

You Can Go Home Again

by Anne Cosper, Editor

Note: This piece originally was published in the June 2006 issue of Friends of the Bloomsburg Public Library Newsletter.

"I haven't seen that since 1952!" This was my brother's comment on seeing the wallpaper in our childhood home. The big, tropical flowers in shades of purple and mauve would qualify as "retro" now, but it wasn't old enough to be considered cool in the 50's. Retro or not, the wallpaper was uncovered during renovations to the 1871 brick house.

Recently purchased, the new owners were gracious enough to let my brother see the work in progress. It wasn't long before more of the family, three generations worth, imposed on them. My daughter treated the house as if it were a shrine, taking in with awe our former bedrooms, the radiator that was struck by lightning, and yes, the wallpaper.

It is said that you can't go home again. Perhaps the same is true for books. As many times as I've read *Pride and Prejudice*, it is never as sweet as the first time, when Elizabeth and Darcy's fate was

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Hickory Run: The Geological Phenomenon Next Door

by Lisa Chernesky

Water trickles into a cracked surface. When it freezes, the expanding ice widens the fissure and more water runs in. The cycle repeats until the pressure of the ice breaks a chunk free from the original surface. This description sounds like the birth of a pothole that Pennsylvania drivers have learned to despise. Actually, it's a simplified explanation of the freeze-thaw process that helped form the boulder field located in Hickory Run State Park.

The Boulder Field is a 400 feet wide by 1000 long, by 10 deep collection of sandstone boulders mixed with the occasional conglomerate stone. The boulders range in size from a few inches to 25 feet.

During the last ice age, the Laurentide Continental Glacier moved progressively south to cover two-thirds of North America. It spread over one-third of Pennsylvania, in the northwestern and northeastern corners. It stopped near, but never moved into, what is now the Boulder Field. The close proximity of the glacier helped keep the average yearly temperature low enough to repeat the freeze-thaw process.

Spread across the northern part of the continent, and most of Pennsylvania, boulder fields formed along the perimeter of the glacier. After the glacier receded, soil and wind erosion, decayed vegetation and other debris, along with growing forests have covered or destroyed most boulder fields. The Hickory Run Boulder Field is one of the few that remain. In 1967 it was designated as a National Natural Landmark by the Department of the Interior.

Tucked in the northeastern corner of Hickory Run Park, the Boulder

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Public Performance Schedule

July 3, Eagles Mere Country Club Concert, 7:00 p.m.

July 4, Millville Independence Day Parade, 10:30 a.m.

July 4, Bloomsburg Fireworks Concert (Town Park) 8:00 p.m.

July 10, Lightstreet Fireman's and Pet Parade, 6:30 p.m.

July 24, Orangeville Pet Parade, 7:00 p.m.

Aug. 2, Bloomsburg Town Park Ice Cream Festival Concert 6:00 p.m.

Aug. 4, Benton Fireman's Parade, 5:30 p.m.

Aug. 7, Millville Park Concert (H.S. Auditorium, if Rain), 7:00 p.m.

Aug. 10, Orangeville Masonic Festival Concert, 6:00 p.m.

Aug. 11, CARA Park Concert, 5:00 p.m.

Aug. 14, Danville Park Concert (Grove Presbyterian Church, if Rain), 7:00 p.m.

Coming Events

Aug. 16, 5:30 p.m., Touch of Brass at the Berwick Ice Cream Festival, City Hall Lawn.

Sept. 9, 3:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m., Concerts by the Mid-Penn Band, main bandshell, Knoebel's, Elysburg. The Mid-Penn Band is comprised of musicians from area bands including the Danville Community Band, Sunbury City Band, Repasz Band and the Scottish Rite Imperial Teteque Band, both from Williamsport, and the Catawissa Military Band.

Kiwanis Summer Playground June 25 - July 27

FREE

**Supervised play and
activities for children
K - 5th grade**

**Weekdays
9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.**

**Bloomsburg Memorial
Elementary School**

Lunch sponsored by

**Tapestry of Health
Bloomsburg School
District**

**Bloomsburg Food
Cupboard**

Submissions or comments may be sent to the Editor at delta2@ptd.net or Stevan Galbreath at sagalbreath@hotmail.com.

Written material may be given to Stevan Galbreath.

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Independence Day Quiz

Compiled by Stevan Galbreath

1. Continental Congress President John Hancock signed his name to the Declaration of Independence larger than normal for what reason?
2. How many members of Congress signed the Declaration on July 4, 1776?
3. True or false: George Washington was a signer of the Declaration of Independence.
4. Who was the New Jersey signer that is now believed to have designed the U.S. flag? (Hint: It's not Betsy Ross)
5. True or false: The Liberty Bell was cracked while being rung on July 4, 1776.
6. Three Presidents have died on July 4th, John Adams and Thomas Jefferson within hours of each other in 1826, who was the third?
7. During the Civil War, Confederate forces defending what city surrendered on July 4, 1863, in the belief that they would receive better terms on the holiday?

Quiz answers on page three.

DID YOU KNOW

American independence was actually voted on July 2, not July 4. The resolution that "...these colonies are and, of right, ought to be free and independent states..." was introduced to Congress by Richard Henry Lee on June 7, 1776. It was intermittently debated over the next three weeks and passed on July 2 -- a date which John Adams wrote would be celebrated with "...parade, with shows, games, sports, guns, bells, bonfires and illuminations from one end of this continent to the other from this time forward..."

As it happened, the text of the Declaration of Independence was debated for another two days and passed on July 4th. The fourth became the celebrated date of independence the following year (1777) when Congress forgot to provide for a commemoration on the second and hastily patched together a ceremony two days later. Since then, July 4 has generally been assumed to be Independence Day.

Stevan Galbreath

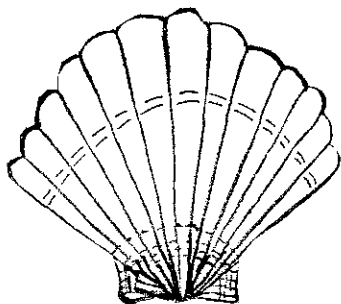
Home Cont.

uncertain. *Heart of Darkness* has lost some of its edge, since Marlow's true character has been revealed, and, no matter how much I root for Holden (Caulfield), he never gets it together.

Although the experience of discovering a favorite novel cannot be recaptured, it is interesting to see how one's perspective and attitude towards a book can change over the years. Characters I hated the first time around have often become sympathetic, and new layers of meaning, like the wallpaper, are revealed.

I call it the "Romeo and Juliet Syndrome." Most people encounter *Romeo and Juliet* when they are young, and their sympathies usually lie with the misunderstood lovers. That's how it was for me, at least until I became a parent. BTE's production was an opportunity to revisit the play, but all I could think of during the performance was "They should've listened to their parents." Funny how things change.

But change isn't always bad. Places, as well as, books can be revisited. It has been 18 years since the family home was sold to a couple who let it fall into disrepair. I'm pleased that the house is finally being maintained and renovated and look forward to "reading" this classic in a new way.



Phenomenon Cont.

Field is an interesting place to visit. High gas prices have families looking for nearby vacation options. About 50 miles east of Bloomsburg, Hickory Run is an inexpensive outing. The only charges are for overnight camping. There are more than 40 miles of hiking trails ranging from easy to difficult. Adventurous types can hike a 3 mile (one way) trail.

After swimming in Sand Spring Lake, visitors can use one of the park grills to cook -- bring your own charcoal and steaks. Capable fishermen can catch a meal in one of several trout streams. With more than 400 picnic tables, seating is always available.

To get to Hickory Run, follow I-80 to Hickory Run exit 274. Travel hint: pick-up I-80 by following PA 93 South from Berwick to avoid construction near the Mifflinville exit. Follow PA 534 East for six miles to the park. Stop by the park office for a free recreational guide to the area. It has an interesting history of the region, that includes information about Native Americans and the Revolutionary War -- you might even find out why the first colonists called the area "Shades of Death."

NOTES

Thanks are given to Ella Kile for donating a series of digital photographs of the band taken at the three Memorial Day ceremonies.

The CMB Newsletter is now available on a subscription basis to non-band members who make a donation to the band. The donation will be used to cover printing and mailing costs. Contact Stevan Galbreath, manager, for information at sagalbreath@hotmail.com.

Quiz Answers

1. So King George III could read it without his glasses.
2. Two. The original manuscript (now lost) was signed by President John Hancock and Secretary Charles Thomson. The official parchment copy on display in the National Archives was signed by 55 delegates between August and November 1776.
3. False. He had resigned from Congress to serve as Commander in Chief of the Army.
4. Francis Hopkinson.
5. False. It was cracked tolling for the funeral of Chief Justice John Marshall in 1835.
6. James Monroe in 1831.
7. Vicksburg, Mississippi -- they did receive generous terms.

Visit the Catawissa Military Band Website at: www.geocities.com/greg_bitler/

For the Record: Early Sound Recording

by Stevan Galbreath, Asst. Editor

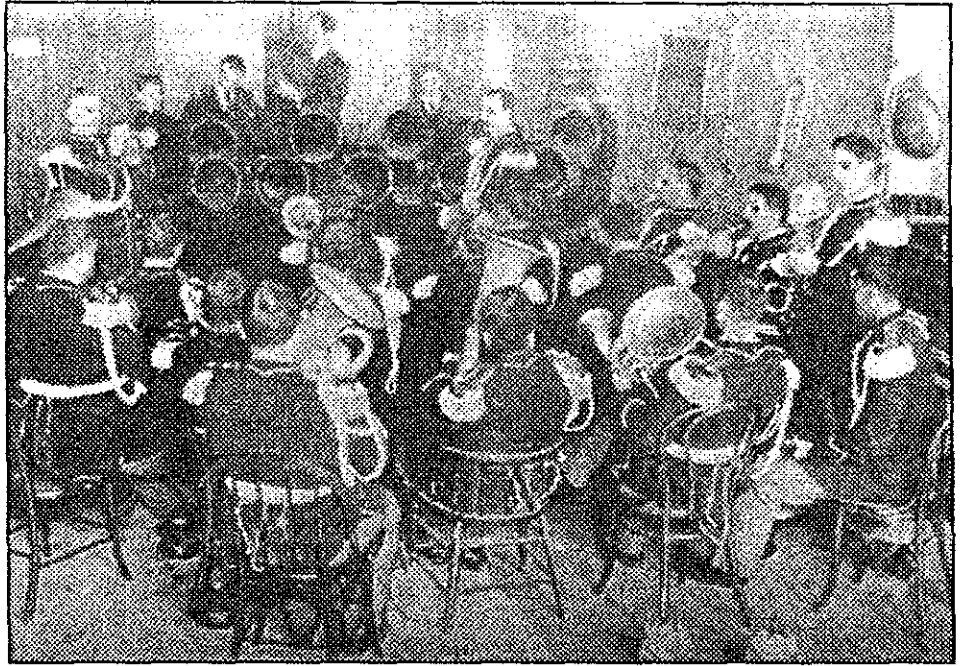
The inspiration for this article came from watching the film *North to Alaska* (1960). Set in 1900 during the gold rush, one scene featured a cylinder phonograph playing a Blue Amberol record. At that point, the anachronism alarm went off. Blue Amberol (a type of celluloid) was not used in record manufacture until 1912 -- close, but no cigar.

Beginning in the 1850s, various inventors began the pursuit of sound recording and reproduction. Early on, the preferred method of recording was a stylus attached to a vibrating diaphragm that inscribed a groove in pliable material. Finding a suitable material that would both hold and replay the signal was the single greatest obstacle. It wasn't until Thomas Edison hit on tin foil in 1877 that replay became possible.

Edison's original phonograph was developed to record and play back telephone messages. He used a tin foil strip attached to a metal drum as the recording medium. Tin foil had its limitations. It would either tear or wear down after a few plays and, once removed from the drum, could not be reinstalled. There are numerous existing tinfoil recordings made in the 1880s that still cannot be played, even with today's digital technology.

After a brief flurry of activity, Edison put aside the phonograph to work on other projects. His reinterest was jump-started when Alexander Graham Bell developed a hard wax cylinder that could be replayed multiple times. Bell then organized the Columbia Phonograph Co. (after his Washington, D.C., research lab) and began marketing recordings as an entertainment medium. Edison was forced to play catch-up and, by 1890, he and Columbia were in direct competition.

Generally, Edison led the way in technological innovation while Columbia was more effective at promotion and marketing. One of Columbia's early successes was sign-



1891 Marine Band Recording Session

The group of sixteen appears to be tuning as the solo cornet is facing away from the recording horns and the unidentified conductor standing by (Sousa did not conduct any Marine Band sessions at Columbia Records). Note the bank of recording horns and the spiked helmets -- the spikes were removed for the 1952 film *The Stars and Stripes Forever* (a relatively minor point in a seemingly endless parade of inaccuracies).

ing the Marine Band to a contract. It was found that brass-heavy band arrangements of orchestra music had a superior sound. This was because the brasses and high woodwinds were better able to power the mechanical recording diaphragms than string instruments.

Since there was no way to mold a wax cylinder without creating a seam, each record was directly cut on a recorder. This meant the performers had to play multiple takes in front of a bank of up to 24 recording horns. Because of the different position of each horn, every record made had a slightly different sound.

Wax cylinders were good for between 30 and 40 plays and, when worn out, could be returned to the store for credit. Sometimes they were smoothed over and used to make personal recordings (most early players could also record).

Cylinder records had no place to attach a label, so they were usually self-announced. An assistant engineer would shout the title, composer and performer into each individual

recording horn before the take began. In later years, molded cylinders had the title placed on the rim which ended self-announcing.

By the early 20th century, disc records were well on the way to replacing cylinders. Invented by Emil Berliner in 1897, disc technology was significantly cheaper. The players were mechanically less complex while the shellac records were more durable and easily mass produced.

Edison attempted to recover his lost market share in 1912 with the release of Blue Amberol cylinders. They were molded celluloid with much better fidelity and durability than even shellac records. Although Blue Amberol became the industry standard for cylinders (witness their use in historic films), the public had already gone over to discs. However, Edison continued to make cylinders available to an ever shrinking market until closing his record business in October 1929 -- the day before the stock market crash.

Photo credit: *The Phonogram* (1891)