for a family hike, as evidenced here with WEEU account executive Butch Ulrich and his family.*

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into reclaiming their railroad heritage through a highly developed trail system is, "The Switzerland of America", Jim Thorpe, Pa. Just an hour and fifteen minutes to Reading's north, the town of Jim Thorpe offers a pleasing ambiance to all who enjoy "Rails to Trails". With Victorian charm and a young-at-heart feeling that is both casual and inviting, Jim Thorpe offers something for almost anyone and is rapidly becoming a major center for tourism in our region.

There are several showcase trails around Jim Thorpe, with one of my favorite being an old switchback railroad bed that winds from Jim Thorpe up to the town of Summit Hill and back out across the flank of Mount Pisgah where you reach the summit of the mountain and are rewarded with a fabulous view of the Lehigh River Gorge, spectacular mountain scenery and a glance across the valley to the rushing Glen Onoko waterfall. Throughout your journey you seldom encounter terrain more than easy and rolling.

This is also true of the showcase trail in the Jim Thorpe region, the Lehigh Gorge State Park Trail. In an area well

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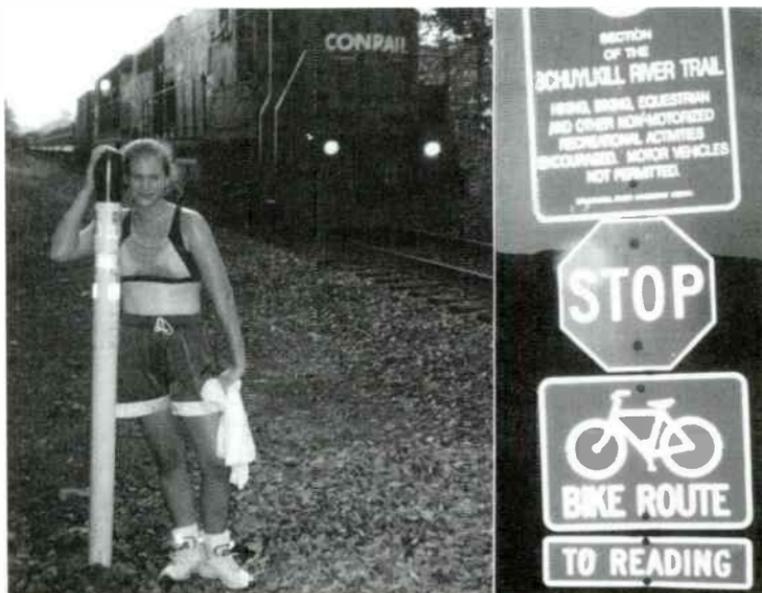
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*(Left) Jogging along the Thun Trail is enjoyable, and especially interesting for railroad buffs as an active rail line runs parallel to a portion of the trail along Route 724. (Right) The Thun Trail offers an interesting corridor for cyclists, hikers, and runners.*

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known for its exciting whitewater rafting and kayaking, the Lehigh Gorge trail offers a one-way trek of twenty-five miles, or a round trip journey of fifty miles! Several inns have sprung up along the way and now offer trail users the option to travel a bit on the trail to a certain point, then stay over for the night and begin anew in the morning. One such inn is that of Rod Mann and his wife and is called the Canal House. If you are interested in booking a relaxing stay, they may be reached at (717) 377-5599.

As with most trails, there are numerous side trails that are more infrequently used which offer reward the explorer with fantastic nature sightings or an opportunity to explore old railroad ruins and artifacts like those at Penn Haven, just a few miles north of Jim Thorpe on the trail. On a recent trip to this area several friends and I explored the Penn Haven "Slides" which were built to shuttle coal down the side of the mountain. Now in complete ruin except for a wall here and there, what remains of the structure excites the imagination and conjures up images of a time gone by. As we descended

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*The Thun Trail trailhead, along Route 10 just north of Angelica Lake.*

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the mountain ridge, we were greeted by a big, fat Pennsylvania Black Bear, which are in abundance in the Jim Thorpe area. No worries, we gave him plenty of space and he returned the favor. What a treat!

Perhaps one day our fair town of Reading will reclaim its corridor heritage and become known for trails that extend to all points of the compass, joining up with other towns like Jim Thorpe to become a leading system in the country! It is not that far-fetched, seeing as the once-mighty Reading Railroad represented that very image. The image of a transportation system that extended out over a vast realm...from the river to the mountain and beyond. It is certainly true that the more people use the trails, the more demand there will be for new trails, and the more new trails, the more Reading will benefit from the delightful commerce of tourism. Go use one of Reading's trails at your next opportunity. You will be doing yourself and dear old Reading a favor too!

•

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# If You Go..

For more information about the Thun Trail and other trails in the Reading region contact the Schuylkill River Greenway Association, 960 Old Mill Road, Wyomissing, Pa. 19610, (610) 372-3916. Those looking to explore the Lehigh Gorge region can contact the Lehigh Gorge State Park, c/o Hickory Run State Park, RR1, Box 81, White Haven, Pa. (717) 443-0400, or Pocono Whitewater Bike Tours @ 1-800-WHITEWATER.



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# **Restoration...**



***In the 1997 Feedback Journal, correspondent Kenny Fidler detailed the discovery of what proved to be the #57 modified stock car driven in the early 1970s by Kenny Brightbill at the Reading Fairgrounds. The car was found in a warehouse and bore the number 85. But, after some research, Fidler found that it indeed was the old Pleasant Hill Golf Course #57, in which Brightbill set the one-lap record at the Fairgrounds and went on to win many features at several tracks. Fidler updated the discovery with a letter to the 1999 Journal:***

***Since the Feedback Journal story, we worked hard to get the car restored.***

***We were able to find a 1936 Chevy body, two-door sedan humpback just like they used on the car in 1972. It was sitting on a farm in Pine Grove since 1955, but the roof was smashed. It has been restored to when Kenny Brightbill won nine feature wins at Reading, one at Syracuse, NY, one at Rolling Wheels, NY, and three at Bridgeport, NJ, during the '72 season.***

***•Restored by: Fidler Racing—Kenny, Jim, and Little Kenny.***

***•Bodywork and Paint by: Mike Grim and the guys at Mike Grim's Truck Wreck Specialists.***

***•Lettered by: Clark Angstadt.***

***•Fabrication Work by: Richard "Toby" Tobias jr.***

***•Parts by: Tobias Speed Equipment.***

***•Chevy Body by: Robert Wagner, Pine Grove.***

***•Special Thanks to: Mike Moore, Egan Co., and Ronnie Tobias for letting us know about the car and saving the car from being destroyed in June, 1996.***

***•Car is now owned by: Mabel Lorraine Simmers-Fidler.***

# ***...and Reunion!***



***On July 23, 1998, at Grandview Speedway, we took this picture of Kenny Brightbill posing with the restored car.***

***He was thrilled, as you can see by his big smile. He checked a few things on the car, where only he would know where to look, and saw what he was looking for. He said that it was the old #57!***

***The car was mobbed with people all night and Bob Miller, who ran the dirt show, was thrilled as well.***



*WEEU morning guy Charlie Adams is a bell-ringer flanked by Mayor Rose Williams of Reading, England and Mayor Paul Angstadt of Reading, Pa.*



*In an historic radio event, the two Reading mayors are interviewed on Charlie's morning show.*



*The link between Reutlingen, Germany and Reading was detailed on Jo Painter's show during Reading's Bicenquinquagenery. Paying a visit to the WEEU studios were, left to right: Ludwig Linden, Consulate General of the Federal Republic of Germany; Elena Schultes, daughter of the mayor of Reutlingen; Jo Painter; and Dr. Stefan Schultes, Oburburgermeister (mayor) of Reutlingen.*



*Fishermen all around the county eagerly await the award-winning "Seas 'n' Streams" program hosted by "Captain Dave" Seibold, shown here on an average day in his WEEU office.*

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*WEEU's Jack Holcomb received an "Excellence in Broadcasting Award" from the Pennsylvania Association of Broadcasters. Jack's seen here showing off his award to Christine Coyle and Dick Orkin of the "Radio Ranch."*



*Since WEEU's Charlie Adams edits the "Feedback Journal," he couldn't resist placing this picture of his mommy Mabel (right) with Jo Painter at Jo's broadcast during the Hamburg Sidewalk Sale. "Hi, mom!"*

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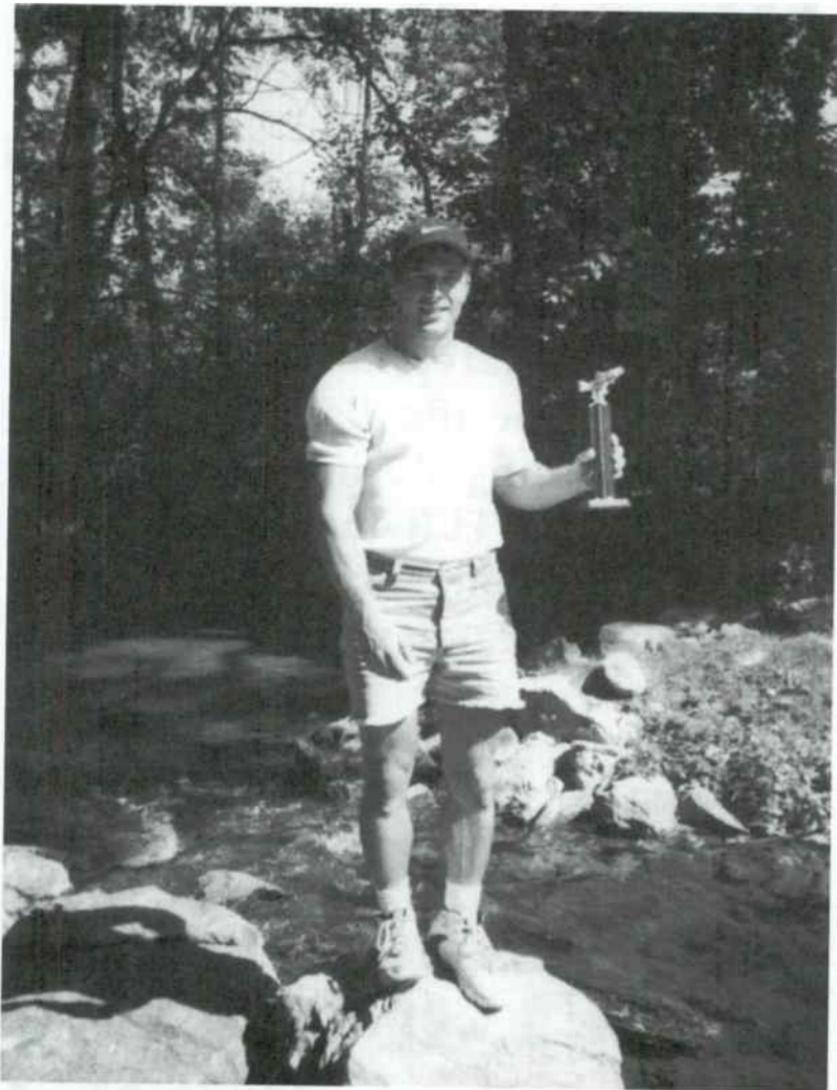
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*We're not saying which was bigger, the catch or the trophy, but Mike Griesemer of Savage Jeep Eagle, is proud of the trophy he won as overall winner of the WEEU Fishing Tournament at Limestone Springs Fishing Preserve. The tournament is one of many events and activities WEEU schedules for its business clients and listeners.*

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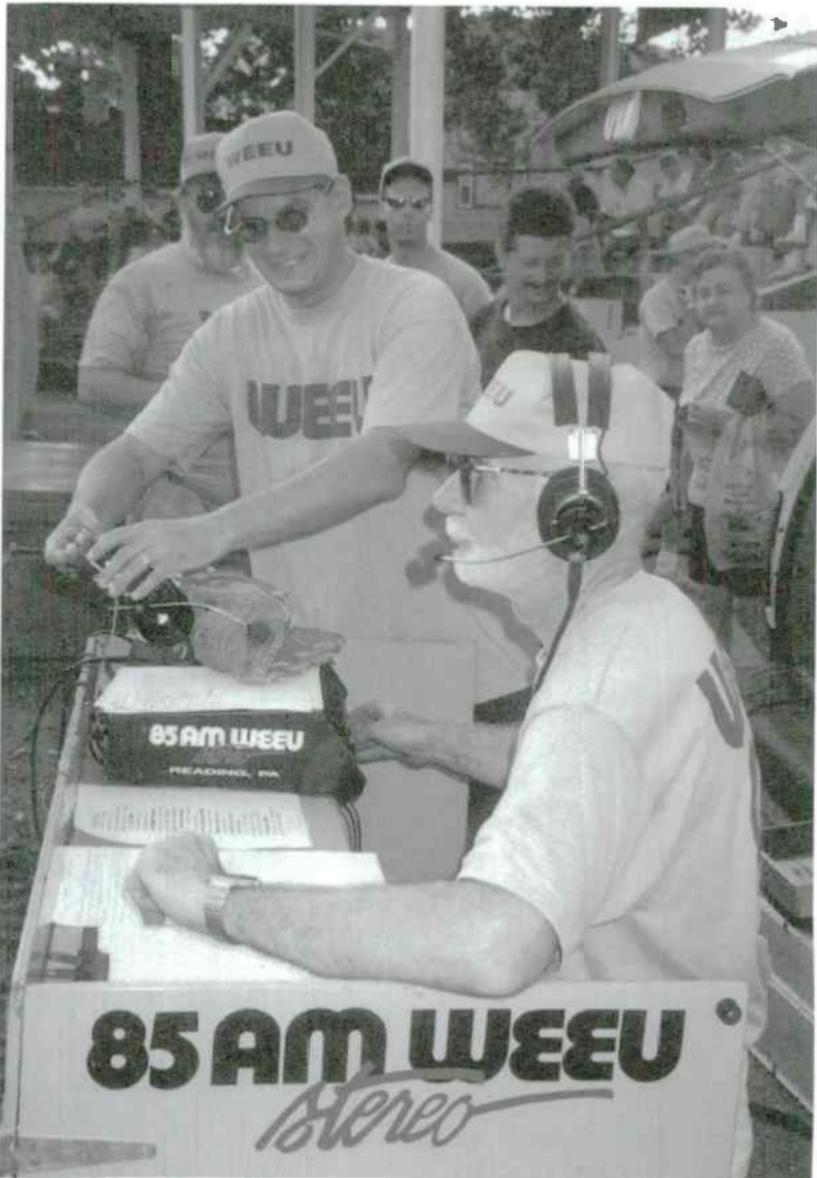
*A happy group of WEEU advertisers relaxes after the 1998 WEEU Invitational Golf Tournament at Willow Hollow Golf Course.*



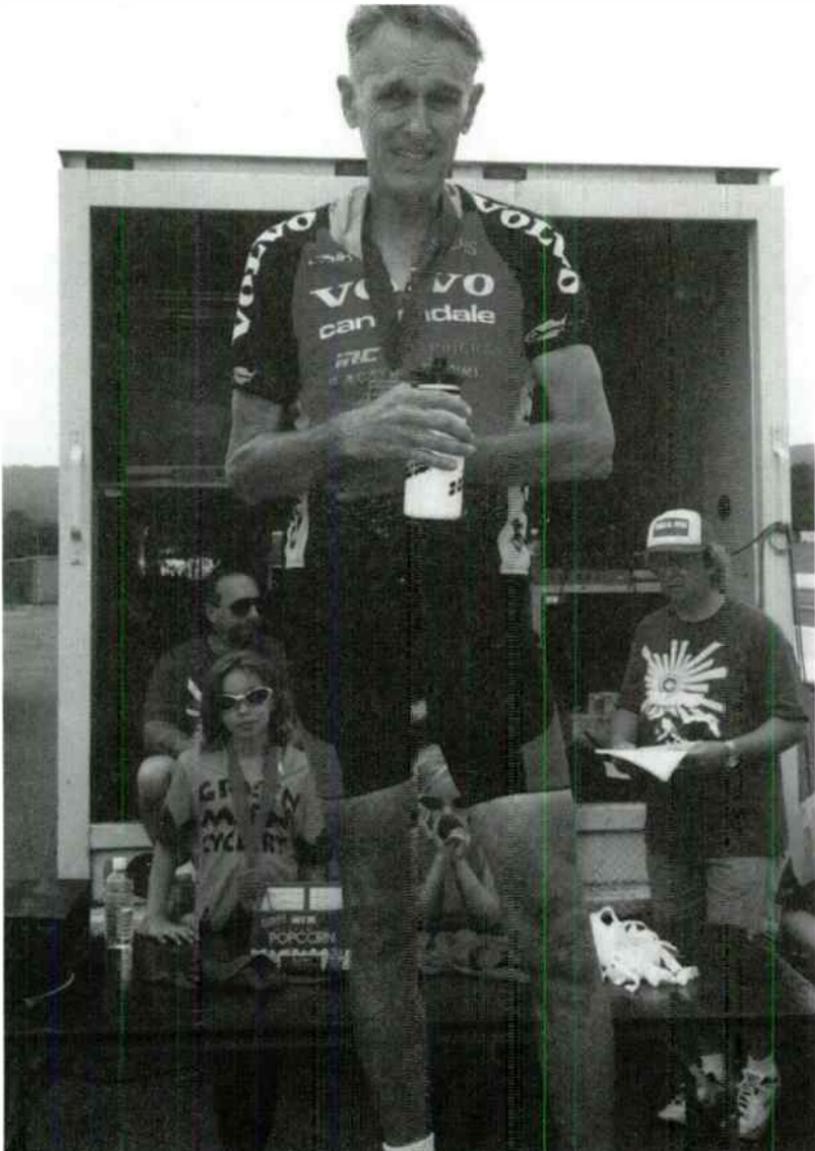
*The 1998 WEEU Ski Team romps at the annual Winter Mardi Gras at Alpine Mountain.*



*Mark McGwire...Sammy Sosa....Mitch Gerhart???*  
*The WEEU sports director takes his cut against a hurler from the Exide Corporation during a charity softball game between Exide and WEEU at the Mohnton Playground in August, 1998.*



*Jack Holcomb dusted off his “play-by-play” talents and took to the mike to broadcast the Exide-WEEU softball game. That’s WEEU G.M. Dave Kline standing behind “Hokie” in this photo by Charles J. Adams Jr.*



*The WEEU Cycle Series promotes good sport and physical fitness. Cyclists from 8 to 80 have participated and enjoyed the experience. Just ask this 73-years young racer!*



*WEEU was the proud sponsor of a “Midday Cafe” event during the Mid-Atlantic Air Museum’s World War II Commemorative Weekend. Seen on Penn Square that beautiful day are, left to right: “Early Bird” Len Carmen, Jo Painter, and traffic updater Dave Landis.*



Reading, Pa. Amusement Building, Pendora Park.

*The Amusement Building at Pendora Park (right of center), with strollers in foreground. The Merry Go Round is at left, with its own five-cents admission. Everything in this picture (except the people) was destroyed in a fire.*

# Pendora

## **A Different Park, for a Different Time**

by Paul Druzba, WEEU Copywriter

When I first heard that Pendora Park's festival was part of Reading's 250th anniversary celebration, the memories of my childhood days in the park came flooding back. I remembered suffering through the hot sunny baseball games, with my perennially-losing playground baseball team, 12th and Chestnut. I remembered the dares and double-dares to crawl through the tunnel,

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which carries the stream that flows under part of right field. and finally exits near the field house, to the welcoming sight of swing sets and a wading pool. I hadn't been to Pendora in maybe 20 years, since a merchants' league softball game in the 70s. Would it still look the same?

More recently, though, I had started to collect old postcards, and I came across a half a dozen or so of a Pendora Park I never knew. In fact, I showed them to my mother, who's now 75, and she didn't remember this postcard Pendora either. So I started to investigate. I heard that part of Pendora's festival would include a history exhibit, so I volunteered to man the exhibit, figuring that maybe I could learn enough by showing up a little early to be able to explain the story to a visitor. Fortunately for me, and unfortunately for Pendora, the story wasn't very long. Only about four years.

It was 1907. Teddy Roosevelt was President. The Titanic had yet to be built. And in Reading, the population would grow from about 79,000 in 1900, to over 96,000 in 1910.

People went to City Park or the Charles Evans Cemetery for a weekend stroll, rode down the Schuylkill on one of Captain Hiester's excursion boats, or took the gang to Carsonia Park for some family fun. But none of these



*(Top) "Shoot the Chutes." This popular summertime attraction was finally re-discovered more than 60 years later, in Hersbepark's Thunder Creek Mountain, and Dorney Park's Wild Water Kingdom. (Bottom) The Roller Skating Rink (building left of center), also called the Pit Building, where the great fire of 1911 started (or was started).*

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places ever changed very much, beautiful as they were compared to the city, and the news in the spring of 1907 was very welcome news indeed. Somebody was planning to build a big amusement park in East Reading!

Though two amusement parks in the same general location (Pennside and East Reading, which are fairly close to each other) seems odd to us now, it made perfect sense in 1907.

At that time, the gravity railroad was running on Mount Penn, taking people up to the Summit Hotel next to the wooden observation tower. There hundreds would dance and have fun in the hotel's ballroom. The railroad wound around Mount Penn, and had a stop at Carsonia Park. Closer to Reading, one of the trolley stops was at 19th and Perkiomen. This was near Miller's Family Park, which consisted of Miller's Hotel, a bowling alley, and a few outbuildings, where weary Reading workers could relax on weekends, with some dancing, bowling, and an occasional band concert. The Mount Penn gravity railroad had a stop near 18th St. and Mineral Spring Road. Adjacent to Miller's Family Park was the Sweny Ice Dam, which was basically a lake fed by the Rose Valley Creek, which ran through Mineral Spring park. The area around Miller's Park was just beginning to become a

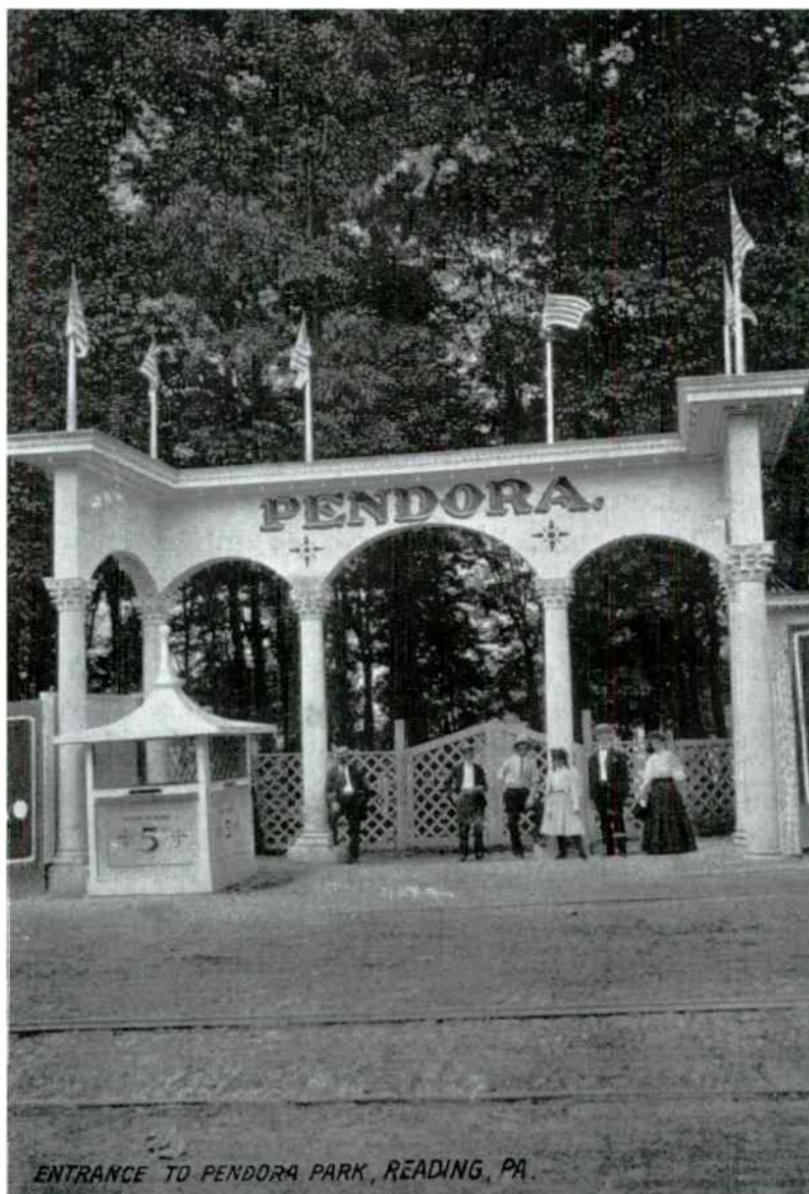
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residential area in 1907.

The area had some interesting history. Captured Hessians, German mercenaries hired by the British to fight the colonial rebels, were held encamped just above 18th Street and Mineral Spring Road. These former “enemies” of the new America would become an important part of the German heritage of Berks County.

Later, at the start of the Civil War, Reading area volunteers were gathered at Penn’s Common, above Penn Street at 11th (City Park), but would have to move to more spacious quarters at Hiener’s Wissel, a large tract of land at the foot of Neversink Mountain at 19th Street, just across Rose Valley from the Hessian camp. Wissel is Pennsylvania German for “meadow”, and Hiener’s Wissel featured a small stream for drinking water. The future Civil War soldiers could do their washing across the valley at Rose Valley Creek.

The Arrowsmith Amusement Company, headed by Arthur V. Arrowsmith, purchased Miller’s Family Park and Sweney’s Ice Dam early in 1907, an area of about 14 acres in all, and brought in a New York landscape company to spruce the place up, and prepare it to become serious competition to Carsonia Park. The old Sweney Ice Dam lake would be cleaned, and a cement floor laid to create a



*ENTRANCE TO PENDORA PARK, READING, PA.*

*One of Pendorra Park's two entrances. The five-cents admission price did not include the cost of attractions. Note the tracks in the foreground, of the miniature railway.*

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lagoon, the centerpiece of the new amusement park which was still unnamed.

Fifteen buildings were planned around the lagoon, including a large amphitheater, a ballroom, an indoor skating rink, a carousel, and other amusements. The plan called for the lagoon to be drained every winter, and the concrete floor covered with sawdust, to accommodate football games. (Why football, with baseball being the dominant sport in America by then?)

Arrowsmith still needed a name for the park, and decided on a unique way of acquiring one. The pupils at the Girls' High School, at Fourth and Court Streets, (across the street to the east of what is now the WEEU studios), would be invited to submit ideas. The contest was won by Dolores E. Drase of Clymer Street, whose idea was "Penndora", a combination of the names of nearby Mount Penn, and a Greek Goddess.

Miss Drase received a prize of 15 dollars in gold for her suggestion. The owners of the park decided to drop one of the "n's", and the park was christened "Pendora".

After some splashy advertising in the Reading Eagle, countered by a sudden rediscovery of advertising by Carsonia, Pendora Park opened on Thursday, July 25, 1907. Visitors entered at the main gate, at

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19th and Forest Street (just north of present day Perkiomen Avenue), or at the other entrance at 18th Street and Mineral Spring Road. They paid an admission fee of five cents, and were tempted by attractions like the "Shoot the Chutes", an early version of today's log flume ride at Hersheypark. The ride featured a wooden vehicle pulled up a ramp above the lagoon, and released to slide down the greased wooden boards of the ramp to the water in the lagoon below.

The lagoon was surrounded by white-painted columns or pillars, illuminated at night by hundreds of electric lights, for a spectacular scene. The white columns and white-painted buildings led to the park sometimes being referred to as the "White City", and the lights inspired the title "The Luna Park of Reading", a flattering comparison to Coney Island in New York City. These effects were designed to foster the impression of cleanliness, which was emphasized in the pre-opening advertising.

Life in the city was dirty in 1907, and people insisted on a "clean" place to take their families for some fun.

After all, automobiles were a new invention at the time, at the horse and buggy was still the prominent mode of private transportation. Public transportation was the preferred mode of getting from here to there,

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and for that, Reading had trolleys and the gravity railroad on Mount Penn.

Visitors to Pendora Park could also ride a miniature steam railway, see a movie at the picture arcade, see spectacular live shows in the theater (opening night was "Pharaoh's Daughter"), ride the carousel or the aerial swings, enjoy dancing and fireworks, go roller skating indoors to organ music, or be treated to a concert by the 100-piece Ringgold Band. By the way, the names of the individual movies were never advertised in those days. Moving pictures were such a novelty that it didn't matter much what the subject matter was.

If you got hungry or thirsty, you could be satisfied in the park restaurant, ice cream booth, or soda fountain. Opening Day began with the entire 100-piece Ringgold Band marching all the way from the foot of Penn Street to Pendora, playing a new composition by band director Munroe Althouse, called "Pendora Park March" along the way. Another attraction, which would become a mainstay of entertainment at Pendora, was wire-walking. Even visitors who only had a nickel to spend could relax on one of the numerous benches throughout the park, and take in the spectacular sights and sounds all around them.

Attendance on that first day at each park was 20,000. Looking at Pendora Park today,

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or even Reading's City Park, it's hard to imagine 20,000 people visiting on a single day. But the Pendora of 1907 was not just a picnic park as it is today, but a beautiful, lavish amusement park, which cost \$50,000 to build. Although \$50,000 won't build a home today, in 1907, \$50,000 could build a palace. The owners took in close to one-thousand dollars just from the 5-cent admission, not to mention all the money the attractions would have taken in. (Kids got in for free). The enormity of the day's take was not lost on Pendora's closest competitor, Carsonia Park.

In the coming years, Carsonia Park would resemble Pendora Park East. The plan at Carsonia was to so overwhelm the public with new attractions and events that they wouldn't notice what was going on at Pendora. Carsonia created their own version of the Shoot the Chutes. They started hiring aerial acts, as the high wire had proved so successful at Pendora. Carsonia installed a skating rink, like Pendora's, and went so far as to install white-painted columns around their lake. Carsonia also planned "Children's Days" during Pendora's first year, offering free rides for kids. But they held off announcing dates for this promotion, depending on the opening date of Pendora. All of Carsonia's efforts were directed toward competing with Pendora.

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From the beginning of Pendora, its owners had leased the attractions and amusements to various operators, who had more experience in the actual operations. Apparently, the financial strain of keeping up with the older and more experienced Carsonia Park took its toll on the Pendora owners, and the property went up for sheriff's sale in 1909. On April 17th of that year, the property was sold for \$11,000 to the Sweneys of Clymer Street. Apparently, the Sweneys didn't realize that operating a big amusement park to compete with Carsonia would take more money and know-how than operating an ice dam. By the end of 1910, the Sweney's planned to lease the park the following summer to an amusement park owner named Dodson from Columbus, Ohio. Mr. Dodson was due to arrive in February, 1911, and his experience with amusement parks would surely give Pendora the boost it needed. But before that could happen, something very mysterious happened.

Though many of the outdoor attractions at Pendora were closed for the winter, the indoor roller skating rink, in the Pit building, remained open and popular year round, offering skating every Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday in the winter. And so it was on January 2, 1911. On Monday evening, skaters filled the wooden Pit building, skating

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to music from the organ in the building, which at the time was leased by Frank Fertig of Stony Creek. The crowd was a little slow in leaving Monday night, due to a fight which broke out at closing time between two men.

Early the next morning, William P. Sweeney looked out the window from his home on Clymer Street, and saw flames in the distance to the east. Sweeney ran over the fields toward Mineral Spring Road, sure that the fire might be at the Miller Soap Factory. Soon, however, Sweeney realized the fire was consuming his Pendora Park.

The fire had also been noticed by some neighbors nearer the park, the Hartmans, about 5 A.M. Fortunately, the Hartmans held one of two keys to the fire alarm box on 19th Street (the other was held by Miller's Hotel). Unfortunately for Pendora, the fire there had already spread to most of the amusement buildings. Two police officers who patrolled Pendora had left there about 5 o'clock for City Hall, and at first thought that a report of a fire at Pendora was a joke, until they heard the alarm.

Firemen fought the stubborn blaze for five hours, hampered by neighborhood children who kept running near the blaze. When the fire was finally brought under control, the Pit building, with its skating rink

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and organ, was destroyed, including its soda fountain and cigar and confectionery stand, along with 450 pairs of skates with their wooden wheels. Also destroyed were the moving picture show, the bowling alleys, a carousel, a shooting gallery, many of the white pillars near the lagoon, and several other small stands. The only buildings spared were the distant band shell, the old carousel building, and some of the pillars. Mr. Sweney had no insurance, and he estimated the loss at nearly \$15,000.

What caused the fire? According to Mr. Sweney, "I am emphatic in my belief that the fire is the work of an incendiary (arsonist). I am convinced that the fire originated in the Pit building, as there were no stoves or wires in this structure, and that sustains partly the theory of an incendiary."

That theory was reinforced by a Reading Eagle reporter, who was approached on the scene by two children, Theodore Ruther of Third and Walnut Streets, and Matthias Eisenbise of Cotton Street. They were at the rink on Monday evening, and said they saw two men standing near the Pit building at 10:40 P.M.

"They acted very funny" said the young Ruther, "hiding when they saw us coming." No one was ever arrested for arson, and the cause

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of the fire officially remains a mystery. It is very unlikely the fire would have been started by the owner, since he had no insurance. If you accept the owner's idea of arson, you have to wonder who would have liked to see Pendor Park out of the way? Some people think that the folks who ran Carsonia Park had a motive.

What do you think?

Since Sweney had no insurance, and was unable to rebuild, Pendor Park passed into history, and decay. In 1913, Colonel Henry Shoemaker, a former resident of Reading, donated some animals to stock a zoo at Pendor Park. This short-lived attraction included a small Noah's Ark of two elk, two fallow deer, two black bear, two Canada geese, two horned owls, a silver pheasant (why not two of those?), and a cage of squirrels. William Luden, of candy fame, donated several swans, which could be seen on the lagoon.

The Pendor Zoo was never really a great success, and in 1924, the Humane Society complained of the animals' inadequate care. The animals would be crated up, and sent to a zoo in Williamsport. The moving of the animals was relatively easy, except for the black bears. Rose, the female, entered her crate willingly, but her mate, Teddy, fought his captors for two hours before being crated.

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In 1916, the City of Reading announced plans to buy what was left of the park., and set aside \$15,000 for the purpose. But in 1917, a severe storm over Mount Penn caused water to rush down Rose Valley Creek, and the pressure on Sweney's Dam (the lagoon) was too much to bear. The dam burst, sending a wall of water rushing down 18th Street, and Perkiomen Avenue.

The City bought Pendora Park, what neighborhood residents called "the mud hole" in 1918, but it was left neglected, ugly and dangerous for at least a decade. In 1929, the City announced plans to build a large swimming pool at Pendora Park., with the help of contributions from citizens in the neighborhood. Of course, a very disastrous financial event that year caused the plans to be scaled back. The proposed pool became smaller and smaller with each proposal over the coming years.

The birth of the present-day Pendora can be traced back to 1933. With thousands of dollars' worth of work needing to be done at Pendora, and a Depression-era City unable to help, things looked pretty bleak for the Pendora Improvement Committee, a group of 12 neighborhood women, and their bankbook of 16 dollars. That's when an East Reading merchant, Ralph D. Ruppert, formed the

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Pendora Playground Association.

Through his financial contribution, and untiring efforts in pressuring City Hall, Ruppert started to get things done at Pendora. City Council, with the assistance of the Public Works Administration, filled in the lagoon, moving many tons of earth, to create a baseball field where swans had once swum, Shoot the Chutes riders had once splashed down, and rats had later infested.

The "swimming pool" finally became a reality in the mid 30's, the wading pool near 18th and Forest Streets, which neighborhood children still enjoy today. The practice of a fireworks display every 4th of July also became a tradition, which has ended recently because of the number and size of the trees at Pendora, making fireworks too dangerous a proposition.

Now that we're back in the present, it's important to note that, since the City bought the park in 1918, the amount of attention it has received has been directly proportional to the care displayed, and pressure exerted on the City by the residents of the East Reading neighborhood around Pendora Park.

It began with Mr. Ruppert in 1933, and continues today. About a dozen area residents continue the tradition. These include Bob Duddy, who remembers visiting the park when

## 1999•WEEU FEEDBACK JOURNAL•1999

the zoo was still in operation, and watching the Lindbergh Viaduct being built over the duck pond, which later became the tennis courts. It continues with Rebecca Hotzmilller, the president of today's "Pendora Park Association."

And with Ruth Epler, a neighborhood resident for 60 years, who is the unofficial "park historian", and who still helps with the day-to-day operation of the park, from the concession stand, to the field house, to shutting off the water in the wading pool every night at closing time.

Ruth sees this year's special anniversary festival at Pendora as a way to make the people of Berks County aware of this "hidden treasure". The festival showed how diverse the neighborhood has become, and reflected that diversity in its entertainment. Speaking of entertainment, "The Pendora Park March" would have been an appropriate tune for the Ringgold Band to play at the festival, almost 91 years to the day after the park's opening.

Unfortunately, the sheet music to the song, which was probably handwritten by director Althouse in 1907, was lost in 1917, in a fire of all things. The piece was never published, and in those days, band members would return sheet music to the director after a performance. So the music destroyed in the

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fire was probably the original, and only copy.

Improvements continue to be done at Pendora, still due to the “suggestions” made by the Association, including refurbishment of the field house, a 1930’s stone structure and another PWA project, designed by Alexander Forbes Smith, the same architect who designed the lovely, but now gone “Spring House” in City Park.

After the “dark years” of the late 1980’s and early 90’s, when the park was frequented mainly by “undesirables”, things are looking up for Pendora Park. Ruth would like to see more families take advantage of the park’s facilities and beauty for picnics. But many weekends in the summertime, the few pavilions at Pendora are filled, and more are needed. She would like to see more lighting. And Epler would like to see the baseball field at Pendora used more often. “Teams use Pendora as a last resort, because it’s not as well maintained as some other fields in the area, like Egelman’s”. Ruth says this is because Egelman’s is smaller, and easier to keep up.

I felt pretty good about coming back to Pendora after all those years. And I felt pretty good that there are people like Ruth Epler who care about the park, and the neighborhood around it. But, during my visit to the festival in July, I took a stroll up toward the Viaduct

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and Mineral Spring Park, past where the Revolutionary War reenactors were performing.

At the gate that separates the two parks, there was trash overflowing from a trash barrel, to greet visitors using the upper parking lot. There were empty drug bags in the pavilions in Mineral Spring Park, a hint of the nighttime activities there. I guess it's a sign of the times. There's only so much money to go around for maintenance and police.

But, if there's one thing that keeps "undesirables" from a park like Pendera, it's the presence of families, using the park for legitimate purposes. It's like Ruth said- "This is a good neighborhood, because the people here look out for each other." During my visit during the festival, I saw hundreds of people enjoying today's Pendera Park. Many were neighborhood residents. Some were on a City baseball team, playing a game on the field. And some were from the suburbs, discovering a park they'd never heard of, or revisiting childhood memories.

I hope the improvements continue in Pendera. And they will if a few more East Reading residents get to know Ruth Epler.

After my story was all written, I stopped by Ruth's house on a Sunday, hoping to take a picture of her for this article, but she wasn't

## **1999•WEEU FEEDBACK JOURNAL•1999**

home.

On second thoughts, Ruth probably wouldn't want her picture taken anyway. She doesn't impress me as the kind of person who does what she does for the recognition. As I said before, her neighborhood is a close one, and her next-door neighbor came outside when she saw me waiting on Ruth's porch. "She's probably at church. Ruth goes to church, you know."

I wasn't surprised by that at all. In fact, I'm sure it's part of why Ruth Epler is who she is.

*NOTE: For further details on the beginnings of Pendora Park in 1907, see Vol. 1 of George Meiser IX's "The Passing Scene", available for view at the Reading Public Library on South 5th Street, or in the library of the Historic Society of Berks County on Centre Avenue.*



*The Band Pavilion, with Shoot the Chutes at left, across the lagoon from the amusement area. The Ringgold Band was a regular attraction in the Pavilion.*



IS IT A BLIZZARD YET?



# WEATHER WORDS

...courtesy of ACCU-Weather<sup>®</sup>

You've probably noticed your WEEU AccuWeather forecast contains many different words to describe a snow event.

These words are not used lightly (especially when the snow is heavy); each of them actually has a significant meaning and AccuWeather chooses the words in your forecast carefully in order to give you the most accuracy possible.

Here is a list of terms you may hear in your AccuWeather forecast and the definition for each:

## SNOW FLURRIES

On and off snow, typically light. There may be a coating on some surfaces, and some travel problems are possible.

## SNOW SHOWERS

This is similar to a summer rain shower, except the precipitation will fall as snow. As in the summer, intensity of the snow will vary from location to location. AccuWeather usually will include an accumulation with this phrase if one is likely in the near future.

## SNOW SQUALL

A brief burst of snow that greatly reduces visibility and brings a quick accumulation. Roads can become slippery quickly in a squall.

## SNOW

A period of steady snow which can vary in intensity.

## 1999•WEEU FEEDBACK JOURNAL•1999

AccuWeather will include the accumulation when this term appears in a forecast covering the next 24 hours. It will sometimes add a time modifier such as “intermittent” or “periods of...” or intensify modifiers such as “heavy.”

### BLOWING SNOW

Snow that does not fall from the sky, but instead blows into the air from the ground. Blowing snow can greatly reduce visibility at times and produce slippery roads.

### BLIZZARD

Used only in extreme events when snow is expected to be heavy for a significant period of time and accompanied by strong winds and low temperatures. Visibility is greatly reduced in snow and blowing snow; road closures are likely. Travel is extremely dangerous. The term was first used for snow in 1871 when an Iowa baseball team was named the Blizzards.

### LAKE EFFECT SNOW

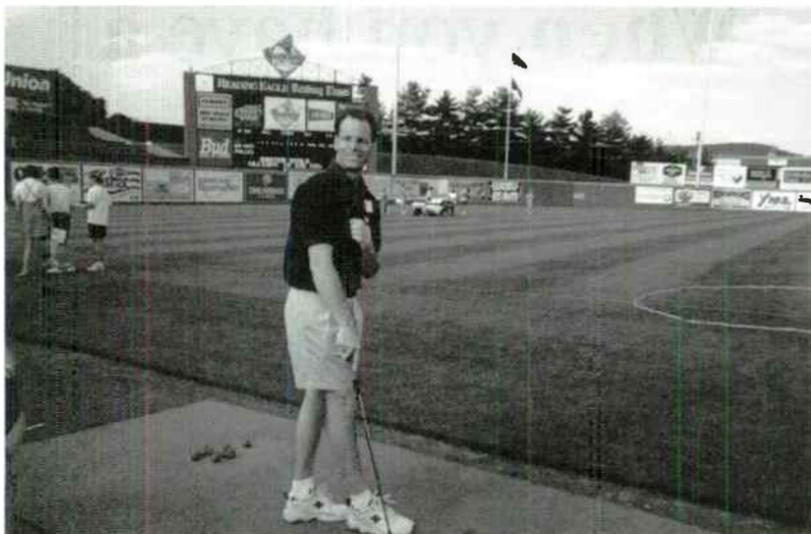
When cold air passes over the relatively warm waters of a large lake, bands of snow form. These bands of snow can shift with the wind and can contain locally heavy snow. Lake effect snow brings various accumulations depending on location bands and the elevation of sites. AccuWeather usually uses this term when most places will get six inches or less in 12 hours. Travel can vary greatly with slippery roads and reduced visibility.

### LAKE EFFECT SQUALLS

AccuWeather uses this term when the bands of lake effect snow contain very heavy snow. Accumulations from lake effect squalls will exceed six inches in less than 12 hours. Visibility can be reduced to near zero rapidly in the heavy snow. Travel can become nearly impossible with the bands of snow.

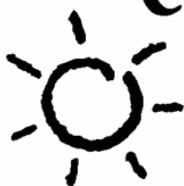


## 1999•WEEU FEEDBACK JOURNAL•1999



*WEEU was an eager participant in the Easter Seats Society's "Office Olympics" last summer at Municipal Stadium. (Top) Sales/Sports guy Bob McCool goes for an ace at the chipping contest. (Bottom) Bob has the honor of fitting morning guy Charlie Adams with a pair of pantybose. Bob and Charlie, we assure you, went home separately.*

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question about  
aging issues and  
services, give us a  
call!**



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OF AGING**

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*Commissioners: Randy L. Pyle, Glenn B. Reber, Mark C. Scott*

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  - *Educating residents about their rights.*

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## Berks County Office of Aging

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*Wow! Yeegads! Holy Cow!*

*WEEU's Jack Holcomb reveals a hitherto bidden talent as he balances a tire at Adams Tire and Battery Service while holding two copies of the 1998 Feedback Journal. He's the man...he's the man!*



*WEE-U Bear and Kaz chat as the WEEU Mobile Unit awaits its turn at the 250th Anniversary Parade in downtown Reading.*

## Potato Rivel Soup

courtesy of Dietrich's Meats  
Krumsville

3 medium potatoes, diced; 1 small onion, chopped;

1 1/2 cups water

*(cook until almost tender)*

1 small egg, approx. 1/2 cup flour, 1/4 tsp salt

*(to make rivels, mix with a fork into little stringy lumps. Add, cover, and cook 7 minutes more)*

4 cups milk, 1 tbsp butter, 1/2 to 3/4 tsp salt,

1/8 tsp celery seed

*(Add and heat to boiling point. If soup isn't as thick as you like, add 1 to 2 tbsp flour mixed with a little additional milk before adding)*

Parsley, chives, or crumbled bacon

*(Garnish over top)*

YIELD: 4-6 SERVINGS



### **Charles Evans Cemetery**

**Crematorium, Columbarium and Mausoleum**  
1119 Centre Avenue, Reading, PA 19601  
372-1563

## Oatmeal Pie

courtesy of Mary Lou Knerr

2 eggs, 1/2 cup white sugar, 1/2 cup brown sugar, 3/4 cup white Karo syrup, 1/2 cup melted butter, 3/4 cup quick oatmeal, 1 cup coconut, 1 tsp vanilla (optional)

*(Beat eggs, sugars, Karo, and butter in mixer for 2 or 3 minutes. Add oatmeal and milk, beat 1 minute. Add coconut and vanilla, pour into unbaked pie shell. Bake at 425 degrees for 10 minutes. Reduce heat to 375 degrees, bake until brown and thick or bake at 350 degrees for 45 minutes.)*

YIELD: 6 SERVINGS

(Recipe from Granges in Bedford and Somerset, Pa.

...

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## *A Most Caring Child...*

Author and lecturer Leo Buscaglia once talked about a contest he was asked to judge. The purpose of the contest was to find the most caring child.

The winner was a four year old child whose next door neighbor was an elderly gentleman who had recently lost his wife.

Upon seeing the man cry, the little boy went into the old gentleman's yard, climbed onto his lap, and just sat there.

When his mother asked him what he had said to the neighbor, the little boy said, "Nothing...I just helped him cry."

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IS ENGLISH A CRAZY LANGUAGE...  
or what??

- There is no egg in eggplant.
  - No ham in hamburger
- No pine, and no apple in pineapple.
  - English Muffins are not English.
    - French Fries are Belgian.
    - Sweetmeats are candies.
  - Sweetbreads are meat, and not sweet.
    - Boxing Rings are square.
- A Guinea Pig is not from Guinea, nor is it a pig.
- There are annals, but is there an annal?
- If teachers taught, did preachers praught?

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- We recite at a play and play at a recital.
- Aren't "slim chances" and "fat chances" the same thing? Why?
- Have you ever seen a horseful carriage? A strapful gown?
  - Ever meet anyone who was combobulated, gruntled, ruly, or peccable?
- How can a house burn up as it burns down?
- If stars are out, they're visible. If lights are out, they're not.
  - Noses run. Feet smell.
  - And, of course, we park on driveways and drive on parkways.

*Is English a strange language... or what?*

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## SOME SUGGESTIONS

### ON HOW TO HANDLE *STRESS*

1. Use your MasterCard to pay your VISA
2. Pop some popcorn without the lid
3. When someone tells you to "have a nice day," tell them you have other plans
4. Make a list of things you've already done
5. Fill out your IRS tax forms using Roman numerals
6. Go shopping. Buy everything. Sweat in it.  
Return it all the next day
7. Pay all your bills in pennies
8. Bill your doctor for the time spent waiting in the waiting room

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9. Stare at people
10. Stare at people through the tines of a fork and preten they're in jail
11. Make up a language and go ask a stranger for directions
12. Write a short story using alphabet soup

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FEEDBACK host JACK HOLCOMB (left) makes a pit stop at Paplosky's, seeking advice from George Paplosky.

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PotatoBurgers

1 lb. ground beef, 2 cups coarsely grated unpeeled potatoes,  
1/4 cup coarsely grated onion, 1 1/2 tsp salt, 1/4 tsp  
pepper, 1 cup shortening

*Combine hamburger, potatoes, onion, salt and pepper, mix well. Shape into 8 patties, fry in hot shortening until brown (3-5 minutes), turn and brown on other side.*

.....

Bananas

1 ripe banana.  
Peel banana.  
Eat soft part of banana.  
Throw peel in trash.

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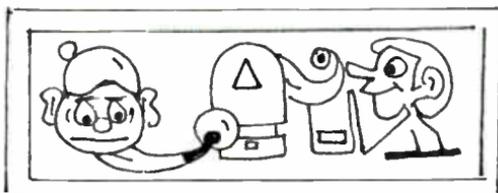
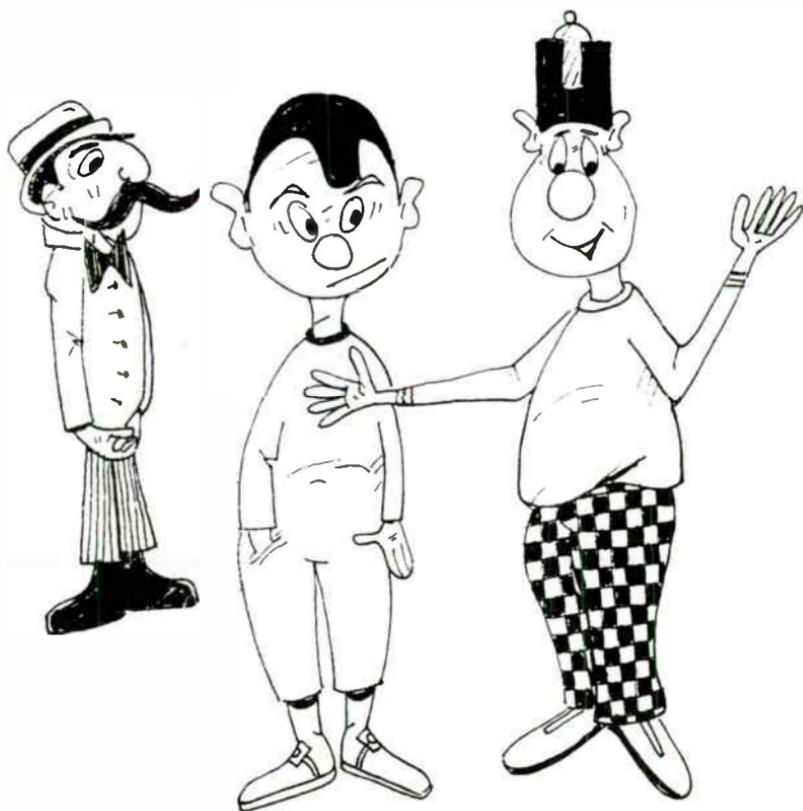
# UNCLE CHARLIE'S COLORING PAGE

Cartoons to bemuse or be-colored...by Charlie Adams JR



# UNCLE CHARLIE'S COLORING PAGE

Cartoons to bemuse or be-colored...by Charlie Adams JR



## Noodle Pudding

8 oz. package wide egg noodles, 1/2 cup cottage cheese, 1 cup sour cream, 2 tbsp sugar, 3 well-beaten eggs, 1 tsp salt,

1 cup unsweetened applesauce, 1/2 stick melted butter

*Cook noodles about 7 minutes, drain and rinse with cold water. Place in a mixing bowl with the remaining ingredients. Turn into a buttered 9 or 10" square baking dish. Bake for 20 minutes at 400 degrees to brown top. Turn heat down and continue baking at 350 degrees for 40 minutes.*

## Peanut Butter & Jelly Sandwich

2 slices bread, ample amount peanut butter, equally ample amount jelly of your choice

*Spread peanut butter and jelly on bread, and eat.*



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*'tis a bedraggled WEEU softball team after a drubbing at the hands of the Exide Corporation's "Recyclers." In foreground, left to right: Account Executive Janet Topur, copywriter Paul Druzba, and weekend personality Ken Phelps.*



*A much more athletic trio is seen in this photo from a WEEU Cycle Series race in 1998. Holding his prize is Steve Schneider (center), the overall men's champion in 1998.*

# **BRAIN TEASERS**

- 1.** There is one word in the English language that is always pronounced incorrectly. What is it?
- 2.** A man gave one son ten cents and another son was given 15 cents. What time is it?
- 3.** A boat has a ladder that has six rungs, each rung is one foot apart. The bottom rung is one foot from the water. The tide rises at 12 inches every 15 minutes. High tide peaks in one hour. When the tide is at its highest, how many rungs are under water?
- 4.** There is a house with four walls. Each wall faces south. There is a window in each wall. A bear walks by one of the windows. What color is the bear?
- 5.** Is half of two plus two equal to two or three?
- 6.** There is a room. The shutters are blowing in. There is broken glass on the floor. You find Sloppy dead on the floor. How did Sloppy die?
- 7.** How much dirt would be in a hole six feet deep and six feet wide, dug with a square edged shovel?
- 8.** If I were in Hawaii and dropped a bowling ball in a bucket of water which is 45 degrees fahrenheit, and dropped at the same time dropped another ball of the same weight, mass, and size in a bucket at 30 degrees fahrenheit, which ball would hit the bottom of the bucket first? Same question, but the location is in Canada?
- 9.** What is the significance of the following: The year is 1978, 34 minutes past noon on May 6th?
- 10.** What can go up a chimney down, but can't go down a chimney up?
- 11.** If a farmer has five haystacks in one field and four haystacks in the other field, how many haystacks would he have if he combined them all in

## 1999•WEEU FEEDBACK JOURNAL•1999

the center field?

12. What is it that goes up and goes down but does not move?

13. Paul was 20 years old in 1980, but only 15 years old in 1985. How is that possible?

14. What has four legs but only one foot?

15. How many of each animal did Moses take on the ark?

16.

Kindly old Grandfather Lunn

Is twice as old as his son

Twenty-five years ago

Their age ratio

Strange enough was three to one!

*When does grandfather celebrate his centenary?*

17.

Said a certain young lady named Gwen

Of her tally of smitten young men

"One less and three more

divided by four,

Together give one more than ten!"

*How many boyfriends had she?*

18.

There was a young fellow named Clive

Whose bees numbered ten power five

The daughters to each son,

were as nineteen to one.

A truly remarkable hive.

*How many sons (drones) were in the hive?*

19.

A team's opening batter named Nero

Squared his number of hits, the big hero!

After subtracting his score,

he took off ten and two more.

And the final result was a "zero."

*How many hits did Nero make?*

*(Answers on next page....don't peek!!!)*

**BRAIN TEASER ANSWERS**

1. Incorrectly
2. 1:45. The man gave away a total of 25 cents. He divided it between people.  
Therefore, he gave a quarter to two.
3. None. The boat rises with the tide. Duh!
4. White. If all the walls face south, the house is at the north pole, and the bear, therefore, is a polar bear.
5. Three. Well, it seems that it could almost be either, but if you follow the mathematical orders of operation, division is performed before addition. So, half of two is one. Then add two, and the answer is three.
6. Sloppy is a goldfish. The wind blew the shutters in, which knocked the fishbowl off the table, and it broke, killing him.
7. None. No matter how big a hole is, it's still a hole—the absence of dirt.
8. Both questions, same answer. The ball in the bucket of 45 degrees hits the bottom of the bucket last. Did you give it a thought that the bucket of 30 degree water is frozen? Well, think again. The question said nothing about that bucket having anything in it. Therefore, there is no water (or ice) to slow the ball down.
9. The time and month/date/year are 12:34, 5/6/78
10. An umbrella.
11. One. If he combines all of his haystacks, they all become one big stack of hay.
12. The temperature.
13. The years are in B.C. and not A.D., as you probably assumed. Based on the system we use to number the years, the years counted down in B.C. But, of course, they weren't counting backwards back then.
14. A bed.
15. None. Moses took no animals on any ark. Noah did.
16. This year. He is 100, and his son is 50.
17. Gwen had 42 boyfriends.  $42-1=41$ .  $41+3=44$ .  $44/4=11$ .  $11-1=10$ .
18. 5,000. Ten power five=100,000 Divide that out (it was a 19:1 ratio) and you get a ration of 95,000:5,000 (daughters:sons).
19. Four. If you square it, you get 16. Subtract his number of hits and you get 12. Subtract 10 and then 2 more and you get 0.

 *Your Work Isn't Done After Picking  
the Last of the Garden Crop...*

*Late Season Gardening Tips from the Penn State  
College of Agricultural Sciences.*

When cold weather or frost spells the end of the growing season, a horticultural specialist at Penn State advises gardeners to spend an extra day preparing the garden site for winter.

“Once you’ve made the decision to turn the garden under, it will take less than a day to really prepare the site for winter and for next spring,” says Pete Ferretti, professor of vegetable crops.

Ferretti says backyard gardeners should harvest their crops and prepare to close the garden when nighttime temperatures reach 45 degrees four to five days in a row, or if any frost is predicted.

Ferretti says most garden crops cannot thrive after cold injury. Crops that should be harvested include beans, cantaloupe, cucumbers, eggplant, peppers, pumpkins, tomatoes, squash, and watermelon.

“Some crops, such as endive, escarole, and Brussels sprouts can be grown through colder temperatures,” Ferretti says. “If you use row covers or even cornstalks to cover the crop, it can last into December.”

Ferretti says it’s up to homeowners to decide when to shut down their gardens. Depending on the year, temperatures can remain warm well into October or a killing frost can come in early September.

“It’s like the stock market,” Ferretti says of gardening. “There’s a point where you should ask yourself,

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‘Should I take my profits and run, or should I hang in there for a few more tomatoes and peppers?’

Once the decision to pick all non-hardy crops has been made, Ferretti recommends taking a day to prepare the garden for next year. After picking everything that can possibly be used, follow these steps:

**Diagnosis:** *After final harvest, Ferretti suggests checking plants for disease. If plants or fruits show major disease damage, the plants should be removed, placed in a plastic bag and thrown into the garbage.*

**Stop and Chop:** *Plants with minor or no disease damage should be cut down and chopped up. “You can use a sickle, hedge trimmer or lopping shears,” Ferretti says. “You can even use a lawn mower to chop it finer if you are careful of stones and large pieces.”*

**Turn it Over:** *Once the plants are chopped down, use a spade or a rototiller to turn the earth so organic breakdown of plant tissue can begin. “You can leave the surface rough,” Ferretti advises. “It lessens erosion.”*

**Plant Annual Ryegrass:** *Ferretti says annual ryegrass is a perfect cover crop for small gardens. “It comes up in seven days or so,” he says. “It will be well-established by the time plants go dormant.”*

Ferretti says annual ryegrass produces a large rootmass, which keeps the soil loose. The roots also absorb phosphorus and attract earthworms and microorganisms such as beneficial fungi, bacteria, yeasts, algae and other organisms that make the soil richer.

“Planting ryegrass nearly eliminates erosion,” Ferretti says. “The root structure holds the soil together and allows

## **1999•WEEU FEEDBACK JOURNAL•1999**

water to soak in. If the soil is left bare, a crust will form and much of the water will run off.”

**Soil Test:** *After the garden is prepared for the winter, Ferretti recommends testing the soil for nutrient deficiency. “Apply lime as soon as possible if it’s needed,” he says. “You won’t need to add other nutrients to the soil until early spring, but it’s nice to know what you’ll need ahead of time.”*

**Add Manure or Compost (if needed):** *Gardeners should add manure or compost to the garden site in late October or November. “By spring, the components will have broken down and been incorporated into the soil structure,” Ferretti explains.*

**Starting the Garden Again:** *By spring, Ferretti says, most of the annual ryegrass will have died, so gardeners can rototill or dig up the garden and plant new crops.*



## **BUMPER STICKER HUMOR**

**AS A MATTER OF FACT, I DO OWN THE ROAD**

**COVER ME...I'M CHANGING LANES**

**CONSERVE TOILET PAPER: USE BOTH SIDES**

**IT'S LONELY AT THE TOP, BUT YOU EAT BETTER!**

# Thoughts on Life

Quotes from Mother Teresa

Courtesy of St. Patrick's Cathedral  
His Eminence, John Cardinal O'Connor,  
Archbishop of New York

Intense love does not measure, it just  
gives

The world today is hungry, not only for  
bread but hungry for love; hungry to be  
wanted, to be loved

Do not allow yourself to be disheartened  
by any failure as long as you have done  
your best

We must make our homes centers of  
compassion and forgive endlessly

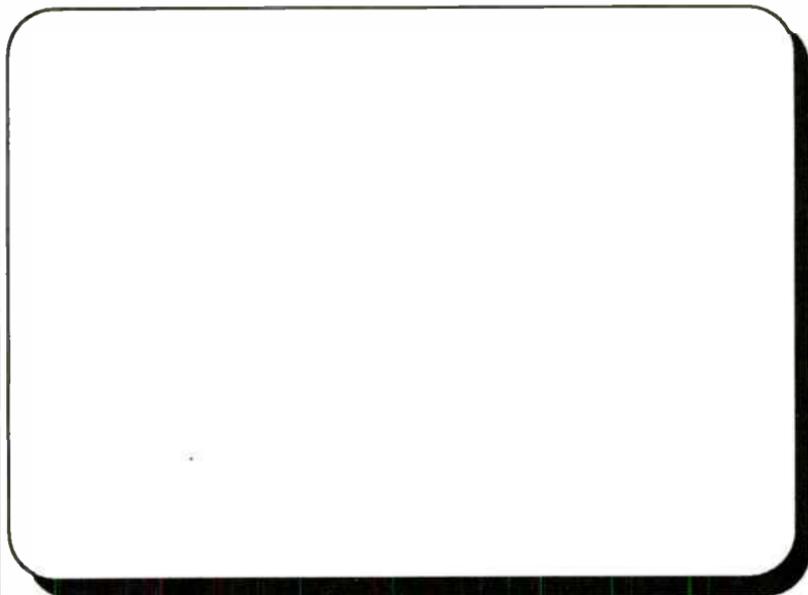
If we really want to love we must learn  
how to forgive.

We can do no great things; only small  
things with great love

Give until it hurts

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PRESENTS THE *Autograph* PAGE



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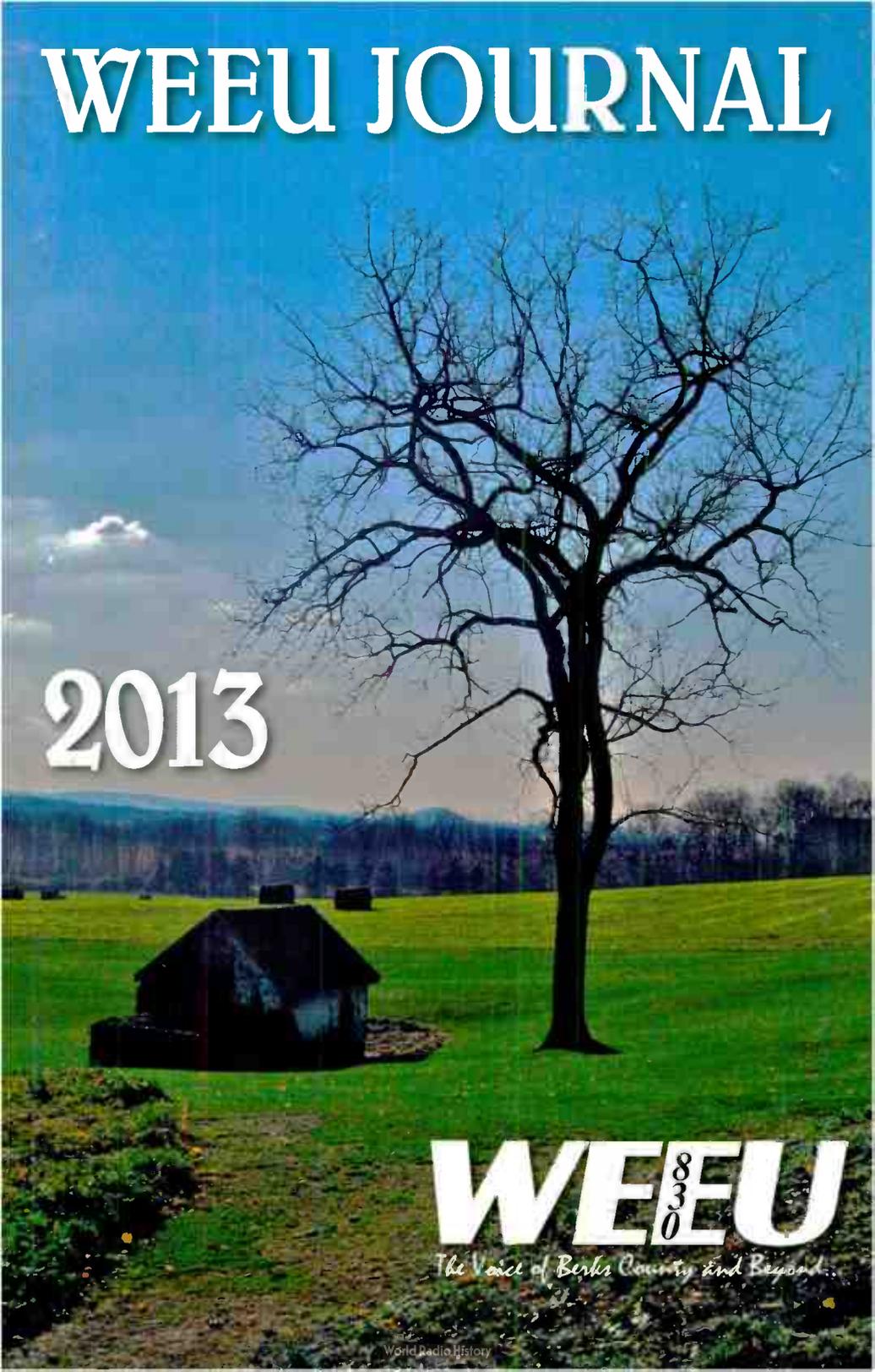
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# WEEU JOURNAL

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*The Voice of Berks County and Beyond...*

**Reading, Pennsylvania**

***Charles J. Adams III, Editor***  
*Cover photograph by Charles J. Adams III*





## WHO ARE THESE GUYS' EYES?

Do you recognize these fellows just by the upper halves of their faces? They are all famous figures, as seen in photos taken at various times of their lives. Look closely...and don't peek on the next page, where you'll find the answers.

## Identidad Equivocada

One day, shortly after joining the PGA tour in 1965, Lee Trevino, a professional golfer and married man, was at his home in Dallas, Texas mowing his front lawn, as he always did. A lady driving by in a big, shiny Cadillac stopped in front of his house, lowered the window and asked, " Excuse me, do you speak English?" Lee responded, " Yes Ma'am, I do "

The lady then asked, " What do you charge to do yard work? "

Lee said, " Well, the lady in this house lets me sleep with her."

The lady hurriedly put the car into gear and sped off.

•

### ANSWERS TO "WHO ARE THESE GUYS' EYES?"

Top:

Wyatt Earp, Al Capone, Adolf Hitler

Second from top:

Gen. George Custer, Franklin D. Roosevelt, Ronald Reagan.

Third from top:

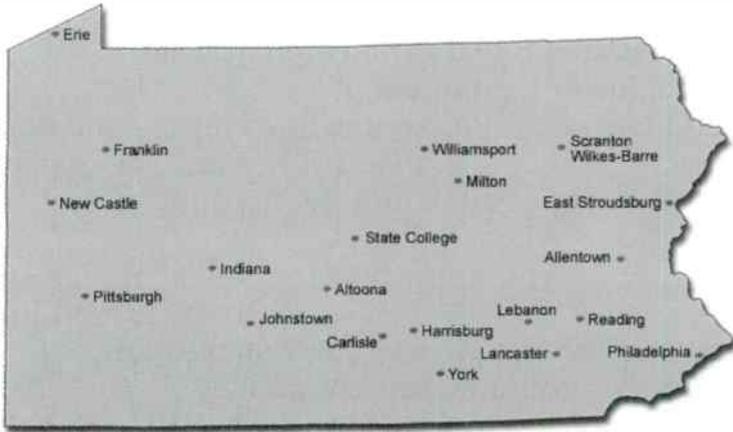
Edgar Allan Poe, Alexander Graham Bell, John Wayne

Fourth from top:

Winston Churchill, Albert Einstein, Ernest Hemingway

Bottom, center and right: The Phillie Phanatic, Teddy Roosevelt

•



## **VIRT-YU, LIBBERDEE, 'N INDA-PENANCE**

### **Talking Pennsylvanian**

#### ***If you're a Pennsylvanian:***

You've never referred to Philadelphia as anything but "Philly" and New Jersey has always been "Jersey "

You refer to Pennsylvania as "PA" (pronounced Pee-ay). How many other states do that? "You guys" is a perfectly acceptable reference to a group of men and women

You know how to respond to the question "Djeetyet?" (Did you eat yet?)

You learned to pronounce Bryn Mawr, Wilkes-Barre, Schuylkill, the Poconos, Tamaqua, Tunkannock, Bala Cynwyd, Duquesne and Monongahela.

And we know Lancaster is pronounced *Lankister*, not *Lankaster*.

You know what a "Mummer" is, and are disappointed if you can't catch at least highlights of the parade.

You know who "Punxsutawney Phil" is, and what it means if he sees his shadow. The first day of buck and the first day of doe season are school holidays.

You know how to "chuck" things and how to "red up."

You can use the phrase "fire hall wedding reception" and not even bat an eye.

You cannot go to a wedding without hearing the "Chicken Dance," at least one polka and either an Italian song (sung in Italian,) or "Hava Nagila."

At least five people on your block have electric "candles" in all or most their windows all year long.

You know what a "Hex sign" is. You know what a "State Store" is, and your out-of-state friends find it incredulous that you can't purchase liquor at the mini-mart.

You own only 5 condiments: salt, pepper, mustard, ketchup, and Worcestershire sauce. (pronounced woostersheer)

Words like "hoagie," "crick," "chipped ham," "dippy eggs", "sticky buns," "shoo-fly pie," "lemon sponge pie", "pierogies" and "pocketbook" (pronounced pock-a-book) actually mean something to you (that's PA slang for purse)! You can eat cold pizza (even for breakfast) and know others who do the same. (Those from NY find this "barbaric.")

You not only have heard of Birch Beer, but you

know it comes in several colors: Red, White,  
Brown, Gold.

You know several places to purchase or that  
serve Scrapple, Summer Sausage, Lebanon  
bologna, pickled or red beet eggs, tripe,  
speckwasch, blutwasch, ring baloney, and Hot  
Bacon Dressing.

You can eat a cold soft pretzel from a street  
vendor without fear and enjoy it. It almost  
always comes with mustard.

You know the difference between a cheese steak  
and a pizza steak sandwich, and know that you  
can't get a really good one out side PA, except  
Atlantic City on the boardwalk.

You live for summer, when street and county  
fairs signal the beginning of funnel cake season.  
Customers ask the waitress for "dippy eggs"  
breakfast.

You know that Blue Ball, Intercourse, Paradise,  
Climax, Bird-in-Hand, Beaver, Moon, Virginville,  
Mars, and Slippery Rock are PA towns. (and, the  
first three were consecutive stops on the Reading  
Railroad).

And, you know it's the "Red-ing," not "Reed-ing"  
Railroad!

You know what a township, borough, and  
commonwealth are.

You can identify drivers from New York, New  
Jersey, Maryland or other neighboring states by  
their unique and irritating driving habits.

A traffic jam is ten cars waiting to pass a  
horse-drawn carriage on the highway in  
Lancaster County.

You know several people who have hit deer more  
than once.

You carry jumper cables in your car and your  
female passengers know how to use them.  
You still keep kitty litter, starting fluid,  
de-icer, or a snowbrush in your trunk, even if  
you now live in the south.

Driving is always better in winter because the  
potholes are filled with snow.  
As a kid you built snow forts and leaf piles that  
were taller than you were.  
Your graduating class consisted of mostly Polish,  
German, Irish, and Italian names.  
You know beer doesn't grow in a garden but you  
know where to find a beer garden.

You also know someone who lives "down the  
lane" or "down the road a piece."  
You have driven "up the line" to somewhere.  
You know what's meant when someone tells you  
to "outen the light" or "make the light out."  
You eat until you're "full."

You can name three ingredients of Shoo-Fly Pie.  
If you're from Philly, they're the "Iggles." If you're  
from Pittsburgh, they're the "Stillers."

You know what a "patch town" is.  
You go "down the shore" for vacation.

You think pretzels, chips, and Tastykakes are  
food groups.  
You eat fastnachts on Fastnacht Day, and you  
know when Fastnacht Day is.

If you're from east of the Susquehanna, you  
think Pittsburghers talk funny. If you're from  
Pittsburgh, you think people from east of the  
Susquehanna talk funny.

Everyone not from Pennsylvania thinks  
Pennsylvanians talk funny.



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*Near the big water tank...  
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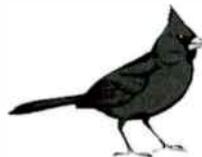
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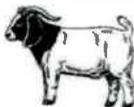
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*From the recipe cupboard of Lisa Holcomb...  
(Mrs. Jack)*

CRANBERRY NUT BREAD

2 cups all-purpose flour	1 egg
1 cup sugar	1 T. grated orange rind
1 ½ tsp. baking powder	¾ cup orange juice
½ tsp. baking soda	½ cup chopped nuts
1 tsp. salt	1 cup coarsely chopped cranberries
¼ cup margarine or vegetable shortening	

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Grease a 9x5x3 inch loaf pan.

In a large mixing bowl combine dry ingredients. Cut in margarine. Combine egg, orange rind and juice in another bowl and add all at once to the dry ingredients, stirring until combined. Fold-in nuts and cranberries. Spoon into prepared pan and bake for 55 to 60 minutes. Loosen from the edges of the pan. Cool in pan for 30 to 45 minutes and then remove. The bread will slice more easily if stored overnight in the refrigerator or freezer. This can be frozen... Enjoy!

PUMPKIN NUT BREAD

1 ½ cups sugar	½ tsp. salt
1/3 cup oil	½ tsp. ground cloves
2 eggs	½ tsp. baking soda
1 cup seasoned pumpkin pie filling	1 tsp. baking powder
1 1/3 cups flour	1/3 cup water
1 tsp. cinnamon	1 cup chopped nuts

Grease 9x5x3 inch loaf pan. Preheat oven to 350 degrees.

Cream sugar and oil. Add eggs and pumpkin. Sift dry ingredients together and add water and nuts, mixing well. Pour into prepared pan and bake for one hour and fifteen minutes. Enjoy!!

# Poems by Jack Holcomb...

## **Bluebird...**

He was on the electric wire outside my window  
looking-in at the cat and me...quietly.

The cat's head moved back and forth and I  
gasped...quietly.

What are you doing there...on a wire in the suburbs  
under the spreading oak??

You were in the land of finches and house sparrows,  
titmice and chickadees.

Was there a reason or a purpose...mythical, religious  
or otherwise??

You made me think beyond the bird and pushed me into  
another measure of thought.

I'm still thinking about you little bird and the message  
you brought.

It was more than...."Have a bluebird day"!!

•••

## **Seasons...**

A smile exchanged

springs a heart into summer

after a winter's fall...

•••

**Poetry...**

Poetry

sings of earthly spring  
and rattles the senses for everything.

Poetry

turns sadness into laughter  
bringing one peace for ever after....

Poetry

gives more meaning to passing time  
keeping life's cycle in endless rhyme..

Poetry

means so much to any soul  
passing through the mind to keep one whole..

Poetry

reflects the essence of life  
and takes away unwanted strife...

Poetry

is tranquility in motion.....



**Cathedrals**

The mountains and lakes frame the pines  
reflecting the morning sun as it etches  
another day.....

A bird song symphony echoes the setting  
into the valleys  
waiting for the parishioners...

A reddish glow is born through the morning mist  
and rises slowly over the mirror-like ocean  
Sunday morning is born again  
as the congregation gathers to welcome the sun...

-0-

A Carolina wren leads the choir on a spring morning  
a veery chimes, then a cardinal whistles and a vireo sings  
"I am here, where are you?"  
It is time to celebrate nature's bounty.

• • •

#### **Four**

The full moon stared at me on my morning walk  
urging me to respond to its brightness..  
I could not as I was in the midst of a prayer.  
Then I realized that was the point..

Have you noticed the stark beauty of a winter's day  
with its white coat against a clear blue sky  
and wondered why nature's work is never finished?

Come join me for lunch on the old park bench  
and lets clear the air of misadventures and then  
solve the world's problems..

I noticed people scowling today as I passed them on the  
sidewalk smiling and then wondered if it was me or my  
fascination with the birds??

## *And, we quote:*

*Suppose you were an idiot. And suppose you were a member of Congress. But then I repeat myself.*

*-- Mark Twain*

*I contend that for a nation to try to tax itself into prosperity is like a man standing in a bucket and trying to lift himself up by the handle.*

*-- Winston Churchill*

*A government which robs Peter to pay Paul can always depend on the support of Paul.*

*-- George Bernard Shaw*

*Foreign aid might be defined as a transfer of money from poor people in rich countries to rich people in poor countries.*

*-- Douglas Casey*

*I don't make jokes. I just watch the government and report the facts.*

*-- Will Rogers*

*The government is like a baby's alimentary canal, with a happy appetite at one end and no responsibility at the other.*

*-- Ronald Reagan*

***AND REMEMBER.... "POLITICIANS AND DIAPERS SHOULD BE CHANGED OFTEN AND FOR THE SAME REASON".***

*-- Anonymous*



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# **VERY PUNNY!**

**I do not enjoy computer jokes. Not one bit.**

**I changed my I Pod name to Titanic. It's syncing now.**

**When chemists die, they barium.**

**Jokes about German sausage are the wurst.**

**A soldier who survived mustard gas and pepper spray is now  
a seasoned veteran.**

**I know a guy who's addicted to brake fluid. He says he can  
stop any time.**

**How does Moses make his tea? Hebrews it.**

**I stayed up all night to see where the sun went. Then it  
dawned on me.**

**This girl said she recognized me from the vegetarian club,  
but I'd never met herbivore.**

**I'm reading a book about anti-gravity. I can't put it down.**

**I did a theatrical performance about puns. It was a play on  
words.**

**They told me I had type A blood, but it was a Type-O.**

**A dyslexic man walks into a bra.**

**PMS jokes aren't funny, period.**

**Why were the Indians here first? They had reservations.**

**Class trip to the Coca-Cola factory. I hope there's no pop quiz.**

**Energizer battery arrested. Charged with battery.**

**I didn't like my beard at first. Then it grew on me.**

**How do you make holy water? Boil the hell out of it!**

**Did you hear about the cross-eyed teacher who lost her job because she couldn't control her pupils?**

**When you get a bladder infection, urine trouble.**

**What does a clock do when it's hungry? It goes back four seconds.**

**I wondered why the baseball was getting bigger. Then it hit me!**

**Broken pencils are pointless.**

**I tried to catch some fog. I mist.**

**What do you call a dinosaur with extensive vocabulary? A thesaurus.**

**England has no kidney bank, but it does have a Liverpool.**

**I used to be a banker, but then I lost interest.**

**I dropped out of communism class because of lousy Marx.**

**All the toilets in New York's police stations have been stolen. Police have nothing to go on.**

•

**TEST YOUR "DOO-WOP" KNOWLEDGE**

1. When did "Little Suzie" finally wake up?
  - (a) The movie's over, it's 2 o'clock
  - (b) The movie's over, it's 3 o'clock
  - (c) The movie's over, it's 4 o'clock
  
2. "Rock Around The Clock" was used in what movie?
  - (a) Rebel Without A Cause
  - (b) Blackboard Jungle
  - (c) The Wild Ones
  
3. What's missing, from a Rock & Roll standpoint? Earth \_\_\_\_\_
  - (a) Angel
  - (b) Mother
  - (c) Worm
  
4. "I found my thrill . . ." where?
  - (a) Kansas City
  - (b) Heartbreak Hotel
  - (c) Blueberry Hill
  
5. "Please turn on your magic beam, \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ bring me a dream,":
  - (a) Mr. Sandman
  - (b) Earth Angel
  - (c) Dream Lover
  
6. For which label did Elvis Presley first record?
  - (a) Atlantic
  - (b) RCA
  - (c) Sun

**7. He asked, "Why's everybody always pickin' on me?" Who was he?**

- (a) Bad, Bad Leroy Brown**
- (b) Charlie Brown**
- (c) Buster Brown**

**8. In Bobby Darin's "Mack The Knife," the one with the knife, was named:**

- (a) MacHeath**
- (b) MacCloud**
- (c) MacNamara**

**9. Name the song with "A-wop bop a-loo bop a-lop bam boom."**

- (a) Good Golly, Miss Molly**
- (b) Be-Bop-A-Lula**
- (c) Tutti Fruitti**

**10. Who is generally given credit for originating the term "Rock And Roll"?**

- (a) Dick Clark**
- (b) Wolfman Jack**
- (c) Alan Freed**

**11. In 1957, he left the music business to become a preacher:**

- (a) Little Richard**
- (b) Frankie Lymon**
- (c) Tony Orlando**

**12. Paul Anka's "Puppy Love" is written to what star?**

- (a) Susan Gibbs**

- (b) Connie Francis**
- (c) Annette Funicello**

**13. The Everly Brothers were .....**

- (a) Pete and Dick**
- (b) Don and Phil**
- (c) Bob and Bill**

**14. The Big Bopper's real name was:**

- (a) Jiles P. Richardson**
- (b) Roy Iddings Jr.**
- (c) Marion Michael Morrison**

**15. In 1959, Berry Gordy, Jr. started a small record company called...**

- (a) Decca**
- (b) Cameo**
- (c) Motown**

**16. Edd Brynes had a hit with "Kookie, Kookie, Lend Me Your Comb". What TV show was he on?**

- (a) 77 Sunset Strip**
- (b) Hawaiian Eye**
- (c) Surfside Six**

**17. In 1960 Bobby Darin married:**

- (a) Carol Lynley**
- (b) Sandra Dee**
- (c) Natalie Wood**

**18. They were a one hit wonder with "Book Of Love":**

- (a) The Penguins**

- (b) The Monotones**
- (c) The Moonglows**

**19. The Everly Brothers sang a song called "Till I \_\_\_\_\_ You."**

- (a) Loved**
- (b) Kissed**
- (c) Met**

**20. Chuck Berry sang "Oh, \_\_\_\_\_, why can't you be true?"**

- (a) Suzie Q**
- (b) Peggy Sue**
- (c) Maybelline**

**21. "Wooly \_\_\_\_\_"**

- (a) Mammouth**
- (b) Bully**
- (c) Pully**

**22. "I'm like a one-eyed cat . . . ."**

- (a) can't go into town no more**
- (b) sleepin' on a cold hard floor**
- (c) peepin' in a seafood store**

**23. "Sometimes I wonder what I'm gonna do- "**

- (a) cause there ain't no answer for a life without booze**
- (b) cause there ain't no cure for the summertime blues**
- (c) cause my car's gassed up and I'm ready to cruise**

**24. "They often call me Speedo, but my real**

**name is ..... . . ."**

- (a) Mr. Earl**
- (b) Jackie Pearl**
- (c) Milton Berle**

**25. "You're my Fanny and nobody else's ....."**

- (a) girl**
- (b) butt**
- (c) love**

**26. "I want you to play with my . . . "**

- (a) heart**
- (b) dreams**
- (c) ding a ling**

**27. "Be Bop A Lula ....."**

- (a) she's got the rabies**
- (b) she's my baby.**
- (c) she loves me, maybe**

**28. "Fine Love, Fine Kissing ..."**

- (a) right here**
- (b) fifty cents**
- (c) just for you**

**29. "He wore black denim trousers and . . . ."**

- (a) a pink carnation**
- (b) pink leotards**
- (c) motorcycle boots**

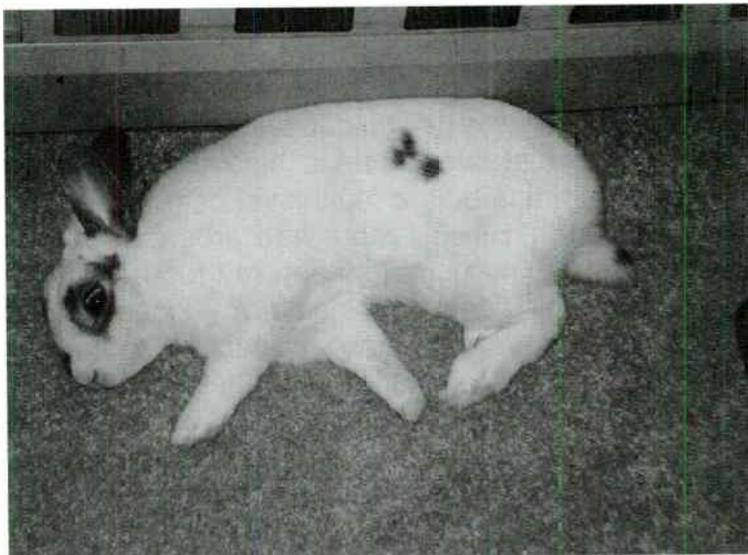
**30. "I got a gal named . . . ."**

- (a) Jenny Zamboni**
- (b) Gerri Mahoney**
- (c) Boney Maroney**

**Answers:**

Scroll Down so you aren't tempted to cheat (*as if cheating were needed here*).

1. (c) The movie's over, it's 4 o'clock
2. (b) Blackboard Jungle
3. (a) Angel
4. (c) Blueberry Hill
5. (a) Mr. Sandman
6. (c) Sun
7. (b) Charlie Brown
8. (a) Mac Heath
9. (c) Tutti Fruitti
10. (c) Alan Freed
11. (a) Little Richard
12. (c) Annette Funicello
13. (b) Don and Phil
14. (a) Jiles P. Richardson
15. (c) Motown
16. (a) 77 Sunset Strip
17. (b) Sandra Dee
18. (b) The Monotones
19. (b) Kissed
20. (c) Maybelline
21. (b) Bully
22. (c) peepin' in a sea food store
23. (b) cause there ain't no cure for the summertime blues
24. (a) Mr. Earl
25. (b) butt
26. (c) ding a ling
27. (b) she's my baby
28. (a) right here
29. (c) motorcycle boots
30. (c) Boney Maroney



## Rabbit Tales

*As told to WEEU Traffic Reporter Steph Rollinson by her rabbit, "Patches"*

Hello, all! My name is Patches and I live with traffic reporter Steph Rollinson and her family. A little birdie from Jack's Backyard told me that listeners were eager to hear more about me, so I decided I'd help Steph out and just write the article myself. Well, she's helping me type. First, a little bit about me. I'm a house rabbit—that means I live inside—and I'm about 7 years old. In people years, I'd be retired. We don't know what breed I am, but I have straight up ears, short fur, and I am on the smaller end of average weight—just four pounds. I'm sure many of you are thinking, "He lives in the house?!" so we'll start there.

We domestic rabbits are very different from our wild companions. Over the years our survival skills have greatly decreased, so we are not suited for outdoor or hutch living. Our coats are not the same as a wild rabbit, so we get colder faster and in a hutch we don't have a safe place to hide from predators. Inside the humans built a multi-level cage styled after a human condo. Since I roam free around the house during the day, my humans keep my food and water dishes and my litter box inside my condo. "Litter box?!" Rabbits are extremely receptive to training, and house rabbits generally use a litter box like a cat. Now, no bun's perfect, and I've been known to leave a few "rabbit raisins" when I can't make it to my litter box in time. Generally, I'm very good about going to my box.

It's not often recognized, but rabbits are highly social creatures. We love to be in the middle of the action, and the more we interact with people the more our personalities show. My personality, you ask? I am very affectionate and curious. I love nothing more than to stretch out on the ottoman and be petted for hours. Sometimes, I follow the humans when they go upstairs and I have been known to wait outside closed doors for their return. Some rabbits enjoy playing with toys they can toss or roll. I prefer to play tug of war with a piece of cardboard or get the humans to chase me around the house. In the wild, rabbits live in communities called warrens, so it's only natural for a domestic rabbit to want a community of human servants.

Living with humans does have its benefits, specifically treats! If Steph had a nickel for every time some bun asked if I eat carrots she could buy me a real condo. Yes, rabbits eat carrots—the carrot and the green top. We also eat some things humans might

not realize. Like humans, each rabbit has his own tastes. I love oatmeal, raisins, dried pineapple, apples, and **nanners**—I mean bananas. Nanners are one treat that all rabbits love. The first week I lived here, Steph made the mistake of eating a nanner in front of me. Oh my bunness! My ears sprung up, my nose tickled, my whiskers trembled and I stretched as far as I possibly could to the top of my cage to beg for a piece. She caved and broke a hunk off for me, and we've been friends ever since.

Around our house treat time means Bunny 500. A Bunny 500 is something like the Indy 500, but with one rabbit instead of multiple cars. I give a thump to signify the start and off I go. I run a couple laps around the room, stop, change direction on a dime and resume racing. Occasionally, I run into furniture or a human leg, but I simply shake it off and go around. When I've exhausted myself I come back to the human's feet and give them the "I know that treat's for me" look.

Ah, rabbit communication. Since we hardly make any noise, we communicate through body language and ear position. Each rabbit communicates differently, but there are some standard signals. When humans rub us along the jaw we "purr," technically we grind our teeth together to express our pleasure. We sleep with our eyes open, so when the nose stops twitching it means we're taking a nap. Two ears up mean you have my attention. If I'm relaxed and curled up in a meatloaf shape with one ear tilted at the sound, I'm mildly interested. When I listen to WEEU, I usually lay on my belly with both ears up—relaxed but attentive. If the humans have displeased me, I will hop away and jut my feet out at them. Worse than that, I'll hop away and turn my butt to the offender. The butt is the rabbit equivalent of "take a

hike.” Rabbits have two very special ways of communicating “happy,” the binky and the flop. A binky covers a few actions. It could refer to when I hop and in midair I kick my back legs out at a 45° angle or when I hop and in midair change direction and come down facing the opposite way. Once we start doing binkies, it’s very difficult to stop. Most rabbits will do a series of binkies then move on to the flop.

A wise rabbit once said, “to lay is bunny, but to flop divine.” Rabbits are generally happy creatures, but when we reach euphoria it becomes too much happy and we fall right over. The very first day I came to live with Steph she put me in my condo and turned her back to gather up the carrier when she heard a “Thunk!” She turned to find me on my side with my paws extended in front of me. For a split second, she thought I was dead. Then she realized I was very happy to have a forever home.

Humans have a few misconceptions about rabbits that I’d like to pause and address. I do not under any circumstances want to be held. Now, some rabbits are picked up and cuddled from the time they are baby bunnies, so they’ve been conditioned to like it. The rest of us would prefer to keep all four paws on solid ground. When I get sick and the vet gives me medicine, I have to be held while Steph feeds me through a plastic syringe. The only person I like picking me up is Steph’s sister, Kim. She gets down on my level and pets me while she says, “I’m going to pick you up and cuddle you!” Then BOOM! I’ve been scooped up and I’m tucked against her shoulder like a human baby.

When Kim holds me she whispers sweet nothings and kisses me on the ears and nose, so it’s a little more bearable. The other common assumption is that

we need bathing. To this I say, no thank you! Rabbits are much like cats in that we clean ourselves. In fact, I have a very strict order to bathing. First, I clean my paws, and then I use them to clean my face and ears. After the ears come the dirty parts of my fur—my body, my feet and lastly my butt. The only part humans need to be involved in is the brushing. Rabbits need to be brushed at least weekly, if not more. I shed year round, and if I ingest too much fur during bunny bath time I can get a bellyache. I hope that this has answered the “Do rabbits smell?” question. We do in fact smell, and it’s a pleasant fur type smell. If it’s a stinky smell, well, rabbits pass gas, too!

Rabbits, me included, have some unbecoming behaviors. You see, our teeth don’t stop growing so we need to wear them down. That means we chew... a lot. Now, rabbit toys are available in all shapes and sizes for chewing—wood blocks, flavored sticks, and pine cones just to name a few. Rabbits would much rather chew your furniture, baseboards and wires. I have a long list of destruction to my name. In the dining room, I helped peel the wallpaper off because I thought the humans needed a change. In the living room, I’ve nibbled baseboards on all four walls. My *pièce de résistance* was the Internet cable. I chomped through it and the humans found me playing with the two-inch long strip I had liberated. That’s when the humans put plastic tubing around it. I chewed through that, too. After the second time, they fed the wire through the floor and didn’t leave me anything to gnaw. Once I laid my teeth into a lamp cord and I tingled all the way down to my whiskers. It was still plugged in. I’m a reformed rabbit, now.

There is one behavior that all rabbits do and just don’t talk about. We eat our own “rabbit raisins.” It’s

really not as bad as it seems. When rabbits leave cecotropes, or “night poops” they are full of essential nutrients, particularly vitamins B and K. These vitamins are rabbit produced, so this is the only way we can get them. I’d like to point out that cecotropes smell really stinky, so it’s in the humans’ best interest that we eat them. Whenever I do this, Steph tells me I have “bunny breath” and tries to feed me mint from the garden. It’s a smelly but necessary part of rabbit life.

Once you discount the chewing and the smelly raisins, rabbits are very endearing. There’s nothing like coming home to find your rabbit on the sofa waiting for you. Well, waiting for you to turn on the television. We are surprisingly affectionate and playful and most certainly amusing. I hope I’ve given you a good idea of what it’s like living with a little ball of bunny fluff. Now, it’s off to find this bun a treat! All this hard work needs to be rewarded.



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## HISTORICAL TRIVIA

Did you know the saying "God willing and the Creek don't rise" was in reference to the Creek Indians and not a body of water? It was written by Benjamin Hawkins in the late 18th century. He was a politician and Indian diplomat. While in the south, Hawkins was requested by the President of the U.S. to return to Washington. In his response, he was said to write, "God willing and the Creek don't rise." Because he capitalized the word "Creek" it is deduced that he was referring to the Creek Indian tribe and not a body of water.



In George Washington's days, there were no cameras. One's image was either sculpted or painted. Some paintings of George Washington showed him standing behind a desk with one arm behind his back while others showed both legs and both arms. Prices charged by painters were not based on how many people were to be painted, but by how many limbs were to be painted. Arms and legs are 'limbs,' therefore painting them would cost the buyer more. Hence the expression, 'Okay, but it'll cost you an arm and a leg.' (Artists know hands and arms are more difficult to paint)



As incredible as it sounds, men and women took baths only twice a year (May and October) Women kept their hair covered, while men shaved their heads (because of lice and bugs) and wore wigs. Wealthy men could afford good wigs made from wool. They couldn't wash

the wigs; so to clean them they would carve out a loaf of bread, put the wig in the shell, and bake it for 30 minutes. The heat would make the wig big and fluffy, hence the term 'big wig... ' Today we often use the term 'here comes the Big Wig' because someone appears to be or is powerful and wealthy.

•••

In the late 1700's, many houses consisted of a large room with only one chair. Commonly, a long wide board folded down from the wall, and was used for dining. The 'head of the household' always sat in the chair while everyone else ate sitting on the floor. Occasionally a guest, who was usually a man, would be invited to sit in this chair during a meal. To sit in the chair meant you were important and in charge. They called the one sitting in the chair the 'chair man.' Today in business, we use the expression or title 'Chairman' or 'Chairman of the Board.'

•••

Ladies wore corsets, which would lace up in the front. A proper and dignified woman, as in 'straight laced' wore a tightly tied lace.

•••

Common entertainment included playing cards. However, there was a tax levied when purchasing playing cards but only applicable to the 'Ace of Spades.' To avoid paying the tax, people would purchase 51 cards instead. Yet, since most games require 52 cards,





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## How (NOT) To Cook Beef Wellington

*By Lynn Palo, WEEU Account Executive*

My cousin Tom and I love to cook and sometimes try to outdo one another with our culinary skills.

For a dinner party, Tom bought a whole filet mignon and made a very labor intensive Beef Wellington. This included Mushroom Duxelles and Foie Gras topping on the filet mignon and a pastry crust wrapping.

He put it in his fancy Chef-y oven and the guests started arriving. After a few minutes they saw Tom walking from the kitchen to the basement once, then twice. After a third time, he came upstairs with a hacksaw and started sawing the oven door.

It seems with his fancy oven, you can accidentally set the auto-clean function with just the press of a button, and that's just what he had done. Once that function begins, the oven door locks because of the intense heat required for the oven to self-clean. Tom was determined to get that Beef Wellington out before it was ruined. He said he wasn't about to let \$200 of meat go to waste.

After all the commotion settled down, I pointed out to him that the cost of the oven repair was likely to be much more expensive than the cost of the meat. He took a mouthful of perfectly cooked Beef Wellington, and said he didn't care!

It was one of the best meals we ever had and one of the funniest family stories I'll continue to tell the most!



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## Take Me Out to the Ballgame

*by Len Carmen*

If you have ever watched the Phillies on TV when they're playing on the road, no doubt you have seen dozens or even hundreds of Phils fans in the seats wearing their hats, T-shirts and jerseys. Fans have always travelled to other major league cities to see the *Fightins* do battle with their rivals. But their numbers seem to have grown in recent years, probably because of the team's success that began in 2007 when they won the first of five straight National League East titles.

I have also been to quite a few ballparks outside of Philadelphia, but not always to see the Phillies. The first time I went to a Major League Baseball game that wasn't played at Connie Mack Stadium or The Vet was in Atlanta in the early 1970's during a family vacation. As we drove past Fulton County Stadium, I saw a sign promoting a doubleheader that night between the Braves and the Houston Astros. Somehow I managed to talk everyone into returning that evening to see the games. At the time, Hank Aaron was still chasing baseball's all-time home run king, Babe Ruth. To the best of my recollection, there were eight or nine home runs hit during the doubleheader, but Hammerin' Hank did not hit one.

The next road trip was a few years later when I went with my brother and a friend to a game at old Yankee Stadium between the Bronx Bombers and the Chicago White Sox. My brother was a big fan of former Phillie Dick Allen, who was playing for the Sox at the time. We went back to New York the following summer to see the Yanks and the White Sox again. This time Yankee Stadium was being renovated and the game was played at Shea Stadium, home of the Mets.

It was about 10 years between trips until I went with my sister to Montreal. We went to the final game of a series between the Expos and Saint Louis with plans to see the first game of a set between Montreal and the Phillies the next night.

But Mother Nature and the malfunctioning retractable roof on Olympic Stadium were against us. We could have stayed until the next night, but decided to stick with our original schedule and move on to Toronto to see the Hockey Hall of Fame. The Blue Jays were not home, so we did not see them play, and we continued our trip to meet up with some family members we had not seen in some time.

1986 began a stretch of three straight seasons where I saw the eventual American League champions. I saw the Red Sox play at Fenway Park in Boston. That was the year Boston lost to the Mets in the World Series, in large part because of an infamous play where a seemingly easy ground ball went between the legs of a gimpy Bill Buckner to allow New York to win game 6.

The next year it was off to the Midwest. The Milwaukee Brewers, who were still in the American League then, hosted the Minnesota Twins at old County Stadium. The Twins went on to win the World Series that year.

After seeing a game in Milwaukee, it was a short drive to Chicago where the Phillies were playing the Cubs at Wrigley Field. It was the year before lights were installed

at the ancient ballpark, so all the games were played in the afternoon. The Phillies were a pretty bad team that year, and I saw John Felske's last game as manager and Lee Elia's first as the Phil's skipper. They lost both games. The White Sox were on the road that week, but I did drive past their home stadium, Comiskey Park.

In 1988 I went to Cleveland's Municipal Stadium to see the Indians play the eventual A.L. champ Oakland Athletics, who would lose to the Dodgers in the World Series. After that, I travelled to Pittsburgh to see the Phillies play the Pirates.

The following year I went to Detroit to see the Tigers in their venerable old stadium, then on to Cincinnati to catch the Phillies play the Reds. After that it was Baltimore's Municipal Stadium and another game in Pittsburgh.

A couple of years passed before I went back to Montreal to see the Phillies play the Expos. This time the roof was working, but I don't think it was raining. Waiting for the subway to go back to the hotel, I turned to see an older gentleman who was also waiting for a train. Believe it or not, it was the legendary Richie Ashburn. We chatted briefly and went our separate ways. A few years later I went back to Baltimore to see the new Orioles Park at Camden Yard, simply because it was THE place to see a ballgame.

I have been to the Phillies new stadium, but I have not taken a baseball road trip since then to see any of the other new ballparks. But I'm glad I got to see some of the older Stadiums like Fenway and Wrigley, in case they decide to tear them down too someday.

•  
My grandfather used to say,

"If your social life starts to interfere with your job, quit your job!"

I now know what he was trying to convey was to have a balance of fun and work, the key to a happy life. He was bigger than life with broad shoulders and a broad smile!

—Lynn Palo, *WEEU Account Executive*

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## Do We Really Need That?

*By Paul Druzba, WEEU Copy/Production*

There was a time, not that long ago, when I was considered the “family geek”, up on the latest technology, and able to answer questions about the latest gadget, especially electronic. After all, I had gone to Computer Programming school back in the 60’s, and done well, when the very few companies that had a computer (mostly banks) used an IBM 360, which took up an entire large room. Back then, it was pretty obvious that we needed computers to handle the growing piles of information that needed to be processed. But something has happened in the intervening years, and I’m not sure if it’s me that’s falling behind, or technology that’s too far ahead.

I was one of the first people to chuck my slide rule in favor of a calculator, and I’m glad I did. Especially since I already knew how to do everything that a calculator did in my head. Back then, a checkout clerk at a store had to know how to make change for a dollar, which required at least the most basic math. But then the cash registers started figuring out the change, relieving the poor uneducated clerk of

that daunting task. Now, even with the computer telling the clerk how much change to give, the clerk may have trouble counting the quarters, dimes, nickels and pennies to make up those 87 cents. And some of them are struggling.

I've always been interested in photography, and as soon as I could afford one, I had a good SLR with lots of features that I cheerfully mastered. Cameras have not really become more complicated than they used to be, but what has become tougher is what to do with the pictures after you've taken them. Once you've mastered all the buttons on the camera, you have to master the software that moves those pictures from camera to computer. WOW!

I'm being left behind by smartphones, too. I do have a cell phone, and I use it to make and receive phone calls. That's all it does. I'm still trying to figure out why I need it to check my email, take lousy pictures that I can inflict on my friends, tell me where I am or where I'm going, or which restaurants serve fish n' chips within a 20 mile radius. I don't need all that, and all of that junk can actually make the phone more difficult to use as a phone.

Just a few weeks ago, my computer printer died, after more than five years of service. Yes, I kept a piece of electronic equipment for more than five years, mainly because I'm too cheap to keep buying the same item year after year. My old printer only did one thing- it printed. That's all I wanted it to do, and it was easy to master. But when I went to the store to buy a new one, I found that it's getting very tough to find a printer that just

prints anymore. Now, in addition to printing, they also scan, fax and make copies. I don't need a fax machine or a copier, and I already have a perfectly good scanner. So now, instead of having one button on the printer, the on-off button, I now have a whole panel of buttons for things that I will never use. If I stick with it, maybe I can figure out how to print some of the pictures I took with my digital camera.

For a long time now, I've been of the opinion that while technology can be a wonderful thing, sometimes we're bombarded by useless technology that's created because it's possible, not because anybody really wants it. The stores are full of gadgets that, while they only do one thing, they don't do it well, and it's something that nobody wanted a gadget to do anyway. That's why yard sales are full of electric hamburger cookers, electric hot dog cookers, bread makers, ice cream machines, coin sorters—the list goes on and on. It takes a lot of determination not to fill one's house with a lot of junk, which you bought because it was “neat”, and not because you really needed it. This is why I remain one of the few people I know who is not on Facebook, and I have never tweeted anyone, at least not to my knowledge.

Am I wrong to be offended at a family gathering, when virtually all of the people who bothered to show up have their faces glued to an electronic gadget instead of talking to others? Yes, I'm getting older, but aren't we all? It's kind of ironic to me that, just when I'm getting to the point in my life when I can appreciate the simple things, everything is becoming complicated!

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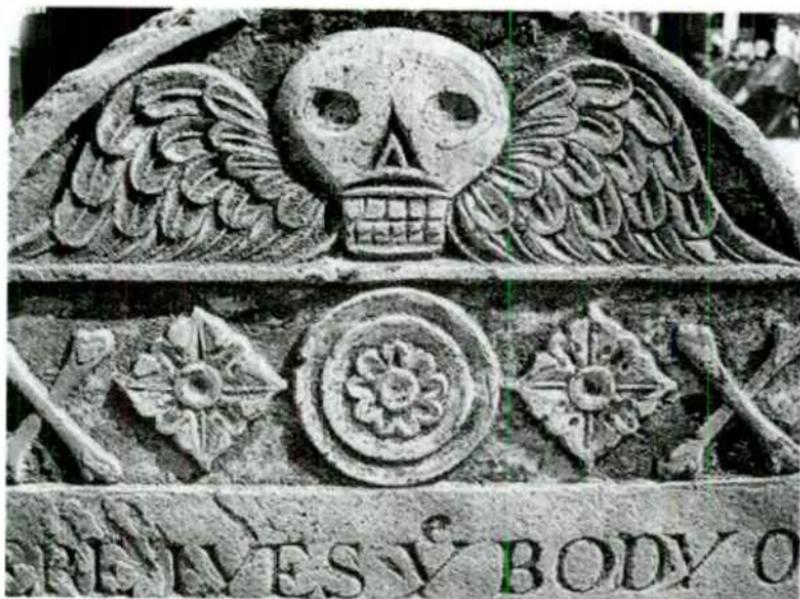
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## DIGGING UP HISTORY

*By WEEU Sports Director Mitch Gerhart*

If you've read earlier editions of the WEEU Journal, you know by now that Boston, MA, is one of my favorite places on Earth. The reasons are many - not only is it a very "walkable" city (you're probably much better off walking or taking the "T" - Boston's subway system - than driving on those crazy roads with those crazy drivers), there's also history to be found on literally every block.

One of the most popular spots on Boston's "Freedom Trail" is also one of its oldest, and my personal favorite - the Granary Burying Ground. The cemetery sits along Tremont Street, next to the equally historic Park Street Church, which was built in 1809. The church, which still holds regular services, began the first Sunday School program in 1818, conducted the first prison-aid program in 1824, and hosted William Lloyd Garrison's first anti-slavery speech in 1829.

The church land and Burying Ground were originally laid out as part of Boston Common, which still stretches out to the southwest. The cemetery was founded more than 450 years ago (that's right - 1660!), and yet it's only the third-oldest cemetery in Boston. The graveyard was established because the city's first cemetery, nearby King's Chapel Burying Ground, lacked sufficient space for Boston's rapidly growing population. Originally called the South Burying Ground, the cemetery and church was renamed in 1737, taking on the name of the granary building established where Park Street Church now stands. The cemetery land is reported to be 2 acres, but it seems much smaller, with many of the markers touching each other (the graves were originally laid out in a more haphazard formation, but were re-aligned in the 1800s to accommodate both the 19th-century aesthetic and the modern lawnmower.

Today, the Granary Burying Ground contains more than 2300 gravestones and tombs; it's believed more than 5,000 people have been buried there, including some of the most prominent people of early New England. Among the notables buried or commemorated in the Granary Burying Ground are three signers of the Declaration of Independence, nine Massachusetts governors, and various other notable and not-so-notables, including:

- John Wakefield - one of the first people buried in the “yard”, Wakefield's tombstone lists his passing in 1667.

- Boston Massacre victims—located in the front right corner of the graveyard, you'll find a large marker on the spot bearing the ashes of “Samuel Gray, Samuel Maverick, James Caldwell, Crispus Attacks, and Patrick Carr” (as listed on the grave marker), who were killed by British troops in the Boston Massacre in 1770. Also buried in the same spot are the ashes of 12-year-old Christopher Snider, who was shot by a redcoat 11 days before the Massacre.

•Samuel Adams - not sure why, but the man many of you know as Sam Adams is buried right next to the Boston Massacre victims, in the front right corner of the graveyard. Ironically, the owner of the face that peers back at you from the front of the beer can was probably least successful in his work in the brewery business. A failure in much of what he attempted in the private sector (including working briefly in his father's successful brewery), Sam was a successful politician. The cousin of second President John Adams, Sam helped stoke public opposition to the British Stamp Act, founded the Sons of Liberty (and organizer of the Boston Tea Party), served in the state legislature & Congress and as Massachusetts Governor, signed the Declaration of Independence and helped ratify the U.S. Constitution.

•John Hancock - yes, THAT John Hancock, possessor of the most prominent signature on the Declaration of Independence. His tall white marker can be seen from the street - it's located on the far left side of the graveyard.

•Paul Revere - the gifted silversmith and artist (his engraving of the Boston Massacre helped fuel what followed) has one of the most interesting gravesites in Granary. Revere, who is honored with statues and markers in several spots in the city (especially in the North End, where his simple house still stands), has a fairly tall marker near the back left of the cemetery, which was placed there by a patriotic organization many years after his passing. The marker actually stands next to a much smaller, easily overlooked stone that reads simply, "Revere's Tomb". The two markers are the most frequently visited in the graveyard.

•James Otis - Another of the more "popular" gravesites in the yard, James Otis was reportedly the first to say "Taxation without representation is tyranny." Yes, he was a lawyer.

•The Franklin family - the largest, most prominent monument in the Burying Ground is a large granite obelisk standing right in the middle of the yard. It marks the gravesite of Josiah and Abiah Franklin, the mother and father of Benjamin. (A few other members of Ben's family are also entombed here.) The obelisk was actually erected in 1827 (more than 50 years after Ben's parents passed), after the original tombstones, which were crumbling. (Unfortunately, New England weather has taken a terrible toll on many of the markers, making more than a few illegible).

•Mary Goose - Another of the more “popular” markers in the graveyard is actually at the center of what is believed to be a popular myth, and a very confusing one at that. Locals will tell you that the Mary Goose buried at Granary was well known for telling stories to children, who referred to her as “Mother” Goose. Unfortunately, “Mother Goose” stories had appeared in print well before her listed historically listed birthdate of 1665; her marker appears to suggest that she died in 1690; some believe the woman buried here is actually Elizabeth Vergoose, the wife of a publisher of a book of Mother Goose stories. Whatever the truth may be, the speculation and myth is a lot of fun and creates a lot of traffic for the cemetery.

•Robert Treat Paine - Another signer of the Declaration of Independence, Paine was a teacher (briefly), world traveler and lawyer. The prosecutor of the Boston Massacre soldiers (John Adams was their defense attorney), Paine later served as a member of the Continental Congress, a framer of the Massachusetts constitution and a state court justice.

•Peter Faneuil - A large, horizontal stone slab in the left rear corner of the yard marks the grave of the colonial merchant whose name adorns one of Boston's most famous colonial-era buildings, Faneuil Hall, which opened as a market- and meeting place in 1742. Let's be honest here -

the man was a bit of a rogue. The son and nephew of wealthy men, Peter Faneuil (a) helped his brother-in-law flee to France after winning Boston's first duel, and (b) traded in slaves in the West Indies, and once had a ship seized for trading fish & oil for French gold. He was so (relatively) unpopular in Boston that his decision to donate Faneuil Hall to the city was approved by a vote of 367 to 360. When he died a bachelor, he left his brother and sister five slaves and 195 DOZEN bottles of wine. (By the way, the victim of that aforementioned duel, Benjamin Woodbridge, is also buried at Granary.)

•Others entombed at Granary included Scottish-American artist John Smibert, Salem Witch Trials judge Samuel Sewall, George Cabot (US Senator and great-grandfather of Senator Henry Cabot Lodge), and Dr. David Townsend (a surgeon at Bunker Hill who later wintered with George Washington's army at Valley Forge).

I'm not sure how you would react, but I can't help but feel inspired after even a brief communal with the spirits of John Hancock, Paul Revere, Sam Adams, and the others whose remains populate Boston's Granary Burying Ground.



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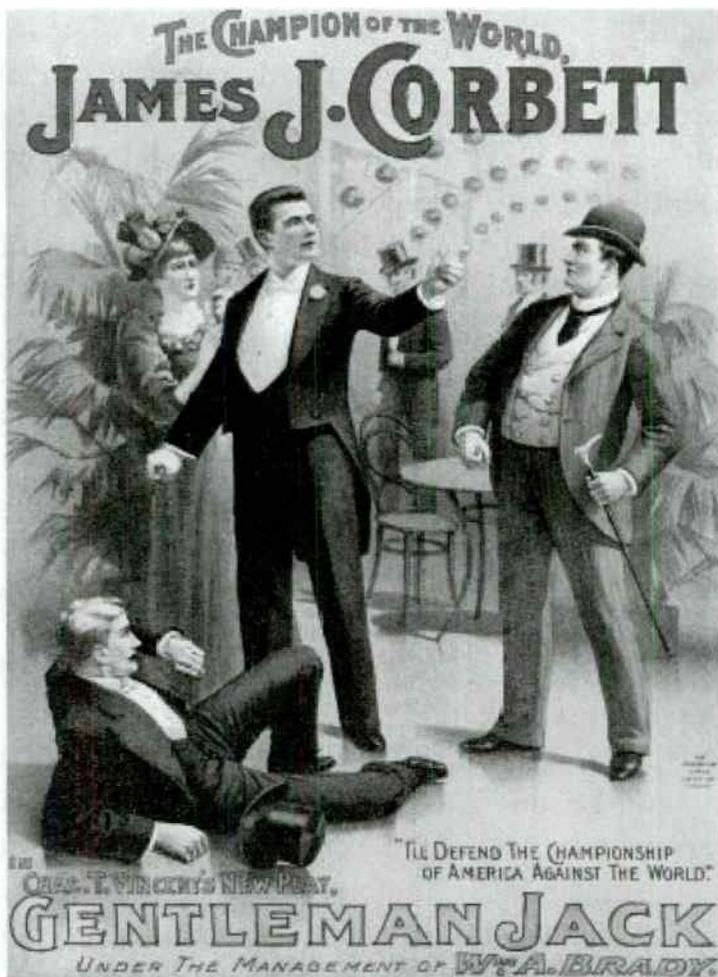
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**THE WORLD  
HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION...  
...AT FIRST BASE IN READING**

*by Charles J. Adams III*

If you check the roster of the 1897 Reading Actives baseball team, you'll find guys with

monikers like Scoops Carey, Cozy Dolan, and Con Lucid.

And, in the mix of nicknames on one particular day in 1897 was another: “Gentleman Jim”—as in heavyweight boxing legend James J. (Gentleman Jim) Corbett.

The “Father of Modern Boxing;” the first heavyweight to win a championship under the Marquess of Queensberry Rules; the fighter who vanquished John L. Sullivan with a 21<sup>st</sup> round knockout—that Jim Corbett? A player on a seminal Reading minor league club?

Well, not exactly. But for one hour and seven minutes, the time it took to play the nine-inning game on July 31, 1897, “Gentleman Jim” joined Scoops, Cozy, Con, and the other Actives for a regular-season Atlantic League game against the Philadelphia Athletics.

This was not baseball’s finest era. The Atlantic League was presided over by Edward G. Barrow, a burgeoning baseball baron who bounced from franchise to franchise and along the way made a name for himself by signing a young player named Honus Wagner to his Paterson, N.J. club in the Atlantic League.

Ever the innovator, Barrow saw the value of showbiz in the baseball biz. It was he who brought Lizzie Stroud Arlington in to pitch as the first female professional ballplayer (for the Reading Coal Heavers in 1898), and it was he who hired former heavyweight champs John L. Sullivan and

James Jeffries to umpire some of the Atlantic League games.

He also brought Gentleman Jim Corbett on board to spice up the box offices of Atlantic League franchises.

And, the recently-dethroned fighter readily accepted the offers to fatten his bank account.

His June 16-September 20 whirlwind tour took him to 26 regular season minor league games and several exhibition games. He played in the Atlantic and six other leagues and is said to have reaped around \$17,000 for his efforts.

Some critics lambasted Corbett and any other “pugilists” (including Sullivan, Jeffries, and Bob Fitzsimmons, who appeared as umpires in several minor league matchups) for grandstanding and making a mockery of official league games.

The Society for American Baseball Research determined that in those 26 regulation games, Corbett went 27 for 103 for a .262 average. He had 12 RBI and scored 13 times.

Hardcore baseball fans will also recognize the name Ed Barrow as the hardnosed manager, general manager, owner, and organizer of several teams and leagues. And, as skipper of the Boston Red Sox in 1918, Barrow is the man who managed to tame an upstart pitcher named George Herman Ruth and convert him from pitcher to position player.

Later, as GM of the New York Yankees, he would lock horns with “The Babe” until Ruth was

shipped off to the Boston Braves for the last year of his career. More than that, perhaps, he is generally considered as the architect of the Bronx Bombers' dynasty of the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. Barrow was elected to the Baseball Hall of Fame in 1953.

But all of that is another story.

And, Jim Corbett is not to be confused with his younger brother Joe, who was a fair pitcher in the American League in 1897, and is still another story.

No, this is the story of the legendary boxer who, fewer than six months after he lost his heavyweight title in the ring, came to Reading as a ringer for the Actives.

On March 17, 1897, Corbett was KO'd by Bob Fitzsimmons in a spectacular 14-round fight in Carson, Nevada. Among those ringside was a chap described as an "Ex-Referee."

That chap was Wyatt Earp.

And, oh yes, in charge of security for the fight was another chap named Bat Masterson.

Perhaps more interesting from a Berks County angle, on the day of that big bout in Nevada, more than 300 spectators, "including 25 ladies," watched Berks County shooting champion Harry S. Coldren defeat a woman shooter in a live pigeon shoot at the Three Mile House in Shillington.

That woman shooter was Annie Oakley.

But, oops, those are two more "other stories."

The story of Jim Corbett's one hour and seven minutes in a Reading ballpark on July 31, 1897 began that morning at 11:47 when about 500 people greeted Corbett as he stepped off a train at the Franklin Street Station.

The Germania Band was there to welcome the ex-champ, who was accompanied by his manager, William Brady, and Atlantic League President Barrow. As his open barouche made its way from the train station to the Mansion House hotel at 5<sup>th</sup> and Penn, a throng of young fans ran beside it. Corbett exchanged conversation with several of them.

He freshened up in room 120 of the hotel and emerged around 2:30 for the ride to the ballpark.

"Pompadour Jim," as he was also known, wore his own gray uniform, topped with a plaid yachting cap squeezed over his trademark hairdo.

He arrived at the "Base Ball Grounds" at 9<sup>th</sup> and Pike Streets, where an estimated 3,500 fans waited to see the strapping Californian. "What a magnificent specimen of physical manhood!", a *Reading Eagle* writer declared.

He took his position at first base and fielded well. In the bottom of the second inning he appeared at the plate for the first time. He fouled three times, hit an infield dribbler and was thrown out at first. In the fourth inning, he smacked a clean single for his only hit of the game.

When the \$900 take at the gate was divvied up, Corbett collected \$375 and the balance was split between the Actives and Athletics.

His original plans were to stay over in Reading for the night, but during the game he received a telegram that his wife was ill and opted to take the 6:10 train back home.

And, as Gentleman Jim Corbett left Reading that evening, the members of the Actives geared up for the remainder of the 1897 season.

As it was not baseball's finest era, 1897 season was not the Actives' finest season.

In fact, they went 40-101 that year. "Denny Long's tailenders," as one wag called them, were sometimes accused of lackadaisical motivation and lazy play. Manager Long countered that while some were sometimes less than aggressive, his players did the best they could. Moreover, and most importantly, after the season ended in mid-September, there was enough money in the till to pay all the players before they dispersed for off-season obligations.

First baseman Scoops Carey went on a hunting trip.

Ed Slater went back to Massachusetts and taught music in the winter months.

Fred Rainey returned to Maryland to help on his father's cattle ranch.

Second baseman C.F. McIntyre went home to work on his trade as a broom maker.

But, many would return for the 1898 Reading Atlantic League entry, re-named the “Coal Heavers.” Some advanced from the minors to the majors. Some faded quietly into obscurity.

As for Gentleman Jim Corbett, 1898 would be a rough year. On August 16, Jim’s father, Patrick, killed his mother, Katherine, and then himself.

The emotionally devastated prizefighter went on to flounder in the ring but would later embark on a successful acting career on stage and in films.

Corbett remained a baseball fan for the rest of his life. He could usually be seen sitting in a box seat behind the Giants’ dugout in the Polo Grounds, the guest of his good friend and Giants’ manager John McGraw. He died in 1933.

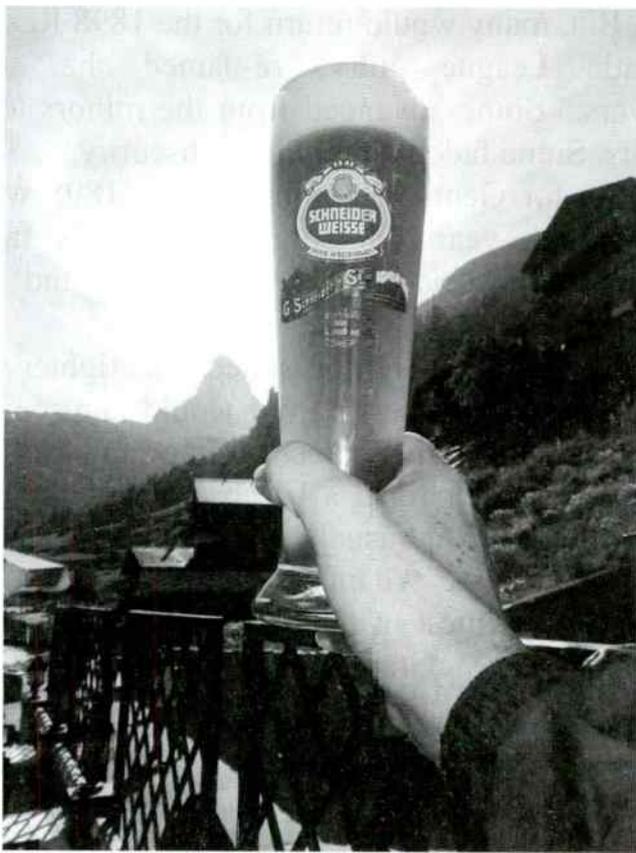
And, D.A. “Denny” Long, the Actives’ fiery manager, continued to own and organize teams and leagues as the fledgling major leagues established farm systems and player development programs.

Later, he made his mark as a newspaper publishing executive in his native New England.

His legacy lives on at the D.A. Long Tavern, at the “Funspot,” a Laconia, New Hampshire entertainment complex that bills itself as “the world’s largest arcade.”

The complex is operated by Long’s great-great granddaughter, and the tavern is decorated with several pieces of memorabilia of the former Reading Actives owner/manager.

But that is, you guessed it, another story.



## Tales from My Mountain Journal

*By WEEU / Reading Eagle's Dave Kline*

**These tales are excerpts taken directly from Dave's personal mountain journal, which has been kept over a period of 25 years. As a rule, there can be sentence fragments and other grammatical anomalies. This is due to the note being written down directly into the journal at the close of each day so as to preserve the thoughts of the moment. Via this journal story, come along on a day-by-day journey around the idyllic mountain hamlet of Zermatt, Switzerland, on the border of Southern Switzerland and Northern Italy.**

## Zermatt, Switzerland

**September 10 & 11, 2011**

Up at 7am after a restless night, the kind that usually follows a long journey -

Mine was a journey of more than 26 hours from Philly to Toronto to Montreal to Geneva and finally to Zermatt by train. On the day I arrived I went to the traditional meeting spot for climbers, mountaineers and people who love the mountains and the traditions of the region, the Whymper Stube, (a pub named after the famous English artist, writer and mountain climber, Edward Whymper, who achieved the first successful climb to the summit of the Matterhorn peak in 1865).

Here I enjoyed a half-liter of beer and a serving of regional raclette cheese. As often happens here, I met and struck up an interesting conversation with a gentleman by the name of Alan Lyall from Wales who is the author of a book about the Edward Whymper Matterhorn ascent. He was interesting to talk to so I bought him a beer for which he was most thankful!

As always, I visit the main Catholic Church downtown and then go to pay my respects to the many climbers who rest in the famous town cemetery, their stones marked, in some cases, with poignant, yet brief epitaphs regarding their life and demise in the mountains. Many years ago here I met and interviewed and photographed the world-famous mountain guide, (berg fuhrer), Ulrich Inderbinen. His photo hangs in my home to this day.

When I met him he was 101 and he passed away about a year after I chatted with him. There are tributes to him all over the town of Zermatt.

My arrival night was restless ... the journey and the altitude teamed up to cause a lack of sleep and restlessness. As a rule I don't sleep that much or that well under normal circumstances, not to mention the fact that as soon as I got my first glimpse of the Breithorn and Matterhorn peaks for this trip, (while still on the train), I got a really bad case of mountain fever, which is the need to get right up into the high peaks in the realm of the glaciers.

**September 11, 2011**

On Sunday, first day for hiking, I set out for the tiny mountain village of

Findeln but quickly changed my mind because the day was glorious with radiant sunshine, and Findeln is on the shady side of the Gornergrat region above Zermatt. Instead I accept the weather conditions that the day offers and use them to guide my decision to set out for one of the premier treks in the Alps - the path to Zmutt and its high alpine pastures, and then on to the Schonbiel hutte. I wanted to acclimatize before going up and trying the Mettlehorn, Breithorn or Hornli Ridge regions, which rise more than 11,000 feet above sea level.

The trek up was arduous as I climbed from the wandwerweg, ('wandering way' paths below the tree line), to the bergweg, ('mountain way path'), above the tree line, that led up to the terminal and lateral moraine of the glacier, and then still further up to the.

The round trip journey required about 18.5 miles of steady hiking with half of it headed up and half of headed back down. Got blisters on both feet due to the stiff hiking boots and the uneven, steep terrain. That part was not pleasant. The trek from Zermatt to the high alpine hutte took about 10 hours round trip - about 5.5 up and 4.5 down, with stops along the way for photos, resting and eating at the hutte.

The delicious meal at the Schonbiel hutte was worth the effort! It was a home cooked meal of bread-toast soaked in regional white wine, covered with regional cheese and an egg, and that was baked in an oven. It was marvelous! I washed it down with Coca Cola and William's Pear Brandy.

While in the mountains saw wild mountain goats, plus sheep, cows, marmots and a grand assortment of wild flowers.

Upon finishing in town I changed shoes and headed right into town to enjoy a hearth-baked pizza with fresh mushrooms, some Pinot Grigio, and more Coca Cola.

**September 12, 2011**

Slept in and then rented a mountain bike after walking 3.6 miles in the morning after breakfast.

Took an afternoon bike ride around Zermatt and then headed north out of the village to the towns of Tasch and then on to Randa.

Used roads on the outgoing leg and rode the Randa/Tasch/Zermatt high wanderweg on the way back to Zermatt. It was a tough but satisfying ride.

Met an older ski guide in Tasch and had a nice conversation with him at the campground.

While in the woods riding home a wild Chamois goat bolted across the trail ahead of me. The ski guide told me that hunting season for Chamois begins next week.

The ride on my 'rest' day was 15.17 round trip and took 3:33:17 hours...the way back was like a cyclocross with many dismounts and rocky ledges where I had to hang onto the bike with one hand and push it along while I hung onto fixed steel cables with the other hand, so as to not fall off a sheer ledge along the trail. Very spectacular scenery!

Supper was a reward with mushroom risotto spaghetti dish with fresh tomato sauce and basil, coca cola, San Pellegrino sparkling water and proseco (local white champagne), fresh bread and fresh green salad with olive oil and balsamic vinegar at the Ristorante Molino Seilerhaus on the main street in Zermatt. I have eaten here many times and the warming ceiling devices at their outdoor cafe section are welcoming and pleasant.

### **September 13, 2011**

Up at 7 am, hearty breakfast and right out on the trail - wanderweg from Zermatt main strasse, (street), to Edelweiss Hutte and then on and up the bergweg to Trift Hutte.

I thought I might try climbing the Mettlehorn today but there was not enough time and my heels are hurting from blisters, even though I have them padded with special medical blister wraps. That notwithstanding, the hiking and trekking are superb with breathtaking views all along the way.

As I climb higher my old 'friends' - the Breithorn, Klein Matterhorn, Taschhorn, Ober Rothorn, Zinal Rothorn, Weisshorn, Ober Gabelhorn and many other peaks more

than 14,000 feet high, bid me guten morgen! (Good morning!)

Today's hike is virtually straight up via switchback trails for about 4.75 miles, gaining more than 700 meters from the Zermatt village to the Trift Hutte.

Upon arriving at the first hutte, the Edelweiss Hutte, I am very pleased to find hutmeister Edward, whom we met ten years ago while climbing in the region.

**Backflash to information  
in my journal entered ten years ago...**

On that day ten years ago, I made the fateful choice to climb to this very high little, but quaint looking hutte. It sits on an outcropping of stone, high above Zermatt's main valley street. Almost everyone that visits Zermatt looks up onto the dizzying heights of the walls and cliffs that rise up thousands of feet above Zermatt's main street. There, seemingly completely out of place, on a rock ledge, is perched the Edelweiss Hutte.

There are two ways to get to the hut - climbing up the steep but scenic wanderweg or get someone to deliver you by helicopter, which is not cost effective!

The climb takes an average person between one to two hours and though it is a real climb, the reward of getting to the hutte for beverages and home cooked food makes it very worthwhile. Visiting a hutte by hiking to it is one of the true alpine climbing traditions within most people's abilities and something that should not be missed if you love and appreciate true alpine culture.

Back to the flashback, ten years ago I met Edgar for the first time when arriving after the climb up from Zermatt and we got along well right from the start. He speaks very little English and I speak very little German. A few rounds of beer, wine and Williams Pear Brandy help the language barrier become a non-issue. Sometimes sign language, facial expressions and vocal inflection are good enough and wonderfully universal!

Soon we understand each other perfectly. I explain to him about my passion for folk music and the mountains, and he explains to me about his passion for keeping the mountain hutte tradition alive in Zermatt. Edgar asks what

I want for supper - he will be pleased to cook anything I desire.

When Edgar asked what I wanted him to prepare for abend essen,(evening eating / meal), I told him to make whatever his favorite dish to prepare was and I'd be happy to enjoy whatever it would be. It would be part of the adventure! (I have often found that some of the most memorable adventures come as the result of being willing to try something new - take a risk if you will.)

So it went with this meal. As soon as Edgar got the culinary green light from me, his eyes visibly lit up and I could see that I had made him happy. Then he asked if I wanted some wine for the meal and I told him to pick a bottle of wine that would best compliment whatever he was going to create for dinner. His eyes opened even wider with delight now, for he realized that I totally respected his skill for his profession of hut tending and that no matter what he brought out, and no matter the price, it would be, without a doubt, the right choice for this moment in time when we found ourselves sharing time at the little alpine hutte, so remote, so high on the mountain, so special because you had to earn your way there by means of the hike and climb - rustic, beautiful, traditional, isolated ... very, very special!

The wine Edgar brought was superb! Not too dry, not too sweet - a hyper local wine which was sort of like Fendant or Pinot Grigio - light, refreshing and easy to consume. The second bottle gave evidence to the wine's allure and power to leave one wanting more. Long before the second bottle became part of the story I asked Edgar to please get himself a glass and join me for some wine consumption as he prepared the meal. This invitation brought an even bigger grin than the first two grins and Edgar joined right in. We had an animated discussion about family, music, mountains, traditions and our real home regions - mine in Sinking Spring, PA, USA - Edgar's near Lucerne, Switzerland.

We offer many toasts to this new friendship and Edgar reminds me to always look the person I'm about to toast to or with directly in their eyes when you take the first sip, and it's even better form to say their name as you look at them and then sip. This shows that you really mean what you're saying and doing! Forgetting to do this is considered rude among people in this alpine wonderland.

After the initial rounds of toasting, Edgar leaves to finish preparing the meal and I sit there smiling, thinking how amazingly perfect this unplanned day is turning out.

Soon, Edgar popped out from the kitchen with a broad grin. "Und so...David...I have prepared for you my house special...hunner brost mit fresh grapes, roasted potatoes and special white wine sauce!"

It was roasted chicken breasts served with fresh grapes and cheeses and a very pleasing white wine sauce!

The meal was devoured in moments and then Edgar disappeared back into the kitchen only to reappear a moment later with a fresh bottle of Williams Pear Brandy, most of which we consumed while sharing even more tales from the Alps. Edgar makes a point to remind me again ... *when you conduct a toast with someone, you should always look him or her right in the eye to make certain that there is sincerity in the toast. **This is really important!***

We discuss folk traditions, music and yodeling and I tell him about guitar playing and promise to write to him and send him a CD, which I do remember to do after I return to the states. (It turns out that he remembers me when I come back this time, 10 years later. He remembered the music and the little spontaneous party we enjoyed on his deck.)

All too soon it was time to go, but I left with quite a personal alpenglow from the wine, schnapps, food, newfound friendship, and mutual love of the mountains.

As I hike down the trail I hear Edgar yodeling from the hutte high above. I yodel back and he waves a giant Swiss flag out over the deck. I wave goodbye back to him and return to Zermatt.

### **Now back to this present visit ten years forward...**

We greet each other fondly and Edgar remembers me as the musician he met and cooked for, partied with, sang and yodeled with at the hutte a decade earlier! It's really a special moment and we are truly happy to see each other again. This time I also meet his gracious wife Bernadette.

We chat for a bit and have a small coca cola, and then I explain that I'm headed all the way up the Trift Valley to the Trift Hutte and then higher beyond in search of good photographic opportunities above the tree line.

We say goodbye for now and I ask what time Edgar will keep the hutte open until in the evening. Edgar replies with a smile that he will be open and ready to make me a home cooked abend essen, (evening meal), whenever I get back down the mountain to his hutte.

With this in mind, on I climb, ever closer to the Trift Glacier and the spectacular ring of high gipfels, (peaks), commanded by the nearby Unter

Gablehorn.

A few hours later at the Trift Hutte, I meet Hutte Meister "Hugo". Hugo offers me fresh hausgemacht, (homemade), ice tea and apfel strudel and everything is delicious ... a perfect mid-hike snack. Particularly delicious is the apfel strudel cake that has just come from the oven. It is prepared in a centuries-old style of shredding the apples like Rosti, a very famous traditional Swiss potato meal. Hugo explains that this is his traditional family recipe. The end product, served with fresh whipped cream, is fabulous!

All of this delicious fare came from a humble mountain hut thousands of feet above the main village far below. It was created and served fresh by the hutte keeper, whose is devoted to making all guests that hike there happy with hearty food and refreshing libations. The only way 'customers' come to the remote mountain huts are by foot in this area of Zermatt. Although I have said it before, it is profoundly worth the effort to climb to one of these huttes! Those of who ski can enjoy a similar hutte experience during the ski season because there are many hutte options miles from nowhere that can be easily skied to.

After a brief pause at the Trift hutte, I press on and climb way above the 10,000-foot line, into the final high-alpen pasture, before the cliffs, rocks and ice prohibit all but climbers with gear and mountain goats to explore further.

Here I literally walk into a field of wild Edelweiss flowers growing wild, minding their own business, surrounded by views that could have only been created by divine forces.

After spending about an hour at that altitude, taking dozens of photos and breathing in the pure, alpine air, I begin the climb back down.

As planned, I backtrack my trek up the trail and descend back to the Edelweiss hutte. Sure enough, Edgar is

ready for me and the abend essen he prepares for me includes Rosti mit Eggs, which is a dish of hearty potatoes, cheese and eggs. We share Coca Cola, local white wine, aged plum brandy, and great conversation about mountain people and mountain culture, and also engage in an interesting multi-lingual chat about the PA German culture and the Amish culture. (Edgar and Bernadette had heard 'things' about this unique culture in Pennsylvania and were eager to learn more.)

We also spoke about how they restock the hutte. (They get most of their deliveries by helicopter!) Many times during the conversation

Bernadette says the word 'genau' in response to this or that. I learned that 'genau' means something like 'that's true.'

I suggest that they should come and visit me in Reading next October so they could enjoy a wonderful Pennsylvania version of the world-famous Oktoberfest in Munich, Germany. Our own Reading Liederkrantz Oktoberfest and Berks County heritage fest are worthy of a visit from any tourist interested in celebrating life with friends old and new

Before I leave, Edgar points to the setting sun bouncing its last rays of the day off of the summit of the Breithorn peak. We have a perfect view from the Edelweiss Hutte. Simultaneously Edgar and I speak the word, "Alpenglow!" (The last spectacular rays of light bouncing off of the peaks for another day. The colors come are yellow, purple, red orange, pink and many shades in between.)

Then Edgar turns to me and says, "The Breithorn is my favorite!" His big, satisfied grin reminds me of how I felt after successfully climbing and summiting the Breithorn with Zermatt guide, (bergfuhrer), Roman Imboden.

Breithorn is a noble and scenic peak adorned with a top cap of fresh white snow and a cape of glacial ice and rock on all but one flank - that one being the normal route approach which takes you over the plateau glacier from the nearby Klein Matterhorn peak.

As I say farewell to Edgar and Bernadette, they give me two bottles of

Champagne, (proseco, to celebrate our reunion and I say goodbye - yodeling, laughing, and singing as I disappear down the trail into the woods during the final one hour

descent back to Zermatt, much as I did the last time I visited 10 years ago. I promise to send them a new Mountain Folk CD and did so upon returning home and settling back in.

Edgar says that next season will be his last as the hutte master. He will then retire and enjoy other things...maybe traveling to visit me, which I heartily encourage.

Beautiful people like Edgar and Bernadette make special memories and also make everyone's life the better for living. Und so gaeds evva! (So it goes!)

So ends another special day of life in the alps, sharing time with special people!

Hiked 8.90 miles today.

### **September 14, 2011**

Bought the Gornergrat Train and all area lift passes and took the train to the top of the Gornergrat where there are magnificent views of the surrounding peaks.

Using binoculars I watched a climbing party of three during their final push to reach the summit of Pollux, one of the twin peaks - the other being Castor, like the constellation Gemini, the twins.

We also observed the foot tracks in the snow on the normal route to the summit of the Dufourspitze on Monte Rosa. The Monte Rosa is the highest peak in Switzerland and sits right on the border of Switzerland and Italy.

Blue sky and fluffy white clouds above, sun reflecting off of the snow and high peaks and glaciers on the mountains, and waterfalls and glacial runoff snaking into the valley thousands of feet below...this is truly a spectacular landscape!

Using the Gornergrat train, I descend and get off at every stop along the way down - Rotenboden, Riffelberg, Riffelalp...I stop to admire the Riffelberg Peak that I climbed years ago. At the base of the mountain is the Riffelsee, a lovely high-alp lake.

Further down the mountain I get off at Findelnbach and then hike the remaining 30 minutes or so into the town of Winklematten and then on to Zermatt where I stop for a nice glass of Fendant white wine and a delicious evening meal at the Restaurant Klein Matterhorn on Schluhmatt Str. 50, near the bottom of the lift station. I eagerly

consume a wonderful pasta dish with asparagus and prawns in a red sauce. With this main course also comes a hearty bowl of Minestrone soup and a trip to the mixed salad, (salat), bar. This is a great restaurant!

Hiked 6.19 miles today.

### **September 15, 2011**

Today after another filling breakfast in the dining area of my hotel of choice for this adventure, Le Couers des Alpes Hotel, (which offers a terrific view of the Matterhorn from the dining room), I use the lifts to ascend first to the Schwarzee zone on the Matterhorn shoulder below the region of the Hornli Hutte, which is the traditional starting point for most

Matterhorn summit attempts on the 'normal' route.

All four of my children have skied this entire region with me through the years. Very memorable is the area called the Aeroleid zone - an unmarked, ungroomed ski run almost directly down the fall line from Schwarzee to Blatten far below.

At Schwarzee there is a wonderful chapel that is called Maria zum Schnee - Mary of the Snow, or Our Lady of the Snow Chapel. This chapel was built on the spot where several climbers got caught in a blinding, whiteout snowstorm high up on the mountain. Fearing they would perish in the storm from exposure or by walking off of a precipice, they dropped to their knees in the snow and prayed to the Blessed Mother Mary for help. They promised Mary that if she could help them to escape a terrible fate; they would return promptly and build a chapel in her honor on that spot.

Shortly after their sincere prayer, the clouds parted, the sun shined brightly and some even say a vision of the Blessed Mother appeared to them.

They did return soon thereafter and built a humble yet robust shrine and chapel on the promised spot and it is now visited by thousands of people every year. To some visitors the chapel is just a curiosity seemingly in the middle of nowhere high up on the mountain. To others, and especially those who believe in the power of saving grace, the chapel and even the stones and things around it in the zone have helpful and healing powers. There is a special 'piece' of this

chapel in my heart and home. Years ago, while visiting the area with one of the ski groups I was guiding, I noticed that the roof was being repaired and some of the older slate roof pieces were broken up and waiting to be discarded. I saved one small piece of the shrine in my backpack and to this day it resides in my music room at home. It has been used many times for special times of need. Having it in hand while praying or meditating can be especially comforting.

On this day of the 2011 Zermatt trip, I visit the chapel and enter and say my own kind of special thanks for the blessing of the beauty of the mountains, and for health good enough to continue to venture forth in them.

After this I travel by lift to the highest lift served point in the region, the Klein Matterhorn, (the Little Matterhorn), which has been the start of many fabulous ski treks through the years. From here you can ski or trek to Italy or back to Zermatt in Switzerland.

Ten years ago while here, I climbed the Breithorn Peak which resides just aside of the Klein Matterhorn. Today, mostly due to the blisters I earned on my long treks earlier in the week, I am content to watch others as they summit the Breithorn.

I strike up a conversation with as fellow named Arne Aasland, from Norway. It is a good, long chat - a chat shared by people who love the mountains. This was his first climb to the summit of the Breithorn and it was a gorgeous day. He tells us that he climbed with his brother but his brother decided to take a nap on the mountain glacier before coming down.

We continue talking and maybe a half hour later Arne's brother arrives and we all share a laugh and more tales of the mountains. Not going unnoticed off in the other direction is the massif of Europe's highest peak, the Mont Blanc, in France. It is a truly moving sight. The brothers are in the car parts business and they import and sell parts for Volkswagens as well as equipment manufactured by a company called Skoda. We also discuss the world and local economies. Their economy in Norway is hurting just like ours is here in the USA. The sentiment is that work can really be difficult, but getting to the mountains makes it all worthwhile!

The brothers also share a love for bicycling and cross-country skiing and they invite me to come and visit them

whenever I can in their home that is near Oslo, Norway. I sure would like to make that visit!

In the late afternoon I arrive back in the valley and have a beer at the

Alpenrose Hotel deck, which is right across the street from my hotel.

Traditionally, I buy anyone who is skiing with me from Findeln high above to this part of the Zermatt valley a beer at this place when we arrive. Today

I indulge in a refreshing hefe Weissbier...half a liter...unfiltered wheat beer with a slice of fresh lemon...fabulous!

The day winds down as I return to one of my favorite Italian restaurants in town, Ristorante Molino Seilerhaus, where I enjoy terrific prawns and fresh cheese over risotto.

Hiked 4.29 miles today.

### **September 16, 2011**

Today I sleep in and then eat breakfast and talk with the owner of the hotel and 'Damaris' our hostess. I use the hotel's spotting scope to observe climbers reaching the summit of the Matterhorn!

Damaris tells me that her assistant's brother has, (just a few months ago); set a new record for speed climbing the Matterhorn from the village to the summit. Later this night I speak with the young man's sister who works at the hotel and she tells us the amazing story.

Andreas Steinl is his name and he began his speed climb at the south end of the Zermatt village where the busses drop off skiers and sightseers. Andreas had previously stashed climbing gear at the Hornli hutte on the Hornli Ridge that is on the route to the summit. He began his run from Zermatt and ran right up the fall-line to Schwarzee in the most direct, yet steepest route. Once atop Schwarzee he ran up the mountain path, (very steep), to the Hornli Ridge and on to the Hornli Hutte where he changed from running gear to climbing gear, and then ascended the Matterhorn to the summit.

His total time from village to summit was just 2 hours and 50 minutes! It is an amazing time because just the ascent from the Hornli hutte to the Matterhorn summit

generally takes 4 hours from hutte to summit. This is just one more wondrous fact about a story-book-like place.

I finish breakfast and head out on the lower road toward the opposite end of town to catch the Sunnegga lift. On the way I see two guys in climbing gear and one of them is limping. I call out and ask if he has blisters like I do and he replies that he has twisted his ankle yesterday while descending the Matterhorn! Naturally, this leads to a discussion with the guys. Their names are Rolf, 51, from Lucerne, and Felix, 48, from Zurich. Their guide was Benedict Perren. Felix has an apartment in Zermatt and he takes me to it and shows me the entire interior that is great. He rents it out and invites me to get in touch with him the next time I plan a personal visit. His flat can handle six people nicely with full amenities and an unusual rotating fireplace. The flat is called Platzmuhle, Casa Kuhn, [www.platzmuehle.ch](http://www.platzmuehle.ch), [www.casakuh.ch](http://www.casakuh.ch). Actually one of his businesses is Platzmuhle, the flat is named after Felix-Casa Kuhn.

Rolf was the one who injured his ankle on the way down and as it typical of such injuries. This sort of accident in climbing, skiing and hiking usually happens when the participant's guard is down after achieving whatever the goal for the day was. Both guys are really great and it's fun to talk with them. I make a recording of a part of our conversation for the Mountain Folk radio & web show and we part company all the better for the experience.

I use the Sunnegga lift to go all the way to the Rothorn that is the highest station in this area of the lift system. I have skied from here many times and 10 years ago I hiked from this point to the base of the Ober Rothorn and climbed from there to the summit of the Ober Rothorn.

Today I enjoy the views and then head back down stopping at the lift station that serves the Findeln area. Here I meet and interview a young man who has just started Switzerland's first official fly-fishing tourism company. His name is Kirk Tingham and he is from England. He shares his great rags to riches story about coming to Zermatt and working many odd jobs while taking friends to a high mountain lake with a view of the Matterhorn near the famous Fluhalp Hotel. Here the lake holds trout and the hotel serves them fresh - the famous Swiss Alpine Blue Trout recipe. He plans on building this company into a

network of fishing guides throughout Switzerland. I wish him well and offer him to come and enjoy some Berks County trout stream fishing sometime. It was another very interesting conversation and I learned yet another individual story about a fantastic person in this magical place. Before we part company Kirk share his website with me so I can share it with you: [www.flyfishzermatt.com](http://www.flyfishzermatt.com)

Once in Findeln I settle in at the deck of the Findlerhof. For anyone reading this journal entry, I need to explain that the weather has been super sunshine and warmth the entire time I've been here during the day. One evening while dining at my favorite downtown Italian restaurant, there was an awesome thunder and lightning storm over the high peaks of the Matterhorn, Breithorn range and it was actually really neat and sort of soothing to experience as I sat there and enjoyed Pinot Grigio and a vegetarian pasta creation.

At the Findlerhof I order a plate of the special high alpine cheese which is specially made from the milk of cows that graze only in high alpine pastures where a myriad of wild herbs grow. The alpine hutte cheeses are aged and wow...fantastic flavor!!!

After this treat I hike all the way back to Winkelmaten and then on to Zermatt.

I change clothes and go to the Schweitzerhof and enjoy a traditional meal while a local button box band performs live. It is a good time to let out a yodel, so I do. It's not at all out of place here. People smile, chant back and raise their foaming beer steins in the air to celebrate.

After this I walk back to the hotel and enjoy the wellness center and tea before retiring for the day.

9.16 miles of hiking today.

**September 17, 2011**

Snow is in the forecast today, which brings to a close an absolutely marvelous 8 days of perfect weather in the mountains.

I use the lift and go back and visit the Schwarzee area and then go on to re-visit the Klein Matterhorn peak and take the side trip down into the glacial cave known as the Glacier Paradise. It is a cave deep within the glacier near

the summit of the Klein Matterhorn. They've made it interesting and fun by adding various ice sculptures, an ice sliding board through the cave with music and more.

I descend and hike the Zermatt Valley to the Gornergrat train where I get on and visit the Riffelalp zone. Here I take the little Riffelalp train to the new Riffelalp restaurant and enjoy a weiss bier, a Williams Raspberry Schnapps, and a portion of fresh raclette with the traditional side fixings of potatoes, pickles and tiny pearl onions.

After this I hike the little Riffelalp trail to the Gornergrat train depot and go on up to the Gornergrat Hotel and just rest for an hour or so. There is a mountain chapel near the train station at the top of the Gornergrat. I go in and offer thanks and light a votive candle for all of my family, friends, colleagues and the departed, and ask for peace for those I love and for those who love me.

While up at the Klein Matterhorn it began snowing and it was raining in the valley. So, on this trip I got to experience everything from fabulous warm weather to this last day with the first natural snowfall of the summer here high up in the Alps.

The cloudy weather persisted throughout the day, which made it easy to just do short walks here and there from place to place with no specific agenda.

I return to the Zermatt valley in the evening and enjoy a wonderful Italian red wine called 'Primitivo' ... I asked the waiter to suggest a wine and he told me to, "Try *this* one." He claimed it was the best of all the house wines from Italy or Switzerland and he was right! I thanked him for making an exceptional choice! I also enjoyed a hearth-baked pizza with toppings that included fresh mushrooms, artichokes and olives.

After dinner I walk the remaining length of the road back to my hotel, including 'the little hill' which is a small rise on the main street that did not seem to get easier in either direction as the week went on.

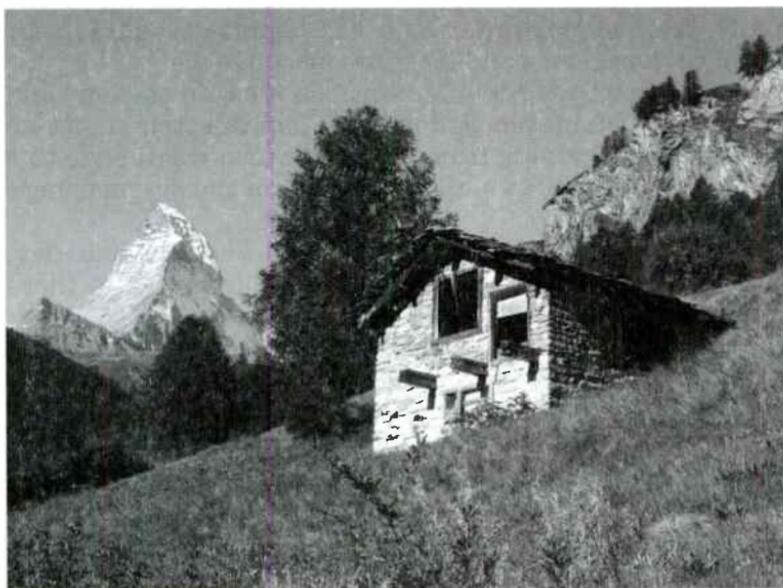
'Damaris' was in the hotel and ready to help me check out and I do so but have a nice chat with her about her village of Zermatt. She grew up here and wants me to come back and say hello if I ever get back in town on business or pleasure, or perhaps both with a ski group.

## 2013 • WEEU JOURNAL • 2013

It is a happy ending to a memorable week and I feel lucky to have been able to share this much quality time with so many interesting people.

I have brought and guided many groups to ski here the years and have now been here twice during the off-skiing season, (including this time), to hike, trek, climb, ride and enjoy the culture.

I hike 4.66 miles today and vow to come back soon during the ski season. Perhaps a future entry in my mountain journal will reflect the accomplishment of this desire. Be sure to pursue your own personal dreams and desires because if you don't do it now, you'll only be one year older when you do, so why wait? May the spirit of the mountains be with you in all of your adventures.



*Small huttes like this one dot the high-alp pastures around Zermatt and yes, that's the Matterhorn in the background!*



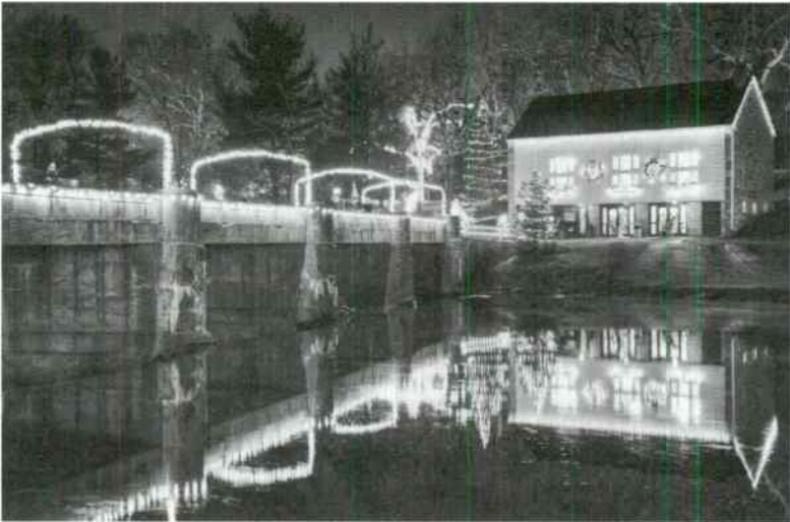
*A traditional mountain hutte meal of Rosti potatoes, cheese and eggs, with a wild Edelweiss floral centerpiece.*



*A wanderweg path at about 8,000 feet above sea level.*



Listen to East Side Dave every Sunday morning  
at 9 a.m. on “Mountain Folk” on WEEU!



## **GRING'S MILL CHRISTMAS LIGHTS TO SHINE FOR 25<sup>th</sup> YEAR IN 2012**

Well before thousands of twinkle lights illuminate Gring's Mill Park, long before the chill of December sets in and even before holiday decorations make their first appearances on store shelves, three dedicated Berks County Parks & Recreation Department employees have their sights firmly set on the holiday season.

In 2012, The Berks County Parks & Recreation Department will mark a milestone and celebrate the 25<sup>th</sup> year of Holiday Lights at Gring's Mill. The theme, "Silver Bells Ringing in 25 Years," will be carried out with more than 40,000 lights throughout the park.

Each strand of lights will be carefully strung, wrapped, shaped and draped by Mike Kochel, Keith Beck and Brenda Gallagher. While the three members of the Parks Maintenance Staff are masters of illumination in their own right, they humbly manage to avoid the spotlight and are quick to give credit to all who chip in to decorate.

"Everybody helps out," said Kochel of his co-workers in the Parks & Recreation Department.

Kochel has been at the helm of Holiday Lights for the past 15 years. He carries with him a pile of neatly organized papers

documenting every light, timer and amp of power used in the well thought-out display. “Since last year, we’ve been thinking about what we could do this year,” Gallagher explained. “It’s a never ending process.”

“We weren’t even done with last year’s display and we were brainstorming about this year,” Kochel added. In September, ideas start to transform into reality.

Kochel creates a calendar with specific goals and tasks filling each day until December. Unexpected weather conditions may cause a delay, but the experienced crew adjusts by whatever means necessary to make sure Mother Nature doesn’t derail their December 1<sup>st</sup> deadline.

The park’s persistent residents offer additional challenges. “Squirrels chew through the wires. They are not our friends,” laughed Gallagher. A detailed grid maps out each electrical connection.

Bucket trucks and ladders provide the needed lift to top trees. Beck is behind one of the display’s most recognizable features. He meticulously wraps 8,000 blue lights around the large tree in the center of the park, a job that can take up to four days.

The entire display is controlled by eight timers, each of which the crew sets with precision to make sure all 40,000 lights turn on as simultaneously as possible. By the time families are carving their Thanksgiving turkey, the team is readying for their first run through. “My goal is always by Thanksgiving to turn the lights on and check everything,” Kochel said. Still, with so many lights...and those stubborn squirrels...the team works right up until the gates open on December 1<sup>st</sup>.

“Five minutes before we opened last year, I was climbing the pine tree at the entrance of the park, but we got it lit,” Gallagher recalled triumphantly. When the first cars pull into the Gring’s Mill parking lot on opening night, Kochel, Beck and Gallagher describe the feeling as one of relief. They typically spend the evening chatting with visitors. “Last year, I talked to a guy from Lebanon who comes every year for opening night,” said Gallagher.

“And that’s neat to know,” Kochel chimed in.

If you think that after all those months of decorating, Kochel, Beck and Gallagher are simply mingling with guests at Gring’s Mill, think again. And don’t be surprised if something you suggest shows up in lights next year. “I love walking and hearing what people have to say,” said Kochel. “I think the feedback is great and if you have ideas, let us know.”

**PLEASE NOTE:** The previous story was written in 2012, and was timed with the release of the *WEEU JOURNAL*. See the parks department’s ad on page 84 of this edition for the 2013 Holiday Lights dates.

# *When you wish...*



*By Mike Keller*

The Keller family is currently getting ready for a trip to sunny Orlando, Florida for a visit to Walt Disney World. There'll be seven of us, my dad and mom, my sister and her husband, myself, my wife and our three-year-old daughter. My father's been talking about taking the family to Disney for the last year or so, and he finally decided to pull the trigger.

Our first stop was, of course, with the great people over at Boscov's Travel who could not have made the whole process easier. After that our only concern was what to tell my little girl.

As is the case with most kids her age she absolutely loves all of the Disney characters, but as is also the case

with kids her age she lacks patience and a sense of time. Even when we tell her something as simple as we're going to see her cousin next week, all we hear everyday for the next week is... "We go see Grace today?" Which meant, letting her know that we're going to Walt Disney World to see Mickey, Minnie and most importantly all of the Princesses isn't really an option. It would have made for a LONG three months.

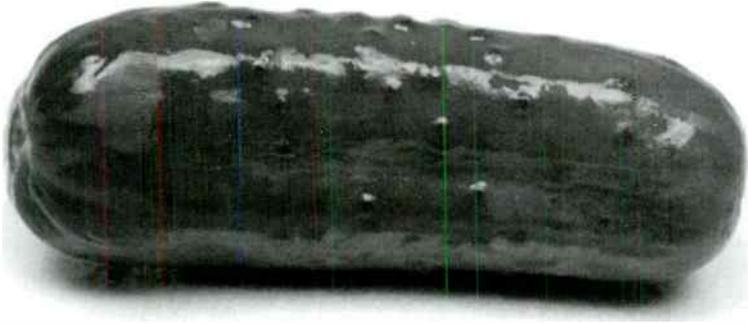
So, we decided to go the "we're going to surprise our kid on the morning of" route. Not really because we want to have that magical moment when we wake her up on the morning of our departure, but more because we just don't want to hear it everyday.

I also have these expectations on what her reaction will be when we tell her we're going and when she sees the castle for the first time. As many of you know, the castle is one of the first images you see when popping in a Disney DVD, and she has seen her (and a few other kids) fair share of Disney flicks. And with the start of every movie she screams with joy, "Mommy, Daddy, the castle!" That, mixed with her plethora of Disney stuffed animals, books, games, music and much more has made me set the bar pretty high in terms of reaction. Unfortunately, short of her head exploding, I feel like I may be setting myself up for a bit of a let down.

But no matter what happens, it's going to be a fantastic vacation and an absolute blast to see her have the time of her life in the Happiest Place on Earth and to share that experience with my entire family. And even if my daughter is too young to remember it, the rest of us will have plenty of memories (and pictures) to help jog her memory when she's older, and we'll owe it all to my folks.

Thanks dad and mom.





## THE IMPACT OF

# #^&#%PICKLES #%^&#\*

*By Jo Painter, WEEU Program Director, Manager, and  
keeper of soap used to wash out employees' mouths*

### LANGUAGE!!!!

How many parents have shared that reminder with teen-agers...or spouses....or co-workers....or friends when an expletive thunders out of their mouths? What?.... Everybody says it!

Cursing used to be saved for very specific situations to underscore anger or disbelief. There was a time you only heard 'foul language' coming from the garage or yard when some maintenance job wasn't going quite right. Such language was saved for places like locker rooms, gyms or barrooms. Places removed from civilized society.

Those days are long gone. Today 's', 'f', and 'a' words (uh...snow, frost, avalanche) seep into conversations everywhere slipping out of mouths just as easily as ice

cream. People even pay good money to buy a t-shirt emblazoned with curse words and then wear it proudly everywhere! It's also quite common to come across the words in print. Using the first and last letter and symbols in between usually gets the word across. On social media sites it is common to see the whole word in caps just for emphasis. You know it is just as offensive to the eye as it is to the ear. Curse words have become such a regular part of our vocabulary they are used for both negative and positive emphasis. Sadly curse words have become habitual language.

Come to think of it, all language is habitual. Substitution is a great way to prevent an unsavory slip of the tongue. In fact, since the use of swear words have become commonplace, substitution for swear words has even more impact and certainly grabs the attention of those within 'hearing' distance.

Take 'pickles' for example, that's my favorite word. In order not to accidentally swear I started saying PICKLES when I was angry or frustrated. Pickles became part of my habitual vocabulary when my children were young. It was kind of humorous to see their wide-eyed expressions when PICKLES was exclaimed. Saying Pickles, it turns out, actually has more impact than a swear word because it is not common and therefore gets attention.

My using Pickles instead of an expletive has gotten so much attention that it has even garnered gifts. Over the years I have received Pickle Pins, Pickle Christmas Ornaments and Pickle Cards. I recently even found pickle Band-Aids. I thought they were very appropriate since using the word patches up foul language.

Saying Pickles when you are angry or frustrated also diffuses the emotion instead of re-enforcing it. Try it, you'll see, I'm not gherkin you around.





## This is Birdland

*By Sean Frey*

I love birds. They're fun to watch flying to and from trees, singing from atop a nearby telephone line or searching for earthworms in the yard.

I also enjoy watching them on the baseball diamond. Every week (almost), I give a list of bird-related baseball teams to Jack Holcomb for the "Birds in Baseball" segment on "Jack's Backyard". As a fan of the Baltimore Orioles, 2012 was a particularly lovely year for Birdwatching.

But I'm getting off topic, because this isn't a story about Baltimore Orioles or the Baltimore Orioles. I enjoy watching both, but what I enjoy most is where the baseball Birds call home.

I've never been to Baltimore during football season, but in the spring and summer, there's no doubt when you are driving near the baseball stadium. The city wants to care about baseball. It wants its residents to care about baseball. And so, after a short drive on Maryland Route 2, suddenly the flags on the light posts turn distinctly orange. Over rooftops you can begin to see a light standard or two. A few more turns, and may-

be you'll get a glimpse of the old Baltimore and Ohio Railroad warehouse.

Before you know it, there it is: Oriole Park at Camden Yards, a majestic brick-and-steel building, with the warehouse towering over right field and M&T Bank Stadium standing watch just across the parking lot.

I'm sure there are better places to watch a baseball game—I've never been to Yankee Stadium, to Wrigley Field or to Fenway Park. I have taken in the ballparks in Pittsburgh and Philadelphia, and really enjoyed the atmosphere. Both are retro-styled ballparks, have a distinct old-timey feel to them and don't have a bad seat in the house. And as far as electricity, you can't beat the passion of the fans in Philadelphia, living and dying on every pitch.

Camden Yards lacks a little of that excitement—



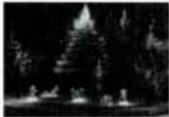
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*Ring in 25 years of Holiday Lights*

until 2012, the team had been lousy for a good 15 years—but it's easy to forget that the retro fad for ballparks started in downtown Baltimore.

The throwback vibe starts as soon as you walk up to the gate. The B&O Warehouse is old and weathered—and the ballpark's most iconic feature. It towers to your right as you stand in line waiting to enter. The concourse features plenty of modern amenities, but plenty of exposed steel, pennants styled to look antique, and a "Home of the Baltimore Orioles" sign painted to resemble something that might have been at the ballpark in the late 50's.

When you walk out into the seating area, again the warehouse steals your gaze, the kind of sight that you can go back to again and again and simply enjoy. Atop the scoreboard is an old-fashioned analog clock, with

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“Orioles” in dated lettering above it. On each corner is a weather vane, bird-shaped and painted black and orange.

Throughout the ballpark, you can find any of the Oriole Bird logos the club has used over the years—in fact, there’s a sign inside the stadium with each one’s name and the years it was used. Reminders of Cal Ripken, Jim Palmer and Brooks Robinson? They’re all there, too.

It’s not all old, of course. There’s plenty to remind you that you’re still in the 21st century, like photo booths, expensive drinks, and tables to sign up for credit cards/giveaways/insert contest here. And lest you forget that you’re not far from the Chesapeake Bay, the concourses sell crab cakes, and the classic “find the ball” scoreboard game is called the “Crab Shuffle”. The cartoon crustaceans are sprinkled with Old Bay, too.

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Behind the right field scoreboard is the flag plaza, where flagpoles carry pennants, arranged to reflect the division standings that day. On Eutaw Street, the alley between the ballpark proper and the warehouse, plaques dot the sidewalk where home run balls have left the spectator area.

If there's one sad part, so I'm told, is that you used to be able to see the Baltimore skyline over the bullpen in left-center field. I never saw it—a hotel covered it up before I ever got the chance to enjoy it.

All in all though, there simply isn't a bad seat in the house. And while it lacks the intimacy of a minor league park, the history of a Fenway or the winning tradition of Citizens Bank Park—it sure is nice, anyway.

I regret never seeing Old Yankee Stadium before it faced the wrecking ball, and as a result, I have vowed to see every Major League stadium in my lifetime. Who knows if I'll succeed—they seem to build a new one of these every couple of years, I might not be able to keep up! But I'm glad I checked this one off my list, and I'm excitedly waiting for the chance to go back to Birdland.



<b>2013</b>	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	<b>2013</b>	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>JAN.</b>			1	2	3	4	5	<b>JULY</b>	1	2	3	4	5	6	
	6	7	8	9	10	11	12		7	8	9	10	11	12	13
	13	14	15	16	17	18	19		14	15	16	17	18	19	20
	20	21	22	23	24	25	26		21	22	23	24	25	26	27
	27	28	29	30	31				28	29	30	31			
<b>FEB.</b>						1	2	<b>AUG.</b>	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
	3	4	5	6	7	8	9		11	12	13	14	15	16	17
	10	11	12	13	14	15	16		18	19	20	21	22	23	24
	17	18	19	20	21	22	23		25	26	27	28	29	30	31
	24	25	26	27	28										
<b>MAR.</b>					1	2		<b>SEPT.</b>	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	3	4	5	6	7	8	9		8	9	10	11	12	13	14
	10	11	12	13	14	15	16		15	16	17	18	19	20	21
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	24	25	26	27	28	29	30		29	30					
	31														
<b>APR.</b>		1	2	3	4	5	6	<b>OCT.</b>	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
	7	8	9	10	11	12	13		13	14	15	16	17	18	19
	14	15	16	17	18	19	20		20	21	22	23	24	25	26
	21	22	23	24	25	26	27		27	28	29	30	31		
	28	29	30												
<b>MAY</b>	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	<b>NOV.</b>	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
	12	13	14	15	16	17	18		10	11	12	13	14	15	16
	19	20	21	22	23	24	25		17	18	19	20	21	22	23
	26	27	28	29	30	31			24	25	26	27	28	29	30
<b>JUNE</b>	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	<b>DEC.</b>	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	9	10	11	12	13	14	15		8	9	10	11	12	13	14
	16	17	18	19	20	21	22		15	16	17	18	19	20	21
	23	24	25	26	27	28	29		22	23	24	25	26	27	28
	30								29	30	31				

<b>2014</b>	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	<b>2014</b>	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>JAN.</b>				1	2	3	4	<b>JULY</b>			1	2	3	4	5
	5	6	7	8	9	10	11		6	7	8	9	10	11	12
	12	13	14	15	16	17	18		13	14	15	16	17	18	19
	19	20	21	22	23	24	25		20	21	22	23	24	25	26
	26	27	28	29	30	31			27	28	29	30	31		
<b>FEB.</b>							1	<b>AUG.</b>	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
	2	3	4	5	6	7	8		10	11	12	13	14	15	16
	9	10	11	12	13	14	15		17	18	19	20	21	22	23
	16	17	18	19	20	21	22		24	25	26	27	28	29	30
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<b>MAR.</b>							1	<b>SEPT.</b>	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
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	30	31													
<b>APR.</b>			1	2	3	4	5	<b>OCT.</b>	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
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<b>MAY</b>	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	<b>NOV.</b>	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
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<b>JUNE</b>	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	<b>DEC.</b>	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
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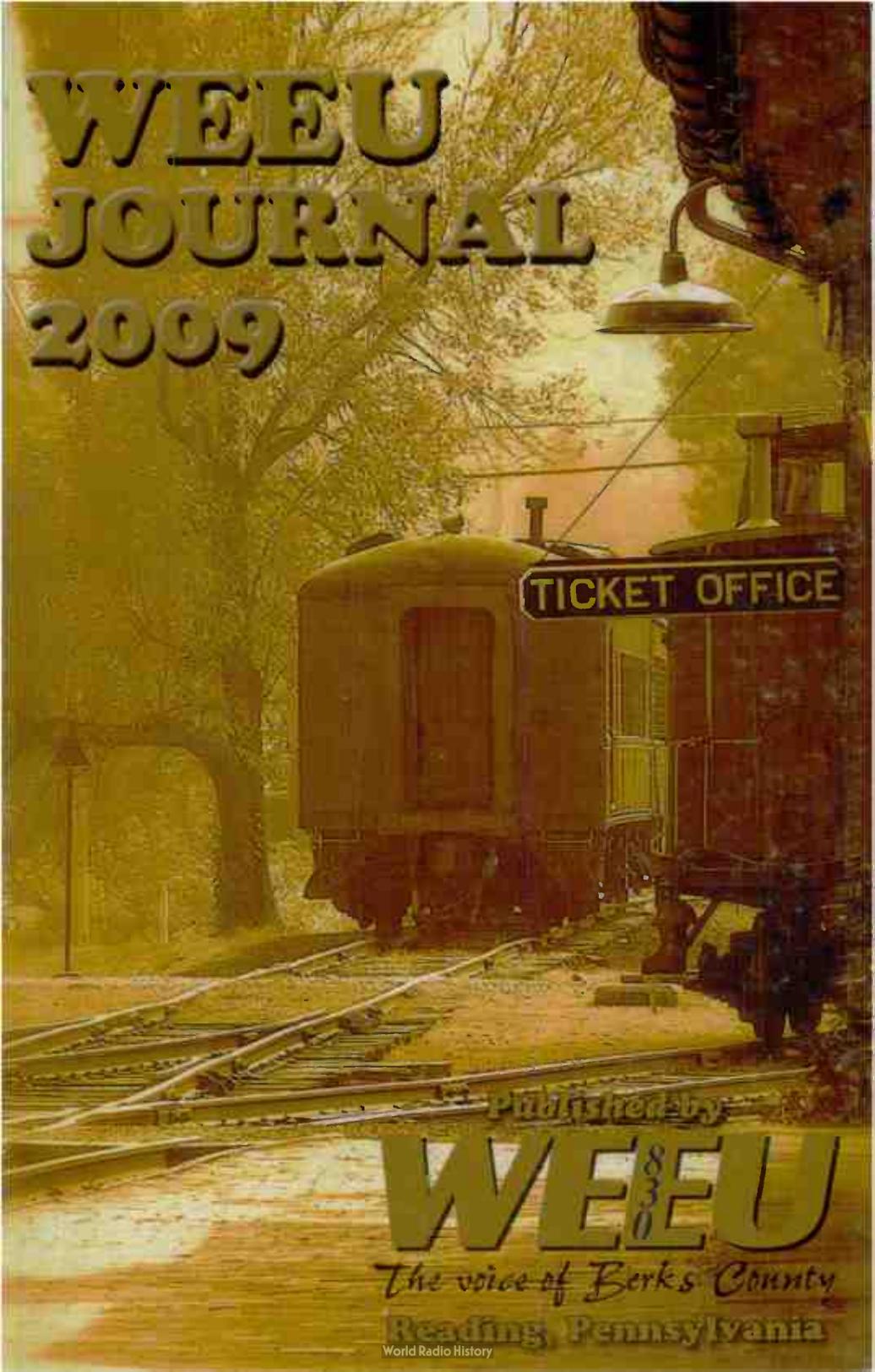
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## **PRE-PAGODA HISTORY INCLUDES PROPOSAL FOR HOTEL ON SAME SITE, TO BE BUILT BY SAME BUILDER**

*by Charles J. Adams III*

The Pagoda atop Mount Penn celebrated its 100th anniversary in 2008. But, the idea of building a hotel on that very site dates back several years before that. And, it was the idea of the same man who built the Pagoda!

Let us turn the pages of time back to the pages of the *Reading Eagle* when it was announced that a hotel would be built there, by the Witman brothers, on the site of a hideous and controversial quarry that was once carved into this very corner of Mount Penn.

This hotel would be built entirely of sandstone from that quarry. It would stretch 100 feet across the front of the ridge and extend 50 feet back. Tall observation towers would rise on each side of the two-story structure, with a mansard roof between them.

This does not sound like our pagoda!

But it was the proposal of William Witman-and his brothers John and Harry.

They said their hotel would-*quote*-be conducted on temperance principles with the special object in view of inviting the custom of people who leave home in the summertime to spend a few weeks at some resort-*end quote*.

This *certainly* does not sound like the popular history of our pagoda.

In that front page *Eagle* article, the Witmans also announced that their hotel could be open for business by springtime.

That would have been the springtime.... of 1890!

Yes, the idea-the Witmans' idea-for a hotel here, on this site, can be traced nearly 20 years before this pagoda opened.

Indeed, visionaries in the Victorian age here put forth many proposals for the mountain. An 1891 plan mapped out a virtually self-contained village on this mountain. It would have been a gated, private compound of homes, a restaurant, lounge, library, and other amenities including a ten-pin

bowling alley.

In fact, the Witmans' 1889 proposal intimated that their hotel would be just the start of a community atop the mountain, spurred by the Mount Penn Gravity Railroad, which was under construction at the time.

Interestingly, in a report in late summer of 1908, the year the Pagoda opened, "Billy" Witman admitted that he had no real plans for the building. He indicated that he would furnish the rooms with authentic Japanese items, employ a Japanese chef in the dining room, probably conduct it as a Japanese tea and coffee house and possibly introduce "rickshaw" service from the heart of the city to the heights of the hill.

Some folks may not know that in 1916, the Pagoda was proposed as a so-called "Open Air School" for children with tuberculosis. "The location of the Pagoda is all that could be desired," said a Reading school official. "It is at an altitude free from the dust, dirt, and smoke of the city. The building is built along such lines that it could easily be transformed into a model open-air school, with plenty of ventilation and fresh air for the children."

That idea proved to be impractical.

Even more impractical-much more impractical-was the scheme that would make the Pagoda a sort of terminal for "flying machines" that would take off and land on the crest of the mountain.



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# **WHAT DO THE SPRING STREET SUBWAY, MINOR LEAGUE BASEBALL, AND THE PAGODA HAVE IN COMMON? —A MAN NAMED WITMAN**

*by WEEU morning guy Charles J. Adams III*

**Reading's landmark Pagoda is visible from several vantage points at FirstEnergy Stadium, home of the Reading Phillies minor league baseball team.**

**The Phillies hosted several major events of the 100th anniversary celebration of the Pagoda in 2008. And, it was altogether fitting that the ball club was an integral part of the observance as minor league baseball and the Pagoda are inextricably intertwined.**

Intertwined may not be the best choice of wording. "Tangled" might be more appropriate.

And, the one man who caused that twisted, sometimes knotted parallel history of two of Reading icons is one William Abbott Witman, Sr.

One of the most colorful, controversial, quirky, and ultimately productive men in the city's history, Witman not only brought minor league baseball to Reading but made an honest effort...well, an effort...to bring *major league* ball to the city.

"Witty," as some called him, was born in 1860. Early in life, he followed in his father's footsteps as a mechanic. In 1886, he and brother Jonathan opened a coal yard, and at about the same time he began to dabble in construction, politics and baseball.

He made his mark in each of those endeavors. His entry into baseball promotion came in the late 1880s when he organized a Pennsylvania State League team in Reading. As professional and even semi-pro ball was itself in its infancy, the team and league struggled.

By 1895, however, a maturing Witman combined his entrepreneurial and building skills when he built what was commonly called "Witman's Ball-Park" at the location of the present 11th and Pike Sts. Playground. Its wooden grandstand seated more than 1,200, and its field was used by baseball and football teams as well as other special activities and events.

Witman's State League team started the 1895 season in that new ballpark but with old problems. By early July, Witman surprised the local press and baseball insiders when he sold the team to Penn

Street cigar merchant Ben Zerr. Witman agreed to rent his ballpark to Zerr for one dollar, as long as Witman kept the proceeds from the gate. Despite this questionable arrangement, Zerr said he had big plans for the franchise. The plans fizzled fast.

*July 9, 1895, Ben Zerr to his players: "I intend to treat you as gentlemen, and expect the same in return."*

*July 10, 1895, Ben Zerr to the Reading Eagle: "I have thrown up the Reading team in disgust. When I found out how the men were acting toward me for what Witman owed them, that settled me. I had enough." With that, Ben retreated to his stogie store.*

As it turned out, the players had not been paid by Witman, and they vented their anguish by calling a strike the moment they heard that Zerr had taken over.

On July 11, Witman sparred with league officials, charging them as villains in the failure of the Reading team. "They can't say Witman was the troublemaker this time," he said. "He can no longer be called a disrupter, disorganizer, and other bad names." He added that while Zerr was entrusted to run the State League team, he would organize another team in the Inter-State League, or whatever other league might be looking for a team. If there was no league out there, he might even start his own.

But, two days later, Zerr and Witman met in

the cigar store and Zerr bought the team back for \$836.84. Witman gave up rights to the ticket proceeds and Zerr promised to pay the players. All was well. Baseball was back after five days of havoc.

After three more weeks of more havoc, Witman, Zerr, the players, and the league had another falling-out and on July 31, the team was disbanded for good.

The next spring brought more intrigue. Witman convinced retired Philadelphia baseball player Jack Milligan to mount a team in Reading. All hoped that the United Traction Co. would support the franchise. It was further hoped by Milligan that the trolley company would help build a new park in a vacant lot at 19th and Cotton Streets, as he and Witman could not come to terms on the rental of Witman's Ball-Park.

Baseball fans eagerly followed the progress-or lack of it-in the placement of a Reading team in the State League. But, the effort was derailed in mid-March, 1896, when the trolley company, in a statement by director Richmond L. Jones, "did not consider it as expedient for the company to become interested in that (baseball) business."

Enter William Abbott Witman: On April 9, 1896, he pledged to rescue the team from Milligan and bring baseball back to Reading. He faced one challenge, however. In November, 1895, the grandstand of his Ball-Park was destroyed by fire.

He said he would rebuild it if he was granted the State League franchise.

But, as Witman's grandstand went up smokin', the Reading team went to Shamokin. Jack Milligan found an amicable partner in that town and, on April 10, 1896, headed north.

But, Witman came out smelling like a rose when three weeks later he was granted a franchise by the Central Pennsylvania League. While it was a lesser loop than the State League, it kept baseball in Reading and fans in the seats of Witman's repaired grandstand.

*May 10, 1896: About 700 spectators attend Reading's Central Pennsylvania League opening game.*

*May 11, 1896: Reading's Central Pennsylvania League team disbands.*

A Reading sportswriter said, "The base ball situation in Reading is again becoming like the shell game-now you see it, and now you don't."

Soon, the State and Central Pennsylvania leagues were both history. But, Witman would not sit still. He continued to put teams together and find leagues for them. None found any suitable level of support or success.

Just after the turn of the 20th century, both baseball and William Abbott Witman were standing on more solid ground. As other owners and general managers brought other teams to the city, Witman concentrated on firming up his

stadium and his burgeoning political career.

He attained his first political post when he was elected as a city councilman in 1886. His interest and experience in construction landed him on the Committee on Highways and Paving. In 1887, he introduced a bill that would pay for the planning and building of a Spring Street link that would connect the northeastern and northwestern sections of the city, which were separated by the wide expanse of the Reading Railroad yards. The most logical consensus then was a bridge between 6th and 9th streets. His proposal languished for several years until 1905, when Witman proposed an underpass. It would be built, it would be called the “Spring Street Subway,” and it would survive into the 21st century as one of William Abbott Witman’s legacies.

Witman, who continued to serve in council, ran unsuccessfully for mayor four times. He was as controversial in city politics as he was in the baseball world. But, he got things done.

His professional life was also tumultuous at times. He and his brother had opened a quarry on ten acres at the southern edge of Mount Penn. It was hideous. People hated looking at it. Under pressure, and in the shadow of a scandal involving price-fixing contracts between his firm and the city, Witman came up with an idea to calm those who complained about the rocky scar on the mountain.

A friend, Charles Matz, had just returned from the Philippines and happened to show Witman a post card of a pagoda. Ever the innovator, Witman commissioned Charles and James Matz to design and build the Asian oddity. Its foundation would, of course, be made of stone from Witman's own quarry.

While the design was, in legend at least, inspired by that post card image, it is more likely that its final and more practical design was based not on a pagoda from the Philippine Islands, but from Coney Island. A comparison of Reading's Pagoda and the pagoda in the Japanese Tea Garden at Coney Island in that era reveal a remarkable resemblance between the two.



*It is likely that the basic design of Reading's Pagoda was based on this pagoda that once stood at the Japanese Tea Garden in the Coney Island amusement park in Brooklyn, New York.*

Alas, the Pagoda was a failure. Witman had hoped to open a resort hotel in it, but the rugged roads to it and the rejection of a liquor license for it doomed that project. The big red building became a big white elephant and was sold to a bank. In 1910, another investor tried and failed to make a go of a hotel there, but surrendered and sold the building to the city for a dollar.

With his 11th and Pike ball park, the Spring Street Subway, and the Pagoda to his credits, Witman later added a massive, multi-purpose outdoor “pleasure ground” he called the “Circus Maximus” to the list. He said he had poured about \$50,000 into its construction.

The stadium stood at 13th and Exeter Streets, where Albright College’s Shirk Stadium is located. With a seating capacity of 8,000 it was to be one of Witman’s crowning jewels.

The city’s Tri-State Baseball League team took the field for the first time there in June, 1909, and the largest crowd ever to watch a baseball game in Reading at the time—an estimated 5,000 paid-believed they were experiencing the future of baseball in town. The press marveled at the number of women who were in attendance and the number of automobiles—about 30—in the parking lot.

But, the Circus Maximus failed to turn a profit, went bankrupt, and in the summer of 1912 was sold to a city bank for \$38,000.

Perhaps Billy Witman (as the press came to

call him) was driven to distraction while trying to balance his construction and baseball interests. For, it was in 1912 that he was strike-zone deep in involvement in bringing not minor...but major league baseball to Reading.

The United States League of Professional Baseball Clubs is firmly ensconced in the sport's history books as one of the so-called "outlaw leagues" formed by investors who were certain they could tap the players' pool of the established American and National Leagues and draw enough fans to become viable entities.

More than that, its promoters claimed it would "end slavery in baseball" by giving players more options for employment.

Billy Witman was not only ready to play with the big boys; he was the renegade league's president.

"There can be no such thing as too much good baseball," he said in his first statement to the press and public. "And, good baseball is what we propose to have. Every city in the country has its thousands of lovers of the game and its hundreds of players.

"Does any one, for a moment, imagine that the 400 held under contract by the other two big leagues are all in this broad land of ours who can play the game?"

A full 126-game schedule was drawn up, and franchises were granted to Pittsburgh, Richmond,

Cincinnati, Washington, Chicago, Cleveland, New York, and Reading. It was arranged to avoid conflict with existing American or National League teams in the large cities. And, there would be no “raiding” of other teams to fill rosters of the USL.

“You see,” Witman continued, “there is no baseball war. But if one is forced upon us, I can say without boasting that we will not lose.”

Tough talk notwithstanding, the league faced both ignored and unforeseen challenges. Several franchises found either no money, no playing field, no quality players, or all three. The league was off to a tenuous start. Of the eight teams in the circuit, only Reading and Richmond fully supported and embraced their teams.

*May 1, 1912: The United States League of Professional Baseball Clubs opens its season.*

*May 30, 1912: The Reading team in the United States League of Professional Baseball Clubs folds.*

*June 24, 1912: The United States League of Professional Baseball Clubs folds.*

After less than half a season, William Abbot Witman’s league of dreams was in bankruptcy.

A stoic Witman raised the pennant of hope again in the winter of 1912-13 and steadfastly insisted that the USL would be back for the 1913 season. Rumor had it that Ty Cobb was interested in jumping from the Tigers to the Lynchburg, Va. USL team, and a handful of owners, managers, and

players were confident that the league would be back in business.

On the home front, Billy Witman was ready to abandon his own beloved Circus Maximus, which turned out to be pitifully inadequate for baseball, in favor of yet another of Witman's local legacies. In April, 1913, with no actual league plans firmed up, he announced to baseball fans that the 1913 USL team would play at a brand-new, 7,000-seat baseball stadium that would be known as Lauer's Park.

They built the ballpark, but the team never came.

At least, that USL team never came in 1913.

Reading would continue to field squads in the low, and lower minor leagues for several years until big-time ball came to town in 1919. The Reading Coal Barons weren't "outlaws," or major leaguers. But, they were the next best things to the latter. The Barons played in the International League, just one step from the bigs. Reading maintained a franchise in what would now be a "AAA" league until 1932.

Reading's big break into the highest level of the minors came in an unusual way, and oddly enough, William Abbott Witman had absolutely nothing to do with it.

But, when International League executive Arthur Irwin came on a fishing expedition to Reading, the first person he sought out was Billy

Witman.

On March 2, 1919, Irwin and Witman met at the Circus Maximus, which had by that time lay in ruins. It was in the process of being demolished in favor of what Witman hoped would be housing lots.

As both men lamented the loss of the not-so-old ballpark, Irwin asked Witman if he'd be interested in spearheading an effort to raise support in Reading and bring the abandoned Syracuse IL franchise to town.

In a word, Witman's answer was "no."

Witman was done with baseball. He was instead deeply involved in his political career at the time and summarily rejected any involvement in the organization of another baseball club.

It was an exciting springtime in Reading in 1919. Thousands of local "doughboys" were returning from the Great War, and the promise of peace buoyed the spirits of all. Mayor Edward H. Filbert was the chief champion of baseball in Reading at that time, and he was determined to raise public awareness, generate investments, and toss the ceremonial first pitch on opening day of International League play in the city.

Time was ticking away, however. Not until late March did the league president meet with prospective supporters. Mayor Filbert was cocksure that Reading would field a team. "This is no paper proposition," he assured the citizens. This is the

real thing. Reading will be the mecca of baseball lovers from all surrounding towns within a radius of 30 or 40 miles. Anyone can realize that this will mean to Reading in a business way.”

On March 24, IL President David L. Fultz finally met with local investors at the American House hotel. There was a sense of urgency, as the league fully intended to start play on or before May 1. It was learned that Montreal and Ottawa were also in the running for the orphaned Syracuse club, and Readingites had to act quickly.

The league president was in a bargaining mood. The franchise was worth an estimated \$20,000, but he would settle for \$10,000.

Local industrial leaders as well as representative from the Kiwanis and Rotary clubs and the Chamber of Commerce took up the cause and put together an investment package under the name of the Reading Baseball and Athletic Association. More than enough capital was raised to cover the bargain-basement price the league president finally accepted. At what amounted to 25 percent of the advertised value and 50 percent of the offered value, those Readingites bought themselves an International League franchise for \$5,000.

In rapid succession, the league added Reading to its schedule, the Lauer's Park stadium was expanded and improved, former Philadelphia Phillies manager Red Dooin was hired as manager,

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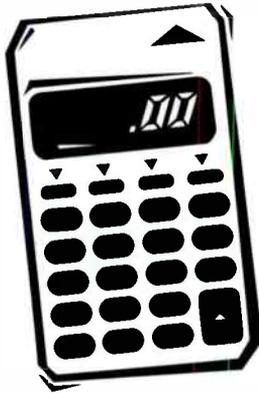
Charles “Pop” Kelchner was named business manager of the team, and the former Syracuse players were told they would become Reading Coal Barons.

In an ironic twist, the team practiced on the field of Billy Witman’s old Circus Maximus before the first pitch of International League baseball in Reading was made on April 30, 1919. On that day, the Ringgold Band played as an estimated 5,000 baseball-hungry fans filled the grandstand and bleachers and spilled out into the foul areas of the field for true “standing room only” views.

When it was all over, Reading defeated Binghamton 6-2 in what local sportswriters called an historic day for baseball in Reading.

It was not known or noted if Billy Witman was in the crowd that day.

William Abbott Witman, Sr. died in St. Joseph’s Hospital on February 12, 1936. But, his Subway, his Pagoda, and his beloved baseball remain as reminders of his extraordinary life.



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# THE WIPE STUFF

*by Charles J. Adams III*

I bow my head with embarrassment on several levels as I admit for all to read that I have no idea how to use a bidet.

There, I have wiped the slate clean. In dozens of countries, in hundreds of hotels, I had have

ample opportunity to sit and study, but never did I learn the flow and ebb of the porcelain potty partner.

This is not to say that I didn't give it a shot. Several times, as many as 40 years ago, I tried to break the commode code. It all seemed so simple. But, there was no instruction sheet. And, figuring out the finer points of a bidet is a solitary experience. I would feel ill at ease asking someone how to use it. Certainly, no one would demonstrate its use. One cannot-or at least should not-call room service for a lesson.

There I sat, brokenhearted. I came to learn but only parted with nary a clue. So, as a washout on the bidet, I returned to a more familiar fixture.

In hindsight, a part of me regrets not having perfected the uses of the bidet. But, I am not alone. Tales are told of those who encountered a bidet and speculated that it might be a urinal, a planter, a toilet, or something in which to wash clothing or pets.

A bidet can actually serve well as a baby bath, and could be hygienically helpful to those who have trouble using a bathtub or shower stall.

And, I've been told-just told-that when filled with ice, it makes a great cooler for soda and beer.

The bidet was invented and vested with a specific purposes, or, more properly, purposes.

Its inventor and the date of that invention are lost in time, although it is generally conceded that

bidets came into fashion in the late 17th century in France.

The first bidets were supposedly freestanding pieces of furniture placed first in the bedrooms of French royal families. With the advent of plumbing systems and running water, the bidet moved from bedroom to bathroom.

A clue as to how a bidet is used is in its very name. The word *bidet* is a French word for pony. As one straddles a pony, one straddles a bidet. Well, sort of.

But, does one straddle it toward the tap or away from it? Does one fill the basin or just go with the flow? What role does paper play in all of this? I have even seen bidets with two nozzles—one longer than the other. What's up with that?

Determined to not take my ignorance sitting down, I tried to flush out bidet information and instructions on the Internet. Voila! At [www.eHow.com](http://www.eHow.com) I found a five-step guide to bidet usage.

But then, in the “tips from eHow users” addendum, a correspondent expanded on those tips and added, “This may take some trial and error to perfect.” That could be some messy trial and error.

I am old enough to have used outhouses, and I have conducted business in venues ranging from a Bedouin tent in the desert to a gold-plated washroom in the bowels of the White House. I have conquered all sorts of shipboard marine

“heads,” those strange stand-and-deliver treadle toilets of third-world countries, and most of the many different flushers in water closets around the world.

The bidet shall likely remain a mystery to me for the rest of my travels.

I will often solicit help from readers who are much more wizened in the ways of the world than I am. I’m sure there are those of you out there to whom the use of a bidet is second nature. But please, keep it to yourself. On this topic, I’ll take a pass. Bidets? Be darned.



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*Student Alex Menendez is proud of his recycled instrument.*

*Reading Musical Foundation  
Outreach Committee:*

**Giving Students  
(and Instruments!)  
A Second Chance at Music**

Tim Raub, a string teacher in the Reading elementary schools, understands the joy associated with hitting a series of notes just

perfect. Unfortunately, he also understands that not every student can afford an instrument due to prohibitive instrument rental costs.

Thanks to Operation Replay, a program sponsored by Sovereign Bank and administered by the Reading Musical Foundation, these students are given the chance to play an instrument. Operation Replay is an instrument recycling program that collects, repairs and distributes instruments to students who cannot afford rental fees. To date, over 300 instruments have been placed in the hands of eager young musicians.

Once an instrument is donated and repaired, teachers may request instruments on behalf of their students. Students who receive Operation Replay instruments must be involved in their school music program. If a student stops playing, the instrument is returned to the program for cleaning and replacement. If the Foundation receives a high-quality or “step-up” instrument, those are reserved for hardworking, deserving middle school or high school students.

Instruments (no pianos or organs, please) can be donated by contacting the Foundation’s office at (610) 376-3395.

In addition to Operation Replay, the Reading Musical Foundation manages a variety of

Outreach programs, including after-school programs and music lessons at various Olivets' Boys and Girls clubs. RMF's Outreach Committee searches for programs that assist at-risk and underserved children through music.

For many children, after school is a dangerous time, so RMF works to offer programs like beginner and intermediate guitar lessons, electronic composition classes, a youth chorus and keyboard lessons to engage inner-city students of all ages in creative activities offered in a safe and nurturing environment. Olivet's PAL Center for the Arts and GoggleWorks Center for the Arts are convenient sites for live musical performance, workshops and classes.

During the school year, a two-week after school Latin Percussion workshop is held at Northeast Middle School and Southern Middle School, both in Reading. Students learn rhythms on traditional Latin instruments, including congas, bongos and claves. The Outreach Committee is hoping to expand the program to include weekly percussion lessons for interested students.

RMF's Outreach Committee works throughout the year to review and evaluate current program, as well as work to develop new relationships and new programs.

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*A statue in the center of the ski resort of Chamonix, France, commemorates Horace Bendicte de Saussure who, in 1760, offered a “substantial” cash prize to the first person to reach the summit of Mt Blanc. (This prize was claimed by Jaques Balmat, 26 years later).*

*Photo by Charles J. Adams III*

## Interview with a Yodeler

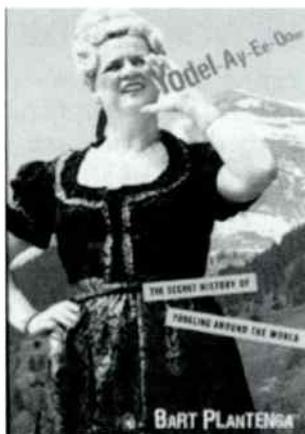
*By “East Side Dave” - Producer & Host of the weekly Mountain Folk show on WEEU Radio. Mountain Folk can be heard on WEEU Radio on Sunday mornings from 9 to 10 a.m. You can find out more at <http://www.mountainfolk.com>.*

A few years ago I was interviewed by Bart Plantenga who was writing a book called “Yodel-Ay-Ee-Oooo: The Secret History of Yodeling”, one of the world’s most comprehensive tomes ever on the topic of yodeling.

You may ask why anyone would want to write or read a book about yodeling and my response would be that

it's a "joy-thing." In a world so beset with daily news about violence, unrest, destruction, calamities, maladies, and all manner of other doom and gloom, I find that philosophizing about a topic like yodeling allows me to make the space in my mind for beautiful things and the joy of Nature, the mountains, folk music, delicious foods, heartening beverages and happy memories through music and fellowship. It's yodeling and it's meant to be handled with a tongue in cheek, (figuratively and literally), and wry approach to the subject matter.

Here is some more information about the original book...



### ***Yodel-Ay-Ee-Oooo:***

#### ***The Secret History of Yodeling Around the World***

[Routledge 2004 342p. illus. bibliog. index. ISBN 0-415-93990-9]

“Like yodeling itself, Bart Plantenga’s book is wry, humorous, touching, irreverent, vivid, and unforgettable. In addition it is erudite without being stuffy, and is extremely well written. At last, THE book on yodeling!”

After garnering much success from his original book, Mr. Plantenga is at it again and is going to produce an even more detailed book about yodeling!

He recently interviewed me again and I thought I would share his questions and my answers with you.

So...hold onto your epiglottis and be prepared to read on, if you're willing to learn more about something you may have never cared about in the first place.

What??? You think this subject is a "joke!?!?" If it makes you smile, perhaps it is, and that is part of the point of it!

**Author Plantenga: Do you yodel professionally / earn a living at it?**

*Dave: Yes, I do yodel professionally and earn a portion of my income from yodeling and other styles of what I call "Mountain Folk" music.*

**Author Plantenga: When did you start yodeling?**

*Dave: When I was in my early twenties.*

**Author Plantenga: What interests/intrigues you about yodeling?**

*Dave: It is a challenging vocal style and when done well audiences enjoy it very much. Yodeling is a very important element of traditional mountain culture. I've also enjoyed becoming a student of yodeling and as such I seek all opportunities to learn about all related forms of traditional culture which include traditions of clothing and costume, food, beverages, lifestyle, relativity to pastoral and agricultural activities and vocations, instrumentation, sports like skiing, hiking and climbing and more.*

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**Author Plantenga: What are your early or most vivid experiences dealing with yodeling?**

*Dave: Listening to cowboy yodelers like Roy Rogers, Elton Britt, Uncle Fudd, and any number of traditional Alpine yodelers always stimulated my interest in the artform, then seeing performers entertain live audiences with yodeling to very enthusiast responses, helped me to see what a wonderful connection a yodeler can make with his or her audience.*

**Author Plantenga: Where have you performed / name some places and outstanding experiences?**

*Dave: Austria, Switzerland, USA, Canada, New Zealand, Northern Italy/Tyrol, Bavaria, France, Spain; all in the mountains. Really happy memories include yodeling in a concert at the dedication of a new concert hall in Kusel, West Germany, while on tour back in 1987, when a few thousand audience members really got into the performance and called for several encores; their enthusiasm was at once fulfilling, shocking, and mind-boggling in a very happy way! While touring various places in the Alps, performing on outside decks of ski huts for the lurching or après' ski crowds; spontaneous parties breaking out and yodeling and encouraging group sing-a-longs for people who really live in the moment as the group, (often hundreds or people), becomes more than a bunch of individuals by singing and enjoying life as one unit...being offered schnapps from "this country" and "that country" and "this region" and "that region"...it is a very rewarding thing to know that your music and yodeling is touching people from various cultural backgrounds, various languages, yet uniting them through the universal language of music and yodeling! As recently as*

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*the 2008 Kutztown Folk Festival in Pennsylvania, USA, yodeling during my Mountain Folk performance everyday of the nine-day festival; I bring audience members along on a musical journey from the Appalachian Mountains to the Alps of Europe and back and we yodel all along the way. By the end of the week, many of the displaying craftspeople were joining me on stage to engage the audience with the custom of group singing, yodeling and “joyous yee-haaing!” Once again, the audience, the craftspeople, and I joined together in music and with the spirit of the mountains and the muse; we created something more amounting to more than our individual parts and made profound and happy memories! In a world with so many trials and tribulations, creating this sort of happy reality, if only for an hour or so, provides all involved with a wonderful escape to an alternative reality that rivals the more mundane, work-a-day rat race that so many people struggle with. Being a part of helping to create those magically relaxing moments for and with audience members is very satisfying to me.*

**Author Plantenga: What kind of yodeling do you do?**

*Dave: Appalachian and Alpine.*

**Author Plantenga: Who are your heroes and role models in yodeling or elsewhere?**

*Dave: Roy Rogers, Elton Britt, Ranger Doug, Sammy the Yodeling Bus Driver in Switzerland, and countless yodeling men and women in wonderful mountainous regions throughout the world! They all inspire me!*

**Author Plantenga: Name some recordings, CDs with yodels and what yodel songs have you written or**

covered.

*Dave: Just about all of my CDs have at least one yodeling song on them. I have written several such as The Glacier Yodel, My Pennsylvania Home, etc. I've covered things like the Cuckoo Yodel, This is How to Yodel, Big Rock Candy Mountain, Lonely Goatherd, etc. My recordings can be found on our website <http://www.mountainfolk.com> and are also available at various online download music services such as Apple iTunes. With services like Apple iTunes, just use their browser and type in East Side Dave, or The Mountain Folk Band, or East Side Dave & The Mountain Folk Band. You can also view some yodeling in the Video Archive section of <http://www.mountainfolk.com>*

**Author Plantenga: Do you listen to a lot of yodeling in your free time?**

*Dave: Yes I do. I am always listening for nuances, new material to cover, inspirations, etc. I yodel a lot when I ski and many people who ski with me ask me to yodel...it has become part of their mountain experience and mine.*

**Author Plantenga: What happens to you physically when you yodel that is different from regular singing?**

*Dave: Well...I am not always in the mood to yodel when I'm out skiing or hiking and such, but if someone asks me to do it I will and then I feel happier. If I am feeling anxious or a bit down or I'm contemplating some problem that seems to be ponderous to me, I don't always feel like yodeling because yodeling requires me to be in a joyous, celebratory mood and mode. Recently while kayaking down a local river on a rainy and cold April morning, (part of a local river festival), someone that knew that I yodel paddled up and asked me to*

*yodel because it would lift people's spirits. Even though I wasn't really in the mood to yodel, I smiled and agreed and let a few yodel phrases out. Soon there were wonderful attempts at yodeling echoing back to me from others on the river, and then I heard laughter and friendly chatter. The yodeling had lifted the paddlers to a happy mood. Sure, some people hate yodeling or think it is just unrefined; to those who feel this way I say fine, to each his or her own, you're entitled to think whatever you want. I tend to not worry about those folks but rather cater to those who don't mind laughing, smiling, making little moments in time more pleasant through music and yodeling. More smiles in life are better than fewer smiles and one way or another, yodeling does have a tendency to make people smile! When I am yodeling in a performance, I must put my mood in the appropriate place if I am to do my job properly as an entertainer. My job is to entertain, inform and engage an audience so that they leave the show with more than they came with in terms of happy memories and relaxation. In the end, the direct answer to the question about "what happens" is that yodeling is always a mood elevating experience!*

**Author Plantenga: Do you think there is a relation between yodeling [and vocals in general] and one's physical surroundings? Does place [your location] affect your yodeling and how?**

*Dave: You can certainly yodel anywhere, but it can be far more inspirational in a glorious mountain setting. In that sort of a setting it is almost as natural as a bird singing or gurgling water cascading down a mountainside. I like to yodel in concert settings and I really enjoy yodeling in anyplace that has a natural reverb to it; that can be in a*

*valley where the yodel echoes off of the mountains, or in the room of a building that has that “special something” in terms of natural reverb. I think the relationship between settings and how it affects yodeling is certainly real. It goes back to what I was saying about mood setting and such. If a physical place, setting or situation is elevating your mood, you are more likely to yodel or perform in an elevated manner. That’s the inspiration that comes from the spirit of the muse and when it involves an audience, and everyone is lifted to an elevated mood, it becomes the ultimate setting to yodel and perform in. Almost everyone in that sort of a situation can transcend from simply being someplace to being part of “something” ... something bigger and more meaningful than explanations can provide.*

**Author Plantenga:** I note that yodeling traverses the entire spectrum from joy to sorrow, from fun to explorations of one’s relation to the [natural] world. So any psychological; transcendent, ethereal, otherworldly, mystical, metaphysical aspects that you have observed when performing or listening are welcome.

*Dave: I believe I’ve pretty much covered the answer to this question in my ongoing answers to the previous questions. For me, it is all wrapped up as a part of the same package. You cannot make music, yodeling and memories that truly move people and you personally without allowing the spirit of the muse to enter you and all that you are projecting to and including in the journey of that moment, be it a concert or a moment in time in a wonderful place.*

**Author Plantenga:** What makes the yodel unique

**among vocalizations for you personally? What gives it its power and distinction?**

*Dave: Contrary to the belief of some which think yodeling is an unrefined, bumpkin-style of vocalization, yodelers are highly skilled vocalists who can make their instrument perform in ways that non-yodelers can't. To be a yodeler is to be able to at once relax the instrument while engaging it to perform powerful jumps in pitch and tonal quality. It's really hard to be an uptight yodeler! You need to be relaxed so that your voice does what you've trained it to do while yodeling. As soon as you tense up, your yodeling may cross over into something more in the realm of noise rather than a musical style. Relaxed, yet confident and controlled, yodeling is a vocal missile that once launched is irretrievable. A yodeler's goal is to launch each musical missile well! Good yodelers send that vocal missile into the stratosphere on a powerful and controlled mission of musical magic!*

**Author Plantenga: Why do you think yodeling is often maligned or neglected in discussions about singing or culture in general?**

*Dave: I believe that all folk-traditions suffer from some degree of rejection from the modern population at large. Fads, trends and innovations all play into the public psyche and there is a part of the population who does not want to knowingly or even unknowingly appear "square" by approving of or consuming traditional artforms. While everyone's point of view is worthy and valid, especially as it relates to art, music and what does and does not elevate, lift and move a particular individual, I believe it is important to preserve and venerate the roots of artforms that have helped to shape our culture and music along the journey of*

*humankind. That which brings a smile to even one face is worth remembering!*

**Author Plantenga: Any other comments?**

*Dave: Thank you for providing a forum to discuss yodeling and musical traditions! Now let's go find a mountain hut with a sun-drenched deck, a fabulous view of a glacier and lots of people who want to live life large and enjoy traditional folk-culture including food, beverages, music and YODELING!*



The author of Yodel-Ay-Ee-Oooo, Bart Plantenga, is also producing the following projects in the near future...

- Two new CD yodel compilations, BLACK & BLUE YODELIN' [black yodelers from around the world] and AVANT LE VOIX: HUMAN EXPERIMENTS WITH THE YODEL [avant garde vocalists].
- DRIVE-BY YODELING: A documentary about yodeling with filmmaker Mark Boswell; and OLGA REWOUND: which will be a remix project, stripping the yodel music away from the songs of yodeler Olga Lowina and having 10 to 12 modern musicians/producers compose new music to accompany her yodels.

Check online at places like Amazon.com or similar sites to find out more!



# An Update on Global Warming and Other Nonsense

*By Len Carmen  
WEEU Morning News Anchor*

A few years ago I put down my own thoughts of global warming on these pages. Since then there have been new scientific studies and conclusions by those who, supposedly, actually know about such things. I want to pass on that knowledge here. But first, a quick review of my unscientific “Rotisserie Chicken“ theory on global warming.

I call it that because a chicken rotating

over a source of heat eventually cooks to a golden brown. But if left over the heat for too long the chicken burns to a crisp. In my theory, the Earth is the chicken and the sun the source of heat. Thus we are feeling the effects of being left over the heat for too long.

Many-if not most- scientists say humans and our use of fossil fuels such as coal and oil are to blame for global warming. They say if we don't change our way of life today, (translation: stop driving cars), we'll all die tomorrow.

Yet a number of these same scientists who preach doom and gloom recently said we can expect a period of cooling (yes, that's right, cooling) over the next 10 to 15 years. If you want to know why I think the whole global warming issue is a hoax, you only need to look at their reason.

These scientists who say we are making the Earth uninhabitable say the cooling period will be caused by naturally occurring climate cycles. Huh? If naturally occurring climate cycles can cool the Earth, why can't naturally occurring climate cycles cause the planet to warm up? I guess you have to be a scientist to figure that out.

By the way, another group of scientists recently concluded that by removing the so-called greenhouse gasses that trap the heat in the atmosphere creating the global warming crisis, we are allowing more sunlight to reach the Earth's surface causing it to warm up even faster. I guess there's nothing we can do to make this right. We're doomed if we do and doomed if we don't.

Oh well, on to another subject...

As I write this I am approaching the 30th anniversary of my first job in radio. I like to refer to that period in the late 1970's as the end of the "Good Old Days" of radio.

Back then, we still played records on ancient turntables, used prehistoric reel-to-reel tape recorders, and played commercials on tape cartridges, or carts as we call them in the business, that resemble 8-track tapes that many had in their cars before cassette tapes became all the rage. And to top it off, most of the equipment at that small country station in Shippensburg looked like it was installed by Marconi's grandfather! (For those who don't know, Marconi is credited with inventing radio.) We used to get stories from the Associated Press on a teletype machine that was so noisy it had to be kept

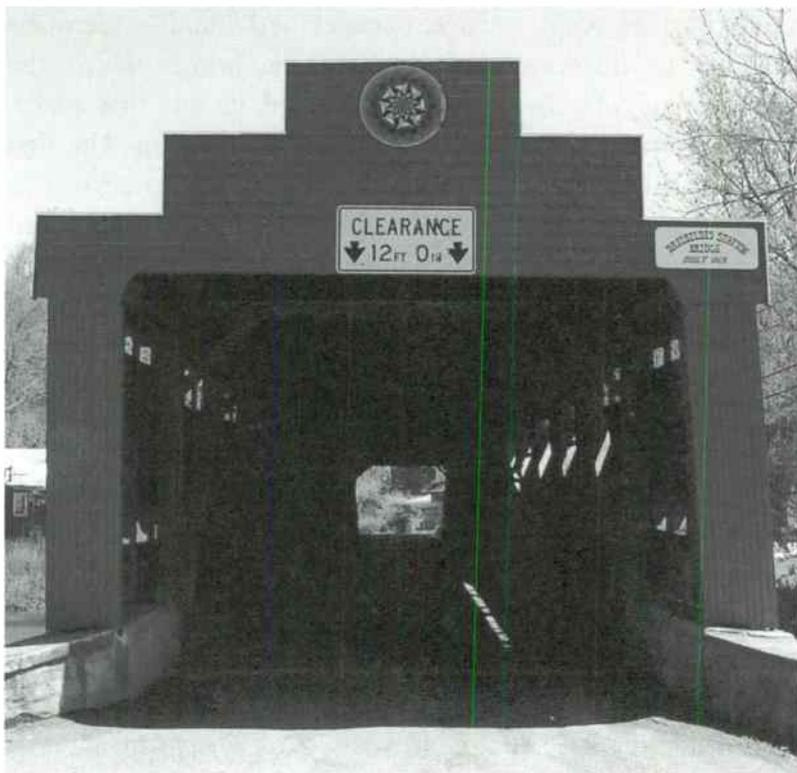
in it's own soundproof booth.

All commercial copy and news copy was written on a manual typewriter. Occasionally office personnel had an electric typewriter if there was enough money in the budget. But oh, how things have changed.

Now everything is done on computers with software especially designed for radio stations. Much of the programming generated from outside the station is beamed down from a satellite. Other programs are sent on compact discs which are then put into a computer. And the entire station is run through-you guessed it- a computer.

Humans, however, are still needed to program the computers to make sure everything runs when it is supposed to. But to do that you need to learn a whole new language.

There's no doubt the computer age has made things easier and more efficient. Yet it takes away some of the human element, such as playing a 33 r.p.m. record at 45 r.p.m., or playing a program on a reel-to-reel tape only to discover that the tape was put on backward! I have done these things and more. Sometimes I miss those good old days.



*A hex sign adorns the Dreibelbis Station covered bridge near Lenhartsville.*

## **History Not Fully Understood**

*By: Elizabeth L. Metzger*

*Interpretive Services Assistant, Berks County Heritage Center*

Hex signs are a feature among the barns of central Pennsylvania. The tradition of painting hex signs began in the mid 19th century. This tradition traces its roots back to Europe but only came together fully in the United States with the Pennsylvania Dutch. This folk art expression

developed as paint became cheaper and the PA Germans decided to decorate their barns. This brings us to the question of why hex signs are painted in the first place. There are two schools of thought on this question. The first school of thought is that the hex signs were created just as decoration and have no other significant reason for being on the sides of barns. The other possibility is that the hex signs were placed on the barns in some type of superstitious action in order to ward off evil. The number who adhere with the second thought are dwindling as most now believe that that was based on a mistranslation.

Many of the patterns on hex signs are geometric. Later designs depicted more elaborate designs and may feature prize winning livestock. This was one way for the farmer to show his pride in his accomplishments. In addition to the simple geometric patterns each pattern and color had some type of meaning behind it.

The addition of hex signs may also be due to the fact that prior to the 1830s paint was too expensive to use in a decorative way such as can be seen through the hex signs.

Examples: (note: the following examples are suggested based upon tradition in the *Berks County Hex Barn Art Tour* pamphlet)

**Scallop Border-** tranquility, smooth sailing

**Closed circle border-** eternity triangle, trinity

**Four pointed star-** good luck

**Five pointed star-** star of Bethlehem, epiphany, protection against evil, five senses

**Double five pointed star-** Morning star, sun and light

**Six-lobed petals (open tulips)-** faith, fertility, safeguard from harm

**Six pointed star-** good luck and good fortune,

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protection from lightning, love star, perfect marriage

**Eight pointed star-** perseverance

**Twelve pointed star-** rationalism and justice

**Double Eight pointed star-** fertility

There are two hex signs featured on Wertz's Bridge in the Heritage Center Park. The one on the same side as the visitor's center building includes two distelfink, a heart, several tulips and a circle. This could possibly mean good luck, happiness, love, kindness, faith, and eternity. The side of the Bridge facing the Red Bridge Picnic area features a hex sign with an eight-pointed star and a circle. This could possibly mean perseverance and eternity.

The Berks County Heritage Center is located on Red Bridge Road off Rt. 183. It contains the Gruber Wagon Works, the C. Howard Hiester Canal Museum, a visitors' center in the Reeser Farm House, Wertz's Covered Bridge, and access to the Union Canal towpath, as well as Melcher's Grist Mill, and the Deppen Cemetery. The Heritage Center is open May through October, Tuesday through Sunday.

The site hosts many programs and event such as lectures, trail walks and workshops which are publicized in the Program Guide produced by the Berks County Parks and Recreation Department. The annual Heritage Festival is one of the many events held in the park and is the first full weekend in October. Come out and see what the Heritage Center has to offer! We hope to see you soon!

Check out the Berks County Parks website:  
[www.countyofberks.com/parks](http://www.countyofberks.com/parks)



Sources: *The Berks County Hex Barn Art Tour (pamphlet)* and Ian Urbina, "For the Pennsylvania Dutch, a Long Tradition Fades," *The New York Times*. July 22, 2006.

# Could it be them?

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## The Spirit of the Muse

By WEEU's "East Side Dave" Kline. This little WEEU Journal feature has been culled from inspirations gleaned from experiences with world-music and its influence on culture beyond borders and political structures.



Above: An ancient depiction of a dance of the muse.

In ancient mythology a ***muse*** was an entity that inspired man to be creative through art, literature, improvisation, music and all other manner of emotive, self and collaborative-expression. May the spirit of the ***muse*** always enrich your life and the lives of those with whom you interact!

Some variation of a ***muse*** entity can be found in almost every ancient culture.

It has been said many times that music is a universal language, so, musically speaking, try matching up the instruments below with their place of origin?

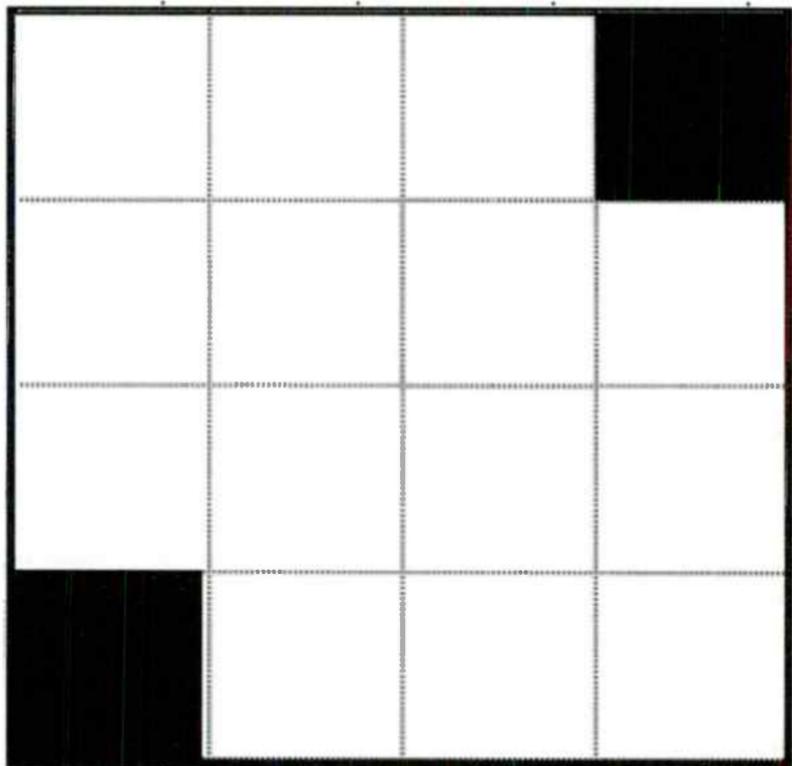
1. Koto
2. Bouzouki
3. Oud
4. Krummhorn

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5. Djembe
6. Nyckelharpa
7. Duduk
8. Calliope
9. Gusli
10. Bodhran
11. Banjar
12. Ocarina
13. Siku
14. Steelpan
15. Sweet Potato Flute
16. Cowbell
17. Washboard
18. Bagpipe Chanter
19. Dombek
20. Shofar
21. Tin Flute
22. Hne
23. Tawa-Tawa Gong
24. Saw Duan
25. Dan tranh
26. Sitar
27. Surna
28. Pipa
29. Rkang gling
30. String Hurdy Gurdy
31. Tuba Horn
32. Maracas

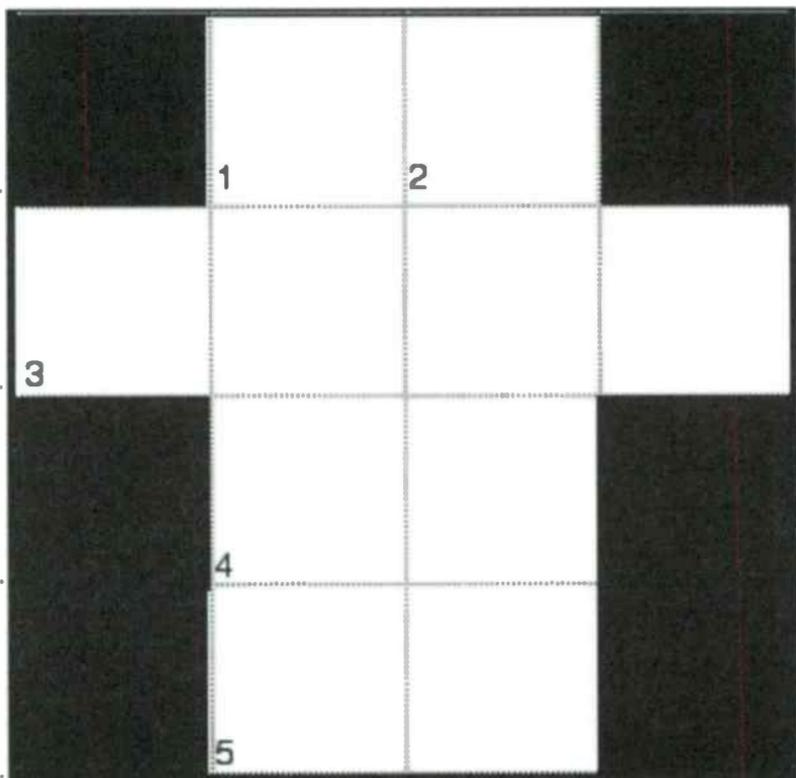
Answers: 1 -Japan; 2-Greece; 3-Persia; 4-Europe; 5-West Africa; 6-Sweden; 7-Armenia; 8-United States; 9-Russia; 10-Ireland; 11-Northern Africa; 12-South America; 13-Andes; 14-Trinidad&Tobago; 15-North America; 16-Switzerland; 17-Appalachian Mountains-USA; 18-Scotland; 19-Egypt; 20-Israel; 21-Ireland; 22-Burma; 23-Bali; 24-Thailand; 25. Vietnam; 26-Northern India; 27-Turkey; 28-China; 29-Tibet; 30-France; 31-Germany; 32-Central America



## ONE-MINUTE CROSSWORDS

Give 'em a try. But, be aware—they're not like any crossword puzzles you've ever done. The "acrosses" and "downs" just might fool ya!

*...puzzles by Charles J. Adams III (blame him)*

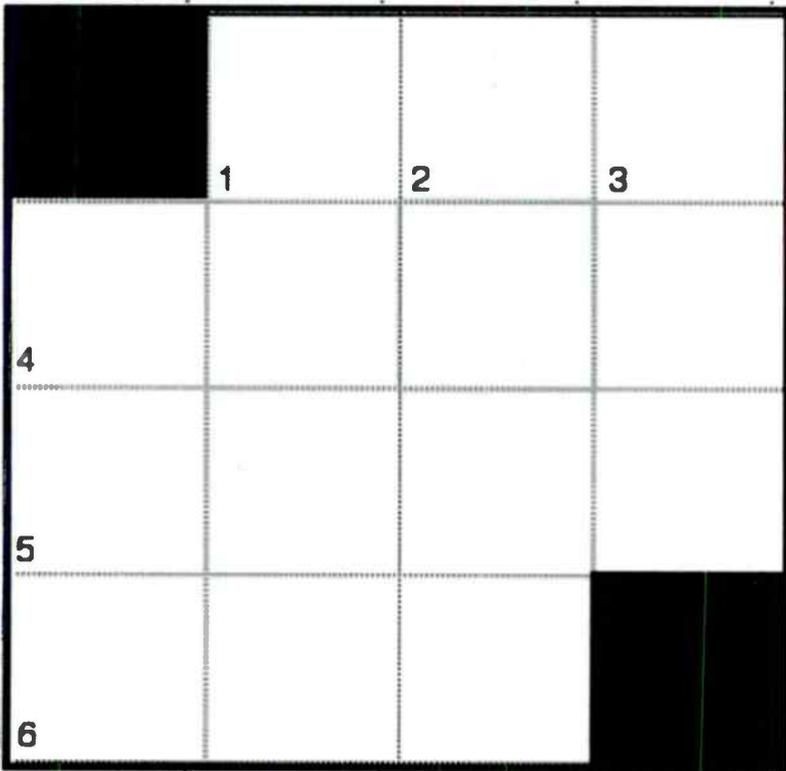


ACROSS

- 1 Us, or \_ \_
- 3 Wealthy
- 4 Next to VT
- 5 Precedes RE

DOWN

- 1 Moving air
- 2 Sound bouncer

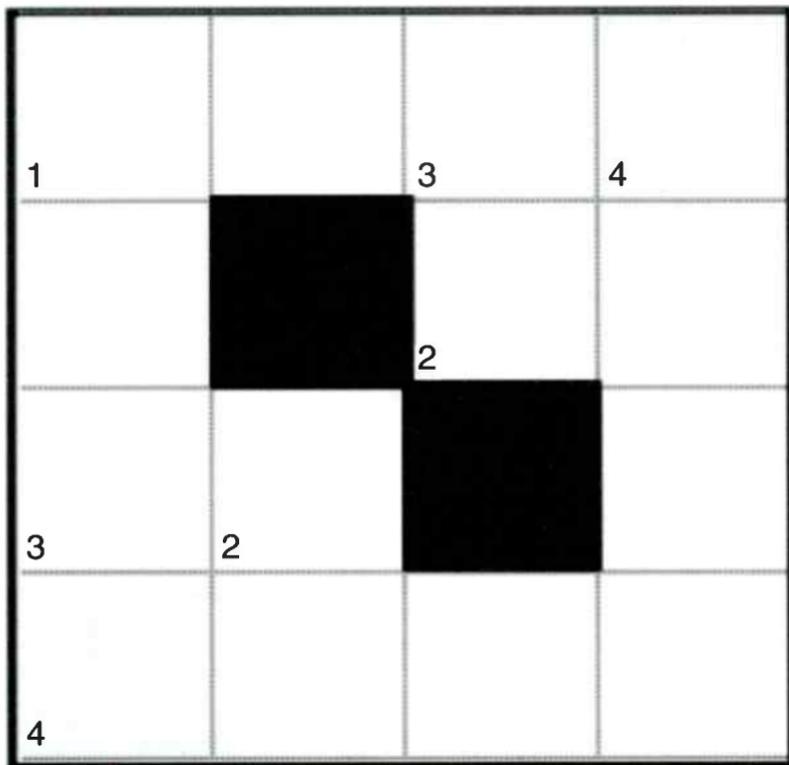


**ACROSS**

- 1 Not good on a stocking
- 4 Letter of ancient alphabet
- 5 Mr. Rooney
- 6 The Chinese pathway

**DOWN**

- 1 \_ \_ \_ \_ scam
- 2 Disassemble
- 3 Middle-East flute
- 4 Rodent

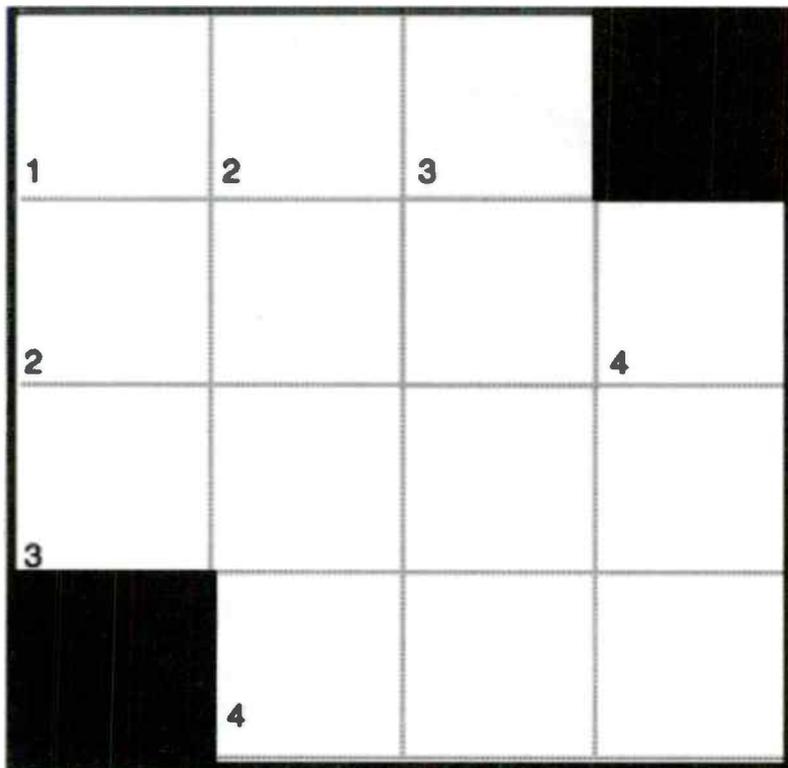


**ACROSS**

- 1 \_ \_ \_ \_ Shot
- 2 Mr. Gore
- 3 Babe was a blue one
- 4 Enthusiasm

**DOWN**

- 1 A gin type
- 2 Larger than large
- 3 British Auto Club
- 4 Sounds like a \_ \_ \_ \_



**ACROSS**

- 1 Observations
- 2 The nose is on it
- 3 A college house
- 4 It holds 'em up

**DOWN**

- 1 Not on
- 2 Often on a wire
- 3 After a boo-boo
- 4 When you'll get there

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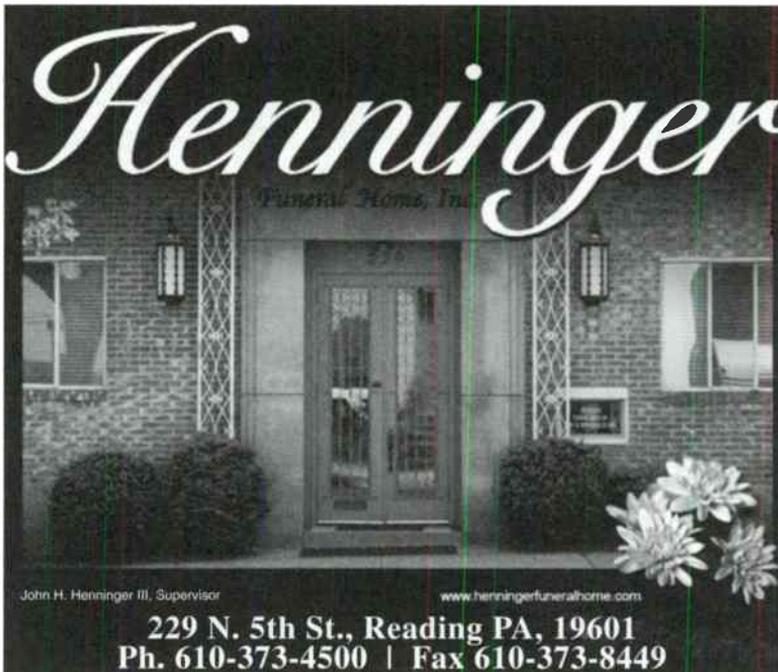
## Used Medical Devices: Trash or Recycle?

*By Paul Druzba*

*WEEU Commercial Copy Director*

Many people who pass the age of 50 (such as myself) are likely to be provided with certain medical devices over the years. Break a leg or sprain an ankle, and they give you crutches. Other accidents or surgeries can stock your closet with various medical doodads that seem like a good idea as you recover, but don't have much use afterwards.

My wife and I have at least two sets of crutches lying around, but I've never been able to think of anything useful to do with them, other than keep them in case we suffer another sprain or break. Trouble is, by the time you need them again, the pads have rotted out, and you need a new one anyway.



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I also was given another item after a surgery that's supposed to hasten healing by emitting mysterious pulses of some kind or other into my neck. It hangs around the neck, and makes it look like you're actually worse off than you really are, which is really great for getting sympathy. I suppose it works, since I healed. But it's ugly, and has absolutely no other useful purpose whatsoever. Still, it cost a mint, and so now it's tucked away in the attic- not because I ever expect to use it again, but because I just can't bear to throw it away.

My wife also had this Rube Goldberg-type gizmo that she bought following shoulder surgery, which acts as an ice pack for your shoulder. It pumps cold water through this pad, and lasts for 12 hours- not that you'd actually want to ice your shoulder for 12 hours. But it CAN.

This glorified ice pack was one of those incredibly expensive gadgets that you can't bring yourself to throw away after you heal, so you tuck it away into the attic, "just

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in case”. Well, the “just in case” came up when I had surgery recently for a torn rotator cuff. After being told by the doctor to “ice it” as much as possible, I dug this contraption out of the attic, and brought it to work at WEEU. I was able to squeeze another week or so of use out of it, until the complexity of it got the best of me, and now it’s back in the attic.

Another leftover from the shoulder surgery is the sling. It’s not just one of those rags that you tie around your neck and arm, like you see in those old Revolutionary War illustrations. Today’s sling is a high-tech affair, with lots of velcro, buckles, foam inserts and such. It would seem rather useless now that I’ve healed beyond the sling and am into therapy, but I’m becoming crafty. I’m figuring out new uses for my useless medical sling.

Take the foam spacer, for example. This rectangular cloth-covered piece of foam, which was only used for two weeks, was removed from the unit, but true to form, I have



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not thrown it away. It's about four inches deep, a foot long, and it serves nicely as a headrest on longer car trips. Clever, huh?

But what about the rest of the sling? Well, even though I'm not expected to wear it anymore, I haven't thrown it away yet either. Until I regain my arm strength, I'm not allowed to lift anything heavy, or do anything dumb with my healing arm. So I've kept the sling for two occasions:

1. *I wear it when I go to Home Depot. If there's anything heavy to be bought, one look at my sling, and the store staff is more than happy to load my purchases onto my cart! I know, I could just TELL them I had surgery and not wear the sling, but they'd just roll their eyes.*

2. *I wear it when I cut the grass. True, I'm not supposed to be cutting the grass yet, but I do have one good arm. And I wear the sling on my healing arm so I'm not tempted to overuse it.*

Call me cheap, or call me resourceful, but I hate to throw away things that are like new and still useful, even though I may never use them again. And I'll bet you do the same thing.



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# BASEBALL

...a game  
of clichés?

## *Anything You Can Do, I Can Do Better*

*By Paul Druzba*

*(Same guy who wrote the last story)*

One lovely night in the summer of '08, while the Phillies were crawling out of a horrendous post All Star Game slump, I was sitting on my front porch, listening to the game, and being inspired by one of those radio commercials which uses (actually, overuses) baseball clichés. Not one of MY commercials, of course. In all of my 25 years as an advertising copywriter for WEEU, I have never written an ad that overworked so many tired old baseballisms. Not yet, anyway. But here was a dumb commercial that only begged to be outdone.

I won't mention any names, but I counted at least six dumb baseball references in the ad, which is about five too many. And I thought, "Is that the best they can do?" So I set out to outdo that poor hapless copywriter. Here then, is my script- call it an "entry" if you like- for worst baseball cliché spot of all time.

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“Can you really save money by buying your insurance from Baseball Cliché Agency in Mohnton? Only a Triple-A pine tar rookie would shake off the sign. Baseball Cliché Agency will give you a knuckle ball right down the middle, and won’t throw you any curves. You’ll get a steal of a deal, and hit a home run instead of being hit by the pitch or striking out. Call and ask about their Double Play Deal. You get a home run of a rate on auto insurance, at only triple the premiums you’re paying right now. And that’s no foul ball! Why sit around in the bullpen throwing wild pitches into the bleachers, or waiting for a rain delay or the playoffs? Swing for the fences, and call the guys who have never been ejected in the fourth inning of the World Series. So Walk over and see your pitching coaches at Baseball Cliché Agency in Mohnton before they get sent down to the minors. As they say on those lousy commercials, you can’t get a hit if you don’t swing the bat. Baseball Cliché Agency in Mohnton—the hot dogs and mustard stains of insurance.”

There you go. No less than 25 dumb baseball references in one ad. With my luck, somebody will steal it, and play it for the next ten years. Now wouldn’t that be a beanball?

# Top Grooming Expert Shares Her Favorite Tips to Stay Sharp and Avoid the 'Red Eye' Aftermath

For today's travelers, baggage fees, overcrowded planes and delayed flights are becoming the norm. As a result, people are trying to get the most out of their carry-on bag, which can prove to be difficult thanks to TSA liquid restrictions, says Gita Bass, a beauty and grooming expert who has worked with celebrities like Heidi Klum, Ryan Reynolds, Keira Knightly and Taye Diggs.

"You don't need to sacrifice your grooming regimen just because you can't carry all of your every day products on with you," says Bass, a consultant for Rohto eye drops. "There are a lot of great tricks and carry-on permitted

alternatives that can keep you looking and feeling your best on the road.”

Bass offers her tips to keep you from looking disheveled when you need to look sharp:

•*“Whiten” Up: The same pressurized air that dries out your skin will also zap the moisture from your eyes, causing them to become irritated and bloodshot. A tiny bottle of eye drops will keep you in the clear. “A long flight will have your eyes screaming for relief,”*

•*Prepare for Flight: “Airplane cabins are probably drier than a desert, and the low humidity can really dry you out,” says Bass. “Drink a lot of water before, during and after the flight, avoiding alcoholic or salty beverages and snacks, like tomato juice or peanuts, which can dehydrate the body further, particularly your skin and eyes.”*

•*Hydrate your Skin: Pack a teeny-tiny bottle of unscented moisturizer to slather on your face post flight, Bass advises. “If you aren’t one to lather on the cream, at the very least, moisturizing*

*lip balm can keep your lips from looking dry and chapped,” she adds.*

*•Hair Repair: Falling asleep in your airplane seat can send your hair off-course, to say the least, but it’s hard to bring styling products on board. “I recommend single-use styling sheets,” says Bass. “You can run into the bathroom and fix your hair easily without having to douse it with water.”*

*•Freshen Up Your Scent: The stress of traveling can cause your deodorant to fail, and eating on the run without brushing your teeth can lead to bad breath, but you also don’t want to cover up with a lot of cologne or perfume. “You can now get antiperspirant/deodorant in single-use wipes that can be stored in the smallest spaces, so you can always feel confident that you’re not ‘offending,’” says Bass. “I also recommend teeth wipes that you can fit over your finger –they clean and freshen the teeth, gums and mouth, even without water, when you don’t have the time– or the place–to brush.”*

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## Take a Trip Along the Thun Trail

By Laura Catalano

Got the urge to go for a long hike? Wishin' you could bike for hours on a nearby stretch of trail? Well pump up your bicycle tires or dust off your hiking boots. The Schuylkill River Trail's Thun (pronounced tune) Section is now complete from Reading all the way to Pottstown. Finished. And waiting for you. You can follow it from Reading Area Community College to Riverfront Park in Pottstown. That's a roughly 19-mile journey one-way-about 38 miles round-trip. It will take you off the highways, into the woods, beside the river, past a historic village, through a charming riverfront neighborhood and across old railroad bridges that offer up some pretty impressive views. You can do it in parts, of course, and most people probably will. But even if you're just exploring a piece of this trail, be prepared to be surprised-the area is more scenic, and nature is more accessible than you probably ever realized.

The Thun Trail is Berks County's segment of the Schuylkill River Trail, which will eventually run the entire length of the river, from Philadelphia through Schuylkill County-an estimated 130 miles. The 19-mile Reading-to-Pottstown stretch is one of several pieces of the Schuylkill River Trail that are now complete. Another 26-mile section from Philadelphia to Phoenixville is also finished, as is a 7.5 mile piece that runs from Hamburg to Auburn. Plans have been devised to construct another section linking Pottstown to Phoenixville-about 15 miles, and a feasibility study completed last year recommended the alignment for a 20-mile section that will extend the trail beyond Reading all the way to Hamburg.

The Pottstown-to-Reading section is mostly off-road, built along the right-of-way of an abandoned railroad line.

You can begin your trek at Reading's Riverfront Park, behind Reading Area Community College. There's plenty of parking, and cherry trees planted along the walkway make it a beautiful spot to start your journey, particularly in the spring, when the trees are in bloom. Follow the trail across the river via the Reading Area Community College Bridge. Shortly after, you'll cross the Craig bridge over the Wyomissing Creek, and about a mile on you'll reach Lancaster Avenue, where you can take a side trip to Schlegel Park or grab a bite to eat at Queen City Diner. Or you can simply stay on the trail-a footbridge crossing the busy Lancaster Avenue/ Route 10 intersection was erected several years ago making it possible for trail users to continue on without entering the dangerous roadway.

Immediately after crossing the bridge, you'll see the historic Gerber-Fix Cemetery, which has gravestones dating back to the 18th century. Now squeezed between two busy roads-

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Routes 422 and 10-the cemetery was reputedly much larger at one time. A portion of the graves were removed to make way for the railroad line that now serves as the trail.

About 1.75 miles from Reading Riverfront Park you'll come to the Brentwood Trailhead. Both the trailhead and the paved section of trail that preceded it are fairly new-completed in fall 2007 as a project of Brentwood Industries and the Schuylkill River Heritage Area. Brentwood Industries went the extra mile and beautified the area, planting trees, flowers and grass and adding benches so you can rest a moment here and enjoy the peaceful setting only three miles from the heart of Reading. Signs in the parking lot offer information and maps about the trail, so you can get a good look at what the entire trail looks like. You'll also notice trail blades along many sections of the trail that provide distance information to various landings, other trails and parks.

Immediately past the Brentwood Trailhead, you'll arrive at two of the most scenic points on the Thun Trail-two former railroad bridges that cross high over the river, offering spectacular panoramic views of the flowing water and the hillsides beyond Reading. You can clearly see the seven-story red brick and tile Reading Pagoda that was built at the turn of the century. And you can pause to take in the view that drivers along nearby Route 422 never have time to savor.

The mostly wooded trail continues, paralleling Routes 422 and then 724, making it a good route for cycling commuters traveling to and from Reading.

It's about four miles from the Brentwood Trailhead to the town of Gibraltar-a total 5.8 miles from RACC. There, the off-road section of the trail ends for a bit, but continues as a

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shared road path along Old River Road. Gibraltar is a good spot to take a detour. You can stop at the Scoupe DeVille ice cream parlor which boasts a unique nostalgic décor. You can also make your way to Berks County's Allegheny Aqueduct Park, off River Road, where you'll see the remarkable aqueduct that was built in 1824 as part of the Schuylkill Navigation System. The aqueduct was essentially a bridge that carried canal boats across the Allegheny Creek. It is an impressive 112-foot, five-arch sandstone structure. Adjacent to the aqueduct is the 1783 Beidler house, built by Conrad Beidler, who operated a nearby grist mill, the remains of which are also visible.

You can head east on River Road to the beginning of the 3.6-mile on-road section of the trail, which is now well-marked, thanks to the recent addition of directional signs installed by the Schuylkill River Heritage Area. In fact, the SRHA has been erecting signs along the trail for the past several years, using grant funding from the Philadelphia-based William Penn Foundation. These signs make it easier for people to access the trail, locate trailheads and to orient themselves along the way. The on-road piece provides a nice change of scenery, taking you down some charming back roads. You'll pass beautiful stone barns and cycle along the river through an old canal village in Birdsboro.

By the time you get to Birdsboro, if you've started out at RACC, you've traveled 9.4 miles. If you didn't stop for a bite to eat in Gibraltar, then Birdsboro is the perfect spot to take a break. There are several places near the trail to grab a snack. Or, for a more leisurely lunch, try the Maple Springs Café, located along Route 724 in a small strip mall.

You'll travel briefly along the road in Birdsboro, an old industrial community founded by Ironmaster William Bird,

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whose son Marcus was the largest producer of iron during the Revolutionary War. The site of that iron producing community is now Hopewell Furnace National Historic Site, abutting nearby French Creek State Park

You get back on the trail at Armorcast Road. On your left you'll see the massive Armorcast plant that was built during World War II by the US Navy to build tanks-just one chapter in Birdsboro's long iron and steel history. Armorcast closed in 1988, and the 97-acre site is now slated for redevelopment by the county.

Once you pass the Armorcast plant, you'll come to a newly constructed part of the trail that runs behind the Optimists' Baseball Field, and takes you into a beautifully wooded section. It's 4.7 miles from Birdsboro to Morlatton Village, in Douglassville. Here the trail once again parallels Route 724 and crosses the road twice. Often, however, this tree-canopied path feels peacefully removed from civilization. You'll cross the river on another old railroad bridge, where, again, you may can pause and enjoy the beauty of the river. Shortly after, you'll come to Morlatton Village, the site of four 18th century buildings, including Berks County's oldest home, the 1716 Mouns Jones House, as well as the bridge keeper's house (where a covered bridge once spanned the river), White Horse Tavern and the George Douglass House still undergoing renovations. Not all the houses are visible from the trail, but it's worth a side trip down a short dirt road to see the restored bridge keeper's house and the Mouns Jones House. The buildings are only open to the public on special occasions, but even from the outside, they tell a story of a bygone era.

A railroad underpass along the trail allows you to take a side trip to the Douglassville Hotel, where you can get a bite

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to eat. This hotel originally sat next to the Douglassville Train Station, which once faced the railroad tracks.

Back on the trail, it's two miles to the Montgomery County line, and another 1.8 miles to Pottstown's Riverfront Park. Beyond the county line, the trail is paved. You'll travel briefly through an industrial area then wend your way along the river through Riverfront Park's lovely tree-lined path. You'll notice that a canoe launch has been added to Riverfront Park. It is one of a number of such launches that allow paddlers to explore the river along the Schuylkill River Water Trail, which was designated a Recommended Water Trail by the American Canoe Association in 2005. That designation came as the result of the availability of signs, maps and launches, as well as the river's beauty and its significance historically. Now that you've explored the hiking/biking trail and discovered the beauty there, you might want to consider a future trip on a canoe or kayak along the water trail.

You also might want to take a moment to explore Pottstown. Need something to eat or drink? Nearby High Street has some great eateries, including the Brick House on the corner of Hanover Street, only minutes from the trail. For history buffs, it's a short trip to Pottsgrove Manor, on King Street. The mansion was built in 1752 by ironmaster and founder of Pottstown, John Potts, and has been restored to recreate the lifestyle of the Potts family. It is open Tuesday through Saturday 10 am to 4 pm and Sunday 1-4 pm.

For those who don't have time for a side trip, Pottstown's Riverfront Park has benches facing the river, and tall trees to rest beneath. You'll probably want to take advantage of them, before you head back on your 18.5-mile return trip!

# THE STRANGER

*By WEEU's Mitch Gerhart  
(Based on a short story by Richard Matheson)*

There he was, walking the grounds of the Community Fair. He couldn't remember the last time he'd strolled these grounds, or why he had ever stopped.

When they were kids, he and his sister did this every year, finding a reason to go to the fairgrounds every night for a week.

From the "traditional" first ride on the Ferris wheel, to putting down the blankets to save a good space for the final-night fireworks show (what an odd custom THAT was—helping to transform half the high school campus into one gigantic quilt). Then, suddenly, he and his sister had grown up, and the whole thing just seemed tired. Now, walking alone down the street that split the fairgrounds in two, it was all coming back to him, especially the distinctive smells: from the fried onions at the steak sandwich stand to the sweet, sweet aroma of the funnel-cake stand. The food was probably their favorite part of the

fair from the start. He always insisted on stopping for fresh chocolate milk, while his sister just HAD to have a hot apple dumpling (with ice cream, OF COURSE!).

In the distance, he could hear the slightly-off-key music supporting the girls from the youth dance class in town. The sound was occasionally interrupted by the calls of the barkers along the midway, which were occasionally drowned out by the ding of the old “strength tester” (he wondered what the current-day prize was for ringing the bell). And, underneath it all, there was this steady hum of friends and neighbors chatting, of parents telling their children they’d spent enough money trying to break the balloons with the darts, of food stand operators trying to convince passersby of the superiority of THEIR French fries.

He didn’t really get into the midway games when he was a kid—they all seemed like such a rip-off. He especially hated the one with the basketball and the hoop, which always looked so large from 3 feet away, yet the ball kept clanging off the rim. The only game he really liked was the old goldfish/ping-pong toss. He loved trying to lob the ping-pong ball into the mini goldfish bowl—and, for some reason, he was good at it. It always amazed him that the goldfish survived the walk home inside that horrible plastic bag. Of course,

the goldfish never seemed to last very long; then, there was the time that he and his brother were playing catch with a tennis ball in the living room, the time that darned ball bounced off the bookshelf before taking aim at the goldfish bowl. Those poor fish never had a chance.

Somehow, sometime (he couldn't remember when), the goldfish thing was replaced by the ring toss. PETA, I guess. Anyway, the idea of tossing plastic rings at the top of the glass soda bottles, assembled in a pyramid of soda cases, seemed like too much trouble. In his mind, it also seemed to be a lot more difficult than throwing plastic balls into fish bowls, as if the ping-pong balls were less likely to bounce away than the rings. Yet, to his surprise, he found that he had a talent for this, too. And thanks to his newfound skill, he and his sister enjoyed many a bottle of A-Treat Cream Soda or Green Spot Orange (his favorites).

As he continued his present-day stroll down the midway, the familiar ping of the plastic rings suddenly caught his ear. There it was! At the far end of the midway, next to the place where you were supposed to throw a softball at what looked like a table of painted muffin tins. As he approached, a smile crossed his face as he watched a dozen or so youngsters try their luck -

boys who looked a lot like he did the last time he tried. Some—the younger ones, especially—didn't seem to understand the object; it was like they just enjoyed the sound of the rings bouncing away. Some of the older boys took it much more seriously - they talked openly about trying to figure the geometry involved in purposely deflecting the rings off one bottle so they would come to rest on another. All the while, the old man in the Reading Phillies hat kept egging them on. "It's SO easy—try your luck! Get three tries for just a buck!" The familiarity of the man's soiled hat and sales pitch reminded him—the same guy used to entice him on those annual visits with his sister!

Then he noticed the prize shelves—disappointingly, you could no longer win the soda! Instead, the shelves bore a variety of prizes—"cheap stuff" like oversized plastic combs and sunglasses on the bottom, beanbag ashtrays and beer can hats in the middle (what was it, 1975?), and—surprisingly—more expensive goodies on the top shelf, like a CD player, a portable vacuum, and an old-looking radio. And to think—he used to play for Green Spot!

He started reaching into his pocket for a dollar (wasn't it 5 rings for a quarter back in the day? And how did the old man in the hat make

THAT rhyme?) when he saw the stranger.

The man was standing at the counter, directly opposite from him, starting at the bottles. He looked pale, almost gray, and old, but not as old as the man in the hat. It was strange—his clothes looked new, yet were obviously out-of-style, especially the fedora. He expected to see a card with the word “PRESS” stuck in the band.

The stranger beat him to it, slapping a dollar on the counter and asking for three rings. The old man in the hat tucked the dollar into his belt and laid the rings on the counter. As other players’ attempts continued to bounce off the bottles, the stranger spied his target and tossed his first ring. It floated across the booth and came to rest on top of the bottle, seemingly without making a sound. The second ring did the same, landing on top of the first ring. Then, incredibly, the third ring followed suit—all three rings landing on the same bottle. The old man in the baseball hat wasn’t watching—he was busy coaxing George Washingtons out of the pockets of teenagers on another side of the booth. When he noticed that all three rings were piled atop the same bottle, he looked curiously at the stranger, and then laughed. “See how easy this is?” he shouted as he handed the stranger a key chain from the bottom shelf.

“Three more” said the stranger as he laid another dollar on the counter. The old man took three more purple rings from the box under the counter and laid them in front of the stranger. The man took a long look at the bottles, then let fly. Again, the ring came to rest on top of the same bottle as before! So did the second ring, followed by the third. The stand operator snorted as he grabbed the belt buckle from the bottom shelf, laid it in front of the winner, and turned away.

“Again!” said the man in the fedora, another dollar laid on the counter. “Look—what are you up to?” asked the operator. “This is an honest game— if you’re up to something, you’ll be in a lot of trouble! And no leaning in!”

“I’m not” said the stranger as he again took aim. The other players were now watching him, trying to figure out his secret. “Who else wants to give it a try? Easiest game at the Fair!” said the man in the baseball cap, trying to keep his business from screeching to a halt.

Again, the first ring left the stranger’s hand and dropped onto the same bottle. As he started to throw the second, the operator stopped him. “What the heck do you think you’re doing?” he asked. “Ring Toss” said the stranger, prompting a chorus of laughter from the other boys and their

parents, who had now gathered to watch, as well. “If you’re pulling something...” said the old man, his voice trailing off before completing the threat. The second ring floated, rotating slightly, and landed on the first ring, bringing a gasp from the crowd. “All right, hold on,” said the old man, as he moved the bottle a few inches away from the marksman in the fedora. He turned back to see the third ring floating past him before dropping on top of the other two. The crowd cheered as the old man grabbed an ashtray from the second shelf.

The winner pushed the ashtray aside, dropped another dollar on the counter, and said, “Again!” “Three tries to a customer”, barked the stand operator, clearly irritated at not being able to figure out the scam. “Those are the rules!”

“It doesn’t say that anywhere!” said one of the boys. “I played for an hour and a half last night!” “But you didn’t win, did you?” asked his friend, casting a knowing glance in the direction of the old man in the baseball hat.

“All right!” barked the operator, slamming three more rings on the counter. The first ring arced across the booth, just like the others had, settling on top of the bottle and setting off another roar from the crowd. The second toss looked like instant replay—same altitude, same subtle spin,

same result. The old man lit a cigarette and started puffing furiously as the third ring completed the plastic tower, making a light plastic “tick” sound as it settled in. The crowd erupted in cheers, dads giving high fives to compete strangers. The man in the Phillies hat started reaching for a car coin-holder on the middle shelf when the stranger said, “Radio.”

The operator shook his head. “The top shelf is display-only; you get the coin thing!” A few of the dads howled; some started to walk away, shaking their heads as the operator grabbed the magnetized plastic coin-holder from the shelf, turned toward the man, then started. The man in the fedora was gone. The old man’s eyes scanned the fairgrounds, but couldn’t spot the mysterious stranger. He turned and gasped—the key chain and belt buckle were back on the bottom shelf, the ashtray and coin-holder back in their original spots on the middle shelf. There were no rings piled atop any of the bottles. The man in the Phillies hat swallowed hard as the crowd wandered off, fathers and sons shaking their heads. A new “urban legend” was born.

He, too, walked away, debating in his mind whether to come back for the fireworks. Or to call his sister and tell her the story of the stranger.



# ***YOU'VE GOT MAIL!***

*by Jo Painter, WEEU Program Director*

You've got mail! It's no longer the punch line in a blonde joke, it's a common phrase that may bring you a flutter because you've been anticipating some notice, response, or confirmation. But, more often than not, it's likely to bring you a groan because 'you've got mail' is really just a reminder of more work in the ever-present 'in-box' that can weigh you down at the office or at home.

Thank goodness for spam filters. They at least block most of the unwanted 'you've got mail' notices. Still, no matter how sophisticated your firewall, e-mail spams manage to seep through.

Then, of course, there is the 'forward', which we all know is just another type of spam that lands in your 'in-box', usually, from well-intentioned friends or acquaintances. The problem with

'forwards' is they may not seem as funny, or touching, or informative to you as they apparently were to the sender. Either that or the sender has way too much time on his or her hands.

Whatever the case these things clog up your in-box slowing your productivity and distracting you from the real task at hand...uh, WORK! Besides, you're not supposed to be using your work computers for personal use. It's tricky when the computer sits on your desk staring at you all day.

The most prudent thing to do is simply hit 'delete'. After deleting 40 or 50 times you can actually address the e-mails that are work related and NEED your attention. If you're lucky the sender may have set his or her e-mail to get a return notice that the 'sent e-mail' has been read. Hopefully the sender will see that the return notice from you is continually deleted or 'not-read', and that might just be the hint it takes to get you out of the 'group e-mail forward list'.

Of course sometimes you just can't help yourself and you OPEN the forward. Maybe it was something in the message header or the sender's name that caught your attention. I often find that in many of these cases the e-mail you open turns out to be a sort of present that actually does brighten your day or bring a smile to your face. Maybe that's why you opened it.

I hesitate to pass on forwards for all the aforementioned reasons. But since this isn't e-mail

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and you are obviously enjoying some downtime away from the computer I'm taking the opportunity to forward this 'forward' about 'time getting better with age'.

I hope it's just the present you need to put on smile on your face. Enjoy!

*I've learned that I like my teacher because she cries when we sing "Silent Night".*

*Age 5*

*I've learned that our dog doesn't want to eat my broccoli either.*

*Age 7*

*I've learned that when I wave to people in the country, they stop what they are doing and wave back.*

*Age 9*

*I've learned that just when I get my room the way I like it, Mom makes me clean it up again.*

*Age 12*

*I've learned that if you want to cheer yourself up, you should try cheering someone else up.*

*Age 14*

*I've learned that although it's hard to admit it, I'm secretly glad my parents are strict with me.*

*Age 15*

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*I've learned that silent company is often more healing than words of advice.*

*Age 24*

*I've learned that brushing my child's hair is one of life's great pleasures.*

*Age 26*

*I've learned that wherever I go, the world's worst drivers have followed me there.*

*Age 29*

*I've learned that if someone says something unkind about me, I must live so that no one will believe it.*

*Age 30*

*I've learned that there are people who love you dearly but just don't know how to show it.*

*Age 42*

*I've learned that you can make some one's day by simply sending them a little note.*

*Age 44*

*I've learned that the greater a person's sense of guilt, the greater his or her need to cast blame on others.*

*Age 46*

*I've learned that children and grandparents are natural allies.*

*Age 47*

*I've learned that no matter what happens, or how bad it*

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*seems today, life does go on, and it will be better tomorrow.*

*Age 48*

*I've learned that singing "Amazing Grace" can lift my spirits  
for hours.*

*Age 49*

*I've learned that motel mattresses are better on the side away  
from the phone.*

*Age 50*

*I've learned that you can tell a lot about a man by the way he  
handles these three things: a rainy day, lost luggage, and  
tangled Christmas tree lights.*

*Age 51*

*I've learned that keeping a vegetable garden is worth a  
medicine cabinet full of pills.*

*Age 52*

*I've learned that regardless of your relationship with your  
parents, you miss them terribly after they die.*

*Age 53*

*I've learned that making a living is not the same thing as  
making a life.*

*Age 58*

*I've learned that if you want to do something positive for  
your children, work to improve your marriage.*

*Age 61*

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*I've learned that life sometimes gives you a second chance.  
Age 62*

*I've learned that you shouldn't go through life with a  
catchers mitt on both hands. You need to be able to throw  
something back.  
Age 64*

*I've learned that if you pursue happiness, it will elude you.  
But if you focus on your family, the needs of others, your  
work, meeting new people, and doing the very best you can,  
happiness will find you.  
Age 65*

*I've learned that whenever I decide something with kindness,  
I usually make the right decision.  
Age 66*

*I've learned that everyone can use a prayer.  
Age 72*

*I've learned that even when I have pains, I don't have to be  
one.  
Age 82*

*I've learned that every day you should reach out and touch  
someone. People love that human touch - holding hands, a  
warm hug, or just a friendly pat on the back.  
Age 90*

*I've learned that I still have a lot to learn.  
Age 92*



*The author, holding a glass of “miraculous” mint tea.*

## IT'S THE “FAIREST” TIME OF THE YEAR!

*by Steph Rollinson, WEEU Traffic Reporter*

As any Pennsylvanian knows, county fair season is the best time of year. With French fries, funnel cakes, sno cones, and maybe a fried Oreo or two, no five star restaurant can compete! If you're like I am, the endless parade of county fairs and church festivals throughout the summer is enough to keep you satisfied until next June. By September the last apple dumpling is slowly and regretfully

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consumed, and fall begins to creep in. County fair season draws to a close.

But don't give up those cotton candy dreams just yet! The third Saturday after labor day marks the start of the largest county fair in Pennsylvania (and possibly on the east coast)-a Mecca of classic and unique fair foods. It's a place where church stands mix harmoniously with carnival essentials on two hundred twenty seven glorious acres. It's Bloomsburg Fair week!

Founded in 1855, 2009 will mark 155 years of food, games, and agricultural exhibits. Originally a one day event designed to showcase local farmers' products, the fair was so successful that it expanded into a six day affair in 1923. Now lasting eight full days and bringing in over 432,000 visitors a year Fair (As it's called by anyone "in the know") is a staple for farmers near and far. The fairgrounds are still located on the same field as the first fair in Bloomsburg, Columbia County. Next to the grounds is Fishing Creek, which causes frequent flooding. Despite the water hazard, Fair has never been totally cancelled. Once, in 1975, Fair closed two days early due to hurricane Eloise. (Be sure to check out the flood marks on the restroom building located near the exhibition halls.)

A few words of caution for those preparing to embark on a day at Fair: Plan on walking! With 227 acres to cover, wear the most comfortable

shoes you own. Also, this is a county fair, folks, parts aren't paved. If it's rained in the past week expect to get muddy. Next, the sensible breakfast you were planning on eating before the car trip north-skip it. Eat something to tide you over. There will be plenty to eat at the fairgrounds; after all it is an "eating fair."

The seasoned early birds will start their day when the gates open at 7 am with breakfast at one of the many "dinner stands." A dinner stand may only serve dinner, but many also serve breakfast and lunch. The phrase specifically refers to a food both that offers a full meal, including meat, potato, vegetables, and a roll, and also a place to sit and enjoy it. Originally, Fair only allowed one permanent structure other than the exhibition buildings. It was a "dinner stand" available each year on a rotating basis to local churches. In recent years, families, community organizations and quite a few churches operate the popular eateries. A favorite breakfast haunt of mine is Karschner's, located along the far end of the racetrack; it's famous for buckwheat pancakes (the traditional breakfast at Fair). They also make a mean Bretzelwhich-a hot ham and cheese sandwich served on a split soft pretzel.

If you can forgo breakfast a little longer, the five exhibition buildings are a great place to start your day at Fair. As a child, I loathed the buildings because they were never quite as interesting as the

many vendor stands or the endless parade of food on a stick. I appreciate them much more now that I understand the preparation and hard work that goes into them. Featured in the five halls are 4H displays, classroom projects from local schools, giant pumpkins, flower arrangements, baked goods and canned items galore. Insiders know to plan their trip to Fair early on in the week to ensure that favorite foods aren't sold out, but it also is critical if you're interested in the flowers. By the end of the week the flowers naturally begin to droop, and you certainly don't want to miss out!

As you make your way through the educational part of Fair, make sure to pause in the porticos connecting the industrial, arts & crafts, and education buildings. The halls between the three buildings include about a half dozen benches which are always a hot commodity for tired feet. More importantly, it's one of the breeziest spots on the grounds, and the people resting are always willing to engage in conversation. You'll find that most people are friendly throughout the Fair. It's one of those rare places where everyone you meet treats you like a neighbor.

So you've completed the buildings, now it's time to really dig into the atmosphere of Fair. Since you're on the far side of the Fair, it's best to start where you're at and work your way through systematically. Warning: No matter how many times you try, someone in your party will get

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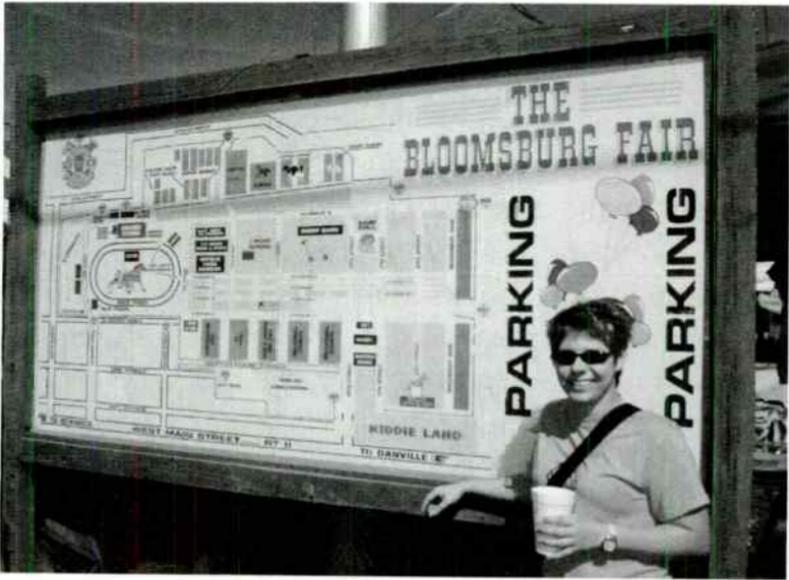
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distracted and you'll veer off course. My family has yet to perfect this tactic, and we've been regulars for over thirty years.

The newest section of Fair stretches before you, just beyond the kid's rides: a few aisles, part of machinery row, and the historic roots of Fair. If you're new to the experience, be sure to check out the Rupert School House and the Caleb Barton Historic House. Barton is the generous farmer whose land housed the first Bloomsburg Fair. The building has been lovingly restored, and many items inside were donated by local residents. Next door to the Barton House and located directly behind the School House is the Historical Exhibition building. You'll find hand made rocking chairs, spinning wheels, carriages and tatted lace items in this area. The items on display not only help to piece together a vision of the past, but the artisans who helped build and restore them are on hand to answer any questions. My stand out food item in the "newer" section of the fairgrounds is Lochs Maple Syrup. Normally, maple syrup is something you would pick up in the grocery store, but the reason I love this stand is the maple flavored cotton candy. It takes sugary indulgence to a whole new level.

Finally, it's time to attack the area where the streets are lined with so many food and merchandise vendors that you'll think you've reached county fair heaven! The systematic

approach works best here as well, but on a much larger scale. I would also recommend taking notes on stand locations as you go. The other option is to pick up a free map from the office building, and mark stands on the map. I prefer the notebook method because it's easier to add information about the stands as you devour the food.

I could spend hours describing the delights that fill the aisles, but I'll leave most of them to surprise. Instead, I'll highlight a few of my favorites. Along the racetrack, next to Karschner's sits the Strawberry Ridge U.C.C. stand that sells church kitchen favorites like bar-b-que sandwiches, but they also have homemade pies. Each day during Fair week these pies are made by a local resident, and they taste just as good as grandma makes them. It's crucial that you reserve your pie in the early morning because by 2 p.m. they'll be completely sold out.

Another favorite of mine that sells out early is the bloomin' onion blossom stand. They're located on the carnival side of the Fair, and serve deep fried onions, vegetables, and mozzarella cheese cubes. Now, these aren't your average restaurant cheese balls. These two inch square cubes are bursting with gooey cheese, and the only way to eat them is right off the skewer. Forget sharing them! To try and pry them from their stick, they just stretch into endless cheesy bliss. The stand itself doesn't have an official name, but

it's located directly across from the Leonard Street gate with a green and yellow striped roof.

The best and last stop at Fair every year is the pizza stand on 4th Street, between C and D Avenues. Pizza stands are scattered around the fairgrounds and they're fairly run of the mill. In 2006 my mother, sister, aunt, and I made the trek to Fair. During the afternoon, we stumbled (quite literally!) on a pizza stand that featured home made mint sweet tea. We're mint tea connoisseurs in my family, but it's not your cup of tea don't worry. They also have regular tea and unsweetened. I stick strictly with the mint because not only is it the best, it's miraculous mint tea.

At the end of the night the while the others acquired giant chocolate éclairs, I made a last run for sweet tea. Originally we needed one for each of us, but the girl at the stand broke my heart when she said she had enough for one glass-two if she added lots of ice. Two were successful, and after a look into the cavernous carafe, she decided she could make a third glass. Well, while three isn't ideal, it sure beats sharing two! When the third glass was filled (also stretched with ice) she still had a little bit left. By this time, both of us were laughing and my family was clueless. We finally managed to stretch one glass of mint tea into four glasses with lots of ice.

With four glasses, I had to make two trips, and when I showed up with the first set, my sister

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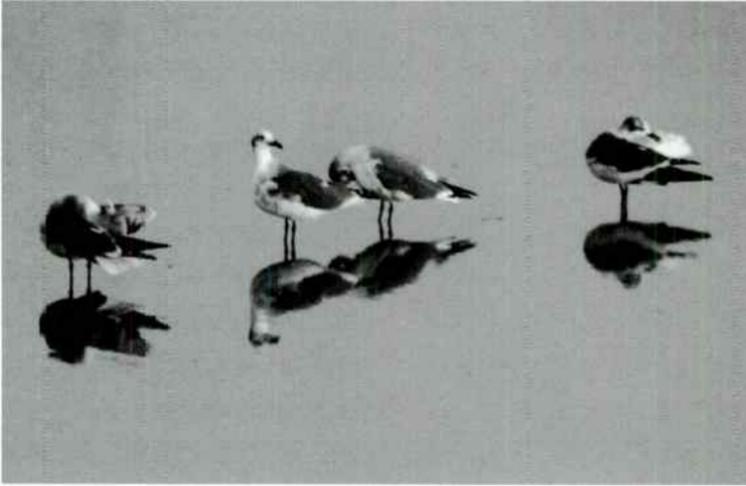
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looked crushed. I quickly explained that it was the end of the night, and the tea was stretched into two glasses. Since they were still in line for the éclairs, I created an excuse to sneak off a second time. But when I returned with two more glasses, all three were speechless. It was truly miraculous.

Now that you've taken a stroll around Fair with a seasoned pro, mark your calendar for Bloomsburg Fair Week 2009: September 26th through October 3rd. Spend a Saturday leisurely walking the grounds. Enjoy the 4H exhibits and debate over the best flower arrangements. Most of all-eat! Because as everyone knows all those calories you gain eating just get walked off anyway!



Heather H. Thomas speaks at the October, 2008 Greater Reading Literary Festival event at RACC, where she was announced as the 2008 Berks County Poet Laureate. (Photo by Anna Hehn)



## **Jack's Backyard ...and beach... Photos**

Sure, Jack Holcomb is a local radio legend, host of "Jack's Backyard" on Saturday mornings on WEEU. And sure, Jack is a renowned naturalist and birder...  
...but he's also a heck of a photographer, as witnessed in these photos.



**Red-tail Hawk.**  
(Previous page: Laughing Gulls in winter plumage)



**Northern Saw-whet Owl**

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2009	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	2009	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	
	<b>JAN.</b>	4	5	6	7	8	9		10	<b>JULY</b>	5	6	7	8	9	10
	11	12	13	14	15	16	17		12	13	14	15	16	17	18	
	18	19	20	21	22	23	24		19	20	21	22	23	24	25	
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	29	30	31						20	21	22	23	24	25	26	
<b>APR.</b>				1	2	3	4	<b>OCT.</b>	27	28	29	30				
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	26	27	28	29	30				18	19	20	21	22	23	24	
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<b>JUNE</b>									29	30						
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<b>2010</b>	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	<b>2010</b>	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	<b>JAN.</b>	3	4	5	6	7	8		9	<b>JULY</b>	4	5	6	7	8
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<b>FEB.</b>		1	2	3	4	5	6		8	9	10	11	12	13	14
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	28	29	30	31				<b>OCT.</b>						1	2
<b>APR.</b>					1	2	3		3	4	5	6	7	8	9
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	27	28	29	30											





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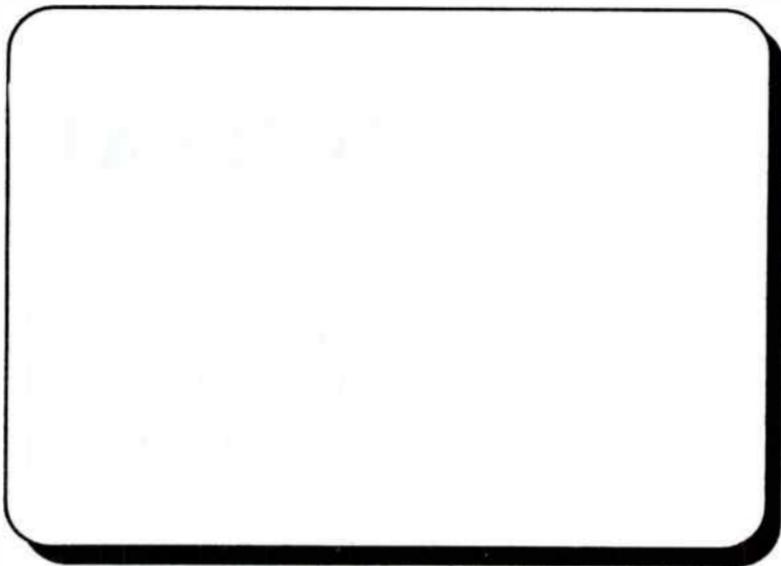
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# The Ghost Storyteller: A Dinosaur Among Lemmings?

**by Charles J. Adams III**  
*(“Charlie” of Charlie & Company.  
Weekday mornings, 6-9 on WEEU)*

I tell ghost stories. I have been telling ghost stories to anyone who will listen to them for more than 30 years.

I reckon that in those three decades, I have told ghost stories to tens of

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thousands of people who have attended the thousands of live “performances” I have given. I have reached hundreds of thousands more through the printed word in the more than two dozen ghost story books I have written. Untold millions more have heard my tales on networks such as A&E, The Travel Channel, The History Channel, and on radio and television stations around the world.

I like to tell ghost stories. I like to scare people. Any meeting room, library hall, restaurant, or stage becomes my campfire around which I spin my eerie yarns. I don my top hat, cape, and walking stick and try my best to transport my audience into another era and onto another plane. My intent is to continue the time-honored art of live storytelling. Ghost storytelling.

As that costumed, live, ghost storyteller, I may be an endangered species. Endangered by ignorance.

Let me tell you a story about ghost storytelling.

At the start of the last school year, I received a call from the Reading Specialist of an elementary school in the Reading, Pa., suburbs. Would I tell ghost stories to her fifth and sixth graders the Friday

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before Halloween?

Sure I would, I told her. No charge, either, I added. I love to tell ghost stories to 10-12 year olds. I love to tweak their imaginations, tease their sensitivities, and take them to the threshold of their fears. I've done it a hundred times—maybe two hundred. It's Halloween, after all! Hasn't every generation reveled in the tradition of ghost stories at that time of the year?

Of course, they have. But, that might be grinding to a gruesome halt.

The Tuesday before Halloween, I received a communication from the principal of the school, who asked me to provide her with an outline of my talk.

She was specifically concerned that I might-get this-mention *death* when I tell my ghost stories.

After pondering all of those letters after the educator's name and wondering whether any of that education might have touched on the reality that the prerequisite of being a *ghost* most certainly involves *death*, I composed myself and composed a response.

I told her that I tell ghost stories. I didn't feel it required my explanation, justification, or qualification. I had told many ghost stories to many children of

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that age group in many schools over many years.

And after all, it was Halloween.

Or, was it?

Not in that school district. The Wednesday before Halloween I learned that the district was not allowing its children to dress in costumes. No Halloween parties or parades. No Halloween decorations. The word Halloween was not to be murmured.

In that district, Halloween was morphed into a "Fall Festival."

That was all I needed to hear. No Halloween? No me.

With sincere regrets for the children, I contacted the Reading Specialist who invited me to speak and I uninvited myself. Your school is having a "Fall Festival" instead of Halloween? Invite someone to tell corn stalk, hay bale, and pumpkin stories instead of ghost stories.

In my cape and top hat, and with my scary little stories, I would be nothing more than a dinosaur trudging among lemmings.

I had two choices, of course. The gentle one would have been to buckle to the principal, tailor my tales, and honor my agreement to speak.

Instead, I stood my ground and

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refused to dance to that school's tune of timidity.

Some call all of this "Political Correctness Run Amuck." Very well, I'll accept that, but I'm sick of it. It's not just a P.C. issue. As far as I'm concerned, it digs deeper beyond politics and into the very roots of civilization and-*attention Miss Principal*-education.

The National Council of Teachers of English, the International Reading Association, and other educational groups recognize and endorse the value of a good ghost story.

In a lesson plan called "Teaching Epic Through Ghost Stories," it is suggested that "Our oral tradition of telling ghost stories, with which students are very familiar, builds a useful bridge to the oral tradition of the ancient epic narrators."

The outline added, "Enjoying ghost stories, particularly stories about a place they know, helps students to picture ancient storytellers and their listeners as they gather around a fire to hear an epic. Hearing ghost stories also helps them to appreciate a good storyteller."

Now, I do not profess to be an "epic narrator," and only hope I'm a fair storyteller. But, I found the NCTE and

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IRA's pronouncements interesting and supportive.

In the *New York Sun* newspaper in 1897, editor Francis P. Church wrote an editorial answer to eight-year old Virginia O'Hanlon who had asked, "Is there a Santa Claus?"

In his timeless response, Church wrote, "All minds, Virginia, whether they be men's or children's, are little. In this great universe of ours, man is a mere insect, an ant, in his intellect as compared with the boundless world about him, as measured by the intelligence capable of grasping the whole of truth and knowledge..."

"The most real things in the world are those that neither children nor men can see. Did you ever see fairies dancing on the lawn? Of course not, but that's no proof that they are not there. Nobody can conceive or imagine all the wonders there are unseen and unseeable in the world."

Church, incidentally, was the son of a Baptist minister.

Christmas (which, of course, has also fallen by the politically-correct wayside) has also inspired the likes of Charles Dickens to write several ghost stories, the most famous being "A Christmas Carol." It

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was, as he called it, "A Ghostly Little Book."

And, in a popular Christmas (oops, *Holiday*) song released in 1963, lyrics include "There'll be scary ghost stories and tales of the glories of Christmases long, long, ago."

Ironically, the name of that song is "It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year."

With references to both ghosts and Christmas, the song is sure to be anything but wonderful to some people.

So, just far amuck can all of this run?

Consider Veterans' Day. I read in my local newspaper that a chorus of fifth and sixth graders from a local school sang at a Veterans' Day program at Veterans' Grove, in Reading's City Park.

Picture that in your mind. Innocent, impressionable elementary school kids, standing between vintage cannons and Howitzers and memorials to fallen warriors, singing to honor professional military men and women who were trained to kill people and destroy property.

This veteran asks, only partly facetiously, if that should be allowed. *What are we teaching these children?*

Consider Thanksgiving. Although kids

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could not wear costumes at Halloween, several were pictured in the newspaper wearing “Pilgrim” and “Indian” costumes at a Thanksgiving play. Funny, huh?

But, do not the Pilgrims represent a deep *religious* conviction? Is not Thanksgiving a *faith-based* holiday? And, do not the painted-faces, feathers-in-headband “Indians” represent a deep insensitivity toward Native Americans?

*What are we teaching these children?*

In the news was an item about a controversy in Sarasota, Florida, where an idea to create, decorate, and sell fiberglass clowns as a citywide art project and charity fundraiser had run into opposition—a “clown-troversy,” they called it.

It seems that certain parties felt the placement of the clowns should not be allowed because “some people” believe clowns are “too scary.”

Clowns. Too scary. In Sarasota, the home of the Clown Academy, the Museum of the Circus, John Ringling, and the circus he founded. Clowns. Too Scary. Is it me?

Is it only me who thinks all of this skittishness has teetered into a place we should not be?

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I have a friend who is a teacher and a Civil War re-enactor and tells vivid tales of the Battle of Gettysburg.

A school district reluctantly allowed him to continue to tell the tales, but requested that he not mention guns when he does so.

Talk about a battle, but do not mention...uh...guns.

“What do those people think those men died from out there,” he asked, “fright?”

And, how about the Johnstown, Pa., school district that asked teachers to refrain from snowman decorations in wintertime. Nothing depicting a snowman should appear anywhere in any Johnstown school.

Heavens to Frosty! No snowmen? Correct. And, it's because a B-list rap “artist” had chosen the depiction of an angry snowman as a symbol of cocaine drug dealing. Tee-shirts with the faux-snowman were hot-selling items among the B-list of the student body.

Johnstown High School Principal Dan Resenic was quoted in the press as saying, “It's a sad commentary that people can make a nice profit by degrading something that is a holiday tradition.”

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Consider this, Mr. Resenic and Miss Principal from the Halloween-trashing suburban Reading school district. Consider not cowering in fear, caving in, and conceding defeat at the hands of a minority of pathetic party-poopers who seek to tread on traditions and emasculate observances.

My Halloween storytelling season concluded on Halloween itself at, ironically, a school in Pottstown, Pa.

Having been assured that I was there to tell the middle school students—many rather rugged, inner-city kids—*ghost stories* as part of their *Halloween* program, I strode into the school well before “showtime” and secreted myself backstage. There, walking stick in hand and top hat on head, I waited until I heard the first rumble of incoming students.

I peeked from behind the closed curtains into the auditorium as it filled. Hmm, I thought, a tough crowd.

But, I knew the storyteller’s garb and countenance would get and hold their attention as long as I did what I do best—*tell ghost stories*.

I walked confidently on stage and took complete control of their senses and imaginations. For 20 minutes or so, I took

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them to a place many had never been before. As my make-believe bonfire sizzled and crackled behind me, it fueled my own enthusiasm.

Out in the dim auditorium was a galaxy of wide-eyes. You could hear a feather drop as I let the ghost stories kick in. I could also see that many of the students were wearing costumes. That added even more kindling to the fire burning slowly within me.

For my “grand finale,” I decided to trot out a trick I hadn’t pulled in years. It’s a little device that methodically and mysteriously brings the right kind of audience into the palm of my hand until I shock them with a surprise ending that leaves them shrieking. This was the right kind of audience. It worked like a charm. Shriek they did. And as they shrieked, I disappeared behind the curtains.

It was the right kind of audience, and the right kind of school. The teacher who invited me to speak was dressed as a gorgeous geisha (there are lessons to be learned about that, too, I suppose); and although dressed professionally, the principal sported a tie with creepy artwork and a button that played spooky music when pinched.

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I left that school with a renewed spirit. Halloween was still safe, at least in that school.

As I drove home, I felt a little remorse about my cancellation of that other storytelling session in that other school. I couldn't have cared less about the pusillanimous principal or the timorous district, but I felt bad that due to the extenuating circumstances, I let that reading specialist down.

More than that, I would have liked to go there and get face-to-face, imagination-to-imagination with those kids. But, I'm sure the cardboard cutouts of turkeys and pumpkins at their Fall Festival made their Halloween very special.

Who am I kidding? They were probably too busy reading Harry Potter books, engaging in a round of Mortal Combat, or playing The Suffering or the aliens and predators games on their X-Boxes.

Who needs live ghost storytellers when they have all that?

Pardon me as this dinosaur trudges back into the shadows. I hope I don't tread on any lemmings on the way. There's a lot of them out there these days.

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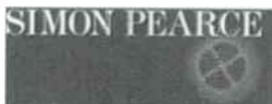
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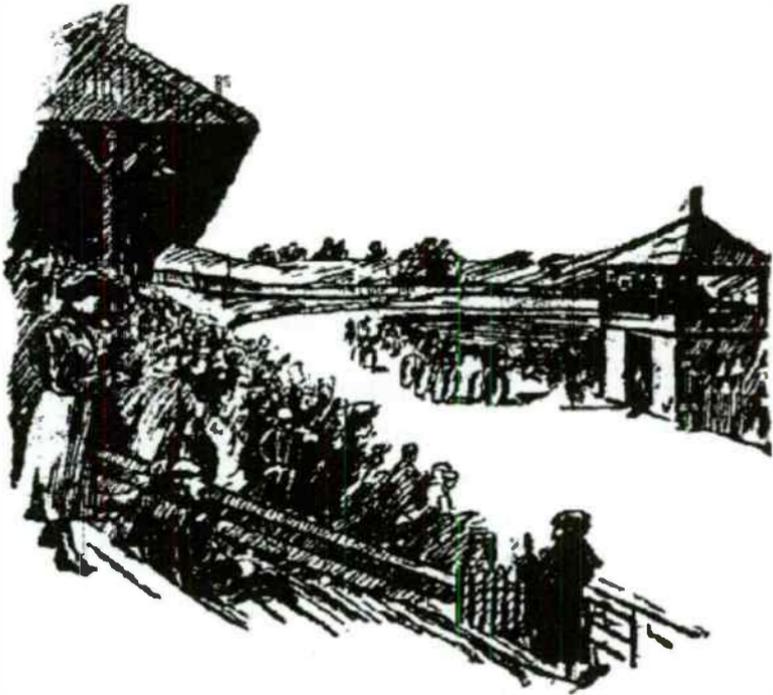
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*Early bicycle racing at the Berks County  
Fairgrounds, on North 11th Street above  
Rockland.*

## **BICYCLE RACING HAS A PROUD HERITAGE IN READING**

*by Charles J. Adams III*

Big-time bicycle racing is really nothing new in Reading. In fact, national-level races were held here more than a century ago, at

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the height of the early days of cycle competition.

What's more, there are parallels between the racing of then and the racing of now.

The 2006 Commerce Bank Reading Classic follows the Lancaster Classic race of June 4 and is a prelude to the Philadelphia International Championship on Sunday, June 11.

It was a bicycle race in October, 1888 in McGrann's Park in Lancaster and a race a few days later in Philadelphia that fueled the desires of a handful of local men who envisioned races in Reading.

Among that local contingent who attended those races were Charles Wilson and W. Irving Wilhelm, who actually raced in the Philadelphia event. Upon their return to their home town, the two engaged in a well-publicized, five-mile challenge race on the horse-racing track at the Berks County Fairgrounds, now Reading City Park.

Wilson and Wilhelm were determined to make the race a spectacle. They engaged friends with handsome horses to usher the cyclists onto the track. And, as a chap named Barney Snyder sounded a bugle, the race was on.

Wilson was nursing an injury sustained on the Walnut Street hill the day before, and

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was beaten by Wilhelm in a close finish.

The race netted the loosely-organized sponsors \$138. They used the proceeds to secure furnishings and office space for a more formal bicycle club. On March 26, 1889, two floors over Jim Brown's Hat Store on Penn Street above Sixth, the Penn Wheelmen Club was founded.

Over the next four years, the club quarters hopscotched around town until settling into the McIlvain residence at 120 N. 5th Street, where it was legally incorporated on October 3, 1893.

In 1889, the Penn Wheelmen held their first bicycle meet and a year later, they sponsored a Myerstown-to-Reading road race.

The club expanded its membership and influence steadily in the early 1890s, as the bicycling craze swept the country.

An event on September 23, 1892 at the "new" county Fairgrounds on 11th Street north of Rockland drew some of the fastest racers in the region. But, that meet, in which participants competed for prizes such as a pair of suspenders, a sweater, or a box of cigars, could be considered the first race that drew nationally-ranked riders to Reading.

Two of those topflight talents were also among the most innovate and eccentric early bicycle racing stars.

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In the field of that 1892 meet was National Circuit rider Charles M. Murphy, from Long Island, N.Y. Just three years before his Reading appearance, he had astounded the world and earned the nickname “Mile-a-Minute Murphy.”

The diminutive, mustachioed Murphy was 29 years old when he staged a daring stunt along a lonely stretch of the Long Island Railroad (LIRR) tracks in Nassau County, N.Y.

Earlier that year, Murphy told a gathering of the League of American Wheelmen that he was confident that he could pedal a bicycle one mile in one minute. In the audience was Hal Fullerton, the LIRR’s public relations director. He approached Murphy with an idea.

Murphy had challenged himself and was committed to make good on his boast. The LIRR needed positive publicity.

So, on June 30, 1899, the stage was set. A straight, flat, three-mile stretch of track between Farmingdale and Babylon was rigged with planks over the track ties. Upon those planks, Murphy would ride behind an observation car that was hooked up behind the locomotive.

Someone would time Murphy from the observation car. More than 50 LIRR officials, newspaper reporters, and VIPs filled the car, which was outfitted with a white “target”

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board at the very rear. Murphy would concentrate on that board as he pedaled frantically behind it.

It was early evening when the locomotive breathed hard and belched smoke to signal the start of the stunt. Murphy clutched the handlebars of his Tribune Blue Streak bike. Soon, his blond hair fluttered in the breeze as he tried to keep up with the ever-accelerating train.

He not only kept up with the train, but he actually sped ahead so quickly that he collided with the “target” board a half-dozen times.

Spectators along the right-of-way and observers in the rail car marveled at the whirl of the bike’s wheels and the blur of the rider’s legs.



*“Mile-a-Minute Murphy” on the boards.*

When it was over, the timer confirmed

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that he had ridden the bike at 60, and maybe even 70 miles per hour. He had silenced his critics, established a world record, and become one of the best-known bicycle racers of the day.

Also among the elite, and among those who raced in Reading in 1892 was Arthur Augustus Zimmerman, a Freehold, N.J.-native who was the reigning World Champion Bicycle Racer. Zimmerman is also known to cycling historians as the builder of one of the premiere bikes of the late 1890s, the “Zimmy.”

“Le Grand Zim,” as he was called, put on quite a show that day, but the Berks County fans were most surprised at how their own Eddie Youse finished a close second to “Mile-a-Minute Murphy.”

Races of several lengths were held, with



*A. A. Zimmerman on his “Zimmy”*

local favorite Charles W. Krick leading the

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pack in the longest, a ten-miler.

Krick was among a handful of Reading riders who made their marks behind the handlebars in the late 1890s.

In the 150-mile *New York Times*' Tri-State Relay Race of 1895, Krick finished first. And, he carried the Penn Wheelmen's proud orange and black colors into many other races up and down the east coast with equal success. On July 5, 1897, Krick set a new record at the Fairgrounds track and won the state bicycle racing championship.

Later that summer, a National Circuit Meet came to Reading for the very first time. Among the 90 riders were Zimmerman, and Eddie Bald.

Another parallel to Reading's 2006 race can be drawn in that many of the topnotch racers who came to that first League of American Wheelmen (L.A.W.)-sanctioned National Circuit Meet here came directly from the national meet in Philadelphia, which had drawn some 50,000 spectators.

The Penn Wheelmen were not expecting a crowd anywhere close to that size in Reading, but they were sure that the city's bicycle racing fans would support the event, which was to be held on a Tuesday afternoon. Ultimately, the crowd was estimated at around 4,000.

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Professional racers competed in several divisions and levels. And, local amateur racing favorites vied for the most coveted trophy of the day, the Reading Eagle Cup, sponsored by the newspaper company.

In 1898, an even bigger National Circuit Meet came to town, with virtually every star in the bicycle racing galaxy in the program.

It was, as the *Reading Eagle* described it, “the most brilliant meet the Penn Wheelmen ever held.”

The first event was a one-mile race for professionals, which was one in a series that decided the national championship.



*Local favorite Charles Krick*

But, the two-mile professional handicap

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race drew much attention from those in the know in the stands.

Two competitors were “scratch” racers in that event, in that they were not given “head starts” that ranged from 20 to 250 yards. They were perennial favorite Eddie Bald, of Buffalo, N.Y., and the phenomenal Major Taylor.

The presence of Major Taylor in Reading for that race stands as landmark, but largely forgotten, day in local sports history.

Taylor’s impact on cycling, sports, and American cultural history cannot be understated.

Born in Indianapolis in 1878, Taylor was raised and educated in a wealthy white American family environment. But, Taylor was black...or, “colored,” in the lingo of the day.

His father was the family’s coachman, and Marshall was like a son to the family. In 1891, he was given a bicycle. He took to it immediately, riding at a lightning speed and performing stunts that earned him a job at an Indianapolis bike shop. He wore a soldier’s uniform, and was given the nickname that stuck with him the rest of his life.

Quite a life it was. By 1896, Taylor had become the fastest cyclist in the country. But, when he wasn’t breaking records, winning championships, and drawing huge crowds, he

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was being banned from races because he was “colored.”

It can be noted that after Major Taylor won the world championship race in Montreal in 1899, he became the second black man to ever win a professional world title (the first being boxer George Dixon in 1890).

In his last bike racing years, 1901-1904, “The Major” competed in Europe, Australia, New Zealand, and the United States.

Interestingly, during the off-season in the winter of 1900-1901, Taylor and “Mile-a-Minute Murphy” teamed up as a vaudeville act. The two staged roller skates “races” on theater stages throughout New England, to the delight of many audiences.

For all of his achievements, Taylor still suffered abuse and derision from many cycling fans. He died in 1932 at the age of 53 in the charity ward of a Chicago hospital and was buried in an unmarked grave. Sixteen years later, several professional bike racers and Schwinn Bicycle Co. owner Frank Schwinn arranged to have Taylor’s remains exhumed and reburied under a handsome monument in the Mt. Glenwood Cemetery.



*Major Taylor*

Another individual whose fame transcended bicycle racing was on the card at the 1898 national meet in Reading.

Say the name “Barney Oldfield” and any knowledgeable sports fan will respond with “auto racing pioneer” or “daredevil” or “silent film actor.” But, before he achieved fame and fortune behind the wheel, he did quite well behind the handlebars.

Henry Ford himself tabbed Barney to race his “999” speedsters, and race 'em, he did! Oldfield became quite the celebrity as a race driver. He commanded high appearance fees, had his own private railway car, cavorted with the highest of high society across the country.

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*Barney Oldfield*

He even starred as himself with Mabel Normand in a silent film in 1913. In Mack Sennett's "Barney Oldfield's Race for a Life," his car outraced a locomotive in a frantic and successful effort to free Normand, who had been tied to the railroad tracks by a dastardly villain.

Oldfield also tried his hand at Broadway, starring in a musical called "The Vanderbilt Cup."

Despite his successes, many Americans saw Oldfield as an arrogant, boisterous buffoon.

That certainly was not the man who came to race in Reading in 1898.

Barney was but 19 years old when he took to the Berks County Fairgrounds track, and his achievements as a young bicycle racer

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had made him a fan favorite. No one in the crowd that year could have predicted what would happen to Barney, The Major, or bicycle racing in general.

And yet, there were signs as early as 1898.

That was Reading's Sesquicentennial year, and during a celebration on Penn Square, an unnamed fellow brought the first "motor cycle" to town. Later, he took the cycle to the races of the Associated Bicycle Clubs in Shillington. He demonstrated the contraption on behalf of its manufacturer in Philadelphia. As human-powered bikes were still very much in the vogue, most onlookers treated the appearance as a mere curiosity.

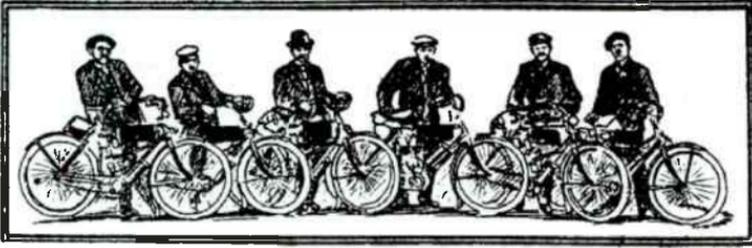
Little did they know.

Faster, louder, and arguably more thrilling, motorcycles roared into Reading in the late 1890s.

Quickly, motorcycle clubs were formed, races were organized, and city factories that formerly produced bicycles retooled to build motorized cycles.

The first "Reading Standard" motorcycle cost \$210. A May, 1906, article in the *Reading Eagle* stated: "Motor cycling is an exhilarating sport. The machine is durably built and seldom gets out of order. It shoots up the

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*An early motor cycle club in Reading, ca. 1906.*

hardest grades and down the sharpest inclines with remarkable ease. The two quarts of gasoline they carry are sufficient for a trip of from 150 to 180 miles at 35 miles an hour. It is a great sensation, sitting almost motionless on the motor and dashing along at that velocity.”

Somewhat ironically, one of the first proponents of motorcycles in Reading was Eddie Youse, who demonstrated his Packer cycle on Duryea and Skyline Drives in 1903. Eleven years before that, Eddie Youse was one of the fastest *bicycle* racers in Reading.

Bicycle races and club runs in Berks County continued through the turn of the century. But, as motorcycles and then automobiles began to glimmer and glitter in the public's eye, the golden age of bicycle racing quickly flickered and faded.

The Penn Wheelmen bicycle club continued to exist, but turned its attention to the sponsorship of local basketball, football,

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and baseball teams. It eventually became a musical performance element of the Rajah Temple of the Shrine.

But, as Reading was vaulted into national bicycle racing prominence in the early 21st century, it is well worth remembering that the city had already, in the words of that hackneyed cliché, “been there, done that” in the late 19th century.



**What was there before what  
is there was there.....**

Recognize this block of Penn Street as it appeared  
in 1973? If not, ask an old-timer!

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VOL. 12 THURSDAY, APRIL 17, 1947 No. 49

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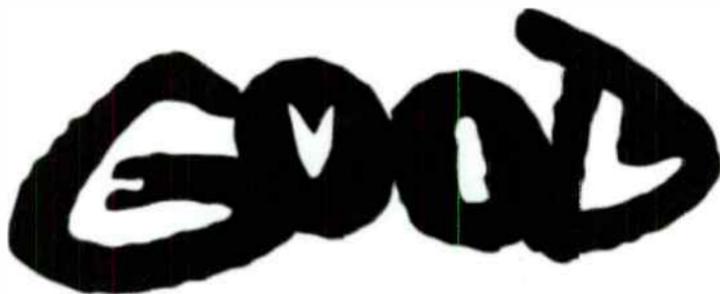
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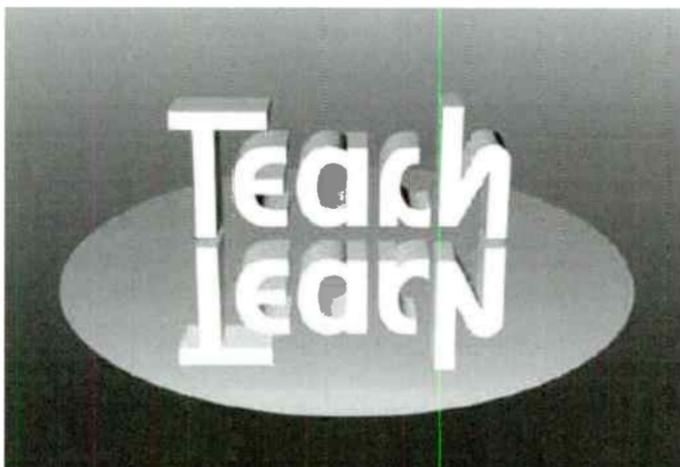
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**Above: Do you see good or evil...or both?**

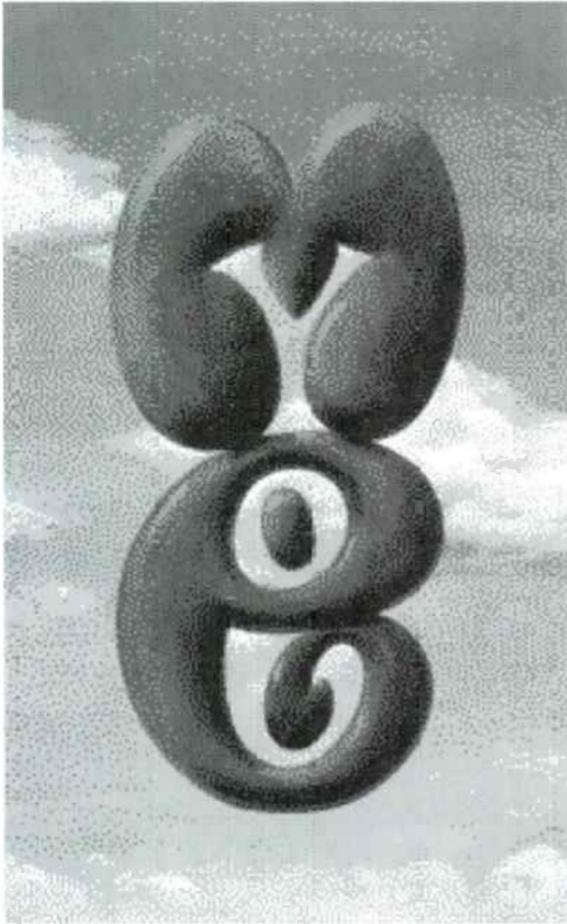


**Above: Is that an Optical Illusion in the truest sense of the words?**



**Above: Just how closely related are teaching and learning?**

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**Is it me...or you?**

•

**The earth weighs about  
6,588,000,000,000,000 tons.**

•

**The force of 1 billion people jumping at the same time is  
equal to 500 tons of TNT.**

•

**Popeye was 5'6".**

•

**Howdy Doody had 48 freckles.**

# **101 USELESS FACTS**

1. For every human being on earth, there are about 200 million insects.
2. The harmonica is the world's most popular instrument.
3. By the time they are 65 years old, most Americans have watched more than nine years worth of television.
4. The puck in ice hockey can travel at up to 118 mph (190 km/h).
5. If you stretched all the nerves in the body from end to end, they would be about 47 miles long.
6. Humans have more than 600 muscles in their bodies.
7. Rubber bands last longer when refrigerated.
8. Peanuts are one of the ingredients of dynamite.
9. There are 293 ways to make change for a dollar.
10. The average person's left hand does 56% of the typing.
11. A shark is the only fish that can blink with both eyes.
12. There are more chickens than people in the world.
13. Two-thirds of the world's eggplant is grown in New Jersey.
14. The longest one-syllable word in the English language is "screeched."
15. All of the clocks in the movie "Pulp Fiction" are stuck on 4:20.
16. No word in the English language rhymes with month, orange, silver or purple.
17. "Dreamt" is the only English word that ends in the

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letters “mt.”

18. All 50 states are listed across the top of the Lincoln Memorial on the back of the \$5 bill.
19. Almonds are a member of the peach family.
20. Winston Churchill was born in a ladies' room during a dance.
21. Maine is the only state whose name is just one syllable.
22. The largest cabbage weighed 144 lbs.
23. There are only four words in the English language which end in “-dous”: tremendous, horrendous, stupendous, and hazardous.
24. Los Angeles's full name is “El Pueblo de Nuestra Senora la Reina de Los Angeles de Porciuncula” - and can be abbreviated to 3.63% of its size: “L.A.”
25. A cat has 32 muscles in each ear.
26. An ostrich's eye is bigger than its brain.
27. Tigers have striped skin, not just stripped fur.
28. In most advertisements, the time displayed on a watch is 10:10.
29. Al Capone's business card said he was a used furniture dealer.
30. The characters Bert and Ernie on Sesame Street were named after Bert the cop and Ernie the taxi driver in Frank Capra's “Its A Wonderful Life.”
31. A dragonfly has a life span of 24 hours.
32. A goldfish has a memory span of three seconds.
33. It's impossible to sneeze with your eyes open.
34. The giant squid has the largest eyes in the world.
35. In England, the Speaker of the House is not allowed to speak.
36. The microwave was invented after a researcher

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walked by a radar tube and a chocolate bar melted in his pocket.

37. Mr. Rogers is an ordained minister.
38. There are 336 dimples on a regulation golf ball.
39. “Stewardesses” is the longest word that is typed with only the left hand.
40. Many hamsters blink one eye at a time.
41. The inventor of the flushing toilet was Thomas Crapper.
42. The average bed is home to over 6 billion dust mites.
43. Plastic lawn flamingos outnumber real flamingos in the U.S.A.
44. Whitby, Ontario has more donut stores per capita than any other place in the world.
45. Starfish have no brain.
46. Dolphins sleep with one eye open.
47. Ernest Vincent Wright wrote a novel with over 50,000 words, none of which contained the letter “E”.
48. Bulls are color blind.
49. A can of SPAM is opened every 4 seconds.
50. “Babe” was played by over 48 pigs.
51. Mosquitoes have 47 teeth.
52. Lip stick contains fish scales.
53. The Poison Arrow frog has enough poison to kill 2200 people.
54. The largest known kidney stone weighed 1.36 kilograms.
55. Kidney stones come in any color from yellow to brown.
56. Women blink twice as many times as men do.
57. A bowling pin only has to tilt 7.5 degrees in order to

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fall down.

58. The first episode of *Leave It To Beaver* aired on October 4, 1957.
59. Beaver Cleaver's locker number is 9.
60. The first flushing toilet seen on TV was on *Leave It To Beaver*.
61. Jerry Seinfeld's apartment number (on the show) is 5A. In the old episodes it was 3A.
62. The life span of a taste bud is ten days.
63. Pi has been calculated to 2,260,321,363 digits.
64. The billionth digit in Pi is 9.
65. A stretched out Slinky is 87 feet long.
66. An iguana can stay under water for 28 minutes.
67. Emus can't walk backwards.
68. A group of unicorns is called a blessing.
69. A group of kangaroos is called a mob.
70. A group of whales is called a pod.
71. A group of geese is called a gaggle.
72. A group of owls is called a parliament.
73. A group of ravens is called a murder.
74. A group of bears is called a sleuth.
75. 12 or more cows is called a flink.
76. A baby oyster is called a spat.
77. Chickens can't swallow while they are upside down.
78. In the October 22, 1945 edition of *Life* magazine there was a picture of a chicken with its head cut off. It was alive too!
79. The average garden variety caterpillar has 248 muscles in its head.
80. Pinocchio was made of pine.
81. The largest pumpkin weighed 1,262 lbs.
82. A mule won't sink in quicksand but a donkey will.

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83. More people are killed annually by donkeys than in airplane crashes.
84. Alfred Hitchcock had no belly button. It was eliminated during surgery.
85. There are 22 stars in the Paramount logo.
86. The average human produces 10,000 gallons of saliva in a lifetime.
87. A quarter has 119 grooves around the edge.
88. A dime has 118 ridges around the edge.
89. Cranberry Jell-O is the only kind that contains real fruit.
90. The plastic things on the end of shoelaces are called aglets.
91. Every time you lick a stamp you consume 1/10 of a calorie.
92. The pound sign # is called an octothorpe.
93. Maine is the toothpick capital of the world.
94. New Jersey has a spoon museum with over 5,400 spoons from almost all the states.
95. There was once a town in West Virginia called "6".
96. Singapore only has one train station.
97. The parking meter was invented in North Dakota.
98. Napoleon made his battle plans in a sandbox.
99. Roman Emperor Caligula made his horse a senator.
100. The green stuff on the occasional freak potato chip is chlorophyll.
101. If you ate too many carrots you would turn orange.

....

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ON WEEU**

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*by Jack Holcomb...seen above "back in the day."  
(Host of Jack's Back Yard on WEEU)*

## *Reflections....*

When I found out WEEU was celebrating its 75th birthday it occurred to me that I have been around for just over 50 of those years. I began working for Berks County's finest radio voice in

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October of 1956. As you certainly know, time flies when you are having fun!

At the time we were located on the third floor of 433 Penn Street. Some people remember Pep Boys was on the ground floor and the second floor was mostly vacant from the remains of the Hawley Broadcasting Company's VHF TV Channel 33. The move to 34 North Fourth Street, our present location, took place in 1968.

When I started at the station we were on the air from six in the morning (Jack Gounder, The Early American Boy) until twelve at night.

The day began with Jack and ended with House of Dreams, which followed a fifteen-minute local newscast at 11 p.m.. We would get news proofs from the *Reading Times*, edit them and use them with state news, local sports and weather.

There was no Accu-Weather at the time so we used forecasts from the local (federal government) weather bureau located in the post office.

Oh, yes, the present temperature was read by a rearview mirror located on a third floor Penn Street window reflecting the temperature from the clock-thermometer at the Reading Trust Company.

There is one very pleasant memory from that 11 o'clock newscast. When I first came to Berks County I really butchered the pronunciation of many local names (Greenwich, Moselem Springs, Gouglersville, etc.).

As soon as I went into the House of Dreams music a former school teacher (she never gave her name) would call and correct me. This was a

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wonderful welcome to the area.

The body of the daily programming at the time ranged from ABC network programs to local music and feature shows. Gloria Holland even did a storybook time for children during "Showcase" in the afternoon.

That was hosted by Bill Wheeler, my friend from Ithaca College that was instrumental in getting me the job at WEEU. Dick Schilpp, who later became the General Manager when K. Richard Creitz retired, took over Bill's slot in the afternoon before going into sales.

Our news department was a one-man operation. When I arrived Bob Newman handled those chores followed shortly by the late Joe Shivers.

We covered local sports only doing high school basketball and football with some Albright College basketball and football games. Most of the play by play was done by Temple student Don Kimberling while Jack Gounder and Bob Newman did the color. I took over as sports director in 1958 and did the play by play.

We carried two church services every Sunday. Also on Sunday afternoon there were feature music shows taped by the weekday announcers. I did Sammy Kaye while others did Guy Lombardo, Lawrence Welk and Lester Lanin..

When I arrived in 1956 we also had "live" programming. The Weller Appliance Company sponsored Shorty Long (with Dolly Dimples) and the Santa Fe Rangers. Live country music from 5:30 to 6 every early evening.

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After a few years Shorty then did a country music record show and then I did "Rangers on Record" into the early 70's.. I will never forget one afternoon, while I was reading a commercial at the standup microphone, Shorty took out his lighter and set fire to the piece of copy I was reading. As I read the flames burned while Studio "A" rocked with laughter.

In the early days at WEEU we had one wire recorder and all of the transcribed commercials were put on records. However, with the speed of electronic development we had a full bank of tape recorders in the early 60's. Today everything is digital and so much easier. Well, for the most part, since we had engineers that did all of the technical chores plus play the records for the announcers in those budding years.

I wish I could detail many of the early "happenings" for you. I can tell you we had to wear dress shirts and ties and could only take summer vacations. It was a different time and with the advancement in electronics the distant past seems ancient.

The highlights were many and I could fill another page or two with stories. Three come to mind: in the early 60's WEEU had a 60% share of the radio listeners in Berks County.

Then there was Charlie Murray who broke an egg over my head while I was doing my evening sportscast. I can recall, when doing "Music In The Air" (the nighttime music show) I played a Benny Goodman recording and was called into the boss's office the next day for playing music that was too raucous. Time flies

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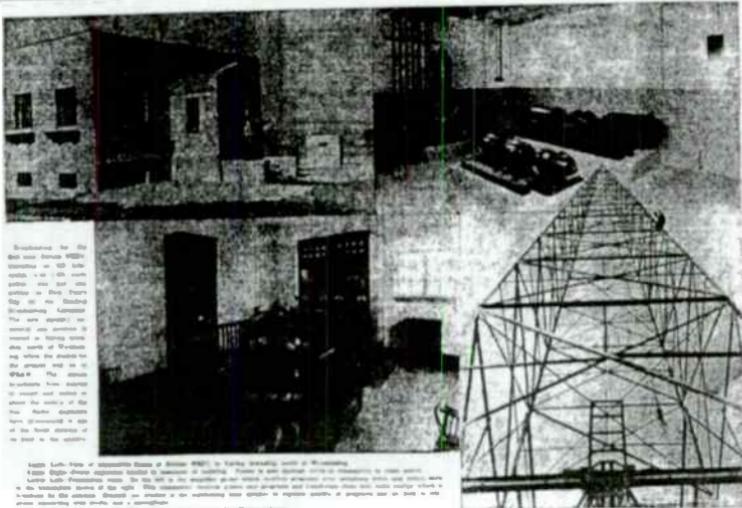
when you are having fun!!!

The company always focused and believed in local news and coverage of local events of any kind. Quite obviously that hasn't changed and has improved by leaps and bounds as AM radio has moved in different directions. It is a pleasure to be a part of such an organization, a great community and wonderful coworkers. They have made the journey incredible.

# READING EAGLE JANUARY 3, 1932

THE READING EAGLE SUNDAY JANUARY 3, 1932

### *Modern Equipment Facilitates Broadcasts from WEEU, City's New Radio Station, Now on Air Daily*



Facilities for the  
City's new radio station  
are being completed in  
the city's new radio  
station building. The  
new station is being  
completed in the city's  
new radio station building.  
The new station is being  
completed in the city's  
new radio station building.  
The new station is being  
completed in the city's  
new radio station building.

WEEU Radio Station at approximately 10:30 a.m. on Sunday, January 3, 1932. The station is now on air daily. The station is being completed in the city's new radio station building. The new station is being completed in the city's new radio station building. The new station is being completed in the city's new radio station building.

# ***Who's Who on 'EEU? Any Clues From Any of You?***

*What we have here are picture mysteries! The photos were obtained through the internet auction house "eBay," because they were pictures of people who "stepped up to the mike" on WEEU in the late 1940s. Very well. But, who ARE these people? Some photos had penciled-in information on the back, but there is much left to the mystery. Can you help? Recognize anybody? If is it you? Give WEEU a call if you think you know more about the people and events depicted in these photos.*



*"Grace Ludwig & Harold, Jan., 1948"*

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*"Barbara Lauca (?), Jan. 1948"*



*No identification*

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*"Knox"*



*No identification*

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*The Dublin Yodeling Cowboy*  
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Every Sunday at 12:15 P. M.

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PHONE 27850

**The “Dublin Yodeling Cowboy?”  
...anybody remember?**

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**TUNE to 850**  
**P.I.A.A.**  
**BASKETBALL**  
**7:45 TONIGHT**  
**KUTZTOWN**  
**vs.**  
**PORTER-TOWER**

*presented by*  
**SCHAPPELL'S**  
**FOOD MARKET**  
Krumsville Road  
Kutztown, Pa.



**READING EAGLE AD, 1957**

**Yeah, we've been doing this awhile!**

## *Overheard in 1955...*

***“I’ll tell you one thing, if things keep going the way they are, it’s going to be impossible to buy a week’s groceries for \$20.”***

***“Have you seen the new cars coming out next year? It won’t be long before \$2000 will only buy a used one.”***

***“If cigarettes keep going up in price, I’m going to quit. A quarter a pack is ridiculous.”***

***“Did you hear the post office is thinking about charging a dime just to mail a letter?”***

***“If they raise the minimum wage to \$1, nobody will be able to hire outside help at the store.”***

***“When I first started driving, who would have thought gas would someday cost 29 cents a gallon. Guess we’d be better off leaving the car in the garage.”***

***“Kids today are impossible. Those duck tail hair cuts make it impossible to stay groomed. Next thing you know, boys will be wearing their hair as long as the girls.”***

***“I’m afraid to send my kids to the movies any***

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***more. Ever since they let Clark Gable get by with saying 'damn' in 'Gone With The Wind,' it seems every new movie has either "hell" or "damn" in it.***

***"I read the other day where some scientist thinks it's possible to put a man on the moon by the end of the century They even have some fellows they call astronauts preparing for it down in Texas ."***

***"Did you see where some baseball player just signed a contract for \$75,000 a year just to play ball? It wouldn't surprise me if someday they'll be making more than the president."***

***"I never thought I'd see the day all our kitchen appliances would be electric. They are even making electric typewriters now."***

***"It's too bad things are so tough nowadays. I see where a few married women are having to work to make ends meet."***

***"It won't be long before young couples are going to have to hire someone to watch their kids so they can both work."***

***"Marriage doesn't mean a thing any more; those Hollywood stars seem to be getting divorced at the drop of a hat."***

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***“I’m just afraid the Volkswagen car is going to open the door to a whole lot of foreign business.”***

***“Thank goodness I won’t live to see the day when the Government takes half our income in taxes. I sometimes wonder if we are electing the best people to congress.”***

***“The drive-in restaurant is convenient in nice weather, but I seriously doubt they will ever catch on.”***

***“There is no sense going away anymore for a weekend. It costs nearly \$15 a night to stay in a hotel.”***

***“No one can afford to be sick any more; \$35 a day in the hospital is too rich for my blood.”***

***“If they think I’ll pay 50 cents for a hair cut, forget it.”***

.....

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## **Reading, PA: Pedaling in the Right Direction**

*By Paul A. Druzba, WEEU Copy Director*

In life, there are those who lead, and those who follow. In Berks County it seems, there are those who do things, and those who complain about those who do things. In 2006, all of these types of people came out of the woodwork when opportunity came knocking in the late spring.

That's when Brian Duncan, a Reading City Planner and a bicycling enthusiast, convinced the Pro Cycling Tour that Reading would be a great location for the second leg of the Commerce Bank Triple Crown. The first leg is in

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Lancaster, Pa., and the last leg is in Philadelphia, and the second leg had been in Trenton, NJ up until last year. When approached, Mayor Tom McMahon was a bit surprised, but very enthusiastic. After checking to see if the logistics could be accomplished in the short amount of time until the race (less than two months), McMahon got behind the project 100%.

It's hard to imagine previous administrations tackling a challenge like this- a major international cycling event, but only about six weeks to prepare for it. For those kinds of people, the "followers", the word "impossible" is not just an excuse, it's a way of life. At a time like that, the only things that are in ample supply are reasons why we CAN'T do this. But real leaders are less likely to accept something as being "impossible". They're more likely to try it first. And so, unlike previous Reading, PA's that would have watched clips of the race on TV, THIS Reading, PA became the site of the Commerce Bank Reading Classic Bicycle Race on June 8, 2006. Reading set out to do its best, and crossed its fingers.

Now, let's turn for a moment to radio. Once again, there are those who lead. And Dave Kline, General Manager of WEEU, a locally owned radio station and a real community booster, looks on an event like this as a golden opportunity, not just for the radio station itself, but for the community as a whole.

True, being involved in a bicycle race was not a first for us. For nine years, WEEU had hosted, planned and conducted the WEEU Cycle Series- the largest citizens' bike races in the United States. I had served as announcer on quite a few of those races, despite the fact that I've never been a big fan of getting up early on a Sunday morning.

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WEEU has people who know bike racing, and who know how much of a keen interest there is in biking in Berks County. We also have a team of professional announcers, certainly capable of pulling off a live broadcast of a bike race. But a race this big would take a lot of coordination, a lot of planning, and lots of expensive new equipment. Very early on, WEEU decided to step up to the plate and offer to broadcast the event live, all six hours of it.

Before June 8, 2006, WEEU had never done a live broadcast from more than three places at once, and those three places had been in a very small area. The Reading Classic would be broadcast from FIVE different locations, scattered widely throughout the City of Reading.

Any sportscaster can tell you that, in order to do a good job broadcasting a sporting event, the announcer must know the sport very well. This is no place to learn as you go. And since we had decided that, like Mayor McMahan, we intended to do this right, WEEU hired two professional bicycling broadcasters. One would broadcast from the WEEU broadcast tent on Penn Street between 3rd and 4th, and the other would broadcast while riding backwards on the back of a motorcycle at the head of the racing pack! Obviously, there is some very specialized equipment involved, including a helmet equipped with a microphone on the inside.

The entire WEEU staff chipped in to help with the live broadcast, in a variety of support roles. Five WEEU announcers- Charlie Adams, Mike Faust, Jo Painter, Mitch Gerhart and Len Carmen, were scattered along the 7-mile course in five tents. Since the locations were widely separated, the communication between those sites would have to be extraordinary. But we have John Engle, one of

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the finest radio engineers around. Our sales staff also helped to man (and woman) the tents, with free race t-shirts for passersby while they lasted, which wasn't long.

While the doers of Reading were busy making the bike race happen, the complainers also put their two cents in, as they always do. Some said the race would hurt their business, and some said that traffic would be a nightmare. There were those who doubted that Reading could accommodate a major international bicycle race on Thursday afternoon, host a Reading Express indoor football game that same evening in the Sovereign Center, and play host the very next day to the first 2006 convention visit by the Jehovah's Witnesses. But Reading's Police, Streets' and Public Works' people made it happen. I heard nothing but glowing praise for all of them on June 8.

The doers of Reading are not confined to the walls of City Hall or WEEU. Scores of businesses adapted to take advantage of the opportunity. Restaurants which had been strictly indoor affairs previously, became sidewalk café's. The Marvel Ranch at 4th and Penn, which normally closes after lunch, set up a hot dog stand outside in the afternoon and sold 100 hot dogs.

We read that traffic could be a snarled nightmare by race time on the 8th, but all those fears just served to scare off many people from their normal routine. Not me. As I approached from the West Shore Bypass that morning, I saw that traffic on the Penn Street Bridge was flowing normally. So I got off there, and as I crossed the bridge, I noticed that cars were making left hand turns up on 3rd street like I do every morning. So, instead of going to Plan B, which was a right onto 2nd and down around RACC, I went straight up Penn, and got to work in record time! And

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you know what? It wasn't much busier after 5 p.m. when the race was over.

So, how did the race turn out? Well, the Reading Eagle told that story much better than I could, so I'll refer you to them. It turns out that two local guys in the race, John DeLong and Ryan DeWald, still have a bit to learn about racing strategy. And even they referred to many of their competition that day as "the big guys", and they weren't referring to size. I was personally surprised at the small physical stature of winner Greg Henderson of New Zealand. Very thin and slight upper body, but very powerful legs. Just like the speed skaters you see on the Winter Olympics every four years.

No, I won't recount all the excitement of the day's three races- the Elite Amateur Race, the Women's Pro Race, or the Men's Pro Race. If you're a true bicycling fan, you were somewhere along that 7-mile route that day, clapping and making noise whenever the packs went by in a blur. If you weren't able to take off work that day, you at least listened to the live coverage on WEEU, or read the accounts in the Reading Eagle, and wished you had been there.

But, even for the fans who missed the race, and the area businesses who didn't take advantage of the opportunities the race offered, it's nice to know that the Commerce Bank Reading Classic will be returning to Reading in 2007, and again in 2008. At least two more chances to seize the opportunity, to get this city off its butt, and back in the running. For that, be grateful that you have leaders, not just followers, who can recognize opportunity when they see it, instead of watching it pass them, and us, by.

Oh, yes, and one more thing- next year, when you

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go out to line the race route for the Reading Classic, waiting for the Big Breeze to go by, remember to bring your radio along. You can only be in one place at a time, after all. And you can hear all about it if your radio is tuned to another one of those leaders in your community- WEEU.



*Race winner Greg Henderson of New Zealand relaxes at the WEEU tent after a grueling feature race. (Photo- Paul Druzba)*

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# BERKS COUNTY...AN ENTERTAINMENT MECCA, THEN AND NOW

*by Mike Faust, host of "Feedback"*

Congratulations to WEEU radio as we celebrate 75 years of excellence in broadcasting!

As host of Feedback I like to bring up a variety of topics and subjects on the program. Yes we talk about soaring property taxes a lot, but it's also interesting and fun to talk about other topics such as entertainment especially as it relates to the local community.

In this vein I recently brought up the topic of "Who was the biggest act to ever play Berks County?" We we're just a month away from the Bob Dylan concert in August at First Energy Stadium, which I thought was quite an enjoyable show!

There seemed to be two 'schools of thought' on searching for the answer to this question of who is or was the biggest "A-lister" to ever play our area: Many listeners called in to relive their experiences out at the Reading Fair at the Fairgrounds, the Astor & Rajah Theaters, and other venues of yesteryear while others remembered concerts

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and shows more recently at the Sovereign Center and the Sovereign Performing Arts Center.

Let's start with the 'Good Ole Days' first.

Here is a list of names, many of whom you should recognize, that played this area years ago as according to you the Feedback listener: Bob Hope, Frank Sinatra, Gene Autry, Roy Rogers, Victor Borge, Marcel Marceau, John Phillip Sousa (who died in Reading), The Three Stooges, Abbott & Costello, Tommy Dorsey, Lionel Hampton, Count Basie, Ella Fitzgerald, Minnie Pearl, Guy Lombardo, Nat King Cole, Pat Boone, Engelbert Humperdinck, Tony Bennett, Ricky Nelson, Peter, Paul & Mary, The Turtles, Frankie Valli, Roger Miller, Dolly Parton, Michael Landon, Buddy Rich, Billy Joel, Tom Jones, Mel Torme', Chubby Checker, Jerry Lee Lewis, Eddy Arnold and yes, even Elvis Presley.

Elvis played Himmelreich's Grove in Womelsdorf as a back up singer for Eddy Arnold's band the Tennessee Plowboys when one his musicians got sick. This was before he became an International superstar. Eddy's manager at the time, Colonel Tom Parker, was impressed by Elvis' performance that night. We all know how that story ended.

You get the picture. The biggest stars

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of the 1930's, 40's, 50's, and 60's played here in our area. I'm sure the list is much larger than what I have printed here and I'm leaving out many names, some you are probably recalling as you read this article.

Elton John, Sting, Cher, The Eagles, Chicago, Jerry Seinfeld, David Copperfield, Bill Cosby, Stevie Nicks, Hall & Oates, Gregory Hines, John Mellencamp, Jackson Browne and many others played this area in the last five years. In fact, the Sovereign Center where many A-Listers play today, celebrated its fifth anniversary in September.

I guess you could say it's a matter of personal taste when choosing the biggest icon, star, or celebrity to ever play Berks County. You might even say it has to do with your age. But whoever you choose, I'm sure that they rank high as an entertainer in your book and you'll always remember that special performance here in this area just as we remember and celebrate the last 75 years of broadcasting here at WEEU radio.

•••

**In the course of an average lifetime you will, while sleeping, eat  
70 assorted insects and/or spiders.**

•

**On average, 100 people choke to death on ballpoint pens every  
year.**



# ALL ABOARD!

**...the Reading Express Bandwagon!**

*by WEEU sports director Mitch Gerhart*

In the late-winter of 2005, Reading's veterans welcomed an unknown rookie into the fold. Before the calendar turned to July, the rookie had proven to be a success worthy of his older colleagues.

The veterans - pro baseball's Reading Phillies and pro ice hockey's Reading Royals - have certainly seen their own share of success.

The Eastern League's Phillies enjoyed their 40th year of affiliation with the Philadelphia Phillies in 2006, adding to the city's fabled baseball history which includes affiliations with the Red Sox and Indians, and again led the Eastern League in attendance. The 2006 R-Phils also added to their legacy of potential stars who have played their home games along Centre Avenue with the performances of pitchers Gio Gonzales, Scott Mathieson (before he was promoted to the majors), and Daniel Haigwood (before he was traded by Philadelphia), and established a new level of localism by employing

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two Berks County natives on the roster for the first time in the same season - relievers Nick Evangelista (Hamburg High School) and Nick Mattioni (Twin Valley).

Earlier in '06, the Reading Royals wrapped up their 5th ECHL season by again qualifying for the playoffs and ranking among the league leaders in attendance, despite an off-season coaching change and the usual roster instability that is a way of life in the ECHL.

Yet, neither of those franchises approached the first-year success enjoyed by the Reading Express. In their inaugural year in the American Indoor Football League, the accomplishments of the Express included a long win streak, a division title and a berth in their conference championship game.

The Express officially came into being in September, 2005, with the announcement of the team name and logo. The name, which honors Reading's rich railroading history, actually arrived via a contest asking the public to make suggestions (the contest winner received season tickets for life!).

The remarkable inaugural-season success of the Express began almost from the outset, with the naming of Ollie Guidry as the team's first head coach and general manager. The Dallas, Texas, native brought an amazing resume to Reading. After playing at the University of North Texas and in the European Football League, the 33-year-old Guidry began a coaching career that included jobs in both Division 1 & Division 3 college football and the NFL. What most likely caught the eye of the Reading Express ownership, though, was the fact that Guidry had twice coached first-year indoor-league

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franchises to championships: the Tennessee Thundercats in 2001 and the Topeka Coyotes two years later.

He then coached for two years with the United Indoor Football League's Evansville BlueCats, earning the respect and admiration of a handful of talented players who then followed him to Reading. Those five players, by the way, went on to earn All-Conference honors in their first season with the Express. Asked to describe the coach they followed to Reading, several of the former BlueCats needed little prompting to praise their coach, and their new organization. All-Conference offensive lineman Jon Broussard told the Reading Eagle, "I knew if he was here it had to be a good situation, and it is." All-Conference quarterback Tom Stetzer added, "Playing at this level, there's no other guy I'd want to play for."

Shortly after Guidry was introduced, he announced the signing of a local talent as the team's first player, former Reading High and Indiana University (PA) receiver Carmelo Ocasio. Ocasio, who also went on to achieve All-Conference status, was eventually joined on the Express roster by a handful of other players with Berks County ties. By the time the team suited up for its first game in March, it was obvious that the Express would be a unique team - one without a single player with "major" college football experience; a "blue collar" bunch, according to Stetzer.

While working to put together a successful on-field product, the Express owners, coach and players also spent a lot of time working the team into the fabric of the Berks County community. Following the lead of their fellow Reading pro franchises, the

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organization quickly involved itself in a steady flow of local benefits for organizations like Big Brothers/Big Sisters, the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, and the Berks Aids Network, in addition to school visits by Express players, and occasional appearances by Coach Guidry and the team owners on WEEU programs, including "Charlie & Company", "Feedback", and "SportsTalk"

Looking to make a quick but lasting impression upon a fan base with, for the most part, very little knowledge of indoor football, the Express opened their season at the Sovereign Center February 26th, hosting the defending league runner-up Erie Freeze. The Express opened eyes immediately, scoring a touchdown on their first offensive play - a 45-yard TD pass from Stetzer to Ocasio. However, the team dropped two of its first three games (with both losses coming at home). After that, though, the roster began to gel, and the team ran off 11 straight regular-season wins to win the AIFL Northern Division title.

In making their run to the postseason, the team also had to shrug off some league instability, as two of Reading's last three games came against lesser opponents who were tossed into the grinder by a league looking for replacements for failing franchises. Using their coach's work ethic as a guide, the Express simply freight-trained those teams - the phantom Pennsylvania Cardinals and Philadelphia Scorpions—on the way to a 12-2 regular-season record.

The playoffs dawned in Reading on June 15th, when the Express hosted the Huntington (WV) Heroes for the Northern Conference semifinals. After

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a slow start, the Express put together a strong second half to send the Heroes packing, giving the Express a 12-game win streak and the right to host the Conference Championship game against the Canton Legends June 22nd. However, some very uncharacteristic execution problems by the Express gave the eventual league champion Legends the win.

Despite that setback, the Express' inaugural-season success continued into the post-season, when the team practically swept the Northern Conference awards. Guidry was named Coach-of-the-Year, while Ocasio and defensive back Armar Watson took the Offensive- and Defensive Player-of-the-Year Awards (respectively), Adam Vogel was named Defensive-Lineman-of-the-Year, and kicker Eric Rockhold earned Special-Teams Player-of-the-Year honors. The postseason awards even extended to the owners (Carl Leaman, Ben Fahndrich and Charles Mitchell), the front-office (assistant General Manager Bernie Nowatarski), and the Dance Team-of-the-Year (the Steam Team).

With all their first-year fireworks, and an organization-wide work ethic that promises even more in the future, the Reading Express certainly proved themselves a worthy colleague of their very successful city brethren, the R-Phils and the Royals.

•

*If you sneeze too hard, you can fracture a rib. If you try to suppress a sneeze, you can rupture a blood vessel in your head or neck and die.*

•

*Rats multiply so quickly that in 18 months, two rats could have over a million descendants.*



## **A Day in the Life of Sarah Reeser**

I woke up listening to the clatter of the Grist Mill, but its still dark. My father, Johannes Reeser, has started the machines early. He must want to work on the addition of the house today. My grandfather, Abe Reeser had built a small 2-story/2-room log cabin along side of the Tulpehocken Creek in 1774. My father, stepmother, 5 sisters and 2 brothers occupy this home now. Today's date: Wednesday, May 14, 1820.

I grabbed the dress I mended yesterday,

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cream with a light yellow print and went to wash up before waking my younger brothers and sisters. After I finished, I slowly woke my siblings up one by one. Barbara, my stepmother, had already been to the Spring House to bring out milk for breakfast.

After breakfast we went to feed and collect eggs from the chickens for market. It reminded me of my mother, Margaretta, who died giving birth to my sister Susannah. My mother was always so gentle with the chickens and spoke to them as if they were her friends. Barbara was out tending to the garden with my three youngest sisters. After Anna, Mary and I were done we went to help tend to the garden. We were just beginning to plant more herbs and vegetables for the spring through fall months.

The dawn was beginning to break into late morning; the air was crisp with a slight chill to it and the Irish canal workers were beginning to dig. Henry, a worker whom I have fallen in love with, has just glanced my way. I can't help but smile. He is a very tall man, 18 years of age, big blue eyes and a quiet disposition. My father would be shocked if he knew our plans to elope. I will head in to start supper before I slip away to

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meet with Henry along the banks of the creek.

On my way back, I stopped at the smoke house for meat for today's stew. My younger sisters, Anna & Mary helped me prepare for our noon time lunch. Christian, our youngest brother, gathered wood to start the fire beneath our iron crock as we added vegetables, herbs, meat and spices to make the perfect stew.

After lunch, Barbara and my sisters walked into Reading for market day. They carried milk, fish which my brother had caught yesterday, herbs and vegetables my sisters and I had picked from the herb garden and a rug we had woven over the winter. While they were gone I was to tend to the household chores.

I waited for my father and brothers to start milking the cows in the barn before I met Henry. I watched them carry the buckets into the barn and I carefully snuck across the ford with a bowl of soup. As I walked, I noticed the geese, ending their journey back north to lay their eggs. My stomach was in knots with the anticipation of seeing Henry. Then I spotted him partially behind an evergreen, on the blanket I had made for him. He ate the stew I brought and we chatted about our families,

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the digging of the canal and the passing of Phillip who fell victim to swamp fever like so many other Irish canal workers. Our time together always seemed to pass quickly. It was time to head back home before my father finished up. Henry kissed me good-bye and wished me well until we meet again tomorrow. Crossing the ford I could hear my youngest brother singing, which brought me back to my life with my family again.

•

*This is a fictional story of what family life may have been in the 19th century in the location of what is now known as the Berks County Heritage Center.*

*The Reeser family house serves as an information center as well as offices to the Berks County Parks & Recreation Department. The Berks County Heritage Center, the grounds on which the Reeser family house stands, also houses the Gruber Wagon Works, C. Howard Hiester Canal Museum, Deppen Cemetery, Wertz's "Red" Covered Bridge, Melcher's Grist Mill, Bicentennial Eagle Memorial, Police and veteran's Memorial, Doctor's Grove and a salad and herb garden. For more information call 610-374-8839 or visit our website at [www.countyofberks.com/parks](http://www.countyofberks.com/parks).*

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# **THE KEYSTONE HOOK AND LADDER COMPANY No. 1**

*by Len Carmen*

*WEEU Morning News Anchorman*

As WEEU celebrates its 75th anniversary in 2007, another organization recently celebrated being in Reading for twice as long. Keystone Hook and Ladder Company No. 1 was actually organized on December 12th, 1855. And the company was known by several other names for 30 years.

So here's a little history of the "Keystones". According to "Reading's Volunteer Fire Department" published by the William Penn Association of Philadelphia in 1938, the company was originally called the Hook and Ladder Company of Long Island. It was named after a long, narrow island in the Schuylkill River near Penn Street, not Long Island, New York.

A month after the company was formed, the first apparatus was purchased, and it was not a hook and ladder truck. It was, in fact, a hand drawn carriage with 500 feet of second hand hose. But there was a problem getting the equipment to Reading.

Before it even began the trip from the

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Kensington Fire Company of Philadelphia, the carriage had to be pulled from the Delaware River, where it was thrown by members of a rival company. Members of the Keystone Company helped retrieve the apparatus and loaded it onto a canal boat for a ride up the Schuylkill River to Reading.

Soon after the carriage arrived, it was discovered that the cost of repairs was greater than the purchase price. But the repairs were made and the apparatus was sold to another fire company. The Keystones then appointed a committee to buy another hand drawn truck that was later fitted to be drawn by a horse.

In 1883, the Keystone Hook and Ladder Company No. 1 organized a contest for its members. Although it lasted only one year, prizes were awarded to the man who most frequently operated the tiller and the horn on the truck and to the salvage team. The tiller and salvage team winners received 10 dollars each while the truck horn honors were worth five dollars.

The company began building a fire house at Second and Penn Streets in the fall of 1886 and moved into the new station the following June. That was used to house the company's additional equipment, including a tanker and street sprinkler. The book did not mention other fire houses for the Keystone, but the company moved to its present location on North Third Street across from the Intercity Bus Terminal in 1963.

In July of 1888, the Keystones suffered their first fatality when Frank Ely was struck by the

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company's truck while responding to an alarm.

Another horse drawn apparatus was put into service in November of that year. A chemical engine, the first in the Reading Fire Department, had to be removed and recharged after every fire. Keystone purchased a La France truck in 1905. It was equipped with a 75 foot aerial ladder, four shorter ladders and two hook ladders. A motor was attached in 1916 and the use of horses was eliminated. And by 1926, a new La France engine was put in service to replace the chemical apparatus.

In an attempt to reduce the No. of injuries and deaths to members, the Keystones organized a training school in 1932 to instruct new members in firefighting techniques. Applicants were required to complete six months of training. Failure to complete the six months of training resulted in forfeiture of membership.

Fire companies have been a staple of parades from the beginning. The Keystones participated in their first parade in June of 1856. The company took part in the parade commemorating the city's 175th anniversary in October of 1923, as well as many others before and since, including several outside of Berks County and Pennsylvania.

Congratulations to the Keystone Hook and Ladder Company No. 1 on a long and proud history. Its motto is "Where Duty Calls, There You'll Find Us". For that we can all be thankful. We are indebted to you, and all who risk life and limb to protect us and our property, for your dedication and service.

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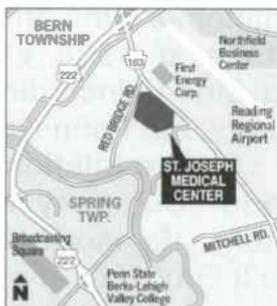
St. Joseph's new campus offers lots of free parking near the main entrance. And getting around the new hospital will be easy, too. It's as simple as going right to get X-rays, lab work and other diagnostic tests, and turning left to get to all patient rooms. Essential support functions for the larger Emergency Department, such as CT scan rooms, ultrasound and lab, are nearby for faster diagnostic tests and quicker treatment.

By building new, mostly private patient rooms, we paid utmost attention to safety and privacy. And, each patient floor will have a nurses station for every four rooms instead of the traditional one station per patient floor. This means our nurses will be closer to patients and their families.

The hospital also will feature a larger Heart Institute with more state-of-the-art interventional catheterization suites, and operating suites with all digital state-of-the-art medical equipment. Oncology services will be reunited in one location and Family Centered Maternity care will offer single rooms from admission to discharge. Each room offers fathers or other family members a place to stay overnight, and each includes a Jacuzzi bath and specially designed sink for baby's first bath.

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*The new St. Joseph Medical Center Bern Township Campus is located near the intersections of Rte. 222 & 183.*

For more information please visit: [www.thefutureofhealthcare.org](http://www.thefutureofhealthcare.org)



# To The Memory of Mary Young

By "East Side Dave" Kline

*Dave is the host of the weekly Mountain Folk radio show heard on WEEU every Sunday morning from 9 to 10 A.M. and is also WEEU's general manager.*

The year 2007 will mark the two hundred and forty-second year since a young girl named Mary Young arrived by ship with her family and settled in the Philadelphia area. Time all too quickly flew by and in 1934 a humble yet descriptive plaque was placed at the bottom of a narrow, rolling and winding road at the foot of a mountain. The exact text of the embossed words

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say:

*"To the memory of Mary Young...Mountain Mary...Barricke Mariche...who lived to the north in these hills from early womanhood until her death, November 16, 1819, at the age of 70 years.*

*A pioneer nurse, comforter of body and soul benevolent, pious, brave and charitable, she hath done what she could. Erected by Berks County Chapter Daughters of the American Revolution."*

•

In local folklore she is called Mary Young, Anna Maria Jungin, The Highland Healer, Barricke Mariche (in the old Pennsylvania German dialect), and Mountain Mary. Most accounts refer to her as Mountain Mary.

Mary was a woman who was way ahead of her time in terms of her desire to accumulate and use the knowledge of healing to help others.

A few years ago fellow local history buff, Charles J. Adams III and I, in search of inspirations for stories and song lyrics, decided to try and track down the final resting place of this truly amazing woman. We ended up in the lush and fertile Oley Valley at the base of the mountain and road described in the opening sentence of this tale. This road has a name. It is Mountain Mary Road and that is where the plaque resides in tribute to Mary.

Unfortunately, or fortunately, depending on your personal point of view, Mary's homestead and final resting place are not close at hand, nor are these places marked by any signs, shrines or tourist guide maps.

In our quest to find Mary's homestead and her

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final place of rest, we began to drive up and down the road, peering left and right, trying to deduce and guess which of the older looking homes may have been the most logical sites to begin knocking on doors and asking questions.

We stopped workers in a nearby church yard and they told us that they believed they had heard that Mary's property was "down the road a piece on the right."

As we climbed back into the car and began to head down the mountain, I began to have a growing sense that we were onto something and there were other feelings too. They were good feelings. Benign feelings, as though some unseen kindly hand had begun to take over our quest in order to guide us to the fulfillment of our mission.

By the time we knocked on the sturdy old door of the rustic home by the side of the road, I already knew that we had come to the right place. It was something that could be sensed.

We had a delightful chat with the current residents of the home and they readily confirmed that this was indeed the site of Mary Young's farm and homeplace. Awkward as the topic can sometimes be, we probed as to whether or not they had ever heard any tales about Mary, specifically about where she might be buried on the property.

The owners couldn't confirm for sure, but they had some knowledge of a very old stone wall way out on the back ridge of the farm where only a few trees had grown through the years and there were a few "large" rocks. Not really traditional tombstones, but rather just a few rather large fieldstones with no markings whatsoever.

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When these words were spoken, I felt what seemed like a mild jolt of electricity pulse through my body. This was surely the place! One of the best clues that this could be Mary's final resting place came from the owner's words about a "back ridge on the farm."

There are few actual written accounts of how Mary spent her days, but one thing I had read and heard about was Mary's love of going to her beloved back ridge on the farm to repose, meditate and pray at the end of the day. There is one account of her burial that mentions that people attending her service had to walk up to the back ridge which was described as an outcropping of rock. Bingo!

We very respectfully asked for permission to walk the property to see what we could see and thankfully, the current property owners granted us permission to walk about and take photographs.

Charlie is a very experienced ghost and spirit sleuth, and he couldn't resist the urge to ask one last question of the home owners before we set off to find Mary's grave.

Naturally, he asked if they had ever experienced anything "out of the ordinary" while living on the property. I could see by the woman's facial expression and reaction that there was probably going to be an affirmative answer to the question, but instead she mentioned something about not wanting to be visited by lots of curiosity seekers. With respect to her privacy we were satisfied to know that nothing but "good energy" surrounds the property and the old home.

We walked slowly toward the back of the property. The air was still and calm. It was a

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downright peaceful moment as we climbed up onto a little ridge which from one side was a grassy knoll, but from the other side was a little rocky outcropping or ridge.

With a view that is now obscured by way more than a century of tree growth, a thought came into my head that in so many words said, "this is it...this is the place."

Using every bit of the mind's ability to deduce and imagine, we both peered out over what must have in its day, been a truly idyllic view of the valley below the mountain. A perfect spot on the little ridge to rest, meditate, pray and offer thanks. A place of Grace for Mary's earthly remains to rest after a life of service to her fellow man.

Soon we came across a little stone wall. It is a wall that surrounds a small area of the ridge on all four sides with only three trees growing within its confines. With each tree rests two fieldstones. In old-world tradition, the two stones would have been a headstone and a footstone. The trees are two dogwood at either side and a large, robust cedar tree in the center. It is said that Mary and mother and at least one of her sisters rest in this place. Legend has it that Mary rests in the center grave and the noble cedar tree rises from the ground exactly over where her body was buried in the place where her now-quiet heart would have been.

Hers is a heartbeat that can still be felt by those who are receptive though! It was very easy to experience feelings of goodness, reverence, and benevolence in place. We were welcome there. There was a gladness of spirit that surrounded us. A quiet and tranquil awe surrounded, entered and inspired

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us.

This was indeed Mountain Mary's final home on this material world. Meanwhile her spirit reaches out across the centuries and fills us with thoughts about what her life meant to those who lived during her time and to those of us who came after.



*The author contemplates the spot where Mountain Mary is said to be buried.*

•

So who was Mountain Mary? There was an interesting and well-illustrated publication put out and copyrighted by Marie McHeran in 1976. Indeed, it was from this little publication, (clearly a labor of love on the part of the author and perhaps inspired by the same benign spirit that touched me at Mary's grave), that we were able to deduce actual landmarks that led us to her home and resting place.

•

Here is a poem from the book that helps us to get to know Mary better...

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*Up and down the Oley Hills--*

*This solitary figure trod--*

*A living answer to all ills--*

*She freely shared her gifts from God.*

*Who denies she walks here still--*

*As well she did in bygone days--*

*O'er Oley fields she sowed good will--*

*A fruitful harvest for always.*

Passenger lists from ships leaving Rotterdam, Holland for the port of Philadelphia listing any families named Jung (Young) place their arrival dates from 1764 to 1771.

Mary Young listed herself as a single person in her will and while she was sometimes considered a recluse, she did live her early life with her family and her later life years with some of the first settlers and Native Americans of the Oley hills. Even though she lived alone for thirty years, she is reported to have had daily contact with others in her day to day life. She belonged to a local church, participated in the buying and selling of food and

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other household staples. Visitors did call on her at home and she welcomed them with refreshments.

In addition to things she learned from highly educated people from the old-world, she began to interact with members of the Lenni Lenape tribe as it concerned healing and healthcare. (Lenni Lenape Indian tribe members were known to have befriended her and she them.) As her knowledge base of such things grew she began to serve the ill and dying, sometimes traveling on foot to bring them herbs and words of consolation.

Mary's family originally settled in the Germantown region of Philadelphia. The area very closely resembled the familiar hills and fertile river regions of the old world backing Europe. It must have been comforting to be in surroundings that at least provided a measure of security through visual and geographic familiarity!

Like most women of the time, Mary was schooled in the craft of domestic duties and was later trained in the art of cotton spinning in order to help her family earn a living. It is said that while spinning the threads her mind was also spinning and she began to have thoughts of things beyond the routine and mundane. With a deeply religious nature, Mary spent much time in meditation and prayer which must have provided a mental safety valve, a release of sorts, from the routine of spinning.

Mary's family lived together in a close knit group for about twelve years near Philly, until the sounds of battle shook their home in October of 1777. This was the battle of Germantown during the American Revolutionary War! Many of the familiar

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places of Mary's new life in America, the outdoor festival grounds, the market square, and even churchyards, became battlegrounds! The peace of the place was shattered with gunfire erupting randomly and by order from fields and windows! As thousands of armed soldiers moved hurriedly about, laughter and happy times were replaced with bloodshed, the sounds of war, and destruction.

The Young family knew that it was time to move on or possibly perish in the hell that Germantown became.

Gathering up their personal belongings they joined other frightened former Germantown residents and frantically moved in a northwesterly direction across Pennsylvania to Oley. Here they found the hills of Oley. It was in these hills that they found protection and sanctuary. In this place Nature reached out to them in friendship and offered them shelter from the storm of war. Oley's lush, green hills shielded its even more impressive fertile valleys from the view of outsiders and so in this place they settled. Oley was the family's haven in the hills! The family soon purchased forty-two acres of land in the Oley Hills and built a small log home with a stable. Thus began their third "new" life.

There are frequent mentions of the family's love of a particular rock outcropping on their land. At this place, with its extensive view of the valley below, they drew inspiration and sustenance after a long, hard day of work on the property.

Their land sustained a few head of cattle, an orchard, and a fruit and vegetable garden. From nearby meadows and woods Mary was able to harvest black walnuts, hickory and hazel nuts, as

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well as many kinds of succulent berries. Their hardworking honey bees provided them with the sweetener they needed to make extra special treats!

Mary was very in tune with the creatures around her. She did spend a fair amount of her "spare" time watching wildlife. The song of a bird here, the graceful bounce of a deer there; to Mary, all of these visions were truly a gift from God and there was much reverence extended to them and they were accorded their own space on the family land.

Not afraid of the kind of work some men would shy away from, as Mary grew older and her elders passed away, she, (being a single woman), was left to deal with the full responsibility of tending to the homestead and the land and creating some sort of way to generate income on top of all of her other responsibilities! She cut brush by hand and used primitive hand tools to literally cut a path from her land near the top of the mountain down to the valley so that she could easily interact with wagons making their way to the city beyond the valley. She would ascend and descend the mountain trail with items in a basket that she hoped to sell to those in the wagons. This created a sort of roadside stand!

During her time in Germantown, she did interact with some very learned people and soaked up much regarding language, modern medicine and the like. This knowledge made Mary one of the more educated people in the Oley hills, especially after growing more proficient in the use of herbal remedies that she learned from local Lenape tribe members. Mary was sought out as a healer. Her home became known as the "Haven in the Hills" and her it was during this time that the name of

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“Mountain Mary” was bestowed to her from a very grateful core of patrons who came from all walks of life to benefit from Mary’s healing grace. Native Americans benefited from her modern techniques and fellow pioneers benefited from her skill with herbs.

Mary’s ability to spin flax, make candles, create soap, coupled with her skills as a farmer in making products like butter and cheese allowed her to live the life she wanted to live which was a quiet, independent life, devoted to praise to God and service to her neighbors and, in a sense, to the pilgrims who made their way through the hills to find her and her haven of rest and rejuvenation.

Mary became so in tune with the natural world that she was without equal in the entire region! She knew the power composted leaves and twigs had to transform simple patches of dirt into rich, fertile farming soil. She used herbs in cooking and medicine. She anticipated the annual ebb and flow of the seasons. Wildflowers in Spring brought a new batch of sorely needed herbal ingredients and new hope for a good year ahead. In Mary’s world, the rebirth of Spring was much more than mere symbolism. It is in Spring that the spiritual and natural worlds most vibrantly reach their physical confluence and the promise of rebirth and new life are fulfilled.

Some herbs were dried for teas, some were made into ointments. Mary created cough remedies, tonics, stimulants, antiseptics, salves, sedatives, astringents, volatile and essential oils. The sick and suffering sought her out. This fact of her life cannot be repeated enough. It defines the central thing that

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Mary was. She was a healer, a good soul who served God by serving others. What a blessing she must have been back in those days!

Allow it to sink in and think of a time when there was no emergency room close at hand, no ambulances, no modern medicine as we know it. Now ponder the current revolution in medicine wherein more and more people are seeking and finding holistic and herbal remedies. It's a sort of back-to-the-future scenario.

I sometimes wonder about just how much of the wisdom of herbs and the value of plants and the natural world we've lost or trampled in our headlong rush into modern times with our fast-paced, trust-the-machine, got-to-have-it-now lifestyle.

In my travels throughout many of the mountainous regions of the world, I have often found that those living in the "hills" often approach life in a humble yet determined manner. The "hill people" seek something called the "Mountain Trilogy" and this is simply a balance. It is the purposeful blending of life and times and service to have one's life consist of equal parts of the things of God, the things of man and the things of Nature. Certainly Mary Young lived a life such as this.

Towards the end of her life and after three decades of hard work directed at the welfare of others, Mary's health began to fail. In her seventieth year Mary found that she could no longer keep of the pace of the life she was accustomed to. In 1819 she became very ill and people from near and far rallied around her to provide her with a measure of the same love and care she had provided to them for all

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of the preceding years. She died on November 16, 1819 and was buried in the family plot on her land with her mother and two sisters. It is the spot we found during our search for information about Mary. It is the spot where she so often paused to gaze at the view and feel the crisp mountain air as she offered thanks and praise to the gentle and loving God who created her and all things around her, great and small.

News of Mary's passing spread quickly through the hills and valleys surrounding her "Haven in the Hills." Hundreds of friends and members of neighboring Indian tribes came to pay their respects at her funeral. They mourned her passing, celebrated her life, and formed a line of respect that wound from the top of the hill in the little family grave plot, down the hill, past the homestead and out onto the road beyond.

Many benefited because Mary lived. How many of us can say that about our own lives? Yet, this must be one of the central purposes or meanings of life; to live a life that provides, in some sense, service to others...to make the world a better place in whatever way you're gifted to do so.

Using the words Marie McHeran wrote in her 1976 booklet about Mary Young, I'd like to close by agreeing with Ms. McHeran. Having stood on the site where Mountain Mary lived and is buried, one must reflect on the words of St. Matthew from the Book that was the lodestone of Mary's life...

"Well done, good and faithful servant; because thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will set thee over many; enter into the joy of thy Master."

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*Fieldstones mark the graves of Mountain Mary and her sisters and mother.*



*Placed on a little ridge at the back of her homestead, this is the place where Mary rests and where hundreds came to bid her farewell on the day of her funeral.*

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*The Red-Tail Hawk at Middle Creek...Photo by Jack Holcomb*

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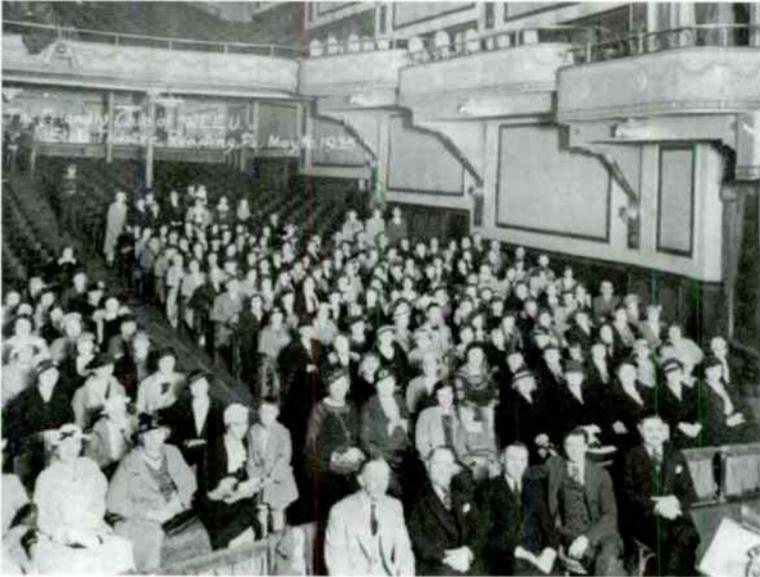
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*Another mystery photograph from the past. The picture is inscribed: "The Friendly Club of W.E.E.U., State Theatre, Reading, Pa., May 16, 1935. Anyone remember?"*

A woman came home, screeching her car into the driveway, and ran into the house. She slammed the door and shouted at the top of her lungs, "Honey, pack your bags. I won the lottery!" The husband said, "Oh my God! What should I pack, beach stuff or mountain stuff?" "Doesn't matter," she said. "Just get out."

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**ANOTHER PHOTO MYSTERY from the past: Note the sashes on the young**



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**WEEU PROGRAM SCHEDULE  
NOVEMBER 8, 1932**

**A.M.**

8:00 Morning Cheer  
8:15 Morning Devotions  
8:30 Friendly Club  
9:15 Musical Merrymen  
9:45 The Gossingers  
10:00 Occident Pep Twins  
10:15 Arba Sisters  
10:30 String Ensemble  
10:45 Cooking Period  
11:00 Morning Musicales  
11:15 Whispering Tenor  
11:30 Organ Harmonies

**P.M.**

12:15 Anson Weeks  
12:30 Dad Hankins  
12:45 Luncheon Trio  
1:00 Eddie Deas Orchestra  
1:30 Billie Polter  
1:45 Talk-Sport  
2:00 Harry Canto  
2:15 Musical Novelties  
2:45 *Reading Eagle* News Flashes  
3:00 Winnie and Mother Gumpert  
3:15 The Anthracite Accordionist  
3:30 Jim and Bud  
3:45 Your Corner and Mine  
4:00 House of Melody  
4:15 Hawaiian Shadows  
4:30 Merchandise Review

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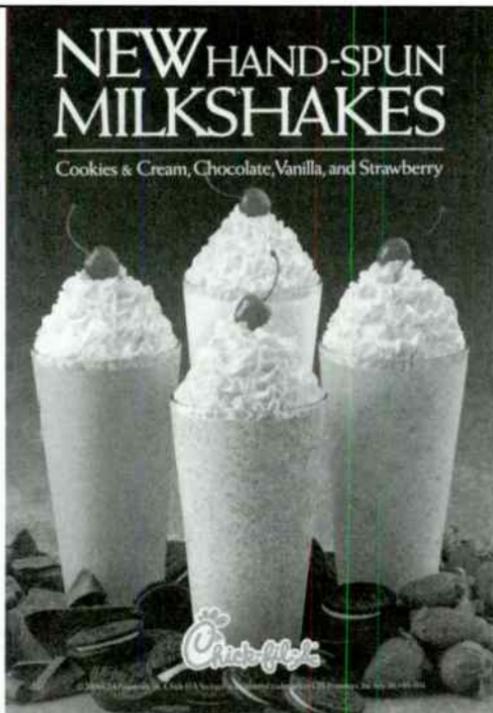
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### **JUST DARNED GOOD MONTGOMERY PIE**

#### **Bottom:**

1/2 cup molasses  
1/2 cup sugar  
1 egg  
1 cup water  
2 tbs flour  
Juice and rind of 1/2 lemon

#### **Top:**

2/3 cup sugar  
1/4 cup butter  
1 egg  
1/2 tsp baking soda  
1/2 cup sour milk  
1 1/4 cup flour

Combine ingredients for bottom of pie. Pour into unbaked pie shell (9 in.) For topping: combine butter and sugar. Add egg and beat thoroughly. Add milk and sifted dry ingredients alternately. Spread topping over mixture in pie shell. Bake at 375 degrees for 35 or 40 minutes.

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<b>2007</b>	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	<b>2007</b>	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>JAN.</b>	1	2	3	4	5	6		<b>JULY</b>	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	7	8	9	10	11	12	13		8	9	10	11	12	13	14
	14	15	16	17	18	19	20		15	16	17	18	19	20	21
	21	22	23	24	25	26	27		22	23	24	25	26	27	28
	28	29	30	31					29	30	31				
<b>FEB.</b>					1	2	3	<b>AUG.</b>	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
	4	5	6	7	8	9	10		12	13	14	15	16	17	18
	11	12	13	14	15	16	17		19	20	21	22	23	24	25
	18	19	20	21	22	23	24		26	27	28	29	30	31	
	25	26	27	28											
<b>MAR.</b>				1	2	3		<b>SEPT.</b>							1
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<b>APR.</b>	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	<b>OCT.</b>		1	2	3	4	5	6
	8	9	10	11	12	13	14		7	8	9	10	11	12	13
	15	16	17	18	19	20	21		14	15	16	17	18	19	20
	22	23	24	25	26	27	28		21	22	23	24	25	26	27
	29	30							28	29	30	31			
<b>MAY</b>		1	2	3	4	5		<b>NOV.</b>	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
	6	7	8	9	10	11	12		11	12	13	14	15	16	17
	13	14	15	16	17	18	19		18	19	20	21	22	23	24
	20	21	22	23	24	25	26		25	26	27	28	29	30	
	27	28	29	30	31										
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									30	31					

<b>2008</b>	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	<b>2008</b>	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	
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<b>FEB.</b>						1	2		3	4	5	6	7	8	9	
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	24	25	26	27	28			<b>MAR.</b>					1	2		
<b>MAR.</b>						1	2		3	4	5	6	7	8	9	
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	10	11	12	13	14	15	16		17	18	19	20	21	22	23	
	17	18	19	20	21	22	23		24	25	26	27	28	29	30	
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	31							<b>APR.</b>		1	2	3	4	5	6	
<b>APR.</b>		1	2	3	4	5	6		7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
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<b>MAY</b>						1	2		5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
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**WEEU**  
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Published by  
**WEEU, 830AM Radio**  
Reading, Pennsylvania

Charles J. Adams III, Editor  
**Cover photograph by Jack Holcomb**

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# **MIGRATION MAGIC...** **...or Madness**

*by Jack Holcomb*

March 13, 2007 was the best “goose day” of my birding life. (*Wow, Jack, it doesn't take much to turn you on!*)

I have been birding for 42 years and I have seen large quantities of geese of many varieties but never the number I saw on this late winter's day.

Let me begin with a restless night. I began hearing migrating Canada geese around 3:30 in the morning and, yes, they do fly at night.

Although there wasn't much rest my wife and I were up at seven and out for the morning exercise walk at 7:30. As soon as the door was shut the sounds of migrating geese greeted our ears. Of course my eyes turned skyward and I could see skeins and skeins of geese heading north. Most were very high but still visible although some did move in and out of the clouds.

We walked through the museum grounds and into Wyomissing and the flights grew larger in number and the sound intensified. Thousands upon thousands of Canada geese

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and Snow geese moving towards their nesting grounds. This never stopped for the 50 minutes I was walking and it continued throughout the morning as I went into the backyard to look and listen.

The morning's experience begged for more so we decided to head for the Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area near Kleinfeltersville. This Pennsylvania Game Commission site has become one of the major stops for migrating Snow geese in the East. I should mention the day before I stopped at Lake Ontelaunee and observed well over 30,000 Snow geese. My friend Joan also reported good numbers of snow geese along with Canadas and many ducks at Blue Marsh.

As we drove west beyond Reinholds we began to see more snow geese in the fields along with many Canada geese. Nearing Middle Creek we began to notice increasing numbers of snow geese heading toward the lake.

Like the morning, the birds just kept coming in a never-ending stream. When we arrived at the Willow Point parking area there was a stream of people walking out to observe this natural phenomenon and the snow geese continued to fly-in. Needless to say, the cameras were clicking, scopes were set-up and binoculars raised to the eyes. I

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moved to the edge of the crowd for a better look and, perhaps, a better spot to take pictures.

My wife then pointed-out two bald eagles perched side by side in a far tree.

These birds nest here but, at the moment, I was enthralled with all of these white geese on the ice and in the open water... I had never seen so many and had to pause for this spectacle to sink-in.

Perhaps I should also mention there were thousands of Canada geese, reportedly 3000 Tundra swans and a good variety of ducks. We also had our first eastern phoebe of the spring, many bluebirds and the first tree swallows of the year.

After filling our eyes and souls with this gift from nature we drove to the headquarters to check numbers with the Pennsylvania Game Commission.

I was told the 180,000 snow geese, counted the day before, was a new record. My guess on this Tuesday there were many more.

While adding all of the day's geese I will go out on a limb and say I probably saw over a million birds. Well, let me think that way...for awhile anyway!

*"One swallow does not make a summer, but one skein of geese, cleaving the murk of a March thaw, is the spring" ....Aldo Leopold*

# UP

There is a two-letter word that perhaps has more meanings than any other two-letter word, and that word is "UP."

It's easy to understand UP, meaning toward the sky or at the top of the list, but when we awaken in the morning, why do we wake UP? At a meeting, why does a topic come UP? Why do we speak UP and why are the officers UP for election and why is it UP to the secretary to write UP a report ?

We call UP our friends. And we use it to brighten UP a room, polish UP the silver, we warm UP the leftovers and clean UP the kitchen. We lock UP the house and some guys fix UP the old car. At other times the little word has real special meaning. People stir UP trouble, line UP for tickets, work UP an appetite, and think UP excuses. To be dressed is one thing, but to be dressed UP is special.

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And this UP is confusing: A drain must be opened UP because it is stopped UP. We open UP a store in the morning but we close it UP at night.

We seem to be pretty mixed UP about UP! To be knowledgeable about the proper uses of UP, look the word UP in the dictionary. In a desk-sized dictionary, it takes UP almost 1/4th of the page and can add UP to about thirty definitions. If you are UP to it, you might try building UP a list of the many ways UP is used. It will take UP a lot of your time, but if you don't give UP, you may wind UP with a hundred or more. When it threatens to rain, we say it is clouding UP. When the sun comes out we say it is clearing UP.

When it rains, it wets the earth and often messes things UP .

When it doesn't rain for awhile, things dry UP.

One could go on and on, but I'll wrap it UP, for now my time is UP, so... it is time to shut UP!

Oh...one more thing:

What is the first thing you do in the morning when you get UP and the last thing you do at night?

U P.

# **WHEN NIGHT TURNED INTO DAY AT LAUER'S PARK**

*by Charles J. Adams III*

As you bask in the artificial light provided by FirstEnergy at FirstEnergy Stadium, remember that it was not always this way.

It was on May 2, 1930 when, in Des Moines, Iowa, the lights went on for the first time ever in minor league baseball. The Des Moines team had been averaging about 600 fans a game. But, for that first game under the lights, some 12,000 fans showed up!

Other baseball organizations got the message.

The minor leagues had been struggling during the depths of the Great Depression. It is said that the installation of lights to make night games possible saved minor league ball.

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Incidentally, it wasn't until 1935 that the first lights were thrown on in a major league park. The game was held at Crosley Field in Cincinnati, but the lights were turned on at a switch some 600 miles away inside the White House by President Franklin D. Roosevelt.

But, long before the big leaguers were "losing it in the lights," the ballplayers right here in Reading were coping with those newfangled banks of brilliance.

The team was the AAA, International League Reading Keystones. The scene was Lauer's Park, the city's downtown stadium that was located where Gordon Hoodak Stadium and the Lauer's Park Elementary School now stand.

The day was Monday, June 6, 1932. More appropriately, the night was June 6, 1932. Baseball in Baseballtown would never be the same for more than one reason.

That night, lights went on for the first time at the big ballpark in the 200 block of North 2nd Street.

The Jersey City "Skeeters" were in town and no doubt craned their eyes skyward, as did everyone else when the bright incandescent bulbs were switched on.

A larger crowd than had ever showed up for daytime games came to be part of the experience. Team owners and manager Clarence Rowland were dazzled by how night was turned into day and by how many fans were in attendance. They decided to play the

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next day's game at night again.

There were some challenges for those who played in that first night game in Reading. Reading Eagle sportswriter Bill Reedy noted, "Bad pitching, bad thinking, and bad fielding were exposed by the lights at Lauer's Park last night as the Keys lost their inaugural home nocturnal contest." Yes, the Keys lost to the Skeeters by a score of 9 to 7.

Reedy continued: "Maybe the boys, most of them newcomers here, were suffering from stage fright, unaccustomed as they are at this time of the year to the glaring floodlights. We'll give them the benefit of the doubt."

A contemporary news report also noted that it seemed that the umpire had trouble adjusting to the new scenario, giving what was called a "weird exhibition" behind the plate.

Skeeters' leadoff hitter "Rattlesnake Joe" Moore had no problem at the plate, though, collecting three hits to pace his team to victory.

There was hope in the dugout for the Keys that night, though. New in town was a young prospect who had just been assigned to Reading by the Chicago Cubs organization.

He had been a hot prospect in 1931, but had missed the 1932 spring training because on some grim winter's day at his home in North Carolina, he was kicked in the leg by a mule.

His name was Louis Norman Newsom. But, his buddies called him "Bobo." You might remember him as "Buck."

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Yes, Buck Newsom, one of the real “characters” of baseball back in the ‘30s and ‘40s. Known for his country bumpkin “good ole’ boy” antics, Buck was also a fair ballplayer. More than fair. In 1940, his \$35,000 salary to play for the Detroit Tigers was the highest in the majors-higher even than Bob Feller’s pay!

Buck had a long and, well, interesting career on the mound. He was a 20-game winner three times. But, he was a 20-game loser three times. In his 20 years in the major leagues, he was 211-222.

But, when those lights shone down on the Lauer’s Park field, “good ole’” Buck Newsom was basking in their glow.

It would be a comparatively brief and shining moment for those Lauer’s Park lights in the summer of ’32.

The Reading Keystones, playing in the aerie of AAA ball, had been on shaky financial ground for several seasons.

Neither Buck Newsom nor nighttime baseball could brighten the prospects of the Keys, as their hopes for survival were already dimming that July. Less than one month after the first night game was played here, the lights of AAA baseball in Reading were turned off when the Keystones’ owners packed up and moved the franchise to Albany, New York, where they completed the 1932 season.



## **WHISKEY DITCH, POT PIE ALLEY: ONLY IN BERKS COUNTY!**

We all know the towns and villages that dot the map of Berks County. But, what about some of the lesser-known, provincial places that are known only to locals or relegated to the memories of elders?

WEEU listeners once provided a slew of names of neighborhoods or nicknames of sections of townships and boroughs that your editor found interesting. See if you recognize any of them. And, if you have any more to add to the list, send them to WEEU JOURNAL, c/o WEEU, 34 N. 4th St., Reading, PA 19601.

**WEITZELTOWN:** A settlement in the Fritztown area.

**HOPTOE TOWN, CHURCHTOWN, LOWER END:** All sections of Bernville.

**TURKEY HOLLOW:** In the vicinity of the Pennwyn Playground, Mohnton.

**CRESIA:** An old nickname for Stony Creek Mills (spelling?)

**IRISHTOWN:** A little patch town of houses on Parkview Road in St. Lawrence.

**WHISKEY DITCH:** A rather ignoble

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nickname of West Wyomissing. It is said to have been attached to the area in the 1950s when, while excavating for new homes, a hobo campground and still were found in the valley.

**NOODLE DEUCY:** Again, the spelling is an approximation. We were told it's along Balthaser Road in South Heidelberg Township. Also known as Mount Noodle Deucy.

**NAPPYVILLE:** An alternate name for a section of Sinking Spring, named after a chap named Nappy who built homes there.

**POT PIE ALLEY:** The editor's favorite-on Mt. Spring Road in Blandon, we're told, near Route 73. So named after six neighbors all made pot pie on the same night. Ahh...only in Berks County!

**MOLASSES HILL ROAD, BOOTLEG ROAD:** Both out around Bernville. Legend has it that Bootleg Road got its name from an illegal distillery in the area during Prohibition. A listener said Molasses Hill Road was so named because when it was paved, the blacktop didn't quite "set," and was like molasses. Well, that's what we were told!

**KRAMERDALE:** A section of Bern Township.

And yes, there are many more...Mexico, Texas, Lincolntown, Silvertown, among them.

Keep 'em coming! If you have more, call Feedback!

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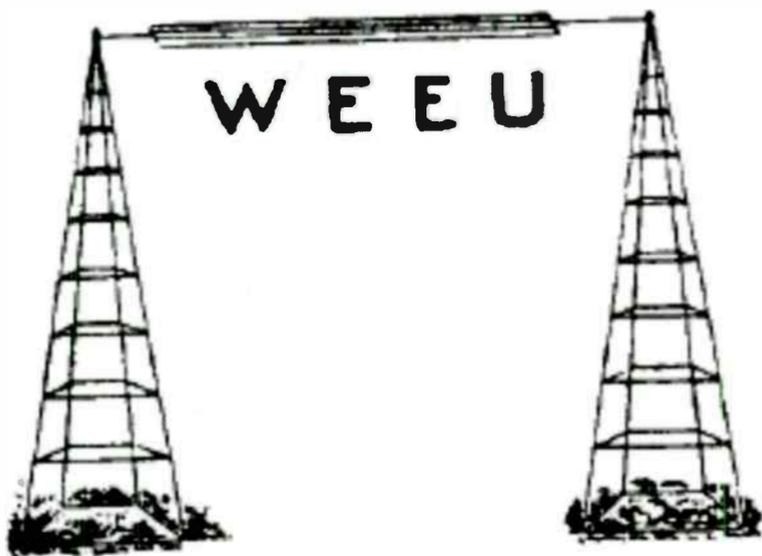
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*WEEU'S first print logo, Reading Eagle, April, 1932*

**WEEU**

## **A Brief History**

*by Charles J. Adams III*

Today, WEEU is the oldest continually operating radio station with its original call letters in Reading. It is the only locally-owned and operated radio station in the city, and is highly-regarded as an upstanding corporate citizen,

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outstanding community partner, and truly...the Voice of Berks County and Beyond!

But to understand the WEEU of the 21st century, one should look back to the early years of the 20th century and the very beginnings of broadcasting in Reading.

The station's evolution becomes even more fascinating when the exploits, adventures, and experiments of a band of Reading schoolboys as early as 1912 are examined.

The earliest history of radio in Reading is a bit murky. In the years between 1912 and 1922, many amateur radio enthusiasts were trying their hand at broadcasting and receiving radio signals, and just who was doing what, where, and when was not formally recorded.

But, although others could lay claim to being the “first” to broadcast as amateur or “ham” radio operators in Reading, a fair argument for that claim could be won by Horace Good and Harold Schearer, who both experimented with “wireless” or “radiotelegraphy” equipment in 1912.

It can be noted, however, that the first real amateur radio license in Reading was issued to Horace Good and Harold O. Landis on December 9, 1913. That date could be considered the “birth” of broadcasting in the city, although it was far from the kind of broadcasting we know today.

If that is the date, and if Good and Landis are the forefathers of modern broadcasting, then

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any historical marker at the site of the first broadcasting operation...“ham,” at least...in Reading should be mounted outside what was then and remains today a simple row house at 341 N. Front Street.

The first “programming” to go over the amateur airwaves was a violin solo by Harold Landis. Harold was known better by his nickname, “Eggie.” Hmm...“Eggie” at the “ham” radio. Ham and Eggie? But I digress.

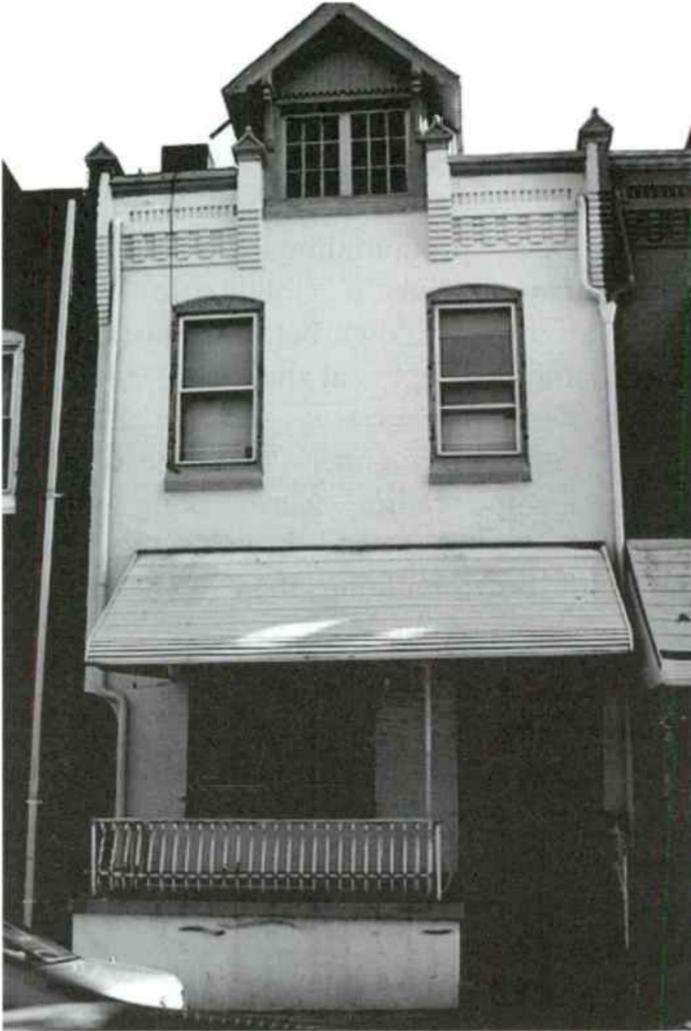
One must remember that these earliest tinkering with radio were done not by professional engineers and broadcasters, but by high school boys building their own equipment and following their own instincts.

After years of development and work, Landis and Good made a great leap forward when, in June of 1922, they turned on the transmitter of station W3LP, the granddaddy of all commercial radio in Reading. The “studio” was still, in fact, Landis' living room at 341 Front Street, but in short order, all of that would change.

The boys had caught radio fever, and as commercial stations were springing up across the country, they were ready to light up the “ON THE AIR” sign in Reading.

In 1923, Clifford Chafey and Raymond Gaul bought into the radio project, and with Landis and Good applied for and were granted a “License for a Land Radio Station” by the Federal Radio

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*The birthplace of WEEU, 341 N. Front St.*

Commission, the predecessor of the Federal Communications Commission. The first broadcasts were sent from the Avenue Radio & Electric Shop at 460 Schuylkill Avenue.

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The call letters of this first commercial radio station in Reading were WRAW, and the histories of that station and WEEU were inextricably entwined for several years.

WEEU was actually formed as the result of frustration on the part of the owners of WRAW. Its owners, Reading Broadcasting Co., had repeatedly sought permission from the FRC to increase the station's power and lengthen its broadcast day. The requests were denied by the commission.

So, in early 1931, George Gaul, Cliff Chafey, Harry Craumer, and Harold Landis applied for a license for a second radio station which would have more power and reach. The FRC approved that request in July, 1931, and the call letters WEEU were assigned to the new station.

The call letters have no significance. The FRC granted the license at the same time it issued licenses to two other stations. In that sequential naming block, a town in Vermont got WDEV, a town in New Hampshire got WFEA, and Reading got WEEU.

The corporation that would run the new station would be the Berks Broadcasting Company.

WEEU formally observed its 75th birthday on January 1, 2007. However, that is only the official, legal anniversary date...harkening back to

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the station's first true broadcast on New Year's Day, 1932. The station actually made its first broadcast in the wee, small hours of December 24, 1931.

The very first actual broadcast was a test of the equipment a week and a day before. At 44 minutes after one o'clock on that Christmas Eve morning, the transmitter was turned on and plate voltages, crystal temperatures, antenna currents, and the frequency were all checked. From 4:30 to 5 o'clock that morning, the station went "on the air"-sort of. The technical term was "Carrier modulated by audio oscillator." In other words, an electronic tone was sent out on the airwaves.

More testing on the 29th and 30th of December followed, and on December 31, 1931, actual programming was fed through the air signal, again as a test.

The very first "show" on WEEU was an organ performance by Bob Henke *at 2:10 in the morning*. It was within the timeframe, midnight to 5 a.m., when testing of radio signals could be done.

Henke was followed by singer David Ballock, musician Walley Spotts, singer Harry Cantor, hoe-downs with the Arkansas Travelers, and piano selections by Stan Kreider. According to the program log, that first, unannounced-to-the-public and thus unofficial "broadcast day" lasted fewer than two hours, ending at 4 a.m.

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The best was yet to come, and it came on New Year's Day, 1932.

The program listing in the *Reading Eagle* on January 1 of that year indicated that WEEU opened with a dedication service at 10 a.m. The Philco Orchestra was featured at 10:30, followed by the Criterion Male Quartet.

A “string ensemble” continued the entertainment, followed by songs from Orsola Pucciarelli, Clarence Ruth, and accompanist Erma Kramer. That first day on the air concluded at 3 p.m. after music by a dance orchestra.

From that day on, WEEU grew as a broadcast medium and as a business.

That business, then, was the Reading Broadcasting Company. The station's transmitter building was located between Paper Mill and Van Reed roads on what was then called Broadcast Road. Next to the building were two 200-foot towers that supported a 500-foot antenna that was strung between them.

Broadcast studios were located in the Pomeroy's department store building on the southeast corner of 5th and Penn Street, and the station was licensed by the FRC to operate from sunrise to sunset at 1,000 watts of power on the 830 kilocycle frequency.

In the beginning, and for many years, WEEU could broadcast only in daylight hours because the FRC/FCC feared that any nighttime

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broadcasting on 830 AM in Reading, Pennsylvania could interfere with the signal of radio station KOA in Denver, Colorado!

For the first three months of its existence, WEEU shared all studio and office facilities with WRAW.

On April 24, 1932, the two stations moved into larger quarters above the St. Lawrence Dairy (later Crystal) Restaurant in the Sharp Building at 533 Penn Street. Although the stations shared certain spaces, they were operated as two separate corporate entities.

Noted local musician and entertainer Paul Breedy served as program director for both stations, and network programming was provided by the two-pronged National Broadcasting Company (NBC). WEEU received its “Red” network shows and WRAW picked up the “Blue” network programs. Later, NBC was “broken up” by the federal regulators and the “Blue” network became ABC.

WEEU moved up the radio dial a bit on March 29, 1941, when it switched to 850 on the AM band. It remained there until another “Big Switch” just before the turn of the 20th century.

In 1944, the local partnership that owned WEEU sold the station to Philadelphia and New York investors Joseph Nassau, Milton Hinline, and George Feinberg. They in turn sold it to the Reading Eagle Company on December 1, 1946 for

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a reported \$250,000. Two years later, the corporation was renamed Hawley Broadcasting Co.

The development of WEEU and associated broadcasting ventures was unprecedented under its new (and present) owners.

In October, 1947, the federal authorities finally allowed WEEU to broadcast around-the-clock. After necessary equipment was obtained and installed, the station went “night and day” for the first time on September 15, 1949.

Meanwhile, on November 16, 1947, an entirely new radio station on an entirely new radio band went on the air as WEEU-FM (92.9 on the FM dial) began broadcasting.

Unfortunately, FM radio was in its infancy, and few people had FM receivers. WEEU-FM shut down on November 28, 1952.

By that time, WEEU had moved into new facilities at 433 Penn Street, and it was from there that the company tried its hand at yet another new form of communications called television.

WEEU-TV was lit up on April 15, 1953 on the UHF channel 33. Its broadcasting tower atop Mount Penn became a local curiosity. But again, there were not enough consumers with UHF sets out there, and the TV venture was abandoned on June 30, 1955.

Firmly and successfully entrenched in AM radio, the company went back to what it did best

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and on October 22, 1957 renamed itself WEEU Broadcasting Co.

The next landmark year for WEEU was 1969, when it moved into its present building at 34 N. 4th Street.

The building was erected as part of the sweeping “Court Street Redevelopment Project” that yielded a new fire station, parking lot, apartments, offices, and a wider Court Street. Part of that project was what was first called the “Pagarice Building.” What is now the WEEU Building was formerly occupied by Travelers Insurance and GMAC. The building was totally remodeled inside and out to accommodate the radio offices and studios.

As the 20th century ebbed, WEEU was poised for even more growth.

In 1999, the station and its loyal listeners made “The Big Switch” from 850AM on dial, where it had been for 58 years, “back” to 830AM, where it all started.

Perhaps even more significant was the major boost in power from 1,000 to 20,000 watts. With that, WEEU became one of the most powerful AM radio stations in Pennsylvania.

What's more, that power was to be sent out of a new cluster of transmitter towers along Interstate 78 near Shartlesville.

The relocation of the towers allowed the station's owners to sell the former transmitter site

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at Paper Mill and Broadcasting roads. That, in turn, resulted in the development of a major retail and restaurant “power center” known as Broadcasting Square.

That center, and Broadcasting Road that abuts it, are legacies of the area's history with WEEU.

And, embedded in the logo of that shopping center, on signs at its entrance, is the image of an old-school radio guy at the microphone.

Look closely-could it be “Eggie” at his “ham?” It makes one wonder!

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## ***IT WAS HAROLD!***

*A photo under "Who's Who on 'EEU?" in the 2007 WEEU JOURNAL asked readers to supply more information on the two individuals pictures. That drew this response:*

***I'm enjoying reading the 2007 journal and was very surprised to come across the photo of Grace Ludwig and a man named Harold. The man is Harold Hanley and he was doing a Christian broadcast. I know he did it on Sunday mornings but I think the program may have aired on Saturday's at one time, as well. At one time the Christian Business Men's Association sponsored the show. I don't know if they always did it but I do remember Harold telling us about the show and hearing him. He was Sunday School superintendent of Calvary Baptist Church at 510 Park Ave., Reading for many years. I remember in later years he attended Sunday School and then headed in to WEEU to do the show. I noted in the journal that they were asking for any info on the photo. Hope that helps.***

***Thanks, Joan Silagy***

*No....thanks to you, Joan!*



## **THE BLIZZARD OF '58**

*by Charles J. Adams III*

During the waning wintry months of 1958, Reading would experience one of its first confrontations with a relatively new venture—the “Dirty Movie.”

Yes, what had started in France was finally coming to Pennsylvania Dutch Country.

A year earlier, city police had confiscated two questionable films at the Plaza Theatre, but charges of obscenity were dropped because of inadequate precedence and supreme court rulings. Judge Warren K. Hess, who viewed the allegedly obscene films, said they were “...putrid, but not

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obscene.”

The Warner Theatre was to premiere Brigitte Bardot in a sexy shocker titled “And God Created Woman.” But, Reading Police Chief Bernard F. Richards announced that a special task force of his policemen would view the film before it opened on Penn Street. The movie had been banned in Philadelphia, but the Supreme Court ordered it returned, saying they were still studying the constitutionality of obscenity laws.

District Attorney Frederick Brubaker sent one of his staff members, Atty. Peter Cianci, to Philadelphia to view the movie in the company of Philly D.A. Victor Blanc. And, Reading’s first battle against obscenity was underway.

But, the winter of ‘58 was not to become noted for its anti-obscenity campaign. No, a more crushing blow was beset upon the good citizens of Berks County as the white stuff of winter fell in all its fury. Consecutive blizzards in February and March piled snow many feet deep and the county was to be buried under the worst snowstorm in its history.

On the Pennsylvania Turnpike, three dozen travelers were stranded near the Morgantown interchange and given refuge in the Morgantown Motel. Despite frozen pipes and no heat, the cubicles of the motel were welcoming, compared to the frigid zero-degree temperature outside.

The Howard Johnson Historical wayside turnpike stop

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was jammed with more than 700 people who were stranded for a night that would be remembered by all. The Morgantown area was besieged with nearly 50 inches of snow, and conditions were worsening.

In Reading, the Air National Guard was performing rescue operations throughout the city and county. In addition to humanoid rescues, the Guard flew hay by helicopter to a truckload of cattle that became mired in the snow on the Perkiomen Avenue hill near 21st Street in Mt. Penn. Twenty-two cattle received the much-needed food and survived the long stay until the snows subsided and plows came to their salvation. In addition to the cattle truck, 20 more vehicles were marooned on the hill in front of Aulenbach's Cemetery.

The Bell Telephone Company of Pennsylvania was suffering through perilous times that saw them lose more than one million dollars in damages here in Berks County alone. At points in Wernersville and Leesport, utility poles fell onto railroad tracks and many homes in the county were without electricity or telephone service for days.

The eyes of death fell upon our county when the caretaker of Daniel Boone Homestead died while walking to the park. In Scarlets Mill, near Birdsboro, 12-year old Stephen Bullock was killed when the roof of his house collapsed. His parents

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were flown by helicopter to the Salvation Army headquarters in Reading.

Governor George Leader issued a proclamation of "Extreme Emergency" in Berks County, while Civil Defense, Salvation Army, National Guard, and other agencies braced for service. Hotels in the city were jammed with refugees from the beleaguered county. The Abraham Lincoln Hotel provided 116 cots for extra patrons and nearly 100 more people had to be turned away.

Berks Heim was shut off completely from all utilities, and the entire borough of Boyertown was blacked out. Kutztown's St. John's U.C.C. provided shelter for residents in that borough, while the Civil Defense and National Guard units were doggedly rescuing more than 200 motorists stranded on the drift-choked Route 22. The motorists were given temporary shelter in the Hamburg Armory.

Hospitals in Reading were stifled, and nurses at St. Joseph's were given overnight relief in the Student Nurses' dormitory on Birch Street. Reading's crime rate dipped as low as the temperature, and police cars were given orders to stop cruising when the snow became too deep to do so.

Total damage in Berks County was estimated at several million dollars in the Blizzard of 1958.

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# **THERE OUGHT TO BE A LAW**

**BY LEN CARMEN  
WEEU MORNING NEWS ANCHOR**

As of the summer of 2007, it was still legal to smoke in bars and restaurants in Pennsylvania where it is permitted by the proprietor. Surely, the state legislature would not intrude on the right of a business owner to run his or her business as he or she saw fit. But wait! That's exactly what is happening.

The state, as well as many local governing bodies want to make it illegal to use a legal substance in a private business. Smoking has already been banned in government and other public buildings, which is perfectly fine. I also have no objection if the owner of a business wants to go smoke free.

If governments want to make it illegal to smoke in all places where the public works, eats and plays—yes, there are some places where smokers can't even light up outdoors!—then why not make tobacco illegal altogether? There ought to be a law to ban

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growing, harvesting, processing, selling, purchasing, possessing and using tobacco.

But that won't happen because of the tax revenue generated by the sale of tobacco products. In the meantime, governments will only continue to raise taxes and restrict the use of tobacco until smokers won't even be able to light up in the privacy of their own homes.

By the way, there are many other legal (at least for now) products, activities and businesses that are both unhealthy and offensive to the senses. So while we're at it, let's do away with them as well. Here are just a few:

***Diesel engines.*** If you have ever been stuck in traffic behind a line of tractor trailers, whether on an interstate highway or a busy city street, you're forced to inhale the nasty fumes with no escape. That can't be good for your lungs, especially if you already have respiratory difficulties.

***Garbage trucks.*** Driving behind one of these slow moving vehicles and unable to pass is bad enough on a good day. But on a steamy, hot summer day, all of that rotting food in the back of that truck is enough to make you gag. The solution: everyone takes their own trash to the landfill.

***Waste treatment plants.*** All I need to

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mention about waste treatment plants can be summed up in two words. Fritz's Island. For those who don't know, that is where the city of Reading's waste treatment plant is located. Even on the coldest winter day, Fritz's Island is always in midsummer form. Ask anyone who lives nearby. The solution: still working on it.

Now that I have gotten that off my chest, it's time to have a cigarette. Just don't tell the tobacco police!

•

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## **ON THE 'TRAIL' OF HISTORY**

by Mitch Gerhart, WEEU Sports Director

Let me begin with a formal announcement: Boston, MA, is my favorite city!! OK, so my travel experience is EXTREMELY limited, and certainly pales in comparison to Charlie's travels (hmmmm...."Travels with Charlie"; sounds like a GREAT idea for a column). Toronto, Portland (ME), Boston, New York, Philly, Baltimore, Washington, Richmond, Charleston (SC), Orlando, plus Hartford (if you count driving through it on I-95) - that's about it. But I DO love Boston.

From the people, to the accent ("You can go see

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the Green Monstah if you take the T-Stop on the connah.”), to the “Reverse the Curse” sign, to the Big Dig, to the restaurants (love that chowdah!).....most of all, I love the history that waits around every corner.

A first visit to Boston really should begin with the Freedom Trail, which not only brings you up-close to American history, but also gives you a tour of much of the city. Not for the frail, the 2+ mile walk follows a red brick or paint line from the Boston Common through the North End to Charlestown. I've read some websites that tell you the walk takes an hour—yeah, if you're looking for something fun to do after you've run the Boston Marathon. Other sites suggest a “leisurely three-hour excursion”; to me, in order to truly enjoy the 16 sites on the trail without wearing yourself out, I suggest breaking it up over two days.

One of the great things about the Trail is that its sites are not in any kind of chronological order, so you can really start your tour anywhere along the trail, without fear of taking some sites “out of order.”

The trail should probably start at the Freedom Trail information booth on Boston Common at Tremont Street, where you can get maps and trail info (including information on where to buy tickets for a variety of commercial tours). Then, take a stroll through the Common, America's oldest public park, situated on 44 acres of public land on which Boston's founders grazed their sheep and cattle. The Common has seen a number of uses over the centuries: a training field for Colonial soldiers, a hanging ground

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for pirates and witches, and a “speaking ground” for Martin Luther King, Pope John Paul II, and Gloria Steinem. Today, it's a place to enjoy concerts & Shakespeare, jog, read, nap, people-watch, walk the dog, or feed the squirrels and pigeons (while in the neighborhood, you may also want to stroll the neighboring Public Garden, with its famous Swan Boats and statue honoring the children's book, “Make Way for Ducklings”).

From the Common, head north toward the gold dome of the Massachusetts State House. The building was designed by architect Charles Bullfinch (by the way, the nearby “Bull and Finch Pub” named in honor of Bullfinch was the inspiration for the bar on “Cheers”) and built on land first used as John Hancock's cow pasture.

The golden dome was originally made of wood before Paul Revere overlaid it with copper to stop leaks; it was covered with 23 karat gold in 1874. Covering nearly seven acres, the State House is the oldest building on Boston's legendary Beacon Hill, and is home to the governor and legislature of the Commonwealth.

The site includes statues of JFK, orator Daniel Webster, educator Horace Mann, Union General “Fighting” Joe Hooker, and colonial religious martyrs Anne Hutchinson and Mary Dyer (hanged by the Puritans for her Quaker beliefs). Across the street from the State House, you'll want to take in the Augustus Saint-Gaudens bronze relief monument honoring

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Colonel Robert Gould Shaw and the 54th Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry Regiment. The all-black Union regiment, which included two sons of Frederick Douglass, lost nearly half its number in trying to take South Carolina's Fort Wagner in 1863. (The story of the regiment forms the basis of the Denzel Washington-Morgan Freeman-Matthew Broderick movie, "Glory".)

Southeast from the State House stands Park Street Church, where William Lloyd Garrison delivered his first major public speech against slavery. It's also where "America (My Country 'Tis of Thee)" was first sung in 1831. The church's 217 foot steeple was the first landmark seen by colonial travelers visiting Boston, and its pulpit "saw" speeches favoring prison reform and women's suffrage.

The "backyard" of the church holds the Granary Burying Ground, considered by some to be "America's Westminster Abbey". The cemetery serves as the final resting place of such colonial notables as John Hancock, Paul Revere (and his massive family, including 16 children), James "No Taxation Without Representation" Otis, all five victims of the Boston Massacre, Ben Franklin's parents, wealthy merchant Peter Faneuil, and Mary "Mother" Goose—alleged to be THE Mother Goose. The Granary ground (so named because the site of the neighboring church was previously used to store grain) also includes the grave of patriot and beer maker Samuel Adams, prompting one Boston tour guide to suggest that one can stop at

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the Beantown Pub for a cold “Sam Adams”, then cross the street to the cemetery for another cold Sam Adams.

Next, continue northeast on Tremont Street to visit King's Chapel (and Burying Ground). The chapel is an intimidating-looking stone building that was established on the town cemetery by the Royal Governor in 1688, when no one in the city would sell him land for a non-Puritan church. The building features external “stone” pillars (actually, they're painted wood—a money-saving ploy), magnificent Georgian interiors, and a bell crafted by Paul Revere. King's Chapel was also the first American church to own an organ!

The neighboring cemetery was Boston's only burying place during the city's first 30 years of existence. It's the final resting place of John Winthrop (the state's first governor), Mary Chilton (the first woman to step off the “Mayflower”), and William Dawes (Paul Revere's companion on the famous “midnight ride”). You'll also want to check out Joseph Tapping's headstone, featuring a carving of a skeleton and Father Time battling over the eventuality of death.

If you're not too creeped out, let's proceed around the corner to the site of the Boston Latin School, America's first public school—a boys-only school until 1972! The actual site of the first building is marked by a beautiful “hopscotch-style” Latin mosaic, and the “schoolyard” features a statue honoring the school's most famous dropout, Ben Franklin (“early to bed, early to rise, makes a man healthy, wealthy and

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wise"...and truant?). The 'yard, which serves as the courtyard for Boston's old (but not Colonial-old) City Hall, also includes a bronze statue of a donkey, "honoring" the symbol of the Democratic party.

At the other end of the appropriately named School Street stands the Old Corner Book Store, once a flourishing literary center of the 1800s. The original building was destroyed by fire in 1711 and was replaced by the current structure in 1718. The street level portions served as a pharmacy until 1829, when the house was leased to a prominent bookseller. Writers like Dickens, Emerson, Longfellow and Thoreau were known to frequent the site, while the building's most famous occupant, Ticknor & Fields, printed works by Hawthorne, Whittier, Harriet Beecher Stow, Oliver Wendell Holmes and Louisa May Alcott, in addition to the notables mentioned earlier.

Walk past (and take in) the Boston Irish Famine Memorial statues on the other side of School Street and cross Washington Street to find the Old South Meeting House, built in 1729 as a Puritan church. "Old South" was the biggest building in Colonial Boston, and served as the stepping-off point for the "Boston Tea Party" protest. WARNING: Of the 16 sites along the Freedom Trail, only three charge an admission fee, and the Old South Meeting House Museum is one of them. It's \$5 for adults, \$4 for Senior Citizens, and \$1 for children over 6.

Next on the tour, at the corner of State and Washington, is one of my favorite buildings in Boston

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–the Old State House.

Built as the seat of British Government during the Revolutionary Period, the building was once the tallest in the city, driving home the point that there was nothing “higher” than the authority of the King. Inside its walls, James Otis and Sam Adams fired up their fellow colonists to rebel against the crown. The Declaration of Independence was first read to the citizens of Boston from the balcony of the State House in 1776, prompting the colonists to tear down the golden lion and silver unicorn—symbols of British rule—from the roof (they've since been restored). The oldest surviving public building in Boston is now open as a museum, with admission fees similar to those of the Old South Meeting House.

In front of the balcony of “Old State,” in a small traffic island, a circle of paving stones with a star at its center marks the location of the Boston Massacre of March, 1770. (It's amazing to me that such a major event in the history of the American Revolution is marked in such a simple way).

Although patriots like Paul Revere painted the event as a horrid act of unnecessary violence by a British Army out of control, the truth is the British soldiers who shot and killed or fatally wounded five colonists acted in self-defense. In fact, the British captain and six of the eight British soldiers indicted for the crime were later acquitted after being represented at trial by attorney John Adams, the eventual second president of the United States. (The other two were

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convicted of manslaughter and punished by having their right thumbs branded.)

Moving a bit toward Boston's waterfront, you'll find Faneuil Hall, often referred to as "the home of free speech" and the "Cradle of Liberty" (it's pronounced "fann'-yull"). Faneuil Hall, built by merchant Peter Faneuil in 1741, hosted America's first town meeting. Its first floor was used as a market, with second floor rooms serving as the town meeting hall, where colonists voiced their protest of British taxation policies, and people like Frederick Douglass and William Lloyd Garrison spoke out against slavery.

Today, the stores and restaurants housed by Faneuil Hall and the neighboring Quincy Marketplace are very popular among tourists and residents alike. (Make sure you check out the famous grasshopper weather vane atop Faneuil Hall!)

The next stop on the Freedom Trail sends us into Boston's North End (probably the second longest hike on the Trail, exceeded only by the walk to Charlestown at the end of the trail) to the only private residence on the trail. Built around 1680, the Paul Revere House is the oldest remaining structure in downtown Boston. Revere and his family owned the tiny house from 1770 to 1800, and were in residence when Revere made his famous ride in 1775. The house was restored and opened to the public as a house/museum in 1908.

There is an admission fee to tour the house: \$3 for adults, \$2.50 for senior citizens, and \$1 for kids 5-17.

Paul Revere also had something to do with the

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next stop on the tour, Old North Church. A few blocks away from the Revere House in the North End, Old North is the oldest church building in Boston, and the city's most visited historic site. It was from the steeple of Old North in April 1775 that Revere received the famous two-lantern signal that let him know the British were traveling by land to Lexington and Concord. The courtyard of the church features a statue of Revere (the picture of the Revere statue in the foreground with Old North in the background is one of the most

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popular pictures of Boston), as well as a number of wall plaques honoring various elements of Boston citizenry.

A few blocks north of Old North stands Copp's Hill Burying Ground, first established in 1659 on ground previously occupied by a windmill. Since shoemaker William Copp donated the land to the city, a number of notables have been buried there, including Salem Witch Trials preacher Cotton Mather, Old North Church sextant Robert Newman (who hung the two lanterns in the steeple), *USS Constitution* builder Edmund Hartt, metal smith Shem Drowne (who crafted the Faneuil Hall grasshopper weathervane), and nearly 1,000 free blacks and slaves who lived near the cemetery (sadly, many of their markers were plundered for construction materials during the 1860s). The British used Copp's Hill's altitude and vistas as a vantage point to fire on Charlestown during the Battle of Bunker Hill. They also liked to use some of the tombstones for target practice - make sure you look for the gravestone of Daniel Malcom, which is riddled with bullet marks (the British apparently didn't care for his epitaph labeling Malcom as a "true Son of Liberty" and an "enemy of oppression").

After taking the long hike across the Charlestown Bridge, you'll be faced with a choice: go right, to the *USS Constitution*, or left to Bunker Hill. The *Constitution* is the oldest commissioned warship in the world, and is permanently berthed in Boston Harbor. The ship became known as "Old Ironsides"

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after fighting off a British frigate during the War of 1812. She is still seaworthy, and her crew takes her out for demonstrations several times a year (although, beginning in October, her “underway demonstrations” will be suspended for two years while she undergoes maintenance and reconstruction). Tours of the impressive vessel take place every half-hour between 10:30 and 3:30.

Last on the Trail is Bunker Hill, where Colonial troops first held their own in the face of a superior British force in 1775. (Of course, if you were paying attention in History class, you know the battle actually took place on nearby Breed's Hill, not the taller Bunker Hill). The site is marked by a 221-foot granite obelisk that is visible from just about anywhere in Boston, and served as a model for the towers that mark the new Charles River Bridge built as part of Boston's “Big Dig”. The monument is open daily, although there's no elevator - just 294 steps to the top.

This brings you to the end of the Freedom Trail. Unless you really want to hike the 2+ miles back to the beginning, I suggest you take the “T” back to downtown.

Of course, there's plenty more to see and do in Boston and its surrounding communities, but I think the Freedom Trail gets your visit off to a pretty good start, while giving you a chance to immerse yourself in the early history of the American experiment!



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**REMEMBER THIS?**



*Photos by Charles J. Adams III*

## **OR THIS?**



*The old Loew's Colonial theater on Penn Street (top), just before it was demolished. And, where RACC's new Miller Center now stands, what is in the lower photo once stood!!!*

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**OR THIS???**



*Long before Charlie Adams was the morning guy on WEEU, he patrolled the streets of Reading as a photographer for the now-defunct Berks County Record newspaper, for whom he took these pictures. Remember these places???*

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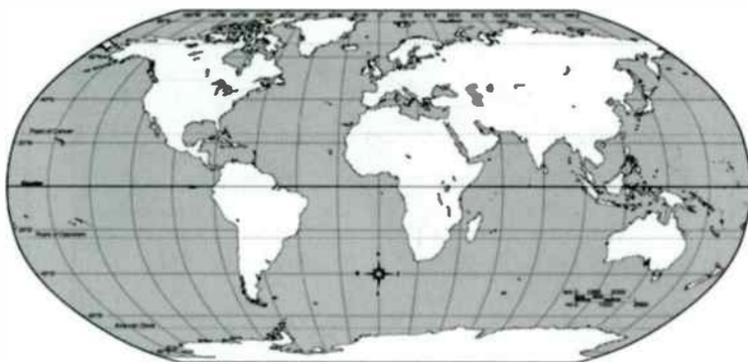
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# **Worldly Cooking**

**Recipes from Here & There**

*(Untested....but give em a try  
and let us know how they worked out!)*



## **Iceland**

### **Icelandic Leg of Lamb**

Ingredients and Directions

1 Leg of Lamb  
Salt, Pepper  
1 cup Cream  
2-3 tablespoons Flour

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Put the Leg of Lamb on a grid in a roasting pan and pour one quart of water into the pan. Place into oven, then heat oven to 300F.

Roast for one hour for each 2 lbs. of weight.

Pour the stock from the pan over the Leg of Lamb occasionally with a spoon. For the last half hour of cooking switch on the grill, and grill the Leg of Lamb on both sides.

Sieve the stock into a casserole and skim off the fat. Thicken the sauce with flour, season, and color with gravy browning. Stir in the cream and remove from the heat.

### ***Serve with Caramel Potatoes.***

#### **Caramel Potatoes**

1 lb. Potatoes, medium size, cooked and peeled

1 1/2 oz. Margarine

5 tablespoons Sugar

Place the sugar on a frying pan and heat until it starts melting, stir in the margarine. When golden, remove from heat, add potatoes, rolling them carefully around so they are completely covered with caramel.



## **Norway**

# **Norwegian Meatballs**

### Ingredients and Directions

- 2 tb Cornstarch
- 3/4 ts Salt (optional)
- 1/2 ts Nutmeg
- 2 Lg egg whites
- 3/4 c Skim milk
- 1 lb Very lean ground beef
- 2/3 c Cream of mushroom soup

Place first 4 ingredients and 1/4 cup milk in mixer bowl and mix at low speed to blend well. Add beef to mixer bowl and mix at low speed to blend well. Shape 18 meatballs using about 1 1/2 tablespoons mix per meatball. (The mixture will be soft ) Place in a 9 x 13 pan that has been lined with aluminum foil or sprayed with cooking spray. Bake 30 minutes at 375F. Remove from pan while still hot and place in a 1 1/2 quart casserole. Mix soup and remaining 1/2 cup milk well and pour over meatballs. Cover and bake at 350F for 30 minutes. Serve 3 meatballs per serving with a little of the sauce.



## **Hungary**

### **Szekelygulyas**

#### **Ingredients and Directions**

4-1/2 cups pork, cut into 1-inch cubes

3 tbsp. lard

2 cups onion, sliced

1 tbsp. Hungarian red paprika

2 tbsp. water

1 tsp. salt

2 tsp. caraway seeds

1 clove garlic, crushed

3-1/2 cups sauerkraut

1/2 cup sour cream

1 tbsp. flour

Roast the onion in heated shortening until of yellow color; remove from heat. Stir in the paprika, add water, put back onto heat. Add meat, salt, caraway seeds and garlic; cook gently for approximately 1/2 hour, stirring occasionally. Add the sauerkraut and cook until well done. Stir the flour into the sour cream, add to dish, and let simmer on very low heat for about 10 minutes.

Serve with dumplings or potatoes.



## **Portugal**

# **Caldeirada De Peixe**

### Ingredients and Directions

1/2 pound fish or shellfish, any kind

1/2 teaspoons salt

4 tablespoons olive oil

2 onions, chopped

8 tomatoes, peeled & chopped

1 green pepper, seeded & chopped

4 large cloves garlic, crushed

1 pinch nutmeg

1/2 teaspoon ground allspice

3 teaspoons piri-piri sauce (recipe follows)

1 small glass dry white wine

1/2 ounce cilantro, chopped

4 slices of bread with the crusts cut off

Clean the fish and cut into fairly small pieces, removing as many bones as possible. Sprinkle the salt over the fish and leave while you make the following sauce.

Heat 2-3 Tbsp of the oil in a saucepan and stir in the onions, tomatoes and pepper. Cook gently until they start to soften, then put in the garlic, nutmeg, allspice and piri-piri sauce. Add

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the wine and a little water. Cook for about 5 minutes, stirring frequently, then remove from the heat. Lightly oil the bottom of a shallow, ovenproof dish (preferably earthenware). Put in a layer of fish followed by a layer of sauce and sprinkle with coriander. Continue with these layers until the ingredients are used up. Cover the top of with the bread and sprinkle well with the remaining oil or dot with a little butter. Cook in a preheated oven at 350F for about 30 minutes or until the fish is tender. Serve with boiled or sliced and fried potatoes, bread and a salad to make a substantial main meal. If you cannot obtain coriander leaves, you can use fresh parsley instead, but this will alter the flavor of the dish.

### ***Piri-Piri Sauce:***

1 1/4 cups olive oil  
8 chili peppers with tops removed  
1 small piece lemon rind  
1 bay leaf

Pour the oil into a small, screw-top jar and add the chili peppers, bay leaf and lemon rind. Screw on the top and shake. Leave to stand in a warm place for at least 24 hours before use. It will keep at room temperature indefinitely.



**Czech Republic**

**Kolaches**

Ingredients and Directions

2 c Milk  
1/2 c Sugar  
1 Egg; beaten  
1/2 c Butter  
1 ts Salt  
2 tb Yeast, dry  
6 c Flour  
3 c Filling

**-----FILLING-----**

1/2 lb Apricots, dried  
1/3 c Sugar  
1/4 ts Lemon juice  
1 1/2 tb Butter

Dough: In a large saucepan, scald milk and add sugar, egg, butter, and salt. Cool mixture to 115-120 F. In a large bowl, dissolve yeast in warm milk mixture. Add flour gradually and

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knead to a very soft dough. Cover and let rise until doubled in size--about one hour. Shape dough into balls about 2" in diameter. Place on greased baking sheets 2" apart. Cover and let rise again until doubled--about 30 to 45 minutes. When they have risen, make an indentation in the center of each roll. Fill each with desired filling and bake at 350 F. for 20 to 25 minutes. Filling: In a large saucepan, cover apricots with water and cook until plump and tender (about 20 minutes). Drain and place in a blender or food processor and puree. In a saucepan, combine puree with sugar, lemon juice, and butter. Cook over medium heat until butter has melted.

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# THE DAY THAT "OL' BLUE EYES" CAME TO CALL AT WEEU



Yes, that's the "Chairman of the Board"... "Ol' Blue Eyes"... whatever you care to call him... in behind the WEEU microphone in undated photos from the collection of Mary Troutman, who is also seen next to the WEEU banner above.

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And, oh yes...in case you don't know who we're talking about, it is none other than the man many consider the best singer of all time, that skinny kid from Hoboken, Frank Sinatra.

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...and, that chap in the middle, looking over "Frankie's" shoulder as he works the phones, is former WEEU morning personality, the late Jack Gounder!

# The World is Changing

## ...remember “Back then?”

*by Mike Faust, WEEU Feedback Host*

Even though I am only entering into my fortieth year on this planet I’ve noticed that the world is changing now more than ever. For example, when I was growing up things were different back then.

**Back then**, if you ran out of sugar or butter over the weekend you asked a neighbor if they had any extra because most stores would have closed by 6 p.m. on a Saturday and wouldn’t reopen until Monday morning.

**Back then**, a young person would write down their most intimate thoughts in a journal or diary which they would only share with a few select friends. If Mom or Dad ever read some of their entries they would blush to high heaven.

**Back then**, when you went to church on a Sunday morning you wore a suit coat and tie with nice pants and clean polished shoes, the girls or women would wear dresses with a hat or bonnet.

**Back then**, you played records or tapes

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until you wore them out. The records would get scratched up or skip and the tapes would wear out and eventually tear or break. I always enjoyed the cover art and reading the liner notes on record albums.

**Back then,** we only had less than a dozen channels on the TV. There was UHF and VHF. I still don't know what they stand for but we always found something that was entertaining to watch. When I was really young we had to get up and change the channels manually on the television. There were even times when we would have to turn the antenna a certain way to get other channels.

**Back then,** when the phone rang you didn't know who was on the other end of the line but you always gave a pleasant "hello"!

**Back then,** when you needed to look something up you had to run to your local library and hunt through the card catalog or various encyclopedia volumes to find out what you needed to know. You hoped that no one signed out the book you needed or that everything was up to date.

**But today:** Stores are open 24-7. It doesn't matter if you need sugar, butter, or whatever. You can shop at 3 am in the morning if you want to.

Online blogs and websites are a

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popular place for young, middle, and older people to share their most personal thoughts.

Churches are glad to see anyone even if they come Sunday morning wearing sandals, jeans and a t-shirt.

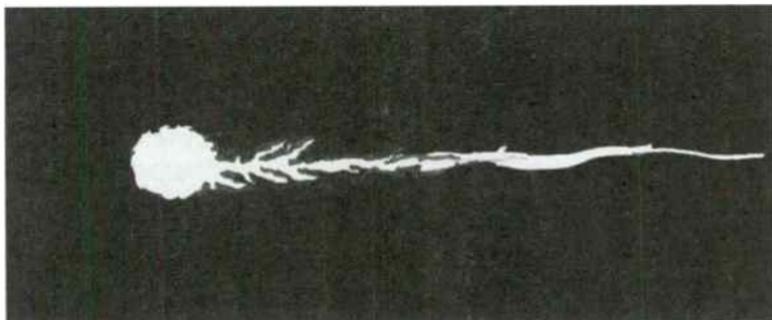
Digital has replaced vinyl, tape, and most other formats. Storage is easier. Milk crates are no longer needed to house all those records.

Some people get over a thousand channels and they still can't find anything good to watch on TV. Most of them spend the whole night channel surfing.

Caller I.D. makes it easier to help you with the greeting or to decide to let the answering machine field that call.

Lots of people nowadays Google something they need: A recipe, directions, an answer to a trivia question, even their own name.

Yes, a lot has changed in our lifetime. I think we sometimes take these changes for granted. I'm sure you could add a lot more items to this list. I've probably only scratched the surface. Back then, it seemed like a different world. Those were good days. Today the days are good too. I'm just curious to think about how many back then's I can come up with forty years from now.



## **THE BALL OF LIGHTNING**

*Story and illustration by Tullio Francesco DeSantis*

I must report one of the most unusual experiences of my life. This most recent amazing phenomenon ranks right up there with... 1. encountering a full-grown manatee in the open ocean and swimming along with it for a half hour and... 2. breakfasting in the deep wilderness of the "Five Ponds Area" of the upper Adirondacks and sitting stock still while a black bear entered our campsite, wandered about, and stayed for an extended period of time just a few feet from our table.

During the high-powered thunderstorm of June 19, 2007, our farmhouse was struck with a shot of lightning that blew out some electrical equipment. This is not unusual. It seems our property has a long reputation as lightning prone. We've been hit directly five times in the past four years. Experiencing our home being struck by lightning is common. What happened last evening however, is apparently one of the rare events in human experience.

Between two flashes of lightning perhaps five minutes apart, I happened to gaze out the window to view

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the downpour. At that moment a fiery ball of brilliant yellow moved across our front yard about 10 feet from the ground. The ball itself was somewhere between the size of a grapefruit and a soccer ball. I saw its tight spherical shape engulfed in a sort of sparking plasma while a tapered tail of bright yellow-white flame trailed behind it for a distance of about twenty-five feet.

It moved not as quickly as a bird might fly across the yard. It did not "streak" but simply moved deliberately at a sort of cruising speed. My companions saw it only indirectly but I eyed it thoroughly, completely, and totally. As I tried to come to terms with what I had just seen, I mentioned ball lightning—a rare and mysterious phenomenon I had read about some time ago. But my recollection was that ball lightning is so rarely seen that its very existence is in doubt.

I drew an image of the thing to illustrate and reaffirm exactly what I had experienced. Spurred on by the very strangeness of that image, I searched the Net and confirmed our sparkling luminous visitor was indeed "ball lightning."

I have always considered nature to be thoroughly "supernatural" - as opposed to, let's say, conventionally natural. Nature is a unique momentous continuously unfathomable and ineffable occurrence. There are no instants in nature in which one can not find the deepest revelation. Occasionally however, nature stuns us with something so utterly astonishing that we're forced to reconsider its vast magnificence, great splendor, and endless depth. And, awestruck and trembling, we comprehend that we, ourselves, are part of it.

# I'M BORED!

*by Jo Painter, WEEU Program Director  
and afternoon personality*

How many times have you heard that, Mom and Dad? How many times have you proclaimed the same? Good thing you live in beautiful Berks County! Funny how often we forget to explore the treasures in our own backyard. All right, once you complete mowing the lawn and weeding the gardens it's time to step outside *your* backyard and into Berks County's backyard.

It's hard to figure out where to start. Let's see, if you like the outdoors, the choices are abundant!

French Creek State Park is a wonderland where you can play Frisbee Golf, swim, hike, picnic, canoe and paddle-boat, and cross-country ski too! Then there's Lake Ontelaunee where the snow geese gather by the hundreds ... and their visit gathers hundreds of birders to its shore.

Pulpit Rock and The Pinnacle ... should be, at the very least, an annual trek. Scouts, families, couples, and solo hikers alike make the journey to the top to enjoy the spectacular vistas.

Antietam Lake is a favorite fishing spot for many all year long. The early morning ice fishers that dot the lake on a cold winter morning when

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the frost is clinging to the trees and the 4-foot icicles are adorning the cliff across the road is a site to behold!

Then there's Nolde Forest with miles of trails and a wonderful education center. There's a variety of natural educational activities the whole family can enjoy all year long. Pick one and make a date, it's fun to learn something new.

How about Blue Marsh Lake .... Whatever you like you'll find the opportunity in this outdoor wonderland. You can go hiking, biking, horseback riding, birding, swimming, boating, sailing, fishing or just relax on a blanket with a friend and a picnic basket!

Don't forget to explore the Big and Little Reservoir along Route 82 just outside Birdsboro. The Route 82 bridge washed out so you have to hike across Hay Creek. You'll find that once on the other side, it's worth wet feet. Hike or ride a bike down the road about a mile and the Big Reservoir entrance will be on your left. A hike to the top of the hill brings you to an enchanted reservoir surrounded by huge pine trees that whisper to you when the wind blows. The setting is so beautiful, peaceful and serene you'll want to stay a while and soak it in.

Gring's Mill is a peaceful oasis just a stone's throw from the hustle and bustle of area malls. Along the wonderfully maintained trail by the Tulpehocken you'll find walkers, runners, joggers,

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*A scene at Antietam Lake (Photo by Charles J. Adams III)*

cyclists, and anglers. The place is a real deLIGHT at Christmas when the trees are all aglow with thousands of lights, displays, and of course cookies and hot chocolate in the barn.

A trip to Hawk Mountain is a must-see. There's a wonderful education center and well-marked trails take you to lookouts where birders gather from far and wide to participate in the annual bird count. If you go, take water and wear good hiking shoes, and follow the path all the way down to the river of rocks.

If you're a history buff there's even more for you to do in Berks. Plan a visit to Hopewell

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Village, a national historic site! The Village is complete with a working water wheel, original houses and recently reopened the newly restored Iron Master's House. Events throughout the year include sheep-sheering contests, and weekend demonstrations when volunteers in period costume make the Village come 'alive' with the sights, sounds, and aromas of life in the Village during the 1800's. Plan a visit during Autumn and you can wander through the orchard filled with a variety of apple trees, some almost as old as the Village ! Pick a basket full of apples to take home and bake a fresh apple pie ... YUM!

Berks County's Backyard is home to Daniel Boone Homestead, the Mouns Jones House, Gruber Wagon Works, the Johannes Keim Homestead in the Oley Valley, St. Peter's Village, Historic Joanna Furnace, Conrad Weiser Homestead, the Pagoda, and The William Penn Memorial Fire Tower. There's even 5 Covered Bridges in Berks ... take a ride and see if you can find them all.

If culture is your thing you'll find plenty of museums to explore in Berks County. We even have our very own mummy! Visit the Reading Public Museum and see for yourself. Schedule a visit to the Planetarium too.

Do you like planes, trains, and automobiles? Explore the treasures in the Mid-Atlantic Air Museum, the Reading Railroad Heritage Museum

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and the Boyertown Museum of Historic Vehicles.

The Pennsylvania German Cultural Heritage, The Central Pennsylvania African American Museum, the Reading Area Firefighters Museum, the Historical Society of Berks County and Museum are all home to treasures of 'days gone by!



*A scene at Daniel Boone Homestead, Exeter Township (Photo by Charles J. Adams III)*

If it's entertainment you crave then Berks is the place to be. Berks County is home to a plethora of community theaters that 'stage' shows year round.

The Goggle Works Center for the Arts is abuzz with arts in a variety of mediums, crafts, activities, and entertainment every week.

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The Reading Musical Foundation, the Reading Symphony Orchestra, the Star Series, The Reading Philharmonic, and the Reading Pops Orchestras, and the Ringgold Band all call Berks County 'home' and enchant Berks with an abundance of joyful music.

If it's jazz that gets your toes tapping and your head bopping you're in luck. Berks is also home to the nationally acclaimed 'Berks Jazz Fest'. It's a 12 day musical excursion that permeates Berks County every March.

As if that weren't enough The Sovereign Performing Arts Center and the Sovereign Center, and the Scottish Rite Cathedral are venues that play host to a variety of entertainment and sports that regularly 'pack the house'!

If you'd rather spend the day 'shopping till you drop' You'll find the Vanity Fair Outlet Village, 3 major shopping malls, a variety of smaller malls and lots of wonderful little boutiques sprinkled throughout the towns and villages of Berks.

If all this makes you hungry, well then there's ....well, there's so much! ... that's a story for another journal.

Keep this WEEU Journal handy to reference the next time you hear or say, "I'm bored". These ideas should get you out of *your* backyard and keep you busy for a while in Berks County's backyard.



# Solar Flair

## Art and Music Walk

Welcome summer with a flourish at the Solar Flair Art and Music Walk!

The number of participants and activities continues to increase as the event gains momentum, and the third annual walk promises to be even more entertaining for all ages and interests.

Talented dancers, musicians, and artists dot the Art Walk Trail from the GoggleWorks to the Reading Public Museum. At the GoggleWorks, visitors can take in the sights and sounds of this five-story haven for the arts. As walkers make their way down the trail to the Museum, docents tell the stories behind public art pieces, musicians and dancers perform, and artists paint. The trail leads from the City to the Museum grounds, which are alive with hands-on art projects, carriage rides, and other family-friendly activities. Walkers can enjoy free shuttle transportation back to their vehicles and reflect on the first full evening of summer, which they spent immersed in the

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beauty and culture of RiverPlace.

The 2008 Solar Flair Arts and Music Walk, which is scheduled for Saturday, June 21st, will be linked with West Reading's popular Arts on the Avenue event that same day for an even more memorable Summer Solstice celebration. Just as the Art Walk Trail unites Reading and West Reading, the dual festivals will also strengthen ties between the two communities.

The Solar Flair is presented by RiverPlace on the Schuylkill, Reading Public Museum, Community School of Music and the Arts, Reading Area Community College, The Reading Hospital and Medical Center, GoggleWorks Center for the Arts, and Berks Arts Council. For a full list of sponsors as well as complete event details, please visit our website: [www.RiverPlacePA.com](http://www.RiverPlacePA.com)



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# **ANIMAL RESCUE LEAGUE LIVES UP TO ITS NAME**

## ***...the rescue of Rebel***

*By Tina Evangelista-Eppenstein,  
Media Coordinator, Animal Rescue League*

Rebel, a 1-2 year old male Mastiff/Pitbull mix and Snuggles, a 3-4 year old female Pitbull, were wandering around their home in rural Union Township while their human family was preparing their home from possible flooding on a rainy Thursday morning in July 2006. Rebel and Snuggles who were always inseparable were both adopted from the ARL by Randi Patterson. Randi and her dogs live with her father, Scott, and her brother, Jesse, making it one big happy family. Six Penny Creek flows very closely to their home and has flooded in the past. Randi was at work while Scott and Jesse took all precautions to ensure their home wouldn't be flooded. As the two men were preparing their home, Rebel and Snuggles were walking around as they normally do.

A short while later Snuggles returned home by herself. This never happened and they realized something was wrong. Scott and Jesse drove around for hours the remainder of the day searching in vain for Rebel. There was no sign of him. When Randi returned home from work, it

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was too dark to continue the search. It was resumed in the morning.

While Randi, Scott and Jesse searched the next day, unbeknownst to them two horseback riders were traveling through Dyers Quarry a few miles away from the Patterson home. As the two riders reached the water in the quarry, they could hear a dog barking but could not figure out where the dog was. After the 2nd day of hearing this dog they searched the steep-sloped terrain. One of the riders could finally see a dog on a tiny ledge at least 75 feet above the water. They knew they needed the help of the Animal Rescue League.

Alison Rudy, ARL Humane Officer, drove out to investigate. Upon further inspection, she realized this would have to be a coordinated effort with the help of other ARL staff. It was approximately around 5 PM when she called Harry Brown, our Executive Director and asked for help. Because the shelter was closing many heard the call for help and joined in the effort to save this dog. The majority of the staff was able to help in the effort. Each went home to change into long pants and shirts to protect themselves from the thorny brush and poison sumac. An employee's husband and a male friend (Mike) of another staff member joined in the rescue as well.

Upon arriving at the scene, they met up with one of the horseback riders who led them to the area once again. Now it was up to the ARL

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staff to save this dog. Harry was to take the lead with Mike behind him. Everyone else followed immediately after them. As they trekked up the steep terrain, some held onto tree branches for leverage while others held onto poison sumac branches - an itchy mistake that most would have to pay for afterwards!

After nearly an hour of climbing the quarry, they were almost there. The hardest part was to come when Harry had to lower himself on this steep decline to the ledge which was smaller than the size of a desktop. Harry didn't use any safety rope. He could have fallen at any time onto rocks before hitting the water. It was apparent that the dog had tried to climb up by the scratch marks in the dirt above the ledge. As Harry made it to the ledge, the dog was wagging his tail very carefully and remained calm. He was so happy to see people who he knew were going to save him.

Harry gently placed a harness around the dog's body. Mike was above with the rope. Harry raised him as Mike pulled on the rope. The dog was finally off the ledge. Just as Mike grabbed him, the harness fell off. But, the dog was now safe. By this time, the staff formed an assembly line to take the dog one by one to safety. And that's what they did. One by one this dog was given to the next person and so on until they reached level ground.

Once this dog reached safe ground, little did

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he realize his human family and Snuggles were there to greet him as well. Randi and Jesse had been driving around searching for Rebel when they approached a woman on horseback to ask her if she had seen him. This woman happened to be the wife of one of two men who originally spotted Rebel. A happy, joyous reunion ensued with Rebel greeting each family member repeatedly as if to make sure they were all there and to let them know he never wants to be separated from them again!

It had been nearly two days when Rebel was rescued by the ARL. Besides being dehydrated, Rebel was found to be in good condition. No one knows how Rebel found himself in this predicament. It is surmised that he may have lost his footing on the wet terrain and fell to the ledge. However Rebel arrived at his destination, he was one lucky dog. Make no mistake Rebel does know this! He has never wandered far away from his home or Snuggles since this happened.

Randi is so grateful to the ARL staff for not giving up on Rebel especially because of the danger involved. She says Rebel and Snuggles are an important part of her entire family and she was devastated when they couldn't find him. We at the ARL do understand her sentiments- we feel the same way about our own pets. We were just so thrilled for the happy outcome.

Some might say it goes above and beyond

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the call of duty to save a beloved pet while risking your own life. But, then again, you have to know the staff at the ARL. We are not only committed to finding new homes for the animals, we are also here to help those who are missing find their way back home.



***Rebel***

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# **PHYSICAL AND SPIRITUAL FOOD FROM THE MOUNTAINS**

*By "East Side Dave" Kline*

*Dave is the GM of WEEU Radio, the Producer and Host of  
The Mountain Folk Radio & Web Show, a  
singer/songwriter, and an avid mountain traveler who  
shares the folk culture of the mountains through his  
broadcasts, music and writing.*

## **FOOD FOR THE SOUL**

**I have traveled in, hiked on, skiing over, climbed and scrambled up and enjoyed the folk culture of the world's wonderful mountain ranges for the majority of my life and in those mountains I have always found food for the body and food for the soul; delights for the palate and inspiration for the mind. I'd like to share some of each with you in this article for the *WEEU Journal*.**

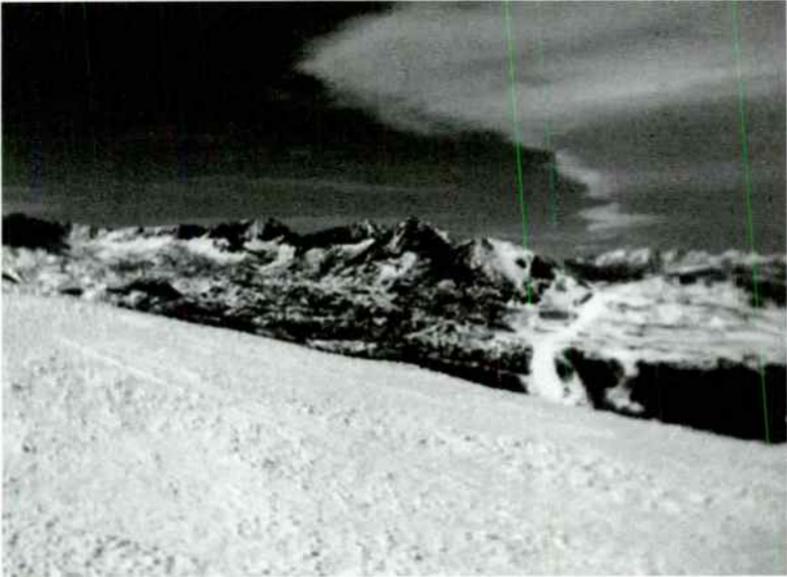
Food for the soul includes the wondrous views of craggy peaks that seem to reach to the sky in tribute to God, easily outshining even the most magnificent manmade cathedrals and structures. Seeing the sublime confluence of fire

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and ice; the icy green-blue hues of centuries-old glaciers bathed in white-blue light from the fire of the sun provides a perfect physical example for the contrasts we all encounter in life. On one hand you have the fire trying to melt the ice, on the other hand you have the ice accumulating over the centuries, and both pull at each other, both eternally work against and for each other in a perfect dance of balanced equilibrium. It is the Yin and the Yang, the positive and the negative, the “this for that.” Only when the balance is disrupted by a third or “outside” source does the force of the energy tip toward one side or the other.

This sort of balance has long influenced natives of high alpine villages and hamlets. An important part of a true mountain person's life and philosophy deals with the seeking of balance in life. It is called the “Mountain Trilogy” and it calls for a perfect balance in one's wheel of life; an equal respect and interaction with the Things of God, the Things of Man, and the Things of Nature. This balance in one's life is very important. In fact, this same sort of mutual respect for all things under the sun can be found in many native cultures. From the mountains to the Native American Plains Indians, respect for life and love of communion with nature is of paramount importance.

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*Above: The Pyrenees Mountains of Andorra,  
Spain and France.*

When I hike or climb a mountain, I do so not to “conquer” a mountain or trail, but to commune with the mountain and the life-force it harbors for the creatures who reside there. There is a spiritual awareness that occurs when engaging in a very rigorous climb. You develop a deeper understanding of why suffering must sometimes be endured before success can be achieved. It is not uncommon to simply fall to one's knees on a summit and give thanks for the very personal communion that occurs in that moment. Realizing that you have not done this alone; that the mountain and nature have allowed the communion

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by not throwing horrific weather at you, understanding that there is more to everything than you and there is a higher power or energy in the universe is very humbling and very satisfying as well. You are just passing through this plain of existence, make the most of the gift of life and time, feed and guard your soul well for it is eternal.



*Above: The author in the Pyrenees Mountains of Andorra, Spain and France.*

While skiing in the Pyrenees Mountains during March of 2007, I was actually compelled to put down my gear for a day and make a very special pilgrimage to a remote part of the

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Pyrenees in the southern region of France. The Pyrenees Mountains run right through the country of Andorra and slope into northern Spain to the south and southern France to the north. Giving up a day of skiing in Andorra was tough to do but there was a trip arranged to the Grotto of Lourdes in France. This is the very spot where Bernadette had 18 confirmed visions and interactions with the Blessed Mother and the waters that flow from the spring there are sought out by people from all over the world. Some travel on their knees for miles to get to the Grotto! Here is a place of peace, penance, forgiveness, light and spiritual nurturing. Visiting the Grotto at Lourdes was a profound experience that shall remain with me always as one of the most profound “spiritual feasts” I have ever experienced in the mountains.

I believe Native Americans refer to such experiences as Vision Quests. Most western cultures would refer to such an experience as an “epiphany.” It is the ultimate food for the soul!

Starting on December 8, 2007 and lasting for one year into December of 2008, the Grotto of Lourdes will celebrate the 150th anniversary of the visions of Bernadette, who went on to become Saint Bernadette. Interestingly enough, there is an almost exact copy of the Grotto right here in Berks County and it's where we've held the Blessing of the Animals for the past two years. The Berks County version of the Grotto at



*Above: The Host at Lourdes, Pyrenees Mountains, France.*

Lourdes is very unique and provides a place for anyone of any faith to come and meditate, pray and petition and there will be several 150th anniversary events scheduled at it during 2008.

The local Grotto is located on the grounds of the Bernadine Sisters which adjoins the property of Alvernia College in Reading.

Upon request, Sister Florence Kruczek, OSF, Assistant for Mission, Alvernia College provided me with this account of their reproduction of the Grotto of Lourdes. I hope you'll find an hour or so to visit our "local" Grotto during 2008 and pray that you find peace and inspiration there.



Above:  
***Immaculata Conceptio Ego Sum: “I am  
The Immaculate Conception”***  
were some of the words spoken to the  
peasant girl Bernadette at the Grotto of  
Lourdes by the Blessed Mother.

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The grotto of Our Lady of Lourdes, situated on the grounds of the Bernardine Franciscan Sisters Motherhouse and Conference Center, adjacent to Alvernia College, stands as a memorial of the long-standing devotion of the Sisters' love for Mary, the patroness of the Franciscan Order.



*Above: The Grotto of Lourdes reproduction at Alvernia College.*

Construction of the grotto was begun in 1929 under the direction of Mr. Corley, of Washington, D.C., who aimed to make it an exact replica of the one in Lourdes, France. Executed in natural stone, it is three-quarters of the size of the renowned Grotto of Lourdes. For many years, the landscaping was supervised by Bro. Meinrad,

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OFM, of the Franciscan Monastery, Washington, D.C. The blessing of the grotto took place on October 5, 1930 in the presence of the Sisters, orphans of St. Francis Home and people of Reading and beyond.

In 1958, the centenary of Lourdes, as many as 4000 people took part in a pilgrimage to the grotto, to mark this special event. On many other occasions, the Grotto became a sacred place for people of all ages and traditions. It still attracts many and offers a sacred space for prayer and reflection.

## **FOOD FOR THE BODY**

Earlier I mentioned food for the body as well as the soul and the mountains have no shortage of culinary delights! Through over 25 years of producing and hosting The Mountain Folk Radio & Web Show I have found many delightful regional recipes. As I grow older and pay closer attention to dietary intake and those little rascals we all know as bad cholesterol, high blood pressure and the usual dietary “baddies” I have modified many recipes to present a very heart-healthy alternative without sacrificing flavor and I'd like to share some of the recipes with you. There are many more of these recipes on our Mountain Folk website in the Recipe section and

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you may go there anytime you desire at <http://www.mountainfolk.com>.

Combined with a regular walking program, proper diet should give you a better quality of life. Try it, your body and mind will thank you for it!

### **APPETIZER**

#### **Northern Italian Dolomite Mountain Bruschetta**

Ingredients:

- 12 - 14 ripe plum tomatoes
- 1 Tablespoon fresh or bottled crushed garlic
- 2 Tablespoons minced onion
- 1 Cup fresh basil leaves
- 1/3 Cup olive oil
- 1 teaspoon fresh lemon juice
- Salt and Pepper, to taste
- 8 slices French bread, sliced thick

Dice tomatoes in 1/4" pieces and place in a bowl. Toss with garlic and minced onions. Tear basil coarsely, and add to tomato mixture along with olive oil, lemon juice and salt and pepper. Let stand 10 to 15 minutes. Place bread on cookie sheet and place under broiler until both sides of bread are lightly toasted. Cut each slice of bread in half and arrange on serving tray. Top each piece with tomato mixture and serve immediately.

Yield: 8 portions of outrageously delicious bruschetta.

### **SALAD**

#### **Mountain Mushroom Salad**

Yield: 1 serving for six

- 2 c Chanterelle mushrooms; (quart)
- 1 c Porcini mushrooms; cut into quarters
- 1 ts Garlic; chopped
- 1 c Tomatoes; peeled, seeded, diced
- 2 tb Fresh basil; chopped
- 3 tb Olive oil
- 3 tb Lemon juice

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- 1 tb Balsamic vinegar
- c Sun-dried tomatoes; diced
- c Italian parsley; chopped

1. Preheat oven to 400°F. 2. Place the mushrooms, garlic, and olive oil on a sheet pan. 3. Toss and season. 4. Bake until light brown. 5. Remove and toss with remaining ingredients. 6. Serve at room temperature.

### **SIDE DISH**

#### **Rocky Mountain Risotto**

Yield: 1 serving

- 6 c Water
- 1 Cube vegetable bouillon
- oz Dried porcini mushrooms
- 2 tb Olive oil (up to 3)
- 1 Cloves garlic; minced (up to 2)
- 1 md Shallot; minced
- Dried herbs such as sage and oregano
- Arborio rice

Boil the water. Add bouillon and porcini, cover and set aside. In a second pot, heat oil. Sauté garlic, shallot and herbs till soft, lifting pot off flame occasionally to prevent browning. Stir in a large handful of rice per person. Add broth (sans mushrooms) in half-cup amounts, stirring constantly, adding more as rice absorbs it. Add porcini. When rice begins to bind, after 25 to 30 minutes, it's ready.

### **SOUP**

#### **Alpine Lentil & Swiss Chard Soup**

Yield: 4 servings

Ingredients:

- 1 cup green lentils
- 1 lb swiss chard, washed, trimmed and chopped into - inch strips
- 6 cups water
- 10 cloves garlic, peeled
- tsp salt
- juice of 2 lemons
- 2 Tbsp extra virgin olive oil

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Put the lentils and water in a large saucepan and place over high heat. Bring to a boil, add the chopped chard, and reduce the heat to medium. Cover the pan and boil gently for 15 minutes. Mix the softened chard and the lentils well and cook uncovered for another 45 minutes. In the meantime, place the garlic cloves in a mortar, add a generous pinch of salt, and pound with a pestle until you have a smooth paste. Slowly incorporate the lemon juice into the garlic paste, then do the same with the olive oil. Add the garlic mixture to the soup. Season with salt and simmer uncovered for 5 minutes. Serve at room temperature.

### **ENTRÉE**

#### **Mountain Folk Appalachian Pumpkin Ravioli with Toasted Pumpkin Seeds**

*This is a great vegetarian dish anytime of year, but it is especially enjoyable on crisp fall or winter nights. Around our Mountain Folk homeplace pumpkins are grown by the thousands and it is a joy to stand before an Autumnal field of vine-ripened pumpkins, each waiting to be enjoyed as a carved Jack-O-Lantern or eaten as a hearty meal!*

#### **Ingredients:**

1 cup canned pure pumpkin puree; if you prefer fresh and know how to prepare it, knock yourself out! We've found the taste difference between canned and fresh pumpkin is minimal and it is by far easier and faster to cook with the canned version.

4 ounces fat free cream cheese; softened

1/4 cup finely grated Parmesan cheese, plus shaved Parmesan for serving.

1/4 cup Eggbeaters (Whole egg substitute)

Salt & Pepper (Salt optional)

40 wonton wrappers (Check for frozen wonton wrappers in the refrigerated section of the supermarket.)

1/4 cup shelled pumpkin seeds (pepitas), toasted

6 tablespoons Smart Balance (instead of butter)

#### **Directions:**

1. In a medium bowl, mash together the pumpkin, cream cheese, Parmesan, eggbeaters and two pinches of salt and pepper.

2. Line a baking sheet with parchment paper and set aside.

Spoon a tablespoon of the pumpkin-cream cheese filling into the center of 20 wonton wrappers, brush edges with water, top with the remaining 20 wrappers and press gently with a fork to

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seal, gently squeezing out the air. Arrange in a single layer on the prepared baking sheet. 3. Bring a pot of salted water to a boil. Meanwhile, in a large skillet, melt the Smart Balance; keep warm. 4. Working in 3 batches, cook the ravioli in the boiling water until they float to the surface, about 3 minutes. Using a slotted spoon, add the ravioli to the Smart Balance in the skillet and turn gently to coat. 5. Season with salt & pepper. Scatter the toasted pumpkin seeds on top and top with shaved Parmesan cheese as you like.

### **DESSERT**

#### **Appalachian Mountain Blueberry Pie**

Ingredients:

Filling

4 cups Blueberries

1/2 cup sugar or Baking Splenda

3 tbsp All-purpose flour

1/4 tsp Almond extract

Topping

1/2 cup All-purpose flour

1/2 cup packed Brown sugar

2 tbsp Margarine, Butter or Smart Balance

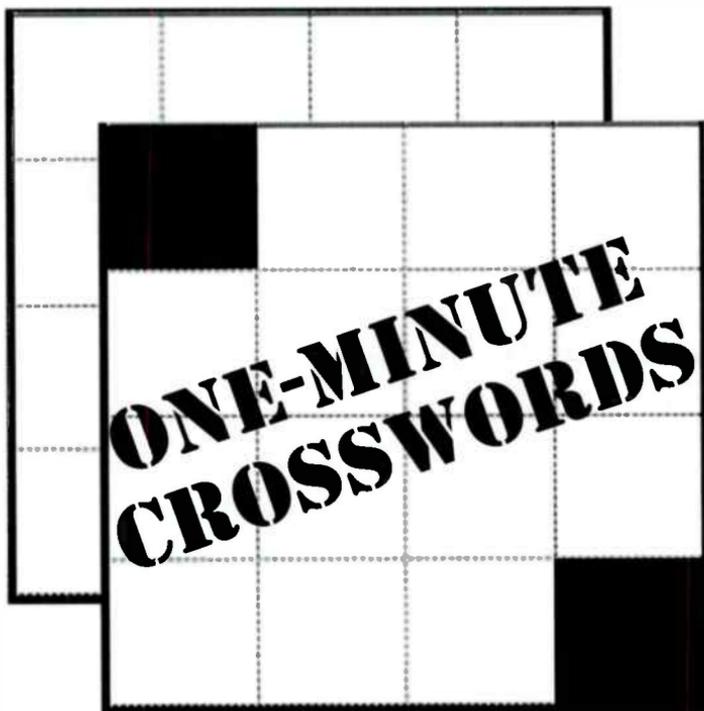
1 pie crust pastry

Directions:

In a mixing bowl combine all filling ingredients. Transfer filling to pastry-lined 9-inch pie plate. For topping: Combine flour and brown sugar. Cut in margarine until mixture resembles coarse crumbs. Sprinkle over filling. Cover edge of pie with foil. Bake at 375 degrees for 25 minutes. Remove foil and bake for an additional 20 to 25 minutes. Crust should be golden and fruit should be tender.

**In closing may Saint Bernard, the Patron Saint of Alpinists, Mountain Folks, Hikers and Skiers; and Saint Cecelia, Patron Saint of Musicians, guide your heart and dreams.**

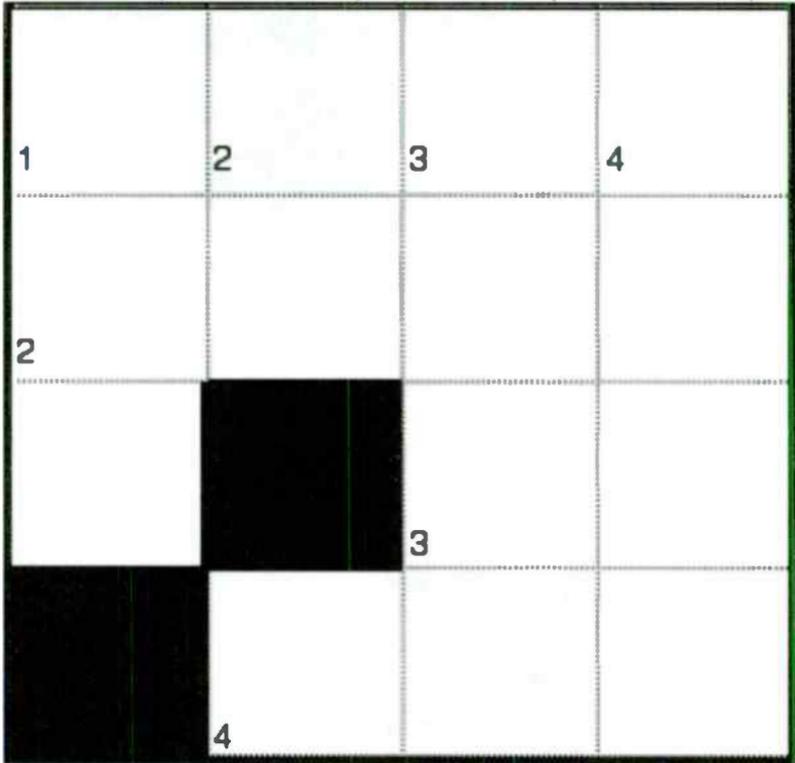
**I hope you enjoy food for your soul and body in 2008 and I wish you the very best of outcomes in all of your personal endeavors.**



It was a long flight from Keflavik, Iceland, to Baltimore. The movie was lousy. I was bored. So, I whipped out my little notebook and concocted a bunch of crossword puzzles for my own airborne amusement. They may not look like the kind of crossword puzzle you're accustomed to....but give them a try. Try to complete each of these "large print" crossword puzzles in a minute or less. Be careful...as I said, they're not the typical across-and-down puzzles. Have fun!

*-Charlie Adams, WEEU Morning Guy*

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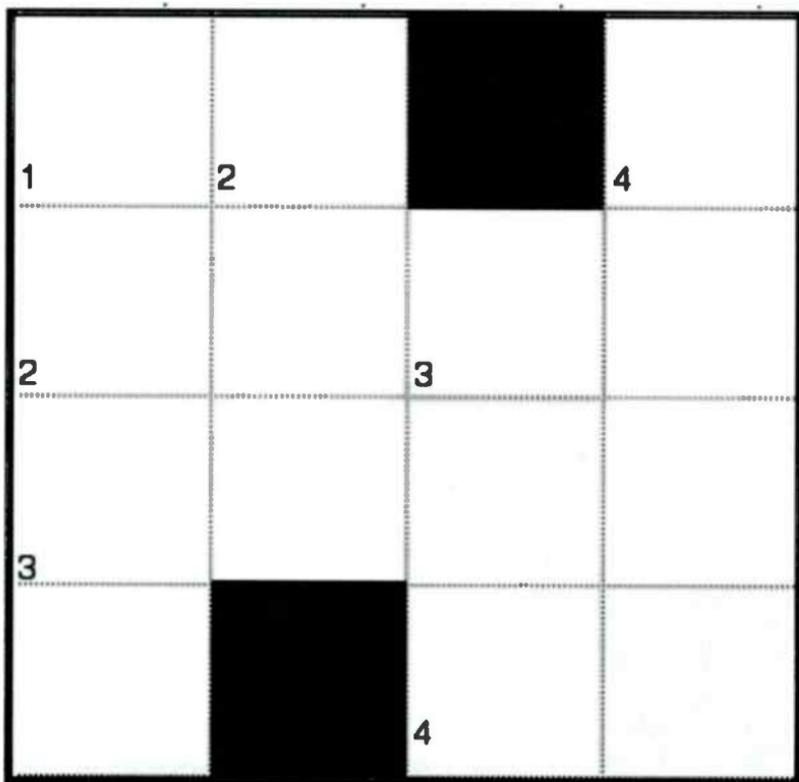
**ACROSS**

- 1 Not 1%, 2%, or whole
- 2 Waikiki's dance
- 3 The private's punishment
- 4 American navy vessel

**DOWN**

- 1 Not he
- 2 Kansas, or Kutztown has one
- 3 Kinds
- 4 Often in Mercator

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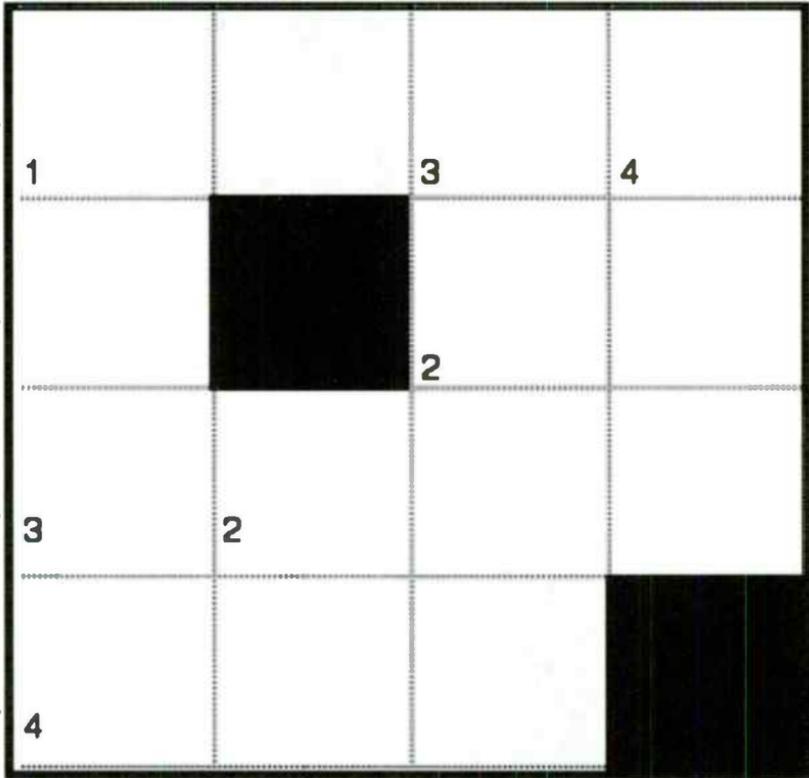
### ACROSS

- 1 The sun god
- 2 Not an amateur...
- 3 Big, burly reptile
- 4 It's just fine

### DOWN

- 1 Used to start a pool game
- 2 Annual percentage rate
- 3 Slang for a hopper
- 4 In a pawn shop

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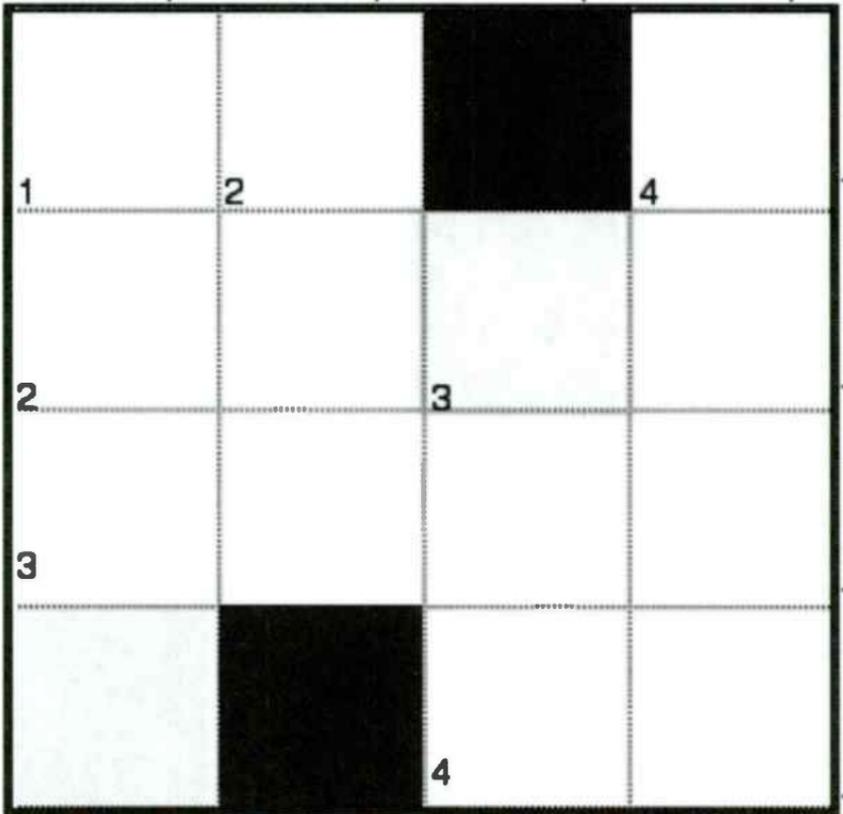
### ACROSS

- 1 Sherman or Pershing
- 2 For example
- 3 Venom dispenser
- 4 Not "a" or "an," but...

### DOWN

- 1 He was number 27
- 2 Open \_ \_
- 3 Three squared
- 4 Beer container

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**ACROSS**

- 1 JFK's 109
- 2 Slithery fish
- 3 Cincy's diamond color
- 4 \_\_ and behold!

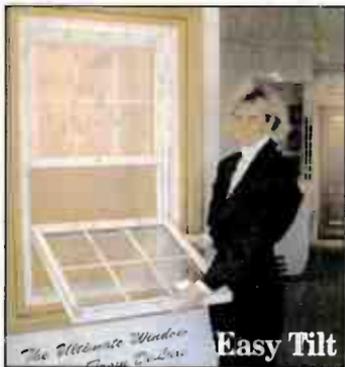
**DOWN**

- 1 Perky
- 2 The drive starts here
- 3 The bad cholesterol
- 4 What Exxon once was

<b>2008</b>	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	<b>2008</b>	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>JAN.</b>			1	2	3	4	5	<b>JULY</b>	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
	6	7	8	9	10	11	12		13	14	15	16	17	18	19
	13	14	15	16	17	18	19		20	21	22	23	24	25	26
	20	21	22	23	24	25	26		27	28	29	30	31		
	27	28	29	30	31			<b>AUG.</b>						1	2
<b>FEB.</b>						1	2		3	4	5	6	7	8	9
	3	4	5	6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13	14	15	16
	10	11	12	13	14	15	16		17	18	19	20	21	22	23
	17	18	19	20	21	22	23		24	25	26	27	28	29	30
	24	25	26	27	28	29		31							
<b>MAR.</b>						1		<b>SEPT.</b>	1	2	3	4	5	6	
	2	3	4	5	6	7	8		7	8	9	10	11	12	13
	9	10	11	12	13	14	15		14	15	16	17	18	19	20
	16	17	18	19	20	21	22		21	22	23	24	25	26	27
	23	24	25	26	27	28	29		28	29	30				
	30	31						<b>OCT.</b>			1	2	3	4	
<b>APR.</b>		1	2	3	4	5			5	6	7	8	9	10	11
	6	7	8	9	10	11	12		12	13	14	15	16	17	18
	13	14	15	16	17	18	19		19	20	21	22	23	24	25
	20	21	22	23	24	25	26		26	27	28	29	30	31	
	27	28	29	30				<b>NOV.</b>						1	
<b>MAY</b>					1	2	3		2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	4	5	6	7	8	9	10		9	10	11	12	13	14	15
	11	12	13	14	15	16	17		16	17	18	19	20	21	22
	18	19	20	21	22	23	24		23	24	25	26	27	28	29
	25	26	27	28	29	30	31		30						
<b>JUNE</b>	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	<b>DEC.</b>	1	2	3	4	5	6	
	8	9	10	11	12	13	14		7	8	9	10	11	12	13
	15	16	17	18	19	20	21		14	15	16	17	18	19	20
	22	23	24	25	26	27	28		21	22	23	24	25	26	27
	29	30							28	29	30	31			

<b>2009</b>	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	<b>2009</b>	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>JAN.</b>	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	<b>JULY</b>	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
	11	12	13	14	15	16	17		12	13	14	15	16	17	18
	18	19	20	21	22	23	24		19	20	21	22	23	24	25
	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	<b>AUG.</b>							1
<b>FEB.</b>	1	2	3	4	5	6	7		2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	8	9	10	11	12	13	14		9	10	11	12	13	14	15
	15	16	17	18	19	20	21		16	17	18	19	20	21	22
	22	23	24	25	26	27	28		23	24	25	26	27	28	29
<b>MAR.</b>	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	<b>SEPT.</b>	30	31		1	2	3	4
	8	9	10	11	12	13	14		6	7	8	9	10	11	12
	15	16	17	18	19	20	21		13	14	15	16	17	18	19
	22	23	24	25	26	27	28		20	21	22	23	24	25	26
	29	30	31					<b>OCT.</b>	27	28	29	30			
<b>APR.</b>				1	2	3	4		4	5	6	7	8	9	10
	5	6	7	8	9	10	11		11	12	13	14	15	16	17
	12	13	14	15	16	17	18		18	19	20	21	22	23	24
	19	20	21	22	23	24	25		25	26	27	28	29	30	31
	26	27	28	29	30			<b>MAY</b>						1	2
<b>MAY</b>						1	2		3	4	5	6	7	8	9
						9	10		10	11	12	13	14	15	16
						16	17		17	18	19	20	21	22	23
						23	24		24	25	26	27	28	29	30
						30	31		31						
<b>JUNE</b>	1	2	3	4	5	6		<b>NOV.</b>	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
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	21	22	23	24	25	26	27		22	23	24	25	26	27	28
	28	29	30						29	30					
								<b>DEC.</b>			1	2	3	4	5
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									13	14	15	16	17	18	19
									20	21	22	23	24	25	26
									27	28	29	30	31		

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**WEEU 85 AM RADIO**

**1993**

# **FEEDBACK JOURNAL**



**A COMPENDIUM OF FACTS, FUN,  
RECIPES, REMEDIES, PUZZLES  
AND PRONOUNCEMENTS AS  
CULLED FROM THE POPULAR  
WEEU TALK SHOW**

# **FEEDBACK**

1993	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	1993	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	
JAN.						1	2	JULY						1	2	3
	3	4	5	6	7	8	9		4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
	10	11	12	13	14	15	16		11	12	13	14	15	16	17	
	17	18	19	20	21	22	23		18	19	20	21	22	23	24	
	24	25	26	27	28	29	30		25	26	27	28	29	30	31	
	31								1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
		1	2	3	4	5	6		8	9	10	11	12	13	14	
FEB.	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	AUG.	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	
	14	15	16	17	18	19	20		22	23	24	25	26	27	28	
	21	22	23	24	25	26	27		29	30	31					
	28											1	2	3	4	
		1	2	3	4	5	6		SEPT.	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
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21	22	23	24	25	26	27	26	27		28	29	30				
28	29	30	31										1	2		
MAR.								OCT.	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	
	4	5	6	7	8	9	10		10	11	12	13	14	15	16	
	11	12	13	14	15	16	17		17	18	19	20	21	22	23	
	18	19	20	21	22	23	24		24	25	26	27	28	29	30	
	25	26	27	28	29	30			31							
APR.					1	2	3	NOV.		1	2	3	4	5	6	
	4	5	6	7	8	9	10		7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
	11	12	13	14	15	16	17		14	15	16	17	18	19	20	
	18	19	20	21	22	23	24		21	22	23	24	25	26	27	
	25	26	27	28	29	30			28	29	30					
MAY							1	DEC.					1	2	3	4
	2	3	4	5	6	7	8		5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
	9	10	11	12	13	14	15		12	13	14	15	16	17	18	
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	23	24	25	26	27	28	29		26	27	28	29	30	31		
30	31															
JUNE			1	2	3	4	5									
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	13	14	15	16	17	18	19									
	20	21	22	23	24	25	26									
	27	28	29	30												

January 1—..... New Year's Day  
 January 18—..... Martin Luther King, Jr. Day  
 February 12—..... Lincoln's Birthday  
 February 14—..... St. Valentine's Day  
 February 15—..... President's Day  
 February 24—..... Ash Wednesday  
 March 17—..... St. Patrick's Day  
 April 4—..... Palm Sunday  
 April 6—..... Passover  
 April 9—..... Good Friday  
 April 11—..... Easter Sunday  
 May 9—..... Mother's Day  
 May 31—..... Memorial Day (Observed)

June 14—..... Flag Day  
 June 20—..... Father's Day  
 July 4—..... Independence Day  
 September 6—..... Labor Day  
 September 16—..... Rosh Hashanah  
 September 25—..... Yom Kippur  
 October 11—..... Columbus Day  
 October 31—..... Halloween  
 November 2—..... Election Day  
 November 11—..... Veterans Day  
 November 25—..... Thanksgiving Day  
 December 9—..... Hanukkah  
 December 25—..... Christmas Day

WEEU 85 AM STEREO

# FEEDBACK JOURNAL

No. 1

1993

You are the proud owner of the first WEEU 85AM *Feedback Journal*. Treat it with loving care and it will give you many hours of enjoyable, entertaining and informative reading, as well as considerable savings on products and services offered by *Journal* advertisers.

The *Journal* is a cooperative publishing venture of WEEU and its promotional partners which are represented in this volume.

While it may seem unusual for a radio station to leap into the publishing business, it is merely an extension of WEEU's continued commitment to service and support of its loyal listeners and the Berks County community.

In 1992, WEEU observed its 60th anniversary. Over those six decades, radio, society and Berks County have all changed in ways unimaginable in 1932.

With a stable staff of dedicated air, sales and support people, WEEU weathered wars, recessions, regulations and deregulations, and countless other challenges. In 1992, WEEU stood proudly as the only locally-owned and operated radio station in Berks County, and the only station with broadcast studios in downtown Reading.

WEEU has emerged as the leader in local news, sports, and community affairs coverage, and its personnel and management remains pledged to uphold this leadership role.

Through this first *Feedback Journal*, WEEU expands that role into yet another medium.

We at WEEU sincerely hope you will find this booklet useful and informative.

Thank you for listening....and reading!

# GOING BACK with FEEDBACK

By JACK HOLCOMB, your *FEEDBACK* host

Talk radio (telephone-talk) on WEEU began on a hot, August day in 1965 with, believe it or not, The Birdwatching Society.

The general manager at the time, K. Richard Creitz, was looking for a tool to jack-up the ratings for the late-morning hours.

The half-hour, syndicated (through a Baltimore advertising agency) talk show focused on bird identification, feeding, housing and habits, along with general environmental information.

The show was part of my program between 10 in the morning and two in the afternoon.

As the result of problems with the agency, WEEU left the syndicate and went with its own "Bird Talk" in 1974. The time slot, 11 to 11:30 a.m., remained the same. The program even gained national recognition for the unusual subject matter.

Meanwhile, as AM radio searched for an answer to the onslaught of FM, station manager Dick Schilpp decided to go all-talk during the late-morning to midday hours with a new program, dubbed "Feedback." A new show was born in the last days of December, 1979, and the ratings jumped!

Program times varied over the years, but the time slot has now settled into between 9 a.m. and noon.

The word from management was, and is, "keep it local," be general in nature, and talk about anything. This format, even with the addition of national talk shows with Rush Limbaugh and →

# GOING BACK with FEEDBACK

(CONTINUED)

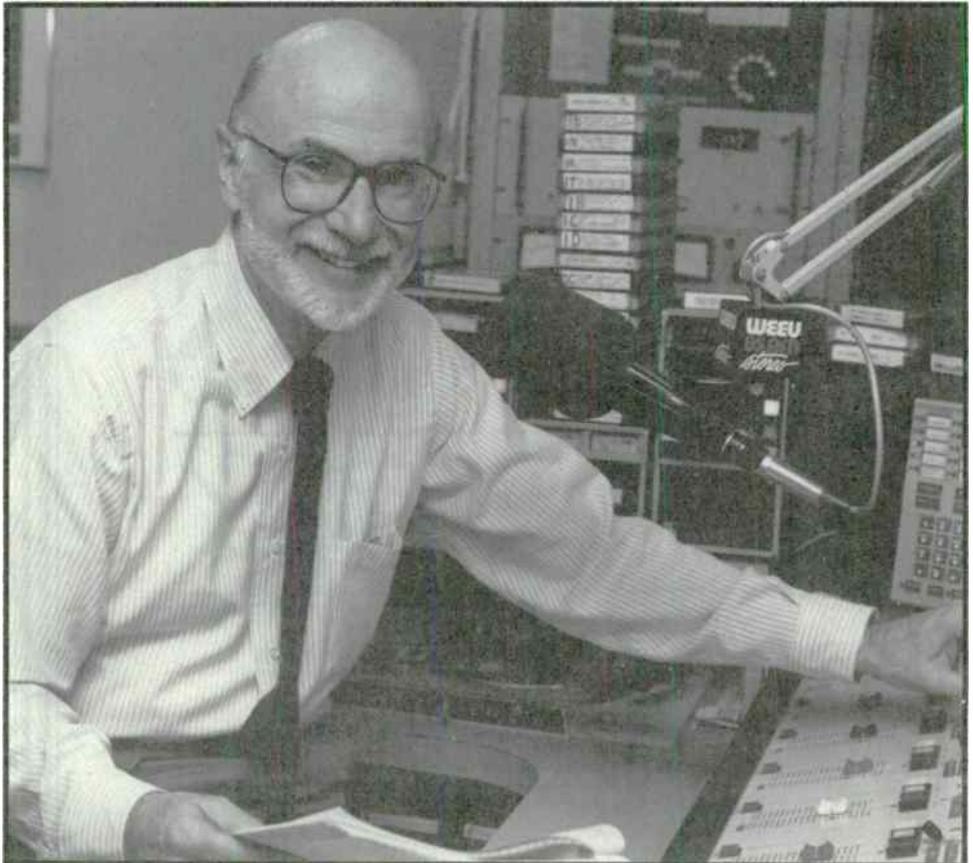
Larry King, has remained the same.

Averaging about two guests per week, the show features guests such as doctors, authors, lawyers, local and state government officials, consumer advocates and others.

But, most of all, the success of Feedback has been the people...the callers...who vent their feelings on any subject and extend their "helping hands" in every direction.

That is what Feedback is all about!

*...have a Bluebird Day!...Jack Holcomb*



The Way It Was...the Reading Fairgrounds, circa  
1924... "pre-mall!"



# BANCO'S

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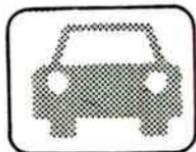
# WE ARE SURVIVORS!

Considering the changes we have witnessed...WE ARE SURVIVORS!

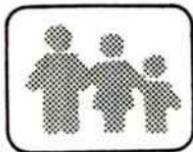
We were born before television, before penicillin, before polio shots, frozen foods, Xerox, plastic, contact lenses, frisbees, and the pill. We were born before radar, credit cards, split atoms, laser beams and ballpoint pens; before pantyhose, dishwashers, clothes dryers, and before man walked on the moon.

We got married first and then lived together (how quaint can you be?) In our time, closets were for clothes, not for "coming out of." Bunnies were small rabbits and rabbits were not Volkswagens. Designer jeans were scheming girls named Jean or Jeanne, and having a meaningful relationship meant getting along with our cousins. We thought fast food was what you ate during Lent, and outer space was the back of the Strand Theater. We were before house-husbands, gay rights, computer dating, dual careers, and computer

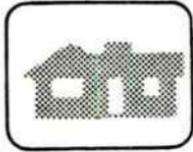
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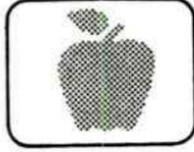
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LIFE



HOME



HEALTH



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Plaza 222, 5th Street Highway 921-9144

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- \*Bunk Beds
- \*Brass Beds
- \*Waterbeds
- \*Custom Sizes
- \*Day Beds

*(Continued from previous page)*

marriages. We were before day-care centers, group therapy and nursing homes. We never heard of FM radio, tape decks, yogurt, electric typewriters, artificial hearts, word processors and guys wearing earrings. For us, time-sharing meant togetherness--not computers or the present-day condominiums; a chip meant a piece of wood, hardware meant, hardware; and software wasn't even a word.

In 1940, "made in Japan" meant junk and the term "making out" referred to how you did on your exam.

McDonald's and instant coffee were unheard of. We hit the scene when there were 5 and 10 cent stores, where you bought things for 5 and 10 cents. You could buy an ice cream cone for a nickel and for one nickel you could ride a street car, make a phone call, buy a Pepsi or enough stamps to mail one letter and two post cards. You could buy a new Chevy Coupe for \$600 but could not afford to buy one (a pity, too, because gas was only 11 cents a gallon).

In our day, cigarette smoking was considered fash-

World Radio History  
*(Continued on next page)*

# WE ARE SURVIVORS

*(Continued from previous page)*

ionable, grass was mowed, Coke was a cold drink and pot was something you cooked in. Rock music was Grandma's lullaby and Aids were helpers in the principal's office. We were certainly not before the difference between sexes were discovered but we were surely before the sex changes.

We made do with what we had.

No wonder we are so confused and there is such a generation gap today.

**BUT WE SURVIVED!**



## Specializing in Native Seafood

Breakfast

Lunch

Dinner



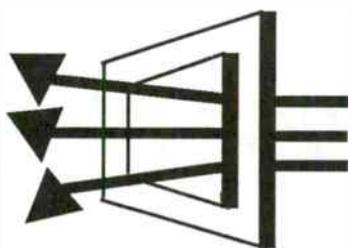
Cocktails

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# **MY GET-UP-AND-GO HAS GOT-UP-AND-WENT** ..:..:..:..:..

How do I know that my youth is all spent?  
Well, my get up and go has got up and went.  
But in spite of it all, I am able to grin  
When I recall where my get up has been.  
Old age is golden, I've heard it said,  
But sometimes I wonder when I go to bed  
With my ears in a drawer and my teeth in a cup,  
My eyes on the table until I wake up.  
Ere sleep dims my eyes I say to myself,  
"Is there anything else I should lay on the shelf?"  
And I'm happy to say as I close my door,  
My friends are the same, perhaps even more.  
When I was young my slippers were red,  
I could kick up my heels right over my head;  
When I grew older my slippers were blue,  
But still I could dance the whole night through.  
Now I am old and my slippers are black;  
I walk to the store and puff my way back.  
The reason I know my youth is all spent-  
My get up and go has got up and went  
But I really don't mind when I think with a grin  
Of all the grand places my get up has been.  
Since I have retired from life's competition  
I busy myself with complete repetition.  
I get up each morning and dust off my wits,  
Pick up the paper and read the "obits,"  
If my name is missing, I know I'm not dead,  
So I eat a good breakfast and go back to bed!



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**Carrier**

# I AM A HUMAN BEING

I am a Human Being, who, through my contribution to society during my productive years, helped to mold a decent place in life for my generation and the generations that followed me.

I like to be treated with respect and dignity just as I have always tried to treat others.

I am, and have been, "Somebody" over the years, to many people, such as:

My Sweetheart

My Wife

My Husband

My Mother

My Father

My Daughter

My Son

My many Friends.

If the waning years have been unkind to me, please don't blame me if:

I don't see too well

I don't hear too well

I spill my food

I am incontinent

I need help often

I am cranky (though I don't want to be)

I could be your:

Mother

Father

Grandmother

Grandfather

Someday, you may be a "Me."

A little kindness, a soft word, some acknowledgement by you that I am still a person, not a "thing" . . .

This is all I ask.

Is it too much?



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- I.V. Pain Management Control**
- I.V. Chemotherapy**
- I.V. Hydration Treatment**
- I.V. and Tubal Feeding**



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# WHERE THE BIRDS ARE

## *"BIRDMAN" JACK HOLCOMB'S RECOMMENDED BIRDWATCHING HOTSPOTS IN BERKS COUNTY*

With its lofty mountains, its forested hills, and fertile farmland, Berks County is the home or hostel of many species of birds.

For our birding enjoyment, these "hot spots" are "winging combinations" and should provide real birding "tweets."

**HAWK MOUNTAIN SANCTUARY:** A world-class sanctuary for birds of prey, is a prime birding area in the spring as well as fall when the massive migration of hawks is noticed. (Off Route 895, east of Route 61)

**MIDDLE CREEK WATERFOWL MANAGEMENT AREA:** Ideal for migrating and resident waterfowl, plus varied species in the spring and fall. (Along Route 897, southwest of Reading near Kleinfeltersville).

**LAKE ONTELAUNEE:** Reading's watershed provides the birder with waterfowl and other species. You'll find a variety of swallows in the spring and summer months. (North of the city between Routes 61 and 222 on Route 73)

**NOLDE FOREST ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION CENTER:** This wooded park provides an excellent woodland habitat for year-round birding. There are also ongoing environmental education programs open to the public. (South of Reading on Route 625)

**HOPEWELL NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE:** This park, and the adjacent French Creek State Park, provide varied species of birds from diverse habitats. (Southeast of Birdsboro, off Route 325)

**READING PUBLIC MUSEUM:** The picturesque grounds can be most productive for migrating birds in the spring and fall. There is also an interesting resident population of waterfowl all year. (Museum Road, Reading)

We are dedicated to providing our neighbors of this area their fashion and home needs packed with **Style and Value.**

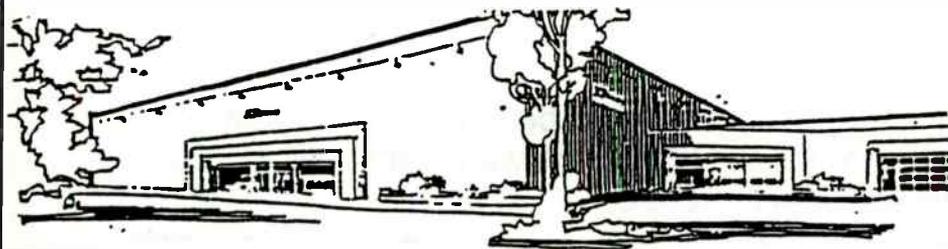
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# BIRDS, BIRDS, AND MORE BIRDS!!!



## LURING BIRD FOOD

THIS RECIPE IS FOR AVID BIRD-FEEDERS ONLY, BECAUSE IT MAKES A LARGE AMOUNT. OR, MAYBE YOU COULD MAKE A LARGE BATCH AND SHARE IT WITH NEIGHBORS, OR GIVE PACKAGES OF IT AWAY FOR CHRISTMAS!

MIX IT IN SOMETHING LARGE, LIKE A BIG DISHPAN...AND YOU CAN STORE IT IN THE FREEZER IN SMALL PACKAGES.....

**4 CUPS BOILING WATER**  
**1 3/4 CUPS PEANUT BUTTER**  
**1 POUND OF LARD (FAT DRIPPINGS)**  
**5 1/2 CUPS ROLLED OATS**  
**3 1/2 CUPS CREAM OF WHEAT**  
**3 1/2 CUPS CORNMEAL**  
**GRAVEL (GRIT) IF POSSIBLE, SMALL AMOUNT**

### METHOD:

Mix 2 cups rolled oats and 4 cups boiling water together, bring to boil again and cook for 2 minutes, stirring often.

Remove from heat and pour into a large dish pan. Add remaining ingredients and stir until well-mixed. Put into cupcake papers or other containers suitable for your feeder. (Tuna-fish cans, sardine cans, etc.) It also can be spread over and into pine cones and hung in trees or shrubs.

Those packages not to be used immediately may be put into plastic bags, tied with string and stored in freezer until needed.

*Have a Bluebird Day in Leesport!*

**the Dutch Touch**

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# Canine Corner



## Dog Biscuit Recipes

### VEGETABLE BISCUITS

1 cup cooked vegetables pureed to thick broth

2 1/2 cups whole wheat flour

1/2 cup powdered dry milk

1 egg, well beaten

1/2 tsp., salt

1/2 tsp., garlic powder

6 tbsp., shortening or meat drippings

1 tsp., brown sugar

Combine flour, dry milk, salt, brown sugar, and garlic powder. Add shortening, pureed vegetables, beaten egg, and mix well. If dough is too dry, add a small amount of cold water as needed. Form into a ball and then roll out 1/2 inch thick onto lightly-oiled cookie sheet. Cut with dog biscuit cutter. Rework scraps. Bake 25-30 minutes in preheated oven set at 350 degrees. Makes 10-12 biscuits.

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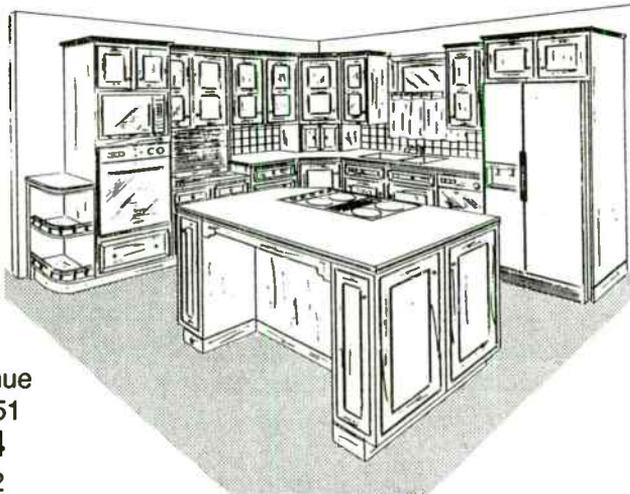
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needs!**



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FAX 215-693-5902

## Canine Corner #2

### CORN WHEAT TREATS

- 2 cups whole wheat flour
- 1/2 cup corn meal flour
- 6 tbsp., oil or meat drippings
- 2/3 cup water

To blended flours, add oil and water. Form a ball. Roll out to 1/4 inch thickness on lightly-oiled cookie sheet. Cut with dog biscuit cutter. Scraps may be reworked. Bake 35-40 minutes in preheated 350 degree oven. Makes 15 biscuits.

### VARIATIONS & HELPFUL HINTS

Save all your poultry, meat, vegetable and soup scraps, and then add them to your basic recipe. CAUTION: Remove all bones from chicken and meat before preparing recipes.

If you like, tie your biscuits with a small piece of ribbon and give to friends' dogs for Christmas. Keep a jar of biscuits on hand for any visiting pooches.

These biscuits can be cut with any metal cookie cutter if you don't have a dog biscuit cutter. A Snoopy cutter would be nice.

# Canine Corner #3

## LIVER AND ONION CHEWS

3/4 tbsp., liver powder

2 1/2 cups rye flour or soybean flour

1/2 cup powdered dry milk

1 egg, well beaten

1/2 cup water

1/2 tsp., salt

1/2 tsp., onion powder

6 tbsp., shortening

1 tsp., brown sugar

Combine flour, dry milk, salt, brown sugar, and onion powder. Add shortening to the mixture. Add 1 beaten egg and 3 to 4 tbsp. liver powder. Add 1/2 cup cold water and form ball. Roll dough 1/4 inch thick onto lightly oiled cookie sheet. Cut with dog biscuit cutter. Rework scraps. Bake for 20-25 minutes in a preheated oven at 350 degrees. Makes 10-12 biscuits.



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## Canine Corner #4

### BASIC DOG BISCUIT RECIPE

1/2 cup powdered dry milk

1 egg, beaten

2 1/2 cups flour of your choice (rye, whole wheat, etc.)

1/2 tsp., salt

1/2 tsp., onion or garlic powder

1 tsp., brown sugar

1/2 cup cold water. When a liquid ingredient is used,  
reduce the amount water.

6 tbsp., your choice of shortening, margarine or meat  
drippings.

Form a ball, then roll out to 1/2 inch thickness on a lightly-oiled  
cookie sheet. Cut with dog biscuit cutter. Rework scraps. Bake  
25-30 minutes in a preheated 350-degree oven. Makes 10-12  
biscuits.

# KAIS/KAOS WORDFINDER

SOMEWHERE IN THE BLOCK OF LETTERS BELOW YOU WILL FIND FAMILIAR NAMES AND WORDS ASSOCIATED WITH YOUR FAVORITE RADIO STATION, WEED. BE SURE TO SEARCH HORIZONTALLY, VERTICALLY, DIAGONALLY AND EVEN BACKWARDS FOR THE FOLLOWING:

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CHARLIE ADAMS  
HOLCOMB  
EAGLES  
PHILLIES  
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WEED

BILL BROSEY  
KAZ  
PAUL HARVEY  
LEW  
TRAFFAX  
LARRY KING  
MITCH  
STEREO

*(ANSWERS MAY BE FOUND ELSEWHERE IN THE FEEDBACK JOURNAL)*

G G H Y U R U S H U E E W K  
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H O L J C M B L E W V I O A  
O U C S E I L L I H P H J U  
L R T H T R A F F A X G K L  
C J K L A R R Y K I N G G H  
O A B C D R F E G H N B U A  
M J K I T F L R G Y T G V R  
B E A G L E S I J U K I T V  
J E R R T E I R E U K A Z E  
U S T E R E O R Y A G J G Y  
M I T C H W E T X X D E D T  
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(From *The Episcopalian*)

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# The Tax

## *Burden?*

Taxes are not burdens...they are the price of liberty, the assurance of the freedom of religion, the protection of our homes, the education of our children, the right to vote and the feeling that we may speak from our hearts without fear. In our country, taxes are the means by which people can work together to provide themselves with services that they could not provide effectively in any other way. Taxes are not assessments, they are the small down payments of life's most precious commodities: Faith, Hope and Dignity.

*Louis J. Tullio,  
Mayor of Erie, Pa.  
October 9, 1976*

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(For centuries, wine has been believed to be important to life, health and happiness)

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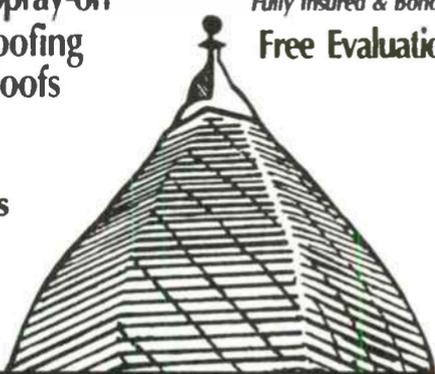
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# You know you're a **REDNECK** if...

*...thanks to Rush Limbaugh*

- IF your dog and your wallet are both on a chain
- IF you have a rag for a gas cap and a plastic bag for a side window
- IF you ever had to scratch your sister's name off a wall that said, "For a good time call....."
- IF you ever spray painted your girl's name on an overpass.
- IF someone asks to see your ID and you show them your belt buckle
- IF your wife's hairdo has ever been ruined by a ceiling fan
- IF directions to your house include "turn off the paved road"
- IF your front yard has one or more cars up on blocks
- IF your brother in law is also your uncle
- IF your son calls you "uncle daddy"
- IF your father walks you to school because you're both in the same grade
- IF you bought a VCR because wrestling comes on while you're at bingo
- IF your wife has a beer belly and you find it attractive
- IF you view your next family reunion as a chance to meet babes
- IF you prominently display the gifts you bought at Graceland
- IF you have an Elvis Jello mold
- IF your house doesn't have curtains but your pickup truck does
- IF you consider your license plate personalized because your father made it
- IF your father encourages you to quit school because your cousin has an opening down at the lube rack
- IF you own more cowboy boots than sneakers
- IF you've ever been to a funeral where there were more pickup trucks than cars
- IF your idea of safe sex is a padded headboard on your water bed
- IF Jack Daniels makes your most-admired list
- IF you think a Volvo is a part of a woman's anatomy
- IF you only need one more hole punched in your card before you get a freebie at the House of Tattoos
- IF anyone in your family has worn a tube top to a wedding
- IF you have a picture of Willie Nelson, Johnny Cash or Elvis over the fireplace
- IF you just bought an 8-track tape player for your car
- IF you own a belt buckle that weighs more than three pounds
- IF your richest relative buys a new house and you have to help take the wheels off it
- IF you consider a six-pack and bug-zapper to be "quality" entertainment
- IF your mother keeps a "spit" cup on the ironing board
- IF you owe the taxidermist more than your annual income
- IF your front porch collapses and kills more than three dogs
- IF you prefer to walk the excess length off your jeans rather than hem them
- IF your family tree does not fork

# 23

## Commandments for Parents of Teenagers

1. Stand *by* us, not *over* us.
2. Make us feel we are loved and wanted.
3. Train us by being affectionately firm.
4. Bring us up so we will not always need you.
5. Try to be as consistent as possible.
6. Don't try to make us feel inferior.
7. Say, "nice work," when we do something really well.
8. Show respect for our wishes, even if you disagree with them.
9. Give direct answers to direct questions.
10. Show interest in what we're doing.
11. Treat us as if we are normal, even when our conduct seems peculiar to you.
12. Teach us by example.
13. Treat each one of us as a person in his own right.
14. Don't keep us young too long.
15. We need fun and companionship.
16. Make us feel our home belongs to us.
17. Don't laugh at us when we use the word, "love."
18. Treat us as a junior partner in the firm.
19. Make yourself an adult fit for a child to live with.
20. Prepare us to lead *our* lives, not yours.
21. Give us the right to a major voice in our lives.
22. Let us make our own mistakes.
23. Permit us the failings of average children, just as we permit you the failings of average parents.

**God is Like...** God is like Coke...He's the real thing!  
God is like General Electric...He lights your path.

God is like Bayer aspirin...He works wonders.

God is like Hallmark Cards...He cared enough to send the very best.

God is like Tide...He gets the stains out that other leave behind.

God is like VO-5 hair spray...He holds through all kinds of weather.

God is like Dial soap...Aren't you glad you know Him? Don't you wish everyone did?

God is like Sears Roebuck...He has everything.

God is like Alka Seltzer...Try Him, you'll like Him.

God is like Scotch tape...You can't see Him, but you know he's there.

....thanks to **Charlie Haldeman**

## THE WORLD'S MEANEST MOTHER

*A perennial Mother's Day favorite, this piece is attributed to Mrs. Catherine Davis Reber.*

*I had the meanest mother in the whole world. While other kids ate candy for breakfast, I had to have cereal, eggs or toast. When other kids had cokes and French fries for lunch, I had to eat a sandwich. As you might guess, my supper was different from theirs, too. But at least I wasn't alone in my sufferings. My sister and two brothers had the same mean mother as I did.*

*My mother insisted upon knowing where we were at all times. You'd have thought we were on a chain gang. She had to know who our friends were and what we were doing. If we said we'd be gone for an hour, she insisted that it not be an hour and five minutes. I am nearly ashamed to admit it, but she actually struck us, not once, but each time we did as we pleased. Can you imagine hitting a child just because he disobeyed?*

*The worst is yet to come. We had to be in bed by nine each night and up early the next morning. We couldn't sleep until noon like our friends...in fact, my mother broke the child labor law by making us work! We had to wash dishes, make beds, learn to cook, and all sorts of exhausting jobs. I believe she lay awake at night thinking up mean things to do to us.*

*She always insisted upon telling the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, even if it killed us--and sometimes it nearly did.*

*By the time we were teenagers, our lives became even more unbearable. There was none of this tooting the horn of a car for us to come running. She embarrassed us to no end by making our dates and our friends come to the door to get us. I forgot to mention that while our friends were dating at 12 and 13, my old-fashioned mother refused to let us date until the age of 16 or past. Sixteen, that is, if we dated only to go to school functions or church services.*

*As you see, my mother was a complete failure. None of us has ever been arrested, divorced, or beaten his mate. Each of my brothers served his time in the service of this country. Look at all the things we missed. We never got to march in a protest parade, nor take part in a riot, burn draft cards and a million and one other things that our friends did. And whom do we have to blame? That's right, our meanest mother! She forced us to grow up into God-fearing, educated, honest adults.*

*It is with this background that I have now become a mother. When my three children call me mean, I stand a little taller and am filled with pride. You see, I can thank God for the meanest mother in the whole world, and I want to be just like her!*



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Stuff.....

## NO-SODIUM SALT.....from Mrs. Smith

USE THIS CONCOCTION AS A TASTY SALT SUBSTITUTE!

- Basil •Marjoram •Thyme •Dried Parsley
- Summer Savory •Mace •Onion Powder
- Black Pepper •Sage •Oregano •Garlic Powder •Powdered Lemon

Mix an equal amount of each spice in a bowl, and put into a shaker. You will need one with larger holes in it! NOTE: You can add red cayenne pepper if you desire, but remember, it's HOT!!!

## SALT-LESS SURPRISE

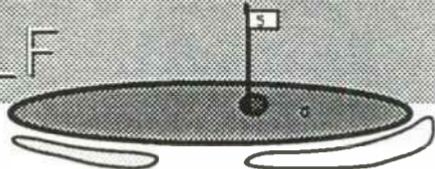
- 2 teaspoons garlic powder
- 1 teaspoon basil
- 1 teaspoon anise seed
- 1 teaspoon oregano
- 1 teaspoon powdered lemon or dry lemon juic

PUT INGREDIENTS INTO A BLENDER AND MIX WELL. STORE IN GLASS CONTAINER, LABEL WELL AND ADD RICE TO PREVENT CAKING.

## PUNGENT SALT SUBSTITUTE

- 3 teaspoons basil
  - 2 teaspoons summer savory
  - 2 teaspoons celery seed
  - 2 teaspoons ground cumin seed
  - 2 teaspoons sage
  - 1 teaspoon lemon thyme
  - 2 teaspoons marjoram
- MIX WELL AND THEN POWDER WITH MORTAL AND PESTLE.

# THE REVISED RULES OF GOLF



1. A BALL SLICED OR HOOKED INTO THE ROUGH SHALL BE LIFTED AND PLACED IN THE FAIRWAY AT A POINT EQUAL TO THE DISTANCE IT CARRIED OR ROLLED IN THE ROUGH. SUCH VEERING RIGHT OR LEFT FREQUENTLY RESULTS FROM FRICTION BETWEEN THE FACE OF THE CLUB AND THE COVER OF THE BALL AND THE PLAYER SHOULD NOT BE PENALIZED FOR THE ERRATIC BEHAVIOR OF THE BALL RESULTING FROM SUCH UNCONTROLLABLE MECHANICAL PHENOMENA.
2. A BALL HITTING A TREE SHALL BE DEEMED NOT TO HAVE HIT THE TREE. HITTING A TREE IS SIMPLY BAD LUCK AND HAS NO PLACE IN A SCIENTIFIC GAME. THE PLAYER SHOULD ESTIMATE THE DISTANCE THE BALL WOULD HAVE TRAVELED IF IT HAD NOT HIT THE TREE AND PLAY THE BALL FROM THERE, PREFERABLY FROM A NICE, FIRM, TUFT OF GRASS.
3. THERE SHALL BE NO SUCH THING AS A LOST BALL!! THE MISSING

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BALL IS ON OR NEAR THE COURSE SOMEWHERE AND EVENTUALLY WILL BE FOUND AND POCKETED BY SOMEONE ELSE. IT THIS BECOMES A *STOLEN* BALL AND THE PLAYER SHOULD NOT COMPOUND THE FELONY BY CHARGING HIMSELF WITH A STROKE PENALTY.

4. IN OR NEAR A BUNKER OR SAND TRAP, A BALL ROLLING BACK TOWARD THE PLAYER MAY BE HIT AGAIN ON THE ROLL WITHOUT COUNTING AS AN EXTRA STROKE OR STROKES. IN ANY CASE, NO MORE THAN TWO ARE TO BE COUNTED IN PLAYING FROM THE BUNKER, SINCE IT IS REASONABLE TO ASSUME THAT IF THE PLAYER HAD TIME TO CONCENTRATE ON HIS SHOT, INSTEAD OF HURRYING IT SO NOT TO DELAY HIS PLAYING PARTNERS, HE WOULD BE OUT IN TWO.

5. IF A PUTT PASSES OVER THE HOLE WITHOUT DROPPING, IT IS DEEMED TO HAVE DROPPED. THE LAW OF GRAVITY HOLDS THAT ANY OBJECT ATTEMPTING TO MAINTAIN A POSITION IN THE ATMOSPHERE WITHOUT SOMETHING TO SUPPORT IT, MUST DROP. THE LAW OF GRAVITY SUPERSEDES THE LAW OF GOLF.

6. SAME THING GOES FOR A BALL THAT STOPS AT THE BRINK OF THE HOLE AND HANGS THERE, DEFYING GRAVITY. YOU CANNOT DEFY THE LAW.

7. SAME THING GOES FOR A BALL THAT RIMS THE CUP. A BALL SHOULD NOT GO SIDEWAYS. THAT IS A MANUFACTURING FLAW AND, OF COURSE, DEFIES THE LAW!

8. A PUTT THAT STOPS CLOSE ENOUGH TO THE CUP TO INSPIRE SUCH

COMMENTS AS "YOU COULD BLOW THAT IN." MAY BE BLOWN IN. THIS RULE DOES NOT APPLY IF THE BALL IS MORE THAN THREE INCHES FROM THE HOLE, BECAUSE NO ONE WANTS TO MAKE A TRAVESTY OF THE GAME!

9. THERE IS NO PENALTY FOR A BALL IN A WATER HAZARD. GOLF BALLS SHOULD FLOAT. THE FACT THAT THEY DO NOT IS A TECHNOLOGICAL PROBLEM THAT THE MANUFACTURERS HAVE NOT YET OVERCOME. AGAIN, THE GOLFER SHOULD NOT BE PUNISHED FOR SOMEONE ELSE'S SHORTCOMINGS.

10. THERE IS NO PENALTY FOR A SO-CALLED "OUT OF BOUNDS" SHOT. IF PENNY-PINCHING GOLF COURSE OWNERS BOUGHT SUFFICIENT LAND, THIS WOULD NOT BE A PROBLEM. THE GOLFER DESERVES AN APOLOGY, NOT A PENALTY!

11. ADVERTISEMENTS CONSTANTLY PROCLAIMING THAT GOLF SCORES CAN BE MARKEDLY IMPROVED BY PURCHASING THE NEWEST CLUBS, BALLS, SHOES AND OTHER GOLF ACCESSORIES. SINCE THIS IS FINANCIALLY IMPOSSIBLE FOR THE AVERAGE GOLFER, 1/2 STROKE PER HOLE MAY BE SUBTRACTED FROM THE SCORE FOR USING OLD EQUIPMENT. WHEN PLAYING STROKE PLAY OR MATCH PLAY, YOU GET THE SAMEBREAK IF YOUR APPONENT HAS NEWER EQUIPMENT.

12. GOLFERS RIDING IN CARTS SHOULD BE GIVEN HIGHER HANDICAPS WHEN PLAYING AGAINST OPPONENTS WHO WALK, AS THEY NEVER GET A CHANCE TO "WARM UP," AND THIS IS A DEFINITE HANDICAP. TO PROVE THE POINT, HOW MANY PROFESSIONALS DO YOU SEE RIDING IN CARTS?!?!  

---

---

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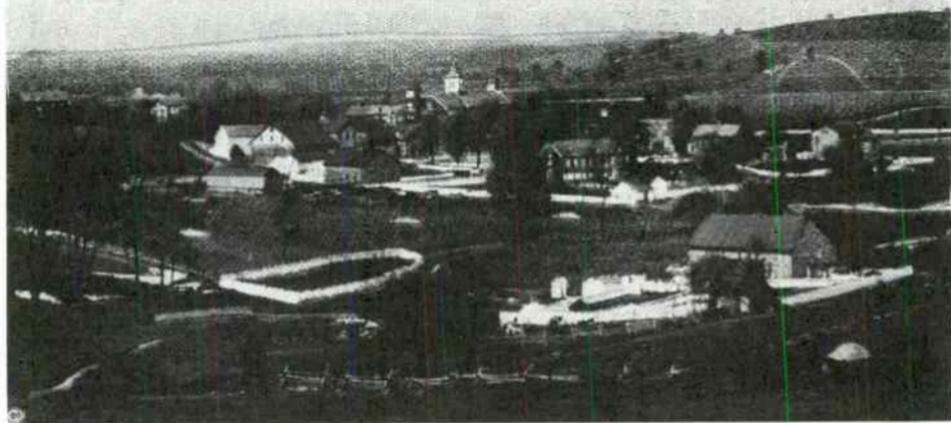


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# DESSERTS... ...n' stuff

## APPLE SNOW

Ingredients: 1 envelope unflavored gelatin  
1/4 cup cold water  
2 cups canned applesauce  
1/2 cup granulated sugar  
1 1/2 teaspoons of lemon juice  
dash of salt  
2 tablespoons of crystalized or  
candied sugar  
2 egg whites

In measuring cup, sprinkle gelatin to soften over  
cold water

In large saucepan....combine the applesauce, sugar  
and lemon juice, salt and ginger....  
Over low heat, bring to simmer....  
Remove from heat....add gelatin and stir until  
dissolved...

In large bowl....beat egg whites still, then fold in  
hot applesauce mixture and pour into a mold....

Refrigerate....Serve with custard sauce....

.....from Betty Yoder

## SNICKERDOODLES

Mix together thoroughly....1 cup soft shortening, 1 1/2 cups sugar and 2 eggs.

Sift together and stir in....2 3/4 cups sifted Gold Medal flour, 2 teaspoons cream of tartar, 1 teaspoon baking soda, 1/2 teaspoon salt.

Chill dough (overnight, if you wish)....Roll into balls the size of small walnuts. Roll in mixture of two tablespoons sugar and two teaspoons cinnamon. Place about two inches apart on ungreased baking sheet. Bake in 400 degree oven for 8-10 minutes or until brown, but still soft.

---

## BETTER THAN SEX CAKE

Crust: 1 cup flour    1 cup chopped nuts (any kind)  
                  1 stick of butter

Mix and press into 9 X 13-inch pan and bake for 350 degrees for 20 minutes and cool.

Second layer: 1 cup 10X confectioners sugar  
                  1 eight-ounce bar or cream cheese  
                  6 ounces of Cool Whip

Beat and spread over cooled crust.

Third layer: 1 small box of chocolate instant pudding  
                  1 small box of vanilla instant pudding  
                  3 cups milk  
                  1 teaspoon vanilla

Beat and spread over the second layer.

Chill before using.

*Bon Appetit, and thanks to all FEEDBACK  
listeners over the years who have shared their  
recipes.*





# OH, FUDGE!

*(SOME OF YOUR FAVORITE FUDGE RECIPES)*

## **COLD FUDGE**

1 pound 10X sugar  
4 tablespoons cocoa  
4 tablespoons peanut butter  
1/2 pound melted butter  
Mix...put in a pan, and let stand.

## **VANILLA FUDGE**

2 cups sugar  
1/2 teaspoon salt  
1 cup commercial sour cream  
2 teaspoons butter or margarine  
1 teaspoon vanilla  
Boil first three ingredients until candy thermometer reads 236 degrees. Add butter and let cool. When it reaches 110 degrees, beat until thick and glossy. Add vanilla and mix well. Pour into buttered dish and let harden.

## **OPERA FUDGE**

Butter a 9 X 5 X 3-inch pan. In top of a double-boiler, melt three tablespoons of soft butter. Add three tablespoons of milk and one package of Betty Crocker white frosting mix. Stir until smooth and heat five minutes over boiling water. Add one-half cup of chopped nuts. Pour into buttered pan.

## **CHOCOLATE FUDGE**

2 cups granulated sugar  
1 cup water  
1 cup Eagle brand condensed milk  
3 squares unsweetened chocolate  
1 cup nut meats (optional)

Mix sugar and water and bring to a boil. Add milk and boil over low flame until it forms a soft ball in cold water. Stir to prevent burning. Remove from fire and add cut-up chocolate and nuts. Beat until creamy. Pour in buttered pan to cool.

# CREAM CAKES BAVARIAN APPLE PIE

Beat together 1/2 cup soft butter, 1/4 cup granulated sugar, 1/2 teaspoon vanilla.

Gradually add one cup flour to form soft dough. Press into bottom and up sides of a deep, 9-inch pie pan. Set aside.

Beat together one package (8 oz) cream cheese and 1/4 cup granulated sugar. Add one egg and 1/2 teaspoon vanilla. Beat until smooth and spread over crust.

Mix together 4 cups, thinly-sliced apples, 2/3 cup granulated sugar and 1/2 teaspoon cinnamon.

Layer over cream cheese mixture. Dot with one tablespoon butter. Sprinkle 1/2 cup chopped pecans or hickory nuts over top.

(OPTIONAL) To decorate, make half the dough recipe. Roll out or press between two layers of wax paper. With knife, cut out leaves. Use back of knife to make veins in leaves. Lay 5 leaves around the center and a layer around the edge of the pie.

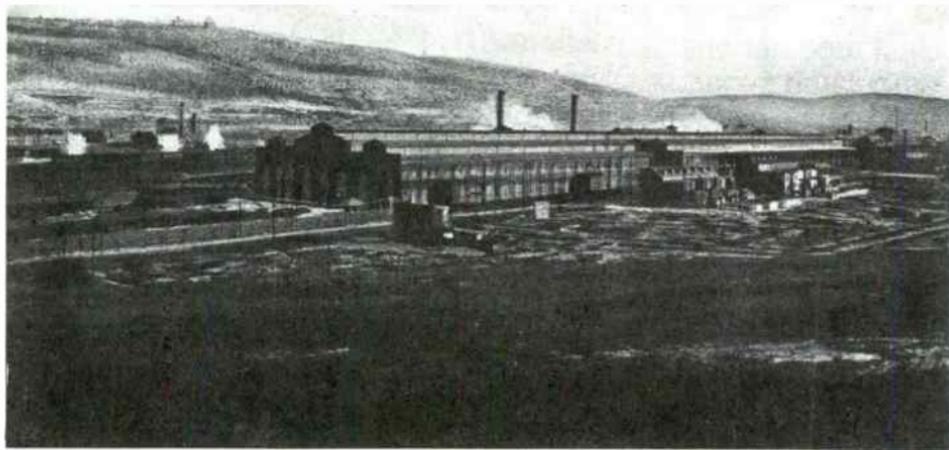
Bake at 400 degrees for 15 minutes...Lower heat to 350 degrees and bake an additional 30 to 35 minutes or until apples are done. To prevent pie from getting too brown, cover with foil during the first 15 minutes of baking time.

*....from Minnie Schlegel*



# The Way It Was... the Reading Car Shops, circa 1915.

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# BEEF Jerky

...thanks to  
ANDREA  
MESSINEO

CUT ONE TO TWO POUNDS OF **LEAN, BONELESS BEEF** INTO STRIPS 1/8" TO 1/4" WIDE AND AS LONG AS POSSIBLE. **FLANK, BRISKET OR ROUNDS STEAK CAN BE USED.**

MAKE A MIXTURE OF 1/3 CUP **SOY SAUCE**, 1 TBSP **WORCESTERSHIRE SAUCE**, 1 TBSP **GARLIC SALT** AND 1/2 TSP. **PEPPER**

MARINATE MEAT IN THIS MIXTURE OVERNIGHT.

THE FOLLOWING DAY, SHAKE OFF ANY EXTRA LIQUID AND DRAPE THE STRIPS OVER THE RUNGS OF YOUR OVEN RACKS. PUT ALUMINUM FOIL ON THE BOTTOM OF THE OVEN TO CATCH THE DRIPPINGS.

COOK AT 150 TO 200 DEGREES FOR 5 TO 12 HOURS.

IT IS DONE WHEN THE MEAT TURNS BROWN AND IS HARD, BUT NOT BRITTLE.



APOLLO POOLS, INC. was founded in 1969 by Luke Hertzog. Luke set a goal to have APOLLO POOLS become the best pool company in the business. Through the years Apollo grew and today maintains three store locations, Reiffton, Laureldale and Pottstown. Luke and his wife Ann will look to their children Scott and Kathy to carry on the tradition when they retire.

Some of the products Apollo sells include Jetted Tubs, Sunrooms, Spas, Saunas, Chemicals, Parts and Accessories as well as inground and above ground swimming pools.

Today, Apollo Pools is recognized in the industry as an innovator and professional company. Recently, Apollo has been nominated by its peer companies and suppliers to be recognized as one of the top 100 pool companies in the UNITED STATES.

## HOT DOG SAUCE

**ONE POUND FINELY-GROUND GROUND BEEF**  
**ONE-QUARTER CUP FRIED ONIONS**  
**GARLIC POWDER (IF DESIRED)**

Fry Until Brown...Cover with water...Add one tablespoon chili (or to taste) and one-half tablespoon curry powder

Mix and simmer for ten minutes.

You may want to add cumin  
to the curry and chili

## GRAPE BUTTER

**FOUR POUNDS SUGAR**  
**TWO QUARTS GRAPES (SKINS AND PULP)**  
**EIGHT TABLESPOONS WATER**

PUT ALL INTO A KETTLE AT ONCE AND BOIL TWENTY MINUTES...PUT THROUGH SIEVE AND POUR INTO GLASSES.

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## HERBED POPCORN

USE 4 1/2 OUNCE PACKAGE OF POPCORN WITH SALT AND OIL, FOLLOW PACKAGE DIRECTIONS, ADDING SEASONINGS TO OIL BEFORE POPPING CORN...

ADD: ONE TABLESPOON THYME LEAVES, ONE-QUARTER TEASPOON ONION POWDER OR ONE TEASPOON CURRY POWDER OR ONE TEASPOON ITALIAN SEASONING AND ONE-QUARTER TEASPOON GARLIC POWDER.

ALTERNATE METHOD: POP CORN WITHOUT OIL. FOR SIX CUPS POPPED CORN, MELT ONE-HALF CUP BUTTER. STIR IN SEASONINGS AND POUR OVER CORN. SPRINKLE WITH SALT, IF DESIRED. (...from the Berks County Heritage Center)

*For many years, WEEU's Lew Runkle emceed as many as a dozen annual drum and bugle corps and high school marching band field shows, exposing him to many balky and cranky stadium sound systems.*

*In time, rather than recite some perfunctory lines to check those systems, and obviously mirroring his years in broadcasting, Lew devised the following variation on a theme:*

*"THIS IS A TEST OF THE STADIUM PUBLIC ADDRESS SYSTEM...THIS IS ONLY A TEST...IF THIS HAD BEEN AN ACTUAL ANNOUNCEMENT, YOU WOULD HAVE BEEN ASKED TO BUY A HOT DOG OR A SOUVENIR PROGRAM. APPLAUD FOR YOUR FAVORITE BAND, OR RISE FOR THE PLAYING OF THE NATIONAL ANTHEM...THIS WAS ONLY A TEST!"*

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## TOMATO JELLY

TWO AND THREE-QUARTERS CUPS TOMATO JUICE  
TWO TABLESPOONS LEMON JUICE  
A FEW DROPS OF TABASCO SAUCE  
FOUR CUPS GRANULATED SUGAR  
ONE BOS SURE-GEL

COMBINE TOMATO JUICE, LEMON JUICE AND TABASCO SAUCE AND SURE-GEL IN A LARGE KETTLE. STIR OVER HIGH HEAT UNTIL MIXTURE REACHES A FAST BOIL. BRING TO ROLLING BOIL FOR ONE MINUTE, STIR IN SUGAR AND BOIL FOR ONE MORE MINUTE. REMOVE FROM HEAT. SKIM OFF FOAM AND POUR INTO STERILIZED GLASSES. COVER WITH PARAFFIN AND SEAL. (FROM MRS. DANIEL ADAMS, MERTZTOWN)

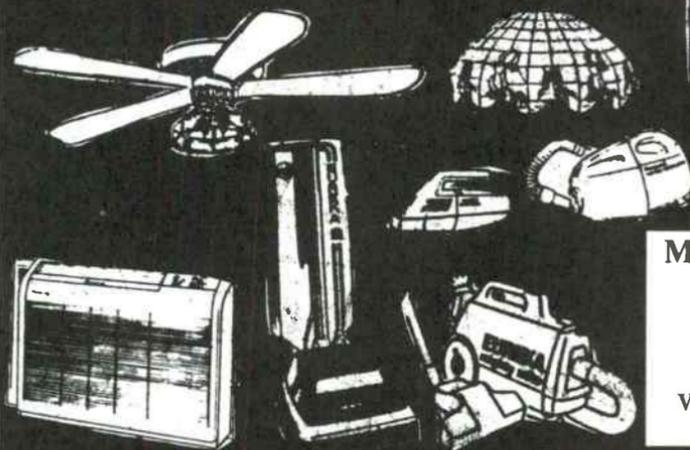
## GREEN TOMATO JELLY

FIVE CUPS GREEN TOMATOES MASHED IN A BLENDER  
TWO CUPS SUGAR

BOIL THIS MIXTURE FOR TWENTY-FIVE MINUTES. AFTER BOILING, STIR TWO SMALL PACKETS OF RASPBERRY (OR STRAWBERRY IF YOU WISH) JELLO. POUR INTO GLASSES WITH PARAFFIN ON TOP.

(FROM MARY FEENEY, READING)

# Thank You!



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### LEEK AND BARLEY SOUP

TWO OUNCES BARLEY  
EIGHT CUPS CHICKEN STOCK  
ONE CHOPPED ONION  
THREE STICKS CELERY  
SIX CUPS OF CHOPPED LEEKS

ONE CUP FINELY CHOPPED CARROTS  
SIX TABLESPOONS BUTTER  
ONE CUP CREAM OR MILK  
SALT AND PEPPER TO TASTE

BLANCH BARLEY IN ONE QUART OF BOILING WATER FOR FIVE MINUTES AND DRAIN. PUT FIVE CUPS OF THE CHICKEN STOCK IN A LARGE POT. ADD BARLEY AND SIMMER FOR ONE HOUR.

MEANWHILE, CHOP ONION, CELERY AND LEEKS AND SIMMER IN BUTTER OVER A MODERATE HEAT UNTIL SOFT AND GOLDEN. ADD THE REMAINING STOCK AND SIMMER FOR TEN MINUTES. AT THIS POINT, YOU CAN PUT THESE THINGS THROUGH THE BLENDER OR ADD THEM RIGHT TO THE BARLEY. THEN, ADD CREAM AND SEASONINGS.

## MUSHROOM & BARLEY SOUP

THREE QUARTS WATER  
TWO AND ONE-HALF POUNDS SHORT-RIBS, CUT IN PIECES  
TWO TABLESPOONS BUTTER  
TWO CUPS CHOPPED ONIONS  
ONE CUP DICED CELERY  
ONE POUND FRESH MUSHROOMS (SLICED OR DICED)  
ONE CLOVE GARLIC  
TWO TEASPOONS SALT AND ONE-EIGHTH TEASPOON PEPPER  
ONE BAY LEAF AND ONE CUP OF MEDIUM BARLEY

IN A LARGE POT, BRING THE WATER TO A BOIL. ADD BEEF AND COVER AND SIMMER FOR TWO HOURS. SKIM OFF FAT! REMOVE THE MEAT AND SET ASIDE TO COOL, THEN CUT-UP MEAT AND REMOVE FAT.

IN A LARGE SKILLET, MELT THE BUTTER, ADD ONIONS, CELERY, MUSHROOMS AND GARLIC. COOK OVER MODERATE HEAT, STIR OFTEN UNTIL ONION IS GOLDEN (FIVE OR SIX MINUTES) AND THEN SET ASIDE.

TO THE BROTH, ADD THE SALT, PEPPER AND BAY LEAF, BARLEY, MUSHROOM MIXTURE AND BEEF. BRING TO A BOIL AND SIMMER FOR 45 MINUTES.



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## IMPOSSIBLE QUICHE

ONE-HALF POUND BACON (FRIED CRISP AND CRUMBLED)  
ONE CUP SHREDDED CHEESE (YOUR CHOICE)  
ONE-HALF CUP SAUTEED ONIONS  
TWO CUPS MILK  
ONE-HALF CUP MILK BISQUICK  
FOUR EGGS  
ONE-QUARTER TEASPOON SALT  
ONE-HALF TEASPOON PEPPER

PLACE BACON, CHEESE AND ONION IN A NINE OR TEN-INCH PIE PLATE. AT HIGH SPEED IN YOUR BLENDER, BLEND FOR ONE MINUTE...ADD MILK, BISQUICK, EGGS, SALT AND PEPPER...POUR OVER BACON, CHEESE AND ONION MIX AND BAKE AT 350 DEGREES FOR 50-55 MINUTES. LET STAND FOR FIVE MINUTES BEFORE CUTTING. *(from Carolyn Shivers)*



WEEU's Lew Runkle says he once picked up a book on "How to Hug" at a garage sale. The poor guy was disappointed when he got home to find out what he'd purchased was volume six of an encyclopedia.

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## BEEF & HORSERADISH DIPS

1

- 1/4 pound dried beef
- 2 eight-ounce packages of cream cheese
- horseradish to taste

MIX AND ADD MAYONNAISE TO THIN TO DESIRED CONSISTANCY.

2 ...from Adelaide Wentzel

- 1 eight-ounce package cream cheese
- 1 cup dried beef (1/4 lb.)
- 1/2 tbsp. horseradish
- 1/2 tsp. onion salt
- 1/2 tsp. celery salt

MAY BE FORMED INTO A CHEESE-TYPE BALL OR KEPT AS A SPREAD

3 ...from Janet Bond

- 1 eight-ounce package cream cheese (softened)
- 1 five-ounce jar horseradish

- 1 four-ounce package of dried chipped beef

CHOP THE CHIPPED BEEF IN BLENDER. MIX CREAM CHEESE AND HORSERADISH. ADD CHIPPED BEEF AND REFRIGERATE OVERNIGHT.

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## NEW ENGLAND CLAM CHOWDER

1 quart clams	1 tbsp. salt
4 cups potatoes, cut in 3/4-inch cubes	1/2 tsp. pepper
1 1/2 inch cube fat salt pork	4 tbsp. butter
1 sliced onion	4 cups scalded milk
	8 common or Boston crackers

Clean and pick over clams, using one cup cold water. Drain, reserve liquid. Heat to boiling point and strain. Chop finely hard part of clams. Cut pork in small pieces and try out. Add onion, fry five minutes and strain into a stewpan. Parboil potatoes 5 minutes in boiling water to cover, drain and put a layer in bottom of stewpan. Add chopped clams, sprinkle with salt and pepper, dredge with flour, and add 2 1/2 cups boiling water. Cook 10 minutes. Add mild, soft part of clams, and butter. Boil 3 minutes, add crackers split and soaked in enough cold milk to moisten. Reheat clam water to boiling point and thicken with one tablespoon butter and flour cooked together. Add to chowder just before serving.

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## ZUCCHINI RELISH

### MIX (IN A LARGE PAN)

- 10 cups grated zucchini
- 4 cups chopped onions
- 3 tbsp. salt (canning if possible)

Let stand overnight in refrigerator without lid (about eight hours). Rinse with cold water and drain well in colander. Return to large pot and add:

- 2 1/2 cups vinegar
- 1 tbsp. turmeric
- 1/2 tsp. black pepper
- 3 tbsp. corn starch
- 4 cups sugar
- 1 tbsp. celery seed
- 1 tsp. nutmeg

Bring to a boil and let boil three minutes. Seal in sterilized jars immediately. Makes about seven pints of relish.



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SEE OUR  
COUPON



## CRISP, GOLDEN MUSHROOMS

- 1/2 lb. small, fresh mushrooms or 1 can (6-8 oz.) whole mushrooms
- 1/3 cup cornflake crumbs
- 1/2 tsp. Italian seasoning
- 1/4 tsp. salt
- 1/4 cup light cream or half and half
- dash of ground red pepper, if desired

Rinse, pat dry and trim fresh mushrooms or drain canned mushrooms; set aside. In a small paper or plastic bag, combine cornflake crumbs, Italian seasoning, salt and red pepper. Dip mushrooms into cream and then shake in bag with seasoned cornflake crumbs. Place on a cookie sheet. Bake in a preheated, moderate oven (350 degrees) for 15 minutes. Serve as hors d'oeuvres or main dish accompaniment.

Yield: About 18 mushrooms.

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The advertisement is framed by a border of 18 hoagie sandwiches, with 7 on each side and 4 at the top and bottom.



## PIZZA CRUST

TWO CUPS WARM WATER AND TWO PACKAGES YEAST...DISSOLVE IN BOWL.

THEN...ADD TWO TEASPOONS SUGAR, TWO TEASPOONS SALT AND 1/4 CUP OF OLIVE OIL.

THEN...ADD FOUR CUPS FLOUR AND MIX-IN.

THEN...TWO CUPS FLOUR AND TAKE OUT OF BOWL AND KNEAD FOR TWO TO THREE MINUTES.

LET DOUGH RISE UNTIL DOUBLED...AFTER DOUGH HAS RISEN, MAKE INTO SIZE PIZZA WANTED.

BEFORE THE SAUCE IS ADDED, YOU MIGHT WANT TO BAKE PIZZA CRUST ABOUT FIVE TO EIGHT MINUTES ON THE TOP SHELF OF THE OVEN. REMOVE FROM OVEN AND ADD SAUCE AND CHEESE AND BAKE AT 400 DEGREES FOR 25 MINUTES.

TO FREEZE THE PIZZA, BAKE AT 375 DEGREES FOR 15 MINUTES.

---

## FRUIT PIZZA

---

SAUCE: MAKE FIRST SO IT CAN BE COOKED, THEN COOLED TO BRUSH ON FRUIT SO IT WON'T DISCOLOR.

COOK: 1/2 HALF CUP GRANULATED SUGAR, 1/2 CUP ORANGE JUICE, 3 TEASPOONS CORN STARCH, 2 TABLESPOONS LEMON JUICE, DASH OF SALT AND DASH OF GRATED ORANGE PEEL.

WHILE SAUCE IS COOLING, MAKE THE FRUIT PIZZA!

CRUST: 1 DUNCAN HINES SUGAR COOKIE MIX. FOLLOW DIRECTIONS ON BOX. PAT MIX INTO PIZZA PAN. BAKE APPROXIMATELY 7 MINUTES AT TEMPERATURE ON BOX.

MIX ONE SMALL CONTAINER OF COOL WHIP WITH ONE THREE OUNCE PHILADELPHIA CREAM CHEESE WHICH HAS BEEN SOFTENED. SPREAD MIXTURE OVER CRUST.

ARRANGE FRUIT ON TOP: In center, place pineapple chunks, cut to make smaller; ring blueberries around the pineapple center; ring sliced peaches (canned or fresh) around the blueberries; ring sliced bananas around peaches; edge with strawberries sliced in half lengthwise. YOU MAY SUBSTITUTE OTHER FRUITS...VARIOUS COLORED GRAPES, MELON BALLS, ETC.

BRUSH COOLED SAUCE ON FRUITS...SPRINKLE TOASTED COCONUT (OPTIONAL).



## Christmas— Haiku

AS A DIVERSION AWAY FROM THE WEEU MICROPHONES, LEW RUNKLE LIKES TO OCCASIONALLY TINKER IN POETRY...IN PARTICULAR, WITH A MODIFICATION OF THE JAPANESE HAIKU. THE FOLLOWING THOUGHTS ON CHRISTMAS ARE AN EXAMPLE

- Caroler voices  
heralding His birthday eve  
the world rejoices.*
- Feathery snowflakes  
blanket the earth in white. A  
new Christmas dawn breaks.*
- Bells wildly ringing  
in each cathedral and church,  
the sound of singing.*
- Cards from far and near,  
filled with words of love, joy, hope  
and the season's cheer.*
- The children, their eyes  
aglow and sparkling with the  
promise of surprise.*
- Bright treasures inside,  
the stockings of little ones  
hung by the fireside.*
- Stately spruce and pine,  
gaily garbed in ornaments,  
tinsel, lights that shine.*
- Presents piled neatly;  
a swirl of ribbons and bows...  
"Thank you" said sweetly.*
- Sounds and fragrances  
spiriting from the kitchen,  
taunting the senses.*
- Relatives gather  
'round the turkey and filling...  
or stuffing, rather!*
- Good friends come to call...  
warm handshakes, fond embraces,  
best wishes to all.*
- Once more the refrain...  
Peace on Earth; Lord, we pray, may  
that spirit remain.*

## CHEF LEW'S MACARONI PIZZA

AMONG LEW RUNKLE'S MOST FAVORITE MOMENTS SPENT AWAY FROM THE OVERNIGHT SHOW ON WEEU ARE IN THE KITCHEN, TINKERING WITH A FEW PREFERRED RECIPES. NOTHING EXOTIC, JUST A COUPLE OF BASIC CONCOCTIONS SUCH AS MACARONI AND CHEESE, CREAMED BEEF ON TOAST AND THE FOLLOWING BLUEPRINT FOR SOMETHING QUITE TASTY!

- 2 cups macaroni**
- large jar of spaghetti sauce  
(14-16 oz.)**
- an egg**
- 1/2 tsp. salt**
- half cup of milk**
- 3 tbsp. Parmesan cheese**
- 1/2 pound ground beef**
- 1/2 cup chopped green pepper**
- 3/4 cup chopped onion**
- 4 oz. can of mushrooms**
- 8 oz. package of grated,  
mozzarella cheese**

**COOK THE MACARONI, ACCORDING TO PACKAGE DIRECTIONS. BEAT THE EGG, MILK, 1 TSP. PARMESAN CHEESE AND SALT. BLEND INTO THE MACARONI AND SPREAD IN GREASED 9 X 13 PAN. POUR THE SPAGHETTI SAUCE OVER THE MACARONI. ADD SMALL BITS OF RAW MEAT...SPRINKLE ON PEPPER, ONIONS, MUSHROOMS, AND REMAINING PARMESAN CHEESE. TOP WITH MOZZARELLA. BAKE AT 350 DEGREES FOR 20 MINUTES. ALLOW TO STAND ABOUT TEN MINUTES BEFORE SERVING, AND THEN....ENJOY!**



Old

pete's

DANDELION

WINE

PICK FIVE QUARTS OF DANDELION FLOWERS (NO STEMS), AND PUT THEM IN A FIVE-GALLON CROCK (SOME FOLKS SAY A NEW, PLASTIC WASTEBASKET IS A CHEAP SUBSTITUTE).

POUR TWO GALLONS OF SCALDING WATER OVER THE FLOWERS.

LET THE MIXTURE STAND FOR 24 HOURS, THEN STRAIN THROUGH A CLOTH, REMOVING THE BLOSSOMS.

NEXT, ADD SIX ORANGES AND SIX LEMONS (CUT UP), INCLUDING THE PEELS. ADD FIVE POUNDS OF WHITE SUGAR, STIR THE MIXTURE AND LET IT STAND FOR THREE DAYS.

REMOVE THE ORANGE AND LEMON SECTIONS BY STRAINING THROUGH A CLOTH AND ADD...

2.....46-OUNCE CANS OF PINEAPPLE JUICE

2.....46-OUNCE CANS OF APRICOT JUICE

2.....46-OUNCE CANS OF ORANGE JUICE

1.....8-OUNCE CAN OR BOTTLE OF LEMON JUICE

STRAIN EACH CAN AS YOU POUR, AND THEN ADD TEN POUNDS OF WHITE SUGAR.

ADD ENOUGH WATER TO FILL THE CROCK AND STIR WELL. REMOVE THE MIXTURE FROM THE CROCK AND PUT IT INTO JUGS OR BOTTLES, LOOSELY CORKED.

FERMENTATION NOW BEGINS.

KEEP THE JUGS OR BOTTLES FILLED TO THE TOP BY ADDING WATER DAILY. THE JUGS OR BOTTLES MUST BE KEPT FILLED UNTIL FERMENTATION ENDS (MAY TAKE SEVERAL WEEKS).

WHEN FERMENTATION CEASES, CORK THE JUG OR BOTTLES AND LET STAND UNTIL CHRISTMAS...AND THEN...HAPPY HOLIDAY!

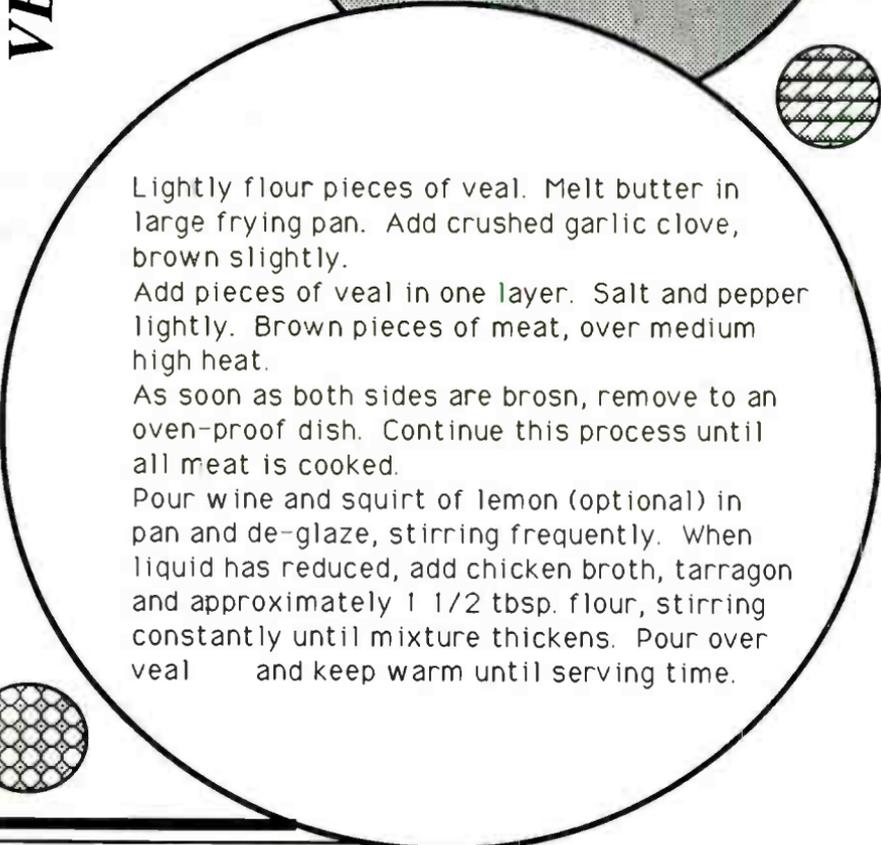
*P.S....A FEW SIPS OF DANDELION WINE WILL MAKE THOSE PENNSYLVANIA POTHOLES EASIER TO TAKE!!*

# VEAL MARSALA

...courtesy  
of BANCO'S  
FINE FOODS



1 1/2 lbs. veal  
Flour (to coat veal)  
1 garlic clove  
1/4 lb. butter  
salt and pepper to taste  
1/2 cup Marsala wine  
1 cup chicken broth  
1/2 tsp. tarragon



Lightly flour pieces of veal. Melt butter in large frying pan. Add crushed garlic clove, brown slightly.

Add pieces of veal in one layer. Salt and pepper lightly. Brown pieces of meat, over medium high heat.

As soon as both sides are brosn, remove to an oven-proof dish. Continue this process until all meat is cooked.

Pour wine and squirt of lemon (optional) in pan and de-glaze, stirring frequently. When liquid has reduced, add chicken broth, tarragon and approximately 1 1/2 tbsp. flour, stirring constantly until mixture thickens. Pour over veal and keep warm until serving time.





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## Bill's Fish Batter



3 eggs  
1 1/2 cups flour  
2 tsp. salt  
2 tsp. lemon pepper  
3 tbsp. baking powder  
10 oz. beer

Combine all ingredients and mix well to blend. Cut fish into serving size pieces and add to the batter. Allow the fish to soak in the batter for 15 minutes. Cook in hot oil in deep fryer or pan with enough oil to cover. Cooking time is about 10 to 15 minutes, depending on the thickness of the fish.

*NOTE: This recipe, although heavy on the calories, is very good! My brother in law, Bill, uses it for perch, blue fish...whatever the catch. Enjoy! Shirl Whitnack.*

## PANZANELLA

*a tasty Italian Salad*

2 slices coarse bread  
1 cup chopped green, red or yellow  
sweet pepper  
1/2 cup chopped sweet onion  
1 large cucumber, cubed  
4 tomatoes, cubed  
1/4 cup fresh parsley, minced  
Pinch of fresh basil  
6 tbsp. extra virgin olive oil  
1 tsp. fresh chopped garlic  
2 tbsp. red wine vinegar  
Salt and pepper

The bread should be peasant-style, very coarse and not soft. Cover the bread with water, let it soak just a minute or two and then squeeze the water out and place the bread in a salad bowl. Prepare all the vegetables, as directed, and add to the bowl. In a jar, combine the parsley, basil, oil, garlic, and vinegar and shake well to blend. Add salt and pepper to taste. Pour dressing over salad and toss lightly to cover all ingredients. Serve immediately. Note: This wonderful Italian salad is a pleasant change from the usual and it's a very versatile base. To vary, add capers; add sardines, anchovies or tuna; or add chopped green onions and zucchini...the possibilities are endless. *Shirl Whitnack*



# P.F. EISENBROWN

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Sandblasting

# SORE THROAT?

TRY THESE REMEDIES FROM THE FEEDBACK RECIPE FILE!



## MY MOTHER'S LEMON AND HONEY COUGH SYRUP

*Contributed by Rev. Phillip Smith, the "Feedback Chaplain"*

- 6-8 lemons, cut in halves (depending on size)
- 1 shot glass of whiskey or brandy
- 1/2 to 3/4 cup honey (depending on taste)

Cut bottoms of lemon halves so they will lay even. Put on foil-lined cookie sheet and bake in 350-degree oven until tender, when a knife or fork will go through with no resistance. That should take 15 to 20 minutes or longer, but lemons should not get brown.

Cool lemons just long enough to make handling possible. Squeeze into small bowl. Remove all seeds. A little pulp may remain. Add honey and mix well. If lemon juice is too cool, heat in a pan just long enough for honey to completely dissolve. Mix in whiskey or brandy. This will make about a cup of cough syrup. Store in refrigerator. Mix well before using.

**NOTE: This is an excellent home remedy for coughs. The lemon juice will help loosen congestion; the honey will soothe the throat; the liquor acts as a cough depressant. Children will like this cough syrup.**



## JACK'S COLD, SORE THROAT AND COUGH REMEDY

*Please keep in mind that you may alter this to your taste and use...*

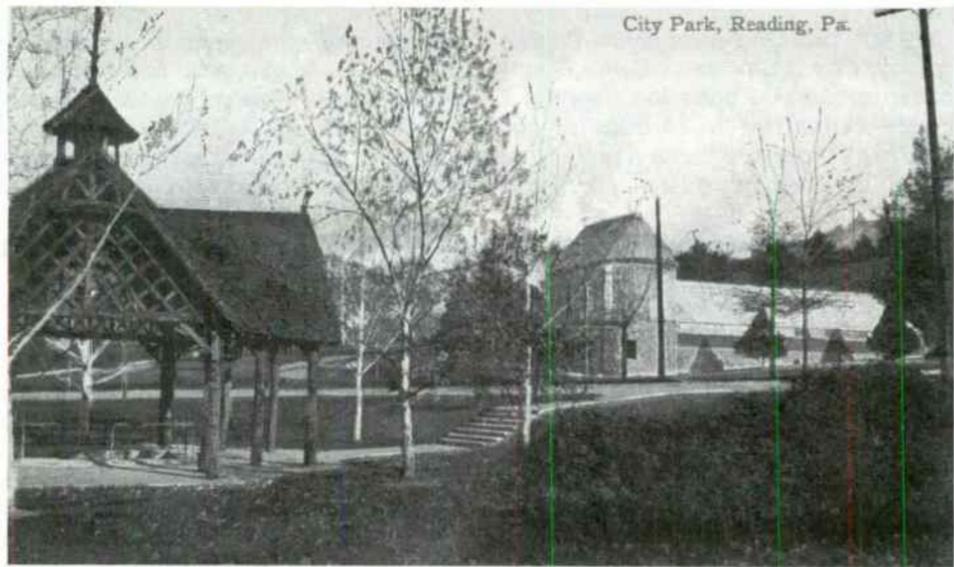
- 3 oranges, cut into quarters
- 2 lemons, cut into quarters
- honey
- brandy or whiskey

Place the oranges and lemons in two quart (or larger) saucepan and cover with water. Add honey to taste. Simmer on low heat (do not boil). **Should be served warm!** Drink when needed. Add more honey to sweeten (if necessary) and a "touch" of brandy or whiskey (if desired). You may keep on heat and add water to replenish supply. I have done this without adding new citrus two or three times.

Someone said to an old lady, "Aren't you lonesome, living alone?"

She replied, "Oh, no! I don't live alone. I live with four men! I get up in the morning with Charlie Horse, have lunch with Arthur Itis, spend most of my day with Will Power, and go to bed with Ben Gay!"

## The Way It Was...the City Park Greenhouse and pavilion, circa 1910



City Park, Reading, Pa.

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# The Scary, Scary Night

by Charles J. Adams III

WEEU's morning personality, Charlie Adams, is also well known for his popular trilogy, *Ghost Stories of Berks County, Books 1-3*. Adams, who has written 10 other books and pens the Reading Eagle "Berks the Bizarre" feature, usually concentrates on "true" tales of ghosts and hauntings. For the "Feedback Journal," though, Charlie has contributed his first fictional ghost story. Gather the young ones around a dim light some night and read this story to them.

There was no reason to believe that the warm night last August would be any different from those which had come before.

Jamie and Jennifer spent most of the day with their mother at the swimming pool, which was quite crowded that day because of the heat. The children swam with their friends and played at the edge of the water with toy boats, squirt bottles and water pistols. Everyone had a good time at the pool that day, and Jenny and Jamie were both quite tired as supertime came closer.

Their father came home at the regular time, and the family gathered to eat the ham and stringbeans mom had prepared. The two children filled dad in with everything that happened at the pool, and there was no reason to believe that anything on that warm night last August would be

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any different from those which had come before.

After supper, mom and dad and Jenny and Jamie piled into the car with their cat, Peepers, and their dog, Toby. Dad turned the air conditioner up all the way and they drove around a little, before stopping at the ice cream place for some cool cones of the frosty dessert.

When they got back home, both children were very tired. They liked summertime best because they could stay up later, and it was lighter and they could play outside longer. But this night, they both admitted that they were very tired and wanted to go to bed early. Besides, it was very cloudy outside, and seemed as if it would rain at any moment.

It was about 8:30 when they finished brushing their teeth and went into their rooms to settle down. Jennifer's room was down the hallway from Jamie's, and between their rooms was mom and dad's bedroom, the bathroom and the corner of the hallway where Peepers curled up to go to sleep every night. Toby the dog usually slept in another corner of the living room downstairs.

Both of the children always kept their bedroom doors closed, but the dim glow of the hallway night light would shine under the door. That somehow made them feel secure.

As it turned out, mom and dad were both tired, too, that night. They went to bed a little after ten o'clock, and before they did, they looked in each of the children's rooms to make sure they were asleep. They were.

Downstairs, Toby was cuddling up in her corner and Peepers was already sound asleep in her corner of the hallway. Quietly, a grandfather's clock in the dining room chimed eleven bells. It was eleven

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o'clock and all was well.

Time passed, and the family slept. Jamie was curled around his stuffed dog named Benny, even though he was sure he'd be able to sleep without him when he turned seven back in June.

Jenny clutched her pillow, and pulled the sheets over her even though it was very warm.

Mom and dad's bedroom door was closed, and both were sound asleep. The house was very quiet. The family slept.

Little Jamie had a secret. Some nights, he would wake up and feel that he had to go to the bathroom. It was something he would surely outgrow, and his mom and dad told him not to worry, it was only natural.

The feeling came to Jamie, and he woke up, very groggy but very much awake. He lay in bed, ready to walk into the hallway to the bathroom. He looked around his room, and all seemed to be in order. There was one thing, though. He looked out his bedroom window and noticed that it had started to rain.

The drops of rain made a soft noise on the roof: "...pit-pat-pit-pat..."

There were soft bursts of light outside the window.

A slow rumble, almost like the sound of a bowling ball rolling down a lane, could be heard somewhere in the distance. Jamie knew that soon the rumble would get louder and the flashes of light would get brighter and the thunderstorm would be over his house.

Jamie had learned not to be afraid of thunderstorms. Still, he didn't like them. He clutched Benny, the stuffed dog, and pulled the sheet up to his chin. He forgot all about why he woke up!

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Jamie didn't have any idea that the sounds of the brewing storm had also awaked his sister. But sure enough, the sounds got louder and the lightning got brighter, and Jamie realized that the storm was headed his way.

Over in Jenny's room, the little girl held her doll very tightly. She, too, didn't really fear thunderstorms, but they definitely were not among her favorite things. Jenny woke up at the first sound of distant thunder and found it very difficult to get back to sleep. She didn't know that Jamie was wide awake, too.

Inside the house, everything and everybody—including Peepers and Toby--was still very quiet. Thunderstorms usually made Toby very nervous. But tonight, so far, the dog continued to sleep without even noticing the noises and flashes of light.

The rain continued to plip-plop on the roof, and for a very long time, the sounds of the thunder stopped. Jamie loosened his grip on Benny and took a few deep breaths. Maybe, just maybe, the storm was passing farther away. By this time, Jamie forgot all about going to the bathroom, and for some reason, didn't have to any more.

Jenny, too, was breathing a bit easier as the sounds and lightning flashes seemed to go away. She rolled over, fluffed up her pillow, and got ready to think about tomorrow and go back to sleep.

Both children were just about asleep when, 'C-R-R-A-C-K!!!'

A sudden crash shook the house!

*Thunder!*

Within a second, a flash of light lit up the rooms.



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"Crash!" "Flash!" The furious storm raged on, and the children grabbed their bedmates and nervously held on to their sheets.

The storm calmed down within a few minutes. But still, the rain plop-popped on the roof.

Again, Jamie was relieved. Maybe that was all.

But then, he heard the strangest sounds. First, a scratching, screechy sound on the window. Then, the sound of footsteps coming up the steps, from the living room to the second floor. Slowly...quietly...the footsteps pressed on the stairs. Steadily...mysteriously...the screeching noise was heard on the window. And the rain kept making a steady plop-plop sound on the roof.

The footsteps came closer and closer to the top of the steps. Jamie's room was right at the top of those steps, and in just a few seconds, whoever or whatever was stalking up the stairs would reach his door. Jamie was very, very scared.

Suddenly, both children almost jumped out of their beds when they heard the clock downstairs go BOING.....BOING.....BOING.....BOING..... BOING....BOING....BOING....BOING....BOING....BOING..BOING!

Each of the youngsters counted as the muffled chimes sounded.

Each counted twelve boings. It was midnight—and all was not well.

The sound of the chimes made Jamie forget all about the footsteps coming up the steps. But he knew that those footsteps had to go somewhere. He tried to pretend to be brave, but he knew that whoever, or whatever, was now at the top of the steps. He was starting to get

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goosebumps on his skin as he waited. Still, the screechy sound continued on the window. He thought to himself that it sounded like the sound of somebody scratching a blackboard with their fingernails. He was getting more scared by the minute.

Jenny, too, realized that the footsteps had stopped. She knew that the steps had to lead to the hallway outside her door. And, for the first time, she could hear, very faintly, the screeching sound on Jamie's window.

Then, with a sound that seemed to rattle their bedroom doors, a loud and shrill "EEEEK!" was heard in the hallway.

This time, both children DID jump out of bed! They both stood near their doors, looking at the dim light that came in through the crack at the bottom of the door. Both hoped that whatever was in the hallway would stay away!

They both grew more frightened as they watched the dim light get brighter and brighter. And still, the rain made the noise on the roof and the strange scratching sound continued on Jamie's window.

Then, as the night got quieter, both children could hear the faint sound of crying coming from the hallway. They listened with fear as the low, mournful sound continued.

Then, at the exact same time, and to both Jenny's and Jamie's total horror, their bedroom door knobs slowly turned. Both children, not knowing the other was standing near their door in utter fear, watched their door knobs slowly turn, squeak just a bit, click a little, and stop.

Then, each bedroom door slowly...ever so slowly...began to open. As they opened, bringing in more light from the hallway, they made a



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horrifying creaking noise.

That was all Jenny and Jamie could stand. At almost the same time, both started to scream and cry. At that moment, both of their bedroom doors swung open, all the way!

With eyes as big as golf balls, Jamie looked at the "thing" that came into the hallway. It was nearly twice his size!

Jenny, too, looked into the hallway to discover the creature that had scared her so very much.

"Are you all right, Jenny?"

It was the voice of her mother.

"Hey, Jamie, calm down!"

It was the voice of his father.

Both children fell into the arms of their mom and dad. Both were crying, but both felt safe now.

"Daddy, it was horrible," said Jamie.

"There were these footsteps, this scream, and this scratching noise on the window. It was horrible!

"Jamie," dad said, "there's nothing to be scared about. Those footsteps you heard were mine. I was downstairs closing the kitchen window when I heard it start to rain."

"But, dad," asked Jamie, "what about that scream?"

"Son, that was no scream. Like a real dummy, I accidentally stepped on Peepers when I got to the top of the steps." Jamie looked down at the little cat, still liking its paw and softly whimpering.

"B-b-but, dad, what about the scratching sound on the window? Even

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you can't explain that."

"C'mere, Jamie. Let's look at that window," dad said. The two walked over to the window and the mystery was solved.

"See there, Jamie," dad said as he put his arms over the boy's little shoulders, "a bolt of lightning must have hit the tree outside your window, and a skinny little branch broke away and hung there, scratching in the wind against your window."

Jenny and her mother listened as the sounds of the night were explained. She smiled as she realized there was nothing at all, ever, to be scared about.

Peepers stopped licking his paw and curled up again in his hallway corner. Jenny kissed her parents and went back into her room. Jamie did the same. And downstairs, Toby the dog was sound asleep, as she had been all night.

Dad dimmed the hallway light once again, gave mom a little kiss, and both of them went back into their room.

Within a couple minutes, though, mom and dad heard the creaking of a door and the sound of footsteps. And then....and then...a very loud scream!

This time, it was mom and dad who were scared! Dad jumped out of bed, ready to discover whatever it was that made such a racket. He opened his bedroom door to find Jamie standing in the hallway with a faint smile on his face. Dad looked down into one corner and saw Peepers licking another paw.



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"Sorry, dad," Jamie said. "I just remembered why I woke up in the first place. I had to go to the bathroom. And like a real dummy, this time I stepped on poor Peepers on the way. Sorry, dad; sorry, Peepers."

Everybody just chuckled, and went back to bed again.

And on the roof, the steady "plit-plat-plit-plat" of the rain continued, gradually lulling mom, dad, Jamie, Jenny, and even Peepers, back to sleep. They were all sound asleep when the big grandfather's clock downstairs softly chimed BOING just once.

It was one o'clock, and all was well.

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**DO** paint in the direction of the grain of the wood.

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- Remove picture hooks, light fixtures, switch plates.
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Lift him gently into the home-preserving kettle and tie him with strong cords of affection which are not easily broken. Do not sear him with sarcasm, for that causes spontaneous combustion. Scramble when difficulties arise.

Do not soak him in liquor, for excessive draughts will make him mushy and spongy with your friends.

It is best to let him simmer tenderly at will, to blend tactfully with dressing and seasoning. Stuff him one hour before taking him out or before asking a favor of him. A little caress will often add to his tenderness.

Flavor him with oil of happiness, an ounce of understanding, and a bushel of fun and laughter.

Should he seem weak or troubled with feminine infatuations, smother him in onions and treble your charms.

Do not spoil him by over-indulgence, but serve him daily on a platter of strength and courage, garnished with clean shirts and collars.

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1. Do not wear jewelry when retiring for the night. Necklaces and bracelets may become damaged or even break. Watches can collect an excessive amount of lint and malfunction.
2. Have your jewelry inspected at least twice a year. Diamonds and gemstone jewelry should be checked for loose stones or worn prongs. Chains should be checked for worn links or damaged clasps.
3. When cleaning jewelry in regular jewelry cleaner, it is important to remember NOT to use it on pearls, opals, coral, turquoise, lapis, onyx, tiger eye and other porous gemstones and painted surfaces such as some class rings. Ask your jeweler for the proper care and cleaning of your jewelry.

*WHEN CHOOSING A JEWELER:* 1. Ask neighbors and friends for recommendations, and if possible, shop around. 2. If a warranty is offered, determine what is covered and who is the warrantor. Always get this information in writing. 3. If buying on credit, be sure all credit terms are spelled out, including the annual percentage rate. 4. Determine the seller's policy on refunds, exchanges, repair or replacement. 5. When buying a diamond, be sure to ask for a written statement of its weight in carats, and, if possible, a statement of its quality (color, clarity and cutting). 6. When buying a gemstone, ask if the original color has been altered or the stone has been treated or even laboratory created. 7. Ask the jeweler for care and cleaning instructions for any jewelry you buy.

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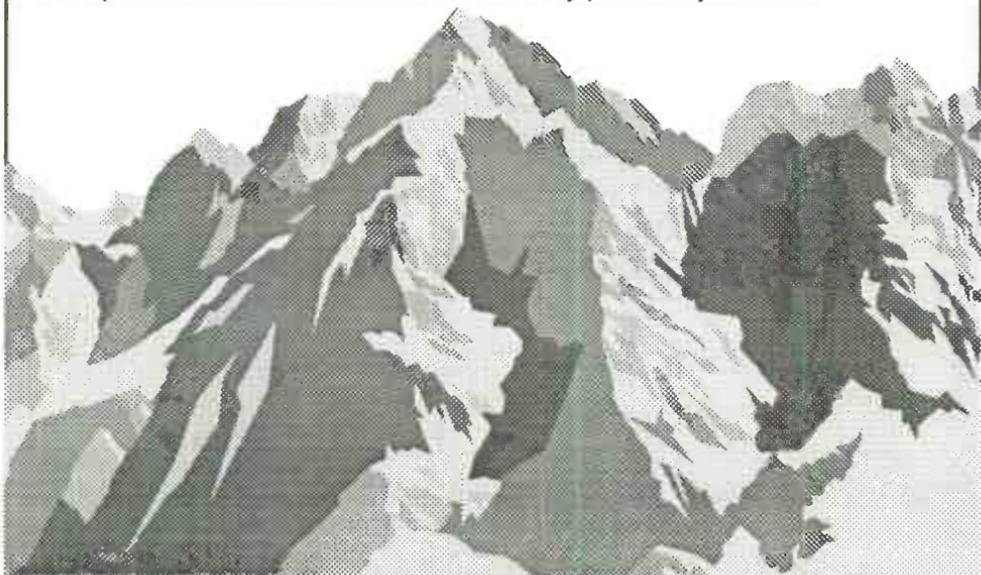
YOU KNOW YOU'RE AGING WHEN....Everything hurts, and what doesn't hurt doesn't work...You feel like the morning after and haven't been anywhere...Your little black book contains only names ending in M.D....You get winded playing chess...Your children look middle aged...You know all the answers, but nobody asks the questions...You walk with your head high, getting used to your bifocals...Your favorite part of the paper is the "25 Years Ago" column...You turn out the light for economic, not romantic, reasons...You sit in a rocking chair and can't get it going...Your knees buckle but your belt won't...You regret all those mistakes resisting temptation...You're 17 around the neck, 42 around the waist and 96 around the golf course...The best part of the day is over when your alarm clock goes off...You burn the midnight oil until 8 p.m....You sink your teeth into a steak and they stay there...There's too much room in the house and not enough in the medicine cabinet.

# Mountain Culture

By "East Side" Dave Kline - WEEU Radio Staff

I have just finished a hearty bowl of my wife's homemade Borscht. The recipe, which I'll share later, came from her Slovak heritage and has been a favorite in our family, even with the children. As I savor the fine red broth and tantalize my taste buds with the fresh beets, potatoes and onions, I am reminded that this dish, (although claimed as native by many eastern regions and peoples in Europe), is actually Ukrainian. The dish has also been woven into the fabric of surrounding regions such as Georgia and, one of the most awesome mountainous areas in the world, the Caucasus.

As a frequent traveler to mountainous regions of the world, I have often found food to be among the most delightful of all cultural aspects of the adventure. Now dear reader, in the pursuit of rekindling magical moments in time, please allow me to relate a tale from my personal journals...



### **Mountain Culture - continued...**

We have arrived during dark political times. Historic times! America and Iraq are engaged in battle. We are within the range of Saddam's Scud Missiles, (although it is needless to worry if he'll point them at the big bear and its mighty Red Army). Tanks have been ordered in to squelch public assembly and dissent in Red Square. Yet we feel strangely secure. Six adventurers exploring the vast wilderness of the then Soviet Union's Caucasus Mountains. We have come due to a shared love of nature, culture, adventure, food, mountains, people, and the celebration of life.

After days of travel, we finally arrive at Alibek, a remote mountaineering camp nestled at the foot of one of the most compelling mountain ranges I've ever seen. We ascend to our lodging in a four-wheel drive bus over a bumpy dirt road that winds upward for two miles with sheer cliffs to our left, and the remains of numerous avalanche slides to our right. Rather than think about all of this to the extent of panic, we decide to let the driver do his thing while we enjoy some local vodka and champagne. Soon we nickname this vehicle, "the Magic Bus"...('cause it'll be magic if we actually arrive at at base camp in one piece!)

### **"Borscht: The center of everything"**

- Ukrainian Proverb

Originating back in the fourteenth century, Borscht is now prepared using methods that vary greatly from region to region. However, the mainstay ingredient is always the nutritious red beet. This fine vegetable also gives the dish its characteristic color and flavor, as well as its name. Borscht derives from the Old Slavonic (brsh - meaning "beet").

In a Ukrainian village home, borscht has always been more than just soup; it usually constituted the central point of a family's entire diet. A traditional borscht could contain as many as twenty ingredients and might end up thick enough for a spoon to stand up in it. Borscht is usually prepared in voluminous quantities for the weeks ahead and is served in a borscht pot situated right in the middle of the traditional family table. The family gathers at meal time, each anticipating the meal with a personally marked wooden spoon. Meat from the borscht is the most prized ingredient and in times of shortage is strictly distributed by age and family rank.

Women who prepare borscht must be skillful cooks due to the Ukrainian custom of judging a woman's domestic qualities by her borscht!

(For more informational reading I suggest: "Please To The Table - The Russian Cookbook by Anya von Bremzen and John Welchman)



### **Mountain Culture - continued...**

This is the Dombai region of the Caucasus, where mountains jut like pyramids into the sky an average of 10 to 13,000 feet above sea level!

One peak particularly resembles Switzerland's majestic Matterhorn. In fact, our camp guides Yuri, Alexi, and Vishka tell us that the peak's nickname is, "The Little Matterhorn".

In camp we are attended to by a personal cook, a personal bartender, four mountain guides, and two translators. The level of service is incredible. At first you sort of want to be left alone...later you realize that these people have been given the awesome responsibility of hosting and watching over United States Citizens. They take that responsibility very seriously! For instance, our cook once told us that it was his job to worry about our stomachs twenty four hours a day!

And, during a conversation about the demanding skiing ahead, one of our U.S. group used American slang to convey how he thought we'd all feel by the same time next evening, (after a full day of climbing and skiing). He said, "I think we'll all be dead!", to which our guide Yuri instantly responded by confidently saying, "Nyet!!! (No) ... You will not die...none of you will die...you will ski...I will bring you back from the mountains alive...I will not let you die!" What can you say in this kind of a situation? Nothing but, "Thanks Yuri...here's a toast to you." "To Yuri...to our countries...to the mountains...to our families...to the adventure...and to anything else anyone can think of!" Several bottles of vodka and champagne later, and after a magnificent meal of some sort of meat-stuffed dumpling in chicken broth, we collapse into bed...the best is yet to come!

The morning sun sets fire to the high peaks as I literally breath in the view from my rooms balcony. Last evening my partner and I had climbed up to a mountain spring that we spied and portaged two one gallon jugs each down to our rooms. Now, on a morning filled with beauty, anticipation, and exhilaration, we each gulp down the clear, ice-cold water. Ahhhhhh...perhaps it's the purest water we will ever enjoy. It becomes a sort of sacrament for us...a communion with Nature before pushing ourselves to our personal limit while exploring a pristine sanctuary of Her domain!



**Author "East Side" Dave Kline (left) with Russian mountain guide "Alexi" after skiing down the Alibek Glacier in the Caucasus Mountains.**



*Located to the north and between the Black and Caspian Seas, the rugged Dombai region of the Caucasus Mountains is crowned by "10,000 footers".*

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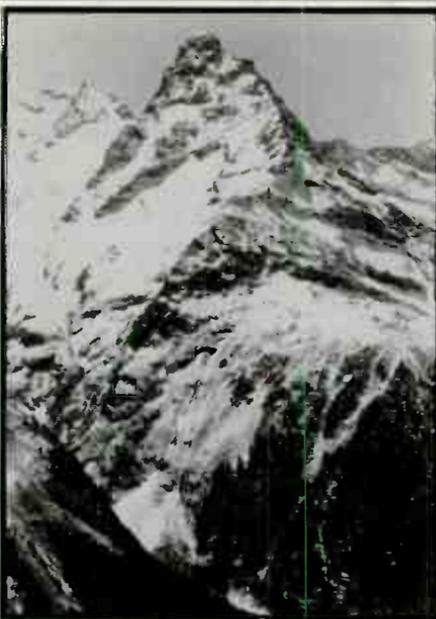
### ***Mountain Culture - continued...***

Ahead lies a 2 hour climb in full packs, skis, and ski boots. Yuri and Alexi have insisted that we attempt to climb and ski the Alibek Glacier on this day. Conditions should be perfect. In order to get on the glacier-field before the sun softens the surface to a dangerous degree, we have climbed out of bed at 5:00 a.m. The effort is to be significant and special as our guides know of only five or six other Americans who have attempted the climb and subsequent ski descent. This region is remote. There are no televisions, newspapers, radios, or telephones. Communication is by a sort of walkie-talkie to and from the next village, and so on!

Breakfast is served in Yuri's quarters. It is quick and simple...bread and hot tea. During bites, Yuri is instructing us about our immediate future. We move outside and cool mountain air again fills our lungs. As with any journey, we begin with the first steps...one foot in front of the other in what will turn out to be over two hours of climbing through woods, past ravines, and ultimately across the headwall of the glacier, then up and over to its throat. On the way we pass several Soviet Climbers/Skiers...and... several more pass us. Time grinds by...in the end, we are reduced to a final group of just three Americans and eight Soviets. Many have turned back. At 11,000 feet above sea level we reach the glacier's headwall...my thighs are on fire...they have reached a point of total exhaustion...just a few hundred feet higher, beyond a huge, yawning crevice, is the throat...our destination...the top of the glacier. Yuri urges us on...he has found the perfect spot to enjoy the view and to begin our ski descent!

**Mountain Culture - continued...**

The view is intoxicating...spectacular... something earned through an intense internal desire to succeed in this effort. We all feel it...there are smiles...no words are needed. I eat a handful of pure glacial snow, its cool and refreshing, like a mountain slushy. We unfurl the U.S. and Soviet Flags and everyone gathers around for this once in a lifetime photo. The wind is gently blowing, part spring warmth, part the chilling caress



**Above: View from the Alibek Glacier toward "the Little Matterhorn".**

of the glacier's eternal winter. We reflect a moment longer, then change from our hiking boots to our skiing boots...kick into our skis...and with a hearty push, we let out a tremendous rebel yell and head into oblivion, into the guts of the glacial ravine! The usually reserved Soviets join in the rebel yell...an echo slaps back from one of numerous peaks above. We follow Yuri, whom we've told not to stop. Blasting our way over ridges, through powder, onto blue-ice, past gaping ravines, we reach the floor of



**After the climb...before the ski descent on Alibek Glacier...flags are unfurled in the spirit of peace, goodwill, and citizen diplomacy.**

### **Mountain Culture - continued...**

the valley where our climb began over two hours ago! Our descent has lasted about 15 minutes! Its an indelible 15 minutes, burned into my memory...I'll get to tell this story over and over again through the ensuing years...to my children...to grandchildren...and if I get senile...there'll always be the pictures and these stories from my journal.

The adventure ends as Yuri leads us through the woods, back into camp. Later that evening, we enjoy more libations accompanied by a delicious vegetarian borscht. To me it is one of the greatest meals ever. We sing Russian and American Folk Songs and we dance. As the night progresses we exchange many thoughts, gifts, and sentiments. The one I'll always remember most vividly was softly spoken by a 15 year old Russian girl named "Ena". She simply looked into my soul and said, "Above all...I wish our countries to be friends!" Ena's statement spoke of a peace of such proportion that anyone who has grown up as I have, during the "cold-war" years, might find it difficult to comprehend. Yet change **has** begun...and if there is ever to be a "new world order" it'll begin with children like this...their children and our children. They're the same worldwide...through their innocence it becomes easy to fall in love with life over and over. Citizen diplomacy is a powerful weapon in the struggle against tyranny, ignorance, and oppression. The exchanging and understanding of culture is fundamental to breaking down the barriers of prejudice and malice.

All of these thoughts flood my mind as I enjoy the first spoonful of my wife's Aunt Mary's borscht recipe. May the peace and happiness that I have found in mountain culture bless your life, family, and table always.

### **"AUNT MARY'S BORSCHT"**

Make broth using 2 lbs chuck roast, 6 peppercorns, 2 bay leaves, and 2 onions.

Put ingredients in stock pot and cover with water, skim when it comes to a boil, cook meat until tender. Remove meat, strain, trim fat off, cool.

Cook - Peel - Grate 5 large Red Beets.

Put beets in broth, cut meat up into bite size chunks and put into broth. Use 2 bullion cubes if broth isn't strong enough.

Peel and boil six large potatoes, then cut into small pieces. Put in broth.

Thin 1 cup sour cream with some milk and mix into borscht. Do not overcook, but rather, cook slowly and gently. Serve warm.

This quantity serves my family of two adults and four children, so judge accordingly. Amount of broth is discretionary.

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It is said there are three ages of women: Youth, middle age and "you haven't changes." But change is the name of the game. Consider that the graduates of the Class of 1934 were before the pill and the population explosion which, inexplicably, went hand-in-hand, so to speak.

We were before television, before penicillin, polio shots, antibiotics, and Frisbees; before frozen food, Nylon, Dacron, Xerox and Kinsey. We were before radar, fluorescent lights, credit cards, and ballpoint pens. For us, time-sharing meant togetherness, not computers; a chip meant a piece of wood; hardware meant hardware, and software wasn't even a word.

We were before Leonard Bernstein, yogurt, Ann Landers, plastics, hair dryers, the 40-hour work week and the minimum wage. We got married first and then lived together (How quaint can you be?).

In our time, closets were for clothes, not for coming out of. A book about two young women living together in Europe could be called "Our Hearts Were Young and Gay." Bunnies were small rabbits and rabbits were not Volks-

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-wagens. We were before Grandma Moses and Frank Sinatra and cup-sizing bras. We wore Peter Pan collars and saddle shoes. Deep cleavage was something the butchers did. Pizza parlors, Cheerios, frozen orange juice, instant coffee and McDonald's were unheard of. We thought that fast food was what you ate during Lent.

We were before FM radio, tape recorders, electric typewriters, word processors, video arcades, electronic music and disco dancing.

In our day, Coke was something you drank, grass was something you mowed and pot was something you cooked in. We were before day care centers, house husbands, baby sitters, computer dating, dual careers and computer marriages.

In our time, there were 5 and 10 cent stores where you could buy things for 5 and 10 cents. One nickel could make a phone call, or buy a Coke, or buy enough stamps to mail a letter and two post cards.

You could buy a new Chevy coupe for \$650, but who could afford that in 1934? NOBODY! A pity, too

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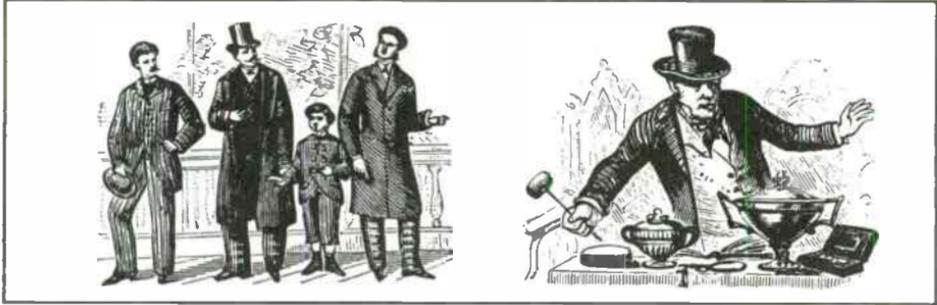
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because gas was only ten cents a gallon!  
If anyone asked us to explain CIA, Ms, NATO, UN, UFO,  
SATS, JFK, BMW, ERA OR IUD, we would have said,  
"alphabet soup." We were not before the difference  
between the sexes was known, but we were before the  
sex change. We just made do with what we had! We were  
the last generation so dumb as to think you needed a  
husband to have a baby.  
The essay title should be "A Different World," but in  
many ways, it was "The Best of Times!"

...by Bill Plummer



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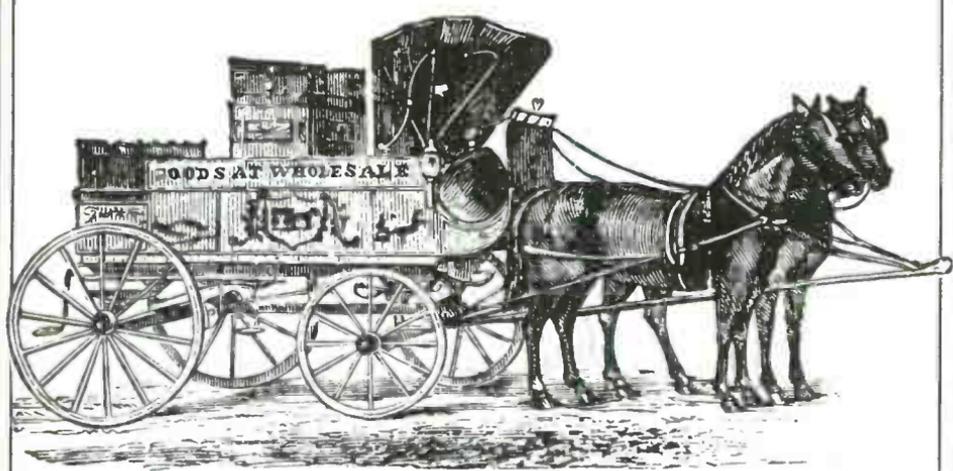
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# FEEDBACK JOURNAL



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*John P. Feeny*  
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*John P.*

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BUY ONE ICE CREAM SUNDAE  
GET ONE FREE

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\$10 Minimum

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**the WEEU Mascot Bear!**

**Offer Valid at Any WEE-U Appearance!**

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# Bender's Bakery

*10% Off Any Baked Goods...Mmmmm!*

Offer expires 12/24/93. Does not include already discounted items.  
See our ad elsewhere in the Feedback Journal.

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*Huge selection to choose from!*

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# VALUABLE \$5.00 COUPON

Present this coupon at Weber's retail store, 900 Penn  
Avenue., Sinking Spring, Pa. Receive \$5.00 OFF any  
purchase over \$20.00

Limit ONE coupon per customer! Expires 12/31/93.

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ONE FREE GAME OF OPEN BOWLING  
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Phone: 929-9481

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EXPIRES 12/31/93

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With every refinishing job and this coupon!

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Must present coupon at time  
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1/31/93



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Only

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(215) 374-9650**

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**85AM-WEEU**

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378-0928

LIMIT: ONE COUPON PER PURCHASE  
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EXCLUDING CUSTOM FRAMING AND FINISHING

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Classified Kitchen...

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Sell your item to one of the many callers who will  
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Pocket the cash you get from the sale!

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Write Your Ad, Placing One Word In Each Box.  
10 Words Plus The Price And Phone Number.

		Price	Phone

**3 LINES**  
**3 DAYS**  
**\$5.00**

- Private individuals only.
- Price and phone # must be in ad.
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- No pet ads.
- Ad runs 3 consecutive days.

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offices and facilities for

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# FEEDBACK 1994 JOURNAL



*A compendium of facts, fun, recipes, remedies,  
puzzles, stories and pronouncements as culled  
from the popular talk-radio show  
"Feedback" and radio station WEEU!*

1994								1994							
	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY		SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
JAN.	2	3	4	5	6	7	1	JULY	3	4	5	6	7	8	2
	9	10	11	12	13	14	15		10	11	12	13	14	15	9
	16	17	18	19	20	21	22		17	18	19	20	21	22	23
	23	24	25	26	27	28	29		24	25	26	27	28	29	30
	30	31							31						
FEB.			1	2	3	4	5	AUG.		1	2	3	4	5	6
	6	7	8	9	10	11	12		7	8	9	10	11	12	13
	13	14	15	16	17	18	19		14	15	16	17	18	19	20
	20	21	22	23	24	25	26		21	22	23	24	25	26	27
	27	28							28	29	30	31			
MAR.			1	2	3	4	5	SEPT.					1	2	3
	6	7	8	9	10	11	12		4	5	6	7	8	9	10
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	20	21	22	23	24	25	26		18	19	20	21	22	23	24
	27	28	29	30	31				25	26	27	28	29	30	
APR.					1	2		OCT.							1
	3	4	5	6	7	8	9		2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	10	11	12	13	14	15	16		9	10	11	12	13	14	15
	17	18	19	20	21	22	23		16	17	18	19	20	21	22
	24	25	26	27	28	29	30		23	24	25	26	27	28	29
MAY	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	NOV.			1	2	3	4	5
	8	9	10	11	12	13	14		6	7	8	9	10	11	12
	15	16	17	18	19	20	21		13	14	15	16	17	18	19
	22	23	24	25	26	27	28		20	21	22	23	24	25	26
	29	30	31						27	28	29	30			
JUNE				1	2	3	4	DEC.					1	2	3
	5	6	7	8	9	10	11		4	5	6	7	8	9	10
	12	13	14	15	16	17	18		11	12	13	14	15	16	17
	19	20	21	22	23	24	25		18	19	20	21	22	23	24
	26	27	28	29	30				25	26	27	28	29	30	31

- January 1—.....New Year's Day  
 January 17—.....Martin Luther King Jr.  
 February 12—.....Lincoln's Birthday  
 February 14—.....St. Valentine's Day  
 February 16—.....Ash Wednesday  
 February 21—.....President's Day  
 March 17—.....St. Patrick's Day  
 March 27—.....Palm Sunday  
 March 27—.....Passover  
 April 1—.....Good Friday  
 April 3—.....Easter Sunday  
 May 8—.....Mother's Day  
 May 30—.....Memorial Day (Observed)  
 June 14—.....Flag Day  
 June 19—.....Father's Day  
 July 4—.....Independence Day  
 September 5—.....Labor Day  
 September 6—.....Rosh Hashana  
 September 15—.....Yom Kippur  
 October 10—.....Columbus Day  
 October 31—.....Halloween  
 November 8—.....Election Day  
 November 11—.....Veteran's Day  
 November 24—.....Thanksgiving Day  
 November 28—.....Hanukkah  
 December 25—.....Christmas Day

1994•WEEU/FEEDBACK JOURNAL•1994

1994

WEEU

FEEDBACK  
JOURNAL

PUBLISHED BY  
WEEU RADIO  
850 AM  
READING, PENNSYLVANIA



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## THE 1994 FEEDBACK JOURNAL

This little book would not be possible without the cooperation and investment made by the businesses which are represented on the following pages. We thank them for their support.

The continued success of the Feedback talk show would not be possible without the volume and the quality of those who call, and those who are content to sit back and listen.

Somewhat unique in its scope and character, Feedback often represents what Berks County is thinking, and has helped mold the community in several ways.

From a personal problem to a lost animal to the venting of emotions regarding an important local, state or national concern, Feedback—through its host, Jack Holcomb (pictured below on Hawk Mountain with one of his red-tailed hawk buddies—is there every weekday morning as a forum which represents the very essence of American radio.

The team of professional men and women at WEEU thank you for your continued support of our programming, and hope you enjoy this year's Feedback Journal!



## A MESSAGE FROM "THE FEEDBACK MAN"

As I reflected on some of my words from our first journal, it seemed that something was missing, or my thoughts weren't really complete...something like the way I give directions!

I wanted to write more about *you*, the real people, the folks and happenings behind the scenes that give Feedback greater depth.

Perhaps the place to start would be the Reading Emergency Shelter where listeners and callers filled refrigerators and freezers with turkeys and hams at holiday time or the response to families in need.

The "Feedback Friends" gave money, clothing, transportation and food. Christmas trees and decorations for the Rainbow Home or money to help a young person needing an operation. Oh, yes, dollars to one of our fine sponsors (Scott Martin) so he could take much-needed spring water to the hurricane victims in Florida or the pet food drive for the Animal Rescue League at Christmas time.

There are so many more...book money for a college student or just taking an elderly person to the hospital to visit a relative and all are done with kindness and caring.

One of the joys of being involved with Feedback is to hear of these incidents plus the friendships that have developed as the result of a helping hand or the meeting because of a phone call. We even had a meeting because of a phone call. We even had a meeting of high school classmates who hadn't seen or talked with each other in 40 years.

Of course, there are stories out there we'll never hear about...some happy and some sad, but all as the result of one daily radio program on WEEU, Monday through Friday from nine to 11:45 a.m.

Maybe we'll learn more about them someday but, in the meantime, we will talk about the problems all around us, listen to the concerns of everyone and hope there will be more smiles than tears...and ALL of them good!a

Thank you for contributing and for being the wonderfully warm people you are...*have a bluebird day!!*

*Jack Holcomb*

# Migration

Cast your eyes  
to the skies and watch...  
Look for an ageless ritual  
to fill the heavens with wings.

Count your feelings  
as you gaze at these birds of prey  
flying through freedom  
following instinct and need.

Circling, hovering, bending,  
darting and floating in and around  
on invisible bubbles  
together and alone.

They point South  
with inner purpose...  
Fall going with them as we follow  
in spirit and wait...

Jack K. Holcomb

## RAISING TEENAGERS

*By Charles J. Adams III*

*WEEU Morning Personality*

Somehow you know it's going to get better.

Somehow, you know the "teenage years" will end, and both you and your teenage child will have survived. The turmoil, the troubles, the travails will be over and life will be back to normal once again.

Then, in a flash, it really *is* over, and you wonder where those years went, and why they came and went so quickly.

We're halfway home with dearest Em--three and a half teen years down, three and a half to go. The years are scurrying by, and while there are times we wish they'd hasten along, there are many more times we hope would never pass.

If nothing else, both parties in the parent/teen relationship should recognize two salient facts: (A) The emerging young man or woman has never been 16 before, and (B) The parents have never been parents of a 16-year old before.

Add to those challenges the pressures, temptations and both positive and negative opportunities in a swiftly-evolving society, and the brew becomes so hot as to occasionally boil over at times.

The teen years, for both those within them and those with their wary noses pressed against the glass, are the best of times and (thank you, Mr. Dickens), the worst of times.

As the hormonal battle rages within the young person, the parents observe with nail-biting angst. It is a time to stress self-respect and discipline. It is a time to resist the urge to belch out something like, "I know, because *I* was a teenager once!" Yes, we were teenagers once, but it was in a societal sphere which was in many ways far different from that of today.

Songwriter/singer/author Jimmy Buffett squeezed an entire four-minute song out of the thought, *We Are the People Our Parents Warned Us About*. With that rather ominous thought in mind, we may better adjust our own attitudes and apply our own experiences when dealing with the teen of the '90s.

What is most difficult, perhaps, for the parent to deal with is the perceived rejection by the teen of the parents' love and concern. When they are hurt, we hurt. When they cry, we cry. When they fail, we feel we have failed.

Conversely, and hopefully more often, there are those magical times when emotions seem to jell. When they laugh, we laugh. When they succeed, we feel we have succeeded.

These times may come as fleeting moments--a gleaming eye, the flash of a smile. It is a snapshot to be stored in the photo album of life, brought out from time to time to savor.

During the teen years, charges and counter-charges are volleyed between parent and child. The teen wearies of the admonitions: "Get off the PHONE!" "Clean your ROOM!" "Be home by ELEVEN!"

What they must remember is that these orders barked out by seemingly dictatorial daddies and mommies are nothing but course corrections called out by the parental navigators who hope with all that is within them to safely steer the fragile vessel which is the teenager through the shoal and rock-strewn channels of adolescence before they enter the open sea of adulthood.

Above all, the teenager must know that the parent not only fears what perils may await their offspring, but also that with each day and each new experience, that child is all too quickly slipping from within the grasp of the parent.

As Harry Chapin once sang:

*I have watched you take shape from a jumble of parts, and find the grace and form of a fine work of*

art...

*Hey you, you brand new woman, you have come into your own, but don't you know that you don't have to grow up all alone.*

It is a delicate balancing act for the parent. There are times when it seems necessary to both pull in the reins and dig in the spurs.

A contributing factor to this tumultuous and tenuous relationship is the slender strip of "quality family time" afforded most families these days.

We are at once blessed and cursed with myriad activities and opportunities. It is increasingly hard to find converging time slots when parents and child may huddle before the hearth. The love and life shared by teens and parents, once allowed to warm for hours, is now a comparative nanosecond, sometimes as rewarding and appetizing as microwaved Spam.

Still, if during the seven teen years the smiles can outnumber the frowns, the laughter can dry the tears, and love can overwhelm the anxiety, stress and suspicion, those years can be joyous and rewarding for all involved.

After all, even microwaved Spam isn't all that bad! *NOTE: Charlie and Theresa Adams' daughter, Emily, turns 18 on March 9, 1994, and their son, Kevin, turns 16 on April 21, 1994.*

•

**DID YOU KNOW:** Long before the 1993 World Trade Center explosion, on July 16, 1916, the Jersey side of New York Harbor witnessed a colossal ground-shaking, glass-breaking explosion at Black Tom (now Liberty State Park) which caused at least \$20 million in damage, two fatalities and countless injuries.

Investigators initially thought it was caused by a defective light bulb, but later realized it was a plot orchestrated by the German ambassador which involved German nationals, British-hating Irish and soldiers of fortune-folks who today we would call terrorists.

Following World War I, Germany was sued for damages. They denied any responsibility. Finally, in 1940, as WWII was beginning, an independent commission concluded Germany was guilty of sabotage. (*"Jerseyana," Marc Mappen, Rutgers Union Press, 1992*)

•

**Why did the little pig leave home?  
Because his father was an awful boar!**

26 SECRETS TO HAPPINESS

- Live beneath your means
- Return everything you borrow
- Stop blaming other people
- Admit it when you make a mistake
- Give any clothes you haven't worn in three years to charity
- Every day, do something nice and try not to get caught
- Listen more, talk less
- Take a 30-minute walk in your neighborhood
- Strive for excellence, not perfection
- Be on time
- Don't make excuses
- Don't argue
- Get organized
- Be kind to people
- Be even kinder to unkind people
- Let someone get ahead of you in line
- Take time to be alone
- Reread a favorite book
- Cultivate good manners
- Be humble
- Understand and accept that life is not always fair
- Know when to say something
- Know when to keep your mouth shut
- Try to go 24 hours without criticizing anyone
- Learn from the past, and plan for the future
- Don't sweat the small stuff

*(From the Weyerhauser Newsletter)*

## 1994•WEEU/FEEDBACK JOURNAL•1994

### JACK, MEET JANE

Below, from left to right: WEEU General Manager Dave Kline, Author and Naturalist Dr. Jane Goodall, WEEU news and air personality Chris Bach, and WEEU personality and Feedback host Jack Holcomb. One of the many benefits derived from local talk radio is the opportunity to serve the community by presenting interesting guests from all walks of life. Jack Holcomb is well-known for his views on conservation, wildlife, birding, and other related topics from the world of nature. During this meeting in 1993 at the Reading Public Museum, Jack and the others from WEEU enjoyed a rare opportunity to discuss with Jane Goodall those issues currently affecting her work with the chimpanzees of the Gombe National Park in Africa. The central message Dr. Goodall wanted to have carried forth was to "help per protect and save animals." Jack was later able to share this information with his WEEU listening audience on "Feedback." In serving the public, there is simply no substitute for first-hand gathering of important information. A radio talk show host's work is never done! *(Journal Photo by Paul Druzba)*



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It is the supreme route through Switzerland by train. Not just any train, but the "Glacier Express," the "panoramic express" with side trips of lake steamers and postal buses.

The public transportation network of Switzerland lets you explore every corner of the country. All you need is a "Swiss Pass." Dill Travel Agency made sure that our group of 23 people from the Berks County area were provided with the Swiss Air flight ticket, the red and white Swiss Pass and advance reservations in all hotels along the way. Once we had all those, our group did not have to worry about a thing.

Upon landing in Zurich, we found that the trains leave from the airport-train station every hour to any destination in Switzerland.



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The transition from plane to train is so smooth that you may not realize that you have actually set foot on Swiss soil until you are comfortably moving along, viewing the spectacular scenery.

Our first stop was Luzerne, in the center of Switzerland. Since the country lies in the heart of Europe, it is a crossroad for numerous international rail connections. Within Switzerland's efficient system, intercity trains whisk you from one main city to the next. Our group did just that for 12 days of joyful adventures.

From the lake region of Luzerne, we went to the pastures of Appenzeller, the cheese-making region of Switzerland through Liechtenstein, to St. Moritz, over the Morterasc glacier, the Bernina Pass to Tirano, which is the Italian region of Switzerland, and back to St. Moritz. From there, the vistas were unlimited, as we, in turn, ascended and descended the terrain following the Rhine River, through 291 bridges and 91 tunnels, some up to eight miles long. We traversed the Oberlap pass, which runs over the glacier that marks the beginning of the Rhine River at one end and the Rhone River at

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he other.

Our destination was Zermatt, which is nestled at the foot of the mighty 14,692 foot Matterhorn. There, I took the occasion to go skiing, in a blizzard, no less!

The temperature on top was 20 degrees F, with winds up to 40 miles an hour. It was May 22. I'll never forget it!

From Zermatt, our group, after boarding the wrong car, descended to the valley. After switching from the "Glacier Express" to the "Blue Panoramic Express," we wound our way through the St. Gotthard Tunnel and the Bernese Oberland to beautiful Interlaken.

From Interlaken, our happy contingent traveled to the "Top of the World." The trip to the Jungfrau region is probably the most dramatic train ride in the world. It ends at Europe's highest train station.

We also didn't want to forget the excursion we took via the Golden Pass to the pearl of the Swiss Riviera, Montreux. This was another lifetime experience, with a stopover in Switzerland's capital, Bern. There, a massive rally was in progress with the pros and cons voicing the opinions of each



*"It looks like we're moving.  
I found a home with a Heffleger Kitchen."*

**J&J Heffleger**

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## 1994•WEEU/FEEDBACK JOURNAL•1994

about modernizing the Swiss Air Force. Referenda on just about anything is a way of life in Switzerland. Our Pennsylvania delegation watched and listened, and then departed from the noisy, but well organized and behaved groups of citizens.

One week after our return home, we found out that by majority vote, Uncle Sam was selected to be the recipient of several billions of dollars for air force fighters and materiel to upgrade the Swiss air power!

A festive farewell dinner concluded our exciting and spectacular journey through breathtaking Switzerland. Despite a substantial amount of sightseeing, we stayed in a total of only five hotels, all four-star. This also minimized the time we had to spend packing and unpacking.

Our train trip was a wonderful way of crossing the Alps with the most modern and convenient system of Swiss railroading.

*Auf Wiedersehen!*



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## THE STORY OF “STOP, LOOK & LISTEN”

During a grade crossing suit, Edward M. Paxson, as an attorney for the Reading, stated in rebuttal: “If you claim that ‘Beware of the Engine and Cars’ is insufficient warning—then I say if the driver of the team would stop, look and listen—this case would never have come to court.”

The use of “Stop, Look & Listen” as a grade crossing warning was soon adopted by the Reading and became the standard safety sign for the nation’s railroads.

*Iron Horse Rambles LP*

*A. Alan Botto, RALBAR Productions*

*LBP-1012, Back Cover, lower right*

*(Contributed to FEEDBACK JOURNAL by Rev. Philip Smith)*

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## TRAIN TRIVIA

(or "HOW WELL DO YOU KNOW THE READING?")

by Rev. Philip Smith

Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church, Stouchsburg  
(and the official FEEDBACK Chaplain)

\*Three places of fond memories just north of downtown Reading: Outer Station, Swinging Bridge, Skew Bridge. The latter was also called the "soap and whiskey bridge," for tradition says the model for the structure was carved in soap and workers were paid in whiskey.

•Where 627 steam locomotives were built along N. 6th St.... Reading shops

•Where cars were built and repaired for locomotives to haul: Car shops

•Last order in Car Shops before Conrail: Rebuilding RDCs (Rail Diesel Cars; built by Budd, self-propelled) for AMTRAK

•Nickname for Schuylkill & Susquehanna, a branch that ran west from the Main Line at Auburn: "The Huckleberry Line"

•City where original P&R depot (1841) still stands along Route 61 on Union Street: Pottsville

•Location of Reading's only circular roundhouse: St. Clair

•Places where big turntable was used before being moved to Railroad

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Museum of Pennsylvania at Strasburg: Bridgeport (Norristown) and West Cressona

- Branch line renowned for mountain scenery, high bridges, huge fills: Catawissa Branch, between E. Mahanoy Junction to West Milton
- Which of the Reading's eight tunnels is the largest? Mahanoy Tunnel, at 3,409 feet
- Where is a genuine P&R coal mine open for tours—with a mine “lokie” ride as well? Ashland
- What famous Reading coal breaker is modeled in Roadside America, Shartlesville? Locust Summit Breaker, complete with coal mine and rotary car dump
- What type of boats sailed in the Reading's Navy? Tugboats
- Which two cities have restored Reading stations? Schuylkill Haven (borough hall) and Lebanon (Railroad Office of Farmers Trust Bank)
- What and where is the oldest railroad-related structure in America? Moncure Robinson's house in Port Clinton
- What huge earthmoving project did the Reading accomplish south of Port Clinton? To bypass a tunnel and two bridges, the Reading moved 330,000 cubic yards of earth and rock in two years (1924-26), moving the Schuylkill River to the north and laying tracks on an artificial river bank

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## 1994•WEEU/FEEDBACK JOURNAL•1994

from Pulpit Rock to Port Clinton. These tracks are used today. The Berks County/Schuylkill County marker stands south of the present bridge (Route 61) where the river used to flow!

*DID YOU KNOW: The first U.S. cheese factory was built in 1851 in Rome, N.Y.?*

*The first butter creamery in the U.S. was built in Iowa in 1871? In 1841, the first shipment of milk by rail was made between upstate New York and New York City>?*

*Homogenized milk was sold for the first time in 1919. in Torrington, Connecticut?*

*In 1964, the plastic milk jug was introduced to consumers? Dairy cattle arrived in America as early as 1525?*

*The first hand operated ice cream freezer was invented in 1845 by a New Jersey housewife, Nancy Johnson?*

*The first ice cream soda was served in 1874?*

*The first ice cream cone was introduced at the St. Louis World's Fair in 1804. Ice cream vendors folded waffles into cones when they ran out of dishes.*

*(Courtesy Pennsylvania Dairy Promotion Board)*



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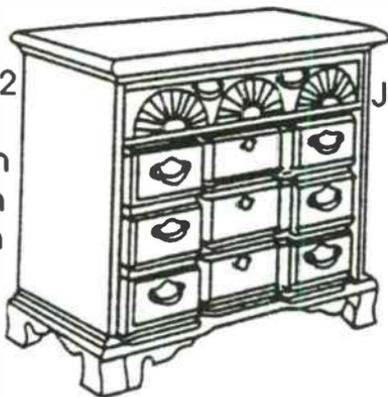
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## THE BOYS AND GIRLS OF EPONYMA

(An Eponym is a word named after a person)

**CAESAR SALAD:** Caesar Cardini (not Julius Caesar), a Tijuana, Mexico, restaurant owner who created the salad

**PEEPING TOM:** Tom (last name unknown) was a tailor who peeked through his window to watch the naked ride of Lady Godiva in 1040.

**JACUZZI:** Candido Jacuzzi (1903-86). His Jacuzzi monoplane crashed in the 1920s, but his work in fluid dynamics paid off with his invention of the pump that kept the water swirling for therapeutic effect.

**MASOCHISM:** Leopold von Sacher-Masoch (1835-95), an Austrian author whose novels depicted hurtful sexual activity.

**BETTY CROCKER:** William Crocker, director of the Washburn Crosby Co., forerunner of General Mills. "Betty" was a fake character created in 1921 to give the company a folksy image.

**BARBIE AND KEN DOLLS:** Barbie and Ken Handler, son and daughter of Ruth and Elliot Handler, founders of the Mattel Toy Company, which introduced the doll.

**FRISBEE:** William and Susan Frisbee, brother and sister who founded the Frisbie Pie Company. At the turn of the century, Yale students discovered their pie tins made excellent flying saucers.

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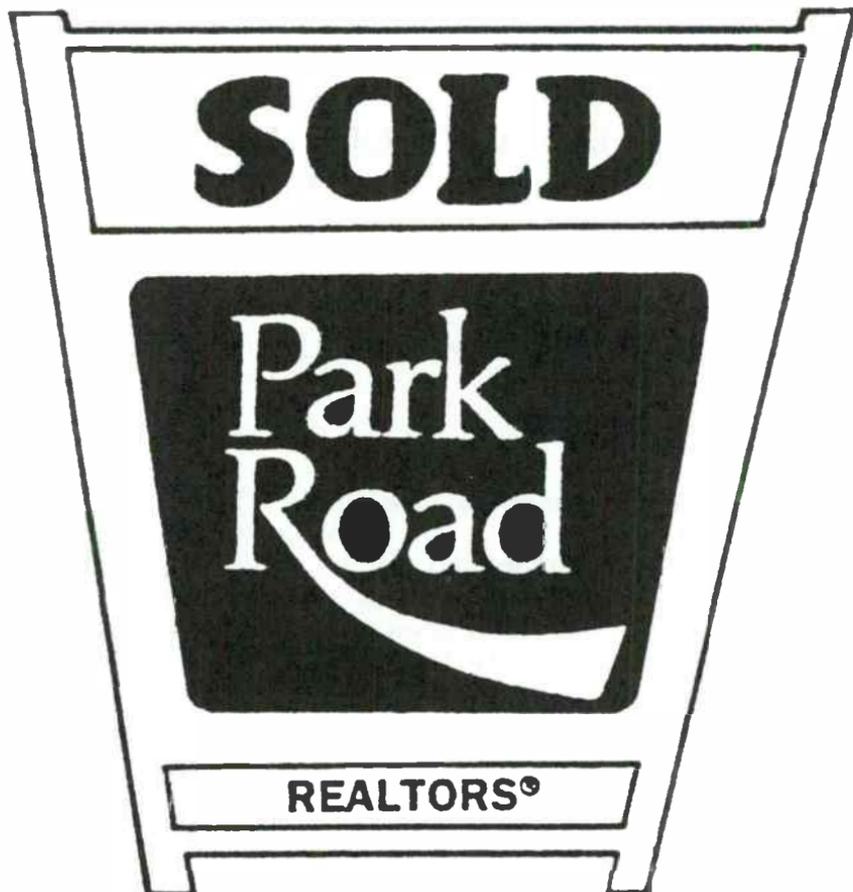
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## THE MAN WHO SOLD HOT DOGS

There was a man who lived by the side of the road and sold hot dogs.

He was hard of hearing, so he had no radio.

He had trouble with his eyes, so he read no newspaper.

But he sold good hot dogs.

He put up signs on the highway telling how good they were.

He stood on the side of the road and cried, "Buy a hot dog, mister."

And, people bought.

He increased his meat and bun orders.

He bought a bigger stove to take care of his trade.

He finally got his son home from college to help him out.

But then something happened.

His son said, "Father, haven't you been listening to the radio? There's a big depression on!

The European situation is terrible.

The Domestic situation is worse!"

Whereupon, the father thought, "Well, my son's been to college. He reads the papers and listens to the radio.

And he ought to know.

So, the father cut down on his meat and bun orders,

Took down his advertising signs,

And no longer bothered to stand out on the highway to sell his hot dogs.

And his hot dog sales fell almost overnight.

"You're right, son," the father said to the boy.

"We certainly are in the middle of a great depression!"

*Don't let this happen to you!*

*(Anonymous)*

## HOW WELL DO YOU KNOW YOUR HOME COUNTY?

*Here's a quiz about Reading and Berks County. Try the questions on a friend, or quiz yourself! Answers on next page.*

1. What Reading man served at Valley Forge as Washington's personal physician?
2. The anchor of what famous battleship may be found in Reading's City Park?
3. Who was Reading's highest-ranking officer in World War I?
4. The most successful automobile production in Reading was accomplished by whom?
5. A fine equestrian statue of what high-ranking Reading army officer is located in Centre Park, Reading?
6. Who was the first mayor of Reading?
7. What building formerly occupied the site of the Berkshire office building at Fifth and Washington Streets in Reading?
8. A statue of one of our assassinated presidents can be found in Reading's City Park. Who was he?
9. A Revolutionary War prisoner of war campsite is now within Reading's city limits. What was its name?
10. To travel from Reading to Philadelphia, Reading residents sometimes use the highway marked as U.S. Route 422. The highway has a name. What is its name?
11. A Reading man ran for president in 1952. What was his name?
12. In what year was the city of Reading founded?-



**DID YOU KNOW?:** 90% of hospital bills contain errors? If possible, keep a log of visits, medication, tests, etc. during your stay. (Charles Inlander, author, "Take This Book to the Hospital With You" (Wing Books, Avenel, N.J.)

## WHY WORRY?

There are only two things to  
worry about;

Either you are well or you are sick.

If you are well, there is nothing to worry about;

But if you are sick, there are two things to  
worry about;

Either you will get well, or you will die.

If you get well, there is nothing to worry about;

If you die, there are only two things to worry  
about;

Either you will go to heaven or hell.

If you go to heaven, there is nothing to worry  
about;

But if you go to hell, you'll be so damned busy  
shaking hands with friends, you won't have  
time  
to worry.



### ANSWERS TO QUIZ ON PREVIOUS PAGE

1. Dr. Bodo Otto
2. U.S.S. Maine
3. Gen. Hunter Liggett
4. Charles E. Duryea
5. Maj. Gen. David McMurtrie Gregg
6. Peter Filbert
7. The Berks County Jail
8. William McKinley
9. Hessian Camp
10. Ben Franklin Highway
11. Darlington Hoopes
12. 1748

# THE LAST CHRISTMAS TREE

By Charles J. Adams III

Peter would watch as the streetcorner forest grew ever deeper with evergreens. He knew Christmas was not far away, and soon school was to be dismissed for the long holiday vacation.

The youngster stood in awe as the men unloaded the trees from their trucks, and the fresh pine scent momentarily washed away the bus-fumed, sewer smells of the city.

Every morning on the way to school, Peter paused for a few moments to watch Mr. Schaeffer line up the trees in neat rows on the sidewalk outside his store. He remembered when his mother used to tell him Mr. Schaeffer was really helping Santa every Christmas by distributing Christmas trees to the people in his neighborhood.

Ah, yes, Peter fondly glanced back on those Christmases of the past. But, they were indeed in the past now. For the last two or three Christmases, the holiday took on a lonelier mood for the boy.

Shirts and socks replaced toy trucks and games. And, although Peter was still a very young boy, he sensed the feelings of love slipping away from his family.

With no brothers or sisters to share his thoughts or join in play, things were lonely enough. But last Christmas brought a hurt that was difficult to bear.

Peter's father slammed the door on his family just a few weeks before last Christmas. After an agonizing period of loud, heated arguments between

his mother and father, which at time brought tears to Peter's eyes as he cringed behind the door of his bedroom, the lad knew someone was going to be hurt.

A hopeful, sometimes pitiful ray of sensitivity shone through the calloused shell of the tough "city kid." Even before his father made that final outburst, Peter knew his Christmas would be lonely.

That was last year, though.

This time around, with all the energy he could muster, Peter hoped for a brighter holiday.

He had learned to live without the man who used to beat him on the Nintendo, the man who used to talk to him for hours. He realized, too, that his mother could never take the place of that man. Nor did she try.

Most of the time, she was too busy for him. It was off to granny's or down to aunt Catherine's, where he would watch TV as he awaited his mother's return. Sometimes, she'd be out for hours. Sometimes, all night.

As the days went by, Peter would grow quite close to the trees at Mr. Schaeffer's. He would touch their spiny limbs as he passed them on the way to school. Some of them became like old friends as they took on personalities of their own.

There was the one with the long, long, needles; the one right on the corner that was mud-splattered by the cars as they sloshed through puddles near the gutter.

One was bent and crippled like the hunchback who cleaned the halls in the schools. Some were more blue than green. Peter didn't know why, but then again Peter didn't know why some of the kids were black and other were white.

Every day, as he walked toward school, the first tree he would greet was the big, beautiful one that looked like it should be a model for Christmas cards. That one was much taller than Peter, and Mr. Schaeffer singled it out from the others, placing it right at the steps in front of the red paint and

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plywood "XMAS TREES 4 SALE" sign.

The last tree he greeted was the pathetic, spindly one the men laughed at when they took it off the truck. It was put away in the back of the others, propped up against the Pepsi machine.

Every day, Peter noticed a carpet of dead needles at its trunk. Every day, the carpet grew thicker, and once in a while Peter would pick up a handful of needles and snap them in two as he skipped on to his classes.

"Hey, Peter, did you mother get her Christmas tree, yet?" Mr. Schaeffer called to the boy one day. "Tell her I've got a nice one here and I'll give her a special deal."

Mr. Schaeffer's hand was on the big tree near the sign as he shouted to Peter. Could it be *that* tree that he'd sell to his mother?

Gee, he thought, they'd need a step ladder just to put the angel on top!

"No, she didn't get our tree yet," Peter replied. "I guess she's gonna wait until Christmas eve."

Peter mouthed those words but knew deep down that there would probably be no tree at his house again this year. His mother already told him to try to find something to do on Christmas eve. She was going to a party.

Still, Peter reserved some hope in his heart that the big tree would shine brightly in his living room.

School was dismissed early. So, with an afternoon to kill, Peter figured he would just go down and watch the activities at Mr. Schaeffer's.

Peter sat on the steps of the church across the street from the store. With his chin cupped in his hands, he whiled away the afternoon watching other fathers and mothers buying trees for other kids.

It was just three days before Christmas, and Peter was getting more and more anxious. Would his mother come for or send him for a tree? Would it be the kind of Christmas he had hoped for?

The morning after school let out, Peter decided

to go back to the church step again and watch the goings-on at the tree corner. He was there but a few minutes when Mr. Schaeffer noticed him and motioned for him to come over.

"Not much to do since school's out, eh?" said the milky-haired man.

"Nope. But it's neat watching people come for their trees."

"Well, look, Peter," the man said through a "citified" Pennsylvania Dutch accent, "How'd you like to give me some help?"

Help? A job? It sure sounded good, and, what the heck, he thought, he had nothing better to do. He'd do it.

"I'll do it!"

Peter's first task was to load the hunchback onto the roof rack of a Toyota. As he struggled to lift the tree, he heard the buyer tell Mr. Schaeffer, "I got a crooked tree about five years ago because it was the only one left, and now it's become sort of a tradition in our house to get crooked trees."

Mr. Schaeffer just chuckled, said "Thanks and Merry Christmas," and walked to the car to give Peter a hand tying the tree safely to the roof rack.

"Good job, son," the old man said as the car pulled away with its piggy-back cargo. "Peter, your mother still hasn't gotten her tree yet," he added.

He was right. Only a couple days before *the* day, and still no tree.

But, there was still hope.

Each night, in the hour or so he could share with his mother before she went out, she would talk of Christmas. How Peter would have fun at granny's on Christmas day. How Peter shouldn't look in the back closet because his presents were hidden there.

The night before Christmas eve did little to encourage Peter's hopes. His mother hurriedly prepared supper, and dressed quickly for another evening away from home.

There were but a few images of holiday spirit in

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their house. His mother had propped up the few Christmas cards on the "knickknack" shelf. Every time one came, Peter would look in vain to see if it was from his father.

Surely, Peter's hopes were staggering into a pit of loneliness that would be his Christmas.

Christmas eve morning, Peter awoke as usual. His mother never woke up before nine, and Peter would have to dress and make a quick breakfast for himself before rushing off to school.

Today, and for the last two days, though it was off to his job!

His new responsibility made him feel much older than his ten years. Why, the money he earned in one day at Mr. Schaeffer's amounted to a month's worth of allowances!

As soon as Peter arrived at the tree stand, he was charged with putting a tree in a little old lady's car trunk. A fine way to start the day, he thought. He knew it would be a busy day, and although there were only a few trees left, all would be gone before nine that night.

"Merry Christmas, Peter," was Mr. Schaeffer's greeting. "Big day ahead!"

Peter was looking forward to the rush of the last-minute Christmas Tree shoppers. After all, Christmas was no fun unless you rushed around until the stores closed and the big, long wait began.

The couple of days he spent loading the trees onto trunks and onto roofs had taken their toll on his already tattered jacket.

The evergreen needles pierced through the threadbare sleeves and tickled his nerves. When he got home at night, he would pull the tiny, green words out of the cloth.

Peter was too busy to notice it before, but byolly, the big, beautiful tree in front of the sign was still there.

As he surveyed his corner empire, he noticed, too, that the poor, scrawny sapling at the Pepsi

machine was also there.

By this time, its branches were almost naked as the pile of dead needles at its base grew thicker. Virtually all vital signs of life were gone when the poor thing was unloaded, and since then, the tree just rested and watched at the other, hardier trees found holiday homes.

As Peter spent the idle minutes between customers, his thoughts turned back to *his* Christmas.

His mother still hadn't come by for a tree, and it was no longer a matter of days, but only *hours* left!

He began to resign himself to the fact that his Christmas would be spent without a Christmas tree.

The pretty, blue and gold balls his mother bought two Christmases ago would catch another year's worth of dust in the attic. The only Yuletide lights for Peter would be provided by the television.

Peter fought back the tears of distress. He couldn't cry. He had a job! What would his boss think if he saw his best tree loader crying?

Behind Peter, and without the boy's knowledge, Mr. Schaeffer watched as the lad stared hopelessly at the well-shaped tree near the sign. The storekeeper knew of Peter's home situation, and could read the boy's thoughts.

He knew that Peter's Christmas would be tarnished, and anything but merry. He knew when Peter said "Merry Christmas" to customers as they got into their cars that it was hollow. It was just something he said, not something he felt.

Suppertime came quickly that day. So many people had come by during the day that Peter lost track of the time.

And, the supply of trees had dwindled to four.

Just after supper, darkness shrouded the city, and the corner was emblazoned by the naked white lights strung from the telephone pole to the wall of Mr. Schaeffer's store.

"It'll only be an hour or so until you can go home," promised Mr. Schaeffer.

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"That's OK," said Peter. "I'll stay until the last Christmas tree is sold."

Mr. Schaeffer could now detect a vacant, shallow tone in Peter's voice. Both he and the boy knew that the last spark of hope that Peter's mother would buy a tree had died.

The conversation was interrupted by the arrival of a customer. "Well, nice to see somebody still has some trees left," the man exclaimed as he got out of the car.

"The wife and I have been driving all over town, and all that's left is, well, scrawny little twigs...like that one back there," he chuckled, pointing to the skeletal tree in the back of the lot.

Still laughing, the man pointed to one of the four remaining trees, gave Mr. Schaeffer ten dollars, and helped Peter drag it out to his trunk.

It wasn't long until another car pulled up.

"Hey! How much for your trees?"

"Got one for ten, fifteen and twenty bucks. And, I can let you have that one (pointing toward the Pepsi machine) for five."

As the buyer approached, he motioned for a ten dollar tree, which Peter then picked up and carried to the man's car.

"Thanks much, mister," the man said as he walked back to the car.

"Yep, Merry Christmas," was the reply from Mr. Schaeffer.

Schaeffer turned to Peter, "Well, my boy, it's almost seven o'clock. I guess you can run along now. Only two trees left, and I don't think anybody'll be around for them."

The words were hardly out of Mr. Schaeffer's mouth when a car pulled curbside and its two occupants alighted.

"Humph...a little rich kid," Peter mumbled quietly to Mr. Schaeffer.

"Yeah, a rich kid. After all, he was wearing a sport coat and a little tie. And, Peter though, only

rich kids and fairies wear sport coats and ties!

"Daddy, daddy...gimme that one," the little rich kid demanded. "Daddy" was quick to respond to the boy's wishes, and handed Mr. Schaeffer a twenty dollar bill, a then a ten dollar bill.

"Will that cover it, sir?"

"Yep, in fact, the tree's only tw...."

"That's all right, keep the change. And have a nice Christmas."

Peter finished loading the tree into the trunk of the sleek car, and walked slowly back to Mr. Schaeffer as the last customer drove away.

"Guess that's it," sighed Peter.

"Yep, son. That's it. Here's your three dollars for a good day's work. Sorry your mom..."

Schaeffer stopped suddenly.

Peter's got enough sorrow in his heart. Schaeffer decided not to further the boy's melancholy.

"Thanks a lot, Mr. Schaeffer." The words came hard from his lips. Then, almost in a mechanical way, Peter added, "Merry Christmas."

Peter's head was hung low as he shuffled slowly down the street, toward a home that would harbor a bleak holiday.

Mr. Schaeffer headed back up the steps to close his store. As he counted the day's "take," he thought back to just a few minutes ago.

A ten dollar tip. Heck, that's the price of a whole tree!

As he hobbled up to the door, his eyes caught the glow of the Pepsi machine, and the solitary tree resting against it. "Oh, my goodness," he said to himself.

"Peter, Peter, wait!" Schaeffer's voice echoed through the empty corridor of brick and concrete.

"C'mere a minute!"

Peter turned at the shot of Mr. Schaeffer's call. He made an about-face from his aimless, despondent walk toward home, and headed back to the corner.

"Yessir?"

"Peter, you said you'd stay until the last Christmas tree was sold."

"Yessir."

"Well, what about that one?," Schaeffer said, pointing to the Pepsi machine.

Peter never really considered *that* tree. With all the others, who would buy *that* one? He's known it for what seemed like a year. He passed it every day on the way to school, but nobody else would even look at it without laughing it or pitying it.

"Tell you what, Peter. Suppose you take that one home with you. My present to you and, uh, your mother."

Peter's eyes glittered with the reflection of the string of lights overhead. A warm, fantastic feeling swept his body and touched the depths of his heart and soul.

For the first time in so many woeful days, the spirit of Christmas swirled in his mind.

For a split-second, the lonely street was filled with scurrying Christmas shoppers. Neon Santas and blinking snowmen flashed "Season's Greetings" into the darkness.

The desolation he had felt for such a very long time was wiped away with the few words spoken by Mr. Schaeffer.

Peter couldn't come up with the right words, and with tears draining his eyes, he shook his head in acceptance.

He was to have a Christmas tree after all!

And, although it was the forsaken, scrawny, scoffed-at and scorned tree...the last Christmas tree...it was *his* Christmas tree.



*Botanically speaking, tomatoes are considered fruits, even though they are most often used as vegetables. However, in 1893, a Supreme Court decision reclassified the juicy red fruit as a juicy red vegetable, ending all public debate!*

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Almost without fail children will reply at least half the time to the question of "What are you doing?" with a resounding and confident "Nothing!" And, for the most part, this response is the farthest from the truth. The following is meant to be a children's poem...A sort of treatise on the fine art of nothing.

**NOTHING**

by Beth E. Trapani

"Nothing!", they cried...down to parents below  
But Mrs. McFerrin surely did know  
That something was up-up and about...  
She always knew that, when she heard them all shout  
"Mom, it is nothing", (after quite a long pause)  
"We're innocent angels-just ask Santa Claus!"  
But with eyebrows raised high, and questioning looks  
Mrs. McFerrin's whole stout body shook  
As she slowly began to climb up the stair  
All the while she went...fixing her hair-  
Adjusting her housecoat, smoothing her hose  
Upon reaching the top, her cheeks flushed bright rose.  
"I'm coming", she warned them, with a hint of delight

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As she wondered just what they were doing that night.  
For no one knew (no one over ten)  
Just what "nothing" meant...Not how, and not when.  
Was it some kind of game, with rabbits and mice?  
Was it some sort of meal, with red sauce and spice?  
Was it some type of dance, with Indian chiefs?  
Or was it a holiday, with red bows and wreaths?  
Was it the sequel to "Little Bo Peep?"  
Or was "nothing" a big game of hide-and-go-seek?  
Well, Mrs. McFerrin was a curious mom,  
And opened the door as she called out to Tom  
And to Jasper and Jenny, and Liza Lee Lynn,  
"My word, my dear children...where have you all been?"  
"I've called and I've called you-but no one replied!"  
"...Right here in this room, mother", all of them cried.  
"But what were you doing?", their mother wanted to know-  
"And don't tell me 'nothing'...hey-where's Suzy Jo?"  
"Not with us", they all answered, "She hasn't been here".  
So Mrs. McFerrin ran downstairs in fear.  
"Suzy Jo!", she called out, and searched through the house.

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*Meanwhile upstairs, quietly—as a mouse  
Out crawled Suzy Jo, as her siblings all clapped  
—Their mother had fallen right into their trap!*

*...And the children were happy—all simply because  
Still no one knew...just what 'nothing' was.*

*Beth Trapani spent the summer of 1993 as an intern at WEEU.  
A native of Orwigsburg, Beth is currently a sophomore at  
Carnegie-Mellon University in Pittsburgh, and has her sights  
set on a career in radio, newspapers, writing, television, or  
wherever she can use her many fine talents.*



DID YOU KNOW...your complicated remote control zapper was once a wired item called Lazy Bones (1952) that failed because viewers were always tripping over the wire? In 1956, after many tries and much experimentation, the wireless Zenith Space Commander became an industry sensation. Its infrared successor is now everywhere.

# By The Scoop

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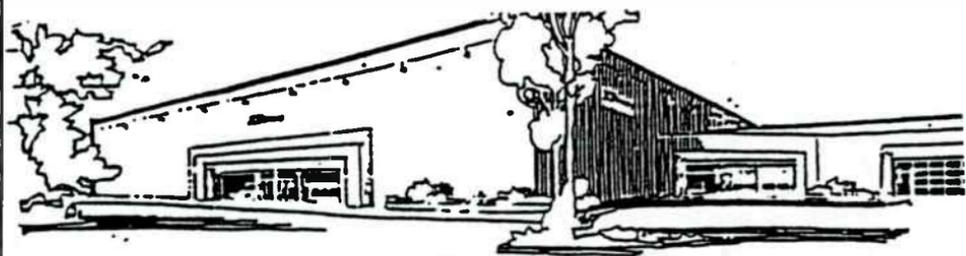
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## TRY TO TACKLE THIS TANTALIZING TWISTER OF THE TONGUE!

A Texas A & M University English Professor won a magazine contest for his tongue-twisting explanation of what happened to Peter Piper's Peck of Pickled Peppers.

Frank Pierce's explanation went something like this:

*Penelope P. (for Pinchpenny) Piper, who is a pleasingly plump, paunchy protuberant and perennially provocative person, ate Peter Piper's peck of pickled peppers in the postprandial period. Penelope Pinchpenny Piper, who picked Penelope as a precipitant participant for premarital play, prompting Papa Pinchpenny's parental protection from Penelope and promises of pow! pow! pow! to Peter if he procrastinated proposing-plausible? Perfectly!*



**AN AFTERTHOUGHT:** In supermarkets today, the shopping carts easily attain speeds of more than \$55 per hour!



*DID YOU KNOW? Your hotel stay will be safer if you book a room near an elevator, never accept a room with one lock or one without a peephole, request a hotel employee to escort you to your room late at night, and call the desk before accepting unexpected deliveries.*

## LOVE OF THE BIG BANDS

By Lew Runkle

You never forget falling in love. You may not recall the hour nor the day, but you'll always remember the moment.

It was an evening in the late 40s, I was seated down front in the Rajah Theater, Billy Butterfield and his orchestra were on stage when I fell in love with the big bands.

Why Butterfield? Why now? True, I'd been exposed to the bands during my developing years, through the radio, but never moved to go hear one live. Remember, though, in those days a teenager's horizons weren't nearly as broad as today. For a kid from the West Side, the world ended on the Reading side of the Penn Street Bridge. And the only live music I'd ever been exposed to was the annual spring concert of the Ringgold Band at the Rajah, in the company of my mother. At least when the time came to "cut loose," I knew how to find the theater.

The way it happened, fellow West Reading High School student and radio announcer-to-be George Naftzinger (George

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McCall on WEEU a few years later) brought Billy Butterfield to a school assembly...don't ask me how or why...in conjunction with Butterfield's appearance that weekend at the Rajah. George interviewed the former Artie Shaw and Benny Goodman trumpeter...Butterfield may have played a solo (I'm not sure). But it was enough to arouse my curiosity. All this talk about Billy and his band and I just had to see and hear for myself.

Not knowing what to expect from the stage show, I settled into my seat during the feature film which preceded it. But when the footlights came up and the curtain opened and the Butterfield band launched into its first number, I was hooked. I can't explain the emotion I felt but the goosebumps gave evidence. The show included several Vaudeville acts, but I kept rooting for them to be over; all I wanted was to hear the band. I was so enthralled, in fact, that when the show ended, I sat through the movie again just so I could hear more of Butterfield.

In subsequent weeks, as new bands came through town (rarely did I miss one), I perfected the routine. I'd time my

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arrival at the Rajah with the start of the stage show so I could listen to the band twice, while sitting through the feature film only once.

Aah, those bands!

Drummer Ray McKinley, Philadelphian Elliot Lawrence (I wore out several copies of his Columbia 78 "Sugar Beat"), Tommy Dorsey's brother Jimmy and Bing Crosby's brother Bob, who led a Dixieland-oriented crew. There were also Boyd Raeburn, who linked jazz with the classics, Raeburn alumnus Johnny Bothwell, and the legendary Duke Ellington; spent a New Year's Eve in the Rajah's second balcony enjoying The Duke.

The list goes on. It includes Art Mooney, who could play straight ahead or sound like a Philadelphia string band on recordings like "I'm Looking Over a Four Leaf Clover"...Tommy Tucker, whose band gave exposure to an aspiring young vocalist named Eydie Gorme...Left-handed violinist Johnny Long, whose big hit was "Shanty in Old Shanty Town"...and Sammy Kaye-his schtick was *"so you want to lead a band."*

Trumpeters made good front men-Charlie Spivak, Ray



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Anthony (he played the Plaza Theater on North Fifth Street while the Rajah was undergoing renovations) and Larry Clinton, of "Dipsy Doodle" and "The Wheels Keep Spinning" fame (Larry's band members stood through the entire performance).

I must make special mention of the Claude Thornhill Orchestra. Thornhill's delicate keyboard touch, intertwined with sometimes rich, velvety ballads...sometimes airy, swinging things made this crew one of my favorites ever. Much of the credit for the overall sound was the addition of French horns to the standard big band instrumentation. And, too, there were the lovely vocal stylings of Fran Warren ("A Sunday Kind of Love" and "For Heaven's Sake," the latter of which remains one of my favorite recordings of all time). Among the saddest disappointments of my life was going to see the Thornhill band at the Rajah, only to discover that Warren had left the orchestra three weeks earlier.

Rounding out the Rajah roster were the bands of saxophonists Hal McIntyre and Tony Pastor...and the saccharin-sweet sounds of Victor Lombardo, Guy's sibling.

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The end of the passing parade of bands at the Rajah and the acquisition of my first car happened within the same frame of time, thus permitting me to continue my courtship of the big bands at new, more distant venues. Sunnybrook in Pottstown, the Hershey Park (two words in those days) Starlight Ballroom and Ephrata Legion Park all suddenly became accessible. Now the names of the name bands became really big names.

Les Brown, Benny Goodman, Xavier Cugat, Louis Armstrong, Lee Castle, Guy Lombardo himself, Stan Kenton (who turned this love to passion) and Woody Herman.

The Herman band, or the Third Herd as it was known then, has had special meaning in my life. First saw the band at Sunnybrook on May 17, 1952; first formal date my wife-to-be Mary Ann and I had; we were married three years later, almost to the day.

In the interim, Uncle Sam beckoned, I was drafted into the U.S. Army and, as fate would have it, assigned to the same unit at Camp Rucker, Alabama, as Dick Turchen, who just happened to be Woody Herman's road manager. Dick and I

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spent countless hours talking big band talk, but imagine the thrill when Turchen arranged for the Herman Herd to play a date in camp!

The band opened with a concert for the masses at the Post Theater, then relocated at the Officers' Club for a dance. As an invitee, I was introduced by Turchen to his Uncle Abe, who handled Woody's personal management; to Dick Martin, purveyor of sophisticated sounds on WWL, New Orleans, whose nightly radio offerings helped speed those service years; to band vocalist Dolly Houston and to the leader himself. As an impressionable kid, out in the real world for the first time and hardly dry behind the ears, I was impressed.

Years later, went to Sunnybrook to hear the Herman band only to discover the band without Woody. He was ill in New York. Instead, the band was fronted that night by a well and vibrant Maynard Ferguson, whose high-note artistry thrilled me not only on that occasion, but much earlier with the Stan Kenton Orchestra and on a dozen or so dates with assorted versions of his own band.

Another of those rare, once-in-a-lifetime experiences

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occurred during a Harry James appearance at Sunnybrook: A rather gaunt Buddy Rich, recovering from a heart attack, mounted the stand for the second set and proceeded to kick that band into overdrive.

Subsequently, I'd been privileged to hear Buddy with his own band on a couple of occasions and that band remains one of my three favorites of all time.

Number two would have to be Count Basie, whose band was best when driven by a powerhouse drummer, Sonny Payne and Butch Miles being two of the most notable.

First time I got to hear the Basie crew was a Birdland in New York in 1955...my wife and I were on our honeymoon. A young upstart was singing with the band...things like "The Comeback" and "Everyday I Have the Blues"...fella by the name of Joe Williams!

Basie always featured top sidemen: Pottstown's Al Grey on trombone, Basie's lifelong friend Freddie Green on guitar, saxophonists Eric Dixon and Frank Foster (the latter who still fronts the Basie band today).

I previously mentioned the Post Theater at Camp

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Rucker...another band that came through during my stay was former Glenn Miller sideman Tex Beneke and his "Music in the Miller Mood," featuring a pretty blonde singer (whose name escapes me) who escorted a very lonely soldier boy from the audience to the stage to sing to him.

Yeah, *me!*

Other band that have entertained me over the years include Louis Prima, who shared the spotlight with Mrs. Prima, Keely Smith; Ted Heath, one of Great Britain's premiere band leaders who toured this country while Stan Kenton toured England in a cooperative exchange between the music unions of the two nations; Les Elgart, whose music we danced to while a half-mile out at sea (in the Marine Ballroom at the ocean end of the former Steel Pier in Atlantic City); Freddy Martin, who featured a "boy" vocalist named Merv Griffin...and a trio of bands born in the recording studio whose leaders later hit the road-Billy May, Ralph Flanagan and Buddy Morrow. An otherwise useless bit of trivia that you might be able to fashion into a bar bet...Buddy Morrow and the previously-mentioned Charlie Spivak were both



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natives of New Haven, Conn.

However, from the moment I first hear the band to this day, Stan Kenton remains for me the epitome of the big bands. Over a span of more than 25 years, I got to see and hear the Kenton orchestra nearly fifty times, from Hershey to Sunnybrook, from Stokesay Castle in Reading to Pushnik's Lounge in Lebanon, from the Academy of Music in Philadelphia to the Reading Fair-how's that for diversity?

Much of the success enjoyed by Stan Kenton is attributable to the fact that through nearly forty years of band-leading, this dynamic figure associated himself with some of the finest players in the business...Maynard Ferguson, Conte Candoli, Kai Winding, Bob Fitzpatrick, Art Pepper, Willie Maiden, Zoot Sims and Shelly Manne, to mention just a few. But his piano player never changed.

Music of the Kenton band ran the gamut...from pulsating Latin sounds, to hauntingly beautiful ballads, to driving, straight-ahead jazz. And always, that captivating, spine-tlinging theme..."Artistry in Rhythm."

Two bands I never got to see, and wish I had...the

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experimental orchestra of Sauter-Finegan in the 1950s...and Artie Shaw. Never heard Tommy Dorsey or Vaughn Monroe in person, either, but did get to meet and shake hands with the leaders.

Love did not die...only the bands I loved which have faded from the scene. The memories remain, but memories alone are not enough to sustain continuing needs. When and where will I find love again? Funny you should ask!

Interesting to note that the tape I unconsciously dropped into the stereo player for some musical accompaniment as I put the finishing touches to this piece was not one of my beloved big bands...but rather some vintage...Chicago!

*LEW RUNKLE, who has done just about everything in radio in his four-decade career, wakes up many Berks Countians with his "Early Bird Show" weekdays from 5-6 a.m. on WEEU. An artist, writer, poet, cook and golfer, Lew lives up to his motto, which closes his program each morning, "Smile Awhile!"*

Ugli fruit, not commonly known in the United States, is easy to spot because of its wrinkled, shriveled skin. It's believed to be a cross between a mandarin and a grapefruit, and shares the zestiness of each of its ancestors.

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## Some Thanksgiving Thoughts

The Johnsons had two turkeys so  
They sent one down the street  
To Widow Brown who worked so hard  
Her family's bills to meet.

Now Widow Brown had one small hen  
So, when the turkey came,  
She had her children take the hen  
to Miss Carr, old and lame.

Miss Carr, so glad to get the hen  
Was stirring up a cake;  
"A half of this," she said, "to John,  
A blind man, near, I'll take."

"My, how I like a bit of cake..."  
Old John was filled with joy.  
"I have two apples, one shall go,  
To that poor Connor boy."

Now if you want a happy time  
Thanksgiving day, this year,  
Just do as all these people did-  
Pass on some of your cheer!

Author Unknown

## LARGE DOGS: WHICH BREED IS FOR YOU?

by Beth E. Trapani

Second only to babies, puppies provoke much gushing; they're cute, they're cuddly, they're little. But for the more ardent dog lover who will cherish the grown up version just as much as the little tyke, a puppy is as individual as a human child—each with its own look and personality. So before you set out to invite a youngster into your life, it may be wise to ask, Libra or Leo—Collie or Chihuahua?

There is certainly something to be said for the mongrel. He's cheap (or free), no doubt in need of a good home, and quite often makes a nice family pet. But pups with a pedigree stack up the advantages. Purebred dogs are more predictable—each breed has specific behaviors, sizes, strengths, traits, etc. The mutt is often a potluck choice. How big will he become? How much will he shed? Will he chew or dig?

There are more than a hundred breeds of purebred

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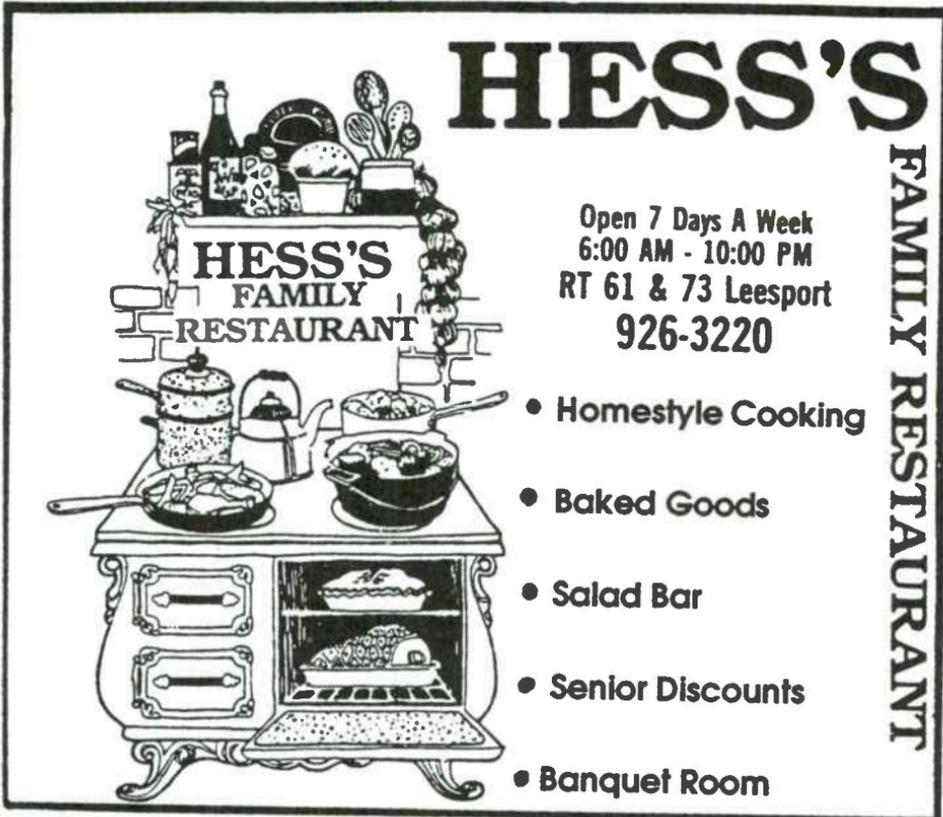
**Route 61 Hamburg, Pennsylvania**

dogs to choose from. But size preference places dog lovers and owners into two very different groups; there are large dog people, and there are small dog people. And while the Poodles and Pomeranians prance to the left, the Shepherds and Sheepdogs trot to the right. And so we turn to the right, to examine the large dogs.

Compared to their smaller brothers, large dogs typically are:

- *Not as excitable*
- *Not as prone to excessive barking*
- *More receptive to obedience training*
- *More protective*
- *Less likely to express dominance over their owners*
- *Less likely to snap at children*
- *Easier to housebreak*

There are a number of things to consider when selecting a large breed that will complement you, your family, and your lifestyle.



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Just as some children require a more watchful eye while others can be left to play by themselves, some dogs need more attention. Some questions to ask:

•Can I leave him (or her) alone and be assured the couch will not be chewed, the table scratched, the curtains torn down?

•Will he be a good watchdog?

•Will he be easy to housebreak?

•How much time will I have to spend grooming?

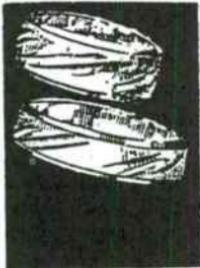
In general, all large dogs (any breed weighing typically 60+ pounds) are relatively easy to housebreak, except for the Afghan Hound, who may take more time. The problem child of the large breeds, the Afghan (though a beautiful dog) will also require considerably more grooming than most of the other large breeds. Afghan Hounds are often highly destructive—so are the Alaskan Malamute, the Weimaraner, and the German Shepherd. Collies, Akitas, Newfoundlands, and Golden Retrievers are the least

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destructive of the large breeds.

If you plan to be away a lot and are relying on your dog to keep guard over the household, consider the typical "watchdog," a Rottweiler, a German Shepherd, or a Doberman Pinscher. Afghans, Malamutes, Newfoundlands, Saint Bernards, Vizslas and Norwegian Elkhounds are more likely to play with than bark at intruders.

### HOME SIZE: ACREAGE VERSUS APARTMENT

Large dogs are more prone than smaller dogs to a disease called Hip Dysplasia. Hip Dysplasia is a bone and tendon disorder easily prevented through proper feeding and lots of exercise. So it is important that the large dog has room to roam-but if walked regularly, a small space should not pose a problem.

Apartment dwellers will not want a dog that is destructive. They will want a relatively clean dog with low body odor. Steer clear of Labrador Retrievers and Newfoundlands who are in a constant state of drool and slobber. Adorable? Perhaps. Clean? No.



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Each genus of the canine species is noted for a certain personality. Each line within the breed is also noted for such. And of course, each individual animal possesses his very own attitude. But one can make a good estimate as to what type of emotional creature the pup will grow into by examining breed profiles and speaking with breeders.



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Generally, a trait confined to the smaller breeds: excitability runs low in large dogs—except for the Irish setter—the large breed most given to neuroticism. The lumbering, laid back (and very large!) 140 pound Newfoundland is amongst the calmest of canines; he is more than content to amuse himself by napping the afternoon away. Newfies are lovable dogs despite their lethargy. They are also great water dogs, and are even equipped with webbed toes made for swimming! Australian Retrievers are generally willing waders. German Shepherds are also known for their propensity for swimming.

Along with neuroticism comes playfulness, and here the Irish Setter also ranks high. Gentle roughhousing will be warmly welcomed by German Shorthaired Pointers, Labrador Retrievers, Vizslas, German Shepherds and Weimaraners.

If intelligence is what you're searching for, opt for a German Shepherd, said to be the smartest of the large breeds. Also consider a Doberman Pinscher, or

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Labrador or Golden Retriever. If the new puppy will be joining a home already populated with canines, or if he will be expected to associate with other dogs, look into a Golden, a Newfoundland, or a Collie. Avoid Alaskan Malamutes, unless you want to spend considerable time mediating in doggie relationships.

If you are interested in obedience training (a highly recommended practice that will help foster mutual respect between you and your dog), you should note that Shepherds, Dobermans, Collies and Retrievers are the fastest learners and the most obedient of the large dogs. Afghan Hounds are tough to train, work with, and control-most are too flighty and easily distracted.

### MALE OR FEMALE

In some instances, the difference between a male and female dog can be as great as that between humans. Spaying and neutering can balance out the gender differences (and be healthy and safer for the animal), but differences exist nevertheless. Male dogs

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tend to be more aggressive than females, especially toward members of their own sex.

Sexual behavior, of course, differs between the sexes, with each sex performing in a manner typical of it. Males display the leg-lifting urination posture and engage in territorial marking more often than females. Males also do more mounting of other dogs (and human legs, when permitted) than do females.

If you already have a male dog, chances are the addition of a female to the family will cause much less disruption than that of another male, and vice versa. Male dogs are typically more playful, destructive, active, aggressive toward other dogs, dominant over their owners, and more defensive about their territory than females. Females are usually more obedient, are easier to housebreak, and demand more affection than do males.

#### ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS

There are no absolutes. If you have your heart set on a Collie but a Norwegian Elkhound sounds perfect on

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paper, then by all means opt for the Collie unless you feel there will be major problems.

Where to purchase the pooch? Check with your vet and local kennel club for names of reputable breeders; call the breeder and discuss your wants and needs, your limitations—personal, emotional and financial. Finally, realize a large dog is a large commitment (as are most pets). Dogs are not animals you can purchase and forget about—they are a major responsibility...and with a little love—a part of the family!

When examining the personality of the potential puppy, ask yourself why Rover will be brought into the household. Look into many breeds and breeders, shop around, go to see and even play with numerous large dogs before you jump into a purchase you will regret.

Evaluate your own situation and choose a dog that will match your lifestyle. With just a little foresight, you can select the perfect pup. And no matter what the breed, if you are compatible with your dog, extend a



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When Beth Trapani left her summer internship at WEEU and returned to classes at Carnegie Mellon University, she said she'd miss her mom, everybody at WEEU, and Bruin, her German Shepherd, not necessarily in that order.

●

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- A great FLOOR CLEANSER can be used on wood, tile or linoleum. Simply mix one-eighth cup vegetable-based detergent, one-half cup white vinegar and two gallons of warm water in a plastic pail.
- For an OVERNIGHT TOILET BOWL CLEANSER, pour one cup borax into the toilet bowl. Let sit overnight, flush in the morning. Stains and rings are lifted away.
- To make a good WINDOW CLEANER, combine the following in a plastic spray bottle: One-half teaspoon vegetable-based detergent, three tablespoons of white vinegar, and two cups water.

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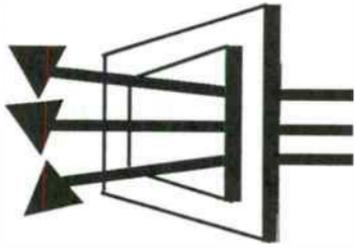


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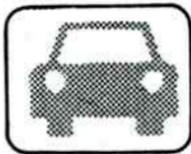
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## BITES O' HELL

- 2 eight-ounce packages of cream cheese, softened
- 2 four-ounce cans of diced green chilies (not drained)
- 12 green onions, chopped (including some of the green tops)
- 1 eight-ounce container of sour cream
- 10 large flour tortillas
- salsa

Mix together first four ingredients. Spread thinly on tortillas, not worrying about spreading evenly but being sure to reach the edges. Roll tightly. Fill ends with cream cheese mixture. Refrigerate for several hours, at least overnight. Can be refrigerated for several days; the longer they sit the hotter (spicier) they get.

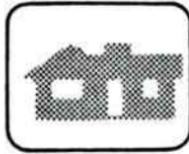
Remove from refrigerator. While still cold, cut crosswise (like coins) into 1/4" slices. Serve (immediately) with salsa.  
*(From Helen (Mrs. Jack) Holcomb's Appetizer Files)*



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## SPINACH BALLS

- 2 ten-ounce boxes frozen, chopped spinach
- 1/2 cup melted margarine
- 2 tablespoons granulated garlic
- 3 cups herbed stuffing crumbs (not cubes)
- 1/2 cup minced onion
- grated Parmesan cheese

Cook spinach according to package directions, then squeeze out all the excess liquid. Mix in margarine and garlic. Mix in stuffing and onion. Chill at least two hours (can be refrigerated overnight at this point).

Remove from refrigerator and form mixture, while still chilled, into 1" balls. Roll in Parmesan cheese. Bake for 20 minutes at 350 degrees. Serve warm.

These can be served with a honey-mustard dipping sauce: Mix equal parts of honey and mustard (about 1/4 cup each) and heat to mix. Serve warm.

*(From Helen (Mrs. Jack) Holcomb's Appetizer Files)*

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## LEW RUNKLE'S PASTA LUIGI

Think of this not as a recipe, but rather a kitchen improvisation. Main thing—it's quick and it's simple. What sets the dish apart is that sauteed veggies are substituted for the traditional spaghetti sauce. After cooking the pasta (rigatoni, rotelle, spaghetti, whatever) according to package instructions, the ingredients are basically up to you. Go wild!

*Just a note: I cook this for one...me...and the ingredients are reflective of that. If you're preparing for the family, just multiply by two, three, four or whatever.*

HEAT PURE OLIVE OIL IN A PAN, THEN SAUTE THE FOLLOWING:

- A chopped medium green bell pepper or a couple of Italian frying peppers, or a combination of both
- A medium size onion, chopped (I prefer to cut up several slices of a Vidalia onion, in season)
  - 3 or 4 large mushrooms, cut up
  - A nice size tomato or two, chopped

WHEN YOU HAVE ALL OF THIS COOKING, ADD THE FOLLOWING:

- Garlic •Parsley leaves and basil •Pinches of oregano, rosemary and thyme
- SERVE MIXTURE OVER PASTA WITH A GARDEN SALAD

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## SHOO-FLY CAKE

### CRUMBS

4 cups flour

2 cups sugar

1 cup butter

REMOVE 1 FULL CUP CRUMBS AND SET ASIDE

2 cups boiling water

1 cup molasses (Karo dark corn syrup)

1 teaspoon baking soda

MIX TOGETHER AND ADD TO CRUMBS AND STIR WITH SPOON OR FORK

POUR INTO GREASED PAN AND SPRINKLE CRUMBS THAT YOU SET ASIDE OVER THE TOP OF THE BATTER  
BAKE AT 350 DEGREES FOR 45-60 MINUTES

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- Police and Firefighter's Promotion
- Monument Or Bronze Memorial Selections
- Burial Vaults As Required



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Sinking Spring, Pa.

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Here's a great year-round treat that's quick, easy, and relatively inexpensive. Ice Cream Cup Cakes are bound to be a hit with young and old alike, but kids are especially fond of them.

- 1 box cake mix (any flavor)
- 24-30 cake-type ice cream cones
- frosting
- sprinkles (optional)

Prepare cake mix according to directions. Fill ice cream cones approximately 2/3 full of mix. Stand filled cones in a cake pan and place gently in oven. Bake 20-25 minutes at 350 degrees. Cake will mound slightly. Frost generously when cool. Decorate with sprinkles if you like!

*Recipe contributed by WEEU air personality Lisa Alexander.*

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**CARP DOUGH RECIPE**

- 1 cup corn meal
- 1 cup water
- 1 cup flour
- 2 tablespoons salt

Flavors: Vanilla, strawberry, etc.

DRY MIX INGREDIENTS IN A LARGE BOWL TO BLEND, ADD WATER, MIX THOROUGHLY. PAT BALL OF MUSH INTO FLATTENED SHAPE.

PLACE IN BOILING WATER, TURNING TO KEEP FROM STICKING. BOIL 10 MINUTES PER SIDE. PUT BACK IN BOWL, ADD FLAVORING AND REMIX BY HAND. PUT IN REFRIGERATOR TO SAVE...

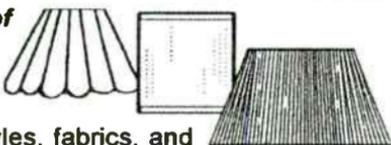
AND THEN...

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*Recipe courtesy of Fishin' Poles Tackle & Bait.*

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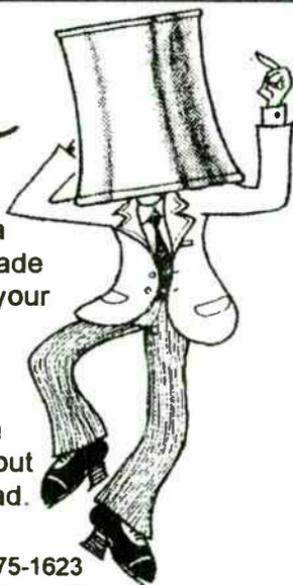
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is like  
buying a  
hat without  
your head.



## A Fisherman's Prayer

God grant that I may fish  
Until my dying day,  
and when it comes to be my last cast  
I then most humbly pray,  
When in the Lord's safe landing net  
I'm peacefully asleep,  
That in His mercy, I be judged  
As good enough to keep.

-Harvey Adams  
Berks County Chapter  
Izaak Walton League

•  
DID YOU KNOW? Women take longer to perspire than men and surprisingly, fit people start to sweat faster than sedentary people? Once they do (sweat), however, they do at the same rate-about a quart an hour! (*AMERICAN HEALTH* magazine, June, 1993)

•  
DID YOU KNOW? George Eastman revolutionized picture taking in 1900 when the *BROWNIE* was introduced? The camera was a dollar (film 15 cents); use was simple-aim, push a button, rewind the film, and send it in. Ironically, history recently repeated itself. In 1987, the *KODAK FLING* camera copied the same process, only this time the camera is discarded after use. (*THEY ALL LAUGHED*, Ira Platow, Harper-Collins, 1992)

•  
DID YOU KNOW? On June 4, 1896 Henry Ford made a successful test run through the streets of Detroit? Unfortunately, the event was delayed for over an hour. The car was too big to fit through the brick shed door!

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## Enroute to Gatwick

by *Shirl Whitnack*

The train sweeps by  
patches of garden  
rows of roof  
galleries of windows  
hung like Wyeths  
side by side

The walls between  
contain the within  
the comfort  
the holiness  
the hatred  
the pain  
side by side

And within  
a child sips cocoa  
a daughter dreams  
a mother weeps  
an old man lies dying  
a couple lies loving  
side by side

Lives in shadowboxes  
garden by garden  
roof by roof  
window by window  
wall by wall  
side by side  
Evolution creeps onward

## Briech of Good Taste

by Shirl Whitnack

I'm through pretending I like  
Brie,  
that pale, anemic, wimpy cheese,  
flaccid on quasi-cracker squares.  
So it's "in"...who cares?

"In" foods don't impress me.  
Since I've admitted I hate Brie,  
I'll open up a little more...  
It's pesto I really abhor!  
and rubber chunks of tasteless  
soy,  
sun-dried tomatoes and bok choy.

I'll be just fine with plain,  
brown Ritz  
and cheese with character, not  
glitz.  
Give me bright, bitey Cheddar;  
even holes in Swiss are better!

And, don't look down your nose at me,  
when I confess...I detest Brie!

*(SHIRL WHITNACK is a WEEU account executive who spent several years in the WEEU news department. The Williamsport native also served as a FEEDBACK producer. She spends her spare time cooking, photographing, collecting and trading in vintage clothing and jewelry, and writing poetry.)*

## RAMBLING PROSE:

Topics you'll probably never hear discussed on  
Feedback

by Paul Druzba, WEEU Copywriter

### 1. PLASTIC SURGERY AS FALSE ADVERTISING

I don't have a problem with someone having a nose job in middle age. By that time, your spouse and your friends already know what you REALLY looked like. But I've been hearing a lot lately about teenagers having plastic surgery. To me, this is one of the worst examples of false advertising. Suppose you marry a person who, like you, has a normal-looking nose. Then, you soon discover that your son or daughter has this humongous honker! You'd feel cheated, right? It's not fair! You didn't get what you thought you were getting. Maybe, along with a blood test before marriage, all engaged couples should be required to walk through a "plastic detector" or some other device that sniffs out signs of plastic surgery. Maybe we should have the Federal Trade Commission look into this...

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- ☛ Friendly Knowledgeable Sales Help

2. GROWTH HORMONES FOR SHORT PEOPLE: CREATING THE "IDEAL PERSON": I read recently about how scientists can now "treat" short people with hormones, to make them grow taller. It's not short people who are sick; this IDEA is sick, for two reasons: First, we NEED short people, to make the rest of us feel tall! There's no satisfaction in being 6'4" when everyone else is, too. Second, we need to give natural selection a chance to work. Suppose that, sometime in the future, the environment suddenly changes, so that short people have a better chance for survival. (I grew up in the 50s, and I still look over my shoulder for mushroom clouds. And we never really understood all that nuclear stuff, anyway). So, if we're all tall, we could get wiped out! Think about it.

3. STUPID COMMERCIALS: WHO WRITES THIS STUFF, ANYWAY? Since I write commercials for a living, I feel I have a right to criticize others. One that drives me nuts is that "Infinity" commercial where the guy says, "Safety is something money can't buy." Then, he proceeds to try to sell you a "safe" car, that'll cost more than your mother paid for her house! Or, how about those beer commercials that say, "It's better because

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it's darker." I can put a jar of molasses in my beer, and it won't make it taste any better, even though the color would give Guinness a run for its money. No doubt, you have a few favorite stupid commercials of your own. Call Jack on Feedback. He'd love to hear about them. Actually, I don't know that for a fact. I'm just guessing.

4. SHRUBBERY AS FAMILY MEMBERS: Why is it that people refuse to get rid of overgrown shrubbery? I've seen yews as big as sequoias, and junipers that have swallowed flower gardens whole. Don't get me wrong—shrubs are beautiful, especially when they're mature. But there comes a time when a shrub becomes "more than mature"...a menace to the neighborhood...and it begins to obscure the home it was planted to enhance. Let's face it—you bought this thing without any thought or emotion, just to fill in a bare spot. And getting rid of it is much easier than watching a son or daughter marry and move away. You only promised to stay with your SPOUSE for life...not your shrubbery. Maybe we can get Herb Wetzel on Feedback to talk about this. Maybe not.

*(Editor's Note: Paul Druzba's last name, spelled backwards and pronounced, is "absurd.")*



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# THE RULES.

Rule One: The Female always makes the rules.

Rule Two: The rules are subject to change at any time without prior notification.

Rule Three: No Male can possibly know all the rules.

Rule Four: If the Female suspects the Male knows all the rules, she must immediately change some or all of the rules.

Rule Five: The Female is never wrong.

Rule Six: If the Female is wrong, it is because of a flagrant misunderstanding which was a direct result of something the Male did or said.

Rule Seven: If Rule Six applies, the Male must apologize immediately for causing the misunderstanding.

Rule Eight: The Female can change her mind at any given point in time.

Rule Nine: The Male must never change his mind without express written consent from the Female.

Rule Ten: The Female has every right to be angry or upset at any time.

Rule Eleven: The Male must remain calm at all times, unless the Female wants him to be angry or upset.

Rule Twelve: The Female must under no circumstances let the Male know whether or not she wants him to be angry or upset.

Rule Thirteen: Any attempt to document the rules could result in bodily harm.

Rule Fourteen: If the Female has PMS, all rules are null and void.

•

*DID YOU KNOW? You can avoid hoarseness and break the throat-clearing habit by taking sips of water throughout the day? It also helps to avoid smoke filled environments, use a humidifier and speak in modulated tones. (American Academy of Otolaryngology)*

## I LOVE A MYSTERY

by Joe Hehn (Captain Radio of Feedback fame)

The grand pipe organ reverberated throughout the stately mansion with the opening passage from Brahms' *Lullaby*. A momentary pause. The melody resumed, only to be shattered by a discordant chord that seemed to echo forever. It stopped as abruptly as it began—but only when Jack, Doc, and Reggie discovered the corpse, swaying grotesquely by a rope from one of the rafters.

Since there was no organ or organist on the premises, how did the music originate?

*Monster in the Mansion*, a 23-chapter, 15-minute evening cliffhanger, premiered in October, 1940 over *I Love a Mystery* just as I was settling into my fourth grade routine at Holy Guardian Angels School in Laureldale. *I Love a Mystery*, the brainchild of master storyteller and award-winner Carlton E. Morse, was, is, and always will be the classic radio program. More than any other show, it captured all the imaginative storytelling elements that transformed radio into



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a living, breathing entity.

*I Love a Mystery* featured Jack, Doc, and Reggie as soldiers of fortune who became international detectives. Between 1939 and 1943, the comrades solved 46 of the most baffling and bloodcurdling mysteries imaginable.

*I Love a Mystery* had so captivated my imagination that by October, 1940, at the tender age of nine, I had been capturing the complete dialogue of each night's episode in my own special shorthand system for nearly two years. So, at the conclusion of *Monster in the Mansion*, my favorite *I Love a Mystery* story, I conceived and wrote a 30-page essay describing the series. It was the first and only time I ever witnessed my fourth grad teacher, Sister Angelica, completely speechless and overcome by emotion.

Yes, 1940 was a time that is nearly impossible to comprehend or visualize today if you were not living then.

It was a time when Radio was King. King of comedy, drama, adventure, music, serials, soap operas, detectives, suspense, westerns, contests, thrillers and classics—when the Hehn family, like every other family, would gather 'round the

---

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radio and live in a world where imagination ruled.

For radio was the *living theater of the mind*...each and everyone's own imagination!

•  
*Ancient Romans used garlic sparingly in their cooking, but believed that it had magical powers to increase human strength and courage. Research has shown that it helps to lower blood cholesterol, reduce blood pressure and fight diseases including cancer of all kinds.*

•  
FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION...

The SIX most important words in the English language:

I admit I made a mistake.

The FIVE most important words:

You did a good job.

The FOUR most important words:

What is your opinion?

The THREE most important words:

If you please.

The TWO most important words:

Thank you.

The ONE most important word:

We.

The ONE LEAST important word:

I.

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### *It's All in the Good Book*

Maher-shalal-hash-baz.

No, this isn't a lesson in Hebrew. The word above happens to be the longest word used in the Bible, and it's someone's name.

Maher-shalal-hash-baz, Isiah's second son, predicted the demise of Damascus and Samaria. His lengthy name (18 letters) is just one of many interesting facts contained in the best of all best-sellers, the Holy Bible.

For instance, it may be interesting to know that the word "Hallelujah" never once occurs in the Good Book.

Nor do such phrases as "unpardonable sin," "Apostles Creed" or words like sacrament, Pope, lent, Doxology, Christmas, benediction or invocation.

Indeed, the word "Bible" never appears in the text of the Bible.

The Bible, which took nearly 1600 years to write, was authored by more than forty men, who wrote "as they were moved by the Holy Ghost."

Divided into chapters by Stephan Langdon in 1228 AD, and translated into English by John Purvey in 1388, the book has been translated into more than 1,200 other languages.

Containing 66 books, 1,189 chapters, 31,173 verses, three-quarters of a million words and 3.5 million letters, it is the best-selling and most widely read book of mankind's history.

Despite apparent importance in religious significance, like the words mentioned in a previous paragraph, the words "eternity," "Reverend" and "grandmother" occur only once each in the Bible. Joining these, the word "gnat" can be found only one time.

Conversely, the word "and" pops up more than 46,000 times in the two Testaments, with "father"

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written 1,500 times, "mother" 325, "God" 4,379 and "Lord" 7,700 times.

Several interesting occurrences in the Bible stand out as interesting, and somewhat curious.

For instance, the longevity record in the scriptures goes to Methuselah, who finally passed away at the ripe old age of 969.

In Numbers, chapter 22, a man named Balaam is spoken to by his donkey, who was frightened by an angel his master couldn't see.

Og, the king of Bashan, in Deuteronomy, chapter three, possessed an iron bed some 13 feet long!

In Judges, chapter 20, an army of 700 left-handers was assembled for battle.

Absalom, pretty-boy of Israel, cut his hair only once a year, and when the "big cut" was made, his locks weighed more than six pounds!

A relative of Goliath's, in II Samuel, chapter 21, had six fingers on each hand and six toes on each foot. But, despite these claims, this person, King Solomon collected wives. In fact, he wound up with 700 of them, with 300 mistresses, to boot!

Absalom's male looks must have carried over to his daughter, since Re-ho-boam married her and "begat" 28 sons and 60 daughters. Absalom's daughter, incidentally, was just one of Re-ho-boam's 78 wives.

After the Syrians besieged the city of Samaria, a great famine swept over the defeated Israeli city. Things got so bad that a donkey's head was sold for 80 pieces of silver, and a hunk of dove's dung went for five silver pieces.

A Samaritan woman even boiled and, well, ate her own son! This rather unusual happening takes place in II Kings, chapter 6.

Also in desperation, John the Baptist once wore a suit of camel's hair and leather, and ate wild honey and locusts.

An interesting reference to an early shaving

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instrument comes in Isaiah, chapter 7, where, "In the same day shall the Lord shave with a razor...the head, and the hair of the feet; and it shall also consume the beard."

In Judges, chapter 4, a woman killed a man in a most peculiar manner.

While Sisera, a hunted man, slept inside a woman's tent, she cunningly removed a tent nail, grabbed a hammer, hammered the nail through the man's head, fastening it to the ground. She then called in his hunters to capture him.

Of course, time and space prohibit the telling of all the fantastic and fascinating tales to be found in the Bible. But, the few examples above bear out the fact that beside being the Holy Book of Christianity, the Bible is also an interesting account of the history and the legends of humanity. (CJAIII)



**AFTERTHOUGHT:** The gossip usually gets caught in her own *mouth-trap!*



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*Warm summer temperatures increase the possibility of food poisoning during picnics and camping trips. The U.S. Dept. of Agriculture offers six tips for keeping your summer food safe: Use a cooler containing ice cubes to keep food cold; Pack foods in reverse order of use, first foods packed directly from the refrigerator are the last to be used, and raw meat or fish are wrapped so that juices do not leak onto other foods; Protect your cooler from the sun; Keep hands and utensils clean when handling the food; Thoroughly cook raw meat and poultry until the pink is gone and juices run clear, cook fish until it "flakes" with a fork and; Put leftovers back on ice, perishable foods left out of refrigeration for one hour when the day is above 90 degrees are unsafe and should be discarded. (United States Department of Agriculture, 1993)*



**Patience:** The ability to let your light shine after your fuse has blown.

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## BIRTHSTONES

*As adopted in 1952 by major jewelry associations*

JANUARY, Garnet; FEBRUARY, Amethyst; MARCH, Bloodstone or Aquamarine; APRIL, Diamond; MAY, Emerald; JUNE, Pearl, Moonstone or Alexandrite; JULY, Ruby; AUGUST, Sardonyx (Carnelian) or Peridot; SEPTEMBER, Sapphire; OCTOBER, Opal or Tourmaline; NOVEMBER, Topaz or Citrine; DECEMBER, Turquoise, Lapis lazuli or zircon.

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FIRST, gold jewelry; SECOND, garnet; THIRD, pearls; FOURTH, blue topaz; FIFTH, sapphire; SIXTH, amethyst; SEVENTH, onyx; EIGHTH, tourmaline; NINTH, lapis; TENTH, diamond jewelry; ELEVENTH, turquoise; TWELFTH, jade; THIRTEENTH, citrine; FOURTEENTH, opal; FIFTEENTH, ruby; SIXTEENTH, peridot; SEVENTEENTH, watches; EIGHTEENTH, cat's eye; NINETEENTH, aquamarine; TWENTIETH, emerald; TWENTY-FIRST, iolite; TWENTY-SECOND, spinel; TWENTY-THIRD, imperial topaz; TWENTY-FOURTH, tanzanite; TWENTY-FIFTH, silver jubilee; THIRTIETH, pearl jubilee; THIRTY-FIFTH, emerald; FORTIETH, ruby; FORTY-FIFTH, sapphire; FIFTIETH, golden jubilee; FIFTY-FIFTH, alexandrite; SIXTIETH, diamond jubilee.

*(Lists courtesy of Chris Roberts Jewelers, Reading)*

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THE SPORTS PAGES.

Be it Berks County high school sports (boys and girls), college bowl games, Phillies, Eagles or Penn State—or a full roster of auto racing events, WEEU continues to assert itself as the “Sports Leader” in Reading radio. Behind it all is the station’s commitment to sports and the leadership of sports director Mitch Gerhart. For the Feedback Journal, Mitch has compiled several informative, entertaining and amusing features, such as...

PHILADELPHIA SPORTS TEAMS’ RETIRED NUMBERS

PHILLIES: (1) Richie Ashburn; (20) Mike Schmidt; (32) Steve Carlton; (36) Robin Roberts.

EAGLES: (15) Steve van Buren; (40) Tom Brookshier; (44) Pete Retzlaff; (60) Chuck Bednarik; (70) Al Wistert; (99) Jerome Brown.

FLYERS: (1) Bernie Parent; (4) Barry Ashbee; (7) Bill Barber; (16) Bobby Clarke.

76ers: (6) Julius Erving; (13) Wilt Chamberlain; (15) Hal Greer; (24) Bobby Jones; (32) Billy Cunningham. *The Sixers have also “retired” the microphone of the late Dave Zincoff, the team’s longtime public address announcer.*

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## THE SPORTS PAGES

### PHILADELPHIA EAGLES FIRST-ROUND DRAFT PICKS

1983-1993

1993-OG Lester Holmes and DT Leonard Renfro

1992-None (1991 trade for Antone Davis)

1991-OT Antone Davis

1990-DB Ben Smith

1989-None (1988 trade for OG Ron Solt)

1988-TE Keith Jackson

1987-DT Jerome Brown

1986-RB Keith Byars#

1985-OT Kevin Allen

1984-WR Kenny Jackson\*

1983-RB Michael Haddix

#-RB Charles Crawford chosen in 1st round of 1986

supplemental draft

\*-DE Reggie White chosen in 1st round of 1984 supplemental draft



**Left: Weeu's Senior Account Executive, Dave Selbold leads the dancing during the "Electric Slide" at the annual Berks County Chamber of Commerce Picnic. Dave is an accomplished advertising consultant and has helped many area business persons to increase their sales and profits. Dave is also a registered Sea Captain and operates out of Barnegat Light, NJ. Also interesting is the fact that Dave has co-authored many books on shipwrecks and ghosts with WEEU associate and personality Charle Adams. WEEU is an active member of the Berks County Chamber of Commerce and we believe in the concept of local business working together to provide a healthy economic environment in our town!**

## THE SPORTS PAGES

THE FOLLOWING LISTS ARE COMPRISED OF NAMES LISTED IN THE PHILADELPHIA PHILLIES 1993 MEDIA GUIDE. ALL PLAYERS LISTED IN THE COMING PAGES DID ACTUALLY PLAY MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL FOR PHILADELPHIA AT SOME POINT IN THE TEAM'S HISTORY

### THE ALL FINANCIAL TEAM

BUCK Jordan, Dave CASH, Mickey FINN, Julio FRANCO, Oscar GAMBLE, Mike LOAN, Don MONEY, Chester NICHOLS, Curt SCHILLING, Milt STOCK

### THE ALL-RELIGION TEAM

Kyle ABBOTT, Jim BISHOP, Monte CROSS, Bubba CHURCH, Chester CRIST, Mickey DEVINE, Jim DEVLIN, Earl GRACE, Carlton LORD, SOULE McLeod, Lance PARRISH, Scott SERVICE, Keith SHEPHERD, Billy SUNDAY, DEACON van Buren

### THE ALL-ANIMAL TEAM

Doug BAIR, Doug BIRD, KITTY Bransfield, George HADDOCK, Nelson HAWKES, Brad HOGG, CHICK Keating, Jimmy FOXX, Terry LYONS, MOOSE McCormick, Time MAUSER, SPARROW Morton, Jeff PARRETT, Johnny PEACOCK, Mel ROACH, ROBIN Roberts, RABBIT Slagle, TURKEY Tyson, PIGGY Ward.

### THE ALL-ANATOMY TEAM

Harry CHEEK, Barry FOOTE, Mike HARTley, Ralph HEAD, Bill KEISTER, Greg LEGG, Tom LIPP

### THE ALL-CONCESSION STAND TEAM

Wally BERGER, Hodge BERRY, STEW Bolen, John BOOZER, Charlie BREWSTER, Jimmy COKER, SPUD Davis, Ron DiORIO, Charley FRYE, Fletcher FRANKS, PEANUTS Lowery, BAKE McBride, Jack MAYO, GREASY Neale, Johnny OATES, Bob RICE, Frank SHUGART, TURKEY Tyson, Bobby WINE, Joe YINGLING and BUD WEISER

### THE ALL-PRESIDENT TEAM

Buster ADAMS, Art MADISON, John MONROE, Bob ADAMS, Grant JACKSON, Deacon VAN BUREN, TYLER Green, Tony TAYLOR, Ray PIERCE, Deron JOHNSON, Jim GRANT, Von HAYES, GROVER CLEVELAND Alexander, Glenn WILSON, Buster HOOVER, JOHN KENNEDY, Dave JOHNSON, AI NIXON, Curt FORD, Pat RAGAN.

Special International Mention:

Julio FRANCO and KAISER WILHELM



## 1994•WEEU/FEEDBACK JOURNAL•1994

### THE ALL-TIME, ALL-NAME TEAM

*Ed Abbaticchio, Cupid Childs, Vance Dinges, Dana Fillingim, Mickey Finn, Hilly Flitcraft, Fred Frink, Alban Glossopy, Solly Hemus, Heinie Heltzel, Kirby Higbe, Ham Iburg, Stan Jok, Kick Kelly, Con Lucid, Bitsy Moft, Only Nolan, Prince Oana, Dode Paskert, Eppa Rixey, Phenomenal Smith, Cannonball Titcomb, Gene Vadeboncoeur.*

•

### READING PHILLIES MANAGERS 1967-1993

1990-93, Don McCormack; 1989, Mike Hart; 1988, Bill Dancy; 1986-87, George Culver; 1985, Tony Taylor; 1983-84, Bill Dancy; 1982, John Felske; 1980-81, Ron Clark; 1979, Jim Snyder; 1977-78, Lee Elia; 1976, Bob Wellman/Granny Hamner; 1974-75, Bob Wellman; 1973, Cal Emery; 1972, Jim Bunning; 1971, Nolan Campbell; 1970, Andy Seminick; 1969, Bob Wellman; 1967-68, Frank Lucchesi.

•

### PHILADELPHIA 76ers FIRST ROUND DRAFT PICKS, 1983-93

1993, Shawn Bradley, Brigham Young; 1992, Clarence Witherspoon, Southern Mississippi; 1991, NONE; 1990, NONE; 1989, Kenny Payne, Louisville; 1988, Charles Smith, Pittsburgh\*; 1987, Christian Welp, Washington; 1986, NONE; 1985, Terry Catledge, South Alabama; 1984, Charles Barkley, Auburn, Leon Wood, Cal State/Fullerton, and Tom Sewell, Lamar.  
1983, Leo Rautins, Syracuse.

\*Smith was later traded to Los Angeles Clippers for their first-round pick, Hersey Hawkins.

•

A tip for a single woman: Before you tell a man you love his company, be sure he owns it!

•

### A TONGUE TWISTER

*I need not your needles, as they're needless to me; for needing needles is needless, you see.*

*But did my neat trousers but need to be kneed, I then should have need of your needles indeed!*

THE SPORTS PAGES

AREA SPORTS CONTACTS

PHILADELPHIA PHILLIES: P.O. Box 7575, Philadelphia, PA 19101;  
Phone: (215) 463-6000; Tickets: 463-1000; FAX (Tickets): 463-9878

READING PHILLIES: P.O. Box 15050, Reading, PA 19612  
Phone: (610) 375-8469; FAX: 373-5868

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Scranton, PA 18505; Phone: (717) 969-2255 or 654-2224

PHILADELPHIA EAGLES: Veterans Stadium, 3501 S. Broad St.,  
Philadelphia, PA 19148-5201; Phone: (215) 463-2500; Tickets 463-5500;  
FAX 339-5464

PHILADELPHIA 76ers: Veterans Stadium, P.O. Box 25040,  
Philadelphia, PA 25040; Phone (215) 339-7600; Tickets 339-7676; FAX  
339-7632

PHILADELPHIA FLYERS: The Spectrum, Philadelphia, PA 19148; Phone  
(215) 465-4500; FAX 389-9403

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**Stories from my...**

# **MOUNTAIN JOURNAL**

## **Remembering Zermatt by "East Side" Dave Kline**

Gateway JFK International Airport...the check-through at the Swissair terminal is quietly efficient...skis, bags, adventurers...our entire entourage has assembled prepared to venture forth to the legendary realm of mountain climbers, alpine splendor, fabulous skiing, and traditional mountain culture...Zermatt, Switzerland.

Here's the first important tip; If you go, fly Swissair, then use Swiss rail to travel the land portion of your journey to Zermatt...this is a "no-brainer" decision. When you get to the Swissair counter, tell the agent that you want to exercise the plane-train check-through. For a modest fee, all of your luggage, and your skis will be transported for you from the plane to the train in Switzerland, (the same option is available for the return leg). Since getting

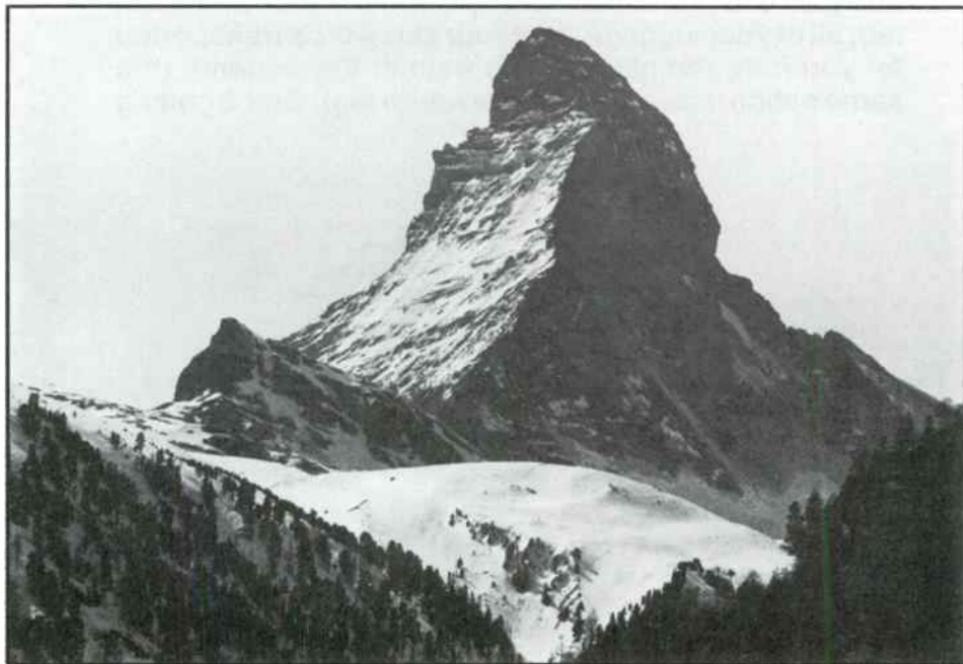


to Zermatt requires a few rail transfers, you will be thrilled that you aren't portaging your stuff all the way from the airport. In fact, this service is so refined and smoothly run it is foolish to not invest in it! Once you've arrived in Zermatt you merely inform your hotel about your stuff and before long, you and your equipment are happily reunited! No sweat, no pain, very trustworthy! Just do it!

Ahhh...the Swissair flight across the Atlantic...rarely do I include the actual flight as a noteworthy part of the adventure...Swissair is different. Complimentary beverage service, courteous attendants, spacious seat and carry-on accommodations, and an eclectic assortment of music on the headset channels combine to reward the Swissair voyager with comfort and enjoyment. (Many on this adventure chose to warm up their mood for the impending visit to Zermatt by selecting the traditional Swiss folk music channel. Alphorns, yodeling, zithers, accordions, such bliss is this for those who can mentally slow down and "smell the roses". A few hours into the flight you are lulled into the essence of a peaceful mountain existence...a mental state in which the important decisions include which toast to

make, which schnapps will warm the mood which food is most delectable, and who among those assembled for the adventure has the next exciting story to tell regarding happy memories in the mountains.

Arriving in Geneva and making the transfer to rail is easy...you basically exit the plane, walk across the hall, and get on the train! Honest...it is that simple! The Swiss rail system is world renown for its regularly scheduled runs to all parts of Switzerland...(once, on a journey many years ago, myself and a friend were "railing it" from then West German Bavaria into Switzerland. Once we had crossed the Swiss border the train began to slow down for no apparent reason. We were not close to any station or town. Being naturally curious, we asked the conductor why we had slowed up. "The train is making too good of time", he replied, "we must slow down so we arrive precisely on the hour! Of course, with many trains arriving to the central station, precision is important, but his reply spoke more of the fabled Swiss accuracy than of any other agenda.) If you've missed a connection, wait a bit and another connection will be along soon...or time, and ready to transport you to regions of dreams.



- Dave Kline Photo

Above: A view of the Matterhorn Peak taken from the valley and town of Zermatt, Switzerland. The Hornli Ridge is visible at the lower left base of the peak.

The actual train ride is a fun part of the journey. When I was a kid I used to spend hours building train platforms, and engineering my trains around the "imagineered" adventurelands in my mind. Even now as we feel the train shudder from its initial forward motion, there is a part of me that relates this experience to having come under the "spell" of a giant, and instead of running a train platform, I am part of a magical land...a participant in someone else's train platform...it's wonderful. Traveling from Geneva to Zermatt you roll along on the shore of Lake Geneva where rustic towns reach from the railroad tracks to the water, and on the far shore, the mountains begin at the water line and point toward the heavens. What a scene...stuccoed houses with flower boxes and exposed open wood beams, (you're certain that Hansel and Gretel live in each one)...the lake is a clear blue jewel...the Alps are monumental in shades of forbidding gray, black, purple, and blue with peaks crowned in the majesty of white.....pure snow-white!

A steady, rumbling climb into the mountains over bridge after bridge soon has everyone in awe of Swiss structural engineering. After a few train transfers we reach the town of Brig. Brig is one of the last towns where people in gasoline engine cars are allowed. Soon thereafter, the road to Zermatt is traversed only by electric cars, trains, and helicopters. In order to preserve tradition and the fragile alpine environment, Zermatt does not permit gasoline powered vehicles in its locale. More upward chugging and soon we are in the midst of jagged peaks. Snow-fields surround the tracks. I strain to get a first glimpse of the Matterhorn. Due to the fickle alpine weather, it is not uncommon to spend a week in the region and never see the Matterhorn...it hides amidst a veil of self-induced clouds. Suddenly we round a bend...the cog rail engages...a distinct "clackity-clack" sound is accompanied by a noticeable upward angular pitch of the terrain. As all of this is happening I look out the window and... there it is in all of its glory. Gleaming like a picturesque statue of mammoth proportions, and defining a distinct triangular shape, it cuts 14,687 feet into the pastel blue Swiss sky...the Matterhorn!

Once you see it you never forget it. It

dominates the mind. Remarkably, even the most accomplished of man's artistic endeavors pale in comparison to what Nature has achieved with this effort! We settle into the Gornegrat Hotel, it is just across the street from where we disembarked from the train. Soon the urge to explore carries Gerhard, (a hearty Austrian/American ski fanatic), Keith, (a robust Pennsylvania Dutch friend and ski fanatic), and me, (a ski fanatic, etc., etc., etc.), through the town. We poke here and there and progress up the main street to the famous cemetery where dozens of brave mountain climbers now find repose after having become victims to the sport and the mountain. It is a peaceful place, and as morbid as it may seem, I am compelled to think of this place as the five-star deluxe burial grounds for all who love the Alpine environment. Traditional red candles burn by day and night in memory of the climbers and villagers at rest. Beautifully carved stone and wooden monuments command your attention. Many have inscriptions that briefly tell the story of the victim's demise on the mountain. Some have the climber's actual pick ax affixed to, or lying propped up against their grave marker. Nearby is the stoic Catholic church. The setting sun glimmers over the steeple. Across the street more of the town's history is revealed in the Alpine Museum. The museum is intensely interesting yet tragic. Climber's diaries, clothing, artifacts, as well as graphic accounts of disasters on the Matterhorn...a very strange place that you must go into and experience. Words cannot describe the overwhelming feelings of awe and pathos that accompany a visit here as you recount the victorious climbs and the failures. There is one item that is particularly gut-wrenching. It is a heel and sole of a climber's boot. The explanation plate simply states that, "This is all that was ever found of this particular climber...the rest of his remains are frozen solid somewhere in a glacial crevasse near the base of the Matterhorn."

The day is drawing to an end and we find ourselves at the end of town on the terrace of the Alpenrose Hotel. As the Alpenglow sets fire to the snow-fields surrounding the Matterhorn we order three large beers and a plate of weiners. We make a toast to a friend of mine back in the states who gave me enough Swiss Francs for our first libation in Zermatt, and settle back to

watch the sun disappear behind the peaks. The Matterhorn silently gazes back at us...across the Schwarzsee region...down the vast valley...to our table on the terrace...we are entranced and humbled.

The next morning brings a snow-storm. Our entire group ascends to the Gornergrat Plateau and gingerly picks our way down again. At times there is so much snow falling complete white-outs are created...it becomes difficult to even discern if you are moving! Of course, all of this fresh snow will not go to waste. Further down the mountain we find an interesting separation in the trail. The main trail is readily skiable. Keith and I have spotted a trail that has obviously not been skied...there are no tracks in the powder!!! The rest of the group choose to use the main trail since it is clearly marked on the trail map. Keith and I go for it...off Pistel We steadily sweep through what seems like a mile of powder before ending up in someone's back yard. A bit further and we find a little group of houses. For all we can figure, we are just sort of downhill-cross country skiing...any place here, (in favorable snow conditions), is fair game! We find our way into the valley eventually, but not before having some real "YUKS"...(knee-slapping laughter...like children). That night we share the adventure with the others over



- Dave Kline photo

Above: The Matterhorn rises silently above the streets of the town of Zermatt.

## IN THE SHADOW OF THE MATTERHORN

Journal Entry: 25th March 1992: Dave L. Kline: The sun beats down intense on the gleaming white surface of the glacier. A forbidding and frozed wasteland at night, and a wondrous beautiful Alpine environment by day snow lies piled upon itself here measured in hundreds of years rather than seasonal accumulation of inches as with mountainous regions at lower altitudes. I stand just below the Hornlihutte Ridge at about 3,260 meters, or around 10,800 feet above sea level. In a moment I shall trust my skis and my skill to carry me milk below, into the valley where is nestled the tiny Alpine town of Zermatt Switzerland. But for now I stand motionless in the morning sun allowing my senses to soak up all that surrounds me...my eyes see a vast array of jutting peaks, they appear to be megalith sculptures chiseled by God...my ears hear mountain streams gurgling, glacial ice cracking, birds calling on their morning songs, and Chamois Mountain Goats prancing about precariously on cliffs high above...my skin feels the fire of the sun and the kiss of the high atmosphere...my nose and mouth work in unison to draw in and taste the clean, chilly mountain air...my lungs rejoice at the purity of the air...I go the same refreshment to my heart and mind...my entire being is cleansed and renewed.

Above me rises a peak of epic proportions. Climbing to a total of about 14,600 feet above sea level, the Matterhorn Peak stands alone in the world as perhaps the single most majestic point piercing the sky. There are higher mountains, but none have been more carefully crafted by the Creator than the Matterhorn. Whether you stand and view it from Zermatt below, or from my vantage point, where its sturdy base clings to the glacier that it has seemed to spawn as offspring, the Matterhorn's peculiar angles and distinctive pointed peak commands your attention. You may look elsewhere for a moment, but your eyes will always return to the Matterhorn. Perhaps this is why me

nd women have longed to ascend to the summit since the dawn of history. Like magnet, the peak pulls at those who are receptive. Some are lucky...some are not! There is a song that has been written that sums it up very well. A few of the words come to mind, "Many have tried and many have died...to climb the Matterhorn".

About four feet to my left the shadow of the Matterhorn blocks out the sun. Before I descend from it I move into the shadow and contemplate the story of the first-ever successful climb to the Matterhorn's summit as told by Zermatt resident Beat P. Truffer in the town's Alpine Historical Museum.

- On 7th July 1865 Edward Whymper comes to Valtourmanche, Italy, on the backside of the Matterhorn valley. He persuades Jean-Antoine Carrel to a further attempt to climb the Matterhorn. (Up to this point in history no person had ever made it to the summit). But weather is bad. Due to other commitments Carrel cancels the arrangement with Whymper after three days.

On 11th July at daybreak, while Whymper is still asleep, Carrel sets out with a few men from Breuil towards the Matterhorn. Whymper is indignant. He wants to go to Zermatt, but there is neither a guide nor a porter to be found. Towards midday Lord Francis Douglas, together with Joseph Taugwalder arrives at the small mountain town. After a short talk with Douglas, Whymper comes to know about his project to climb the Matterhorn. They join forces and traverse the Theodul Pass. (They have crossed this same pass today just hours ago, tracing their historical footsteps from Italy into Switzerland.) The weather remains poor. As soon as they arrive in Zermatt they search for Peter Taugwalder senior and persuade him to an ascent of the Matterhorn. On the way to the Monte Rosa Hotel, Whymper meets Michel Croz, a guide with whom he had already undertaken several other ascents. At that moment Croz is employed by the clergyman Charles Hudson and the young Robert Douglas Hudson. As both Englishmen and Croz are desirous of engaging in an ascent of the Matterhorn, they decide to tackle the mountain together.

At half past five on the next morning—Thursday 13th July 1865—the party sets out. The sky is cloudless. The eight men walk up via the Schwarzsee region to the base of the Matterhorn. On a protruding plateau at the starting point of the climb they set up a bivouac near the Hornlihutte at about 10,640 feet. In the afternoon Croz and Peter Taugwalder reconnoiter the lower part of the mountain.

In the meanwhile the Italian party has reached the height of 13,000 feet on the Lion's Ridge (South-East Ridge of the Matterhorn) under the leadership of Carrel. There they install their night camp. Before dawn Whymper and his friends pack up their equipment and in the first light of day they start their climb over the Hornli Ridge (North-East Ridge). In the meanwhile Joseph Taugwalder returns to Zermatt. On the east side of the mountain the men are making quite a good pace. Later they range over to the ridge for a short time and climb higher. Then they continue over the snow-covered "shoulder" near the summit where men had not been before.

They take two breaks. After the second break, Croz takes over the leadership, Whymper and Hudson having taken turns with each other up till now. A little more to the right they tackle the real, technically more difficult climb to the summit.

After quite a time, one by one they reach the peak on the Zermatt side. The weather is favorable. Fruitless searching for footprints on the summit assures them: the Matterhorn is theirs! With this an eight-year struggle for the pioneering ascent comes to an end. Croz and Whymper discover the Italians about 720 feet below the summit. The Italian team had only advanced slowly. They did not know that the Whymper team was challenging them from the Swiss side! When Carrel

(leader of the Italian team) realizes that Whymper has been the victor, he turns back.

After a long rest on the summit, they discuss the order in which they should descend. On the summit they leave behind a bottle containing a piece of paper carrying their names. As they descend to a treacherous area filled with snow, ice, and gaping fissures, now called the "roof", they have to move one man at a time for safety reasons. Croz lays his ice-ax down to help Hadow climb down, but Hadow slips and pulls Croz, Hudson and Douglas down into the depths. The rope between Douglas and Peter Taugwalder senior breaks. Both of the Taugwalders and Whymper are left alone, suffering from shock.

Quite a time goes by before the remaining three recover. In great fear they slowly climb down the Matterhorn. Daylight fades and they must remain on the peak overnight at an altitude of about 13,400 feet. After a long night they climb down to Zermatt with drawn faces and bring the sad news to the village. An atmosphere of deep grief spreads in Zermatt.

The next day at two o'clock in the morning-Sunday 16th July 1865-searchers set out with Whymper to recover the victims. The searchers discover three bodies on the Matterhorn Glacier; Croz, Hudson, and Hadow. Only a few of the belongings of Douglas are found...his body is never recovered and still lies frozen in the glacier somewhere to this day! The recovered bodies were buried in the famous Catholic cemetery in Zermatt. The broken rope, a few of the doomed men's clothes, and further belongings are now exhibited in the sobering yet historically mind-stimulating Alpine Museum in Zermatt.

My thoughts return to this day and this moment in time. The shadow of the Matterhorn and lingering thoughts of the past have begun to enfold my body in an ethereal cold. I need only ski back into the sun in order to return back to reality and the world of the living. Perhaps compelled by his spirit, I turn again to look into the vastness of the blue-ice of the Matterhorn Glacier. Douglas, along with many others who have since shared his fate, calls from somewhere within. "Unlock my soul...free me from the shadow of the Matterhorn...give me repose in the sun-drenched grounds of the peaceful town in the valley". One day the glacier will grow weary of those it now holds captive...they will be unceremoniously returned to the base of the glacier with the passage of the millennia where they will be offered for humankind to contemplate.

I step into the sun. My skis point toward the valley. A few hours later I have descended from the shadow of the Matterhorn into Zermatt. I stand in the cemetery and pay respects to those pioneers and adventurers who allowed their reality to be motivated by their dreams. These brave souls formed a vision, designed a plan, and worked their plan tirelessly towards fulfillment of their goal. Whether they be plans to climb mountains or dreams of helping others succeed in the challenge that is life...may all of us push ourselves to such lofty visions and aspirations, and may our dreams reach fruition through our hard-forged labor. This is the lesson I carry with me from the shadow of the Matterhorn and the idyllic town of Zermatt, Switzerland. Grüss Gott!

## Favorite Swiss Recipe

Raclette Cheese is a favorite everywhere in the "fondue country" of Switzerland, but it is especially delightful in Zermatt. Large cheese wheels are heated until the cheese is toasted and melted. Then sharp blades are used to scrape the cheese from the wheel onto a plate that is traditionally loaded with small-sized boiled white potatoes. Pickles are generally used as a garnish. Your favorite wine, beer or non-alcoholic beverage completes the dish. We have duplicated this treat at home and you can too. Select a favorite cheese, expose one end to a hot outside grill, then use a broad-bladed knife to scrape the cheese onto your small white potatoes, which you've already boiled. Add pickles and beverage, invite friends and you'll enjoy a genuine alpine taste of Switzerland!

REMEMBERING ZERMATT, continued... a delicious gourmet meal prepared by the hotel staff. The abundance of fine French food here will delight you. Be sure to sample the regional delight...fresh Raclette cheese. Scraped hot from a wheel of cheese, and served with boiled white

potatos and pickles, this treat is best enjoyed with a mug of Swiss "Cardinal" Beer...large size!

I hear sleigh bells outside of my window. As I arise and pull aside the curtain I see that the sun is brightly shining and the



Above: Scenic transport in the Gornergrat & Stockhorn region of Zermatt.

streets are covered with snow. The bells on the horse drawn sleighs and carriages ring steadily as they portage skiers and sightseers around the charming town. Today we go back to the Gornergrat and also to the Sunegga regions. Skiing is perfect...really perfect! Light powder, long runs...great lunches...and even greater frauleins serving them! Keith, Gerhard, a few others and myself have been carving long GS turns all over the Gornergrat...every one is skiing at their best. Soon there comes another one of those moments of decision. From the lifts we have spotted a herd of Chamois goats grazing precariously on cliffs that appear to engulf a valley below. The valley appears to have had little ski traffic on it...it is blanketed in what looks like knee deep powder. I offer to take the group down into the valley via this route...only Keith is up for it. We bid the others a fond farewell and head off to the "zone". Our only entrance to the valley and the powder is a short but steep ravine. We squeeze into it, hit the powder, and immediately prove our theory of snow cover to be true. We are rocketing into the valley in knee deep powder. At times, the light snow arcs up over our waists and "rooster-tails" up over our heads as we cruise. We finally end up in a place called the Riffelberg, rest, then continue into the valley below. Later we take the lift system from Sunegga to Blauherd to Unterrothorn. As we are going up the final tram we spie another virgin snow-field. This one is again off-Piste, (off the normal trail system), but skiable. It is steep...ultra steep. We stand at the top and peer over a lip where a headwall of amazing proportions opens up into a boulder-strewn fall line that goes on for about a mile down to the Blauherd lift area. There are a few ski tracks here. This is good because we can gage the depth of the snow. Four to five feet of fresh powder clings to the mountain here...honest! I offer Keith the chance to go for it first but I can see that he is still trying to make up his mind as to whether or not this adventure has gone beyond his limits. Sensing those feelings I point and say, "Over there is the intermediate trail marker, no biggie, you just need to climb back up a bit and you'll be back on the groomed trail with everybody else...I'll meet you at the bottom". But before I can get turned correctly for my drop onto the headwall, Keith has made his decision...he loads 'em up and fires into the chute and down onto the headwall. I follow. He

"crashes and burns", I "crash and burn". The snow is so deep that I seldom see my skis! You just have to sort of sit back and float...and believe me...due to the ultra-steep fall line here, and the resulting speed you build up by not being able to do a "hockey-stop" now and then, it takes tremendous courage to do this for more than a few moments at a time without intentionally using the old, reliable "tush-brake" to bring things to a stop. At one point we have selected a course which brings us to a point where there is only a narrow sliver of snow, (about three feet wide). I go over first...to my right is a sheer cliff...to my left is a big, jagged boulder. After I'm through I wave Keith over. He enters the narrow section and appears to be doing well when all of a sudden he catches his downhill ski on a bit of rock and leaches forward. I audibly gasp. Fortunately for Keith he has the good balance that skiers need, he compensates, and makes it over. Siiiiigggggghhhhhh!

Forty minutes have gone by since the time we first jumped onto the headwall. We have picked our way down the side of something most people would consider to be a rocky cliff. We have flown across the Atlantic to find stuff like this...the trip could end today and we'd both be content! We have lunch somewhere...in some remote little group of houses. That night everyone is again gushing with stories. We have a "room-party" in Kaz's room, (Kaz hosts WEEU's popular German-Bavarian Folk Music show on Sundays), he is the master of song and merriment...and of schnapps! Kaz and wife Christa have found a delectable bottle of merriment. Everyone is in the room...from the balcony you can see the Matterhorn and the sheer cliffs that define the walls of the canyon in which Zermatt snugly fits. Kaz, Gerhard, and I stare up the mountain and watch what we think is an out of bounds skier attempting to pick his way down. We are concerned...the sun has set...this guy must be in trouble. There...he has moved...no...now he is climbing back up...he'd better hurry before the real cold of the mountain night sets in! (We are looking out across several miles of real-estate, after several rounds of schnapps, and a full day of Alpine adventure). After about a half an hour of this lively commentary and concern, we realize that we have probably been watching a stump. Hmmmm...must be that high altitude and low oxygen availability. **Continued...**

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Above: There are no cars in Zermatt! During ideal conditions you can take a sleigh from the train station to your hotel.

One day we decide to retrace the steps of ancient Roman Soldiers and so we ascend to the Theodulpass and ski the high glaciers between the Klein (little) Matterhorn and the Matterhorn. The sun is again burning hot in the blue Swiss sky, only this time it also lights a way to Italy. We ski from Switzerland into Italy and find glorious and wide-open trails with excellent conditions. (A one day Italian ski pass is available in Zermatt at any lift tickets sales point...you'll need it to get back to the Swiss side). We have lunch at an Italian bistro on a sun-drenched terrace. To my back is the Italian side of the Matterhorn. In front of me stretches the Italian Alps. Red house wine, home-made pasta with garlic and oil, good friends by your side to share the experience...moments like this make you want to stop time...really...it does not get any better than this. That night many in our group agree that they have never had a day as good as this one on skis! I am gratified...it is the greatest reward a "Bergen Fuhrer", (Mountain Leader), can hear from those who have entrusted their precious leisure-adventure time into his care! We party again this night...a traditional Swiss band is yodeling and playing in a rathskeller up the street...we sing along and clank beers together. Later I alone attend a chamber music recital at one of Zermatt's grand old

hotels, the Mont Cervin. (Earlier I had seen a poster advertising the performance. Music...any type of music...is a great passion for me. The classical setting of this town provides a perfect venue for a classical recital...I'm in the mood, the stage is set). Onto the stage appears a man dressed in traditional early-classical period garb. He summons the remainder of the ensemble to the stage. Soon my ears are bathed in the lush melodies of Vivaldi's, "Die 4 Jahreszeiten"... "The Four Seasons". In the first movement of this magnificent work comes the violin solo that can send chills up and down your spine. It is played tonight with multi-fortissimo...great power, strength, and confidence. It is powerful enough to elicit a tear from the eye of a sensitive aficionado. I am moved to purchase the orchestra's CD version of the work, and to this day, when I play the CD, I am instantly returned to that winter evening in Zermatt, the Mont Cervin Hotel, The Matterhorn, and the virtuoso Heidelberger Kammerorchester, (Heidelberg Chamber Orchestra).

Another day, at lunch Keith, myself, and Gerhard stumble across a mountain lodge with ample food and drink. The real selling point here is that we were skiing in a remote region of the Riffelberg when out of nowhere appears this Alpine Oasis.

Gerhard, being very worldly-wise on the serious subject of proper lunch-time liquids, rapidly introduces me to a beverage concocted of vodka-soaked figs, with vodka as the delivering beverage. Now I don't normally mix cocktails with skiing as I prefer to use the former for 'apres ski frivolity. But today, the sun is shining...I'm in no hurry at all...Gerhard knows just what to order...Keith is willing to hang out too...the food is home-made...the Matterhorn is in view...my feet are propped up on a chair made out of a tree stump...and.....Little Richard is screaming "Tutti-Frutti" over the chalet's sound system!

After several rousing hours of entertainment we again ski...what a place! Late in the day I make my way back to the Gornergrat area, then take the tram to the Stockhorn peak. I am joined by only three others, West Germans, by their description. When we exit the tram the others pause to relax and enjoy the view of the Gornerglacier, as do I. Soon I am restless...I feel the need to explore. Starting down a trail marked simply, "#6-Stockhorn Grunsee", I begin what will end up being a two mile descent on at least a black diamond fall line, and every square foot is marked by Volkswagon-sized moguls! It turns out that this is the longest bump run in the world. I see only three other humans, (the folks from the tram), during the time of my descent...the rest is pure alpine majesty!

Late in the week Keith and I are exploring the Schwarzsee area where you can actually ski on the Matterhorn Peak's glaciers. We find Kaz and Christa and invite them to ski with us to the base of the Matterhorn, very close to the historic Hornlihutte, (a climber's shelter that is still used to this day). I assure the pair that Keith and I have already been up there once and have found a smooth, meandering, safe route back down. I urgently want them to attempt it because...well...because...you do only live once and I felt it was my responsibility as a "guide" to get them to a position where they could actually reach out and touch the Matterhorn! Putting their trust in me they ascend. We contemplate the "Little White Chapel", a structure that was built decades ago by men who swore to God they'd build a Chapel on the spot where they stood if God would only show them the way down off of the mountain during a vicious and sudden storm. Miraculously, the storm

momentarily abated, the men were able to plot a safe route off of the Matterhorn, and they did return later and build the Sanctuary of their vow! We use our time on the Matterhorn to snap photographs and record our presence in this place for all time. Kaz and Christa masterfully negotiated the descent and in their home now hangs a testimonial picture of their once in a lifetime adventure on the slopes of the Matterhorn.

That night we challenge each other to an indoor curling match. You pay for "play" time, order a beer, put on the booties, step out onto the ice...next thing you know you're hurling heavy stone objects up the court while your partner tries to brush or polish the playing surface in an effort to score the most points. Since we didn't know how to keep score we just made up a system. In the end, Christa Wulkowicz proved too much for the rest of us. She cleaned our collective cuckoo clocks!

On the last day Keith and I return to the Schwarzsee and the Matterhorn Glaciers. I seem to be stopping every twenty feet to record the view with color slides. We will use these at our annual "Alps Party". The party is held once a year so that those of us who have ventured forth together can remember those days of glory. Friends and family are also invited, as are skiers/travelers who may wish to join in future adventures. Keith is eternally patient as I take off my rucksack, then get the camera, then frame the shot up till it is just right, then put the stuff away, and so on. In the end, we find it very difficult to look away from the Matterhorn or think about leaving it behind. As we ski around an isolated curve in the mountain's lower wall, we spot an overlook, take off our skis, hike up to a spot where a bench has been erected, and sit...just sit...and stare...and think. I reach down to my ski boot...here high-alpine moss has managed to cling to the ground in a spot where the gleaming sun has cleared the snow. I touch the dirt...feel it in my hand...grind it between my fingers. Small purplish-grey stones offer an interesting tactile experience. I show Keith...we realize that this is the stuff that the Matterhorn Peak is made out of. The stones are fragile, they easily flake and crumble. One of the main hazards of climbing the Matterhorn is this stone...rockslides are common and can be fatal! Yet this fragile stone, when massed together forms the

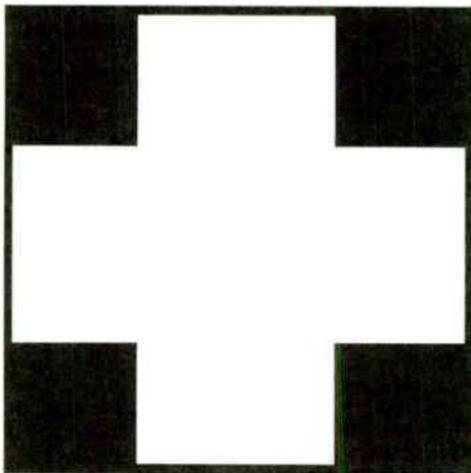
towering and seemingly immortal peak. I realize that the Matterhorn is just a temporary geographical feature, and sometime...in the expanse of time as we cannot comprehend...this noble peak will be reduced to a rubble of stone such as I now hold in my hand. How fortunate are we who have journeyed forward on this pilgrimage at this point in time. How fortunate are we to be cogent beings, filled with life...Graced with the capacity to walk the Earth and marvel at Her wonders. Keith and I look at the mountain again...then at each other...then the mountain. I unzip my suit and tuck a single stone into my inner pocket...to me it is like gold.

One final look over our shoulders and the Matterhorn becomes a thing of our past...a turned page in the book of our progressing reality.

The adventure has long-since ended...many more adventures have since been undertaken. Still...I have often had conversations with Keith since that moment on the bench on the Matterhorn and we both agree...we have not known a more peaceful time or setting in our lives. Indeed the Matterhorn, tiny Zermatt, and

Switzerland leaves a permanent imprint on all who are open to the experience. I have vowed to return, and one day soon I hope to. On that day I shall feel as if I am one who has been reunited with a cherished and beloved spiritual partner...once in a lifetime is, in fact, is not enough with the Matterhorn! Carpe Diem. Seize the Day!

\*\*\*\*\*



Below: Skiing around the base of the Matterhorn Peak, one often finds trails leading through small mountain villages.



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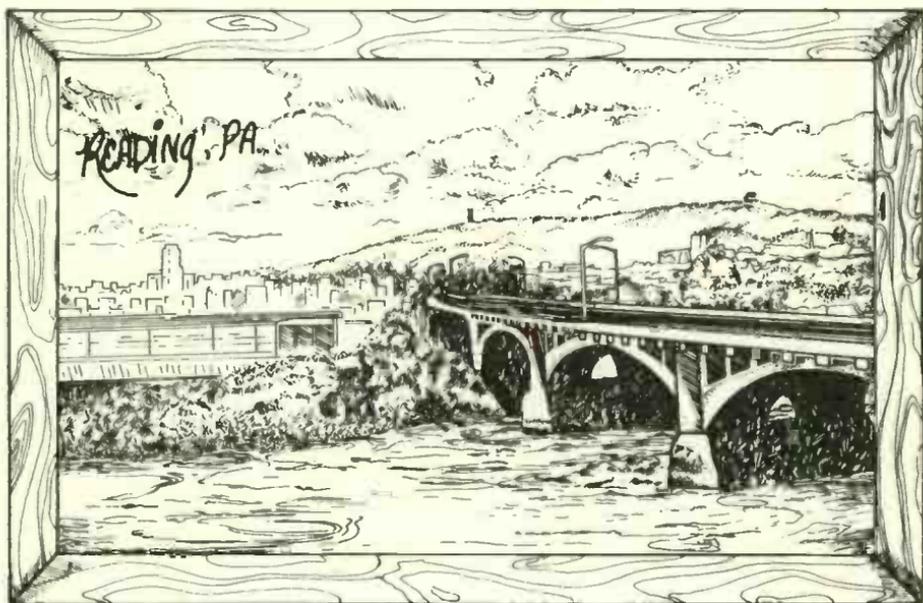








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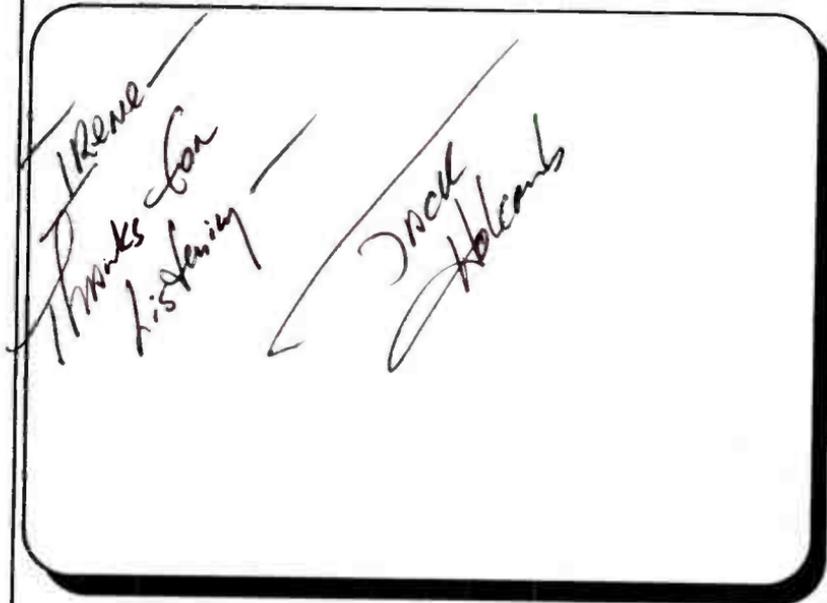
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## **Tales of Bluebirds, Muscle-Grams and “The Book”**

...Your Feedback Host Reflects

*by Jack Holcomb*

In late June, in somewhat of a turmoil, I asked Mitch Gerhart what direction he felt I should take with an article for this *FEEDBACK JOURNAL*.

I was rehashing what I had written over the years trying to find something new when he suggested recollections.

What a great idea, I thought! But there was a problem. Unless my memory is jarred I do have trouble delving into the past years of my work.

Oh, I do remember major events and station happenings, but, with so many phone calls covering so many topics, I have difficulty “focusing” on “highlights.”

However, there are some that seem a bit taller than others.

During the early years of “Feedback,” we had two picnics that brought many of the callers together so I could put faces with the voices. This was a treat, indeed! The very first “Feedback Newsletter” put together by three wonderful ladies (Kathleen, Jody, and Eleanor) was also an early highlight. With many outside

## **2000•FEEDBACK JOURNAL•2000**

speaking engagements, I had the opportunity to meet more and more folks who listened to and called the program. I still have that pleasure today. One might say this completes the circle—with a face-to-face meeting!

There have also been some “in studio” events that I can never forget.

Foremost would be my 50th and 60th birthdays. Now, remember that these events took place while I was on the air!

Those thoughtful ladies who published our first newsletters were also responsible for entertaining me with a “Bag Lady”-turned-Belly Dancer who did her, uh, “thing” while I slowly lost my composure to the music of a bagpiper playing outside of the control room!

That was for number 50.

On my 60th birthday, a group of dedicated co-workers arranged for a female bald eagle-turned-muscle gram to flex her brawn before my reddened face. Of course, I lost it...both times!

When the program was quite young, in the early 1980s, I had a call one day from a desperate-sounding young lady on the verge of going overboard with drugs. She said she didn’t know where to turn, so she called “Feedback.”

Needless to say, I was taken aback and tried to focus on help. I made some elementary suggestions, but was saved by a caller from a local drug rehabilitation center who, on the air,

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gave directions to the young lady and promised he would be there to meet her.

A call from the gentleman the next day (off the air) assured me that she did show up and was undergoing treatment.

On a similar note, I did a program with an eye-ear-nose and throat doctor and we had a call from a gentleman who was concerned about an abnormal growth on his body. The doctor told him to call his office and set up an appointment.

The doctor called me several weeks later and said that the phone call to “Feedback” saved the man’s life!

The, as I have mentioned before, there are the “behind the scenes” helping-hands who I find out about later, or, in some cases, never.

People helping people because they heard of their plight on “Feedback.”

This makes everything worthwhile.

There are days when folks call in with jokes, with what might sound like trivial questions (like, and I kid you not, “what day is it?”) and follow-ups to some of Charlie’s antics before we go on the air (he tells people to “call Feedback for directions to the Bernville Pachyderm Park or other silly things—and people believe him, and call!).

There was a caller last week who mentioned to me about the variety of calls on the show. She certainly was right. From birds to bees, carpet

## **2000•FEEDBACK JOURNAL•2000**

stains to the president, black ants to consumer problems, the listeners and I are there to help. If we succeed, the reward can be a smile and much satisfaction.

I do wish there was space to devote to the names of all the “Feedback” stars over the years. There have been many who have gained my respect for their contributions as well as the favor of many of the listeners. Some are with us and still calling while others have passed away.

As I sit with “the book” (and yes, there is a notebook full of “stuff” that I have accumulated over the years for reference—things like addresses, phone numbers, and names), I often reflect upon the twenty years of gathering-time. Hours spent reading, editing and writing about topics that might nudge someone to call, or better prepare me to discuss a certain issue.

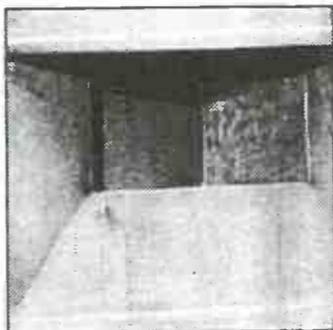
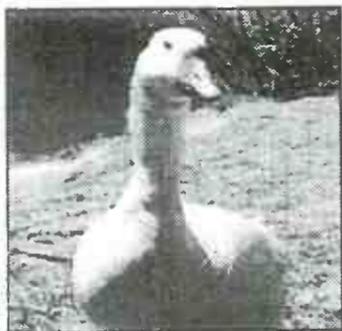
If there is no response, I will tuck away the subject until it comes up again—and be richer for it.

By the way, I do believe “the book” is really a pacifier!!

Thank you, and may all of your days be full of a bluebird’s song and many smiles....

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jack Holcomb". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal line above the name.

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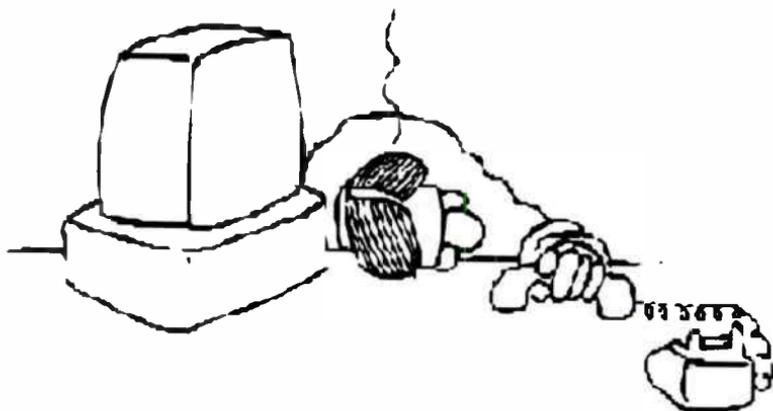
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# 2000•FEEDBACK JOURNAL•2000



1999:

## **WHEW! for WEEU!**

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1999 was a very busy year in the WEEU studios.

For years you asked why we had to turn down our power at night.

We didn't...but we did and do have to change the direction of our signal according to FCC rules.

This change occurs as the sun rises and sets each day. The pattern on 850 omitted parts of Berks County meaning that many of you would lose our signal at

## **2000•FEEDBACK JOURNAL•2000**

night. This proved frustrating to you and to all of us at WEEU as our mission is to serve Berks County as the *community radio station*.

We are the “electronic backyard fence,” the connection between neighbors, friends, family, business, and elected officials alike.

In 1999, we set out to repair that fence.

We had to petition the FCC for a new frequency and find a new location for our broadcast towers.

These two changes would allow WEEU to increase our power and strengthen and broaden our signal. No small feat, but after many months this was accomplished.

Being a locally owned and operated radio station for nearly 70 years you can imagine that much of our equipment was antiquated.

The search was on for new equipment that would accommodate the technological move into the digital era of broadcasting and complement the switch.

After many months of planning the purchases were made and the blue prints designed for three brand new studios.

Essentially we gutted our broadcast facilities and rebuilt them replacing cart machines, turntables, CD players, tape decks, engineering boards, and all the connectors, cables and wires that go with them.

# **2000•FEEDBACK JOURNAL•2000**

Wires that ran from one end of the WEEU building at 4th and Court Street to the other (a full half a city block!), wires and cables that snaked through the roof, down the walls, through the walls and through the floors connecting satellites hookups to control boards to broadcast components were all replaced.

Great, the blueprints were done, we had a plan!

*BUT WAIT!*

Unlike PennDOT, WEEU cannot close the road while construction is in progress.

Engineers would have to rip out old equipment and install new equipment.

Carpenters would have to build new counters and computer equipment racks.

Employees would have to learn entirely new systems all the while staying on the air!

All the announcers would have to learn how to operate not only new radio equipment but computer equipment, digital recording and editing equipment and the various programs that go along with them. Different programs for each of the three new studios, the production studio, the news studio and the main control studio.

Announcers who had always known which buttons on decks and boards to push in order to play

## **2000•FEEDBACK JOURNAL•2000**

commercials and songs from a cart, something that looks like an old 8-track (some of you may remember those!) would now click a mouse on a computer screen.

Announcers who had used reels of tape and razor blades to do audio production and edit commercials and promos would now have to learn how to cursor up or down or over on an audio screen and cut and paste bits together using that mouse.

Announcers who had gone to the music library to get the music for their shows and then to the commercial rack to get commercial and promotional carts for their shows would no longer be walking the halls with stacks of carts.

Now they would have to learn which window to click on with that mouse so they could drop and drag the necessary “elements” for their shows.

Announcers who had sorted through news stories from the wire service, typed local stories and compiled newscasts in notebook-like fashion would now have to learn how to do all the news, wire-stories, local stories and audio sound bites from the community on a computer screen using that mouse.

Those announcers would then have to switch to reading the news on the air from a prompter as the screen scrolls down through the newscast.

## **2000•FEEDBACK JOURNAL•2000**

There would soon be no more paper or reels or carts or tapes...all the necessary broadcast elements would be stored on the hard-drive on 'servers' tucked away in what used to be the music library. The women in the traffic department would now have to "send" the daily broadcast log to the control room using that mouse.

All these changes to accommodate the switch...and all the while WEEU would stay on the air 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

And so in April the production studio was gutted and rebuilt.

We all waded into this digital room and experimented with new ways of doing things and learned how much you could do with a mouse.

By June WEEU's news operation headquarters were moved into this new production room and the Newsroom was torn apart and rebuilt. After it was completed a whole new computer system, the "newsboss," had to be mastered and integrated with the new production room. Soon after that we moved all our news operations back into the newsroom.

Then came July and the Master Control Room, the headquarters for everything you hear on the air, was the biggest and last studio that had to be rebuilt. By now we all had at least a basic working knowledge of this

## **2000•FEEDBACK JOURNAL•2000**

new digital technology and we moved WEEU's broadcast operations to the production room. We worked our way around a system designed specifically for production and figured out how we could broadcast all our programming from this room.

The engineers went to work in the Control Room, tearing out old equipment, drilling, wiring, installing not one but two computer systems, linking and testing computer software.

Another computer program had to be mastered by all the operators.

Finally it came time to switch. On July 30, 1999 WEEU moved it's broadcasting operations back into the main control studio. All systems were integrated and we started broadcasting solely from the computer.

The carts, the reels, the tapes, were all gone. The paper was gone.

Just the announcer, a computer screen, a keyboard, a mouse, and YOU.

You stuck with us as we learned the systems, made mistakes, and worked out the wrinkles on the air.

***Thank you.***

But that was just the inside.

In October we flipped the outside switch with a big party and you joined us then too and switched your

## **2000•FEEDBACK JOURNAL•2000**

radio to *The Voice of Berks County, 830, WEEU*.

Yes, 1999 was a very busy year...or, more properly, the culmination of several years of researching, learning, planning, implementing, and adapting to the ever-changing technologies in the communications world.

It was a great challenge, and now that we've switched to 830 we're ready to BE YOUR VOICE in Berks County and more importantly provide a platform FOR YOUR VOICE in the new millennium.

Thanks to a terrific team at WEEU, all 27 employees persevered through drastic changes all the while smiling and enjoying what they do everyday, willing to do whatever was necessary to stay on the air while under construction and take the difficulties and *faux pas* in stride knowing in the end it would be better.

Most importantly thanks to you, our listeners, our extended WEEU family, for your patience and your input through the whole process. You were never shy about telling us what you don't like and most importantly you were never shy about telling us what you like. We listened too!

*Jo Painter,  
Program Director*

# **2000•FEEDBACK JOURNAL•2000**

## **Welcome Back Mary! -Reading's Own Doll Lady**

By Grace Kline

If you grew up in Berks County you cannot help but remember the Mary Hoyer Doll Shop located at 1008 Penn St.

Little girls, and mothers too, could not pass by the shop without stopping to spend time looking at the wonderful dolls, their clothes and accessories, that Mary displayed so beautifully in her shop windows.

Mary Sensenig Hoyer was the youngest of fourteen children and did not own a doll as a very small child.

When she was eight years old she was

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hospitalized with appendicitis. Her older sister, Alice, told her to get well and she would buy her a doll. After leaving the hospital she went to recuperate with her sister and upon arriving she found that, there indeed, was a beautiful doll. During this time her sister taught her how to knit and crochet.

Some years later her sister opened a yarn shop and Mary, who by this time was attending business school, worked part time at the shop. While there she enjoyed designing and writing knitting instructions for several major yarn manufacturers.

Mary married William Hoyer in 1926 and they had one daughter, Arlene.

Her love of dolls continued through the years and, with her husband's support, she opened the yarn and doll shop. She designed a doll and a line of clothing that could be purchased ready made or

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*Legendary doll-maker Mary Hoyer (lower right) with daughter Arlene Hess (top) and granddaughter Mary Lynne Saunders.*

## **2000•FEEDBACK JOURNAL•2000**

in kit form, with patterns and fabric, to be finished at home.

She produced doll fashion shows which she presented throughout the Eastern Pennsylvania area as fund raisers for charitable and church organizations. There she showed the latest costumes, clothing, and accessories. She also wrote the script and the words and music for the shows, each one carrying out various themes.

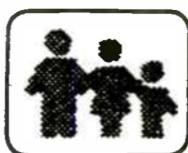
In 1945 she expanded her business and opened a second shop in Ocean City, New Jersey where she spent her summers. This shop continued in business until 1960.

Her published doll books include 15 publications for crochet and knitted children and doll clothing and pattern designs for Doll Reader Magazine.

In 1970, after many successful years, Mary retired



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# **2000•FEEDBACK JOURNAL•2000**

the business and moved to Florida where she resided until 1998.

When Mary closed her shop in Reading her daughter, Arlene, opened a ladies dress shop, at the same location, which continued in business for many years.

This love of dolls was instilled in Mary Lynne, one of her granddaughters. Lynne spent much time in her grandmother's shops and enjoyed all the people who came to browse and buy the beautiful items.

In 1989 Mary Lynne Saunders, now with a family of her own, approached Mary with the idea of starting up the Hoyer Doll Co. once again.

With Mary's blessing, Lynne now heads the company which is located in Lancaster, Pennsylvania. The company ships dolls and merchandise

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## **2000•FEEDBACK JOURNAL•2000**



*(TOP) Author of this article, Grace Kline (right) and Mary Hoyer enjoying "Dolly Talk."*

*(BOTTOM) Some examples of Mary Hoyer creations include, left, the Doll with the Magic Wand; and right, Princess Tyrina.*

## **2000•FEEDBACK JOURNAL•2000**

throughout the U.S. and to six international countries. Lynne hosts an annual luncheon and publishes a quarterly "Hoyer Moments" newsletter.

In 1990 Mary and her granddaughter collaborated and together published a story book entitled "The Doll With The Magic Wand," based on a story Mary had written for Lynne when she was a child. They also designed and manufactured a line of specialty dolls and clothing related to the story book characters.

Mary Hoyer celebrated her ninety-eighth birthday in October 1999 and is currently working on a new story book entitled "Dolls In The Toy Shop."

A multi-talented lady, she also is an accomplished artist who has about one hundred paintings to her credit.

I asked her what inspired her dolls very



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## **2000•FEEDBACK JOURNAL•2000**

beautiful features and she grinned and replied that her daughter was "such a pretty child!"

Since she has returned to Reading, Mary enjoys spending time with family and friends and never tires of "Dolly Talk."

When I am able to locate and purchase a vintage Hoyer doll I am always amazed at how far and wide the dolls have traveled and the great interest in them.

Thanks Mary, for sharing your talents and for providing so many joys of childhood to so many people.

The legend continues! Welcome back to Reading!

*For further information contact:*

*Mary Hoyer Doll Co.*

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## 2000•FEEDBACK JOURNAL•2000



*Sooner or later, anyone who participates in one of the popular WEEU ski trips for sponsors and friends will encounter this beast—HELGA! “She” is really a WEEU account executive who would beat up the FEEDBACK JOURNAL editor if we revealed his (or her???) real name.*

## **2000•FEEDBACK JOURNAL•2000**

# Not Just Another Baseball Story

*By Paul Druzba, WEEU Copywriter*

July 7, 1999 was my birthday, and this seemed like an odd way to be celebrating it. I was doing something I'd sworn I'd never do again after the "Big Strike"- I was going to a Major League baseball game.

If you read my story in the recent *WEEU Sports Almanac*, you know about my love-hate relationship with baseball.

I've loved the game itself ever since my dad would take me to see the Pulaski Post Legion team

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# **2000•FEEDBACK JOURNAL•2000**

play at George Field, and we would wait in anticipation for this big first baseman, named "Leshner", I think, to come to bat, and sometimes drill one out to the railroad tracks in right.

On occasion, we would take in a Reading Indians game, or on special occasions, a "big" Phillies game at Connie Mack Stadium. Once, we even went to the Big Apple to see the Yankees. It was from these experiences that my love of baseball grew. And it lasted through my school years, despite my trying summers on the ill-fated 12th & Chestnut playground team. In fact, the love endured until the strike that caused the "season that wasn't."

And a great game it was. One of those classic "see-saw" matches, with the lead being

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## **2000•FEEDBACK JOURNAL•2000**

traded through the game between the Phillies and the Milwaukee Brewers. Still being a baseball lover at heart, I was distracted by the good game that night, and wasn't paying much attention to the sponsors who were along, including the kids they had brought with them.

But back to the more-recent past. Here I was, getting on the bus for an after-work trip to the Vet, and WEEU's Super Box—a triennial gift from the Phillies for being part of their network, and a way for us to say "thank you" to our Phillies sponsors. Anyway, I rationalized to myself, it's free, and so I'm not actually contributing to the inflated salaries and prices that soured me on Major League baseball earlier this decade.

My mind was drifting back to the days of my

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## **2000•FEEDBACK JOURNAL•2000**

youth, when Aaron, Matthews, Torre and the rest of the Milwaukee team were the Braves, in the National League. Now, after a stay in the American League as the Brewers, Milwaukee was back in the National League, and this was the first time I'd ever seen the Brewers play.

Before I knew it, it was the 9th inning. The Phillies had just blown a two-run lead, and the score was tied, 4-4 in the bottom of the ninth. First Phillie up, one out. Second Phillie up, two outs. "Oh, wonderful!" I said to myself. "I won't get home till three in the morning, and I have to get up for work tomorrow." So I went up to the top of our Super Box, and got one last Coke to tide me over.

I couldn't see the action on the field from up



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# **2000•FEEDBACK JOURNAL•2000**

there, but I could feel something happening. I could feel the excitement building, in the crowd below, and in the smaller crowd up here in the box.

With two out, the batter was Scott Rolen. *The* Scott Rolen who had played for the Reading Phillies not long ago. The Scott Rolen who some people, especially those up here in the Super Box, felt should have been in the All Star Game this year.

Time really slows down at times like this, and my dread about extra innings quickly vanished. All of a sudden, I had this vision of the ball being hit, over the left field wall.. WAY over the wall, right into our box, and right into my hand. OK, it sounds crazy, but this is Scott Rolen. Anything

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## **2000•FEEDBACK JOURNAL•2000**

can happen, right?

In a heartbeat, I heard the crack of the bat. I looked toward the field, and all I could see was a kid in a blue shirt at the front of our box, with his arms outstretched. It was happening! Like a flash, something flew into the box just below me. It was a baseball! But, instead of ending up in my hand, it was in the hand of the kid in the front row of the box, and he was holding it up for all the world, or at least Comcast, to see.

The kid was Matt Boland, the son of Ron Boland of Agway Energy Products, one of our sponsors. And Matt and his dad were experiencing a moment they'd remember for the rest of their lives. If this seems like a storybook tale, you haven't heard anything yet.

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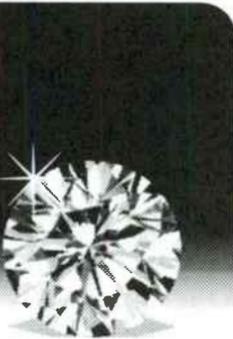
## **2000•FEEDBACK JOURNAL•2000**

Matt turns out to be the bat boy for the Reading Phillies when they're at home. Funny thing is, Matt was never interested much in baseball until this year. He played mostly basketball and soccer in school. But he was looking for a part time job, and his dad knows the Reading Phillies clubhouse manager.

Since he wasn't exactly a veteran baseball fan, Matt wasn't really that much in awe of the players when he started the job. "I was mostly afraid of doing something wrong," he said. "But the players were really nice."

Matt's love of baseball has grown because of his part time job. "People think it's boring to watch, but it really is a fun game."

Even though Scott Rolen played for the



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## **2000•FEEDBACK JOURNAL•2000**

Reading Phillies not long ago, it was before Matt's time as bat boy. Yet, he's been a big fan of Rolen's since the beginning of the season. As soon as Matt started his job as a bat boy, he developed an appreciation of the game he'd never paid much attention to before. He became a baseball fan- in particular, a Phillies fan.

This year, Matt has made a lot of friends in the Phillies' clubhouse, including Reggie Taylor and Andy Stewart. But his idol is Scott Rolen.

Like Rolen, Matt plays third base, in the Exeter Little League. The fall of 1999 will be Matt's first year at Exeter High School, which now begins in 10th grade. (It started in 9th when Charlie Adams and I were students there). Matt is looking forward to trying out for the Exeter High

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Matt Boland.

A hand-drawn style sign with a decorative border. The text is arranged in columns. The top left has a logo with a needle and thread. The right side has a list of services. The bottom has contact information.

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## **2000•FEEDBACK JOURNAL•2000**

School baseball team. The fact that it was Scott Rolen who hit Matt's home run on my birthday was like a dream come true for Matt, who had been saving up his bat boy and clubhouse duties money for a Scott Rolen home jersey, which costs about \$130. (No, that's not a misprint-this is not your ordinary t-shirt here).

The day after the game, I asked Matt how the Big Shirt Savings Account was going. "Actually, I already have the money", Matt said. "But I've been holding off," he said. "It's a lot of money."

Did the game the night before change his mind about buying the jersey? "Oh, yeah!", he said. "What time does the mall close"?

As a tribute to our advertisers and staff, Matt was impressed by the way he was treated after his



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## 2000•FEEDBACK JOURNAL•2000

"catch". "Some people would have said, 'Aw, that kid caught it. It should have been mine'", Matt said. "But everybody was happy for me, and really nice to me on the bus ride home."

A season with the Reading Phillies and following Scott Rolen have made Matt a big Phillies booster. In fact, he's such a Rolen fan that, when the ball left the bat, and it went sailing out toward him, he remembers thinking, "He's oh-for-four tonight. If he can do something here, the Phillies are six games over .500". Then, as the ball got closer, Matt's instincts for self-preservation took over, and he got out of the way.

His dad, fortunately, did not, and took it on the belly to stop the ball. "He's got a big bruise where it hit", Matt said.



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## **2000•FEEDBACK JOURNAL•2000**

Most people in Matt's situation would try to get the ball autographed by Rolen. Matt would just as soon give the ball back to the man who hit it. "I'd just like to meet him," he said.

No matter what happens with the baseball, or the Scott Rolen jersey. Matt's life will never be the same.

He's thought about playing professional baseball, but, since he's still fairly new to the game, will wait to see how high school baseball treats him. In the meantime, he's getting to know some really nice people and good ballplayers with the Reading Phillies. He even gets to shag a few grounders once in a while at third during batting practice.

Whether or not Matt Boland ever becomes a



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## **2000•FEEDBACK JOURNAL•2000**

Major League player himself, he'll have a real storybook story to tell his kids one of these days.

And I'm glad I was there to see it, even though it was he who caught the ball and not me.

•

More people are killed by donkeys annually than are killed in plane crashes.

•

The longest word typed with only the left hand is STEWARDESSES.

•

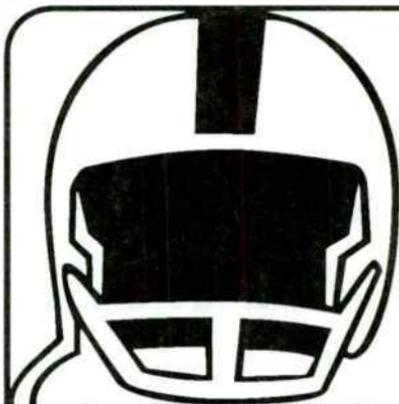
Dueling is legal in Paraguay...as long as both parties are registered blood donors.

•

Women blink nearly twice as much as men.

•

A snail can sleep for three years.



**Penn State Football  
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Philadelphia Phillies  
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clock...**

# **SPORTS**

**WE GOT GAME(S)**

**WEEU**  
830

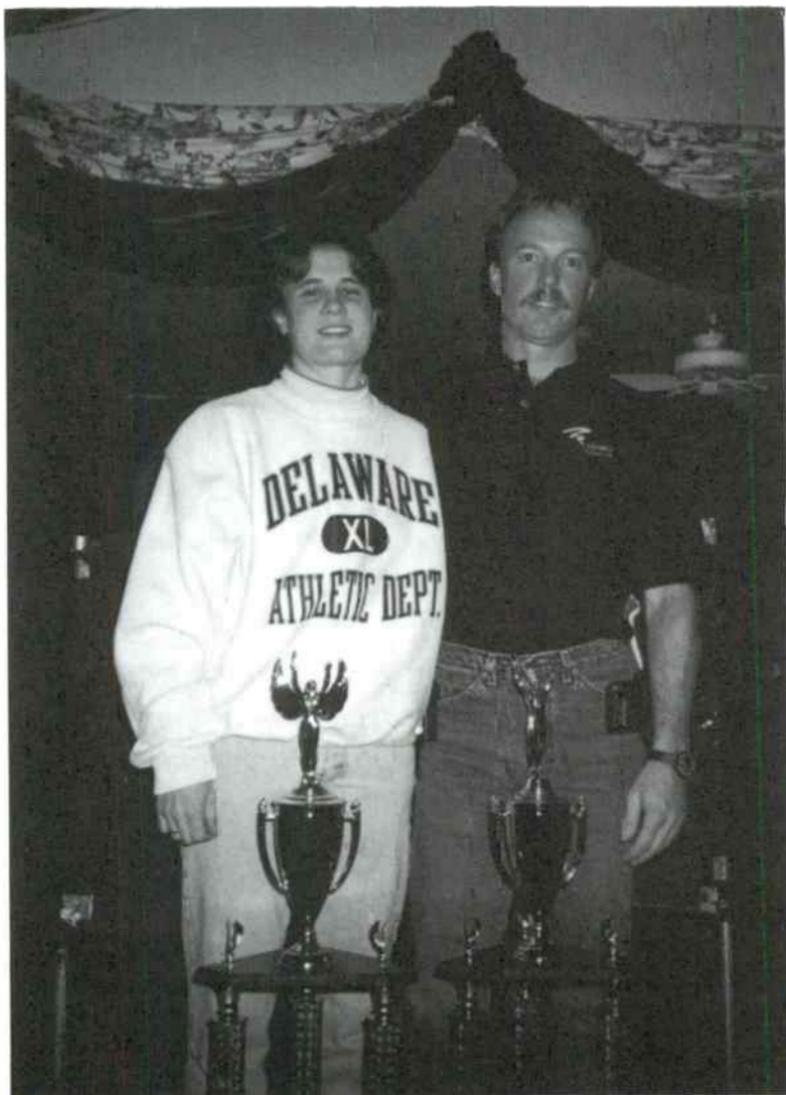
# 2000•FEEDBACK JOURNAL•2000



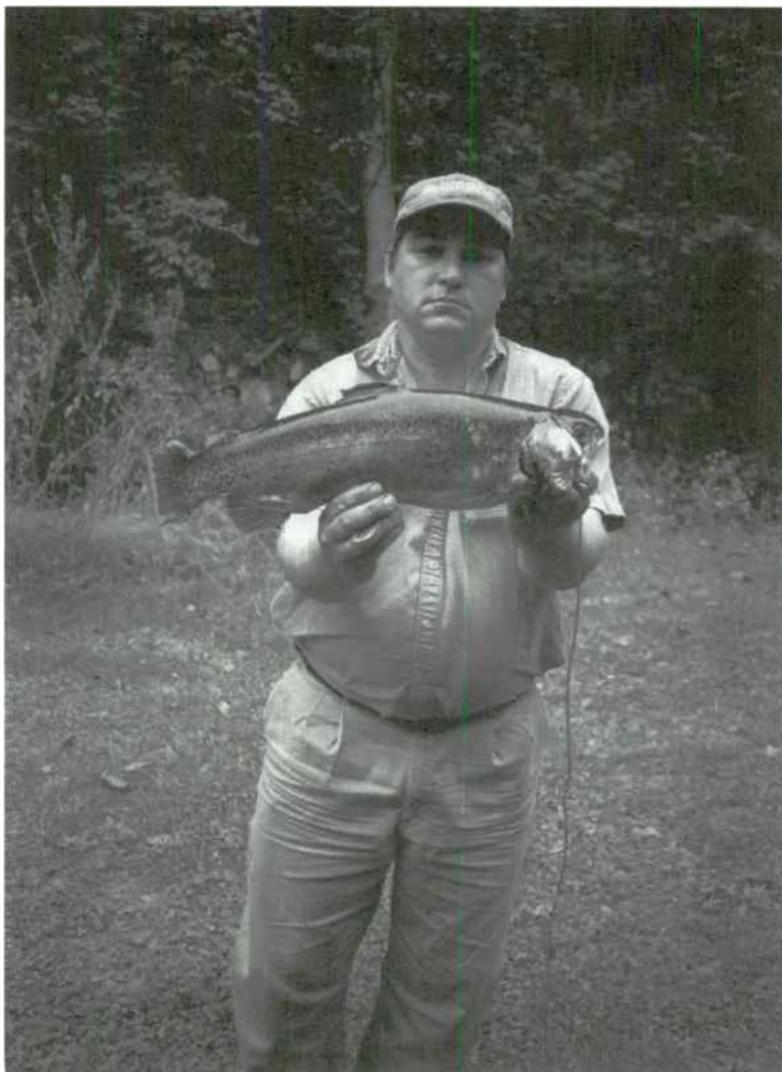
*Victors and vanquished! The WEEU softball team (top) won an exciting game against worthy opponents, the EXIDE Recyclers in a game played in summer, 1999, at Mohnton Playground. That green thing? Oh, that's the Phillie Phanatic, who made a special appearance at the big game.*



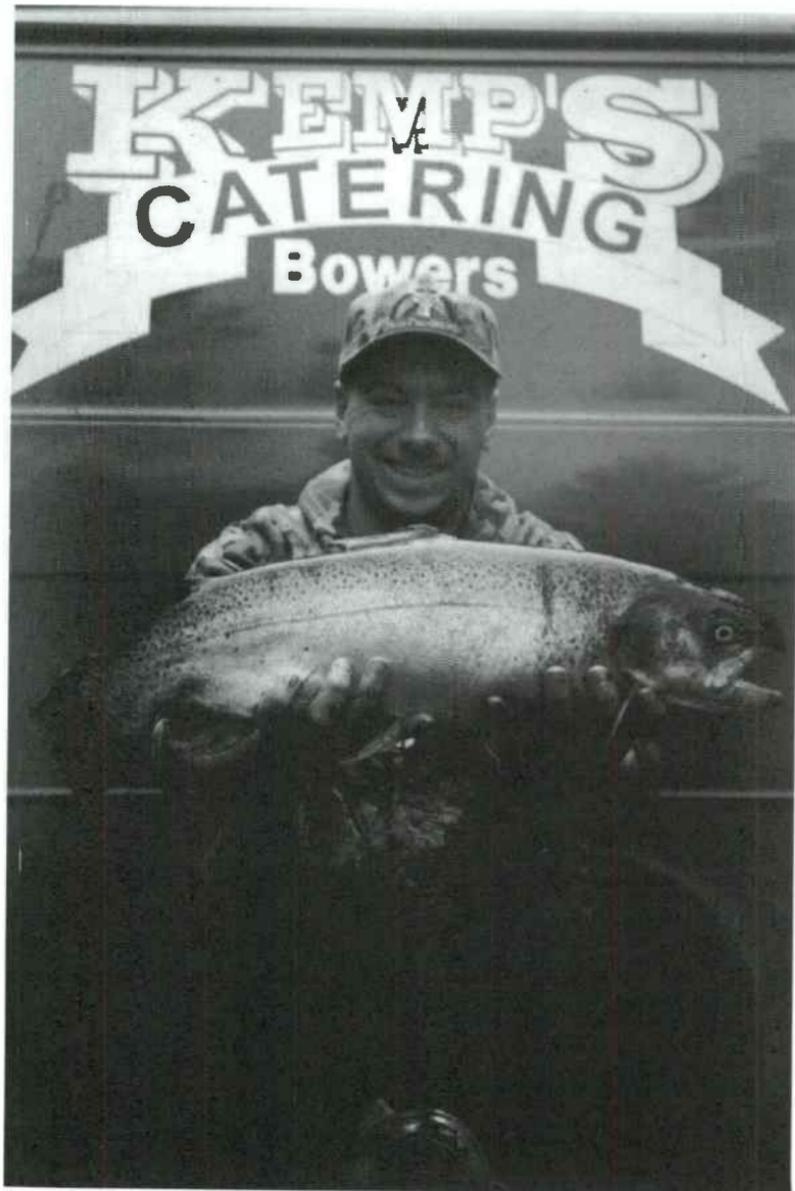
## **2000•FEEDBACK JOURNAL•2000**



*The 1998 WEEU Cycle Series champions, Nancy Keene-Schweigert and Steve Schneider.*



*“Goody,” from Rich’s Bait and Tackle, shows off the rainbow trout that earned him a second place finish in the WEEU fishing tournament at Limestone Springs.*



*Darin Kemp, of Kemp's Catering, won the 1998 WEEU Sponsors' Invitational Trout Tournament at Limestone Springs with this trophy rainbow. It weighed a whopping seven and 5/8 pounds, was 15 inches in girth and 26 inches in length!*



## **A CHILD'S CHOICE**

A SHORT FICTIONAL STORY

BY

**CHRIS REINBOLD, WEEU ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE**

When I first met Andy I would have said that he had a difficult childhood growing up.

Looking back some thirty years later, and through today's standards, I guess it was a pretty normal upbringing.

I met Andy when he was just twelve and his mother was going through her second divorce in just three years.

It's such a shame how today's families don't seem to stay with each other *'til death do them part*.

Well, that's another story for another time. Andy had been bounced around from home to home and school to school throughout the years of the two divorces.

Andy was a bright kid who deserved better than this. He was at the mercy of his age and his mother.

His mother was generally a nice person towards Andy, but she became slightly depressed at the fact that her marriages couldn't, and wouldn't last.

## **2000•FEEDBACK JOURNAL•2000**

Andy did love his mother, but he also felt resentful towards her that she couldn't settle down. He missed having a father figure in his life to look up to, but was that really his mother's fault.

After the second divorce Andy and his mother went to live with Andy's grandmother, his mother's mother.

This is where I first got to meet Andy, his grandmother lived just two houses down from mine.

She was always very nice to me, and I often thought of her as my own grandmother. Andy's grandmother was named Ellie and she lived in a moderately-sized house in the eastern corner of the United States.

All of the houses on our block were all the same size, although designed differently. Andy and I met the second that he pulled up to the house.

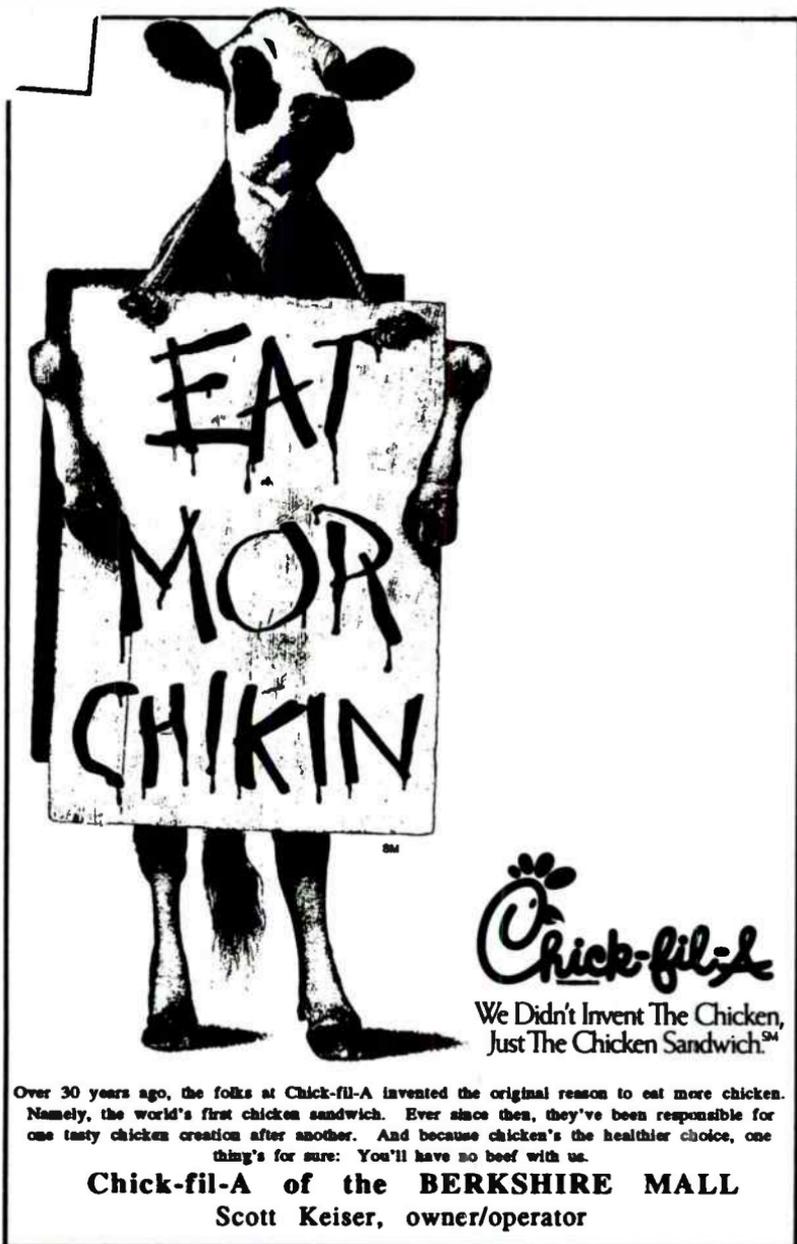
I was playing with some G.I. Joes. Andy noticed what I was doing and joined right in the mock war that I was conducting.

Of course I was the *good* Joes and he was the *evil enemy* Cobra command.

Now Andy felt that he could actually settle down and relax and begin living a normal twelve year old's life.

What is really reality sometimes becomes blurred when you want something so badly. This was hardly the ideal spot for Andy to grow up in. First off, there were a total of six people living in the three-bedroom home.

These people were all family, but there was always that feeling you were never alone in the house. The five other people living in the house were all of his grandmother's other children that had never left the comforts of home, and on top of that they were all women.



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## **2000•FEEDBACK JOURNAL•2000**

I guess that they watched Andy's mother and scared themselves into a sheltered life. Imagine a house full of lethargic middle-aged women and one twelve year old boy!

Andy wanted no parts of this situation, so as soon as he was registered into a school, he immediately enrolled himself in as many after school and sports activities as he could.

This was all fine and good, but Andy was still wanting more. He felt that as much time as he could spend away from his home was better for his sanity. He didn't realize the repercussions of these actions, and how it would effect his mentality. If he could only look into the future and see how much his family would mean to him when he became a young adult.

The only thing left to do was to get a job. This was easier said than done when you are only twelve years old.

Andy searched, but alas never found anything past delivering newspapers or doing yard work for some older neighbor. He was coming back from one of these "jobs" when he noticed the most beautiful thing that he had ever seen, the local traveling circus was beginning to set up in the town's central park.

As he approached the big top to satisfy his curiosity he noticed a sign hanging from the main entrance: "Help wanted to travel with show."

He didn't really think twice about it, he was again too young to travel with the circus. Just then a giant elephant marched right by the entrance, no more than ten feet in front of Andy.

The gentleman leading the animal said hello to Andy, and stated that the show was beginning tonight and the boy

## **2000•FEEDBACK JOURNAL•2000**

should come back at that time.

Not wanting to get into any trouble, the boy left the entrance and began making his way back home, with all of the good news in tow.

That evening Andy got to see the circus, billed as “the greatest show on the planet.”

For one reason or another I was unable to attend the show with Andy. After the show Andy marveled at all of the sights and sounds that the circus produced.

Andy said the first thing he did was to grab a box of hot buttered popcorn before making his way to his seat.

As all of the different acts made their ways through the various stages, Andy found himself mesmerized by the sheer sight of it all. The animals, clowns, and acrobatic acts had him in awe.

After the show was over and most of the patrons were heading home, Andy found himself still sitting in his seat in the big top. He just couldn't force himself to leave, this seemed to him what he was missing in his life. And what that “what” was he really wasn't quite certain, he just knew he felt better than he ever had at any other time in his life.

As Andy was sitting in the big top contemplating life, the grounds crew began cleaning up after the performance. They could have easily just swept up Andy in their cleaning frenzy, and Andy wouldn't have cared.

Andy began to see and smell the dust generated from the cleaning, and awoke from his daydream. He made his way down the bleachers and nearly ran over the ringmaster as he made his way to the exit.

The ringmaster, whose name was Alfredo, asked Andy where he was going in such a hurry.

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# **2000•FEEDBACK JOURNAL•2000**

Andy answered. "Nowhere special, believe me."

Alfredo asked if the boy was all right, and if he wanted to use a phone to call his parents to come and get him.

What Andy said next boggles the mind.

He said that his parents were both dead, and that he had no home to go to.

I don't know why he said this, and I don't think that Andy did either. It just seemed like the perfect opportunity to create a new life in front of a perfect stranger.

Alfredo felt sorry for the boy he had just met, and offered him to sit down and talk. The conversation was brief, but eventually led to what the boy had been doing to survive.

Andy didn't know how to answer that one, and Alfredo took the silence to mean that the boy really didn't have an answer for it.

Alfredo, against his better judgment, told the boy that he would always have a home at the circus if he wanted it.

Andy was caught a little off guard by that comment, and took this as his cue to leave the situation. Andy was always better at leaving a difficult situation than staying and facing it—a trait no doubt learned from his mother.

Alfredo called out to the boy as he walked out the entrance, "We're here for the next two days if you change your mind."

Great Andy thought, now he has two whole days to decide the rest of his life.

When Andy arrived home that evening he was greeted by a barrage of insults and yelling by his mother.

She was already upset that she lost her job, her second one in the time that they had moved. Now to upset her

## **2000•FEEDBACK JOURNAL•2000**

even more, her only son was out at the circus all-night without supervision.

When he felt that his mother was finished with him, he did what he always did, he walked away.

This time, the only place he walked to was his room.

Bright and early the next morning Andy awoke and dressed and found his grandmother cooking an early morning breakfast.

He delighted in the thought of eating a good breakfast before his journeys of the day. After breakfast, barely squeezing out “thank you” to his grandmother, he bolted out the door towards the center of town.

His grandmother was no dummy. She knew he was heading out to the circus early, and she specifically got up early to make him breakfast.

Like a man on a mission from God, he sprinted to where the circus was set up. He was greeted by his new friend Alfredo, who was busy taking the lions out for their morning walk.

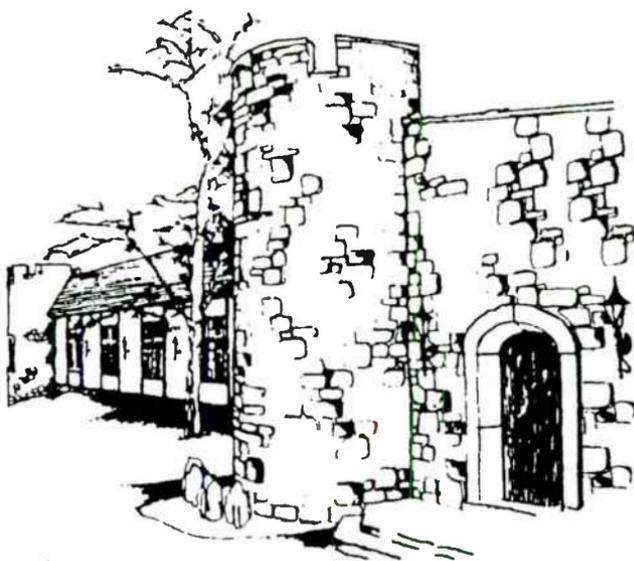
Alfredo said he was glad to see that Andy had changed his mind about joining them at the circus.

Although Andy had been thinking of their conversation since their meeting, he still didn't have an answer for Alfredo.

Andy spent the day with his circus friends, and stayed to watch the matinee show from behind scenes.

After the show Andy had about four hours before the evening show, and he decided to go home and catch some lunch.

Hoping to catch his grandmother in another of her cooking moods, he ran the entire way home. When he



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## **2000•FEEDBACK JOURNAL•2000**

arrived home his grandmother was nowhere to be found, and the house seemed empty for the first time since he moved there.

Upon further perusal of the home, he found his mother in the basement going through some boxes they moved in with. Slightly unsure how to back out without being noticed, he decided to just face her and make the best of the situation.

A rather bold move on Andy's part. What he got was the shock of his life.

His mother was actually going through some of his old things that were still boxed up. When she noticed him she asked him to come and join her.

Andy decided to appease his mother, and he sat right next to her.

She was browsing through some old photographs, and tears were welling up in her eyes. She then did something that threw Andy for a loop, she put her arm around him and gave him a hug. She went on to say that she knew that she hadn't been exactly the model mother that she had hoped to be.

It wasn't the words that shocked Andy, but the tone in which she said them in. She wasn't loud, or obnoxious she just sounded like those TV mothers did when they were comforting their children.

She went on to say that she was disappointed with the way her life had turned out, but she had high hopes for her son. This was the first type of compliment that Andy had received from his mother in quite some time, and it made him feel good.

She said that she had reached a turning point in her life,

## **2000•FEEDBACK JOURNAL•2000**

and she was determined to turn her life around. She stated that the only way that she could accomplish that was through the continued support of her family, especially her son's.

Andy felt something towards his mother that he had never felt before—sorry for her.

I guess he never realized all of the hardships that his mother had endured to have a better life for herself and her son. It was a very enlightening point in Andy's young life, and one he had never considered before.

She knew her son's desires with the circus— she wasn't that blind.

She told him that whatever his decision was she would support him. Mom knew of the pressure that now faced her son, and she respected his decision to leave and go to his room. This time he felt that he wasn't walking away from this situation, as much as, finding a nice quite place to contemplate his future.

It was a struggle to make a decision like this for Andy. He had never made a choice so important as this one was. I'm guessing that not too many adolescent teens have.

When he emerged from his room he felt like a changed man, even though he was the same *boy* as when he walked into the room.

The thing that made him different was the fact that he actually believed his mother, and felt as though she deserved his love and support. His mother was ecstatic to hear this, and hugged her son with the biggest bear hug she could muster.

Andy didn't want to forget his friends at the circus, so he and his mother decided to catch the last show at the

# **2000•FEEDBACK JOURNAL•2000**

park.

Andy didn't see his friend Alfredo, but noticed that a new ringmaster was in the ring. After the show Andy looked for his friend, but to no avail, he couldn't locate him.

Andy often thought of the circus and all of the fun he could have had, but the joy of having his mother back was all that Andy needed anymore.

Andy went on living with his mother, grandmother and various others right on through high school.

He went on to college, where he graduated *cum laude*. Now, with his mother in the stands of the graduation ceremony, he delivered his commencement speech.

He went on to say how much his professors and other faculty helped in his collegiate career, and how much the institution has paved his way in life.

But the one person who deserved all of the credit was the one person that really gave him his chance in life, his mother,

She turned her life around, and in turn her son's as well.

The tears once again began to well up, this time in Andy's eyes and he thought to himself he had never cried tears of joy for his mother.

She was still making Andy do things that he never thought he would be doing.

I still have some contact with Andy, even though he moved away from the area after college.

He now has his own family, and is quite happy with the way his life turned out. Andy now has his own sons, and even he runs into troubles while raising them.

But that's a different story for a different time.





*After advertising on WEEU, Paplosky's Speed Shop's business increased so much that they broke ground on a new addition. Charlie Paplosky (second from left) turned the first shovel as friends and members of his family look on. That's WEEU account executive Janet Topur at far right.*



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## **REMEMBER...**

### **Author Unknown**

Remember, old folks are worth a fortune with silver in their hair, gold in their teeth, stones in their kidneys, lead in their feet and gas in their stomachs.

I have become a little older since I saw you last and a few changes have come into my life since then. Frankly, I have become quite a frivolous old gal. I am seeing four gentlemen every day. As soon as I wake up, Will Power helps me out of bed. Then Charlie Horse comes along and when he is here, he takes a lot of my time and attention. When he leaves, Arthur Ritis shows up and stays the rest of the day. He doesn't like to stay in one place very long so he takes me from joint to joint.

After such a busy day I'm really tired and glad to go to bed with Ben Gay.

What a life!

*P.S. The preacher came to call the other day. He said at my age I should be thinking about the hereafter. I told him, "Oh, I do that all the time. No matter where I am, in the parlor, in the kitchen, or down in the basement, I ask myself, "What am I here after?"*

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# **2000•FEEDBACK JOURNAL•2000**

## **TRIVIAL...BUT TRUE!**

There is an average of 178 sesame seeds on a  
McDonald's "Big Mac" bun.

\*

Pound for pound, hamburgers cost more than a  
new car.

\*

When Heinz ketchup leaves the bottle, it travels at  
a rate of 25 miles per year.

\*

It is possible to lead a cow upstairs...but not  
downstairs.

\*

On the average, 100 people choke to death on  
ballpoint pens every year.

\*

Reno, Nevada, is west of Los Angeles, California.

\*

The average life span of a major league baseball is  
five pitches.

\*

The only mammal on earth that cannot jump is  
the elephant.

\*

The cigarette lighter was invented before the  
match.

\*

Five Jell-O flavors that flopped: Celery, coffee,  
cola, apple, and chocolate.

•

## **Oh, My Aching Back!**

When Pete Sampras had to leave the U.S. Open tennis tournament in 1999, millions who suffer from back pain realized that they are not alone. And even top physically fit athletes can have back troubles—no one is immune. As Sampras now knows, one of the most common back injuries is a herniated disc.

"The discs that lie between the vertebrae act as cushions for the spine. A disc herniation occurs when the inner part of the disc, which is soft and gel-like, bulges toward the back of your body and breaks through the disc wall," explain Michael S. Sinel, M.D., and William W. Deardorff, Ph.D., the authors of *Back Pain Remedies For Dummies*(R),

Disc herniation is a very common problem. In fact, out of 100 people, nearly half will have some kind of disc herniation or bulge—whether they experience pain or not. "Many people are prompted to go to the doctor because of the pain, but a lot of people do not experience any pain at all.

And more importantly, simple twisting can cause disc herniation—it doesn't have to be a major blow.

As in Sampras' case, as well as other tennis, racquetball players and golfers, a simple twisting

## **2000•FEEDBACK JOURNAL•2000**

motion or lunging for the ball can cause a disc herniation."

The good news is that this common injury can be treated and cured without surgery.

Dr. Sinel and his colleagues just completed a study on massive disc herniations and presented their findings at the annual meeting of the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons.

In the study, patients were treated conservatively with combinations of activity restriction, physical therapy, nonsteroidal antiinflammatory medications, corsets, low-dose (oral) steroids, and epidural steroid injections. "After completing this study," said Dr. Sinel, "we believe the majority of clinically significant massive lumbar disc herniations can safely undergo a trial of conservative therapy."

Also, the doctors warn, emotional stress should not be ignored. Trained by Dr. Sarno in mind-body approaches to back pain, these doctors have identified emotional stress as a leading cause of back pain, even when a disc herniation is present. "Since mind-body factors are not recognized by the vast majority of spine specialists, patients with a disc herniation and stress-related back pain often get unnecessary and unsuccessful treatment."

Doctors Sinel and Deardorff warn patients not to automatically accept surgery as their only alternative. "Many doctors recommend surgery too quickly as a cure, but as we have discovered, there are many other treatments for back patients, and it is important to explore all of your options before going under the knife."

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# TRAIL TALES

by "East Side" Dave Kline

Many of us enjoy exploring the outdoor environment, but often can't find the time to actually do it! A perfect solution to the problem of too little time and thus, too little recreation, is to skip the sometimes large consumption of time used up in traveling to far-flung destinations and focus more on local outdoor adventures that keep the travel time down to about an hour or less.

It is common for us to take for granted our own local environment, thinking that somehow we really are not able to have a quality experience because we are not in the Rockies, or out on an island somewhere at a small latitude.

The truth is, there is almost no end to the wonderful outdoor experiences you can have right here in Berks County, or in our adjacent counties. Many times in past journals, I have written about outings on the Schuylkill River, or walks and rides along various local trails.

This time, I'd like to gear the article towards those of you who enjoy the simple pleasures of walking and discovery.

Berks County offers a tremendous array of natural habitat that attracts all manner of birds. From majestic American Bald Eagles to wondrously colored Goldfinches, I have often marveled at how much diversity is simply "out there" waiting for us to just take a little walk and discover it.

If you can allow yourself to relax and harbor a child-like curiosity, you can find much pleasure and satisfaction in discovery, for indeed, the more you discover, the more you learn is out there to discover.

There is a connectivity that runs through all things, and you may find that your simple little local walk will end up

## **2000•FEEDBACK JOURNAL•2000**

teaching you things of epic proportion if you open up to the communion and opportunity that Nature offers.

I must admit, the process of learning, and thus the speed of learning, is greatly improved if you have the opportunity to either work with, or be led and taught by a local expert or mentor.

My interest in birding has been nudged along through my years of working at WEEU primarily due to listening to callers to our *Feedback* radio show and, of course, by listening to our own resident expert and mentor, Jack Holcomb.

This past spring I counted myself among the lucky Berks Countians who have found themselves immersed firsthand in a local birding tour with Jack. Jack and I shared two very memorable bird outings, both in places that you too could easily get to.

Back in early March of 1999, Jack and I took a short morning drive to nearby Middle Creek Wildlife Sanctuary.

Here we found what we were looking for.

Amongst the dozens of species of migrating ducks and swans, we walked to a point where we could easily observe thousands of shimmering Snow Geese. What a fantastic sight!

Each season thousands of these magnificent birds, along with Tundra Swans and many other species, migrate through Berks and surrounding counties.

All you need to do is take an easy walk at the right time at places like Middle Creek, Blue Marsh Lake, or Lake Ontelaunee, and you'll be amazed at the colors and sounds you will experience as these wonderful creatures peacefully go about their business.

Since Middle Creek has a wide assortment of natural habitat, like wetlands, woodlands and open fields, Jack and I were able to observe 65 different species of birds, and we noted and kept track of them all on a simple little log sheet that Jack provided.

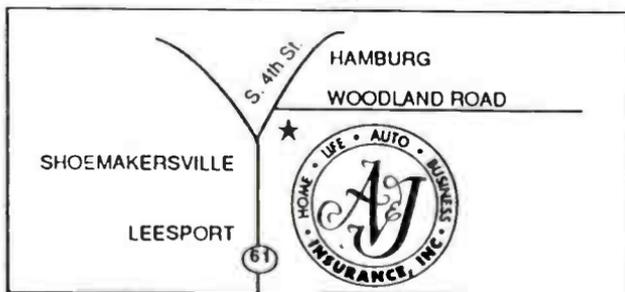
Another highlight of that day was our observation of dozens of happy little Bluebirds, and a simultaneous observation of both an American Bald Eagle and a Red-

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## Trail Tales Recipe

by "East Side" Dave Kline

### Stuffed Wild Grape Leaves

*With special thanks to my Greek cooking mentor, Mrs. Laura Sbilis. And thanks also to her son Spyro, who graciously ate everything I've ever brought over to their house, with a big smile of approval!*

### **Ingredients**

- 64 Wild Grape Leaves, each about the size of a grown man's open hand
- 2 lbs. ground meat, your choice, hamburger, lamb, or wild game such as venison
- 2 heaping tablespoons fresh ground garlic
- Garlic salt, regular or sea salt, fresh ground black pepper, to taste
- 1 small fresh onion, chopped very fine
- 1 cup Minute rice
- 6 ounces Feta cheese
- 2 large fresh chicken eggs
- Olive Oil

### **Directions**

1. In a big pot, bring slightly salted water to a rolling boil, then add all of the raw wild grape leaves, reduce heat and allow to simmer for ten minutes.
2. Drain off water and place wild grape leaves in a colander to cool and drain.
3. Take your Feta Cheese and crumble by hand into very small, uniform pieces.
4. Take your fresh meat and place in a large mixing bowl. Add all other ingredients, including cheese, eggs, and uncooked Minute rice, and mix by hand, making certain that your final mix is well blended. This makes your wild grape leaf filling.
5. One by one, lay a now-cooled wild grape leaf onto a smooth, flat surface, top side down with the pointed end of the leaf facing you. Take about one-half ounce of your filling per leaf and form it into a little cylinder-shaped roll. Place it onto the leaf and gently roll the tip of the leaf up and over and around the filling. Then, as if wrapping a package, fold over the left and right edges of the leaf and continue rolling into a tight little cylinder. As you finish each individual stuffed leaf, place them carefully into a nice, deep cooking pot. Placement is best if you begin around the edge of the cooking pot and lay them end to end, spiraling toward the middle; then drizzle a little Olive Oil over the finished layer and continue layering on top of the bottom as you have been doing. The result is a nice, tight, mass of stuffed leaves, which will hold themselves together through the final cooking process.
6. Once you have placed all stuffed leaves into your pot, cover them gently with water. Then cover them with a plate that fits down into and over the leaves. (This will help to keep the leaves rolled up during the cooking process.) Place a tight lid onto the pot and bring to a gentle, simmering boil. (Note: Too hot of a rolling boil will tend to destroy the upper most product in the pot due to the churning action created by very hot bubbling, boiling water.)
7. Allow to gently simmer for about 20 minutes, then gently drain off water and cool the product. At this point, you can serve your stuffed wild grape leaves warm, or allow them to cool, storing them end to end in a container. These can later be eaten cold, or heated up in the microwave for a delicious treat. A nice optional touch is to sprinkle them with fresh lemon juice before eating.
8. Enjoy!

## **2000•FEEDBACK JOURNAL•2000**

Tailed Hawk soaring in the clear blue morning sky within the same field of view in our binoculars.

It was truly breathtaking! The experience left both Jack and me smiling as broadly as the spread of the raptors' wings.

Naturally, Hawk Mountain, (or almost any of the ridges along the Appalachian Trail in Northern Berks County), also offers good walking opportunities, combined with great birding, at the right time of year.

If you're interested in finding out the "right times and places" to enjoy the annual migration extravaganza, just tune your radio to WEEU and listen to *Feedback* where that sort of information is readily shared at the appropriate time. It is that easy!

On May 8th Jack and I shared a very magical morning as we participated in National Migratory Bird Day, a day singled out for birders of all interest and experience levels to get out into nature in their local environment and literally observe and count anything and everything that can be seen or heard. Jack guided me in and around one of his personal favorite local birding locations, Charles Evans Cemetery.

Although it sounds like a morose place to spend an early spring morning walking and discovering, a practitioner soon finds out that the very broad range of trees and shrubs acts like a bird magnet, attracting lots of our winged friends to the city.

An added bonus while walking around the grounds, is the myriad of interesting headstones and monuments, many of which hold special historic or artistic significance.

It was on this day when I really discovered Jack's full range of knowledge about the subject of birding and habitat. I mean, in all honesty, I certainly knew that Jack had accumulated much wisdom on the subject of birding through his years of hosting *Feedback*, and through his many exchanges of information with the show's loyal listeners.

I also know for a fact that Jack is genuinely interested in the subject; it is not just an act for the radio show. So, I expected to learn from Jack. I looked forward to it.

What I did not expect was the treat of having Jack single

## **2000•FEEDBACK JOURNAL•2000**

out this or that species by nature of the song it was singing.

Yes, even I, a birding neophyte, know how a Robin or Cardinal sounds. I'm not referring to the common songs. What I discovered on this day was Jack's rather uncommon knowledge of the more obscure songs, or the difference between a distressed call and a "happy" song. In the end, I felt like I was treated to an Italian Opera with English subtitles!

Sure, I could have appreciated the bird songs without translation; they make up such a melodic section of the Nature's symphony.

But, having a mentor to assist in giving these things enhanced meaning helped me to learn in a way that will enable me to find a much more profound sense of enjoyment when experiencing this again on my own.

Best of all, having been taught, the student can become the teacher, and thus share the message about the rich abundance of local wildlife with any and all who are receptive to the experience.

Besides, I did not know, until Jack told me so, that when birding, one can not only count the actual sightings, but also the songs.

So, you don't have to actually see the bird to include it in your count. As long as you can identify it by the distinct song it offers, you may record it in your log. Like I always say at the end of the Mountain Folk show each week, "...the more we know, the more we grow."

Strolling Charles Evans Cemetery with Jack was an electric learning adventure for me, I found it hard to be quiet and often had to refrain from asking questions about this, that, or the other thing.

It is probably best to note that maintaining a calm and quiet demeanor is always a good idea when trying to hear and see wildlife, and I soon grew to understand that Jack's seemingly lengthy periods of non-verbalization were due to his intense focus on the treetops above, or the sound over the next rolling hill.

It was in one of these quiet moments that I mentioned to Jack that I had never yet seen a Cedar Waxwing in the wild,

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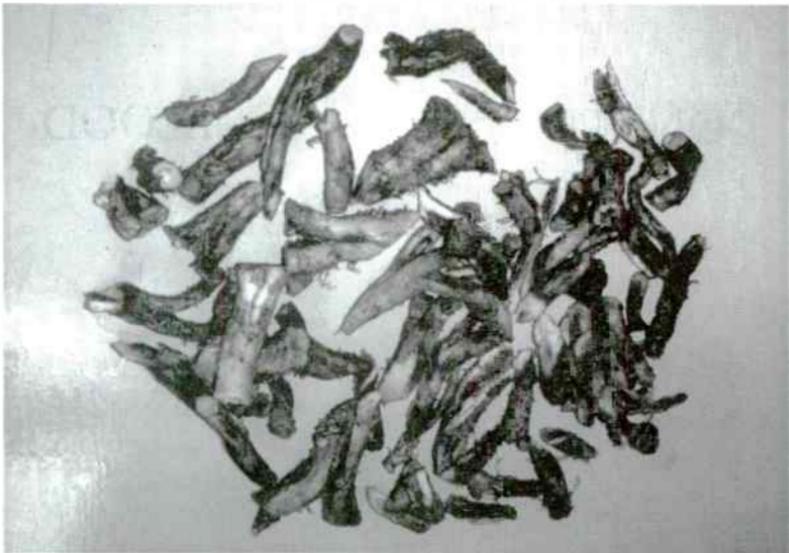
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# **2000•FEEDBACK JOURNAL•2000**



*(TOP) On Dave Kline's outing at Middle Creek, he and WEEU Feedback host Jack Holcomb (seen here) identified 65 species of birds!*

*(BOTTOM) After harvesting, cleaning, and roasting, chicory roots are ready for grinding and brewing into a coffee-like beverage.*



*Harvesting fresh chicory from the field is easy, fun, and relaxing. The plant is readily identified by its blue flowers.*

## **2000•FEEDBACK JOURNAL•2000**

and I was anxious to someday see one. Jack commented by agreeing that Cedar Waxwings are well worth finding and perhaps one day I'd see that for myself.

What happened next was beyond weird and magical, it was more like a gift from the birding "gods".

As we walked over a little ridge, we observed a huge flock of something fluttering to and fro between a small stand of Honey Locust trees. I hoisted up my binoculars to observe them and mentioned to Jack that they appeared to have a strange sort of pointed feature on their... "heads", finished Jack.

"David, it appears as though you got your wish today, those are Cedar Waxwings, and more of them in one place than I've ever seen before! In fact, I would say that this is a life sighting for you and me."

Frankly, as I watched Jack's face gleam from amazement, I became more and more excited.

Wow! I had never even seen one Cedar Waxwing and now here was a flock of hundreds! We carefully began to try and count them.

We stopped counting once we had reached a conservative estimate of a minimum of three hundred.

It didn't seem possible, yet there they were, three hundred, and probably two hundred more Cedar Waxwings, gorging themselves on Honey Locust seed pods.

We moved into a position below one of the trees and this didn't really seem to bother the birds in the least. They were literally flying all around us.

Most were up in the trees eating, but some preferred sitting on the ground, picking on the seed pods that had previously fallen.

The birds on the ground afforded the best closeup binocular views as this perspective truly showcased their various markings and colorations.

Needless to say, I don't expect that I will ever witness something like this again. Jack and I mused as to how birders might travel the globe to find such a sight, and here we were, stumbling right into it in the heart of Reading!

It was a rare treat indeed, and all because I got up early

## **2000•FEEDBACK JOURNAL•2000**

and took a walk with Jack, right here in Berks County!

I hope you'll try birding. Just get out and walk around. Look up, listen closely, smell the fragrance of flowering trees and shrubs, and let your senses soak up what the day offers.

You don't need to be far from home, or in top physical condition to become totally enthralled with nature in your own "backyard".

The other, not-so-obvious benefit from an outing like this is the resultant sense of inner peace, tranquility and satisfaction you'll experience.

If, for some reason, you feel that birding is not exactly your cup of tea, may I suggest coupling a fondness of culinary experimentation with your walks?

There are many edible wild plants growing within our county's borders.

Several of these offer exceptional taste treats and can become the highlight of a few hours of walking. A word of warning though, please never ingest any plant or mushroom without first finding out, beyond the shadow of any doubt, that the plant is not toxic.

Before you go to gather items, either consult one of many books on edible wild plants, or simply call *Feedback* on WEEU and ask your question. Having a pocket field guide on local edible plants is always very helpful too.

As you enjoy a few hours, or a full day of wandering around searching for edible plants, bear in mind that you should allow enough time in the evening for preparing your treats, and perhaps even presenting them to family or friends by way of a nice little meal, perhaps with a favorite local tea, wine or beer.

A few easy to identify edible local plants that I would like to pass along to you right now include Chicory, Wild Grapes and Mullein.

Again, any credible field guide, like Peterson, for instance, will give you a detailed description of these plants, and will even offer you some suggestions about the proper plant parts to harvest, along with the best regional times of year to harvest. In most cases, there are even suggestions as

## **2000•FEEDBACK JOURNAL•2000**

to how to prepare the items for consumption.

Generally, these suggestions do not actually include measured recipes, so you need to experiment with your discovery to determine how you will personally enjoy it.

Chicory is very easy to locate. During summer, it grows along most Berks County roads.

Most Chicory plants produce a very distinct blue flower that tends to close up after the sun sets. I have found a few white-flowered Chicory plants though, and I've heard that there are some rare pink ones as well. Any of them will yield the product that you seek, but I prefer not to use the rare ones. Be careful not to collect from roadsides that are regularly sprayed with weed killer, etc.

I feel best when I collect from back roads that display ample evidence that what is growing there has not been tampered with in any way. Chicory was used by Native Americans, early settlers and soldiers as a form of coffee.

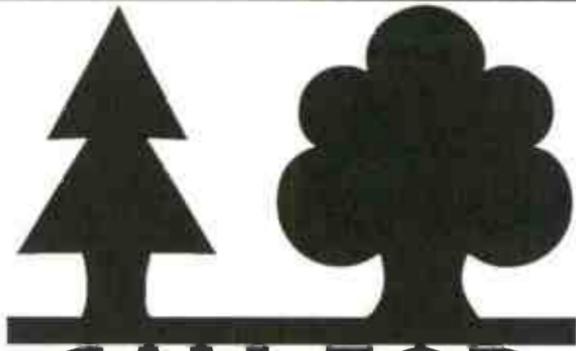
You can use it to enhance the flavor of your store-bought coffee by adding an amount to your liking, or you can brew it by itself as you would any other regular coffee, perking up about one and a half teaspoons of Chicory for each cup of brew you desire.

Straight Chicory tends to be a bit bitter for most people's tastes. Gathering it is no more complicated than locating it, then using a little knife to gently dig around the root in a circular motion. I prefer to loosen the soil around the plant with the knife until it gets to the point where I can feel the root "let go".

Then, I gently pull the plant up from the base, where it meets the ground and extract as much of the root as possible. It is the root that you are seeking.

They look a bit ugly when you first get them out of the ground, but once you take them home and wash them off, they clean up well and don't seem as formidable. (I find that I need to harvest about 15 to 20 plant roots to end up with a nice supply of usable Chicory.)

Next, make certain that your roots are thoroughly dry by roasting them in an oven set to 200 degrees for at least three hours. When ready, they should be crisp when broken in

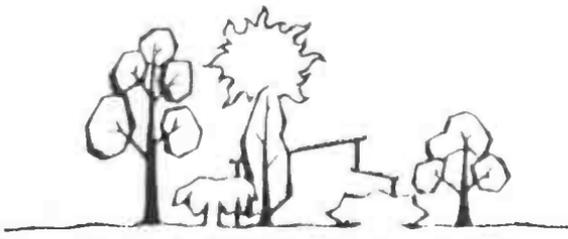


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*The dried leaves of the mullein plant can be brewed into a tea.*

## **2000•FEEDBACK JOURNAL•2000**

half.

Now, you can grind them by using one of those neat little electric coffee bean grinders, or by any other method that you prefer. You will end up with a fine powder that you can store in any air proof container or plastic bag.

The powder has a surprisingly pleasing aroma which can only be experienced at this phase of the procedure. Up until this point, you really can't tell what the heck the stuff will actually taste like, as it offers no hint until roasted and ground.

Next we turn our attention to another interesting plant that is easy to find here in Berks County, the Mullein Plant.

A generally tall spike with bright yellow flowers, and a somewhat fuzzy leaf identify the second year growth of this plant which most frequently occupies roadsides and fields.

It is the leaf you'll want to harvest if you want to experience a form of tea that Native Americans brewed up for general consumption, and also as a cure for ailing internal organs like the liver and kidneys.

The leaf of the plant should be selected as you would for any herbal tea.

Pick a leaf that is clean, free from signs of bugs, and possesses a nice, healthy green color. Almost any leaf will brew into tea, but I prefer starting with the best I can find. Simply pick the leaf off of the plant. You will need at least a handful of these in order to brew a standard pot of tea, let's say 32 ounces.

You can brew it fresh by using boiling water, or you can use a tea-brewing machine. After brewing sweeten to taste and serve hot or cold.

You can also dry it out and store it for consumption later.

Do not expect it to taste like any other "tea", herbal or other.

Mullein has a very interesting taste, unique to the plant. I have had some people sample it and as with most things, some people do not care for it; some people enjoyed it. The flavor observations ranged from "liquid Lima beans", to "fresh hay". I don't think it tastes like either, but it is interesting and different. I prefer the taste of the tea after it

## **2000•FEEDBACK JOURNAL•2000**

has been refrigerated for at least twenty-four hours, which allows the very distinct flavor to settle in.

I also understand that most people have a sort of built-in prejudice towards foods or beverages that they have no experience with. But, given a chance, you may find some new flavors working their way into your culinary repertoire. As with other things, edible wild plants sometimes take time until a taste is developed for them.

But, if one combines the pleasure and peace of walking, exploring, preparing and cooking, plus that certain feeling of self-sufficiency experienced by the collector, sooner or later it will come to mind that this is where the true totality of the practice resides.

My final edible wild plant offering in this article, Stuffed Wild Grape Leaves, is not complete in and of itself, but with a little help from the traditional butcher and grocery store, these can become a mouthwatering treat!

A stuffed Grape leaf is generally considered to be a Greek or Middle Eastern food item. Most times the traditional stuffing calls for either lamb or beef, or a combination of both with rice.

I learned the basics of making them from a Greek friend of mine and I've included a recipe that I've now developed myself. Everyone I've gotten to taste-test them loves the recipe; even my Greek friend and mentor approves!

First you need to take a little walk, (of course), to gather the Wild Grape leaves.

Leaves are best gathered early in the season just after they have fully unfurled. At this time they are at their best in terms of taste and texture.

Older leaves can sometimes become tough. (Leaves can be gathered, blanched and stored in the freezer. Or, they can also be preserved in a pickling brine and used later.) I like to gather and use fresh leaves that are about the size of an average man's hands.

You can consult the recipe I've provided for more details, but I would like to say that not only are these fun to make and eat, but if you acquire a taste for them, you'll find yourself consuming mass quantities.

# **2000•FEEDBACK JOURNAL•2000**

The flavor and texture of the wild grape leaves, combined with the stuffing provides a very enjoyable delicacy for the palate.

It is very hard to mistake this plant for anything else, so collecting is generally very safe and easy. Look along hedgerows, the edge of wooded areas, etc.

Later in the season, you can also use the actual grapes to make preserves, with the "not-quite-ripe" grapes providing an excellent source of pectin.

I have found much pleasure in combining all kinds of experiences with the pursuit of outdoor adventure and discovery.

So leave that stress behind and get out there and explore! Right here in Berks County, there are some mighty intriguing things just waiting for you to enjoy them! And, of course, I have to close by repeating...if you don't know, and you want to learn...read, ask questions, and listen to Feedback!

That's why the show is on the air, only on WEEU!

The names of all continents end with the same letters  
with which they begin!

Mel Blanc, the voice of Bugs Bunny,  
was allergic to carrots!

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# **FRIENDS:**

## **SIMPLE OR TRUE?**

A simple friend identifies himself when he call

**A real friend doesn't have to.**

A simple friend opens a conversation with a full news bulletin on his or her life.

**A real friend says "What's new with you?"**

A simple friend has never seen you cry.

**A real friend has shoulders soggy  
from your tears.**

A simple friend doesn't know your parents' names.

**A real friend has their phone numbers in his  
or her address book.**

A simple friend wonders about your romantic history.

**A real friend could blackmail you with it!**

A simple friend, when visiting, acts like a guest.

**A real friend opens your refrigerator and helps  
themselves.**

A simple friend expects you to always be there for them.

**A real friend expects to always be there for  
you!**

The venom in a daddy long-legs is more poisonous than a black widow's or a brown recluse...but they can't bite humans because their jaws won't open wide enough!

The strongest muscle in the body is the tongue.

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## **2000•FEEDBACK JOURNAL•2000**

# Is This Progress?

The paradox of our time in history is that we have taller buildings but shorter tempers; wider freeways, but narrower viewpoints.

We spend more, but have less.

We buy more, but enjoy it less.

We have bigger houses and smaller families; more conveniences, but less time.

We have more degrees, but less sense; more knowledge, less judgment; more experts, but more problems; more medicine, but less wellness.

We have multiplied our possessions, but have reduced our values.

We talk too much, love too seldom, and hate too often.

We've learned how to make a living, but not a life.

We've added years to life, but not life to years.

We've been all the way to the moon and back, but

# NEWS

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## **2000•FEEDBACK JOURNAL•2000**

have trouble crossing the street  
to meet the new neighbor.

We've conquered outer space, but not inner  
space; we've cleaned up the air, but polluted the  
soul; we've split the atom, but not our prejudice.  
We have higher incomes, but lower morals; we've  
become long on quantity, but short on quality.

These are the times of tall men, short character,  
steep profits, and shallow relationships.  
These are the times of world peace, but domestic  
warfare; more leisure, but less fun; more kinds of  
food, but less nutrition.

These are the days of two incomes, but of more  
divorce; of fancier houses, but broken homes.

It is a time when there is much in the show  
window and nothing in the stock room.

A time when technology can bring this journal to  
you, and a time when you can choose either to  
make a difference, or to just hit delete.

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## ONLY IN AMERICA!

Only in America...can a pizza get to your house faster than an ambulance!

Only in America...are there handicap parking spaces in front of a skating rink!

Only in America...do drug stores make the sick walk all the way to the back of the store to get their prescriptions while healthy people can buy cigarettes at the front.

### The Plus Side of Y2K

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Sincerely,  
Automated Payroll Processing

# **2000•FEEDBACK JOURNAL•2000**

Only in America...do people order DOUBLE  
cheese burgers, LARGE fries, and a DIET soda!

Only in America...do banks leave both doors  
open, but chain the pens to the counter!

Only in America...do we use answering machines  
to screen calls and then have call waiting so we won't  
miss a call from someone we didn't want to talk to in  
the first place!

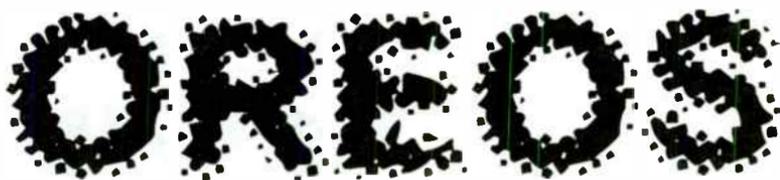
Only in America...do we buy hot dogs in packages  
of ten and buns in packages of eight!

Only in America...do we have drive-up ATM  
machines with Braille lettering!

Only in America... do we leave cars worth  
thousands of dollars in the driveway and put our  
useless junk in the garage!

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ANAGRAMS ANAGRAMS  
**ANAGRAMS**

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EVANGELIST=*EVIL'S AGENT*  
DESPERATION=*A ROPE ENDS IT*  
THE MORSE CODE=*HERE COME DOTS*  
SLOT MACHINES=*LOST CASH IN 'EM*  
MOTHER IN LAW=*WOMAN HITLER*  
SNOOZE ALARMS=*ALAS. NO MORE Z'S*  
A DECIMAL POINT=*I'M A DOT IN PLACE*  
ELEVEN PLUS TWO=*TWELVE PLUS ONE*  
and, the grand champion....  
"THAT'S ONE SMALL STEP FOR A MAN. ONE GIANT LEAP  
FOR MANKIND" -Neil Armstrong, 1969  
=  
"THIN MAN RAN; MAKES A LARGE STRIDE, LEFT PLANET.  
PINS FLAG ON MOON. ON TO MARS!"



## **A DUNKER'S DELIGHT**

It's been called the King of Cookies. **OREO Chocolate Sandwich Cookies**, more than 75 years young, reign supreme as the number-one-selling cookie in America.

To say **OREO Cookies** have achieved their fame strictly by way of lunchboxes and after-school treats would be to deny their ability to cross the boundaries of age by appealing to just about everyone. And that's the way it's been for their whole history.

When you think about it, **OREO** is a rather interesting, if not downright off beat, name for a cookie. How did it come about?

Well, nobody knows for sure, but there are some theories, most which go as far back as **OREO Cookies** themselves. Back then there weren't many written records about products. **Nabisco**, the grandchild of the cookie's originator, the National Biscuit Company, keeps an oral history with the long-term employees who've passed along the tale. Some of them say the name came about because it just seemed like a nice, melodic combination of sounds with just a few catch letters and it was easy to pronounce.

Some others say the name is based on the French word for gold, "or," a color used on early package designs. There's even the tale that the name comes from the Greek word for mountain, "oreo," and that the name was applied because the first test version was, if you can imagine this, hill-shaped. Whatever the genesis, the name stuck and in 1913 became the official trademark for the product.

Originally it was called a biscuit, borrowing from the

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## **2000•FEEDBACK JOURNAL•2000**

British terminology. In successive years the name changed to truly reflect what lay beneath the packaging, until in 1974, the product was given its current official name: **OREO Chocolate Sandwich Cookies.**

As you deftly dunk your **OREO** into a frosty glass of milk, think of this: millions in generations before you have done the same thing, with a cookie whose formula for a winning combination of crunchy chocolate wafers and creamy vanilla filling has traveled unchanged to the present day.

However, that hasn't been the case with its appearance. Today's version is a neat 13/4 inches across - that's one, two or three bites, depending on your level of self-restraint. But the original version was somewhat larger. Before settling into its current size, the **OREO Cookie** scaled down a number of times until **Nabisco** realized you just can't have too much of a good thing and enlarged it again to today's edition.

Although most people look for the quickest route for **OREO Cookies** from package to mouth, if they stop long enough to inspect this marvelous cookie, the design they'll see on the outside wafers is one which also has experienced a sort of metamorphosis.

Way back when **OREO Cookies** were in their infancy, rolling out of National Biscuit Company bakeries in New York City and Chicago, the design on the chocolate wafers was a thin, wreath-like affair, encircling the word "**OREO**" in the centers of the cookies.

Later, the design of the wreath became more elaborate and "**OREO**" became enclosed in its own decorative circle. Today's version is more like a ring of posies surrounding the "**OREO**" enclosed by the venerable symbol of **Nabisco**, the colophon - that figure resembling a TV antenna.

No matter what the size or design, **OREO Cookies** have created a tremendous demand since their introduction. The call for them is so great that to meet it millions of cookies are produced in just one eight-hour shift in our bakeries. The Company's coast-to-coast distribution

## **2000•FEEDBACK JOURNAL•2000**

network assures that a steady stream of **OREO Cookies** reaches the stores in every part of the United States.

In fact, virtually every truck leaving a distribution center with **Nabisco** bakery items aboard also hauls a shipment of **OREO Chocolate Sandwich Cookies**.

What creates such a demand to be met with such effort? Of course, it's the taste. What goes into making that taste? For starters, only the purest Dutch cocoa is used to make the two chocolate wafers. Fresh ingredients arrive daily at the bakeries. The unique icing filling, termed "slurry" during the mixing process, is carefully controlled in production to make sure the precise blend of ingredients is achieved.

Over the years, there have been a number of extensions to the **OREO Cookie** product line. One success story is **DOUBLE STUF**, the **Oreo Cookie** with a double dollop of creme filling. So popular is this cookie, introduced in 1975, that today it holds its own rank of fifth most popular cookie in America. In 1987, the Company came out with ultimate luxuries: **Fudge Covered OREO Chocolate Sandwich Cookies** and a large snack cookie—**OREO BIG STUF**.

Whatever your preference, you join millions and, maybe over the course of 75 years, billions of people who've reached into a package of **OREO Cookies**, lifted this luscious treat to their mouths and been faced with the burning question: "Should I dunk it in milk, twist it apart and scrape off the creme with my teeth, nibble it little by little or just pop the whole thing into my mouth and munch to my heart's content?"

Alas, such an exquisite dilemma! *(Courtesy NABISCO)*

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"Those guys are nuts!"

...some guy in Fleetwood

**WEEU 830AM**

# 2000•FEEDBACK JOURNAL•2000

## YOU KNOW YOU'RE FROM BERKS COUNTY...

❖ **WHEN...**

- ...You have the uncontrollable urge to buy bread and milk when you hear the word "snow."
- ...you know the only way to make good faschnachts is to cook them in LARD.
- ...you live within two miles of a plant that makes potato chips, corn chips, pretzels, candy, or ice

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# **2000•FEEDBACK JOURNAL•2000**

cream-or that packages turkeys, beans, or bologna.

...you say the correct pronunciation of LANG-kist-er instead of the mispronounced Lan-CAST-er, and LEB-e-nin instead of the equally incorrect Leb-a-NON.

...you ask the waitress for "dippy eggs" for breakfast.

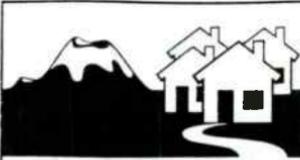
...you do things "once," as in "I'll go clean up my my room, once."

...you can stop along a road and buy fruits or vegetables on the "honor system."

...you know what REAL pot pie is.

...your turkey has "filling," not "stuffing," and is most certainly not "dressed."

...you know at least ten people whose last names end with -baugh or -hart or -fus.



**WHAT'S  
WHERE?**

A QUICK GEOGRAPHY TEST COURTESY OF MERRIAM-WEBSTER  
*ANSWERS ON NEXT PAGE*

1. Bart Simpson lives there. Abraham Lincoln practiced law there. How many incorporated U.S. cities (2,500 pop.+) are named Springfield?
2. How many states have a city larger than the state capital?
3. How many states does the Mississippi River run through or border?
4. How many states border on the Great Lakes?
5. Which state boasts the largest number of national parks?

# **2000•FEEDBACK JOURNAL•2000**

...you say things like "I'm calling off today, because they want snow."

...you know the translation for "distelfink."

...red beet eggs make your list of top ten favorite foods.

...you say you're going out "awhile," not "for awhile."

...you only buy your beer and soda by the case.

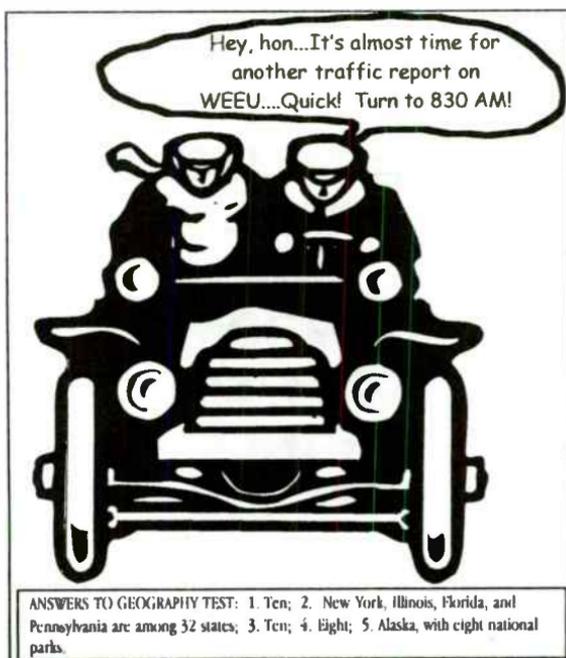
...you think the roads in any other county, any other state, are better.

...hearing horses clopping down a paved street would not bring you to the window to see what's going on.

...you consider Pittsburgh to be "out west."

...you can give directions to Intercourse with a straight face.

...WEEU school closings due to snow take a half hour.



# 2000•FEEDBACK JOURNAL•2000

## ↳TWISTED TOWNSHIPS↳

ALL OF THESE JUMBLED WORDS SHARE ONE COMMON  
IDENTITY...THEY'RE THE NAMES OF BERKS COUNTY  
TOWNSHIPS. UNSCRAMBLE THE LETTERS TO REVEAL THE  
TOWNSHIP NAMES!

**SIDCRIT**  
**YBNAAL**  
**KENCROBCK**  
**RARYP**  
**SECALA**  
**BENRSOO**  
**GIRPSN**  
**MATYI**  
**SADSLUGO**  
**REAL**  
**EPIK**  
**IAMRON**  
**RODWSIN**  
**RETNEC**  
**TEXREE**

# PAPLOSKY'S

**AUTO, TRUCK, RV  
SALES AND SERVICE**



FEEDBACK host JACK HOLCOMB (left) m

osky's

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NEWS OF PAPLOSKY'S  
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IN 2000! IT'S CRUISIN' THE  
WAY IT SHOULD BE!**

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## TWISTED TOWNSHIPS

ANSWERS: District, Albany, Brecknock, Perry, Alsace, Robeson, Spring, Amity, Douglass, Earl, Pike, Marion, Windsor, Centre, Exeter.



*WEEU morning guy Charlie Adams looks pretty darned regal as he dons the robes and regalia of the Lord Mayor of Reading, England, during his "Haunted Britain" Tour. Charlie was joined by 35 listeners in the AAA Travel-sponsored excursion into the unknown.*

## **Who's to Blame?**

### **IT MAY SHOCK YOU!**

The U.S. Standard railroad gauge (the distance between rails) is four feet, 8.5 inches. That's an exceedingly odd number. Just why was that measurement used?

Because, well, that's the way they built them in England, and the first U.S. railroads were built by English expatriates.

Why did the English build them like that? Because the first rail lines in Europe were designed and built by the same people who built the pre-railroad tramways, and that's the gauge they used.

Why did "they" use that gauge then? Because the people who designed and built tramways used the same jigs and tools that they used for building wagons, which used that same

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# **2000•FEEDBACK JOURNAL•2000**

wheel spacing.

OK, why did the wagons use that odd wheel spacing? Well, when they tried to use any other spacing, the wagons were prone to breaking down on some of the old, long-distance roads, because that's the spacing of the old wheel ruts.

So who built those old rutted roads? The first long-distance roads in Europe were built by Imperial Rome for the benefit of their legions. The roads have been used ever since.

And the ruts?

The initial ruts, which everyone else had to match for fear of destroying their wagons, were first made by Roman war chariots. Since the chariots were all made to certain specifications for or by Imperial Rome, they were all alike in the matter of wheel spacing.

Thus, we have the answer to the original questions. The U.S. Standard 4' 8.5" railroad gauge derives from the original

**pennsylvania**  
**firsts**

Pennsylvania can claim many, many "firsts" in the United States. Here are just a few. Courtesy of the Pennsylvania Office of Travel, Tourism and Film Promotion

- #1 Library: 1731, Philadelphia**
- #1 Slinky: 1948, Hollidaysburg**
- #1 Movie Theater: 1905, Pittsburgh**
- #1 Military Training Camp, 1792, Beaver County**
- #1 Typewriter: 1881, Kittanning**
- #1 Crematory: Lemoyne (date uncertain)**
- #1 "Stogie" Cigar: 1826, Washington**
- #1 Mushroom "Mine," 1937, Worthington**
- #1 McDonald's Big Mac: Uniontown**
- #1 World's Fair: 1876, Philadelphia**
- #1 Piano: 1775, Philadelphia**

# **2000•FEEDBACK JOURNAL•2000**

specification (military, as it were) for an Imperial Roman army war chariot.

But one nagging question still remains. Why did the design of the Roman Army war chariots incorporate that specific wheelbase?

Answer: Because the chariots were designed to be just wide enough to accommodate the back ends of two war horses.

So, the next time you are handed some oddball specification and you assume that some horse's ass was responsible for it—you may be exactly right!

•

You share your birthday with at least  
nine million other people.

•

The average human eats eight spiders  
in their lifetime...at night.



## **5 ways you know you've chosen a cheap airline**

1. The co-pilot is wearing an "I'M WITH STUPID" tee-shirt.
2. The pilot asks if anyone on board has any jumper cables with them
3. The flight attendants offer coffee, tea, or Valium.
4. When the pilot pushes the landing gear button, it actually rewinds the in-flight movie.
5. The ground crew is seen using pennies to check tire wear.

# **IN DEFENSE OF PIT BULLS**

**THEY'RE MISUNDERSTOOD,  
SAYS JANET TOPUR,  
WEEU Account Executive**

Pit bulls: What are they all about? Do we really know much about these dogs, other than they are feared and greatly disliked by many people?

We are sometimes so prejudiced toward these



## **2000•FEEDBACK JOURNAL•2000**

dogs, but I'll bet you ten to one that if you were up close and personal with one without knowing it was a pit bull, you'd adore it! I make this statement from personal experience.

Before my 23rd birthday I didn't know what a pit bull was or even what one looked like. I'd never heard about them nor ever took notice of the terrible things said about them.

Since I had never heard of the dogs nor seen them, I didn't have a seed planted in my head-like so many others-that they are awful dogs. Well, guess what? I now own four pit bulls!

My pit bulls are loving, sweet, happy, and beautiful dogs. I have all males and they get along just fine.

My dogs' names are Blackjack, Cash, Buzz, and Brute. Blackjack and Cash are brothers.

One Christmas, I asked my fiance for a puppy.

# **BASKETBALL SPOKEN HERE**



AS WELL AS  
FOOTBALL,  
BASEBALL,  
SOCCER,  
AND ON,  
AND ON,  
AND ON...

MONDAY  
NIGHTS  
ON  
SPORTS  
TALK  
ON  
**WEEU**

## **2000•FEEDBACK JOURNAL•2000**

He took me out to pick out a puppy and when we got there he liked one and I liked another. We couldn't decide between the two so we took both—Blackjack and Cash.

He and I were not planning to get any more dogs, but it didn't work out that way. Buzz needed a good home, so we took him in. Brute, our youngest, was attacked as an eight week-old pup and the owner was going to destroy him, so we took him and got him all fixed up. He is a beautiful dog.

I am an animal lover and if I could, I would take any animal and care for it.

There are a lot of people who buy and sell pit bulls for all the wrong reasons, and it breaks my heart. My fiance and I are not those types.

We take very good care of our dogs and we love them more than anything. We have just started taking our dogs to shows. It is really fun and

### **TEN WAYS TO SCARE PEOPLE IN A COMPUTER LAB**

1. Log on, wait a second, then get a frightened look on your face and scream, "Oh, my God! They've found me!" and bolt.
2. Type frantically, often stopping to look at the person next to you evilly.
3. Work normally for awhile. Suddenly, look amazingly startled by something on the screen and crawl underneath the desk.
4. Put a straw in your pocket and put your hands in your pocket. Type by hitting the keys with the straw.
5. Keep looking for invisible bugs and try to swat them.
6. Pull out a pencil. Start writing on the screen. Complain that the lead doesn't work.
7. Ask if you can borrow someone else's keyboard.
8. Laugh hysterically, shout "You will all perish in flames," and continue working.

## **2000•FEEDBACK JOURNAL•2000**

rewarding.

Our dogs have won several ribbons and we are extremely proud of them. We have received many compliments on all of our dogs. They are very people-*and dog*-friendly.

Yes, pit bulls are extremely strong dogs, and for that reason they are easily taken advantage of. Any dog can be aggressive and mean if you don't treat it right-not just pit bulls.

When these dogs are raised right, they are the most loving, affectionate, and caring dogs one could ever ask for.

Pit bulls should not be feared-their owners should be. Any dog is only as good as its owner!

•

*Editor's Note: Janet so loves her pit bulls that as this edition of the Journal was being put to press, she added two more to her canine family.*

**NEWS**

**LISTEN FOR ALL THE  
LOCAL NEWS ON YOUR  
NEWS LEADER....**

**WEEU**  
103.5  
*The voice of Berks County*

# 2000•FEEDBACK JOURNAL•2000

## Talk Show Man

*a poem by Jack Holcomb*

Words, fancied with knowledge and caring,  
stream from practiced lips made hollow  
by thoughts of a mountain stream's dream...

Patience, gathered from a loving Father and  
tested by multitudes of faceless voices,  
one listens while shutting-out negative hysteria...

Marble pedestals empty and waiting  
for another soul, showered with adulation,  
to climb and fall...alone!

Don't place me in that castle to live  
on words past. Take me as I am and hold  
my hand on a cold Winter's night.

# WHEN IT RAINS....

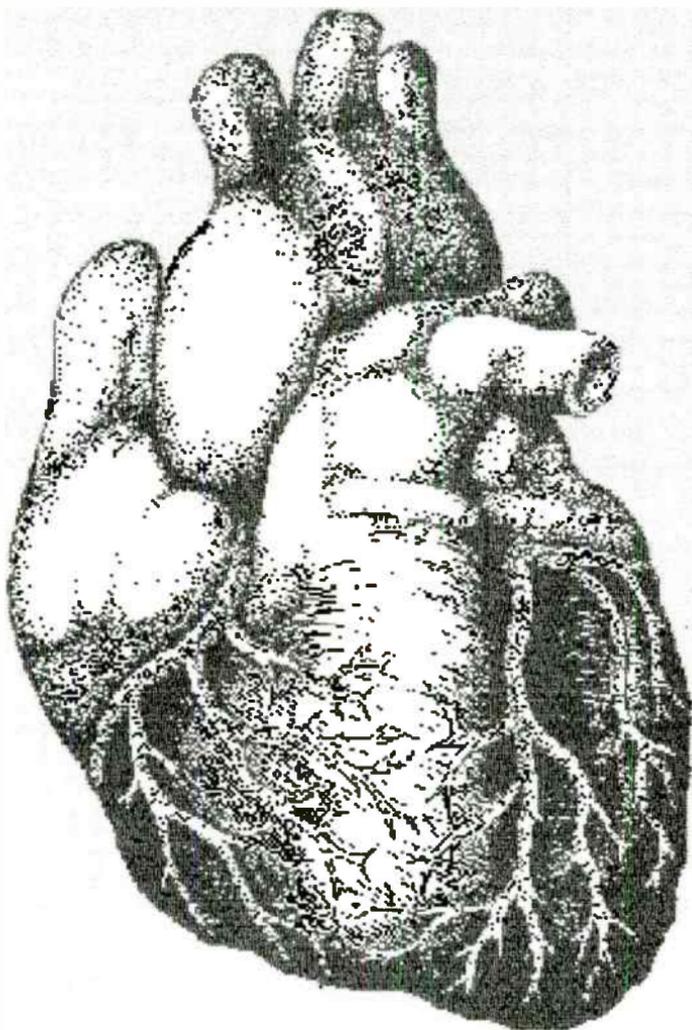


# ...WE SHINE!

WEATHER REPORTS 'ROUND THE CLOCK

# WE<sup>8</sup>30EU

*The voice of Berks County*



**CHECK THAT CHOLESTEROL!**

The American Heart Association's Cholesterol Summit, in conjunction with leading cardiologists,

## **2000•FEEDBACK JOURNAL•2000**

encourages Americans to think of cholesterol as a "vital sign," similar to blood pressure, for measuring heart health, in New York.

As a result, The Cholesterol Low Down (TM), a national cholesterol education and screening program currently in its second year, is asking healthcare professionals and their patients to think of cholesterol screening as part of a routine "vital sign" check. Since its inception in 1998, the program has screened more than 14,000 people in 22 cities.

Summit experts have released a call-to-action to help patients get to their target cholesterol goals. The call-to-action states:

### **For Adults:**

- Think of cholesterol as a "vital sign," similar to blood pressure, and high cholesterol as a leading risk factor for heart disease
- Know your cholesterol numbers by getting screened
- Know your cholesterol goal
- To help reach your goal, use every visit with your healthcare professional to discuss cholesterol management and other risk factors and if necessary take steps to get treated.

### **For Healthcare Professionals:**

- Use patient visits to assess patients' knowledge of their cholesterol levels and goals and the effects of cholesterol on heart disease
- Think of cholesterol as a "vital sign" for heart health by screening all appropriate patients 20 years of age

## **2000•FEEDBACK JOURNAL•2000**

and older at least every five years for total cholesterol and high density lipoprotein cholesterol (HDL-C) with follow-up measurement of LDL-C cholesterol for people with high total cholesterol

- Set cholesterol goals with patients
- Develop a plan that incorporates diet, exercise and drug therapy, as appropriate.

To motivate patients, The Cholesterol Low Down Rewards Program provides patients who have high cholesterol innovative follow-up reminders to encourage lifestyle changes and see their doctors. After the patients visit their doctors, they will receive a special gift that rewards behavioral change.

"This program represents a leap forward for The Cholesterol Low Down," said Richard Pasternak, M.D., Massachusetts General Hospital. "We are now guiding high-risk patients to take action by providing the tools to take control of their cholesterol and make long-term compliance a way of life in order to help reduce their risk of heart disease," said Richard Pasternak,

The American Heart Association has teamed up with Parke-Davis and Pfizer to provide The Cholesterol Low Down. Free material about cholesterol and heart disease is available by calling 1-800-AHA-USA1.

# Tombstone

## Touring

### **In search of famous dead Pennsylvanians**

Many think of the Keystone State as the cornerstone of American Independence, the Industrial Revolution and a leader in arts and culture. However, the many notable Pennsylvanians that shaped this country are often forgotten after their deaths. Remembering their accomplishments and lives is part of honoring the heritage of the Commonwealth.

One way of remembering the state's history and heritage is by visiting the gravesites of these influential people. The following is a list of some of the better known Pennsylvanians, each from varying disciplines.

Travelers can visit the memorials of these individuals across the state.

#### **Political & Historical Figures**

One of the most famous Pennsylvanians in history was not a native to the state, but his most famous work was

## **2000•FEEDBACK JOURNAL•2000**

done in the Commonwealth. Benjamin Franklin played a vital role in fighting for America's independence and then helped in shaping its present-day form of government.

People near Fifth and Arch Streets in Philadelphia can see where this famous ambassador, inventor and statesman is buried at the Christ Church Burial Grounds.

Guests near Lancaster can visit the gravesite of Pennsylvania's only U.S. President. James Buchanan, the 15th president, was born, raised and died in Central Pennsylvania. In addition to leading the nation, Buchanan was a U.S. Congressman, Secretary of State and foreign diplomat to Russia and Great Britain. After politics, Buchanan retired in Pennsylvania and died in 1868. He is buried at Woodward Hill Cemetery in Lancaster.

Betsy Ross, America's most famous seamstress, was also a famous Pennsylvanian. An upholsterer by trade, Ross was commissioned by the Continental Congress and General George Washington to sew the nation's first flag. Guests can visit the The Betsy Ross House, where Ross is interred in Philadelphia and learn the history of the American Flag and about the life of a woman who created one of America's most revered symbols of freedom.

### **Industry & Business Figures**

When many hear the name Hershey, most think of chocolate bars and candy. However, one man built an entire town around chocolate and in the process helped many people. Milton Hershey was one of the few industrialists of his time to make certain that the town in which his employees worked was also an ideal place for them to live and raise their families. In addition to employing an entire town, he provided recreation and an amusement park for his

# **2000•FEEDBACK JOURNAL•2000**

workers to enjoy away from the factory. Hershey was also a philanthropist and his legacy of giving is still prominent today. Milton Hershey is buried, in the town he made famous, at Hershey Cemetery.

Revolutionizing the way Americans tasted food, Henry Heinz, president and founder of H.J. Heinz Company, started the largest pickling and condiment manufacturing company in the world. The Pittsburgh native made famous the 57 Variety's of foods and condiments H.J. Heinz Co. produced and bottled. Heinz was also generous to the community and started many charitable organizations during his life. Heinz is buried in Homewood Cemetery in Pittsburgh.

Also in Homewood Cemetery is one of America's prominent leaders in banking and finance. Andrew Mellon played an important role in the financing of many American companies. In addition to his shrewd business skills, Mellon also served as Secretary of the Treasury under three presidents and was ambassador to Great Britain. Today, the Mellon name is still synonymous with banking in Pennsylvania and throughout the world.

## **Sports Figures**

Jim Thorpe is still considered one of the century's greatest athletes. Excelling in almost every athletic competition, Thorpe was the most talented athlete during the first half of the 20th Century. In the 1912 Olympic games in Sweden, Thorpe won two gold medals in the pentathlon and decathlon. Also, Thorpe played both professional baseball and football and is enshrined in the Professional Football Hall of Fame. Jim Thorpe, Pennsylvania, in the northeastern part of the state, is the

# **2000•FEEDBACK JOURNAL•2000**

site of Thorpe's grave.

The game of baseball has always played a key role in Pennsylvania's history and nostalgia. Many players in the Baseball Hall of Fame were also Pennsylvanians. More known for his priceless baseball card than his on-field skills, Honus Wagner, is still arguably considered the greatest shortstop of all time. Wagner, from Carnegie, Pennsylvania is buried at Jefferson Memorial Cemetery just south of Pittsburgh.

In Philadelphia, Cornelius McGillicuddy, better known as Connie Mack, is buried at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery. Mack, known for wearing a suit in the dugout instead of a uniform, managed the Philadelphia Athletics for 50 seasons. Mack has the most wins and losses of any professional baseball manager.

Christy Mathewson was a legendary hurler for the New York Giants. Born into a wealthy family, Mathewson attended Bucknell University, but signed with the Giants after he graduated. Mathewson died young at the age of 45, after suffering from tuberculosis he contracted during World War One. However, he was named one of the "five immortal baseball players" when he was inducted into the Hall of Fame. Mathewson is buried near Bucknell University at Lewisburg Cemetery.

## **Entertainers & Artists**

Andy Warhol is considered by many to be the founder and major figure of the Pop Art movement. Besides being an artist, Warhol was also a filmmaker, author, magazine publisher, and commercial designer. Some of his most famous works are the Campbell's Soup Labels and portraits of Marilyn Monroe. Art enthusiasts can visit the Andy

## **2000•FEEDBACK JOURNAL•2000**

Warhol Museum in Pittsburgh and see his work.

Warhol is buried at St. John the Baptist Catholic Cemetery south of Pittsburgh.

Zane Grey is considered the greatest storyteller of the American West. Grey's pioneering ancestors motivated him to write stories about the pioneers and adventures of the untamed American West. Grey became the best-selling Western author of all time, and for the first three decades of this century he had at least one novel in the top ten every year. Grey and his wife settled on the Delaware River in Lackawaxen, Pennsylvania. The Zane Grey Museum, also in Lackawaxen, is dedicated to his life's work and his burial site is in close proximity at Union Cemetery.

A tragic plane crash cut Jim Croce's life short in 1973. Croce had released three albums in 2-1/2 years with many songs still popular today. Born in Philadelphia, Croce wrote eight number one songs, two of which were released after his death. Croce is buried in Frazer, outside of Philadelphia, at Haym Soloman Memorial Park.

Another great musician, Stephen Foster is considered America's first professional songwriter. A native of Pittsburgh, Foster's music defined the sound of his generation and remained popular for generations to come. Some of his most famous songs are "Oh, Susanna", "My Old Kentucky Home", and "Way down upon the Swanee River". Foster is buried in Allegheny Cemetery in Pittsburgh.

•  
*Always remember—you're unique. Just like everybody else!*

•  
*There are three kinds of people: Those who can count, and those who can't.*

## **Keep It Clean**

### *Take "Allergy Control" of Your Home*

Health professionals agree that controlling allergens in the home can significantly reduce symptoms for people with allergies and asthma.

"Taking 'allergy control' of your home by cleaning is an important step in combating the allergens that build up and cause problems for allergy sufferers," said Jane Meyer, Director of Consumer Education for The Soap and Detergent Association.

Removing common indoor allergens like animal dander, cockroaches, dust/dust mites, mold, mildew and pollen can help make life easier for allergy sufferers. The Soap and Detergent Association recommends the following four cleaning strategies to help prevent or minimize allergy or asthma symptoms:

**DON'T LET THE DUST MITES BITE**—Dust mites in the bedroom are the worst problem for asthma and allergy sufferers. To help control them:

- Wash and dry sheets weekly
- Launder pillows, blankets, comforters and mattress pads at least four times a year
- Encase pillows and comforters in allergen-impermeable covers
- Dust bedroom furniture using a dusting product— a dry cloth just spreads dust

**KEEP LAB EXPERIMENTS IN THE LAB**—Mold and mildew make themselves evident on tiles, grout and shower curtains, but they also grow around window frames and

## **2000•FEEDBACK JOURNAL•2000**

sills, under sinks and where the tub or shower meets the floor. The following daily and weekly routines can make the difference in combating mold and mildew:

- Keep these areas clean and dry
- After showering, use a shower cleaner or wipe down walls and curtains to prevent mildew growth and open shower doors or curtains to allow walls to dry
- Clean shower walls and tubs weekly using a nonabrasive, all-purpose or disinfectant cleaner
- Be sure to follow label instructions for safe use and to get the full benefit of products that kill mold/mildew

**FEED YOURSELF—NOT UNWANTED PESTS**—Food and water invite cockroaches and cockroach droppings are allergens. To help keep these pests away:

- Clean up food spills and crumbs right away and wash dishes as soon as possible after eating
  - Empty trash daily
  - Wash floors weekly
- Regularly clean under and behind appliances where crumbs and grease may collect

**TAKE A MAGIC CARPET RIDE**—As carpets are home to dust mites, animal dander, mold spores and pollen, it is important to do the following in order to combat indoor allergens:

- Vacuum carpets at least once a week
- Vacuum against the carpet's nap, taking at least six to eight strokes over each area
- Use mats or area rugs in front of entryways to collect dirt and allergens brought in from the outside
- Launder rugs weekly to remove any collected allergens

*For more cleaning tips and a free brochure, Managing Allergies and Asthma, visit The Soap and Detergent Association web site at <http://www.sdahq.org>, or write SDA at 475 Park Avenue South, New York, NY 10016.*

# WOW

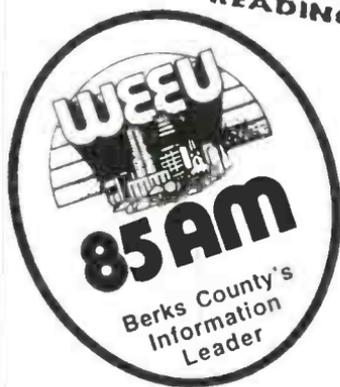
## HOW WE'VE CHANGED!

**WEEU**  
**BERKS BROADCASTING CO.**  
READING, PENNA.



# WEEU

READING, PENNA.



# WEEU

*The voice of Berks County*

## THANKS FOR BEING THERE THROUGH THE YEARS!

*Some Recipes From  
Some Great Inns*

*Cheese Chile,  
Please*

From: River House Bed & Breakfast,  
Durango, Colorado  
[www.durango.com/riverhouse](http://www.durango.com/riverhouse)

*4 eggs  
1/2 teaspoon baking powder  
1/4 cup whole wheat flour  
1/2 teaspoon dry mustard  
1 cup cottage cheese  
1 cup shredded cheddar cheese  
1 cup shredded Monterrey Jack  
1/4 cup melted butter  
8 ounces chopped green chillies  
Avocado and Salsa for garnish*

*Beat eggs, add dry ingredients. Add cheeses, butter and chillies to mix. Batter will be lumpy. Lightly grease casserole dish, fill and bake at 350 degrees for 25-30 minutes. Garnish with slices of fresh Avocado and Salsa. Note: You may add more or less chillies depending upon your taste.*

# *Cream Caramel*

## *French Toast*

**From: Beach House B&B By The Sea, Plymouth,  
Massachusetts  
[www.beachhousebandb.com](http://www.beachhousebandb.com)**

*A scrumptious make-ahead breakfast or brunch main dish that goes together in 15 minutes. Guests almost always ask for the recipe!*

*In 9" X 13" casserole dish, melt in microwave:*

*2 Tablespoons corn syrup*

*1 Cup brown sugar*

*1 Stick (1/2 cup) butter*

*Turning the pan width-wise, layer one and one-half loaves cinnamon raisin bread slices in 3 columns like dominoes, usually 7 slices per row.*

*In large bowl beat 6 eggs and add 2 cups of milk, 2 cups light cream, 1/3 cup sugar, 1 tablespoon vanilla and 1/2 teaspoon salt. Stir.*

*Pour slowly over bread, cover with aluminum foil and refrigerate overnight. Bake COVERED at 350 degrees for 45 minutes and UNCOVERED for 15 minutes. Cut into 9 or 12 squares.*

*INVERT ONTO Plates so the caramel is on the top. Top with dollop of sour cream and chopped walnuts, almonds or pecans.*

*Alte Welt Gasthof*  
*Tea Cakes*

From: Alte Welt Gasthof, Fredericksburg, Texas  
[www.fbg.net/texasb&b](http://www.fbg.net/texasb&b)

*This recipe has won several awards in local contests  
It is well over 100 years old.*

*Preheat oven to 375 to 400 degrees  
Sift 4 cups of flour into large pan  
Pat out a well in flour  
Pour into well:  
2 cups sugar  
1 Cup shortening  
2 eggs  
1/2 Cup buttermilk  
1 teaspoon baking soda  
1/2 teaspoon salt  
2 teaspoons vanilla extract*

**DIRECTIONS:**

*Knead dough by hand, then roll it out (flatten it). Use  
cookie cutter. Bake until done.*

# *Sweet Potato & Cheddar Johnnycakes*

From: The Battenkill inn, Manchester Village, VT  
[www.battenkillinn.com](http://www.battenkillinn.com)

*3/4 cup all-purpose flour  
1 1/2 cups cornmeal  
5 teaspoon baking powder  
1 teaspoon salt  
1/4 cup oil  
2 cups peeled & grated Sweet potatoes  
1/2 cup diced scallions  
1 cup chopped McIntosh Apple  
3 eggs, beaten  
1 1/2 half cups milk  
clarified butter  
1 apple julienned  
Vermont maple syrup  
sliced cheddar cheese*

*In a large bowl, mix the flour, cornmeal, baking powder and salt. In a skillet, heat the oil and sauté the sweet potatoes, scallions and chopped apple until the sweet potato is fully cooked. Allow to cool and add the mixture to the dry ingredients. Add the eggs and milk and mix well. Pan-fry by the spoonful in the clarified butter. Serve with the julienned apple, Vermont maple syrup, and slices of cheddar cheese.*

# *Coconut Pie*

From: Inn on the Bay, St. Lucia, West Indies  
[www.saint-lucia.com](http://www.saint-lucia.com)

## Ingredients and Quantities

*1/2 cup Butter  
2 cups flour  
3/4 Cup sugar  
1 teaspoon baking powder  
3 tablespoons water*

## Directions

*Mix dry ingredients with butter until mixture is crumbly, then add water. Dough should be slightly sticky. Pat into 9" pan, reserving enough dough to make a latticework top.*

### *Filling:*

*1 coconut  
1 cup brown or white sugar,  
1 cup water.*

*Grate coconut (coarsely) into a pot; add sugar and water and heat until mixture becomes syrupy. Pour into crust and make latticework over the top by rolling out thin strips of reserved dough. Bake at 350 degrees, covered with foil the first half hour, then uncovered until golden brown.*

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- \* Health Insurance Counseling
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(610) 670-1372

## **BERKS COUNTY SENIOR CITIZENS COUNCIL**

Funded in part by  
Berks County Office of Aging and United Way of Berks County

## **Who We Are...**

### **WEEU Personality Profiles**

#### **Learn More About the Likes and Lives of WEEU People**

In mid-1999, the *Feedback Journal* editors circulated a questionnaire to WEEU employees, seeking answers to some interesting questions—some whimsical, and some which provide a little insight into the *personalities* of the personalities. Those who chose to answer the questions appear in the dossiers which follow.

#### **Please List Three of Your Favorite Songs**

**Charlie Adams:** In My Life (Beatles), Changes in Latitudes (Jimmy Buffett), The Jubilee (Mary Chapin-Carpenter)

**Matt Anspach:** I Will Wait (Hootie and the Blowfish), Rockapella, Enter Sandman (Metallica)

**Len Carmen:** I like anything done by the band Renaissance (which no longer exists and very few people have heard of. I also like music from the Big Band Era, or anything by Mozart (except opera).

**Pat Daniels:** Any three by Metallica.

**Paul Druzba:** In My Life (Beatles), You Really Got Me (Kinks), Close to the Edge (Yes)

**Mike Faust:** Bring Him Home (from *les Miserables*), Golden Slumbers (Beatles), Moonlight Sonata (Beethoven)

**Dr. Leo Frangipane:** Rings (Cymarron), Star Wars Main Theme, Oh What A Night (Four Seasons)

**Mitch Gerhart:** Ticket To Ride (Beatles), Scenes from an Italian Restaurant (Billy Joel), Hotel California (Eagles)

**Jack Holcomb:** No favorites.

**Kaz:** Pennsylvania Polka, Beer Barrel Polka, America the Beautiful.

**Dave Langley:** I Feel Fine (Beatles), Blinded by the Light (Manfred Mann), Take it to the Limit (Eagles)

**Bob McCool:** Rosalita (Bruce Springsteen), Changes in Latitude (Jimmy Buffett), On the Way to Cape May (Al Alberts)

**Chris Reinbold:** Too many to list.

**Suzy Sands:** Almost anything by Elton John. And, "America," because Ray gave me a beautiful ring while we were on a dinner cruise at the Statue of Liberty in New York Harbor)

**Dave Seibold:** Safronia B, Orinoco Flow (Enya), Zoot Suit Riot.

# **2000•FEEDBACK JOURNAL•2000**

**Bob Walton:** Moonlight Serenade, Alabama Jubilee, God Bless America.

## **How About Three Favorite Performers?**

**Adams:** Jimmy Buffett, The Beatles, The Chieftains.

**Anspach:** Hootie and the Blowfish, Metallica, Rockapella

**Carmen:** The Three Stooges (Moe, Larry, and Curley—not Charlie & Company!)

**Daniels:** Jenna Jamieson, Clint Eastwood

**Druzba:** Yes, Ray Davies, Jethro Tull

**Faust:** Paul McCartney, Nicole Kidman, John Travolta

**Dr. Leo:** Jimmy Buffett, Elton John, The Four Seasons

**Gerhart:** Tom Hanks, Anthony Hopkins, Billy Joel (tied with Rizzo the Rat from the Muppets)

**Holcomb:** Nanci Griffith, Eric Clapton, Luciano Pavarotti

**Kaz:** Nashville Brass, Jimmy Sturr, Andre Rieux

**Langley:** Beatles, Eagles, Sheryl Crow

**McCool:** Jimmy Buffett, Michael Jordan, Jimmy Stewart

**Reinbold:** R.E.M., Dave Matthews Band, Morrissey

**Sands:** Cher, Elton John, Doris Day

**Seibold:** Enya, Blues Brothers, Cherry Poppin' Daddies

**Walton:** (Not Living) Glenn Miller, Al Jolson, Mozart

(Living) Pavarotti, Itzhak Perlman, East Side Dave

## **Your Fantasy Vacation Would Be Doing What?**

### **Where?**

**Adams:** Just about anything on any coast of Ireland or Northern Ireland.

**Anspach:** Traveling in Europe for a year, mainly in the U.K.

**Carmen:** Traveling America by chauffeured limousine, including motoring to Hawaii

**Daniels:** You *really* don't want to know!!!

**Druzba:** B&B-hopping in Great Britain and Ireland

**Faust:** Two weeks in New York City, staying at the Waldorf, with a different restaurant and Broadway show every night.

**Dr. Leo:** Exploring Australia's barrier reefs

**Gerhart:** One month touring the U.S., then another seeing Great Britain, Germany, and Italy

**Holcomb:** Roaming the English-Scottish border country in search of my "roots"

**Kaz:** Winter, skiing around the Matterhorn in Switzerland. Summer, laying on a beach of Bora Bora in the South Pacific

**Langley:** Catching some sun along the California coast

**McCool:** On a Caribbean island playing golf in the morning and laying

# **2000•FEEDBACK JOURNAL•2000**

on a beach in the afternoon

**Reinbold:** Hiking through the outback of Australia

**Sands:** Having my own personal yacht, and beginning in Nova Scotia, cruising down the east coast to the Florida Keys and beyond with Ray.

**Seibold:** In the Caribbean, boating and fishing by day and dining and dancing by night

**Walton:** Travel back in time and be a photographer with the Amundson South Pole Expedition. Place: Bay of Whales, 72 degrees South/164 degrees East. Time: 1910-1912

## **My Favorite Holiday Is...**

**Adams:** Halloween, for reasons that, if you know me, you know why.

**Anspach:** Christmas, because of the peaceful feeling I get that time of year

**Carmen:** Independence Day, because it's not for Christians, Jews, Moslems, Veterans, or anyone else. It's a holiday for all Americans if they take the time to understand why we celebrate it.

**Daniels:** St. Patrick's Day. Why? Check my first name!

**Druzba:** Christmas. I get to see people I don't see very often.

**Faust:** Christmas. I love the music, lights, and holiday cheer

**Dr. Leo:** Christmas, with the opportunity to give to those who have loved and given time to me all year long.

**Gerhart:** Christmas, for every reason you can think of

**Holcomb:** No favorites

**Kaz:** Christmas, because of the beautiful music I play on WEEU

**Langley:** Thanksgiving. It's in the fall, I love its ambience, and I'm thankful for all the good things in my life

**McCool:** Christmas. It's the one time of the year when people are actually civil to one another.

**Reinbold:** Halloween, because all the freaks come out at night. It's also at a nice time of the year

**Sands:** When all the kids were young, it was Christmas. Now, any holiday where Ray and I can travel somewhere is the best, and I suppose that's because for so many, many holidays were spent at home.

Now it's a real treat to get away and do something different!

**Seibold:** Labor Day Weekend. Cool nights, warm days, warm water, and excellent fishing!

**Walton:** Christmas, because it is the celebration of the birth of Jesus.

## **Before WEEU, Did You Have Any Unusual Jobs?**

### **Doing What?**

**Adams:** I was once a stock boy at Tersuhow's women's store. And, I shoveled chocolate off the floor at Luden's. In the Navy, I was in charge of a "head" (toilet) with 60 seats!

# **2000•FEEDBACK JOURNAL•2000**

**Anspach:** I once worked as a pro wrestling ring announcer

**Carmen:** I worked in a bubble gum factory for a few summers while going to school. That's why I won't eat bubble gum ever again!

**Daniels:** Standing in front of Spencer's Gifts at Halloween, scaring women and small children!

**Druzba:** i was a car hop at a drive-in restaurant, a tire worker, and weatherman on TV

**Dr. Leo:** As a kid, I worked in a morgue cleaning up after autopsies!

**Faust:** I was a ski photographer at Lake Tahoe, northern California

**Gerhart:** I was once a pin-jockey at Colonial Hills Bowl

**Holcomb:** I made ice cream and was a short-order cook at a dairy. I also once worked as a portrait photographer

**Kaz:** Nothing unusual. I was a mechanical engineer building steel mills

**Langley:** Do you remember a Saturday Night Live skit where a radio personality ran between two sister radio stations—one religious and one rock? Such a job was true to life for me. My first full time radio job was working at an AM/FM station in Havre de Grace, Maryland. The AM was music, the FM was religious.

**McCool:** I was an ice cream scooper at the old Pensupreme on Lancaster Avenue

**Reinbold:** I was a barker in a carnival

**Sands:** I sold burial plots...for about two weeks

**Seibold:** I was a signal officer in Vietnam, and once sold pots and pans to engaged girls for their hope chests

**Walton:** Nothing, except my current position may be considered unusual to some people!

## **Do you have any heroes or heroines?**

**Adams:** Mabel Pauline (Williamson) Adams and Charles J. Adams Jr.

**Anspach:** I admire many people

**Carmen:** In keeping with a patriotic theme, those who founded this country, and the World War II generation which prevented tin horn dictators from taking over the world

**Daniels:** Elvis Presley. He died like a man!

**Druzba:** Two heroes, two heroines: My three kids and my wife

**Dr. Leo:** Helen Keller, Leo Buscaglia

**Faust:** My mom and dad

**Gerhart:** Anyone who can be nice to someone else, even in the midst of a horrible day

**Holcomb:** My dad

**Kaz:** None in particular. Well, maybe Dave Seibold, Charlie Adams, and John Engle.

**Langley:** Jesus Christ, Cal Ripken

# **2000•FEEDBACK JOURNAL•2000**

**McCool:** Thomas Jefferson, Larry Bird

**Reinbold:** My parents and Captain Dave Seibold

**Sands:** For all that she endured, Jackie Kennedy Onassis and all the Mercury and Apollo astronauts for their unbelievable feats. I once interviewed an Apollo astronaut and was literally on the edge of my seat the whole time!

**Seibold:** My father

**Walton:** Sir Ernest Shackelton, Roland Amundson, Theodore Roosevelt, Sir Winston Churchill, Ronald Reagan, My Friends, Wally Herbert (possibly the first person to reach the North Pole and back by traditional means in 1969), Peter Harrison MBE (the world's leading authority on seabirds and an explorer), his wife, Shirley Metz (the first woman to ski the South Pole), Jim Fowler, and my mother—Lt. Elma M. (Rothenberger) Walton, USN

## **What Is Your Favorite Meal?**

**Adams:** Meat loaf, mashed potatoes, lima beans

**Anspach:** A Thanksgiving-type meal. Cheese cake for dessert is a must!

**Carmen:** Surf and Turf. And, I don't mean a burger and fried clam strips!

**Daniels:** Anything that doesn't bite back!

**Druzba:** It's a tie between Shepherd's Pie and a good steak

**Dr. Leo:** Linguine and white clam sauce....mmmm!

**Faust:** Mac & Cheese!!

**Gerhart:** The breakfast buffet at the Grand Floridian Hotel at Walt Disney World!

**Holcomb:** Anything Italian

**Kaz:** Any kind of veal dish

**Langley:** Steamed crabs and beer (I've been a long-time Marylander!)

**McCool:** Steak, french fries, corn on the cob, a cold beer

**Reinbold:** Any that I don't have to cook

**Sands:** Homemade Pennsylvania Dutch Pot Pie, with Shoo-Fly Pie for dessert. It's especially good at the Cookery Tent at the Reading Fair—and what would you expect from someone who's mother's maiden name was Hinnershitz?

**Seibold:** Leg of lamb, shellfish

**Walton:** Anything prepared by Jack Czarnecki. Dr. Jim M. is a close second!

## **If Reincarnation is Real, What Would You Like to Be in Your Next Life?**

**Adams:** A manatee

**Anspach:** Some kind of bird, a cat, a cow, or a dog

# **2000•FEEDBACK JOURNAL•2000**

**Carmen:** A member of a Stanley Cup-winning team

**Daniels:** C E N S O R E D

**Druzba:** Rich

**Dr. Leo:** A Broadway actor

**Faust:** A circus clown with big feet and a red, rubber nose

**Gerhart:** A better person. Or, a dolphin

**Holcomb:** Me again...without the mistakes I made in this life!

**Kaz:** A rich gigolo

**Langley:** As a Catholic, I believe in Heaven and the afterlife

**McCool:** Independently wealthy

**Reinbold:** A human being

**Sands:** My dog!

**Seibold:** A major league player or manager

**Walton:** Myself. Maybe I'd get it right the next time

## **Finish This Sentence:**

### **Our Listeners Would Be Amazed to Know That I....**

**Adams:** ...am a very shy person, can bench-press 600 pounds, own seven thoroughbred horses, can fly a jet, and tend to fib a lot

**Anspach:** ...am a very shy person until you get to know me

**Carmen:** ...once met the late Richie Ashburn on the subway in Montreal

**Daniels:** C E N S O R E D

**Druzba:** ...am between five and seven feet tall!

**Dr. Leo:** ...aspire to be as good on the air as Charlie Adams!

**Faust:** ...am a certified teacher in Elementary Education (8th Grade)

**Gerhart:** ...rarely get more than five hours' sleep before going to work

**Holcomb:** ...have no secrets. My listeners know me like a book!!!

**Kaz:** ...I would love to have all the beautiful women in the world hanging around my neck at all times!!!

**Langley:** ...am younger than what I sound like. Some people figure I'm 50—I'm only 35!

**McCool:** ...watch the History Channel *almost* as much as ESPN

**Reinbold:** ...work for my family's carnival, Oscar's Amusements, in my spare time

**Sands:** ...plan on tying the knot with Ray Albert in the new millennium!

**Seibold:** ...am a decorated (Bronze Star) Vietnam veteran

**Walton:** ...I really do like Charlie Adams' music!

As part of this survey of WEEU staffers, several other questions were asked, including: "DO YOU PREFER PAPER OR PLASTIC?" (12 PAPER/2 PLASTIC/2 EITHER) and "IS BALLROOM DANCING A SPORT?" (15 NO/1 YES).

# Berks County Office of Aging

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## **2000•FEEDBACK JOURNAL•2000**



*Bob Entler, co-host of “A Great Day Outdoors” on WEEU (8:30-9 a.m., Sundays) shows off three beautiful walleye which he caught in a local lake in late summer of 1999. Going fishing is a fun way to indeed have “a great day outdoors” here in Berks County!*



*Pipe Major Winifred Stanley helped Charlie Adams give away a fabulous trip to Scotland in August, 1999.*

## **2000•FEEDBACK JOURNAL•2000**



*(TOP) A major local news story unfolded when the drought of 1999 exposed the Felix Dam on the Schuylkill River. Subsequent conditions led to the breach of the dam (BOTTOM) and its doom. Photos by Dave Kline.*

# 2000•FEEDBACK JOURNAL•2000

## THE BIG SWITCH OCTOBER 11, 1999

*A photographic remembrance of the day WEEU switched to 830 on the AM dial and boosted its power to 5,000 watts! The "big switch" was made in the railroad yards in Leesport.*



# 2000•FEEDBACK JOURNAL•2000

## THE BIG SWITCH OCTOBER 11, 1999



# 2000•FEEDBACK JOURNAL•2000

## **WEEU**

### Temperature Conversion Chart

°F °C	°F °C	°F °C	°F °C
40 4	56 13	72 22	88 31
41 5	57 14	73 23	89 32
42 6	58 14	74 23	90 32
43 6	59 15	75 24	91 33
44 7	60 16	76 24	92 33
45 7	61 16	77 25	93 34
46 8	62 17	78 26	94 34
47 8	63 17	79 26	95 35
48 9	64 18	80 27	96 36
49 9	65 18	81 27	97 36
50 10	66 19	82 28	98 37
51 11	67 19	83 28	99 37
52 11	68 20	84 29	100 38
53 12	69 21	85 29	101 38
54 12	70 21	86 30	102 39
55 13	71 22	87 31	103 39



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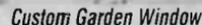
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2002



WEEU  
JOURNAL



2002

Published by WEEU Broadcasting Co.  
Reading, Pennsylvania



# Wild Birds Unlimited

PRESENTS THE *Autograph* PAGE

To Dave,

8-10-02

Thanks for coming out.

Best Wishes!

- *Mark*



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## Foreword

This is the ninth annual publication of the *JOURNAL*, and it is also the very first.

Those of you who have received copies of the *FEEDBACK JOURNAL* in the past may notice one change that is at once subtle and major.

The front cover says it all: *WEEU JOURNAL*.

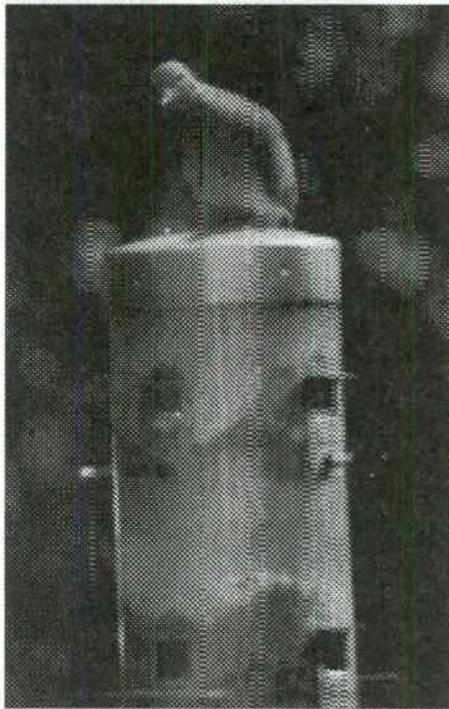
This 2002 edition has been entitled *WEEU JOURNAL* to more encompass the breadth and depth of the people of WEEU—people such as Jo Painter, Mitch Gerhart, Mike Faust, Dave Langley, Paul and Wanda Druzba, Matt Gorney, Jerry Paul, Chris Reinbold, Len Carmen, and me, Charlie Adams—all contributors to this year's *JOURNAL*.

We hope you will enjoy our little literary efforts here as much as you enjoy what we do on WEEU. We thank you for your support and pledge to continue to present the very finest in radio information and entertainment and live up to our boast of being **THE VOICE OF BERKS COUNTY**.



Editor

*On the cover: As 2002 marks the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the County of Berks (and, incidentally, the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of WEEU!), we thought it was appropriate to grace the cover of this year's *JOURNAL* with a view of the Berks County Courthouse. The photo was taken by morning personality Charlie Adams from the Court Street door of WEEU as he arrived for work one rosy morning. That's the steeple of Christ Episcopal Church to the left.*



*A mourning dove (or is it a sparrow?) pondering his next move on Charlie Adams' bird feeder.*

## *Free as a Bird....*

*by Charles J. Adams III, WEEU Morning Host*

It was one of those nondescript little brown birds that flutter by the hundreds from holly to hedgerow, fence to feeder. A sparrow, perhaps. To me, every nondescript brown bird, except those whose mere bulk and wingspan obviate the opposite, is a sparrow.

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To me, every flower is a pansy, all cats are “she’s” and all dogs are “he’s.” Maybe I should study Darwin or Noah more closely.

This little brown bird, whatever it was, was in trouble.

I have a bird feeder positioned just outside a window so that I can watch the little brown, little yellow, and occasional big red, big black, and big blue birds (sparrows, all) as they land on the six perches, poke their heads into the six portals, and peck in the pile of seeds inside the clear conical avian automat.

I had noticed in the morning that the seed level was a bit low, and figured I would replenish the feeder in a few hours.

As I went about the day’s housework, something horrible was happening out at the birdies’ buffet. For one particular little brown bird, a stop at the feeder had become disastrous.

I had no way of knowing how long he (all birds are he’s, aren’t they?) had been there, but when I went outside to fill the feeder, I spied him.

His sleek brown body was prone on the perch. His craggy claws dangled beneath him and groped at the air. There was an occasional heave as what seemed to be painful and weakening breaths were taken. His head was not visible. It was wedged into the small

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orifice through which the seed was obtained. When, I might add, seed was obtainable.

I had let the level of seed dip below the lip of the hole. In a determined effort to snare a snack from the crusted floor of the feeder, this little brown fellow had placed his little head so far inside that it became caught underneath an aluminum overhang that shunts the cascading seed from the eating aperture.

I discovered this only after I implemented my rescue plan.

At first glance, the bird appeared to be in its death throes. I watched what I truly believed to be the fleeting moments of this little brown bird's little life. I felt helpless.

Was this a ploy? Would this little brown bird, if approached by this big white guy, rear its beaked head and clawed talons and peck me and scratch me into submission? Would it, if I touched it to free it, simply die anyway? Isn't it true that if you touch a bird, it dies? Didn't I hear that somewhere?

Well, hey. This was a bird in distress, a little brown sparrow who may spare this big white guy from a mad pecking and scratching and give a little nod of thanks before it fluttered once more into the holly or hollyhocks. That touch-a-bird-and-it'll-die thing might well be an old wives' tale, after all.

I had no time to think, only to reason and

## 2002 • THE WEEU JOURNAL • 2002

react. Chickadee Charlie (some at work call me Albatross Adams) to the rescue!

First, I approached the victim cautiously. He was immobile, unable to rear up and attack. I hoped. He responded to a light finger stroke on his back. His vital signs, I reckoned, were strong.

Now, to extricate him. Easier said than done.

I removed the feeder from its pole, carried it to a wide-open space and lifted off the top. Through the upper seed well and then through a hole that carried re-fed seed to the lower well, I saw the hapless chap's predicament.

Indeed, his head was trapped in the business end of the feeder, cocked sideways so that one of his eyes was cast forlornly my way. His little life seemed to be draining away with each anguished, inaudible sigh. His eye—that one black dot staring up at me—seemed to be losing its shine.

No human finger would have been long or slender enough to reach down far enough to reach the inch-wide aluminum awning and bend it up and away from the trapped flier. I would have to jury rig a junior "jaws of life."

In the corner of my eye and the corner of the garage I saw a likely implement, a broom with a hanging hook at the end of its handle.

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I could plunge the broom handle gently into the feeder, latch the hook onto the aluminum overhang, lift gently, and watch the little brown bird either drop dead, strangled, or flutter to freedom.

Ever so slowly, I so as not to damage the bird's fragile skull, I lowered the broomstick into the feeder and it hook onto the edge of the overhang.

Even more slowly, I lifted the offending overhang until, I hoped, the little brown bird would realize that this big white guy had found a way to set him free.

With that gentle lift, the little brown bird's head jerked in a wink. Within that same wink, he pulled himself out of his predicament and, as little brown birds are wont to do, flapped away in a flash.

Nary a "thank you, big white guy." Not a nod. Nada. This bird had flown.

Very well, maybe he was ticked at me because I had allowed the seed to reach a level so low that he was forced to push his beak so far into the feeder in the first place. But, hey, buddy, there are lots of worms out there, and all birds eat worms, don't they?

I must say I was a little put off at the liberated winged-one's abrupt departure. A wink of the little black eye would have been nice. A thank-you chirp, even better.

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But, I'll get over it.

And you know what? Every once in a while, when those legions of little brown birds flip from the fence to the feeder, the holly to hedgerows, every once in a while, one of them seems to pause on a perch a little longer and cast a shiny black eye toward my window.

Maybe, just maybe, it's *that* little brown bird.

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# **The Story Behind Accu- Weather-in- a-Word**

*By Jo Painter, WEEU  
Program Director*

**Accu Weather in a Word... ..the concept seems to have taken on a life of its' own!**

The idea of summing up the forecast in one word was really my brother's idea.

I would see Jesse and he would ask me, "What's the weather?" Having just finished an air shift during which I heard the weather at least four times an hour I would rattle it off to Jesse by rote. This always amused him, he'd laugh and say, "no, no Jo, in a word!" Well then I'd have to stop and think about what I just said and then think about how to sum it up in a word.

So I figured I would just ask John Kocet, afternoon meteorologist on WEEU, to give me Accu-Weather In A

Word when I spoke with him during the afternoon show. The idea of summing up a forecast in a single word presented a challenge even to the meteorologist. He usually focuses on the next 24 hours and applies a word to that portion of the forecast. It soon became a bit of an on-air game at 4:15 each weekday afternoon. John Kocet even posted a note in his broadcast booth for any meteorologist calling WEEU during that shift to be prepared to give Accu-Weather In A Word at the end of our on-air conversation.

After a few years of this John Kocet and I decided to make it a bit more challenging. When 1999 rolled around John said he would not repeat an Accu-Weather word all year long.

So I kept notes and by golly at the end of the year he hadn't repeated a single word. I sent him a trophy, John Kocet was the Accu-Weather-in-a-Word Champion!

He was surprised and honored and extended the challenge for another whole year. I diligently kept notes all of the year 2000. I too had a post-it note for any

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announcer filling in during my shift. It instructed them to make sure they noted the Accu-Weather word if they spoke to John Kocet and the date he gave the word.

All announcers diligently followed through and the list of Accu-Weather words grew. By the end of 2000 he indeed did not repeat a word for 2 full years. Much to his chagrin he did not get a free cruise which we kidded about on the air. He thought that should be his prize!

Now it's 2001, how would John Kocet beat 2 years of no-repeat Accu-Weather words? He beefed up the challenge himself, this year he would not look at the list of previous words which he had been keeping too and still he would not repeat a word!

How's he doing? Well by press time, that is, August 31, 2001 he's been doing just fine. John Kocet is still in the game. Maybe it's because he tries to just work once or twice a week these days. That's one way to cut back on the odds of repeating a word! I think if he gets through the rest of the year without repeating a word I'll send him a toy cruise ship ... or maybe a

new thesaurus! Will he make it? Stay tuned.

### **ACCU-WEATHER WORDS** **JAN., 1999-AUG. 2001**

#### **A:**

Aaahh – 3/7/00  
Abnormal – 1/10/00  
Abrasive – 12/6/00  
Acceptable – 4/19/00  
Amazing – 11/9/99  
Angry – 3/28/00  
Astronomical – 12/22/99  
Awesome – 10/28/99

#### **B.**

Balances – 1/24/01  
Balmy – 2/24/00  
Beneficial – 8/20/99  
Best – 7/5/00  
Blacken – 5/27/01  
Bleak – 12/15/00  
Blizzard – 12/31/00  
Blunder – 9/19/00  
Blustery – 3/4/99  
Boiler – 8/7/01  
Boilish – 5/29/01  
Bonanza – 1/25/00  
Boomer – 6/21/01  
Borderline – 4/13/00  
Bright – 4/14/99  
Brrr – 12/21/99  
Brutal – 7/6/99  
Bug-a-boo – 4/16/99  
Bummer – 1/4/00  
Bumpy – 8/30/01  
Burner – 6/19/00  
Busy – 11/29/00

#### **C.**

Calm – 4/22/99  
Callus – 3/20/01  
Cantankerous – 3/29/01  
Carefree – 10/2/00  
Casual – 8/15/01  
Championship – 3/12/01  
Charmer – 5/5/99  
Chilling – 11/30/99  
Chilly – 6/15/99  
Christmasy – 12/25/00

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Close – 8/2/00  
Colder – 2/19/99  
Congenial – 5/9/01  
Comeback – 9/26/00  
Comical – 5/23/01  
Contrary – 3/22/01  
Cool – 8/17/00  
Comfortable – 8/17/99  
Cruising – 8/24/00

### **D.**

Dandy – 6/18/99  
Decent – 6/23/00  
Decrepit – 8/23/00  
Dehydrated – 7/22/99  
Derailed – 8/8/01  
Desert – 8/5/99  
Delightful – 7/12/00  
Destiny – 6/18/01  
Disappointing – 2/18/99  
Dismal – 12/14/99  
Distasteful – 1/12/99  
Disturbed – 8/24/99  
Ditto – 7/6/00  
Doomed – 11/10/99  
Downhill – 3/2/99  
Drab – 1/22/99  
Dreamlike – 3/15/00  
Dreary – 1/21/99  
Drought – 7/9/99  
Dry – 6/23/99  
Drying – 3/22/00  
Dud – 1/31/01  
Duster – 1/6/99

### **E.**

Eager – 1/16/01  
Easy – 12/2/99  
Effective – 1/25/01  
Electrical – 5/10/00  
Elegant – 10/19/00  
Entangled – 5/24/01  
Erratic – 7/28/00  
Exceptional – 2/11/99  
Exciting – 1/1/99  
Express – 4/24/99

### **F.**

Fabulous – 4/8/99  
Fair – 10/25/00  
Finally – 5/3/00

Fine – 9/27/00  
Flabbergasted – 2/6/01  
Flaky – 2/3/00  
Flaunting – 2/7/01  
Flawless – 1/11/01  
Floyd – 9/15/99  
Flurries – 2/23/99  
Fog – 9/5/99  
Foiled – 4/5/01  
Forgiving – 12/16/99  
Formulative – 8/22/01  
40's –forties-9/21/99  
Fragile – 5/11/99  
Friendly – 7/7/99  
Frightening – 10/29/99  
Fringes – 3/9/99  
Frisky – 1/7/00  
Frozen – 11/22/00  
Fun – 1/11/00

### **G.**

Generous – 11/4/99  
Good – 11/18/99  
Grand – 12/31/99  
Great – 3/31/99  
Groggy – 4/11/01  
Gross – 5/25/01  
Grouchy – 4/15/99  
Growl – 1/17/01  
Guilty – 2/2/01  
Gusty – 4/13/99

### **H.**

Handsome – 2/23/00  
Haphazard – 4/19/01  
Harmless – 1/20/99  
Harsh – 1/12/00  
Healing – 12/10/99  
Heatless – 7/18/00  
Hedging – 8/23/01  
Heggish – 2/1/00  
Hopeful – 5/7/99  
Hotter – 7/2/99  
Humble – 12/1/99  
Humid – 8/27/99

### **I.**

Icy – 1/14/99  
Ideal – 5/2/00  
Indescribable – 7/12/01  
Idling – 3/01/01

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Iffy – 8/31/99  
Illustrious – 3/30/99  
Improving – 4/6/99  
Indifferent – 1/5/00  
Innocent – 2/22/00  
Intelligent – 6/6/01  
Inviting – 4/7/99  
Irresistible – 10/13/00  
Irritating – 8/31/00

### **J.**

Junky – 3/14/04

### **K.**

King – 11/17/99

### **L.**

Laugh – 3/6/01  
Lazy-Boy – 8/25/00  
Limited – 8/12/01  
Lively – 3/2/00  
Lousy – 6/14/00  
Lucky – 3/17/99

### **M.**

Madness – 3/16/00  
Marketable – 6/30/00  
Marvelous – 4/29/99  
Merciless – 7/14/00  
Messy – 1/8/99  
Mild – 2/10/00  
Moderating – 1/28/00  
Motivated – 2/28/01  
Mundane – 1/9/01  
Murky – 12/15/99

### **N.**

Nasty – 1/13/99  
Nebulous – 10/24/00  
90 – ninety – 6/1/00  
Nuisance – 12/7/00  
Numbing – 1/5/99

### **O.**

Odd – 2/4/99  
Offending – 8/1/01  
Oh-oh – 3/11/99  
Okay – 3/3/00  
Ominous – 9/14/99  
Oops – 7/19/00  
Optimistic – 7/23/99  
Ordinary – 6/22/99  
Outstanding – 3/23/00

Overdue – 4/28/00  
Overpowering – 4/10/01

### **P.**

Painterific – 1/19/01  
Parched – 7/8/99  
Partly – 2/9/00  
Peachy – 4/26/01  
Pending – 11/28/00  
Perch – 6/5/01  
Perfect – 4/30/99  
Perky – 11/30/00  
Perplexing – 2/24/99  
Phony – 1/12/01  
Picturesque – 6/7/00  
Piercing – 1/21/00  
Pinnacle – 5/31/01  
Pitiful – 4/21/00  
Plus – 4/14/01  
Pokey – 8/10/00  
Polished – 2/21/01  
Poppin – 7/10/01  
Premium – 6/7/01  
Presidential – 11/7/00  
Pretty – 9/7/00  
Punctual – 4/25/01

### **Q.**

Quick – 2/2/00

### **R.**

Rainless – 4/27/99  
Raucous – 2/1/01  
Raw – 4/9/99  
Refreshing – 9/5/00  
Relief – 6/29/99  
Repetitive – 8/9/00  
Resting – 5/31/00  
Riled – 6/30/99  
Rotten – 3/29/00  
Routine – 2/5/99  
Rude – 6/15/00  
Rugged – 3/17/00

### **S.**

Safe – 4/6/00  
Satisfying – 10/27/99  
Scanty – 5/8/01  
Scattered – 8/11/00  
Schmorgasborg – 6/21/00  
Screwy – 3/27/01  
Sensational – 10/3/00

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Shabby – 7/26/00  
Sharp – 1/14/00  
Showers – 9/9/99  
Siberian – 1/18/00  
Sick – 12/9/99  
Simple – 2/26/99  
60's – sixties – 3/14/00  
Skiable – 2/11/00  
Skimpy – 5/4/99  
Sleddable – 1/26/00  
Slim – 3/28/01  
Slippin – 3/24/00  
Slow – 8/27/99  
Snakelike – 2/23/01  
Snappy – 1/27/00  
Snow – 1/19/00  
Soaking – 9/29/99  
Solid – 10/18/00  
Soothing – 7/31/01  
Spiffy – 2/3/99  
Splendid – 2/16/99  
Splendificent – 5/28/99  
Springy – 3/19/99  
Stagnant – 7/25/00  
Standard – 6/28/00  
Sticky – 6/1/99  
Structured – 8/29/01  
Stubborn – 7/21/99  
Stuck – 1/6/00  
Stuffed – 11/24/00  
Stuffy – 6/14/01  
Stunning – 5/1/01  
Stupendous – 5/2/01  
Stylish – 9/10/99  
Sultry – 7/1/99  
Summery – 5/5/00  
Super – 1/29/99  
Superb – 9/29/00  
Sweet – 5/11/00

### **T.**

Tame – 1/19/99  
Tardy – 3/7/01  
Tarnished – 1/7/99  
Temperamental – 2/20/01  
Tempting – 6/22/00  
Terminal – 11/2/00  
Thaw – 1/15/99  
Threatening – 2/17/99

Thunderstorms – 8/3/00  
Tippy – 1/10/01  
Tired – 1/2/01  
Tops – 1/12/00  
Topsy-turvy – 4/5/00  
Traditional – 10/20/99  
Tranquil – 11/21/99  
Tricky – 4/26/00  
Tropical – 6/16/00  
Troughy – 1/2/01  
Tumbling – 12/5/00  
Turmoil – 5/12/00

### **U.**

Uneventful – 12/30/99  
Unmotivated – 7/18/01  
Unrivaled – 11/9/99  
Unruly – 11/21/0  
Unsettled – 6/2/99  
Unstormy – 2/25/99  
Unyielding – 12/26/00  
Uphill – 8/18/00  
Upswing – 4/12/00

### **V.**

Vague – 11/3/00  
Variety – 1/18/01

### **W.**

Warm – 8/15/00  
Warmer – 4/21/99  
Wet – 11/2/99  
Whoop-de-doo – 5/15/00  
Whoopie – 5/27/99  
Wimpy – 1/26/99  
Windless – 2/8/00  
Winner – 3/30/00  
Winter – 1/20/00  
Wonderful – 3/16/99  
Wonderland – 2/22/01  
Wow – 1/28/98  
Wretched – 3/21/01

### **X.**

NONE

### **Y.**

Yeah – 8/25/99  
Yucky – 4/18/00

### **Z.**

NONE

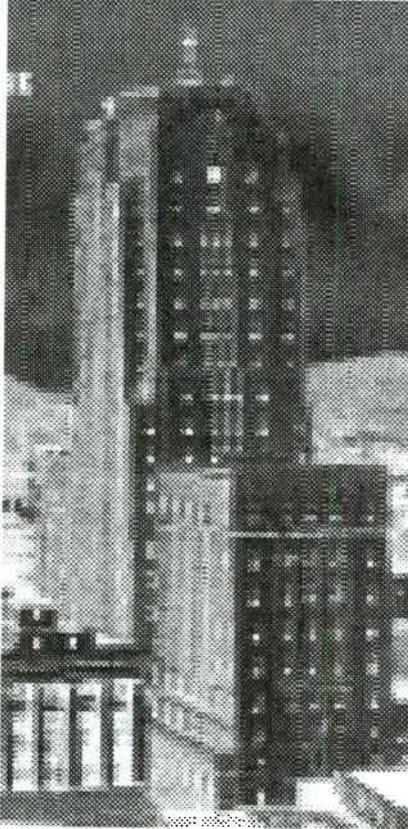
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Scott Keiser, owner/operator

# *Shedding Some Light on the Court House*



*by Paul Druzba*

Those of us over 50 are old enough to remember a time when the Berks County Court House (not the County Services Center) was just a dark shaft of granite in the night. Some may even be old enough to remember the previous courthouse at Sixth and Court, with the Goddess of Liberty

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perched on top.

But in 1959, something colorful was about to happen. Vern Shaffer, who has served for 24 years as a Berks County Commissioner, was in Pittsburgh that year, with fellow Commissioners Pete Yonavick and Paul Reeser. Peter, Paul and Mary (as they were known by some at the time—Vern was “Mary”), were attending a Commissioners conference in the smoky city.

Shaffer remembers Pete Yonavick seeing a hospital in Pittsburgh, and saying to Vern, “You know, I’ll bet the Court House would look nice with lights like that”, referring to the hospital’s colored lights, which signaled what the weather was to be like the next day.

Paul and Mary agreed, and it was done. For “less than a thousand dollars”, as Shaffer recalls, colored lights soon adorned the top of the Berks County Courthouse at Sixth and Court.

Although he doesn’t remember the wattage of the original bulbs, or how much they cost, Shaffer does remember who supplied them.

“His name was Bob George, and he went with my wife before the war,” Shaffer recalled. Obviously still friendly with Shaffer despite the loss of his former girlfriend, George came in with a price on colored light bulbs that the Commissioners couldn’t refuse.

And so in 1959, the Berks County Courthouse began to light up the downtown night in Reading by forecasting the morrow’s weather in color. Red lights meant bad weather (rain or snow), amber lights meant, in Shaffer’s words, “comme ci, comme ca”—could go either way. Green signified a nice day

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ahead.

Each evening, the Building Supervisor would get the forecast from the US Weather Service at the Reading Airport, and determine which light bulb to light up that night.

The hairline of the county seat looked pretty much the same for the next 13 years. Then, in 1972, reacting to complaints from some residents that the lights were too hard to see in bad weather (couldn't you just assume they would be red if you couldn't see them?), the County decided to replace Bob George's old light bulbs with more powerful ones. Progress Electric Supply, then at 1311 Penn Avenue in West Reading, came in with the low bid of \$4,469, hinting at an obvious advantage of lower-wattage bulbs.

At the time of the changeover, red and blue lights were being used. Red was dropped, probably because it's the least visible of the colors at night. That's why the Navy uses them in ships at night, so you can see a little, but you won't disturb anyone else who is trying to sleep, or you won't alert someone else who's looking for you.

There was even a complaint (yes, one) that the blue light couldn't be seen in misty weather.

The new configuration, which would be "100 times brighter," according to Commissioner Yonavick, would be amber for bad weather, and a blue-green light for good.

Before the advent of local television, and Accu-Weather on WEEU, many a Readingite looked to the Court House to see how they should dress the next morning.

These days, the casual night-time observer

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might be hard-pressed to tell what the weather will be like. Today, the court house uses yellow light to signify bad weather, and white to signify good. Not much difference there.

Berks Court House Building Supervisor Jimmy Moorman says that other colors are “hard to get.”

Former bulb-supplier Bob George has passed on, as has former Commissioner Pete Yonavick. But, hey, this is the 21st Century. Maybe we should look into some red and blue lasers.

*(This article was made a lot easier thanks to the generosity and helpfulness of former County Commissioner Vernon Shaffer, and Reading Eagle/Times reporter John Forester)*



*The Berks County Courthouse (right)  
and County Services Center  
as seen from the air.*

# **OLDER BERKS COUNTIANS - YOUNGER THAN EVER!**

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# Spotting an “Old Geezer”

At sporting events, during the playing of the National Anthem, Geezers hold their caps over their hearts and sing without embarrassment. They know the words and believe in them.

They remember World War I, the Depression, World War II, Pearl Harbor, Guadalcanal, Normandy and Hitler. They remember the Atomic Age, the Korean War, The Cold War, the Jet Age and the Moon Landing, not to mention Vietnam.

If you bump into a Geezer on the sidewalk, he'll apologize, pass a Geeze on the street, he'll nod, or tip his cap to a lady.

Geezers trust strangers  
and are courtly to women.

They hold the door for the next person and always when walking, make sure the lady is on the inside for protection.

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Geezers get embarrassed if someone curses in front of women and children and they don't like violence and filth on TV and in movies.

Geezers have moral courage. Geezers seldom brag unless it's about the grandchildren in Little League or music recitals.

It's the Geezers who know our great country is protected, not by politicians or police, but by the young men and women in the military serving their country in foreign lands, just as they did, without a thought except to do a good job, the best you can and to get home to loved ones.

This country needs Geezers with their decent values and common sense.

We need them now more than ever. Sadly, however is the realization that as this generation of Geezers passes on, there doesn't appear to be anyone to take their place.

Thank God for  
*OLD GEEZERS*

*(Author Unknown)*

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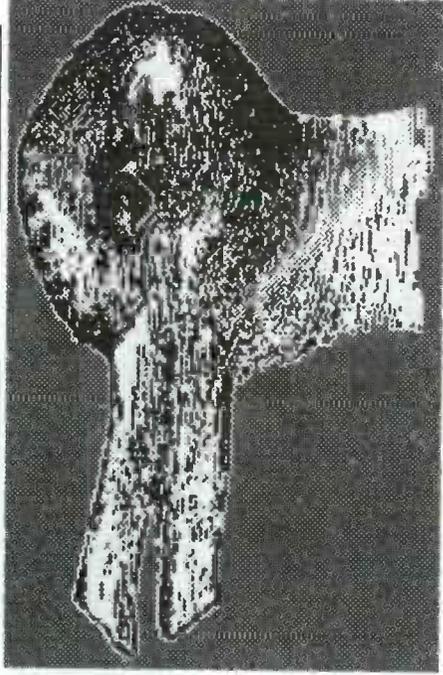


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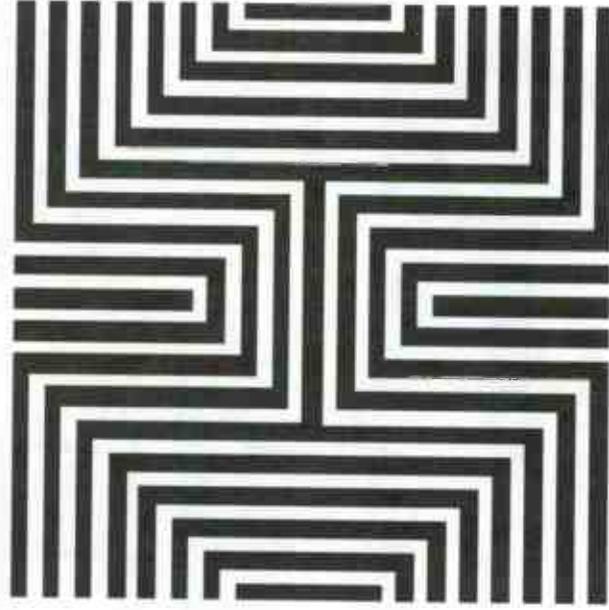
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*Is it a duck...or a bunny?*



## EYE EXERCISE!





# You Know You Live in Pennsylvania if...

1. You have an uncontrollable urge to buy bread and milk when you hear the word "snow."
2. You say the correct pronunciation LANG-kist-er instead of the mispronounced Lan-CAST-er, and LEB-en-in instead of the equally incorrect Leb-a-NON.
3. You live within two miles of a plant that makes potato chips, corn chips, pretzels, candy, or ice cream, or that packages turkeys, beans, or bologna.
4. You ask the waitress for "dippy eggs" for breakfast.
5. You do things "once," as in "I'll go check in the back room once."
6. You can stop along the road to buy fruits, vegetables, or crafts on the "honor system."
7. YOUR turkey has "filling," not "stuffing," and most certainly, NOT "dressing."
8. You say things like, "I'm calling off today," and "They're calling for snow."
9. You've heard of distelfinks and hex signs.
10. Red Beet Eggs makes your list of top ten favorite foods.
11. You pronounce "Suite" as SUIT, not SWEET.
12. You only buy your soda by the case.
13. You think the roads in any other state are smooth.
14. You know the Penn State cheer and even go as far as acting like you are in the bleachers stomping your feet
15. You never see any Confederate Flags, except on the Gettysburg Battlefield.
16. You prefer Hershey's Chocolate to Godiva.
17. You consider Pittsburgh to be "out west," and you know the fastest way to Philly is the Turnpike.
18. School closings due to snow take the radio stations half an hour to finish, because just about every town has its own school district.

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19. When someone says 1972, you think "Agnes," and when someone says 1979, you think TMI.
  20. You call sloppy joes "barbecue."
  21. You think Medium Rare equals Well Done.
  22. When it snows, they put cinders on the roads instead of sand.
23. You only own three spices: salt, pepper, ketchup.
  24. You have 10 favorite recipes for venison.
  25. Driving is better in the winter because the potholes are filled with snow.
  26. The local paper covers National and International headlines on 1 page, but requires six pages for sports.
  27. You think the start of deer hunting is a National Holiday.
  28. You find -20F "a little" chilly.
  29. You remember fondly days of youth known as "Snow Days".
30. Words like: gumband; buggy; hoagie; chipped ham; actually mean something to you.
31. You can use the phrase "Firehall Wedding" and not even bat an eye.

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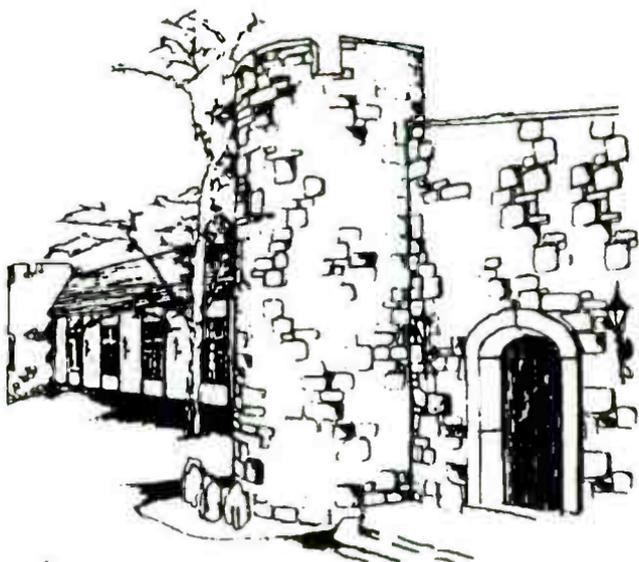
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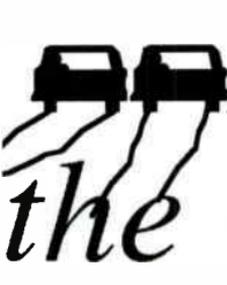
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# *Passing on the On-Ramp...*

## *Is This Legal or just Dumb?*

© 2001 Paul Druzba

**The rumor that some people got their driver's licenses in bubble gum machines must be true. This has nothing to do with whether or not some people can read road signs.**

**That's for another article.**

**The question is, do people understand the concept of "yield?"**

**One of the most common sites for yield signs, and one of the worst places to be, is the on-ramp of a highway. I don't know of any double-lane on-ramps where I live, but I do know that passing on the on-ramp is becoming too common.**

**Here's the scenario: You're waiting at the yield sign for traffic on the highway to give you an opening to enter. There are a few cars behind you. Then you see it- a four-car-length opening that'll just give you enough room to get out. So you grab the wheel, get your lead foot ready, and, in your side-view mirror, you see..**

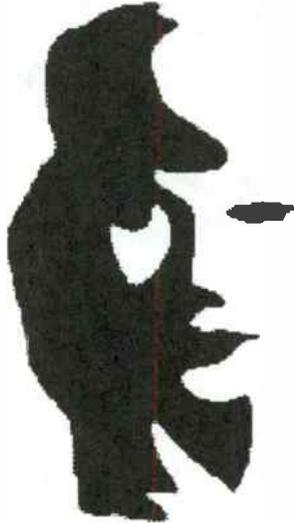
**Some moron pulling out from behind you, into the gap you're waiting for! This CAN'T be legal! In fact, it's downright immoral! And if you do it, knock it off! 'Cause I'm getting mad as hell, and I almost can't take it anymore!**

**Maybe schools should get back to the basics, and teach kids what their parents used to- a little common decency, and sense of fair play. While they're at it, maybe they could include a class or two on Yield signs.**

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***STUDY THE PICTURE BELOW... WHAT DO YOU SEE?***  
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***...A SAX PLAYER OR A WOMAN?***



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The word "Prosit!" is written in a large, bold, black serif font. On either side of the word is a black and white halftone illustration of a beer mug filled with beer and topped with a thick head of foam. The mugs are positioned as if they are clinking together.

# Prosit!

by "Kaz,"

*Host of the German/Bavarian Polka Show  
Sunday mornings at 10 on WEEU*

Can you imagine such an adventure—a European vacation designed to visit the heart of five Alpine countries?

Traveling through deep valleys, surrounded by majestic mountains, it was easy to forget the cares of our everyday lives. For the 36 who traveled with us in 2000, this was the trip of a lifetime.

Most of our group were from the Reading area, but we had two couples from Minnesota, one couple from Idaho, another couple from New Jersey, and people from Hazleton, Kutztown, Hamburg, Pottstown, and Oley who were part of our group.

We had to make sure that every one of them enjoyed every day of their visit to Europe. Let's not forget my good old beer-drinking partner from Oley, Ernie Licht. Ernie and yours truly kept the local breweries producing extra malt. But it was soooo good! It was like having a large family reunion in Europe.

And so, as we traveled through Switzerland,

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Liechtenstein, Austria, Italy, Tirol, and the Zillertaller valley, we lingered in places like Lucerne, Giswil, Innsbruck, Hall in Tirol, Vipiteno, Vagrain, Salzburg, and Munich.

The breathtaking scenery, the wonderful food served daily at breakfast, dinner, and our own select lunches, an array of fresh breads, cheeses and fruits, all served as unforgettable memory makers of our journey.

And, if we found ourselves among our fellow travelers and friends every evening, enjoying the local wines and beers, so much the better!

If we had to get up very early the next morning, nobody complained. Everyone was up bright and early and ready to go. We enjoyed sunshine every day in the mountains, yet the nights were cool enough to require covers. In other words, we enjoyed perfect weather for traveling.

But the highlight of our trip had to be the Passion Play in Oberammergau, which takes place only every ten years. For the uninitiated, this is the story of the Passion Play:

In the 1600s, when the Black Plague that scourged Europe threatened their tiny Alpine village, the people of Oberammergau prayed to be spared, vowing they would present a play depicting the Passion of Christ each decade.

Generation after generation of villagers have kept that vow, presenting the world with a moving experience. The play itself, set in a theater with the sky and surrounding mountains as backdrops, uses only the local villagers to tell its inspiring story. Wood-carvers and clock-makers, shepherds and shopkeepers, everyone joins in the play which is a part of every family's

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heritage.

For more than three centuries, roles have been passed on from father to son, from mother to daughter, with all strictly adhering to the traditions of their forefathers. It is an event to behold.

The life of Christ unravels before you from His triumphal entry into Jerusalem to His resurrection, in a full-day performance that includes a morning and afternoon intermission and a break for lunch. The careful attention to each detail, the spectacular accumulation of costumes, the music, the drama, the pageantry—all contribute to this unforgettable experience.

For those who traveled with us in 2000 to the Passion Play, the enduring thoughts became reality which produced countless happy memories of the week we spent together in the Alps.

However, all good things must end. So, on the last morning in Munich, our tour guide, Rentja Kiefer, bid us goodbye and sent us on our way with our bus driver, Onno, to the airport.

After we all said goodbye to Germany, a short flight took us to London for the transatlantic flight back to Philadelphia and the bus ride to Reading.

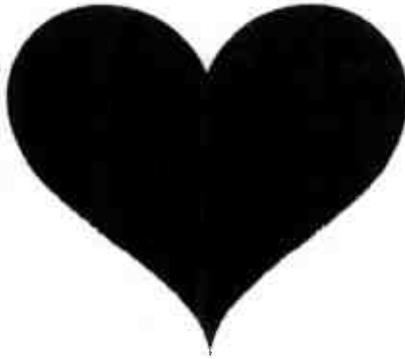
Upon our arrival, many notes and tears were exchanged by this great group, together with promises to stay in touch.

Within one short week, we had become a family of 36 individuals, with great memories of unforgettable experiences in Europe, and especially at the Passion Play 2000!

*Auf Wiedersehen!*

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# ENGLISH!

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*Consider these confusing statements when considering what folks are up against when trying to learn our language!*

- I had to subject the subject to a series of tests.
  - How can I intimate this to my most intimate friend?
    - A bandage was wound around the wound.
    - The farm was used to produce produce.
    - The dump had to refuse more refuse.
    - I have to polish the Polish furniture.
    - I shed a tear when I saw the tear in the upholstery.
- My jaw got number after a number of injections.
  - The wind was too strong to wind the sail.
  - He could lead if he would get the lead out.
- A seamstress and a sewer fell down into a sewer line.
  - The buck does strange things when does are present.
    - They were too close to the door to close it.
    - The insurance was invalid for the invalid.
      - I did not object to the object.
- When shot at, the dove dove into the bushes.
  - Since there is no time like the present, let's present the present.
- A soldier had to desert his dessert in the desert.



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1. Take into account that great love and great achievements involve great risk.
2. When you lose, don't lose the lesson.
3. Follow the three Rs: Respect for self, respect for others responsibility for all your actions.
4. Remember that not getting what you want is sometimes a wonderful stroke of luck.
5. Learn the rules so you know how to break them properly.
6. Don't let a little dispute injure a great friendship.
7. When you realize you've made a mistake, take immediate steps to correct it.
8. Spend some time alone every day.
9. Open your arms to change but don't let go of your values.
10. Remember that silence is sometimes the best answer.
11. Live a good, honorable life. Then when you get older and think back, you'll be able to enjoy it a second time.
12. A loving atmosphere in your home is the foundation for your life.

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13. In disagreements with loved ones,  
deal only with the current situation.  
Don't bring up the past.
14. Share your knowledge.  
It's a way to achieve immortality.
15. Be gentle with the earth.
16. Once a year, go someplace  
you've never been before.
17. Remember that the best relationship  
is one in which your love for each other  
exceeds your need for each other.
18. Judge your success by what you had to  
give up in order to get it.
19. Approach love and cooking  
with reckless abandon.

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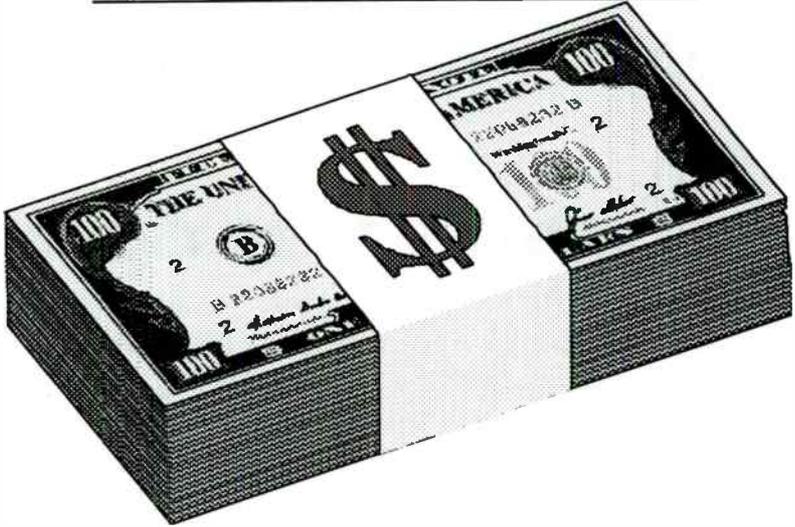
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## *The ABC's of \$\$\$*

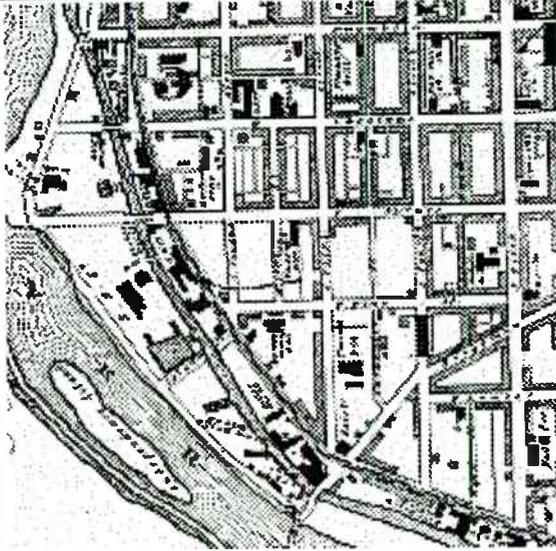
Ever see those letters before those numbers on your paper money? Ever wonder what those letters stood for? They represent the Federal Reserve Bank that bill came from. Here's a guide of those letters and those banks:

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- B—District 2, New York City**
- C—District 3, Philadelphia**
- D—District 4, Cleveland**
- E—District 5, Richmond**
- F—District 6, Atlanta**
- G—District 7, Chicago**
- H—District 8, St. Louis**
- I—District 9, Minneapolis**
- J—District 10, Kansas City**
- K—District 11, Dallas**
- L—District 12, San Francisco**



## **COWBOY WISDOM**

1. Never slap a man who's chewin' tobacco.
2. Good judgment comes from experience, and a lot of that comes from bad judgment.
3. Lettin' the cat outta the bag is a whole lot easier 'n puttin' it back in.
4. If you're ridin' ahead of the herd, take a look back every now and then to make sure it's still there.
5. If you get to thinkin' you're a person of some influence, try orderin' somebody else's dog around.
6. Never kick a cow chip on a hot day.
7. There's two theories to arguin' with the foreman. Neither one works.
8. If you find yourself in a hole, the first thing to do is stop diggin'.
9. Don't squat with your spurs on.
10. It don't take a genius to spot a goat in a flock of sheep.
11. Always drink upstream from the herd.
12. Never miss a good chance to shut up.
13. There are three kinds of people:
  - a. The ones that learn by reading,
  - b. The few who learn by observation, and...
  - c. The rest of them who have to touch the fire to see if it's hot.



# Ghost Island of the Hidden River

*by Charles J. Adams III*

The natives, it is said, called it Ganshowehanne.

It was their "roaring stream."

The Swedes followed it upstream from the Delaware River and established Berks County's first settlement on its shores.

The English, the Welsh, and pioneers from other European nations followed and built their homes close to its swift flow.

But it was the Dutch who gave it its name.

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Somehow, to someone at some time, the gurgling brook that widened and twisted its way from the Blue Ridge to the coastal plain was a "hidden creek" or "Schuyl Kill."

These days, the Schuylkill River is a playground, a dumping ground, and a lifeline to millions who live in its valley. Upon its waters at any given times are canoes, sculls, powerboats, tugs, tankers, and aircraft carriers.

Our river appears as a tranquil, serene stream. But, it has its savage side. Tropical Storm Agnes, in 1972, bombarded Berks County with tons of rain and raised the river level far beyond its limits. The river ripped through the valley and caused extensive damage. Fish showed up where fish never showed up before, and hams were swept downstream from a Reading packing plant.

This kind of rage was not unprecedented. The earliest recorded river rampage was in 1757. It was called a "freshet," in that it was an apparently unexpected, rapid rising of the water that swept downstream and caused concern in the then-sparsely settled basin.

Another substantial flood occurred in 1850, when the river level was about 25 feet above normal. Considerable damage was done along Reading's active riverfront, where boat yards and warehouses up to Second Street were destroyed.

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The most curious of all these freshets, perhaps, was the one of 1786. Stories, passed on through the centuries, tell of a Schuylkill some 20 feet above its normal level.

That particular flood has gone down in lore as the "Pumpkin Freshet." Farm fields upstream from the town of Reading were filled with an autumn bounty of pumpkins.

As the waters grew higher and flowed faster, the pumpkins were uprooted and swept downstream in a sea of bobbing orange bulbs.

This vision aside, the Schuylkill has provided many other episodes that conjure up drama, tragedy, and the full spectrum of human emotion.

Berks County's stretch of Schuylkill has been navigable over the years to barges that shuttled in and out of its currents as the canal route dictated, canoes and rowboats, and, since the inception of dams on the river, powerboats.

In the 19<sup>th</sup> century, excursion steamboats actually carried passengers from "Long Island" and the Hiester Boatyard in South Reading to picnic groves along the river as far as Sanatoga.

The "Rosa" and "Carrie" were among the vessels that chugged the Schuylkill until about 1917, when other diversions and an increasingly shallow river caused their demise.

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It was the dream of many generations to make the Schuylkill River a prosperous stream of commerce. In the 18<sup>th</sup> century, several formal plans to dig a channel in the river were considered, but the known factor of expense and the unknown factor of nature scuttled any serious projects.

There was some effort to keep the river free of shoaling and random clutter. The fords and ferry crossings that shuttled travelers across the river at that time were kept clear, and, in fact, there was active shipping on the river, especially between the southern end of Berks county and Philadelphia.

A canoe cargo line carried produce from the Oley Valley and other farm areas to the markets of the city at river's end. But this process met some resistance when another form of river exploitation attempted to block the free flow of the canoes.

It was the 1720s when the boaters found several fish dams in their way from Amity Township to Royersford. Presumably claiming a restraint of free trade, these watermen appealed to Squire George Boone and managed to secure the services of constables from Oley and Amity townships.

Armed with the sanction from the squire, the constables attempted to dismantle the fish racks. The persistent fishermen roughed up the constables, destroyed their canoes, and

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sent them back to the squire with their stubborn and downright hostile intentions to keep their dams.

Higher authorities were summoned, and reaching back to laws set down in the Magna Carta, a 1738 Executive Council order outlawed the fish weirs for the benefit of all citizens. The racks were removed, and shipping resumed.

Canoes eventually gave way to flat-bottomed, barge-like boats that would play a pivotal role in American history.

Col. Mark Bird, who helped gather and distribute supplies for the army of Gen. George Washington during the Revolution, eyed the Schuylkill as a reasonable venue to send commodities from the storehouses of Reading to the war front.

During the winter of 1777-78, Col. Bird reportedly used the sturdy riverboats of the Schuylkill to ship clothing, flour, and meat to the troops at Valley Forge.

Another kind of patriotism can be associated with the river later in its history.

Major political figures such as James Buchanan and Stephen Douglas campaigned at a popular picnic ground that was once located on what was known as Independence Island on the Schuylkill River in Reading.

As early as 1844, political rallies by the Whigs and Federalists were held on the island,

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which was located, according to contemporary reports, "several hundred feet above the ferry, at the foot of Bingaman Street."

On this island were bathhouses, fishing piers, and a restaurant operated by Franklin Witman.

On this island, too, it is said that candidate Douglas became so, er, "affected" by local applejack that he had to be helped off the podium by supporters following one of his campaign appearances.

This Independence Island (accorded that name apparently because Independence Day celebrations were held there for many years) surfaces in history as a most intriguing place.

An 1861 "Township Map of Berks County" published by H.F. Bridgens, reveals an "Independence Island" owned by a "W. Schwartz."

The detailed 1876 "Illustrated Atlas of Berks County" by F. A. Davis and H.L. Kochers and published by the Reading Publishing House, shows a large (900 by 200 feet, according to the scale) island on the site of what should have been Independence Island. The strip of mid-stream land occupied the western side of the river with its northern tip near the Wyomissing Creek confluence and its southern end was perpendicular with Pine Street in Reading.

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In the city's street system that year, there was an "Island Street" between the Pennsylvania Railroad tracks and the river—most likely named in honor of the nearby island.

Strangely enough, Independence Island, for all its apparent importance for many years, simply vanished.

As coal dirt swept downstream from northern mines piled up on the river bottom and the Reading urbanized area spread into the Wyomissing Valley and beyond Mount Penn, the river became the forgotten orphan of Reading and Berks County.

Where shad, herring, and sturgeon were once caught, black water flowed. Where Reading's first settlers forded and ferried, mounds of silt piled up. Where a "Professor Besser" once operated a private swimming wharf near the Bingaman Street Bridge, a threatening sludge was mounting.

Something had to be done to save a river in ruin. In 1937, federal and state funds were pledged for a desilting of the Schuylkill, and in 1948, "Operation Cleanup" was begun and hailed as one of the largest conservation projects in United States history.

Big money was pledged for the reclaiming of the river and the removal of the coal dirt that had choked it and threatened its very being

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As the massive desilting project ensued, a bit of Reading's history emerged from the muck of the riverbed.

On March 15, 1950, a front-page story in the *Reading Eagle* informed readers that the well-defined outline of an island had been discovered. After being buried under coal dirt and river water for a half-century, Independence Island was once more exposed for all to see.

*Eagle* writer Matthew P. Romanski reintroduced the phantom to the public:

*The block-long bar of silt and muck that covered the island for many decades is being removed by huge mechanical buckets to mark the passing of the half-way mark in the multi-million dollar project to purge the stream of its filth.*

Referring to the island's rise and fall in prominence, Romanski added:

*Its plush grass and other vegetation became covered with culm as much as ten feet thick and the gay times held there soon were a memory.*

*Now the earth under the heavy blanket of coal silt is becoming visible once more. The island is along the west side of the river with a narrow channel separating it from the shore, although there is a connecting road at the north end.*

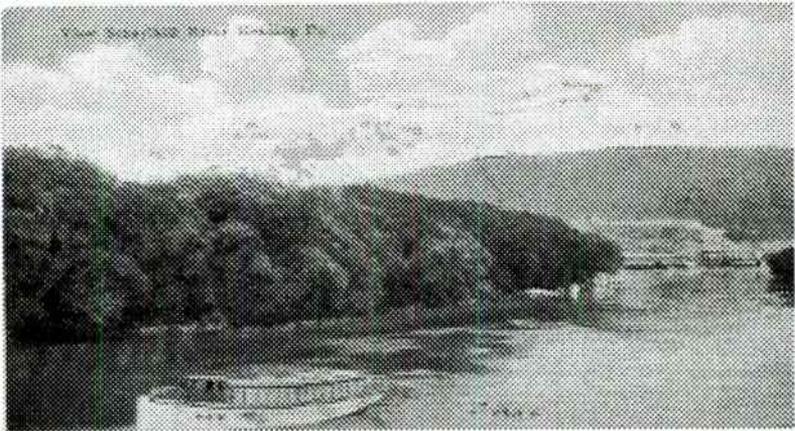
That was 1950. Within that very decade, the island was once more relegated to obscurity.

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The channel of the river that had once formed the western bank of the island was again covered. This time, it was not coal dirt, but massive backfill that became the base for the new West Shore Bypass. The fill essentially covered the river channel, locked Independence Island to the western shore of the river and rendered it inaccessible.

Today, this “ghost island” is visible and definable as a low strip of wasteland below the bypass lanes just north of the Lancaster Avenue interchange. It is also discernible from the eastern shore of the river along Riverfront Park.

Where folks once gathered under shady trees for festive rallies and picnics is now nothing but forlorn land that rises only inches above the river water. It is strewn with upstream flotsam and refuse and often disappears under the surge of muddy storm water.



# Don't Get Mad- *Get Even*

*By Paul Druzba*

I have to admit it- I have no taste. I'm old fashioned. I ignore fashion. I root for the home team. And in the case of the 2001 NBA finals, I was rooting for the Philadelphia 76ers.

That's odd, because I'm not a basketball fan. Never have been. In fact, I wouldn't be able to explain what a three-second violation is, and as far as I know, traveling is when you're in the car for more than an hour.

My family can attest to this. Every time a foul would come up, they would look at me, as if to say, "Well, what happened"? I could only shrug, the way clueless people do. As I said, I have no taste. I'm not influenced much by TV commercials that promote the athlete more than the product. Still, I was influenced by the ads in this championship series. I knew, despite the 76ers' win in game one, that there was no hope.

Why? Because they didn't have the contracts. While one Lakers player was promoting himself on a sneaker ad, and another was promoting himself on a... (what WAS that ad for anyway?), the best the Sixers could muster was a Public Service announcement, showing what nice people they are. (Maybe the NBA felt guilty about the ad industry's Vince Lombardi attitude, that winning isn't everything, it's the only thing.

I knew from the get-go that the Sixers were doomed, because they aren't glamorous. Upstarts never are.

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Running all those Lakers endorsement ads during the games in Philadelphia was about as classy as the Lakers' last-second, rub-your-nose-in-it score in the final game.

In those final seconds, what started out as being a tribute to a fantastic team, which fought their way to the finals, was turned into a boo-fest by the Sixers fans. Not because they were disappointed in their team—they were proud of them.

Sixers fans know class then they see it. And they were seeing no class.

To say that the Sixers were “outclassed” in this series is true in a sense. The Lakers are a finely-tuned machine, like the Yankees have so often been in the last half-century.

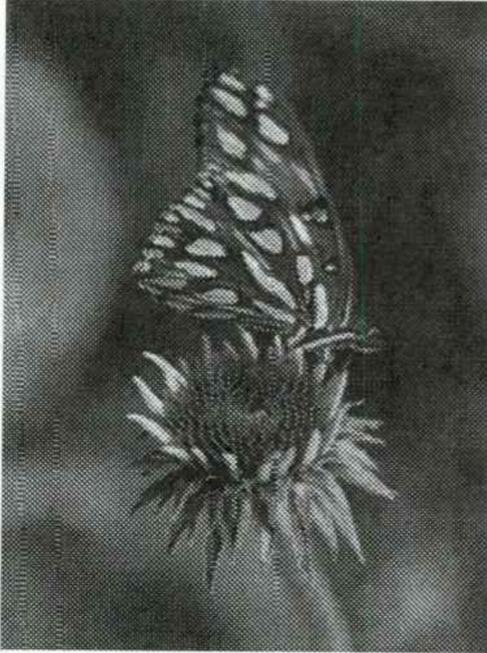
But class is a lot more than winning, or executing the plays. Class is running out the clock in the final seconds, instead of taking (and making) one more shot.

Even though I'm not a basketball fan, I am a Philadelphia fan. And even though I can't even understand some of the basics of basketball, I know enough to know that I had my nose rubbed in it.

If I ever move to LA and start producing TV commercials, the first thing I'll do is move back to Pennsylvania. I feel like I need to put some class back into TV endorsements. I need to get even.

As far as putting some class back into basketball, the Sixers have already done that. Not the kind of class that the 18-to-1 odds people were talking about. I'm talking about REAL class.

From the diary of  
**TACK'S BACKYARD**



Butterfly picture and bird story  
BY TACK HOLCOMB

I read the other day that birdwatching was one of the least expensive sports you could find. Of course, that refers to the dollars you would place on the counter to enjoy this wonderful outdoor hobby or sport. By the way, that's fodder for another article—Birdwatching: Sport, Hobby...or both?

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Perhaps the initial outlay might be considered expensive. You need decent binoculars, a good field guide, comfortable walking/hiking shoes or boots and outdoor clothing (not too colorful). Depending on where you would shop, the total would be somewhere around \$350. I'm not considering clothing or equipment you already own so you could start really cheap! Membership in the local bird club (The Baird Ornithological Club) would be ten dollars-dollars well spent because you can literally get all of the expert advice you need...free!

How could I forget the cost of gas for travel to these birding "hot spots" where you will find the greatest number or the most unusual birds. In Berks County, most of the better areas are within 25 miles. Trips to wildlife refuges and other out of the area birding sites are often shared with other club members. A few dollars for gas and sharing your homemade cookies often are enough to placate the driver!

So there you have it...well, not quite! You say you want to bring birds into your backyard so you don't have to go that far to learn about our fine-feathered friends? Okay, so you'll need at least three kinds of feeders, a birdbath with dripper and warmer and, of course, the bird seed. The local bird stores

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can certainly give you direction toward that end. Now, let me see...how many dollars here? You can count them for me.

You say you'd like to buy a scope to really bring in those ducks on the lake or the shore birds on a distant reef? You probably could find one for under \$200 (used). What about boots for the swampy areas where you'll be looking for rails and bitterns? The outfitters will have just what you're looking for as well as the cold-weather boots, hats, and gloves.

You are now equipped with the best of the "twitchers" (that's what they call birdwatchers in England). Still one of the least expensive sports or hobbies? You bet! Well...what about another field guide or book of birding hot spots around the country...or a copy of works by Thoreau, Wiedensaul, Uhrich, or Brett? Do you have the Stokes' books on bird behavior or a wildflower guide (for use when the birds aren't around) and the bird call (song) tapes or CDs to help you identify the birds by sound?

You might be able to talk Uncle Harry into loaning you some money at a lower rate than the banks are charging...or spread the word among friends and relatives so they can reward you with birthday and Christmas gifts "for the birds!"

# Stitches in Time...

*by Wanda Druzba*

*WEEU*

My daughter just finished making a granny square afghan that was started 25 years ago. She just turned 22.

I bought twenty skeins of yarn and started making squares for a huge afghan, big enough for my queen-size bed, when I was pregnant with her older brother. But when the baby came, then another, the yarn and the finished squares went into a bag and into the attic, to be discovered by my daughter trying to find room in the attic for her college stuff. "You ought to finish this now," she handed it to me. "You have time."

I did, yes. "Wanna help me?"

"Sure"

And I taught my daughter to make afghan squares. Pretty ones. Deep navy centers, sky blue, and white, framed in hot royal blue. Working slowly at first, she really built up speed until she was as fast as I ever was. Through her summer break she made square after square after square. I made maybe six. She was possessed.

I don't know why I hadn't shown my daughter how to crochet granny squares before now. When she was about six I showed her how to crochet, then knit—simple things, scarves, hats.

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I learned how to crochet when I was about six, too. My dad had just gotten me a new Mom. My mommy died when I was real little and now I had a Mom again. We got along okay and it was nice having a Mom in the house again doing Mom things. After she was there for a while she found a bag of afghan squares in a trunk. They were Mommy's. They never got put together into something. My new Mom could make them, too, and so she did. She made enough squares and joined them together to make a wonderful afghan for the sofa that was there my whole growing-up life.

My Mom's squares were plain—she didn't have enough patience to change colors every row, I think—and Mommy's old squares were colorful. The effect with the crazy quilt colors - some plain, some flashy - was perfect. One Mommy started the job and Mom finished it.

That's when I learned how to crochet.

Now I have taught my daughter the art of crocheted granny squares. Will she finish every project? Or will she someday have a bag of granny squares set aside, to later be discovered so that the skill will be passed along?

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# TRAFFIC REPORTS

## Mornings/Afternoons

  
on **WEEU!**

# Employers Should Stay on Top To Guard the Bottom Line

With less time than ever for personal tasks, employees are taking more time off from the job, resulting in decreased productivity that ultimately affects their employer's bottom line, according to a firm that specializes in payroll Direct Deposit services for small- to mid-sized employers.

"The simple fact is that employees can't be productive if they're not on the job," says Jim Greenhaus, vice president of marketing/sales,



National Payment Corporation. "Wise employers implement programs that maximize employee productivity while recognizing and supporting employee needs." How can companies reduce the amount of on-the-job time employees spend conducting personal business without damaging morale and retention?

Following are several tips to help employers balance their needs with those of their employees:

\* **Flex-time:** Employers can help employees gain valuable time by providing job flexibility options such as flexible work hours, meal-

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time flexibility, part-time work, job sharing, compressed workweek, telecommuting and the virtual office. Flex-time programs require little expense to offer and are convenient, realistic options for employers of all sizes.

\* Payroll Direct Deposit: A simple, yet often overlooked way to decrease personal errands by employees on company time is to offer payroll Direct Deposit, the electronic transfer of a paycheck from the employer to the employee's account. Industry research indicates that as many as 25 percent of employees spend between 8 1/2 to 24 hours each year going to their banks to cash or deposit paychecks. Based on these numbers, American businesses could increase productivity by \$3-5 billion if all employees used payroll Direct Deposit. Employees also benefit, as payroll Direct Deposit eliminates the need to make special arrangements to deposit their payroll checks, removes the risk of lost or stolen payroll checks because payments are made electronically, and allows employees to begin collecting interest immediately on payroll deposits.

\* Internet usage policy: Although the Internet can greatly enhance the way employees conduct business, it can also be a productivity drain. According to one survey, 25 percent of employees use the Internet for personal use during office hours for at least 10 minutes each day, with 13 percent admitting they use the Internet for personal reasons at least two hours daily. While many large corporations have established Internet usage policies, few smaller businesses have done so, trusting their employees to regulate themselves.

\* On-site facilities and services: Everyone is familiar with the employee whose lunch hour turns into the lunch hour and one-half. Employers can reduce the need for many lunchtime trips by offering on-site services and facilities such as an employee cafeteria, kitchen or sandwich service; dry cleaning pick up; car tune-ups; day care and gym facilities. "Finding the mutuality of benefit is key," says Greenhaus. "Brainstorming with employees, researching options and evaluating costs vs. benefits should help small-to mid-sized employers arrive at a solution that supports both their own and their employees' 'bottom lines.'"

# 10x6

By Matt Gorney

WEEU Evening Personality

**I arrived at WEEU in the summer of '95, wide-eyed and largely unfamiliar with Berks County. I'd been here in the past to visit my aunt and uncle who live in Wyomissing and always thought it was a warm place. Anyway, I uprooted myself from New Jersey to get my start in radio.**

**So, on a September night I began my training with Mike Faust, who showed me the ropes. Mike had me do a few newscasts, introduce a couple of songs, and run the board for a Phillies game. I was overwhelmed but ecstatic. "Mike," I said, "we actually get paid for this???"**

**I wanted to make my mark at WEEU but wasn't sure how. I used to enjoy listening to Casey Kasem, Rick Dees, and other radio personalities who did countdowns of top songs, so it was obvious. I decided I'd do a WEEU top ten and pitched the idea to program director Jo Painter, who warned me to not play any Led Zeppelin or Kiss. "No, no, of course not," I assured her. "I'll do an adult contemporary chart with the songs in our catalogue. No Guns 'N' Roses, I promise!"**

**The WEEU Top Ten made its debut on Sunday, January 28<sup>th</sup> at five in the morning, right before Suzy Sands' show. I was doing overnights back then. The**

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number one song that morning was “One Sweet Day” by Mariah Carey and Boyz II Men.

Eventually, other WEEUers gave me ideas, and when I moved to weekend nights, the countdown came with me. It was then known as the Top Ten at Ten.

Now that I’m host of “The Soft Touch,” the countdown makes its home Friday nights at 11. I can’t believe it’s been six years—it’s all been a blast.

In case you were wondering, what follows is a list of the year-end top tens from 1996 to 2001. I hope it will spark some memories.

### **1996**

1. Because You Loved Me—Celine Dion
2. Change the World—Eric Clapton
3. Nobody Knows—The Tony Rich Project
4. One Sweet Day—Mariah Carey and Boyz II Men
5. It’s All Coming Back to Me—Celine Dion
6. Give Me One Reason—Tracy Chapman
7. I Love You Always Forever—Donna Lewis
8. Forever—Mariah Carey
9. Always Be My Baby—Mariah Carey
10. Blessed—Elton John

### **1997**

1. Un-Break My Heart—Toni Braxton
2. How Do I Live?—LeeAnn Rimes
3. You Were Meant For Me—Jewel
4. For the First Time—Kenny Loggins
5. Quit Playing Games—Backstreet Boys

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6. Sunny Came Home–Shawn Colvin
7. Something About the Way You Look Tonight  
–Elton John
8. Here In My Heart–Chicago
9. When You Love a Woman–Journey
10. I Finally Found Someone  
–Bryan Adams & Barbra Streisand

### **1998**

1. Truly Madly Deeply–Savage Garden
2. You're Still the One–Shania Twain
3. My Father's Eyes–Eric Clapton
4. My Heart Will Go On–Celine Dion
5. As Long As You Love Me–Backstreet Boys
6. To Love You More–Celine Dion
7. Something About the Way You Look Tonight  
–Elton John
8. I Don't Wanna Wait–Paula Cole
9. Torn–Natalie Imbruglia
10. Ooh La La–Rod Stewart

### **1999**

1. I Want It That Way–Backstreet Boys
2. You'll Be In My Heart–Phil Collins
3. Angel–Sara McLaughlin
4. A Little More Time On You–'N Sync
5. Kiss Me–Sixpence None the Richer
6. I Will Remember You–Sara McLaughlin
7. I'm Your Angel–Celine Dion & R. Kelly
8. Believe–Cher

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**9. The Hardest Thing–98 Degrees**

**10. True Colors–Phil Collins**

**2000**

**1. That’s the Way It Is–Celine Dion**

**2. Amazed–Lonestar**

**3. I Knew I Loved You–Savage Garden**

**4. Breathe–Faith Hill**

**5. You Sang to Me–Marc Anthony**

**6. Back at One–Brian McKnight**

**7. Show Me the Meaning of Being Lonely  
–Backstreet Boys**

**8. You’ll Be in My Heart–Phil Collins**

**9. I Do (Cherish You)–98 Degrees**

**10. This I Promise You–‘N Sync**

**2001 (Through early autumn)**

**1. This I Promise You–‘N Sync**

**2. Thank You–Dido**

**3. Shape of My Heart–Backstreet Boys**

**4. Follow Me–Uncle Kracker**

**5. Back Here–BB Mak**

**6. I’m Like a Bird–Nelly Furtado**

**7. Breathless–The Corrs**

**8. Breathe–Faith Hill**

**9. Again–Lenny Kravitz**

**10. I Knew I Loved You–Savage Garden**

**NOTE: Some songs appear on two years’ lists because they were popular or charted at the end of one year and the beginning of another, and their popularity spread over those two years.**

# A Vacuum Cleaner Predicted My Future

By Jerry Paul  
Weekend Personality

People often ask me how I wound up in radio or how, as a child, I knew radio would be the career I would choose. I simply give them an answer that not only baffles them, but intrigues them at the same time. I say



"a vacuum cleaner predicted my future."

Now this sounds far fetched, and granted it may be. But if it weren't for that old red upright Hoover vacuum cleaner my mother had back in the 70's, I may today be in some other field.

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My mom had one of those old-style upright vacuums with a handle that pointed upwards, almost like a microphone on a stand. Stories from parents, relatives, and friends explain how from the age of about four, I would walk up to the vacuum and talk into the handle pretending it was a microphone. I would do household announcements and mock newscasts.

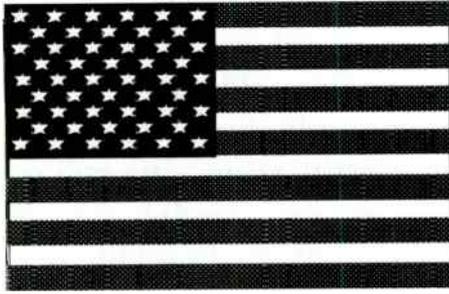
It wasn't long before my parents realized my soul's work and bought me one of those toy FM microphones that would broadcast a weak FM signal around the house. I started my own little radio station complete with music (I had a playlist of about three songs), mock commercials advertising my mom's kitchen and my dad's workshop, and mock newscasts read from the local newspaper.

A decade or two later, I entered college and almost everyone predicted I'd go for radio as my major. Much to everyone's surprise, I originally chose art. I loved radio, but I thought art was a bigger interest over radio in my career goals. No more than a couple years passed, however, before art was put to the wayside and it was full-force ahead in the radio major and eventually to where I am today.

People often say to me they knew radio was my passion from day one, so why did I originally go into art? I can't even answer that myself. Perhaps I just needed a few years in the wrong field to know for certain my right field.

Then again, if I had listened to the vacuum cleaner, I could have saved some time.

A vacuum cleaner predicted my future.



## ***Thoughts on 225 years of American independence***

*by Len Carmen,  
WEEU Morning News Reporter*

Last summer while on vacation, I decided to go to Philadelphia to see some of the historic sites. After all, 2001 was the 225th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. And although I visited many of these places when I was younger, the meaning of it all escaped me.

As I listened to the history of the Liberty Bell and the sacrifices made by the signers of the Declaration, it occurred to me that many people who have lived in the United States their whole lives still don't understand. Those who dared declare their independence from Great Britain placed their hope of freedom—their fortunes and, indeed, their lives—in the creation of a new nation free from an oppressive government that took too

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much and gave too little in return.

It is not in my job description to editorialize on the air, but no one said anything about not putting it in writing in the *Journal*. It seems that many, hopefully still a minority, believe that our government today is responsible for taking care of all their problems. When in reality, the role of our government is clearly stated in the preamble to the Constitution—you know, the part that begins with “*We, the people....*”

Our Constitution was created to form a *more perfect* union. Not a perfect union, just one that was better than the rest. Under the Constitution, the government was to establish justice, thereby ensuring domestic tranquility.

The Constitution further promotes the general welfare. This refers to the passage in the Declaration that states we have the inalienable right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness—not that everybody gets a check from the federal government every month.

Finally, the Constitution requires the government to provide for the common defense and secure the blessings of liberty. The two are inseparable since we would not have the liberties we take for granted today if the United States were occupied by a foreign government.

It’s amazing how much we learn as we grow older. I believe we all would do well to visit, or revisit our heritage.

# The Pond I Always Wanted

by Mike Faust, WEEU's Feedback host

It is one of the hottest and latest trends in backyard landscaping today and it continues to grow in popularity day by day. I'm talking about putting a pond or water garden in your yard just like I did this past May. Before I start talking about the newest edition to my home we have to go back a few years to really appreciate having a body of water in the yard that was never there before.

As a boy growing up in the mountains of South Heidelberg Township back in the 1970s and early 1980s I had always wanted a pond of my own. I would try and convince my parents that we needed a small pond in the backyard so I could go fishing in the summertime and ice-skating in the winter. Besides, it would attract ducks, geese, frogs and other wonderful outdoor habitat that we all could enjoy. At the time, I envisioned a small wooden dock and a boat or canoe that we could use to row across our pond. There is nothing like a young boy's imagination... My parents told me that putting in a pond or small lake, as it kept getting bigger and bigger in my mind, would be impossible because there is no fresh water source such as a stream or river running through our property. They told me that if we would dig up the land

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and fill up the hole with water it would attract lots of mosquitoes and eventually my own Lake Michael would dry up. Of course you know this wouldn't stop the determination of a youth. I went into the shed and got all the required tools and started digging up the ground in a remote spot just near the woods in the back of our house. I didn't dig that deep but I found some clear plastic liner that I used as a sealant. I had to keep the water in somehow. I drug the hose out to my pond and filled the small area with water. To make a long story short. I did ice-skate on my oversized puddle that winter but much to my dismay the pond never took off and it eventually dried up. Oh well... That was then this is now.

I was on vacation in early May doing what I like to do at that time of year: Mulching!! Woo Hoo! I was mulching the hill in the back, around the bushes, shrubs, and trees. You know the routine. I talk about it all the time on the air. There is nothing like the smell of mulch in the morning. During a quick run to the local greenhouse to purchase some flowering annuals that I plant every year, I noticed a pond section. I remembered my neighbor telling me he was putting in a pond/water garden in his yard. The process went pretty smooth for late April. I thought a nice fantail goldfish would be a welcome edition for he and his family's newly installed pond. Yes, they all loved Bubba Chuck. That's the name we gave the roly poly fish with the fancy tail. I commented on how lovely their pond looked as it sits directly off the deck in an area that is landscaped with all kinds of beautiful, lush, flowering perennials, plants, and ornamental grasses. A lovely sight to behold. I thought to myself this is really nice, but I couldn't do something like this in my yard. Wrong answer.

After much research on the subject: including watching videos, reading books, talking with others who had ponds or

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water gardens in their yard, I came to the conclusion that I needed one in my yard. My neighbors were happy to help me dig out the area of grass in my backyard and install my pre-formed liner, a 125 gallon pond with a small bog at the top to add the waterfall effect. The dry spell we had in May made the ground seem like cement. Eventually the pond shell was in the ground and we backfilled with sand and dirt. Viola! Add water and plants and a few days later there were goldfish swimming around in my new pond in the backyard, right off the deck! Yes, I mulched. I purchased many different shrubs and perennials and lovely ornamental grasses. The neat thing about having a water garden or pond in your yard is you can always accessorize or add to it. There are a huge variety of water plants that you can add to your aquatic paradise like I did mine including: parrot's feather, water lilies, a water iris, water lettuce, and water hyacinths. Many of these plants will reproduce and expand which keeps you busy trimming and maintaining your pond. It's a lot like weeding. I also have snails and tadpoles in the pond to help build a true biological balance in the water. Currently there are 12 goldfish in the pond including calicos, fantails, and comets.

There is nothing like going out to my pond for peace and solitude. I really enjoy feeding the fish right off the deck or sitting at the bench I put right beside the water. My fish are so tame that they will eat right out of your hand. Watching them swim is somewhat therapeutic. You also feel at ease as you watch the water roll down over the waterfall and into the big pond. There is something about being near water that feels relaxing and calming. I recently installed some outdoor lights so I can sit outside with company and enjoy the pond at night. Yes, it took some twenty years, but I finally got the pond that I always wanted.

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***WEEU'S FEEDBACK HOST MIKE  
FAUST AND "TOTO" IN THE POND  
MIKE ALWAYS WANTED...***



*Mike Faust sitting by the pond in early June with Toto. Yes, he does come from Kansas, hence the name, "Toto."*



*Toto moves in for a closer look at the fish.*

# *A Plant-Lover's Guide to Walt Disney World Resort*

The landscapes of the Walt Disney World Resort are special places offering an array of gardening experiences. Whether you're a "tree person" or need smaller garden ideas, the Vacation Kingdom has something sure to spark your interest and make you want to get your hands dirty. Here are just a few of the horticultural wonders awaiting:

\*The annual Epcot International Flower & Garden Festival offers gardeners and "green thumb want-to-be's" the chance to explore the inner secrets of Disney's plant world. Epcot blooms with entertainment, gardening experts and more than 1,200 plant species. Check out the 30 million colorful blossoms in gardens throughout the park and the sounds of the sixties at the Flower Power concert series.

\*The All-America Rose Selection (AARS) Display Garden located in the Hub of the Magic Kingdom offers a fabulous show in the spring. These past winners of the coveted AARS awards hold court near Cinderella Castle. A winding path leads guests through a fragrant tour of rose breeding excellence. The roses are in bounteous bloom spring and summer, then are cut back in preparation for another color show that begins around Thanksgiving.

\*Only the real trivia buffs can tell you where the largest tree moved on Walt Disney World property resides—"Old Man Island" at Disney's Port Orleans-Riverside Resort recreation area. The children of all ages, playing at its "feet," probably have no idea that

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this thriving giant was moved when it was a mere young'un at 55 feet and a slim 85 tons!

\*The most exotic garden of Disney's Polynesian Resort is a joy to visit no matter what the weather! This tropical atrium complete with waterfalls is located in the lobby of the resort! Delicate orchids, bright foliage and a variety of interesting plants perch on the rocks of this tropical paradise.

\*Created in 1995 for the Epcot International Flower & Garden Festival, the Garden Railway at the German Showcase has become one of the most popular garden attractions at Walt Disney World Resort. This 50' x 130' miniature garden is a wonder to behold. "Residents" of the tiny Bavarian village can be found celebrating holidays, holding festivals and attending to their day-to-day lives.

***About The Disney Gardener** Kim Warneke began her career with Walt Disney World in 1979 as a gardener at the Walt Disney World Nursery. Currently she is an Area Manager in Disney's Horticulture. Kim presents the horticulture seminars offered at Walt Disney World Resort, works with summer co-op students, and answers guests' horticultural inquiries. Kim has a bachelor of science degree in agriculture.*

**Remember the "Lone Ranger?"**

**Remember what his**

**"faithful companion," Tonto, called him?**

**Kemosabe?**

**Know what Kemosabe means in the Navaho language?**

**"Soggy Shrub!"**

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### **Disney Gardener Tells**

#### **How to Bring Home the Blooms**

"Green thumbs," as well as folks who don't know a rake from a King Kong comb but enjoy horticultural wonders, appreciate the carefully maintained gardens and other flora of Walt Disney World Resort. Hundreds of acres of lovingly tended displays brighten the Vacation Kingdom 12 months a year, with the pinnacle of petals bursting forth in an unmatched color show each spring at the Epcot International Flower & Garden Festival.

How do they do it? Better yet, how can home gardeners who are "getting the itch" now that the temperature is starting to rise obtain successful results from their landscape efforts? After winter, what should we concentrate on first? Roses, grass, flowers, trees . . . the list goes on and on. Here are some ideas from Walt Disney World on what to tackle first when spring springs.

#### **Walt Disney World Spring How-To's For Home Gardeners** **Vegetable gardening tips**

Choose the site for your vegetable garden making sure that:

- \*it is well drained
- \*gets about 8 hours of sunshine a day
- \*a water source is close by

Add organic matter to the soil, pull weeds and till the plot.

#### **Some more veggie tips:**

- \*Start your transplants indoors about a month and a half before the last frost date.
- \*Stagger your plantings by 2 weeks or so to give yourself a longer harvest time.
- \*Consider what you eat and how many plants you'll need to produce that amount.

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\*Pick plants that do well in your area. Your extension agent can help you with a list.

### **Shrub and tree tips**

\*Spring is a good time of year to plant new trees and shrubs.

\*If you have trees in a turf area, they may be getting enough fertilizer; if not, consider an early-spring fertilizer application.

\*Skirt up low branches that get in the way of mowing.

\*Re-establish your mulch rings -- a good guide is 3' from the trunk.

\*Get your pruners out and remove cross branches and dead wood.

\*Remember not to prune your spring flowering trees until after they bloom!

### **Cool-weather turf-maintenance tips**

\*The cool weather makes us forget that it can be dry. Don't forget to check irrigation for damaged heads, leaks, and coverage.

\*While you're at it, have your lawn mower and power equipment serviced in preparation for the upcoming growing season.

\*Remove sticks, leaves, rocks, and any tall unwanted plants or weeds from your lawn area before mowing season begins.

\*Inspect turf areas for excessive thatch and make arrangements for lawn renovation if necessary.

### **Rose tips**

\*In southern climates wait to trim roses back until after the last frost.

\*Give each rose bush a cup of bone meal and blood meal in March and, in the South, an additional cup in October.

\*Each bush can use 1/2 cup of Epsom salt each month April through November.

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\*Re-mulch your roses being sure to keep mulch away from the stem.

\*Remember—sunshine, cleanliness, good air circulation, and ample water below leaf level with good drainage will give you a healthy rose garden with lots of blooms.

### **General spring tips**

\*When frost danger is past, plant that Christmas poinsettia outside.

\*Work compost into your soil and sow seeds for this season's garden. Check with your extension agent for good choices for your area.

\*Be careful when shopping for flowers—make sure the bedding plants are for the upcoming season, not the one that has passed!

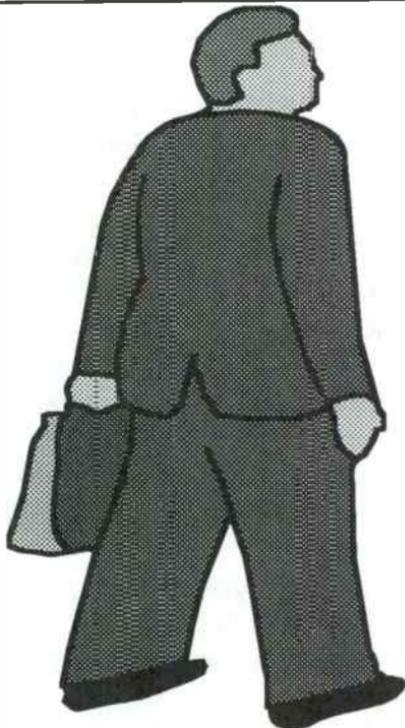
\*Be sure to know what type of sunlight your garden will get so you can pick appropriately.

\*Don't be fooled by cool temperatures -- check the soil to keep the moisture level correct.

—Kim Warneke, The Disney Gardener



*You've begun! Your plants will thank you by providing an abundant harvest and good show throughout the season. A little work now will pay off big later on. So, put that extra burst of energy brought on by the nice spring weather to good use by sprucing up your garden. You too can have "good show" 365 days a year!*



## **STAND UP *FOR YOURSELF!***

The quality of your posture can make a big difference in your life. Good posture can make you look and feel younger, stronger and more confident.

Straightening up allows you to fill your lungs when you breathe, giving the body more oxygen, which gives you more energy. Slouching stresses muscles, which makes you tired. And bad body alignment is the main cause of back and neck problems.

Posture is not a position; it's the relationship of one body part to the next. You not only stand but walk, sit, bend, reach, type, telephone, brush your teeth, one set of motions after another, all day. The ideal is to use your bodies in a relaxed, balanced, correctly aligned way all the time.

**Remember to:**

- ***Sit up straight when seated.***

***A slouched posture aggravates back discomfort. In general, sitting puts more stress on your back than standing does.***

- ***Sit in chairs with either straight backs or low back (lumbar) support.***

***The seat should be high enough that your thighs rest horizontally on the seat. That way, your weight is more evenly distributed and your back isn't forced to assume a disproportionate amount of your weight.***

- ***Wear proper footwear.***

***Wear shoes with low or flat heels. High heels stress your back.***

- ***Practice good posture.***

***You must practice, especially if you are changing years of bad habits.***

- ***Find a good exercise program.***

***It is a good idea to find an exercise program that strengthens muscles. Weak or stiff hip muscles can contribute to an improper alignment of your pelvis and lower back. Learn exercises that train the abdominals to hold the pelvis in neutral alignment. Consider alternative exercise options. Yoga and Pilates focus on alignment and controlled movement of the spine, which can improve posture.***

- ***Check in with an expert.***

***Concerns about your posture should be directed to a podiatrist, orthopedic specialist, or physical therapist. In a nutshell, keep your backbone straight and hold your shoulders back. Pull in your stomach and buttocks, and tuck in your chin.***

***Doesn't it make sense....***

***...to stand up for yourself?***

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**RED-FACED TEENS SHOULD NOT  
HESITATE TO SHARE  
THEIR HEALTH PROBLEMS**

Despite their claims to the contrary, most teenagers do not die of embarrassment.

But avoiding talking about embarrassing health problems may put the health of teens at risk, according to Dr. Michelle Schmidt, an assistant professor of medicine at Baylor College of Medicine, Houston, Texas.

“The teen years are a time of tremendous physical and emotional change for both boys and girls, so it is natural that teens are uncomfortable talking about what’s happening to them, even to their parents,” Schmidt said. “They need to know that they can talk honestly and openly to their health care providers.”

Being open about teen sexuality is especially important, according to Schmidt, who also runs an adolescent health clinic. Some teens become sexually active at a younger age than most parents expect, starting at age 12 and 13. While many teens learn about puberty and sex from their parents and from school-sponsored sex education classes, they may still be reluctant to seek out advice about sex from adults. Unplanned pregnancies and sexually transmitted diseases may result from that ignorance.

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According to the Centers for Disease Control, every year more than 15 million cases of sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) occur in the United States. About one-fourth of new infections with STDs occur in teenagers.

Chlamydia, the most common STD, causes about 3 million infections each year, mainly among teens and young adults.

In women, untreated chlamydial infections can cause serious complications, including pelvic inflammatory disease, a painful condition that can lead to infertility and other problems. Most teens infected with chlamydia have few or no symptoms, and without testing and treatment, the infection may continue for months or even years.

Schmidt advises teenage girls to have pelvic exams when they first become sexually active or make the decision to become sexually active. A thorough exam should include an annual pap smear, to check for cervical cancer, and a test for chlamydia or gonorrhea. Both girls and boys should be tested for AIDS if they have had unprotected sex with several partners.

Teen boys who are sexually active should also be screened annually. If they do not consistently use a barrier method of

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contraception, like condoms, they may be infected with an STD and not even know it, and may transfer the disease to their partner. A screening should include a genital exam to check for sores that may be a sign of an STD. Doctors should also check for hernias, and check the testicles for signs of testicular cancer. Schmidt said fear of getting an erection during the exam should not dissuade teen boys from getting screened.

“It is a natural response and nothing to be embarrassed about,” Schmidt said.

Some health issues like pregnancy, eating disorders and depression are too difficult for teens to handle on their own, yet many feel they cannot talk to their parents. Doctors will treat a teenager’s health concerns confidentially, unless the teenager will harm someone, or he or she will be harmed by the health condition or behavior. Then confidentiality must be breached. Doctors can also help teens broach difficult subjects with their parents.

“When parents find out something about their child they don’t want to hear, their initial reaction may be anger or devastation,” Schmidt said. “But after that initial reaction, most parents really come through for their kids.”





# ***THE BEST THINGS IN LIFE ARE FREE...***

***...at least at  
WEEU's Community Café!***

*by Chris Reinbold*

WEEU Account Executive and WEEU Community Café Coordinator

In case you've been living under a rock for the past few months, I'm here to fill you in on the hubbub surrounding WEEU's Community Café.

First and foremost, the café is located in the Fairgrounds Square Mall in Muhlenberg Township. The café is near center court, next to the merry-go-round, across from Jason's furniture. The venue is open every Thursday evening from 6pm to 9pm.

The café was opened under the premonition that we would be able to provide FREE weekly entertainment to the general public. WEEU worked with the Fairgrounds Square Mall to find the best possible location for the café, hence, the center court location.

We began operation of the café in mid-April with our first guests being members of the Berks Bards

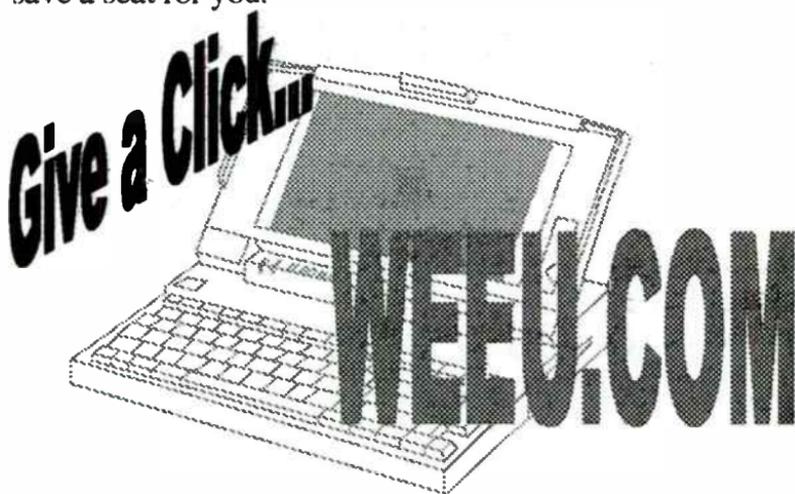
## **2002 • THE WEEU JOURNAL • 2002**

presenting their poetry to the audience. And we haven't looked back since. Within 2 months the café was booked solid with performances throughout the remainder of the year. The eclectic mix of performers is what makes the café so special.

It's not the same old meat and potatoes every week, WEEU really strived to create an atmosphere that was conducive to all performers.

We've had full five piece rock bands, as well as, magicians, authors and slide presentations. The general idea behind the café was to provide a weekly outlet where listeners could be entertained with a myriad of different acts. Of course this was all provided free of charge to the public. It's just a nice place to come, take a load off your feet, grab a beverage or snack and enjoy some local home spun talent, Berks County style!

Keep your ears tuned to the radio to find out our weekly line-up, and stop by the WEEU Community Café at Fairgrounds Square Mall, you'll be so glad you did. We'll save a seat for you.

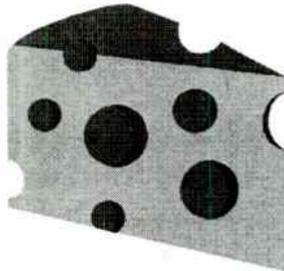


# **SWISS CHEESE:**

## ***THE CHEESE WITH EYES***

People wonder why the world's most recognized cheese has holes.

During the Swiss cheese-making process, three active cultures are responsible for fermentation. Two of the cultures are responsible for the depletion of lactose. The third culture gives Swiss cheese its unique, sweet and nutty flavor, and also forms carbon dioxide gas, which creates the fun holes you see.



(1). During the ripening period, Swiss cheese is stored in a cool place for several weeks. Then the cheese is put in a warm place (70 degrees F or so) for 4 to 6 weeks. The cultures ferment the remaining lactose and produce the carbon dioxide bubbles (holes) in the cheese.

Swiss cheese holes are also called "eyes" and can vary in size based upon the time they are left in the warm storage.

(2). Can you be lactose intolerant and still eat Swiss cheese? Research shows that most people who are lactose intolerant can still maintain a healthy level of calcium in their diet by eating Swiss-style cheese such as Swiss, Baby Swiss, Lacey Swiss and Reduced Fat

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Swiss. This is possible because lactose is depleted during the cheese-making process. Swiss cheese ferments longer at room temperature than other cheeses. Lactose, which is used to start the cheese-making process, fully converts into lactic acid, therefore making Swiss cheese naturally lactose-free.

(3). Cheese making is similar to the natural fermentation process of making wine. As wine ferments, its natural fruit sugar turns into alcohol. In the making of Swiss cheese, natural milk sugar, lactose, is converted into lactic acid. When wine is finished, all of the sugars have turned into alcohol. When Swiss cheese is finished, all of the lactose has converted into lactic acid. Time is a factor in converting sugars.

The Swiss cheese-making process takes 60 days. If time is cut, less lactose is converted into lactic acid, as is the case for other cheeses containing more lactose, such as mozzarella. The longer fermenting time gives Swiss the naturally lactose-free health benefits plus develops its characteristic sweet and nutty flavor.

How can you tell if there is any lactose in the cheese? If the amount of sugars listed on the nutrition facts panel is 0 grams, it does not contain lactose.

(4). In addition to being naturally lactose free, Swiss cheese is lower in fat when compared to many popular cheeses such as American. Swiss cheese is also naturally lower in sodium. Usually, no additional salt is added to Swiss when it is in the brine stage, cooling down. Most other cheeses are salted during this process.

## *A Thirst for Adventure*

### *In "Hot-Lanta!"*

*By Dave Langley, WEEU News*

How many of these singsong advertisements do you remember?

*"Things go better with...."*

*"It's the real thing..."*

*"I'd like to teach the world to sing..."*

*"I was raised on country sunshine..."*

*"...adds life"*

*"Just for the taste of it..."*

By now, you probably guessed what soft drink these jingles represented. It's a soft drink that dates back to 1886, when Doctor John Styth Pemberton patented secret formula syrup that, when mixed with water, would provide headache relief.

One day, a pharmacy clerk accidentally mixed the syrup with carbonated water. However, with the help of a marketer named Asa Candler, the mixture that was an initial mistake became a beverage sold the world over—Coca-Cola!

Let me take you to Atlanta, Georgia, where Coca-Cola's worldwide headquarters is located. I'd like you to envision a museum full of vintage coke bottles, memorabilia, and retrospectives of Coke advertisements.

The museum is called "World of Coca-Cola," and it is adjacent to Underground Atlanta, an historic landmark and shopping venue.

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When you come into this museum, you'll see in greater detail how Dr. Pemberton's medical syrup was used, an attempt to market it, the soon-to-be-famous mistake, and the various bottles used to package the eventual invention of Coca-Cola. The bottles on display took on many forms.

Continuing the visit, we envision the 1930s. With that, I have a pop quiz (no pun intended). I pose this question to the younger readers, 30 and under. To the older readers, what I'm about to say and administer does not pertain to you because I suspect you already know the answer to the forthcoming question. However, I beg your patience and ask that you play along anyway.

Having said that, here's the pop quiz:

***What were fountain clerks who sold Coca-Cola called?***

- A. Counter Clerks**
- B. Soda Jerks**
- C. Wait Persons**
- D. Fountain Tapsters**

If my suspicions are correct, I'm willing to guess very few, if any, answered "B." But, guess what? "B" is the correct answer.

Why were they called soda jerks? It's not a derogatory or scathing connotation. They were clerks who, in the process of preparing and mixing the beverage, jerked with their hands the tap that poured soda water. Hence the name, *soda jerks*.

At the museum, the scene is now a prototype soda fountain. The soda jerk, dressed in full white uniform, a red bow tie, and a matching hat, has a lively conversation with the visitors. The soda jerk answers questions and demonstrates the soda fountain preparation. The aptly named "Barnes Soda Fountain" was depicted as a late-1930s soda fountain.

Later, we go into a theater for a film about Coca-Cola's growth and worldwide distribution. The film in SurroundSound is

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called "Every Day of Your Life." Many fabulous facts are offered about Coca-Cola. I'll give you one fabulous fact, which is stated on an electronic display: If all the Coca-Cola ever produced was placed in six and one-half ounce bottles and laid end to end, they would stretch to the moon and back 1,045 times!

There's also a smaller theater in the museum that shows every Coke commercial on TV, from the time television was invented to the present day.

Those commercials include a hot dog seller with an "out to lunch" sign on his cart while he eats a hot dog and drinks a Coke. Others include a group of young singers on a mountaintop expressing that they'd like to buy the world a Coke (and keep it company). Still one other was the little boy who offered Pittsburgh Steelers linebacker "Mean" Joe Greene his bottle of Coke; and one more is Elton John at the piano singing "Just for the Taste of It."

There are also numerous displays of Coca-Cola memorabilia. Imagine listening to WEEU on a small radio that takes the form of a Coca-Cola cooler. It did exist. There are also Santa cutouts, Norman Rockwell paintings, and artwork on serving trays promoting the beverage.

In the early days, an elf named "Sprite" was an advertising gimmick for Coke. The elf later disappeared, but his namesake...well, I'll leave that to your imagination.

After a day of learning, it comes time when, conceivably, visitors do become thirsty. So, let me take you to a room with futuristic fountains. These fountains blast a stream of Coke, Sprite, or Diet Coke into the small cups provided. There are also neon lights that simulate a pumping motion as your drink is getting ready to be poured from the fountains. These fountains operate by placing your cup on a holder, and their sensors are activated.

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Sound fascinating? Well, indulge me as I tell you about one more room to enter. This one is called "Tastes of the World," in which as many as 20 to 30 different soft drinks from around the world are sampled, through conventional soda fountains. Still think you'd be leaving the "World of Coca-Cola" thirsty?

After the "Tastes of the World," the museum tour ends at the gift shop.

Visiting the museum is a learning experience, where that mistaken concoction mixed in an Atlanta pharmacy became a soft drink sold in 200 countries and consumed one billion times a day.

Well, my guess is you probably want something to drink about now. With that, I say enjoy, and I bid farewell!

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*What tree did you fall from? Find your birthday and then find your tree...This is really cool and somewhat accurate, also in line with Celtic astrology...*

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- Jan 12 to Jan 24 - Elm Tree
- Jan 25 to Feb 03 - Cypress Tree
- Feb 04 to Feb 08 - Poplar Tree
- Feb 09 to Feb 18 - Cedar Tree
- Feb 19 to Feb 28 - Pine Tree
- Mar 01 to Mar 10 - Weeping Willow Tree
- Mar 11 to Mar 20 - Lime Tree
- Mar 21 - Oak Tree
- Mar 22 to Mar 31 - Hazelnut Tree
- Apr 01 to Apr 10 - Rowan Tree
- Apr 11 to Apr 20 - Maple Tree
- Apr 21 to Apr 30 - Walnut Tree
- May 01 to May 14 - Poplar Tree
- May 15 to May 24 - Chestnut Tree
- May 25 to Jun 03 - Ash Tree
- Jun 04 to Jun 13 - Hornbeam Tree
- Jun 14 to Jun 23 - Fig Tree
- Jun 24 - Birch Tree
- Jun 25 to Jul 04 - Apple Tree
- Jul 05 to Jul 14 - Fir Tree
- Jul 15 to Jul 25 - Elm Tree
- Jul 26 to Aug 04 - Cypress Tree
- Aug 05 to Aug 13 - Poplar Tree
- Aug 14 to Aug 23 - Cedar Tree

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- Aug 24 to Sep 02 - Pine Tree  
Sep 03 to Sep 12 - Weeping Willow Tree  
Sep 13 to Sep 22 - Lime Tree  
Sep 23 - Olive Tree  
Sep 24 to Oct 03 - Hazelnut Tree  
Oct 04 to Oct 13 - Rowan Tree  
Oct 14 to Oct 23 - Maple Tree  
Oct 24 to Nov 11 - Walnut Tree  
Nov 12 to Nov 21 - Chestnut Tree  
Nov 22 to Dec 01 - Ash Tree  
Dec 02 to Dec 11 - Hornbeam Tree  
Dec 12 to Dec 21 - Fig Tree  
Dec 22 - Beech Tree  
Dec 23 to Dec 31 - Apple Tree

APPLE TREE (the Love) - of slight build, lots of charm, appeal, and attraction, pleasant aura, flirtatious, adventurous, sensitive, always in love, wants to love and be loved, faithful and tender partner, very generous, scientific talents, lives for today, a carefree philosopher with imagination.

ASH TREE (the Ambition) - uncommonly attractive, vivacious, impulsive, demanding, does not care for criticism, ambitious, intelligent, talented, likes to play with fate, can be egotistic, very reliable and trustworthy, faithful and prudent lover, sometimes brains rule over the heart, but takes partnership very seriously.

BEECH TREE (the Creative) - has good taste, concerned about its looks, materialistic, good organization of life and career, economical, good leader, takes no unnecessary risks, reasonable, splendid lifetime companion, keen on keeping fit (diets, sports, etc.)

BIRCH TREE (the inspiration) - vivacious, attractive, elegant, friendly, unpretentious, modest, does not like anything in excess, abhors the vulgar, loves life in nature and in calm, not very passionate, full of imagination, little ambition, creates a calm and content atmosphere.

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**CEDAR TREE (the Confidence)** - of rare beauty, knows how to adapt, likes luxury, of good health, not in the least shy, tends to look down on others, self-confident, determined, impatient, likes to impress others, many talents, industrious, healthy optimism, waiting for the one true love, able to make quick decisions.

**CHESTNUT TREE (the Honesty)** - of unusual beauty, does not want to impress, well developed sense of justice, vivacious, interested, a born diplomat, but irritates easily and sensitive in company, often due to a lack of self confidence, acts sometimes superior, feels not understood loves only once, has difficulties in finding a partner.

**CYPRESS TREE (the Faithfulness)** - strong, muscular, adaptable, takes what life has to give, content, optimistic, craves money and acknowledgment, hates loneliness, passionate lover which cannot be satisfied, faithful, quick-tempered, unruly, pedantic, and careless.

**ELM TREE (the Noble mindedness)** - pleasant shape, tasteful clothes, modest demands, tends not to forgive mistakes, cheerful, likes to lead but not to obey, honest and faithful partner, likes making decisions for others, noble minded, generous, good sense of humor, practical.

**FIG TREE (the Sensibility)** - very strong, a bit self-willed, independent, does not allow contradiction or arguments, loves life, its family, children and animals, a bit of a social butterfly, good sense of humor, likes idleness and laziness, of practical talent and intelligence.

**FIR TREE (the Mysterious)** - extraordinary taste, dignity, sophisticated, loves anything beautiful, moody, stubborn, tends to egoism but cares for those close to them, rather modest, very ambitious, talented, industrious, uncontented lover, many friends, many foes, very reliable.

**HAZELNUT TREE (the Extraordinary)** - charming, undemanding, very understanding, knows how to make an impression, active fighter for social cause, popular, moody, and capricious lover, honest, and tolerant partner, precise sense of judgment.

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**HORNBEAM TREE (the Good Taste)** - of cool beauty, cares for its looks and condition, good taste, is not egoistic, makes life as comfortable as possible, leads a reasonable and disciplined life, looks for kindness and acknowledgment in an emotional partner, dreams of unusual lovers, is seldom happy with its feelings, mistrusts most people, is never sure of its decisions, very conscientious.

**LIME TREE (the Doubt)** - accepts what life dishes out in a composed way, hates fighting, stress, and labor, dislikes laziness and idleness, soft and relenting, makes sacrifices for friends, many talents but not tenacious enough to make them blossom, often wailing and complaining, very jealous but loyal.

**MAPLE TREE (Independence of Mind)** - no ordinary person, full of imagination and originality, shy and reserved, ambitious, proud, self-confident, hungers for new experiences, sometimes nervous, has many complexities, good memory, learns easily, complicated love life, wants to impress.

**OAK TREE (the Brave)** - robust nature, courageous, strong, unrelenting, independent, sensible, does not like change, keeps its feet on the ground, person of action.

**OLIVE TREE (the Wisdom)** - loves sun, warmth and kind feelings, reasonable, balanced, avoids aggression and violence, tolerant, cheerful, calm, well developed sense of justice, sensitive, empathetic, free of jealousy, loves to read and the company of sophisticated people.

**PINE TREE (the Particular)** - loves agreeable company, very robust, knows how to make life comfortable, very active, natural, good companion, but seldom friendly, falls easily in love but its passion burns out quickly, gives up easily, everything disappointments until it finds its ideal, trustworthy, practical.

**POPLAR TREE (the Uncertainty)** - looks very decorative, not very self-confident, only courageous if necessary, needs goodwill and pleasant surroundings, very choosy, often lonely, great animosity, artistic nature, good organizer, tends to lean toward philosophy, reliable in any

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situation, takes partnership seriously.

**ROWAN TREE (the Sensitivity)** - full of charm, cheerful, gifted without egoism, likes to draw attention, loves life, motion, unrest, and even complications, is both dependent and independent, good taste, artistic, passionate, emotional, good company, does not forgive.

**WALNUT TREE (the Passion)** - unrelenting, strange and full of contrasts, often egotistic, aggressive, noble, broad horizon, unexpected reactions, spontaneous, unlimited ambition, no flexibility, difficult and uncommon partner, not always liked but often admired, ingenious strategist, very jealous and passionate, no compromise.

**WEEPING WILLOW (the Melancholy)** - beautiful but full of melancholy, attractive, very empathetic, loves anything beautiful and tasteful, loves to travel, dreamer, restless, capricious, honest, can be influenced but is not easy to live with, demanding, good intuition, suffers in love but finds sometimes an anchoring partner.

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**CRAZY, MIXED UP!**

**MR. KNOW-IT-ALL READERS  
CRACK A POETIC MYSTERY**

A good friend of WEEU is “Mr. Know-It-All,” the popular answer guy in the Monday Reading Eagle. “K.I.A.,” as we’ve come to call him, passed along an interesting tale that began with a question to his column in January, 2001.

The question was in regards to something some of you might have heard about—nonsense poems of the 1940s and 1950s.

A reader, “C.H.,” of Fleetwood, wrote the original question: “My late father used to recite parts of a nonsense poem in the 1940s. It started out, “ ‘twas midnight on the ocean, not a streetcar was in sight...” Can you identify this composition and author, and tell me where I can find the complete poem.

“K.I.A.” discovered that there were many such poems, each slightly different, that circulated in that time period.

His readers responded with many answers to “C.H.’s” question, but, because space in the paper did not permit, K.I.A. could not provide the full text.

Well, space does permit in the *WEEU JOURNAL*, so thanks to Mr. Know-It-All and his good readers, here are some responses to the question of the “nonsense poems.”

“A.K.,” of Pottsville, wrote: “This poem and others like it were in vogues in the late 30s and early 40s, and probably earlier than those years. It was a fad at that time for school children from grade school to high school to carry “Autograph Books” which friends would embellish by writing a silly verse and signing the page. There were many such verses popular at the time. I personally had several of those books and do regret that I no longer have them. The requested poem was *“It was midnight on the ocean, not a streetcar was in sight...I walked home in a taxi, and it rained all day that night.”*

“C.Z.” of Reading, took it one or two tricky verses more: *“’Twas midnight on the ocean, not a trolley car in sight...The sun was shining brightly, for it rained all day that night....A barefoot boy with shoes on, sat standing on the grass...Along came a billygoat and bit him in the overcoat.”*

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And then, there was "M.C.," of Birdsboro, who said she has had a copy of such a nonsense poem pasted in her recipe book for years. Hers went like this:

*It was midnight on the ocean  
Not a streetcar was in sight  
The moon was shining brightly  
And it rained all day and night  
It was morning and the rising sun  
Was setting in the west  
The fishes in the pine trees  
Were all cuddled in their nest.*

*It was a summer's day in winter  
The snow was raining fast,  
A barefoot girl with shoes on  
Was sliding on the grass  
The rain came pouring downward  
The moon was shining bright  
And everything that you could see  
Was hidden out of sight*

*While the organ peeled potatoes,  
Lard was rendered by the choir  
And the sexton rang the dish rag  
Someone set the church on fire.  
Holy smoke, the parson shouted,  
And the poor guy lost his hair.  
Now his head is just like heaven,  
For there is no parting there!*

Another reader, "M.R." of Mt. Penn, added yet more to the little litany. She remembered some lyrics to another version:

*Twas midnight on the ocean  
Not a streetcar was in sight  
The sun was shining brightly  
In the middle of the night  
A barefoot boy with shoes on  
Stood sitting in a tree,  
And when I put my glasses on  
I heard this melody:*

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*Be kind to your webfooted friends  
'cause a duck may be somebody's mother  
Be kind to your webfooted friends  
It's a ditty through and through  
You may think that this is the end,  
Well it's not!*

*Twas midnight on the ocean  
When the rain began to snow  
He hurried to me slowly  
For the time had come to go.  
I said I'd wait forever  
If it didn't take too long  
And together then, we harmonized,  
This "Crazy, Mixed-Up Song."*

*Twas midnight on the ocean  
The day I married him  
He didn't know his name was Fred  
That's why I called him Jim  
We settled down in London, France  
Beside the pyramids  
And raised a little family  
Of crazy, mixed-up kids!*

After all of that, yet another letter gave Mr. Know-it-All the lead he needed to pursue the matter toward somewhat of a conclusion.

That letter came from "L.Z.," of Reading, who suggested that the question sent in by "C.H." could be answered in the lyrics of "The Crazy, Mixed-Up Song," which was recorded by Peter Lind Hayes and Mary Healy.

Well, "L.Z." was right. And, after a little more research, K.I.A. found at least one substantive answer.

Hayes and Healy did indeed record the song, and was released on the Essex record label in 1954, the year it ultimately reached #37 on the hit parade.

### TRAFFIC REPORTS

Mornings/Afternoons

=:05/:25/:45 after the hours

# TENNIS ELBOW ANYONE?



A new non-surgical procedure gives tennis elbow the “back-hand.”

“Instead of incising the inflamed tendon, we use high-frequency shock waves to decrease pain,” said Dr. Evan D. Collins, an assistant professor of orthopedic surgery at Baylor College of Medicine.

Tennis elbow is a common condition that causes pain at the outside bump of the elbow. It is referred to as tennis elbow because the back-hand swing in tennis is a



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common activity that can cause the problem.

However, the condition is most often the result of repetitive pushing, pulling and twisting in activities such as gardening, lifting heavy luggage, painting with a brush or roller, or using various hand tools continuously.

Current treatments include ice, stretching, wearing a brace, cortisone shots, anti-inflammatory medications and surgery.

“One of the difficulties of treating tennis elbow is that patients are always using their arms,” Collins said. “You can get on crutches and stay off your foot, but you can’t stop using your arms.”

Unlike surgery, which has a recovery period of three to six months, there is none for the Ossatron shock wave treatment. The



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procedure takes about 15 minutes and is performed under regional anesthesia, which numbs the arm. Patients might experience soreness, which can be treated with over-the-counter pain-killers. Patients can quickly return to normal daily routines.

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## Scot? or Not!

*The origins of several phrases we use all the time seem to have roots in the land of tartans, golf, and Braveheart. But do these phrases or words really have anything to do with the Scots?*

### SCOT FREE:

**In the 12th century, a “scot” was a tax or forced contribution payable by subjects for entertainment**



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in a tavern. So, if you went “scot free,” you were free from the burden of the fee. So, SCOT FREE has nothing really to do with the Scots. NOT SCOT.

## HOPSCOTCH

In the 1600s, there was a game called Scotch Hoppers. The game originated in England, where some called it “hop-score.” Marking were made by scotching or scorching them into the ground. NOT SCOT.

## BUTTERSCOTCH

The main ingredients are butter and sugar. The scotch part comes in when you follow the directions to pour the mixture out upon oiled or waxed paper, allow to cool, and score (the old-fashioned word for score is “scotch”) the pieces out. NOT SCOT.

*Stitch 'N Stuff*  
by Doreen DeBelle

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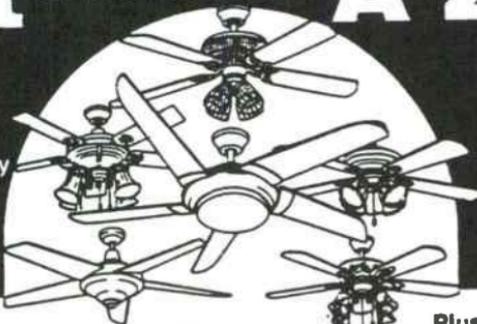
# When I'm 80

Today, Dear Lord, I'm 80  
and there's much I haven't done.

I hope Dear Lord,  
You'll let me live until I'm 81.  
But then if I haven't finished

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all I want to do,  
Would You let me stay awhile  
until I'm 82?  
So many places I want to go.  
So very much to see.  
Do you think that you could manage  
to make it 83?  
The world is changing very fast,  
There's so much in store.  
I'd like to live until I'm 84.  
And if by then I'm still alive,  
I'd like to live till 85.  
More plans will be up in the air,  
so I'd really like to stick  
and see what happens to the world



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when I am 86.

I know, Dear Lord, it's much to ask  
(and it must be nice in heaven)  
But I would really like to stay around  
until I'm 87.

I know by then I won't be fast  
and sometimes will be late,  
But it would be so pleasant to be  
around at 88.

I will have seen so many things  
and had a wonderful time.  
So I'm sure that I'll be willing to leave  
at 89.

...Maybe.

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# **EYE EXAMS ARE IMPORTANT FOR CHILDREN**

Just because a child can read the letters on the blackboard doesn't mean his or her vision is good.

"The problem with screening children in school is that it is a threshold test," said Dr. Richard A. Lewis, a professor of ophthalmology, pediatrics, medicine and molecular and human genetics.

"A child can have 20/25 or 20/30 vision and still pass. and a vision problem is not necessarily detected early."

Children usually are screened when they reach school

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age. The tests are subjective, meaning that children must be verbal and must be able to distinguish letters, numbers or figures in order to pass. In comparison, a complete medical eye exam by a professional tests for depth perception, peripheral vision, and astigmatism.

“Starting at age five, children should be screened by a professional annually,” Lewis said. “However, if a parent notices behavior such as a child holding an object unusually close to the face, or sitting directly in front of the television, it might be time to make an eye appointment.”

Signs that teachers can look for include squinting, or a child frequently coming to the front of the classroom to see the board, or lack of interest in reading because he can't see the books well. Sometimes a child may simply seem to be “daydreaming” because he cannot see the board, so he appears not interested in the material. Parents who have other children who wear glasses need to watch siblings for signs of poor vision, since family history may also play a role in the recurrence of vision problems.

“If one child has nearsightedness, parents should carefully monitor other children for signs that might indicate the need for corrective lenses,” said Lewis.

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# A TALE OF TWO GODDESSES (BERKS COUNTY STYLE)

*by Paul Druzba, WEEU Production Director*

*©2001 Paul Druzba*

On the occasion of Berks County's 250<sup>th</sup> birthday in 2002, it should be noted that we have had at least three courthouses over the years.

The oldest of us may remember the first court house to be built at Sixth and Court Streets in Reading. It was a big (for the time) structure, with stately columns, and a beautiful, church-like steeple; above which stood the "Goddess of Liberty".

The original "Goddess" was a wooden statue, carved by John Rush, a Philadelphia sculptor, for the now-modest sum of \$283.50. She stood about 12-feet, 6-inches tall, measured 56-36-56 (one heck of a woman), and still stands in the exhibits room of the Historical Society of Berks County, on Centre Avenue.

The wooden Goddess was the Queen of the Courthouse from 1840 until 1897. By that time, she had deteriorated (they didn't have Thompson's Water Seal and polyurethane back then), and was replaced by a hollow copper Goddess, which was purchased from the W. H. Mullins Company of Salem, Ohio.

The new Goddess featured an electric-lighted torch, and remained at the pinnacle of the columned courthouse until its demolition, in 1931. The Goddess was at first taken to a dump in Glenside, but was soon rescued by the Historical Society, and placed on their lawn.



*The statue goes out...  
from Reading City Hall.*



*The statue goes in...  
to the Berks County Services Center.*

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The next resting place for the Goddess, in 1934, was the property of contractor Dominic Maurer Jr. in Exeter Township, along the Boyertown Pike.

Over the next 60 years or so, the Goddess weathered more than just the weather. She also suffered bullet holes, inflicted by automobile sharpshooters.

In 1989, the Reading Redevelopment Authority spent \$14,000 to restore the Goddess to her original beauty, including plugging up the bullet holes and giving her a fresh coat of paint (bronze-brown).

The Goddess was placed in a highly visible area- the lobby of Hamilton Bank, on Penn Street between 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>.

There was talk of returning the Goddess to her (more or less) original site, at the new County Services Center, adjacent to the original court house site. But the architect, John M. Kostecky, wasn't especially fond of the statue. Instead of placing it at the entrance, or in the lobby, the architect suggested placing her up on the 16<sup>th</sup> Floor.

This idea didn't sit too well with the folks at the Redevelopment Authority, who felt that the statue deserved a more "visible" resting place.

They felt the statue, which had looked good at the pinnacle of the two-story original Courthouse, would be barely visible on the 16<sup>th</sup> Floor of the County Services Center.

In the meantime, Hamilton Bank wanted the statue removed as soon as possible. Once again, the Historical Society to the rescue. Sometime in the early 1990s, the Redevelopment Authority decided to show off its \$14,000 investment in City Hall, in Council Chambers.

There it (she) stood until July 7, 2001.

The Berks County 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commission, chaired by Cary Kaucher, persuaded local tradesmen to provide the equipment and labor for a (hopefully) final move of the statue, to the lobby of the County Services Center.

Enthusiastic volunteers included members of Teamsters Local 429, Ironworkers Local 420, and Morris Kreitz, Incorporated.

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The move began promptly at 8 a.m. on July 7, (my birthday- I remember it well). The workers began in Council Chambers in City Hall by removing the statue from its base. Extra care had to be taken in the way the statue was handled. According to one of the workers, the weakest point in the statue was the ankles, and they could snap off if too much pressure was applied to them.

No one remembered how the statue had been brought IN to Council Chambers, so several ways were tried to get her back OUT. It turned out, after trial and error, that the only way was head-first. Actually, torch first.

From there, she was wrestled down the stairs, out the front doors, and onto a specially-cushioned flat-bed truck, for the two-block journey from 8<sup>th</sup> and Washington to Reed and Washington, to her new home- the County Services Center.

But remember- this is Saturday, and the County Services Center is closed on Saturdays. The computer that controls the doors at the Services Center is very fussy, and it had to be told to open the doors on a closed day. That turned out to be the most difficult part of the move.

Workers waited outside a side entrance, to the left of the main entrance, while a few County employees struggled to persuade the computer to "open up".

Finally, the door clicked open, and the Goddess was eased into the side entrance, maneuvered around the corner past the security metal detectors (imagine what would have happened had an 18-foot copper statue gone THROUGH!), and across the lobby to her resting place in front of a huge plate glass window.

Despite the delay, the project was completed in a very short time- about two hours.

"I told my wife I'd be back around 1 p.m.", Carey Kaucher told me afterwards. "She was really surprised when I came home around 10:30."

So the next time you have occasion to visit the Berks County Services Center, don't just walk in, check your keys, and press the

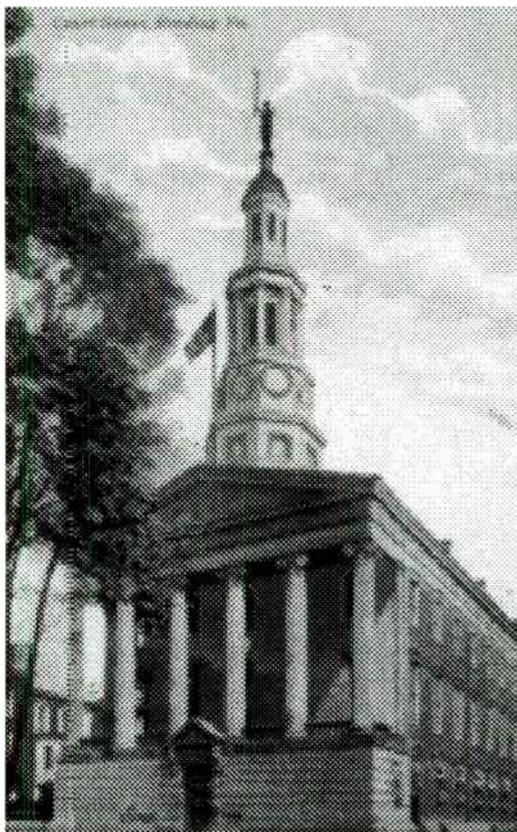
## **2002 • THE WEEU JOURNAL • 2002**

elevator button. Look across the lobby, to an 18-foot copper piece of Berks County history.

**She's beautiful, and she's finally found a home.**

*(Photos by the author. and postcard from the collection of the author.*

*Thanks to Ray Koehler and Eileen Cornish of the Reading Eagle Company for some background information. And a special thanks to the Berks County volunteers who donated their Saturday morning and their companies' resources for the benefit of their community).*



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# Pro Pucks to Pagodaville!

## **WELCOME TO THE E.C.H.L!**

By Mitch Gerhart, WEEU Sports Director

For decades, pro hockey fans in the Reading area have had to be road warriors.

If you're into "the coolest game on earth", I'm guessing your glove compartment is crammed with maps to Philadelphia, the Meadowlands, Manhattan, Long Island, Landover, Maryland, and Washington, D.C., plus slightly less exotic places like Hershey and Wilkes-Barre. Point is, if you lived in Berks County and you wanted to see professional hockey, you had to do more traveling than the average NBA player.

Of course, that all ended in the fall of 2000, when the owners of the LA Kings and the managers of Reading's Sovereign Center announced that they would bring pro pucks to Pagodaville. The team quickly established itself in the public consciousness by announcing a nickname (Royals), a mascot (a lion named Slapshot), a coach (Al Sims), and a roster (still being chosen at press time), all in

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preparation for this fall's debut in the East Coast Hockey League.

Which begs the question, "WHAT THE *H-E-DOUBLE-HOCKEY-STICKS* IS THE EAST COAST HOCKEY LEAGUE?"

Well, for the purposes of the next few pages, I'm glad you asked; welcome to the official WEEU JOURNAL E.C.H.L. PRIMER!

Compared to the 66-year-old American Hockey League, with which Berks County hockey fans are quite familiar, the Princeton, NJ-based East Coast Hockey League is a relative newcomer. Established in the fall of 1988 as a five-team league (Erie, Johnstown, Knoxville, Virginia, and inaugural-year playoff champ Carolina), the ECHL has grown to 28 teams for the 2001-02.

That makes the ECHL the largest developmental pro sports league in North America. Plus, the same elements that have drawn record-setting crowds to Reading Phillies games (young, developing talent coupled with promotion-heavy schedules) have also made the ECHL successful - about five-million fans have watched ECHL games in each of the last two seasons.

The league has also shown growth in terms of the number of players it has sent to the NHL. Since 1988, nearly 150 ECHL grads have appeared in the NHL, including goalies

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Olaf Kolzig, Byron Dafoe, Steve Shields, Martin Biron and Patrick Lalime, current Flyers forwards Ruslan Fedotenko and Todd Fedoruk, and former Phantoms fan-favorite Frank “the Animal” Bialowas.

Okay, so much for the history lesson. As mentioned before, the ECHL currently boasts 28 teams playing in two conferences, with two divisions in each conference. The Reading Royals are one of three new teams in the league this year, joining the Columbia (SC) Inferno and the Atlantic City (NJ) franchise, which did not have a nickname at press time (since the original Hershey team was called the B’ars, how about the Atlantic City D’ice?).

The league also welcomed two Georgia teams for this season, the Columbus Cottonmouths and the Macon Whoopee. Yes, the Macon Whoopee. Try saying that several times without giggling! In case you’re curious, Macon Whoopee merchandise features two prominent images: a fierce-looking whooping crane, and a fig leaf (insert your favorite Adam N’ Eve joke here).

Reading and Atlantic City join Trenton (NJ), Charlotte & Greensboro (NC), and Richmond & Roanoke (VA) in the Northeast Division of the Northern Conference. The Northwest Division includes Johnstown (PA),

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Wheeling (WV), Peoria (IL), and Dayton & Toledo (OH).

Columbus and the Macon Whoopee (*snicker!*) are in the Southern Conference's Southeast Division, along with Augusta & Greenville (GA), Florida (Estero, FL, to be exact), and three teams in South Carolina (Columbia, the Pee Dee Pride-based in Florence, and the South Carolina Stingrays in North Charleston). The Southwest Division includes teams based in North Little Rock (AR), Jackson & Biloxi (MS), Mobile (AL), Pensacola (FL), and Baton Rouge, New Orleans & Lafayette (LA).

Each team plays 72 regular-season games between early October and the end of March, when the playoffs begin.

In terms of hardware, the ECHL's equivalent of the NHL's Stanley Cup and the AHL's Calder Cup is the Patrick J. Kelly Cup, which goes to the league's playoff champion. It's named for the ECHL's first-and-only commissioner. The ECHL Regular-Season Champ gets the Brabham Cup, named for Jack Brabham, a businessman and politician who helped establish the league in 1988.

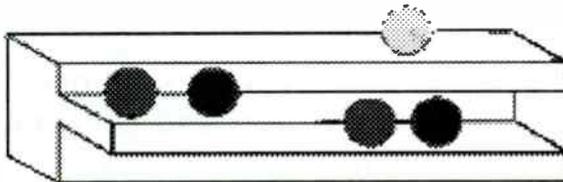
If you ask me, the ECHL has some of the best nicknames in pro sports! In addition to the Macon Whoopee (*giggle*), the ECHL also boasts the Florida Everblades, the Louisiana

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IceGators, and the Greenville (NC) Grrrowl (gimme extra consonants anytime!). I don't really get the Wheeling (WV) Nailers; I guess I need a history lesson.

Finally, if you would like more info on the league, check out its web site: [www.echl.com](http://www.echl.com). You can also look to the Reading Royals' very own Internet site ([www.royalshockey.com](http://www.royalshockey.com))-I recommend the "Hockey 101" feature for first-time hockey fans needing to learn about the terms and rules of the game.

*Macon Whoopee.*



**Look Closely...Figure it out yet???**

# KEEP COCKROACHES OUT OF YOUR HOUSE

Nothing inspires more disgust than the sight of a cockroach crawling across your floor, but an entomologist in Penn State's College of Agricultural Sciences says homeowners often inadvertently invite these critters into their homes

"German cockroaches, which are the most common type of cockroach found indoors in Pennsylvania, do not travel outside of structures," says Glenn Holbrook, assistant professor of entomology. "Homeowners often bring cockroaches into their homes in containers from infested warehouses, stores or other homes."

Holbrook says the nymph stage cockroach is quite small and can be transported into homes in paper bags and particularly cardboard boxes. Cockroach nymphs often settle in the corrugated passageways in cardboard containers. "Roaches love to live in small places where they can feel surrounding walls over their entire body, so cardboard is perfect for them," Holbrook says. "The best bet is to leave any boxes from stores or from friends outside."

Holbrook says roaches can hide in any kind of box, regardless of its contents. "They

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can hide in an electronics box as well as in a box containing food," he says. "Many warehouses and warehouse-style retail stores store food containers and other merchandise together."

Once cockroaches are in your house, Holbrook says there are several likely places to look for them.

• **Kitchens** The availability of food makes this the first place to look for cockroaches. "Cockroaches don't need much -- after all, they're scavengers," Holbrook says.

• **Bedrooms** If homeowners like to eat in bed or keep glasses of water at the bedside, these habits might attract roaches

• **Pet areas** Holbrook says the most often overlooked food source for cockroaches is pet food. He recommends feeding the pet once, cleaning out the food dish every day and never leaving pet food out overnight. "We raise research cockroaches in our labs and do you know what we feed them?" he says. "Dog food. They love it."

*"Nothing changes more than the past; for the past that influences our lives does not consist of what actually happened, but of what men believe happened."*

*Gerald White Johnson*

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**WEEU GOLF TOURNAMENT 2001**



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*1st Place: Savage Jeep/Suzuki  
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**WEEU GOLF TOURNAMENT**  
*Shooting Stars Winner*



**Mark DeLong, from Kemp's Catering, accepting  
his prize from WEEU  
Account Representative Bob McCool**

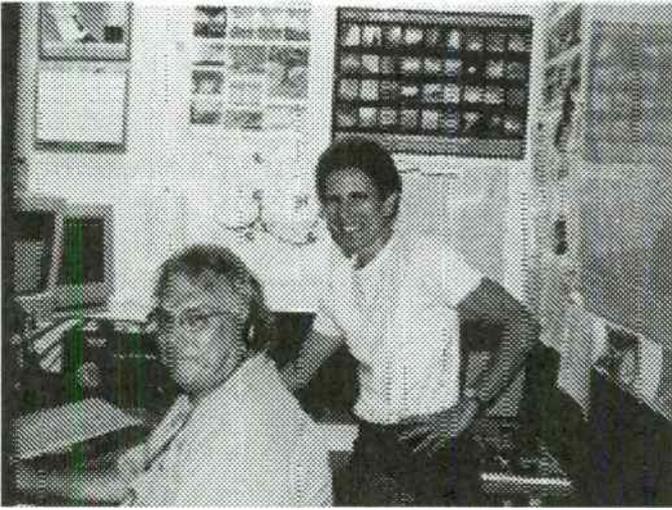
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WEEU morning guy Charlie Adams takes a turn behind the “ACCU-Mike” at ACCU-Weather headquarters in State College, Pa. With him in the booth she broadcasts from every weekday morning is meteorologist Kathy Francis.

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## Study Confirms What Mom Told You!

Mom was right:

Washing your hands helps prevent disease.

Dr. Margaret Ryan and her colleagues describe a program called Operation Stop Cough, which they started in 1997 at the Great Lakes Naval Recruit Training Command Center in an effort to reduce the incidence of respiratory illnesses such as colds. As part of the program, the recruits had to wash their hands at least five times a day.

The investigators compared illness rates after the program started to those in 1996, a year before the program began. "The overall rate of illness in 1997 and 1998 was 45 percent lower than the average rate in the preceding year," Ryan says.

One downside: Nearly half the subjects complained that that the five-times-a-day schedule was difficult to maintain.

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The screenshot shows the St. Joseph Medical Center website interface. On the left, there is a navigation menu with links: Home, About SJMC, Areas of Excellence, Human Resources, Directory Services, Getting Here, Information, What's Coming, and Web Nursery. Below the menu are three callouts: 'FINE A DOCTOR & DIRECTIONS', 'A Spirit of Innovation, A Legacy of Care', and 'APPLY FOR A JOB'. The main content area features a 'Compassion' article with a photo of a group of people, a 'News Update' section with dates from August 13, 2001, to July 06, 2001, and a 'Weekly Photo' section. A 'Sign Up For Updates Delivered To Your E-Mail' button is prominently displayed. The bottom right corner shows logos for the Reading Royals and Reading Phillies.

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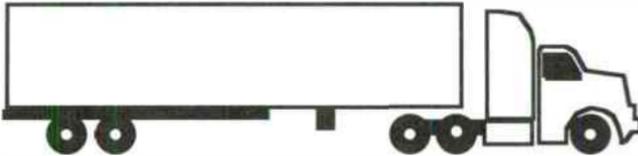
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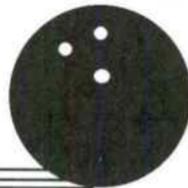
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*The popping noise you hear during the operation of the brake is the compressed air being quickly released into the exhaust system.*

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OPPORTUNITY

## Berks County Office of Aging

County Services Center  
Eighth Floor, 633 Court St., Reading, Pa. 610-478-6500

## **You know you're living in the 00's when...**

1. You try to enter you password on the microwave.
  2. You haven't played solitaire with real cards in years.
3. You have a list of 15 phone numbers to reach your family of three.
  4. You e-mail your buddy who works at the desk next to you.
5. Your reason for not staying in touch with friends is that they do not have e-mail addresses.
6. When you go home after a long day at work, you still answer the phone in a business manner.
7. When you make phone calls from home, you accidentally insert a "9" to get an outside line.
8. You've sat at the same desk for four years and worked for three different companies.
  9. Your company's welcome sign is attached with Velcro.
10. Your resume is on a diskette in your pocket.
11. You learn about your redundancy on the 11 o'clock news.
12. Your biggest loss from a system crash was when you lost all of your best jokes.
13. Your supervisor doesn't have the ability to do your job.
14. Contractors outnumber permanent staff and are more likely to get long-service awards.
15. Board members salaries are higher than all the Third World countries annual budgets combined.
16. Interviewees, despite not having the relevant knowledge or experience, terminate the interview when told of the starting salary.
17. Free food left over from meetings is your staple diet.
18. Your supervisor gets a brand-new state-of-the-art laptop with all the latest features, while you have time to go for lunch while yours boots up.
19. Being sick is defined as you can't walk or you're in the hospital.
20. There's no money in the budget for the five

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permanent staff your department desperately needs, but they can afford four full-time management consultants advising you boss's boss on strategy.

21. Your relatives and family describe your job as "works with computers".
22. You read this entire list, and kept nodding and smiling.
23. As you read this list, you think about forwarding it to your "friends".
24. It crosses your mind that your jokes group may have seen this list already, but you don't have time to check, so you forward it anyway.
25. You got this e-mail from a friend that never talks to you anymore, except to send you jokes from the net.
26. This e-mail has 20 different disclaimer notes at the bottom, telling you that the information is confidential, but you forward anyway.

### **READING'S MOST EXPERIENCED PHOTO LAB INTRODUCES...**

## **DIGITAL SERVICES**

- COPY YOUR FAMILY HEIRLOOM PHOTOS ONTO ARCHIVAL INKJET PRINTS OR PERMANENT CDs
- SCAN SLIDES, NEGATIVES, OR PHOTOS AND ENLARGE TO POSTERS UP TO 42"X64"
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A&J Insurance has been serving the needs of customers in Berks County and southern Schuylkill County since 1989.

We are a smaller agency that prides itself...on personal contact and knowing our customers as more than just the name on a file folder. In fact, the vast majority of our new accounts come from referrals of satisfied policyholders...which we greatly appreciate! We have found that in our marketing area, customers value knowing who they are dealing with, an affordable product, quality insurance products, and good service in the event of a claim. Representing carriers such as the Erie Insurance Group, Millville Insurance Co., and others, has enabled our agency to provide those values, while building a solid reputation for treating our customers with courtesy and fairness.

If you still value personal contact in your business dealings, please give us a try. We'd welcome an opportunity to serve your insurance needs...whether automobile, home, business, or life.

Thank you...we sincerely hope to hear from you!

John J. Hvizda, President



# 2002 WEEU JOURNAL CALENDAR 2002

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# Visit The Most Beautiful and Complete Window & Door Showroom in Berks County



*Bay & Bow Made To Fit*



*Custom Garden Window*



*Our heavy duty steel doors are professionally painted - so you don't have to.*



*Horizontally Operating Windows*



*Tilt Sash For Cleaning Convenience*

**Our 52nd Anniversary!**  
*Thanks for your business.*

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 Thursdays.....9 a.m. to 8 p.m.  
 Saturdays.....9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

**YOU DON'T NEED CASH - TERMS TO SUIT YOUR BUDGET**

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1995

# FEEDBACK JOURNAL

A compendium of facts, fun, recipes, remedies, puzzles & pronouncements as culled from the popular talk show "Feedback" and radio station WEEU



**WEEU 85 AM** *stereo*

1995	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	1995	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY		
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	15	16	17	18	19	20	21		16	17	18	19	20	21	22		
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	29	30	31						30	31							
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January 1—.....New Year's Day  
 January 16—.....Martin Luther King, Jr.  
 February 12—.....Lincoln's Birthday  
 February 14—.....St. Valentine's Day  
 February 20—.....Presidents' Day  
 March 1—.....Ash Wednesday  
 March 17—.....St. Patrick's Day  
 April 9—.....Palm Sunday  
 April 14—.....Good Friday  
 April 15—.....Passover  
 April 16—.....Easter Sunday  
 May 14—.....Mothers' Day  
 May 29—.....Memorial Day (Observed)

June 14—.....Flag Day  
 June 18—.....Fathers' Day  
 July 4—.....Independence Day  
 September 4—.....Labor Day  
 September 25—.....Rosh Hashanah  
 October 4—.....Yom Kippur  
 October 9—.....Columbus Day  
 October 31—.....Halloween  
 November 7—.....Election Day  
 November 11—.....Veterans' Day  
 November 23—.....Thanksgiving Day  
 December 18—.....Hanukkah  
 December 25—.....Christmas

1895

FEBRUARY  
JOURNAL

PUBLISHED BY  
WARREN  
BROOKING  
REARING,  
PENNSYLVANIA



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# 1995 FEEDBACK JOURNAL

## INTRODUCTION

It is our pleasure once again to present the book which has become a favorite among the listeners (and readers) of WEEU: *The 1995 Feedback Journal*.

With every new issue of the *Journal*, we endeavor to present amusing, entertaining, informative and instructional anecdotes and articles which have been gathered from a variety of sources.

This year's *Journal* once again features favorite recipes from the files of Feedback host Jack Holcomb, stories and poems penned by WEEU staff members, as well as features which are sure to bring a smile, a chuckle, or maybe even a tear.

As Feedback has become Berks County's most popular radio talk show because of the unique interaction between Jack and his listeners, the *Feedback Journal* has also grown in stature and respect thanks to those who have contributed to its pages.

We thank all who have sent in those contributions—in the mail, on the air, or in person—and truly hope you will find your *1995 Feedback Journal* helpful and “a good read.”

Of course, the *Journal* would not be possible without the support of the WEEU business partners who have placed advertisements on its pages.

We hope you will patronize those sponsors, and let them know you're a loyal listener to WEEU and a reader of the *Feedback Journal*.

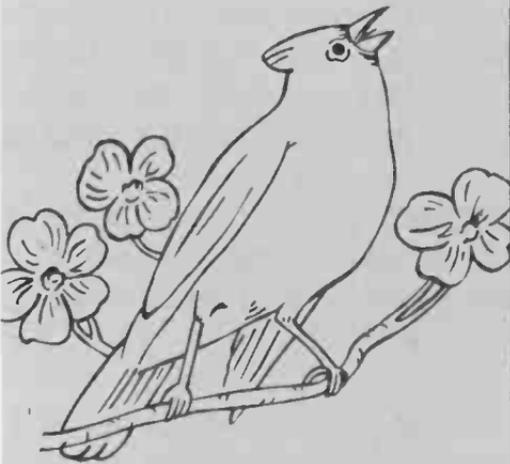
Thank you.

*Charles J. Adams III*  
Editor

1995 FEEDBACK JOURNAL  
THE GOOD OLD DAYS?

# WEEU

## BIRDWATCHING SOCIETY 850 ON YOUR DIAL



*Your bird-  
lovin' friend . . .* JACK HOLCOMB

### MON.thru FRI. 11-11:30A.M.

# 1995 FEEDBACK JOURNAL

## FEEDBACK FLASHBACK

by *Paul Druzba*  
*WEEU Copywriter*

Recently, someone at WEEU unearthed this ancient relic of a poster, and my thoughts immediately turned to the Feedback Journal. "I'll bet there must be a story behind this", I thought. So I dusted off the poster, made a photographic copy which you see here, and talked with Jack, about the poster, and the show.

The year was 1972. Disco music was all the rage, and everyone seemed to be getting "Saturday Night Fever". Jack Holcomb had been doing the "WEEU Birdwatching Society" show for seven years, every Monday through Friday from 11:00 to 11:30 A.M., as you can see on the poster.

Note Jack's long sideburns and fat tie, both very typical of the period. Also make special note of Jack's mustache. 1972 was the only time in his long radio career that he ever sported one. Before 1972, Jack was clean shaven. Unfortunately, the mustache only lasted for one year. The station manager at the time kept referring to it as "the dirt under your nose". Now, Jack wears a full beard.

Anyway, back to the show. From 1965 to 1972, the Birdwatching Society provided Jack and WEEU with birdwatching information (for a monthly fee). But Jack preferred to "do his own thing", and never used much of the information anyway. He preferred to do a call-in show and involve the listeners. The relationship with the Birdwatching Society was terminated at the end of 1972, so this poster represents the end of an era!

Beginning the following year, the show was re-named "Birdtalk", and aired at the same time. By the way, before and after "WEEU Birdwatching Society" and "Birdtalk", Jack did a music show, spinning your favorite platters.

So there you have it! A collector's item within a collector's item. Enjoy, and remember!

# **1995 FEEDBACK JOURNAL**

## **STOP, LOOK, LISTEN...ENJOY!**

While listening to one of my favorite nature writers, David Quammen, on tape one weekend, I couldn't help but reflect on what the natural world means to me.

In these sometimes hectic times, seemingly always measured by the clock, I long to escape and search for that tranquilizer that brings peace...

I discovered, about thirty years ago, this haven was not hard to find. Some find *it* in a back yard, a nearby woodland, the mountains, the seashore or a quiet stream. Some need the wildlife in a refuge or sanctuary or just a bird's song coming from a nearby church yard.

My strong feeling is that we all need a shot of Mother Nature once in a while.

There is a calming effect, whether we know the birds, wildflowers or whatever surrounds us in the serene out-of-doors. This natural pill works, after adjusting to the quiet, by hearing a strange bird, observing an unusual fern, looking at the stars or staring in amazement at a field full of fireflies.

Have you ever tried this in any way? Did you realize the learning process that automatically kicks in as you listen or look...and even wait?

Most of the questions will be answered away from the TV, movies or books, but you must make the move. There is very little cost and you'll be amazed at the results. You could even share the experience with someone!

So many people ask me how I cope with so many varied calls during the course of "Feedback."

Let me say that I have learned many lessons from this "medicine" I take. The give and take, the gentleness and even the turmoil of the natural world leaves an inner strength beyond words.

You may think you have to look long and hard for *it* but you only have to open your eyes...*it* is everywhere!

***Jack Holcomb***  
***"Have a Bluebird Day!"***

# 1995 FEEDBACK JOURNAL

## **HUGS...**

### *As Good to Give as to Receive*

It's wondrous what a hug can do.  
A hug can cheer you when you're blue.  
A hug can say, "I love you so"  
Or, "I hate to see you go."  
A hug is "Welcome back again,"  
And "Great to see you! Where've you been?"  
A hug can soothe a small child's pain,  
And bring a rainbow after rain.  
The hug, there's just no doubt about it—  
We scarcely could survive without it!  
A hug delights and warms and charms,  
It must be why God gave us arms.  
Hugs are great for fathers and mothers,  
Sweet for sisters, swell for brothers;  
And chances are your favorite aunts  
Love them more than potted plants!  
Kittens crave them, puppies love them;  
Heads of states are not above them.  
A hug can break the language barrier,  
And make travel so much merrier.  
No need to fret about your store of 'em;  
The more you give, the more there's of 'em.  
So stretch those arms without delay  
And give someone a hug today!

# 1995 FEEDBACK JOURNAL

## ATTRACT COLORFUL GUESTS TO YOUR GARDEN.

One of the most beautiful displays in your garden doesn't have to have roots, leaves or flowers. You can attract butterflies all summer long by creating a habitat for them, according to an expert in Penn State's College of Agricultural Sciences.

Much of the habitat of the world's 165,000 known species of butterflies and moths has been destroyed by deforesting and urbanization, even in Pennsylvania. "By planting flowers for them to feed from, you are helping them survive," says Dr. Margaret Brittingham, assistant professor of wildlife resources.

To attract butterflies, plant large, conspicuous clumps of flowers, and choose a variety that will flower continuously from May through August. "A good garden design is one with large shrubs in back, a fence or arbor planted with flowering vines, and lower growing flowers in front," says Brittingham.

"Butterflies especially like milkweed, dogbane and butterfly bush," says Brittingham. Milkweed blooms in midsummer and comes in shades of orange and yellow as well as light pink. Dogbane blooms around the same time, and the foliage and flowers resemble milkweed. Butterfly bush blooms in midsummer and comes in shades of white, purple and pink.

Other plants that draw butterflies are cosmos (annual, mid- to late summer), heliotrope (mid summer) marigold (annual, mid- to late summer), zinnia (annual, mid- to late summer), Queen Anne's Lace (mid- to late summer), asters (mid- to late summer), Joe Pye Weed (mid- to late summer) and goldenrod (late summer).

The most common butterflies in Pennsylvania are the black swallowtail, the tiger swallowtail, the monarch and the viceroy.

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Black swallowtails have dark wings with two rows of yellow spots near the edges. Tiger swallowtails are larger and have bright yellow wings with broad black bands at the edges. Some have wings almost completely black. Both butterflies have "tails" at the lower outside corner of their hind wings.

Monarchs and viceroys look much alike, with brownish-orange patches framed in velvety black. Viceroys are smaller, not as bright orange and have black lines across their hind wings. "Monarchs carry a poison that makes birds sick," says Brittingham. "Birds quickly learn to avoid monarchs, and the look-alike viceroys benefit from this too."

"Your butterfly garden also might attract ruby-throated hummingbirds, orioles and scarlet tanagers," says Brittingham. "There also is an attractive moth called the hummingbird moth, which looks and flies like a hummingbird," says Brittingham.

Flowers that draw birds as well as butterflies are phlox (early to midsummer), butterfly bush (mid- to late summer), impatiens (annual, mid- to late summer) and bergamot (mid- to late summer).

•  
*FEEDBACK FACTOIDS: By age six we have 32 teeth which replace the 20 milk teeth for which the Tooth Fairy leaves a little remuneration.*

•  
*Adults (except perhaps Dracula) have six quarts of blood to carry oxygen and nutrients through their bodies.*

•  
*The hand has 27 bones: 8 in the wrist, 5 in the palms, 3 in each finger and 2 in the thumb. The foot has 26 bones.*

•  
*Dental visits can be less stressful if you avoid caffeine, carbohydrates and sugar before your appointment.*

•  
*Friends are those who, when you've made a fool of yourself don't feel that you've done a permanent job.*



# 1995 FEEDBACK JOURNAL



*WEUU personality Chris Bach shows just how glamorous the radio business can be.*

## **The Last Will of Mr. Farmer**

I leave:

To my wife, my overdraft at the bank. Maybe she can explain it.

To my banker, my soul—He has the mortgage on it, anyway.

To my neighbor, my clown suit. He'll need it if he continues to farm as he has in the past.

To the ASCS, my grain bin. I was planning to let them take it next year anyway.

To the County Agent, 50 bushels of corn to see if he can hit the market. I never could!

To the junk man, all my machinery. He's had his eye on it for years!

To my undertaker, a special request: I want six implement and fertilizer dealers for my pallbearers. They are used to carrying me!

To the weatherman, rain and sleet and snow for the funeral. No sense in having good weather now.

To the grave digger, don't bother. The hole I'm in should be big enough!

*Submitted by Arthur L. Trumbauer, Alburtis*

# **1995 FEEDBACK JOURNAL**

## **HI-YO SILVER! AWAY!**

**The Lone Ranger rode on radio...**

*by Captain Radio (Joe Hehn)*

**One of the greatest and possibly most famous "Champions of Justice" in fiction—certainly on radio—is the Lone Ranger.**

**Created by Fran Striker—with assistance in developing the character from George Trendle and James Jewell—the Lone Ranger was written also by Striker.**

**Striker's first Lone Ranger story was broadcast January 31, 1933 over WXYZ, Detroit. Within a year the program had been picked up for rebroadcast by two powerhouses: WGN in Chicago and WOR in Newark.**

**The first voice of the Lone Ranger was George Seaton. On May 11, 1933, Jack Deeds took over the role for one show and he was followed by James Jewell, also for one broadcast. Earl Graser assumed the title role on May 15, and would have been identified as the Lone Ranger forever...except for his untimely death in an auto accident on April 9, 1941.**

**I recall my mother waking me that morning with the words: "Joe, get up...the Lone Ranger is dead." I refused to believe it.**

**The most notable commentary on his death was an editorial that ran in the *New York Times* the following day:**

***Earl H. Graser was killed in an auto wreck Tuesday morning, but the rumor that the Lone Ranger is dead is unfounded.***

***It was a man who died...but he did not take the Lone Ranger with him. The Lone Ranger does not die. His trusty steed waits to carry him on his errands across the face of the wondrous West where the air is crystal and virtue never lacks for its reward...***

**The voice best remembered belonged to Brace**

# 1995 FEEDBACK JOURNAL

Beemer, the show's announcer who became the Lone Ranger on April 18. He remained until the program's final live broadcast on September 3, 1954. John Todd played Tonto throughout the show's 3,377 broadcasts.

What makes the Lone Ranger so enduring, so beloved and so popular?

The Lone Ranger was a man of the highest moral principles. His belief in God, the power of prayer, and living one's life based on "eternal truths and laws" was unshakeable.

His will, determination and dedication to helping any human being who truly needed help was legendary. Rich or poor, famous or ordinary, powerful or weak, friendly or unfriendly...it mattered not to the Lone Ranger. His sense of law and order, as well as his fairness in dispensing it, applied to everyone.

The Lone Ranger's mythical qualities of being the fastest gun in the West...using silver bullets from his own silver mine...riding the greatest and fastest horse, Silver...and having the most dedicated and loyal friend, Tonto, helped him overcome all obstacles and enemies.

An indelible mark of love and respect was imprinted on the memory of anyone who listened to the Lone Ranger during those years between 1931 and 1954.

Hi-Yo, Silver! A-ww-aaaaa-y!

•  
*FEEDBACK FACTOID: N.Y. Mets announcer Ralph Kiner once said during a broadcast: "Today is Father's Day, so everyone out there, Happy Birthday!"*

•  
*Mothers hand down recipes, but they also provide new generations with wisdom. The National Council of Negro Women has put together a cookbook that aims to preserve that knowledge of the ages. Among words to live by:*

*"The Lord gave you Ten Commandments, not "ten suggestions."*

*"Lie, Drink and Steal! Lie in your own bed, drink cold water and steal away from bad company—you will live a long time!"*

*The book is entitled, "Celebrating Our Mothers' Kitchens," and some of its proceeds will help establish a National Center for African American Women.*

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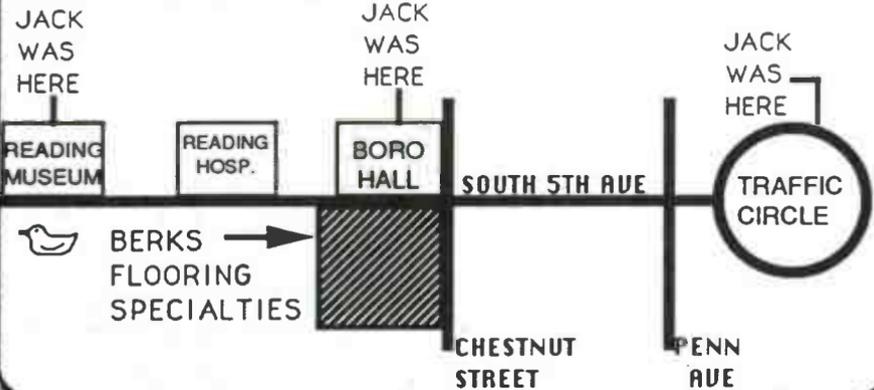
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## ATTITUDE

*By Charles Swindoll*

“The longer I live, the more I realize the impact of attitude on life.

Attitude, to me, is more important than facts. It is more important than the past, than education, than money, than circumstances, than failures, than successes, than what other people think or say or do.

It is more important than appearance, giftedness, or skill. It will make or break a company...a church...a home.

The remarkable thing is we have a choice every day regarding the attitude we will embrace for that day.

We cannot change the past...we cannot change the fact that people will act in a certain way. We cannot change the inevitable.

The only thing we can do is play on the one string we have, and that is our attitude...

I am convinced that life is ten percent what happens to me and ninety percent how I react to it. And so it is with you...we are in charge of our Attitudes.”

# **1995 FEEDBACK JOURNAL** **COLLECTING THE PAST** **FOR THE FUTURE**

*by Shirl Whitmack*

**Whether you call yourself a “collector” or not, most people do casually or deliberately “collect.”**

Perhaps it's old linens that catch your fancy, maybe it's estate jewelry. Have you got drawers full of Elvis memorabilia? Do old tools captivate you? Lots of men have entire racks of baseball caps.

It's fun and usually it's affordable and it fulfills several human needs...the hunt, the deal and the capture. The “deal” part isn't quite as ancient as the other two.

The hunting ground can be an auction, a flea or antique market, a yard sale, a shop or a show.

You may be in search of a particular piece to add to your collection or you may just be out for the adventure.

Collecting is a great pastime, a worthy hobby. There is always that chance you'll find it...the item you've been searching for. Or, you'll see a piece you know to have value and the seller doesn't share that knowledge.

Then, you become the “dumb buyer” asking half-heartedly for a price, feigning slight interest, looking at surrounding items until the seller knocks a few bucks off the price.

Or, right at the start, you ask “Is that your best price on this?” The exhilaration you feel as you walk away, clutching your find is priceless. It's primal. It's as good as eating the kill by the campfire!

If you really don't collect anything now, you may want to start. In the year 2000, which is just five years off, the twentieth century will be referred to in the past tense and it will be very collectible.

Back in the fifties and sixties, who would have thought that metal lunch boxes children carried off to school would be worth hundreds in 1994; that Pez dispensers, filled

# 1995 FEEDBACK JOURNAL

with German peppermints, would be worth thousands of dollars, empty, in the 1990s?

So, name your passion, learn something about it, stuff some bills in your pocket and head to the happy hunting ground of yard sales, flea markets, auctions, etc.

Hunting and gathering...now that's antiquity!



## BOOK REVIEW

*American Junk*, by Mary Randolph Carter. Viking Studio Book, published by The Penguin Group. \$29.95.

Hailed as "the bible of a new generation of foragers," *American Junk* is my favorite large format book of 1994. The author, vice president of advertising at Polo/Ralph Lauren, promises in the subtitle:

"How to hunt for, haggle over, rescue, and transform America's forgotten treasures from flea markets, tag sales, trash heaps, thrift shops, auctions, and attics for a one-of-a-kind look for your house, apartment, getaway, kitchen, bedroom...Home!" And, she delivers!

The pictures are exciting and abundant, as the reader meanders through chapters on: "What is Junk?" "Western Junk" "Glass Act" "Something Fishy" and ten others.

There are tips on repair, hints on how to bargain, how to clean found items and how to present them so they'll look like the treasures they truly are.

Carter even tells you how to dress for junking as you rescue all those fabulous leftovers from the never-ending land of American junk.

*Shirl Whitnack is an account executive at WEEU and the owner of "Frippery," dealing in decorative antiques and collectibles.*



*FEEDBACK FACTOID: On June 4, 1896, Henry Ford made a successful test run through the streets of Detroit. Unfortunately, the event was delayed for more than an hour...the car was too big to fit through the brick shed door!*



*One reason why a dog is such a loveable creature is that his tail wags, instead of his tongue!*

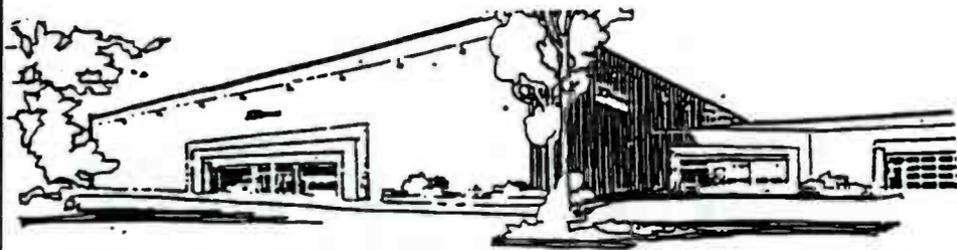
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## SELECTING STEREO EQUIPMENT

by John Engle, Chief Engineer  
WEEU Broadcasting Company

After more than 25 years as a professional in the audio field and a personal hi-fi enthusiast, I have been asked what seems to be the same questions over and over again concerning the purchase of home stereo equipment.

The first question is usually, "what is the best stereo I can get?" I could give a list of esoteric pro and semi-pro equipment that would boggle the mind and empty the accounts of a bank president, but this would not fairly answer the question of the average person with a budget to consider.

I am not going to give recommendations for any brand names or stores to shop, but, I will give you some common sense advice that can help you decide what is the best stereo

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you can afford and enjoy.

Before I proceed, ask yourself these questions:

1) Do I want a component or modular system, or do I want a package system?

2) Do I have space limitations such as a bedroom or college dorm?

3) What type of music do I listen to the most?

4) How much do I have to spend on a system?

Whereas there are many package systems that sound good, they give you few or no options. Generally what you see is what you get!

Some packages have extra auxiliary inputs, and some do not. Some have extra speaker outputs, most do not. When you want the ability to choose your options, the *component* system is the route to go.

It will give you the most flexibility as far as your system

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is concerned.

To answer question number two, the location of your system will generally determine what type of speakers will be best. Large speakers will usually sound good in a large room, but typically sound bad in a small room.

Large speakers generally sound best when the distance from speaker to listener is ten feet or greater. The fact that a speaker is small does not mean that it will sound bad.

In fact, some small speaker systems give remarkable reproduction of sound in smaller rooms.

When choosing speakers you should listen to many different types of speakers and match them to your listening environment. Note that some speakers that sound good in the store might not sound so good in your home.

Most stores display their speakers in large open rooms that do not equate to the acoustic conditions you have at

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# 1995 FEEDBACK JOURNAL

home. Don't be afraid to ask the store if they have a tryout period for speakers.

Most of all, listen for what sounds good to you. Take a sample of the type of music you listen to the most to the store with you. A good store would be happy to demonstrate their systems with your source of music. Some systems sound great when listening to a symphony but will sound flat and lifeless when listening to jazz or hard-driving rock 'n' roll.

Because you are the one who will use your system the most, you should determine what is best for you.

Cost is not always the answer to what sounds best. The stereo salesperson will more often than not sway you toward the more expensive brands and models, but remember to use your own judgment and a little listening, and you can come up with a system that meets your needs and sounds great.



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# 1995 FEEDBACK JOURNAL

## HERBS CAN BRING THE SWEET SMELL OF SUCCESS

**Herbs—once used for everything from stomach ache remedies to air fresheners—have made a comeback.**

“Interest in herbs has increased rapidly in the past few years,” says Keppy Arnoldsen, horticulture graduate student in Penn State’s College of Agricultural Sciences.

In 1994, Arnoldsen and Aimee Voisin, a senior majoring in horticulture, completed an independent study project growing 67 herbs in an ornamental plot at Penn State’s Trial Gardens.

Their demonstration garden provided information used to compile a Penn State publication entitled, “Herbs for the Home Gardener.”

This 68-page publication has 58 color illustrations and information on 32 herbs, including common and scientific names, plant characteristics, hardiness, size, soil preference, propagation, pests and disease, bloom time and color and uses for the herbs.

“Many commercial growers are finding it lucrative to sell herbs wholesale to garden centers and stores. There’s also a large market in dried herbs for decorations, teas, cooking and other uses. You can make a career out of herbs,” says Arnoldsen.

Voisin plans to do just that. “Herbs have such unusual textures, colors and scents. I got interested in them when I worked in a greenhouse after graduating from high school,” she says. “I started buying books about herbs, and now I’ve decided to become a wholesaler and sell dried herb products.

“It’s one thing to read about herbs in a book, and it’s another to grow them,” says Voisin. “We had some surprises in our independent study. Some plants turned out to be incredibly bushy and took up three times the space we thought they would. And I never realized that cilantro and

# 1995 FEEDBACK JOURNAL

coriander are really the same plant—one is the leaf and one is the seed.”

“Herbs for the Home Gardener” is available for eight dollars at the Berks County Cooperative Extension Office or from the Publication Distribution Center, 112 Agricultural Administration Building, University Park, PA 16802.



## LAMENT OF THE WORKING MOM

*Quiet down cobwebs,  
Dust go to sleep...  
I'm rocking my baby  
And babies don't keep.*

(Author unknown)

It's a simple poem my mother shared with me when my children were babies and I was juggling all those responsibilities of a typical working mom: Husband, marriage, children, household, career.

Even though my babies are now elementary school age and rocking them to sleep is replaced with homework, school issues, running them to football, swimming, softball, flute lessons, scouts, etc., the essence of the poem remains the same...

There will always be much to do, so take care of the important stuff and don't allow the rest of the stuff to overwhelm you; somehow it too will be taken care of.

And speaking of “stuff,” here's another saying I like to reflect on from time to time...

*Don't sweat the small stuff...  
It's all small stuff!*

(Author unknown)

That's a reminder to put all the “stuff” that fills up one's life into perspective. Look at the big picture and you'll find sometimes things that seem to be so pressing just aren't.

*Jo Painter*

# 1995 FEEDBACK JOURNAL

## YOU, BEING ON STAGE

*a poem by Mike Faust, WEEU personality*

You, being on Stage  
me, sitting in the audience

locked into each other's energy making  
a connection  
yet,

we're miles a p a r t  
how I wish..

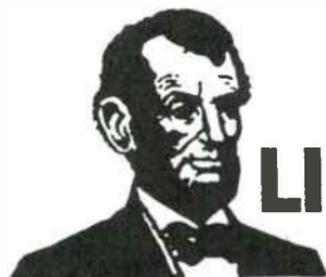
I were on Stage  
with you.

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# 1995 FEEDBACK JOURNAL

## BIRD NEST DIMENSIONS

The U.S. Department of the Interior, in its "Homes for Birds" publication, recommends the following dimensions for the most popular bird boxes:

### **American Robin:**

Box Floor, 7x8 inches; Box Height, 8 inches; Placement Height, 6 to 15 feet.

### **Eastern Bluebird:**

Box Floor, 4x4 inches; Box Height, 8-12 inches; Entrance Height, 6-10 inches; Entrance Diameter, 1.5 inches; Placement Height, 4-6 feet.

### **Chickadee:**

Box Floor, 4x4 inches; Box Height, 8-10 inches; Entrance Height, 6-8 inches; Entrance Diameter, 1.125 inches; Placement Height, 4-15 feet.

### **Purple Martin:**

Box Floor, 6x6 inches; Box Height, 6 inches; Entrance Height, 1-2 inches; Entrance Diameter, 2.5 inches; Placement Height, 6-20 feet.

### **House Wren:**

Box Floor, 4x4 inches; Box Height, 6-8 inches; Entrance Height, 4-6 inches; Entrance Diameter, 1.25 inches; Placement Height, 5-10 feet.

### **Carolina Wren:**

Box Floor, 4x4 inches; Box Height, 6-8 inches; Entrance Height, 4-6 inches; Placement Height, 5-12 feet.

### **Screech Owl, Kestrel:**

Box Floor, 8x8 inches; Box Height, 12-15 inches; Entrance Height, 3 inches; Entrance Diameter, 9-12 inches; Placement Height, 10-30 feet.

### **Wood Duck:**

Box Floor, 10x18 inches; Box Height, 10-24 inches; Entrance Height, 4 inches; Entrance Diameter, 12-16 inches; Placement Height, 10-20 feet.

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## RAMBLING PROSE II

by Paul Druzba  
WEEU Copywriter

This year's topic for Rambling Prose concerns a subject that's very near and dear to my heart. Voting.

Take a microphone and tape machine to anywhere in Berks County, as we do every week on our WEEU Poll Question, and you'll have no trouble getting plenty of comments, especially complaints, about what our local, state and national politicians are doing with our tax money, and our lives. Many of those complaints are valid, and deserve attention.

But when you ask those very same people whether they voted in the last election, you hear a different tune. Many say, "I don't vote, because it doesn't make a difference



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# 1995 FEEDBACK JOURNAL

anyway." Well, if it really doesn't, why complain? If you care enough about your money and your life to complain about them, you owe it to yourself to get informed, and get out and vote!

In the May, 1994 Primary election, only 29% of Berks County people who were eligible to vote actually took the trouble to do so. That means less than one person in three cares enough to take an active interest in their government. It's no wonder why many people feel it's become "government of the politicians, by the politicians, and for the politicians." If you leave it to them, you get what you deserve.

I've never missed voting in the 22 years I've been eligible, and I had to wait until I was 21. My choices do not always win, but at least I can say I made my voice heard. And I feel I've earned the right to complain about politicians



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# 1995 FEEDBACK JOURNAL

when I think they're not acting responsibly.

Maybe what we need is a big headline in the paper every election day that says, "SHOW UP OR SHUT UP". What do you think?



**FEEDBACK FACTOID:** *The more people you know, the greater your chances for career advancement. At gatherings, try to have a little conversation with a number of people—mostly those you don't know. Introduce yourself by saying something like, "This is a nice party. How long have you known the host? I'm with..... . What do you do?"*

*Don't be a leech. Write down a potential contact's full name—but not until after you have walked away. Don't give a sales pitch. Talk about family, friends—or play the geography game: "Oh, you're from Detroit. Do you know Charlie Smith? I think he's with one of your competitors..." Casually and quickly let your unusual education and/or credentials be known. Discuss interesting and/or humorous things that happened at work.*



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## St. Patrick's Day 1988

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to a land of Leprechauns, Saints, whiskey and...death  
Bloodstained burial grounds  
at a child's pointing finger;  
a steadfast example of crazed zealots  
fighting in the name of a God that recognizes  
no colour of country or people...  
Pour the Guinness, reflect with sadness  
and hold tight the jigs and reels from uilleann pipes  
surrounding the smiles of country-side tranquility  
while forgetting sounds of distant guns...

*Jack K. Holcomb*



# *Laurel*

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# 1995 FEEDBACK JOURNAL

## FACTS OF THE FOURTH

**The only person who signed the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776 was John Hancock. The others did not begin to sign until August 2nd.**



**The first American flag to bear stripes only had four. They represented Plymouth, New Haven, Massachusetts and Connecticut. It first appeared in 1647.**



**The original American flag was designed by Francis Hopkinson, a signer of the Declaration of Independence. The "Betsy Ross Flag" was flown in 1783.**



**Things looked pretty authentic when the movie "Born on the Fourth of July" covered the 1968-69 era...until the song, "American Pie" was featured. It was recorded in 1971!**



*FEEDBACK FACTOID: It has proven to be most effective to interview for a new job sometime in the middle of the week and between 11 a.m. and 4 p.m., if possible.*

# 1995 FEEDBACK JOURNAL

## BOB'S RANDOM THOUGHTS

Volume 1  
by Bob Cesca

*Hiya! My name is Bob and I'm relatively brand new here at WEEU. I do the overnight show, Sunday mornings from midnight to 6 a.m. But enough about me...*

*As you may or may not know, Larry King, the Renaissance Man of Journalism, writes a weekly nationally-published newspaper column. Occasionally, Larry will indulge us with a series of random observations—about one or two sentences each. For example, he once wrote, "What do they mean by the phrase: 'selling like hot cakes?' Do hotcakes really sell that well?"*

*Yes, they do seem—well—kinda weird. So, to cut to the chase, I thought I'd indulge you in some of my very own personal observations, ala Larry.*

*Here goes...Bob's Random Thoughts. Enjoy!*

It would be a travesty of Justice if Ted Turner ever



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## **1995 FEEDBACK JOURNAL**

colorized the first half of "The Wizard of Oz"....Even at 23-years old, I still get a kick out of visiting a toy store....Michael Jackson and Lisa Marie Presley-Jackson: Two wild and crazy kids....Hats off to the miracle that is Scotch Tape....Television? A fad.... "I like New York in June—how about you?"....It ought to be law: Mustard goes on hot dogs, and ketchup goes on hamburgers.... "I like a Gershwin tune—how about you?"....There's nothing quite like the comfort of a hotel room bed....I'm gaining a true fondness for the new 6-1-0 area code....Is it pronounced "Harris-mint" or "Her-assmint?"....There's nothing more exhilarating than finding quality footwear on sale....A little bit of garnish makes an otherwise ordinary meal look and taste fantastic....Ernest Borgnine: A misunderstood genius....What's so magical about those so-called Magic Markers?.... "Where have you gone, Joe DiMaggio?"....Milk—it really is "the fresher



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refresher"....Boutros Boutros Ghali: A good guy.....I'm going out on a limb, but I think that "rock and roll" music is here to stay....What makes the next Kleenex tissue pop out of the box after you pull another one out?....And finally, are you like me? Do you find turtle-neck sweater just a tad constricting?

Until next time....buh-bye?

-30-



*FEEDBACK FACTOID: English censors banned children from seeing "The Wizard of Oz" because the Witch and grotesque moving trees and various hidden features would undoubtedly frighten the young ones....Censors banned Mickey Mouse comics from Italy in 1938 because Mickey's exploits ran contrary to "imperial, Fascist principles." ...."E.T." was banned for children under 11 in Sweden because it showed children being disrespectful to parents .*

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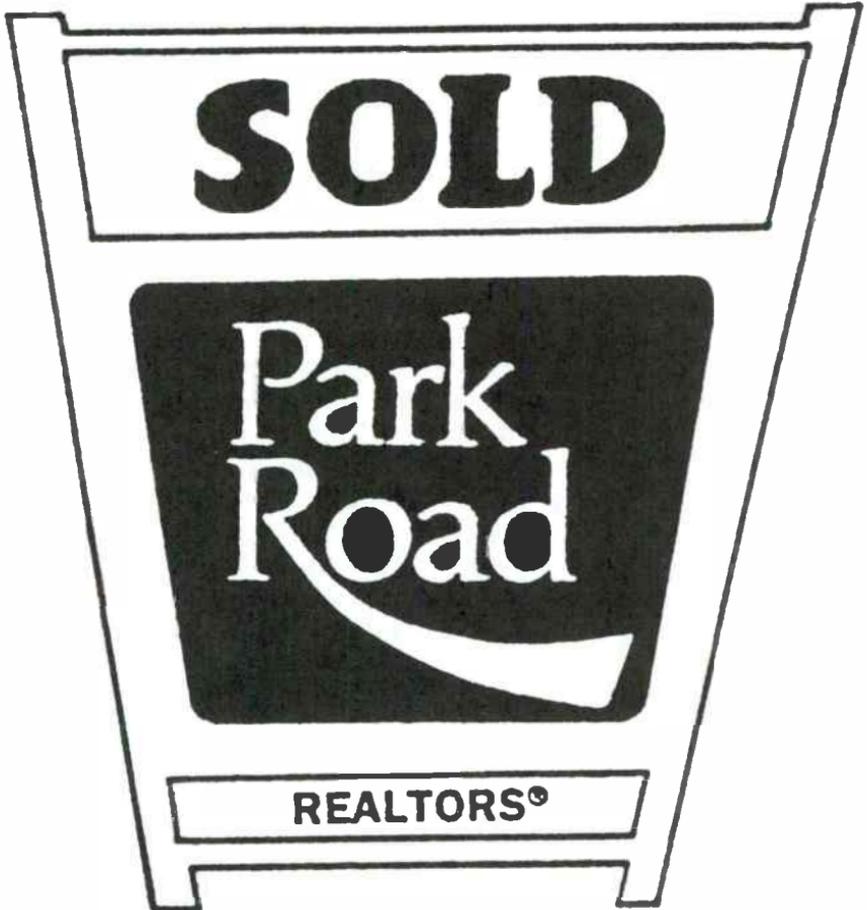
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# 1995 FEEDBACK JOURNAL

## READING'S BACKYARD BOULEVARDS—FROM FRONT TO HEINE

Only the oldest-guard Readingites can quickly name more than a dozen or so of the alleys that cross city streets from Front to Heine.

And, there *might* be a veteran cab driver or map-happy cop out there who could take you from Paul to Gerry.

Streets—Reading has almost 180 miles of streets, and dozens of names for them.

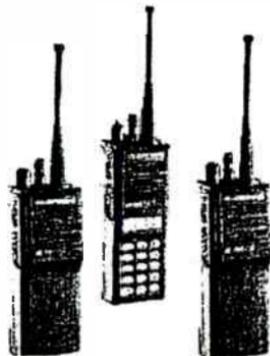
And, although the blacktopped, curbed and traveled thoroughfares generally are marked and known by most people in the city, there are many miles of often unpaved and unheralded passages: Alleys.

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Among the hundreds of street, avenue and alley names listed in a master file in the city Real Estate Registry Office in City Hall are real gems of alley names (including Gem Alley). Some denote insignificant yard separators that even those living adjacent to may not know have a name.

Most unusual in the voluminous files is an alley simply called the Famous Cow Path, which runs between properties at 230 and 232 N. Fifth St. It is a tiny, brick alley adjacent to the Medical Arts Building.

A section of Northwest Reading that was called "Hell Town" in the last century still has a Hell Town Lane running through it.

Some street names have come and gone. Callowhill and Prince, originally Fifth and Sixth, respectively, have resurfaced in recent historically-conscious years, but Westside Road is now and will forever be Museum Road.

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## 1995 FEEDBACK JOURNAL

Lilly Street is now Crestmont, and there was a general-for-general swap when Custer Street became Pershing Boulevard.

Daisy Street is now Hawthorne Street, and what is now St. Nicholas Street was once Catalpa Street. They once called Duryea Drive Pagoda Road, and Bruckman Avenue was once Belgrade Avenue.

Little Gordon Street used to be Buckeye Alley, and the state police wiped Gates Place off the map when they built their barracks over it.

Where there once was a Moss Street there is now a Hancock Street, and where there once was a Diamond Street there now is a Moss Street.

For serious alley cats, one alley on file carries an interesting description: "Summer Alley: From South Alley north to Winter Alley, south of Spring Street."



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Some of the lesser-known alleys, and some that no longer exist except in dusty City Hall records, include:

- Acorn: Between Washington and Jefferson Streets
- Almond: Also known as Ammon, between Front Street, River Road and Washington and Jefferson Streets
- Bee: Between Pine, Bingaman, Third and Carpenter Streets
- Beer: Between Ninth, 10th, Laurel and South Streets
- Billiard: Between Penn and Cherry Streets, at points (the official description)
- Buffalo... Also known as Buff Alley, between 12th, Locust, Walnut and Elm Streets
- Corn: Between Chestnut, Spruce, Third and Carpenter Streets
- Cut: Between Ninth, 10th, Laurel, and Cotton Streets
- Floyd: Between Park, Summit, Grace and Noble Streets

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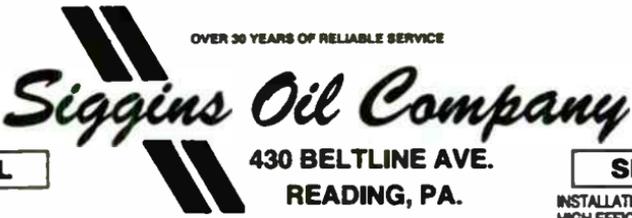
# 1995 FEEDBACK JOURNAL

- Gem: Between Pear, Sixth, Chestnut and Spruce Streets
- Join: Between Ninth, 10th, Laurel and Cotton Streets
- Lime: Between Ninth, 10th, Laurel and South Streets
- Nail: Between Eighth, Cedar, Walnut and Elm Streets
- Oliver: Between Maple, 11th, Chestnut and Spruce Streets
- Rainbow: Also known as Rambo Alley, between Cotton and South Streets near Chapel Terrace
- Sandstone: Between Chestnut, Spruce, Sixth and Minor Streets
- Stable: Between 11th, Wunder, Weimer and Chestnut Streets
- Wool: Between Orange, Laurel and 10th Streets



*FEEDBACK FACTOID: Rock group Jethro Tull was named for the man who invented the machine for sowing seeds.*

  
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# 1995 FEEDBACK JOURNAL TEST YOUR CULTURAL LITERACY

*(from The Dictionary of Cultural Literacy," 1993, Houghton Mifflin)*

1. Brillo box artist who once claimed that, in the future, "Everybody will be world-famous for 15 minutes."
2. Military technology designed to cloak aircraft from radar.
3. Teamster leader murdered in 1975 whose body has never been recovered.
4. The Spanish word for "village" that comes from the name of this Native American tribe.
5. Term used to describe the computer-generated simulation of visual space and tactile sensations.
6. Large ethnic group whose struggle for independent homeland has been brutally represented by the governments of the Middle-Eastern nations in which they live. They once represented a proxy army of the U.S. in its conflict with Iran.

*1. Andy Warhol; 2. Stealth; 3. Jimmy Hoffa; 4. The pueblo; 5. Virtual Reality; 6. The Kurds.*



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# 1995 FEEDBACK JOURNAL A "MAINE" ATTRACTION

What is the anchor of the battleship "Maine" doing at 11th and Washington Streets in Reading?

The anchor, long a favorite centerpiece of a plot of land in Penn's Common, is a little-heralded landmark, but its placement in Reading was a major event of its day.

It was through the efforts of Mayor Ira W. Stratton in 1914 that the anchor of the sunken vessel came to town.

Mayor Stratton heard about an anchor of the stricken ship that was retrieved from the hulk in the sandy bottom of Havana harbor. The artifact was being transported to Washington, D.C., with no apparent destiny.

The mayor wrote a letter to the Navy Department applying for the anchor as a memorial to the dim event in American history.

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Secretary of the Navy Josephus Daniels agreed to the proposition and also agreed to speak at the dedication ceremonies of the planned memorial.

The date set aside for the event was July 31, 1914. The world was in military turmoil.

Secretary Daniels sent his regards to the people of Reading but was forced to remain in Washington to weather the storms overseas.

A young assistant secretary of the Navy was assigned to take Daniels' place at the City Park dedication.

Reading residents were disappointed, but would welcome the replacement speaker graciously.

Not much was known about the assistant secretary—he was an honor graduate of Groton Academy and Harvard University, and served a distinguished term as state senator in New York. But, he was virtually unknown in Reading at the

### *WHERE DOES BERKS COUNTY GO FOR CELLULAR PHONES & ACCESSORIES?*



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time.

When the train carrying the surrogate dignitary arrived at the Pennsylvania Station at the foot of Penn Street, it was greeted by Acting Mayor George Eisenbrown and Congressman John H. Rothermel.

The motorcade moved up Penn Street to the most luxurious hotel in town at the time, the Mansion House (where McDonald's is now).

After a luncheon there (the Mansion House, not McDonald's!), the group traveled to the giant anchor memorial site and the prominent young speaker told and impressive and impressed crowd of the salvage of the anchor from Havana harbor in 1912 and its ensuing journey to Reading via Norfolk and Washington.

The crowd was polite, but some were understandably disappointed that an *assistant* secretary, and not the secretary

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# 1995 FEEDBACK JOURNAL

himself, presented the speech.

Years later, however, those who may have been nonplused by the speaker may have had second thoughts.

That young, relatively unknown speaker who dedicated the anchor of the Maine in Penn's Common would move up the ranks of public service, all the way to the highest office in the land.

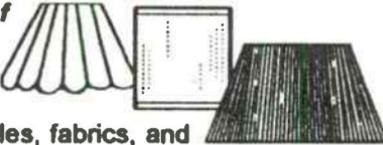
That young man was Franklin Delano Roosevelt.



*FEEDBACK FACTOIDS: Walking up two flights of stairs every day can burn off as much as six pounds worth of calories in a year....A Columbia, Maryland, HMO gives five dollar vouchers to patients who are subjected to waiting room delays of 20 minutes or more. It can go toward the visit fee, purchase of drugs, or eyeglasses....The rock group "Bread" got its name while its members were stuck in a traffic jam behind a Wonder Bread truck. They had formerly been known as "Pleasure Faire."*

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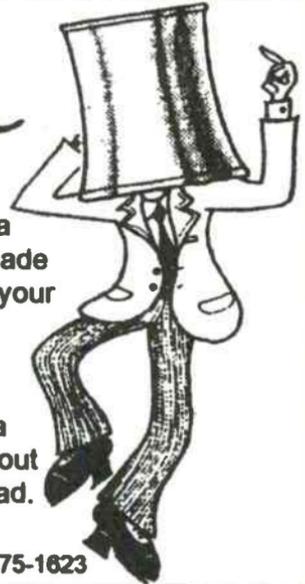
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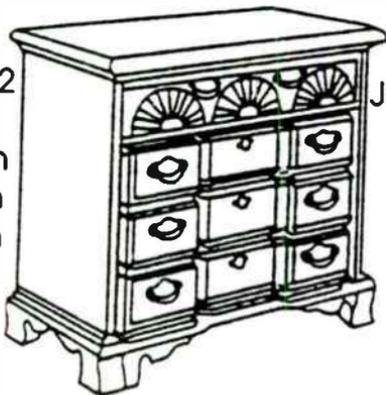


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## SNIFF, SNIFF...AAAA-CHOO!

*An Introduction to Allergic Diseases*

*From the National Allergy Bureau*

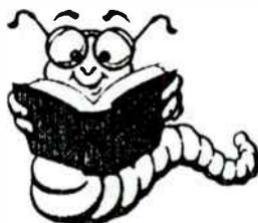
Baron Clemens Freiherr von Pirquet was the originator of the term "allergy," first using the word in 1906. At that time, it referred to any "altered reaction" within the immune system, either helpful or harmful to the body. Today, allergy is defined as a "harmful, increased susceptibility to a specific substance," also known as hypersensitivity, while immunity is characterized as a "protective, enhanced resistance."

### *Antigens and Antibodies*

Antigens are substances that stimulate immune reactions, since the immune system reacts as a defense mechanism against foreign materials. It operates through the action of cells, called cell-mediated immunity, and through proteins in

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the blood known as antibodies, which is defined as humoral immunity.

In cell-mediated immunity, white blood cells processed by the thymus are involved and attack the antigen directly. These T-lymphocytes, or T cells, also produce chemical mediators that play a role in activating other parts of the immune system.

The antibodies belong to the immunoglobulin family of proteins and are designated into five major types: Immunoglobulin A, D, G, M, and E. IgA antibodies are found in saliva and tears and serve to protect the respiratory and gastrointestinal systems. The role of IgD is uncertain. IgG, often called the "blocking antibody" protects normal people from an allergy attack and also is responsible for protecting newborns during the first months of life. Both IgG and IgM activate the complement system, a group of blood enzymes.



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But it is the IgE antibody, discovered by Kimishige and Teruko Ishizaka in 1966 at the Children's Asthma Research Institute in Denver, that is responsible for the majority of allergic reactions. Researchers have also found that allergy sufferers have 10 times as much IgE in their blood compared with those persons unaffected by allergies.

## *An Allergic Reaction*

An antigen producing an allergic reaction is defined as an allergen. Allergens cause the immune system, specifically white blood cells, to produce IgE antibodies that attach themselves to mast cells or basophils. Mast cells are usually found in the respiratory and gastrointestinal tracts and the skin; the basophils are found in the blood. As many as 500,000 of these Y-shaped IgE molecules may collect on a single cell.

When the allergen and the IgE antibody combine by

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bridging the area between IgE molecules, these cells release potent chemicals such as histamine, which produce many of the familiar allergic symptoms such as runny eyes and nose, itching and sneezing. The cell membranes of the mast cells and nearby tissue cells give off arachidonic acid which interacts with enzymes and produces additional chemicals called prostaglandins and leukotrienes. The leukotrienes have been identified by researchers as substances 5,000 to 10,000 times more powerful than histamine in causing inflammation and airway obstruction.

## *Types of Allergic Disease*

These allergic reactions can result in hay fever, with the usual accompanying respiratory discomfort caused by inhaling allergens in the form of weed, tree and grass pollen, molds, house dust and animal dander.

Asthma, a far more serious disease, results in wheezing

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and shortness of breath and is due to a narrowing of the bronchial tubes. Asthma is caused by a sensitivity to certain allergens like pollens, molds, and house dust, and may be irritated or aggravated by respiratory tract infections. Emotional stress can also trigger attacks. However, stress is really only a secondary factor of a disease that is primarily allergic in nature.

Another disease affecting the lungs is called hypersensitivity pneumonitis and the symptoms include fever, wheezing, chills and shortness of breath. The condition is caused by exposure to various organic dusts, such as bird droppings, contaminated grain and feathers.

Skin allergies include eczema, or atopic dermatitis, which is marked by itchy rashes and weeping blisters; hives or urticaria involving swelling, redness and itching; and contact dermatitis which produces rashes and itching after touching

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poison ivy or certain foods. Hives can also be brought on by changes in temperature. When hives are accompanied by swelling (angioedema) of the eyelids, tongue, mouth, hands or feet, difficulty in breathing or swallowing can occur.

Allergies to certain foods, most notably fish, eggs, milk, nuts and wheat, induce intestinal disturbances and occur frequently in children, who often outgrow it after age three.

Anaphylactic shock is the most severe of all allergic reactions, causing swelling of body tissues (including the throat), vomiting, cramps, and a sudden drop in blood pressure. Epinephrine or adrenalin is usually administered as a first step in counteracting these symptoms. Anaphylaxis often occurs in persons particularly sensitive to penicillin, stinging insects and shellfish or nuts.

### *Treating the Problem*

Treatment may include complete avoidance of the

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allergen, skin tests (to determine the exact source of the allergy) and allergy shots known as immunotherapy. In this method, begun in 1911, extracts of the offending allergen are given to the individual in gradually increasing doses. Thus, the patient is allowed to build an immunity through an increased production of the protective (IgG) antibody to combat the allergic (IgE) antibody.

More than 35 million Americans suffer from seasonal allergic rhinitis. Ragweed is one of the major causes of allergic rhinitis during the fall season in North America.

The National Allergy Bureau has set up a toll-free line which provides information on the ragweed pollen and mold levels in Pennsylvania.

That number, correct at *Feedback Journal* press time, is 1-800-9-POLLEN.



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## PREVENT BARBECUE BELLYACHES

Summer is the season for swimming, baseball, barbecues and other fun. But, it's also the season for food-borne disease.

"Most food-borne bacterial illnesses occur between April and November, with a peak incidence in July," says Dr. Stephen Knabel, assistant professor of food sciences at Penn State's College of Agriculture Sciences.

Warm temperatures and moist air create an ideal breeding ground for food-borne pathogens such as salmonella and campylobacter. The closer bacteria are to body temperature, the faster they multiply.

"Warm weather also makes it easier for foods to enter the

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temperature danger zone between 40 and 140 degrees F, when bacteria can multiply to dangerous levels in a matter of hours," Knabel says.

Does this mean a barbecue, picnic or family gathering is an invitation to disaster? Not at all, Knabel says. "Food borne illness is easily prevented, but it's up to you," he says. "If you prepare, store and handle food properly during the summer, you'll avoid problems."

Improper food storage is a common source of illness. "Use plenty of ice if you're going on a picnic this summer," Knabel says. "Keep meat and other foods in sealed containers and cover them with ice until you are ready to eat or cook them."

Cooling large containers of food also gives pathogens a chance to grow, since large amounts of food cool more slowly. "To cool warm food rapidly, divide it into smaller

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batches and place them in flat, shallow containers, which go immediately into the refrigerator," Knabel says. "Never cool foods on the counter top."

Bacteria may reach dangerous levels if foods aren't thoroughly cooked. "Cook foods to the proper temperature to kill harmful microorganisms that might be present," Knabel says. "Treat raw meat, fish and poultry as though they are contaminated, even though they may not be."

Cook raw poultry and meats until their centers are no longer pink and the juices run clear. "Always cut into the center of the meat to make sure it is done," Knabel says. "Use a thermometer to make sure the temperature inside large items, such as whole chickens or turkeys, reaches at least 165 degrees F."

Hamburger is particularly risky for carrying a strain of bacteria known as E. coli 0157:H7. "In 1993, three children



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died and more than 400 people became ill after eating undercooked ground beef contaminated with this bacteria, so make sure your hamburgers are completely cooked," Knabel says.

Finally, do not cross-contaminate foods. "When handling raw meat, keep juices from dripping on other foods and food containers," Knabel says. It's smart to shape burgers ahead of time rather than handling raw ground beef at the picnic or barbecue site. Be sure to wash your hands thoroughly with soap and hot water after handling raw meat or after using the bathroom."

To avoid spreading pathogens from one food to another, always use clean utensils and plates. Never place cooked meat or any other foods on the same plate with raw meat. Wash containers or utensils used to prepare raw meat before using them again.

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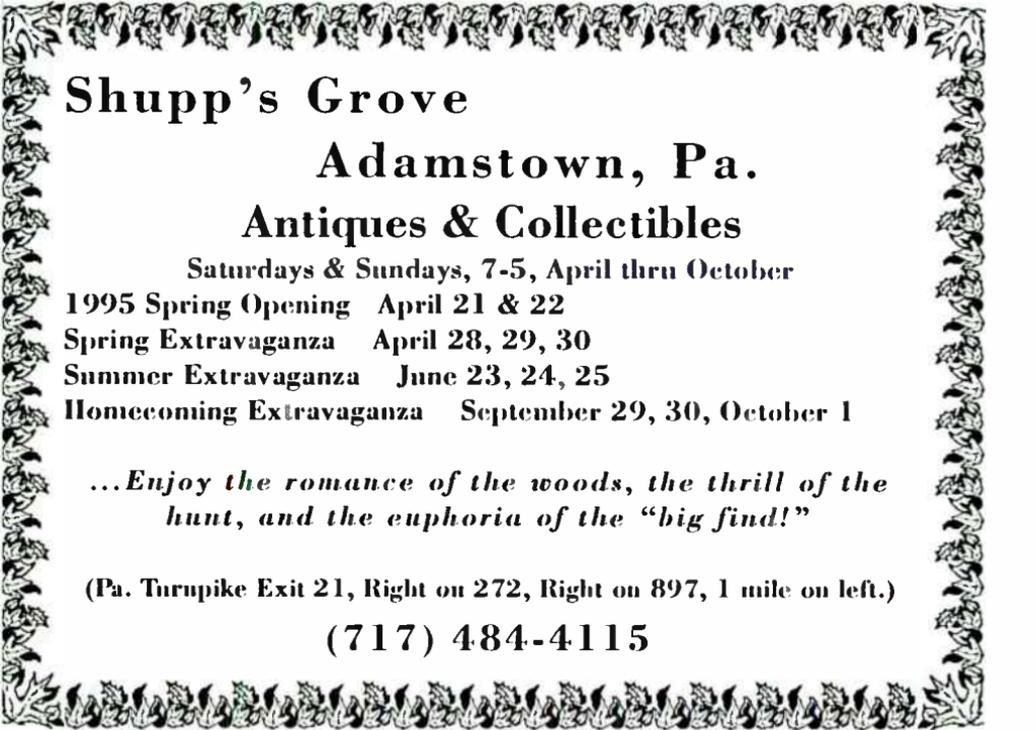
# 1995 FEEDBACK JOURNAL

Food borne illness symptoms include stomach pain, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, headaches and fever. In healthy adults, symptoms usually last only a day or two. But infants, young children, the elderly, pregnant women and people with impaired immune systems can develop life-threatening complications.



*FEEDBACK FACTOID: The first patent for facsimile transmission was granted to an English clock maker, Alexander Bain, in France—in 1843.*

*The first commercial system was established in France—in 1865. Newspapers transmitted photographs in the early years, and then ships, trains, airlines and the military sent weather maps, schedules, etc. In the 1930s, newspapers developed a scheme to distribute news over fax. It failed, but in the 1950s, Western Union used the system, but only in its main offices. Finally, in 1966, Xerox offered the first general purpose business fax —“Telecopier I.” It stalled, because it was too expensive and each page required at least six minutes to send and receive.*



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# 1995 FEEDBACK JOURNAL THE MOST DEVASTATING WEATHER-RELATED DISASTER IN BERKS COUNTY HISTORY

*by Charles J. Adams III*

When it comes to potential devastation and death-dealing weather phenomena, there are no more fearsome words than hurricane and tornado.

But, on Wednesday, January 9, 1889, Berks County—and indeed a great swath of Pennsylvania—was visited by what was then termed a cyclone.

There had never been, and likely has never been since, such a single incident of nature's fury in the history of Reading.

There was every indication that the ghastly storm was on its way.

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Federal Signal Service officers had been tracing a major disturbance which brewed in the skies of Texas on Monday. Fierce winds and driving rains continued north through Arkansas and turned eastward at Chicago. Devastation was left in the wake of its two day course.

A bridge at Niagara Falls had tumbled into the river. Factories and residences in several cities were scrambled by the wind.

Just after noon Wednesday morning, raging winds and hail bombed the buildings and pelted the pedestrians of Pittsburgh. A seven-story building under construction at Diamond and Wood Streets was wrecked. Its bricks, girders and wet mortar tumbled onto surrounding structures. Scores were trapped in the rubble. Boats on the rivers were swept away in the 50 miles an hour winds.

The barometric pressure at Pittsburgh plunged to the

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lowest point ever recorded.

With a vengeance, the storm barreled eastward. Altoona, Carlisle, Harrisburg, Lebanon—each city and others suffered incalculable damage.

The York market house was wrecked. Factories and hotels in Williamsport were reduced to rubble. In the capital, the winds were estimated at 75 miles per hour, and only estimated because they annihilated the anemometer cups on the state Weather Observatory.

But, it was Reading which would suffer most.

As telegrams were received in Reading, officials did what they could to brace for the worst and warn an unsuspecting public.

The afternoon grew increasingly ominous. From the west, the storm bounded across the foothills and into the Schuylkill Valley.

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At about 5:15 p.m., the worse fears of those who had been charting the path of the storm were realized.

The storm roared across the river and took its first toll at the Pennsylvania and Reading Company paint shops near Oley Street. Several men painting passenger rail cars scrambled to cover and watched helplessly as their workplace was wrecked and their comrades were burned to death.

A newspaper article detailed the holocaust: "Their companions were enveloped in the embrace of the flames. Their cries were heard for a moment by the terrified workmen, and then their voices were hushed forever. They were quickly roasted to death, and the fire from the nine passenger cars lit up the heavens for miles around."

The tanks of those cars in the shop at the time had recently been filled with benzine. The force of the winds caused each to explode with a deafening fury. Residents throughout



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Reading scurried to their porches as the blasts rocked the streets. Many feared an earthquake had struck. Rockets of red flames shooting into the clouds of dusk told them something even more unthinkable had happened.

Eyewitnesses said the cyclone swirled savagely in a path about 100 yards wide and made its way toward North 9th Street.

Roofs spun into the darkening sky. Bricks, shutters, and anything in the twister's way were swept into its spin of death.

The roof of the newly-constructed St. Joseph Catholic church on N. 8th Street lost its roof, and neighbors feared the entire sanctuary would be blown to bits.

Then, as a hawk bears down on its vulnerable prey, the cyclone blasted into the walls and windows of the Reading Silk Mill at 12th and Marion Streets.

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No place in the city would have been a worse place for such a storm to hit.

A full shift of workers, more than 200 in number, were at their machines. Paint, gasoline and naphtha were stashed in unprotected storehouses.

The cyclone dashed its destruction through low residential neighborhoods and slammed broadside into the Silk Mill with an inestimable force.

The 14-inch thick brick walls shattered. Windows were blown to sandy shards. Timbers and beams were cast about like toothpicks.

In the space of perhaps two minutes, the main part of the building became a crater of death and horror. Only the engine room, tower and tall smokestack of the structure were left standing.

As those few who survived the initial wrath of the storm

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peered through the dust and destruction, they were jolted by an explosion which could be heard and felt in most parts of the city.

What was left of the mill was almost instantly engulfed in a fuel-fed fire.

The winter sky was blood red as rain pounded the scene of terror. Fire alarms sounded throughout Reading and volunteer emergency crews sped to the mill after their assignment at the paint shop. The steady rain helped them drench the flames quickly.

The first to arrive recoiled at the sight. Bodies were strewn between looms and spools. Faint and pathetic cries and moans could be discerned beyond the sound of raging rain and the smoldering blaze.

It was, according to a contemporary report, "a chorus of woe and agony that never before was heard in this city by

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anyone.”

Shrieks of emotion—the wailing of joy and despair—accompanied the throngs of neighbors who rushed to the wreckage.

By 7 p.m., some 5,000 people ringed what was left of the mill. Bonfires illuminated the grim scene as fire fighters trimmed the ruins to prevent any further collapsing of walls.

As they labored, others plunged into the piles to seek out the dead, the dying, and any who had miraculously survived.

Every doctor, every ambulance, and every fire or police service employee was summoned.

One by one, the bloody bodies of the victims were extricated. Corpses of workers, many just in their teens, were placed on the perimeter of the mill.

The desolation was delicate. Any untoward moves on the part of those who entered to rescue survivors or remove



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victims might cause even more havoc.

By midnight, the bodies of three males and 11 females were taken away and identified. Another 80 individuals were presumed dead in the deep ruins of what had been a sturdy, three-story building.

But, it was still dark—dismally dark. What morning would bring could never have been estimated by anyone.

Dawn broke on a devastated city. It was discovered that rowhomes around the mill had sustained severe damage. Most of those in the 1100 block of Marion Street and the 1400 block of North 11th were ravaged.

The 900 block of Windsor Street sustained major damage, and shade trees were ripped from their roots along 8th and 9th streets.

The Mount Penn Stove Works at 3rd and Greenwich Streets and the J.H. Sternbergh & Son nut and bolt plant were

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# 1995 FEEDBACK JOURNAL

nearly ruined. Luckily, the thick of the storm cut through a mostly industrial section of the city.

Railroad cars were scattered across the tracks of the yard in the center of town and the incinerated bodies of five men were removed from the railroad paint shop.

Crowds continued to build around the ruined silk mill. The Reading Artillerists were summoned by Mayor James Kenney to help keep order, as fire and police leaders organized battalions of relief workers.

"Occasionally the crowd was ordered to keep quiet, and then the rescuers would listen, and the moans of the injured could be heard sometimes close to the surface and then deep down in the debris," a reporter noted.

Tales of horror and heroism emerged throughout the morning.

Little Sadie Shade, critically injured and pinned under a

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heavy girder, watched in pain as her friend Annie Daver was pulled safely from her less precarious position.

"Good bye, Annie," moaned Sadie. She managed a slight smile as her friend found salvation.

They were Sadie's last words.

The mangled body of a 13-year old girl was found in a thick pile of timbers of the silk mill. Clasped in a death grip in her right hand were her scissors.

Rescue worker John Dengler had already helped remove a half-dozen individuals from the ruins and was turning away to take a break from his labors. At once, he heard a faint moan.

He scanned the wreckage and pinpointed the sad plea. He lifted two giant beams and found his own daughter beneath them.

"Papa!," she squealed in a dying gasp. Dengler gingerly

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lifted his beloved and held her in his arms—in which she died.

As the morning hours waned, the sun continued to aid the clean-up effort.

The brilliant day also brought out more gawkers and ghouls. An estimated 15,000 spectators looked on at mid-day.

The mill, built recently by the city and leased to the Grimshaw Brothers of Paterson, N.J., was at peak production. In it was an estimated \$14,000 in premium silk. As emergency crews had worked in the dead of night, so did thieves who worked their way into the ruins and carried away most of the precious fabric.

Gradually, black crepe ribbons were draped to porches of houses in which the dead once lived.

In the court house, city and county officials pledged funds and material support for the rescue and recovery.

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The Ringgold Band instantly announced it would stage a benefit concert at the Grand Opera House. The manager of the opera house volunteered the site. Throughout the city, clubs, churches and merchants set up relief funds. School children were asked to contribute, and did.

Major General David McM. Gregg, a Civil War hero, took charge of the relief effort. Within a week, nearly \$9,400 was collected.

Of course, there was profit to be made from the tragedy.

The New York Photographic Gallery sold a packet of photographs of the eerie ruins of the mill, and a broadside epic poem was composed and sold by an enterprising writer.

If there was any good news in the aftermath of the tragedy, it was that the initial estimate of fatalities was bloated.

By Friday, January 11, every worker in the mill was accounted for. Seventeen died in the mill, five in the paint

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## 1995 FEEDBACK JOURNAL

shop, and more than 100 were injured in the two locations.

A grief-stricken Mayor Kenney appealed for all in the city to rally around their losses.

“The fearful cyclone that struck this city has brought sorrow and want to many of our people, who are in such circumstances as to be unable to meet the emergency, and the occasion calls loudly for immediate action,” his proclamation read.

“Quick to respond to others in distress, let us not fail to do speedy justice to our own grief-stricken people.”

The building was rebuilt shortly after the disaster, and continued to serve as a mill for many decades.

After several years of neglect, the old silk mill was placed on the National Register of Historic Places and converted to a 40-unit apartment complex in 1986.

*Charlie Adams is the morning personality of WEEU and the author of several books about ghosts, legends, and folklore.*

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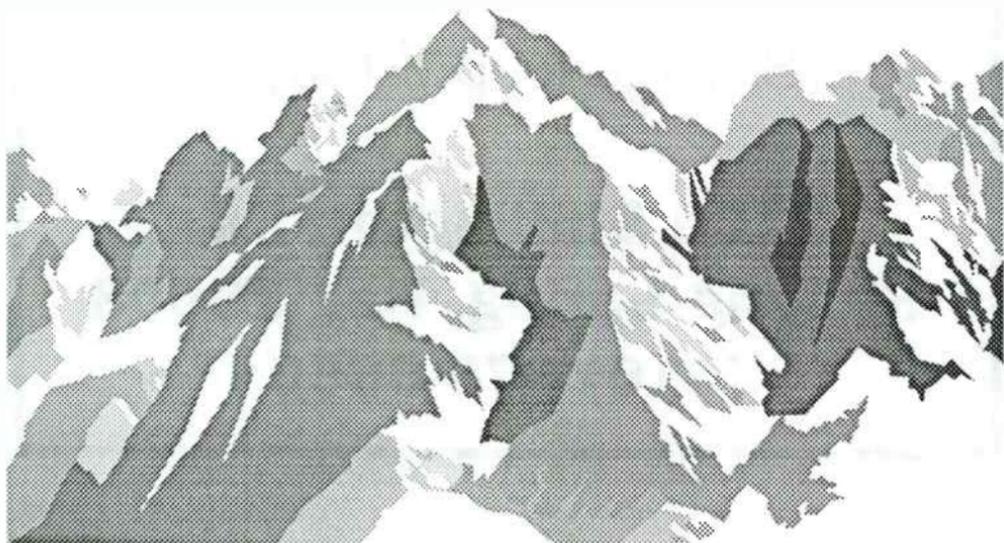
**Stories from my...**

# **MOUNTAIN JOURNAL**

## **LIVING THE MOUNTAIN TRILOGY IN AUSTRIA**

**by "East Side" Dave Kline**

**T**hirty-two like-minded adventurers headed to Austria in search of good times, good snow, and even better food and brew. In Innsbruck and the surrounding lands of Italy, Switzerland, and Bavaria we found it all! Each March, toward the "end" of the skiing season in the northern hemisphere, we invite people to come along on an exciting adventure of discovery and friendship in one of Nature's alpine playgrounds somewhere in the world...



A unique point of Innsbruck is its very centralized location between prime alpine environments and splendid as well as historic cities. So, no matter how much of a diehard skier you think you are, when you travel to Innsbruck, be certain to leave some time for good old-fashioned sightseeing! Twice host to winter Olym-

pic games, Innsbruck exudes the charm and congeniality one would expect from an old-world town in Europe. For centuries this quaint town has lured travelers from all over Europe. In the "old" part of the city there are inns and taverns well over four hundred years old.

On the first day after arriving and settling into the ho-



- Dave Kline Photo

Above: This young lady enjoys a very "European" approach to skiing. The summit of any ski resort always offers sun, food & fun!

tel, I explored the cobblestone streets in the "old" part of Innsbruck. On that afternoon the sun was shining brightly and from almost any street you could look through the town and beyond toward the towering and snow-capped peaks of the Austrian Alps. Here in the heart of the Tyrol time, it seemed, had stood still.

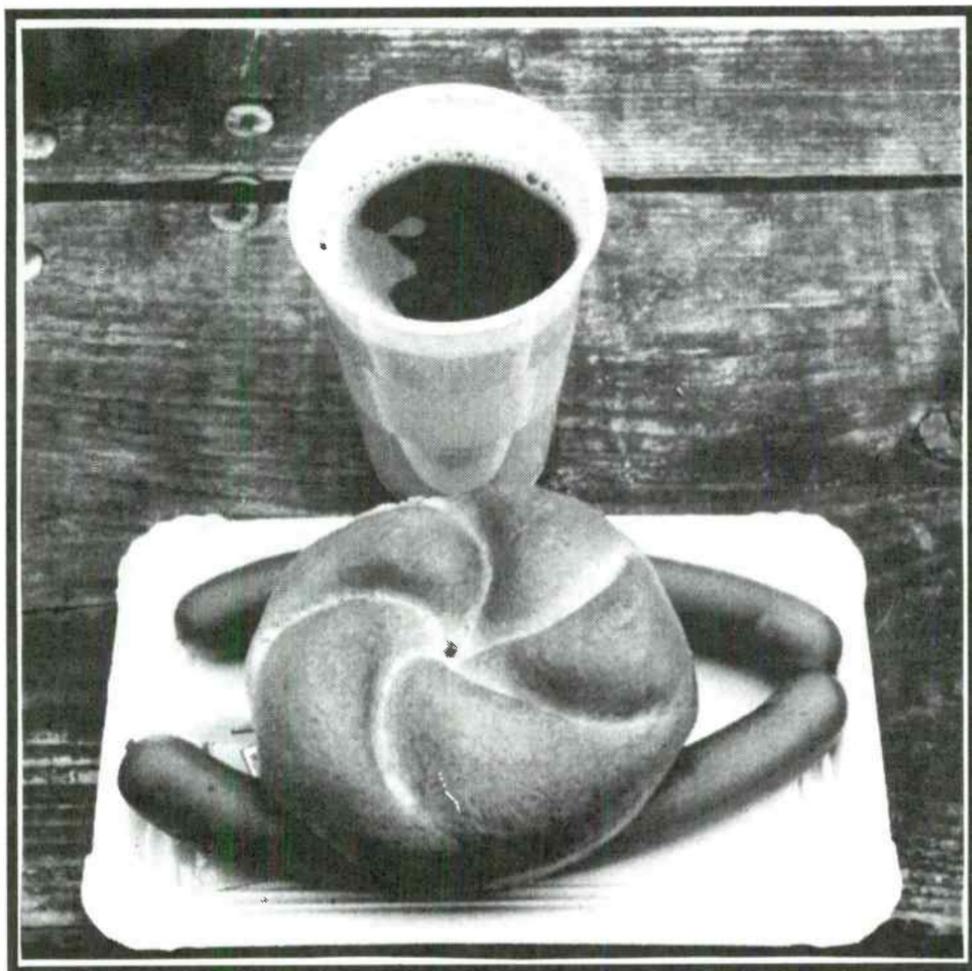
I selected a particularly rustic looking tavern and sat myself down on the outside patio. The waiter quickly accommodated me with a bowl of homemade goulash-suppe and a tall Weiss Beer. As I sipped in the aroma and body of the soup, delighted in the taste of the fresh beer, marveled at the view presented by the mountains and basked in the glory of the afternoon sun, I wondered, as I often do, what it must be like to have been born and raised in such an idyllic setting. It really doesn't take much imagination to understand why the people of the Tyrolean Alps are immersed in the nature of things in their immediate environment, their own personal Eden. The best understanding of the traditional

culture found here is embodied in the simple statement of trilogy that all who are in touch with the spirit of the mountains believe in; "*Natur-Mensch-Glaube*". In English it means; Nature-Man-Religion...that perfect balance and harmony achieved when an effort is made to be one with the environment, at peace with your fellow man and in touch with the spiritual renewal of the cosmos.

I personally believe that there is a thread of sustenance and of eternal bliss that can be transmitted through the generations by the perpetuation of these traditions and the ongoing practice of this trilogy. Thoughts like these can fill the mind of an adventurer when the "self" is allowed to relax and truly engage in a meaningful comprehension of all that surrounds you. You may ask, "*How can this be? How can this seemingly child-like doctrine add to or perpetuate the enrichment of the human experience through the generations?*" And I would answer simply that it does. In ways that are both easy to understand, (if you stop to think

about it for a moment), and in ways that are, perhaps, singularly uneventful, but cumulatively auspicious. The easiest of these to relate within the confines of this story, (without the benefit of having your personal company and conversation over fresh beverage and food in the mountains), is to tell the Mozart story. I've

already told you that my first late afternoon indulgence transpired in the old city part of Innsbruck. Now you need to also know that the tavern and inn I enjoyed myself at was the "Haus Seiler", or the Seiler House of Innsbruck. Established in 1450, (before Columbus sailed to the "new world"), this residence and business



- Dave Kline Photo

Above: A cup of hot spiced wine and a plate of weiners makes a dandy lunch while enjoying the Austrian Alps.

has been serving travelers and adventurers through the centuries. The view I was inspired by also inspired countless poets, dreamers, and average souls as well. Most notable of these to me, (being a musician myself), was none other than Wolfgang Amadeas Mozart. Mozart was a frequent guest at the Haus Seiler and rou-

tinely visited, slept, ate, drank, laughed, contemplated and no doubt was inspired by this region of Austria and the Tyrolean Alps. But imagine...by the time Mozart began hanging out here, the place was already hundreds of years old! Mozart was, of course, a genius. And that genius manifested itself here on



- Dave Kline Photo

Above: Part of the fun of a group ski trip is skiing with the gang. In this group photo, we were about to enjoy a day of clear blue skies and fresh white powder snow!

earth in a way that all mortals, as long as time and memory serve, will enjoy and be inspired by due to the product of his mind and the inspiration he drew from his surroundings.

Remember the trilogy. The rugged beauty of the mountains can indeed touch the lives of those who may never be among them or even set eyes upon them. I finish my beer, soak up the last of the gravy from my soup bowl with a freshly torn piece of home-made bread, look at the mountains once more and retire to my room filled with anticipation for tomorrow's re-communion with the Alps.

The morning air is cold and heavily laden with moisture and flurries. During the night the clouds have descended down the mountains so that only the very base of them is visible. This can only mean one thing...fresh powder on the peaks! Part of our group opts to take one of the excellent side excursions with the well-organized Tiroler Landesreiseburo, an Austrian guide agency. They venture forth and enjoy a day of skiing in Switzerland.

I lead another group to the Axamer Lizum, the Austrian area which twice hosted the Winter Olympic Games. I want to be sure and ski this region while the weather is still hospitable. Reports call for snow all week long. In fact, our guides later tell us that we have arrived during the best snow conditions in years!

Our first ascent is to the summit of the Hoadl Peak. At 2,343 meters above sea level the view is inspiring. In typical alpine fashion a wooden cross has been erected at the summit. It was from here that the women's downhill in 1976 began. And from here our first ski tracks in Austria are carved. We follow the Osthang trail for a few hundred meters until we come to the proverbial crossroads. The choice is to ski the trail which is groomed, smooth, and about intermediate in degree of pitch, or to drop off of a lip at the edge of the trail, into a tight, steep ravine, pick up speed on the headwall of the ravine, tuck, hit the bottom at full speed, and rocket up the far headwall onto a steep pla-

teau. The view from this vantage point is awesome. Below we watch one of our group, Kaz, ski on the well-groomed trail. Between us and him is a huge hump that arcs down the entire side of a ridge. Nothing here is groomed. In fact, the snow is crusty and hard here due to the early morning temperatures. A jump turn is the appropriate way to engage the fall-line. Down we go, yodeling, yelling, and having a blast all the way! Finally we come back to the piste and continue on with a marvelous day of skiing, not to mention dining, and sipping a hearty end of the day schnapps.

That night we enjoy brew and food in the old section of Innsbruck. Stories are flung back and forth throughout the evening and the revelry builds to a pitch as we anticipate tomorrow's visit to the Pitztal Glacier.

At 3,440 meters above sea level, the highest skiable peak at Pitztal Glacier is Hinterer Brunnenkogel. Here the gondolas rise above sheer walls of blue ice. The ice walls are packed into twisted structures rising hundreds of feet into the air in some places, the product of centu-

ries of snow accumulation. It was in a nearby glacier like this that the now-famous "ice man" was found just a few years back. Apparently this ancient man was caught in a storm or fell into a crevasse and has been preserved in a deep-freeze for centuries! A major archaeological find, the "ice man" is actually now stored in a university in Innsbruck. He will provide insight and controversy to mankind for generations to come.

Back in the present, we decide not to become the next installment in the "ice man" saga. The weather on the glacier is temperamental. Clouds roll in and out quickly, visibility often decreases to a white-out as snow squalls blind even the most experienced among us. Still, we find an off-trail ridge and spend a good portion of the day skiing down steep walls of packed snow, in between sections of blue glacial ice. It is fantastic! There is one ridge that had to be hiked to. Upon reaching the apex you put on your skis, jumped into a narrow chute and hoped that your skill

and luck would carry you safely down to the main trail hundreds of yards below. Once you commit to a move like this, there is no turning back. It is a challenge that is hard to appreciate unless you've been faced with it. While all of this makes for exciting adventure, there are also plenty of groomed intermediate and easy trails

carved out of the Pitztal Glacier.

If you journey to Innsbruck and are offered the option to ski a glacier, do it! Many times less experienced skiers avoid the glacier trips because they fear that all available skiing is on blue ice only. This couldn't be further from the truth. In Europe, there is



- Dave Hawkins Photo

Above: Your author kicks up a rooster tail of powder snow on the slopes at Tulfes.

almost always an easy, groomed way down from even the highest lift-served peaks.

That night our group dances heart and soul in an uptown Innsbruck disco. The entire atmosphere is charged with energy. All manner of dress, dance, and music are whirling around in a haze of smoke and Euro-

chic sensory regalia. We party until about two in the morning.

The alarm jolts me awake and I prepare to travel with a local guide and several from our group who want to experience the Austrian/Tyrolean Alps cross country ski experience. Others in our group take advantage of another



- Dave Kline Photo

Above: Two of our group enjoy a day of cross country skiing in the environs of Pertisau.

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tour opportunity and set out for Venice, Italy. As we gather near the little ski van our local guide asks us in broken English where we want to go. I tell him to take us to the best cross country skiing in the region, wherever that is, it is his decision. He seems to like the fact that we will rely on his knowledge and off we go up

into the Tyrolean Alps. Along the way the guide tells us that he has once visited the United States. "Really", we reply, "where?" His answer comes in a few words and a big grin, "Mustang Ranch, Las Vegas!" We laugh but do not pursue the topic any further. After an hour or so of spectacular scenery we arrive at



- Dave Kline Photo

Above: Entertainers perform traditional Bavarian & Tyrolean folk music and dances.

Pertisau, an Austrian town tucked in at the base of Schaufelspitze, Tristkogel, Sonnjoch and Falzthurnalm Peaks. The town is also situated on the shores of the largest lake in Austria, the Achensee. Like a work of art, the peaks arc away from the lake and rise up into the clouds. This is a true Alpine Fairy World. Here has been developed miles of x-cntry trails with ratings for every level of physical fitness. It has been snowing here all night long, the snow is at least three to four feet deep in most places off of the trails but on the trails the grooming is meticulous, the skiing is fantastic.

On the way we suddenly hear a low rumble echoing down from the shrouded peaks just ahead. Within moments the roar identifies itself by bursting out of the cloud cover. It is an avalanche! Tons of snow fall down the walls of the mountain, it looks like a waterfall made of snow. We are not in harms way so we simply stop and watch. As the event subsides the after-sounds reverberate from the canyon ahead. Wow! Along

the way we will witness two such displays today!

We have set out upon the Falzthurntal Loipe, or loop. It is 9 kilometers to the point where we stop at a storybook-like chalet and order beverages to go with the cheeses and meats we have carried in our packs for this special luncheon. After lunch we set out back toward the main village and the lake.

While most people think of cross-country skiing as lots of work, it is, in fact, lots of fun! Even if you've never done it, you should try it. Several in our group on this day had never done it before and now most of them have since purchased cross country ski gear in anticipation of future sojourns.

I have finally reached leg burn out by the next morning, as have most of my fellow adventurers. Most of us opt for the "castle tour" to Bavaria on the next day. Here again the Tiroler Landesreiseburo did an excellent job in having the tour perfectly organized. We cross the border from Austria into Bavaria and enjoy a day of hiking to and from castles. We also vis-

ited Oberammergau which held a special memory for me.

It was here almost a decade ago that I successfully completed my first free-climb of a peak in the Alps. To this day I feel a certain satisfaction knowing that I have signed my name in the log book contained on the cross at the summit of one of

Oberammergau's majestic peaks. At the end of that day, so long ago, a friend and myself descended back into the town and spent the rest of the night in a local tavern. We sang and yodeled with the proprietor and were invited to eat scrumptious homemade food and drink Weiss Beer at the family table, an



- Dave Kline Photo

Above: Skiing on the slopes high above Innsbruck provides awesome views of the valley below and the Inn River.

onor indeed! On this day it is snowing and I am disappointed that I cannot view the peak because of cloud cover. Nevertheless, the disappointment is short lived as a stroll around town acquaints me with the skilled wood carvings and fresco-painted homes that this town is world-famous for.

Back in Innsbruck we again spend the remainder of this night and most of the next morning dancing and partying at the Queen Anne disco.

The delicious breakfast buffet at our hotel serves as the launching point for one final alpine ski extravaganza on the next day. After considerable consultation with local guides, I select the Tulfes alpine ski region. It is near Innsbruck and is a sort of "local" mountain system that rises out of the tiny town of Tulfes and is carved mostly on the flanks of the Glungezer and Schartenkogel peaks, about 2,678 meters above sea level. Here we found the classic and unspoiled alpine experience. Tulfes has a certain charm. Again it had snowed all night long and

the powder was dry and deep. The feeling of sailing through "champagne" powder cannot be equaled in any other sport. We made fresh tracks all over the mountain. It was not crowded and the upper runs gave several of us an opportunity to go off-piste, into the woods and down through a few miles of snow covered evergreens. We made it up as we went. There were plenty of challenges; stumps, fallen trees, ravines, streams, boulders, and upright trees everywhere. This was not glade skiing, this was "in the woods with the wolves skiing"!

After beating ourselves into reality during several descents through this wonderland, we returned back to the main trail system, a well-developed network offering something for everyone including a final descent to the town of Tulfes that stretches on for miles without getting boring. Down we went, over mountain roads, across farmer's fields, through people's back yards and finally back into Tulfes. In the evening we engage five Mercedes

Benz automobiles that take us screaming through the streets of Innsbruck to a huge entertainment hall where we relax and enjoy a traditional pageant of Austrian/Bavarian/Tyrolean folk culture. The beer is flowing freely and the entertainment is great.

During the final song, a tribute to multi-nationalism and the spirit of international friendship and communication, we are all moved. When it comes time to stand up and shout for the good old USA we do!

The afterglow of this moment is carried forward by us to our hotel where we participate in one of many room-parties. It is readily apparent that when you have good adventures, and good friends to share them with, life is absolutely on one of its highest summits. We had a great time in Innsbruck living the "*Mountain Trilogy*" and sharing the adventure of life, along with good times and friendship.

At the journey's conclusion I pause to reflect and again remind myself that life passes by all too quickly...even for the most

healthy and even with the blessing of longevity, our time to share here is but a snap of eternity's finger...If there is anything that you want to do, don't put it off...don't wait till next year...today is the day to live life to its fullest! Make the most of each day!

If you can move forward seeking a balance of the things of man, nature and religion, whether in the mountains or in your neighborhood, you will find your own peace and harmony in life and perhaps be an inspiration to others, as have been the people of the Tyrolean Alps to me.

**About the Author:** Dave Kline serves as WEEU's General Manager and engages in frequent trips abroad, generally for the pursuit of skiing and adventure. Throughout each winter, WEEU promotes the sport of skiing at various regional ski areas and hosts many ski trips and adventures. If you are interested in skiing in this region or in Europe, you can contact Dave at WEEU by calling 610-376-7335 during normal weekday work hours. Who knows, you may find yourself on the next exciting ski adventure in the mountains!

# 1995 FEEDBACK JOURNAL

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## ARTHRITIS CURES

*These two remedies were sent in or phoned in by Feedback listeners. Paul Harvey also mentioned the "gin" recipe. The responses from people who have called after trying them have varied. Try at your own risk.*

•

(1)

One cup apple cider vinegar  
Two cups purple grape juice  
Two cups pure apple juice  
*Mix and take two ounces a day.*

•

(2)

### *LOIS LOCHRKE'S UNUSUAL RECIPE FOR ARTHRITIC RELIEF*

Empty one box of Golden (light) Raisins into a large shallow container

Pour enough gin (the cheapest you can buy) to completely cover the raisins

Let stand uncovered until all liquid disappears (about seven days)

Then place raisins in a covered container (I use a Cool Whip carton) and eat just nine raisins a day.

If you don't like raisins, put them on your cereal or in a salad

*Why does this recipe bring such fantastic results? As far back as early Biblical times the people of India and Egypt discovered the healing properties of juniper berries. Gin is made from natural grains and berries. Even if you are on medication that advises against alcohol, you can eat nine raisins a day. Most of the alcohol has evaporated and the amount would be insignificant. That comes from my own physician. I, who can't stand the odor of alcoholic beverages am now telling everyone about gin-raisins. I'm firmly hooked on this "weird" remedy, and I thank my Lord daily for my new freedom of movement.*

# 1995 FEEDBACK JOURNAL

## "HOT DOG SAUCE"

One pound finely-ground beef

One-quarter cup fried onions

Garlic powder (if desired)

*Fry until brown.....*

*Cover with water....*

Add one tablespoon chili (or to taste)

One-half tablespoon curry powder

Mix and simmer for ten minutes...

*You may want to add cumin to the curry and chili*

## CONEY ISLAND HOT DOGS

One package of ten hot dogs (and ten buns)

One-half pound ground beef

One medium onion, chopped fine

One eight-ounce can of tomato sauce

One-teaspoon chili powder

One-half teaspoon Worcestershire sauce

*Cook beef and onion in skillet, stirring often until meat is browned...Add tomato sauce, seasonings and hot dogs.*

*Bring to a boil and simmer ten minutes and serve on buns with sauce.*

## WIENER SCHNITZEL

Purchase thinly-sliced veal (filets, not cutlets)...Some butchers specialize in this. Dip in egg and bread crumb. Deep fry in hot fat for a short length of time. Serve with half a lemon for each piece or two.

## GERMAN POTATO SALAD

Cook red potatoes in salt water approximately 20 minutes. Save one-half to one cup of water in which you cooked potatoes. Drain potatoes, peel and slice one-quarter inch thick while warm. In salad bowl, add saved water from above, one cup of oil, one-third to two-third cup vinegar to taste. Add one medium onion, diced. Chive for color. Salt and pepper to taste.



## JOURNAL RECIPE FILE

### RED CABBAGE

Onion

Red Cabbage

One-quarter cup vinegar

One-quarter cup water

Salt

Bay Leaf

Three cloves

Two apples

*Saute onion, shred red cabbage and saute with onion quickly. Add vinegar and water. Add salt, bay leaf, cloves. Shred apples, add and saute for one and one-half hours. Season with a little sugar and thicken with cornstarch, if necessary.*

### KIELBASA KABOBS

One and one-quarter cups salad oil

One and one-quarter cups lemon juice

One-third cup snipped parsley

One tablespoon each, marjoram and oregano

One and one-half pounds natural casing Polish sausage, cut in one-inch chunks

18 cherry tomatoes

18 fresh mushrooms

One small eggplant, cut in chunks

Two green peppers, cut in chunks

Three Polish dill pickles, cut in chunks

*In a large bowl, combine oil, lemon juice, parsley, marjoram and oregano. Add sausage and vegetables; let stand three hours at room temperature, stirring occasionally to coat evenly. Remove sausage and vegetables from marinade and thread onto skewers, alternating with dill pickle chunks. Grill over medium-hot coals or place under broiler for ten to twelve minutes, turning once.*

# 1995 FEEDBACK JOURNAL

## PEEK-A-BOO EGGS

*(Six servings)*

**Six slices enriched white bread**

**Six eggs**

**Salt**

**Pepper**

**Butter**

*Cut hole in middle of each bread slice with two-inch biscuit cutter. Fry each slice in one tablespoon butter until golden brown. Turn, melt more butter if desired for even color. Slip egg into center of hole. Salt and pepper to taste. Fry about three minutes, turn and fry two minutes or until egg is cooked on other side.*

## JACK HOLCOMB'S FAVORITE

## CHOCOLATE PEANUT BUTTER

## DESSERT

**Two tablespoons skim milk**

**Two tablespoons chunky peanut butter**

**One cup thawed whipped topping**

**Two cups cold skim milk**

**One package (4-serving size) Jello-O Chocolate Flavor**

**Sugar Free Instant Pudding and Pie Filling**

*Mix two tablespoons milk into peanut butter in large bowl. Gently stir in whipped topping.*

*Pour two cups milk into large bowl. Add pudding mix.*

*Beat with wire whisk one to two minutes until well blended.*

*Spoon whipped topping mixture and pudding alternately into parfait glasses. Refrigerate one hour.*

*Makes six servings.*



# 1995 FEEDBACK JOURNAL INDOOR BARBECUED CHICKEN

*by Jeanne M. Reeser*

*The following sauce is for three to five pounds of frying size chicken parts, cut up. For larger quantities, double or triple all ingredients except the water, just add a little more.*

- One-half cup sliced onions**
- One teaspoon salt**
- One tablespoon white vinegar**
- One tablespoon sugar (preferably brown)**
- One tablespoon Worcestershire sauce**
- One-half teaspoon chili powder**
- One-quarter teaspoon black pepper**
- One-half cup catsup**
- One-quarter cup water**

*Combine above ingredients in a saucepan and simmer for 15 minutes. Meanwhile, brown the chicken parts quickly in one-half cup butter, margarine or cooking oil. Pour the sauce over the browned chicken and cover. Simmer in an electric frypan for one hour. For baking in an oven, cover with aluminum foil and bake one hour at 350 degrees, basting several times. When preparing larger quantities, place the chicken and sauce into the bottom part of the broiler pan, and bake in the oven, covered with foil. For ten pounds of chicken, bake about an hour and a half. Do remember, though, it is much cheaper to do this in an electric frypan than in an oven if one is available, and the quantity will fit. Save any left-over sauce to dress up hot dogs, hamburgers, or a family favorite...end cuts of pork chops.*

\*

When preparing fresh pineapple—after slicing off the outside layer, use a strawberry huller to remove the “little brown eyes” that remain in the fruit.

•

# JOURNAL RECIPE FILE

## SCHNITZ UN KNEPP

One pint or two cups dried apple slices

One well-beaten egg

Two cups flour

One-quarter teaspoon pepper

One teaspoon salt

Three pounds smoked ham

Two tablespoons brown sugar

Four teaspoons baking powder

Three tablespoons melted butter

One-half cup milk

*Cover dried apples with water. Soak overnight. In morning, cover ham with water and simmer for two hours. Add the apples and water in which they have been soaked and continue to simmer about one hour. Add brown sugar.*

### DUMPLINGS:

*Sift together the flour, baking powder, salt and pepper. Quickly stir in until blended the mixture of beaten egg, butter and milk. Drop by tablespoon on top of simmering ham and apples. Tightly cover the kettle and cook for twenty minutes. Serve hot.*

*(Courtesy of May LaFaver)*

## HOW TO BUY A CANTALOUPE

*The experts say look for a smooth, rounded, depressed "scar" at the stem end. This indicates the melon was picked at full maturity and separated easily from the stem.*

*Avoid bruised or damaged fruit.*

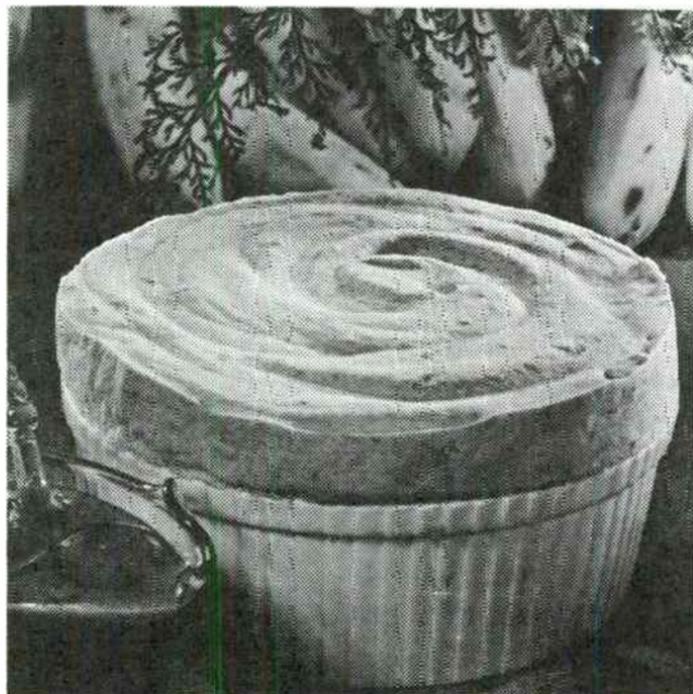


## FRUIT PUFFS

*Fold drained canned fruit cocktail, toasted flaked coconut and a little grated orange rind into sweetened whipped cream. Spoon into baked cream puff shells and served sprinkled with powdered sugar.*

# JOURNAL RECIPE FILE

## BANANA SOUFFLE



**Two envelopes unflavored gelatin**

**One-half cup sugar**

**One-eighth teaspoon salt**

**One and one-half cups orange juice**

**One teaspoon grated orange peel**

**Six large eggs, separated**

**Four bananas, mashed**

**One cup whipping cream**

**One-quarter cup powdered sugar**

*Mix gelatin, sugar and salt in saucepan; stir in orange juice and peel. Bring to a boil, stirring constantly. Remove from heat. Beat egg yolks; then return mixture to pan.*

*Over low heat, bring to a boil and simmer several minutes.*

*Cool to lukewarm. Add bananas. Beat egg whites, then whipped cream, into banana mixture. Spoon into one and one-half quart souffle dish. Chill several hours or overnight.*

## MISSING LINKS

*Read the clues and complete the full word by filling in around the letters given. Answers below, but don't peek!*

**It keeps a boat steady.**

\_\_ O R I \_\_

•

**He was number seven**

\_\_ C K S \_\_

•

**It wraps around our lands and seas**

\_\_ U A T \_\_

•

**A bunch of breeds.**

\_\_ N G R \_\_

•

**You get a kick out of it.**

\_\_\_ T B A \_\_\_

•

**Lots of lights, and a tall tower.**

\_ A R \_\_

•

**A big bay above us.**

\_\_ D S O \_

•

**It covers a plane.**

\_\_ N G \_\_

•

**It claps and booms.**

\_\_\_ N D \_\_\_

•

*Answers: Mooring, Jackson, Equator, Mongrel, Football, Paris, Hudson, Hangar, Thunder*

# WEEU PHOTO GALLERY



*As part of the World War II Commemorative Weekend at the Mid-Atlantic Air Museum, two lucky Weeu listeners won flights aboard the museum's B-25 bomber. As it turned out, both winners were flying veterans, and their prize was a nostalgic adventure. From left, pilot Russ Strine, WEEU Program Director Jo Painter, winners Richard Angerman and Stanley Guistwite and WEEU Sports Director Mitch Gerhart.*



*All gussied up for the annual WEEU Secretary's Day Party are from left: WEEU morning personality Charlie Adams, afternoon personality and program director Jo Painter, "Night Mayor" Don Greth, General Manager Dave Kline, account executive Shirl Whitnack, account executive Kelly Heydt, Bavarian Show host "Kaz," receptionist Rebecca Drey, newsman and "Early Bird Show" host Lew Runkle and account executive Butch Ulrich.*

## WEEU PHOTO GALLERY

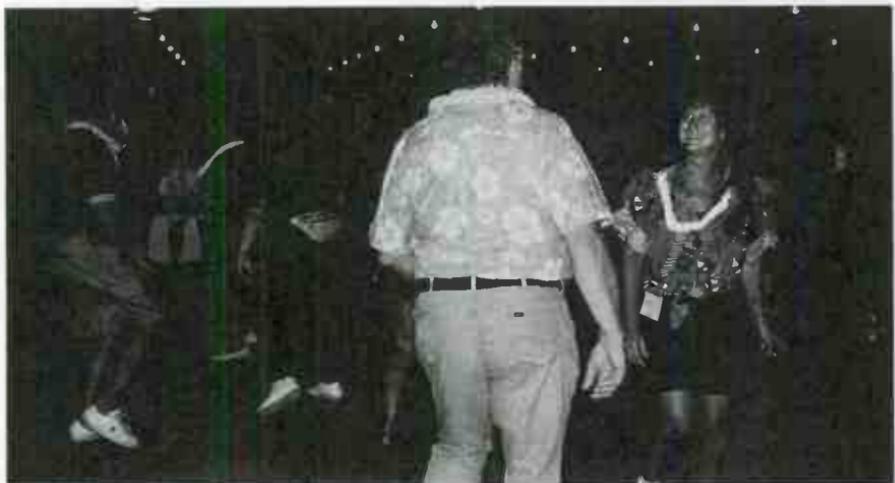


*WEEU news reporter Suzy Sands proudly displays the plaque which awarded to her in Los Angeles for her first prize reporting of communication disorders. The American Speech-Language-Hearing Association bestowed the coveted award on the talented Ms. Sands.*

## WEEU PHOTO GALLERY

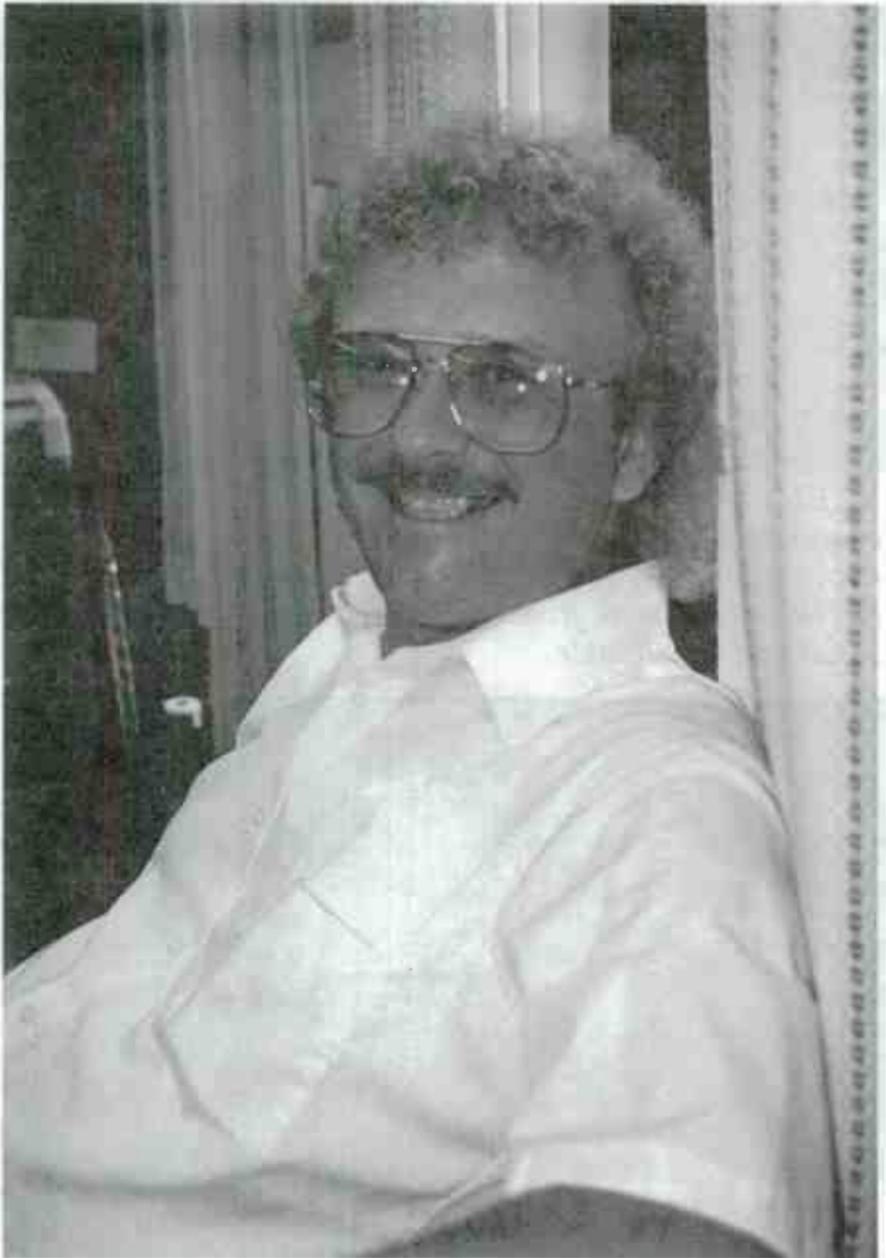


*WEEU truly stands alone in the rapid dissemination of vote counts and candidates' reactions on election night. Fanning out to where the news takes place that night is the WEEU election night team, from left: Chris Bach, Don Greth, Suzy Sands and Lew Runkle.*



*WEEU staffers love to have a good time. The "Tropical Dream Team" kept thousands of Chamber of Commerce picnic attendees hopping with the music and flavor of the islands. Seen here with his back to the camera is WEEU's Lew Runkle, stepping out with our own Jo Painter.*

# WEEU PHOTO GALLERY



*Enjoying a relaxing respite from his toils as WEEU commercial copywriter, official photographer and office wit is Paul Druzba.*

## WEEU PHOTO GALLERY



*Keeping WEEU on the air and sounding great is the responsibility of Chief Engineer John Engle, shown here with the WEEU van, a familiar sight at events and remote broadcasts throughout Berks County.*

## WEEU PHOTO GALLERY



*You'll never know who pops in as a guest on the popular WEEU morning show, "Charlie and Company." Here, actor Michael Constantine and morning show host Charlie Adams are caught by the water cooler during a break in the action.*



*Is this how Jack Holcomb gets to his bird-watching hot spots? Not really. It's just our popular FEEDBACK talk show host hamming it up on a cycle. And no, that's not a helmet on his head. It's his head!*

## WEEU PHOTO GALLERY



*One of the highlights of 1994 at WEEU was the Feedback Luncheon, held at Chef Alan's Restaurant and hosted by John Cooper (striped shirt) of Heritage Furniture Systems. At the mike is FEEDBACK host Jack Holcomb and to his rear is WEEU's Chris Bach.*



*It was a full house at Chef Alan's for the Feedback Luncheon. Listeners enjoyed meeting each other, and the WEEU personalities who dropped by.*

# WEEU PHOTO GALLERY

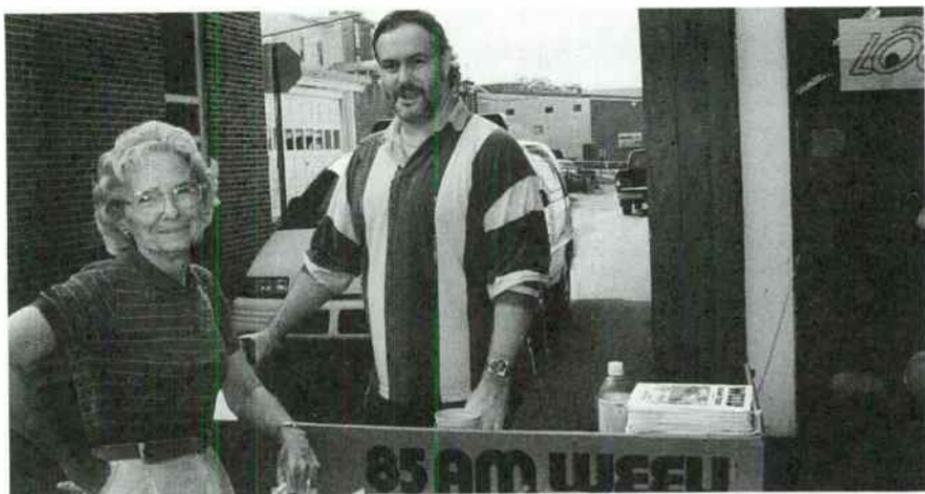


*Yes, that's a sports magazine bringing smiles to the WEEU sports team of Mitch Gerhart, left, and Bob McCool. Every season, WEEU leads the radio league in play-by-play coverage of area high school sports.*



*What would the FEEDBACK JOURNAL be without the cuddly WEE-U BEAR bidding everybody bye-bye?*

# WEEU PHOTO GALLERY



*On a remote broadcast in downtown Hamburg, WEEU's Jim Burton is greeted by a loyal listener. The listener had better be loyal—she is WEEU morning personality Charlie Adams' mom (and Hamburg native), Mabel.*

## FERRARO'S

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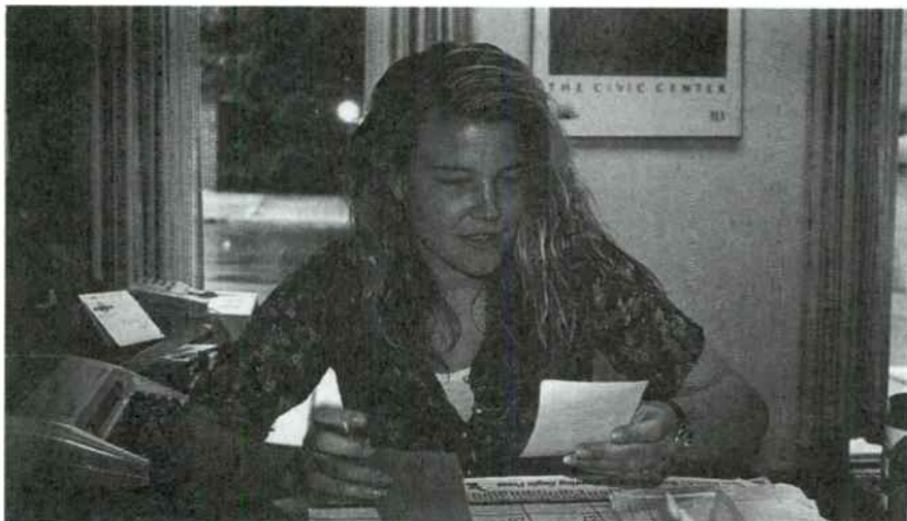
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# WEEU PHOTO GALLERY



*She is Rebecca Drey, a voice heard on the airwaves of WEEU and also by those who call the station business office during working hours.*

---



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Berlshire Mall: 373-1640  
Fairgrounds Square Mall: 921-8750

# WEEU PHOTO GALLERY



*The scenery has changed quite a bit since the publication of this vintage post card depicting the southeastern corner of Penn Square.*



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# WEEU PHOTO GALLERY



*A full moon hovers over the Pagoda and downtown Reading in this vintage post card.*

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Across from the Deluxe Restaurant

Phone: 777-6900

# WEEU PHOTO GALLERY



*WEEU's "morning guy" and promotions director Charlie Adams hoists his hand in triumph after edging fellow announcer Beth Trapani in a WEEU Cycle Series Celebrity Race during Scenic River Days in July, 1994.*



*The overall winner of the 1994 WEEU Cycle Series Celebrity Race was Ryan Woolwine, from the advertising department of Reading Eagle Company, who displays great form as he crosses the finish line along Riverfront Drive.*

## WEEU PHOTO GALLERY



*Fulfilling a fantasy, WEEU afternoon personality and program director Jo Painter sits behind the wheel of a high-powered funny car after her stellar performance in a Media Race at Maple Grove Raceway.*

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*Sales & Service*

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Savage Sales & Service, Inc.

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678-0650

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**Mats and Labor Not Included**

Limit One Per Customer

Expires 12/31/95

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Mon., Wed., Fri. & Sat. 10-4, Tues. 10-6, Thurs. 10-8

**85 AM WEEU** *stereo*

**85 AM WEEU** *stereo*

**85 AM WEEU** *stereo*

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*Saturday evening excluded*

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**372-6241**

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(Offer good from March 15 thru May 15, 1995)

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**85 AMWEEU** *Stereo*

**85 AMWEEU** *Stereo*

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**85 AM WBEU** *Steve*

**85 AM WBEU** *Steve*

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**85 AMWEEU** *Stereo*

**85 AMWEEU** *Stereo*

**85 AMWEEU** *Stereo*

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**85 AMWEEU** *Stereo*

**85 AMWEEU** *Stereo*

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**\*Warning\***

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**85 AMWEEU** *stereo*

**85 AMWEEU** *stereo*

**85 AMWEEU** *stereo*

# AUTOGRAPHS

# STATION IDENTIFICATION

<b>1996</b>	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	<b>1996</b>	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>JAN.</b>	7	1	2	3	4	5	6	<b>JULY</b>	7	1	2	3	4	5	6
	14	8	9	10	11	12	13		14	8	9	10	11	12	13
	21	15	16	17	18	19	20		21	15	16	17	18	19	20
	28	22	23	24	25	26	27		28	22	23	24	25	26	27
		29	30	31						29	30	31			
<b>FEB.</b>					1	2	3	<b>AUG.</b>					1	2	3
	4	5	6	7	8	9	10		4	5	6	7	8	9	10
	11	12	13	14	15	16	17		11	12	13	14	15	16	17
	18	19	20	21	22	23	24		18	19	20	21	22	23	24
	25	26	27	28	29				25	26	27	28	29	30	31
<b>MAR.</b>						1	2	<b>SEPT.</b>	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	3	4	5	6	7	8	9		8	9	10	11	12	13	14
	10	11	12	13	14	15	16		15	16	17	18	19	20	21
	17	18	19	20	21	22	23		22	23	24	25	26	27	28
	24	25	26	27	28	29	30		29	30					
	31														
<b>APR.</b>		1	2	3	4	5	6	<b>OCT.</b>			1	2	3	4	5
	7	8	9	10	11	12	13		6	7	8	9	10	11	12
	14	15	16	17	18	19	20		13	14	15	16	17	18	19
	21	22	23	24	25	26	27		20	21	22	23	24	25	26
	28	29	30						27	28	29	30	31		
<b>MAY</b>				1	2	3	4	<b>NOV.</b>						1	2
	5	6	7	8	9	10	11		3	4	5	6	7	8	9
	12	13	14	15	16	17	18		10	11	12	13	14	15	16
	19	20	21	22	23	24	25		17	18	19	20	21	22	23
	26	27	28	29	30	31			24	25	26	27	28	29	30
<b>JUNE</b>							1	<b>DEC.</b>	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	2	3	4	5	6	7	8		8	9	10	11	12	13	14
	9	10	11	12	13	14	15		15	16	17	18	19	20	21
	16	17	18	19	20	21	22		22	23	24	25	26	27	28
	23	24	25	26	27	28	29		29	30	31				
	30														

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