



The old post office

Hold-ups, Lincoln's first presidential act part of history of the Marietta post office

The first Marietta Post Office opened its doors in 1813 at 1 West Market Street. Samuel Bailey was the first postmaster.

Delivering the mail was a lot cheaper in those days. In 1820, postmaster H. P. Wilcox reported the following expenses: office rent - \$60 a year; fuel - \$20 a year; candles and oil - \$10; wages for clerk John F. Page - \$150 a year; wages for temporary clerk G. J. Willard - \$40.

By 1832 the Marietta Post Office was delivering mail 3 times a week. The mail stage started at Columbia, then drove to Marietta, Maytown, Bainbridge, Falmouth, Middletown, Highspire, and finally, Harrisburg.

Abraham Lincoln's first official act as president of the U.S. was to name Abraham Cassel as Marietta's postmaster.

After the Civil War, the post office moved to 33 West Market Street. One day a clerk named Charles Kraus found several thousand dollars in the mailbox. The money was wrapped in a bundle of newspapers.

Neighbors pitch in

When farmer Paul Brubaker of Pinkerton Road was hospitalized after a tractor accident, his neighbors did more than offer sympathy.

Five big tractors showed up at the Brubaker farm last

The money, it turned out, had been left there by a woman who was running away from her husband. She had planned to take her husband's life savings with her, but changed her mind at the last minute and dropped the cash in the mailbox.

About this same time, there was an attempted hold-up. The robbers left empty-handed.

Later, the freight station agent heard a rumor that another hold-up was being planned. Three residents with shotguns stationed themselves across the street from the post office, but the bandits never showed up.

House to house mail service began in 1929, John Goodling was the first mail carrier.

The first postmistress was Miss Elizabeth Miley, who was hired in 1943.

The present postmaster, Frank Seaman, was appointed by President Eisenhower.

The post office moved to its present location on New Haven Street about 15 years ago.

Working together, the neighbors were able to plow a 50 acre field in two hours.

The neighbors plan to do Paul Brubaker's field work for him until he is back on his feet again.

Elaine Good, La Leche League leader

Elaine Good first got involved with the La Leche (lay-chay) League after taking her second baby to the doctor for the 4-week check-up. Elaine had been breastfeeding the baby and the baby hadn't gained any weight. The doctor began describing the different formulas to Elaine.

"I didn't hear a thing," Elaine recalls, "I came home in tears."

She had attempted to breastfeed her first baby and had given up after six weeks. She couldn't believe that breastfeeding had to be so difficult. She didn't want to give up again.

Her husband, Leon, supported her feeling and encouraged her. Elaine decided that it wouldn't do any harm to call the La Leche League. With the advice she got from La Leche, Elaine was able to nurse the baby successfully.

The La Leche League is a non-profit organization started in Chicago in 1956 by a group of mothers. The basic purpose of the League is to help mothers breastfeed their babies with success and happiness.

Elaine, now nursing her third baby, has recently been certified as a leader for the Elizabethtown-Mount Joy Group of the La Leche League.

"I became a leader because I felt that the help given by the group was so good, that I wanted to share in the work," she says.

After being without leaders for six months, the Elizabethtown-Mount Joy Group now has two leaders, Elaine Good and Grace Faus, who was also recently certified.

The functions of leaders in the group, are to lead meetings, and to provide telephone counseling.

Elaine stresses the fact that mother-to-mother telephone counseling is available any time day or night. As she points out, it's often at night when the baby is screaming, that the mother most needs help.

"We encourage the mother to make her own decision. We tell her what she can do, instead of saying what she should do. We work from where she is."

Mothers needing information or counseling can call Elaine (Mrs. Leon) Good at 653-1590 or Grace (Mrs. Samuel) Faus at 665-4582.

The Elizabethtown-Mount Joy Group of the La Leche League, holds regular meetings on the second Thursday of each month at 7:30 p.m. The meeting is held in basement meeting room of the Norlanco Family Health Center. The Center is located between Elizabethtown and Mount Joy, just off Route 230 on Cloverleaf Road. (near the Farm Diner).



Local La Leche leader Elaine Good with daughters Juanita, 3 and Crystal, 9 months.

The meetings are informal and mothers are encouraged to bring their babies. Any interested persons may attend as many meetings as they wish without joining the League.

The membership dues of \$8 a year includes a subscription to **La Leche League News**, a bimonthly publication of La Leche League International. Elaine describes the magazine as a "morale booster, especially for mothers who can't get to the meetings." The rest of the dues go to maintain a library of books which is brought to each meeting, and to pay for publishing free literature that is handed out.

Elaine emphasizes that although the League encourages breastfeeding it is not against bottle feeding. Many aspects of parenting are discussed at the meetings.

"There is a lot of joy in parenting and we try to help each other find that joy," she says.

The meetings cover a series of topics, one each month. They are:

1. Advantages of Breastfeeding.
2. The Art of Breastfeeding and Overcoming Difficulties.
3. Baby Arrives; The Family and the Breastfed Baby.
4. Nutrition and Weaning.

Expectant mothers are encouraged to attend at least one meeting before the baby arrives. There is no need to wait for the beginning of a series before going to a meeting. There is some discussion of the other topics at all meetings.

The next meeting is April 8 and deals with Nutrition and Weaning.

Elaine says, "Every baby

is different and every mother is different. Perhaps in the experience of several mothers is the solution to a particular problem."

Strange 'monument' stands in the woods



Someone put this worn rocking horse on a cement-block pedestal in the woods near the East Donegal Boat Club. It looks like a monument to time and weather.