

Spring Events | **Trexlertown's Velodrome** | 100 Years of Blazing Trails and Hiking Fellowship
Bicycle Heaven | MCC's Mobile Canner | Pittsburgh's 1936 Patrick's Day Flood | A Visiting Limpkin

Pennsylvania magazine

MARCH/APRIL 2024 | VOL. 47, NO. 2



MAR/APR 2024 | \$5.95



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Contents

March/April 2024 | Vol. 47, No. 2

FEATURES

20 A Thrill a Minute

Velodrome in Trexlertown serves as a community place for bicyclists of all ages BY GINNIE LODGE

26 Showing Mercy and Compassion

Pennsylvania tended to the army's wounded during the Revolutionary War BY DAVID MCCORMICK

32 Springtime

A photography essay featuring life re-emerging as the sun warms

42 Celebrating 100 Years of Hiking

Blue Mountain Eagle Climbing Club's history predates the blazing of the Appalachian Trail BY CINDY ROSS

EVERY ISSUE

4 NEWS & VIEWS

5 MAILBOX

6 HOT SHOT: EDITOR'S CHOICE I

8 HOT SHOT: EDITOR'S CHOICE II

10 ROUND UP:

Bicycle Heaven, Lake Erie Arboretum, Mennonite Central Committee's mobile canner, Pittsburgh's 1936 St. Patrick's Day flood, a limpkin visits Cumberland County

47 SPRING EVENTS CALENDAR

50 TOWN & COUNTRY

A porcupine up in a tree

51 DID 'JA KNOW?

Name that Pennsylvanian

ABOUT THE COVER: Cyclists rounding the bend in the Trexlertown velodrome cast their shadows onto the concrete track in the late daylight. Ginnie Lodge's article about this special facility starts on page 20. CANON EOS 77D, 100.0 MM, F/13, ISO 400, 1/1000 S

THESE PAGES: On an April day, Cal Robinson of Edinboro found this snail among the moss fronds at Scarlett Wildflower Sanctuary near his hometown in Erie County. He titled the photo "Attack of the Frondroids." PANASONIC DC-ZS200, 8.8 MM, F/6.3, ISO 125, 1/200 S



NEWS & VIEWS




LOCATION CONTESTS

Christmas Trees, Ice Tongs and Bicycle Wheels

The 10 winners of the November/December 2023 issue's Christmas Trees Location Contest who were randomly drawn from all correct entries are Susan Aneskewich, Easton; Larry Holben, Cochran; Ruth Jimick, Freedom; Dee Kreiter, Scotrun; Paul F. Nelson, Kane; Jo-Anne Pekarik, Allentown; Nancy Romba, Waterford; Christine Schuyler, Hatfield; Linda Strawser, Newport; and Thomas Weeter, Hummelstown. Each will receive a one-year Pennsylvania Magazine subscription.

The January/February ice tong illustrations appeared on pages 5, 15 and 47. For this issue's object, in recognition of Bicycle Heaven and the Trexlertown velodrome,

we have hidden three bicycle wheels like this: . Enter the page numbers online at pa-mag.com/wheels or you may mail a postcard to Wheels, Pennsylvania Magazine, P.O. Box 755, Camp Hill, PA 17001. Give your name and address and the page numbers where you found each of the wheels. Enter by April 22. From all of the correct entries, we will randomly select six winners, who will each receive a Pennsylvania Magazine one-year subscription.

We'll announce the locations of the wheels in the May/June 2024 issue and publish the names and hometowns of the winners in the July/August 2024 edition.

2024

PHOTO CONTEST

DEADLINE IS APRIL 15, 2024

Send in Your Best Shots

Our 2024 Photo Contest entry form is available at pa-mag.com/2024photo (or see page 41). We'll follow the same digital submission format as previous years, using Dropbox.com or any other online file-sharing service. You can also mail a USB drive or CD/DVD through the postal system. See our website for all of the entry details. Many find it easier to fill out the PDF entry form (available on the website) and upload a saved completed copy of that with their entries to a shared folder on a file-sharing service.

The categories are **Legged Wildlife** (mammals, insects, amphibians, etc.), **Overviews and Vistas** (from on high or from an overlook) and **Altered Images** (artistic touches put to images).

See the website for tips on the types of images that do best in our contest and how to send additional images to be considered for use in the magazine.

Note that we've added a rule to our contest: Any image that is a composite must be marked as such with the component images available for the judges. This rule does not apply to this year's Altered Images category.

The purpose of our contest is to publish images that thrill our readers—these are images that are different than the ordinary but still resonate with people as familiar subjects. When judging entries and selecting winners, we keep these four things in mind:

- We desire to have the best images win.
- This is a contest for photos that will appear in this magazine, so we seek a "wow factor."
- We want the winners to represent the categories that they are entered within.
- Finally, we want to celebrate Pennsylvania's amateur photographers.

We encourage you to search your stock of images and enter your best photographs.

Albert E. Holliday
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www.pa-mag.com

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COLUMNIST

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PENNSYLVANIA MAGAZINE (ISSN 0744-4230)

is published every other month by Pennsylvania Magazine Company, Albert E. Holliday, general manager. Publication offices: P.O. Box 755, Camp Hill, PA 17001-0755. Phone 717-697-4660. Copyright ©2024 by *Pennsylvania Magazine*. Printing performed in Pennsylvania by Fry Communications, Inc., Mechanicsburg. Newsstand marketing provided by RSD Marketing.

PENNSYLVANIA MAGAZINE

P.O. Box 755, Camp Hill, PA 17001-0755.

One-year, six-issue subscriptions: \$25.97.

Foreign: \$25.97+\$50 shipping, payable in U.S. funds. Periodicals postage paid at Mechanicsburg PA 17055.

Free PDF files of this issue's articles in large print text available by request. Email editor@pa-mag.com.

DIRECT EDITORIAL CORRESPONDENCE to Editor, Pennsylvania Magazine, P.O. Box 755, Camp Hill, PA 17001-0755; editor@pa-mag.com. Editorial guidelines are gladly sent via email or see the website for more information about contributing articles and photos. Send return postage and a self-addressed envelope with all unsolicited manuscripts, art and photos for a response and/or return of materials; the magazine cannot be held liable for loss or damage. Response time for editorial inquiries is usually four to six weeks.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to *Pennsylvania Magazine*, P.O. Box 755, Camp Hill, PA 17001-0755; editor@pa-mag.com.

MAILING PREFERENCE: Our subscriber list is made available at times to selected organizations for one-time mailings. To be excluded from these mailing lists, please call toll-free 1-800-537-2624 or note your request on your subscription or renewal form.

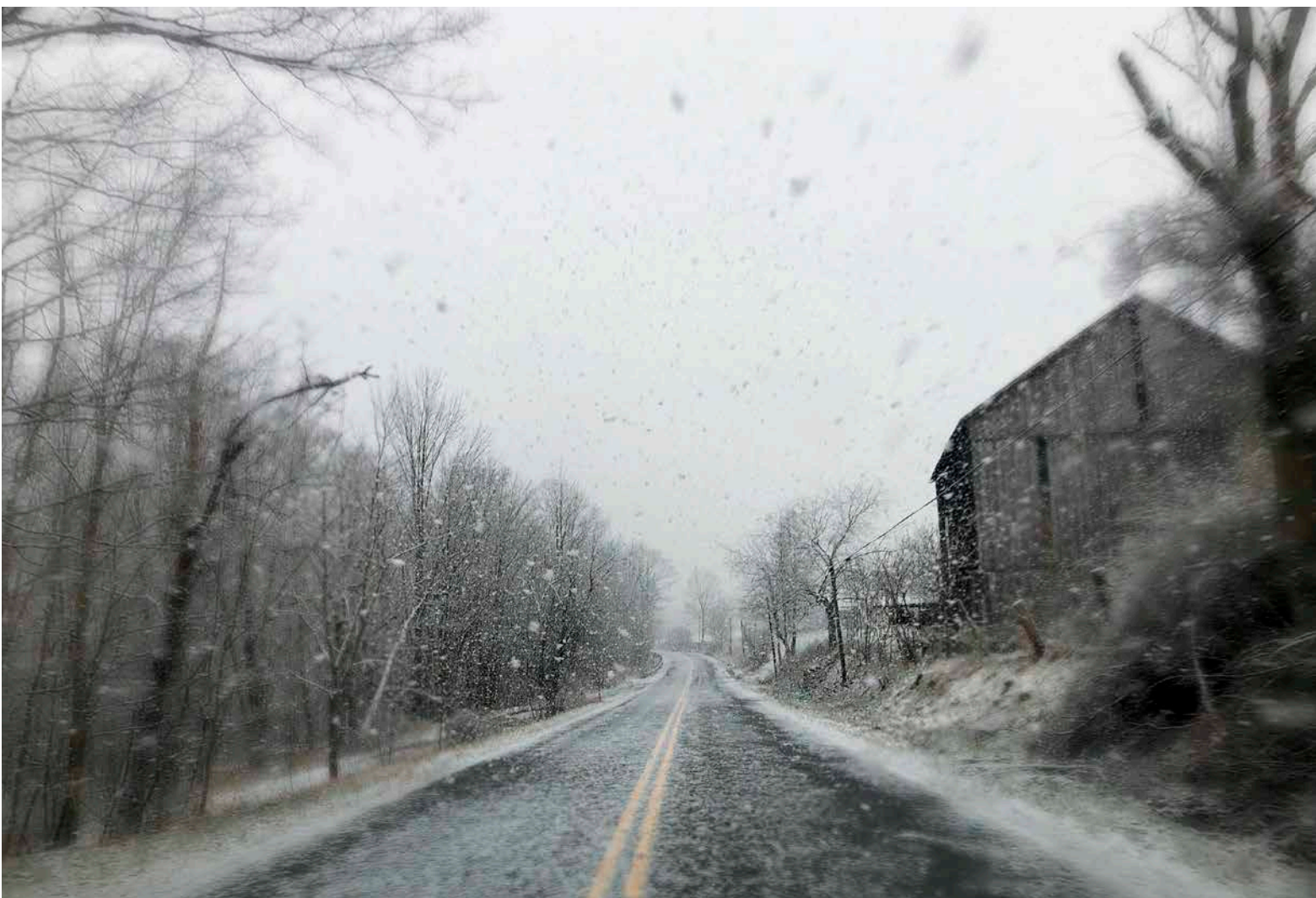
SUBSCRIPTIONS OR CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Call toll-free 1-800-537-2624

Weekdays 8:30 a.m.- 4:30 p.m.
Outside the U.S.A. call 717-697-4660

GENERAL EMAIL ADDRESS: editor@pa-mag.com
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MAILBOX



▲ Big April Snowflakes

During a typical April snowstorm—huge flakes, the kind that would be fantastic on Christmas Day—Jack Puhl of Lake Ariel captured this view while on Route 590 in Madisonville heading to Elmhurst, Lackawanna County. That morning, the sun had been shining, and he was ready to put gas in the mower.

APPLE IPHONE 8 PLUS, 4.0 MM, F/1.8, ISO 20, 1/250 S



It's a Small World Vibes

I was going through my father's old pictures and found this postcard addressed to him from his dad, who was sailing on the S.S. United States on May 29, 1961, heading toward Europe. I enjoyed the article about the ship in the November/December 2023 issue.

John Rigo, State College

UPDATES: Here are some corrections for the January/February 2024 issue. The photo on pages 30-31 is of recently harvested grain, not hay. The photo on the cover contains spruce trees, not pine, and the lone tree in the photo on page 37 is a hemlock, not a pine.

FOR THIS COLUMN, SEND YOUR LETTERS OR PHOTOS

to editor@pa-mag.com or Pennsylvania Magazine, P.O. Box 755, Camp Hill, PA 17001.

HOT SHOT: Editor's Choice I





10 Years Later . . .

In our March/April 2014 issue, we ran a similar photo by photographer Daniel Gomola of Renfrew. He noted that great horned owls often take over stick nests made by other birds. Since these owls lay their eggs much earlier than the great blue heron, they probably thought they would be alone. In April 2022, Dorothy Monahan of Oil City heard about the owls and took this image of the rookery along Route 8, south of Franklin, Venango County. The owls might be back again this year, raising their young amongst the foreigners. CANON EOS REBEL T7I, 600.0 MM, F/9, ISO 3200, 1/800 S

HOT SHOT: Editor's Choice II





Glide Path

On the last day of March, Rich Reed of Sandy Lake watched this bald eagle from his blind for a half hour before it took to the sky and glided down to Sandy Creek below the Lake Wilhelm dam in Mercer County, and fed on the gizzard shad floating in the creek.

NIKON Z9, 400.0 MM, F/3.2, ISO 1250, 1/1000 S

Round Up

People | Places | Events | History



COURTESY OF BICYCLE HEAVEN

Bicycle Heaven

Museum showcases Pee-wee Herman's iconic bike while also featuring bicycles through the years

by Kellie B. Gormly

THE ICONIC RED AND WHITE SCHWINN DX Cruiser, which plays a starring role in the 1985 movie "Pee-wee's Big Adventure," has always drawn fans to Bicycle Heaven museum in

Pittsburgh. Yet ever since comedian and actor Paul Reubens, the titular character known for his Pee-wee Herman alter ego, died in July last year, more visitors than ever have been flocking to the museum

Bicycle Heaven has one of the prop bicycles used in the 1985 movie "Pee-wee's Big Adventure" among its collection of more than 6,000 wheeled conveyances, perhaps the largest collection in the country. Some fans of the movie arrive at the museum just to see this one bike.

on the city's North Shore along the Ohio River in Allegheny County.

Some of the most devoted Reubens fans come dressed in Pee-wee Herman costumes and lay flowers at the base of the bike on display in all its quirky glory with candy-like red and white swirls at the center of the front wheel. The movie plays on a loop on a nearby TV, and a vintage marquis from a movie theater stands next to the bike.

"Some come just to see this bike," Craig Morrow, owner of Bicycle Heaven, says. "They like the other bikes, but they come just to see this one."

"I always tell people it's not in the basement," he says, referring to a joke from the movie in which a quack psychic tells Pee-wee that his lost bike is in the basement of the Alamo.

Morrow acquired the Pee-wee bike about 13 years ago from a collector in Michigan. It's one of four known remaining bicycles of the dozen or so that were used in the movie. Reubens kept two. Fans can see this one at Bicycle Heaven or travel to the Bicycle Museum of America in New Bremen, Ohio, to view the other.

Nostalgic Visits

AT THE PITTSBURGH MUSEUM, which opened in 2011, the bicycle collection has grown to more than 6,000. In fact, Morrow is out of room, but the insatiable collector keeps buying bikes and finding more storage space to accommodate them. His collection is said to be the largest variety collection of bikes in the country.

Morrow, who is 67, started collecting bicycles in his mid-20s. When the collection took over his house, where he even stored bike tires in a bathtub, he began renting friends' garages for extra space.

The irresistible appeal of bicycles, he says, comes from the freedom and nostalgia that they represent.

"When people had bicycles, that meant a lot to them," Morrow says. "That was their freedom; that's what they used for transportation. Nearly everybody had a bike when they were a kid."

Not surprisingly, many people who come to Bicycle Heaven will look for a bike they had in their youth. Once they find it, they share stories connected to that bike:



KELLIE GORMLY

maybe how they chipped their teeth from falling off it, delivered newspapers from it or rode it home in time for dinner.

Even visitors who come specifically to see the Pee-wee Herman bike or another noteworthy bike discover much more than they expected from their trip to Bicycle Heaven.

"Once they're here, they don't just look at that one bike and leave," Morrow says. "They end up transfixed on everything that's in here."

Wide Variety of Styles

THE MUSEUM'S COLLECTION INCLUDES 19 Bowden Spacelander bikes, the first fiberglass bicycles designed by Benjamin Bowden, of which fewer than 600 were manufactured beginning in 1960. A noteworthy design trait is that a large portion of the bike tires

An original Kuwahara BMX movie bike from the Spielberg classic "E.T. the Extra-Terrestrial" was acquired by Craig Morrow of Bicycle Heaven in 2022.

are concealed by the roomy frame. These rare, coveted bikes sell for thousands of dollars on eBay.

The museum also has two colorful, whimsical bikes—one bright green and the other fluorescent orange—designed by George Barris, who was famous for designing and building Hollywood custom cars, including Batman's Batmobile and the iconic Dragula and Munster Koach vehicles seen on "The Munsters." The museum's Barris bikes have large, extra-comfy-looking seats.

Among other noteworthy and popular bicycles connected to popular movies is a replica of the bike featured in the 1982 film

Round Up



COURTESY OF BICYCLE HEAVEN

Designed by Benjamin Bowden for the 1946 exhibition “Britain Can Make It,” the Spacelander bicycle features a streamlined design, with its body made from two pieces of aluminum. Later, he immigrated to Michigan, where the bicycles, molded from fiberglass, were made.

“E.T.” from Universal City Studios. Although slightly bigger than the Kuwahara brand BMX bicycle in the actual movie, it is nearly an exact match and may have appeared in a trailer, Morrow says. It is located near the Pee-wee Herman bike on the second floor, an area that triggers more memories of beloved movies from the 1980s.

Visitors also enjoy the mid-20th century whimsical charm of a Donald Duck bike

manufactured by the Ohio-based Shelby Cycle Company. This 1949 rare bike was found in Pittsburgh and added to the museum collection in 2016. The horn on the yellow and blue Donald Duck bike makes a quacking noise.

Hanging on a wall in the museum is the Shire “boneshaker,” and just looking at it, one can sense why this late 19th century bicycle got its name. The bike, an 1879 model from Detroit, looks dreadfully uncomfortable with its stiff wrought-iron frame and wooden wheels that would have created an irritating vibration for the rider’s body. Invented by French maker Ernest Michaux, this style of bicycle was the first with pedals and brakes.

With so many varieties and styles, Bicycle Heaven takes visitors on a journey through the history of pedal-powered transportation while evoking fond memories of the role bicycles have played in their own lives. 🚲

—Kellie B. Gormly is a regular contributor from the Pittsburgh area.

WHEN YOU GO

Bicycle Heaven is located in R.J. Casey Industrial Park on Pittsburgh’s North Shore in Allegheny County. Admission is free, although donations are welcome. The museum is open 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. daily. It also sells used bikes and bike parts. Bicycle Heaven will host its annual Bicycle Show & Swap Meets on May 25-26 and August 17-18. These free events offer antique and classic bicycles for sale. 412-734-4034; bicycleheaven.org 📍

Forest in the City

Lake Erie Arboretum, a gem for nature lovers, provides sustainable green space for Erie

Photo and text by John Baker

FRONTIER PARK WAS AN UNDERUSED 35-ACRE park on the west side of Erie in 1998 when Dan and Kathy Dahlkemper were inspired by an arboretum they visited in Youngstown, Ohio. They sought support from Erie Mayor Joyce Savocchio to create a similar arboretum for their city. The mayor agreed, and Frontier Park was tagged as the perfect site for such an endeavor.

After four years of planning, the Lake Erie Arboretum at Frontier Park, referred to as LEAF, was created. The arboretum received a major boost when Gov. Tom Ridge, who hailed from Erie, helped to direct

\$337,000 in public funds for development of trails, tree plantings and electricity for the park.

In the two-plus decades since its opening, the site continues to grow, today hosting more than 1,000 trees, multiple pathways and bridges, kiosks and a virtual tree gazebo. The mission of LEAF is to generate greater awareness of the importance of trees.

Working with Pennsylvania Sea Grant, an organization that serves as a bridge between science and those who manage, conserve and enjoy the state's waterways and lakes, the Erie County Conservation District spent nearly \$1.5 million

to restore hundreds of feet of Cascade Creek and eliminate more than 230 tons of sediment. Environmental groups, such as S.O.N.S. (Save Our Native Species) of Lake Erie, provide valuable services annually to LEAF.

The property continues to evolve. In 2005, the Carrie T. Watson Garden Club donated the installation of a meditative labyrinth. In 2012, the 2,000-square-foot LEAF Education Center was constructed to provide educational programs, restrooms and offices and rental space for parties and other events. Sedum plants on the roof filter and clean rainwater runoff and provide natural cooling for

the building. Regular events at the arboretum include a farmers market, which runs every other Saturday from June through September.

LEAF serves as a shining example of what can happen when a few inspired people pull together, with hard work and cooperation from others, to develop safe, outdoor space for the community and, in the process, create a treasured forest in the city. ♡

—Contributor John Baker lives in Erie.



WHEN YOU GO

The **Lake Erie Arboretum at Frontier Park** is located at 1501 West Sixth St. in Erie. 814-453-5323; leaferie.org



The labyrinth at LEAF, which was dedicated in 2005, is not a maze, rather it's a form that folds back into itself, leading the participant to a deeper form of prayer, meditation or problem solving and is meant to be experienced at a leisurely pace.

Round Up

The Power of Protein

Mennonite Central Committee uses mobile canner to help spread cans of meat—plus peace and love—to a needy world

by Gail Gresh

“WAS HUNGRY AND YOU GAVE ME something to eat; I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink...”

These words from Matthew 25:35 of the Bible are a driving force of the Mennonite Central Committee, whose U.S. headquarters are located in Akron, Lancaster County. The mission of the organization, a worldwide nonprofit arm of the Anabaptist community, is to share God’s love and compassion through relief, development, peace and justice.

Among its top priorities, the Mennonite Central Committee seeks to supply basic human needs, such as food, water, shelter and healthcare, as well as education and aid to people displaced by war and natural disasters. To help feed the

Since WWII

THE MENNONITE CENTRAL COMMITTEE got its start in July 1920, when groups of the Mennonite and Brethren faith communities came together to feed the hungry in southern Russia, part of Ukraine today. Tractors and plows were sent to help residents plant their own crops and bring about self-sufficiency.

During World War II, the committee and other pacifist churches formed the Civilian Public Service as a way for conscientious objectors to serve their country. Members produced crops that were home-canned in glass jars and shipped across the country and to Europe. When many of the glass containers broke in transit, a practical alternative was sought. In 1945,

a portable metal canning machine was installed on a wagon and transported to various sites throughout the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia.

A year later, the first long-distance mobile canner was built in Hutchinson, Kan. Sent out to a broader area, it produced more than 215,000 pounds of preserved beef in the first year—a huge milestone. In the decades since, additional canning units were built, with the latest

one constructed in Pennsylvania.

Today, the mobile canning unit is sent to locations around the country. Four “canners,” who volunteer for two years of service, accompany the unit, and local families serve as hosts, housing and feeding the canners at each stop. Locals turn out to help with the canning process. At a recent stop at the Mennonite Central Committee’s Material Resource Center in Souderton, Montgomery County, roughly 300 signed on to work two-to six-hour shifts over three days.

Since 1946, the canning program has produced some 22 million cans of food, providing protein and important nutrients to areas of the world.

needy around the globe, the committee sends out a mobile canner to communities around the United States and Canada where volunteers help to fill and process cans of meat.

The canner, which operates between October and April, recently traveled to 34 locations in 11 states, as well as Canada. Since 1946, the canning program has produced some 22 million cans of food, providing protein and important nutrients to areas of the world where meat is hard to purchase.

Statewide



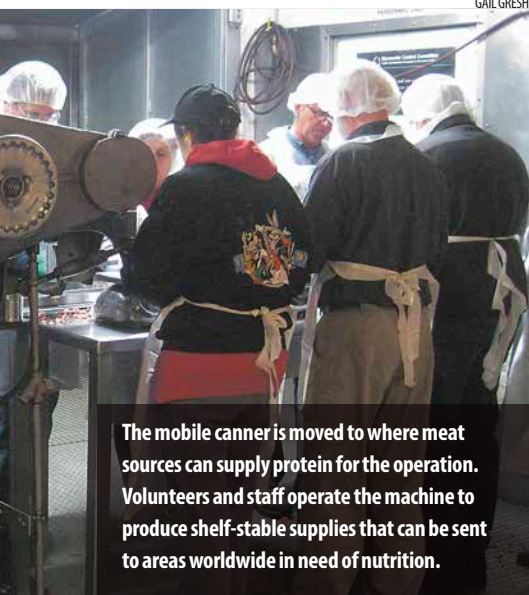
SUPPLIED BY MCC



GAIL GRESH



GAIL GRESH



The mobile canner is moved to where meat sources can supply protein for the operation. Volunteers and staff operate the machine to produce shelf-stable supplies that can be sent to areas worldwide in need of nutrition.

“It is always so enjoyable to see how many volunteers come out and find joy in helping others,” Rich Godshall, director of the center’s local canning program in Souderton, says. “They are a great group of volunteers, and it is a great day of service.”

When the tractor-trailer mobile canner arrives at a destination, it is unfolded and attached to a building to become an efficient canning facility. Local meat processors provide the protein, whether beef, pork or turkey, which either has already been sliced into one-inch cubes or is cut at the canning site. The meat is then packed into prepared cans, machine sealed and stacked inside a wire basket, which is placed into a large pressure cooker. The protein-filled cans cook for approximately 135 minutes at 246 degrees F and 15 psi. A representative from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) oversees the process.

Volunteers Are Key

ALAN KRATZ LIFTS CANS out of the baskets to ready them for cleaning. Bending over to reach the bottom is the worst part of the job, he says.

The best part? Meeting new people, he responds, referring to his fellow volunteers working alongside him.

Once the sealed cans are out of the basket, a volunteer hand washes and dries the cans to remove any cooked-on product. Next, pre-printed labels, which have been stamped with an expiration date, contents and the processing location, are applied by hand before the cans are packed up, 24 to a box.

Norma Linck of the Finland Mennonite Church helps prepare the labels that are affixed to the cans.

“I like to help people, and this is one way of helping,” she says.

The boxed cans are stored in a warehouse according to USDA regulations for at least 10 days to ensure the contents are safe. During that time, a can from each batch is placed into an incubator

to verify proper processing and handling. Upon passing final inspection, the cans are ready to be sent out to feed the hungry across the world.

The final destination for the cans is determined by the Mennonite Central Committee. Last year, they shipped 574,560 pounds of canned meat to Cuba, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Haiti, Malawi, South Sudan, Ukraine, Zambia and the United States, including Puerto Rico. In refugee camps in Ethiopia, for example, where a lack of sufficient food sources leaves many young children malnourished, the committee’s canned turkey and chicken helped to combat undernutrition for 6,000 children under the age of 2.

Volunteers are important to the success of the committee’s canning program. Every year, more than 30,000 step up to fill, weigh, wash and label every can that is processed and shipped out to partners for delivery.

“I see lots of volunteers, and it always amazes me how many people are willing to help,” says Sharon Swartzentruber of the Mennonite Central Committee who oversees volunteers at the canner stop in Souderton. “It’s a real blessing to see people so willing to help those in need.”

—Gail Gresh of Hatfield is a regular contributor.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

The **Mennonite Central Committee** seeks volunteers to help prepare cans of turkey, beef, chicken and pork at canning events held throughout the region. Meat canning is scheduled for the following dates and locations in Pennsylvania:

March 4-8, Kirkwood, Lancaster County

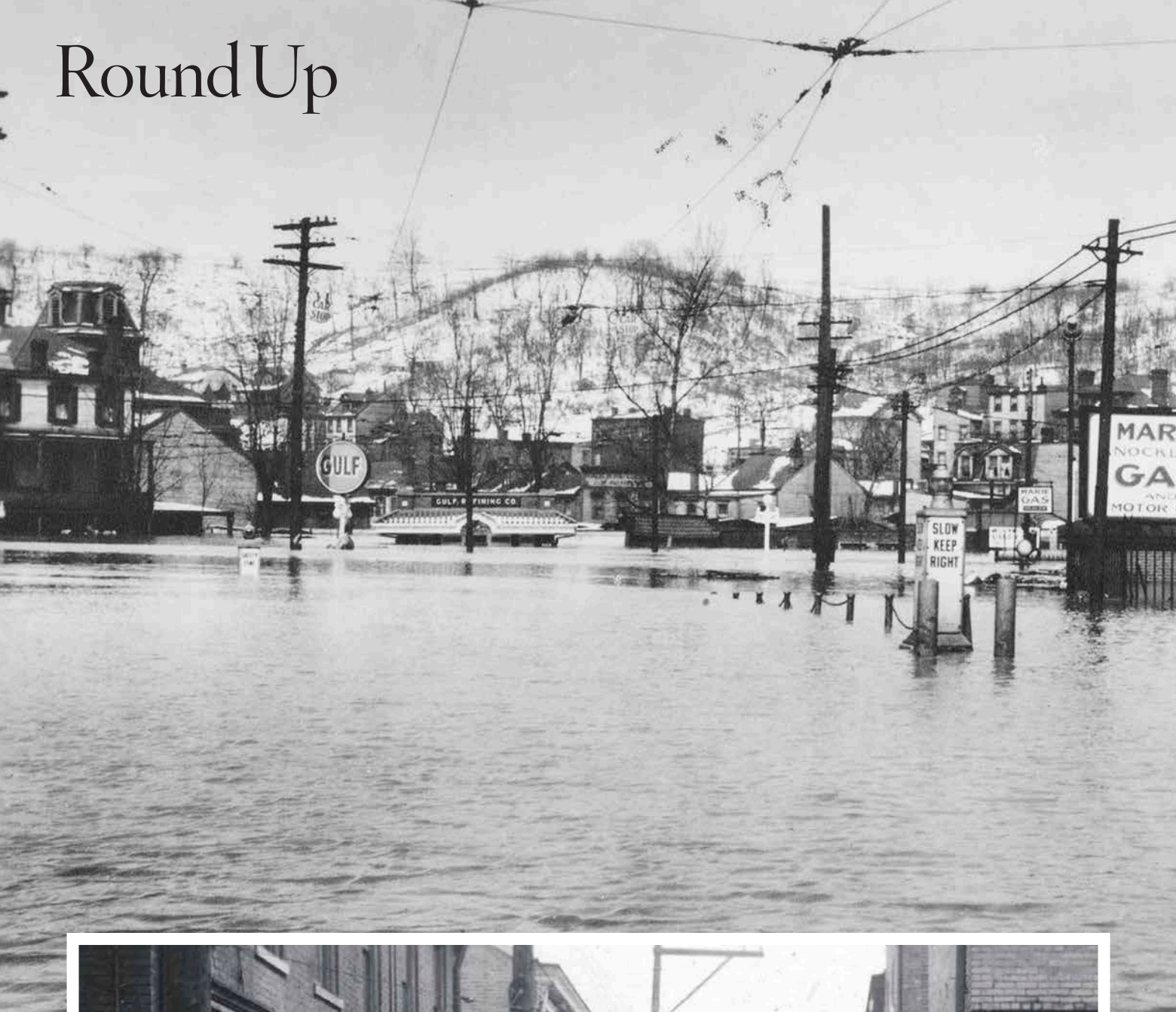
March 11-13, Myerstown, Lebanon County

March 18-22, New Holland, Lancaster County

March 25-27, Souderton, Montgomery County

To register for these dates or find future events, go to mcc.org/events/canning. In addition to volunteers, the committee welcomes donations to purchase protein. More information can be found at mcc.org. The committee’s East Coast U.S.A. office, located in Philadelphia can be reached at 215-535-3624.

Round Up





The flood affected many communities throughout the Pittsburgh area as shown in these photos: (this photo) Millvale on March 18, (upper right) McKees Rocks on March 19, (right) Northside of Pittsburgh overlooking the Allegheny River near Kauffmann's warehouse on March 18, and (lower left) Lawrence residents being rescued on March 18.



A Monumental Deluge

The 1936 St. Patrick's Day Flood that brought Pittsburgh to its knees

by Carol Watson, photographs courtesy of Detre & Library Archives at the Sen. John Heinz History Center

WHAT BECAME ONE OF PITTSBURGH'S WORST natural disasters—the 1936 St. Patrick's Day flood—started with an extremely snowy winter, ended in damaging water levels approaching 46 feet and eventually resulted in water-control projects that would help to ensure flooding of that scale never happened again.

The Scene Is Set

IN THE WINTER OF 1936, more than 53 inches

of snow had fallen in Pittsburgh, nearly twice the yearly average of 27.7 inches. The excessive cold only added to residents' misery, so when the temperature unexpectedly rose to 45 degrees on March 16, the city rejoiced; at last, spring had arrived.

Little did they know that the rapid rise in temperature combined with the months of accumulated snow would soon bring their city to its knees.

“Because of its location at the junction of the Ohio, Monon-

gahela and Allegheny rivers, downtown Pittsburgh has always been prone to flooding during the spring snow melt,” Lauren Uhl, curator at the Sen. John Heinz History Center, explains.

Prior to the St. Patrick's Day flood, the worst flooding the city experienced happened 29 years earlier when river levels rose to 38.7 feet and flooded the downtown center.

“When that happened, city officials had petitioned the federal



Round Up



Pittsburgh experienced widespread flooding, including the area around Liberty Avenue, shown here on March 18.

government to pass flood-control legislation to protect the city, but nothing further was done,” she says. “In 1936, Pittsburgh would pay the price for that inaction.”

A City Inundated

AS A STEADY RAIN began on the evening of March 16 and warm temperatures melted snow, water began to flow into the upper Allegheny and Monongahela rivers. By the evening of the next day, water levels had reached the flood stage of 25 feet and began to overrun their banks.

Rain continued to fall throughout St. Patrick’s Day, and by the next morning, water levels had risen to nearly 46 feet. Within a matter of hours, more than 65 percent of Pittsburgh’s downtown business district was flooded.

“The water rose so quickly that people were trapped downtown and forced to spend the night wherever they could find shelter,” Uhl says.

A large number of Pittsburgh’s major businesses, including Gimbel’s, Westinghouse and Pitt National Bank, suffered water damage, and the National Guard was called in to protect against looters. Damage was later estimated to be nearly \$250 million.

The flooding affected nearly everyone who lived and worked within a 30-mile radius of the flooded city. Due to the extensive damage to the region’s steel mills, more than 60,000 workers lost their jobs. Train service was halted when flood

waters washed away the tracks.

By nightfall of the 18th, the city of Pittsburgh had come to a complete standstill. Without electricity to run the pumps, people could not buy gas. To avoid possible explosions and fires, city residents were advised to turn off their gas connections. And when fires did occur, firefighters could not access the fire hydrants because of a lack of water pressure and electricity. Fires were simply left to burn.

When the flood waters finally receded to 25 feet on March 21, the devastation to the city was revealed. More than 100,000 residents had lost their homes, and 75 people had died. Electricity would not be restored for another three days, and people were in desperate need of help.

While police, firemen and the National Guard secured the city, the Red Cross and Goodwill provided food, clothing and medical supplies, and workers with the Works Progress Administration and Civilian Conservation Corps were called in to assist in the cleanup.

“Communities came together as neighbors stepped forward to help in whatever way they could,” Uhl says. “People risked their lives to rescue others trapped in their homes by the rising water, and refuge was offered to strangers with no place to go. “Such selfless acts saved many lives,” she says.

The Aftermath and a Remedy

IN THE WEEKS THAT followed, the city slowly began to return to normal. Determined that a flooding event of this magnitude should never happen again, city leaders urged the federal government to take action. In June

1936, Congress passed the Flood Control Act authorizing a system of dams and reservoir projects to protect the city.

“As a result, 16 dams and lakes were built in the Pittsburgh District that have proven their value on a number of occasions, including in June 1972 when floodwaters flowed over the Point during Hurricane Agnes,” Werner Loehlein, chief of the Water Management Branch for the Army Corps of Engineers’ Pittsburgh District for 40-plus years, said in a March 2011 article in the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*.

While water levels did reach more than 35 feet during the Agnes flood, without the reservoirs, Loehlein said, water would have risen to 48 feet, two feet higher than in 1936, and with the city’s increased population would have resulted in a disaster of even greater magnitude than the St. Patrick’s Day flood.

The Flood Control Act’s water-control projects are estimated to have prevented nearly \$10 billion in flood damage in the region since the first lake was completed in 1938, and 42 local projects saved an additional \$2.4 billion in damages.

Since the water that runs through the region is now controlled, the city can rest assured that the 1936 St. Patrick’s Day flood will maintain its title as the most damaging on record.

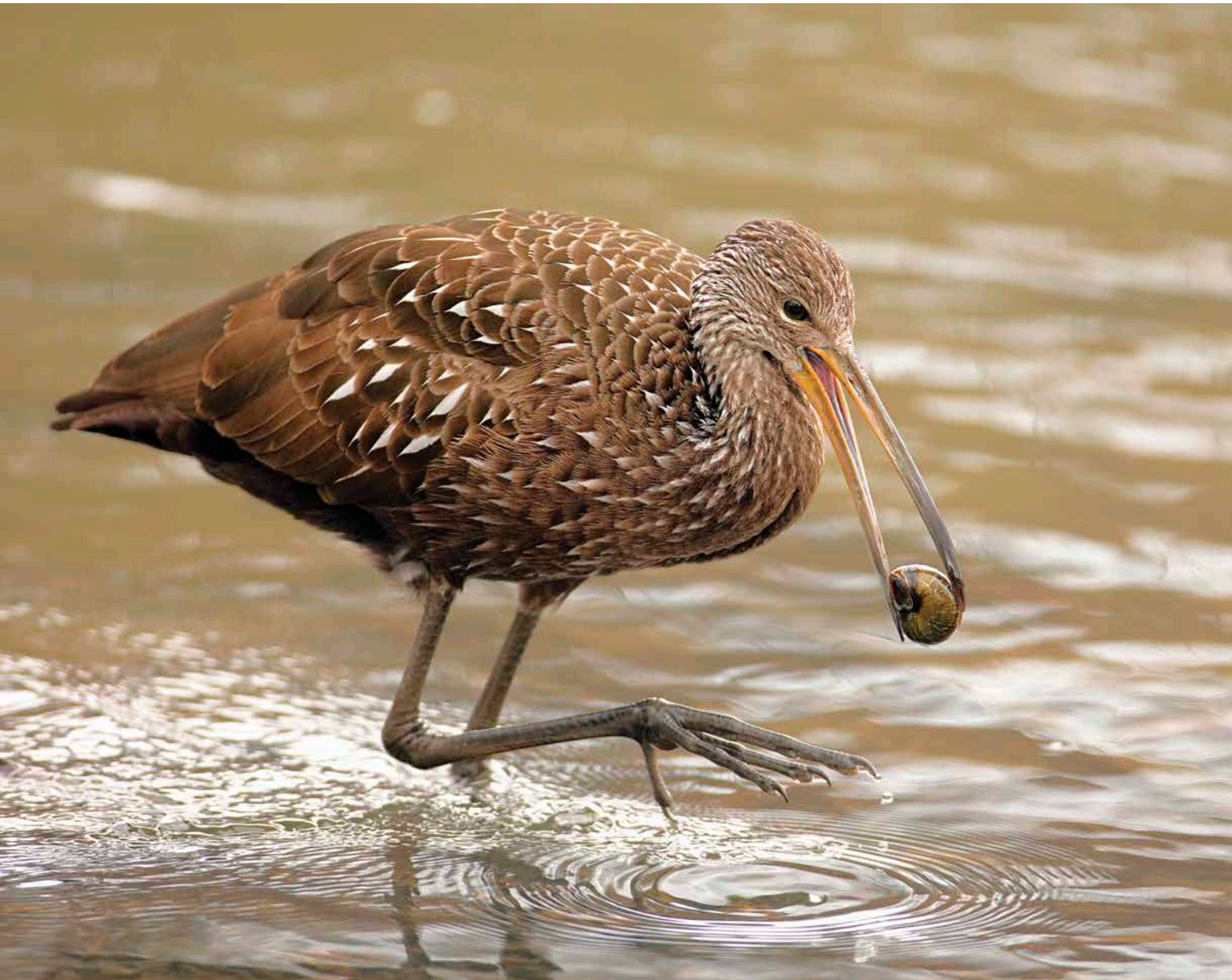
Beyond these improvements, the legacy of the 1936 flood has to be the courage and resilience Pittsburghers demonstrated in the face of adversity that hit them during the depths of the Great Depression. This legacy has become a part of the city’s heritage and a source of pride among all who call Pittsburgh home. ♣

—Writer Carol Watson lives in Biglerville.

BEYOND PITTSBURGH

The 1936 storms that wreaked havoc on Pittsburgh affected the entire region, including a number of other cities in Pennsylvania. On March 19, 1936, flood waters in the state’s capital city of Harrisburg reached a depth of 30.33 feet, the highest reading ever recorded at that time.

Eight miles north of Harrisburg in the borough of Dauphin, an ice gorge broke loose on the Susquehanna River and caused an abrupt rise in water. Almost every home along the riverbank was severely damaged or destroyed. Twelve states in the Northeast, including New York, New Hampshire and Connecticut, also experienced the storm’s wrath as damage totaled an estimated \$520 million, an amount equivalent to \$6.6 billion today.



A Special Visitor

A limpkin has made two appearances in Pennsylvania in recent months

Photo and text by Richard T. Howarth Jr.

WHEN A LIMPKIN WAS SPOTTED AT Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area in July 2023, the Pennsylvania birder community gave it great attention on message boards. While I was interested, I didn't make the drive from my home in Hampden Township, Cumberland County, as the photos that were posted showed

that it was well hidden and distant from available viewing locations.


So, when it appeared again along the Conodoguinet Creek on December 31 near my home, I shared a few images with friends to confirm that what I was seeing was indeed a limpkin, a species typically found in Florida and more southern locations.



So far, it's managed to weather three floods, two snowfalls and sub-freezing temperatures. I'm sure the creek's abundance of snails—the bird's primary diet consists of invertebrates—has helped its survival.

Is this the same bird that appeared at Middle Creek? We don't know, but for now, it is a welcome visitor in my "backyard." ♥

—Richard T. Howarth Jr. lives in Mechanicsburg.



The velodrome track is lined in different colors. The wide light blue painted area is for warming up and cannot be used during races. The black line—20 centimeters above the light blue section—is the “measurement line,” the shortest route around the track.

The space between the black line and the red line above it is called the “sprinter’s lane.” When a rider is in this lane, other cyclists are not permitted to overtake on the inside. The blue line midway up the track is called the “stayer’s line” and serves as a guide to riding zones during training. Slower cyclists stay above this line, while faster riders move to the lower half of the track.

“It’s just like riding a bicycle.”

PEOPLE USE THIS PHRASE TO describe a skill that, once learned, is never forgotten. However, not all bike riding is what you remember from your childhood.

On spring and summer nights in Trexlertown, Lehigh County, cycling rises to a higher level at the Valley Preferred Cycling Center. Here, local and international professional riders mount their bicycles

to race on a steeply banked track known as a velodrome.

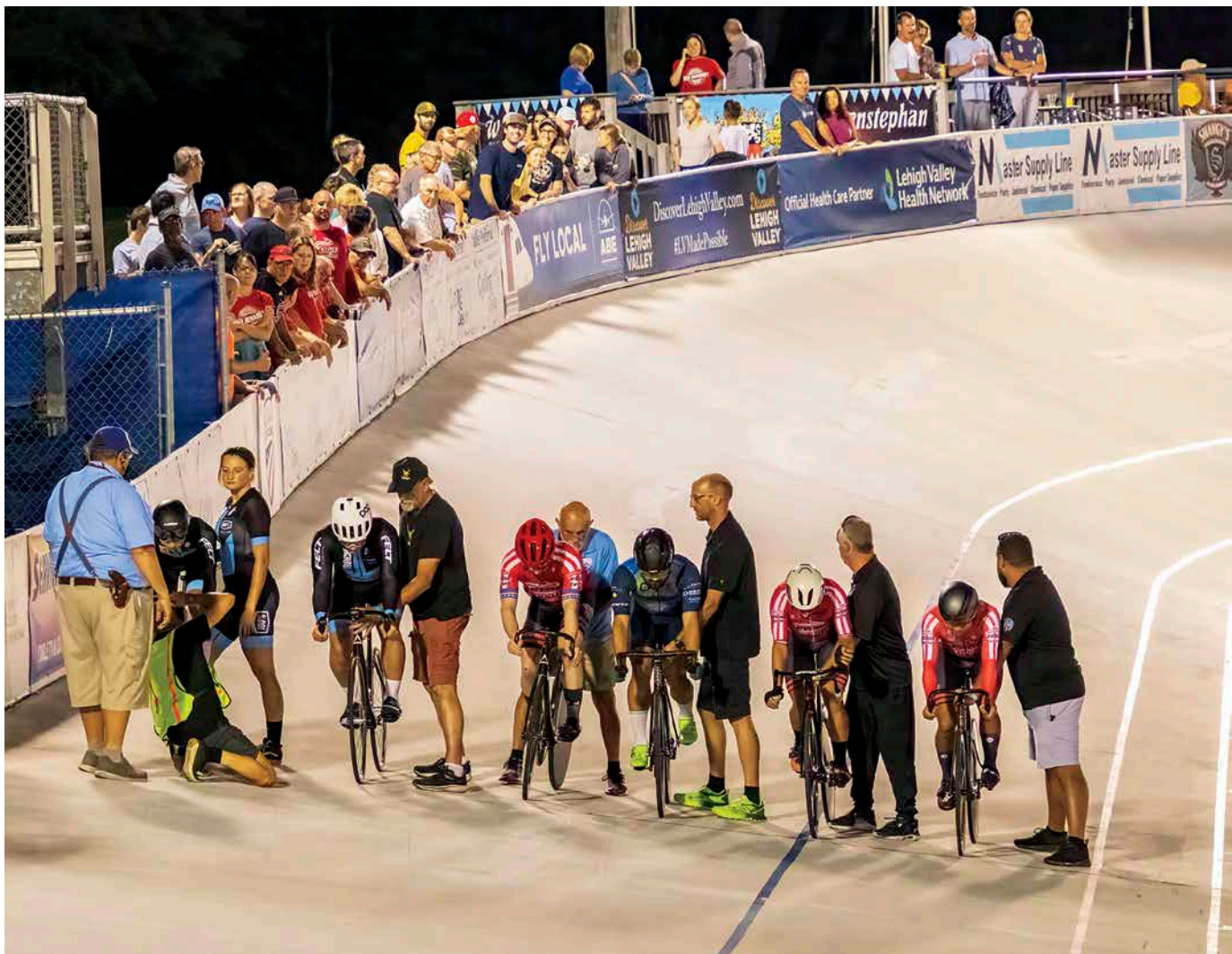
Friends, family members and local spectators gather around the outside of the track to watch the brightly clad cyclists race in a sport that has been around since the late 1800s. When the bright lights come on, fans cheer enthusiastically as riders fly around the curves and speed down the straightaways of the 333.33-meter oval track.



A Thrill a Minute

VELODROME IN TREXLERTOWN
SERVES AS A COMMUNITY PLACE
FOR BICYCLISTS OF ALL AGES

PHOTOGRAPHS AND TEXT BY GINNIE LODGE



Concrete Crater in a Cornfield

BICYCLE TRACK RACING BEGAN in Britain after the Industrial Revolution and quickly grew in popularity, becoming part of the modern Olympic Games in 1896. Today, there are more than 500 velodromes worldwide. The track in Trexlertown is one of about two dozen facilities in the United States and the only one in Pennsylvania.

How did a world-class velodrome end up in the Lehigh Valley? The idea to put a “concrete crater in a cornfield” was the brainchild of Bob Rodale, who led the local publishing company, Rodale Press, for many years. He learned of the sport of bicycle track racing while competing as a skeet shooter in the Pan American Games in the 1960s.

Envisioning the Lehigh Valley as a global hotbed for cycling, he and his wife donated land for the facility, and construction began in 1974. (Rodale Press

was acquired by Hearst publishing in 2018. *Bicycling* magazine, as well as *Runner’s World* and *Popular Mechanics*, is still headquartered in Easton, Pa.)

The first race in what was then known as the Lehigh County Velodrome occurred in October 1975. At that time, there were no locker rooms for athletes, no bleachers or food or drink offerings for spectators and not even a railing around the top of the track. Rodale eventually donated the facility to Lehigh County, which pledged to support the development of the site and its programs.

Today, the velodrome is managed by a nonprofit entity with a mission to promote track cycling and community bicycling programs for all ages. As the title sponsor, Valley Preferred does not own the velodrome, but in addition to holding naming rights, the health provider organization promotes the healthy, active lifestyle that is a cornerstone of the organization.

(above) With their shoes clipped into their pedals, cyclists need help to hold up their bikes before a competition begins. Spectators can cheer on their favorites from the stands or stand close to the action along the top of the track.

(right) Elite rider Dakota Stein shows his Fuji racing bicycle, which is equipped with one gear and no brakes.

“This place is about community,” Bobby Lea, executive director of the cycling center, says. “Without the community, it doesn’t stand. What we do with elite racing is just one part of the bigger picture.”

Lea was and is a racer. He had a career in professional road and track racing and competed in three Olympic Games: Beijing, London and Rio de Janeiro. Lea retired from full-time bicycle racing at the end of the 2016 season. He has spent 24 years in the Lehigh Valley, part of that time working as an editor for *Bicycling* magazine.





Training the Next Generation

IN ADDITION TO TRACK racing, Valley Preferred Cycling Center offers community programming for everyone from the youngest kids on balance bikes and training wheels to adults on two wheels. One of the ways this nonprofit reaches out is through summer camps. On summer mornings, the parking lot is transformed into a bicycling course led by instructors

for all levels. Boys and girls arrive from local day camps to learn bicycle safety and etiquette as well as important riding skills. They even get to try out cycling on the big track once they are ready.

Another program, the Bicycle Racing League, provides riders ages 9 through 16 the opportunity to compete in standard track cycling races. Some participants graduate and continue in the sport with a few even becoming professionals.

One such rider is Lehigh Valley native

Dakota Stein. At age 14, he made his first visit to the velodrome. A soccer player at the time, he had enjoyed watching the Tour de France that year, so when he saw an announcement about the Bicycle Racing League in the local paper, he decided to check it out. On the drive home after his first night at the track, he told his parents he wanted to switch from soccer to cycling.



(left, top) **Kaden Armbruster (front) and Joey Webster (back) learn about bicycling while attending a summer camp at Valley Preferred Cycling Center.**
 (left, bottom) **A women's team executes the hand-fling technique in a Madison race. The rider taking over cycles slowly along the upper part of the track before swooping down to her teammate, who grabs her hand and with a slingshot motion, catapults her on to continue racing.**



“I fell in love with it instantly,” he recalls. Stein has been racing ever since, first in the junior categories and now as an elite rider. This season, he will wear #2 on his jersey because he placed second overall in the Men’s Rider of the Year competition for 2023. His goal is to compete in the 2028 Olympics in Los Angeles.

Stein explains that track bikes have no brakes. Their narrow tires are inflated to high pressure to reduce rolling resistance. As fixed-gear bicycles, they also cannot coast. While this design may make it difficult to get started, once you do, he says, the fixed gear gets you up to a very fast speed. Depending on the type of race, riders must choose the gear they want and install it on their bike before each race.

Thrilling Race Options

ON ANY GIVEN EVENING, a wide variety of races are run at the velodrome. Some are sprint races, such as the Keirin race developed in Japan. In this race, a motorcycle sets the pace with six riders behind it. Racers remain behind the pacer until he departs the track, and then they take off. The number of laps can vary.

Some races include many more riders. In an elimination race, a large group of riders begins the competition. Once the race gets going, the rider in last place in each lap gets eliminated until a winner is declared.

One of the most fun events to watch is known as the Madison, named after Madison Square Garden where it got its start in the early 1900s. At that time, America was the place to be for track cycling in the world. According to Lea, this event grew out of an endurance race popular at the time in which cyclists rode around the clock for six days, often riding to exhaustion.

Once new labor laws came into play,

cyclists were not permitted to work more than 12 hours per day. The best solution was to have two riders share the race in a relay fashion. One would start, and when the time came to switch, the next rider would come up beside the first, who would fling them forward to get them going. Most other countries refer to this race as the “American.”

“The modern version is typically 20 to 30 miles long and contested by teams of two riders, with upwards of 18 teams racing at once,” Lea explains. “The relay between teammates happens roughly every two laps.”

In contrast to everyday bike riders, who roll along roads or trails at an average pace of 8 to 10 miles per hour, and serious cyclists, who might travel 15 or 20 miles per hour on an especially well-maintained surface, track riders can reach speeds of 40 to 50 miles per hour in a velodrome. The angle on the Trexlertown track, with its 30-degree banked turns and 12.5-degree straightaways, allows riders at such extreme speeds to lean toward the center of the track while maintaining their balance and staying perpendicular to the inclined surface. Inertia, gravity and acceleration work together to create the exciting result witnessed in the velodrome. Seeing so many riders moving at such speeds while jockeying for position and leaning into the turns makes for a thrilling night for spectators.

For those who enjoy cycling but may not want to hurtle around a banked track themselves, a park across the street from the velodrome offers a one-mile cycling track and a small paved circle for children to ride.

“This is a huge asset for residents of our community and a safe place to ride and teach kids to ride,” Lea says. “A bike is your first taste of freedom. Keep cycling a part of your life.” 🍓

—Ginnie Lodge is a regular contributor from Pottstown.

WHEN YOU GO

Valley Preferred Cycling Center is located at 1151 Mosser Road in Breinigsville, Lehigh County. Race season runs from May through August. Anyone interested in attending races or participating in the numerous community bicycling programs can find more information on the center’s website: thevelodrome.com; 610-395-7000.



Speed rules the day in races at the velodrome. Cyclists wear smooth helmets, shiny goggles and sleek clothing to reduce resistance. The handlebars on a track bike are narrower and have a deeper drop than a regular road bike; this allows the rider to adopt a more aggressive aerodynamic position.

Showing Mercy & compassion

by David McCormick

IN OCTOBER 1776, THE CONTINENTAL ARMY WAS IN retreat following Gen. George Washington's defeat at White Plains, N.Y. After staying just steps ahead of the British through New Jersey, Washington and his troops arrived in southeastern Pennsylvania.

Suddenly, the state was swamped with a suffering horde of nearly naked and shoeless wounded soldiers, and the Continental Army set out to establish a system of treatment (with trauma care and hospitals) to care for these invalids.

Pennsylvania tended to the army's wounded during the Revolutionary War.

When Philadelphia fell to the British Army in late summer 1777, Washington withdrew from the city with the British at his heels. The wounded and sick soldiers had to be shuffled along in open farm wagons. Those



Berks, Chester, Lancaster, Lehigh, Montgomery, and Northampton counties

spying on this traveling caravan of the infirm heard “the wounded cry as they passed over the stones.”

With Washington forced to move his army to Valley Forge, the most seriously debilitated conscripts were transferred to peripheral hospitals. As the war deepened, the numbers of sick and wounded increased, and churches and farms throughout the countryside were tasked with dealing with the huge influx of ill and wounded soldiers. Pennsylvanians rose gallantly to the challenge.

Overwhelmed by Wounded

IN THE FALL OF 1775, Dr. John Morgan of Philadelphia was selected to serve as America's top physician. He brought great excitement to the role of director general and set about to deal with the wounded from the war.

He “procured bandages from the public, acquired drugs and surgical instruments, instituted rules for sick call, examined candidates for surgeoncies, instructed his staff in wound treatment and devised procedures necessary to protect masses of troops confined in crowded quarters from disease.”

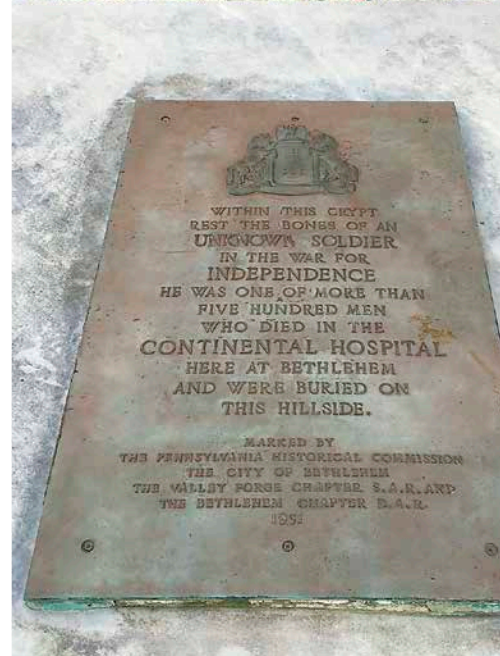
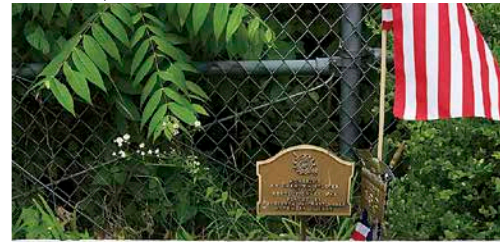
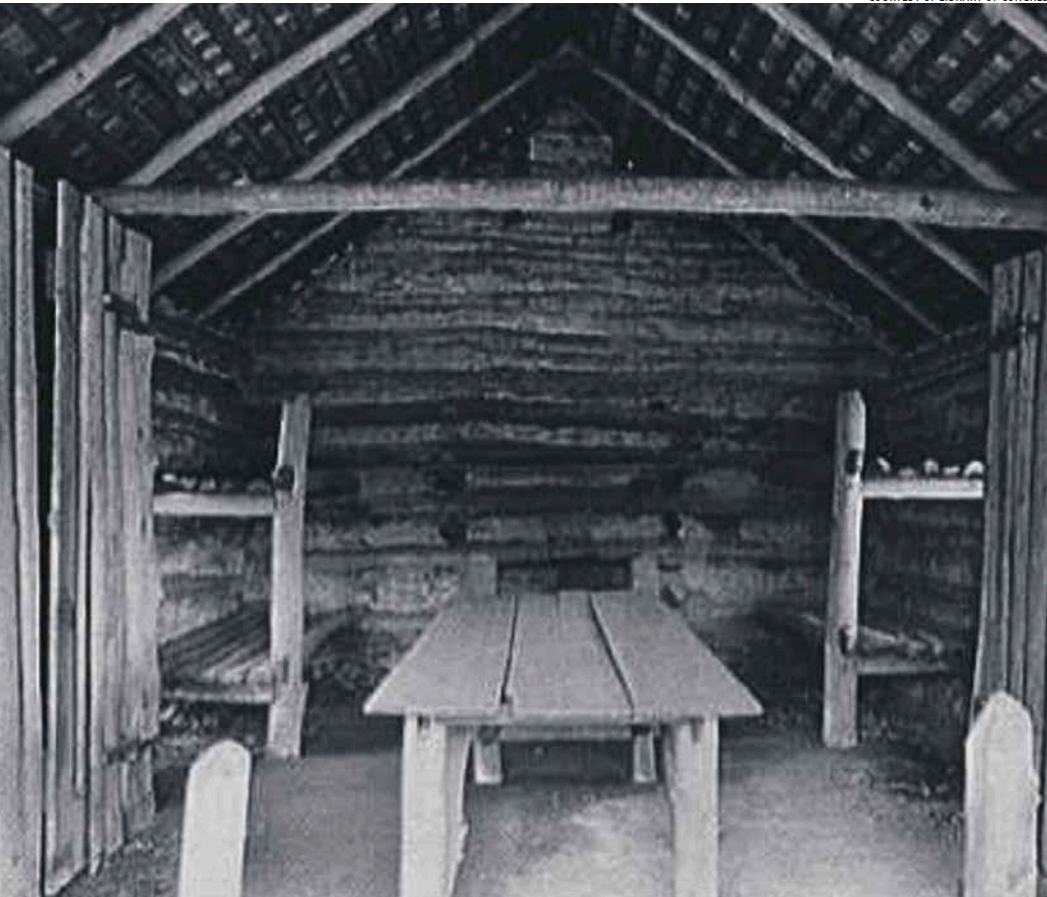
Early in the fighting when only the



PUBLIC DOMAIN



Artist Howard Pyle painted this scene of the Battle of Brandywine using his students as models and titled it Nation Makers. It hangs in the Brandywine River Museum of Art.



(above left) **During the winter of 1777-78, the soldiers camped at Valley Forge had to provide their own shelter. This is a reconstruction of the “hospital hut,” where soldiers tended to their sick and wounded.** (middle photo) **Markers of a Tomb of the Unknown Soldier are the only markers that many Revolutionary War graves are located on a hillside in Bethlehem, Northampton County.**

eastern colonies were involved, Pennsylvania seemed far from the theater of war, but that changed with the troops' arrival in Philadelphia in late 1776. Faced with throngs of sick and wounded, a beleaguered and maligned Morgan was powerless to find enough hostels. He hoped that Philadelphia's civilian physicians would augment the army's harried doctors.

On January 9, 1777, Morgan was removed from his position, and in April, Dr. William Shippen took over as medical director. His tenure would also face upheaval. The Continental Army remained unprepared to handle the huge inflow of sick and wounded and secure quarters to tend to them. Several conditions adversely affected the level of care of

those incapacitated by war, starting with insufficient medical supplies and bone-shaking ambulance travel that took a toll on the patients. Inflation, caused by the drastically devalued Continental currency, also played a role.

With supplies lacking and money stretched thin, the army's hospital system suffered. Blankets that carried the blood stains of cadavers, for example, were passed on for reuse to living comrades. Such horrid conditions led Washington to opine, “I sincerely feel for the unhappy condition of our Poor Fellows in the Hospitals.”

Following Washington's loss at Brandywine on September 11, 1777, the need for shelter for the ill and wounded became the general's highest priority. Every conceivable community and structure was explored, including those owned by religious groups opposed to war. In Chester County, for example, Washington appropriated the Birmingham Friends Meetinghouse as a hospital. The Quakers moved their temporary meetinghouse to a wheelwright shop at Scconnelltown,

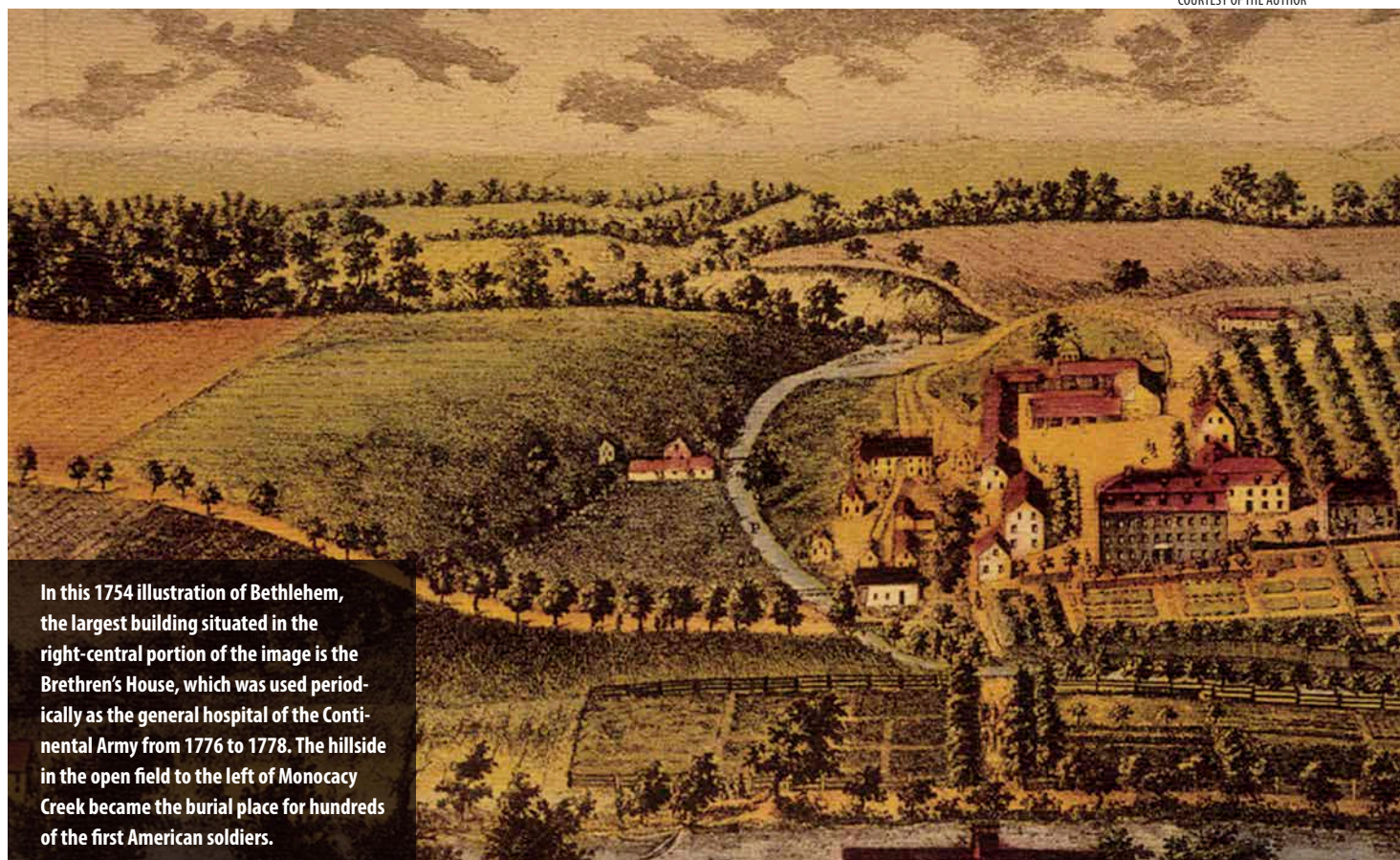
southwest of West Chester. Although pacifists, the Quakers were not averse to helping those wounded in battle.

Opening Their Doors

WITH PHILADELPHIA IN THE clutches of the British, patients within the city had to be vacated quickly. Evacuations were also necessary at other accommodations housing Washington's infirm in nearby Bristol, Pottsgrove and Buckingham. Patients were transferred to safer havens within the communities of Bethlehem, Lancaster, Lititz, Ephrata, Reading, Easton and Allentown.

In December 1777, additional hospices were established in Rheimstown and Warwick. Since it was a long trek to these newly selected locations, emergency infirmaries were also set up along the route in Evansburg, Trappe, Pennypacker Mills, Faulkner Swamp, Skippack and Yellow Springs.

Hospitals were springing up throughout the state. On two separate occasions from December 1776 to April 1777 and September 1777 to April 1778, the Moravian Seminary and College for Women in



In this 1754 illustration of Bethlehem, the largest building situated in the right-central portion of the image is the Brethren's House, which was used periodically as the general hospital of the Continental Army from 1776 to 1778. The hillside in the open field to the left of Monocacy Creek became the burial place for hundreds of the first American soldiers.

Bethlehem opened its doors to serve as a general hospital of the Continental Army. In fact, it was here that the Moravians tended to the wounds of young Frenchman Gen. Lafayette.

Many of the invalids transferred to Bethlehem came from the encampment in Morristown, N.J., where the sick and wounded had reached well past a thousand. Bethlehem proved to be a good choice. It was fairly close to the seat of war yet tucked safely in the interior of the state. The large buildings of the seminary and college could handle the influx of patients, and the surrounding agricultural community supplied the infirm with healthy produce.

In December 1777 in Lancaster County, the leaders in the Moravian settlement of Lititz were informed that 250 wounded and ill Continental soldiers would be billeted to their Brothers' House. The religious men vacated their rooms, and on December 20, wagons carrying hundreds of suffering soldiers arrived. The house's rooms and hallways were soon filled to capacity. When another 100 in-

valids turned up the following day, they had to be boarded in other temporary habitations.

In admitting the sick and wounded, the Moravians soon raised a sobering question: Where should any eventual dead be buried? They decided to set apart a corner of their lowermost field for this purpose; unfortunately, the grave sites did not remain vacant for long. January 1, 1778, proved to be an inauspicious beginning to the new year as two soldiers breathed their last and were interred that same day.

A brighter day dawned on January 10 when 20 soldiers were well enough to be released from the infirmary and returned to the army. Between December 19, 1777, and August 28, 1778, the Brothers' House quartered more than 500 soldiers and likely close to double that number.

Among other groups opposed to the war, the German Seventh Day Baptists also opened their doors to aid the infirmed. With hospices sorely needed, the German Baptists of Ephrata, Lancaster County, offered their monastic building as a hospital. This location served as a temporary stop

for the wounded who were well enough to travel to safer locations farther from the heat of battle. Those plagued with dysentery, typhus and smallpox, however, were housed there away from the healthier soldiers encamped at Valley Forge for the winter.

Honoring the Dead

DURING THE REVOLUTIONARY WAR, individual landowners as well as churches gave up space for Washington's wounded and provided burial sites for those who didn't survive. In 1777 and 1778, Joseph Downing of Downingtown offered his barn as a hospital. He even made improvements to the barn to better serve the wounded. The 40 soldiers who died there were interred on his farm.

In nearby East Coventry Township, Herman Prizer's barn was also transformed into a hospital. Not far from the barn, at a small break of trees on George Bauch's land, the remains of fallen heroes were buried, albeit with no identifying markers. Another 14 who succumbed to their wounds and illnesses while at



(left to right) During the winter of 1777–78, the Uwchlan Meetinghouse in Chester County was used as a hospital by the Continental Army at Valley Forge and staffed by Dr. Bodo Otto. Soldiers slept on straw on the floor and were warmed with fireplaces. Distant wells supplied water, and homemade candles and lanterns provided light. Many who died there were buried behind the meetinghouse. The remnants of the first military hospital in North America are in the village of Yellow Springs in Chester County. Built in 1777, the hospital was a chief medical facility for the Valley Forge encampment. With the Battle of Brandywine looming, Gen. George Washington appropriated the Birmingham Friends Meetinghouse in Chester County for use as a hospital.

Prizer's barn were buried north of the makeshift infirmary.

Again, no headstones marked the graves, only mounds of earth over each body. Years later, the remains of these Revolutionary War soldiers suffered a great indignity. When a new road was being constructed, the mounds were flattened and the roadway was built directly over the soldiers' bones.

Houses of worship and meetinghouses throughout Chester County communities also opened their doors to serve as hospitals. A number of wounded were carted off the field and brought to improvised infirmaries at the German Reformed Church in East

Vincent Township and the Zion Lutheran Church in East Pikeland Township.

Illness added to the death toll, striking at any moment with great ferocity. When disease breached the door of these two churches, several of the wounded died. More than 20 dead were interred on Henry Hipple Sr.'s grounds, situated close to East Vincent church, where they were buried with respect and their graves well looked after by Hipple. Years later, the burial site was cordoned off with a fine masonry enclosure.

With Washington's camp set up at Valley Forge, many of the farm buildings in the area housed the infirm, including Philip Rapp's house where two soldiers who died

were interred among the trees a short distance away. Henry Miller's dwelling served as a commissary; he boarded 11 physicians and stored supplies safely in the cellar. The old Varley residence was converted into an infirmary.

Another hospital, larger than the others, was situated on Joest Smith farm, where those with smallpox were also kept. A total of 45 succumbed to the disease and were interred in a peaceful setting under some cherry trees a short distance from Smith's barn.

Another newly built barn to serve as a hospital was erected at a field on the Gwynn. About 150 souls were laid to rest on the grounds surrounding the barn. At

Hospitals of the Revolutionary War Explained

Hospitals used by Americans during the Revolutionary War fell into three categories:

General hospitals, which were under the control of the Continental medical corps, were the largest and more permanent of the three. They were situated a fair distance from the fighting.

Flying hospitals were classified as temporary and were mobile in

nature. They were also run by Continental medical men.

Regimental hospitals were under control of regimental surgeons and surgeons' mates.

Valley Forge served as a template for flying and regimental hospitals contained within the interior of the encampment. Of the 11 huts constructed, a number were set aside for triage for the wounded while others were used to tend to those with in-

fectious maladies. Each brigade was to have two flying huts for its use. Usually, a single rough structure was set aside for a regimental hospital, which housed soldiers with lesser injuries or those who could find no room at the flying hospitals.

The community of Bethlehem contained a general hospital, which was a safe distance from the fighting and was spacious enough to house the many wounded.



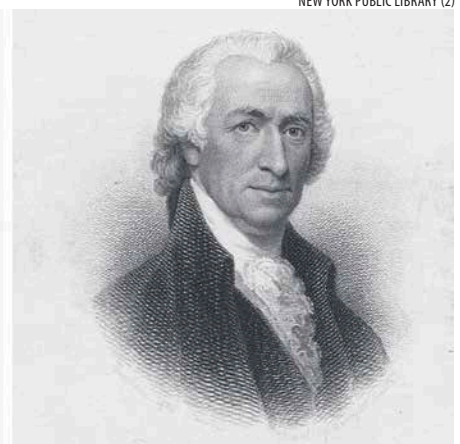
some point, the burial ground was plowed over, and the location of the graves was lost to time.

Compassion Triumphs

PENNSYLVANIA MADE AN EXTENDED effort to tend to the medical needs of the American Revolution's sick and wounded soldiers. In doing so, individual citizens as well as religious groups and entire communities faced uncertainties, illnesses and losses, including financial. When some American soldiers who transported the infirm set up a temporary camp in Peter Miller's buckwheat field, for example, the grain, which was practically at its peak and ready for harvest, was totally destroyed under the men's feet and the horses' hooves.

Not surprisingly, the fear of having their properties commandeered by their fledgling government concerned many; the anxiety of contracting some dreaded malady from the army's sick was too much for some. While many stepped up to help care for the fallen soldiers, other communities wanted nothing to do with housing Washington's infirm.

A confrontation that played out in the spring of 1779 in New Jersey shows the divisiveness around this issue. Dr. Barnabas Binney, who controlled two churches and a courthouse in his community, pondered putting them to work



NEW YORK PUBLIC LIBRARY (2)

as hospitals but had second thoughts, deeming it could pose a danger to those already in his charge. Instead, he called on the civil magistrate to use area barns to house the army's infirm. The magistrate balked and warned that he would "imprison the first who shall prostitute a barn to the use of sick soldiers."

Fear of illness kept the sick and wounded soldiers out of that community's churches and barns. Across the region, there were surely others who refused to help the infirm in any way, while others rose to the occasion, even if unenthusiastically.

Within Pennsylvania, those who assisted with Washington's suffering soldiers did so knowing the risks. Thanks to our commonwealth's citizens, medical

John Morgan (left) and William Shippen Jr. (right) each held the post of director of hospitals for the Continental Army.

lodgings were found in several different types of structures within the state, both secular and religious, including barns, huts, homes, churches, meetinghouses and other usable structures.

Cemeteries were sorely needed within the reach of all these makeshift hospitals, and local residents offered up parcels gladly. Although they would have embraced the same fears as those in other states who worried about the dangers of housing the sick and wounded, Pennsylvanians seemed to answer the call more compassionately. ♥

—David McCormick, a regular contributor, lives in Springfield, Mass.



Light at the End of the Day

In April, on her way home in a successful quest to photograph a Caspian tern at Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area, Deb Kreider of Cleona chose the scenic road of Route 419. Enjoying the light at the day's end, she stopped in a parking lot for a moment when she noticed the family walking down Horst Road, which intersects with Route 419 near Schaefferstown, Lebanon County.



LIFE RE-EMERGES AS THE SUN WARMS

SPRINGTIME





In the Springtime Mist

Shortly after sunrise on a foggy mid-March morning, Bruce Walkovich stopped his car in Portage, Cambria County, when he noticed this abandoned house illuminated by the rising sun. He climbed a nearby embankment to achieve this composition. NIKON D750, 75.0 MM, F/8, ISO 220, 1/800 S

A Backyard Battle

On an April day, Milan Christi of Myerstown enjoyed watching these male pileated woodpeckers having a tête-à-tête in a dead oak tree in his backyard in Lebanon County. The female was not far away, and the entire confrontation lasted less than five minutes. NIKON D500, 600.0 MM, F/8, ISO 450, 1/1000 S



Chimes Tower

In April, Maureen Dwyer of Haverford snapped this view of the Chimes Tower at Longwood Gardens in Kennett Square, Chester County. The tower houses a carillon with 62 cast bells.

CANON EOS REBEL T6I, 22.0 MM, F/10, ISO 100, 0.5 S





Springtime Trio

A couple of years ago, since the sprint car race that he'd normally be attending was canceled due to a Covid-19 lockdown, Jack Kromer of Nazareth ventured out for some nature photography. At Bushkill Creek in Easton, Northampton County, he found these three baby wood ducks. When he headed for home, he ran across another photographer with a long lens focused on a great horned owl that was keeping an eye of its two owlets across the creek. It was a banner day. NIKON D5, 420.0 MM, F/8, ISO 1000, 1/800 S



Evening Song

Joe Allen of Harrison City framed this image of an eastern meadowlark singing in Midway, Washington County.

OLYMPUS EM-1 MARKIII, 420.0 MM, F/5.6, ISO 500, 1/3200

Enter our Photo Contest

Consider entering your best images in one of three categories for our 2024 edition of the contest:

- **Legged Wildlife**
(mammals, insects, amphibians, etc.)
- **Overviews and Vistas**
(from on high or from a vista)
- **Altered Images**
(artistic touches put to images)

See page 41 or pa-mag.com/2024photo



Icy Beginnings

Brandon Hirt of Ebensburg regularly travels to Prince Gallitzin State Park in Cambria County to photograph the sunrise. On this cold March morning, as he waited for the sun to show itself, he listened to the lake ice cracking.

2024

PHOTO CONTEST

ENTER YOUR
BEST SHOTS

YOUR PHOTO COULD BE SEEN by more than 80,000 readers when you enter it in Pennsylvania's premier photo contest. The contest is open to anyone who doesn't earn a living as a professional photographer. Entrants can submit up to 15 images in any category combination. Make sure your entry is postmarked or uploaded to a file-sharing service such as *Dropbox.com* by April 15, 2024.

Winning photos will appear in the July/August 2024, September/October 2024 and/or November/December 2024 issues. After the judges have selected contest winners, the editor will review the finalist images throughout the year for possible use in upcoming issues. If we are interested in running your nonwinning photo(s) in the magazine, we'll contact you to arrange for its one-time use.

A majority of our yearly photo essay content is obtained from entries to this contest.

PRIZES AWARDED IN EACH CATEGORY:

1st Place:

\$250 cash, a *Pennsylvania Magazine* T-shirt and a one-year subscription

2nd Place:

\$150 cash, a *Pennsylvania Magazine* T-shirt and a one-year subscription

3rd Place:

\$75 cash, a *Pennsylvania Magazine* T-shirt and a one-year subscription

Honorable Mentions:

A *Pennsylvania Magazine* T-shirt and a one-year subscription

Submit your entries electronically via a file-sharing service like *Dropbox* or *WeTransfer* or mail your photos (on or before April 15, 2024) on a USB drive or CD/DVD (with a completed fill-in PDF entry form) to:

Pennsylvania Magazine
2024 Photo Contest
P.O. Box 755
Camp Hill, PA 17001-0755

If you'd like confirmation that we've received your mailed entry, use the USPS Delivery Confirmation service option.

Questions? Call the editor at 717-697-4660 or send an email to editor@pa-mag.com.

RULES OF THE CONTEST:

- Contest is open to amateur photographers only (those who do not earn a majority [over half] of their income as photographers).
- Enter your electronic files, either online (see the information on our website at pa-mag.com/2024photo) or by sending your image files (in .TIF or .JPG format) on a USB drive, CD-ROM or DVD. Please include description information for each image either on the entry form or as a listing on a separate sheet of paper or as a text file with your entries.
- Each entrant may submit up to a total of 15 photos in any category combination. Entrants may also include additional images for editorial consideration. There is no fee to enter.
- Entered photos must have been taken recently (from January 1, 2020, to present) by the entrant of a Pennsylvania locale/subject.
- A copy (a scanned image or photocopy is acceptable) of a completed and signed entry form must be included with your mail-submitted disk, or indicate your acceptance of the rules of the contest on the fill-in PDF (or online entry form) that you will submit with your entries. Entrant agrees to rules of the contest upon entering images into the contest.
- Keep a copy of your electronic files since submitted USB drives and CDs/DVDs will not be returned.
- The publisher will exercise reasonable care with entries but cannot be held liable for loss of any entry.
- Judging of the images will take place in May 2024. Winners will be notified in June, and a listing of the contest winners will appear on pa-mag.com in early July 2024, as well as in the July/August 2024 issue. **Each entrant is limited to one award per category.**
- At the discretion of the editor, each winning photo will be published in one future issue of the magazine and on the magazine's website (pa-mag.com) without additional compensation to the entrant. Entrant retains all other rights to the photograph, granting *Pennsylvania Magazine* one-time use rights for display of the winning photo in the magazine and on its website.
- Names and hometowns of all winners will be published in one or more issues of the magazine, and announcement materials with this information will be sent to entrants and public media and will be posted on the magazine's website.
- Finalist images in the contest will be considered for use (pending approval by the submitting photographer) in a future issue of the magazine. Photographers who agree to use of their nonwinning entries and whose images appear in the magazine will be paid the regular fee for one-time use of an image.
- Any image that is a composite must be marked as such with the component images available for the judges. This rule does not apply to this year's Altered Images category.
- The judges' decisions are final.

ENTRY DEADLINE: APRIL 15

ENTRY FORM 2024 PHOTO CONTEST

(include one signed copy of this form with all of your entries or use the entry form on our website)

INDICATE THE NUMBER OF ENTRIES FOR EACH CATEGORY:

- _____ **LEGGED WILDLIFE** (mammals, insects, amphibians, etc.)
- _____ **OVERVIEWS AND VISTAS** (from on high or from a vista)
- _____ **ALTERED IMAGES** (artistic touches put to images)

NAME _____

ADDRESS, CITY, STATE, ZIP _____

() _____

DAY or CELL TELEPHONE (only used for photo contest-related calls) _____

EMAIL ADDRESS _____

Attach one separate summary sheet for all entries with the following information:

- **Where the photo was taken** (city/area/county).
- **When the photo was taken** (specify month/year).
- **Identify any people/wildlife/objects** in the photo.
- If you'd like to **explain any unique circumstances/description** for the photo, please attach a separate note.

I certify that I have read the rules of the contest and agree to the conditions as specified.

Signature and date (Photos submitted without entry forms are not eligible.) _____

Celebrating 100 Years of Hiking

Blue Mountain Eagle Climbing Club's history predates the blazing of the Appalachian Trail

by Cindy Ross, images courtesy of BMECC

AT FIRST GLANCE, THERE'S NOTHING MAGICAL about the woman who hikes the trail in front of me. Her bare calves are strong and tanned. She's in her autumnal years, for sure, yet she steps with an assurance that says she's done this many times before. When you learn that Catharine Shade is 95, however, suddenly, the whole picture changes. She's been a member of Reading's Blue Mountain Eagle Climbing Club for more than 50 years, and she credits who she is today to hiking with her club buddies on a regular basis.

I have known Catharine for half a century. We both joined the hiking club the same year. I was a 15-year-old whippersnapper, and all I knew about hiking, camping or backpacking was that I longed to do it. I learned from Catharine, alongside other club members, and we've remained close friends ever since.

As Catharine and I hike today, we leave the white-blazed Appalachian Trail and follow a blue-blazed side trail headed toward Eagle's Nest lookout, which sits above the village of Shartlesville. The hiking club held its first meeting at this spot in 1916.

Catharine recalls a legendary new member ceremony that used to be held at the Eagle's Nest site during the early years of the club. Initiates would be blindfolded and lowered down the cliff to the site of an abandoned eagle's nest. After reciting some words, the person was welcomed into the fold.

In 2023, a different kind of ceremony inducted Dr. Harry Rentschler, the founder of Blue Mountain Eagle Climbing Club, into the Appalachian Trail Museum's Hall of Fame. Our journey today celebrates both the club and its founder.



CINDY ROSS

Catharine Shade has been a member of Reading's Blue Mountain Eagle Climbing Club for more than 50 years. At 95, she continues to hike with her fellow club member on a regular basis.



Origins of the Club

THE STORY OF THE Blue Mountain Eagle Climbing Club began more than 100 years ago when Rentschler was one of a group of men who liked to climb and walk in the surrounding mountains of Berks County. On June 15, 1916, he led a hike in search of an eagle's nest reportedly to be on the mountain cliff above Shartlesville.

After that excursion, the men found that they enjoyed the climb and continued their periodic hikes to the nest. They soon formed a club with membership by invitation only. Rentschler acted as its first secretary, and Reading's mayor at the time, William Schanaman, was the first president.

Membership was limited to 100 men who displayed good moral standards and participated in two annual pilgrimages to Blue Mountain. (The club began allowing women as members in 1937.) On these hikes, club members climbed straight up the steep Blue Mountain from the valley floor because, at the time, no one was blazing trails.

In 1926, a movement was under foot to develop the Appalachian Trail, a footpath that would initially

run from New Hampshire to North Carolina along the Appalachian Mountains' skyline. Prof. Eugene C. Bingham of Lafayette College in Easton met with members of the Blue Mountain Eagle Climbing Club to persuade them to help create the trail in Berks County and eventually enlarge the effort, over the next five years, to cut and blaze a wilderness trail from the Susquehanna River to the Lehigh Gap, a distance of 102 miles.

Naysayers said it was impossible, but the club's members got to work, partnering with those familiar with the terrain along the route. In addition to cutting and blazing the trail, they added cabins, rest stops and monuments dedicated to those involved. Their efforts resulted in one of the first fully built sections of this iconic long-distance public trail, which today runs 2,190-plus miles from Maine to Georgia.

Boost to National Trails

ON OCTOBER 2, 1968, President Lyndon Johnson signed into law an act to provide a nationwide system of trails. The Appalachian Trail became the Appalachian

In 1988, the partially completed replacement to Eagle's Nest shelter made history when it was picked up by a CH-54 Sky Crane helicopter (from Fort Indiantown Gap) and flown to the top of the mountain.

(facing page, top and bottom) **The club was involved in the early stages of the Appalachian Trail's development in Pennsylvania. At 1,635 feet, the Pinnacle in Berks County is considered by many to be the best vista on the Pennsylvania portion of the AT. Today, reaching it involves a moderate hike of an 8.7-mile loop.**

National Scenic Trail, and the federal government began purchasing land along its length for the purpose of preserving the path for future generations.

The acquired land was, in turn, assigned to local trail clubs who agreed to its stewardship. Unlike other national scenic trails that come under the umbrella of the National Park Service, the Appalachian Trail is fully maintained by volunteers and individual hiking clubs. Along its route, 31 clubs and partnerships keep the path cleared and open. They also maintain the trail's 250-plus shelters and accompanying privies.

Not long after this act was passed, I was hiking the Appalachian Trail with fellow club members when a thru-hiker (someone covering the entire length

Club looks after 65 miles of the Appalachian Trail.

"We have 32 trail maintainers who are each responsible for between two and four miles of the trail," Dave Bailey, the club's current trail chair, explains. "They keep the brush back, clear blown-down trees, refresh the two-by-six-inch white paint blazes that mark the trail and keep water off of the path by installing water bars [wooden timbers installed at 30-degree angles to the trail to drain water]."

Among other volunteers in the club are 20 certified chainsaw operators and a woodworker who makes replacement trail and directional signs as necessary. "They go wherever they are needed," Bailey says.

Trail maintainers walk their section at least four times a year with spring the busiest time because of cleanup from winter storms. Occasionally, a portion of a trail may have to be relocated if it becomes oversaturated with water or is overused. For the most part, though, the trail stays in place.

Keepers of the Trail

GEORGE SHOLLENBERGER SERVED FOR 40 years as Blue Mountain's trail chair before retiring from the position at the age of 83. During his four decades of service, he moved rocks, put in water bars and check dams and swells in the trail. He had no problem carting in whatever he needed, whether a shovel, pick, sledgehammer, motorized weedwacker or 16-inch-blade chainsaw, which he carried in a wooden, homemade sheath on his back.

"I enjoyed trail maintenance more than hiking," Shollenberger

says. "I felt like I was doing an important job in keeping the trail clear for other people."

When asked how his body held up doing such demanding physical work, even into his senior years, he replied, "I never had any trouble with pain, and I was seldom sore."

Sollenberger's dedication is typical of trail volunteers. To maintain the footpath as well as manage the land surrounding the trail, the club works with neighboring landowners, local governments, the Pennsylvania Game Commission and other outdoor groups. Several times a year, the club's 26 monitors inspect the tracts of land along the assigned 65 miles of trail to make sure they stay in a primitive state.

The club also manages seven shelters. Todd Gladfelter, a log builder (and my husband) who served



The Blue Mountain Eagle Climbing Club was originally limited to 100 men of good standing who gathered with fellow members of the club for semi-annual climbs up the mountain.

in one year) crossed our path. He went by in a blur, his huge pack overshadowing him as his plastic bags dangled and swayed.

I called out to him, "Where 'ya headed?" He kept moving as he shouted out a clipped reply, "MAINE!" As I stood there, mouth agape, the seed was planted to one day tackle my own thru-hike, which I completed 10 years later.

Like other users of the Appalachian Trail, I recognized the benefit of "giving back" to the trail community, and soon I was helping to scout, brush, blaze and maintain the trail along the Blue Mountain between Route 183 and what used to be Ney's shelter. (The shelter has been relocated to the area of Eagle's Nest lookout.)

Currently, the Blue Mountain Eagle Climbing



as shelter chair for many years, spearheaded the construction of two log shelters and three composting privies. Both shelters (the Eagle's Nest shelter in 1988 and the Rausch Gap shelter in 2012) were initially constructed at the clubhouse grounds at the Rentschler Arboretum in Bernville and then disassembled and transported to their permanent locations, where they were reassembled and finished. The Eagle's Nest shelter made history when it was picked up by a CH-54 Sky Crane helicopter (from Fort Indiantown Gap) and flown to the top of the mountain.

Between fall and winter, the club's shelter chair will visit five shelters to assess what improvements or repairs are needed. While some of the shelters can be accessed via a dirt road, construction supplies must be hand carried a quarter-mile or more, and any waste materials are carried back out. Building a moldering composting privy at a shelter takes almost 400 hours of labor to complete with ongoing regular maintenance required.

Refuge in Natural World

THE BLUE MOUNTAIN EAGLE Climbing Club holds monthly meetings at the Rentschler Arboretum, a beautiful 34-acre tract of land in the foothills of the Blue Mountains. In 1925, Rentschler and his wife, Sadie, purchased this land as a retreat and donated it to the club after their deaths. The property



includes gardens, wildflower meadows, a 1.5-mile walking trail, farm fields, a nature sanctuary and two pavilions. The grounds are open to the public during daylight hours.

“You can sit on a bench and stare out at the same tranquil fields and meadows that Dr. Rentschler

gazed upon nearly 100 years earlier when the Appalachian Trail was in its infancy,” Linda Enders, chair of the Rentschler Arboretum Committee, says.

The property abuts the 65-mile section of the Appalachian Trail that the club maintains. An interpretive center kiosk at the arboretum depicts native plant gardens, mini rain gardens, tree identifiers, kestrel boxes, walking paths and hiking trails.

“Generations of children have learned to love nature via the arboretum and the club’s events,” past president Joan Moyer says. “We recently had an event where 15 children from Reading came out to camp for three days on the property and participated in different activities.”

In June 2023, a mural created by 50 students from the Reading School District, participants in Albright College’s Total Experience Learning program, was dedicated by the club. The three-panel mural, which depicts a view of the Blue Mountains, welcomes and orients visitors to the arboretum

The club also runs two hiker hostels: one on Route 501 and the other, called the Eckville shelter, located in the shadow of Hawk Mountain. The old farmhouse and outbuildings on the Eckville property, which opened in 1992, were renovated to conform to federal regulations. For a few years, my husband and I worked as caretakers there, hosting many hundreds of hikers on the property.

Mick Charowsky, the current caretaker, has been

managing the property for the past 30 years. During that time, he has witnessed an evolution in hikers’ attitudes and styles.

“Today’s gear is incredibly lightweight,” he says. “Pack weight is down to a mere 20 pounds, where years ago it was 40 or 50.

“There’s also more diversity amongst hikers,” he continues. “Whereas half a dozen hikers used to sit around the picnic table cooking and chatting and laughing, now many are on their cell phones.”

Still, the long-distance trail remains a refuge in the natural world, and more than 100 years after its founding, the Blue Mountain Eagle Climbing Club continues to operate under a simple mandate: service to the Appalachian Trail and the hikers who use it.

In addition to hikes and work on the AT, the club schedules bike rides, cultural events, educational programs, camping trips, community meals and all sorts of outdoor activities. bmecc.org

—Cindy Ross, a regular contributor from New Ringgold, Schuylkill County, is an avid lifelong hiker.

WHEN YOU GO

The **Rentschler Arboretum**, owned and maintained by the Blue Mountain Eagle Climbing Club, is located at 200 Arboretum Road in Bernville, Berks County. The property includes gardens, wildflower meadows, a walking trail, farm fields, a nature sanctuary, the Rentschler Pavilion and the Kalbach Pavilion (where monthly club meetings and special club events are held). The grounds are open to the public during daylight hours. bmecc.org

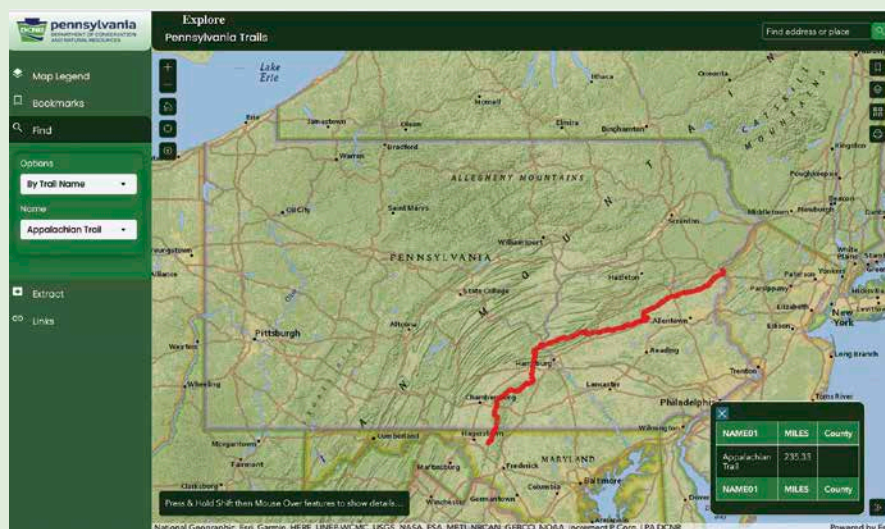
Find a Hiking Trail or Club Near You

If you’re seeking a hiking club near you, connect with the Keystone Trails Association (KTA), an umbrella organization that can direct you to dozens of individual hiking clubs. These groups seek to provide, protect, preserve and promote recreational hiking trails in Pennsylvania.

Explore a listing of trails and clubs near you at the association’s web page at kta-hike.org/major-trails-and-find-a-club.html.

Become familiar with a new trail by becoming a volunteer and helping to maintain the thousands of miles of marked routes that must be clipped, brushed, blazed and cleared of blown-down trees. KTA’s trail crew volunteers typically log 3,000 to 4,000 hours of trail work annually, and member clubs contribute another 20,000 to 30,000 hours. The KTA can help to find a club that suits you.

“We encourage folks to use KTA as a resource for finding trail information and updates,” Casey



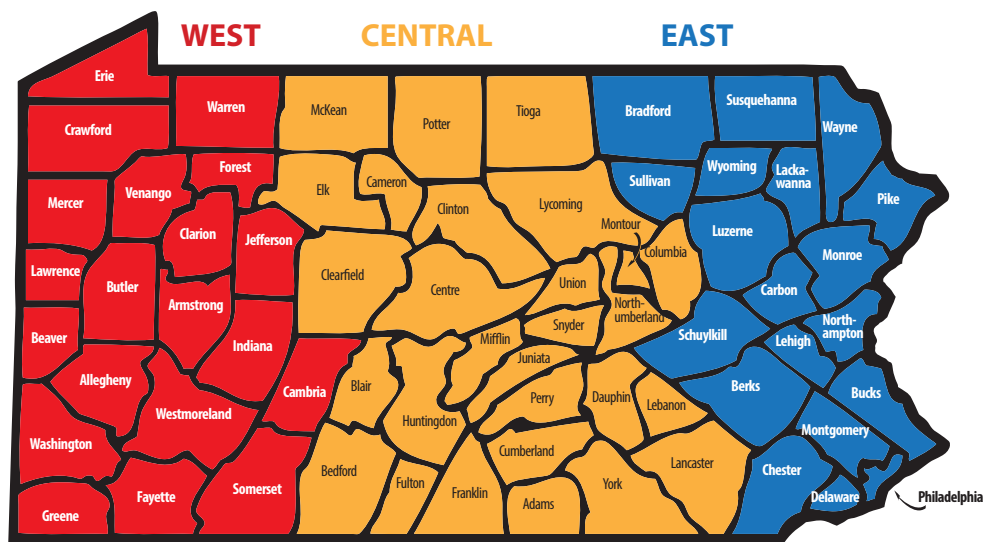
Schneck, KTA’s manager of events and publications, says. “Most major trails in the state have a connected club that maintains them, but a few trails aren’t connected and sometimes become overgrown later in the season. The best way to be involved is to join in on a work trip because without trail maintenance, we have no trails.”

Pennsylvania’s Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) has an online mapping program that can show hiking, biking, water and other trails. The AT is shown above in the screen grab of the online map. See the map at trails.dcnr.pa.gov/maptrails/index.html or find the links at pa-mag.com/trails.

Events

THESE EVENTS are from early March through mid-May. Please remember to confirm our information by checking online or calling on a weekday before the event. You may find an event has been changed or canceled due to inclement weather or other reasons.

If your event fits our criteria, we may be able to include a listing of it in a future issue. Send your information (following our format) by mail to Events Calendar, *Pennsylvania Magazine*, P.O. Box 755, Camp Hill 17001-0755, or enter it online at pa-mag.com/send-your-event.



WEST

- Mar 8-17**
HOME & GARDEN SHOW
Convention Ctr., Pittsburgh, Erie Co.
412-231-8400
- Mar 9**
SPRING COIN SHOW
S & T Bank, Indiana, Indiana Co., 724-465-0618
- Mar 9**
CRAFT SHOW
W. Hempfield Presby. Church, Irwin
Westmoreland Co., 724-640-9669
- ST. PATTY'S CRAFT SHOW**
Circleville Fire Hall, Irwin, Westmoreland Co.
412-897-0361
- COIN SHOW**
S&T Bank Arena, Indiana, 724-465-0618
- Mar 15-17**
CLARION RIVER JAM & BLUE-GRASS FESTIVAL
Park Inn by Radisson, Clarion, Clarion Co.
814-226-8760
- ART & CRAFT SHOW**
Convention Ctr., Monroeville, Allegheny Co.
330-493-4130
- ANTIQUÉ SHOW**
Tanglewood, Lyndora, Butler Co.
724-234-4619

- Mar 16**
SPRING CRAFT SHOW
Blackhawk H.S., Beaver Falls, Beaver Co.
412-580-8120
- Mar 16-17**
THE BEAD MERCANTILE SHOW
Comfort Inn of RIDC Park, Pittsburgh
Allegheny Co., 610-909-2674
- MAPLE SYRUP TASTE & TOUR WEEKEND**
Crawford, Erie, Warren, Venango
& Mercer Cos., 814-756-4781
- Mar 16-Apr 14**
SPRING FLOWER SHOW
Phipps Conservatory, Pittsburgh
Allegheny Co., 412-622-6914
- Mar 17**
SPRING CRAFT SHOW
Cherryhill Twp. Fire Co., Penn Run
Indiana Co., 724-464-4566
- Mar 22-24**
SOUTH HILLS HOME SHOW
Cool Springs Sports Complex, Pittsburgh
Erie Co., 412-310-7781
- HOME & GARDEN EXPO**
Bayfront Convention Ctr., Erie, Erie Co.
814-724-3856
- NORTH HILL HOME SHOW**
North Park Sports Complex, Allison Park
Allegheny Co., 412-310-7781

- MEGA SHOW**
Galleria Mall, Johnstown, Cambria Co.
814-445-6431
- Mar 23**
SPRING OPEN HOUSE
Smicksburg, Indiana Co., 814-257-8353
- BEST BUDDIES EGGSTRAVANGANZA**
Butler Senior H.S., Butler, 724-234-4619
- TAXIDERMÝ SPORTSMAN'S SHOW**
Kovalchick Conv. Ctr., Indiana, 717-537-5734
- Mar 24**
NORTH HILLS COIN SHOW
American Legion, Zelenople, Butler Co.
412-269-0181
- Apr 5-7**
HOME SHOW
Family Sports Ctr., Butler, Butler Co.
412-310-7781
- HOME SHOW**
Kovalchick Conv. & Athletic Complex
Indiana, Indiana Co., 724-349-2327
- PITTSBURGH'S TARTAN DAY**
Presbyterian Church, Bethel Park
Allegheny Co., 412-561-5528
- Apr 6-7**
SPRING GUN SHOW
Convention Ctr., Monroeville, Allegheny Co.
540-951-2344

- HOP INTO SPRING**
Patterson Twp. Vol. Fire Dept., Beaver Falls
Beaver Co., 724-318-2282
- Apr 12-14**
STEEL CITY CON
Convention Ctr., Monroeville, Allegheny Co.
412-431-4433
- MON VALLEY HOME SHOW**
cfsbank Event Center, Rostraver
Westmoreland Co., 724-483-7000
- Apr 13-14**
SPRING CRAFT FESTIVAL
Bayfront Convention Ctr., Erie, Erie Co.
814-790-5079
- SPRING GUN SHOW**
Fairgrounds, Washington, Washington Co.
717-948-3571
- Apr 20**
SPRING CRAFT FAIR
Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Glenshaw
Allegheny Co., 412-492-7176
- Apr 20-21**
MAPLE SYRUP FESTIVAL
Brady's Run Park, Beaver Falls, Beaver Co.
724-378-1701
- Apr 20-28**
MAPLE FESTIVAL
Meyersdale, Somerset Co., 814-634-0213

Events

Apr 27
CRAFT SHOW
Kinlech Fireman's Club, Lower Burrell
Westmoreland Co., 412-606-6251

ARBOR DAY CELEBRATION
Andrew J. Conner Nature Center, Erie
814-835-5356

SPRING PULL
Fairgrounds, Cookport, Indiana Co.
724-840-0029

Apr 27-28
ART IN BLOOM ART SHOW
County Courthouse, Ebensburg, Cambria Co.
814-472-8780

May 2
**SPRING PLOW, PULL DAY
& TRACTOR SHOW**
Beacon Hotel Corn Maze, Renfrew
Butler Co., 724-799-0362

May 7-17
SENIOR GAMES
Mammoth Park, Greensburg
Westmoreland Co., 724-830-3000

May 11
SPRING FESTIVAL
Johnstown Christian School, Holsopple
Somerset Co., 814-288-2588

May 16-18
PAN COIN SHOW
Convention Ctr., Monroeville, Allegheny Co.
412-531-4600

May 17-18
**MAY MART FLOWER
& CRAFT FEST**
S & T Bank Arena, Indiana, Indiana Co.
724-541-4318

MUSIC FESTIVAL
Millvale, Allegheny Co., 412-281-7711

May 18
WINE FESTIVAL
Shrine Ctr., Pittsburgh, Erie Co.
724-274-7000

May 18-19
**NAT'L PIKE STEAM
GAS & HORSE SHOW**
Fairgrounds, Brownsville, Fayette Co.
724-785-2605

SPRING GAS-UP
Portersville, Butler Co., 724-285-7038

CENTRAL

Mar 2-3
FLY-FISHING SHOW
Convention Ctr., Lancaster Co., 866-481-2393

Mar 9
CRAFT SHOW
High School, Hershey, 717-533-7138

Mar 15-17
**CENTRAL PA OUTDOOR
& SPORTS SHOW**
Fairgrounds, Clearfield Co., 814-272-1320

HOME & OUTDOOR LIVING SHOW
Fairgrounds, Bloomsburg, Columbia Co.
570-966-0625

Mar 16
SPRING BLOOM CRAFT SHOW
Trinity Fellowship Ctr., Walnut Bottom
Cumberland Co., 717-532-7606

EGGSPLOSION CRAFT SHOW
Blue Heron Events, Greencastle, Franklin Co.
717-830-6337

Mar 16-17
MAPLE WEEKEND
Various locations, Potter & Tioga Co.
570-724-0635

Mar 23
SPRING CRAFT SHOW
Central Dauphin H.S., Harrisburg, 817-705-9693

CELEBRATE THE ARTS
Spring Grove H.S., Spring Grove, York Co.
717-225-4731

Apr 6
CABIN FEVER & CRAFT SHOW
Expo Ctr. Horticulture Hall, York, 443-797-4632

CALL AHEAD / Check Online

Some events may be changed, canceled, altered
or postponed due to weather or other reasons.

**SPRING BLOSSOM
& CRAFT SHOW**
Expo Ctr., Carlisle, Cumberland Co.
717-830-6337

Apr 6-7
MONSTER TRUCK
Bryce Jordan Ctr., State College, Centre Co.
844-379-0370

Apr 20
BACON FEST
Station Park, McClure, Snyder Co.
570-658-4697

Apr 22
EARTH DAY FESTIVAL
Downtown, Mechanicsburg, Cumberland Co.
717-697-5111

Apr 27
ANTIQUA TRACTOR PULL
Rough & Tumble, Kinzers, Lancaster Co.
717-442-4249

YORK HAMFEST
Elicker's Grove Park, Spring Grove, York Co.
717-642-6719

WINE IN THE WILDS
Fairgrounds, Clinton Co., 570-726-3663

ARTS FESTIVAL
Lewistown, Union Co., 570-784-2522

SPRING FLING CRAFT SHOW
The Well, Phillipsburg, Centre Co.
srdixon59@gmail.com

MAYFEST
Huntingdon, Huntingdon Co., 814-386-2638

Apr 27-28
SPRING FEST
York Expo Ctr., York, York Co., 717-830-6337

SPRING FLING
C.V.A.E.M.A. Grounds, Chambersburg
Franklin Co., 717-369-9937

JUNIATA VALLEY WINE FESTIVAL
Juniata Valley Winery, Mifflin Co.
717-436-5400

Apr 28
ANTIQUES EXTRAVAGANZA
Various locations, Adamstown, York Co.
717-336-2177

May 3-4
PLANT SALE
Lancaster County Art Association, Strasburg
717-687-7601

May 4
SPRING FLING
Danville, Montour Co., 570-284-4502

MAYFEST
Maytown, Lancaster Co., 717-426-1526

**COLONIAL FORT
HALIFAX FESTIVAL**
Ft. Halifax, Halifax, Dauphin Co., 717-896-8510

May 11
SPRING FLING CRAFT SHOW
Expo Ctr., York, York Co., 443-797-4632

HERB & GARDEN FESTIVAL
Landis Valley Museum, Lancaster Co.
717-581-0951

ARTFEST
Englewood Barn, Hershey, 717-520-0748

RED ROSE CLASSIC DOG SHOW
Expo Ctr., Lebanon, Lebanon Co.
717-823-2501

Mar 16
CRAFT FAIR
Lebanon H.S. Atrium, Lebanon, Lebanon Co.
717-273-9391

Mar 16-17
POTTER TIOPA MAPLE FESTIVAL
Coudersport, Potter Co., 814-274-8165

May 17-18
RHUBARB FESTIVAL
Kitchen Kettle Village, Intercourse
Lancaster Co., 717-738-8261

May 18
MARIETTA DAY
Downtown, Marietta, Lancaster Co.
717-426-4350

ANTIQUA SHOW
Lincoln Square, Gettysburg, Adams Co.
717-253-5750

PETAPALOOZA FESTIVAL
Central Penn College, Summerdale
Cumberland Co., 765-426-9547

Send Your Event

See pa-mag.com/send-your-event for details.

May 18-19
ACROSS THE CENTURIES
Historical Site, Fort Loudoun, Franklin Co.
717-372-5945

FIBER FESTIVAL
Fairgrounds, Hughesville, Lycoming Co.
207-240-4269

UNION CANAL DAYS
Union Canal Tunnel Park, Lebanon
Lebanon Co., 717-272-1473

EAST

Mar 2-3
GREATER POCONO HOME SHOW
Kalahari Resort, Pocono Manor, Monroe Co.
570-421-9009

Mar 3
SPRING CRAFT FAIR
Conwell-Egan Catholic School, Fairless Hills
Bucks Co., 215-741-4838

Mar 9
NAPA CRAFT FAIR
Nazareth Academy H.S., Philadelphia
215-637-7676

SPRING CRAFT SHOW
Schnecksville Fire Co., Montgomery Co.
267-382-9740

Mar 15-17
BOAT SHOW
Expo Ctr., Oaks, Montgomery Co.
804-370-3545

Mar 16
SPRING CRAFT FAIR
Northampton Community College
Bethlehem, Lehigh/Northampton Co.
610-861-5088

KITTS & SHAMROCK FEST
South Mall, Allentown, Lehigh Co.
272-200-8163

SPRING CRAFT FAIR
Holy Guardian Angels Sch., Reading
Berks Co., 610-921-2729

PA GERMAN ZAMMELAAF
Trainer's Midway Diner, Bethel, Berks Co.
717-933-5511

Mar 16-17
SPRING HOME SHOW
Sports Ctr., Newtown, Bucks Co.
888-433-3976

ANTIQUA SHOW
Fire Co., Kimberton, Chester Co.
717-431-7322

BREW & CHILI FEST
Country Junction, Lehigh, Carbon Co.
610-377-5050

Mar 22-24
INNOVATIVE BEADS EXPO
Expo Ctr., Oaks, Montgomery Co.
800-210-9900



SCIENCE.NASA.GOV/ECLIPSES/FUTURE-ECLIPSES/ECLIPSE-2024/

Daytime Darkness Comes for a Few Minutes This April

According to NASA, on Monday, April 8, a total solar eclipse will cross the United States, beginning in Texas at 12:30 p.m. Central Standard Time and ending in Maine about 4:35 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time.

While all of Pennsylvania will experience a partial eclipse in the afternoon, the big show in the state will be in the Erie County area, where the total eclipse will begin at 3:16 p.m. and end four

minutes later. Erie's history with cloud cover could pose problems with seeing the eclipse, with overcast skies almost 60% of the time historically on April 8. Those planning to view the eclipse should seek guidance about safe observation online. We recommend dcr.pa.gov/Pages/2024-Total-Solar-Eclipse.aspx and visiterie.com/eclipseerie-2024.

Mar 23
SPRING CRAFT SHOW
Easton Area H.S., Easton, Northampton Co.
484-903-2350

JUMP INTO SPRING CRAFT SHOW
Memorial Park, Macungie, Lehigh Co.
610-570-9825

Mar 30
SPRING CRAFT SHOW
Renninger's Farmers Mkt., Kutztown
Lehigh Co., 570-385-0104

Apr 6
HANDMADE SPRING CRAFT SHOW
Fairyland Rd, Lehighton, Carbon Co.
610-377-9706

Apr 13
SPRING CRAFT FAIR
Memorial Park, Macungie, Lehigh Co.
610-966-4289

Apr 13-14
SPRING HOME & GARDEN SHOW
Morgantown Ctr., Morgantown, Berks Co.
210-408-0998

HOME & GARDEN SHOW
Farmers Mkt., Leesport, Berks Co.
210-408-0998

Apr 20
FESTIVAL OF PECULIARITIES
South Mall, Allentown, Lehigh Co.
272-200-8163

COMING OUT OF HIBERNATION
Downtown, Boyertown, Berks Co.
610-369-3054

SHEEP SHEARING DAY
Peter Wentz Farmstead, Lansdale
Montgomery Co., 610-584-5104

Apr 20-21
HOME SHOW
Expo Ctr., Oaks, Montgomery Co.
610-940-1670

Apr 27
SPRING POP-UP CRAFT SHOW
Pocono Premium Outlets, Tannersville
Monroe Co., 484-289-2523

ART FESTIVAL
Glenside, Montgomery Co., 215-843-4462

Apr 27-28
SPRING PAPER SHOW
Agri Plex, Allentown, Lehigh Co.
610-573-4969

MAPLE FESTIVAL
Alparon Park, Troy, Bradford Co.
570-297-3648

May 4
STREET ART FESTIVAL
Reading Muhlenberg Career Technology Ctr.
Reading, Berks Co., 610-921-7300

TOY, COMIC & CARD SHOW
Charles Chrin Comm. Ctr., Allentown
Lehigh Co., 610-573-3695

COLONIAL MAY FAIR
Pottsgrove Manor, Pottstown
Montgomery Co., 610-326-4014

SPRING CRAFT FAIR
Lehigh & Lausanna Vol Fire Co., Weatherly
Carbon Co., 484-464-5438

FOOD, WINE & CRAFT FAIR
Memorial Park, Macungie, Lehigh Co.
610-570-9825

May 5
SPRING CRAFT SHOW
Hometown Farmers Mkt., Tamaqua
Schuylkill Co., 570-943-2707

May 11
SPRING CRAFT FAIR
Farmers Mkt., Leesport, Berks Co.
610-926-1307

Mar 16
CELTIC FESTIVAL
Downtown, Perkasie, Bucks Co.
215-536-3211

May 18
CHOCOLATE & WINE FESTIVAL
Chestnut St., Montrose, Susquehanna Co.
570-278-1230

SPRING CRAFT SHOW
Farmers Mkt., Quakertown, Bucks Co.
215-536-4115

ARTS ALIVE
Downtown, Quakertown, Bucks Co.
215-536-2273

SPRING FEST 2024
Ridge Ave., Philadelphia, 215-508-2358

SPRING WINE FEST
4-H Ctr., Collegetown, Montgomery Co.
267-500-7400

May 18-19
TILE FESTIVAL
Moravian Pottery & Tile Works, Doylestown
Bucks Co., 215-348-6098

ITALIAN MARKET FESTIVAL
Ninth St., S. Philadelphia, 215-278-2903

**ENTER OUR
2024 PHOTO CONTEST!**

SEE PAGE 41



Up in a Tree

While still wearing waist-high waders from his fishing trip, Bruce Walkovich of Portage pursued this porcupine in the rain as it rambled up a steep 20-foot bank and down the other side. Finally, it climbed a tree near Medix Run, Elk County. Only then did it show its face, which allowed Bruce to take its portrait

NIKON D500, 240.0 MM, F/5.6, ISO 1600, 1/60 S

Name That Pennsylvanian

WELCOME TO ANOTHER EDITION of our quiz about famous Pennsylvanians. The six people featured below were involved in the entertainment world or played a critical role in providing positive benefits for their fellow citizens. All either were born in Pennsylvania or lived and worked here most of their lives.

From these descriptions, your job is to choose the correct person from the list of provided names. Best of luck!

1. This athletic, young man from London, England, led a “rags to riches” life. With baseball as his passion, he became a second base player for the Brooklyn Atlantics for a short time before he was offered a similar position at a salary of \$25 a week with the Philadelphia Athletics, making him the first professional player of record.

He left the Athletics in 1876 and used the savings from his salary to form a company that successfully made and sold sporting goods. He also served as president of the Phillies from 1883 to 1904. He would retire as a millionaire before he passed on in 1928.

His name: _____

2. In 1839, a doctor at the Philadelphia Dispensary began to train women to be midwives and nurses. As part of their training, they were enrolled alongside male medical students. Although women would be trained as nurses at facilities in Philadelphia in 1861 and Pittsburgh in 1884, the first training for female nurses is credited to this doctor.

His name: _____

3. In 1846, a sister was called on to start an order of nuns to teach youngsters in the British Isles. She was promoted to be the first superior of the Society of the Holy Child of Jesus. She opened successful parochial schools in England and later in our state in Philadelphia and

Sharon from 1862 to 1867.

Her husband, Father Pierce Connelly, (at this time, the two of them were members of the Episcopal Church and allowed to marry; they both became Catholic years later) opposed her actions in forming the order and tried, unsuccessfully, to stop her. While he spent the rest of his life being critical of her, she continued to run her order and see a number of schools opened here and in the British Isles.

She would later return to England where she passed on in 1879. (In 1992, she was pronounced as venerable by Pope John Paul II, a major step in being named a saint.)

Her name: _____

4. In 1870, a young pharmacist from Philadelphia was on his honeymoon when the host of the boardinghouse where the couple was staying served them a homemade beverage made from herbs, spices and roots, including sassafras.

Impressed with the drink, the pharmacist decided to make a brew of his own. He collected a group of natural materials and put together a beverage that his friends enjoyed. He consulted Dr. Russell Cornwell, founder of Temple University, about what to name his brew, and Cornwell suggested he capitalize on the beverage that thousands of miners in the commonwealth loved—beer—and call it root beer.

It became a popular drink and continues to be sold today by the same name.

His name: _____

5. This native of Hollidaysburg was born in 1890, and from an early age, she was fond of the traveling minstrel shows that frequently came to town. She vowed to make her mark in show business, and as a young woman, she traveled to New York City, where she found work in the chorus lines of several Broadway shows. Along the way, she gained attention from one of the biggest stars in Manhattan, and they were married in 1913.

When her husband mixed up her name with the similarly sounding ones of his former four wives, she consulted with a numerologist to find a new first name. As the film industry grew in the early 1930s, her opinion about films became popular in the media. In her gossip column, she also named suspected communists and was a major proponent of Hollywood’s blacklist.

One could say that this lady did indeed make her mark in the show business world.

Her name: _____

6. A young woman, a graduate of what is today called Chatham College in Pittsburgh, developed a great interest in the natural world. She became a biologist and then an editor for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. In the 1950s, she conducted a four-year study of the uses of pesticides, such as DDT, and discovered they were killing wildlife

with possible implications for human life. Her 1962 book, *Silent Spring*, called for a halt of the use of DDT and similar materials. The U.S. Senate launched a study of the issue and concluded that DDT should be banned. Her work is credited with helping to develop the modern environmental movement.

Her name: _____

Choose from the following names:

- a. Joseph Warrington
- b. Simon Snyder
- c. Alfred Reach
- d. Rebecca Pennock
- e. Sister Cornelia
- f. Charles Hires
- g. Joseph Finney
- h. Rachel Carson
- i. Hedda Hopper
- j. Dr. Oram Lyte
- k. Sister Taylor

Fall Events | **Urban and Town Views Winners** | Buffalo Bills House from Silence of the Lambs Playpaws | Penns Colony Festival | Metal Artist Greg Leavitt | Hamburg's King Frost Parade | Books

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Winter Events | **Lewis and Clark** | Frosted Days Photo Essay | Women in the Wilds | Photo Contest Leiby Horses & Sleigh Rides | Scavenger Hunt Results | Seed Saving | Doylestown Shoemaker

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Winter Events | **Inside Martin Guitar** | Civilian Conservation Corps and Our State Parks The Automata: Horn and Hardart | Plenty to See at The Frick | Replenishing Presque Isle Sand

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Summer Events | **Fantastic Feathered Friends Photos** | Lincoln Highway Postcards | Books Reluctant Civil War Draftees | Dryer Lint Artist Heidi Hooper | Lomas Museum in Gettysburg

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