

...Donegal Rangers make living history (cont.)

The Rangers leave no detail, however small, unauthentic. Buttons must be metal or bone, never plastic, for example. One Ranger displayed a pair of socks from the L.L. Bean Co. in Maine, which happened to be made of pure wool and woven in the proper old manner—a lucky find.

The Rangers' activities last weekend were in keeping with their appearance. They made candles by dipping weighted strings into an iron kettle full of melted wax, and played with lead dice made from

hammered bullets. They drank beer from tin mugs, and kept asking the *Times* reporter the hour—none were wearing watches.

While all the Rangers try to be as authentic as possible, each has his or her own theories about minor details. Some of them were dressed more officially than others, with regular issue shoes, coats, and leggings. Some even had pieces of British Army gear (which the original Rangers probably had also—they raided several enemy supply depots). The most elegant were several

visitors from the 2nd Company of the 5th Battalion (from New Holland). These gentlemen, typifying the "Line soldiers" of the regular army, were positively resplendent.

The least elegant was Dean Bechtold, whose outfit is based on the theory that the original rangers were unlikely to have many standard issue clothes. In the 1700's this area was barely settled. Some of the Rangers might have looked like a cross between an Indian and Paul Bunyan, as Dean does in his outfit.

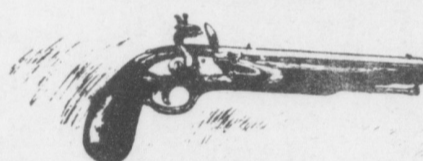
Riflemen were constantly on the move, living "a nasty life," according to Dean. They had to travel light, and everything they carried served a good purpose. Dean figures that even his beads could have been useful: "If your neck was on the line, you might have been able to say, 'hey, like these beads?' and bribe your way out. Beads were valuable then."

Dean made his own moccasins, which he thinks were very practical in the woods, because they can be repaired easily with natural materials such as vines (moccasins have coarse lace stitching and don't require a needle and thread to fix). His rifle repair kit is the size of a bic lighter.

At this distance in time, it is very difficult to know just how the original Rangers dressed. Chances are, though, that they were as diverse a group as the present Rangers, and had equally diverse outfits.



Cindy Prowell makes candles at the living history demonstration at Donegal Mills Plantation. Technique: tie a bullet onto the end of a string, dip it into the pot of melted wax. Let it cool. Then dip again. Let it cool. Then dip again. Etcetera. A time-consuming process. To make it more efficient, early candle-users tied many strings onto a stick, arranged the sticks in rows, and dipped many candles at once.



Marietta Ambulance conducts membership drive

The Marietta Ambulance Association needs members. If you'd like to help your community, now is a good time to sign up; the Ambulance people are conducting their annual membership drive.

Drivers and attendants are knocking on Marietta doors in hopes of recruiting new members. If they don't get you at home, you can join by contacting Mrs. Roy Eppley at 426-1814. A family membership is only \$5.00. Individuals can join for \$3.00. That's a lot less than you'd pay in taxes to support a professional ambulance crew.

Anyone who would like to volunteer his or her services should contact Steve Bailey at 426-3810. Steve will be conducting a First Aid course in the near future.

At the June session of the Ambulance Association

Board of Directors, Charles Marley was installed as training officer. A training session, with Columbia and Maytown Ambulance Personnel, will be held in the future.

Three persons were accepted as ambulance assistants: the Rev. Aristede Red, Donald Bombeck and Nancy Herneisen.

Donations were received this month from Mrs. Kettering, Dr. Mountain, W.I. Beahm Junior High School Student Council, Pioneer Fire Company, and Paul Smuck.

The board voted to purchase portable oxygen units adaptable to existing bottles. Blood pressure tests will be held in the near future.

Maytown Ambulance Association will serve as first back-up vehicle for Marietta, and Columbia will serve as second.



Ranger Valarie Reiger makes thread with a "drop spindle." She spins it to twist the thread. Valarie also demonstrated the carding operation, done with special brushes, which cleans and straightens the raw fibers.

Letters

Dear Editor:

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Jaycees and Joyceettes for all their time and hard work spent on producing the Miss Mount Joy Scholarship Pageant. Also all the merchants who supported the pageant with their gifts and money that the six contestants received. It is just great how the merchants help out with the many projects that are held throughout the community.

I'd like to thank my family and many friends who supported me throughout the pageant and for their gifts and thoughtful notes. A "special" thank you to Gloria Longenecker and Keith Smith who arranged and played my music for me.

I am proud to represent Mount Joy during my reign as Miss Mount Joy!

Sincerely yours,
Joi Shearer
Miss Mount Joy 1977

Dear Editor:

I have a question for the citizens of Marietta. Why is a zoning law only enforced when a neighbor, who hates your family and children in general, decides he doesn't like what you have done on your own property? My husband and I bought a swimming pool for our family and the neighborhood children. As you know Marietta does not have a community pool and we hoped our pool would keep the children off the streets while having a good time. Due to the size of the majority of Marietta's backyards we had to

put the pool within five feet of their fence. We worked very hard putting up that pool and they let us use the pool for one week. Suddenly we get a notice of the zoning law with a formal complaint from our fine upstanding and concerned neighbor. All along he knew he would report us but why did he wait so long. What a fine example of love and neighborliness was shown to our children and our neighborhood. Is this fair to stop us from using the pool on our property?

Winnie Bensinger

Dear Editor:

In first grade we do alot of reading, a little math, a little writing and a little bit of a whole lot of other stuff and at the end of the school year the math and reading books are tattered and torn and young minds are day dreaming of summer fun. It can be a time when tempers flare and children wake up groaning, "Do I have to go?" This year in my first grade we found a solution to that—we decided to have an auction and many of our activities in those last weeks centered around our planned event. We counted our pennies, nickles and dimes everyday, we made posters to advertise the sale, wrote invitations to our parents, organized a

refreshment stand and the list goes on and on, all the while developing real-life skills. Finally the day arrived and we were ready and excited. We were lucky to have a tall, dutch auctioneer who took time to explain his trade and was patient with our anxious hand-waving bidding. When it was all over, our brown bags and tummies full he gave us wooden nickels and packed his brief case to go leaving with us new words and concepts to use throughout our lives.

I would like to thank Mr. Harold Keller on behalf of my class and their parents for providing our auction with a real auctioneer!

Thank you,
Patricia Bateman