



Marlin McConnell in the old kitchen of the Railroad House

Railroad House is Home of Month

Marlin McConnell, owner of the Railroad House at Front and Perry Streets, Marietta, received the Marietta Restoration Associates' "Home of the Month" award for February.

Marlin acquired the Railroad House in '73. The house (originally a hotel) was built in 1820. Marlin has converted the first floor into a dining area, and the house is now a restaurant and night club. Dinners are served from 6 to 9:30 Wednesday thru Sunday and the downstairs bar is open from 9 to 2 a.m. the same days.

The bar on the same floor was brought from the hotel in Lancaster in 1890. The copper topped bar in the basement is a creation of the owner.

A sidewalk cafe will be open in the spring.

The 25-room hotel has 12 rooms for overnight guests. Back in the days when the rivermen floated log rafts down the Susquehanna River, many raftsmen quenched their thirst at the Railroad House before starting the long mule ride back to their homes.

Jacob Glatz was the first owner. He also owned the Accomac. Upon his death in 1850 it was bought by Col. Duffy. The RR House was operated by Col. Thomas Scott in the later

part of the 19th century. Some owners found it profitable. Other lost money.

The hotel's 14 operable fireplaces were intact, but covered, when Martin bought the place, and some needed rebuilding. The exterior bricks were repointed. Wiring and plumbing were tough jobs. Currently the front balcony is in the process of restoration, and the columns are being rebuilt.

Tons of plaster and gallons of paint have gone into the restoration. Ken Fortney, desert chef of the restaurant and an authority on stenciling, has painted the ornate decore around windows, floors and walls.

Some outbuildings have been removed. The unique summer kitchen with its walk-in fireplace has been preserved. Marlin has begun restoration on the existing barn which has sunk a foot over the years. Although he has jacked it up, the former accountant has very little time at the moment since he is operating as a hotelman. Long vanished are the livery stables.

Among those who have owned and worked on the Railroad House in recent years are the late Armor McKain, John deVity and Frank Westenhoefer.

Johnson plays private eye in DHS play

The Junior Class of Donegal High School will present "Any Number Can Die," a comedy-mystery in three acts, on Friday and Saturday, March 4 and 5, at 8 p.m. in the high school auditorium.

The play is a hilarious take-off on the mystery plays of the late 'Twenties, complete with sliding panels, robed figures, and wills being read at midnight. The idioms, costumes, hairdos, and make-up of the period augment the thrills and laughter. Four ingenious murders take place in an island mansion as a pair of elderly detectives set to work on their first case. The ever-popular storm, the unexpected quests, the cryptic poem, and the missing fortune add to the intricate and inventive mystery on which the laughs bounce.

James Johnson portrays

Hannibal Hix, a would-be detective whose idol is Sherlock Homes, Michele Fisher is the female detective who arrives incognito. Margaret Endslow, the perfect ingenue, is the heiress.

Other members of the cast include Bruce Eyer, a dignified lawyer; Tammy Portner, a light-colored Haitian, a Creole; Kathi Shelly, a sophisticated woman in her mid-forties determined to inherit the fortune; and William Dommel, her husband, an admitted failure.

Kevin McKain, Scott Boylan, Gregory Bryant, Michael Simmons and Sue Meszaros complete the cast.

Committee chairmen are as follows: set and stage manager, Michael Seaman; posters, Rebecca Ruhl; publicity, Donna Germer and Marta Emenheiser; tickets, Denise Grimm and Carol Nolt; make-up, Cindy

Charles; costumes, Brenda Gible and Tammy Duke; properties, Brad Newcomer; ushers, Joi Shearer. Prompters are Tammy Duke, Jennifer Kohler, and Debra Ross.

Miss Catharine Zeller,

head of the English Department, is directing the production. Kenneth Depoe, head of the Industrial Arts Department is supervising the stage set and the printing.

Letter to editor

AN OPEN LETTER TO THE CITIZENS OF MAYTOWN AND VICINITY.

The Maytown Civic Association has been re-activated, reorganized, and is ready to go! Many interesting and worthwhile projects are under consideration and discussion. All such projects will be aimed at "service to" and "betterment of" our community.

The immediate top priority is a 1977 supervised community playground

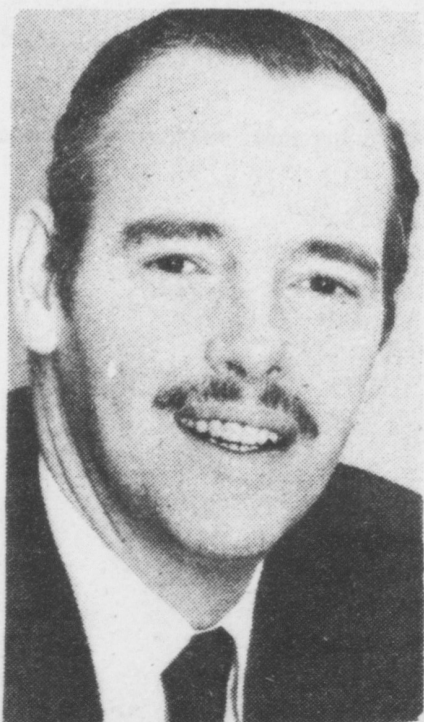
There will not be a 1977 community playground in Maytown unless it is organized, operated, and financed locally. The Maytown Civic Association is willing to lead the effort. Come to the March 1st meeting at the Township Municipal Building at 7:30 p.m., to get the details and indicate your support.

To successfully "swing" this one, will require the individual support of all the people. But, of greatest importance, **the full support of families with children who would be attending the playground.** This may sound a little **DEMANDING** but we feel this obligation must be met. To obtain a reasonable approach to **total support**, we **must have** the full cooperation of the families who

would directly benefit from a supervised playground.

Please show your interest by attending the March 1st meeting. At this meeting we intend to have sufficient information, that **together with a show of your interest**, we should be able to decide whether the playground idea is **go or no go** for this summer.

John Drace, President
Ivan Hess, Publicity



Henry J. Rutherford

Ceremony honors Henry Rutherford

The Hon. Judge Wilson Bucher was speaker for the memorial services at Marietta Memorial Park Tuesday afternoon when a hemlock tree was dedicated in memory of the late Henry J. Rutherford, former District Attorney of Lancaster County. The tree and service were arranged by the Marietta Restoration Associates. Dr. John H. Brown, Marietta, was master of ceremonies for the service.

He introduced the speak-

er and Reverend Arthur Schirmer, pastor of First United Methodist Church, Marietta, who offered the Invocation and Benediction.

Judge Bucher, lifetime friend and associate of Henry Rutherford, said it was good to be back in the park, the scene of the happiest days of his childhood. He added that Rutherford represented certain values that we should pass on to our children; he loved the law and the church and saw virtue in a small town;

he was a leader; he was dedicated to high principles and practiced them; he had faith in family and in those with whom he associated.

Dr. Brown outlined the history of the park, explaining it was dedicated in 1946 in memory of veterans, especially the twelve local persons who gave their lives in World War II.

At the base of the hemlock tree dedicated to Rutherford is a plaque engraved with his name. Members of the Rutherford

family who attended the ceremony included: Dolores (his wife); Ann (his daughter); Mrs. Edwin Rutherford (his mother); and Miss Naomi Rutherford.

Did you hear...

Jack Loose, noted local historian, and a teacher at DHS, read a paper on education at the Lancaster Century Three Forum last week.

Jack's paper was entitled, "Are we getting our money's worth out of public education?"

In the paper, Jack describes the English langu-

age as "the most vigorous, masculine, and colorful language used by mankind to express his aspirations."

When Jack uses our language, that description is certainly accurate. The **New Era** was so impressed by his words, that they reprinted the entire text of his address. It covered a full page.