



# The House Of Yoder Newsletter Summer 2020

## WINDSTORM CHANGES LANDSCAPE AT THE HOUSE OF YODER

In the early hours of Wednesday April 8, 2020 a possible tornado touched down in the Spruce Forest Artisan Village. Many of the old tall Norway Spruce trees, estimated to be over 100 feet tall were destroyed. Tops of the trees were torn off and blown many feet away. Several trees were uprooted. Several of the cabins in the village were also damaged, some being destroyed. The House of Yoder received damage to the roof, front entrance and chimney. Broadwater Trees Service, of Grantsville, MD began cutting up and hauling out the downed trees and branches later that same day. A total of 46 trees were removed from the Spruce Forest Artisan Village.



The House of Yoder with trees blown onto the roof.



Trees blown on to the west side of The House.

Pictures taken April 8, 2020



The front porch of The House of Yoder.





The view from the front door of The House of Yoder.

Pictures taken April 8, 2020



Looking toward Penn Alps Restaurant from the second floor of The House



Looking towards Penn Alps Restaurant. Notice the uprooted trees and destroyed cabin.

Pictures taken April 8, 2020



From the second floor window, looking east, towards Penn Alps Restaurant.





From the Penn Alps Restaurant parking lot, looking south west towards The House



From the Route 40 parking lot, looking towards the village.



From Penn Alps Restaurant, looking towards The House of Yoder

Photograph taken Wednesday, May 20, 2020



From the north west corner of The House of Yoder, looking toward the Spruce forest Village and Penn Alps Restaurant





“ Now an integral part of the Penn Alps Campus, Spruce Forest grew as the vision to provide a facility for craftspeople and visitors was fulfilled. When the Blocher’s obtained ownership of the old inn (present day Penn Alps) in 1924, operating as the Dixie Tavern, they planted 144 Norway spruce trees between the tress of an old apple orchard and kept silver foxes in cages in the shaded grove. When Penn Alps acquired the property the dead apple trees were weeded out and Penn Alps moved the first building into what is now known as Spruce Forest Artisan Village” (Written by Harriet Berg) The Casselman Chronicle Vol. XLIX Spruce Forest will never look the same again, with the tall stately Norway spruce trees and several of the cabins gone. Mother Nature pulled a pretty hard punch, but preliminary plans are being made for replacing some of the buildings, new covered bridge entrance, and re-planting trees. Repairs to The House of Yoder is being done by Mossy Horn Construction co-owned by Brad Maust, a great, great grandson of Christian Yoder (Yankee Christ) (YR261184) and “Sonny” Lavern Miller, a great grandson of Lewis S. Yoder (YR2611912). Repair work on the house should begin the week of June 15, 2020. Estimated costs of repairs: \$13,500.00, with 50% down payment, which has already been paid. Remainder to be paid at completion of repairs. Twelve thousand dollars was paid to Broadwater Tree Service by our insurance company for removing the trees that were blown onto The House. A heartfelt Thank You to all that donated money to The House. Over \$11,000.00 was donated enabling us to pay the \$1,000.00 deductible and 20% of the repair bill and monthly expenses until The House can open to visitors. The House can’t open until Penn Alps and Spruce Forest Artisan Village open. Tours are available upon request by calling Jim Yoder at 1-240-727-1073 or Mayla Yoder at 814-279-2787.

## PROGRESS AT SPRUCE FOREST AND THE HOUSE OF YODER



Repair work begins on The House of Yoder.

Photographs taken June 24, 2020

BYCO Construction is digging out the stumps and hauling in fill dirt in the Spruce Forest Artisan Village.





## IN MEMORIAM



Martha (Heany) and L. Merrill Yoder

Marth H. (Heany) Yoder, 88, passed away June 5, 2020 at home. She was a life-long resident of Franconia Township, PA and resided her entire life on the family farm. She and her husband, L. Merrill Yoder, would have observed their 69th wedding anniversary on December 25th of this year.

Born at home on November 5, 1931, she was a daughter of Henry G. and Helen (Fluck) Heany. She was a 1948 graduate of Souderton High School. She was a proud homemaker

but also worked for a period of time with the Farm Bureau.

Mrs. Yoder was a very devoted life-long member of Christ Reformed Church at Indian Creek where she taught Sunday school and served as the Sunday school superintendent. She was also a member of the Missions Committee, Board of Christian Education, and the Outreach Committee. She was secretary of the Pennsylvania Southeast Conference of United Church of Christ where she was a member of the Theology Committee.

Mrs. Yoder had a strong interest in history. She was a member of the Goschenhoppen Historians and volunteered and served as a tour guide for the Yoder House in Grantsville, MD. Her other interests included baking, canning, cooking and tending to her vegetables and flower gardens. Her greatest love was for her family and she was deeply devoted to her husband, children and grandchildren.

In addition to her husband, she is survived by three children, David Yoder and his wife Maryjane, of Franconia, PA Linda Covell and her husband, Todd of Lower Salford, PA and Brian Yoder and his wife, Brandy of Franconia, PA; nine grandchildren, Joshua, Michael, Jennifer, Matthew, Jacob, Bailey, Olivia, Levi, and Samuel, and one great grandchild, Paisley. She is also survived by her brother-in-law, Joseph Edsall. Mrs. Yoder was preceded in death by a sister, Marlene Edsall

Martha and her husband, L. Merrill (YB1395344) were very loyal hosts at The House of Yoder for many years. Merrill and his son Brian, built and installed the windows for The House. For Martha and Merrill's story, see [The House of Yoder Newsletter, October 2009.](#)



L. Merrill and Martha (Heany) Yoder

## IN REMEMBRANCE

### “My Aunt Ellen”

by Heidi M. Yoder



Ellen (Yoder) Yoder

“Ellen was a favorite to nieces, nephews and friends. Though she had no children of her own, to many hers was a second home. When I was little Ellen was my “substitute mommy.” I was her “Heichi bum Beichi” (from a German song). Ellen had a wonderful sense of humor and a ready laugh. She loved sharing stories.

In addition to the farm Ellen had a huge garden. Cucumbers and tomatoes were on the table for every meal (in season). The earthworms were more fun than finding potatoes when we helped dig them in the fall. Ellen was a great cook and quickly put a meal together. If the vet or someone was at the farm they were usually invited in (she regretted if she was busy and didn’t think of it until later). Ellen loved to bake and had plenty of homemade cookies and candies stored on the back (closed in) porch. Her candy dishes at family gatherings were a hit.

Ellen truly had the gift of hospitality and everyone felt welcome. Family and friends stayed for days, weeks, summers or even a school year. When my parents (Kenneth & Ruth) went to Germany ... 2-3 of my siblings and I would be there for two to three weeks. We would tell Ellen we were coming before mom had a chance to ask her. Often others were there at the same time. She always found room for one more (even making a dresser drawer into a bed for my baby brother).

Ellen had endurance as five people hammered on the piano at once or made really creative sandwiches for supper. Occasionally she would have enough and kindly, but firmly, ask us to quiet down. Ellen rarely scolded, but if she did we knew it was serious.

Over the years we made many friends through Edgar and Ellen – like one big, extended family. They treasured those who stayed in contact and returned with families to experience the farm and warm fellowship. In later years any time I stopped in they would show pictures and tell me who they heard from.”



## OBITUARY FOR ELLEN VELORA (YODER) YODER

“Ellen Velora (Yoder) Yoder 82, of Grantsville, MD died Thursday, May 21, 2020 at Goodwill Mennonite Home, Grantsville.

Born October 25, 1937 in Grantsville, she was the daughter of the late Alvin H. and Martha (Maust) Yoder.

She was also preceded in death by her husband, Edgar Roy Yoder

Yoder on June 15, 2019, whom she married on November 27, 1958; two sisters, Ruth Tice and Mary Opel; and one sister-in-law, Mary Yoder.

Mrs. Yoder was a retired dairy farmers, a homemaker and had also worked at the Casselman Restaurant. She was a member of the Maple Glen Mennonite Church, where she taught Sunday school and bible school.

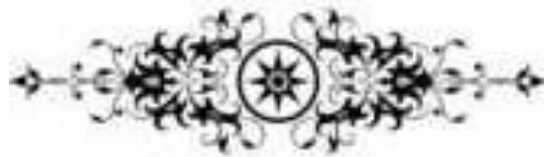
Ellen was one of the sweetest, most giving, selfless people, she never complained or criticized. She was wonderful aunt, who always had a bright smile and a kind word.

She is survived by six brothers, Clark (Vera) Yoder, Salisbury, PA; Kenneth (Ruth) , Roman Yoder, Ezra (Mary) all of Grantsville, MD: Mark (Mayla), Berlin, PA: one sister, Cora Anna (Marvin) Yoder, Salisbury, PA: and one brother-in-law, Don Opel, Grantsville, MD. Internment will be in the Maple Glen Cemetery.”

In 1996, after some plans for The House of Yoder had been made, Edgar was asked to be Board member, he was then elected treasurer. Ellen helped with writing checks and keeping the treasurer books.



Edgar Roy Yoder (YR261821111) and Ellen (Yoder) (YR261191436)Yoder

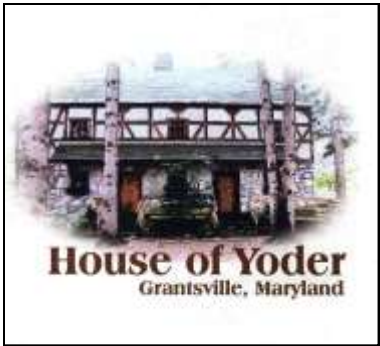


The House of Yoder Newsletter

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The House of Yoder Member ship:

Make check payable to “The House of Yoder” and mail to Mayla H. Yoder 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