

CURATOR'S REPORT

THE BERLIN AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MAY 13, 2024



DOVE HARBOUR FARM AND CABIN AIRBNB

**MARK & LINDA MASON
DONALD J. MASON**

BROTHERSVALLEY TOWNSHIP

DOVE HARBOUR FARM

NIVER JUNCTION ROAD MARCH 5, 2024



DONALD J. MASON

EIGHT GENERATIONS OF FAMILY OWNING
DOVE HARBOUR FARM

BROTHERSVALLEY TOWNSHIP



LINDA (TRIMPEY) GOLBY WITH GARY ESTNICK DISPLAY THE BASEBALL UNIFORM FROM THE TEAM THE MODERN DAIRY ONCE SUPPORTED. GARY ONCE WORKED AT THE MODERN DAIRY.



LINDA GOLBY DONATED THE MODERN DAIRY UNIFORM TO THE BERLIN AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY ON APRIL 29, 2024.

WHAT YEAR DID THE MODERN DAIRY IN BERLIN SPONSOR A BASEBALL TEAM?

Utz sells Snyder of Berlin to snack-maker Our Home

Company behind Popchips brand acquires area plant

BY DAVID HURST
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BERLIN - Somerset County snack-maker Snyder of Berlin has been sold again, but work will continue for employees at the potato chip plant, its new buyer said Thursday.

Snyder's parent company, Utz Brands Inc., is selling the Berlin plant and another facility in Fitchburg, Massachusetts, to Our Home as part of an \$18.5 million deal, the companies announced Thursday.

The Berlin and Massachusetts plants employ a total of approximately 168 people, said Kevin Brick, Utz's senior vice president of marketing.

After the deal is finalized, they will become employees of Our Home - a growing New Jersey snack company known for brands including Popchips and Food Should Taste Good.

"These acquisitions expand Our Home across potato chips, cheese puffs and popcorn, reinforcing our position as a leading independent better-for-you snacking platform," said Aaron Greenwald, founder and CEO of Our Home.

Greenwald said the acquisition will expand Our Home's footprint and distribution opportunities across the country. It will give Our Home a total of seven manufacturing facilities.

Utz company officials said the deal is set to close Monday and includes a transition agreement that will require Our Home to manufacture certain Utz products for up to 12 months.

"This transaction will allow us



THE TRIBUNE-DEMOCRAT FILE PHOTO

The Snyder of Berlin snack plant is shown in an August 2014 file photo.

to focus on the next phase of our optimization efforts as we invest in our remaining facilities and continue to deliver on our value creation initiatives," Utz CEO Howard Friedman said.

Utz now will operate eight primary manufacturing facilities, down from 16 in 2021, while also using \$9 million of its proceeds to pay down debt, Friedman said.

Snyder of Berlin products such as potato chips, kettle chips and popcorn are sold in supermarkets and convenience stores across western Pennsylvania and beyond.

It was not clear Thursday if any Snyder of Berlin chips or other snacks would either cease or grow production under Our Home. It also wasn't clear if any of Our Home's current products would be produced in Berlin.

"At this time, we cannot comment on these questions," said

Colleen Rooney Heltemes, a senior public relations manager with Los Angeles-based PR firm Startr Co., which was handling media inquiries for Our Home.

Utz has operated Snyder of Berlin since 2019.

Snyder of Berlin's roots in Somerset County date back to 1947, but it has been owned by larger companies since the 1970s, The Tribune-Democrat's archives show.

The company was purchased by frozen foods giant Pinnacle Foods a decade ago, and in 2018, Pinnacle Foods - Snyder of Berlin included - was acquired by food conglomerate Conagra Brands. Snyder of Berlin was sold to Utz a year later.

David Hurst is a reporter for The Tribune-Democrat. Follow him on Twitter and Instagram @TDDavidHurst.



**VISITORS ON APRIL 29, 2024
AT THE BERLIN AREA
HISTORICAL SOCIETY
WERE BROTHERS: RANDY J.
CRITES, LEFT, AND
RICHARD B. CRITES OF
CALIFORNIA.**

104 YEARS YOUNG

On May 28, 2024, **EMILY GRACE (MAUST) FRITZ** will be observing her 104th birthday. She continues to reside at the family home in the Sugar Grove neighborhood. Our congratulations to our special member and friend!

DONATIONS

Mark Gindlesperger donated a collection of newspaper items entitled "Centennial Scrapbook", a Berlin commencement for the class of 1945, and a program "The Open Road", which was the class play for Berlin in 1945. **Amy Kimmel** donated an advertising fan from Deaner Funeral Service of Shanksville

Joyce Knotts donated advertising miniature footballs for the National Bank of Western PA and the Philson National Bank. Joyce also donated advertising items: a ruler from Naugle Feed and Supply; a shoe horn from Modern Dairy, a children's mug from Bittner Vending, and a coffee mug from Coalfield Mini Market. **Terry DePhillips** donated two license certificates from National Lincoln Service Station dated 1937-1938 and 1938-1939.

John Long donated a set of wooden crates he handcrafted. **Troy McKenzie** placed on loan the family bible of Alexander and Catherine (Poister) Rhoads. **Dr. Richard Schroder** donated \$100.00. **Gale Hay** donated church, school and community items and souvenir Maple Festival programs pertaining to her and her parents, Roy and Ruth Romesberg. **Joe Bingman** donated four advertising pens from the E. H. Miller Company.

David R. Hay, Curator

HEAVY RAIN SHOWERS OF APRIL 3, 2024



THE SAYLOR LOG HOUSE IN BERLIN