

Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor:

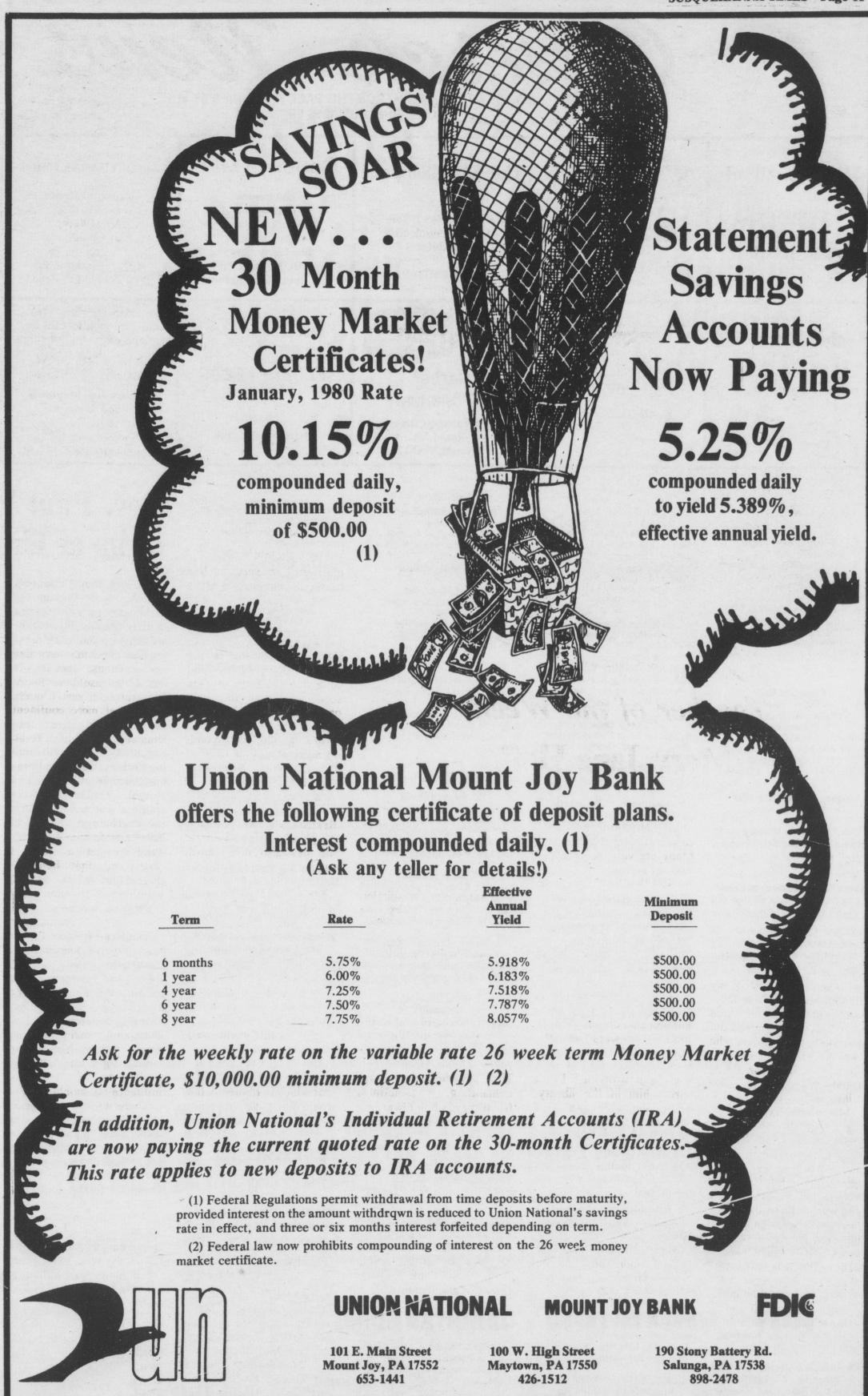
Your article about the Marietta Community House was a welcome tribute regarding this fine structure and its dedication in memory of Lieutenant Benjamin Hiestand, the young aviator who was killed during World War I.

There were, however, several discrepancies which should be corrected regarding the exact history of the building. It was constructed in 1875 by Amos Bowman and served as a residence for the Bowman family until 1909. In 1911, it was purchased by Dr. H.M. Alexander & Co. (which subsequently became Gilliland Laboratories, Inc. and are today Wyeth Laboratories, Inc.). The building was converted into a "Pasteur 'stitute', called "The mes", for the purpose of housing patients who had been bitten by mad dogs or other rabid animals. In 1919. Mr. and Mrs. Hiestand purchased it and donated it to the community. A corporation was formed, the Board of Directors of which operates the facility fulfilling its charter purpose of "promoting the spiritual, intellectual, educational, social and physical welfare" of the citizens of the Marietta Community.

The educational TV station from Penn State took some footage of the Community House being used by Scouts and Brownies which should appear as one of about ten commercials advertising use of historic buildings which have been preserved. As this building enters its second century, we hope that the community will continue to use it and to appreciate its honored history.

Margaret Landis, Vice President Marietta Restoration Associates

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