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The Beech Grove

"When we raise our children, we relive our childhood. A lost ball recalls another lost ball 20, 30 years ago; the smell of cedar brings forth the Christmas of '57; the burial of a hamster brings forth tears of another time for another pet - perhaps a turtle wrapped in tissue and buried beneath an elm tree.

When we hear ourselves raise our voices at our children, or see or hear ourselves through their eyes and ears, we meet the ghosts of our own young parents. So each of us thinks, almost daily, of how our own childhood compares with our children's, and of what our children's future will hold."

- Richard Louv

The other day my three children said to me, "Daddy, tell us again about the time....." and they were once again asking me to repeat a story from my own childhood. I have this habit of talking about "the old days". Not necessarily the "good old days", for I truly believe that every year, even as I grow older, is good. I like my children to know how good of a childhood I had.

Recently, I was reminiscing about growing up on a farm with an acquaintance who had the same experience. "It was terrible", she said. "Getting up early. Milking the cows and smelling bad all day at school!"

Funny, but I can't remember ever minding the smell that much. Of course, maybe everyone else at

school smelled as bad as I did! Anyhow, I have to think real hard to remember unpleasant childhood memories. And those that I do...well, they weren't that bad!

At this time of the year we often think of Christmases long ago. It was a magical time. I can vividly recall Dad driving the old Chevy on snow drifted back roads to candlelight services at Oak Grove Church. Mom would point out a star which "must be the Wise Men's star. Look how bright it is!" The midnight service was nice but the most wonderful time was when the 30 odd persons in the church (almost all uncles, aunts, cousins, Grandma and Pap-pap) lit their candles and we sang Silent Night. Although rightly solemn, my brothers, Bob and David, and I would try to see who could let the most hot wax drip onto our fingers.

Some of my friends in those days were allowed to open one gift on Christmas Eve. I only remember being able to do this once. My sister Barb was working at a clothing factory the year before she was married. I was probably six years old and begged my parents after candlelight services to open that one present. The OK was given and I picked Barb's present to open. Inside was a pair of pajamas with firetrucks printed on them. It is the only pair of pajamas I ever remember owning!

Last Sunday, we put our Christmas tree up. Andrew and I cut it to the right size and carried it in. After I put on the lights (which Linda and Katie untangled), Andrew, Katie and Julie put on the decorations. They did it all themselves; the crowning touch being Andrew's train underneath. I think it's the most beautiful tree we've ever had! Sure, we had some "spats" during that time; silly arguments that happen daily in most households. But, I hope above all hopes that my children will remember the bright and wonderful things of that day. I know I will.



DECISIONS, DECISIONS

"Well begun is half done."

- Aristotle c.325 B.C.

"He who has begun has half done.

Dare to be wise; begin!"

- Horace 23 B.C.

I finally made a decision today (December 7, Pearl Harbor Day, sort of appropriate!) and was not feeling very good about it. However, in looking through my copy of Bartlett's Familiar Quotations, I found two quotes. Reading the quotes made me feel better about my decision because; yes, I did make a start; and, yes, my last eleven years of writing the newsletter have served a good purpose.

As you can guess by now, my decision is to not publish THE BEECH GROVE as it has been for the last eleven years. Notice I am not stating it will NOT be published. I find it difficult to completely stop something that I believe is beneficial to the family, and to myself. I also find it difficult to stop a journey once I have started down the trail. As those two Greeks said, to begin a task is to have half the job finished. The finish of our family history will probably never be, but I would like the last eleven years to at least result in a book!

I've heard the comment many times, "When are you going to write a book?" Many other families have their genealogies compiled into a book. But I never wanted to write a book that is JUST a list of names and dates. Instead, my original goal almost twenty years ago was to research the family history and write a book which wove names and dates with events that would make reading our family history fun. Too many family genealogies are simply lists of who begat whom and when!

I have never achieved that goal, but I started the newsletter to eventually help me write the "book". Of course, many things have gotten in the way of getting started on the complete story of Andreas Hagenbuch's descendants: three children, becoming a school principal, moving three times, buying a house, building a house, and probably the biggest - changing interests.

Although I have continued to dabble in genealogy the last five years, I have never worked as hard at the family history than I did the first years I published the newsletter. Writing the newsletter led me down other paths that led my interests away from pure genealogy. As I wrote the newsletter, I became more interested in Revolutionary War history and how it affected our early ancestors. When Will Mangold told me several years ago that his research showed that Andreas had a small stockade on his Berks County property, supposedly for the protection of settlers during the French and Indian War, I became even more interested in that time period. This information led me to include several articles in the newsletter about the early Hagenbuchs' life on the frontier. My interest in the family genealogy began to lead me away from recording names and dates; but it led me into learning more about early American life in general.

Other situations have led me to my decision to change the newsletter. Last year I was a Cub Scout leader, president of the local historical society, taught an adult education course on the Revolutionary War, and did other "extras" that had nothing to do with my principal's position. As of last week, I am no longer historical society president, I am not teaching a course this Spring, and, although still involved in Scouts as an advisor, I am not solely in charge of a group of boys. However, I am planning on going back to school this Spring to get my school superintendent's certification. I feel all my efforts must be channeled in this area.

As I mentioned at the beginning of this "news", I don't want to completely stop writing the newsletter but I must change its format and when I send it. When I first started the newsletter I had lots of "news" to write about. For the last few years, it has become increasingly more difficult to find genealogical information without doing a lot of research or using someone else's information.

Therefore, I want to make THE BEECH GROVE an annual newsletter to come out sometime in the Fall of each year. Also, depending on the amount of "news" that I have, the newsletter length may vary from issue to issue. Furthermore, there will no longer be any set amount for subscription fees. I would like to send the newsletter to all of those relatives who may have an interest in the family history. Many newsletters are funded by donations.

Of course, the donation need not be more than the current cost of \$4.00. Finally, I want the flexibility to declare that a newsletter will not be published at all during a year's time, possibly even next year. I do not want to commit myself to putting out a newsletter in 1993. I probably will, but if I get caught up in some other projects I may postpone it until early in 1994. ANY MONEY THAT HAS BEEN PAID FOR 1993 WILL BE CREDITED FOR THE NEXT NEWSLETTER WHENEVER IT MAY COME OUT.

I hope that the past eleven years of newsletters have been interesting and helpful. Writing the newsletter has honed my communication skills. Without the newsletter, there are many, many people I may never have met or written to. I have often said to friends that I could travel across the United States and stay at a different cousin's home each night! This would be because of the wonderful contacts I have made over the years.

Speaking of traveling.....Linda and I are hoping to make a trip West in July. The last time we traveled for any length was in 1980. The children are now old enough to enjoy all the wonders of our great country and to remember those wonders in years to come. If this trip "comes off", we hope to stop in to see many of the cousins that the newsletter has led me to. We did take a small trip this summer to Sea World in Ohio and, of course, stopped to see Howard and Lucile Hagenbuch. It had been 12 years since we had last been to their home, but as then, we were welcomed with open arms, a fine meal, and a wonderful visit. Howard has become very involved in genealogy and I learned a few things from him about the new technology available to those researching their family history. Eventually I would like to duplicate Howard's efforts with his family and put all of the Hagenbuch information on computer disks. This would also help me to organize material for the "book".

It has been eleven years of learning since I started the newsletter. Although my end goal may be a book, my ongoing goal throughout these years was to lead descendants of Andreas Hagenbuch to know each other. I think this goal has been achieved and I thank All OF YOU in having the interest in our family, its traditions, and its proud history to keep in touch with each other and find the common goal that links us all - love of family, and a man who had the courage in 1737 to start a new life in a new country.

Three cheers for ANDREAS HAGENBUCH, the man who started it all!!! Hip, Hip, Hooray - Hip, Hip, Hooray - HIP, HIP, HOORAY!

* * * * *

Recently, Will Mangold sent me a list of Hagenbuchs who entered different ports of the United States. My research had only shown that Andreas and his family came in to the port of Philadelphia in 1737 and Phillip Jacob Hagenbuch had arrived in 1751 (my guess is he was a younger brother, since he shows up at several christenings in Berks County). What a surprise to find on Will's list other immigrating Hagenbuchs coming into a Carolina port:

1743: Anna Hagenbuch, age 27; brother Hans Jacob Hagenbuch, age 18.

1743: Johannes Hagenbuch, age 43
Wife - Margretha Schmid, age 47
Children - Jacob, 17; Johannes, 16;
Hans Heinrich, 15; Junghansz, 10;
Margretha, 8; Ulrich, 6.

Were these relatives of Andreas? Had he written to them to tell of the riches (and wilds!) of America? If so, why did they settle in the Carolinas and not in Berks County, Pennsylvania?

The name Hagenbuch is not uncommon in Germany and Switzerland today. There was certainly more than one clan of Hagenbuchs living in Europe during the 1700s. So, it is possible that these Carolina Hagenbuchs were not closely related to Andreas's clan.

This new immigrant information leads me to another thought. I often touted the theory that all Hagenbuchs in America were descended from Andreas except for two families who came from Germany in the mid-1800s (Johannes - whose clan lives in Oregon; and Christian whose son was Alfred in Arizona). If these Carolina Hagenbuchs had descendants it means there are other Hagenbuchs and allied families living in the U.S. not descended from Andreas. I do know of several families in the South with whom I had once corresponded that I could not link with any of our Hagenbuch clans. Could it be that those Southern Hagenbuchs were descended from Johannes Hagenbuch who came to the Carolinas in 1743?

In genealogy, as in other studies, one must never fall into the trap of believing theories unless positive proof is found. Thanks to Will

Mangold, we now know that other Hagenbuch families were living in America in the 1700s that may have not been related to our Hagenbuch ancestors. For sure, more research needs to be done in this area.

1993 DONATIONS

In keeping with my decision to ask for donations to publish the newsletter once a year or thereabouts, the following persons have donated their money to recieve the newsletter next year. If you are interested in continuing to receive the newsletter, please send your donation.

Miss Esther Barr, Ottawa, IL
Mrs. Mary Beaver, Danville, PA
Mr. and Mrs. Randy Brosius, Dornsife, PA
Mrs. William Elbrader, Lawrence, KS
Mrs. Frances Engelsen, Stuart, FL
Mrs. Florence Finley, Ottawa, IL
Mr. Ben Hagenbuch, Ottawa, IL
Mr. Bruce & Miss Julia Hagenbuch, Danville, PA
Mr. and Mrs. David Hagenbuch, Seward, PA
Mr. Douglas Hagenbuch, Blissfield, MI
Miss Ellen Hagenbuch, Milton, PA
Mr. and Mrs. Hiram Hagenbuch, Danville, PA
Mr. and Mrs. Homer Hagenbuch, Milton, PA
Mr. and Mrs. John Hagenbuch, Danville, PA
Mr. John Hagenbuch, Boonsboro, MD
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Hagenbuch, Kansas City, MO
Mr. and Mrs. Warren Hagenbuch, Blissfield, MI
Mr. and Mrs. Warren Hagenbuch, Westborough, MA
Mrs. Teresa Harris, Watsontown, PA
Mrs. Marilee Kemperman, Sturgis, MI
Mrs. Carra Lindsey, Amherst, MA
Mr. and Mrs. William Mangold, Terre Haute, IN
Mrs. Kathryn Maust, Danville, PA
Mrs. Lulu Roat, Watsontown, PA
Mr. and Mrs. John Robb, Danville, PA
Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Steiner, Danville, PA
Mrs. Mary Taylor, Milton, PA
Mr. and Mrs. Eldon Miller, Kansas City, Mo

* 51st Hagenbuch Reunion *
- reported by Florence M. Robb -

The Fifty-first Hagenbuch Reunion was held on June 28, 1992 at the Montour Preserve with 72 persons attending.

Following lunch, Mark O. Hagenbuch, president presided with the business meeting. the minutes were read and approved. The reunion date and place for 1993 is June 27 at Montour Preserve from 12:30 to 3:30 PM. Lunch at 1:00.

Officers elected for 1993 are: President - Joseph Hagenbuch; Vice-president - Lee Hagenbuch, Jr.; Secretary - Florence Robb; Assistant Secretary - Leona Rathburn; Treasurer - Larue Hagenbuch; Historian - Ellen Hagenbuch. Recreation Committee appointed for 1993 is Sue Hertzler and Diane Brosius.

Those attending the reunion were:

Frances Hansel, Eckhart, MD
Rose Taylor, Cumberland, MD
Joe and Kathy Taylor, Frostburg, MD
Marion T. May, Cumberland, MD
Elizabeth Taylor, Cumberland, MD
Charles and Kathryn Taylor, Wheaton, MD
Carol J. Robb, Lancaster, PA
Barbara Huffman, Dauphin, PA
Mark Hagenbuch, Andrew and Julie, Dillsburg, PA
Raymond and Linda Graybill, Raylin & Kristy,
Port Royal, PA
Randy and Diane Brosius, Brian & Erin, Dornsife, PA
Bill and Leona Rathburn, Pottsgrove, PA
Teresa Harris, Watsonstown, PA
Sharon Harris, New Columbia, PA
Rachel Bachman, Watsonstown, PA
Lynn, Beth, Dayna, Lucas, & Peg Maryott, Watson-
town, PA
Kenneth & Pauline Bogart, Watsonstown, PA
Wayne & Barbara Moser, Andrew & Jeremy, Watson-
town, PA
Leon and Gayle Hagenbuch, Stuart, Linsey, and
Jenna, Watsonstown, PA
Larue and Lera Hagenbuch, Watsonstown, PA
Lee, Jr. and Melitta Hagenbuch, Milton, PA
Glenn and Sue Hertzler, John and Jed, Milton, PA
Mary Taylor, Milton, PA
Ellen Hagenbuch, Milton, PA
John and Helen Styer, Milton, PA
Clyde and Jean Hagenbuch, Milton, PA
Homer and Irene Hagenbuch, Milton, PA
Gerald & Kathleen Shuler, Jeremy & Jennifer, Milton, PA
Kathryn Hagenbuch Maust, Danville, PA
Hiram and Helen Hagenbuch, Danville, PA

William and Carrie Hagenbuch, Danville, PA
 Viola Hagenbuch, Danville, PA
 Joe and Bernice Hagenbuch, Danville, PA
 John and Florence Robb, Danville, PA



AROUND THE BEECH TREE

When the family gathers at Christmas, we often remember, with sweet memories, those who have left the earthly circle to be in the heavenly circle. Personally, I will miss my maternal grandmother, Minnie Faus, who died on July 11. Grandma Faus (we always called her that to distinguish her from Grandma Hagenbuch) was 94 years old and was always present at my parents' holiday meals. Greatly missed, we will remember those who touched our lives and brought us joy but no longer will be with us. We grieve for the loss of Inez, Grendon, and Bertha, but know their joy above is greater than anything we can imagine.



Miss McIndoe plans to wed Mr. Zimmerman

Alison K. McIndoe and Darryl J. Zimmerman, Roundtop Road, Middletown, announce their engagement.

The bride-to-be is the daughter of Dorothy J. McIndoe, Danville, and the late Donald J. McIndoe. A 1987 graduate of Danville High School, she received a degree in interior design in 1991 from Indiana University of Pennsylvania. She is a consultant at the "Cinderella Shoppe," Palmyra.

Her fiancé is the son of William and Dorris Zimmerman, Middletown. A 1987 graduate of Lower Dauphin High School, he earned a degree in accounting and finance earlier this year from IUP. He is employed by the Unisys Corp., Philadelphia.

The couple will marry Sept. 4, 1993, in Danville.

ALISON K. MCINDOE and DARRYL J. ZIMMERMAN

Robb—Dunbar

GEORGES MILLS, N.H. — Community United Methodist Church was the setting for the double ring ceremony uniting Carol J. Robb and Peter H. Dunbar in marriage. The Rev. Robert Edwards performed the service Sept. 27.

The bride is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Robb of Danville. The bridegroom is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Bernard Dunbar of Charlestown, N.H.

The bride chose her sister, Kathleen Shuler of Milton, as matron of honor.

Serving as best man was Bradley Dunbar of Belgium, brother of the bridegroom.

A reception was held aboard the M.V. Mount Sunapee II, Lake Sunapee, N.H. The couple will live in Lancaster.

The bride is a graduate of Warrior Run High School and York Academy of Arts. She is self-employed as a free-lance graphic designer.



Mr. and Mrs. Peter H. Dunbar

The bridegroom is a graduate of The Lawrence Academy, Groton, Mass., and Keene State College, Keene, N.H. He is self-employed.

Colleen Witmer will wed Mark Hagenbuch

HUMMELSTOWN — Ned and Eleanor Witmer of Hummelstown announce the engagement of their daughter, Colleen G., to Mark A. Hagenbuch, son of Glen and Jean Hagenbuch of Danville.

The bride-to-be is a graduate of Lower Dauphin High School, Harrisburg Area Community College and Shippensburg University. She is employed as a sales specialist for Kendall Healthcare Products Company, Philadelphia.

Her fiancé is a graduate of Danville Area High School and Millersville University. He is employed by Musicland Inc., Philadelphia.

A May 8, 1993, wedding is planned at Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church, Hummelstown.

Amos S. Hagenbuch

Amos S. Hagenbuch, 92, of 729 Drover St., Huntington, died June 12, 1992, at 11:15 p.m. at his home.

Mr. Hagenbuch had been a milk route driver in the Servia area, attended New Hope United Brethren Church of Huntington and was a member of the Masonic Amity Lodge 483 and the Bippus IOOF Lodge.

He was born Jan. 18, 1901, in Benton County to Albert and Marian Ferguson Hagenbuch. His first marriage was to Helen Lester, and she preceded him in death in 1955. His second marriage was to Minnie Magerhans, and she died May 12, 1981. His third marriage was to Gladys Tucker, and she survives.

Also surviving are a son, Don, of Columbia City; a daughter, Mrs. Robert (Shirlee) Lowe, of Fort Pierce, FL; a sister, Lela Howard, of Remington; 11 stepchildren, including Joyce Buzzard, of Huntington; Mary Loe Mitchell, of Atwood; and Robert Ruyke, of Lima, OH; three grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

Services were June 16, 1992, at 11 a.m. in Deal & Robbins Funeral Home, with Rev. Kenneth C. Thompson and Rev. Russell Birdsall officiating. Burial was in Fairview Cemetery, Servia.

Preferred memorials are contributions to the New Hope Faith Promise for Missions.

Grendon B. Taylor, 65 Milton RD2

Retired township supervisor

MILTON — Grendon B. Taylor, 65, of Milton RD2 died 4:30 a.m. Sunday, Aug. 9, 1992, in the Leader Nursing Center, South Williamsport, where he was admitted June 2.

Born Aug. 6, 1927, in Fishingcreek Township, he was the son of William C. Taylor, a resident of the Millville Health Center, and the late Mabel E. (Beishline) Taylor. He was married to the former Mary K. Hagenbuch for 28 years.

He retired in 1986 as a roadmaster and supervisor of Lewis Township, Northumberland County, after 13 years of employment; was head custodian and a bus driver for the Warrior Run Area School District; was a former employee of Philco-Ford Corp., Watsonstown; had worked at the S&H Green Stamp Store, Bloomsburg; and, was a part-time policeman for Benton borough.

He was a member of the Community Mennonite Fellowship, Milton RD2; and a former member of the Turbotville Volunteer Fire Company and Fire Police.

In addition to his father and wife, he is survived by one son, Nevin E. of Harrisburg; three daughters, Linda K. Sweitzer of Orangeville RD2; Lisa M. Umstead of Bloomsburg RD5; and Sue E. Hertzler of Milton RD2; six grandchildren; and a brother, Graydon D. Taylor of Orangeville.

The funeral will be conducted at 11 a.m. Wednesday at the Community Mennonite Fellowship, Milton RD2, by the Rev. Walter H. Clemens, assisted by Deacon Paul R. Landis. Burial will be in St. James Cemetery near Bendertown.

Visitors may call from 7 to 9 p.m. Tuesday at the William F. Brooks Funeral Home, Turbotville, and from 10:30 a.m. until the time of the service Wednesday at the church.

Inez L. Hagenbuch, 66, Columbia City resident

Inez L. Hagenbuch, 66, of Columbia City, died at 4:20 p.m. Wednesday, June 24 at the Norwood Nursing Center, Huntington.

She was born on September 15, 1925 at Wabash, Indiana, a daughter of Rueben and Dorothea (Gemmer) Schenkel.

On March 12, 1948 she was united in marriage to Don Hagenbuch at Bippus.

Mrs. Hagenbuch helped her husband in farming, was a housewife and had been employed by Caswell Runyan.

She was a member of the Faith Chapel United Methodist Church at Gobelsville, Indiana; Grace Fidelis Circle of Church; Lagro O.E.S.; and the Lagro Past Matrons Club.

Mrs. Hagenbuch is survived by her husband Don, Columbia City; a daughter Mrs. Greg (Helen) Adams of Huntington; and two granddaughters. She is also survived by a brother, Hayden Schenkel, Huntington; two sisters, Mrs. Kermit (Ada) Ulrich, Huntington and Mrs. Robert (Lela) K. Sale, Huntington.

Two brothers, Wallace Schenkel and Lynn Schenkel, preceded her in death.

Services for Mrs. Hagenbuch are at 10 a.m. Saturday, June 27 at the Faith Chapel United Methodist Church in Goblesville, with the Rev. David Eis, officiating. There will be a memorial service by the Lagro O.E.S. on Friday at 7:30 p.m. at the Deal & Robbins Funeral Home, 338 E. Washington, Huntington.

Friends may call at the funeral home from 2 to 9 p.m. on Friday.

Burial will be at the Fairview Cemetery, Servia, Indiana.

Memorials may be made to the Huntington County Cancer Society or the Faith Chapel United Methodist Church.

Bertha Hagenbuch Brown of Watsonstown, Pennsylvania died on November 29. Bertha was formerly married to Herman Hagenbuch. Children are Hester, Daniel, Leroy, Pearl, and Cynthia. Bertha was active at Oak Grove Church and the Salvation Army.

System solves weighty problem

□ Peoria company again succeeds in overcoming loading, hauling problem

By MARNIE MEAD
of the Journal Star

LeRoy G. Hagenbuch and his father-in-law, the late Phil Philippi, started a company by finding a solution to a problem that was costly to the mining industry.

The problem was that large off-highway rear dump trucks kept losing part of their loads because there was no practical way to close off the rear of the trucks.

Philippi, who had experience marketing heavy-duty equipment, and Hagenbuch, an engineer fresh from the U.S. Army, devised the solution — a tailgate that could be hinged on the sides of the trucks and lifted completely out of the way during the dump phase.

It's been 20 years since the two men worked out of a Peoria basement with four friends selling the product, but the multimillion dollar Philippi-Hagenbuch Inc. of Peoria continues to find solutions to problems that plague profits for mines and quarries.

The latest is the On Board Data Acquisition System (OBDAS) Truck Management System, a computerized system designed to combine information on load weights and haul times.

"We've moved a generation ahead of everybody else," said inventor Hagenbuch, who recently received his fifth patent on the system.

"Before purchasing the OBDAS Truck Management System, we found that our loaders were exceeding our trucks' capacity by as much as 15 tons in certain applications," said Tom Brandenburg, a

FROM PAGE B1 SYSTEM

foreman with Armco Steel Co. in Middletown, Ohio. "After this system was installed, it let operators know where they stood on weight plus it let the loaders know at the same time."

The whole idea came from a customer who wasn't able to find a scale system to put on his trucks.

That was eight years and several hundreds of thousands of dollars worth of development costs ago.

During that time, Hagenbuch came up with an idea for a weighing system that could be installed on nearly all kinds of trucks. "Then I spent the next four years killing off the various dragons that seemed to arise," Hagenbuch said.

The result is a computer system that calculates load weights, the amount of time a truck spends taking loads between sites and the amount of time it spends both full and empty. The only thing a truck operator has to do is turn it on at the beginning of a day and off at the end.

So without any paperwork, a company with a host terminal in its office can track all of its trucks 24 hours a day.

"It's quite revolutionary," he said. "A mine manager can see his entire fleet status at a glance."

At a basic cost of about \$12,000, Philippi-Hagenbuch sold in excess of two dozen OBDAS systems last year in the United States and Canada. In April, the company will sell to a copper mine in Africa.

"We expect sales to increase, no doubt about that," Hagenbuch said. The company also is negotiating a licensing agreement.

"We can thank our customers in a major way. By asking them what they are looking for . . . we can



ART LAND/Journal S

LeRoy Hagenbuch, president of Philippi-Hagenbuch Inc. at 747 W. Plank Road, shows part of the OBDAS Truck Management System components that go into off-highway trucks to improve their productivity. Hagenbuch is the inventor of the system.

develop this," he added.

In addition to mines and quarries, Hagenbuch predicts there will be a large market in the refuse hauling business.

"In the off-road market, there is no limit on what you can haul. But

on highways, there are limits. We refuse in particular, there is a way of knowing how much you have on the truck," Hagenbuch said. "So, if the first scale you come to is a state police station you can be in deep doo."

Celebrate Your Family Through Stories

"Celebrate Your Family Through Stories" is dedicated to your family — its past, present, and future. In sharing family stories we communicate beliefs, attitudes, feelings, customs, and traditions among generations. Telling family stories is a good way to gain an appreciation of the past, pride in your present family, and a rich legacy for the future.

Empty Pages

A recently widowed woman in her late sixties sits amid a room full of memories and mementos of her late husband. She has the necessary but unnerving task of sorting out which belongings to keep and which to give away. Suddenly the whole world seemed to come to a halt.

Her eyes well up with tears as she opens a small book covered with a rich red velvet fabric to find an inscription written on the inside cover. The inscription reads, "Merry Christmas, Daddy. I searched and searched for a present that would express my love for you this Christmas season but I found nothing suitable. Instead, this gift of a book and its blank pages is really a present for you to give back to me. In it I want to know more about your feelings and thoughts during all those rich years of your life. What was it like when you and Mom met? How did you feel when you returned from World War II? What was it like to raise a family in tough times? Please find time to share your

thoughts with me 'cause I love you so. Love, Cindy."

The widow flips to the next page only to find total emptiness, totally blank pages. Blank pages for such a rich and full life. Her thoughts were overcome with, "If he had only taken the time."

Time Ticks Away

A sad but true story it is that we never seem to find the time for those things most important to us. Our excuses tick out faster than the tick-tocks of a clock. Perhaps we're hesitant to share ourselves because we don't think anyone is interested. Yet, there are certain times, like in our grade school years and in our late middle years, that we have flashbacks to I wonder how it was back then. Our children and their children and the generations to come will frequently reach back to the past for knowledge, comfort, understanding and support. Gathering your thoughts and

insights into your past is vital for a family's strength and vitality.

A Legacy To Share

Here are some special projects that may help you avoid leaving someone some "empty pages."

The Old Shoe Box

Dig out that old shoe box of slightly yellowed or curled pictures. How many are pictures without names? How many can you and you alone identify? Turn that box of soon-to-be-forgotten pictures into a pictorial memory book. Spend some quiet time sorting out pictures by events, times in your life, specific dates that you can recall, or any other method you have. Then begin putting them into an album, but instead of just putting a name or date write a few comments beside the picture in the album. Perhaps the picture jogs your thoughts of Great Grandmother and how she loved to play the fiddle at dances. Make sure you number the photo lightly on the front border and have the same corresponding number on your commentary just in case the two get separated.

Treasure That Story

Thinking about giving a special family "treasure" or collectible to a younger family member? Don't give it away without giving its special story, too. Was this a family heirloom carried by hand from another continent or was it a "peace offering" from your husband after he accidentally mowed off your favorite irises forty years ago? A family treasure accompanied by a family story will mean so much more to the receiver.

A Family Memory Book

Often at a total loss as to what to give a son, daughter or grandchild for that special gift? Why not give something truly from the heart--a family memory book. Unlike the commercially sold book with its blank pages and vinyl cover, your book could be your own creation. Perhaps you could make a handcrafted wooden cover or quilt a small covering for a notebook. But, most important, this book would be like a tapestry of your life woven with your thoughts, feelings, and recollections of your life.

To help you get your thoughts arranged, think in terms of chapters in a book. You might entitle your chapters in this manner: Chapter I, "My Childhood Days," including such things as your fears, your happy moments, school days, chores at home, places you went; Chapter II, "My Adolescent Years," including thoughts about your first love, first date, what family responsibilities were like, things you and your friends did for fun, how you felt about the future; Chapter III, "Jobs I Held," including struggles you had in landing the first job, your pay, the decision to move away from home; Chapter IV, "Courting Days and Marriage," including information on how you felt on the first date with your spouse-to-be, meeting your spouse-to-be's family for the first time, how you proposed or were proposed to, your wedding day and its particulars; Chapter V, "The Early Years," including how the economics of the times affected your family, what it was like when your children were young; Chapter VI, "Family Traditions and Customs," including events centered around holidays, why it's important to carry on these traditions, what impressions these traditions left on you; Chapter VII, "Family Stories,"

including stories of humorous, tragic, or memorable times, stories of family "characters," or stories of hope or of lost dreams.

Organize your thoughts and feelings in a way that reflects you. Don't worry about your writing abilities or lack of them. What counts is your willingness to leave a legacy from your generation to the next generation.

If you have several family members you want to have a copy of this, consider having it printed. Perhaps involve a family member in helping type the book and seek out print shops that will print from camera-ready copies. This will cut your costs considerably.

Don't forget that family photographs will enrich your book, too.

If you're still fearful that you can't write, then get an inexpensive cassette tape recorder with an external microphone and record your story, still keeping in mind some organized division such as chapters in a book.

Ruth Sawyer, noted author of "The Way of the Storyteller," collected family stories and folktales from common, ordinary people like yourself. Referring to family stories--stories for a people she said, "Make use of it (stories) and it serves you bountifully; hoard it and it turns to dust." Don't let the richness of your generation turn to dust. Instead, start today on your FAMILY MEMORY BOOK.

Other Family Stories

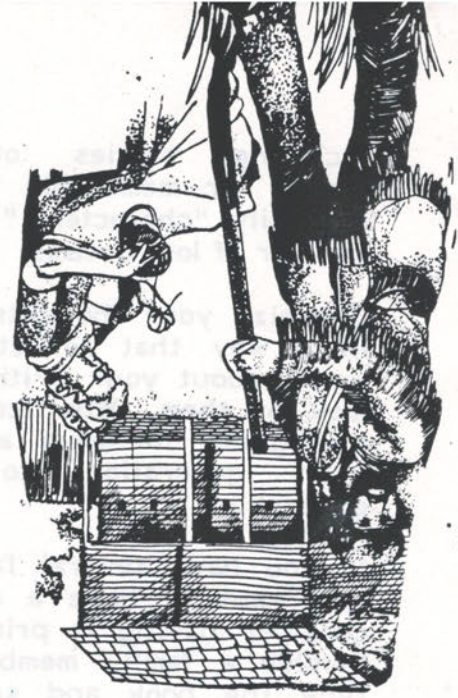
If you enjoy the idea of family stories, why not read about other people's family stories. Check with your local librarian or book store for family and immigrant stories. Many are excellent examples of the value of family stories. Who knows, they may inspire you to write about your family!

Patricia Leach
Indiana County Extension Home
Economist



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MARK O. HAGENBUCH
1031 W. Siddonsburg Rd.
Pittsburg, PA 17019

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