

# Craighead House Chronicles

Volume I No. 3 Spring 2016



## *Three in a Bed*

### President's Message

In the 1930's Craighead, PA was in many ways its own little world. The Frank Craighead family lived and worked 9 months of each year in the "big" world of Washington, DC, but every summer they became full-time residents in the creekside hamlet. A quarter-mile upstream though, the Coyle families were year round residents. The depression had put lots of folks out of their homes, and my grandparents were reduced to renting half of the big house at the end of the (now condemned) Iron Bridge, with their chickens, borrowed cow, dog, and 3 children. My Great Uncle Andy and Great Grandparents Will and Emma owned the next 2 houses heading west. Another mile farther out the road, you could catch the trolley from Holly for a ride to Carlisle, if you had 10 cents. And if you walked a mile north to "Midway" you could save a nickel on the fare.

So it was here that Jean Craighead and my Aunt Emily

### John Coyle

became close friends and eventually went off to Penn State to be college roommates. (See yearbook photos on page 8) And when in 1941 Emily's big sister Mary Louise (always known as "Feef" because, it is said, little Bill couldn't pronounce "Louise" became the first of the three to marry, the following story took place. This was told to me over lunch in Medford, Oregon by my dear Aunt Feef, the day after she turned 96.



*Feef circa 1940*

Aunt Emily had a Penn State professor of landscape architecture named George Wickstead (photo p. 8). Visiting in Craighead for a summer Coyle family picnic, George had become enamored by Emily's sister Feef. After a few double-dates and parties (couples dating was not the norm in 1940) he had proposed on New Year's Eve. At that time, Feef was visiting Emily and Jean at their Penn State Sorority, but that is not the scene of "3 in a bed."

*(Continued on last page)*



## **CRAIGHEAD HOUSE COMMITTEE CORPORATION BOARD**

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### **Mission Statement**

The mission of the Craighead House Committee Corporation is to preserve Craighead House and put it to use as a community learning and support center for educational activities related with the Craighead Naturalists' areas of interest and to house offices and museums related to conservation, writing, art, and local history.

## **Grant Applications**

Craighead House volunteers continue to seek grant funding for our ongoing projects and programs. In March we submitted an application to the National Trust for Historic Preservation's Louis J. Appell, Jr., Preservation Fund for Central Pennsylvania. The grant would help to fund renovations to bring the first floor bathroom up to ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) compliance for accessibility and to upgrade the well. We are working on several local and state grants to continue renovating the exterior of the house and developing educational programs.

Several people submitted compelling entries to the Behr Painting for Good contest but none won. Thank you all for your efforts.



*Note: If you know of a foundation or funding source that might be interested in funding Craighead House programs or renovation, please email us at [craigheadhouse@gmail.com](mailto:craigheadhouse@gmail.com).*

### *Restoration Report*

Spring has sprung at Craighead House pushing restoration work full steam ahead. The kitchen wing's west wall siding has been primed and screwed in place. Carpenters replaced the broken soffit that had been allowing raccoons to get into the house. Electrical work has been completed to areas in the second floor and attic and Rovegno's of Carlisle have insulated the west kitchen wall, completing the stabilization of artwork on the other side.

The well is being evaluated for supply rate along with bacteria and nitrate testing. Results will yield information on equipment requirements for a potable water supply and the cost to install the necessary treatment system, pump, additional casing and holding tank.



Roofers installing rubber roof.

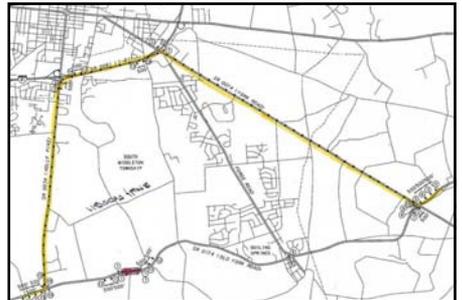
Roofers installed the roof membrane material for the porch roof that was donated by Carlisle Syntec and repaired the spouting, completing the main house/porch roofing project.



### **Road Closure Killed**

Cumberland County recently announced the proposed closure and lengthy detour for Rte. 174, the only route to Craighead House, has been canceled, thankfully! The new plan allows one lane of traffic to operate during the replacement of the Craighead Bridge, at the juncture of Zion Road and Rte. 174. A temporary signal will be installed to coordinate traffic.

This project is scheduled to begin late summer 2016 and last at least three months, according to Kirk Stoner, the County Planning director. More complete information regarding timing will be released after final bids are received and awarded.



Routes to be affected.

# WILLIAM MOORE CRAIGHEAD MEMORIAL SERVICE

August 20, 1925 – January 1, 2016

*Laurie Craighead Rudolph, niece*

A beautiful memorial service was held for my Uncle, William Moore Craighead, on March 7, 2016, at George School in Newtown, PA, where my uncle graduated from high school and taught biology for many years. George School is a Quaker School and the service was held in the Meeting House.

This service was very unique. One of the members of the school began recalling his great respect for Uncle Bill. He told us in the Meeting House there should be no talking unless it was about Uncle Bill's life. He told us The spirit would move us to speak (about Uncle Bill) and it certainly did.

Clay Craighead, my Uncle's and Betty Craighead's son, spoke about Bill's love for everyone, his love of nature and wildlife. After he spoke the Meeting House was so quiet you could have heard a pin drop.

I spoke next about being with my Uncle Bill at the Craighead House; how he was the third generation of many who had spent their summers there. As I sat down, all were quiet once again. Not a word.

Then one by one his friends and family stood and talked about how they loved him and the part he played in how he played a part of their lives. My cousin Johnny, John and Margaret's son, from Montana, spoke. My cousin Twig, Jean Craighead George's daughter, spoke. Minutes of silence; then one by one someone would stand and speak about my uncle as a friend or how he had changed their lives.

There were at least thirty to forty people who spoke. As each one sat down there was the tranquility of silence for a couple minutes and then another would stand to talk about William Moore Craighead and how they loved him as a friend or how he had changed their life. A couple of minutes of silence, then his friends and family stood, telling stories. At the end of the hour and a half service, there was once again silence, and finally, shaking of hands. Then we all gathered together to speak of Uncle Bill again. No more silence in the room.

At this service I learned many things that I did not know about my Uncle Bill, beyond his love of nature and wildlife. A very old canoe he had made while he was in high school was displayed in the Meeting House. I discovered that when he taught biology at the George School he would take his class outside and explore.

From time to time he used a classroom, especially during the winter.

I knew that he was an avid fisherman, as all Craighead's are. Many of us have raised skunks, raccoons, squirrels, birds, hawks, falcons; anything we could bring home. But my Uncle also loved to play golf and baseball, which I did not know. People were drawn to him and loved him. His love was his family, his friends, wildlife, outdoors, George School and Craighead. He was also a beekeeper and got many of his friends involved in keeping hives on their properties. Craighead was one of the properties he used, and the house was like one huge beekeeping business for years. When my sister was married at Craighead, Uncle Bill promised to remove all of the beehives for the service. He kept his promise, no bees at the wedding.

Being very stubborn as we Craigheads are, sometimes we would have squabbles, which were always resolved. My Uncle was a very unique man who taught, loved the outdoors and loved people. People were drawn to him like a magnet. He has changed many people's lives in a positive way. Rest in peace Uncle Bill. I know you had a very fulfilling life here on Earth as you will on your next journey.

AAA

The new rubber porch roofing should keep the new porch floor dry.



The repaired wood soffit should keep the house raccoon free.

# Bill Craighead's Memories of Craighead

*Betty Bakley Craighead*

Bill loved his times at the old homestead near Carlisle. He and his brother, Sam, and his mom and dad, spent every summer there in the '30s and '40s. He remembered taking off his shoes as soon as he got there and not putting them back on until it was time to go back to school. He would sleep on the upper porch deck and went to bed dressed so he wouldn't have to waste time in the morning. He did not want to miss a minute of his time at Craighead. Bill is the little guy at the far left in the picture on the cover of *Summer of the Falcon*. (opposite) Sam is above him with their dog Brownie. Bill is slightly blurred because he was always in motion.

The twins, Frank and John, and their mother and dad were usually there also, up and away from the heat in Washington. The two families shared the kitchen and so had two stoves to make everything easy. Smart ladies! Uncle Charles and his family and Aunt Ruth and her family came many times also. You can see the whole clan on the cover of Jean's book, *The Summer of the Falcon*. Bill remembered his dad, home on weekends, getting everyone together and saying, "Come on kids, let's go fishing;" and they would all troop down to the fishing hole in the meadow.



*Bill Craighead served on USS LSM 215 on which he participated in the WWII Okinawa beach landing under heavy kamikaze attack..*

At some point, I believe in the '40s, Bill's mother bought the house from the family. After I married Bill in the 50s, I began to know Craighead. We took our kids, John and Clay, and THEY went fishing in the Yellow Breeches Creek or swung out on the rope-swing. There was a peace there and a serenity that filled the soul.

I can remember Bill's mother, Myra, washing dishes in the old sink and saying how Craighead made her feel so peaceful. That is the glory of the old house and why Bill was so grateful to the Friends of Craighead for keeping those memories alive.

This is a limited commemorative edition to support the preservation of Craighead House

*Craighead is a place in many of our minds where a generation remembers having had more fun and learning experiences than any other place in the world. We would like that place to be remembered.*

Jean Craighead George



## Coming at the Educational Center in 2016:

April 9, Spring Clean Up.  
Volunteers welcome!

April 23, Perennial Plant Exchange.

May 15, Larry Luxenburg presents  
"Children and the Appalachian  
Trail: A Trail of Discovery."

Beekeeping at Craighead House  
(Date TBD)

Elementary school trips (not open  
to public)

### Off-Site Presentations:

April 11, 1PM; Tom Benjey will  
present "The Craighead Naturalists"  
at Mechanicsburg Women's Club.



John Craighead, Morgan Berthrong, Bill Craighead & Irving Zirpel  
Courtesy of John Craighead

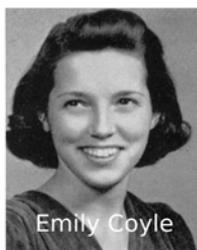
## *Three in a Bed (from page 1)*

The wedding had been set for Carlisle at the end of March, but because of the war effort it had to be moved to March first. George got a civilian job refurbishing a fort in Puerto Rico, and had to get down there in early March. (This was just 9 months before Pearl Harbor.) So, on Friday night, February 28, 1941, Feef left Washington where she worked and arrived at the family farmhouse in Craighead. The First Presbyterian Church in Carlisle awaited the next morning. Unexpectedly though, Jean Craighead also showed up to attend the wedding. Mother (Mildred) Coyle was fretful over luncheon plans and not having enough room, but never fear, the girls decided to squeeze into the only available double bed. This was, mind you, in the days before queen size beds. Fortunately the depression had slimmed them down, I suppose, because the night passed uneventfully and the wedding was a success. The newlyweds set sail for Puerto Rico. Emily would later marry David Jacoby and Jean would marry John George, each in 1944.

In our restoration of Craighead House, we have chosen the late 1930's as our "target" in planning how it will look inside and out. Jean, Frank, and John grew up in the wonderful time when kids could be kids, before the military-industrial frenzy of WW II forever changed the world. Their formative years equipped them for rich, full lives. Our hope is that today's children may catch that dream through recreation and education at the Craighead House on the Yellow Breches.



*George Wickstead  
circa 1942*



Emily Coyle



Sam Craighead



Jean Craighead