

Herr House Happenings



Sunquest Sundial Exhibit

Sundials— those clever devices that provide the hour of the day based on the position of the sun— come in many styles. One of the most unusual is the Sunquest sundial and it originated in Landisville. Richard L. Schmoyer, a mechanical engineer who lived at 335 Stony Battery Road in Landisville, sold the first Sunquest sundial in 1959. Sixty years later, Kenneth R. Clark, a sundial enthusiast from Elizabethtown, created an exhibit of the Sunquest and other sundials made by Schmoyer before he died in 1997. The sundial exhibit is on display on the second floor of the Amos Herr House on Saturday afternoons from 1:00-3:15pm when the house is open for tours. The last Saturday to see this fine exhibit will be October 26, 2019.

20th Annual Amos Herr 5K Honey Run & Kids' Fun Run

It's our 20th year! Proceeds from this event support Hempfield recCenter's Everyone Belongs campaign and restoration projects at the Amos Herr Homestead in Landisville. Sponsorship is provided by Dutch Gold Honey of Lancaster. The Kids' Fun Run is sponsored by the Sardina Dental Group.

Location: Amos Herr Park, 1756 Nissley Road, Landisville
Date: Sunday, August 25, 2019

Notes from Emma's Diary

Saturday, May 6, 1916

"I do up work & make dinner—at 8:30 we dress & get off to Lanc. In good time. Amos drives his car to Lanc. Quick time—I get necessaries & then time to go home—seen many acquaintances."

SAVE THE DATE

On November 14, 2019, Jack Brubaker will present a lecture in the Gamber Auditorium at Woodcrest. More information will be included in the next newsletter.

NEW MEMBERS

Ronald C. & Georgia R. Myers

Steven Palmeter

Gerry & Barbysue Richardson

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RECOLLECTIONS OF VISITING AMOS HERR—PART II

Musings and memories of times with Amos and Ethel, written by Barbara Hurley (Amos's first cousin once removed) and her brother. Continued from the Spring newsletter.

15. After Ethel's death, Amos kept her flower garden going and always planted lots of annuals in rows which he enjoyed showing me and cutting for the kitchen table.
16. Amos loved baseball and could talk about it endlessly.
17. There was a mammoth black walnut tree right behind the house. I have no idea how old it was, but it was huge. At some point, Amos sold it for a lot of money to a furniture company. I think it had become diseased and had to come down—he would never have just cut it down for no reason, I am sure.
18. Amos's last cat was named Bongo, he was a huge black and white one-eyed cat (he lost the other in a fight) and he was Amos's companion for years. He loved that cat and would get him liver and other goodies at the butchers'; that was the only food Amos had in his freezer! That

“Amos loved to talk about his travel, or Lancaster, or family history— or baseball, but he never revealed much of himself.”

cat really ate well and he was the largest cat I have ever seen. If I remember correctly, I think he eventually disappeared one day and just never came home; presumably he went off to die.

19. During one visit, Amos gave me the handwritten cookbooks belonging to both Ethel and Emma, saying they should stay in the family since he knew how much I loved to cook. I have been making Ethel's fudge at Christmastime for many years and it is exceedingly popular.

20. Near the end of his life, Amos used to drive us around on sight-seeing tours, and take us to State Parks to hike and picnic. He did his grocery shopping (such as it was) at an ACME on Centerville Road, but he mainly ate his meals out. If I remember correctly, he was on his way to breakfast at his usual spot when he suffered the fatal accident.

21. Amos's favorite restaurant was in Mount Joy; he always took us there for dinner and knew everyone who worked there by name— and they all greeted him enthusiastically. I think it was Country Kitchen.

22. I remember that there was a picture window at the end of the dining room in the back of the house and in front of it was a table that had been a butchering table that Amos rescued from the barn and had refinished. The scars were still on it, but it was beautiful. He would remove the deed to his property from its case and roll it out on that table to show us the original 5 divisions of the land that his grandparents purchased.

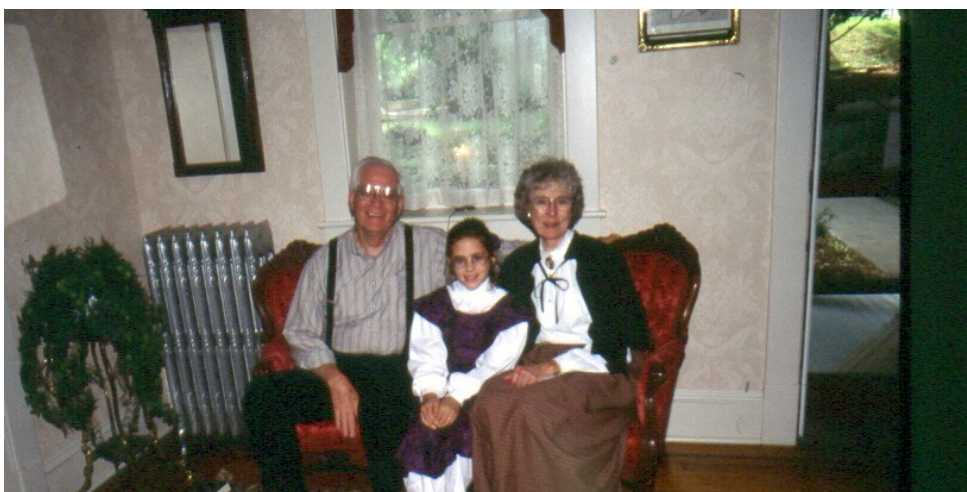
23. As everyone knows, Amos was very well known as a local historian and a direct descendant of Hans Herr. He took me on my first visit to the Hans Herr House and of course everyone knew him. I also knew from my mother that he was very friendly with many of the local Amish families and frequently visited in their homes.

24. Amos rented out his barn and a field below the house to 4-H kids to keep their horses, and my children used to get rides on the horses that were kept there.

25. As you know, Amos never kept up maintenance on the house and gradually everything stopped working, especially the bathroom plumbing! For years near the end of his life, the only shower in the entire house was in the basement. It was a shower head hanging down in the middle of a room right in front of a door that led to the back of the house—and the water was cold. So we had to take our towel and soap down, open the back door for some air and take a quick shower. Interesting, to say the least. I really enjoyed it.

26. One of my personal unforgettable anecdotes is from when my children were 5 (Rudy) and 3 (Becky). They slept in the master bedroom, which had 2 very high antique single beds in the middle of the room, and my kids were used to low beds that were against the wall. Becky fell out of the bed in the middle of the night and broke her collarbone and we had to take her to Lancaster General for treatment at 3 am. That particular trip turned out to be quite memorable.

27. After Ethel died, Amos came to Mamaroneck every year for Christmas and stayed with my Uncle Walter, my mom's brother. Walt's house was on the same piece of property that we had grown up on and he had taken over my grandfather's veterinary business. I hosted Christmas Eve dinner and Walt and his wife hosted Christmas dinner. Amos would arrive on the 24th and leave on the 26th, we could not get him to stay longer, but he came every year for many years.



David & Sylvia Kuch with a junior docent.

A Note from the Director

The Amos Herr House Foundation was sad to receive news that David Kuch, one of the few male docents, recently died. He and his wife Sylvia served for many years as tour guides, not only for special events, but regularly welcomed visitors to the 1852 Herr Family Homestead for weekend tours as well. Their generosity extended far beyond the time they gave to the Herr House, with gifts of donations to the Foundation and a special long term loan of a 1912 Oliver typewriter that is currently in “temporary custody” of their daughter for use in her classroom as a teaching aid, demonstrating how things have changed. Thank you Kuch family.

Angie Fox,

Director of Collections

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NOTES FROM AMOS' DIARY

Thursday, June 6, 1963

“Rose at 6:15—a good nights sleep—another warm, misty, muggy AM. Walked in garden—few small jobs etc. Breakfast—to Lville for cat food, etc. To school by 7:55 on time each day. My resignation has been kept a top drawer secret! Proactive and relieve. Happy vacation to teachers Bon voyage. Sign some yearbooks—clean desk, etc. Turn in records etc. to Mr. Nissley. Sensible talks to Bank—Jere N. takes me home. I am without a car. Ethel went to hair dresser—lunch at 12:30. Official business completed—human tobacco land—Dave flaunts tobacco. Hot! Hoe garden—last minute chores, etc.—pack 4:00 start last preparations for trip—rather hurried.”

RECOLLECTIONS CONTINUED FROM PG 3

28. There were 13 Rohrer first cousins in Amos and my mother's generation, 8 of whom were the children of Emma and Minnie's brother Harry Greider Rohrer. Amos and my mother were very proud of the fact that 12 were still living as they aged (my mother's other brother Henry died in the 30's; he was also a veterinarian like his Dad and brother). My mother was the second one to die, an untimely accidental death at 60 years old. I remember Amos taking out his family bible with the Rohrer genealogy in it and talking about the 11 cousins that were still living, many of them still in Lancaster County and all in touch with each other. Amos was the 4th to die in 1987 at the age of 80, and the last one died in 2001 at 97. Most were in the 90's and one was 100 when they died.

29. Amos and Ethel were a typical old school Pennsylvania Dutch family. They were reserved and stoic and neither of them talked a lot. I know Ethel and my mother were very close and shared a lot of personal things, but other than that both of them kept in a lot. Amos loved to talk about his travel, or Lancaster, or family history— or baseball, but he never revealed much of himself. I know he really enjoyed having us visit and he loved seeing the children enjoy his home and property, but he never really opened up in a personal way, and certainly not about his feelings.

30. On the other hand, Amos had an excellent sense of humor and I can still hear him laugh loudly at something he found funny and his eye twinkle as he played a little joke on someone.