

## THESE FOLKS FELT IT WAS...

I can't help but remember  
Those good old yesterdays,  
When life was far more simple,  
In oh! so many ways.

'Tis true we didn't have a lot...  
Of lousy dough-re me,  
But we knew just how to stretch a  
dime...  
A mile or two, you see.

We didn't have a car to drive,  
A 'lectric stove and such,  
But really we just didn't need,  
Those luxuries very much.

We walked to school and back again,  
Hitched "Nellie" to the shay,  
When'ere we went to help a friend,  
A further piece a way.

We didn't mind the old wood stove,  
The woodshed in the back,  
Cause that just lent a bit of charm,  
To households...that's a fact.

Cause that's where Pa would take  
the boys,  
To give them some "what for,"  
When'ere their britches got too big,  
To mind Pa anymore.

And that's when the aroma  
Of woodsmoke filled the air,  
To give us all an appetite  
For good old country fare.

We didn't have the radio,  
The boob tube, nor the gloom  
Of hearing every misfit prate  
About the coming doom.

We simply lived from day to day,  
Worked for our daily bread,  
And knew somehow old Father  
Time,  
Would help us forge ahead.

We didn't have the A-bomb then...  
The supersonic jet,  
The high speed trains, the moon trip  
plains,  
The learned ways, and yet...

We managed to survive somehow,  
By taking from the land,



## WORTH THE WORKING FOR

The simplest bit of sustenance,  
As God had surely planned.

And then plowed back a bit of love,  
A bit of human kindness,  
A bit of courage to sustain,  
The common good that binds us.

So that's why I remember  
Those good old days of yore,  
Cause I think all those simple things  
Were worth the working for.



## KATIE FYETTA REBER FESSLER

Katie Fyetta Reber Fessler was born in Brommerstown, South Manheim Township, March 7, 1891. She is the daughter of James and Amenda Emerich Reber. She resided on a farm in the Brommerstown Valley until her marriage to John F. Fessler of Summit Station, Wayne Township, Pa.

Mr. Fessler was a carpenter most of his life except for the years he was employed with the State Department under Governor Earl. He was also a school director in Wayne Township. Mr. Fessler lived in Wayne Township until he passed away in November 12, 1952.

Mr. & Mrs. Fessler had two sons, Joseph D. and David. Mrs. Fessler managed her husbands hotel during the time he had other employment and in later years she worked in the Auburn shoe factory and the Walk-In Shoe Factory of Schuylkill Haven.

Mrs. Fessler is retired now and lives in her own little home in Summit Station, Wayne Township and is still able to do her own housework and cooking. She had the reputation of being "the best pie crust maker" in the area.

Mrs. Fessler is a member of United Church of Christ, Summer Hill.



### **CARRIE GOOD**

Carrie C. Good was born in East Hempfield Township, Lancaster County in 1885. She was married to John M. Good in 1917 and moved to Pine Grove Township, Schuylkill County where they resided until Mr. Good passed away.

Mrs. Good lived with her daughter in Pine Grove until the daughter passed away. She then moved to Wayne Township and is living with her daughter and son-in-law Mr. and Mrs. Steward S. Sattizahn.

There are now four generations of the Good family living in Wayne Township.

Mrs. Good will be 91 years old April 24, 1976.

### **GERTRUDE M. HEFFNER**

GERTRUDE M. HEFFNER was born at Reedsville, Penna. on April 22, 1886, to William and Kate (Kremer) Reed. Her brothers, William and Harry and her only sister, Cora Fenstermacher are all deceased. Her father was a victim of the Beckville Powder Mill Explosion when she was 2 years old. Her mother died when she was 12. She was raised with the help of relatives and friends. Both parents are buried on the Summer Hill Cemetery. She married Charles M. Heffner, son of James and Amanda Heffner in 1907. Her children are; Mildred, widow of Elmer Wolfe, Shillington, Ruth, wife of Charles Schumacher, Sch. Haven, Helen, wife of J. Kenneth Croneberger of R. D. #1 Sch. Haven and Glenn who died in 1940 as a result of a skiing accident.

She was very active in the United Evangelical Church, having taught a S. S. Class for 40 years. She moved to Sch. Haven after selling her home to the Rev. Howard Souders. Her present address is R D #1 Sch. Haven, Penna.

### **MRS. MINNE HEFFNER**

Among the Senior Citizens of our Township is Mrs. Minnie Heffner who was the wife of William P. Heffner (Deceased). She was born on February 25th, 1884 in Pine Grove, Pa, daughter of Daniel and Katie Schnoke. She had one brother and one sister and remembers best the hard work that was a part of daily living of that day. She attended school at a one room school in Pine Grove Twp. about one and one half miles south of their home. One of the things she recalls is that a neighbor boy often carried her piggy-back the entire distance to and from school many times during her first year. Her father was a miller by trade and soon he moved the entire family to Ohio for about four years, but soon returned after that to the Pine Grove Twp. area. Later on, she took up residence in Reading Pa. where she was head cook at a hotel for a number of years and also for the Elks Home. She returned to Friendsburg after this and has lived there ever since. She is a member of St. John's United Church of Christ and attends almost every Sunday the morning worship and the Sunday School session despite her advanced age. She enjoys good health and can often be seen sitting on her porch in the summer, greeting those who pass her home. She is of the sturdy stock of people that made our community and our nation great.



### **ARAVESTA C. KULL**

Aravesta Caroline (Smink) Kull was born in New Boston, Pennsylvania on July 17, 1884, the eldest daughter of John and Alice (Becker) Smink. Her father was a miner and while she was still a young girl, the family moved to the York Farm section of Pottsville where a colliery was operating at that time. As a young girl she was employed at the Pottsville Silk Mill at 12th Street.

She was married June 10, 1902 to Albert H. Kull of Pottsville and the early part of their married life was spent on a farm at Bull's Head where they engaged in dairy farming.

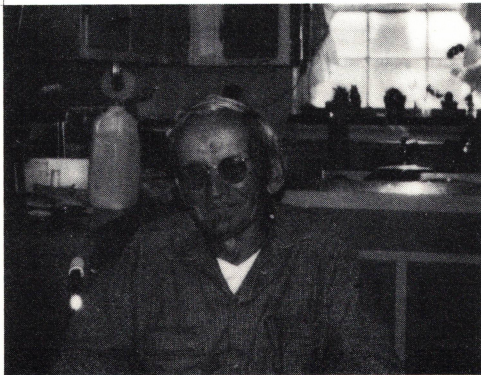
In the spring of 1915 the family moved to the Heffner farm just west of Friedensburg and later became the owners of that property. One of the daughters, Mrs. George Rehrer, eight years of age at the time, recalls that she and several of her sisters walked the entire distance from Pottsville to Friedensburg driving the family's dairy cows ahead of them.

Mr. and Mrs. Kull devoted the rest of their working lives to the dairy and farming enterprise. They were members of St. John's Reformed Church (now U. C. C.), Friedensburg, and reared twelve children. The children are: Alberta (widow of Ray Crossley), Edith (widow of William Romberger), Catharine (Mrs. George Rehrer), Florence (Mrs. Charles Seltzer), Alice (Mrs. George Fenstermacher), Albert, Jr., Marguerite (Mrs. Floyd Brown), Laura (Mrs. Donald Ziegler), Ray, and Richard. Two daughters, Pearl (Mrs. Paul Hummel) and Bertha (Mrs. Anthony Di Francesco) are now deceased. Another daughter died in infancy.

Mr. Kull died December 31, 1953.

In 1957 Mrs. Kull retired from the farm to a mobile home in the same area. The farm house and several surrounding acres were sold to a grandson, Joseph Hummel. Two of the sons, Albert, Jr. and Richard built new homes on some of the remaining farm land. Today most of the original farm is still owned by Albert, Jr.

The number of Mrs. Kull's living descendants today are ten children, thirty grandchildren, fifty-five great grandchildren and nine great great grandchildren.



## MILTON ELMER NAGLE

Milton Elmer Nagle, born March 13, 1890 at Friedensburg, Penna., lived in Wayne Township until October, 1974 when he went to Maryland to live.

He married Annie Louisa Gerber (now deceased) on March 18, 1911 in the Reformed parsonage in Summit Station by Reverend Sipple. They had four children all born in Wayne Township—Oscar, Ruth, wife of Emmitt Miller; Frances, wife of Sterling Reber; Erma, married to Craig Simpkins, with whom he now resides.

Mr. Nagle taught school at Beaver Valley at Caseys School for two years, 1911 to 1913, and at Panther Valley for one year. He worked at farming for several years besides working at the carpenter trade and running a saw mill. He also worked as a rural mail carrier in the early 1920's. He helped to raise at least 12 barns and built many homes in the area. He worked winters at the Round House in St. Clair and farmed in the summers. He worked as a trouble shooter for farm machinery.

Mr. Nagle was Sunday School superintendent for 35 years at St. John's Lutheran Reformed Church, Friedensburg, Pa.,

Aside from being Sunday School Superintendent he also taught Sunday School and served on the church council until he became ill. He is an active member of the P. O. S. of A. lodge and holds the office of treasurer.

Besides having four children he also has 18 grandchildren, 35 great grandchildren and one great-great grandchild.

## EDWIN REBER

Ewin Reber, son of Malinda and Benjamin Reber was born in Brommerstown Valley, October 27, 1891.

He was married to L. Annie Berkheiser on April 10, 1915, and they had two daughters, Vera, wife of William Krammes and Minnie, wife of Henry Trumbo.

He was a farmer for many years and later worked for the State Highway Department and for Hubler Shoe Factory. His father was a former owner of the Jefferson Hotel.

His wife passed away April 3rd, 1969 and since then he has made his home with his daughter and son-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. William Krammes.

Mr. Reber is a life member of Summit Station Fire Company, and a member of United Church of Christ, Summer Hill.

## CORA M. ROEDER

Cora M. Roeder, nee Lutz was born in Wayne Township on January 18, 1892, daughter of Joseph M. and Ida (Reber) Lutz. She attended school at Rebers school now a private home on Lutz Road in South Wayne Township. She was confirmed by the late Rev. Edwin Smoll in St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Summer Hill in 1903. She was married to Joseph A. Roeder on June 14, 1912 in Schuylkill Haven, Pa. by the late Rev. Edwin Smoll. She is the mother of two sons, Charles L. Roeder, Summit Station, with whom she presently resides and Robert E. Roeder who was killed in action in Italy, Sept. 27, 1944, during World War II and was posthumously awarded the Congressional Medal of honor. She has resided in Wayne Township all her life. She has two brothers, Henry and Joseph Lutz, and one sister Mrs. Vera Schwartz, also residents of Wayne Township.

She is 84 years of age. She has one Grandson, Robert C. Roeder and one Great Grandson, Derek J. Roeder. Her husband Joseph died in 1944.

## ANNA L. (MOORE) SEIBERT

The story of America is generally portrayed by the migration of people from the East to the West. The biography of Anna Moore Seibert tells that story in reverse. She was born in Brownsville, Nebraska, November 23, 1891 and is now a resident of Summit Station, Wayne Township.

Brownsville was one of the earliest settlements in the territory of Nebraska; founded in 1854 along the Missouri River, it grew rapidly during the steamboat era when all commodities from the East were transported by water to this wide and muddy "gateway to the West." It was in the many river towns such as Brownsville that wagon trains were outfitted for the final trek westward.

When the railroad era of the late 1880's came into being, Brownsville began to decline but stately mansions had been built high among the bluffs during the "boomtime" and the town boasted a fine opera house and a big high school building.

It was at this time that Mrs. Seibert was born. Her mother had been born in Germany and had come to Missouri as a young girl. Her father was of Scotch-Irish descent and had come to Nebraska from Ohio at the age of twelve.

Young Anna received her early education in Missouri and Nebraska in the public schools. She completed high school at an early age and then attended Peru Teacher's College. She was not quite eighteen years old when she taught her first school of thirteen pupils for a seven month term and was paid \$35 each month. The school itself was situated right on the banks of the Missouri River.

Many of the experiences Mrs. Seibert relates about teaching in one room country schools are very similar to those that the older residents of Wayne Township recall with one exception. Early one morning before school began, a man's body was found hanging in a grove of trees which surrounded the school. It seems that some citizens had taken the law into their own hands and had held a lynching party. The exact nature of the man's crime was never disclosed.

After several terms of teaching school and struggling with the related chore of trying to keep the building warm—she always burned wood and never saw coal until she came to Pennsylvania—Anna Moore married Edwin Seibert in August, 1912. Mr. Seibert was a native of Lebanon, Pennsylvania, who had come to Nebraska to visit relatives and friends. The young couple remained in Nebraska until 1917 when with their three young children they returned to Pennsylvania, making the trip by train.

In Pennsylvania Mrs. Seibert saw mountains for the first time in her life and was homesick for Nebraska, but made the best of the situation. It was seventeen years before she was able to go back to visit there.

The young family lived in Ebenezer and Jonestown, Lebanon County, for several years and then moved to the Suedberg area. Mrs. Seibert soon began teaching school at the Lower Swatara School and spent several summers attending Kutztown State Teachers College and eventually graduated from that institution.

She taught eight terms at the same school having her own three children among her pupils. In 1929 she decided to leave the teaching profession and become a hair dresser which was an exciting new profession for women. Since the change required some financing she taught school at "Bird's Hill" in the Pine Grove area for two more terms and learned her new profession at the same time. In 1931 she was ready to open her own beauty shop. The location chosen was Shoemakersville, Berks County, because there were no other shops there at the time.

In 1965 she retired and about a year later moved to Summit Station. She enjoys the quiet life of this area and spends much of her time writing letters and visiting her three children, eleven grandchildren, and fifteen great grandchildren.



WILLOUGHBY EDWIN STALLER

Willoughby Edwin Staller was born in Wayne Twp. on May 19, 1890, and was the only child of Charles and Mary (Werdt) Staller. In his early life he was a carpenter and can remember going to work on his bicycle, he also was a farmer. In August 1916 he married Ida Boyer daughter of Jonathan & Clara Boyer, Ida was one of Seventeen children. The Staller's have two sons, Wilbert married to May (Foose) and Sterling married to Fern (Moyer). There are four grandsons and two granddaughters.

Mr. Staller is still very active, since 1970 he and his wife are living with their son Wilbert and wife, and helps them with their service station. He is a member of St. Paul's Lutheran Church of Summer Hill and a member of the Summit Station Fire Co. With the Bicentennial year Mr. and Mrs. Staller will be celebrating their 60th. wedding anniversary.



### **SUSAN ESTHER STRAUSE**

Susan Esther Strause was born in South Manheim Twp. on July 6, 1885, to Augustus and Carolina (Yeich) Brensinger. She was the 7th. of 11 children and has only one sister surviving, Buelah Schwenk, Temple, Pa.

She was married on May 16, 1908 to Charles V. Strause and lived in Summit Station their entire married life. They had the following children; Erma and Elsie of Summit Station, Charles Jr., Auburn, and Sterling, Wisconsin. Her husband passed away in 1962.

She was honored with open house last July to celebrate her 90th. birthday Mrs. Strause was living in Summit Station until recently when she became a guest at the York Terrace Nursing Home, Pottsville.



### **HOWARD LINCOLN STUMP**

Howard Lincoln Stump, son of Samuel and Mary Fenstermacher Stump was born August 31, 1886 in Beaver Valley. He was born in the second house on the land as the first building was a hotel and it had been destroyed by fire and had to be rebuilt.

He attended the Panther Valley and Friedensburg schools and later became a farmer. He was well known throughout the region for the strawberries he raised on his farm. People came from miles around to buy these beautiful berries from him.

He tended his farm as most people in early days, with horse drawn implements.

His brothers, William and Irvin, and a sister Mary lived with him on the farm. He also had another brother Joel and a sister Martha. All brothers and sisters are deceased and he is the only immediate survivor. Several nieces and nephews are still living.

Presently he is in very good health and is able to maintain his home with the help of his niece and her husband, Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Haldeman.

One can still see him browsing around his farm, walking in the fields and tending his strawberry patches. Mr. Stump is a member of St. John's Lutheran Church, Friedensburg, Penna.



## MATEY ZEMENCIK

Matey Zemencik was born in Austria-Hungary, which is now known as Czeckslovakia., January 7, 1888. As a small boy he worked on a farm tending horses, and growing vegetables. After saving enough money for passage, he came to America in 1909. At that time the voyage across the ocean took two weeks.

He settled in Donora, Pennsylvania and obtained work there in the soft coal mines. Here he met and married Maria Martykan in the year 1913.

Due to becoming ill from working in the coal dust he secured other work and came to Summit Station where he purchased a farm from Mike Kotsik. This farm was located at the bottom of the Blue Mountain on the old "83" road. Times then were hard and it seemed impossible to raise a family on the farm so he again went back to mining. This too was hard work but he persevered and later became what was called the "dynamite man."

When the new "83" highway was built he was hired to dynamite through the Blue Mountain.

He later sold part of his land to the Boy Scouts of America for their camp which is known as Camp Nisatin. For a while he was caretaker of the camp and also caretaker for Channel 61 Radio Station on top of the Blue Mountain. He also secured work at the Tube mill and the brick yard in Auburn, Pa.

He worked very hard during his life and remembers how often he would meditate on his walks home from work hoping and praying that, "God would spare me till my children are old enough to help themselves."

He and his wife had eleven children, three of whom had served in the Armed Forces.

P. F. C. Matthew was killed November 24, 1944, and the next day another son Michael was wounded in action. Another son Philip was later also wounded in action.

His wife passed away in 1962 and for some time Matey lived alone tending his garden, grafting trees and walking with his dog. At present he resides with his daughter, Mrs. Marvin Miller on Red Hill.

