



caught in the webb

•Happy anniversary to Mr. and Mrs. Dennis Bechtel of Boyertown, celebrating an anniversary on September 25.

•Want to get in touch with Uncle Sam Earl Horn? He's now living in Lehigh Commons in Macungie. Drop him a line!

•The Boyertown Senior High Art Club is doing their part to help the relief efforts in New York City. They are making baskets with American flags on them. The baskets sell for \$15, with \$10 going to the American Red Cross. Mrs. Benfield, the art instructor, coordinated the project. For information on how to purchase these baskets, call the high school.

•Happy September 21 birthday to Kitty Reese, Boyertown.

"Caught in the Webb" is Boyertown's #1 gossip column. Call us at 610-367-6041.

Boyertown YMCA

"Disney on Ice"

The Boyertown Area YMCA is sponsoring a bus trip to see "Disney on Ice" at the First Union Center in Philadelphia on Saturday, October 13.

A Klein's school bus will leave the Boyertown Area YMCA promptly at 9 a.m. and arrive in the First Union Center in time for the 11 a.m. showing of "Disney on Ice." After the show, we will depart for Boyertown, arriving approximately at 3:30 p.m.

The cost of the trip includes transportation and admission to the show.

Call the YMCA for ticket availability.



Planning for the Halloween Parade

It's that time of year to start planning for the Boyertown Halloween Parade.

The 49th Annual Boyertown Halloween Parade will be held Saturday, October 20 at 7 p.m. The rain date is scheduled for Monday, October 22.

The parade will form in the parking lot of Boyertown Junior High West and Elementary School and the Federal Mogul parking lot.

Children in the parade will receive a candy treat bag and free coupons.

All floats and groups must be registered by October 15. Call 610-682-0758, or write to Box 201 Boyertown, Pa 19512.

All children who participate in the parade will receive a candy treat bag and free coupons.

First, second and third-place awards will be given in the following categories: float; drill and baton; scouting unit; costumed group; individual; most original; and one award will be given to the best commercial float.

The winning numbers will be published in the Boyertown Area Times.

WHAT HAPPENED TO



Berks-Mont Illustration by Jason Weitzel

BOYERITE?

In 1952, a mysterious mineral deposit was discovered in Boyertown.

Fifty years later, there's no sign of it.

MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR:

Kevin Bieber

Treasurer, Oley Valley Community Fair

Times: So ... who are you?

Bieber: I'm Kevin Bieber. I work at National Penn Bank. I'm a branch manager.

Times: Your job sounds pretty important. Is it?

Bieber: Every job is. It's not as important as, say, the president of the United States ... actually, I don't think it's that important, no.

Times: You're obviously very involved with the Oley Fair. How did you get involved with it?

Bieber: It first started when I was young. I grew up with the fair. My parents were involved and we were residents of the Valley. So I would tag along and I got to know people. After a while, I was asked to do certain things. I've been the treasurer of the fair for 5-6 years.

Times: So you know Harold Hoch then?

Bieber: Yeah. Harold's a good guy. I bowl with Harold.

Times: What's your average?

Bieber: I average 212.

Times: And Harold?

Bieber: About 180 ... but he's much improved. He's come a long way.

Times: Do you play for beer?

Bieber: Sometimes we have a beer or two

afterward, but no. Not really.

Times: Where do you guys bowl?

Bieber: The Oley Fire Company.

Times: What's the best part about the Oley Fair?

Bieber: It's great to see money going back into the community. What's left after expenses is donated to certain organizations. We donate to the Oley Fire Company and the money goes towards new trucks or repairs, 16 area churches, Oley Valley High School projects, such as the graduation party. Some money is donated to the Oley FFA. Lots of things.

Times: What else are you involved in?

Bieber: I'm a trustee at the Oley Fire Company. I'm part of the Oley FFA.

Times: If you would run for mayor of Oley, would you win?

Bieber: I don't know, but I bet Harold Hoch would run against me.

Times: What about your other interests?

Bieber: I enjoy all kinds of sports, playing and watching. I like NASCAR. My favorite driver is Rusty Wallace.

Times: What about Jeff Gordon?

Bieber: I hate him. I saw him hit the wall the other week ... that was great. I guess you could say I don't like Gordon ... but I like his wife.



Berks-Mont Illustration by Jason Weitzel

Send your "Meet Your Neighbor" requests to jweitzel@berksmontnews.com

By Jason Weitzel
Neighbors Editor

Looking back over old issues of the Boyertown Area Times from the 1950s, one indisputable fact can be drawn: Everyone was fascinated by science.

The craze was widespread and had almost everything to do with the atomic bomb. The most common front page photo during the 1950s pictured any two women with clipboards sitting in a makeshift lookout tower, waiting for nuclear bombs to drop from the sky.

Similar to the events that unfolded on September 11 of this year, America was in a state of paranoia.

Although the atomic bomb never fell on America, it was still an age when everyone became infatuated with science and technology. Unfortunately, nobody understood the slightest bit of it.

One of the best examples of science gone wrong came in March of 1952. And remember, all of this is true.

The headline on the front of the Times read: "Large Mineral Deposit Discovered Nearby May Prove Boon to Borough."

The name of the alleged mineral: Boyerite.

Boyerite had a lot of people excited. After all, Boyertown could have become the next California, circa 1849.

The alleged new mineral was found two miles west of Boyertown, but was named after one of its founders.

"There is a possibility Boyertown may become a mining center in the foreseeable future," the story in the Times read, "possibly a boomtown with subsequent expansion as an industrial center, especially in the working of heavy metals."

Dr. W. Russell Borneman, a local dentist, and Miss Dora Boyer, of Pottstown, discovered the mineral together, but the mineral was named after Miss Boyer, presumably because Dr. Borneman was a good gentleman.

Because he was a man of science, Dr. Borneman subjected the new mineral to various endurance "tests."

"The mineral can be sawed, drilled, shaped and even welded the same as steel. However, the melting point of steel is approximately 2,700 degrees while Boyerite has a melting point considerably higher."

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Local Business

Area stores run out of patriotic merchandise

By Jason Weitzel
Berks-Mont Staff

Following September 11's attack on America, local stores experienced a rush of people trying to buy patriotic items.

American flags, the most popular item, sold out the night of the attack, said Stacy Adams of Bause's Super Drug Store, Boyertown.

"Anything red, white and blue is going fast," she said. "No flags, no window clings. We sold out of all our red, white and blue door bows. Our red, white and blue lights also sold quickly."

During the week, the store did not experience a significant drop in spending, but Tuesday night was extremely quiet, said Adams.

A similar scene occurred at Schmoyer's Home Center in Boyertown.

"Flags, flagpoles and flagpole holders are all gone," said Paula Babb. "We received a new stock of flags on Thursday and we sold out in twenty minutes."