

HAYCOCK HISTORICAL NEWS

The Newsletter of The Haycock Historical Society • Summer 2008

SUMMER MEMORIES

by Jane Nase

Summertime and the living is easy. The words of a folksong didn't represent life in Haycock for children growing up during the thirties and forties. For the children of farm families, there were always chores to do no matter how old you were. They started and ended the day tending the cows, and literally made hay in between. Some kids picked tomatoes for a few cents a basket on the farms that grew tomato plants for the Campbell Soup Company. The "town" kids were able to play more in the summer rather than do so many chores.

Most kids in Haycock enjoyed swimming in the Tohickon Creek or in the large pond at Benny Surket's home. Fishing was also a big pastime during the summer days; sunfish and eels were treasured. Some found card games such as penny Anny or rummy entertaining. Others had fun singing and playing the player piano with neighbors. Riding bikes was always

entertaining, too.

The older kids were able to walk into Quakertown to see a movie at the Karlton where the present cafe of the same name is located, or the Palace Theater, where Dimmick's store is now located. Movies like 'Lassie Come Home' and 'National Velvet' were shown. When a car was available, the teens would drive to a church on Marienstein Road or Keller's Church for square dances and picnics.

Haycock Mennonite Church was a buzz of activity for a few weeks every summer during Bible School. The members who attended still get together once a year.

Although the living wasn't easy in the summertime for Haycock kids, they still enjoyed their time.

Thanks to Eddie Bauer and Bill Peischel who shared their summertime experiences with me.



Pictured above is a summer memory of Bob Landgreen showing off his catch in Tohickon Creek in the Tohickon village area. The photo, courtesy of Marjorie Goldthorp Fulp, was probably taken in the late forties or early fifties.

DUNLAPS SCHOOL

1903-1904

Submitted by Heather Radick



Annie Esther Trauger
Clarence Snyder
Clara Pearson
Erwin Oliver Ring
Florence Harding
Florence Singer

George Robert Leslie
Harold Harding
Ida Irene Wasser
Joseph Frick
Lizzie Frick

Lizzie Harding
Raymond Daniel
Sadie Daniel
Sadie Singer
Simon Harding
Victor Daniel

In 1859, a new building was erected in the northeastern section of the township at an expense of \$265.00. This was known as Dunlap's School, located on Roundhouse Road. It finally closed in 1913 due to lack of enrollment.

Class photo above was taken March 16, 1903. Although only 14 students appear in the photo, there are 17 listed in the class list. Perhaps some of you can help us match the children with the names above. Also pictured in the photo is teacher, Webster Singer, Sr., who was about 20 years old at the time. Photo and class list courtesy of Nancy Singer.

Did You Know....

- One of Applebachsville's one-room school's teachers, John Summer Stahr, later became the president of Franklin and Marshall College in Lancaster, Pennsylvania.
- Samuel B. Thatcher, 1822-1905, for whom the village of Thatcher was named, was also a founder of Quakertown National Bank.

DAVE LONG: SUMMER REMEMBRANCES

By Sue Kleiner-Grew

Township Roadmaster Dave Long spent his childhood taking advantage of all the best that summers in Haycock had to offer.

During the summer he would stay at home and be out in the woods. He spent time with his neighbors, Steve and Glen, sons of Merrill and Betty Landis. He and his friends would wade and fish in Kimple's Creek. They would dam the little streams to create a waterhole for frogs and fish and even built a small boat.

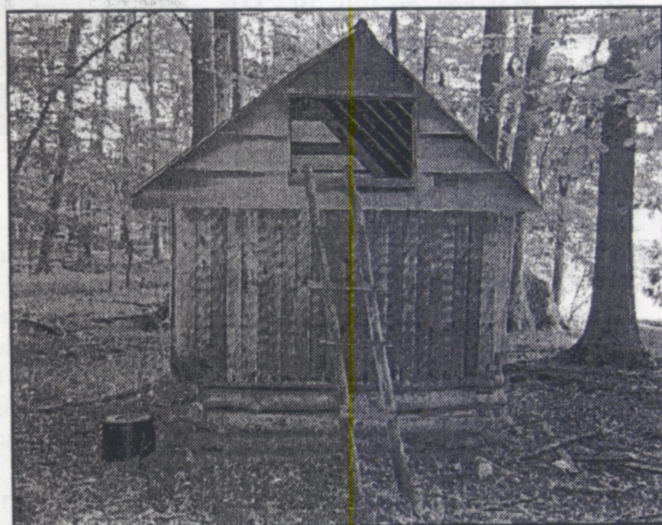
In the 1960s, Dave would swim in the Tohickon Creek at a place known as Bickley's swimming hole. Bickley's was located off Old Bethlehem Road near where it dead ends into Lake Nockamixon. There were shale shelves jutting out from the walls and the boys

would dive off them into the creek.

When he was about 12 years old, Dave and his friends built a 10 feet by 10 feet log cabin.

Using a hatchet, they built it with logs cut by hand and used mud as insulation. Many nights were spent camping out in the log cabin. The boys made campfires where they roasted marshmallows and hot dogs and made pancakes for breakfast. The log cabin still stands by the pond at the Landis family property on Roudenbush Road.

Dave, now 48, currently lives next door to the house in which he grew up. These days, his 10-year-old daughter, Caitlyn plays in the same streams and ponds and catches crayfish in the exact spots as Dave did when he was her age.



Dave said some of the boards around the side have been replaced since the cabin was first built, but it is essentially the same. You can still see the mud packed in between the logs from 35 years ago (amazing!) The tree carving from 1973 located near the cabin, has the initials of S.L. (Steve Landis), G.L. (Glen Landis), M.O. (Marty Ornan), and D.L. (Dave Long).



SNAKES: PAST AND PRESENT

By Michele Malinchak

In the year 1900, numerous snake sightings such as those listed below made news in and around Haycock.

The *Daily Intelligencer* made this brief but ominous observation on April 25, 1900: "The snakes have made their appearance already."

Another account dated May 3, said: "While William Heft was working at a stump in a field he saw a snake come out. He began to throw stones but the snake showed fight. After a little battle he got a gun and shot the snake. It measured over six feet. Then he threw it in the road and in the evening some fellows came along and took it with them".

On June 6, this snake made news in Thatcher: "Preston McCarty killed a large copperhead snake on the farm of S. B. Thatcher last week. Another one of the same species was killed the same day by a passerby only a short distance from the place where the first one was killed."

Also in Thatcher, on July 19: "Mrs. Stover Detweiler killed an old copperhead snake several yards away from the kitchen door. These poisonous reptiles are very numerous this summer, as this is the sixth killed within the space of several acres".

Finally, on August, the *Quakertown Free Press* reported: "Mrs. Joseph Nicholas of Springtown, while cleaning house, found a copperhead snake in a cupboard."

Today, wild snakes rarely make the news, and the question could be raised why they don't seem to be as prevalent as they were a century ago. One reason might be that in the 18th, 19th and early 20th century, people spent more time outdoors working the land and likely encountered more snakes.

In his book, "Place Names in Bucks County, Pennsylvania," author George MacReynolds wrote about the Great Swamp in Quakertown during the 18th century. "Wolves, bears, deer, panthers and venomous snakes were numerous, for years. Rattlesnakes were especially troublesome to mowers, who were compelled to wrap their legs with hay or other material to ward off their bites."

MacReynolds also wrote about Haycock Mountain in the same book, stating: "Blacksnakes have appropriated the long abandoned black bear dens and, like the rocks, they grow big and long up there". In our daily encounters, though, snake sightings are rare. Lori DeWalt, who works at Nockamixon State Park, said loss of habitat is a key reason we don't see more of them. Even the initial construction of the park adversely affected snake populations, however, she emphasized their habitat is well protected now. DeWalt has personally seen black rat snakes, black racers and North American water snakes. "Snakes play an important role in the ecosystem," she said, "especially in keeping the rodent

population down."

According to the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission (PFBC), there may actually be many more snakes around that we are not seeing. To combat excessive summer heat, many species of snakes limit their movement to cooler temperatures at night, and therefore are rarely seen by most of us. Snakes that are typically most active during the day are almost exclusively nocturnal during the hottest days of summer.

If it seems there are more snakes this time of year, it is because they are merely following their food sources. Even species that usually live in the forests and hillsides begin to move toward valleys and streams. According to the PFBC, they are not necessarily looking for water, but the small animals that snakes feed on are. As cooler fall temperatures arrive, the snakes will gradually move back into the areas they originally inhabited.

Twenty-one species of snakes are considered to be native to Pennsylvania, and only three of them are venomous. They are the northern copperhead, eastern massasauga rattlesnake, and timber rattlesnake. Reports of venomous snakebites in Pennsylvania are rare and usually

occur while a person is trying to catch or carelessly handle one. All of these species are usually non-aggressive and prefer to avoid confrontation. Encounters can be reduced by watching where you place your hands and feet. One should try to walk around, rather than step over, fallen logs. The PFBC said people usually have more than enough opportunity to stop, back up or otherwise avoid the snake.

Fear or negative attitudes about snakes often stem from a lack of knowledge of their habits and role in the ecosystem. Even though the majority of snakes in our area are harmless, it is understandable that people do not want them around the home.

Increased awareness of snakes and their habits usually leads to a new appreciation of them. Snakes are worthy of respect and protection simply because they are wild animals and a part of the natural heritage of Pennsylvania.

The PFBC says, whenever you see a snake in the backyard or crossing a road, respect it for what it is, what it does and allow it to continue on its way!

For more information about snakes, visit the "Snakes in Pennsylvania" section of the PFBC web site at: www.fish.state.pa.us/factsnake.htm, or their amphibians & reptiles page for links to other snake pages.

News clippings from the Daily Intelligencer were courtesy of the Bucks County Historical Society and are property of Spruance Library, Doylestown, PA.



SOCIETY NEWS

IN MEMORY

We would like to extend our condolences to the family and friends of Richard Peischel.

Richard, who was an HHS charter founding member, passed away on July 1, 2008. Born and raised in Haycock Township, he moved from the area in the 1960s to pursue his career. He resided in Wilmington, Delaware, with his wife, Esther, to whom he was married for 56 years. Richard retired as an engineer from Bell Telephone. He was a member of St. Catherine of Siena R. C. Church and the American Legion. He enjoyed snowmobiling, hunting, traveling and playing card games and spending time with his family, especially his grandchildren and great-granddaughter. He was preceded in death by brothers, Charles and Adolph, and sisters, Anna and Clem.

In addition to his wife, he is survived by a daughter, Debbie Schaffer; a brother, William Peischel; grandchildren, and a great granddaughter. Memorial contributions may be made to the American Heart Association, 1501 Casho Mill Road, Suite 1, Newark, DE 19711.

SOCIAL COMMITTEE

Market Place was held May 31, 2008 at the Haycock Fire company. Trudi Rosencrans was organizer for the event. New this year was a tractor show featuring antique farm tractors. Greg Siefert offered horse drawn carriage rides, and music was provided by artists including Gordon Allem and his band, Steve Applegate, Eddie Bauer and Rich Laughlin. The white elephant table, operated by Gail Silveira and Paula Applegate, featured donated items and proceeds of the sale went to the Society. Several commemorative items were also sold and three new members were signed up. Many thanks those who contributed their hard work and good spirits to make the event a great success: Trudi Rosencrans, Nancy DePue, Sue McLaughlin, Diane Vosburgh, Paula Laughlin, Sue Kleiner-Grew and Mary Quinn. We also appreciate the efforts of Henry DePue, Ralph Rosencrans, Richard Landgreen, Jim Grew, Steve Applegate, Rich Laughlin and Dave Long for their assistance with transporting and setting up the tables and providing traffic control.

The Marketplace grossed \$933.00 before costs were deducted.

RESEARCH COMMITTEE

Book Committee:

Pat DeWald and Eddie Bauer have been working on a book about Haycock Township. She and Eddie have been collaborating to gather stories of every day life in Haycock from about 1910 to 1970. The title of the book is "Haycock Township 1910 - 1970 and Eddie Bauer." Others who have contributed stories for the book are Bill Peischel, Stella Morth, Joe Lindmeier, Richard Landgreen, Vic Stevens, and Chris Handschin. Thanks to the many people have supplied information and pictures for this written "oral" history. So much information has been gathered that a second book may be in the works. Presently we are applying for a grant

to publish the book.

Research Committee Meetings:

September 25, 7 p.m. at Pat DeWald's house.

October 23, 7 p.m. at Pat DeWald's house.

The research committee will present a program on mills at the general meeting on October 16. The presentation will include information about: Cylmer's, Sterner's, Schellenberger's, and Stover's mills.

To coincide with the presentation, the research committee is planning a tour of the former Elmer Stover and Schellenberger mills at 2 p.m., Sunday, October 26. Meeting place to be arranged later.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Haycock Historical Society currently has 120 active members. Our newest member is state Sen. Chuck McIlhinney.

We have one corporate sponsor. If you would like to become a corporate sponsor or a lifetime member, please contact Sue Kleiner-Grew at 215-538-3613 or visit our website: www.haycockhistoricalsociety.org.

OFFICERS COMMITTEE

The officers renewed our subscriptions to Ancestry.com and EllisIsland.com. These websites contain valuable information for those who are interested in learning about their genealogy and family history. We also have joined the Bucks County Historical Society which gave us two passes to enter the Spruance Library and Mercer Museum for the next year. Contact Sue Kleiner-Grew to gain access to the passes.

NOTES OF THANKS

Chris Handschin sends along her thanks for all the forms of support given to her at the time of her father's passing.

SOCIETY MEETINGS

Thursday September 18, 7 p.m.

Thursday October 16, 7 p.m.

Sunday November 23, 2 p.m.

Each meeting begins with information about HHS activities and accomplishments and is followed by a speaker presenting on topics of historical interest.

Our meetings are typically held at St. Paul's Lutheran Church across from the Haycock firehouse.



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