



# THE HOUSE OF YODER NEWSLETTER

June 2015

REMEMBERING PHYLLIS (LIVENGOOD)WEAVER-HEARN

AND

PAUL H. YODER(YR261191233)

TWO "FOUNDING" BOARD MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF YODER



*Phyllis Burnett Livengood  
Weaver-Hearn*

*Feb 6, 1924-April 13, 2015*

"Phyllis, the daughter of Freda (Yoder) (YR26119151) Livengood and Myron Livengood. The granddaughter of Norman Yoder(YR2611915) and Annie Mae (Yoder)(YR121736) Yoder.

Myron and Freda were married at Pinto, MD on October 18, 1922, by Minister Ed Miller. The wedding took place in the parlor of the White Farm House on the Norman S. Yoder farm in Pinto, MD. After their marriage they lived in Springs, PA. Myron worked at Miller Machine Works. On February 6, 1924 their first child Phyllis Burnett was born in a big white house with a wrap-around porch which sat beside the white frame Springs Mennonite Church. Her Father was active in the Springs Church, especially in the music program. He sang in the Men's Chorus and other groups. He had a

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Paul H. Yoder (YR261191233) was born August 28, 1921 at 159 Oak Dale Road, St. Paul, PA, (near Salisbury, PA). Paul's parents, Eli Yoder (YR26119123) and Amanda (Hershberger)

Yoder moved to the St. Paul farm in March 1920. Paul's father, Eli had a dairy farm, raised rabbits and guinea pigs. They also had a small coal mine, butchered and delivered meat to stores, went out to farms to do butchering for neighbors and operated a sugar camp. He also picked strawberries, raspberry and delivered butter and eggs to local stores. In the fall of 1931, Paul was approximately ten years old the family moved to Grantsville, MD. Paul would have had to help with all of the work and projects his parents were involved in.



Paul H. Yoder and his wife  
Marie (Miller) Yoder

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beautiful tenor voice. When Phyllis was 3 1/2, in 1927, they moved to Pinto, Maryland and lived on "Pinto Lane". This was on her Grandfather, Norman Solomon Yoder' Farm. She grew up in the heart of an extended family with Grand parents, Norman and Annie Yoder in the big farm house at the top of the lane and Uncles, Aunts, and cousin side by side. She was the oldest of the three siblings having a brother Paul Myron Livengood (b. 1926-2015) and Doris Livengood Ours, (b. 1930)



Painting by Freda (Yoder) Livengood of the house where Phyllis was born. The house which is no longer standing was located beside the old Mennonite Meeting House in Springs, PA

Her Grandparents, Norman Solomon Yoder and Annie Mae (Yoder) Yoder moved down from Springs to the Pinto area in 1907 with her mother Freda Margaret, seven years old (b. 1900) and four siblings: Rhoda Catherine b. 1901, Eva May b. 1903, Walter Norman b. 1904, and Melda Marie an infant b. 1907. Norman was hired as manager of the 2,400 acre Washington Bottom Farm located across the Potomac River in West Virginia. This farm was taken over by the government in World War II and was then, and still is ABL (Allegany Ballistic Laboratory) and recently in 2014 Orbital ATK. He managed the farm for eleven years and then in 1918 parents, Myron and Freda with Phyllis and brother "Bud", moved into the third house on Pinto Lane from the Grandpa house. The house was covered with weathered wood and in need of repair. Mike and Freda launched a major remodeling effort to modernize and make a comfortable, enjoyable home for their family. At the same time, M. J. Livengood and his brother-in-law Walter N. Yoder became partners and established the L&Y Plumbing Co. of Pinto, MD. They specialized in steam heating and plumbing.

This business grew and employed many of the local men. When World War II broke out, Walter joined the services and Myron bought-out his share of the business. He was still working full time when he died suddenly on May 25, 1970 at the age of 72. The business continued under the management of his son-in law, Harold W. Ours.

Norman Yoder was not only interested in farming, but also in having a place of worship. In 1926 he donated land for the building of the Pinto Mennonite Church. While the Yoder's had been Amish, their move brought them to an area where there were no Amish or Mennonite churches. In order to go to church, they attended the local Methodist church. With the building of the church, the Yoder's transferred their membership to the [Pinto] Mennonite Church and many Mennonite leaders from Springs, PA helped to provide ministry while they were getting established. The Yoder family, along with the E. K. Blauch family were instrumental in establishing this church.



Phyllis as an infant, along with her parents, Myron and Freda (Yoder) Livengood

The life of her family was centered around the Pinto Church where her Father Myron (Mike) was ordained Deacon and served as a song leader and musical director of a Men's Chorus, and sang for years in a mixed quartet. All services were attended and only an illness permitted an absence. Phyllis was active in Sunday School as a student and in her teen years



in teaching. The youth formed The Light-house Band, and her Mother Freda was their teacher for many years. They met in homes, studied the Bible, had refreshments, and played games. All day church services on Good Friday and Thanksgiving were looked forward to with joy. Mid-week Prayer



*- about 2 yrs old*

Meeting was attended by the family and Liven-good home preparation for bed was family devotion and prayer.

Phyllis received her early education at Cresaptown School where she attended grade one through nine. After graduating from

the 9th grade in 1940, the summer was actively spent in preparations to get her ready to attend Eastern Mennonite High School at Harrisonburg, VA. This meant a new wardrobe of dresses according to standards set by the school. She left when she was 16 and stayed in the girls dormitory for her sophomore and Junior years (1940-1942).

It was there she met Winston Odell Weaver of Harrisonburg, VA. In December of 1941 World War II was declared in America. This hastened plans for a summer wedding for Winston and Phyllis. Their wedding was announced, planned and performed within two weeks on July 18, 1942. A wedding on the lawn at her home in Pinto with some two hundred guests. Winston was drafted and registered in the CPS (Civilian Public Service) Program as provided by the U.S. Government. He was assigned to the camp at Galax, Virginia for awhile. The work of this camp was on the Blue Ridge Parkway. Phyllis stayed with Winston's parents, Marion and Annie Weaver, and completed her senior year at Eastern Mennonite High School. The war years continued to control their lives. Winston was then assigned to Norristown State Hospital, in Norristown, PA. Phyllis joined him there and also worked at the hospital. In 1945 she re-

turned to her parents home in Pinto and it was there that her first son, Winston O. Weaver II was born. At the close of the war, Winston and Phyllis moved to Harrisonburg and Winston joined his father at the business he had started in 1937, Rockingham Construction Company. When his father passed away in 1956, Winston became responsible for Rockingham and worked there until his death on April 9, 1989. Rockingham is still operating today in Virginia and Maryland under the management of Phyllis's eldest son Winston, Jr. and her youngest son, Gregory (who also manages Special Fleet Service.) Her middle son Steven is a Senior Partner of the Clark and Bradshaw Law Firm in Harrisonburg, VA.



Phyllis Livengood Weaver-Hearn pictured with her three sons: Steven, Gregory and Winston, Jr.

Three sons were born to Phyllis and Winston: Winton Jr., married Bonnie Armstrong on August 17, 1968. They have a son Winston Matthew, b. December 20, 1988; Marion Steven married Elsie Peifer on August 22, 1970. They have two sons, Brian David, b. July 24, 1975, married to Nikki, and son Michael Steven, b. January 21, 1978, married to Suzi. Youngest son Myron Gregory born December 16, 1953, married Valerie Showalter on December 4, 1976. Their daughters are Michaela Ann, b. February 24, 1985 and Danielle Burnett, b. October 20, 1987. Danielle is married to Matt Ropp. There are two great grandchildren: Margot and Elliotte, children of Brian and Nikki Weaver.

Winston and Phyllis were long time members of the Harrisonburg Mennonite Church (formerly Chicago Avenue Mennonite church). Phyllis was a "stay at home Mom" who was



Winston O. Weaver and Phyllis Livengood Weaver

actively engaged in the work of the church and the greater Harrisonburg community. She was a member of the sewing circle, part of a group of the women of the church that volunteered time at the Western State Hospital caring for women patients. She also volunteered at the "Cherry Corner" Rockingham Hospital Café once a week. She volunteered her time and energy to community organizations such as the American Cancer society, Mental Health Association and others. She was the first woman to serve as a Trustee on the Rockingham Memorial Hospital Board of Trustees from 1966-1978.

On January 10, 2004, Phyllis married Dr. J.T. Hearn, of Harrisonburg, VA. He was a devoted and loving husband. They shared those years, until Phyllis' death April 13, 2015, enjoying travel and good companionship and J.T.'s tender care during her last years.

Phyllis was one of the founding members of The House of Yoder. Being present at the first meeting where it was determined to accept

the offer from Penn Alps to lease land in Spruce Forest and build a Yoder House.



Home of Phyllis Weaver-Hearn, Harrisonburg, VA

Phyllis served on the steering committee and then as an Executive Board Member of The House of Yoder until November 2013, when she requested not to be re-nominated to the Board of Directors because of failing health. She and her family have been active contributors to the development and building of The House of Yoder and to the programs involved there."

Written by Doris Livengood Ours, Sister



The house in the center is an earlier picture of the house where Phyllis was born. Before the porch was added on the end. This house was the second house built in the village of Springs. The building on the right was the Mennonite Church House.



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Paul, his parents and siblings moved to the home farm of his Mother, Amanda (Hershberger) Yoder. Amanda was the daughter of Samuel and Elizabeth (Tice) Hershberger. Here Paul lived and grew to manhood, helping his parents, one year plant 2000 raspberries and over 6000 strawberry plants. They picked over 16000 quarts of strawberries one Year. The family also raised acres of peas, corn and beans for the local cannery



159 Oak Dale Road Salisbury, PA where Paul was born.

The year after moving to Grantsville, MD, Paul's parents built a 16x26 foot butcher shop and did custom butchering and hired people to help with all of the work. This was during the depression years of the 1930's, which required expert management to keep the business solvent. The butchering business kept expanding and in 1947, Eli, Paul's father, built a locker plant a short distance from the farm buildings. There were two apartments above the locker plant. The locker plant was for customers to keep their meat and produce frozen, before home freezers were common. In 1949 with the original butchering facility no longer able to handle the demands, Eli built a new butchering facility onto the locker plant. During all of the building and butchering, the dairy and crop operations were maintained.

*\*Editors note: The slaughter house and locker rooms no longer exist. The buildings were torn down and in 2015 construction started to build a cheese making facility where the original buildings stood.*

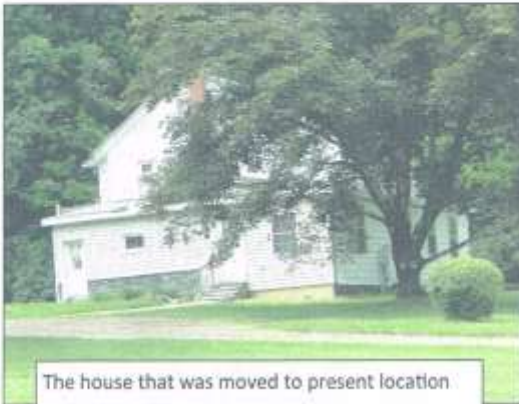
Paul would have been responsible to help with the many tasks involved with the operation during his teenage years. He wouldn't have had much time to himself to get into mischief!

On Sunday afternoon July 5, 1953, at the Maple Glen Conservative Mennonite Church, Grantsville, MD, Paul H. married Martha Marie Miller, daughter of Evan and Iva (Maust) Miller. Martha didn't use her first name, she preferred to use her middle name "Marie" to distinguish herself from all the Martha Yoders in the community. Paul also officially changed his middle initial from "E" to "H" to distinguish him from all the Paul E. Yoder's in the community. Paul and Marie were married by Andrew Farmwald from Plain City, OH. According to David I. Miller, during this period only Bishops could perform a marriage ceremony and Emanuel Peachy from the Big Valley, PA and a member of the Executive Committee of the Conservative Mennonite Conference had the Bishop oversight for the Grantsville area churches during this time. David said Emanuel Peachy could have appointed Andrew Farmwald to perform the ceremony or Andrew could have been a friend of Paul and Marie and they requested him to perform the ceremony. There was some turmoil in the local churches during this period. Ivan J. Miller would become Bishop three months after Paul and Marie's marriage on October 1, 1953.



Paul's family moved to this farm near Grantsville, MD when Paul was about 10 years old.

We believe that Paul and Marie lived in one of the apartments above the locker plant after their marriage. Sometime after their marriage Paul and Marie moved a small house from the Elmer Schrock farm where Katie Hershberger lived. This house was moved approximately 1/4 mile to what today is called Hemlock Drive. This would be the first house of many on Hemlock Drive today.



The house that was moved to present location on Hemlock Drive, Grantsville, MD

Paul and Marie's son Michael and his wife Delores live here at the present time.

Paul and Marie built a new house beside their first house and lived there until they



The new home built by Paul and Marie on Hemlock Drive, Grantsville, MD

moved to the Goodwill Mennonite Nursing Home, Grantsville, MD.

Paul and Marie were interested in genealogy and did a lot of research, writing articles on the history and families of the local area. They compiled the book: The Daniel Beachy Family of Aurora, West Virginia.

Paul worked for his father as an employee and later a part-owner of Yoder's Meat Market and Country Store in Grantsville, MD. He served as Board of Director for different organization. He served on The Houses of Yoder Board of Directors and Executive Committee as its secretary from its conception until 2009. Paul would spend many hours as host for The House of Yoder. After he could no longer drive and was living at the Goodwill Mennonite Home, he would walk approximately 1 1/2 miles to open the house and serves as host. He also served on the Board of Directors at the Goodwill Mennonite Nursing Home for some time.

Paul was ordained minister in the Conservative Mennonite Church on September 5, 1957 and served on many committees and mission projects. He had a beautiful tenor voice and sang in quartets and singing groups.

Paul's parents would have been members of the local Old Order Amish Church until 1927, when the Amish division occurred. Paul was six years old when his parents and siblings joined the group that later took the name "Beachy Amish Church" and known today as the Mountain View Congregation, and also the home of the singing group: The Mountain Anthems. Paul would attend this church until his marriage at 32 years of age. He changed his church membership from the Beachy to the Conservative Amish Mennonite Church, which was his wife's congregation. During this time he would change his hair style from parted in the middle like the Amish do to a much shorter style, combing the hair to the side. This hair cut occurred at the editor's Father-in-law's home Alvin H. Yoder. The children gathered around and found it fascinating to watch this transformation.



Paul and Marie are buried in the old Oak Dale Conservative Mennonite Church Cemetery, 365 Oak Dale Road, Salisbury, PA, only a short distance from where he was born. In 2012, this church house was sold to the Old Order Amish Congregation and a new Oak Dale church was built at 9201 Mason Dixon Highway, Salisbury, PA.

#### OBITUARY OF PAUL H. YODER

Paul E.(H) Yoder, 93, of Grantsville, MD, died on Sunday, January 11, 2015 at the Goodwill Mennonite Home, Grantsville, MD. He was born August 28, 1921, near Salisbury, PA, to the late Eli L. and Amanda (Hershberger) Yoder. On July 5, 1953, he married M. Marie Miller who died in 2013. He was also preceded in death by two sons; Sheldon and Jesse Yoder; four brothers: Elmer, Henry, Ernest and John Yoder; and 4 sisters: Elizabeth Beachy, Edna Beachy Mabel Schrock, and Lena Beachy.

He is survived by 3 sons: Nathan (Miriam) Yoder, Harrisonburg, VA; Nelson (Pat) Yoder, Narvon, PA; Michal (Delores) Yoder, Grantsville, MD; two daughters: Ethel (Bob) Zook, Allensville, PA; Marcella (David) Baugh, Lexington, KY; one daughter-in-law, Juanita Jo Yoder, springs, PA; 15 grandchildren: Paul, Amelia, Evan, Krista, Kevin Eric, Lisa, Angela, Jessica, Kendra, Michelle, Matthew, Ryan, Todd, and Joelle; and 6 great grandchildren. Mr. Yoder was a business partner with Yoder's Inc., working many years as the store manager at Yoder' Country Market. He was ordained a minister on September 5, 1957, and over the years served the following congregations, all in the local area: Coal Run Mennonite, Oak Dale Mennonite, Cherry Glade Mennonite, Bethesda Church of the Brethren and Meadow Mountain Mennonite. He served on the Goodwill Mennonite Home board, shortly after its establishment. His passion in life was to share God's love and truth with others, frequently visiting people in home, hospitals and jails. He coordinated local grading of Bible Correspondence courses for inmates and mentored others in out-

reach ministries. He served with different committees and boards in the Conservative Mennonite Conference and at Rosedale Bible Institute (College). He supported his community through volunteering with Hospice and The House of Yoder.

Paul wrote the following as an introduction of him self in The House of Yoder Newsletter, July 2009:

Involvement in The House of Yoder organization has provided much enjoyment and many challenges. According to the purposes as outlined by the founders of the organization, there is a mission to fulfill both new and in future generations.

In a day of modern inventions, we need reminders of how the pioneers "roughed" it. In a day of wastefulness, we need reminders of examples of thrift and saving. In a day of modern conveniences, we need reminders of the hard work necessary for pioneers. In a day of hand outs, we need reminders that the world does not owe us a living. And lest we forget, we need reminders of how we all need the Lord."



Paul's family

Front row: John, Eli (Father), Amanda (Mother)

Second row: Elizabeth, Lena, Mabel, Edna

Third row: Ernest, Paul, Henry

**DR. OMAR C. YODER YR26118434**



\*OMAR YODER

Dr. Omar C. Yoder (YR26118434) born November 2, 1935, died February 20, 2015. He was the son of George Ernest Yoder and Lena (Bender) Yoder. Omar was born near Salisbury, PA on a dairy farm that his father bought from his father-in-law, Christian W. Bender on Oak Dale Road.

Omar attended school through the eighth grade and then helped on the family farm. Several years later he received his high school equivalent diploma for his admission to college.

"O.C. Yoder, age 79, passed away on February 20, 2015. Born to the late Ernest and Lena Yoder, he grew up in western Pennsylvania. After graduating with a Ph.D. in Biochemistry, he was an avid researcher in various biomedical fields for many years. He is survived by his beloved wife, Helen, a brother, David Yoder; his sisters Miriam (Tom) Lindeman, Ida Yoder, Eleanor (Ralph) Nucelli, and Freda Yoder; a sister Delilah is missing. Also surviving are three nephews and a niece. He was predeceased by a brother, Richard Yoder."

"THE FREDERICK NEWS-POST" Frederick, MD February 24, 2015.

**DR. DELMAR RAY YODER(YR 23374f51)**

"Delmar Ray Yoder, 83, of Goshen Road, Morgantown, WV, died Jan. 30, 2015 in Bali, Indonesia. Hiking in the green hills near Ubud, he slipped at the rim of a deep ravine and was killed instantly.

Delmar was born December 13, 1931 in Kalona, Iowa. He was preceded in death by his parents, Daniel Samuel Yoder(YR23374f5) (Honey Dan) and Fannie (Beachy) Yoder, a



Delmar and Linda Yoder, hosting The House of Yoder October 4, 2014.

grand daughter of Samuel J. Beachy (BC184) "Reva Pap" or "River Dad" and Elizabeth Yoder (YR23378). He is survived by his wife, Linda Kathryn Yoder; three sons Michael Scott and wife, Katrina of New York City; Karl Bruce and wife, Marina Memmo of Stoneham, Massachusetts; and Donovan Erik of Morgantown, WV. Four grandchildren; Lauren Mica, Noa Kathryn, Erminia Grace and Eli Domenico.

Delmar's wife, Linda Kathryn is a granddaughter of John Harvey Yoder (YR81181) and Lydia Irene (Hertzler) Yoder, through their son Lauren Aquilla Yoder and his wife Nina Viola (Steman) Yoder.

An early volunteer experience at Calling Lake, Alberta, Canada, set a pattern for his life. After receiving a degree in biology in 1961, from Eastern Mennonite University, Delmar and his wife went to Timor, Indonesia, where they managed a program of village-level agricultural education and community development. This program had the remarkable success of introducing a high-yield corn seed in such a way that the typical early season food shortage was almost entirely eliminated.

Del earned his M.S. and Ph.D. degrees at the University of Wisconsin before going to work at Iowa State University as a Extension Community and Economic Development Specialist. His next appointment was at West Virginia University in a similar role. He worked throughout the state, helping rural and small town residents develop opportunities in their own communities.



During the years in West Virginia, Delmar created Owl Creek Farm, where he did mixed farming, and rescued and restored old log buildings, but was best known for his strawberries.

He was a member of the Clinton District Volunteer Fire Department. He was an officer in the Community Development Society, a member of the rural Sociological Society, active in the North American Strawberry Growers Association, and a regular participant in the Creative Problem-Solving Institute. He was a life member of the Mennonite Church.

His commitment to peace and social justice was unwavering. In 1996, he was invited by the Mennonite Central Committee to lead a seven-month study program with eight young people from four countries, studying the peace tradition of India, Indonesia and native America. In 2006, following the Asia tsunami, he worked seven months in Aceh, Indonesia, as interim director of an aid program.

A remembrance service was held in Bali, on February 3, 2015, attended by friends from many nations, followed by a cremation. A celebration of his life will be scheduled later in Morgantown, West Virginia. "

"THE DOMINION POST" Friday, February 6, 2015 Morgantown, WV

Pictured on page 8, is Delmar, holding a copy of *The House of Yoder Newsletter, June 2013*, featuring his Uncle, Jacob Yoder and wife, Fannie Yoder.

#### SPRING CLEANING AT THE HOUSE OF YODER!

Saturday, May 16, 2015 found several Board of Directors of The House, busy cleaning the inside and outside of The House. New mulch was added, while some trees were pruned or cut down. Lots of work, but made enjoyable by the friendly group.



Pictured above : seated Esta Yoder , standing Doris Ours, cleaning items in the dry sink. While, pictured below: Isolde (Yoder) Porter, Board of Director Treasurer on left, along with her friend, Debbie Zimmers, from Berlin, PA clean the apartment kitchen.



Pictured below: Mark Yoder, Keith Yoder and Harvey Yoder, Board of Directors, working on a tree.



### ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Saturday, April 25, 2015 The House of Yoder Board of Directors held their meeting, electing officers for the up coming year.

President:	Dan Yoder, Sr.
Vice President:	Doris Ours
Treasure:	Isolde Yoder Porter
Secretary:	Mayla Yoder

### HOUSE OF YODER HOSTING PROGRAM

The House of Yoder opened for the season on May 22, 2015, with Bill and Patricia Strunk, of Alden, NY serving as our hosts. There are a few weeks available if you would be interested in serving as a host. If you wouldn't be interested in a week, day hosting is needed also. If you have never hosted before, please don't let that dissuade you from trying! There is information available to help you learn about The House, and our Board Members are very willing to help you. If you would be interested, please call me (Mayla) at 814-267-3383.

More about Phyllis Weaver-Hearn..written about herself.

"I was born, reluctantly, on a bitter cold, stormy winter night (actually at midnight) in Springs, PA on Feb 6, 1924. We lived in Springs for 3 1/2 years where my Livengood Grandparents lived on the other side of a double house that had a lovely wraparound porch. I have always felt that everyone needed at least one person to "spoil" them. Grandmother Livengood was that person for me. My name for her was "Mam-moo" and after a visit to my Grandmother Yoder in Pinto, I called her "Mrs. Mam moo." After we moved to Pinto, my Grandparents would come to visit. Mother told me that when I would see them coming I would jump about and say, "Oh, here comes Mam-moo. Now I can do anything I want." Until she died in

1932, I visited her in the summer and was pampered all over again.

In 1927 we moved to Pinto, MD and the "Yoder Compound" in a beautiful mountain-ringed valley on the Potomac River.

During those early Pinto days, I had many health problems—from yellow jaundice (now hepatitis)—through all the childhood diseases, including scarlet fever—all severe. Nose bleeds that would not stop so the Doctor would come in the middle of the night (9 miles) to pack my nose—so extreme anemia resulted. I had ear aches so awful that for a time I could not hear. Dr. Bowen told Mother that it was only because of the special care I received that I survived those early years. And then a surprise —when I was almost 7, through the intervention of a chiropractor there was a miraculous reversal—from all of this to exceptionally good health now and ever more.

In Pinto I grew up in the heart of an extended family. Grandparents at the top of the hill—Uncle, Aunts, and cousins side by side on "Maple Lane." My Grandfather farmed and he allowed all of us (his grandchildren) to "help". We rode the hay wagons, played in the barn, jumped in the hay, played in the grain bins, climbed the silo (full or empty), fed chickens, and gathered eggs, got in the way when they butchered, helped "bring in" the cows, practiced milking on a very patient cow named Front. And he teased us—he had time for us. It was always "open-house" at our Grandparents and Uncles/Aunts homes. We were included in the adult activities. Sunday picnics, where the adults played ball with the kids, impromptu evening picnics where the Lane families ate on the lawn, winter sleigh rides, 9 miles to the Dayton cousins, yes, even on school nights. They ice skated with us—my dad taught me on the "island" inlet that first cold moonlight night. He knew how to have fun with us. He took us on fast rides across roller coaster country roads—we would see who could stand up the longest in the back seat. The highlight of the trip to Springs was "the thrill" over the old stone bridge at Grantsville,—close to being airborne



My playmates were for the most part boys—so I climbed trees to the top until my head stuck out above the leaves because they did, I played ball with stoved fingers that earned me the censure of my piano teacher. We roller skated on the long walks and the hill and in the winter, sledged on the state road down the lane. We played football and made dams in the creek that ran through the meadow. I rode my Kiddie Kar with the boys. They made a noise like a motor, but the best I could manage was a “booden-booden” so I was forever disgraced. While all of this tom-boy activity was taking place, my Mother at her “wits end” about the wear and tear on my dresses, decided I should wear pants. That was unheard of for girls then. Even so, I wore knickers that fit snugly just above my knee—but she allowed me to wear shoe because I hated to go barefooted.

We also had a country store with a Post Office. Marvelous 1 cent candy— 5 cent pop, only in Maryland, it was called “tonic.”

Mother decreed that I should take piano lessons when I reached the age of nine. In one way, all the lessons were to no avail because I did not have the talent needed to really be an accomplished artist, but I will be forever grateful for the pressures applied for it gave to me my understanding and love of music that has been such an enriching part of my life. Then there were the recitals—every year. At several of the recitals, Doris, who is almost 7 years younger than I, would sing to my accompaniment—“Little Man, You’ve Had a Busy Day” was one of our renditions.

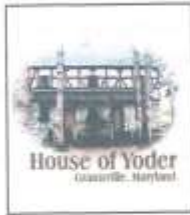
Church—Probably the biggest single influence in our family. It was the first priority. We attended every thing—all of us. The young people had a mission study class. We learned about the countries of our missions abroad and often met the missionaries. Summer Bible School was a event for the whole community. This small church enrolled over 400 students. Teachers came from other states and stayed with families for the two weeks. The music and program for the final night, when the community came, was a major undertaking. It was a 2 week, small town extravaganza.

We often had Sunday guests for dinner because visitors at church were invited home with us. Mother always put a beef roast “on” before church. I never smell the aroma of roasting beef without remembering my home on Sunday and the graciousness of that hospitality. The first church was built in 1926. The Yoder and Blaich families (my Grandmother Yoder and her sister’s family, the Blaich’s) started the church, so we were all related. Most of the people they married became Mennonites. My Dad was the Deacon. I was “converted” in 1933 when I was 9, during an all day meeting on Thanksgiving. My Dad was most often in charge of music at the church and also for special music—quintets, choruses, etc. The practices were at our house. Many nights we children went to bed to the sounds of those practice sessions.

My School Years began at Cresaptown Elementary and Junior High School, one of the first consolidated schools in Allegheny County, Maryland. There were around 500 students. In Junior High I was the pianist for Friday assemblies. In the 9th grade I was May Queen. May Queen at Cresaptown were chosen by three criteria—scholastic standing, deportment, and health. Two of us were tied—we tied scholastically. I won health, and she won on deportment. (I never did learn to be quiet). So there was a vote taken among the student to break the tie. I tied for second place scholastically at graduation with the same girl.

Then a major step. My parents decided I should go to Harrisonburg, Virginia, to Eastern Mennonite School instead of one of the Cumberland High Schools. High school and junior college shared the same professors and enjoyed a very high scholastic rating. It was dormitory living and for the first time, I was on my own. It was 1940.”

The alpha-numerical identification are from Gingerich and Kreider: Amish and Amish Mennonite Genealogies.



The House of Yoder Newsletter is published by The House of Yoder, Inc., Grantsville, MD 21536, located 1/2 mile east of Grantsville, MD, on Route 40 East, at Penn Alps Restaurant and Spruce Forest Artisan Village. President: Daniel Yoder, Sr.; Vice President: Doris Ours; Treasurer: Isolde Porter. Secretary: Mayla H. Yoder. Board Members: Mark H. Yoder, Harvey L. Yoder, Esta Yoder, Keith Yoder. Associate Member: Benny C. Yoder, Honorary Member, Gerald A. Yoder. Editor: Mayla H. Yoder

**The House of Yoder Membership:**

Make check payable to "**The House Of Yoder**" mail to Mayla H. Yoder Membership Coordinator 2274 Salco Road Berlin, PA 15530

	1 Year	5 Years	Lifetime
Individual	\$25.00	\$100.00	\$1,000.00
Couple	\$35.00	\$150.00	\$1,500.00

**The House of Yoder Newsletter**

%Mayla H. Yoder, Editor

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