

## FIRST NATIONAL BANK

ESTABLISHED 1892

PHILIPSBURG, PA.

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## DAHLGREN FUNERAL HOME

THIRD STREET

PHILIPSBURG, PA.

# *SOUVENIR HISTORY* of **BLUE BALL - BOGGS TOWNSHIP** 1810 • 1963

## COMMEMORATIVE CELEBRATION

*Sponsored by*

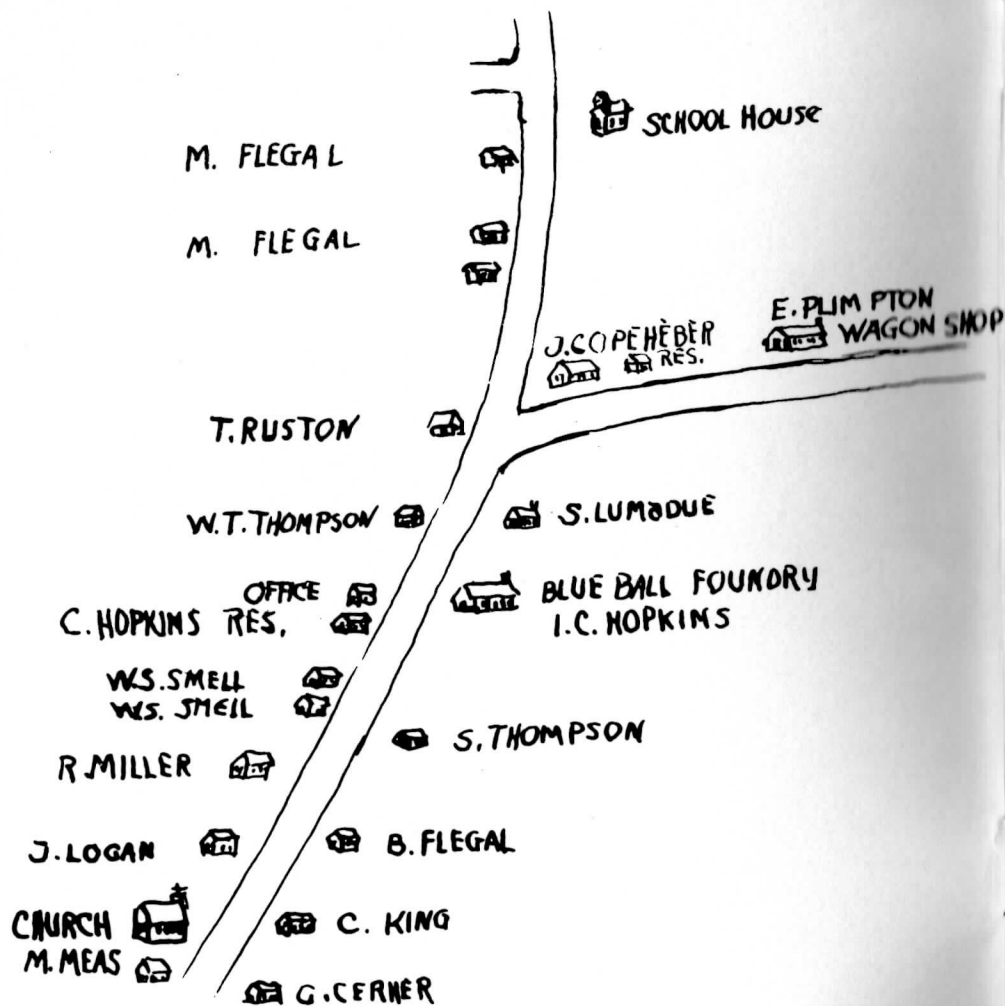
- Scout Troops
- Blue Ball Grange
- Methodist Church
- E. United Brethren Church



Steam Dinkey used in transporting clay from Mine to Brick Plant

**HOME COMING WEEK • JUNE 23 - 30, 1963**

# BLUE BALL 1878



## BLUE BALL CENTENNIAL PROGRAM



SUNDAY — JUNE 23

Special Church Service ..... 7:30 p. m.

MONDAY — JUNE 24

Parade ..... 7:00 p. m.

Band Concert ..... 9:00 p. m.

TUESDAY — JUNE 25

Grange Program ..... 9:00 p. m.

WEDNESDAY — JUNE 26

Special Entertainment ..... 8:30 p. m.

THURSDAY — JUNE 27

Pet Parade ..... 7:00 p. m.

Entertainment ..... 9:00 p. m.

FRIDAY — JUNE 28

Parade ..... 7:00 p. m.

Scout Program ..... 9:00 p. m.

SATURDAY — JUNE 29

Horse Show ..... 2:30 p. m.

Boy Scouts Program

SUNDAY — JUNE 30

Special Church Service ..... 2:30 p. m.



## IN APPRECIATION

The Historical Research Committee who prepared this booklet wish to thank the many people who so generously donated information and details. They hope those who read it will realize that it is impossible to give a complete record and that doubtless much interesting data was not obtained. Our hope is that future citizens will take pride in being a part of a God-Fearing, Patriotic Community.

Miss Ethel Lumadue, Chairman  
Mrs. Margaret Goss  
Miss Florence Maurer  
Mrs. Helen Smeal  
Mr. Leroy Mills  
Mr. George Mock  
Mr. Ray Kanouff



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## DEDICATORY POEM

By Albert G. Shimmel

Principal Blue Ball School

## THE HOME HILLS

These are the lands of tradition, set in the hill's rugged chalice,  
Claimed by the tribes of red hunters, who followed the trails of the fathers  
From the dark swamps of Moos-hanne to the Clear-fields by the river  
Nothing remains but their place-names and the flints of their lost hunting  
arrows.

Next came the sturdy white hunters, armed with their Lancaster rifles,  
Pitting their strength and their courage against the dark forces of Nature,  
The trails that they traced were soon widened, making a road for the  
wagons,  
Linking those roads to the Turnpike that stretched from Philadelphia to  
Erie.

Then followed the stern Circuit Riders, fired by the zeal of the Spirit,  
Visiting village and clearing, with the doctrine of Boehm and Wesley.  
There people gathered to listen and plan for the Church of the future,  
Far through the white winter forests, axes rang and the crashing of timber,  
Mingled with shoutings of teamsters, skidding the logs to the sawmills.

Low smoke hung over the valley, from forge, furniture factory and brick  
plant,  
There were shoutings and laughter of children, released from their lessons  
at evening.  
Their schoolmaster, stern Phillips Pollard, sleeps under the oaks of the  
churchyard,

In the long years that have followed, those who have gone from the valley,  
Remember the sheltering forests and the blood of their pioneer fathers—  
Remember the glories of Nature and the beauties of each lonely woods  
path,  
They long for its sparkling waters and the restful sight of the HOME  
HILLS.

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## Blue Ball-Boggs Township History

Settlements were made in our area long before formation of Boggs Township as a district. The population of Boggs Township in 1839 was 225 persons.

The little village of Blue Ball (now West Decatur) derived its name from the sign of the Blue Ball Tavern established there by John Frazier who settled there from Blue Ball, Lancaster County. It was founded in 1853. The first house, the McCartney home, was built by David Frazier and was recently torn down. Land in the area sold for 57½ cents an acre.



Blue Ball Main Street

Frank Waring writes that on his first visit to the community of Blue Ball, he remembers the large "blue ball" suspended in a frame on the top of a 16-foot pole in front of the hotel. He also recalled the toll gate house across the commons. The hotel was kept by Mr. Radebach, father of a principal of the Osceola Schools. Archie Shaw, who was tailor, kept the toll gate. Clothing was made for all family members as there was no ready-made store clothes.

Old settlers came from York County. The first tavern was built by Alexander Stone in 1820. About the same time, William Lumadue built a tavern on the old Erie Turnpike that is still standing at Crooked Sewer.

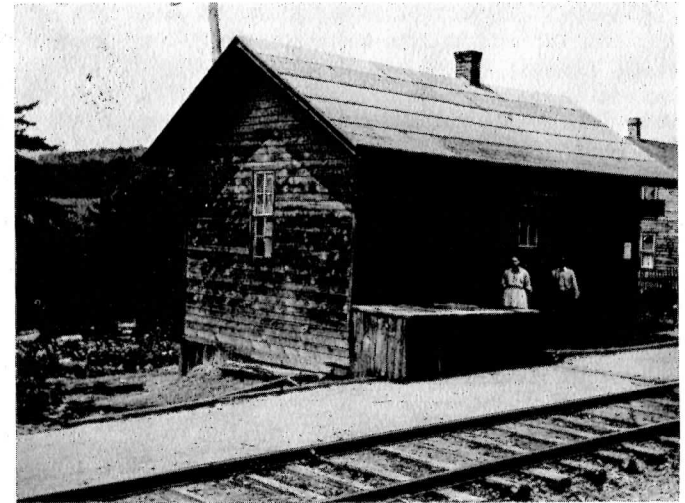
This place at that time was a beautiful forest with only here and there a settler's humble home. The forest was cleared away in order to make room for farming. This and wild game gave the early settlers a livelihood. Gradually other settlers came in and a sawmill was built on Laurel Run by Jerry Smeal. This is the stream that flows near the Pennsylvania Railroad.

About the year 1853, a toll gate was built across the old Philadelphia and Erie Turnpike near the place occupied recently by Henry Motter's home. The duty of the toll keeper, Archie Shaw, was to collect the sum of 10 cents to allow a team to pass. This gave the team owner the right to travel as far as Philipsburg. A certain percent of this was paid to a Company owning the road and the rest belonged to the toll gate keeper.

The next industry we had was a furniture factory conducted by William T. Thompson on the lot now owned by Florence Maurer and Helen Smeal.

Hand made chairs and a corner cupboard made in the William Thompson furniture factory are still in use in the Maurer home.

Later, a foundry was operated by Isaac Hopkins on the site of the old Millner store. Also a sawmill operated by Jacob Mock, Sr., near the present school house. Elijah Plympton and boys operated a sawmill on the ground now used by the General Refractories Company plant.

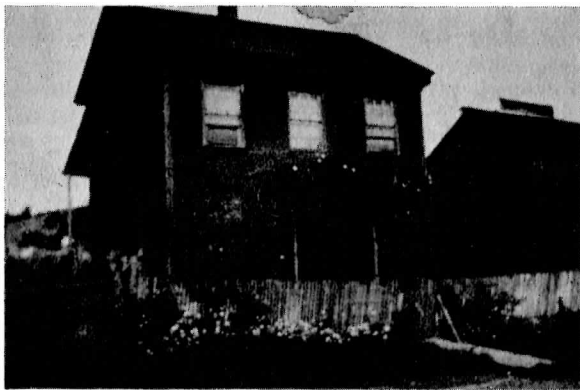


Pennsylvania Railroad Station — M. T. Morrow, station master;  
Amy Morrow, telegraph operator.

In 1869 the Pennsylvania Railroad was extended from Philipsburg to Clearfield. This helped to bring prosperity to the village and made the people feel a part of a busy world. Before the railroad, everything not produced in the County had to be brought in by team and wagon. Passenger cars were heated by stoves which the brakeman attended. The Blue Ball Passenger station was built in the late seventies through the efforts of Dr. Hartswick who was the owner of the Fire Clay mines

near Blue Ball. The first station agent was W. H. Peters.

Another early industry that should be mentioned is the McCartney Foundry built by John McCartney around 1889. It was operated by him and his sons and burned about 1902 or 1903.



**McCartney Foundry and House**

A son, Leonard McCartney, who worked in the foundry is still living and recalls many interesting facts about it. A beautifully hand made iron railing with a rose design is still in existence having been used at the Dayton Goss home and now owned by Clyde Goss.

Boggs Township, named for Judge Moses Boggs, was organized from the southern part of Bradford Township in 1838.

But records show that George Shimmel commenced improvements on land near the present Salem E.U.B. Church in 1810.

At one time, Bradford Township was composed of all that area now known as Decatur, Boggs, Morris and Graham Townships.

In 1828, there was a voting place at John Kyler's Tavern — east of Bigler and his fields were used as a drilling ground by the militia on "Muster Day." The farm and residence of J. B. Kyler is pictured in "Caldwells Pictorial Atlas" as being in Boggs Township.

All this land was originally owned by Robert Morris, a Philadelphia banker, prior to 1796, who financed George Washington.

In 1797, from this area was shipped to Philadelphia — 78 deer skins, 2 panther, 5 bear and 16 fox pelts as it was then a densely wooded area.

The early settlers found two Indian paths in this section. The one for our area lead from "Great Island" near Lock Haven up Bald Eagle Creek and Beech Creek, past Snow Shoe to Moshannon Creek, near the mouth of Black Moshannon-by way of Kylertown, across Graham Township to a spring and village called "The Sleeping Place" on John W. Gearhart's farm near Bigler—past the old Indian Mill at Barrett to a ford on Clearfield Creek at Old Town.

These paths were used by the early settlers as bridle paths then brushed out and widened for the passage of home-made sleds drawn by oxen. These sleds were about 3½ feet wide and had runners of oak or hickory wood. Usually the roads followed a line of springs. Many of our older roads are built over hilltops as the ground would be harder and

the trees not so thick. Early settlers built their fences back 8 feet from dividing lines this making a 16 foot roadway.

In 1796, the Assembly of Pennsylvania authorized the building of a road from Milesburg to Erie. In 1800 Col. Samuel Miles was awarded a contract to build an extension to the old Philadelphia to Erie Turnpike. This road came by way of Five Mile Run and Cold Stream to Philipsburg, across Troy Bridge by way of an Indian Path then to Wallaceton, thence to Salem near a spring across to Stoneville.

A brigade of soldiers used this road in 1814 camping a short distance West of the Salem Church site.

In 1820 a bridge was built across Moshannon Creek at Philipsburg and a road via Blue Ball and Albert's Tavern to the Thomas Hill farm on the original Erie Pike survey.

Chartered Companies hauled freight and passengers over this road and it became a much used highway. Drovers of cattle, hogs and sheep were driven on foot as well as much grain being taken to the mills.

During the Civil War, transcribed soldiers were marched over the old Erie Turnpike fastened to a long chain.

This township is situated in the eastern part of the county and is bounded on the north by Bradford and Lawrence Townships, east by Graham and Morris Townships, and a part of Decatur Township, south by Decatur and Woodward Townships and a part of Knox Township and west by Knox and Lawrence Townships.

The township is about nine and one-half miles from east to west by four and one-half miles from north to south. It was erected by a decree of court in 1838. The exact date cannot be given, because the original papers have been lost or mislaid in the Prothonotary's office.

The principal occupation of the inhabitants of this township is agriculture. The population, according to the census of 1910 was 1154. The earlier history of Boggs Township belongs to Bradford Township of which it was formerly a part. In 1810, Peter Shimmel began clearing a farm on the old state road near the point known as Maple Springs. Henry Shimmel, another member of the same family, began improvements in the same year. Henry Folk began a clearing in the forest on the present site of Wallaceton in 1813, being the pioneer in this work. In the same year, Abraham Hess came from York County, settling on the east side of Clearfield Creek. Another pioner of 1813 was Nimrod Derrick, who made a clearing on the old state road. Abraham Litz also began improvements in the same year on the banks of Clearfield Creek, as also did George Wilson.

The following year 1814 saw the advent of Andrew Kephart and Jacob Haney, who began clearing land on the old state road. George Wilson, in the same year, built a sawmill near the mouth of Long Run.

The first tavern in the township was built by Alexandra Stone in 1820 on the line of the old Erie Turnpike. William Lumadue built another on the pike about the sametime which would seem to indicate that there was then a fair amount of travel over the Pike. The Millwood farm was made in 1820 on the road leading from Philipsburg to Clearfield. The road however not having been built; and in the following year, Bresaler's Tavern on the Erie Pike was built.

In 1815, the Elder saw mills and Carding-Machine were erected near the mouth of Little Clearfield Creek and began operation. Abraham Elder's sawmill located a short distance from Blue Ball was built

in 1828. The saw mill of Harry Smeal at Blue Ball was built in 1838. These were the most important settlements and improvements made before the forming of the township. The first election was held in 1838 with the following results, Supervisors: Wm. Lumadue and Abraham Hess; Constable, George McCord; Overseers, Jacob Haney and John Beers; School Directors, George Willson, George Turner, George Goss, George Shimmel, John L. Gearhart and Abraham Hess. In 1839, the township had a population of less than 225 persons.

In 1840, Warrens saw mill was built on Laurel Run. In 1860, Thompson's Grist Mill was built on Morgan Run. The surface of Boggs Township is hilly and rough, though it has less of the mountainous formation than may be found in some other localities in the county. The chief stream is Clearfield Creek which forms the western boundary for a few miles and which has a number of tributaries, the northern one of these being Long Run; Morgan Run is probably the largest tributary of Clearfield Creek lying within the Township and as the lands adjacent have produced fine timber, many saw mills have been erected on it. Other streams watering the township are Camp Hope Run, Sanborn Run and Raccoon Run, all of which discharge into Clearfield Creek.

### BOROUGH OF WALLACETON

The Borough of Wallacetown is situated in the northwest corner of Boggs Township and contains about 426 square acres of land. It was incorporated as a borough in 1873. The town is located on an elevated plateau about 1500 feet above sea level. The land on either side is rolling, giving the town good drainage. It is on the line of the Tyrone and Clearfield Branch of the Pennsylvania Railroad and also on the line of the Beech Creek division of the New York Central Railroad. The town had three churches and the principal industry is the large brick manufacturing plant of the Wallacetown Fire Brick Co., now owned by the Harbison Walker Refractories Company.

The town was named in honor of the late Senator William A. Wallace of Clearfield, Pennsylvania and has a population of about 500.



**Original Blue Ball Inn converted into a home by M. T. Morrow**

Among the first homes built in Blue Ball was the Blue Ball Inn on the site of the present Clover Farm Store, the land being owned by J. Copenhaver followed by Dimeling's and T. Morrow.

The old McCartney House across from the brickyard was built by David Frazier.

The Wayne Kelley home by Isaac Hopkins.

The Maurer home by William Thompson.

The Ella Michaels home was built from the old school house.

The John's home is on the Gideon Smeal Estate.

The Jacob Conrad home built by the Cunninghams.

The Clark Goss home on land owned by B. Flegal.

The Lumadue home on land bought from Morgan in 1871.

The Arthur Fenton home was formerly the U. B. Parsonage.

Sheridan Wisor home is part of the old one room school house.

Herbert Bock home was built by Sam Jones and occupied by Ellis Smeal family.

Charles Dimeling home is part of the original Copenhaver estate. Alton Hummel home built by C. King in 1878.

Some familiar names of citizens getting mail at West Decatur in 1868 were: W. L. Goss, Miller, Bush, Smeal, Gearhart, Dimeling, Flegal, Thompson, Plympton, Coffey, Peters, Little, Hopkins, most of whom owned land.

Dr. Daniel Kline who married the postmistress, Sophie Radebach, practiced medicine here before moving to Osceola, as also did a Dr. Mott and Dr. Heaton.

In an old ledger owned by Arnold Smeal is a birth record of John Shaw family, 1829-1840. He was evidently a cabinet maker as such items as follows were listed:

1830	A coffin to James McGirk .....	\$6.00
1829	One bonnet box to John Shaw .....	.75
1833	French Bedstead to Leonard Kyler .....	5.25
1836	Pork barrels to William D. Lumadue .....	3.15
1838	Two cherry coffins to George Shimmel .....	8.00
1863	Washing machine to Jessie Goss .....	1.25
1850	Bees wax to Jonathan Wisor .....	.25
1859	Two barrels or boards to Jonas Peters for cradle .....	.37

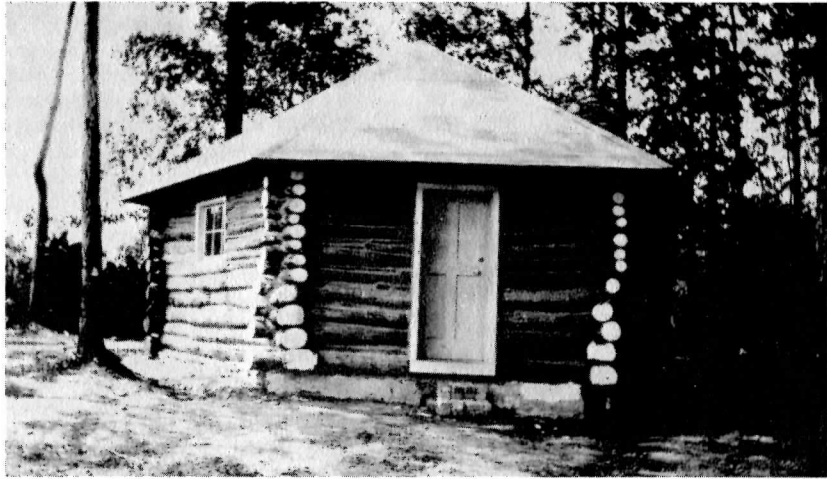
Also mentioned was a mandrel (an old time axle and other items).

Among the land owners in Boggs Township listed in 1878 we find familiar names like: Gearhart, Goss, Smeal, Peters, Dimeling, Shimmel, Flegal, Richner, Warren, Dixon, Mease, James, Albert, Gallaher, Jones, Lumadue, Twoey, Eckley, Snyder, Ross, Hess, Guthery, Butler, Wisor, Turner, Davis, Bish, Shaw, Bush, Kyler and McTavish.

Three remaining log houses in Boggs Township are: Wm. Litz home at Crooked Sewer, Leroy Mason and Jacob Conrad homes.

## CUB SCOUTS OF AMERICA

Pack 43, West Decatur, Pa.



Boy Scout Cabin 1931

The first Scout Troop in West Decatur was chartered January 5, 1924 under the sponsorship of the Methodist Church with R. Oscar Smeal as organizer and Scout Master.

The nearest Council was the Moshannon Council out of Philipsburg with A. Norris Greenfield, Scout Executive, but business for this Troop Number One was conducted by Mr. Smeal with the National Council in New York which have our records.

Some members of the original troop were: Russell Husted, Blair Hilliard, Wayne Goss, Fred Boyer, Jr., Harold Parsons, Melvin Hummel, Hobart Goss and Frank Shimmel.

Blair Hilliard and Oscar Smeal were awarded the first Eagle Rank in this District.

Mr. Smeal remained Scout Master through 1929, when Paul Deters became Scout Master with Russell Husted and Blair Hilliard as assistants.

The Boy Scout Cabin was built about 1931 in the Methodist Church Grove and is still in use. It is a six-sided-hexagon shape, originally designed by Oscar Smeal and Nile E. Shimmel from the cell of a honey comb.

N. E. Shimmel sponsored by the United Brethren Church, organized Troop Two which united with Troop One about this time.

Scouting has been an active part of the town throughout the years. Under the guidance of A. G. Shimmel, Scout Master, an outstanding chapter of "Order of the Arrow" was formed about 1952. The boys gave authentic Indian dances, attired in original Indian dress made by themselves accompanied by original music makers.

Troop 43 is the oldest, active member of the Bucktail Council in continuously holding a charter. The present Scout Master is Lester Bryan.

On the afternoon of May 21, 1959 the first Cub Scout planning committee met at the home of Mrs. Richard Esbaugh to discuss with the County Council representatives the final plans for the organization of Cub Scout Pack No. 43 of West Decatur, Pennsylvania. It was decided the E.U.B. Church would sponsor the pack.

Three Dens were organized, with local women acting Den mothers. The Dens meet once a week and have monthly educational themes to study as well as social and creative activities. The Cubs pay weekly dues of 10 cents. This is divided between the treasury and Den projects.

Mr. Lester Bryan was the first Cub Scout Master with Mr. Walter Hamer, Jr., as his assistant. During April 1960, Mr. Hamer became the Cub Scout Master with Mr. Norman Spittler and Mr. Roy Smeal as his assistants. In April 1963, Mr. Fred Hauser became the Cub Scout Master with Mr. Harold Mills and Mr. Paul Williams as his assistants. The assistant Cub masters conduct the Webelos Den which prepares the about to be graduated Cub for the Boy Scouts.

Pack meetings are held the first Monday of each month and these are open to any interested persons as well as Cubs and their families. Each Den presents a skit on the previous months theme and has its monthly business meeting and devotions at the pack meetings.

Not all Cub scouting is for fun alone. We also learn by doing things, such as tours to the Clearfield Cheese Plant, Curwensville Dairy and Fire Department, DuBois Wildlife Preserve, Clearfield Progress and the East Broadtop Railroad.

Each year the pack attends Cub Scout Field Day at Camp Mountain Run and took the banner during 1961 and 1962 for having the largest pack attendance.

The pack was awarded the 50th Anniversary Achievement Banner in July 1960. These banners were presented by President Eisenhower to Cub Packs fulfilling all necessary requirements.

On May 22nd, 1961 the pack presented a short skit at Lawrence Grange to commemorate grange neighborhood night.

Pack No. 43 has had four years of rewarding Cub service and is looking forward to many, many more such rewarding years.

In 1925 a troop of Girl Scouts were active under the leadership of Mrs. J. H. Weaver; Mrs. Clayton Renwick and later by Mrs. Marie McClure Jones, Mrs. William Mills.

Troop 26 Girl Scouts are presently active with Mrs. Clair Husted, Mrs. Jane Shimmel, Mrs. Shirley Osewalt as leaders. A Troop of Brownies are under the direction of Mrs. Erma Shaw and Mrs. Mary J. Myers Cub Pack No. 19.

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## *The History of the E. U. B. Church*

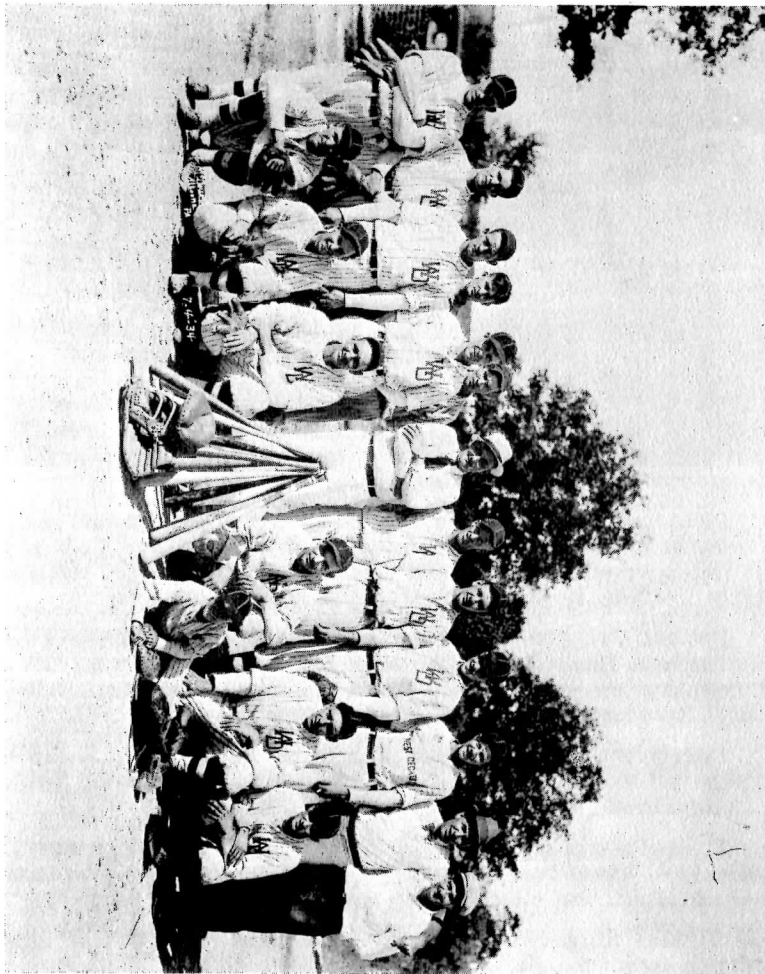
In 1824 the State chartered a road to be called the Erie Turnpike and to extend from Philadelphia to Erie. It was not until 1824 that the first stage coaches passed through here. One of the immediate results of the building of this road was the opening of taverns and inns for the accommodations of travelers and the exchange of horses. Building of these Inns led to the settlement of certain towns, although as early as 1806 there were 126 taxable males and 28 single male voters in the area. In 1814, a division of the army passed through this place on its way to Curwensville. It crossed Moshannon Creek near Philipsburg and there wasn't a bridge at that time.



**U. B. Church about 1910**

In 1776 or 1778 in Lancaster County a spirit filled Mennonite preacher named Martin Boehm held a revival in Long's Barn. Men of many denominations listened to his preaching. Among his hearers was Phillip William Otterbein, who was so impressed by the message as well as the messenger he exclaimed, "We are Brethren," and indeed it was so. They were the founders of our present Evangelical United Brethren denomination led by the faith of these inspired men. Preachers on horseback took the gospel to the frontiers opening up as the wilderness was pushed back. One of these circuit riders as they were called followed that Army division through here in 1814. These preached the Word wherever they were and folks gathered to hear.

Feeling the need for a place of worship, a church was organized at Decaturville (We call it Mocks Hill today) in 1854. This was sixteen



**Baseball Team — Black Diamond League 1934**

Many residents still remember the exciting baseball games played by the Black Diamond League on the field above the railroad. From any place in the town you could tell how the game was going by the shouts when the home team made a home run. Among the players were the Husted brothers: Chester, Howard and Russell; Paul Deters, Alvy Turner, Clair and Ray Ritchey, Raymond McClure, Jack Goddisart, Fred Thompson, Teddy Lupton, Al Ramey, Willard Conrad, Kenneth Stonebraker, Herman Eckley, Hugh Croft, Bert Lumadue, Carl Stonebraker and others. Al Kester was manager.

Now we have the Little League who use the Mills Memorial Field presented and dedicated with an impressive ceremony on May 31, 1952. The uniforms were donated by C. W. Thompson and Sons.

years after the stage runs came into our area. Oxen were used to haul the logs and stones for the church and in true pioneer fashion men donated the labor to build the church. It was called Otterbein and was located near the site of the C. D. Goss garage. The Rev. Charles Crowell was the first pastor. A Sunday School was organized in 1877 with Mr. Smeal as the first superintendent. Mrs. Rex Wilson still has old key to Otterbein Church.

Various ministers served the charge. Under the leadership of Rev. G. W. Sparks the church was moved to its present site in 1904 and dedicated, and the next year a parsonage was built and dedicated in 1905. This church and parsonage burned in 1920. The church was rebuilt and dedicated by the District Superintendent, Dr. J. S. Fulton



**U. B. Church — 1963**

on July 23, 1923. The charge purchased the property directly opposite for use as a parsonage. Under the leadership of our present pastor, Rev. T. O. Fuss, the congregation has increased and many improvements added to the church buildings and parsonage. Our church buildings are valued a \$60,000 and a membership of 230. We are very proud of our church building and invite you to visit us either to look or come and worship with us.

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**Methodist Church — 1902**

The Oak Grove Methodist Church stands in a grove of century old oak trees from which it derives its name, in the center of the Village of Blue Ball.

The hill behind it was originally planned to be a graveyard and five graves were placed there near the present Boy Scout Cabin. They were Phillips Pollard, an old school teacher and two children of B. R. and Jane Kephart, and two children of John and Mary Maury.

The Decaturville Cemetery Company was formed later on Mocks Hill at the dividing line of Boggs and Decatur Township and the first lot sold to Joseph Goss, March 23, 1889.

The Methodist Faith goes back to the days of John and Charles Wesley and the old Circuit Riders.

Many old settlers of Blue Ball worshipped at the Philipsburg Methodist Church from 1857 to 1863, which belonged to the East Baltimore Conference, Rev. Edmund Kirby, pastor.

In 1863, it became the Philipsburg Circuit with Rev. Thomas H. Switzer as pastor.

In 1869, it became part of Grahamton Church Circuit with R. B. Kelly, pastor. From 1871 to 1873, the newly built school house was used as a place of worship.

On October 15, 1873, one and one-half acres of land was purchased from William F. and Mary Thompson for \$37.00 to be used for building a church. The old deed states that it was situated on the Susquehanna Turnpike near Blue Ball, being part of a larger tract surveyed for Richard Thomas.

The trustees, Samuel McLarren, John M. Katen, David Goss, James L. Thompson and Charles Sloan caused to be erected a white one-room church built from local timber.

For more than half a century, it was the center of Methodist worship and activities in the community. In 1915, Omer B. Poulson, now Dr. Poulson, Conference Evangelist, Temperance Director and State Chap-



**Rev. Poulson in Tabernacle**

lain of Harrisburg, placed a huge tent behind the church where he held his famous "Tabernacle Meetings." He is one of our oldest living ministers and is retired and living at Camp Hill. Some of our present day citizens were members of his "Booster Choir" and sang with much gusto, "De Brewers Big Hosses Can't Run Over Me."

From 1869 to 1886, we were part of Grahamton Circuit. Then the Wallaceton Circuit was formed of Sylvan Grove, Oak Grove, Peal, Wallaceton, Hunters and Center Hill.

In the summer of 1924, the old building was placed on a new foundation to the rear of its former location with a basement underneath for a social hall. The original stained glass windows still remain with the names of the donors.

In December 1925, under the guidance of Rev. Ira E. Fisher, drawings were completed by John Hunter, architect, and builder Duke Fravel for the erection of a new church and certain alterations in the old one that gave us the fine modern place of worship which was dedicated October 3, 1926 by District Superintendent W. E. Watkins.

Trustees at that time were J. L. Guyer, R. S. Maurer, C. H. Peters, A. K. Flegal and W. J. Husted, still living.

Stewards were: Horace Waring, Charles Stonebraker, Mrs. Cora Husted, Mrs. John James, living; Mrs. William Stonebraker, Mrs. John Jones, living and Mrs. R. S. Maurer.

The grounds were first surrounded by a picket fence, later iron railings to which the horses were tied. The grove was the scene of two big events each year, the Union Sunday School Picnic and the P.O.S. of A. Picnic, the music furnished by the Wallaceton Band, a talented group.

The church is a beautiful dark red brick structure of colonial



**Methodist Church — 1963**

architecture in the midst of an oak grove of rare beauty, the whole presenting a scene of grace and dignity which invites the soul to the worship of God.

The present pastor is Rev. G. Franklin Gray, who with his family, resides in the parsonage at Wallaceton and serves the churches at Wallaceton, Center Hill and West Decatur.

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## *Blue Ball - Boggs Township Schools*

One of the first school teachers in this area was Phillips Pollard. He served in the Mexican War of 1848, was soldier and school teacher. He was buried in 1881 or 1882 at about 70 years. His grave is in the Methodist Church grove, as it was once planned to have a burial ground here.

A log school was built at the place where we now know as the old Jefferson school. For several years the Blue Ball children attended that school. In the summer of 1871, a one room school house was built on land donated by John Copenhagen near the site of our present school ground. The first Blue Ball teacher was Miss Mary Shaw. The first school house was also used as a meeting house by the Methodist people until the building of their own church in 1873. The United Brethren people built a church on Mock's Hill which they used for a good many years. Later they moved their church to its present location.

An interesting school display was placed in the West Decatur Supply store on November, 1952, through the courtesy of Samuel Hoover, owner and Chris Page, manager.

A modern display of writing was shown in contrast with penmanship in 1850 as shown in an old account book of William Lumadue accompanied by a quill pen. Existing prices at that time were pork, 7c lb; bacon, 10c lb; flour, 3c lb; eggs, 12c dozen; beef, 8c lb., and coffee, 2 lbs. for 50c.

A contract for teachers called for Samuel Byers to teach Laurel Run School for thirty dollars per month for seven months.

A bill for painting a blackboard in 1876 was 75c.

Old school books were a "Speller and Definer" published in 1830—English Grammar, 1838; School Reader, 1865; Manual of Geography, combined with History and Astronomy, 1875.

These books were used by G. T. Lumadue a student of the Shawville Select School who received a Provisional Teachers Certificate from County Superintendent, M. L. McQuinn in 1880.

Mrs. Alice Morrow, a Blue Ball resident was one of the instructors at that school.

From our schools have come pupils who have made contributions to society as ministers, doctors, professors, nurses, missionaries, scientists, engineers, authors, poets and not the least of these are the many who have made for themselves a fine worthwhile life in the various industries and are honest, dependable citizens.

Mrs. Gussie James and Mrs. Minnie (McClarren) Shimmel are the oldest living school teachers in our area having taught in 1904.

**BETHELEM SCHOOL** — Located approximately one mile east of the Litz Bridge over the Clearfield Creek. School house has been remodeled into a dwelling. Records show that the school operated in 1873. The teacher was Cordie Blair and the contract was for a five month term at a salary of twenty-five dollars per month.

**CENTRE SCHOOL** — Located between the Erie Pike and Wallace-ton one mile west of Route 322. Traces of the foundation remain. School was in operation in 1873. Teacher was Enoch McLarren.

**FAUNCE** — Located on the legislative route between Sanborn and Faunce, foundation remains.

**CROOKED SEWER SCHOOL** — Located on the Erie Pike between Robison and Lumadue Taverns. Nothing remains to mark the site. This school was locally known as Hemlock Hollow. Records for 1874 have been found.

**LAUREL RUN SCHOOL** — Located south of Route 322 between Blue Ball and Wallaceton on dirt route leading to Erie Pike. Some of the older residents of Blue Ball attended school here. In 1874, John Beish taught here. Some traces of the original foundation are still visible.

**SPRING VALLEY SCHOOL** — The original building was located near the church at the top of the hill. This building burned in 1924. A brick building was erected the following year between the church and Long Run at the foot of the hill. This building is still standing.

**SILVER DALE SCHOOL** — This building was also known as the Gum Spring. It was located near the William Litz property at the head of Camp Hope Run on the legislative route between Sanborn and Woodland. A spring and a few scattered foundation stones mark the spot where the building stood.

**STONEVILLE SCHOOL** — Located on the Erie Pike near the abandoned road from Morgan Run past the Eberts Mill to the Stoneville Tavern. About one-fourth mile east of the Dimeling Bridge. The foundation of this school remains visible.

**EAGLE EYE SCHOOL** — This school has been remodeled into a dwelling. It is located on legislative route between Osceola Mills and Wallaceton about a mile and a half west of the Kline Brick House. This is one of the buildings that was closed when the township entered the Jointure. Building was built in 1883 by Enoch McLarren.

**OAK CORNER SCHOOL** — Located about one-fourth mile east of the present Wallaceton-Boggs building. This building is still standing.

**BLUE BALL SCHOOL** — One of the first schools in Clearfield County, built as a log school near the present cemetery. Phillips Pollard was the first teacher. He is buried near the scout cabin about the Methodist Church. In 1871, a one room building was erected at the lower end of the present school yard. Later, a second story was added. The present building was completed in 1911 as a four room structure. Two other rooms were added in 1925.

In 1883, there was in operation two schools in Blue Ball. Frank Hutton was teacher of the grammar school for forty-five dollars per month and James C. Mock taught the primary school for twenty-five dollars per month.

In July, 1884, the board awarded a contract to George W. Shimmel to build a new school at Blue Ball. The size was 25 feet by 30 feet with 11 foot ceilings for \$485.00. The walls were to be painted blue, the ceiling white and the wainscoting brown. The outside was to be painted two coats of lead. Directors at this time were John Stone, John Eberts, James Shimmel, James Mease, Frank Kyler and M. T. Morrow.

In 1901, T. O. Smeal contracted and built a school at Blue Ball for the sum of \$753.00. A. G. Ammerman and John W. Eberts signed the agreement. Little is known concerning this building.

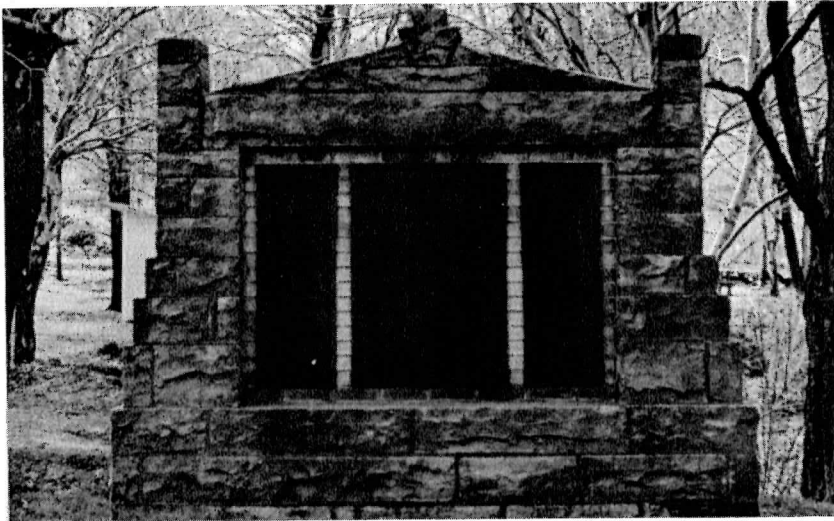
In September, 1910 on the 10th, a Resolution was made to build a four room, brick cased school and was presented and adopted. A resolution to borrow \$6,000.00 for the erection of such a building was adopted.



**Blue Ball School — 1910**

The directors were Isaac Beish, George B. Sugarts, John Stone and J. W. Gearhart. R. S. Maurer was secretary of the board.

In 1925 two additional rooms were added to the permanent building. These have been in continuous use since that date.



**Community Monument**  
Soldies of World War 11 - Erected 1945

## *Blue Ball Grange No. 1331*

Blue Ball Grange No. 1331 was organized November 21, 1906 with seventeen charter members. Those being Mr. and Mrs. J. F. Peters, J. W. Gearhart, Mr. and Mrs. Jess Guyer, John Bush, Joseph Goss, Charles Peters, Mr. and Mrs. W. D. Little, Mr. and Mrs. G. R. Long, and Mr. and Mrs. James Mease, C. C. Goss, Mrs. Mary Albert, Miss Edna Albert. J. W. Gearhart was the first Master and Mrs. W. D. Little was the first secretary. In the first year, the membership rose to forty-eight and in four years, there were one-hundred thirty-five members. Since that time membership has gone up and down quite rapidly and at the present time, there are one hundred forty-seven members.



**Grange Hall — 1952**

In the beginning, the Grange was known strictly as an agricultural organization but today many people of all occupations belong and enjoy its social side as well as the practical benefits. In the grange there is a wholesome fellowship for all ages.

Blue Ball Grange first met in the J. B. Swope building on third floor. This building is now the home of Mr. and Mrs. Max Smeal and is owned by them. The grange met here until 1920 when Mr. Swope said he needed the space for storage. On November 9, 1920, the grange moved to Wallaceton in the O.U.A.M. Hall. For almost two years, the members went back and forth to Wallaceton and on April 1, 1922, they moved back to Blue Ball. At this time, they moved into the P.O.S. of A. Hall, which is now torn down.

The Grange bought three acres of ground on June 11, 1918 from Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Morrow for the sum of four hundred dollars. Many picnics were held here by the Grange and also the P.O.S. of A., but due to lack of funds a building was never started on this ground until 1949. At this time, a ground-breaking ceremony was held and the two oldest people of the Grange threw out the first shovel fulls of dirt. These being Mrs. Annie Dixon and Mr. Hobart Flegal. The basement part of the hall was finished and the first meeting was held Sept. 9, 1952. The very

cold months of this year the meetings were held in the second story of Ellsworth Vaughn's garage. This was necessary because the heating system had not been completed and the hall was cold. In the spring of 1953, the meetings were moved back to the basement and what members were active got together and did what they could toward finishing the heating system and other necessary things to make the hall comfortable. Membership began dropping off and it soon began to show in the financial part of the organization. Again the work was halted due to lack of funds. With the realization that the Grange may have to give up the charter, the members that were still active began to interest others in the Grange work and soon the membership was back up to 79.

Many hard hours of labor was put into the hall for a period of three years and all this proved very fruitful. Almost ten years from the time the basement was finished on January 9, 1962, the main meeting room was completed and the first meeting was held on that date in the new room. The money for this project was raised in many ways; cash donations, movies, suppers, hoagie sales, home-made soup and baked goods were sold as well as jello, dish cloths, cards, knives. etc.

The work was all donated by the members and many non-members. A well equipped kitchen is also found in the basement. So today the Grange owns a very well constructed hall of which the members are very proud. But of course work still goes on for like any building there are many things to do. This hall has been a benefit to all the community. Many kinds of parties and celebrations have taken place within its doors. The United Brick and Clay Workers Union Local 466 hold regular meetings each month in the hall as do the Girl Scouts. The grange doors are barred to no one desiring membership into the organization and the Grange is constantly seeking new members. Many join for the insurance which the Grange offers. The Grange not only offers fire insurance but now has life, hospitalization and automobile insurance.

Two degree teams were organized in January, 1962. These teams have not only worked in their own hall but conferred degrees at Decatur, Lawrence, Center Hill and Sanborn Granges. The Grange also sponsors the Girl Scout Troop.

Many of the records have been destroyed therefore the history cannot be complete.

The Grange as well as any organization had other hardships to cope with, diseases being one. The Grange doors were closed November 1917 until February 1918 due to an outbreak of small pox in the community.

At this writing, Mrs. Edna (Albert) Grove is the only living charter member although she does not belong at this time. Ray Kanouff is the oldest member having belonged 52 years.

The present officers are as follows: Melvin Milliron, master; Walter Miller, overseer; Amanda Lindsay, lecturer; Jean Hamer, chaplin; Cecil Kanouff, Jr., steward; Walter Hamer, gate keeper; Cecil Kanouff, assistant steward; Janet Kanouff, lady assistant steward; LeRoy Mills, treasurer; Audrey Gray, secretary; Goldie Mills, flora; Helen Kanouff, pomona; Mary Miller, ceres; Ethel Ritchey, Home Ec chairman; Frances Kanouff, community service chairman; Ray Kanouff, insurance director; Ruth Shimmel, pianist; Newton Shaw, legislative chairman; Cecil Kanouff, Newton Shaw, Irvin Lindsay, executive committee.

Blue Ball Grange was awarded honorable mention in the Com-

munity Service Contest sponsored by the Sears Roebuck Foundation. The award was a beautiful gold plaque and a fifty-dollar savings bond. These were awarded at the State Grange in Reading, Pennsylvania, on October, 1962.

Blue Ball Grange is one of twenty-eight in Clearfield County and is under the jurisdiction of Clearfield County Pomona Grange No. 33.



## *Records of Post Office Department*

Records of the Post Office Department show that a post office was established at West Decatur on Jan. 7, 1862, with Miss Sophie C. Radebach appointed as the first postmaster. This was the time when the name was changed from Blue Ball to West Decatur to save confusion with Blue Ball Lancaster County. The mail was brought on stage coaches.

The first post office was in the building now owned by Wilbert Stonebraker, previously owned by James L. Thompson.

The Post Office Department of Washington lists the following appointments:

Miss Sophie C. Radebach .....	1862
John S. Radebach .....	1865
Mary K. Fouts .....	1868
Lever Smeal .....	1869
Elizabeth M. Plympton .....	1876
Porter J. Briggs .....	1904
Rezin S. Maurer .....	1910
R. Oscar Smeal .....	1925
Mrs. Eugene Herbert .....	1934

The office was usually in connection with the country store. Some of the old time store keepers were Jacob Mock, Mrs. Esther Lumadue, Saul Jaffee, Frank Howe, Billy K. Smeal, Richard Milliner, Port Briggs, and Harvey Grove.

The present Clover Farm Store owned by Hoover Hardware is on the site of the Blue Ball Inn.

Ben Swoope and C. Brady were former store keepers.

Rye Straw had a blacksmith shop near the school house.

The old hotel was run by Bob Jones, Frank Howe and Alf Ammerman.

Alf Ammerman and Jerry Kennedy had cobbler shops.

Motter's Restaurant was on the site of the old toll gate.

Bill Meases Store was the general gathering place for the men and many were the tall stories told around the old pot-bellied stove.

Youngsters of today may glean a little information from this old poem.

## *The Fountain of Knowledge*

By a Blue Ball Citizen

In my travels throughout the country,  
To the North, South, East and West;  
My thoughts they often ramble.  
To the place I love the best;  
Where we'd gather in the evenings,  
Sitting round the steps and door;  
Discussing all the topics,  
At the Blue Ball grocery store.

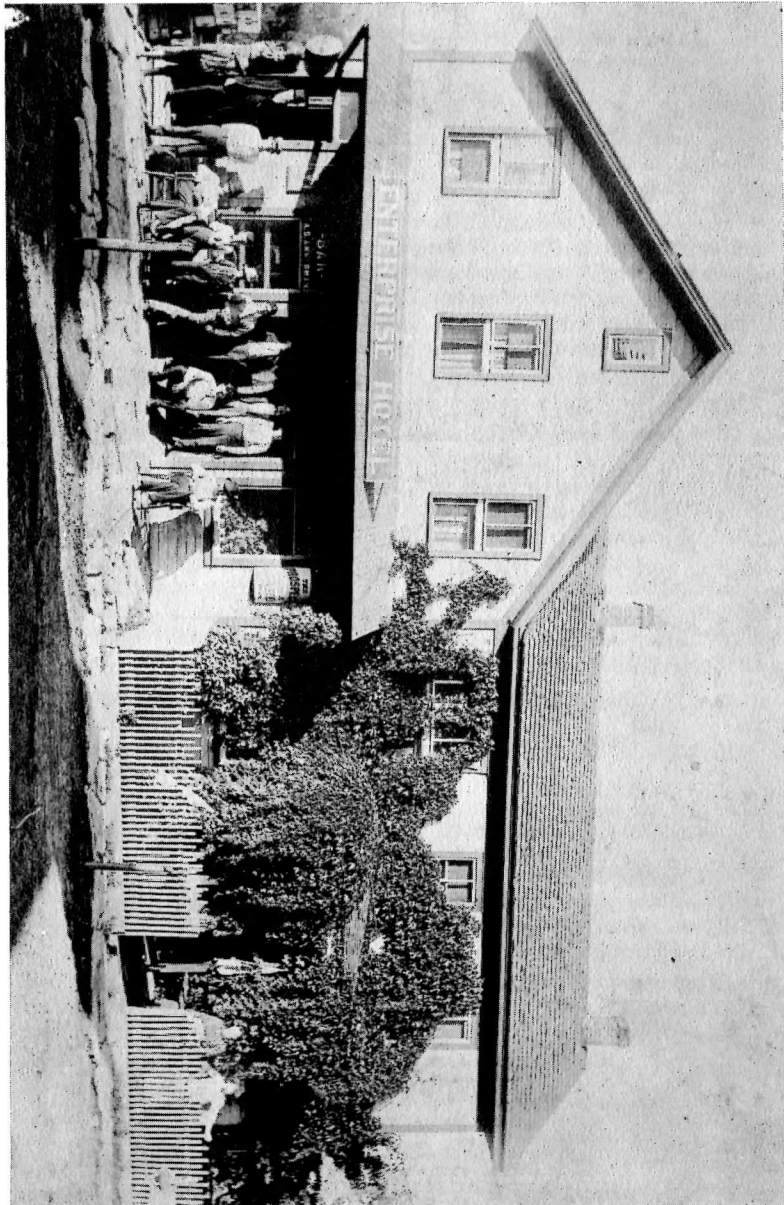
And when the circus came to town, you bet it was a treat,  
When Jim and Tom and Dock,  
Would hoist the tent a week;  
Folks would come from Center Hill,  
And Wallaceton and Bigler galore;  
To wait around till show time,  
At the Blue Ball grocery store.

When the fuel shortage struck us,  
And no smoke went up the flue;  
Each one of us would then suggest,  
The proper thing to do;  
Bob Mills declared he'd dig,  
A thousand tons or more;  
Providing he was doing it,  
At the Blue Ball grocery store.

When we'd sit and talk of cattle,  
And the swine of other days;  
J. T. Guyer would swear,  
They are the kind he used to raise;  
Jess declared he killed a hog,  
That weighed a ton or more;  
Until we woke him from his dream,  
At the Blue Ball grocery store.

If you're after information  
Bout a Ford car or a Dodge;  
Chevrolet or any car which runs,  
Or is in a garage;  
To know the ins and outs of all,  
From a spark plug to the door;  
Just ask for Bill and Cob,  
At the Blue Ball grocery store.

And when it comes to farming,  
Such as corn, rye and wheat;  
Potatoes, oats and cabbage,  
You bet we can't be beat;  
Walter Hamer raised a pumpkin,  
That weighed a 100 lbs. or more;  
And used both halves for bath tubs,  
At the Blue Ball grocery store.



Enterprise Hotel — 1900

When Bill went to Pittsburgh,  
Philadelphia or Washington;  
To see the President inaugurated,  
On the fourth day of March;  
He felt that he would give,  
Ten bucks or maybe more,  
To be sitting swapping stories,  
At the Blue Ball grocery store.

By William Lumzon Otis Goss

♦ ♦ ♦

### OLD STONE QUARRY



Stones from this quarry were placed in bridge at Harrisburg

## *Resources and Industries*

Vast forests of pine trees and hemlock made lumbering of first importance. This led to rafting, still a main topic of discussion in old time adventures. Then this in turn made farming important. Large numbers of workmen were employed at liberal wages in cutting and preparing timber. During spring floods, every stream held rafts and busy lumbermen.

Discovery of immense beds of high quality coal was one of the reasons for building railroads in this section. The railroad was completed as far as Osceola in 1862. Two noted mines in Blue Ball were "Red Jacket" and "Meadow Brook" and both had sidings on which steel cars were loaded for shipment.

Valuable deposits of fire clay, iron ore and limestone are found. Recorded maps show a four foot vein of clay on 96 acres of land owned

by J. S. Gearhart and J. H. Peters land. Extensive deposits of clay about two one-half mile from Blue Ball were found and is called "Blue Ball Clay." Jonas H. Peters was the first to discover clay in Clearfield County. It was sent to market in Harrisburg. John F. Peters at the age of 17 years helped dig the first load of fire clay in Clearfield County about 1860.

The Harrisburg Fire Brick Works and Brick Clay Kiln are noted in Caldwell's Atlas.

In 1899, William Wynn, D. Ross Wynn and James H. France purchased the present site of General Refractories Brick Plant at Blue Ball from G. T. Lumadue for \$250.00. It being part of land purchased by Mrs. Esther Lumadue from Gideon Smeal in 1874.

The first plant had four kilns. The plant was burned in 1904 and rebuilt in 1905. In 1910, the General Refractories Company bought the plant, remodeled it, installed a steam press department, only hand brick being previously made. Vast amounts of coal were used to fire the kilns. With the recent survey of the coming of natural gas lines through the village, the fuel was changed to gas. About four tons of clay were used to make a thousand bricks and a ton and a half of coal burned.

The clay was first hauled by horses and wagons, by Wesley Straw. Then a tram road was built and cars hauled by a small engine (dinkey) brought it to the brickyard.

Some of the engineers were: Bob France, George Woods, Grover Baughman, Bill Gearhart, John Jones, McGee, Al Shontz and Bob Dugan.

Many a stolen ride was enjoyed by truant boys from the nearby school.

The fire clay of excellent quality is mostly used in bricks for linings in the steel mills and for pots in which glass is melted and has been sold in the United States and some foreign countries.

Ray O. Meas, a home town resident is the present District Manager.

Not the least among our natural resources is the abundance of game, especially deer, bear and rabbits. Our streams of clear mountain spring water provide happy hours of fishing amid a setting of mountain laurel and rhododendron.

The scenic mountain trails invite all to enjoy some of the most beautiful wild flowers to be found anywhere. Our birds and wild life add to the enjoyment so bountifully supplied by nature.

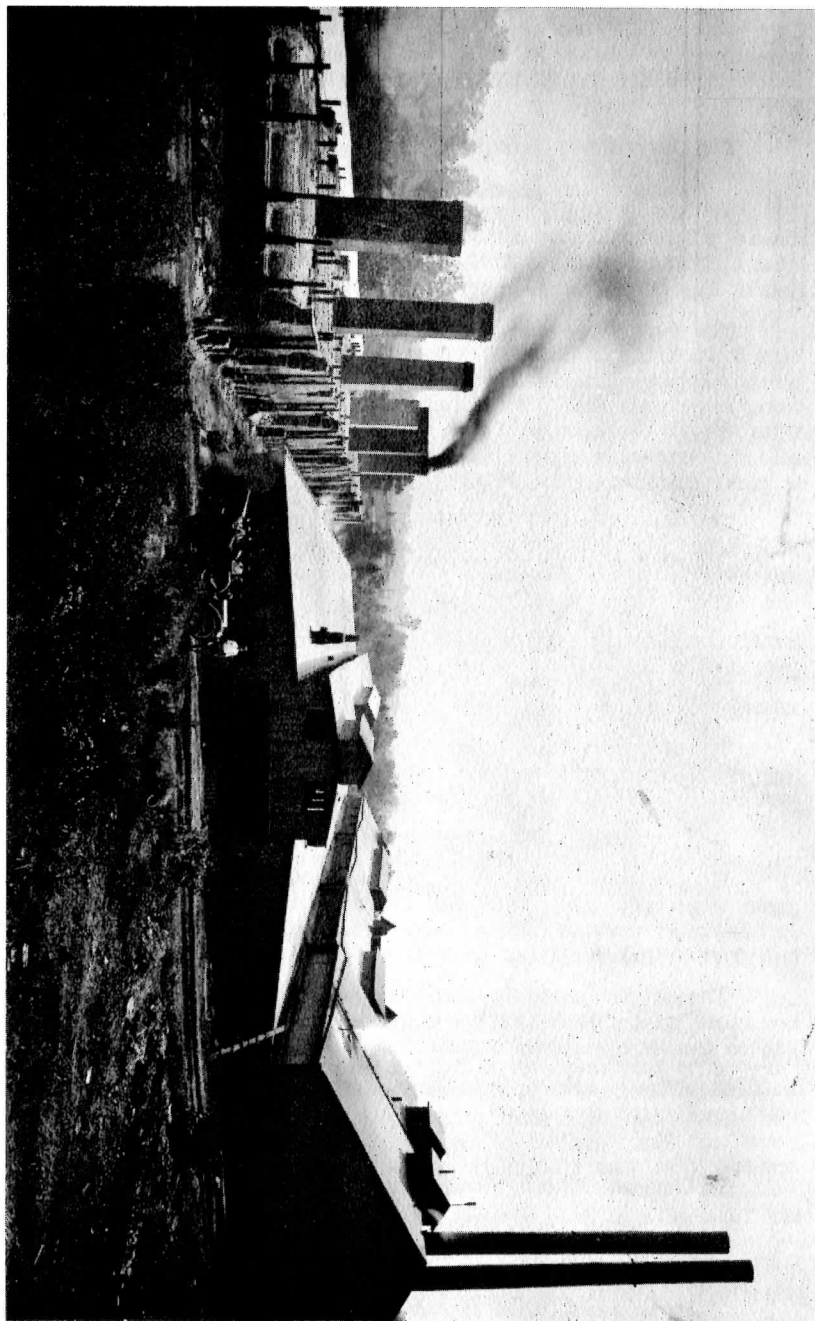
Her native sons and daughters who have taken up a busy life elsewhere will still remember:

In October, Nature flings a glowing mantle,

Over Pennsylvania hills;

Flooding all the land with beauty,

Till our hearts with rapture thrills.



This book was made possible by the courtesy of the sponsors who are listed below.

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