

HAYCOCK HISTORICAL NEWS

The Newsletter of The Haycock Historical Society • Fall 2021

THE MANY CRAFTS OF M. JANE NASE

Kringle Christmas Shoppe Featured Artist

When did you start sewing?

My love of sewing started at a young age. My junior high experience in Home Economics' class was a bit rough, to say the least. However, my skill and passion developed in high school. My passion turned into a career, and I went to college to study Home Economics. I was fortunate to be employed right out of college in the Quakertown School District, but the job was as a food's teacher. I liked foods too, and I was just glad to be teaching.

How did you start sewing bears?

Sewing bears became a hobby after my mother passed away at an early age. She had a mink stole that I used to play with as a child. The mink coat was the actual animal skinned and treated with the head, tail and legs still attached. The mouth was made into the clasp for the stole. I thought it would be nice to make a bear out of that stole to remember her. In the 80's, I took a bear making class at a shop in Skippack. The teacher explained the stole did not have enough material to make a bear. On her suggestion, I made a bear out of mohair and "dressed" it in the mink. That bear sits in my living room.

Did you continue to make other bears?

I started making bears as a baby gift for teachers and dressed them in an outfit related to something the teacher liked to do, such as bike riding or baseball. They really appreciated the homemade bear.

How did you start selling bears?

At the suggestion of some of my friends, I started to sell the bears. I sewed memory bears, making the bear out of faux fur and "dressing" the bear in an outfit from the deceased person's clothing. When my dad passed away, I made bears for all my siblings from the suit and ties he wore.

Do you sew bears out of mink coats or other fabrics?

When I tell people I sew bears, that is usually the next question. The answer is, "Yes." Mink or any type of real fur is challenging due to the way the fur is stored over time.

Sometime the hide dries out and if I try to sew the fur, it just breaks apart, and therefore it cannot be made. Thankfully that has happened only a handful of times.

How is sewing bears out of real fur different than faux fur?

I have learned many things to make the fur more manageable. For the real fur bears, I now put an interfacing on the hide to protect it from splitting. I use a hand sewn leather nose on the fur bears, rather than the dense embroidered stitching which I do for the noses on my faux fur bears.

Does the length of fur factor into sewing the bear?

The length of the fur is another challenge since the fur gets caught in the seams. The longer the fur, the fluffier the bear. I have made bears out of polar fleece and the lining of a mink coat, and they look a bit anemic since they don't have the fur to plump them up.

Do your bears have moveable joints?

Yes, all my bears are fully jointed, which means the legs, arms and head move around. The joints are a plastic disc with a dowel in the center on one side of the appendage and there is a washer and locking washer on the other side. The appendage is

then stuffed, and hand sewed shut.

With what are the bears filled?

The bears are filled with polyfill stuffing, and a small pillow of rice or plastic pellets are put in the bottom of the body of the bear so it will sit upright.

How long does it take to make a bear?

It takes about 10-15 hours to make a bear. Unlike regular sewing, each pattern piece is hand drawn on the material and then cut out individually, being sure I have a right and left arm etc.

What materials are used to make the paws and foot pads?

I usually make the paws and foot pads out of suede, satin, or the lining of the mink coat. Most mink coats have the initials of the owner and that is what I use for the foot pad.



M. Jane Nase and some of her bears

What type of clothing have you used to dress the bears?

I have “dressed” bears from sports or school uniforms, shirts, sweaters, and even a wedding dress.

Do you learn anything while making bears?

Bears are always teaching me to be more creative and to stretch myself as an artist. Some may say I am a bit odd, but I like to talk to the bears when I am sewing their nose or ears on. Sometimes I let them know before a craft fair that I will find them a good forever home at the sale. Occasionally an inspiration of a name comes to me as I am making a bear. I talk to the bears, but they don't talk back ☺



Do you make any other animals?

Yes, usually out of a request from someone. I have made owls because my girlfriend's daughter who played Temple field hockey asked me to make an owl for the hockey coach's baby. I make bunnies since I had an uncle whose name was Bernard, but we called him Uncle Bunny and his daughter wanted a bunny. When I saw a cute pattern for a chicken pin cushion, I made chickens as baby gifts. My son, an avid golfer, asked me to make a golf head cover that looked like his dog. I think most sewers are a bit ADD because a new pattern or idea comes along and they say why not try this too, and I do. Only making one item is a bit boring to me. I also make snowmen as well.

What else do you make to sell at Kringle?

In addition to sewing bears, I am an avid quilter, belonging to several big and small quilt groups. You will see some wall hangings, table runners, quilted pocketbooks and totes sewn by me at Kringle, too. I sew almost every day.

I thought you also made food for Kringle?

Besides being known as the bear lady, I am known as the mustard lady. I started making my food to add to my craft fairs' items. The recipe is from my sister who used to make the mustard for holidays. I used her recipe, and started to sell it, and people really liked it. Then I took another recipe from her, Jezebel, which is a sweet and spicy sauce, used as an appetizer over cream cheese or a sauce over meat or fish. Jezebel is served on most occasions at my house.

Do you make candy too?

My chocolates, caramels and nuts were another avenue to branch out to for craft fairs. Making everything fresh is the challenge here. I don't make chocolate months ahead of time like big manufactures do. Mainly because I don't have preservatives in any of my food items. I have been known to go home after working the day at Kringle to make more food for the next day. My food is always fresh and yummy.

Do you eat a lot of the food as you make it?

It is important that I make the food and package it for sale right away or it will be eaten as a snack.

Where do you get your recipes?



One of my nut mixtures was derived from a friend bringing home a package of mixed nuts she bought on vacation. She said these are really good, you should figure out how to make them and sell them. With a few attempts I made my chocolate nut crunch which is a big seller.

Do you make anything else?

Chai tea is a favorite of mine and that was again a suggestion from a friend. I took her mother's recipe and altered it a bit, eliminating half of the sugar content and made my Chai Tea Instant Latte Mix.

Do you sell your food all year round?

I mostly sell the food during fall craft fairs, but I do make them all year round. Many customers call me to get my items in the spring or any time of the year. In my retirement, I've enjoyed making my food and sewn items, creating new items often. I hope to see you at Kringle this year and to talk to you about my many passions.



Jim Bongiovanni of Pennsylvania Historical Recovery Services was our September presenter.



September presentation on metal detecting



Our October program was at the Stokes house and presented by Steve Applegate.

Thank You to members for care of Stokes

The Haycock Historical Society has received many compliments this year on how beautiful the Stokes house and grounds look. We are so fortunate to be able to care for the 275 year- old house, and for all the volunteers that have made the area beautiful. I think the Stokes family would be proud of their house but maybe a little confused when they see cars, lawn mowers and WIFI. Thank you all for making this happen. Pat DeWald, yard committee



IN MEMORY OF
Kenneth Horne
July 12, 1934 – November 8, 2021

A House in the Country

By Kay Winters ©

Even through the rain we could see the possibilities. An old stone house, set well back from the road, a stream, and a lane lined with cedar trees. Even though brush and brambles grew up to the porch and almost covered it, even though junk cars were rusting on the lawn, maybe just maybe, this was the one.

I was a city kid. All my life I read books about the lucky ones who had a swing in their apple tree, caught fireflies in Mason jars, and picnicked on great laps of lawn. My husband Earl grew up in rural Ohio. He was slightly more realistic about the work that went with those lawns.

In my mind’s eye I had already painted the inside walls white, had the field cut, planted pine trees on the borders and was out shopping for a porch swing. Earl had refurbished the four- car garage, and was building his workshop. He was planning the fenced in area for the dog we didn’t have and planting the garden which would feed the neighborhood.

It was 1967. We were two years out of graduate school, had a heavy educational debt, a young daughter and a modest sum for a down payment. But we couldn’t come to terms about the price. The owner had dreams too. He had a Bucks County farmhouse to sell. He laughed at our first offer, was insulted as the second and stalked off in a huff at the third. We had no reserves for bargaining.

Weeks went by. We drove past the house almost every night. We’d glide up the road, stop off at the side, peer through the Queen Ann’s lace, reassuring ourselves it was still there. The For Sale sign remained.

Finally we agreed on ten acres instead of forty and reached a compromise on the price. We went to the bank feeling like children playing grown-up and sat stiffly at the long polished table while we passed money like a Monopoly game. Every penny we had saved plus a \$500.00 loan from a sympathetic uncle went into that transaction. When all of the money and papers had changed hands, we drove home to our kingdom. Surely no one had ever felt so rich.

We had a '57 Desoto, 4 rooms of Salvation Army Furniture, a four year old daughter and a black cat to move into the old stone house on Sawmill Road, in Haycock township, where there were three apple trees, resident deer, pheasants, ground-hogs and rabbits.

We rode down the lane honking the horn like newly-weds. We were barely inside when rap came at the door. Helen and George Papashvily , our neighbors, had come to welcome us home. Helen was a writer, George a sculptor. They brought a picnic packed in a wicker basket.

“We must have a fire,” said George. “To christen the house.” Earl and George went off into our woods to get kindling and find a log. They got back just before the rain.

Helen and I spread her blue and white cloth in front of the fireplace and took out the cheese and bread. All through the lovely long afternoon we sat in front of our hearth, eating , laughing, planning, telling stories and savoring our house. We wondered about the families who had sat here before. How many Thanksgivings were celebrated in the 200 years the house had stood. Had babies been born here? Did someone die? Who planted the old rosebush and islands of day lilies? All afternoon the rains poured down while we sat on the edge of our dreams.

Suddenly the storm stopped. A pale sun broke through. We came out on the porch, there on the left was a rain-bow. Our first at our house in Haycock.



KRINGLE CHRISTMAS SHOPPE

Friday Dec 3, 2021 10:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.
Saturday Dec 4, 2021 10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.
Sunday Dec 5, 2021 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

DUES

If you pay your dues annually you will find a form to return with your 2022 dues, included with this news letter. Please return with your check at your earliest convenience.

STORIES WANTED

We are collecting stories from members about what you are doing during the isolation for the COVID 19 pandemic. These stories will be placed on our website under Haycock Stories. Years later the stories will tell how we coped with the situation.

Please contact Pat DeWald with your stories.

HHS NEEDS A WEBMASTER

Is there a member who is interested in maintaining the HHS website ?

FREE ACCESS TO PENNSYLVANIA RECORDS ON ANCESTRY

<https://www.phmc.pa.gov/Archives/Research-Online/Pages/Ancestry-PA.aspx>

**Past years' issues of our Newsletter are available
on our web site.**

www.haycockhistoricalsociety.org

“Our Lost Tohickon Valley” and “Haycock Township and Eddie Bauer” are available as E-Books on Amazon

PRINT VERSIONS

“Haycock Township and Eddie Bauer” is available at Stokes Headquarters, Haycock Township Building, and Margie Fulp

“Our Lost Tohickon Valley” is available at Sines 5&10, Stokes Headquarters, Haycock Township Building, The Treasure Trove in Perkasio, and Margie Fulp

MEETINGS

November 18, 2021: 7 p.m. “Meet Henry Mercer.”
Presentation by Mercer reenactor **Jamie Bradley**, who will give the story behind famed historian, tile maker, and architect Henry Chapman Mercer.

March 18, 2022: 7 p.m. To be announced

April 21, 2022: 7 p.m. To be announced

May 19, 2022: 7 p.m. To be announced

Third Thursday meetings are held at the Haycock Community Center, formerly the Haycock Elementary School, at Old Bethlehem Road and Sawmill Road, in Applebachsville. The meeting room is Community Room West.

The Thursday meetings begin at 7 p.m.

OFFICERS

President: David Long cadklong@verizon.net

V. Pres: Andrea Silvestri asilvestri@haycocktownship.com

Secretary: Nancy Stemler grandmom42@comcast.net

Treasurer: Chris Bauer cbauer@haycocktownship.com

Ad Hoc:: Pat DeWald wdewald@verizon.net

Ad Hoc: Chris Handschin chandschin@verizon.net

Please submit material for the newsletter or suggestions for interviews to Margie Fulp. (215-257-7472) or m_fulp@hotmail.com

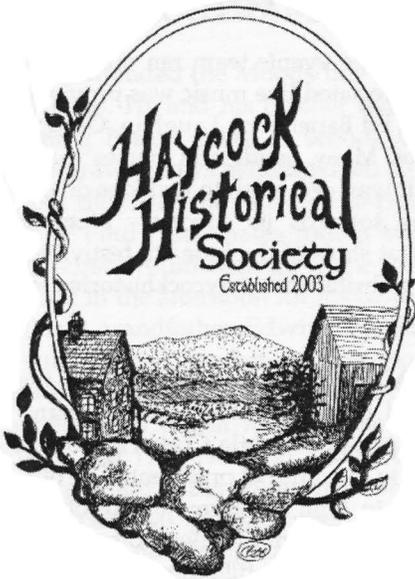
CORDES LAW LLC

ANDREW J. CORDES
Attorney at Law

27 SOUTH STATE STREET
NEWTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA
18940
WEBSITE cordeslawllc.com

PHONE 215-968-2248
FAX 215-968-4568
E-MAIL a.cordes@cordeslawllc.com
E-MAIL cordeslawllc@gmail.com

HHD USA



P.O. Box 715
Quakertown, PA 18951

www.haycockhistoricalsociety.org

AN INVITATION TO MEMBERSHIP

YES, ENROLL ME AS A MEMBER OF THE HAYCOCK HISTORICAL SOCIETY!

I WANT TO BE PART OF RECLAIMING OUR HISTORY AND PRESERVING IT FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS.

- Individual Membership - \$20/year**
Receive quarterly newsletter and attend all special functions this year – Jan. thru Dec.
- Family Membership (Parents & Children in household) - \$30/year**
Receive quarterly newsletter and attend all special functions this year – Jan. thru Dec.
- Corporate Sponsor - \$100/year**
Gain advertisement in our newsletter by yearly sponsorship (ad size smaller than business card)
- Corporate Patron - \$200/year**
Gain advertisement in our newsletter by yearly sponsorship (ad is full business card size)
- Lifetime Individual Membership - \$200**
Receive honorary lifetime status, receive quarterly newsletters and attend all special functions
- Lifetime Household Couple Membership - \$250**
For just \$50 more, join as a household and enjoy all the benefits of lifetime membership

DATE _____

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY, STATE, ZIP _____

PHONE _____ E-MAIL _____

SEND APPLICATION ALONG WITH CHECK MADE PAYABLE TO HAYCOCK HISTORICAL SOCIETY TO:

P.O. Box 715, Quakertown, PA 18951