

HAYCOCK HISTORICAL NEWS

The Newsletter of The Haycock Historical Society • Spring 2009

ONE MAN'S MEMORIES OF GROWING UP IN HAYCOCK

by Jeannie Flynn

There's a family of three brothers who were born and raised in Haycock Township. On September 1, 1933, Barry Grim was born, the middle son of the three, Harry, Barry and Larry. Barry was willing to share moments of his life.

He attended Mt. Airy School for his elementary education. The same teacher, Mrs. Lena Bleam, taught the class consisting of the three boys, for all eight years. Their mother made letters for their sweaters so the teacher could get their names right.

After Mt. Airy, Barry went to Quakertown High School and his graduating class of 1951 had 129 students. After high school, he attended Lehigh University and in late 1952 was drafted into the U.S. Army. Barry spent four months in basic training in Breckinridge, Kentucky. He then served as a radar operator in England for two years.

After the service, he went to work for the Reading Railroad as a fireman-engineer. He left the railroad after eight and one-half years and went to work for ITT-Electron Technology Division in Easton as a glass blower and later as a supervisor. While at ITT, he got a degree in electronics from Northampton Community College.

Since 1964, Barry has been the Haycock Township auditor, and also spent 35 years on the Quakertown School Authority, an organization charged with issuing bonds to the school district for building new schools.

His family bought the Thatcher Store, located on Thatcher and Covered Bridge roads, in September 1933 when it became Grim's General Merchandise Store.

In recollecting his childhood from the 1930s and 1940s, Barry said there were no overweight kids because they were too busy swimming, riding bikes, fishing and mowing lawns with push mowers. The meadow below the general

store was a ball field for football and baseball where anyone who showed up could play.

He said during the winter, there was skating, sledding, trapping and hunting. One winter in particular, a heavy snowfall and high winds drifted roads shut. Covered Bridge Road was closed and had to be shoveled open by anyone available, so John Clymer, owner of Sheard's Mill, could get out to deliver feed to the farmers.

Barry recalled the process of making ice cream in the winter. Starting with a sled, burlap bag and axe, the boys would go down to the creek and chop a block of ice, hauling it back to Mrs. Beck's house, a neighbor. She would have the mix ready and would pour it in the wooden churn. Then she would put ice around and start cranking. Everyone took his turn to crank.

Another pastime Barry recalled was skunk hunting at night. He said they walked the fields looking for skunks and when they found

one, they surrounded it. While the skunk was distracted, one person picked it up by the tail and put in the burlap bag. One night, Harry Grim was pulling a skunk out of a hole when it sprayed him in the eyes. Barry said he had to lead Harry through the woods down to the Horne's farm on Creamery Road. There, Mrs. Horne washed his eyes out and later they went home to try to wash the odor away.

When Barry was 24, he married Ann Hubner, also a Haycock resident. They raised three daughters, Cherie, Dawn and Erika. All of them are married and have blessed the couple with seven grandchildren.

Barry said he wouldn't trade his childhood for all the world, but noted that Haycock and the region are nothing like when he grew up. Lots of shopping centers and increased traffic are two of the more drastic changes he observed.



Pictured in front with their monogrammed sweaters are Harry, Barry and Larry Grim in front of Mt. Airy School

STOVER SCHOOL

Photo Submitted by Heather DiSario



The Stover School, now known as Cappie's, stands at the corner of Route 563 and Old Bethlehem Road. Originally called Mountain (House) School, it was built in 1889 on land that Abraham and Amanda Stover sold to the Haycock School District. In 1950 when the Quakertown Community School District was formed, Stover School was one of four one-room schoolhouses still in use. The others were Mt. Airy, New Harrisburg and Applebachsville.

IN MEMORY OF SUE KLEINER-GREW

by Jane Nase



level of commitment. She did so many things that, in her absence, four people are needed to do the jobs she used to do! Sue's caring heart touched many people in Haycock. She

A graceful spirit, caring heart and beautiful soul, Sue Kleiner-Grew passed away on March 16, 2009. She was a lifetime and founding member of the Haycock Historical Society. Proud of her community, Sue served the society on many levels as secretary, newsletter and membership chairs and sunshine (goodwill) committee. She did her work with ease and the passion she had for life showed in her

always offered a kind word to everyone she encountered. She appreciated the small things in life and helped others in her company do the same. Usually looking on the bright side of things, during the Kringle Christmas Shoppe she wore reindeer antlers and announced to a huge rush of people standing in line to check out, "Use this time to get to know your neighbor, talk amongst yourselves!"

She approached life with a zeal that we all would do good to imitate. She had a good ear, listened well and offered reasonable counsel to her friends and patients alike. Many will miss the chats they had with Sue.

Sue practiced yoga regularly. Not only did she do the yoga movements she also practiced the mindset of a person who does yoga. That is to honor the divine in herself and the divine in others she encountered. Her graceful spirit, caring heart and beautiful soul will be missed.

HAYCOCK PROFILES: ERNIE LAMBRECHT

by Jane Nase

You may not know Ernie Lambrecht, but you know his work. Every day you drive on it throughout Haycock.

Lambrecht drilled and blasted boulders with explosives to make way for most of the roads in Haycock as well as many other roads in Bucks County. His career started with the state Department of Highways, which became the state Department of Transportation (PennDOT) in 1970.

He later went to start his own company that specialized in moving boulders for road and home construction as well as other projects.

Sadly, Lambrecht died May 1 at age 94. But in April, he recalled some of his life memories, including blasting boulders to make way for some township roads and everyday life in the area.

Born in 1915, he was the son of David Lambrecht who owned a shoe store in Quakertown. His father emigrated to the U.S. from Austria where from the age of 12 he apprenticed as a shoemaker.

Ernie recalled that when his father was in his 50s, he was diagnosed with cancer and told he had six months to live. The diagnosis apparently meant little since his father went on to live another 50 years and worked up to age 102. He died at age 107. However, the diagnosis did force Ernie to quit high school to help run the family business.

Simultaneous to working in the store, he began learning the stonemason trade after work from a neighbor. He used those skills to build his own stone house on Rock Hill Road in East Rockhill Township. The home, he recalled, was built from stones cut from one enormous boulder.

In building the house, he recalled walking with his tools from his parent's home in Quakertown and to the Rock Hill Road site to cut the stone. He said that while he built the exterior shell, he hired other tradesmen, such as plumbers, heating contractors and electricians to complete the interior.

"I would rather pay a professional so it looked good rather than do it myself," he said.

The project began in the 1930s and with about a third of the stones cut, work came to halt with the outbreak of World War II. Lambrecht entered the U.S. Army and served from February 1941 to August 1945.

He was in the 450th Engineers, 1st Division and as he described it, "Me, along with 80,000 other men chased (German) General (Erwin) Rommel around the desert in North Africa."

He was a corporal and trained in the use of explosives, which went on to serve him well when he became a civilian.

Among his wartime memories was one involving comedian Bob Hope. He recalled Hope entertaining troops with the thunder of bombs exploding in the background.

After the war, he resumed building the house, which cost

about \$1,000, and in September 1947 married Margaret Morris. He recalled that when they moved into the house they used wooden dynamite crates for chairs. The first piece of furniture they bought was a kitchen table, which is still in use today. The couple went on to have three children, Paul, Sylvia and Janet, who all live in the area.

When he started his company, he said he always had work because of the abundance of stone in the area.

"I was never out of work because of all the rocks in Bucks County," he said.

One of his most noticeable jobs was on River Road. From Kintnersville to Washington's Crossing, he drilled and moved many of the rocks to make way for the road.

His son, Paul Lambrecht, said the drill marks on the stone cliffs beside the road that are still visible today are from his father's machinery. The compressor he used for blasting the roads logged over 3 million miles.

Another big job Ernie took on was taking down the buildings to make way for Lake Nockamixon. He said he removed the barns and silos in the area that would become the lakebed and if not removed, would have protruded above the lake surface.

When working for the state on Route 611 near Bedminster Township, he recalled being told to begin blasting a bridge and that it was safe since the area was clear of all people. However, he said, he also wanted to check the area and in doing so, found a family having a picnic near the bridge.

That was about 40 years ago, but he said the thought of having possibly gone ahead with the blast and not checking still worries him today.

Ernie was the oldest among two sisters and two brothers who all did chores, such as chopping wood, when they came home from school. They didn't enjoy them, but he said, "We did what we were told to do."

One childhood pastime, he recalled, was watching people in Quakertown on a Friday night that sometimes included men on horses who would scrap someone's car, causing a fistfight to break out.

He recalled a story about a horse that was being used to load wood at a Quakertown lumberyard and ran away when it was spooked by the noise of the wood. The men loading the wood, he said, tried to capture it, but it ran down Broad Street. Finally, a man tried to hold onto the bridle but the horse continued to run and the man was seriously injured.

He recollected a gruesome tale about watching men break in a horse with a whip. Even as a boy, he said, he knew it wasn't the way to treat an animal.

Ernie also enjoyed playing football, baseball, fishing and hunting, which he said might be considered too monotonous for children today.



Continued on page 4

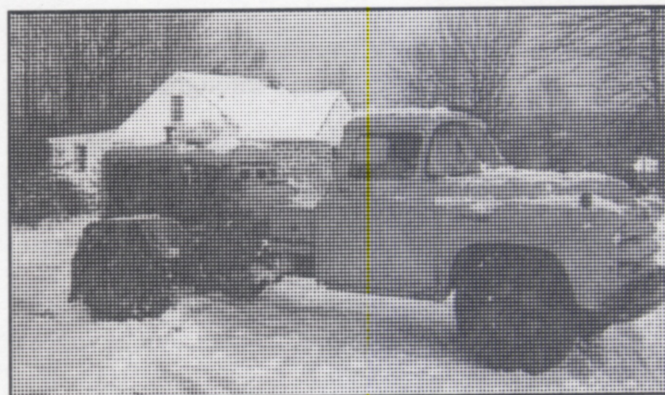
ERNIE LAMBRECHT *Continued from page 3*

During Prohibition, a time when liquor was illegal, he said people were able to buy malt and on the side of the malt can were instructions that said not to add several ingredients because it would create beer. By labeling the precaution, it actually gave the recipe for beer making.

When asked if he made beer, Ernie said, "No. My Mom did,"

As to what is different about Haycock today in contrast to his childhood, he said, "There's not as much manure in the street or whiskey in the woods."

Upon reflecting on his life at age 94 and whether he would have done anything different, he added, "I did what I wanted to do in my own way."



The truck Ernie used on many of his jobs

GEOLOGY OF HAYCOCK

Compiled by Michele Malinchak

In this issue's 'Haycock Profiles', Ernie Lambrecht mentioned he was never out of work because of all the rocks in Bucks County. While few of us have tackled the boulders Ernie did, living in Haycock has acquainted us with rocks in one way or another. Whether you're planting something or digging fence posts, you're bound to encounter the abundance of rocks in our area.

You may not appreciate rocks when they get in the way of a chore, but the geology of Haycock is quite unique compared to the rest of the state. In his article, 'School of Hard Rocks' in the July 11, 2004 edition of *The Morning Call*, Christian Berg wrote about a geology program presented at Nockamixon State Park. His interview with environmental education specialist Jennifer Fetter revealed that most of the bedrock in Upper Bucks County consists of shale, siltstone and argillite formed during the Triassic period, which scientists believe occurred about 200 million years ago. This makes our area different since almost all of Pennsylvania has bedrock formed more than 300 million years ago.

Berg continued, "Rock from the Triassic and Jurassic periods is found only in the Southeast portion of the state. And since that's the era when dinosaurs lived, this the only region of Pennsylvania where dinosaur fossils can be found."

Prior to the Triassic Period, all of the Earth's land masses were joined together in a supercontinent called Pangea, scientists say. But during the Triassic and Jurassic periods, the North American and African land masses began to pull away from one another. This pulling action stretched the Earth's crust and created the Newark rift, a long, narrow basin that runs roughly from Newark, N.J. to Gettysburg in Adams County.

Algae fossils found in rocks throughout Upper Bucks indicate the region was once covered with standing water, which helps explain how the area's sedimentary shale, siltstone and argillite formed. Sedimentary rocks are made from sediment that collects on river and lake bottoms. Over time, the sedi-

ment dries out and becomes cemented together.

In addition to creating the Newark rift basin, the continental shifting created cracks in the Earth's crust that allowed magma to seep up into the pre-existing shale, siltstone and argillite. Over a period of thousands of years, this magma cooled and hardened into the dark-gray diabase that makes up the boulders we see today.

Diabase, more commonly known as black granite, is an igneous rock. There are two types of igneous rock—intrusive and extrusive. Intrusive igneous rock, such as diabase, forms when magma is trapped underground and cools there. Extrusive igneous rock forms when magma cools on the Earth's surface, such as when lava erupts from a volcano, then hardens as it cools.

After forming underground, the very hard diabase was exposed due to millions of years of erosion that washed away softer sedimentary rock above it. Rain then froze in the cracks of the diabase, widening it and eventually breaking the rock into boulders. Continued weathering gave the boulders their smooth, rounded appearance.

Fetter said most of the boulders on the surface today have been exposed for only 10,000 to 20,000 years, making them relative newcomers.

The Quakertown area is home to the second-largest diabase sheet in Pennsylvania. Diabase is found only in a narrow swath of southeastern Pennsylvania that stretches from the Delaware River to the Gettysburg area.

Diabase boulders that make up Haycock Mountain—at 965 feet the highest point in Bucks County—are the same as those that comprise Little Round Top at Gettysburg National Military Park.

The Upper Bucks area is home to several large diabase boulder fields, the most prominent of which is at Ringing Rocks county park in Bridgeton Township. The park is so named for the ringing sounds the boulders make when struck with a hammer—a result of iron contained in the diabase".

SOCIETY NEWS

RESEARCH COMMITTEE

The research committee will be meeting May 28 June 25, and July 23, 7:00 p.m. at Pat DeWald's house 204 Pullen Station Road.

All are welcome. Come and start researching your home or looking up tax records, or bring your own ideas of what you would like to research or share research you may have done already. For directions or questions call Pat DeWald 215 804 0216

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

We welcome new members Les Goldthorp, Robert Pope, David Myers and Robert Landgreen. Our total membership is 142 with five organizations.

Thank you to Chris Bauer and Haycock Township who helped scan all the newsletters into the computer. We have a list of newsletter content that will be on our website. Past newsletters may be purchased in yearly bundles for \$5.00, contact Jane Nase 215-536-0496 or craftsbymj@verizon.net

SOCIAL EVENTS COMMITTEE

HHS thanks Christine Clary Pennock for her April 16th presentation on the history, art and making of frakturs. Mrs. Pennock provided attendees with a wonderful and informative evening. Her reproduction frakturs in the form of note cards and wedding and birth announcements are available at craft shows and historical events. Anyone interested in contacting her may call (215) 257-2502.

In April HHS welcomed new Ad Hoc Officer, Paula Laughlin, filling a post vacated by Heather DiSario. Paula was voted in at the 4/7 officer's meeting and will also fill a new and needed position of speaker coordinator, locating and booking speakers for our upcoming general meetings. If you have a topic or speaker to suggest, Paula welcomes your input at pmlreader@yahoo.com.

HHS also welcomes life-member, Nancy DePue to a new position for her, sunshine committee. Nancy will be our official good-will ambassador. Welcome aboard Nancy!

Ad Hoc Officer Henry DePue is currently acting as interim recording secretary. HHS is actively seeking a member to fill the position. No experience is required, only a willingness to sit in on and record the direction of the 12 yearly Governing meetings, held the first Tuesday of each month, and General Meetings held March, April, May, September, October and November. Interested individuals should contact any of the officers for details.

Social events committee members participated as concessionaires on May 2 at the UBACE (Upper Bucks Alliance For Creative Expression) spring concert at Strayer Middle School in Quakertown. The concert, 'Rock & Roll From AC to ZZ,' featured guitar/vocalist & musical director, Scott Erickson, as well as bass guitarist Rob Frasier and drummer, Kevin Soffera. These professionals filled the stage alongside talented local teen musicians and vocalists, playing to a packed auditorium. HHS is thankful to members of the social events committee for raising nearly \$400.00 by selling water, soda, soft pretzels and home baked cookies at the affair. HHS thanks UBACE for considering HHS for the concession. HHS officers will be con-

tributing a scholarship certificate for UBACE to give to one of their deserving young musicians as a way of thanks. Donations of water and soda were greatly appreciated. We continue to ask for donations of cases of bottled water to sell at our Marketplace Event on 5/30. You can arrange to drop off donated cases to Henry DePue by calling (215) 536-5103 or emailing hnde57@verizon.net

Members gathered at the home of Chris Handschin on Sunday, 5/17 to embark on a car caravan tour of local artists in their studios on the last day of the Elephant's Eye Tour. Haycock artists Tom Kazary and Wendy and Dave Ellsworth were visited as well as Quakertown sculptor, Steve Tobin's Studio. Visit HHS website www.haycockhistoricalsociety.org in the coming weeks for a pictures of the outing.

Haycock Country Marketplace at Haycock Firehouse will feature Antique Cars this year. Each year the events committee has enhanced the marketplace experience by adding new attractions. This year is no exception. In addition to offering light lunch and desserts all day and great live music provided by members, Gordon Allem of Strings & Things, Steve Applegate, Ed Bauer and Jonnie Handschin, the event will feature a display of Antique Cars & Trucks as well as plenty of crafts, antiques and collectable tables. HHS will again offer a white elephant table of donated items this year. If you have a gently used item to donate, bring it (priced with a sticker at the price you'd want to see it sold for) to Gail Silveira or Paula Applegate at the firehouse on the morning of 5/30 before 9:00 a.m. (To reclaim any unsold items, be on hand at 3:00 p.m. on the same day to collect them.) Member Greg Seifert, owner of Mountain Pride Farms will have his team of Belgian horses on hand and offer carriage rides through the village of Applebachsville from 10-2 (weather permitting) for a nominal fee. We hope members will take advantage of this great opportunity to enjoy Haycock life.

On Sunday, June 29, 2009 HHS hopes to host a Summer Solstice Covered Dish Music Jam at the Tohickon Campground Barn.

We'll be inviting musically inclined members and friends to participate. Contact Chris Handschin @ (215) 536-0364 for details.

The society has extended the deadline for the Sue Kleiner-Grew memorial book's written and photographic additions till May 31. If you have any pictures of Sue walking her white dog, Bruiser or of her wearing her "antlers" at Kringle please contact Chris Handschin (215) 536-0364 or email chandschin@verizon.net



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CONSTRUCTION

ADDITIONS ▼ REMODELING

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