

CURATOR'S REPORT

THE BERLIN AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MAY 11, 2021



**HOME OF DAVID A. AND JODIE
(HASELBARTH) HAY BUILT 1986**

BROTHERSVALLEY TOWNSHIP



BERLIN WELCOMES YOU

*Bring the
FAMILY
for a*

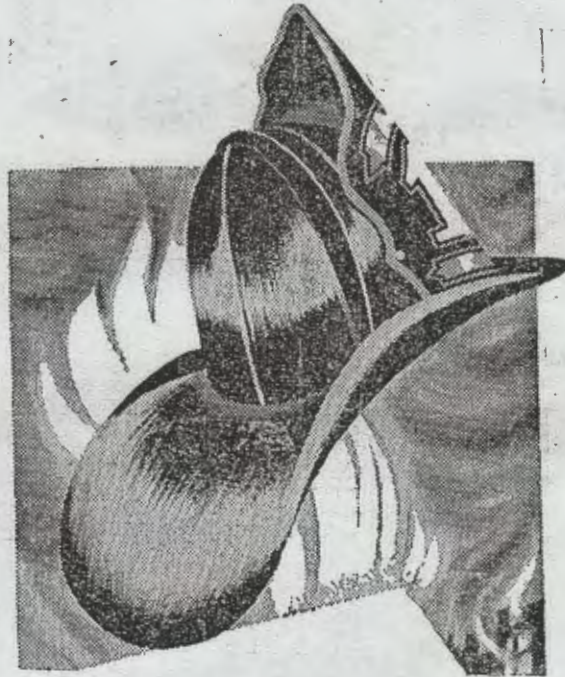
BIG TIME of FUN and AMUSEMENT

AT OUR THIRD ANNUAL

Block Party and Summer Festival

●
6
BIG
NIGHTS
OF FUN AND
FROLIC

6
NEVER A DULL
MOMENT



●
AUGUST
29th
To And Including
LABOR DAY
SEPT.
4th
●

SPONSORED BY THE

BERLIN VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPT.

With the Berlin Merchants Group Co-operating

CAST YOUR TROUBLES TO THE FOUR WINDS COME ENJOY THE HOSPITALITY OF OUR TOWN SOMETHING DOING ALL THE TIME OPENS EVERY EVENING AT 7 P. M. STAY AS LONG AS YOU LIKE

Free Acts : New Games : Amateur Contests

BABY REVIEW—VALUABLE PRIZES AWARDED

EVERYBODY WELCOME

This Page Contributed by Berlin's Own Newspaper



YE TOWNE CRIER



JACK LANGLEY, Editor

Please turn to next page

WE WILL BUY ALL THE
ELDERBERRIES

THAT YOU AND YOUR FAMILY CAN PICK
(Clipped in clusters with approximately 1/4 inch main stem)

THINK OF IT

You can now earn extra money (50c FOR A BUSHEL OF 35 POUNDS) by having the youngsters and the women of your family clip elderberry clusters and take them to the receiving station in your area for us to pick up.

The clusters should be clipped with one-quarter inch main stem. Pink, red, purple and black berries will be accepted.

BELOW IS A LIST OF RECEIVING STATIONS IN YOUR DISTRICT

F. W. Bender, Grocery-Feed-Machinery....Springs	Fye Clover Farm Stores	Friedens
Salisbury Fire Department	Humberson's Dept. Store	Bakersville
Somerset Farm Bureau	Trent Store	Trent
S. S. Bear, Feed-Grocery	H. L. Brugh	New Centerville
Cook's Service Station	G. W. Kimmel	Rockwood
Fred Crawford, Grocery	Roxbury Store	Roxbury
Ed. Greeves Service Station, Route 40 and 51 Intersection	P. S. Wilson, Grocery	Confluence
Mary Poorbaugh Dry Goods	Sally D. Rrush, Gen. Mdse.	Farmington
Landis Clover Farm Stores	Ohiopyle Gen. Store, R. C. Holt	Ohiopyle
H. C. Wissinger, General Store	Lester Dull Clover Farm Store	Mill Run
Somerset Farm Bureau	I. L. Sparks & Sons (I.G.A.)	Indian Head
Wechtenheiser Feed Mill	Jones Mills Cash Store, W. D. Wright, Jones Mills	Jones Mills
Custer's Economy Store	C. O. Ross, Southern States Co-op., Friendsville, Md.	Friendsville, Md.
Zimmerman's Economy Market	Southern States Oakland Ser.	Oakland, Md.
Moon's Clover Farm Stores	C. H. Merrill Grocery	McHenry, Md.
Kermit Yoder Clover Farm Store	N. H. Humberton Gen. Store	Accident, Md.
Steinkirchner Economy Store	O. C. Buckel General Store	Bittinger, Md.
A. G. Maust, Grocery-Feed	E. S. Ducksworth Southern Service Co-op., Keyser Ridge, Md.	Keyser Ridge, Md.
Fred Crawford Grocery	Co-operative Service Store	Grantsville, Md.
E. H. Shockey Clover Farm Store	Paul Hook Clover Farm	Markleysburg, Pa.
Boswell Service Station, L. E. Shaulis	Somerset Farm Bureau	Somerset, Pa.

UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE THE PICK-UP DAYS WILL BE AS FOLLOWS:

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Dividing Ridge	Farmington	Sipesville	Farmington	Sipesville
Roxbury	Ohiopyle	Bakersville	Ohiopyle	Bakersville
Shanksville	Mill Run	Trent	Mill Run	Trent
Stoystown	Indian Head	New Centerville	Indian Head	New Centerville
Buckstown	Jones Mills	Rockwood	Jones Mills	Rockwood
Boswell	Greeves Ser. Sta.	Friedens	Kingwood	Friedens
Salisbury	Confluence	Jennerstown	Dividing Ridge	Greeves Ser. Sta.
Meyersdale	Kingwood	Oakland	Roxbury	Confluence
Garrett	Grantsville	McHenry	Shanksville	Kingwood
Berlin	Springs	Bittinger	Stoystown	Jennerstown
Thomas Mills	S. S. Bear	Accident	Buckstown	Oakland
Jerome	Warren Mills	Friendsville	Boswell	Bittinger
Windber	Cook's Ser. Sta.	Keyser Ridge	Grantsville	Accident
Somerset	Meyersdale	Markleysburg	Springs	McHenry
	Ogletown	Salisbury	S. S. Bear	Friendsville
	Central City	Meyersdale	Warren Mills	Keyser Ridge
	Windber	Davidsville	Cook's Ser. Sta.	Markleysburg
	Somerset	Hooversville	Meyersdale	Salisbury
		Windber	Garrett	Meyersdale
		Somerset	Berlin	Ogletown
			Thomas Mills	Central City
			Jerome	Davidsville
			Windber	Windber
			Somerset	Hooversville
				Somerset

BERRIES CAN NOW BE PICKED—ALL BERRIES WILL BE ACCEPTED—EXCEPT GREEN ONES.

BERRIES WILL NOT BE RECEIVED LATER THAN 3:00 O'CLOCK AT RECEIVING STATION AND ON RECEIVING DAYS ONLY.

A PROJECT OF SKY BROS., ALTOONA, PENNA., IN CO-OPERATION
WITH SOMERSET FARM BUREAU CO-OP. ASS'N.

Kyle Hillegas outgoing Pennsylvania Maple King

SANDRA LEPLEY
Daily American Correspondent

Kyle Hillegas, owner of Hillegas Sugar Camp along Dividing Ridge in Allegheny Township, is the first Pennsylvania Maple King to hold the title for two years.

Hillegas won the 2019 title after a competition of eight categories for maple syrup and other items at the Sugar Shack in Maple Festival Park. It was the first time he ever won and last year, of course, with the festival canceled because of COVID-19, he stayed the king for two years. Maple producers who win the king competition are not permitted to enter the next year so there has never been the same king twice.

Now, today at the Sugar Shack that title will be passed onto another maple producer who competes in those ten categories, such as four grades of maple syrup, two kinds of cakes, a gift basket and a novelty item.

Hillegas said that, while COVID-19 changed many things this past year, it actually helped maple syrup sales.

"While we missed some events, and most importantly the 2020 Pa. Maple Festival, the pandemic caused more families to sit down to breakfast together and stay home more and the theory is that more people here in the U.S. and in Canada returned to the natural product of maple syrup," he related. "I'd say this past sugar season was average, a little down from last year but still a good season."

Hillegas describes himself as a "backyarder" who had a curiosity about making maple syrup when he was only 8 years old. Unlike most maple producers who learned the trade from older relatives, Hillegas didn't start out like the rest. Instead, at about the age of 8, Kyle's curiosity and persistence about the long-forgotten keelers in the basement caused his father Russ and grandfather Richard to get a few of those keelers out, dust them off and hang them up around the yard up so the family could boil a batch of syrup.

His family had dabbled in maple production but mostly owned and operated a beef farm at the point. But, young Kyle was going to change all that.

The son of Russ and Jeanne (Paul) Hillegas, Kyle is now a major maple producer in Somerset County and treasurer of the Somerset County Maple Producers Association. Even Kyle can't specify where his passion for maple originated. He just knows that it is now in his blood.

"We only had a few keelers in the basement but that was enough to get started that year," remembers Hillegas. "We tapped in the yard and boiled on the stove. The next year, we went to a few auctions and bought more keelers and got a kettle to boil in the backyard. We just kept going from there. I guess it got into my blood."

Maple producing is often a business that people grow into gradually and Kyle is a good example of a slow and steady growth into the industry. By the time he turned 14 years old, he put small tubing runs out into the woodlot with about 100 taps. Then, during his senior year at Berlin Brothersvalley High School in 2003, he started to go to different farms in the area and rent trees.

"It grew gradually — a little bit here and little bit there. When I first took over all financial responsibility by myself without my parents' help, I decided to put everything I made from the business back into the business," he said.

After high school, Hillegas graduated from Penn College in Williamsport (Lycoming County) in 2005 with a degree in masonry. He enjoyed masonry but decided to take a job on the Pennsylvania Turnpike and now works there full-time in maintenance.

His parents and grandparents helped build the first sugar camp in the wooded area of their farm. In those early years, both Kyle and his older brother, Brandon, helped with all aspects of the sugar business. And, his father, who retired from the Pennsylvania Turnpike, now does most of the gathering in the sugar season, while

Kyle does the boiling and wood work and Brandon still also helps out.

"Dad and I say that when we look back on it, we should have gotten an evaporator first instead of using pans but we eventually did buy a used evaporator in 2002 and things worked out from there," said Kyle.

In 2010, Kyle and his family decided it was time for another improvement - a new sugar camp. The old camp served its purpose but was more difficult to access and didn't have modern conveniences.

Aaron Kinsley, a fellow maple producer who lives near Berlin and operates a portable saw mill, came out to the Hillegas farm and sawed out the lumber from trees on the family farm. The only wood products purchased for the building were posts and trusses. The board and batten construction is impressive and comes complete with a Leader Evaporator, full-size kitchen and reverse osmosis (ROs). The late Henry Brennenman, an Amishman who specialized in maple production, helped with the design.

When the camp was built, the Hillegas operation was at about 2,500 taps but now has about 9,000 taps on their home farm and rented trees in Allegheny, Northampton and Juniata (Bedford County) townships.

In 2016, Kyle married the former Rebecca Emert, and they and their children, Syrus Witt, 11, Brennen Hillegas, 2, and newborn daughter, Anna, have recently worked long hours in the sugar camp.

"I am not really sure where I caught the maple bug," laughed Kyle. "I learned a lot from books in high school and my teacher Ron Pritts knew I would read when it was about maple production so I was always reading about that subject. It has been a learning experience the whole way through and now my family can enjoy the season and look for ways to improve as we keep producing. The maple industry is always changing and we will keep changing along with it."

TAKEN FROM THE DAILY AMERICAN OF APRIL 23, 2021

**KYLE HILLEGAS – PENNSYLVANIA MAPLE KING
IN 2019 AND 2020!**

SHANKSVILLE-STONYCREEK SCHOOLS



1985

BUS DRIVERS

ROW 1: Mr. Dayton Walker, Mr. Rick Lowry, Mr. Ken Hutchinson, Mr. Leroy Stutzman. ROW 2: Mr. Tom Adams, Mr. Dana Cotter, Mr. Jay Walker, Mr. Clarence Lowry.



CAFETERIA STAFF

ROW 1: Shirley Miller, Peg Hillegas. ROW 2: Phyllis Snyder, Violet Shaffer, Judy Hutchinson.

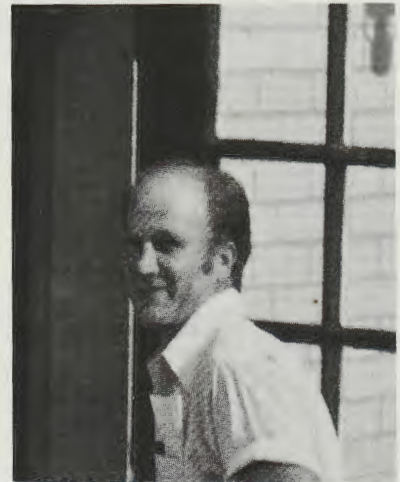
CUSTODIANS



Claude Dupstadt



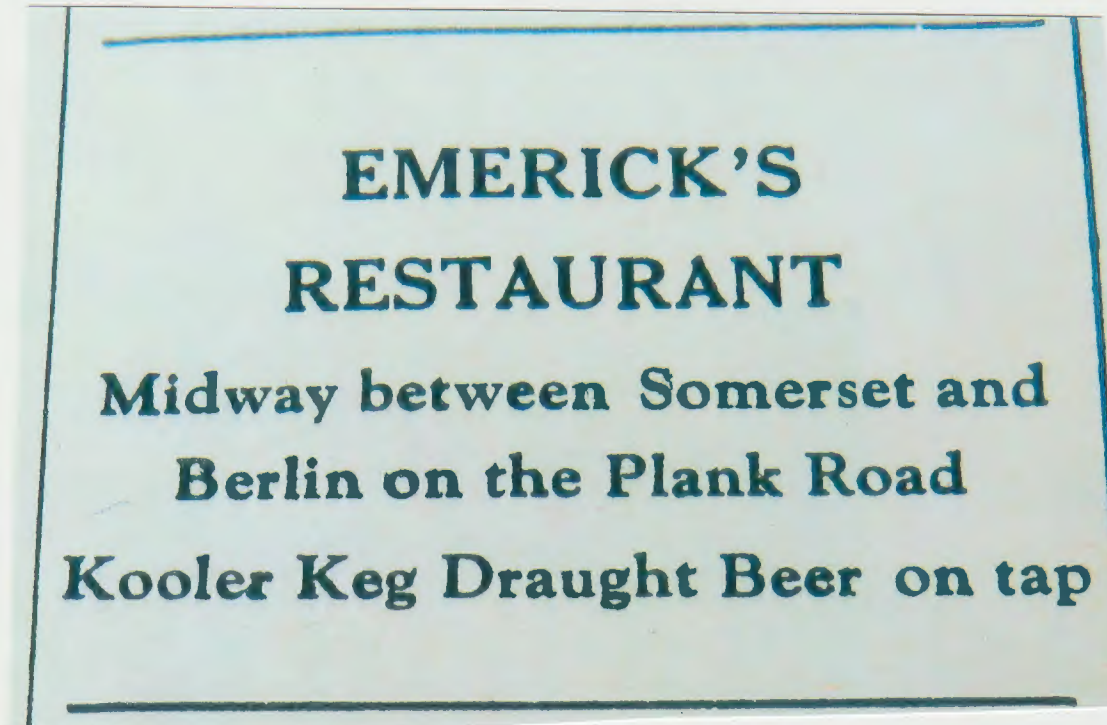
Larry Christner



Byron Glessner

FROM THE CHICAHONIAN YEARBOOK! - 27

EMERICK'S RESTAURANT ADVERTISEMENT



Taken from the August 16, 1944 (Vol. 2 No. 6) edition of The Town Crier sharing news and advertisement of the Berlin area. It's a gem that has been donated by Terry DePhillips.

APRIL DONATIONS:

Bryan Shober donated a crock for our butcher's display in the barn. **Tammy Rohr** obtained the beautiful "Stars All Around" quilt for our 2021 raffle. Other items being donated for the raffle include a child's handmade bench handcrafted by **John Long**; a maple variety assortment from **Kyle Hillegas' sugar camp**; a braided rug created by **Jean Ogburn**, and a wool framed picture created by Laura Logsdon. **Tammy Rohrs** donated a "leather Horse" purchased at an auction at the Robert Cogan estate auction in Wittenburg. **Sue Gaffron** donated 11 empty binders for use in our library.

Lee Lowry donated two 1938 projector tapes originally owned by William D. Igoe. **Cathy Webreck** donated a collection of records from the former Berlin banks. **Terry DePhillips** donated a Berlin coke bottle, a Modern Dairy bottle and the Aug. 16, 1944 edition of The Town Crier containing Berlin news and advertising. **Dave Countryman** donated the wallpapering kit used by his mother, Marie Countryman and his aunt Geneva "Dolly" Leydig. **Larry Pritts** donated a program from Berlin's class play entitled "Mamma Mia".

A special thank-you to all our volunteers for all you do to help carry the Load at BAHS. David R. Hay, Curator