

Smucker's Harness Shop Is Site For Book Signing

LOU ANN GOOD
Lancaster Farming Staff
CHURCHTOWN (Lancaster Co.) — Hollywood is a long way from the tiny, quaint village of Churchtown, but that doesn't stop the likes of Kenny Rogers and Michael Jackson from finding

Moses B. Smucker, who fashions the finest leather harnesses in his small-town shop.
Smucker's workmanship is found on the harnesses hand-crafted for the trolley cars at Disneyland in California, the bells worn by the Clydesdale horses in

the Budweiser Christmas commercial, for horses at Ringling Brothers Circus, and for multimillionaire Donald Trump.
You can visit Smucker's Harness Shop during their open house on Friday, May 6 from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. and on Saturday, May 7 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

And you can read about Moses in a book written by Mary T. Petrofske, who will be at the open house to autograph her recently published book, "Recollections of Caernarvon Township." The book, which is a portrait of the Lancaster County community from 1930 to 1993, is filled with fascinating stories of folks like Moses and personal reminiscences told by the heirs of this legacy-rich area.

Petrofske, a free-lance writer for 20 years and a newspaper reporter, became interested in the area when she covered local government and wrote features for the newspaper.

"I always thought there should be a book about this area," she said.

She was thrilled when the board of directors from the Friends of Bangor, a nonprofit organization dedicated to the preservation of the 1722 Bangor Episcopal Church, commissioned her to write the book.

The board of directors helped her by taping interviews with local people.

"They did such a great job that when I listened to the tapes, I felt like I was right there," she said.

The whole community worked together. Some contributed ideas, others brought in pictures that were stored in their attics, and

some even wrote a few pages.
"The story just wrote itself," said Petrofske, who had feared that it would be difficult to compile chronologically the tales, local lore, excerpts from diaries, letters, and old newspaper clippings.

She found it easy to structure the text into three sections, "Community Spirit," "Main Street," and "Industry to Agriculture". Maps and photographs illustrate each section that sparkle with human interest narratives.

Proceeds from the sale of the 240-page hardcover book will be used to create an endowment fund for the upkeep of the 260-year-old Bangor Episcopal Church listed on the National Register of Historical Places.

Refreshments will be served and ample parking is available at the open house. Smucker's Harness Shop is located on Route 23 in the village of Churchtown, between Blue Ball and Morgantown.

Books are available for purchase at Smucker's, at the Churchtown Supply, and at the Olde Springfield Shoppe, 10 W. Main St. Elverson. Books may be purchased by mail for \$35 plus \$4.50 per book for postage and handling. Make check payable to Friends of Bangor and mail to Mary Petrofske, P.O. Box 112, Narvon, PA 17555-0112.



Mary Petrofske



An open house at Smucker's Harness Shop provides an opportunity for visitors to see the place where harnesses are made for television commercials, Disneyland in California, Kenny Rogers, Michael Jackson, Donald Trump, and the Ringling Brothers.

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