

Alumni/Archives News

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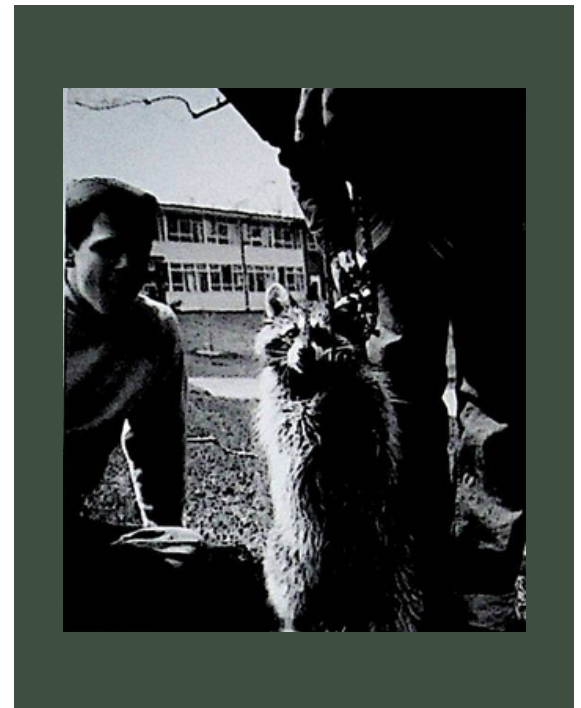


The Real Buddy!

We were honored at the last Homers Breakfast with the attendance of Jim Adams who bestowed upon us some amazing real pictures of Buddy the Raccoon who lived on the Bethany campus with some of our boys in Eck Cottage.

Jim, who had a love of taking pictures, was ready to capture Buddy as he grew from a kit up until his release about ten months after he had been found and brought to the campus.

As referenced in our Historical Fiction, [A Raccoon Living at Bethany Children's Home](#), Bob Klinger and some of the other Eck boys built Buddy a cage and raised Buddy to near adulthood. Around ten months of age, Buddy had to be released back to the wild as he was starting to become more aggressive and needed to be in the wild and make a family of his own. We thank Jim for his kind contribution to the Archives.



Do you remember Buddy?

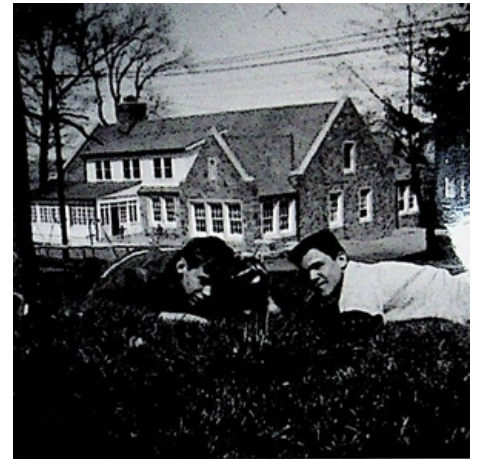
SPRING 2023

Pictures of Buddy



A Raccoon
Living at
Bethany
Children's
Home

is
available
for
purchase at
a cost of
\$15.00
from
the
Boehringer
Education
Center &
Archives (BECA).



Blast From the Past, a Former Youth...

Rachel H. Glassey 1869 – 1953

Rachel came to Bethany Orphans Home in November of 1879 and remained until she turned eighteen years of age in 1886.

Rachel married Reverend Mathias A. Dotterer, four short years later in 1890. Together they were blessed with one son and three daughters.

Rachel is significant to our history because she is the young lady who early November 11th morning in 1881, discovered the fire that would burn the original Manderbach Springs building to the ground. Because of her quick action and notification to Mr. & Mrs. Greisemer, everyone was evacuated to safety.

"I awoke to a warm feeling, not normally felt, on my toes and saw a glowing on the wall in front of me. I laid back down and then quickly shot up because I noticed the room was very warm and normally we were cuddled under our blankets, I saw that the glow was fire and ran to alert the Greisemers."

It is interesting to note that a Reading newspaper related: "One child up late due to malarial fever cried out the first alarm and another report of, a party returning from a raffling match in the early morning and awoke all in the building." Whichever is true, it makes for a great historical narrative of our past and this destructive fire.

After the passing of her beloved husband, in 1938 Rachel, sent a letter to Reverend Gebhard identifying her place in Bethany's history.

Rachel H. Dotterer passed away in 1953 at the age of 84 years.



Class of...



Kendall Stephens

2000

Kendall was a resident at Bethany Children's Home until 2002, between the ages of 14-16.

Kendall currently serves as one of the Bethany Board Members. She has been a member for the last three years. But who is Kendall, and what amazing things has she accomplished since her time at Bethany? Kendall provided us with the following personal biography:

"I am a Black woman of trans experience born and raised in Philadelphia's Northern urban enclaves. As a human and civil rights activist, advocate, educator, and hate crime survivor, I promote, protect, and champion the intersecting interests of the underrepresented and disinvested BIPOC and LGBTQIA+ communities through my work with the District Attorney Office's LGBTQ Advisory Board and the Philadelphia Police Department's LGBTQIA+ Liaison Committee.

I recently created a grassroots movement on Temple University's campus called T.I.M.E. (Temple Initiative for Menstrual Equity) to help alleviate the burden and shame of period poverty and inequity experienced by menstruating students and staff by stocking bathrooms with period products, creating educational awareness surrounding menstrual equity, and establishing a menstrual hub in the Temple Student Government office, where I served as Director of Local and Community Affairs.

I will graduate from Temple University in June and plan to use my degree in Public Health, Social Work, Communication, and Activism to work with lawmakers as a community-based lobbyist to create culturally progressive and affirming legislation that benefits disenfranchised and disinvested communities."

The Passing of a Legend, LeRoy Gensemer (1928-2023)

On March 31st, LeRoy Gensemer, former Bethany Boy and President of the Bethany Alumni Association would find his eternal rest, joining his brothers and wife Wray.

LeRoy came to Bethany Orphans' Home on December 20th, 1933 with his five siblings. LeRoy remained until aging out of the program. He served as President of the Bethany Alumni Association for twenty-nine years. Blessings to him, his family & friends, at this difficult time.

Former Team Members Return to Campus



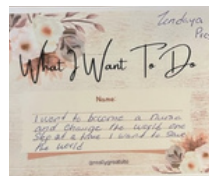
In March at BECA, a few of our wonderful former employees returned to enjoy the new home of the archives, catch up over a meal, and celebrate Sharon Shultz's birthday.

In attendance: Dr. Betsy Adams, Patti and Gene Havlik, Carolyn and Ken Handwerk, Sharon and Scott Shultz, Linda Shott, Barbara Feigum, Willie Hartranft, Billie Jean Rhinehart, and Beverly Kegerise.

Alumni Hold a Tea Party for Brobst Youth



Mickey DeLong, Susie Parks, Linda Enders, Judy Haluska, and Janice Barczynski.



Bethany youth had the opportunity to connect with and learn about some of our alumni in a relaxed event hosted by BECA.

Former youth ZP was able to make a meaningful connection with Mickey DeLong in their common love of the healthcare industry.

Connections Announcements

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Homers Breakfast is Coming:

Thursday, June 1st @ 9:00 AM

Heidelberg Restaurant
910 West Penn Avenue, Womelsdorf

*Bring back a Bethany brother or sister! 🌻
Let's enjoy some great memories and
time together. We look forward
to seeing you all there.*

Bethany Offers Sympathy

Since our last publication, we have lost the following members of our family:

LeRoy Gensemer
Kevin Snyder, Sr.
Rev. Dr. Robert I. Rhoads, Sr.



Always in our thoughts and prayers...

Save the Date

**Splash Pad for Davy
Vendor & Craft Show
May 20th at Bethany 11-6:00 PM**

**Summer Concert
Flamin Dick & the Hot Rods
July 14th 7:00 - 9:00 PM
See other upcoming dates on insert.**

160 Years of Bethany...Trivia

1. What year was the Home founded?
2. Where was our first location?
3. Who was our founder?
4. What year did we move to Womelsdorf?
5. How many names has the Home had?
6. Which is the oldest building on our campus?
7. Who is buried on the Bethany campus?
8. What was the original use of Frick Cottage?

Check us out monthly on BCTV!

