

CURATOR'S REPORT

THE BERLIN AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MAY 14, 2019



DRY ACRES FARM

CARL A. JR. & BETTY HAY

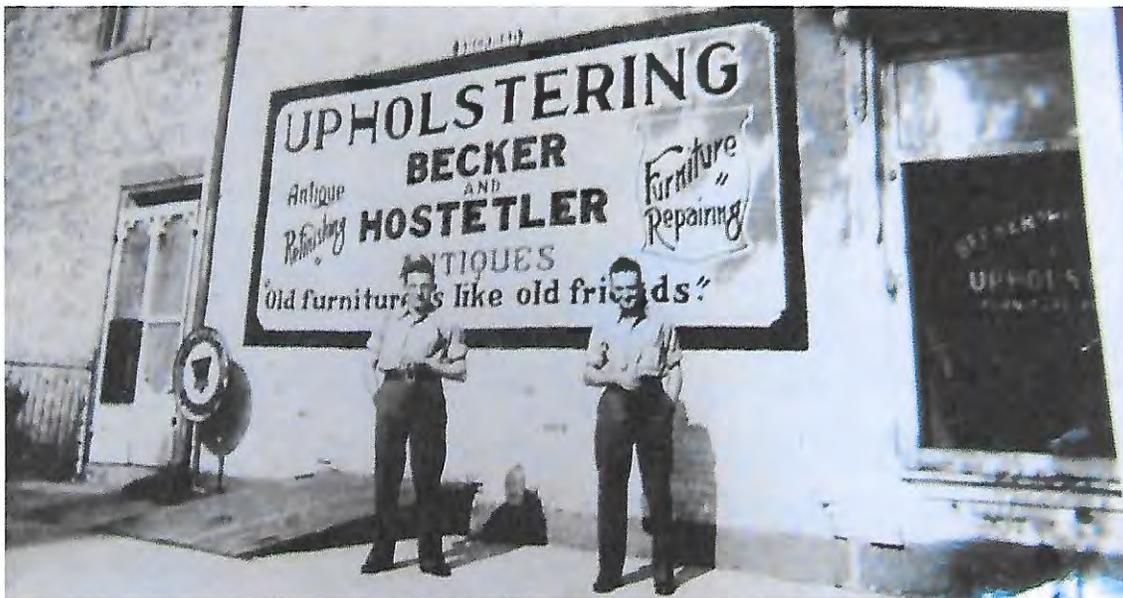
NORTHAMPTON TOWNSHIP!

BECKER AND HOSTETLER UPHOLSTERING IN BERLIN

BY DAVID R. HAY

During the Depression years of the mid-1930s and possibly into the early 1940s, Eugene W. Becker and Kenneth L. Hostetler engaged in the upholstery business in Berlin. Their firm was known as Becker & Hostetler and was located at 305 Main Street in Berlin, in the same building that later housed a pool hall on the upper diamond. The building was sold by Zorn and Good to Lynn Custer in 1971. Along with upholstery, the partners Becker and Hostetler specialized in furniture repairing and antique refinishing. Their slogan was 'old furniture is like old friends.'

Finding it difficult to secure lucrative employment during the depression the two enterprising young men went to Boston and enrolled in an upholstery school, where they served a regular apprenticeship and graduated as skilled upholsters. Afterward they started their upholstery shop in Berlin as partners, and gradually succeeded in building up a prosperous business.

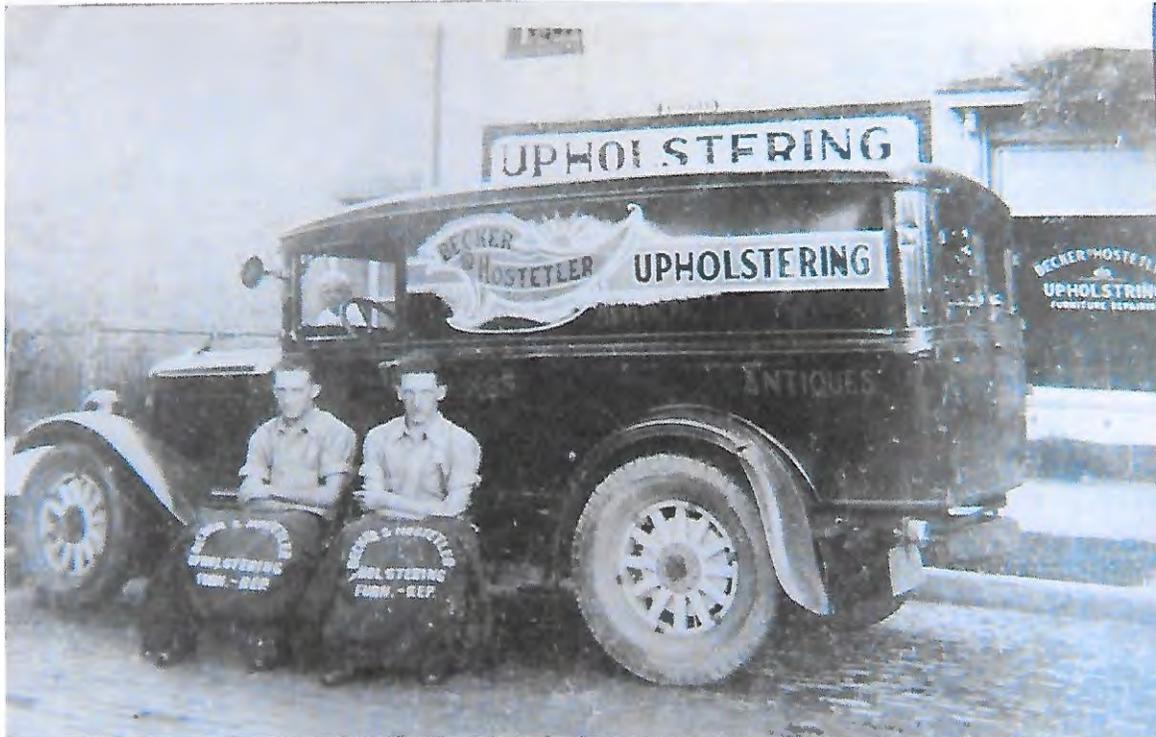


Ken Hostetler and Gene Becker at 305 Main Street in Berlin

The two partners became so agreeable that each simultaneously took a new life partner in a double wedding. Eugene Warren Becker, a son of George and Lillian (Martin) Becker of Meyersdale (formerly owners and operators of the Hay's Mill grist mill) took as his bride the former Marion Lucille Burkhart, daughter of George and Edith (Miller) Burkhart of Berlin. Kenneth Leroy Hostetler, son of Silas and Malinda (Folk) Hostetler of Greenville Township, took as his wife, the former Evora Marie Maust, daughter of Charles L. and Rose Ella (Dreyer) Maust of Brothersvalley Township.

The two young couples were married in Oakland, MD on July 24, 1936. After the double ceremony the two couples enjoyed a three-day honeymoon trip to Seneca Caverns, W.VA. Both brides were graduates of Berlin High School, class of 1934.

Evora (Maust) Hostetler died young on July 4, 1943. Bruce Warren Hostetler, who was born on March 23, 1943 and a member of the Class of 1961 at Berlin Brothersvalley High School was the son of Kenneth and Evora Hostetler. Bruce grew up in the home of his maternal grandparents, Charles L. and Rose Maust.



GENE BECKER AND KEN HOSTETLER WITH THEIR BUSINESS VEHICLE!

**BUSINESS MOTTO:
“OLD FURNITURE IS LIKE OLD FRIENDS.”**



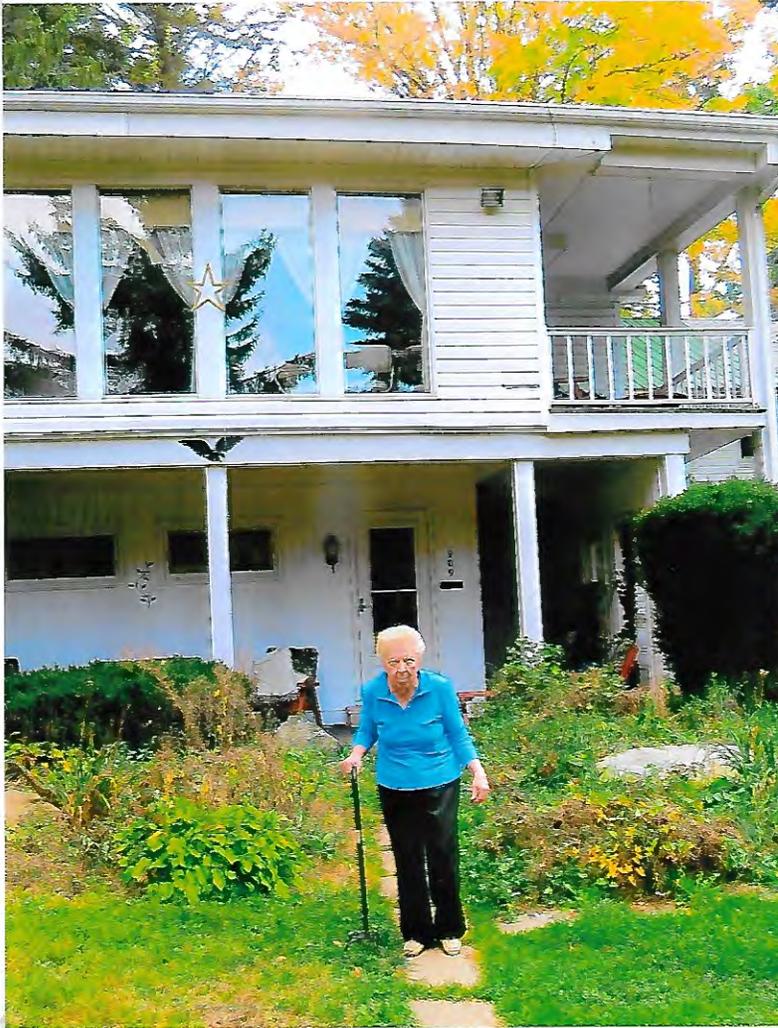
**DAVID EDWIN AND MARCIA (ADAMS) BECKER COMPARING
PICTURES OF THEIR FAMILY’S BECKER MILL (A SUCESSOR TO
SIMON HAY’S GRIST MILL.)**

David Edwin Becker of Hagerstown, MD and his wife, Marcia (Adams) Becker – a native of the Lancaster, California area - visited BAHS on April 15, 2019 and shared information and interesting pictures featuring Becker and Hostetler Upholstery. Eugene W. and Marion Lucille Becker’s sons were David and Gayle Eugene Becker. David and Gayle’s grandfather, George Becker of Hay’s Mill and Meyersdale was the last full-time operator of the grist mill in Hay’s Mill. He later moved into Meyersdale and was a miller for C.A. Phillips and later an employee of Altman’s Feed Store. George Becker followed his father, Jacob P. Becker in milling operations along the Blue lick Creek in Hay’s Mill (the former mill of Pioneer Simon Hay.) Jacob P. Becker also operated a small store and the post office on the second floor of his Hay’s Mill grist mill. He followed Simon Hay and various members of the Hay family in operating the grist mill as well as John Graf. Jacob P. Becker, who was born in Germany, purchased the mill from the Graf estate for \$2,100. John Graf died in 1854.

WITH FOND REMEMBRANCES:

FAYE R. BROWN

**FORMER BERLIN BROTHERSVALLEY HIGH SCHOOL ENGLISH
AND JOURNALISM TEACHER**



Beginning in the fall of 1959 and extending to the end of the 1963 school year, Faye R. Brown was employed as an English and Journalism teacher in the Berlin Brothersvalley High School. With mixed feelings, Faye left Berlin to take a teacher's position in Central Cambria High School near her parental home in Blacklick Township, Cambria County. Faye served many years as guidance counselor at Cambria High School. For many years, Faye was a foster parents with Children and Youth Services of Cambria County. Faye passed away on March 26, 2019 at the age of 81 years. In later years Faye was afflicted with Parkinson's disease while enjoying her family's beautiful residence in the Belsano-Nanty Glo area.

Long, Snyder honored for coaching careers

KEVIN LANIDS

Daily American Correspondent

SHANKSVILLE — It was a memorable night Friday at Shanksville as Wayne Long was celebrated for the 50th year of his basketball coaching career by the naming of the Shanksville basketball floor to Wayne Long Court.

Over 100 former players, managers, statisticians, and other team members packed into the Shanksville gymnasium to witness the unveiling.

"I am overwhelmed by the whole situation," said coach Long. "It's certainly an honor. I have been blessed with a lot of good players, and a lot of good people in the community, and they have been great to me, and certainly are tonight."

Long was recognized for 32 years (793 games) as head coach, two years (39 games) as junior varsity coach, five years (83 games) at the junior high level and 11 years (312 games) assisting current head coach Robert Snyder. During this time, Long led his team to the following titles: one Western PA championship-State runner-up in Class A ('76-'77), two District 5 championships, one District 5 runner-up, four Somerset County champi-

onships and one WestPAC championship. Individually, he was selected Somerset County Coach of the Year five times.

As a player, he was the first recipient of the Clyde O. Long Memorial Athletic Award. Additionally, Long helped obtain the District 5 and Class B championship title as a senior Viking in 1961.

The Long family roots in Shanksville took hold before basketball was ever as present in their lives. Both of Long's parents were teachers, as was Wayne and his four siblings. He taught physics, chemistry, science and math for 41 years. Long's wife, Paula has stood by his side throughout his coaching career, along with their three children. Their son Matthew began coaching 11 years ago and their daughters Megan and Melissa contributed to the program as statisticians for their father.

Collectively, his passion and dedication to the sport of basketball at his alma mater led him to touch many lives of young athletes and their families. From his 50 proud years of service to the district, it can be said that Wayne Long is a notable household name throughout Shanksville, Somerset County and all



Photo by Brian Brant

Shanksville superintendent Sam Romesburg presents 50-year coach Wayne Long with the banner that will be on display representing his years of service.

Feb. 1, 2019

of District 5.

Current head coach Robert Snyder talked about the honor of the gym floor being renamed after his longtime friend and mentor.

"I have known him probably longer than anyone other than my parents my whole life. He is just a wonderful human being and would bend over backwards for anyone. Good people like that are hard to find. He deserves everything he gets. It's a special honor for him. It means a lot for our community. It means a lot to our basketball family.

When we talk basketball, we talk about Wayne Long."

Wayne's son and current assistant coach Matt spoke of the family's appreciation of the honor. "It is humbling for us as a family. When they told us about the celebration we were all just overwhelmed."

Another legend in Viking "nation" is current head coach Robert Snyder who was honored for his 25th year of service to the program. He too graduated from Shanksville and played under coach Long for four years.

(See SNYDER, B2)



THE FOUR LONG BROTHERS:

(LEFT TO RIGHT)

WAYNE,
THOMAS,
OWEN &
HERBERT
LONG

Snyder

(Continued from B1)

Following in his coach's path to success, Snyder received the 1989 Clyde O. Long Award. Snyder is in his 13th year (321 games) as head coach and was the junior varsity coach for 12 years (264 games) before taking over the reins. He has been recognized as a four-time Somerset County Coach of the Year.

"It's just humbling," said Coach Snyder. "I am so appreciative of everyone in this community, and all these players."

Snyder valued the principles learned during his time in the U.S. military and utilized them in his coaching when he returned to the boys basketball program at Shanksville.

These techniques allowed him to lead his players to the following playoff titles: one Elite 8 state playoff game, two Sweet 16 state playoff games, two District 5 championships, one District 5 runner-up, three WestPAC championship titles and two WestPAC runner-ups.

Coach Snyder is just as

well known for his ability to foster teamwork and a family environment with his players. He instilled in them that "Pain is Temporary. Pride is Forever."

He has four supportive children with his high school sweetheart, Leigh Wagner.

Shelbie, Carter, Dawson, and Josie have all been involved in the boys basketball program in some way — including making breakfast when coach Snyder invites the team over for game-film education on selective Saturday mornings.

Snyder, who will step away from the program at the end of the current season, is starting to think about what it will be like not being on the bench.

"A little piece of me is going to be sad, but they have an excellent coach coming, in Matt Long. I have missed so many of my daughter's games and Dawson is going to have other opportunities, so the timing is right."

Wayne Long said the relationship between the two has been great.

"He has done an excellent job with his commitment to the program for the last 25 years, and he certainly deserves this honor," he said.

Matt Long added, "He and my dad really balance each other out. He has meant the world to me, and the commitment to it being a family atmosphere and really working so well together for all that time they have put in is really special. It's going to be a little intimidating replacing Robert, but I will still have my dad to lean on."

Both coaches have contributed much to Shanksville basketball through a combined 75 years of mentoring the players, families, and each other.

Personally, as a player who played under both these outstanding men, learning the aspects of coaching that so many former players have carried onto their children in one sport or another. We all say Thank You to these two legends and a job well done.

(Editor's note: Kevin Landis is a 1994 Shanksville graduate.)

**STORY BY
KEVIN LANDIS**

**TAKEN FROM
THE
SOMERSET
DAILY
AMERICAN**

**FANTASTIC
RECORDS!**



**MATT LONG
WILL FOLLOW
ROBERT
SNYDER AND
HIS FATHER
WAYNE LONG
AS THE
VIKINGS HEAD
BASKETBALL
COACH**

GEORGE S. DIVELY'S DESK IS A NEW ACQUISITION FOR BERLIN AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY!



Four grandchildren of the late George S. Dively are pictured standing behind the desk that Grandpa Dively used in his second floor office in the former elementary school that is now Cedar Heights Apartments in Berlin. From the left are: Todd W. Dively, Amy Bowman, Diane Landis and David W. Dively. They are the children of Iona Jean (Zerfoss) Dively and the late William A. Dively.

The former desk of George S. Dively (1904-1975), long-time Elementary Principal at the Berlin Brothersvalley Schools, has come as a pleasant addition to the Berlin Area Historical Society through a donation from third-generation owner Todd W. Dively. In the process of cleaning out their parental home in Berlin as their mother, Jean, was transitioning into one of the suites at Meadow View Nursing Center, Todd and his siblings decided it would be nice to donate the family desk to BAHS. Their Grandpa George S. Dively left a legacy as a long-time educator and principal in the Berlin Elementary School. Earlier in the educator's career, the donated desk stood in Mr. Dively's small office for many years on the second floor of the former elementary school on Vine Street, which is now Cedar Heights Apartment.

When the current elementary school was ready for occupancy in 1961 Mr. Dively received a medal desk. It is believe at that time his former desk was obtained by George's son, William A. Dively and his family. His children grew up with the desk in their parents' home. The desks' lower left hand drawer has worn marks on the side of the drawer. Those marks arose from George pulling that drawer open and resting his feet on the drawer.

George S. Dively was known as a disciplinarian educator. He often sat in his office and looked over the front lawn. If he saw something going on that he didn't approve of or if students were sent to his office for misbehaving, he made good use of the paddle. Otherwise he was deeply interested in the education of the youngsters and serving his community – a trait that has passed down through his children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren.

When George S. Dively retired in May 1967, he was credited with 44 years of service in the field of education. After graduating from Berlin High School in 1922, he began his teaching career in 1923 at the Pleasant Valley one-room school in Brothersvalley Township. He went on to teach at the East End Number 2 School and from there to the four-room school at Macdonaldton, where he taught seventh and eighth grade. He then advanced to the Pine Hill, also a four-room school, where he taught grades seven and eight and served as principal. After teaching at the Factory School, he returned a second time to Pine Hill. In 1937, Mr. Dively came to Berlin as elementary principal, where he served in that capacity along with teaching history and geography to fourth and fifth grade students

On April 27, as George's grandchildren were working at their parental home, the desk was moved to Berlin Area Historical Society by volunteers Robert Platt and David R. Hay. It is now in place in the back of the one-room school house display in the genealogy building.

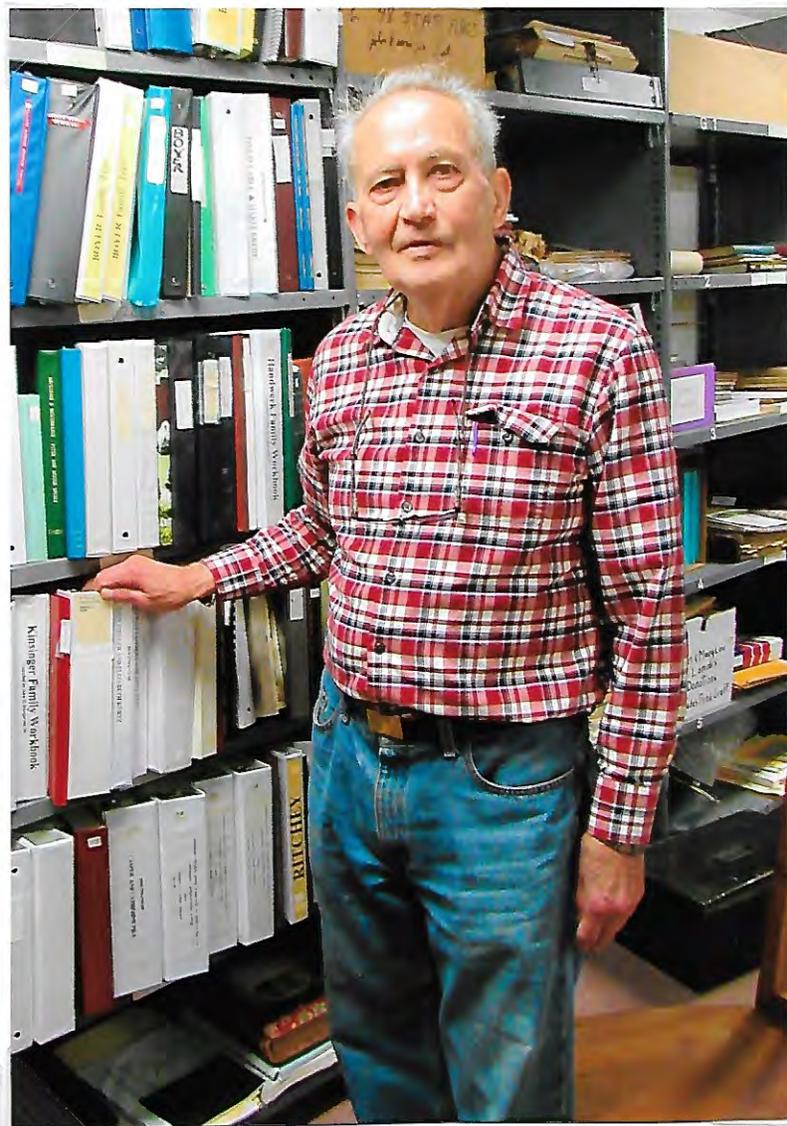
WELCOME TO A NEW BOARD MEMBER

Area Historical Society to represent Northampton Township. Tammy, who is the wife of Steve Rohrs, replaces Carl A. Hay, Jr.



TAMMY (STERN) ROHRS

We welcome Tammy Rohrs as a new representative on the Board of Directors of the Berlin



LEE LOWRY

Lee Lowry, a member residing in State College, was doing research on Shanksville on April 27, 2019. Lee contributes stories for our Memos.

DONATIONS:

Luann Walker donated Earl P. Walker's 91899) Book of Worship and Gerald I. Walker's copy of "Somerset County Pride Beyond the Mountains." **Ron Hillegas** made repairs to our heat pump and changed filters. **Joyce Knotts** donated early Whiskey Rebellion (1994) pictures and an egg beater.

Audrey Twombly donated a servant's bell, a silent butler, a pencil sharpener, a bank, two pocket knives, 2 safety razors, 2 straight razors, eye glasses, two shoe hooks, square nails and Bervalon yearbooks for 1947, 1949, 1957, 1961, and 1963.

David and Marcie Becker allowed us to copy some older pictures of the Becker Grist Mill (Simon Hay's mill) in the Village of Hay's Mill and pictures of Hostetler and Becker's Upholstery Business in Berlin. **Grant Spiker** donated a 1967 dealer's license plate from Miller & Engleka Sales in Berlin. **Ed Landis** donated the Dedication Booklet (1961) of Berlin Elementary and Secondary Schools, and advertising items for Berlin Fife and Drum Corp, Snyder of Berlin, and Charles McCurdy Hardware. There was an advertising key chain for New Imagine D.J. (Stan Landis & Jeff Truscott) and a comb advertising James W. Flamm for Brothersvalley Township Supervisor.

Tammy Rohrs, our new Board member from Northampton Township, obtained the beautiful quilt that we will raffle off in 2019 as a money maker for the society.

The Alexander and Lulu Agatha (Kimmel) Fisher family bible was donated by **Wayne and Joan Bush**.

Greg Croner donated a sugar water wagon. **Robert Platt** created a genealogy chart pertaining to George Stull Dively to be displayed on his former desk in our one-room school display in the genealogy building.

We appreciate all the services provided by our dedicated volunteers.

David R. Hay, Curator



ON THIS DATE:

On April 23, 1954 Hank Aaron of the Milwaukee Braves hit the first of his 755 major-league home runs in a game against the St. Louis Cardinals. (The Braves won, 7-5.)