A Long Ago Fishing Tale
By Linda Weaver

A long ago fishing story that my parents told was about when they went out on Lake Erie with a 14 foot boat, perch fishing. This was in the late 60s. It got foggy and they could not see which way to shore. The foghorn started to blow, which led them to safety … and, yes, God’s protecting Hand. They had a 5-year-old grandson along, also… a pretty scary situation.

Fish Stories
By William Bender

Fish stories I have are from long ago. Last time I went fishing was back in the 1900s. As a little boy, I did a lot of fishing in Old Joe Yoder’s creek. I caught more fish in the little creek than I ever caught in Pymatuning or Mosquito Lake.

When we were older, brother Reuben took us to the river in Burton Station or to Pluka (not spelled right … not Mrs. Anderson nor Mrs. Star’s fault, they tried to teach me how to spell). We caught bigger fish in Pluka’s creek than in Joe Yoder’s creek.

I Remember
By Rachel Miller

I remember when I was 10 or 11 years old and we lived in Mercer, Pa. Mom went to visit her folks in Atlantic, Pa. and took the two youngest along. Sister Martha and I stayed home with Dad.

Dad was a fisherman and after chores were done he’d hitch up the horse, take his homemade boat and we went fishing with him. He always cleaned all the fish he got, and we always ate them. Mom was gone two or three days that time.

I remember the time Dad went fishing with his brother Ben. They went in the evening and fished most of the night … and the next day, Mom packed lunch for him to last a couple meals. We helped Mom do the chores.

My Dad the Hunter/Fisherman
By Sarah Miller

My dad was a great hunter and fisherman. He would go “sucker” spearing. Although I never went fishing, we all loved eating fish. I had four brothers and they all loved to hunt and fish.

A Scary Pontoon Ride … A Day Never To Be Forgotten
By Mrs. Rudy Kathryn Detweiler

It was a gorgeous summer day approximately 20 years ago when our family and Homers Sam’s family rented a pontoon to go fishing at Pymatuning Lake. We had a good old time fishing, picnicking, etc. All too soon the day was over; time to go home. Rudy was driving the pontoon in and Sams were alongside us when all of a sudden, our back end of the pontoon nose-dived into the water. We hung on to the railing for dear life and Rudy was up in the air holding on to the wheel. Water was running into the boat. At first we did not know what was happening. (The guy at the boat dock gave us some instructions, but never told us we shouldn’t all be in the back of the boat while it’s moving fast.)

My hubby yelled, "You all come up front!" The boat stood up again and what a mess … food, etc. all over! (I had been leaning over the back end washing grapes in the lake, which hadn’t helped matters any.) Sam and Ruth were screaming and said it did not look nice. Warning … stay in the front of the pontoon while moving fast!!

We never go on a pontoon that I don’t think of the precious memories of this time. Sam died at age 48 from cancer a few years ago.
Happy Birthday

Aug. 20 Mary S. Miller (92)
Aug. 20 Marianne A. Weaver (1)
Aug. 21 Mrs. Miriam Fisher (39)
Aug. 21 Ben A. Miller (36)
Aug. 21 Ella E. Miller (14)
Aug. 21 Mrs. (Rudy) Detweiler (Scribe) (72)
Aug. 21 Martha Weaver (Mrs. Bob)
Aug. 21 Sara Miller (Mrs. Enos) (77)
Aug. 22 Mary O. Yoder (13)
Aug. 22 Bob Weaver (34)
Aug. 23 Sally Troyer (John)
Aug. 25 Ella Miller (51)
Aug. 25 Richard Miller Jr. (21)
Aug. 25 Mrs. (John) Betty Weaver (58)
Aug. 25 Mrs. (Mahlton) Ida Slabaugh (59)
Aug. 25 Adam Weaver (Aaron) (13)
Aug. 26 Adam F. Miller (2)
Aug. 26 John Mark (John D.) Byler (13)
Aug. 26 Ida J. Weaver (43) “Ever-so-Sweet”
Aug. 26 Mrs. (Andy) Barb Byler (66)
Aug. 26 Mrs. (Bob) Kristina Mast (38)
Aug. 26 John H. Slabaugh (68)
Aug. 26 Melvin Byler (Lester) (19)
Aug. 27 Leroy Miller (26)
Aug. 27 Eli Ray Byler (2)
Aug. 27 Sara Mae Miller (12)
Aug. 28 Susie Miller (23)
Aug. 28 Christopher Miller (14)
Aug. 28 Daniel Miller (80)
Aug. 29 Mrs. Aden Rosanna Troyer (24)
Aug. 29 Mrs. (John) Laura Byler (39)
Aug. 29 Mrs. (John) Barb Mast (71)
Aug. 30 David A. Miller (21)
Aug. 30 David Allen Yoder (7)
Aug. 31 Lester Byler Jr. (25)
Sept. 1 Martin H. Miller (Grandpa)
Sept. 1 Savilla Detweiler
Sept. 2 Jeffrey Porter (57)
Sept. 3 Mrs. Barbara Bender (30)
Sept. 3 Miss Barbara Bender (7)
Sept. 4 Al Mullet (37)
Sept. 4 Mrs. Elva Yoder
Sept. 5 Marcia N. Miller (19)
Sept. 5 Paul Yoder (27)
Sept. 7 Karen Miller (Marvin) (4)
Sept. 8 Raymond Miller (24)
Sept. 11 Robert Allen Byler (30)
Sept. 11 Rosanna Bender (12)
Sept. 12 Avery Volpe (12)
Sept. 13 Nathan Yoder (20)
Sept. 15 Amanda Byler (19)
Sept. 15 Mrs. (Wilmert) Edna Miller (59)
Sept. 15 Barbara Bender (19)

Belated Happy Birthday

Aug. 1 Noah Hershberger III (13)
Aug. 1 Eve Miller (Noah) (15)
Aug. 3 Marsha Weaver (Joe) (20)
Aug. 4 Joe Weaver Jr. (50)
Aug. 7 Mary Ann Hershberger (Mrs. Abner)
Aug. 8 Kristina Byler (Bill) (12)
Aug. 13 Robbie Weaver (Bob)
Aug. 13 Marty Byler (Bill) (20)
Aug. 14 Linda Coblenz (Mrs. Leroy)
Aug. 15 Melburn Yoder
Aug. 16 Clara (Mrs. Simon) Gingerich (81)
Aug. 17 Arlene Miller (Mrs. Aaron)
Aug. 19 Sara Mae Byler (Bill) (22)
Aug. 19 Joanna Miller (Andrew) (15)

Children’s Immunization Clinics

Geauga County General Health District hosts local children’s immunization clinics. Immunizations for children and adolescents are free of charge for all Geauga County residents regardless of income. For non-Geauga residents, there is a $5 fee per child, per visit.

MIDDLEFIELD CLINIC
Second Wednesday, Sept. 10 from 9 to 11:30 a.m. Clinic will be held at St. Lucy Mission, 16280 Kinsman Road (Route 87 east), Middlefield.

Third Wednesday, Aug. 20 from 9 to 11:30 a.m. Clinic will be held at St. Lucy Mission, 16280 Kinsman Road (Route 87 east), Middlefield.

Third Thursday, Aug. 21 from 3 to 6 p.m. Clinic will be held at St. Lucy Mission, 16280 Kinsman Road (Route 87 east), Middlefield.

NEWBURY TOWNSHIP CLINIC
(Every other month)
Wednesday, Sept. 24 from 9 to 11:30 a.m. Clinic will be held at Grace Evangelical Bible Church, 1491 Auburn Road, Newbury.

Happy Anniversary

Aug. 17 Paul and Lydian Weaver (8 years)
Aug. 22 Wayne C. and Elizabeth Byler (18 years)
Sept. 2 Danny and Linda Mullet (10 years)
Sept. 12 Steven and Miriam Byler (12 years)

Geauga ‘Business Family’ ALBUM 2014

Your opportunity to showcase your valued employees, business offerings, thank your loyal customers and express a Holiday Greeting to our entire county this holiday season 2014!

Our 10”w x 12”h, full color glossy album is designed to be a keepsake and will be mailed to every home and business (over 37,000) in Geauga County early in November. Reasonable holiday greeting costs, and sizes have been established to fit every size business budget. We encourage you to include a photo of your employees or your business in your holiday greeting. Please email admin@fontanellegroup.com, fax 440-834-8933 or call 440-632-0782 or 330-389-0094 for additional information about our holiday album.
Ohio.
Ivan can’t remember that time, as he was only 3 years old in 1941 when they moved back from hurricanes … once for two days coming and two days going with water all over. It was so draining to move to a warmer climate. So they moved to Portsmouth, Virginia in 1932. The climate in Portsmouth was much better for Ivan.

Levi A. Miller (Ivan’s father) was never really healthy that Ivan can remember. Levi was born Aug. 14, 1903 and died Feb. 7, 1961 (he was 57 years old). In his early married years, he had pneumonia which, at that time, was pretty much incurable. The doctor advised him to move to a warmer climate. So they moved to Portsmouth, Virginia in 1932. The climate in Portsmouth was much better for Ivan.

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**Bit and Pieces of Yesterday**

Submitted by Rachel Miller

Levi A. Miller (Ivan’s father) was never really healthy that Ivan can remember. Levi was born Aug. 14, 1903 and died Feb. 7, 1961 (he was 57 years old). In his early married years, he had pneumonia which, at that time, was pretty much incurable. The doctor advised him to move to a warmer climate. So they moved to Portsmouth, Virginia in 1932. The climate in Portsmouth was much better for Ivan.

Bit and Pieces of Yesterday
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**Howdy from West Farmington**

By Mrs. Rudy Kathryn Detweiler

Friday, Aug. 1, 2014: Good morning everyone on a blessed Friday morning … first day of August! It’s been a beautiful summer and it’s wandering away fast. Cornfields are big and tall, a good crop. It’s so fun to watch the fruits and veggies appear and harvest time begin. Oh, hear our simple Country Prayer and thanks, dear Lord, we pray.

Our minds are always with Paul and Becky Millers since their 10-year-old Jason fell down the hayloft hole in their barn and is in critical condition at Akron’s Baby Children’s Hospital with blood on the brain, etc. The last we heard, the doctor is keeping him in a coma, maybe for 2 months. The address is 6587 N. Girdle Rd., West Farmington, Ohio, 44491. Grandparents are Sams John Joes and Minster Cris (Kid) and Sue Miller, the auctioneer.

We have much to be thankful for since a severe storm passed through the area with floods and tornadoes spotted. The fire department had rescue boats out.

We have a sweet little baby to cuddle since baby boy Aden was born to Marty and Lori Detweiler (here beside us) weighing 7 pounds 4 ounces. He is welcomed by one brother and four sisters. Other grandparents are Atlee and Erma Byler.

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**Hello from Amish Crossing Corner**

By Sarah Miller

Aug. 6, 2014: A nice morning, although I did get a few sprinkles when I went for my morning walk. At 5:30 a.m., it is still a little dark. Already, the days are fast getting shorter.

The summer is going way too fast for me. The martins are getting ready to head south; geese are honking overhead … all signs of fall in the air.

Spending time Thursday, July 31 to Saturday, Aug. 2. Visiting our daughter Betty and family in Mio, Mich. were our daughter Sylvia and Dan and four children, granddaughter Rosanna and Aden and two children and grandson Danny Ray and Betty. We had a great time. On Friday, the men, boys and two granddaughters went canoeing down the Ausable River, while we and the children visited at grandmother Lorenas. In the afternoon, my three sisters, Liz Yoder, Clara Kauffman and Sylvia Miller joined us for ice cream and snacks. On the way we stopped at Cabelas.

Tuesday, Aug. 5 was the wedding of Philip son of Albert and Elizabeth Miller and Leona daughter of Marvin and Susan Miller. Also … on Thursday, Aug. 7, was the wedding at neighbor Joe and Betty Yoder for their daughter Linda and Robert son of Bill and Betty Miller.

Our thoughts and prayers are with our fellow writer Donnie and family since hearing of Donnie’s wife’s brain tumor. Also, scribe Kathryn Detweiler’s husband Rudy was in the hospital a very sick man. Hopefully, they will have much better days ahead.

Born to Robert and Miriam Miller of Farmington Road, a son, Jason. It was a year on June 27, 2013 when their son Robbie was killed.

I remember growing up we always lived on a farm, so we often had fresh game meat. That was before they came out with all the laws and needing a license or having a “season” on small game even on your own land. I don’t remember my dad ever hunting deer, but they used to have what they called “fox drives”. Men and boys would all take part in that.

Planning to have a family reunion with Joe’s family in Mio, Mich. Aug. 29 are Crist and Clara Hershberger, Mrs. Levi Saloma Miller, Joe and I and possibly some nieces or nephews going with us. Brothers Albert and Perrys from Tennessee also plan to be there. We plan to leave Thursday, Aug. 28 and return home Saturday, Aug. 30.

You all enjoy the rest of the summer!
Katherine's Korner

By Katherine Byler

Boy, do I love a bargain, but sometimes I'm just out of luck! Was offered a good deal while waiting at the Care Center August 1, 2014. She said that the next baby born at the Birthing Center (the 3,000th one) would be free! Wow! Then, a few minutes later, I found out it's too late! It's going to happen in a matter of days.

Oh me, oh my, here are nine pails of paint staring at me and it looks like WORK. If we run out, there are still umpteen cans in the basement that can help cover the odd 'n that. Hummm ... a little of this and a little of that, wonder what color that would be?

Fourteen days till school starts; the summer has truly flown by. And it was a pleasant one, methinks. And, children, that means you'll soon be practicing for the Christmas Program! Believe me!

Polo's lonely zucchini plant was not bearing so well. I was informed it is necessary to plant two so they'll be more prolific. Well, wonder of wonders, we're getting a few now and then. Maybe the neighbors have a zucchini plant close by.

The poinsettia plant is still nice. Say, that reminds me of Christmas! It's getting closer, you know. Don't say I didn't warn you. Only about 126 more days!

Oh, and Roman Troyer couldn't leave the hospital after just one day after all. And he had to stay two more days for other treatments. He had to have his carotid artery (by the neck) repaired, he said. He had to stay two more days for other things he had to do in the hospital after just one day after all. And he still was able to talk, but was very tired when we left. We took snacks and coffee which she enjoyed with us. She will be missed by her four daughters Amanda, Nancy, Mary and Sarah the entire home. Sons Joni (Fannie), David (Marie) who live close by, also Henry (Linda), Pete, and John (Lisa), 14 grands and four greats. Their address is 15421 Hayes Rd, Middlefield, Ohio, 44062. She will be dearly missed by her many friends and family.

Joe J. Bricker had cancer surgery the 7th, hoping they got it all in time. If not, he'll be taking treatments of some kind. It was in the bladder.

Mrs. Katie Weaver had gall bladder surgery July 22. She is recuperating in a niece's home, Freeman and Lucy Miller's on Burton Windsor Road. She turned 82 years old on Aug.1. Her husband Joe died 15 years ago.

Well, the dog days have come and gone; I couldn't complain about the weather. Maybe we'll get them later on this year.

The black-eyed Susans are in full bloom, so yellow and so bright. Some love 'em, some don't. They sure improve the looks of things on this korner.

The Plain Country writers were treated to a delicious luncheon at the home of Ben and Barb Fontanelle in Burton recently. It was so very interesting to hear Ellen Hershberger speak some about her month-long trip to Alaska by tour bus. Thank you, Barb, for all you do.

The Cris J. S. Millers, the Dan P. Hostetlers and yours truly and hubby visited at Uncle Dan C. and Sarah Bylers one evening recently. Cousin Andy Roy Byler (Cris Jr.) and his mom, Mrs. (Jonas) Mary Bontrager also came later along with Andy's wife Elaine. They live in Florida, but spend the month of July in Hartville usually with their sons and grandchildren. Mrs. (William) Kathryn Byler along with Irene, Mary Ellen and Jacob also came, plus her son Willie and wife Susie. Andy tried to teach us a new way to play marbles.

A mistake in the July 23 issue of Plain Country birthday list stated Mary S. Miller is turning 92. Giving credit where credit is due, she is turning 93 years old! Address is 15267 Hayes Rd., Middlefield OH 44062.

Well, the weeds in the garden seem to be looking at me, maybe daring me to come out for an attack? It's so nice when they pull so easily, but it seems there are always more to soon take their place!

3000th Baby Milestone at MCC

By Jaime A. Fisher

Congratulations to the Middlefield Care Center. Baby number 3,000 was delivered on Aug. 4, 2014. This milestone took 24 years and 2 months to achieve. When you do the math that is 10.5 babies, a month.

On June 25, 2000 the Care Center reached 1,000 babies. It took 10 years to reach this milestone. I'm sure a sigh of relief was heard across the Amish community knowing that a safe alternative to the hospital was available for low-risk deliveries.

The 2,000th baby came on Oct. 1, 2007. The Care Center Board must have felt a wave of confidence by this time. Fundraising efforts were very successful, and the Care Center facility was well on its way to being paid for. The 2,000th baby only took 7 years 4 months to achieve. The 3,000th baby took 6 years 10 months to achieve. Getting quicker each time. I predict Baby 4,000 will be born on May 1, 2020. It's wonderful to see the continued growth of this amazing and unique facility. I will be gracefully awaiting tomorrow although thoroughly enjoying each moment as time plows ahead.

Congratulations to the winning family of the 3,000th baby, the Marvin and Arlene Miller family.

I thank this community again for allowing me the best job in the world. I'm grateful for the opportunity to continue growing as a nurse alongside such programs as the home visit program. It's budding with growth as its being embraced by new and veteran mothers.

As I concluded for the month, I invite you all to celebrate this milestone with us. It is something to be truly proud of.

Lines by Linda

By Linda Weaver

Aug. 6, 2014: Dear Friends and Family … Greetings of love sent to all. The weather sure has been pleasant throughout July and so far this month. We haven't had our normal humidity, which makes for better working conditions. School is just around the corner; where did our summer go?

Two funerals in the area, the first was of Jacob Gingerich, 93, on Wednesday, July 30. It was a large funeral with many states represented. Our good friends from Holes County, Bishop Andys, Vernons, and Jonases all Millers, and two other couples were among the many who came. Jacob leaves his wife, Rebecca, sons Eli and Uriah (special), daughters Ella, Mary (special) and Rachel (Mrs. Reuben) Kempf. Let's remember this family with cards, letters and prayers. He will be dearly missed.

The address is 15378 Burton Windsor Rd., Middlefield, Ohio, 44062.

Mrs. Henry (Mary) Shrock (92) died late Friday night. A group of women had been to visit her Monday afternoon and she still was able to talk, but was very tired when we left. We took snacks and coffee which she enjoyed with us. She will be missed by her four daughters Amanda, Nancy, Mary and Sarah the entire home. Sons Joni (Fannie), David (Marie) who live close by, also Henry (Linda), Pete, and John (Lisa), 14 grands and four greats. Their address is 14521 Hayes Rd, Middlefield, Ohio, 44062. She will be dearly missed by her many friends and family.

We were shocked to hear our dear friend, writer Donnie Miller's wife Nancy has been diagnosed with a brain tumor. I will let him give details. She loses mail time and her address is 15424 Tavern Rd., Burton, Ohio, 44021. The family appreciates your prayers as they face this unknown road ahead.

Several young boys gathered at son Bob's last night for a baseball game. They had almost as many spectators as players. A fun evening with a lot of coaching from fathers and grandfathers. They all did a good job of keeping it a lively game. We look forward to the next one.

Instead of Christmas we're having a countdown to Katherine's Korner's Birthday! How about if, folks? A rough count is 116 days to her 67th on Nov. 30! That'll teach her not to worry about counting days! J (I'm sure she'll get even with me somehow.

Today, we are invited to a luncheon with all the other writers for the Plain Country. We are looking forward to visiting with everyone. More on it in the next paper.

A daughter, Rosa Beth, to Robert and Barbie Miller last week. She is welcomed by two brothers and one sister. Grandads are Jerry and Mary Sue Miller and Eli and Catherine Yoder; Greats are John Masts, Levi Yoders, Atlee Wengert and Mrs. Andy (Emma) Miller. Great great is Dan Shrock Emma.

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Tell Me a Story
A True Story (from Long Ago)
Submitted by Katherine Byler

Our close neighbor’s husband, John, had been doing some dry cleaning with something similar to gasoline. When she had finished, she poured the excess cleaning solution down one of the holes in the outhouse.

Later, when her husband, John, went out, he lit up his pipe and threw his lighted match down the other hole. A terrible explosion followed, blowing the outhouse all to pieces, and holes in the outhouse.

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Hello from the Plain Community
By Donnie Miller

Monday, Aug. 4, 2014: Greetings to all Plain Country residents.

Feels more like summer this morning. We sure have had a very different summer so far. Cool, dry, hot wet!! Whatever!

Do not have much to report as Nancy and I had a great change in our lives. Two weeks ago, on July 21, we went to Hillcrest ER as Nancy was having balance problems and slurred speech. After a Cat-Scan and an MRI, a brain tumor was found deep in her brain. On Thursday, July 31, we went to Garrettsville and got a second opinion. The doctors there told us that it was a glioblastoma. We operate. I don’t know what treatment she will take.

We have seen an outpouring of love, concern, caring from our friends, family and community. Thanks to everyone. This is a very self-centered letter this morning, but that is all I can think of!

Greetings from Garrettsville
By Rachel Miller

Thursday, July 31, 2014: I was working out in the garden tonight, spraying our tomatoes plants as they are starting to blight. I also sprayed the pickles. I’ve canned a double batch of Bread and Butter pickles and have enough for sweet dills. I also canned a batch of hot pepper butter this week.

I was over to Marvin’s (daughter Sadie) twice this week to pick off her pickles and peppers and put them in the refrigerator for her. They are on vacation this week; the whole family went. I also have her flowers (sweeping baskets) to take care of, so I have lots if nice flowers around. I like that.

Tonight, we had new potatoes out in the garden cooked with the skins and lettuce gravy. There were also buttered beets from out of the garden. We grilled chicken.

Tuesday, Ivan and I were to the wedding at Jerry Byler’s of his great niece. They are on vacation this week; the whole family went. I also have her flowers (sweeping baskets) to take care of, so I have lots if nice flowers around. I like that.

Tonight, we had new potatoes out in the garden cooked with the skins and lettuce gravy. There were also buttered beets from out of the garden. We grilled chicken.

Today, sister Sarah (Mrs. Albert Detweiler) came home from the hospital. She had cancer surgery a week ago yesterday. She had a hysterectomy and they also took out her spleen, appendix, part of the small and part of the large intestines. They took out two large tumors and numerous small ones. The doctors feel she got it all. She will have chemo, too. We had gone to the hospital to see her Saturday. I talked with her on the phone yesterday. She sounded like she feels good.

Mrs. Danny E. Miller was also in the hospital. They sent her home, as they can’t operate. I don’t know what treatment she will take.

Today, we were to Garrettsville and stopped in to visit our friend Martha Smith a while. I am looking forward to the visit at the Fontanelle home on Aug. 6. It’s hard to believe tomorrow will be Aug. 1 already.

Yesterday was the funeral of Jake U. Gingerich who was 93 years old. He hadn’t been well for several years.
Mom’s Diary
By Barbara Ann Detweiler

Saturday, July 12: A nice day. I baked cookies and cake with Betty’s help. Katherine and Betty are sleeping on the trampoline during the nights. They enjoy it even if it does get a little cool.

Sunday, July 13: Went to church at Andy and Lucy Miller’s and then home to rest and back to Andy’s for supper.

Andrew and Katherine drove down to my parents to pick up nephew Nathan, age 11. He will stay here a week or so, which he does every summer.

Monday, July 14: Andrew took Nathan swimming tonight which is something he really looks forward to. Tuesday, July 15: I went to get groceries, which was hard because my hands hurt so bad.

Tonight we went to visit a church family whose Dad had died earlier.

Wednesday, July 16: Katherine drove me to a few used clothing stores to see if I can find some school dresses for Betty and Norma. I actually found a few.

Rose Edna is doing most of the sewing, but it’s hard for her to find time with working every day. So, it seems she doesn’t get to Betty and Norma’s clothes. I want to try and sew again when my hands feel better.

Thursday, July 17: I went yard selling today. I was exhausted by tonight though.

Sister Elizabeth brought her Lori, age 9, to stay for a few nights. She is Nathan’s sister. It is nice because the girls play nicely and I don’t have as many squabbles to deal with. Nathan just lives for 3 p.m. when Andrew gets off work and can spend time with him. Andrew enjoys it immensely, too.

Friday, July 18: I had an appointment with my rheumatologist today. She put me on a high dose of prednisone for a while to see if that will take the inflammation down. I’ll do anything!

Saturday, July 19: Andrew and Nathan were spending the night on the trampoline when it started raining. So, in they came, again. It rained most of the day. I was almost completely helpless this morning. I can’t wait until the prednisone takes effect.

Sunday, July 20: Wayne helped make a breakfast of haystacks, a family favorite. We, then, drove to the park for a few hours, and then home to play croquet, rest, read and eat popcorn.

We enjoy Nathan and Lori very much.

Monday, July 21: A warm day. I had to get a blood test done. I feel good throughout my body, except my hands still hurt a lot, especially in the mornings. I’m trying to organize every nook and cranny in the house.

Tuesday, July 22: Katherine sprained her ankle for the third time and can’t do laundry. It almost makes me panic for she is my main helper. Betty, Norma, and Lori had to do it and I went down to supervise.

Sister Elizabeth called and said there’s a driver coming to pick up Nathan and Lori to take them home. They were sad and we were too. We’re going to miss them.

Wednesday, July 23: We went down to my parents for the day. Some of Mom’s cousins were also there.

Rose Edna and Laura are working on cleaning the flowerbeds in the evenings.

Thursday, July 24: It is such fun to be able to move around and feel quite limber again. My hands are a bit improved, though it could be better.

John had some buddies here to do some bow shooting tonight. Definitely a guy thing!

Friday, July 25: I got up to swollen fingers again. I must have done something wrong yesterday.

Katherine did the baking and cleaning.

Saturday, July 26: Rose Edna and Laura worked outdoors all day weed-eating, gathering twigs, sprucing up everything. It looks nice.

Wayne and the boys worked on the barn. They’re putting on a new roof and putting in a dormer.

Sunday, July 27: After we came home from church, we had a hard storm and it poured down rain. We got over 2 inches.

Monday, July 28: It was still raining this morning.

Katherine is able to do laundry now, but in the middle of doing it, the washing machine corked out. Wayne fixed it tonight and she finished it.

Tuesday, July 29: Laura is done with her job, so she will be home the month of August. She and Katherine thoroughly cleaned the basement… windows and all.

Wednesday, July 30: Today was the upstairs’ turn to get cleaned. I puttered around and did what I could.

Thursday, July 31: Katherine and I went to get groceries while Laura, Betty and Nora mowed the lawn.

Betty hurt her foot jumping on the trampoline and can’t walk. We got out the crutches for her.

Friday, Aug. 1: The girls were all home today and they cleaned the house from top to bottom. I don’t think I’d want them all home every day! A couple times, had to put my hands over my ears because of the noise level!

Tonight, neighbor Tim and Phillips had a cookout for the neighborhood, so I made baked beans to take along. We got home close to midnight.

Saturday, Aug. 2: Everyone was off somewhere except the three youngest and me. It was a calm and enjoyable day since most of the work was done yesterday.

Sunday, Aug. 3: We were home all day doing the usual… resting, reading and playing games. We also went for a walk.

Monday, Aug. 4: Rose Edna took Betty along to her babysitting job and Katherine took Norma along to her babysitting job. I was all by myself and had some much needed peace and quiet.

Tuesday, Aug. 5: Katherine drove me to Aunt Betty’s fabric store. Then we stopped in Mespo for ice cream cones. By the time we were on the road again it was getting dark. It then stormed pretty bad and we got soaked.

We stopped at Wayne’s brother Chester’s till the storm passed. It was pretty scary while we were on the road. But all’s well that ends well!

Wednesday, Aug. 6: I went to the Post luncheon at Barb Fontanelle’s. We ate some delicious food. Then, tonight we went to the “Special Ed” picnic and ate some more good food!

Thursday, Aug. 7: A beautiful day. I’ve just loved this summer of not being so hot!
Parkman Pathways

By Ellen Hershberger

North to Alaska, cont’d

Friday, July 11: We had a more relaxed morning and the ones who went to the Arctic Circle came back about 6 p.m. They were a tired, sleepy bunch.

Our train ride guide gave much information on gold digging and the pipeline. We all panned and had fun with it.

We checked in early at the Danali Park Hotel.

Saturday, July 12: We started out at 5 a.m. to Danali Park. Our tour bus guide on the 8-hour ride through the park was from Cleveland. We saw our first grizzlies with their cubs, Dall sheep high on the mountain, caribou, moose, timber wolf and more. The clouds broke away enough for us to see the top of Mt. McKinley, the highest point in Alaska.

We dropped off two couples at their relative’s house for the night.

Sunday, July 13: After services this morning, we had a relaxing afternoon tucked in these mountains.

Monday, July 14: This morning, 13 of our group went halibut fishing. The rest of us had a tour around Anchorage airport and a salmon hatchery. Lunch was at an authentic fish place where we were given large bibs to wear.

This afternoon, we visited a caribou farm where they let us hand feed them.

One of the couples flew to Kansas for her mother’s funeral and one of our drivers got a call that they have a daughter in surgery tonight.

Tuesday, July 15: Today, we made quite a number of stops for viewing, still in the mountains, with rivers, which make the scenery so beautiful.

One of our stops was by Bridal Falls and our driver made up verses to the tune of “The Hills Have Eyes” to entertain us.

One of the couples left the group to go to a relative’s house for the night.

Wednesday, July 16: We had an 8-hour ferry ride from Valdez to Prince Rupert.

We, then, drove with three elk right close to the bus. We were told that many are left behind. So, we still used extensively in Alaska and Canada.

Thursday, July 17: We did a lot of driving through the Yukon wilderness on our way back more towards home (which is still a long way off). We slept in Haines. Had two border crossings: the first one, 11 people had to get off the bus and open their luggage (especially the Canadians). But it can be random for any of us.

One of the gals had put her passport on the window ledge by her seat. The panel had to be removed when the document slipped down the crack!

Annoti Frick note for today is that passenger Mrs. Rebecca Eash had a brother, Gideon Miller, who was a pilot. But he flew as a passenger on flight 800 that was shot down over New York 18 years ago. They had to wait until 17 years passed before they were allowed to discuss it publicly.

Friday, July 18: In Haines today, we toured the city and surrounding countryside where 4,000 eagles live in this area.

Late afternoon, we took our bus on the ferry to Juneau, Alaska, which is a 5-hour ride from Haines. There is no road into Juneau, only by air or boat can one get into the city.

We’ve now traveled well over 6,000 miles.

Saturday, July 19: A few of our braver souls took a cable car ride up the mountain, and then we walked along the many shops in the city. For lunch, we treated ourselves to a King Crab leg feast.

Tonight, the bosses gave a pizza birthday supper in the hotel breakfast room.

Sunday, July 20: We embarked on the ferry with our bus, going 600 miles from Juneau to Prince Rupert.

Monday, July 21: One of our passengers became ill and needed to be taken to a hospital this evening. We had a 4-hour layover at Ketchikan, so she was checked out and brought back to the boat in time. (The ship waits on no one and we were told that many are left behind. So, most of us do not get off at ports.)

Tuesday, July 22: So today we reached Prince Rupert and had another border crossing into Canada. (We always need to have our documents ready.) We, then, drove to Hinton, B.C. through some very beautiful scenery of rivers, trees, mountains and small towns here in British Columbia.

Wednesday, July 23: The highlights today were the bull elk right alongside our bus and a long, steep hike up the Ancient Forest where no trees have been cut. (They are smaller, though, than the Redwoods.)

Our routines daily are the 5 a.m. wake-up calls, coffee and Biscotti (if we’re blessed), continental breakfasts at the motels and catching up on naps.

Wednesday, August 6: Back to the regular schedule of going to town on errands and catching up on naps. Monday, August 4: Katie and I visited scribe Donny and Nancy his morning. While there, they had the phone call informing them of their appointment tomorrow in Cleveland to discuss treatment. We will miss them at the MiddlePost Luncheon.

Tuesday, August 5: I’m just having so much fun being at home working at things I often lack time for. It is quite different not having such hectic work schedules. God bless!

The happy travelers walking across a trestle bridge in Alaska.
Books in Review

By Jacquie Foote

“White Christmas Pie” written by Wanda Brunstetter was published by Barbour Publishing, Uhrichsville, OH, copyright 2008. It is not without reason that Wanda Brunstetter is one of the better-known writers of Amish-life-centered fiction. She draws you in with the first sentence and keeps you interested until the last. Her treatment of the Amish way shows her knowledge of it and her Amish characters are three dimensional and very believable. Oddly enough, in this book, her English characters are quite a bit less so.

“White Christmas Pie” reflects a fairly unusual, but always compassionate, occurrence in the Amish experience … the raising of a non-Amish child by an Amish family. Will Henderson was left in that family, his non-Amish mother dead, his English father unheard from. Will, now a man of 20, baptized into the Amish community, is looking forward to marriage with Karen Yoder, the love of his life. But, Will has never come to terms with his abandonment, although he deeply appreciates his life with Papa Mark and Mama Regina, happily Amish and happily their only son. He feels that, if he only knew the reason he was left by his father, he could come to terms with it.

As the time of the wedding nears, Will becomes more anxious about the mystery of his father's disappearance, although never once deviating from his commitment to the Amish way and to Karen, his future wife. His Amish family is loving and loyal, his community supportive, his wife-to-be mature and accepting even when he seems irrational. All enable Will to find his way.

Wanda brings Frank Henderson, Will's birthfather, into the picture, the calm beauty of the Amish contrasting starkly with Frank's character. The mystery of Will's abandonment (real or imaginary) is well crafted and always interesting. The solution to Will's problem is disappointingly predictable. And what does a White Christmas have to do with it? Well … that's part of the mystery. In spite of that and predictable ending, this is an excellent read suitable for those with a seventh-grade reading level and above.

Ezra Goes to the Wedding

By Leah Schmidt

My first month working with Geauga County Public Library Bookmobile and Outreach program's patrons and staff, has been very exciting. I haven't made it to all of the Bookmobile stops yet, but I am working on it. The enthusiasm shown by the Geauga community for our Bookmobile and for our libraries is wonderful. It is so uplifting, as we ride our route, to be greeted by happy waves and broad smiles from passing pedestrians. I hope to be engaging in these experiences for many years to come.

We are working on our Fall Bookmobile Schedule that will take effect in September. Along with our new Bookmobile schedule comes a new school year. Staff and volunteers are eagerly awaiting the start of our Amish School Book Program, and we have many new books to include in each of our Amish Book sets.

To help with winding up your summer reading enjoyment, we have many items that are new to our libraries. For our very youngest patrons we have the beautifully illustrated board book, “Mommy Love”, and the children's book, “There's a Party in Heaven!” which are both by Gayle Bokk and illustrated by Jan Bowler. We have a new book that is part of the juvenile Farm Life Series, “The Pony Cart Adventure” by Elva Hurst. Additionally, for our juvenile readers we have a new Adventures in Odyssey book, “90 Devotions for Kids.” Finally, for adults, we have “A Road Unknown” by Barbara Cameron, which is Book 1 of the new Amish Roads series. “A Road Unknown” a young woman, Elizabeth, is given an opportunity to explore life away from her community, and away from caring for her eight younger brothers and sisters. Inspirational selections available in Playaway format include “Missing” by Shelley Shepard Gray, and “Paint the Bird” by Georeann Packard. Playaways are popular all-in-one audiobooks that are battery operated. I hope that you enjoy the last days of summer in beautiful Geauga County, Ohio.

Greetings From the Bookmobile

By Leah Schmidt

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Hello from Huntsburg

By William Bender

First things first. Last time I wrote that my grandfather, R. J. Byler wasn’t ready for winter till he killed a skunk (NOT a SNAKE) and rendered the fat. Would a snake even have any fat to render? Anyway, it was a SKUNK not a snake. I hope this puts a stop to people asking me if you can get fat from a snake. It was a skunk not a snake, I got that off my chest.*

Saturday eve, Urias here had the neighborhood cookout. Now, a few days later, we are at Barb’s for the yearly … don’t know what to call it. Cook out? No, we didn’t cook. Anyway, we had a good lunch thanks to Melvin, Miriam and Barb.

Here is a poem that someone wrote about a good friend of mine down in the hills of Wayne County.

Ezra Goes to the Wedding

By Leah Schmidt

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*Editor's Note … Bill is right. I checked his letter and he DID write that his grandfather wanted a SKUNK to render, not a snake! It was (as they say) MY bad that the wrong information was entered into the computer. L. And I apologize. So, no fair asking Bill about snake fat!*

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Either write something worth reading or do something worth writing.”
—Benjamin Franklin
Zucchini Casserole, Country Recipe
Submitted by Sarah Miller

Cut a whole mess of zucchini into 1/2-inch rounds. Arrange several layers in an oiled casserole dish.
Top them with a bit of marinara and some ricotta cheese. Repeat until you have filled the casserole three-quarters full. Bake at 350 degrees until tender and lightly brown and bubbly at the edges.

Zucchini Cookies
Submitted by Barbara Ann Detweiler

Cookie:
2 1/2 cups sugar
3 cups grated zucchini
2 teaspoons vanilla
3/4 cups shorting
3 eggs
4 1/2 cups flour
1/2 teaspoon cinnamon
1/4 teaspoon cloves
1/2 teaspoon ginger
1/2 teaspoon allspice
2 tablespoons baking powder
1 1/4 teaspoon soda
1 teaspoon salt
2 cups raisins (optional)
Mix all ingredients and bake at 350 degrees until done.

Frosting:
4 ounces cream cheese
1/2-cup oleo or butter
1 pound (3 1/2 cups) powdered sugar
1 teaspoon vanilla
Mix ingredients and frost cooled cookies. Delicious!

Zucchini Donut Puffs
(A Good Way to Use Up Zucchini)
Submitted by Rachel Miller

2 eggs
1/2 teaspoon vanilla
1/2 cup sugar
1/2 cup milk
2 1/2 cups flour
1 1/2 teaspoon baking powder
1/2 teaspoon salt
2 tablespoons melted butter
1 cup grated zucchini
Oil for frying
Cinnamon sugar to taste
Powdered sugar to taste
Mix all ingredients together and drop by teaspoons full into hot oil.
Fry for 2 to 3 minutes until browned.
Drain on paper towels.
Roll in powdered or cinnamon sugar.
Yield 3 to 4 dozen

Zucchini Salsa
Submitted by Sarah Miller

1 medium zucchini, diced
1 large tomato, diced
1/2 red or orange bell pepper, seeded and diced
1 tablespoon balsamic vinegar
A pinch of red pepper flakes
1 tablespoon chopped pickled jalapenos
A splash of hot sauce
Salt and pepper to taste
Toss all together and serve.