

CROWN CRIBER

JULY 1988

Paddlewheel Ferry Travels a 171 Year Old Crossing

- R. David McLaughlin

With average luck you will uncover a worthwhile travel event at a bargain price about every third vacation. But if you happen to travel through central Pennsylvania and want to beat the average, you can do no better than to take your river crossing business to the 171-year-old Millersburg Ferry.

Operating across a beautiful and extraordinarily peaceful section of the Susquehanna River, this unusual enterprise does a steady business carrying people and vehicles back and forth across the river with the only wooden sternwheelers still in operation in the United States. Since 1971 it has been designated a historical landmark.

Among the green Appalachian Mountains of Pennsylvania, the small town of Millersburg sits on the east bank of the Susquehanna about 30 miles north of the state capitol at Harrisburg. At this location the heavily wooded mountain ridges rise on either side of the river, which spreads a mile in width, sprinkled with rocks and islands and sandbars. The water moves slowly in summer, a wide mix of flat pools and gently rippling eddies. The evening mist over the river and mountains can produce a fairy-tale beauty.

Jack Dillman grew up in this setting and got acquainted with the ferryboats by working for the owner for several years. He left to spend twenty years in the Navy, but returned in the mid-60's to operate the ferry himself. Since then he has piloted the boats from dawn till dusk each day, March through October, closing down only when the river ices over or the wind blows too hard through the mountains and along the river.

Three generations of boats have handled river traffic at Millersburg. When the ferry began its operation in 1817, the original wooden vessels were poled across the river, hauling people, produce, livestock, and whatever else needed to get to the other side. The late 1800's saw the introduction of steam-powered sidewheelers on the river. These lasted

several decades until the third and current design of gasoline-powered sternwheel boats began working the river around World War I.

The present complement of two boats was designed by a local carpenter who put them together on the west riverbank above Crowe's Landing at the end of the ferry run. These two, christened the "Falcon", and the "Roaring Bull", are low-profile, squarish vessels each made up of two hulls fastened side by side. One hull carries individual passengers, the crew, and the machinery, while the other supports a load of up to four cars or light trucks.

I first encountered the "Falcon" on a lazy late summer afternoon while touring through Pennsylvania with my family. My parents had recommended the ferry as a worthwhile place to visit, and we had gotten ourselves ready for an adventure.



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EDITORLibby Marshall

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PUBLISHING.....Kara Swinehart

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.....Sandra Arnold

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THE NEXT ISSUE WILL BE AUG. 1988.

DEADLINE FOR CONTRIBUTIONS, JULY 29.

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continued...

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After a short wait, what we found out was the "Falcon" appeared some distance out in the river. As the boat skirted islands and rocks, the paddlewheel became visible, kicking up white water behind. Other details came into focus as she deliberately made her way along the low rock dam that marked the downriver edge of the ferry run. Approaching the east end of her trip where we were waiting, the Falcon turned and slowly backed up to a wooden gangway at the water's edge that would be our means of boarding. The paddlewheel stopped and a ramp was lowered to the gangway. Two cars drove off and disappeared up the short road to the top of the bank. The pickup truck in front of us started and got ready to drive on. I watched to see what skills might be needed to get us onto the ferry and keep us out of the river.

Getting on turned out to be simple enough, sort of like driving onto a repair lift at a garage. The ferry took on the pickup truck and our car for this trip, along with one passenger who had walked up to the ferry landing. The access ramps were drawn up and the engine restarted.

We got out of our car and went to the passenger section in the other half of the boat, part of which was enclosed, with the rest open to the cool river air. The enclosed part featured a woodburning stove and overstuffed furniture for added comfort when the outside air grew cold in the fall and early spring. Wooden benches around the edges of the open section offered more seating. The pilot house fitted between these two sections.

The paddle wheel reversed to back us out into the river. We turned and began the leisurely trip to the far shore. The run would take about 20 or 30 minutes, we learned, so we had enough time to get a little better acquainted with the ferry itself as well as admire the river.

The dam on the downriver side of the ferry course was made of rocks loosely piled together. This simple construction impeded the water flow just enough to maintain a depth of two or three feet where the ferry had to go.

The boat drew about 18 inches of water, and the dam was needed to keep it from getting hung up on sandbars in its travels as the water level steadily dropped over the summer. The construction of the dam dated from 1877 when the introduction of the steam driven sidewheelers required a more consistent channel depth. Occasionally, the ice in the spring will move enough rocks to leave low spots in the dam. Tidying up is accomplished by hiring a bulldozer to work in the shallows below the dam and push the rocks back into place. On a few occasions, low water and/or wind have gotten the ferry hung up on the dam. At that point either the ferry crew wades out into the water to rock the boat loose, or some of the fishing boats are conscripted into tugboat duty to pull it free.

The business at the Millersburg Ferry which now occupies the Falcon and the Roaring Bull formerly kept as many as four boats busy, all plying the river channel on a regular basis.

All too soon the Falcon approached Crowe's Landing. The Ferry nosed into the bank this time, so that the cargo could drive off forward. In a few minutes we were on the road again heading west, each with his own impression of sternwheeler ferry travel in the 1980's. For \$4.00 (the fee for the car and its passengers a few years ago when I rode the ferry), and about an hour's worth of time, we had gotten a ride on a piece of our country's history, an intimate and unhurried view of a lovely river and its surrounding mountains, and the most relaxing event of our trip.

Take the opportunity when you're in the area to ride the Millersburg Ferry. It will improve you. Besides, as the brochure plainly notes, you will experience the thrill of riding the fastest ferry on the river.

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"I'll be on vacation for two weeks, Ms. Garrett. While I'm gone, clean up my act."

employee committee report

SECOND QUARTER 1988 - APRIL-MAY-JUNE

Balance 3-28-88 \$2786.62

Income (Receipts):

- Bertsch Deposits \$1533.74
- Ping Pong Contributions 45.85

TOTAL RECEIPTS \$1579.59

TOTAL TO ACCOUNT FOR: \$4366.21

Expenditures:

- Carry In 973.95
- Ping Pong Table 292.12
- Westview Florest 272.73
- Cubs Tickets 252.00
- Gift Certificates & Baby Gifts 142.30
- Miscellaneous 156.20

TOTAL EXPENDITURES \$2089.30

BALANCE IN CHIPPHONE SAVINGS & CHECKING ACCTS. 6/24/88 \$2276.91

OFFICERS FOR 1988:

JEFF BENDER, PRES. ROD SCHROCK, VP.
JO SHREINER, SECR. KEN BONTRAGER, TR.
CINDY SWALD, GIFTS/HOSPITALITY

COMING EVENTS: JULY 16 - CUBS TRIP; BUS LVS FROM EAST SIDE OF CROWN AT 8:30 AM.
- AUG. 6 - CROWN PICNIC, CAMP BELLOWOOD
CATERED - BRING ONLY AN APPETITE!

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puzzle power

(From Readers Digest Tests and Teasers)

The Y and wherefore of the little game below is to add a Y to each word given, wherefore you can arrange the letters to form a new word. For instance: Add a Y to THOU, rearrange, and you get YOUTH. This is a good chance to Y's up on your anagramability.

- | | |
|-----------|-----------|
| 1. BASS | 15. STAR |
| 2. GRIND | 16. RELAY |
| 3. IDLE | 17. DOLE |
| 4. DRONE | 18. NOMAD |
| 5. RUBE | 19. ORAL |
| 6. STORE | 20. MAULS |
| 7. BEAM | |
| 8. TIMES | |
| 9. CHAT | |
| 10. HONED | |
| 11. NEAR | |
| 12. PAPER | |
| 13. SEAT | |
| 14. PALER | |

How Y's Are You?

new employee profiles

RHONDA CLARK - Flex-Force, Asm. Line 2

Birthday: Jan. 6; Address: Goshen
Playing the piano, singing and going on trips are her main interests. Rhonda sings in the Goshen H.S. Advanced Choir, is in the Key Club and church youth group. She hopes to continue her education after high school next year. Rhonda is Phyllis Gates' daughter.

KEN PORTOLESE - Engineering intern

Aug. 4; Mishawaka
Ken comes to Crown through the Technical Assistance Program of Purdue Univ. where he goes to school. Weightlifting, racquetball, playing the guitar and basketball are his activities.

STACEY PRATHER - Quality Assurance, Inspector

Jan. 14; Elkhart
Walking outdoors, gardening, and enjoying her son are Stacey's interests. Her goal is to be a good mother, wife, and employee.

SUSAN RAVENTOS - Flex-Force QA Inspector

May 26; Elkhart
Bill's daughter plans to go to Brigham Young Univ. in the fall. Like her father she enjoys playing the piano, baking and most sports, such as volleyball and gymnastics. She has been on Student Council at Concord H.S., Pep Club, NHS, Senior Elites, Outing Club and others.

ROBIN RORIE - Quality Assurance, Inspector

Sept. 16; Osceola
Robin likes electronics, music and basketball. He hopes to go to a music college.

JENNIFER SIBLEY - Paint Line, Part Hanger

March 5; South Bend
Music, violin, guitar, travel and swimming are Jennifer's interests. She would like to get into record production/performance and music journalism.

ANNETTE STANKOVICH - Wire Cut, Assembler

March 19; Elkhart
Piano and cross stitch occupy Annette's spare time. She also likes tennis and basketball. She would like to buy a home and a new vehicle.

DEBORAH WARLICK - Line 4, Assembler

Oct. 25; Elkhart
She likes art, especially drawing people. Debi is raising a daughter, Danielle, and hopes to be the best she can be for God and family.

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A WOMAN was telling a friend about her vacation plans: "I'm going to visit Yellowstone National Park."

"Don't forget Old Faithful," her friend said.

"Oh, I'm not," the first woman replied. "He's going with me."

peronnel paraphernalia

SUE KURTZ, Purchasing Secretary, was installed as President of the Maple Chapter of Professional Secretaries International (PSI), Thursday, June 16 in Goshen. She has previously served as Treasurer and Corresponding Secretary for the organization which promotes professionalism and education in the secretarial field. Arline Bontrager CPS, Indiana Division Recording Secretary, conducted the installation. Congratulations on your achievement, Sue!

RISA WRIGHT, Secretary to the President, was the proud wife and mother of a couple of (temporary) baseball pros on Father's Day, June 19. On Saturday, June 18, it was her sure eye as a bargain shopper which spotted the chance to win box seat tickets to the South Bend White Sox game the next day. Her 11 year old son, Todd, signed up and she signed her husband, Jimm's, name. Jimm's name was drawn but since Todd has the strong arm in the family, he was permitted to throw the first pitch of the game, provided his father escorted him to the pitcher's mound. The White Sox won the first game of the double header against the Wausau Timbers, but lost the second, through no fault of the first pitch.

CRAIG HUNTER, Module, Wire Cut and SMT Supervisor, is hobbling around on crutches, not an easy hobble from Plant 3 to 1. He had fun water skiing, though, until the last trip around when he ended up skiing with one ski off and one ski on and legs going in two directions. What a way to go!

Our thanks and congratulations to MARGO SOUSLEY AND MARGARET THOMAS, Public Relations Coordinators, for their coordination of the Plant 3 dedication Friday, June 17. We were impressed with the thoughtful comments of the speakers, Jim Bock, president of the Chamber of Commerce, Congressman John Hiler, Mayor James Perron and luncheon speakers John Hiler, Bill Bankhead, Dir. of the International Special Olympics, and Dr. Edward Jerger, Professor of Mechanical Engineering, Notre Dame.

From serving refreshments to making work areas spotless and painting the assembly area in Plant 1, it was a team effort. The Maintenance Dept. was especially recognized by Clyde Moore for the lighting, wiring, moving of machinery and countless other projects around the plants, successfully accomplished by long hours day and night. Everybody joined in the appreciation to DAVE STUBER, SUPRV., STEVE MYERS, Plant Electrician, STEVE SCHOLFIELD, Equipment Maintenance, ERIC STUBER, IKE KULP, JUDY KOHLER, BRENT SCHOLFIELD, JIM MURPHY, CRAIG PETERSON, ANITA SCHROCK, NINA GLOVER, RON RAY, TERRY BALDWIN, AND MILLARD EGER.

Just Enough

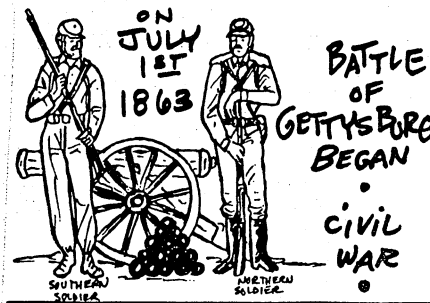
BY JOYCE D. LOUDERMILK

*Just enough rain for the garden,
Just enough sun for the sky,
Just enough trees in the forest,
Just enough hope to get by.
God blends the rain and the sunshine
Making it special to see
Seasons of grace and forgiveness
His Son has given for me.*

*Just enough fish in the ocean,
Just enough birds on the wing,
Just enough mountains to matter,
Just enough praises to sing.
All of these things are well blended
Into the love of the Lord
Causing a season that's certain
To bring us Heaven's reward.*

20. ASYLUM	10. HOYDEN
19. ROYAL	9. YACHT
18. DYNAMITE	8. STYMIE
17. YODEL	7. MAYER
16. YEARLY	6. OSTER
15. SATYR	5. BUYER
14. PLAYER	4. YONDER
13. YEAST	3. YIELD
12. PREPAY	2. DRYING
11. YEARN	1. ABRYS

How Y's Are You?



editorial

With the 4th of July coming up, it is a good time to point out another Pennsylvania attraction. Gettysburg National Park is marking the 125th anniversary of the Battle of Gettysburg. With unique and dramatic ways of presenting the historic battle and location, it is a fascinating visit whether for one hour or a couple of days. THE ELKHART TRUTH featured Gettysburg in the Sunday Edition, June 26. See me for more information.

I really appreciate those of you who give me your thoughts and cartoons, articles, poems, etc., which give us a variety of items to read in the CRIER. I need help with those inside stories though. So please note the deadlines at the top of the Staff listing and get your notes or phone calls to me. I need to know what ideas and items you would like to read and share...(even though I do like to have the last word!)