



The Hills on their wedding day in 1958



The Hills in 2008

Hills Celebrate 50th Anniversary

Herman and Verla Hill of Needmore were honored at a 50th wedding anniversary party at Pleasant Grove Christian Church, Warfordsburg, September 6, 2008. The celebration was hosted by their two sons and daughters-in-law.

Approximately 200 guests attended from Pennsylvania, North Carolina, Maryland, Virginia and West Virginia.

The Hills were married August 24, 1958, at Jerusalem Christian Church, Warfordsburg, by Rev. Ray Mallow, who also performed the renewal of their vows on September 6, 2008.

Mrs. Hill is the former Verla J. McKee. She is the daughter of Mary J. McKee and the late Clarence J. McKee. She is retired from the United States Postal Service, serving as Needmore postmaster for 42 years.

Mr. Hill is retired from Southern Fulton Elementary School and also as a school bus driver. He is the son of the late Walter and Mamie Hill.

They have two sons and daughters-in-law: Lt. Col. Curtis and Lauren Hill of Camp Lejeune, N.C., and Chris and Amy Hill of Needmore. They are also the proud grandparents of two granddaughters: Kaylan and Kyla Hill of Needmore.

The following poem was written by Herman for their anniversary:

Today we reminisce

Of 50 years gone by
Looking back it seems that
time really does fly
It's hard to believe that it's been
52 years plus
Since a young lady named Verla
Started riding my bus.

1955 we started dating in November
That will be a month that I'll
always remember

We were married on August 24, 1958
With 50 years of marriage,
I definitely found a good mate.
We travelled to Niagara Falls for
our honeymoon

That's such a lovely spot for a
new bride and groom

We had a great time but came
back in a rush

I had to be home so I could
drive the school bus

On Timber Ridge I started to
build us a house

For just the two of us
Me and my new spouse

Working from early morning
until the setting sun

With all my other work
It took a while to get it done

1968 On October one
Verla gave birth to our first son

Then in '72, on December 23,
Another baby boy's cry could
be heard.

The house, two boys and the
post office to run

Verla's work was never done
Between driving the bus
And working at school

It sometimes was hard keeping
my cool.

Cub dad weekends with Curtis
and Chris

Those were great times
We didn't get much sleep

But it sure was fun,
By the time the weekend was over
I was definitely done.

Curtis and his wife, Lauren,
Chris and his wife, Amy,
Granddaughters Kaylan and Kyla

That makes up our family
Verla loves watching the girls
They are such a treasure

The joy they bring us both
No one could begin to measure
Retirement is now Verla and
Herman's new "cup of tea"

However, they still manage
To stay busy as can be

Church, Bible Release, gardening,
Fishing, hunting or riding a bike

They continue to enjoy
Doing the many things that they like

Life has been good to us
Like a honeymoon that didn't end

I let God pick my partner
And I married my best friend

Here's a thought to leave you with
It's been the key to our success

Lay your burdens at the cross
And your sins you must confess

When a dad and mom put God first
Their home will surely stand

Otherwise the foundation they build
Will be on shifting sand

Take Jesus as your Savior
Each and every day

To say it plain and simple,
"There is no other way"

Wearable Art Gallery Show At Berkeley Springs Ice House

In a burst of seasonal interest, the gallery exhibit opening at the Ice House on Friday, November 14, features art that is "Warm and Wearable." The opening at the Ice House Gallery at 7:30 p.m. is preceded by an Artwalk with a reception at Mountain Laurel Gallery beginning at 5 p.m.

Curated by textile artist Ellen Kardell and produced by the Morgan Arts Council (MAC), the show is displayed through January 4.

Most of the dozen artists whose work is featured in the Ice House exhibit live and work in the area. The art on display ranges from woven and knit sweaters, scarves and jackets to the pins and buttons that decorate them.

"Berkeley Springs is a hot bed of fabric artists," said Mary Hott, MAC's executive director. "A show like 'Warm and Wearable' is begging to be staged. And it comes just in time to get a fashionable new look for winter."

Kardell assembled the show to highlight the value of functional art that can be used in an everyday setting, "except that in this show we are ornamenting the body not the house," she says. Kardell owns Pocket Meadow Farm just east of Berkeley Springs. She works with the traditional arts related to fabric and calls her interest "encompassing. I have a small flock of sheep specifically chosen for the type of wool they produce," she says. "Fiber is a living resource, from live animals, and it is enriching to the final art to have all the processes connected."

Funding for special exhibit gallery shows at the Ice House is provided by the National Endowment for the Arts, West Virginia Commission on the Arts and hotel/motel tax revenues from Morgan County and Bath.

The Ice House is located on Independence and Mercer in downtown Berkeley Springs. Gallery hours for seeing the show are Saturday and Sunday from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. The gallery is also open for a special shopping day on Friday, November 28.

For more information on the Morgan Arts Council, call 304-258-2300 or check online at www.berkeleysprings.com

PASR School Retirees Meet And Plan

Ten members from Fulton County School Retirees attended the Region IV meeting in Carlisle on November 3.

President Ron Mitchell conducted an executive meeting on November 6 to prepare for the organiza-

tion's fall meeting on November 20 at the Needmore Bible Church at 9:30 a.m.

A program highlighting the problem of identity theft will be presented by Kim Shockey from Greencastle First National Bank.

Members are urged to be prepared to contribute to the Food Basket through a freewill donation.

A ham luncheon is planned for 11:30 a.m. All public school retirees are encouraged to attend. More information may be obtained by calling 717-294-3892.

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Gingerbread Decorating Contest Saturday, December 6

At the Fulton Theatre, McConnellsburg, PA

- Drop off entries Saturday between 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
- Judging begins at 12:00 p.m. with winner announced at 2:00 p.m.
- Silent Auction of entries till 4:00 p.m.
- Visit with Santa from 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. & 2:00 - 4:00 p.m.
- Light refreshments available
- Entertainment by "Angel Bell Ringer" bell choir at 4:30 p.m.

Gingerbread Decorating Contest Registration Form

Saturday, December 6, At the Fulton Theatre, McConnellsburg, PA

Entry Category: _____ Individual/Adult (15 yr. or older) \$10
_____ Family or Group. \$10

Name - Individual/Group _____
Street Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Daytime Phone _____ Cell Phone _____
Email Address _____
Approximate Size of Entry (if known) _____

- Entries must comply with rules and regulations
- All entries entered in a silent auction with proceeds to benefit Mission Possible, an outreach program of Christian Social Services
- Registration form must be received by December 4, mail to: Mission Possible, P.O. Box 462, McConnellsburg, PA 17233
- Drop off Saturday, December 6, between 9:00 a.m. and 12 Noon
- Rules and Regulations available at local businesses or by calling (240) 313-0984

Mercersburg Area Community Chorus To Present Holiday Concerts

The Mercersburg Area Community Chorus will celebrate its 33rd year with holiday concerts December 6 and 7 at Mercersburg Academy Chapel. Performance times are 3:30 and 7:30 p.m. on Saturday and 3 p.m. on Sunday. The 130-member chorus and full orchestra under the direction of Richard Rotz will be joined by soloists Jan Aaland, Tony Boutté and Alex Helsabeck, and the Glorystar Children's Chorus. The concerts will feature Vaughan Williams' Hodie, anthems and other seasonal favorites.

Jan Aaland, soprano, has been a frequent guest artist with the Mercersburg Area Community Chorus, most recently as the soprano soloist in the 2007 Christmas concerts. She first sang with the chorus in the spring of 1986, in Mozart's "Coronation Mass" and Vaughan Williams' "Benedicite." A graduate of the University of California at Berkeley, Ms. Aaland is a former Metropolitan Opera Auditions Regional finalist. She has performed leading operatic roles for the Maryland Lyric Opera, Harrisburg Opera and Annapolis Opera, and as a concert soloist, has appeared with the Delaware and Lancaster symphony orchestras. Aaland is an instructor of voice at Hood College and is the soprano soloist at All Saints' Episcopal Church in Frederick. She teaches private voice lessons at her home studio in Braddock Heights, Md.

Alex Helsabeck, baritone, was a member, soloist and section leader of the United States Air Force Singing Sergeants, and is currently a member and soloist with the United States Army Chorus in Washington, D.C. He received associate, Bachelor and Master of Arts degrees in music from Academia Di Voce in Lucca, Italy. Helsabeck directs an afternoon school vocal program in Washington, D.C., known as NOTE-BUSTERS, whose productions include more than 200 voices, children and adults combined; and in 1992 he was named to the list of "People Who Make a Difference" in Washington, D.C., for his charitable contributions through the arts. In recent years Alex's performances have included "A German Requiem" by Brahms, "Mass in Time of War" by Hayden, "The Seven Last Words" by Dubois, and "Messiah" by Handel. Alex has just completed his newest CD, "My Altar By The Sea," a selection of spirituals sung a cappella.

Tony Boutté, tenor, made his professional operatic debut as Orfeo in the Monteverdi Cycle, and has since appeared in a wide range of roles, including Ottavio in "Don Giovanni," and Gandhi in the Philip Glass opera "Satyagraha." As an oratorio and

concert singer, Tony has performed with ensembles including Tafelmusik, Washington Bach Consort, New York Collegium and Boston Baroque. He regularly performs and records with Brandywine Baroque, and his festival appearances include Salzburg, Aspen, Bard and the Versailles Autumn Festival. He made his Carnegie Hall debut in December 2006. Tony graduated from Louisiana Tech University with a bachelor's degree in voice and tuba, and went on to receive a master's degree and performance certificate from Eastman School of Music. Tony is currently on the voice faculty of Towson University in Baltimore, Md.

The Glorystar Children's Chorus is a multi-cultural and multi-racial children's chorus based in Potomac, Md. Founded in 1996 by Enchin Chen and music director Cherie Jeng, Glorystar has grown to include more than 130 choristers aged 5 to 17. In its short history, Glorystar has been recognized for its high standards and excellence. In May 1996,

Glorystar was featured in an educational program "How to Song", produced for the Public Broadcast System. In addition to its annual concerts, the chorus performed at the White House in 1997 and 1998, and won first place in the community division in the Third Annual Building Hope with Songs of Hope Choral Competition. Glorystar has also performed at the Pacific International Children's Choir Festival in Eugene, Ore., the prestigious Tuscany International Children's Chorus Festival in Florence, Italy; and the Vermont International Choir Festival in 2004.

Founded in 1975, the Mercersburg Community Chorus performs two concert series each year, in April and December. Admission to the chorus' concerts is free; however, a free-will offering will be taken. Seating at the Mercersburg Academy Chapel is limited and there are no reserved seats; therefore, early arrival is recommended. For more information about the chorus' performances and recordings, call 717-328-2324.



*My fellow
Americans . . .
I'm Bear E. Bear,
and I approve
this message.*

"On November 4 ballots were cast for those whom we thought were trustworthy for leadership in this great nation. Although many may not have been of our choosing, we have an obligation not only as Americans, but also as Christians, to pray for those in authority. The problems that each of our elected officials face are many and they will need strength and wisdom from God to be able to stand up to the pressure that they will encounter. We need to be thankful for those who are educated and willing to be considered for these positions. Many accusations have been spoken by all parties involved and some could damage character. But now we need to come together in unity and pray for one another and find the favor of God for America."

—Rev. George R. Loar, Lonaconing, Md.
(Quoted by permission)



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