

CURATOR'S REPORT
THE BERLIN AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

JANUARY 11, 2022



**FORMER HOME OF WALTER & ETHA
(SHOBER) LANDEFELD**

BEACHDALE AREA

BROTHERSVALLEY TOWNSHIP

WE MOURN THE PASSING OF

James Irving Suder

November 23, 1934 ~ December 19, 2021 (age 87)



Services

MEMORIAL SERVICE

Sunday

January 16, 2022

2:00 PM

Trinity United Church of Christ
Berlin, Pennsylvania

James Irving Suder, 87, Berlin, died Dec. 19, 2021 at Meyersdale Memorial Medical Center. Born Nov. 23, 1934 in Berlin, son of Norman H. and L. Ellen (Henry) Suder. Preceded in death by parents, and brothers: Robert and N. Edward Suder. Survived by his wife of 66 years the former M. Kay Scheller; children: Penny D. married to Joseph Deem, Dan L. married to the former Virginia Day, and Kim married to David Romesberg, all of Berlin; 7 grandchildren and 15 great grandchildren. He was a graduate of Berlin Brothersvalley High School and retired owner of Suder Insurance Agency, Berlin. Member of Trinity United Church of Christ, Berlin, and Berlin Area Historical Society, where he was president for many years and editor of the newsletter. No viewing or visitation. A memorial service will be held Sunday January 16, 2022 at 2 p.m. at Trinity United Church of Christ, Berlin. Rev. Jay Shaffer officiating. Memorial contributions may be given to Berlin Area Historical Society, 400 Vine St., Berlin, PA 15530. Arrangements entrusted to Deaner Funeral Home, Berlin. DeanerFuneralsAndCremations.com.

M. Kay (Scheller) Suder

August 25, 1937 ~ December 29, 2021 (age 84)



M. Kay Suder, 84, Berlin, died Dec. 29, 2021 at Meyersdale Memorial Medical Center. Born Aug. 25, 1937 in Baltimore, MD, daughter of Herman W. and Vivian (Vogel) Scheller. Preceded in death by parents, husband James I., and sister Connie Harrison. Survived by children: Penny D. married to Joseph Deem, Dan L. married to the former Virginia Day, and Kim married to David Romesberg, all of Berlin; 7 grandchildren, 15 great grandchildren; sister of: Neil (Evonne) Scheller, Javan Scheller, and Tacy (Luther) Weaver. She was a 1955 graduate of Berlin Brothersvalley High School. Former owner/operator of The Stitchin' Post and former co-owner of Custom Cuisine. Member of Trinity United Church of Christ, Berlin, Supper Club, and Ladies Card Club. No viewing or visitation. A memorial service will be held Sunday January 16, 2022 at 2 p.m. at Trinity United Church of Christ, Berlin. Rev. Jay Shaffer officiating. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be given to Berlin Area Historical Society, 400 Vine St., Berlin, PA 15530. Arrangements entrusted to Deaner Funeral Home, Berlin. DeanerFuneralsAndCremations.com.

Why Jim Suder meant so much to so many in Berlin



The Story Never Ends

Sandra Lepley
Guest Columnist

The community of Berlin lost "a wealth of information" when Jim Suder, 87, died Sunday at Meyersdale Memorial Medical Center.

Jim is most well known in Berlin as the founder of Walton & Suder Insurance along Fletcher Street and as the longtime president of the Berlin Area Historical Society.

Throughout the years, I have worked with Jim Suder on many, many projects. I even remember when I first met him back in the early 1990s. I took a photo for the newspaper of four Berlin Area Historical Society officers — Jim Suder, Paul Pritts, Calvin Will and Bill Ringler — now all gone.

I first learned about Jim's death when I was talking to Bob Platt, genealogist at the society, this week in Berlin. I was so saddened by the news.

It was Bob who said "Berlin has lost a wealth of information" when Jim Suder died. So very true!

Jim was one of those men who found his life's purpose right in his hometown through the society and the insurance agency. It was amazing how he could recall the history of the area. He was truly an integral link to Berlin's past.

"It's like a lost library," says Dave Hay, the curator at the society. "He was the president for many years, and the secretary before that, and he was always there for many questions. He took care of the society's endowment fund and building care projects and he knew older generations and older businesses."

Dave says that Jim gave up the presidency at the society two years ago. Leanne Calvert took the reins, but Jim was always there to help out and came in Monday afternoons regularly.

"He was always working on stories," recalled Hay, a local writer himself. "He always had a story in the back of his mind and did the newsletter for the society. We are at a terrible loss in the Berlin community."



Suder

And, just as he was dedicated to the society, he gave his life to Walton & Suder Insurance along Fletcher Street. He worked alongside his son Dan every day ever since Dan got out of college 40

years ago.

"He was in here every day for three or four hours until lunchtime, and then he would go to the historical society for the rest of the day," says Dan. "He stayed very active up until the end, and I was truly blessed to have worked with him for these past 40 years."

Dan explained that Jim gave up his insurance license two years ago, but still helped out by getting photos and measurements of houses the agency was insuring. Dan says Jim never wanted to retire, but wanted to stay active. He was just in the insurance office Friday, Dec. 10, before he went to the hospital.

In addition to his activity at the society and insurance agency, Jim and his wife, Kay, were also part of what was called "The Berlin Supper Club."

Alas, what started out 59 years ago in 1962 with 10 members who met once a month for supper now only has four left — Jim's wife, Kay, Marlene Hillegass and Jay L. and Constance Hillegass. In its heyday the supper club included Jim and Kay (Scheller) Suder, the late Carl and Mary Ann (Ringler) Cotter, Marlene (Hay) Hillegass and her husband, the late Dean Hillegass, Jay L. and Constance (Adams) Hillegass, and the late Carl H. and Faye A. (Sweitzer) Flamm.

This club was a symbol of enduring friendship from couples with a dairy background and a big dose of laughter, too. I was invited to Jim and Kay's home in 2016 to "sup" with them and it was a joyful evening that I will never forget. I can remember Jim Suder telling me that not only were the couples good friends, but their children were friends with one another, too. Such a great story of friendship!

In closing, Jim Suder was one of those people who made an extraordinary difference in the world in an ordinary way and kept working and contributing to the end. He will be missed by many.

THE STORY NEVER ENDS BY SANDRA LEPLEY
PRINTED ON FRIDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2021 IN THE DAILY AMERICAN, SOMERSET

BESSIE MARTZ SUCEEDED HER FATHER ELI C. MARTZ AS GLENCOE POSTMASTER!

75 YEARS AGO

From The
Sept. 3, 1914 Issue

On September 1st Miss Bessie A. Martz succeeded her father Eli C. Martz, as postmaster at Glencoe. Mr. Martz, who was a farmer most of his life, near Glencoe, moved to town in 1901, started a grocery store and was appointed postmaster by Postmaster General Charles Emory Smith and held the office up to the first of this month when he stepped down and out in favor of his daughter who had been his assistant for seven years.

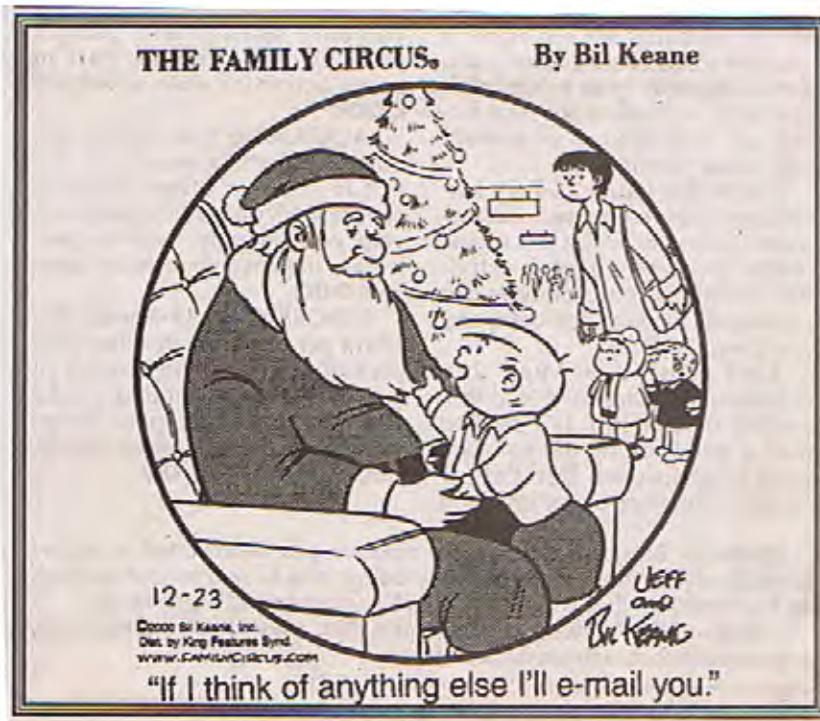
When Postmaster General Burleson some time ago ordered all forth-class postmasters to take the civil service examination for reappointment, Mr. Martz decided that he had held the office long enough, as the confinement was beginning to tell on him. Accordingly he did not take the examination, but his two daughters did and both passed very creditably. The office was given to Miss Bessie because of her long experience as assistant postmaster and her consequent familiarity with the duties of the office.

TOPPER GRISTMILL ALLEGHENY TOWNSHIP

Located west of New Baltimore along the road leading into the Breastwork Road, the Topper gristmill was built by John Topper. Farmers from the surrounding mountain brought their grain with horses and wagons to the mill to be ground into meal.

At one time near this mill there existed a "fulling mill." Fulling was a process for shrinking and cleaning woolen and worsted fabric, matting the fibers, and producing a firm, compact cloth. Hot soapy water was used, followed by pressing through rollers.

AN E-MAIL TO SANTA!



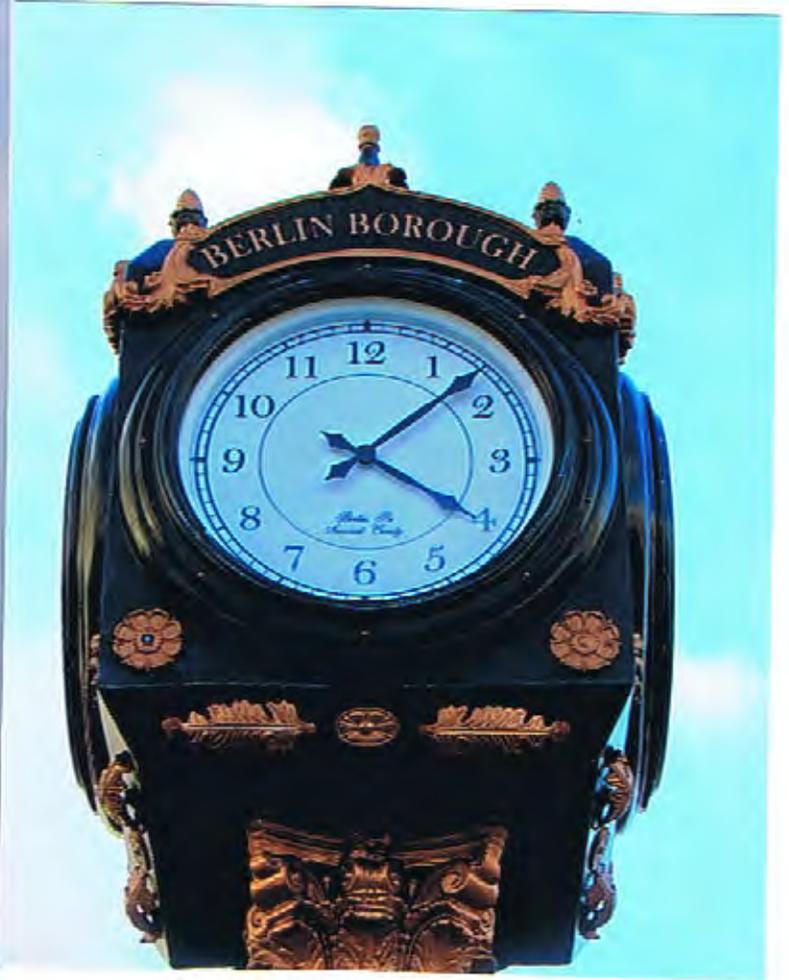
FINS OF THE 50'S



The 1957 two-door
Chevrolet owned by Dalton E.
Paul of Chambersburg



**BERLIN'S NEW CLOCK – A BEAUTIFUL ADDITION
ALONG WITH THE NEW CHRISTMAS TREE!**



**FOUR SIDED
CLOCK ON
BERLIN'S LOWER
DIAMOND!**

JAN. 3, 2022

THE CHRISTMAS SEASON AT THE BERLIN AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY!

Our Christmas season was relatively quiet with our volunteers being successful in getting the winter issue of Memos sorted and ready for the Berlin Post Office for mailing. Bob Platt prepared the paper work for the bulk mailing of the Memos.

We were all concerned with the failing health of Jim and Kay Suder and greatly saddened with both of their passing within a 10-day period between December 19 and 29, 2021. Although our office was closed between Christmas and New Year's Day, volunteers dropped in to check the office as well as to record the many dues payments and the memorials that continue to come in for our endowment fund in memory of Jim and Kay Suder.

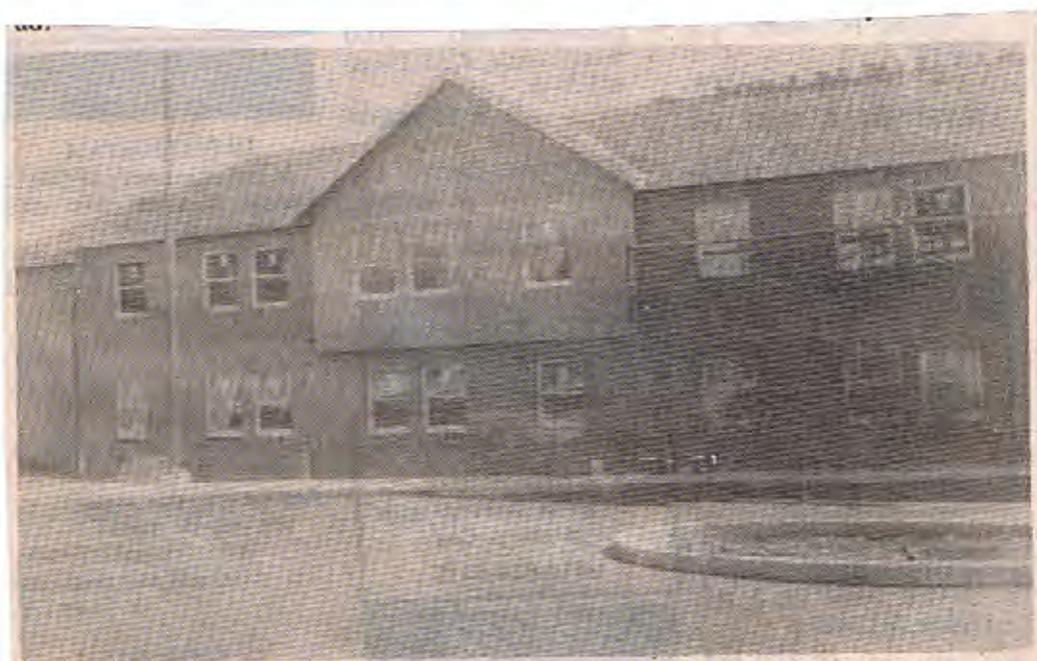
Eddie Denner has donated an embossed Berlin Beverage glass bottle and a group of maps and their mounting case used in a former one-room school. **Mary Margaret Forespring** donated newspaper clippings pertaining to activities and interviews with her father, the late Donald Maust. **Doug Bell** donated the April 19, 1962 Mountaineer school newspaper and a 1961 Berlin Elementary School dedication program. **Bill Merrill** donated Buffalo Valley Railroad and Mountain Valley Coal Company documents.

We appreciated the inventory work performed by Leanna Coughenour in recent weeks and the many volunteers who have contributed their time and talents to our society.

DAVID R. HAY, CURATOR

OUT OF BERLIN'S PAST!

NOVEMBER 1991 – BERLIN MANOR APARTMENT COMPLEX UNDER CONSTRUCTION



Presently under construction is Berlin Manor, a 34-unit apartment complex on South Street in the borough. The home is designed for low-income people over age 62 or

who are disabled. In addition to the Berlin project, Salisbury Manor is also under construction. (Photo by Scott Shumaker) 27 NOV 1991