

(Handwritten date: 1938)

A FEW ITEMS OF INTEREST

The first Post Office in Berne was established November 27, 1872.

Previous to the establishment of the Post Office the mails were carried through from Winchester to Fort Wayne on horseback, and residents of Berne received their mail from the Canoper post office, which was kept at the residences of farmers living east of the present town of Berne. It is said that some of the mail was delivered through Newville to residents in this community. When the passenger trains began to run on the Grand Rapids and Indiana Railroad, the mails were carried by the railroad and the Canoper post office was ?? and the Berne post office came into existence.

The first Postmaster was Mr. William Rawlins, who was appointed when the office was established. Other Postmasters were appointed to office in line of succession as follows - Mr. Philip Sheets, Mr. Andrew Gottschalk, Mr. William Sheets, Mr. Joel Welty, Mr. Harvey Harruff, Mr. John N. Sullivan, Mr. William T. Waggoner, Mr. Henry S. Michaud, Mr. J. F. Lehman, Mr. John H. Hilty, Mrs. Anna Egly, Mr. Earl K. Shalley, Mr. Vilas Schindler, Mr. Menno Burkhalter, Mr. Fred Rohrer, Mrs. Rena Zehr.

Many changes have been recorded in the local office during the past years and the rating has gradually advanced. This office was established as a fourth class office in 1872. In 1900 the rating was advanced from fourth class to third class and in 1920, the office was advanced to second class. Rural Free Delivery services was established from this office on February 2, 1903. City delivery service was started on February 1, 1931. A great portion of our receipts are derived from parcel post or 4th class matter, and from the publications that are mailed as second class matter. At present this office has 34 different second class entries.

There are 3 other cities by the name of Bene in the United States. They are located in New York, Ohio and Pennsylvania. Other cities having a similar name are - Bern in Idaho; Bernie in Missouri and West Virginia; Boerne in Texas and Berner in Georgia.

(Handwritten date: Monday, September 22, 1941

ROBERT RYF, NATIVE OF BERNE, WITNESSES HISTORIC ROOSEVELT-CHURCHILL CONFERENCE

The Witness is in receipt of a letter from Miss Martha Ryf, who left Berne nearly two years ago with her sister, to locate in California. She is at present living in Eagle Rock, California, with her brother Otto and his wife, and is employed in a print shop there.

Miss Ryf's letter gives the news that Robert "Bob" Ryf, 23-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Otto Ryf, who graduated from Annapolis last May and was immediately stationed on the staff of the Commander in Chief of the Atlantic fleet, was present at the historic parley between Pres. Roosevelt and Prime Minister Winston Churchill of England somewhere (cut off)

...tions duty on the flagship U. S. S. "Augusta." He is a native of Berne. His parents formerly resided here. The "Augusta" was one of the ships where some of the conferences between the two leaders were held, and it is presumed that Ryf obtained a first hand view of almost everything that was going on.

Miss Ryf writes that she frequently visits "Cafe Switzerland" where the well known "Moser Buebe" entertain each evening with their yodels and instrumental music, and states they are always eager to

hear news from Berne. Paul Moser's wife arrived from Switzerland recently to join her husband who with his brother (cut off)

(Handwritten date: Wednesday, Sept. 24, 1941)

ALVIN C. ALDERFER DIES IN PENNSYLVANIA

Alvin C. Alderfer, 71, of Harleysville, Pa., died on Sunday evening, September 21, at 7:10 o'clock, it was just learned here by his local Mennonite friends. His funeral services have been arranged for Thursday, September 25, at the Eden Mennonite Church at Schwenksville, Pa., of which Rev. Freeman H. Schwartz is pastor. Services will begin at 2:00 o'clock with a private interment.

Mr. Alderfer is survived by his wife and five daughters and five sons-in-law and several grandchildren. He was a prominent citizen of Harleysville, and engaged as a banker and insurance agent.

Mr. and Mrs. Alderfer were in Berne as delegates to the General Mennonite Conference held in Berne during August 1926 and have visited here since then a number of times.

(Handwritten date: Wednesday, Sept. 24, 1941)

PEARL FRIEND RECENT BRIDE

Geneva Girl Bride of Wilbur Harshbarger In Ky. Ceremony

Miss Pearl Friend, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Chris Sommers of Geneva, became the bride of Wilbur Harshbarger, son of Mr. and Mrs. Forest Harshbarger of Geneva.

The couple were married at Covington, Kentucky at ? o'clock Saturday afternoon in an impressive double ring ceremony. Rev. Arthur T. Tipton, pastor of the Christian church, read the nuptial vows.

The bride wore a wine colored dress trimmed in gold with b? accessories. The groom was attired in a medium blue suit.

The groom is employed at Standard Brush and Broom of Portland, Indiana. The couple will reside at the home of the bride's parents in Geneva, for the present.

Adams County Historical Museum

1940-1941a Scrapbook, image 23

Transcribed by Karin King