

Herr House Happenings

Amos Herr House Foundation and Historical Society

www.herrhomestead.org

Fall 2017

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38TH ANNUAL

Amos Herr Park Community Fair

SEPT 17, 2017, 11AM-4PM: (RAIN DATE 9/24)

The Amos Herr Park Country Fair was a special event created by Hempfield Area Recreation Commission (HARC) in 1979 to celebrate with food, crafts, and activities for the community. In 1983, the Landisville Lions Club added their Antique and Classic Car Show to the event. HARC and the Landisville Lions Club continued to produce the event, with help from East Hempfield Township, other sponsors, and community groups until 2016. Thanks to the continued effort of the staff and volunteers recruited by HARC over the years, and a new planning committee, the event will continue as the "Amos Herr Park Community Fair."

The event name commemorates the donation of Amos Herr, former Hempfield High School teacher. Herr donated the acreage on which the park, the East Hempfield Township building, and the Amos Herr Homestead sit today.

Mark your calendars for the **38th annual Amos Herr Park Community Fair**, produced by cooperation of East Hempfield Township, Landisville Lions Club and the Amos Herr House Foundation and Historical Society on Sunday, September 17th (rain date 9/24) from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Amos Herr Park, 1700 Nissley Road, Landisville. The award-winning community event features the Landisville Lions Club Car Show, children's activities, crafts, food, entertainment and free tours of the Amos Herr Homestead. Another highlight of the day is always the Lancaster Kennel Club's events, including: K9 Search & Rescue, Disc Demos, and a Mini Agility Course. Encourage your friends and family to come and enjoy the day! Admission is free. Parking donations benefit the Landisville Lions Club Service projects.

Annual Meeting

All members are invited to attend the Annual Board Meeting on Wednesday, November 8th at 6:30 pm in the basement of the house for the purpose of electing officers to serve on the Board of Directors of the Amos Herr House Foundation.

2017 Honey Run Race Results

The Race results for the 18th Annual Honey Run can be found at:

www.hempfieldrec.com

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Junction and Spook House Tied to Early Railroading

Junction – the very word conjures up memories of the whistle of a steam locomotive, the clank of couplers, the rattle of steel wheels over switch points. In short, junction means railroading.

The word has been used in connection with things other than railroading of course, but across the United States, wherever “Junction” appears on the map, you’re likely to find the railroad gave it its name.

So it was with Junction in Lancaster County. It acquired the name about 1857, following completion of the Lancaster Branch of the Reading and Columbia Railroad. The place where the Lancaster and Columbia branches of the Reading Railroad come together still exists, known today as Lancaster Junction.

Junction, back in 1897, became the site of a mill erected by Jacob S. Snively. This mill operated by waterpower for 75 years after which steam power was added and a large grain elevator built. Klein’s History of Lancaster County records Henry S. Snively as the miller at that time, and Henry B. Snively as operator of the mill followed him.

Another prominent family in the history of Junction was the Hershey family, which owned a cider mill, distillery, store, coal yard, tobacco curing factory and a farm. The Hershey family operated the business for nearly a century. Frank P. Greider later owned a store at Junction, and Jacob K. Phaim operated a hotel. Two other prominent families residing in Junction were the Gross and Cassel families.

John D. Denny Jr., Columbia historian and railroad buff whose interest in trains and trolleys has sparked several books, authored a tale of the Reading and Columbia Railroad in the autumn 1963 edition of the Journal of the Lancaster County Historical Society. The R&C came into being with the issuance of a charter in 1857. By the end of 1860, a route had been surveyed, and early in 1861, construction work began.

Despite the beginning of the Civil War in April 1861 and its accompanying shortage of men and materials, work on grading a right of way was started in May of that year near what is now Ironville. By the end of 1861, the right of way was in various stages of completion from Columbia to Ephrata. In April of 1862, a contract was awarded for grading of the remainder of the route from Ephrata to Sinking Spring in Berks County, northern terminus of the road. And in May of that year the first rails were laid in Columbia where the R&C connected with the Pennsylvania Railroad

The train made stops at Kauffman’s (now Ironville), Silver Spring, PRR Crossing (now Landisville), Spook House, Sellers’ Mill and Manheim.

It was Spook House that gave the R&C a unique claim to fame. Denny has an 1863 timetable that actually lists Spook House as a stop. It is believed the R&C was the only railroad in the U.S to have a station stop called “Spook House”.

Spook House wasn’t at Junction but its nearness about a mile down the track toward Landisville indicates that it and the tales surrounding it were well known to the residents of Junction.

Spook House was a small thatched roof building that stood along the tracks near where the G. E Malmberg greenhouses are located near the northern end of Spooky Nook Road.

Malmberg recalled that Spook House was located directly across the railroad tracks

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from his place of business, and he said that he still makes use of the well that was on the Spook House property. Some of the wooden beams from the old house are incorporated into his own dwelling, he said, but there are no longer any visible remains of the Spook House.

As the name indicates, residents of the area, as well as some of the R&C train crews, believed the house to be haunted. One tale told was that some sheep found their way into the vacant structure. Their bleating during the night was interpreted as the wailing of spirits, and the haunted house was born. Spook House was a watering stop for the trains, so it wasn't long before the railroad became involved with ghosts. Denney revealed another tale in which an engineer whose train was halted to take on water saw a figure in the water flowing beneath a nearby culvert. This added fuel was given to the Spook House legend, although it is likely that the "figure" was a shadow cast by steam from the engine rising in front of the oil headlight.

Little is actually known about the origin of Spook House or its owners. The structure was torn down about 1899 and only Spooky Nook Road remains to recall the legend.

As for the R&C, it continued to expand, completing the line into Lancaster, which gave Junction its name, and building other lines into Chickies and Mt. Hope. Last regularly schedule passenger service through Lancaster Junction was on November 5, 1950.

September Lecture

The Foundation is happy to announce our Lecture Program will resume on Thursday, September 28th from 7-8 p.m. with "Under the Maple Trees." The founder and Chairman of the Shady Maple companies, Marvin Weaver, will tell the Shady Maple story, of how a quaint little business grew into the largest smorgasbord in the Country.

Over one million people are fed each year at Shady Maple. Mr. Weaver's story is one of vision, hard work and a great faith. Herb Noll, an East Hempfield resident and Hempfield High School graduate will be attending as well. Herb is the manager of the banquet/smorgasbord at Shady Maple.

Mr. Weaver does not give many presentations and he requests that attendees bring along questions for him to answer.

We are honored to be the first non-profit in the area to hold this program in the beautiful Gamber Auditorium in the VIVA welcome center of Woodcrest Village. Woodcrest is at 2001 Harrisburg Pike, directly across from the Lancaster General Health Campus. Enter Woodcrest and there will be a sign directing you to the VIVA Center. Please bring a guest and join us for this special evening!

House Closes

The last day for House tours will be Sunday, October 29th. There is still plenty of time for you to take a tour and see the Salunga Post Office!

Notes From Emma's Diary

Monday, June 15, 1925

"Men plant after tobacco all day & I work in Garden & the Sun was "awful" Can't see how Amos can stand it. I get 10 cans cherries from Lane & seed them & can them 7 cans."

Notes From Amos' Diary

Saturday, June 6, 1959

"Alumni Banquet

Rise early – a beautiful day – to village for Mother Stauffer – Ethel washes and picks peas – I go to Coe's for projector – I replant corn (talk with Dave in field) – work with speech, etc. – go to school and test projector – etc. – Help Harry with hay hours because of threatening thunderstorms (excellent hay) Witmer helps to bale – rest to banquet 6:00 – about 280 – some crowd – good program – my picture narration works out ok – Class Reunion – late to bed."

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