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THE ARCHIVES AT BETHANY

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The Year Was 1957...

Bethany Orphan's Home was in its 94th year and the campus was alive with the buzz of children, faculty/staff, and administrators. Reverend Garnet O. Adams was the Superintendent that year.

A new budget for the home would be planned with an increase over previous years to \$209,000 which was an increase of over \$4,000 from the previous year. This would be the year to add a new position to the Administrative Staff at Bethany, Director of Home Care, which would be filled later by Gerald Hilborn.

Twenty-One residents are confirmed at Bethany, on Palm Sunday...April 14th, including: John Abbott, Josephine Angelis, Robert Basset, Sandra Bellman, Ellen Bixler, Patricia Benner, Sterling Christman, Gerald Ebersole, Lydia Freeman, Nora Green, Judith Jacobs, James Knorr, Paul Letteer,



Gwendoline Morse, Judith Ritzman, Fred Roxbury, Franklin Schell, Jr., Judith Stitely, Carl Swisher, Robert Weidermer, and Grace Zombo. (Judith was a popular name) We would also see two of our own will graduate from the Conrad Weiser Joint School System including, Wernersville, Robesonia, Womelsdorf, and the surrounding townships, Charlotte Johnson and Kenneth Arnold.

Sadly, this was also the year that Bethany lost one of her own, Irvin S. Selig a resident from 1947 to 1955 who was killed on Easter Sunday in an automobile accident which took place near Lancaster County; and sadly Mrs. Brobst, donor of

Brobst Cottage, would be in the hospital for a fractured hip after a fall in her yard.

Anniversary Day would be held on August 29th, the theme this year, "On to Bethany on August 29th", many looked forward to the activities, but also to the pageant put on by the children each year. This year's pageant was called, "Shifting Sand to Solid Rock – A Life of St. Peter." As had become a tradition for many years at Anniversary Day, The Ringgold Band would provide the days musical entertainment. In its time, Anniversary Day brought thousands to the campus and all money raised was used to further the work of Bethany.

This year two new buildings would become reality; they were proposed to house the older boys at Bethany and would be created to house boys currently living in the Administration Building. There was GREAT excitement for the young girls during 1957 the young ladies made the trip to the Penn-Harris Hotel to have "Tea with Commodity Queens," the young ladies who made the trip were: Fern Zettlemoyer, Verna Light, Kathy Fisher, Dee Ann Snyder, Carol Edwards, Dorene Stitely, Darlene Kresge, and Barbara Rosenberger. The girls had the pleasure of escorting the Commodity Queens to the Tea and remained with them for the day's events. If you are unaware, the Commodity Queens were...Cherry Queen, Potato Queen, etc.



Bethany Echo excerpt: Fall Issue 1957

Right Pew! Wrong Church!

Reading Synod has received much enjoyment out of an incident involving the Bethany Superintendent and Mr. W. Earl Brennemen, Bethany's Supervisor of Grounds. It seems that these two "loyal" members of the Synod were detailed to go to Zion Church (Spies) to present the program of Congregational Advance to the leaders of that church. Neither of the two had ever been to the church before! It seems that there are two Spies churches – a Lutheran and Reformed – both very close together – one to the right and one to the left of the intersection. The Bethany Twosome turned to the right (right, they thought) – and proceeded when they entered the church with the idea they were at the right place. The minister was not yet present but would be there soon – they were told by some people already there. "We're here to explain the program of the church" they told the people! Through the kindness of one of the members they were given a tour of the church. On this tour the first note of suspicion entered their minds – "what was that picture of the Muhlenberg College chapel doing in a Reformed Church?" Sheepishly, and cleverly, the twosome asked their guide – "What's your ministers first name?" After hearing the answer, with red faces and amidst the enjoyable laughter of the Lutherans present, the Bethany representatives of the Reading Synod hurried out to find the right pew in the right church!

1957 BETHANY COOKBOOK

Egg Nog Pretzel Pie –

Custard:

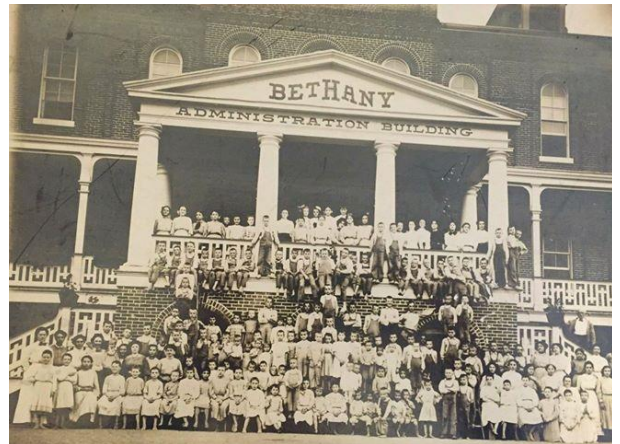
- 2 Teaspoons of Gelatin
- 1/4th Cup Milk
- 3 Egg Yolks
- 1/4th Cup Sugar
- 1 Teaspoon Corn Starch
- 1 Cup Evaporated Milk
- 1/4th Teaspoon Nutmeg
- 2 Teaspoons of Rum Extract

Meringue:

- 3 Egg Whites
- 1/8th Teaspoon Salt
- 1/4th Cup Sugar
- Optional: Whipped or Nut Meats.

Sprinkle gelatin over milk and let stand. In a saucepan mix egg yolk with cornstarch, sugar and nutmeg, and then add evaporated milk slowly. Cook this mixture over low fire, with constant stirring, until it thickens. Add rum extract and cool while meringue is prepared. Beat egg whites with salt until they form soft peaks. Add 1/4 cup of sugar gradually and continue beating until stiff and glossy. Combine meringue with custard and combine into cooled pretzel pie shell. When cold, set in refrigerator to chill and set. Garnish, if desired, with sweetened whipped cream and shaved toasted almonds, or with chopped Nut Meats.

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"Motivational Monday"
dig into the past with "Throwback Thursday"
or enjoy your Saturday morning coffee/tea
during
"Saturday with the Archivist".**

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