



Turkey Bowl Newsletter

Fall 2009

The Turkey Bowl Committee

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Thank You:

- Bev and Don Nicolls for hosting another great Nicolls Reunion.
- Everyone who contributed articles and pictures.
- Jim Ridge for taking the video of the game.

Turkey Bowl XXVI Summary By the Editor

New Castle, PA – Eighteen players participated in Turkey Bowl XXVI on a mostly sunny, but brisk day with small patches of snow visible along the sidelines. Starting on offense for the Silver Bucks was **Gayle "Sayers" Ridge**, **"Wild" Bill Nicolls**, **"Game Breaker" Bruce Nicolls**, **"Too Small" Dale Nicolls**, **Greg "Bubby" Bundy**, **"Cap'n Crunch" Kevin Blucker**, **Jeff "Rocky" Zappieri**, **Ben "Big" Mack "Attack"**, **Alex "The Great" Blucker** and first-time player **Joshua "Attacker" Bundy**. **Jacob "Darter" Bundy** was on injured reserve. On defense for the Young Bucks was **Emilie "Buckeye" Ridge**, **Jamm'n Jake Grover**, **Jeffrey "Bulldog" Grover**, **Jonathan Speedy Bundy**, **Defender Joel Bundy** and rookies **E.J. Nicolls**, **Micah "Shoestring" Delo** and last but not least, **Nora "The Explorer" Teplan** from Hungary. Level Headed Referee **Hank Grover** tossed the two-headed coin and the Silver Bucks picked heads and elected to receive. 2008 was another first in

the storied history of the Turkey Bowl. It was the first time the big game was broadcast in HD TV.

Both teams went four-and-out on their first possessions despite completions to **"Cap'n Crunch" Kevin Blucker** and **Joshua "Attacker" Bundy** for the Silvers and **Defender Joel Bundy** for the Youngs. The second possession for the Silvers was more promising. After a run by **Greg "Bubby" Bundy** and receptions by **Ben "Big" Mack "Attack"** and **"Too Small" Dale Nicolls**, the Silvers drove to the Young 30 and then stalled. The Youngs could only manage one connection to **Defender Joel Bundy** and then they punted, pinning the Silvers on their own ten yard line. At this pivotal point in the game, the Youngs unleashed their secret weapon - **Nora "The Explorer" Teplan** from Hungary. She acted like she never played football before, but on the next play a Silver aerial was tipped by **Defender Joel Bundy** and returned



Jonathan Speedy Bundy with a pick 6 aided by a tip from Defender Joel Bundy



Alex "The Great" Blucker



Micah "Shoestring" Delo tumbled this shoestring catch into the second Young Buck TD



EJ Nicolls took time out from the game to play with some snow

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Micah "Shoestring" Delo made a shoestring catch and ran down the sideline into the end zone.



You are missed

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for a pick six by **Jonathan Speedy Bundy**. After the failed point after, the Youngs went up 6 to nothing on the Silvers.

The Silvers tried to respond with passes to **"Cap'n Crunch" Kevin Blucker** and **"Wild" Bill Nicolls**, but **Micah "Shoestring" Delo** intercepted the Silver 4th down pass in the end zone. That started a trend. The next two series were also thwarted by interceptions. One was by **"Cap'n Crunch" Kevin Blucker** and the other was by **Jamm'n Jake Grover**. On the last drive of the half, **Jeffrey "Bulldog" Grover** had two grabs. On the last play of the half the Silvers stopped the Youngs on the 10 yard line. The half ended with the Youngs 6 and the Silvers 0.

On the first play from scrimmage in the second half, **Jamm'n Jake Grover** rolled to his left and then threw back to the right where **Micah "Shoestring" Delo** made a shoestring catch

and ran down the sideline into the end zone. **Micah** also caught the two point conversion making the game 14 to 0 in favor of the Youngs. After three catches by **Alex "The Great" Blucker**, **Emilie "Buckeye" Ridge** and **Defender Joel Bundy** there were three interceptions on three consecutive plays. **"Cap'n Crunch" Kevin Blucker**, **Micah "Shoestring" Delo** and **"Game Breaker" Bruce Nicolls** all picked off a pass. **Greg "Bubby" Bundy** broke the streak by completing a pass to teammate **"Game Breaker" Bruce Nicolls**. Two plays later, **Jamm'n Jake Grover** intercepted a Silver pass in the end zone. The last two drives of the game ended with plays in the end zone. The last play of the game was an interception by **Micah "Shoestring" Delo** in the end zone to keep the Silvers off the scoreboard. **Micah "Shoestring" Delo** was the MVP for the Youngs and **"Cap'n Crunch" Kevin Blucker** was the MVP for the Silvers.

Grandma and Grandpa Nic By Mary Nicolls

I remember going to visit Grandma & Grandpa Nic in Conneautville on several occasions. It was a long time ago, but I remember ... a long dining room table, loaded with food ... the quiet parlor with a rocking chair ... a

pleasant porch ... much laughter. I was pretty awed by how Grandma Nic took care of a fairly large vegetable garden all by herself. I also recall their visiting Poland, too. It was always fun to visit with them!

Grandma and Grandpa Nicolls (Harriet and Sylvester) By Ruth Lewis

I've always felt so fortunate to have had them as Grandparents. They both worked so hard on the farm, yet were so enjoyable to be around. Grandma had a great personality, smile and laugh, and Grandpa had a great sense of humor. They, together, brought up ten (10) children – all of whom went on to lead very admirable lives. They were all so much like their parents!

When I was about 10 years old or so, it was my turn for a week's vacation on the farm with them. Grandma would take me outside with her to feed the chickens and pigs. That was fun! Then she'd go back inside the big kitchen, put some more wood into the stove, and cook up the biggest lunchtime meal I ever saw for Grandpa and Uncle Art to come in from working in the farm – huge slabs of ham, fried potatoes, etc.

Aunts Jen and Marge would take me outside to the "bathroom" at night before taking me by kerosene lamp

up to one of the many bedrooms to go to bed.

One night, Grandma and Grandpa asked the girls to take me to Conneaut Lake Park to go swimming. That, too, was fun!

Saturday night was always "Grange" night. There would be music in the middle of downtown Conneautville. We walked around and everyone was so happy to see Harriet and Sylvester. Then it was on to the Grange Hall, where everyone came over to visit with them and they all danced to the music.

Their house was huge – 18 big rooms. On Christmas Day, Grandma would cook for about 20+ of her family and all of us from Poland. The farm was on 500 acres but was mostly a dairy farm, with 25-30 cows. These figures about the farm, acreage, cows, rooms, etc., have been corroborated by Aunt Jen on November 3, 2009.



The Nicolls Farm in Conneautville, PA

Another fun thing "Harriet and Sylvester" liked to do was play "500". They even belonged to a "500" club called the "Jolly 16". Maybe that's how Dad (Carl) got his love for playing "500". Anytime a date of mine would walk in the door, Dad would say, "Let's play "500".

We all felt very lucky to have had Harriet and Sylvester as "fun" grandparents and looked forward to visiting them in Conneautville, and seeing them when they came out to Poland (but always had to get home to milk the cows), and also, when we all got together at Tucker's Cottage, or at the big pavilion at Lake Erie.

Memories of Conneautville By Betty Grover

It was always so much fun. Jen and I had to sleep in the very last bedroom and there was a big water tank in there to catch the rainwater. It looked scary so Jen and I always kept the door closed by it so we didn't have to look at it.

Uncle Lee Earl said this little ditty while milking the cows:

Betty bump Teddy

Tail alago Teddy

Hegged, Tye-legged

Bow-legged Betty

THEN... Squirt! He squirted milk in my face. To this day I will not drink milk.

Jen and I would take turns visiting each other. First I would go to the farm for a week, and then Jen would come to Poland. We would walk to the fire department to see Grandpa McCoy, the fire chief, and then stop at Grandma Minnie's. Aunt Jen said, however, she was never allowed inside Grandma Minnie's house, but waited outside while I visited with her.

We went to dances in town and stopped for ice cream before going back to the farm.

We were sitting on the front porch swing and Uncle Lee Earle came around the house and scared us so



Harriet & Sylvester Nicolls

This is their wedding photo. They married March 2, 1899 in Conneautville. Sylvester was born at the farm house Oct. 27, 1877. Harriet was born March 9, 1883 in Sandusky, NY, to Earl & Jennie Cheney Beebe. Sylvester died Jan. 7, 1955 and Harriet Oct. 1, 1968.

badly that we fell off the porch. Both Jen and I loved the farm.

Memories of Harriet and Sylvester By Gene Nicolls

Harriet and Sylvester were great grandparents. They didn't come to visit us often but we went to their house at the farm. Every summer I would spend two weeks during haying time so I could help them in the fields to gather the hay. Uncle Art was only one year older than I and we played and worked together. Grandma would tell us to go get two chickens for dinner. I would run around chasing all the chickens until Art told me to chase one until it became tired. She would cook two chickens when my family was to be there for dinner.

One time Art and I were in the cornfield and met a skunk and it sprayed us. We ran back to the house with that terrible odor on us. Grandma was not happy; she ordered us into the tub and I don't remember what she did with our clothes.

Grandma was a good cook and kept the wood cook stove going most of the day. She prepared three big meals a day; plus washing the

clothes and ironing. It was a big house to clean.

Grandpa sold milk in large cans to a local dairy. Each morning the cows had to be milked and the milk was poured into big cans. Then Grandpa went to the house for a big breakfast. He loaded about 5 milk cans onto a trailer and pulled it with his truck to town. He would turn off the engine at the top of the hill and coast down the hill; that was to save gas. I would ride to town with him. When he arrived at the dairy they removed the cans and then stood and talked for a while.

In the farm house they had a room that held a huge water tank that collected the rain water from the roof. They used it for dishes, washing clothes, and the bathroom. Their drinking water came from a well with a pump outside the kitchen door.

Grandma was a warm, loving person. She always had work to do. By the time I went to visit them most of the

girls had married and left home. I only recall Aunt Jenny and Aunt Jerry still at home.

Grandpa had his son, Lee Earl to help him with the farm and Art could do some of the chores.

Every Saturday night we would go to town with Grandma and Grandpa to buy groceries and visit with friends. They always bought me an ice cream cone. In those days that was special since refrigerators did not have freezers.

One day Art and I were out in the field and Art put me on a horse without a saddle. This horse had a sore spot on his back and I was sitting on it. The horse took off heading for the barn as fast as he could go. Grandpa saw us coming and opened the gate so the horse could go into its stall with me still on his back. Grandpa was really mad at Art since Art knew about the horse's sore spot.

Sad But True By Jennie Stake

One night one of the two front doors opened and a "bear" came up the stairs and sat at the top of the stairs near the bedrooms. I was quite young at the time and Mom (Harriet) yelled to all the children to stay in their beds and keep the doors closed. Then Lee Earl somehow managed to get outside, find a ladder, put it up to the second floor window, crawl through with a big stool and throw it at the "bear" that fell down the steps and went out the front door. Then they shot it with their shotgun. Unfortunately, it wasn't a bear, but a neighbor's very expensive big dog.

Brother Can You Spare a Dime Nickel? By Gayle Ridge

When I was 5 or 6, Hank got a new bicycle. However, the light wouldn't work because the wire connection was too short. My dad put a nickel between the battery and the connection and the light worked. Well, I watched him do that and, when Hank wasn't around, I took out the nickel and went to the corner store and bought some candy. Then I ate all the candy. Later Mom saw me on the ground with Hank on top of me. When she came running out and asked what was going on, Hank replied, "Gayle took my nickel and bought candy and ate it. I'm making her throw it up because it is MY CANDY!"



"The Nickel" By Don Nicolls

What did Dad give to Ruth that he didn't give to Betty?

- Tennis racquet
- Car
- Nickel
- "Tom and Jerry" oats