



January 2016

A TRIBUTE TO MY FATHER, TOMMY FISHER

Tammy Fisher

This is a tribute to my father, Tommy Fisher, who recently passed away. He resided at 11 E. Main Street for 35 years. He was born in Council Bluffs, Iowa in 1931. At 16, he took a job with a construction company specializing in large cement projects such as dams and bridges. He became the superintendent and was in charge of the dive team. He worked mainly on the east coast, and even completed a hanger for one of Jacques Cousteau's submarines. Traveling from job to job with a family was difficult, so he decided to settle in the Chester/Berks county area. The rolling farmland reminded him of Iowa. The first property he bought in Honey Brook had a store front. He opened an antique shop and lived there for 7 years.

I will never forget when he bought the home in Elverson. He had been looking for a location with traffic to open up another antique shop. He couldn't wait to show me the new house. He obviously had a vision that I couldn't see. All I saw was a canary yellow stucco home with a crooked front porch! To top it off, there was no indoor plumbing or heating, and for a teenage girl that was a huge problem! The house needed a lot of interior and exterior structural work. In time, the house would be his greatest accomplishment.

As well as working on the house, Dad never missed going to auctions on Saturdays, and selling them at the Black Angus on Sundays. I would make sure to visit on the weekends so I could tag along; I shared his love for antiques. He had a true appreciation for the craftsmanship of fine antiques, especially locally made furniture. He could look at a piece of furniture and know where, when, and how it was constructed.

He also collected paintings and pottery by local artists. In search of antiques, he canvased Lancaster County knocking on doors, leaving business cards, and talking with people. Coming home with a van load of furniture was what he loved to do.

His small wood working shop was modest. Most of his wood working was done with simple hand tools. Repairing, refinishing, and restoring his antique furniture was probably his greatest talent. In the evenings Dad could be found in his wood shop sanding, stripping, and staining his furniture while listening to country music.



I will miss going to the Black Angus with Dad. It didn't seem like work—more like a gathering of friends,

telling jokes, and catching up with each other. You never knew what or who you would see there. He had the pleasure of selling a cupboard to Meatloaf (the musician), a corner cupboard to Dick Vermeil, and a continuous arm Windsor chair to Harrison Ford. Harrison spent some time talking with Dad, explaining that his father was a chair maker, so he appreciated this particular chair. Harrison was filming a movie in Lancaster, and wanted to know if Dad had any other chairs like the one he had purchased. Harrison came to Elverson by Limo and bought another chair!

Dad was witty, and quick with a joke. I will miss his smile and humor most of all. He loved spending his time talking with old friends and going to auctions. Most of all he loved being home. I think the best tribute to my Dad would be to think of him every time you see the house on the corner, I know I will.

MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY
OF THE BOROUGH OF ELVERSON
2016 ADOPTED RATE INCREASE

HOW WELL DO YOU KNOW
ELVERSON BOROUGH?

Jody Phillips

To Our Customers:

After careful review, the Municipal Authority Board has authorized a rate increase to be effective for the 1st Quarter of 2016. The rate will increase from \$192.00 per Quarter (\$768.00 per year) to **\$198.00 per Quarter** (\$792.00 per year). Reservation fees will increase from \$69.00 per Quarter (\$276.00 per year) to \$72.00 per quarter (288.00 per year). The Tapping Fee will increase from \$5,000 to \$6,000.

This increase is due to the ever-rising costs for operations and engineering support to operate our treatment plant and support our rate payers. We continually strive for cost savings and avoidance measures to keep these increases to a minimum.

Proper operation of the Wastewater Treatment Plant remains the top priority. Customer payments support the service that is provided to you as a homeowner and is also an investment in maintaining our sewer system. No customers connected to the sewer system are exempt from payment. Thankfully, the majority of our customers pay in a timely manner and we appreciate that.

MABE Board meetings are open to the public and are held on the last Tuesday of the month at 7:00 pm at Borough Hall.

The Board Members currently serving the Municipal Authority are:

Rick Shaw – Chairman
Floyd Jennelle – Vice Chairman
Darrell Gible – Secretary
Mike Popow – Treasurer
Jose Colon – Board Member

Sincerely,
The MABE Board



Christmas trees will be picked up with the regular trash during the month of January.



Stoltzfus Realtors Office

Congratulations to Bob Corcoran, who was the only person who identified the attic windows on the house pictured in the last Elverson Borough Newsletter as being on the front roof dormer of the Stoltzfus Enterprises, Ltd. Realtors Office at 162 E. Main Street. He lives on Derby Drive in Summerfield so the house is right across the street from his, but all Summerfield and Parkside residents have access to a lovely photo of this house on the back cover of their Summerfield & Parkside 2016 Directory. Bob described these windows as “eyebrow windows.”

This stately building is a two-story home with a cast stone-faced concrete exterior. Designed by HG Mohn of Mohnnton, it was built in 1924 by the Seal family. In addition to the roof dormer, an inviting front porch with sturdy concrete columns and a sun parlor in the rear add to the exterior ambiance. Beautiful hardwood oak floors, antique stained molding, numerous large windows and a brick fireplace give the interior an elegant feel. The property was added to the National Register of Historic Homes in 1993.

In 1997, Stoltzfus Enterprises purchased the home from the Renninger family, who had lived and raised a family there for many years. The first floor of the building was remodeled into office space, with two powder rooms and a new kitchen, and the structure was rented out to a marketing business until the spring of 2002, when the Summerfield development sold out. The Stoltzfus sales staff then moved their offices into the first floor space. The second floor is currently rented to US Hot Air Balloon Company. When the house was built, this floor comprised four bedrooms and a bathroom.



This month's photo (left) is another home – but not a human residence. It is a birdhouse that is or was occupied. Please tell me where this bluebird house is located by January 15 and you will win an Elverson Borough tee shirt. All sizes are still available in royal blue and small and medium sizes are available in yellow and orange. Call me at 601-286-8913 or email me at Jodysfritz@gmail.com.

Send your Elverson news and stories to our editor at brenda@stoltzfus.com by January 20 or call her at 610.286.5115. Newsletters can be found on elversonboro.org.

IRS URGES PUBLIC TO STAY ALERT FOR SCAM PHONE CALLS



The IRS continues to warn consumers to guard against scam phone calls from thieves intent on stealing their money or their identity. Criminals pose as the IRS to trick victims out of their money or personal information. Here are several tips to help you avoid being a victim of these scams:

- **Scammers make unsolicited calls.** Thieves call taxpayers claiming to be IRS officials. They demand that the victim pay a bogus tax bill. They con the victim into sending cash, usually through a prepaid debit card or wire transfer. They may also leave “urgent” callback requests through phone “robo-calls,” or via phishing email.
- **Callers try to scare their victims.** Many phone scams use threats to intimidate and bully a victim into paying. They may even threaten to arrest, deport or revoke the license of their victim if they don’t get the money.
- **Scams use caller ID spoofing.** Scammers often alter caller ID to make it look like the IRS or another agency is calling. The callers use IRS titles and fake badge numbers to appear legitimate. They may use the victim’s name, address and other personal information to make the call sound official.
- **Cons try new tricks all the time.** Some schemes provide an actual IRS address where they tell the victim to mail a receipt for the payment they make. Others use emails that contain a fake IRS document with a phone number or an email address for a reply. These scams often use official IRS letterhead in emails or regular mail that they send to their victims. They try these ploys to make the ruse look official.
- **Scams cost victims over \$23 million.** The Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration, or TIGTA, has received reports of about 736,000 scam contacts since October 2013. Nearly 4,550 victims have collectively paid over \$23 million as a result of the scam.

The IRS will not:

- Call you to demand immediate payment. The IRS will not call you if you owe taxes without first sending you a bill in the mail.

- Demand that you pay taxes and not allow you to question or appeal the amount you owe.
- Require that you pay your taxes a certain way. For instance, require that you pay with a prepaid debit card.
- Ask for your credit or debit card numbers over the phone.
- Threaten to bring in police or other agencies to arrest you for not paying.

If you don’t owe taxes, or have no reason to think that you do:

- Do not give out any information. Hang up immediately.
- Contact TIGTA to report the call. Use their “IRS Impersonation Scam Reporting” web page. You can also call 800-366-4484.
- Report it to the Federal Trade Commission. Use the “FTC Complaint Assistant” on FTC.gov. Please add “IRS Telephone Scam” in the notes.

If you know you owe, or think you may owe tax:

- Call the IRS at 800-829-1040. IRS workers can help you.
- Phone scams first tried to sting older people, new immigrants to the U.S. and those who speak English as a second language. Now the crooks try to swindle just about anyone. And they’ve ripped-off people in every state in the nation.
- Stay alert to scams that use the IRS as a lure. Tax scams can happen any time of year, not just at tax time. For more, visit “Tax Scams and Consumer Alerts” on IRS.gov.

Each and every taxpayer has a set of fundamental rights they should be aware of when dealing with the IRS. These are your Taxpayer Bill of Rights. Explore your rights and our obligations to protect them on IRS.gov.

DEFYING THE ODDS

Trish Lauer

When I was asked to write a piece on Springwood (one of our skilled nursing households) resident Anita Geiger, I was more than excited. Writing is a passion of mine, and any chance to do so is a blessing. There was one small thing – I had never met Anita! The crazy thing? From moment on, it didn't matter.

I met with Anita at her residence and from the onset she was open and, as I'd quickly learn, fascinating. Anita's story is truly unique; she had been ill and hospice was called in. To get her matters taken care of, one of the things she did was give away all of her woodworking equipment. Then a funny thing happened: one day, the hospice workers told her that it wasn't necessary for them to be there with her any longer. They left and Anita had a new lease on life. There was a problem, though. How was Anita going to get back to doing her woodworking?

She first discovered woodworking in Maryland and was immediately taken with it. With encouragement from her mom, Anita pursued her new interest. She asked the man she saw demonstrating his skills if he gave lessons and Anita, a PE teacher, began going to learn from him after school, making the long drive to and from his home in Delaware. She would soon discover the Ward Foundation and volunteered there. Doing so allowed her to learn from world class woodcarvers, each with their own styles and techniques. It wasn't long before Anita culled what worked for her from each of her teachers and won a contest.

In the beginning, Anita described herself as a "teacher moonlighting as a carver" before focusing primarily on her talent after retiring in the 1980's. One of the things that appealed most to her about Garden Spot Village was the wood shop, which she has been a part of since she moved here in 2000. In 2004 she became treasurer, a position she'd hold for a decade. The wood shop, she says, is more than just a hobby; she's made lifelong, dear friendships as a result of her time there. The bonds that



have formed extend past their little slice of wooden heaven – many of her friends stop by if they're near just to say hello and see if Anita needs anything. Judging by the look on her face when telling me, this means more to her than words can convey. She's truly touched by the fellowship from something as simple as a common interest, and that sense of community is invaluable – both to Anita and to Garden Spot Village.

As of late, given that all of her equipment is gone, Anita carves by hand with a carving knife. Her primary subject?



Birds. When I asked her if she ever thought of trying out other animals, she replied with a simple no. Sure, she's made a few other things in the past – she highlighted a beaver carved as a surprise specifically for a staff member – but birds are where her heart is. I wondered how she chose what bird to carve and found it interesting to learn that there's no real rhyme or reason to



how. Sometimes it's a matter of wanting to surprise a friend with a gift of a personal carving of their favorite bird. Other times, she just sees a photo or pattern she likes and decides to make it. Her carvings have been given away as presents, auctioned off in the Fall Festival, and sold with the proceeds going to the Benevolent Fund.



My favorite part of my time with Anita was discussing how wood carving is seen primarily as a male oriented interest. Women aren't traditionally seen as wood carvers and Anita is more than happy to defy that stereotype. And you know what? She should be! Her confidence, skill, and spirit are inspiring.

In the end, it wasn't just the opportunity to write this piece that was a blessing; it was the chance to get to know such a kind and exceptional woman.

Anita Geiger was a long time Elverson resident before moving to Garden Spot Village.



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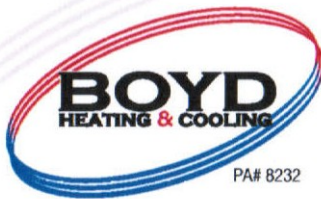
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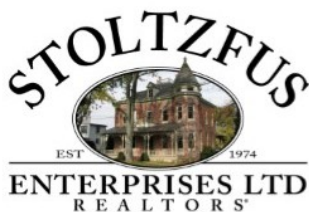
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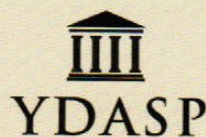
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STORIES THAT LAST—*Merle Stoltzfus*

With the ease of contemporary publishing, each day this year there has been an average of 6,745 books published in the world (so far). That's a lot of stories; more than 2.5 million in one year. Only a few, if any, will be remembered by next Christmas.

By contrast, the Christmas story is 2,015 years old and likely has been told more times than any story in the history of the world. Besides being a true life story followed by a true life sequel (Easter story), there are many aspects contributing to its endurance through the generations. The stated goal (Bible) is to tell it to every people group and nation on this globe.

One very practical aspect of this Christmas story is especially relevant this year. The root of the Christmas story is deeper than we naturally consider. The story of God's giving of his most precious gift to a world organized in rebellion against him introduces a unique avenue for conflict resolution. In this divided world and nation, we all can learn from this aspect of the story.

I don't suggest pacifism about all differences and/or lenience toward criminal activity as good national policy. The rule of law is important and there are times when even personal differences should result in the truth being spoken and/or acted upon with love. But in conflicting personal matters (even if heart felt convictions), the Christmas Story provides a narrative where we can disagree with a message without trying to destroy the messenger. Like God sacrificing himself for a world at enmity with him, we can speak into the lives of adversaries through loving sacrifice. This unique method of conflict resolution does not need to compromise the truth. This is obvious because God initiated it. Truth will always prevail in the very end.

It is my hope that Elverson continues to discover and live out the fruit of this lasting Christmas story as we resolve our differences and conflicts. In matters of our local community, loving instead of destroying the opposition is the effective road to peace. Merry Christmas!

We hope you had a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!