

How to really enjoy *Rubus phoenicolasius*



sketch by J. L. Biesecker

by J. L. Biesecker

Berry time is upon us, nature is giving forth her fruits in a variety of reds, blacks, and purples. During recent weeks our old friends *Morus rubra*, *Rubus occidentalis* and *Rubus phoenicolasius* have visited our meal time table with great regularity. These fancy sounding fellows are not Roman gladiators, they are our old friends the Mulberry (*Morus rubra*), the Black Raspberry (*R. occidentalis*), and the Wineberry (*Rubus phoenicolasius*).

Each July my family makes regular forays into the area fencerows and woodlots where we find opportunities to combine berry picking, nature study, and fun. From our berry buckets come jellies, pies, cobblers, syrups, ice cream toppings, and many more enjoyable products.

During our berry picking expeditions I get the opportunity to scout the area for fall hunting, observing deer and small game activity and signs. The children have learned much about the out-of-doors on these trips. As we slowly pick our way through the berry patch or around the tree, there is opportunity to observe signs of recent animal visitors, or actually see some of our wild neighbors sharing the berry patch.

We have shared a mulberry tree with a rather unconcerned young raccoon, observed fox kits romping in the dust a short distance

away, and surprised numerous groundhogs while they were berry picking.

Many questions are asked by the children as they notice the variety of tracks, droppings and other animal signs. As the questions are answered, they slowly gain an understanding of the interrelationship of the variety of animals in our local woodlots. They come to see the real complexity of nature, and they are developing an appreciation for the value of each unique component.

Through these contacts we come to view the animals we observe as being much more than anthropomorphic creatures Walt Disney Studios would have us to believe they are.

And through all of this we gather our little buckets of summer sunshine, which are stored in jelly glass or freezer. Raspberry pies at Thanksgiving, Wineberry jelly on Christmas dinner table and Mulberry syrup on Buckwheat pancakes on a cold February morning, remind us of the warmth of the summer sun, the family fun and the bounty of nature around us.

However, it is now only July. We have several months of summer sunshine left and can expect even more friends to visit us. *Sambucus canadensis*, *Vitis*, *Prunus serotina*, and others will find their way to our table. (elderberries, grapes, black cherries).

Lots of fish in river

How many fish do you figure are living in the Conowingo Pool—the stretch of the Susquehanna River between the Conowingo Dam and the Holtwood Dam? Here are a few hints to help you: The pool is 14 miles long, varies in width from one half to a mile and a half, is from 12 to 20 feet deep at the shallow section near the Holtwood Dam and

about 100 feet deep at Conowingo Dam.

Would you guess a million fish? Five million? Ten million? Well, guess again, the number is over 18 million. Included in that total are 11.5 million white crappies in this "Lake" plus 5.1 million channel catfish. The total weight of all fish in the Conowingo Pool is almost 3 million pounds.

Mrs. J.L. Biesecker suggests the following recipes for using the fruits of the berry-pickers.

Mulberry Pie
pastry for 9" pie pan
3 cups berries, with stems removed
1 cup sugar
1/4 cup flour
dash salt
1 tbsp. lemon juice
Mix berries, sugar, flour, salt, and lemon juice, pour into lined pie shell. Dot with butter. Cover with top crust and bake at 400 for 40 minutes.

Mulberry Jelly
(Powdered pectin is a must - Mulberries lack pectin.)

Add 1/2 cup water to 2 full quarts of berries, simmer 5 minutes. Mash berries, simmer 10 min. Strain juice through cheese-cloth.

Add 2 tbsp. lemon juice and 1 pkg. powdered pectin to 4 cups juice. Bring to boil. Add 5 1/2 cups sugar. Bring to rolling boil for 1 min. skim and then pour into jelly glasses and cover with paraffin.



Audrey Lutz

Audrey Lutz

Audrey Lynn Lutz, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Lutz, 348 S. Delta St., Mount Joy, has graduated from Wilma Boyd Career School, Chatham Center, Pittsburg, PA.

She was chosen the Outstanding Student of her class.

July 16, 1975

She lived at Robert Morre's College during training for the Airline Travel Industry. She was a graduate of Donegal High School.

DAVID REIST

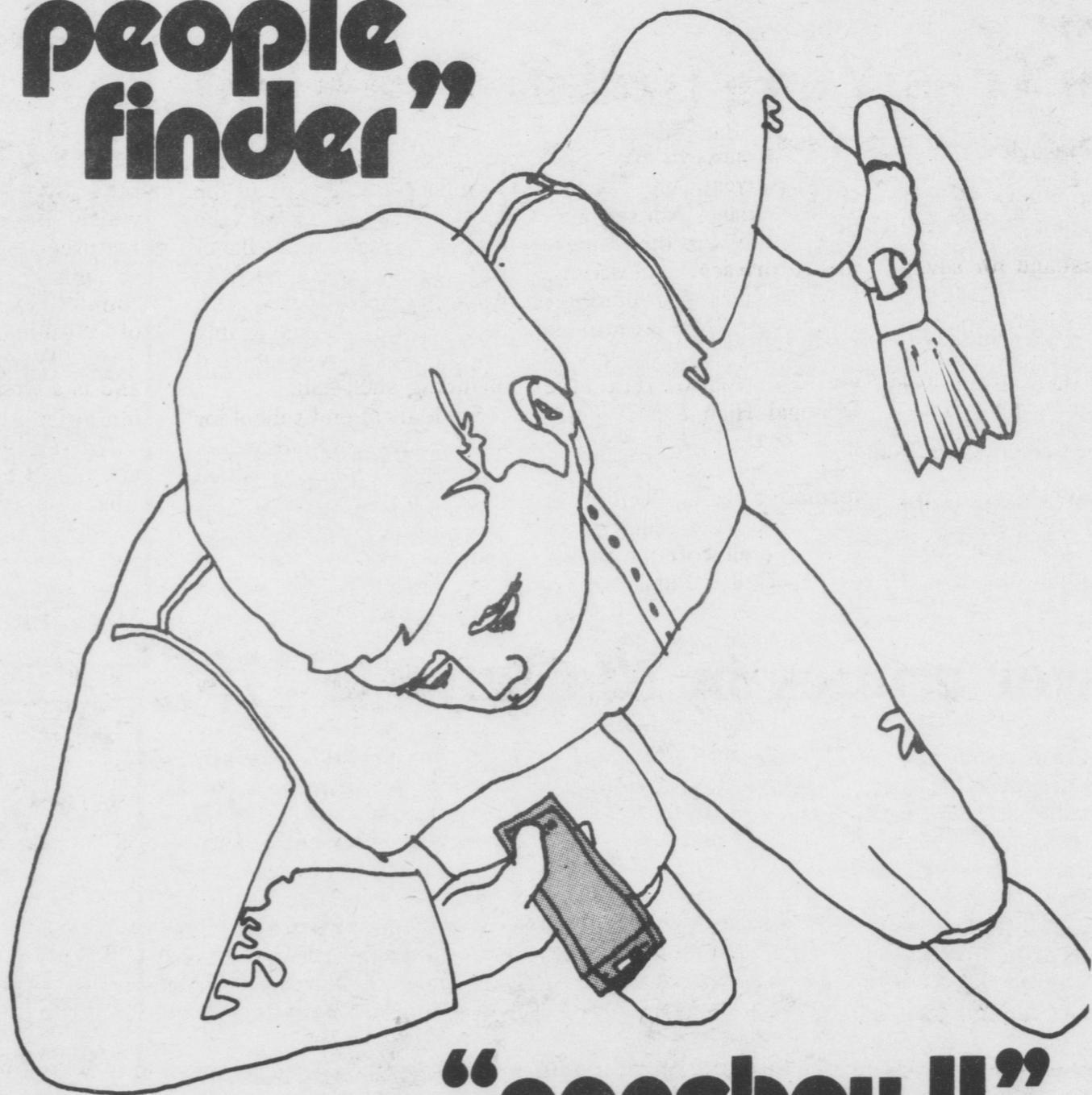
David R. Reist of Mount Joy received his B. S. from Findlay College, Findlay, Ohio. Over 200 seniors graduated from Findlay this past June.

DID YOU HEAR

Mrs. Goldie Groff, 194 Main Street, Salunga, and Miss Betsy Landis, Masonic Homes, Elizabethtown, are participating in a five week program of study in Africa sponsored by the University of California.

They will study peoples, culture, ecology and geography and modern East Africa.

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