

# HAYCOCK HISTORICAL NEWS

The Newsletter of The Haycock Historical Society • Fall 2005

## HEDE MASSING

by Jane Nase

**R**ussian spies lived in Haycock. Seems unbelievable, but it was true.

From 1939-1949, two Russian spies, Hede and Paul Massing, lived on two different farms in Haycock. The first was a 120-acre farm that is currently near the marina at Lake Nockamixon. It reminded Paul of his homeland, Germany, and to Hede, the farmhouses of her childhood in Austria. A few years later they moved to a smaller farm on Country Lane where they took in guests for many years.

The Massing's enjoyed renovating their homestead, learning about the wonders of nature and the beauty and hardship of the country life — all important in restoring Hede's spirit. It seems the marvels of Haycock haven't changed much in fifty years.

Being contaminated by television and movies we think of spies as uneducated, moral derelicts. Nothing can be further from the truth. Most are well educated and have normal, middle class family lives. Hede's life was spent in a Viennese neighborhood with her Jewish mother and Christian-Polish father. That combination banished Hede's mother from her family.

Looking for work, the family moved to New York where they stayed for about four years. But jobs in the U.S. never lasted for her father, so they returned to Austria. Not being able to afford to go to a university, Hede earned an acting scholarship, became successful in the theater and was regarded as a rising star. Studying acting would be invaluable to her later in life.

An influential man named Gerhart Eisler lured Hede to the communist party. Years of living with Gerhart in Berlin became important to her attitude towards the communist party.

She would listen to the endless discussions of the ideals of socialism and the idea of better lives for everyone. However, he would not allow her to become involved in the movement. Instead, he helped her study her craft of acting while he was climbing the political ladder in the German

Communist Party.

The life of a political activist and actress did not mesh. Hede was ill and had to rest with friends outside of Berlin so their life together drifted apart and soon ended.

While recuperating, she met a young publisher named Julian Gumperz. He romanticized Marxism and other revolutionary ideas, especially the Soviet Union. He wanted to help the Russian people who were enslaved for so long.

When the couple married, they went on a trip through Europe during which they stopped in Vienna to visit Hede's family. During that visit, they took her youngest sister, Elli, to their home in Berlin to be raised by them.

In 1926, they moved to America and lived in New York. Julian was writing a book and they were living the social life in New York City. Hede felt out of place not knowing the language and how to dress. She was surprised by the friendliness of the people and their lighthearted attitude.

She eventually learned the language and got a job working in an orphanage. She received her American citizenship in 1927, which would prove to be invaluable. But the couple soon left the U.S. for Germany where Julian pursued his doctorate studies at the University of Frankfurt's Institute of Social Research. It was at the university

where Hede met Paul Massing, a bright, inquisitive, enterprising and radical student.

As their relationship grew, Julian stepped aside graciously and Hede went to Berlin. Paul followed her after receiving his Ph.D.

Paul and Hede were in love, but Paul moved to Moscow for a job and Hede stayed in Berlin to study. Due to loneliness there, she started to be more involved with the communist party and soon joined him in Moscow.

They both grew to love Moscow and its people. Although they lived privileged lives, they were aware of the suffering and shortages of basic goods for most citizens and became



*continued on page 3*

# LEHMAN'S LAKE

Text by Beth Kerdock  
Photos by Heather Radick

Last November the Gimple family was kind enough to give representatives of the Historical Society a tour of what was artist Edward Lehman's home and property—now owned by the Gimples. According to Mr. Gimple this stone house is one of Haycock's oldest structures, with the earliest portion dating back to the 1740's and the later addition built in the early 1800's.

Although the site currently contains 48 acres, when Mr. Lehman purchased it in the mid-20th century the farmstead was comprised of 100 acres with a stone house, barn and pond. During the late 1940's Mr. Lehman, a dedicated outdoorsman, decided to construct a lake on the property. Utilizing surplus military equipment left over from WWII, an eight acre lake was dug adjacent to the existing pond; a

feat which involved the removal of a good number of rocks. With his art studio looking out over the water, Mr. Lehman used his lake for entertaining his many friends, establishing his own fishing/swimming club.

Although the Lehman parties of yesterday are over, this beautiful lake surrounded with a half mile walking trail and encompassing an occasional beaver dam, is truly one of the 'hidden jewels of Haycock. The lake's quiet serenity has been permanently captured in paint by one of Edward Lehman's most prominent art students, James Mann. If you wish to see his rendition of "Lehman's Pond" you can visit this website <http://www.jamesmannartfarm.com/jmas56.html>. The Society would like to thank the Gimple family for so generously sharing their home and information with us.



## LEHMAN'S LAKE *continued*



*Views of Lehman's Pond as seen looking out from the back of the house.*

## HEDE MASSING *continued from page 1*

disillusioned with the "Soviet Fatherland." They left Moscow for Berlin and it was there she met with a friend named Ludwig who started her in her role as a spy or as she was called, an apparatchik or apparatus.

Her role as an apparatus was mainly as an observer who reported her findings to various people. She was a courier many times, transporting microfilm across the Atlantic to different European countries.

Her routine as an apparatus would start with a phone call stating a time and place for a meeting. The meeting would take place two hours earlier of whatever time that was said and would be at a public place like the New York Public Library, Radio City Music Hall lobby or a café. One of the first rules she was taught was to never go directly from her apartment to the meeting. Always go in a round about way and take plenty of time. She traveled extensively mostly to Russia, Germany, Austria and the United States. During one meeting she unknowingly met a key communist party leader named Alger Hiss.

Besides his affiliation with the communists, Hiss held a position with the Department of State and was a clerk for the U.S. Supreme Court. He was also an executive secretary to the United Nations during the founding of that organization.

Being an apparatus was not a profession you discussed with others. Even if a person was a communist, it was not known whether that person was a spy. At the meeting with Hiss they had an argument about trying to recruit a spy named Noel Field.

That argument would be a critical fact used later in a court trial against Hiss linking him to the communist party. Hiss' trial was launched by lawyer Richard Nixon, the late U.S. president, and included Hede testifying before a grand jury. Through her testimony, Hiss was eventually convicted in a second trial and sentenced in 1950 to nearly 4 years in prison. The trials were the springboards for Nixon's political career.

Hede became disillusioned with her work as an apparatus and in 1938, asked to leave the party. This was not looked upon favorably by the party and the Massings were told they had to plead their case to the Russian authorities.

Going before the Russian authorities terrified the couple, believing they would be killed like so many other associates and friends. They went to Russia and were forced to stay much longer than they wanted and were not given a visa to return to the US.

One night, in a bold move, Hede called the communist hierarchy in front of other communist party friends and demanded their visas using these people as witnesses. They were granted the visas shortly after her phone call.

Exhausted, they returned to New York City, but soon after left the city to find respite in of all places, Haycock. To a Russian spy or an ordinary person, Haycock offers the same peaceful, beautiful serenity.

Information was derived from *This Deception KGB Target: America* by Hede Massing, which was surprisingly easy to read and an informative book. Thanks to Eddie Bauer for loaning me the book.

# HAYCOCK PROFILES:

## MARTHA OF STONEY POINT GROCERY STORE

by Sue Kleiner-Grew

**M**artha Madalena Litzenberger Kocsis was born August 5, 1923 and is now 82 years old.

She was born on the Streepy farm that was owned by her maternal grandparents, Irene and Floyd Streepy, which is located in the township at Potters Lane and Stony Garden Road. She is the second of six siblings. Her mother's name was Vera Streepy, who she described as "a very mild person...I don't think she ever yelled in her life."

Her father, Raymond, delivered the mail for more than 40 years. He'd pick up the mail at the Kintnersville post office and deliver to areas such as Gallow's Hill. The family also sold milk from their cows that they would take to the Ferndale creamery in her father's wagon. They would set out from the farm early in the morning and not arrive home until dinner. The going was slow as the roads were stony, rutted and at times quite muddy. They also used their own milk to make butter. They would get the cream "out of the milk cans," Martha recalled, "shaking cream in a jar to make butter." They'd shake until the cream "got into a ball" and became butter.

The family home was a log cabin, she said, that had a "beautiful summer kitchen" attached to the house. The place was heated with a coal and wood stove that Martha said was also "used to bake bread every snow storm to keep the house warm".

Martha recollected that she "dipped water with a bucket" from the well and there was a "nice, big rope swing" near the barn, which kids would use to "swing over the garage roof."

Martha attended school at St. John the Baptist Roman Catholic Church on Church Road, where she is still a member, from 1st through 8th grade. She briefly attended Nockamixon School, but said she eventually stopped because the family needed her at home to "raise up" the other siblings.

Martha married Joseph Kocsis at St. John's. The reception was at the Streepy farm and featured a three-piece band that included an accordion player.

After she married, Martha and her husband lived with her parents on the Streepy farm. Joseph worked as a machinist for the Bethlehem Steel Corp., she said, and bought the Stoney Point store on the "spur of the moment" from the Hill family about 56 years ago.

She said Joseph "took all our bonds out of the closet and bought the place."

The store is located in Springfield Township at Route 412

and Gallows Hill Road. After buying the store, Martha, Joseph and their seven children moved in and made it their home as well as the family business. Joseph died more than 10 years ago.

Prior to buying the store, Edith Hill was the proprietor. In the past, they sold livestock feed, flour, sugar, and corn meal. When she was a young girl, Martha recalled, Mrs. Hill would travel to Easton and bring back store bought clothes for the Streepy's and other families in the area.

The store remains mostly original with only a few renovations completed since Martha took ownership.

Martha's never had a vacation because the store is open year round. At one point, she said, she had to go to the hospital, which was the only time the store closed since she's owned it.

Martha said she has "always cut and curled my own hair" because she has little time to care for herself since she "works until night." She said she has a driver's license but never drove because "I'm always in the store."

Martha said she is not a television person, but one who "loves to read the newspaper." Her store is a steady provider of newspapers to the community. They also sell milk, bread, and eggs from nearby Rick's Egg Farm.

Business slowed when the chain supermarkets arrived, but now with high gas prices, she added, "People are starting



Photos by Heather Radick

to come back a bit."

*Haycock Profiles will be an ongoing feature in the newsletter, highlighting long-time township residents.*

# SOCIETY NEWS

The Haycock Historical Society is delighted to announce our new corporate sponsor, Gerry Deegan and Grandma's Country Kitchen at Tohickon Campground. Gerry is working to preserve an important landmark in our community, the Sheard's/Clymer's Gristmill. He has started a guild in order to raise funds for the historical preservation of the site. Folks may join by completing the application which has been inserted in this issue of the newsletter. Many thanks to Gerry for his support of H.H.S.

Recipes and Remembrances is more than just a cookbook. Written exclusively by Haycock residents and HHS members, the book is filled with 58 pages of stories and over 200 recipes, with exclusive artwork by Chris Handschin. Reserve your advance copy now because there is a limited printing. Cost is \$15 for the first book, additional copies are \$12.50. Delivery is free in Haycock, shipping is \$2. Pay only when you receive your book(s). To order, email natalie39@epix.net or call 215-536-3939.

The very successful Kringle Shoppe will operate again from the home of member Pat DeWald. The event will be held Dec. 2 from 1-8 and Dec. 3 & 4, from 10-4. Live musicians will play continuously while visitors fill their shopping baskets with fine art, handwork and holiday decorations, all made by Haycock artists and our direct neighbors. This year Kringle is inviting Haycock resident Linda Rymond, author of *The Village of Basketeers*. Also, author Mary Shafer will be there with her new book on the flood of 1955 for book signings.

The Research/Preservation Committee will be meeting on Oct. 27, 7 PM Pat DeWald's. Contact Diane Kelly for details.

### GOVERNING COMMITTEE NEWS:

We will be presenting a proposed 2006 budget for review by general membership at the October general meeting. It will be voted on at the November general meeting. Those unable to attend the October meeting may obtain a proposed budget copy by contacting Diane Kelly at 215-536-4297.

To all those who have put your name on the list to order our Haycock Historical Numbered Series Commemorative Plates: Linda Stauffer, the plate designer, is experiencing some difficulty incorporating our Haycock Clay in the project. Things are on hold while she experiments to find a suitable clay formula. Please be patient and the rewards will be great!

Thank-you to auctioneer and certified appraiser, Harold Bellmeyer, our guest speaker in September who shared his knowledge of antiques and gave free appraisals.

### FALL PUBLIC MEETINGS:

On October 20th, guest speaker will be Ned Heindel. He is the author of a book about the Hexenkopf Mountain of Williams Township, PA, which has for two centuries been a center of an aura of witchcraft, mystery and healing."

Pam Feist Varkony will be our featured speaker on November 13, 2:30 at St. Paul's church. Pam will share her experiences

growing up in Tohickon, pre-lake. She will discuss history of the land under Lake Nockamixon.

In September, a group of H.H.S. members met for an tour of what used to be the Bethlehem Steel Company sponsored by the Steelworkers Archives, a new group dedicated to keeping the history of the people who worked there alive. Pictures of the tour can be viewed online by visiting [http://www.paroots.com/~northampton/BethlehemSteel/bethlehem\\_steel\\_tour.htm](http://www.paroots.com/~northampton/BethlehemSteel/bethlehem_steel_tour.htm).

September 28th marked the beginning of the Kringle Shoppe planning meeting. We are in search of a carpenter to help make display panels. We have a budget to purchase materials but would appreciate donated labor to build the panels. If you would like to either participate as a juried artisan or help with the event in any way, please contact Chris Handschin (215) 536-0364 or email: [chandschin@netcarrier.com](mailto:chandschin@netcarrier.com).

## HAYCOCK HISTORICAL SOCIETY — GENERAL INFORMATION

The Haycock Historical Society is a non-profit organization whose mission is to research and record the history of Haycock Township and the surrounding environs. General meetings are open to society members and the public. Meetings are held six times a year, clustered in the fall: September, October and November; and spring: March, April and May, and usually held at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Applebachsville.

The society's newsletter is published four times a year and distributed to members and also available to the public at general meetings, the Haycock Township Building and other public locations in the area.

### Officers 2004-2005

President . . . . .Ralph Rosencrans . . . . .[ralphj@ptd.net](mailto:ralphj@ptd.net)  
 Vice-Presidents . .Chris Handschin . .[chandschin@netcarrier.com](mailto:chandschin@netcarrier.com)  
 . . . . .Beth Kerdock . . . . .[bjsninpa@ptd.net](mailto:bjsninpa@ptd.net)  
 Treasurer . . . . .Dick Landgreen . . . . .[rjlandgreen@comcast.net](mailto:rjlandgreen@comcast.net)  
 Secretary . . . . .Diane Kelly . . . . .[rdrdk@juno.com](mailto:rdrdk@juno.com)  
 Ad Hock . . . . .Henry DePue  
 Members . . . . .Greg Seifert

Government Meetings are held the first Monday of the month at 6:30pm in the Haycock Township Building. Society members and the public are invited to attend.

## GRANDMA'S COUNTRY KITCHEN

at

Tohickon Family Campground

8308 Covered Bridge Road  
Quakertown, PA 18951

**215-536-7951**

[www.Tohickoncampground.com](http://www.Tohickoncampground.com)

