

Herr House Happenings



Tours & Gardens

Due to COVID-19, the House will be closed until further notice. Check our website or call the house for more information regarding our re-opening.

We look forward to opening the House and large Bank Barn for tours in 2020. The large Bank Barn features the original feed bins and hay racks as well as many old tools, tractors, hit & miss engines, among other things.

Request for docents

We are seeking individuals who are interested in history and enjoy dressing in period clothing to be docents when the house reopens. Volunteers will receive a script, a cheat sheet, docent responsibilities, and papers including “Who was Amos Herr,” “The Amos Herr House Foundation and Historical Society,” and “A History of the Amos Herr House and Property.” Normally, the house is open April through October on Saturdays from 1:00pm to 4:00pm, with the last tour beginning at 3:15pm. Docents are required to volunteer at least one Saturday a month. If you are interested in becoming a docent, please call Millie Brubaker at (717)735-2525.

Notes from Emma’s Diary

Monday, February 18, 1918

“Well. Its very Pleasant but cold so we go to Lanc— have an early dinner. I shop some — look at lamps & can’t decide. PM—only too short. Get home in good time. Milk get supper. Milk check \$175.00. Soak wash.”

2019 YEAR END REPORT

3 docents volunteered
94 hours

10 gardeners
volunteered **166** hours

14 people volunteered
240 hours

290 Visitors

171 Members

10 Donors

98 items donated, **94** on
loan

Value of items donated
is **\$125.00**, insurance
provided by donor of
items on loan

10 items have been
deaccessioned

2,382 items in the
collection



AMOS HERR AND DAVID BERTZFIELD

Amos Herr owned the farm across the road from our house. He was a bachelor that lived with his mother on the farm. He was a farmer and a school teacher.

One day, when I was about 4 years old, my mother, my brother, John (we called him Ed because his middle name was Edward), and I were watching Amos drive a tractor disking the field across from our house. Ed and I wanted to go over to the farm. Fortunately for us, Amos stopped to talk to my mother. She asked if Ed and I could go over to see what the farm was like. Amos said “Yes.” That was the start of a good and lasting friendship. We visited the farm many times after that. Amos would let us ride on the tractor with him or ride on the roller as he worked the fields, getting them ready for planting. When we got older, we both worked on the farm for Amos.

Amos was a great man, who liked children. When Amos wasn't busy during the summers, he often stopped by the house, and asked Mom if Ed and I could go with him for a drive. He would take us to the woods at Indian Town Gap or other outdoor areas. The three of us would hike through the woods for several hours before returning home. One time when we were walking through the woods, we came to a hillside that was covered with orange salamanders. The salamanders were so thick we could not walk down the hill; because, we would have stepped on a salamander with every step we took.



Amos Herr giving children tractor rides on his well used Farmall Tractor, 1961.

Image from the AHHF Archives, Amos Herr Collection #bk1pg135H0343

Many times when we were at the farm on a Saturday morning, Amos would stop what he was doing and say, “come along.” We would jump into his car, and he would drive to Bender’s Store in Salunga or to a diner that was at the corner of Harrisburg Pike and College Avenue in Lancaster. He would get Ed and me a plate of ice cream. He drank a cup of coffee and read the morning newspaper. Then we went back home.

I was six years old when I started first grade at East Hempfield Elementary School. It was the brick school building that stood across from The Church of God on Church Street in Landisville. That school building was torn down sometime after 1955.

When I started first grade, Amos Herr would stop on his way to the East Hempfield High School— where he was a teacher— to pick up Ed and me and take us to school. His normal route was from his farm, to our house, to the Landisville Post Office, to Meckley’s Grocery Store at the corner of Harrisburg Pike and Church Street, to the grade school, and then to the high school. We walked home. It was about a mile from the school to our house.

One morning Ed was sick. Amos picked me up and proceeded on his normal route to school; but, today was different. When we stopped at the store, he asked me to go in with him. I guess he did not want to leave me in the car by myself. When we got into the store,

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Amos got a drink and started to read the morning newspaper. When he saw me just standing there looking around, he asked me if I wanted a Popsicle. Me being bashful, I said, “I don’t know.” Amos told the store keeper to give me one. That was a memorable day; because every day after that on the way to school, Amos would stop at the store and take my brother Ed and me into the store for a Popsicle. If he would be running late and did not have time to stop at the store, Amos would apologize for not getting us our usual Popsicle.

Amos gave both Ed and me our first baseball gloves and baseballs. He also gave us a basketball and basketball hoop; which we installed on the front of our garage.

My brother, Ed, and I went over many times in the evening to watch television because we did not have a television.

**AMOS HERR HOUSE
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LITTLE TEXAS



The Ira Herr Meat Wagon stopped in front of a house in "Little Texas," at 35 Holland Street in Salunga.

NOTES FROM AMOS' DIARY

Monday, January 30, 1967

"Teach school— 7th

Rose at 7 early call to teach. Hurried preparations. Substituted for a substitute for Mrs. Cooper. Forget history. Satisfying day in school. Ate lunch with Mr. Eckert. Paul Herr had a supply of L.B.J. jokes. Coffee at Bender's. Evening chores. Music. Ethel did washing and visited with her mother. Bright pleasant winter day. Read. Short coffee at Bender's. Study. To bed by 9:30."