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BETHANY ARCHIVES NEWS

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Winter at Bethany...Remembered With Fondness

It is Winter time and we in Berks County have yet to see the actual Winter Season begin. Have no fear, here in the archives we have the ability to live through the pictorial history of Winter's past! Let's live a moment in the memories from our Alumni; I am hopeful you will enjoy their accounts as much as I have. Do you have any memories you would like to share about Easter at Bethany? Let me know!

Carl Bloss (Bethany Boy 1937- 1952)

My first remembered event of winter and snow at Bethany was about age 5; children had to walk from Reed Cottage on the back road above the Main building and Frick to the Montessori Kindergarten held in Leinbach Cottage by Mrs. Robrbach. What a wonder! The snow was either piled so high or was actually shoveled as a "tunnel maze" higher than I could see over. The girls in charge seemed to have been higher than the snow but we were bundled up so tightly in our snowsuits we could hardly move our heads and bodies. It was a bright, light wonderland – amazed when we scooped up a handful for a "taste".

Lisa (Harris) Pacella (Bethany Girl 1967-1970)

It was a cold winter, 1967. When I was seven years old, my house parent at Bethany took me to the ice across from Reed Cottage where everyone was ice skating. This was an outdoor area, cemented, where we would roller skate in spring, summer and fall and ice skate in

winter. Her goal was to teach me to ice skate. But I was scared and resistant. She kept she knew I was scared, than I believed in me, "Don't EVER echoed in my mind her words every time challenge in life. These given me the fortitude to keep moving forward in hope and to never give up.



David Becker (Bethany Boy 1949-1964)

We couldn't wait for winter days when school was closed and the gate road was closed to traffic so that we could go sledding. We prepared our sleds by waxing the runners. We would start at the top of the hill by Leinbach Cottage and sled all the way down to the gates at the bottom of the hill. One of my memories is from when I lost control of my sled, on the way down Leinbach Hill, and ended up in the rose bushes at Applegate Lodge. Of course, this didn't deter me from climbing back up that hill for my next sled run.



Lee Jacobs (Bethany Boy 1956-1966)

I can remember taking our sleds up to the fort and lonely pine and making a trail all the way down to the gate; I certainly couldn't do that now! It sure was fun then!

Winter at Bethany



Looking for some restoration work on a piece of our history...

Picture late 1910-1927, Bethany Panoramic View Includes Rev. Wilson F. More

While recently moving things around the Archives, making them a little more workable for our present needs as the holiday donations come in for our residents, I came across a beautiful panoramic framed photograph which encompasses from the spring to the Playground which appears to be taken between 1910-1927. We would like to see it restored so that it might be hung in

the Archives for anyone visiting to see; in its present shape, it would be an unsafe to hang it.

I am reaching out to our wonderful Archive fans to see if anyone would like to provide us with the ability to work with a conservationist.

Please contact us at: archives@bethanyhome.org if you would be interested in helping us restore this picture.

Archives Trivia: Who was Bethany's longest running Superintendent? Send me your answer! (Last month's answer – Reverend Ray S. Vandevere.

Bethany Facebook Page

<https://www.facebook.com/bethanyhome1863/>

Sign-up to see our weekly edition of Throwback Thursday & Saturday with the Archivist.

Interesting Items Found in our Archives

Leave of Absence from Bethany Orphans' Home (1868-1871)



"Leave of Absence" document which never left the log but, for Rosana "Rosie" Engelhart who passed away in 1879 while living at Bethany, an excellent example of their use.

The, **Department of Harrisburg Pennsylvania Sold: Orphans** forms, which appear to have been used heavily during this time period, were used to track the Orphans who were off visiting family members or others; they were required to carry them in order to identify who they were and where they belonged. If an Orphan went missing, the authorities and family were notified, if still living, when and if the child was found they would be returned to the Orphanage from which they were missing.

I have not reviewed the Board Minutes to see if this was an issue for Bethany and what the outcome may have been. I will update our newsletter should I find any information related to the use of this form of tracking for the children.