





# SHINER LINEAGE ANTHOLOGY

1.1.7.5.4

## WILDEN LEROY SHINER

Revision 1.0

28 Mar 2026





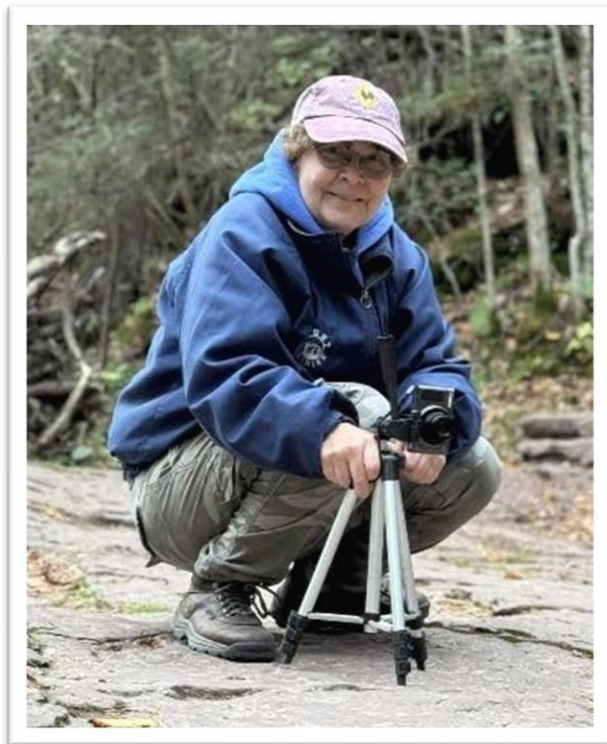


# FOREWORD

This book is more than a collection of names, dates, and places—it is a tribute to the enduring legacy of Andrew Shiner and the generations that followed. What began as a spark of curiosity grown into a journey of discovery. Through careful research and family collaboration, we’ve pieced together the branches of a remarkable lineage.

You’ll find dates, places, and connections here, but what I hope you’ll also feel is the heartbeat of our shared story. And that story isn’t finished. If you have a memory, a photo, or even a quirky anecdote—like the cousin who loved fishing but hated the taste of fish—I’d love to hear it. These little gems are what make our history come alive.

Let this book be a foundation, not a finish line. Together, we can preserve not just the facts of our ancestry, but the spirit of the people who shaped it.



*Susan Kay (Paden) Larson [1.1.7.5.4.2.1.1], fifth great granddaughter of Andrew Shiner*



*Timothy Michael Shiner [1.1.7.5.4.2.2.6], fifth great grandson of Andrew Shiner*









# CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION.....	16
WILDEN LEROY SHINER .....	18
1.1.7.5.4 – SPENCER HARVEY SHINER.....	19
1.1.7.5.4.2 – WILDEN LEROY SHINER.....	23
1.1.7.5.4.2.1 – LEAH GAIL SHINER .....	25
1.1.7.5.4.2.2 – WEEMS WLDEN SHINER.....	29
LEGAL RECORDS .....	34
EARLY LIFE .....	44
CATHERINE YEAGER .....	62
MARRIAGE OF WILDEN AND CATHERINE.....	69
WORLD WAR II .....	82
USS BENEVOLENCE.....	89
POST WAR LIFE.....	108
NURSING .....	109
FARMING .....	121
DEATH AND BURIAL .....	153
MOUNT ZION CEMETERY .....	166
INDEX OF PLACES .....	171
INDEX OF INDIVIDUALS .....	173





# INTRODUCTION

The following pages document the life of Wilden Leroy Shiner, a third-great grandson to Andrew Shiner. This book is primarily grouped into his early life, his World War II career and his post-war life.



# WILDEN LEROY SHINER



## 1.1.7.5.4 – SPENCER HARVEY SHINER

1884 – 1944

---

**Spencer Harvey Shiner** was born on Sunday, January 13<sup>th</sup>, 1884, in Sugarloaf, Luzerne, Pennsylvania. He was the son of John Wesley Shiner (1.1.7.5) and Catherine Mary Johnson.

Spencer died in Nescopeck, Luzerne, Pennsylvania on December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1944, at the age of 60. He was buried at Roselawn Cemetery in Berwick, Columbia, Pennsylvania.

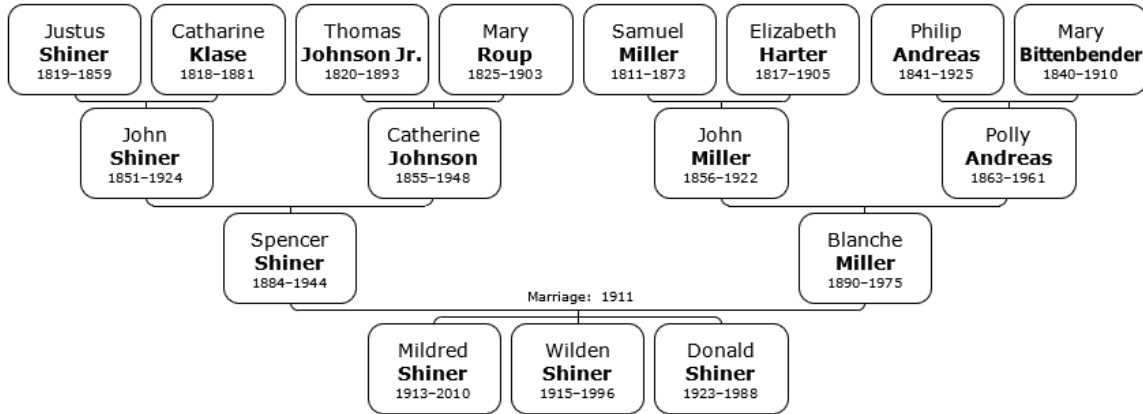
At the age of 27, Spencer Harvey married **Blanche Amanda Miller** on Saturday, December 23<sup>rd</sup>, 1911, in Nescopeck, Luzerne, when she was 21 years old. They had three children.

Blanche Amanda was born in Wapwallopen, Luzerne, Pennsylvania on Friday, February 14<sup>th</sup>, 1890. She was the daughter of John Hiram Miller and Polly Elizabeth Andreas. She was christened on March 12<sup>th</sup>, 1891. Blanche Amanda reached 84 years of age and died in Nescopeck, Luzerne, Pennsylvania on January 4<sup>th</sup>, 1975. She was buried at Roselawn Cemetery in Berwick, Columbia, Pennsylvania.



*Spencer and Blanche Shiner*

## Family of Spencer Shiner and Blanche Miller



Children of Spencer Harvey Shiner and Blanche Amanda Miller:

+ 1.1 f 1. **Mildred Mae Shiner** was born in Nescopeck on November 21<sup>st</sup>, 1913. She died in Berwick, Columbia, on June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2010, at the age of 96.



Mildred

+ 1.2 m 2. **Wilden Leroy Shiner** was born in Nescopeck on August 22<sup>nd</sup>, 1915. He died in Wilkes-Barre, Luzerne, Pennsylvania on May 18<sup>th</sup>, 1996, at the age of 80.



Wilden

+ 1.3 m 3. **Donald Spencer Shiner** was born in Nescopeck on January 16<sup>th</sup>, 1923. He died in Nescopeck on August 28<sup>th</sup>, 1988, at the age of 65.



Donald



*Spencer and Blanche's house in Nescopeck (5<sup>th</sup> Street)*



*Spencer and Blanche with their children – Donald (left), Mildred (center) and Wilden (right)*



*Spencer and Blanche Shiner on their wedding day (1911)*

## 1.1.7.5.4.2 – WILDEN LEROY SHINER

1915-1996

---

Wilden Leroy Shiner was born in Nescopeck on August 22<sup>nd</sup>, 1915. He was christened on April 16<sup>th</sup>, 1916. Wilden Leroy was confirmed on March 29<sup>th</sup>, 1931. He graduated from Nescopeck High School on June 7<sup>th</sup>, 1933. Wilden graduated from the United States Naval Academy in Maryland on June 23<sup>rd</sup>, 1944.

Wilden served in the military on May 12, 1945. Wilden died in Nescopeck, Luzerne, Pennsylvania on May 18<sup>th</sup>, 1996, at the age of 80. He was buried at Mount Zion Cemetery in Nescopeck on May 23<sup>rd</sup>, 1996.

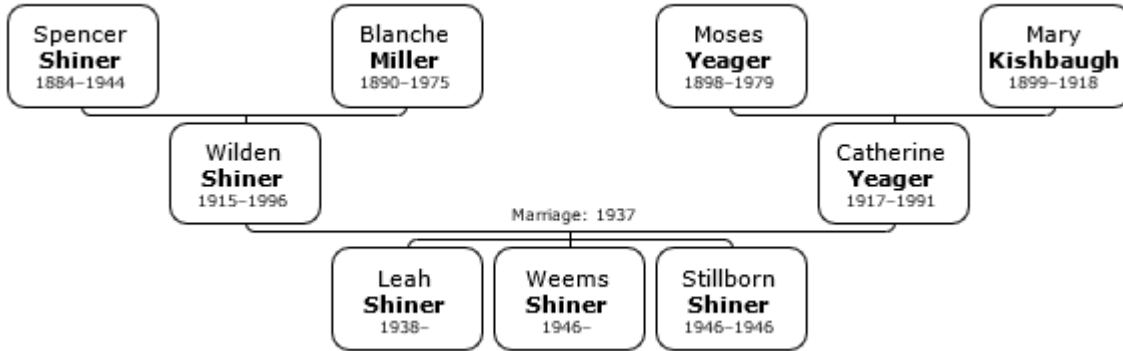
On November 25<sup>th</sup>, 1937, Wilden married **Catherine Daisy Yeager**.

Catherine was born June 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1917 in Nescopeck, Luzerne, Pennsylvania. She was the daughter of Moses Victor Yeager and Mary Irene Kishbaugh. She died on December 28<sup>th</sup>, 1991 in Berwick, Columbia, Pennsylvania. Catherine was buried at Mount Zion Cemetery in Nescopeck.



*Wilden and Catherine Shiner*

## Family of Wilden Shiner and Catherine Yeager



Children of Wilden Shiner and Catherine Yeager:

+ 1.2.1 f      1. **Leah Gail Shiner** was born in Pennsylvania on September 23<sup>rd</sup>, 1938.



Leah

+ 1.2.2 m      2. **Weems Wilden Shiner** was born in Pennsylvania on November 13<sup>th</sup>, 1946.



Weems



*Weems and Leah Shiner*

## 1.1.7.5.4.2.1 – LEAH GAIL SHINER

1938-

---

**Leah Gail Shiner** was born on Friday, September 23<sup>rd</sup>, 1938, in Pennsylvania, USA. She is the daughter of Wilden Leroy Shiner (1.1.7.5.4.2) and Catherine Daisy Yeager.

Leah Gail graduated in Nescopeck, Luzerne, Pennsylvania, in 1956.

Leah Gail married **Kenneth Harry “Kenny” Paden** in 1958 in Nescopeck. They have three children.

Kenneth Harry was born on Wednesday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>, 1936. He is the son of Floyd Wilmer Paden and Edna Mary Slusser.

He graduated in Nescopeck in 1954.

Kenny and Leah have three children:

- 1.1.7.5.4.2.1.1 Susan Kay Paden (1960 – )
- 1.1.7.5.4.2.1.2 Brian Lee Paden (1963 – )
- 1.1.7.5.4.2.1.3 Kevin Lee Paden (1969 – )

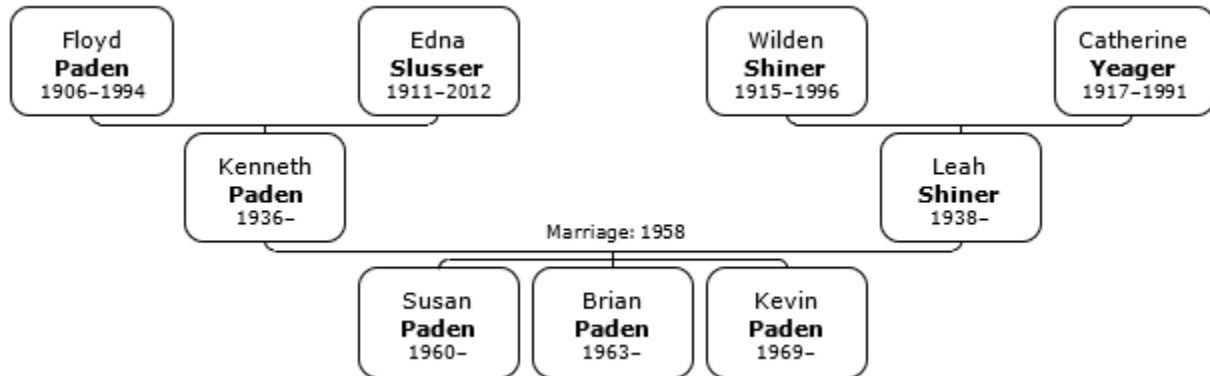


*Leah Shiner*



*Leah Shiner (1954)*

## Family of Kenneth Paden and Leah Shiner



Children of Leah Shiner and Kenneth Paden:

### 1.1.7.5.4.2.1.1 f 1. Susan Key Paden

Susan Paden was born October 6<sup>th</sup>, 1960 in Pennsylvania.

Susan married **Wayne Keith Larson** in 1984. This marriage ended in divorce on July 26<sup>th</sup>, 2001.

Wayne Larson was born March 9<sup>th</sup>, 1961.

Wayne and Susan have two daughters:

- 1.1.7.5.4.2.1.1.1 Tracy Alison Larson (1985 – )
- 1.1.7.5.4.2.1.1.2 Sandy Rae Larson (1987 – )

### 1.1.7.5.4.2.1.2 m 2. Brian Lee Paden

Brian Paden was born March 20<sup>th</sup>, 1963 in Pennsylvania.

Brian has two known marriages. Brian first married **Sun Wi Yi** on December 29<sup>th</sup>, 1983. This marriage ended in divorce on October 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2000.

Sun Yi was born in South Korea on January 10<sup>th</sup>, 1961.

Brian and Sun Yi have two daughters:

- 1.1.7.5.4.2.1.2.1 Cynthia Ann Paden (1984 – )
- 1.1.7.5.4.2.1.2.2 Sherry Lynn Paden (1990 – )

Brian second married Deborah Ann Traversie on November 28<sup>th</sup>, 2000. No children were born in this marriage.

**1.1.7.5.4.2.1.3**      m 3. **Kevin Lee Paden**

Kevin Paden was born November 23<sup>rd</sup> 1969 in Pennsylvania.

Kevin married Susan Houck. This marriage ended in divorce with no children born to this marriage.



## 1.1.7.5.4.2.2 – WEEMS WILDEN SHINER

1946 –

---

---

**Weems Wilden Shiner** was born on Wednesday, November 13<sup>th</sup>, 1946, in Nescopeck, Luzerne, Pennsylvania, USA. He is the son of Wilden Leroy Shiner (1.1.7.5.4.2) and Catherine Daisy Yeager.

Weems has three known marriages. Weems, at the age of 18, first married **Ramona M Stanley** on October 16<sup>th</sup>, 1965. They filed for divorce in December 1968 and the divorce was granted in March 1969.

Ramona is the daughter of James Stanely and Eva Jean Knecht. She was born on July 18<sup>th</sup>, 1948. Following her marriage to Weems she married Clem Ritter.

Weems and Ramona have two children:

- 1.1.7.5.4.2.2.1                      Anthony Lee Shiner (1966 – )
- 1.1.7.5.4.2.2.2                      Kimberly Ann Shiner (1967 – )

At the age of 23, Weems married **Sharon Lea Yohey** on Saturday, June 27<sup>th</sup>, 1970, in Orangeville, Columbia, Pennsylvania, when she was 23 years old. A divorce was granted to this marriage in June 1982. They had three children.

Sharon Lea was born on Tuesday, November 12<sup>th</sup>, 1946. She is the daughter of Arther Allen Yohey and Patricia S Holter.

Weems and Sharon have three children:

- 1.1.7.5.4.2.2.3                      Eric Allen Shiner (1970 – )
- 1.1.7.5.4.2.2.4                      Tracey Dawn Shiner (1972 – 2020)
- 1.1.7.5.4.2.2.5                      Jason Weems Shiner (1974 – )

At the age of 36, Weems married **Julie Ann Lapp** on Saturday, October 8<sup>th</sup>, 1983, in Hershey, Dauphin, Pennsylvania, when she was 25 years old. They had one son.

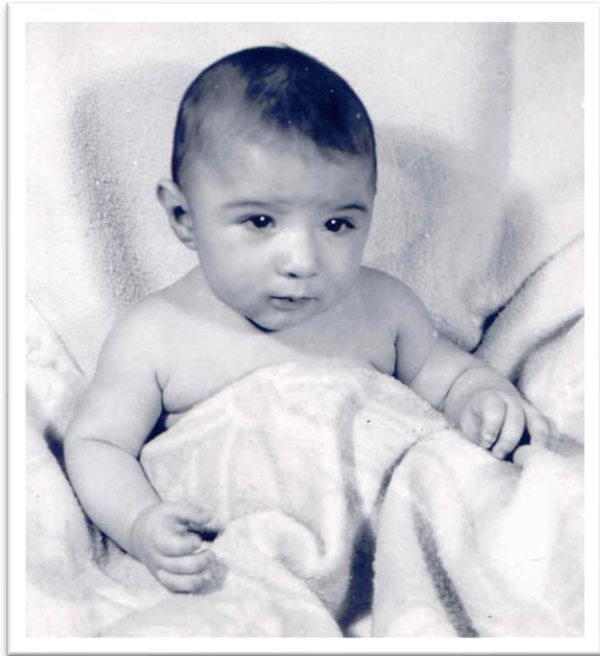
Julie Ann was born in Lancaster, Lancaster, on Tuesday, June 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1958. She was the daughter of George Roland Lapp Sr and Theora A Sager. She graduated from Elizabethtown High School on June 4<sup>th</sup>, 1976. Julie met Susan Paden (1.1.7.5.4.2.1.1) while working at McDonald's fast food restaurant. This led to Julie moving in with Susan and her parents, Kenny and Leah (Shiner) Paden. When Weems was visiting Kenny and Leah with his girlfriend and a mutual friend there was contention between Weems and his girlfriend during the trip. Weems wanting to go golfing and his girlfriend not led to the climax of a fight that

resulted in the girlfriend and mutual friend leaving and Weems taking Julie golfing instead, starting the relationship between Julie and Weems.

Julie reached 64 years of age and died from pancreatic cancer at Geisinger Medical Center in Danville, Montour, Pennsylvania on April 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2024. She was buried at Mount Zion Cemetery in Briggsville, Nescopeck Township, Luzerne, Pennsylvania on May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2024.

Weems and Julie have one son:

1.1.7.5.4.2.2.6 Timothy Michael Shiner (1984 – )



*Weems Shiner*



*Weems Shiner*



*Weems Shiner, with his '67 Mach 1 Mustang*



*Weems and Julie's wedding (October 8<sup>th</sup>, 1983)  
with Julie's parents Roland and Theora (left) and Weems' parents Wilden and Catherine (right)*





# LEGAL RECORDS

Shiner, Andrew	2	0	1	"	1	1	"	"	"	1	"
Blackhouse James	1	2	"	"	1	"	2	1	2	"	"
Stamback Phillip	3	"	"	1	"	1	"	1	"	"	"
Libert Michael	"	"	"	1	"	4	3	"	1	"	"
Shiner James	1	"	"	1	"	1	"	1	"	"	"
Libert William	1	"	"	1	"	1	"	1	"	"	"

## Document Index

The following provides a list of the documents of legal record related to Wilden Shiner.

### US Federal Census Records

<b>Year</b>	<b>Document Type</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Page</b>
<b>1920</b>	US Federal Census	Nescopeck, Luzerne, Pennsylvania	37
<b>1930</b>	US Federal Census	Nescopeck, Luzerne, Pennsylvania	38
<b>1940</b>	US Federal Census	Nescopeck, Luzerne, Pennsylvania	39
<b>1950</b>	US Federal Census	Nescopeck, Luzerne, Pennsylvania	40
<b>1960</b>	US Federal Census	<i>Record not yet released by the government</i>	
<b>1970</b>	US Federal Census	<i>Record not yet released by the government</i>	
<b>1980</b>	US Federal Census	<i>Record not yet released by the government</i>	
<b>1990</b>	US Federal Census	<i>Record not yet released by the government</i>	

### Taxes, Deeds and Newspaper Clippings

None currently.

## Census Records

A **US Federal Census** of the population of the United States has been taken every ten years by the federal government since 1790. Census records are restricted (not released to the public) for seventy-two years after the census is taken in order to protect the privacy of the individuals surveyed.

The **Septennial Census** was conducted every seven years from 1779 to 1863, enumerating taxpayers for the purpose of determining representation in the General Assembly. Only about 11% of the original records have survived and the only information provided in most of the surviving returns is the name of the taxpayer, though occasionally the occupation is also given. The style and details of enumeration varies for the different counties and in different periods of time. All counties have lists of "Taxable inhabitants" and "freemen", while others also include "inmates". Commencing in 1800, the age, name, gender and place of residence of each slave is also frequently given and occasionally the name of the slave's owner. Last names of slaves are usually not given because changes in ownership would have altered these over time.

# 1920 US Federal Census

## Nescopeck, Luzerne, Pennsylvania

STATE Pennsylvania COUNTY Luzerne TOWNSHIP OR OTHER DIVISION OF COUNTY Nescopeck

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE—BUREAU OF THE CENSUS  
FOURTEENTH CENSUS OF THE UNITED STATES: 1920—POPULATION

INCORPORATED PLACE Nescopeck Borough WARD OF CITY Nescopeck

ENUMERATED BY ME ON THE 3 DAY OF January, 1920. SUPERVISOR'S DISTRICT No. 8 SHEET No. 3 B

NAME OF INSTITUTION None ENUMERATED BY ME ON THE 3 DAY OF January, 1920. William J. Williams ENUMERATOR

PLACE OF ABODE.	NAME	RELATION.	SEX.	RACE.	BIRTH.	CITIZENSHIP.	EDUCATION.	SEXES.				MARRIAGES.				OCCUPATION.
								Male	Female	Never	Once	Twice	Three or more	Never	Once	
205 55 65	Spencer S. Spencer	Head	M	W	35	Y	8	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Mechanic		
	Blanche A.	Wife	F	W	29	Y	8	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	None		
	Mildred M.	Daughter	F	W	6	Y	8	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	None		
	Wilden L.	Son	M	W	4	Y	8	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	None		
	John W.	Father	M	W	69	Y	8	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	None		
	Mary C.	Mother	F	W	63	Y	8	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	None		

Spencer Shiner owns a house at 205 Second Street. Living with him is his wife, Blanche, his children, Mildred and Wilden, and his parents, John Wesley and Catherine Mary Johnson. Spencer's occupation is noted mechanic.

PLACE OF ABODE.	NAME	RELATION.	SEX.	RACE.	BIRTH.	CITIZENSHIP.	EDUCATION.	SEXES.				MARRIAGES.				OCCUPATION.
								Male	Female	Never	Once	Twice	Three or more	Never	Once	
205 55 65	Spencer S. Spencer	Head	M	W	35	Y	8	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Mechanic	
	Blanche A.	Wife	F	W	29	Y	8	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	None	
	Mildred M.	Daughter	F	W	6	Y	8	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	None	
	Wilden L.	Son	M	W	4	Y	8	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	None	
	John W.	Father	M	W	69	Y	8	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	None	
	Mary C.	Mother	F	W	63	Y	8	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	None	

# 1930 US Federal Census

## Nescopeck, Luzerne, Pennsylvania

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE-BUREAU OF THE CENSUS  
FIFTEENTH CENSUS OF THE UNITED STATES: 1930  
POPULATION SCHEDULE

State: Pennsylvania Incorporated place: Nescopeck Borough Enumeration District No. 40-143 Sheet No. 9 B  
County: Luzerne Ward of city: First Block No.: \_\_\_\_\_ Supervisor's District No. 10

Township or other division of county: \_\_\_\_\_ Unincorporated place: \_\_\_\_\_ Incorporated by act on: \_\_\_\_\_

PLACE OF ABODE	NAME	RELATION	HOME DATA		PERSONAL DESCRIPTION		EDUCATION		OCCUPATION AND INDUSTRY	MARRIAGE	MILITARY SERVICE
			Value of home, owned or rented, if rented	Value of lot, owned or rented, if rented	Sex	Color or race	Age at last birthday	Marital condition			
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
533	Moore Ethel	Daughter			F	W	19	S			
	George W	Son			M	W	5	S			
	Rail	Son			M	W	5	S			
537	Moore Henry W	Head	0 1400		M	W	45	M	26	26	yes
	Blanche	Wife-H			F	W	40	M	24	no	yes
	Mildred	Daughter			F	W	16	S			yes
	Wilden	Son			M	W	14	S			yes
	Donald	Son			M	W	7	S			no
	Catherine	Mother			F	W	70	hd	18	no	yes

Spencer Shiner owns a house at 425 W Fifth Street, works on cars, living with his wife Blanche, his children Mildred, Wilden and Donald and his mother Catherine Johnson.

PLACE OF ABODE	NAME	RELATION	HOME DATA		PERSONAL DESCRIPTION		EDUCATION				
			Value of home, owned or rented, if rented	Value of lot, owned or rented, if rented	Sex	Color or race	Age at last birthday	Marital condition	Age at first marriage	Whether able to read and write	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
533	Moore Ethel	Daughter			F	W	19	S			
85	425 222 249x Shiner Spencer	Head	0 1400		M	W	45	M	26	26	yes
86	Blanche	Wife-H			F	W	40	M	24	no	yes
87	Mildred	Daughter			F	W	16	S			yes
88	Wilden	Son			M	W	14	S			yes
89	Donald	Son			M	W	7	S			no
90	Catherine	Mother			F	W	70	hd	18	no	yes

# 1940 US Federal Census

Nescopeck, Luzerne, Pennsylvania

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, BUREAU OF THE CENSUS  
SIXTEENTH CENSUS OF THE UNITED STATES 1940  
POPULATION SCHEDULE

Sheet No. 1 A

LOCATION	HOUSEHOLD DATA	NAME	RELATION	PERSONAL DESCRIPTION	EDUCATION	PLACE OF BIRTH	RESIDENCE APRIL 1, 1940												PERSONS 15 YEARS OLD AND OVER EMPLOYMENT STATUS																																																																																
							1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100

SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTIONS

NAME	STATE OF BIRTH	EDUCATION	INDUSTRY	EMPLOYMENT STATUS	REASON FOR UNEMPLOYMENT	REASON FOR LEAVING	REASON FOR RETURNING	REASON FOR LEAVING AGAIN	REASON FOR RETURNING AGAIN
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

Wilden Shiner is renting a house at 514 Second Street. Living with him is his wife, Catharine, and his daughter, Leah.

LOCATION	HOUSEHOLD DATA	NAME	RELATION	PERSONAL DESCRIPTION	EDUCATION	PLACE OF BIRTH
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
13	14	15	16	17	18	19

1950 US Federal Census  
Nescopeck, Luzerne, Pennsylvania

1950 US Federal Census Form P1, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, BUREAU OF THE CENSUS. 1950 CENSUS OF POPULATION AND HOUSING.

Household: 170, 40, 95. Head: Shiner, Wilden L. (Age 34, Male, Married). Wife: Catharine D. (Age 32, Female, Married). Children: Leah G. (Age 11, Female, Never Married), Weems W. (Age 3, Male, Never Married).

Other household members include: Robert P. Smith (Age 9, Male, Never Married), Hannah W. (Age 22, Female, Never Married), Michael M. (Age 19, Male, Never Married), Carol A. (Age 1, Female, Never Married), Howard E. (Age 65, Male, Never Married), R. (Age 40, Male, Never Married), R. (Age 40, Male, Never Married), Clayton A. (Age 23, Male, Never Married), William M. (Age 20, Male, Never Married), Elizabeth J. (Age 21, Female, Never Married), David H. (Age 21, Male, Never Married), Ella J. (Age 3, Female, Never Married), Paul A. (Age 2, Male, Never Married), William K. (Age 24, Male, Never Married), Betty L. (Age 24, Female, Never Married), Henry D. (Age 7, Male, Never Married), George G. (Age 2, Male, Never Married), James M. (Age 2, Male, Never Married), Henry C. (Age 5, Male, Never Married), William L. (Age 26, Male, Never Married), Catherine D. (Age 32, Female, Married), Leah G. (Age 11, Female, Never Married), Weems W. (Age 3, Male, Never Married), Edwin L. (Age 63, Male, Never Married), Helen L. (Age 72, Female, Never Married), Frank W. (Age 34, Male, Never Married), Blanche G. (Age 29, Female, Never Married), Sam A. (Age 9, Male, Never Married), Fayanna M. (Age 2, Female, Never Married), Kathleen J. (Age 9, Female, Never Married).

Wilden Shiner is living with his wife, Catharine, and his children, Leah and Weems. He is an attendant at a hospital for his occupation. Note that Polly (Yeager) Herring, Catharine's aunt, is living in the house next to them.

19	170	no	40	95	Shiner, Wilden L.	Head	w	m	34	Mar
20	169	40	96		Catharine D.	wife	w	f	32	Mar
21					Leah G.	Daughter	w	f	11	Never
22					Weems W.	Son	w	m	3	Never







# EARLY LIFE OF WILDEN



Form V. S. No. 11—50M-1-7-13.

**COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA**  
Bureau of Vital Statistics  
**CERTIFICATE OF BIRTH**

PLACE OF BIRTH  
County of Eugene  
Township of Miscopeck  
or Borough of  
or City of  
No. .... St. ....  
Ward. Wilden Leroy Shiner

Registration District No. 651 File No. 136590  
Primary Registration District No. 1352-8 Registered No. 48

FULL NAME OF CHILD Wilden Leroy Shiner

Sex of Child Male Twin, Triplet, or other?  and Number in order of birth 1 Legitimate? yes Date of birth August 22, 1915  
(Month) (Day) (Year)

FATHER		MOTHER	
FULL NAME <u>Spencer H. Shiner</u>	FULL MAIDEN NAME <u>Blaude G. Miller</u>		
RESIDENCE <u>Miscopeck, Pa.</u>	RESIDENCE <u>Miscopeck, Pa.</u>		
COLOR <u>white</u> AGE AT LAST BIRTHDAY <u>30</u> (Years)	COLOR <u>white</u> AGE AT LAST BIRTHDAY <u>25</u> (Years)		
BIRTHPLACE <u>Pa.</u>	BIRTHPLACE <u>Pa.</u>		
OCCUPATION <u>Laborer</u>	OCCUPATION <u>matron</u>		

Number of child of this mother, including present birth 3 Number of children, of this mother, now living, including present birth 3

CERTIFICATE OF ATTENDING PHYSICIAN OR MIDWIFE\*

I hereby certify that I attended the birth of this child, who was August 22, 1915, at 4:39 A.M.  
on the date above stated. (Born alive or stillborn)

(Signature) P. H. Jamison, M.D.  
(Physician or Midwife)

\*When there was no attending physician or midwife, then the father, householder, etc., should make this return. A stillborn child is one that neither breathes nor shows other evidence of life after birth.  
Given name added from a supplemental report

Address Miscopeck, Pa.  
Filed Aug 31, 1915 J. H. Myers  
Registrar Registrar

Wilden's birth certificate

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

VITAL STATISTICS  
CERTIFICATION OF BIRTH

DATE OF BIRTH MO., DAY, YEAR, HOUR	8-22-15 4:39 A.M.	FILE NO.	136590-15
CITY, BOROUGH, OR TOWNSHIP OF BIRTH	NESCOPECK	DATE FILED MO., DAY, YEAR	8-31-15
COUNTY OF BIRTH	LUZERNE	DATE ISSUED MO., DAY, YEAR	7-13-77

SUBJECT WILDEN LEROY SHINER

SEX MALE

This is a true certification of name and birth facts on file in Vital Statistics, Pennsylvania Department of Health.

*Charles Harbster*  
CHARLES HARBSTER  
STATE REGISTRAR

*Leonard Bach*  
LEONARD BACHMAN, M.D.  
SECRETARY OF HEALTH

WARNING: IT IS ILLEGAL TO DUPLICATE THIS COPY BY PHOTOSTAT OR PHOTOGRAPH.



Wilden's birth certificate



Wilden's certificate of confirmation (August 25<sup>th</sup>, 1915)





Wilden's certificate of baptism (April 18<sup>th</sup>, 1916)



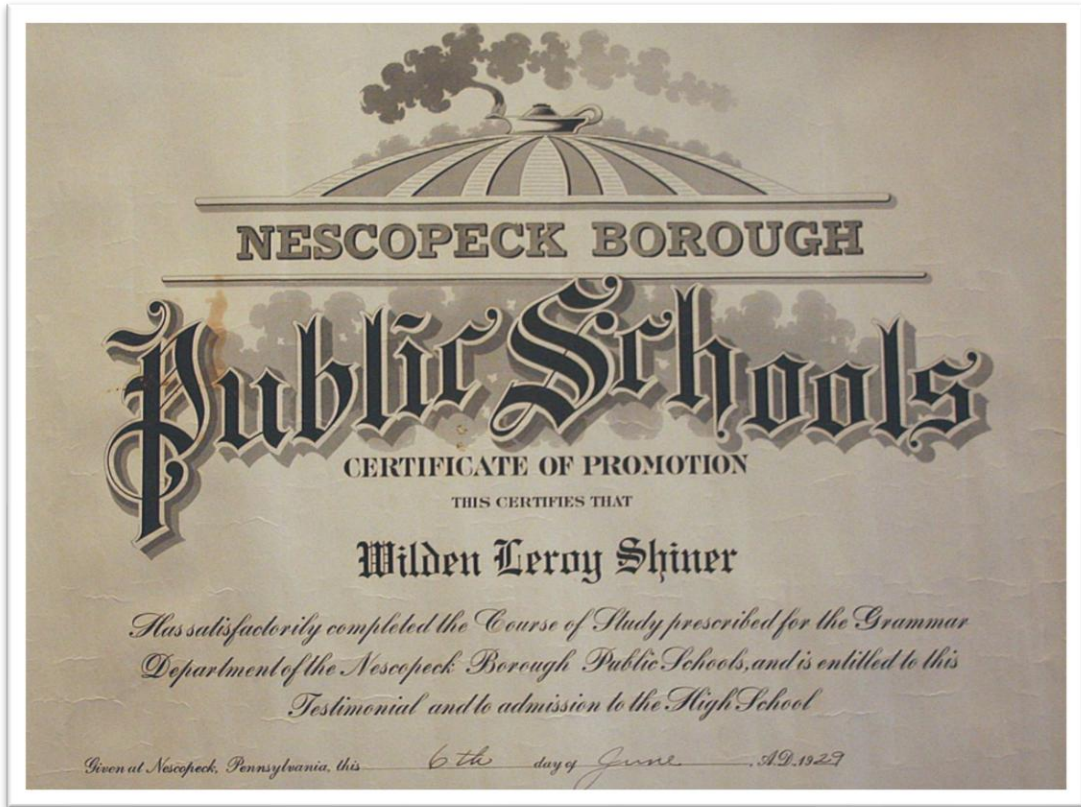
*Mildred and Wilden Shiner*



*Mildred and Wilden Shiner*



*Wilden and Mildred Shiner with their mother, Blanche (Miller) Shiner*



Wilden's certificate of promotion from elementary school into high school



Wilden Shiner



Mildred Shiner (left) and Wilden Shiner (right),  
unknown children between



*Donald and Wilden Shiner*



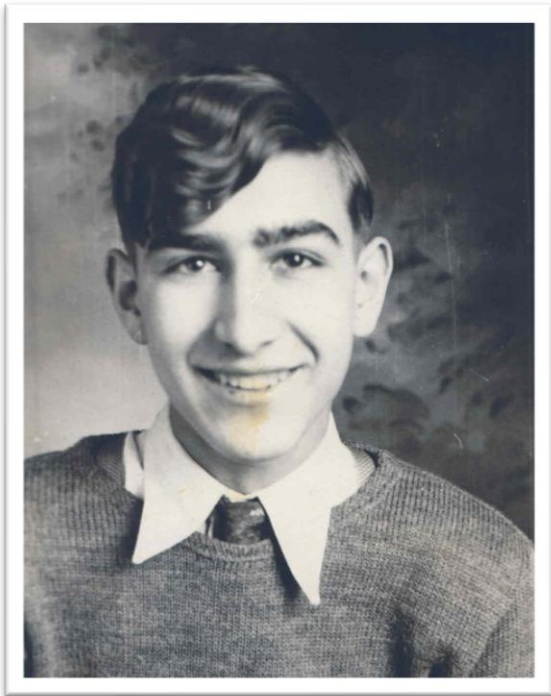
*Esther, Mildred, Kenneth and Wilden Shiner (cousins)*



*Wilden Shiner*



*Wilden Shiner*



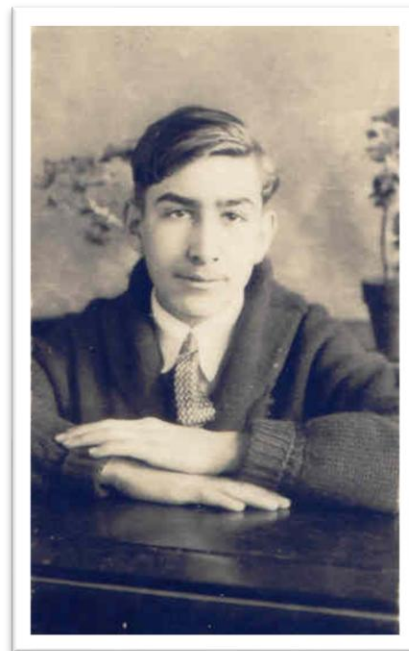
*Donald and Wilden Shiner*



*Wilden and Mildred Shiner*



*Nescopeck High School Class picture,  
Wilden is first row, second from left (dark sweater)*



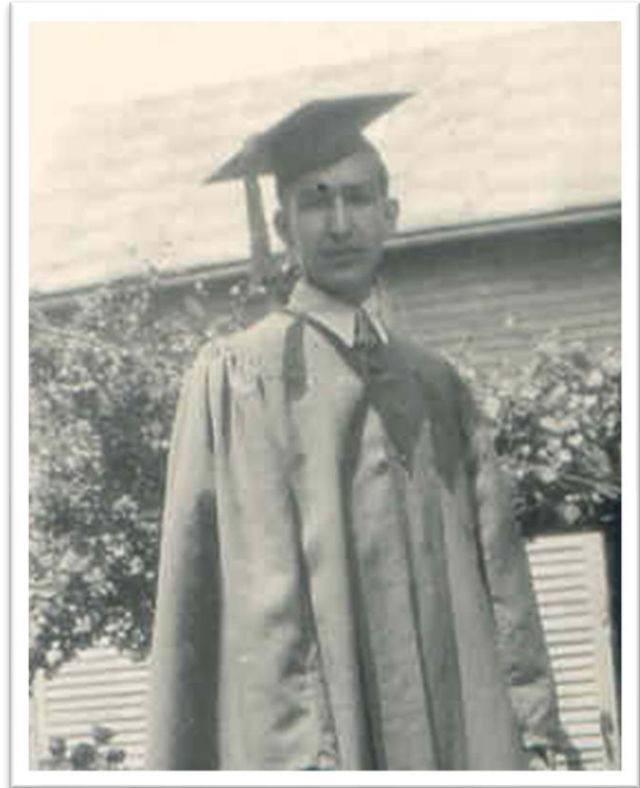
*Wilden Shiner (1930)*



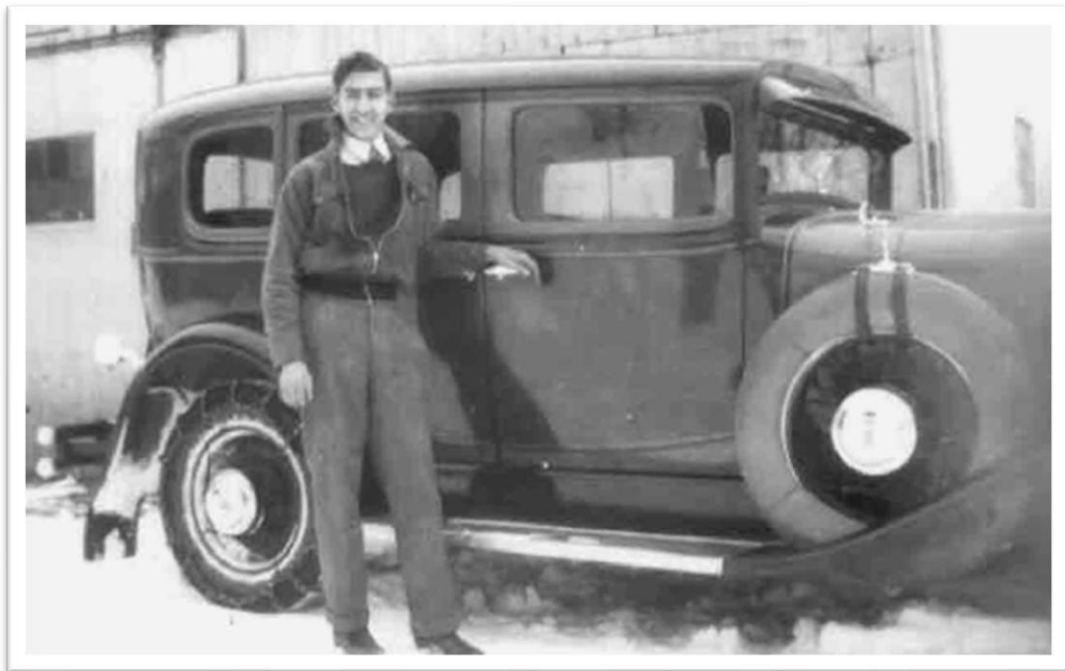
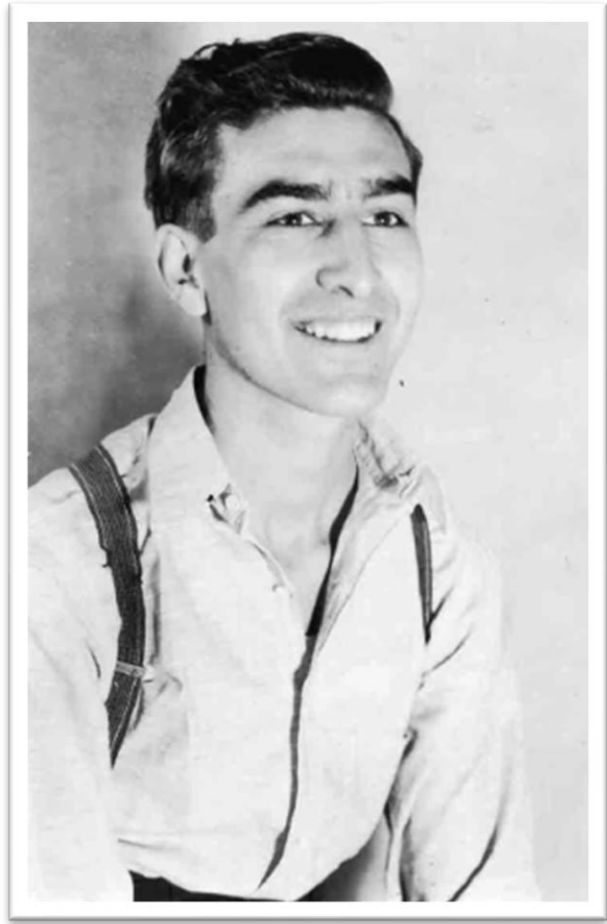
*Nescopeck High School Class picture,  
Wilden is third row (first standing row), fifth from right (suspenders)*



Wilden's high school diploma (above) and high school graduation pictures (below)









Wilden's teaching certificate from the Lutheran Church





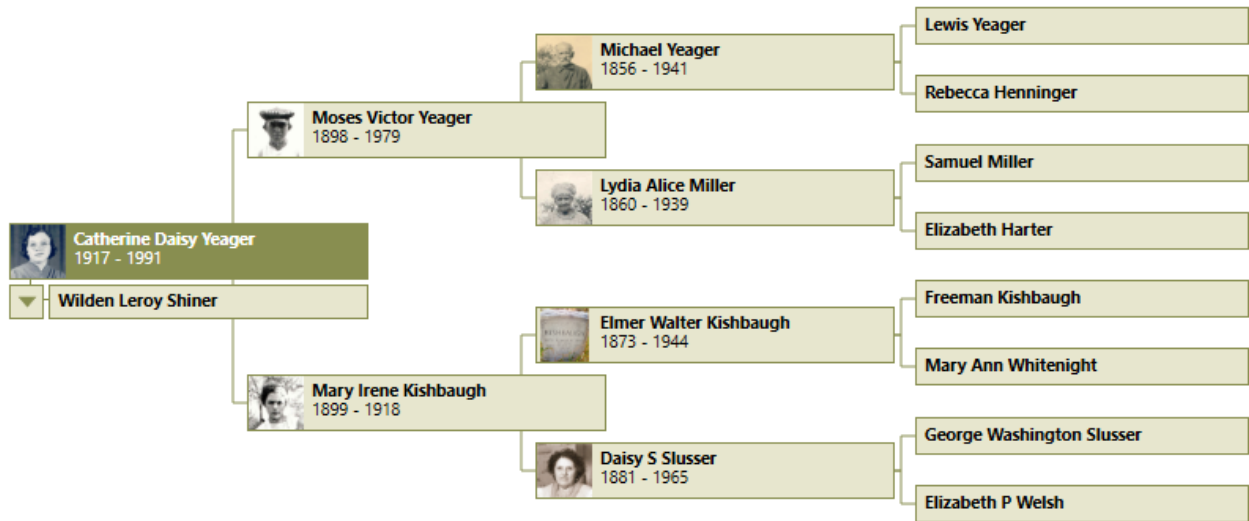
# CATHERINE YEAGER



# CATHERINE DAISY YEAGER

1917 – 1991

Catherine was born June 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1917 in Nescopeck, Luzerne, Pennsylvania. She was the daughter of Moses Victor Yeager and Mary Irene Kishbaugh. She died on December 28<sup>th</sup>, 1991 in Berwick, Columbia, Pennsylvania. Catherine was buried at Mount Zion Cemetery in Nescopeck.





*Catherine (child) with her parents, Mary and Moses Yeager (1917)*

Form V. S. No. 11-100M-1-16-15.

**PLACE OF BIRTH** **COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA**  
 Bureau of Vital Statistics  
**CERTIFICATE OF BIRTH**

County of Luzerne  
 Township of Nescopeck  
 or  
 Borough of .....  
 or  
 City of .....  
 No. 4029 St. 4029 Registration District No. 651 File No. 100679  
 Primary Registration District No. 2931 Registered No. 19  
 Ward. ....

**FULL NAME OF CHILD** Catherine Daisy Yeager

Sex of Child Female Twin, Triplet, or other?  and (Number in order of birth) 1 Legitimate? yes Date of birth June 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1917  
 (To be answered only in event of plural births) (Month) (Day) (Year)

<b>FULL NAME</b> <u>Moses V. Yeager</u>	<b>FATHER</b>	<b>FULL MAIDEN NAME</b> <u>Mary J. Kialbach</u>	<b>MOTHER</b>
<b>RESIDENCE</b> <u>Nescopeck, Pa. R.D. #2</u>		<b>RESIDENCE</b> <u>Nescopeck, Pa. R.D. #2</u>	
<b>COLOR</b> <u>white</u>	<b>AGE AT LAST BIRTHDAY</b> <u>19</u> (Years)	<b>COLOR</b> <u>white</u>	<b>AGE AT LAST BIRTHDAY</b> <u>17</u> (Years)
<b>BIRTHPLACE</b> <u>Pa.</u>		<b>BIRTHPLACE</b> <u>Pa.</u>	
<b>OCCUPATION</b> <u>Labourer</u>		<b>OCCUPATION</b> <u>Wife</u>	

Number of child of this mother, including present birth. 1 Number of children, of this mother, now living, including present birth. 1

**CERTIFICATE OF ATTENDING PHYSICIAN OR MIDWIFE\***

I hereby certify that I attended the birth of this child, who was June 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1917, at 6152 M.  
 on the date above stated. (Born alive or Stillborn)

(Signature) P.K. Jamison, M.D.  
 (Physician or Midwife)

\*When there was no attending physician or midwife, then the father, householder, etc., should make this return. A stillborn child is one that neither breathes nor shows other evidence of life after birth.

Given name added from a supplemental report  
 \_\_\_\_\_, 19\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Registrar

Address Nescopeck Pa  
 Filed, June 11, 1917 J.H. Myers  
 Registrar

Catherine's birth certificate



*Catherine Daisy Yeager*





*Catherine Daisy Yeager*





*Catherine Daisy Yeager*

## Marriage of Wilden and Catherine



*Wilden and Catherine Shiner on their wedding day (November 25<sup>th</sup>, 1937)*

## MARRIAGE LICENSE APPLICATIONS

Albert Whitcavage	Wilkes-Barre
Valeria Bernesky	Wilkes-Barre
Sigmond Koslosky	Plains
Alexandria Merowski	Miners Mills
Harold A. Kreller	Plymouth
Marie A. Mailander	Wilkes-Barre
Angelo Vigo	Forty Fort
Maria Diamanti	Wilkes-Barre
William Morgan	Ashley
Rita Brennan	Wilkes-Barre
William Nlemeyer	Dallas
Dorothy Verfaillie	Dallas
Nevin Moyer	Hobbie
Doretta Eroh	Hobbie
John A. Marcinkowski	Larksville
Leokedia Sepkowski	Plymouth
John Cherneski, Jr.	Dorrance Corners
Sylvia Mancicchi	Dorrance Corners
Joseph Elko	Larksville
Helen Crzynkowski	Kingston
Sam Dominick	Pittston
Mary Galanti	Pittston
Ralph D. Pritchard	Edwardsville
Elizabeth M. Schultz	Kingston
Joseph P. Dalton	Topton
Rachel O. Althouse	Topton
Leo Jacobowski	Nanticoke
Margaret Ottensman	Nanticoke
Thomas A. O'Connell	Larksville
Victoria A. Suwalski	Larksville
Wilden Shiner	Nescopeck
Catherine Yeager	Nescopeck

*Marriage license granted for Wilden Shiner and Catherine Yeager, The Time Leaders (Bloomsburg, Pennsylvania), Tuesday, November 16<sup>th</sup>, 1937, page 27*

## ZENITH CHURCH WEDDING SCENE

Miss Catherine Yeager is Bride of Wilden Shiner, of Nescopeck, in Early Thanksgiving Morning Ceremony

Rev. M. M. Enders, pastor of the Nescopeck Lutheran Parish read the marriage service of the Lutheran church on Thanksgiving morning at 6:30 o'clock in the St. James Lutheran church, Zenith, when Wilden Shiner and Miss Catherine Yeager, of Nescopeck were united in marriage. The couple was unattended. Members of the families and close friends witnessed the ceremony.

Mr. Shiner is employed at the A. C. and F. Company, Berwick. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Spencer Shiner, West Fifth street, Nescopeck. Miss Yeager is the daughter of Moses Yeager, of Nescopeck. They will reside on Second street, Nescopeck.

*Wilden Shiner and Catherine Yeager wed, Berwick Enterprise (Berwick, Pennsylvania), Friday, November 26<sup>th</sup>, 1937, page 13*

# Application for Marriage License

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA, }  
COUNTY OF LUZERNE, } ss.:

No. 5964 C

We, the undersigned, in accordance with the statements hereinafter contained, the facts set forth wherein we and each of us do solemnly swear are true and correct to the best of our knowledge and belief, do hereby make application to the Clerk of the Orphans' Court of Luzerne County, Pennsylvania, for a license to marry:

### Statement of Male:

Full name and surname Wilden Shiner Signature Wilden Shiner  
 Occupation laborer Color white  
 Residence 475 W. 1st St. Hazleton, Pa. Birthplace Hazleton, Pa.  
 Previous marriage or marriages none Age 27 years  
 of former wife or wives \_\_\_\_\_ Date of death or divorce \_\_\_\_\_  
 Is the applicant related by blood or marriage to the person whom he desires to marry? no  
 Is the applicant afflicted with any transmissible disease? no  
 Name and surname of Father Spencer of Mother Blanche  
 Residence of Father \_\_\_\_\_ Maiden name of Mother Mother  
 Color of Father \_\_\_\_\_ of Mother white  
 Occupation of Father \_\_\_\_\_ of Mother \_\_\_\_\_  
 Birthplace of Father \_\_\_\_\_ of Mother Hazleton  
 Is applicant an imbecile, epileptic, of unsound mind or under guardianship as a person of unsound mind or under the influence of any intoxicating liquor or narcotic drug? no  
 Has applicant, within five years, been an inmate of any county asylum or home for indigent persons? no  
 Is applicant physically able to support a family? yes  
 Signature of applicant Wilden Shiner

### Statement of Female:

Full name and surname Catherine Yeager Signature Catherine Yeager  
 Occupation none Color white  
 Residence 475 W. 1st St. Hazleton, Pa. Birthplace Hazleton, Pa.  
 Previous marriage or marriages none Age 26 years  
 of former husband or husbands \_\_\_\_\_ Date of death or divorce \_\_\_\_\_  
 Is the applicant related by blood or marriage to the person whom she desires to marry? no  
 Is the applicant afflicted with any transmissible disease? no  
 Name and surname of Father Moses of Mother Mary  
 Residence of Father Hazleton, Pa. Maiden name of Mother Specht  
 Color of Father \_\_\_\_\_ of Mother white  
 Occupation of Father \_\_\_\_\_ of Mother \_\_\_\_\_  
 Birthplace of Father Hazleton, Pa. of Mother Hazleton, Pa.  
 Is applicant an imbecile, epileptic, of unsound mind or under guardianship as a person of unsound mind or under the influence of any intoxicating liquor or narcotic drug? no  
 Signature of applicant Catherine Yeager

Sworn and subscribed before me this 13th day of Nov, A. D. 1937

Joseph H. ...  
Clerk of Orphans' Court.  
James ...  
Asst. Clerk of Orphans' Court.

Marriage License Issued Nov 16 1937  
Married Nov 25 1937 by Rev. Martin A. Enders, Hazleton, Pa.

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA, }  
COUNTY OF LUZERNE, } ss.:

### CONSENT TO THE MARRIAGE OF CHILD OR WARD

I, Moses Yeager residing at Hazleton, Pa.  
 do hereby certify that I am the father of Catherine Yeager  
 residing at Hazleton, Pa. who is now 26 years of age.  
 That I have been informed of the intended marriage of my daughter  
 to Wilden Shiner and hereby consent to said marriage.  
 Sworn and subscribed to 13th day of Nov, A. D. 1937  
Joseph H. ... Clerk of Orphans' Court  
James ... Asst. Clerk of Orphans' Court  
 1. \_\_\_\_\_  
 2. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Witness Present

Wilden Shiner and Catherine Yeager's marriage application

Catherine Yeager

**Statement of Male:**

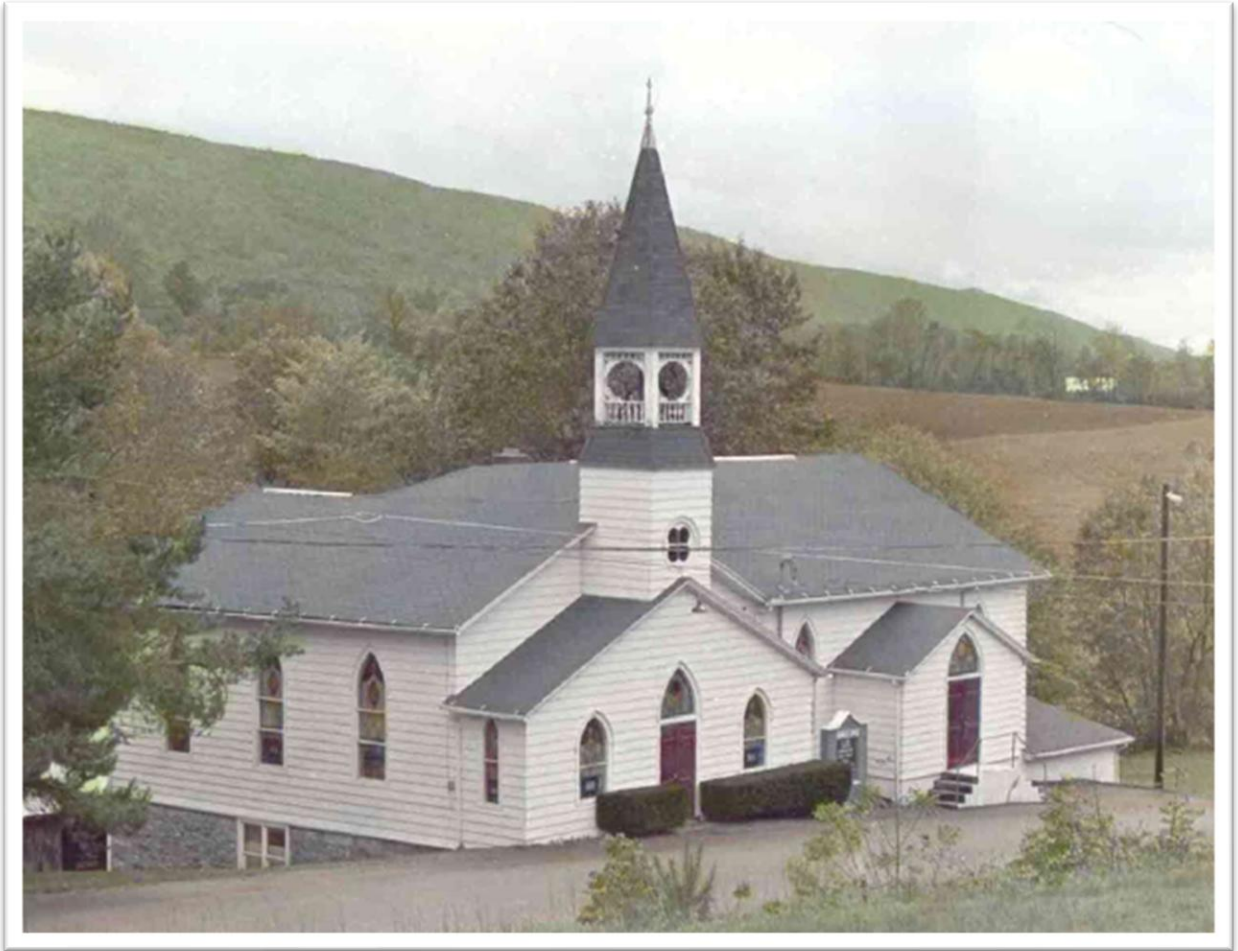
Full name and surname Wilden Shiner Color white  
 Occupation labor Birthplace Mescopetola  
 Residence 225 W. 5th St Mescopetola Age 27 years.  
 Previous marriage or marriages none Date of death or divorce  
 of former wife or wives none  
 Is the applicant related by blood or marriage to the person whom he desires to marry? no  
 Is the applicant afflicted with any transmissible disease? no  
 Name and surname of Father Spencer of Mother Blanche  
 Maiden name of Mother Miller  
 Residence of Father Mescopetola of Mother Mescopetola  
 Color of Father white of Mother white  
 Occupation of Father labor of Mother Housewife  
 Birthplace of Father Tenna of Mother Tenna  
 Is applicant an imbecile, epileptic, of unsound mind or under guardianship as a person of unsound mind or under the influence of any intoxicating liquor or narcotic drug? no  
 Has applicant, within five years, been an inmate of any county asylum or home for indigent persons? no  
 Is applicant physically able to support a family? yes  
 Signature of applicant Wilden L Shiner

Wilden and Catherine's marriage application (Wilden's details, zoomed and straightened)

**Statement of Female:**

Full name and surname Catherine Yeager Color white  
 Occupation none Birthplace Mescopetola  
 Residence 225 W. 5th St Mescopetola Pa Age 27 years.  
 Previous marriage or marriages none Date of death or divorce  
 of former husband or husbands none  
 Is the applicant related by blood or marriage to the person whom she desires to marry? no  
 Is the applicant afflicted with any transmissible disease? no  
 Name and surname of Father Moses of Mother Mary  
 Maiden name of Mother Fishbaugh  
 Residence of Father Mescopetola of Mother Delaware  
 Color of Father white of Mother white  
 Occupation of Father labor of Mother housewife  
 Birthplace of Father Mescopetola of Mother Mescopetola  
 Is applicant an imbecile, epileptic, of unsound mind or under guardianship as a person of unsound mind or under the influence of any intoxicating liquor or narcotic drug? no  
 Signature of applicant Catherine Yeager  
 Sworn and subscribed before me this 13th day of Nov 1907

Wilden and Catherine's marriage application (Catherine's details, zoomed and straightened)



*Saint James Lutheran Church  
1488 Zenith Road, Nescopeck, Pennsylvania*



Wilden and Catherine's marriage certificate

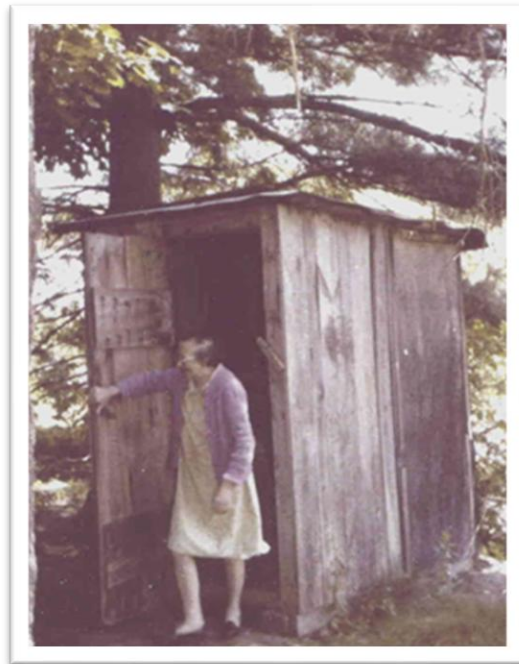


*Wilden and Catherine's house in Zenith, Nescopeck, Luzerne, Pennsylvania (front view)*

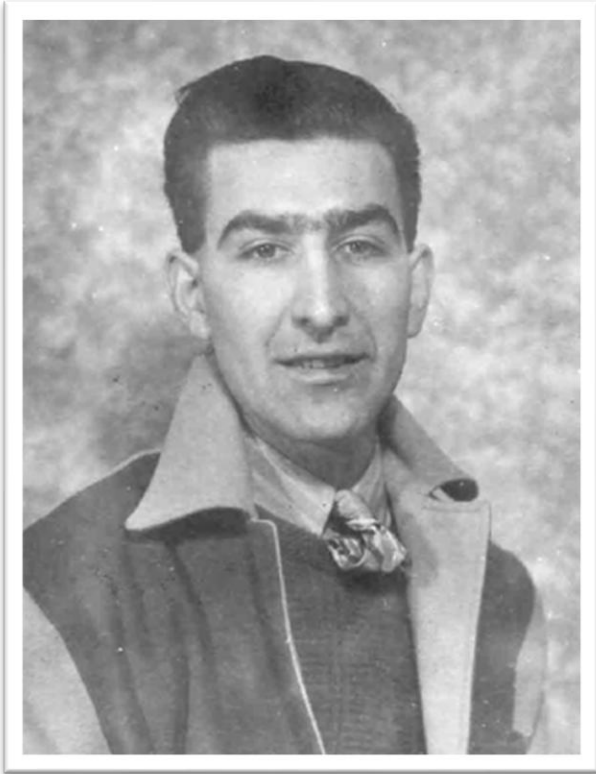
*This house was built by Samuel [1811-1873] and Elizabeth (Harter) [1817-1905] Miller in an unknown year. Samuel and Elizabeth were the parents of John Hiram Miller [1856-1922] and Lydia Alice Miller [1860-1939], who were both born in this house. John Miller is the father of Blanche (Miller) Shiner, Wilden's mother. Lydia Miller married Micheal Yeager, and it is believed that Michael and Lydia sold the house to Spencer and Blanche Shiner for Wilden.*



*Wilden and Catherine's house in Zenith, Nescopeck, Luzerne, Pennsylvania (rear view)*



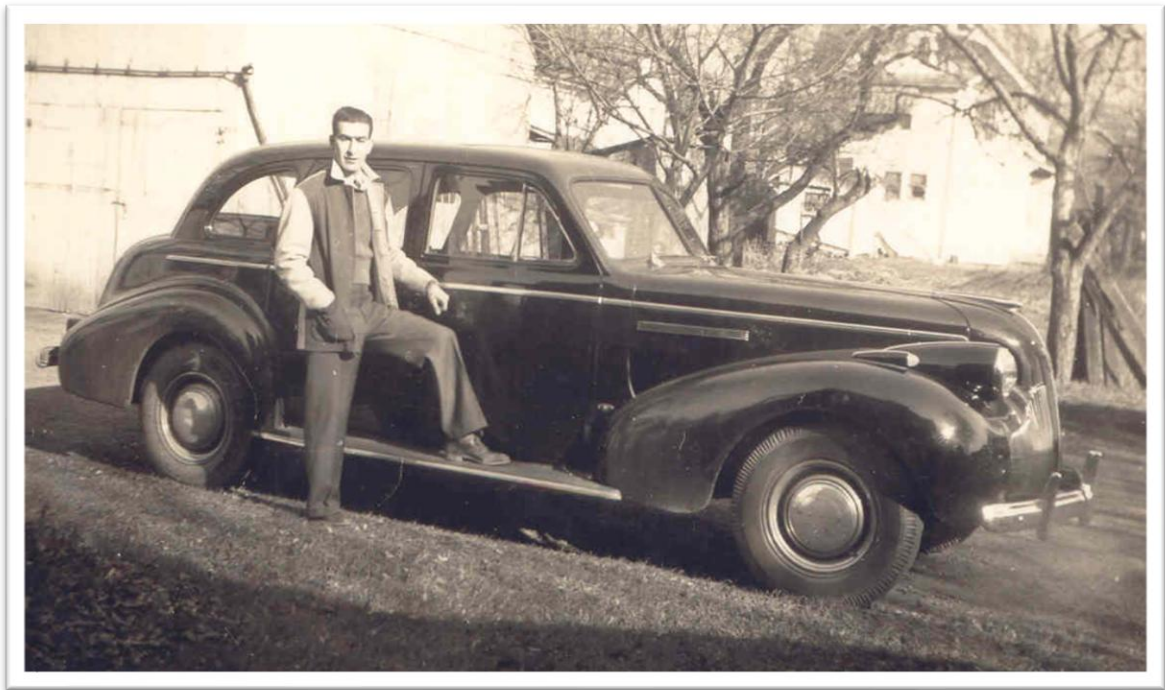
*Catherine at the "out house" (outside bathroom)*



*Wilden Shiner*



*Wilden Shiner*

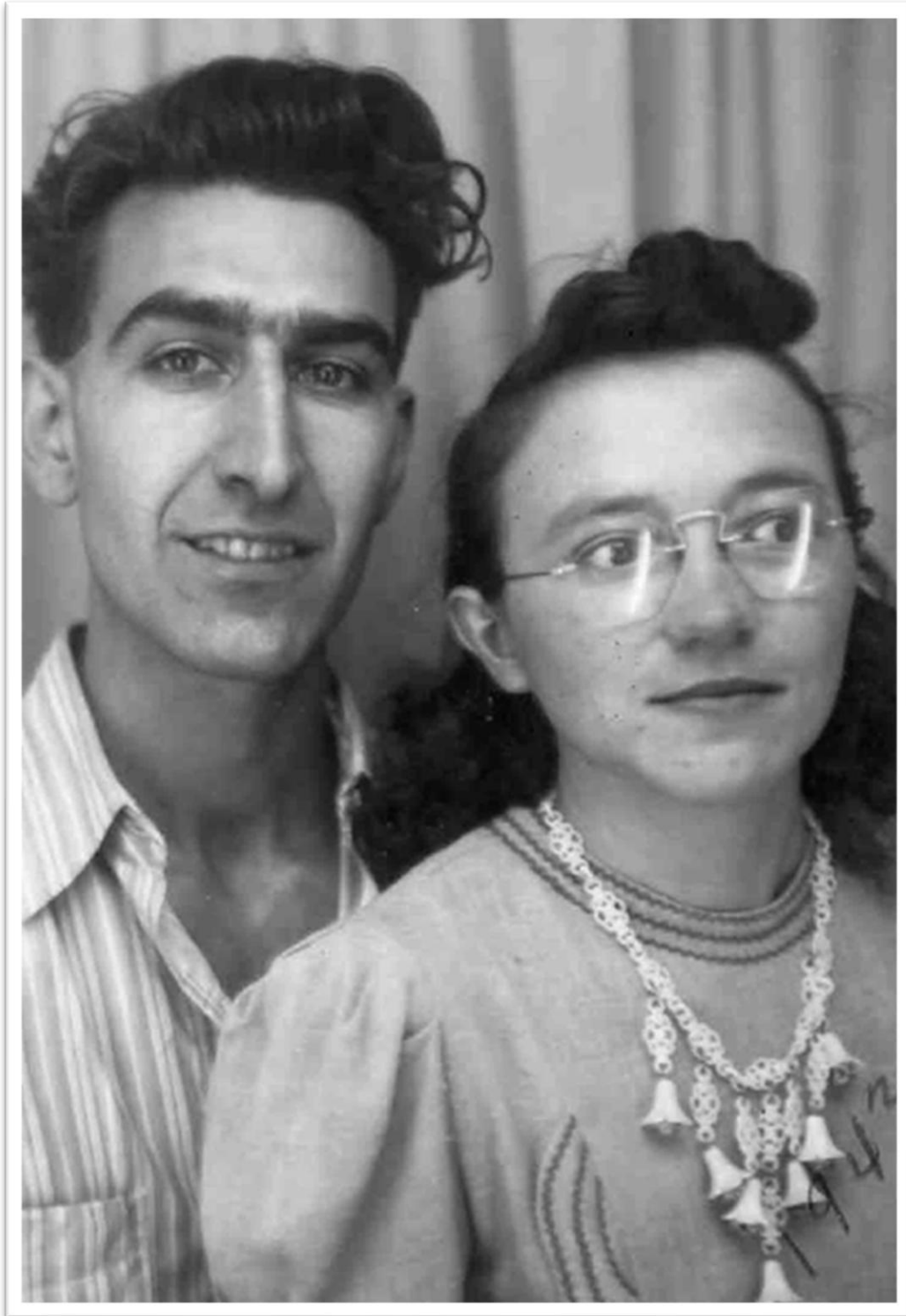




*Spencer Shiner (left), Wilden Shiner (right),  
Catherine Johnson (sitting, Spencer's mother), Leah Shiner (child)*



*Wilden and Catherine (Yeager) Shiner with their daughter, Leah Shiner*



*Wilden and Catherine (Yeager) Shiner (1942)*



# WORLD WAR II



## Overview and History

World War II erupted in 1939 as rising dictatorships in Europe and Asia pursued expansion through force, drawing nations into a conflict that quickly spanned the globe. For years the United States remained officially neutral, though it supported Allied nations through aid and growing military preparation. That changed after the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor in December 1941, when the U.S. entered the war fully.

Wilden was drafted in February of 1944, and reported for duty in Hazleton, Luzerne, Pennsylvania on March 8<sup>th</sup>, 1944. In October of 1944 he had completed basic training and a study at the hospital corps school. On May 11<sup>th</sup>, 1945 he boarded the U.S. Navy Ship *USS Benevolence*, a new ship to the Navy's fleet. Wilden served on this ship until December 12<sup>th</sup>, 1945, and then exited the U.S. Navy on December 24<sup>th</sup>, 1945 in Bainbridge, Cecil, Maryland.

* 1621		284	
SERIAL NUMBER 9	1. NAME (Print) Wilden LeRoy Shiner (First) (Middle) (Last)		ORDER NUMBER 284
2. ADDRESS (Print) 574 E. Second St. Nescopeck Luzerne Pa. (Number and street or R. F. D. number) (Town) (County) (State)			
3. TELEPHONE	4. AGE IN YEARS 25 DATE OF BIRTH 8 22 1915 (Exchange) (Number) (Mo.) (Day) (Yr.)	5. PLACE OF BIRTH Nescopeck Pa. (Town or county) (State or country)	6. COUNTRY OF CITIZENSHIP U. S. A.
7. NAME OF PERSON WHO WILL ALWAYS KNOW YOUR ADDRESS Catherine D. Shiner (Mr., Mrs., Miss) (First) (Middle) (Last)			8. RELATIONSHIP OF THAT PERSON Wife
9. ADDRESS OF THAT PERSON 574 E. Second St. Nescopeck Luzerne Pa. (Number and street or R. F. D. number) (Town) (County) (State)			
10. EMPLOYER'S NAME American Car + Foundry			
11. PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT OR BUSINESS Berwick Columbia Pa. (Number and street or R. F. D. number) (Town) (County) (State)			
I AFFIRM THAT I HAVE VERIFIED ABOVE ANSWERS AND THAT THEY ARE TRUE.			
REGISTRATION CARD D. S. S. Form 1		Wilden L. Shiner (Registrant's signature)	
(over)		16-17105	

Wilden's World War II draft registration card

## Many Nescopeck Men Approved For Army-Navy

Several Nescopeck Men Among Highest In Physical Ratings; 187 Fathers Are In Group

Nescopeck men showed up well among the examination contingent of Board No. 6 at Wilkes-Barre yesterday with at least 10 from that borough approved and with six of them among the highest in physical ratings of the entire group.

Sheldon Hetler, Peter Shellhammer, Wildon Shiner, Daniel Fetterman and Marvin Schloyer were approved for the Navy. Edwin Zeiser, Ralph "Bunky" Yohey, Paul Parr, Jesse Douthat, Jr., and Frank Aten were approved for the Army. Aten had been approved for the Navy until discovery was made that part of his index finger was missing.

### Total Of 128 Pass

A total of 128 in the contingent were approved for the armed service with 84 taken for the Army and 44 for the Navy. The contingent was one of the largest ever to be examined at Wilkes-Barre.

There were 187 fathers among the group of 216 men examined. It was reported at the draft office at West Hazleton that an exceptionally large call is expected again next month in the district.

## Twelve Men In Navy Contingent

Twelve men from this area have received notices from the Selective Service Board No. 6 at West Hazleton to report next Wednesday, March 8, for induction into the Navy. There are to be 34 men in the contingent, most of them fathers. They will assemble at the draft board office in West Hazleton at 8:30 a. m. and will go from there to Wilkes-Barre for assignment, either with the Navy or Sea Bees.

Local men listed to report are:

Sheldon Hetler, 700 East Third street, Nescopeck; Daniel E. Fetterman, 320 Broad street, Nescopeck; Harold Alvin Hutton, Bloomsburg R. D. 3; Weldon Leroy Shiner, Nescopeck R. D. 1; Santino Caporaletti, 611 Eckard avenue, Berwick; Evo John Caporaletti, Lee Road, Mocanaqua; Frank Walter Lukaszewski, 33 Italy street, Mocanaqua; Frank S Novakowski, Lee Road, Mocanaqua; Ray Willard Schloyer, 118 East Eleventh street, Berwick; Richard Lewis Badalato, 1136 Freas avenue, Berwick; Delbert Roy Farver, Ridgewood street, Nescopeck; Vernon Yeich, Wapwallopen. The latter, son of the Rev. and Mrs. Vernon Yeich, who recently moved to the Lutheran parsonage at Wapwallopen, is just past eighteen years of age and is a volunteer.

(above) *Twelve Men*, *The Morning Press* (Bloomsburg, Pennsylvania), Wednesday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1944, page 5

(left) *Nescopeck Men*, *Berwick Enterprise* (Berwick, Pennsylvania), Saturday, February 12<sup>th</sup>, 1944, pg 1

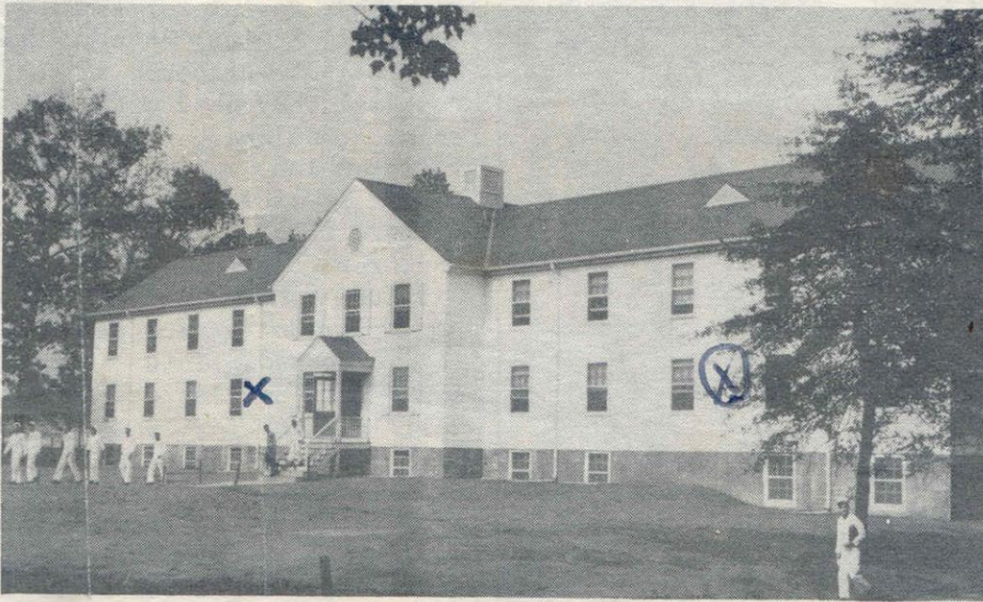


*Wilden Shiner at military camp (Victoria, Kansas; 1945),  
Wilden's barracks marked with an X in below picture*





## View of New Addition to HCQ



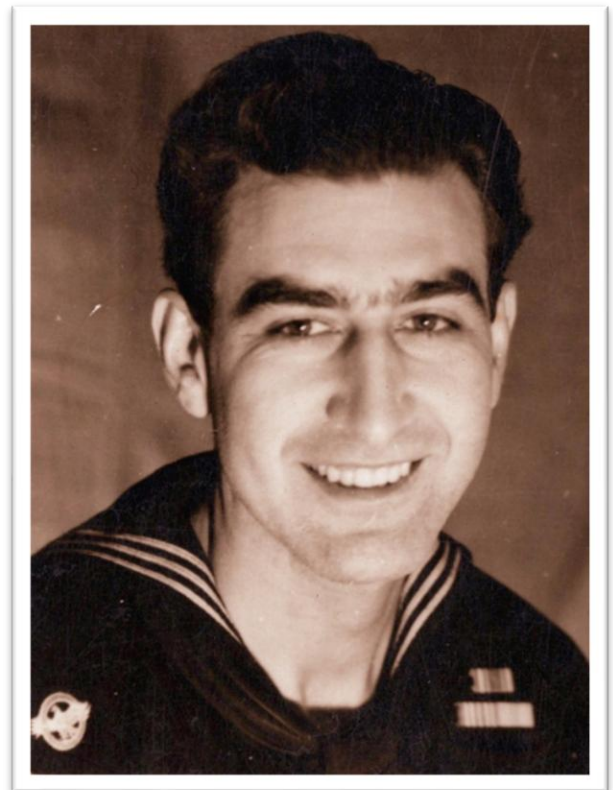
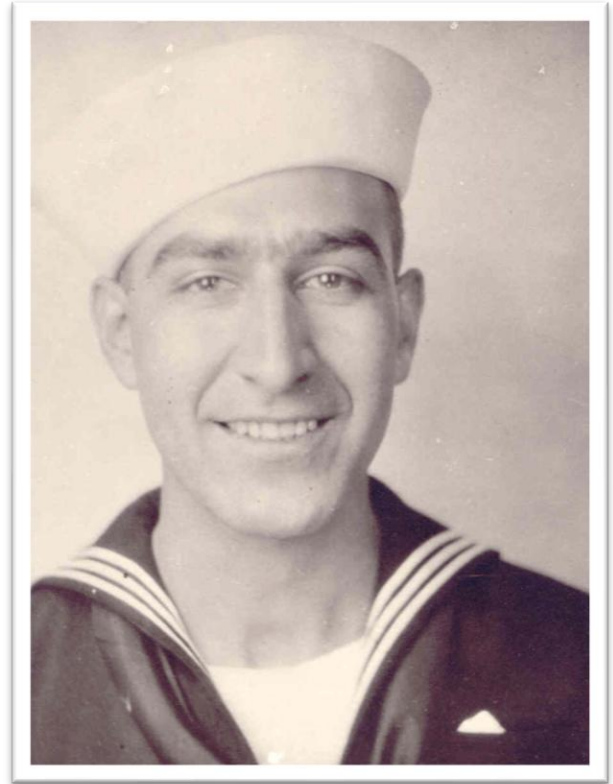
The recently constructed wing addition to Hospital Corpsmen's Quarters has now been occupied for several weeks. Composed of two dormitories on each deck, this ultra-modern building accomodates two hundred and fifty additional men of our expanding staff.

*Wilden's dorm rooms marked with an X.*

**In Medical Unit**



**Wilden L. Shiner, hospital apprentice 2-c, of Nescopeck R. D., is now stationed at St. Alban's Hospital, Long Island. He has completed a course of study at the hospital corps school at Bainbridge, Md.**

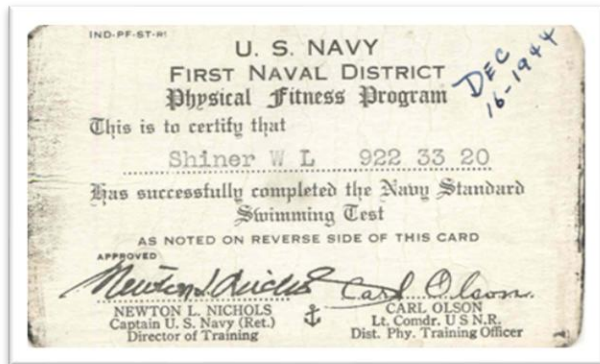


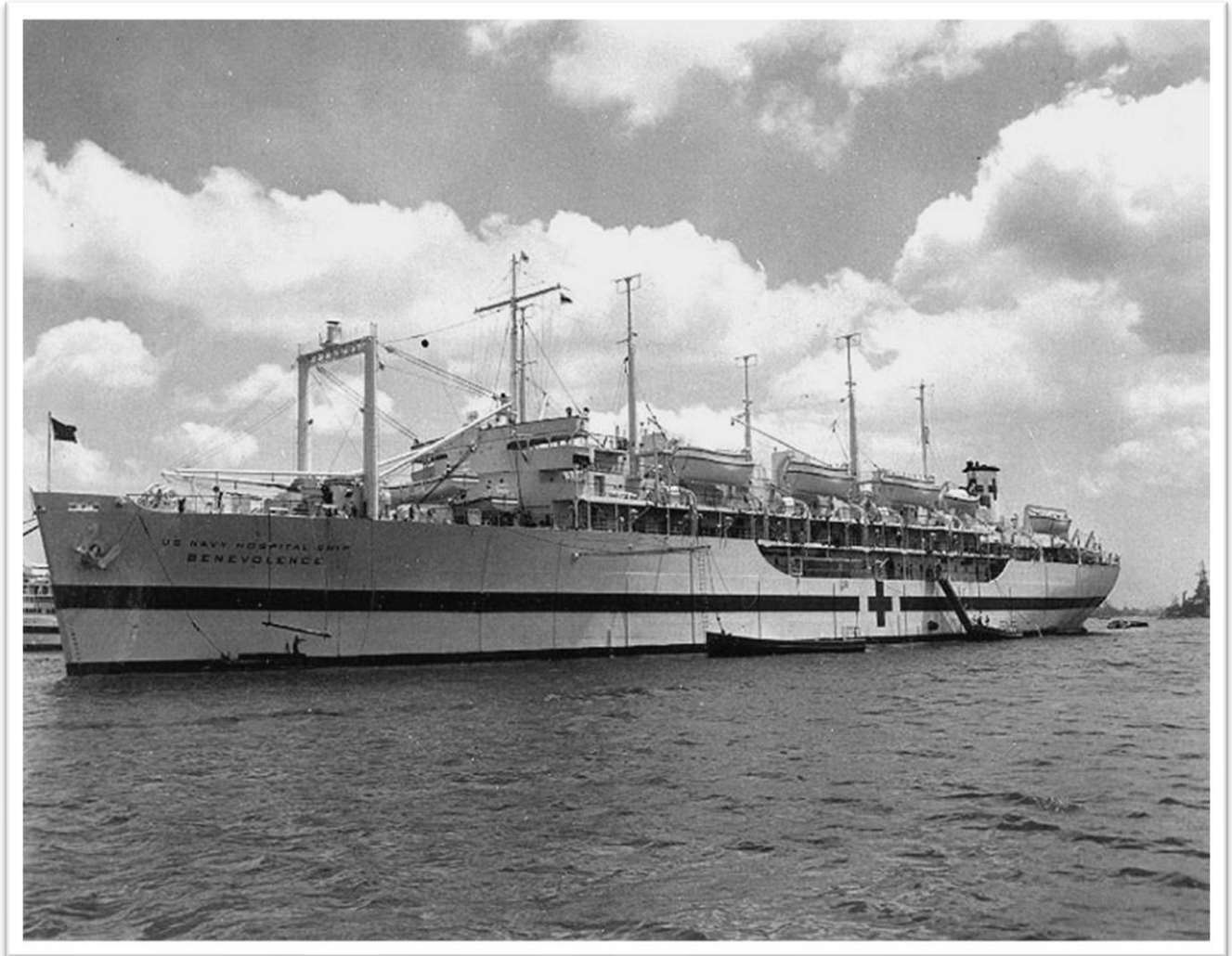
*Medical Unit, Berwick Enterprise (Berwick, Pennsylvania),  
Wednesday, October 11<sup>th</sup>, 1944, page 5*



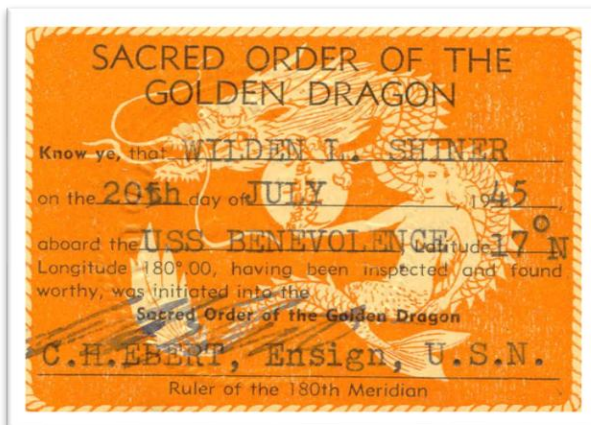
(above) Wilden's certificate of graduation from the US Navy Hospital Corps

(right) Wilden Shiner in US Navy Hospital Corps uniform





The USS Benevolence docked at Pearl Harbor (July 1945). This is the US Navy ship that Wilden served on during World War II. Below are cards that Wilden received while serving on this ship – the Golden Dragon noting his crossing of the international date line and the rising sun noting the ship and himself present at Tokyo Bay when Japan signed the surrender terms at the end of World War II.



**Benevolence (AH-13)**  
**1945-1950**

(AH-13: displacement 15,400 (limiting); length 520'0"; beam 71'6"; draft 24'0"; speed 17.5 knots; complement 574; class Haven; type C4-S-B2)

Benevolence was given a name in keeping with the mission of hospital ships. Marine Lion was laid down on 26 July 1943 at Chester, Pa., by the Sun Shipbuilding & Dry Dock Co. under a Maritime Commission contract (M.C. Hull 744); renamed Benevolence and designated a hospital ship AH-13 on 22 June 1944; launched on 10 July 1944; sponsored by Mrs. Daisy Hunter; delivered to the Navy on 31 July 1944; converted to naval service at Brooklyn, N.Y., by Todd Erie Basin Shipyard, Inc.; and commissioned on 12 May 1945, Capt. Clyde C. Laws in command.

The hospital ship spent about a month taking on stores and conducting shakedown training in Chesapeake Bay. On 17 June 1945, the ship passed between Capes Henry and Charles into the Atlantic Ocean on her way to duty with the Pacific Fleet. She transited the Panama Canal on 22 June and continued her voyage west to Pearl Harbor, Territory of Hawaii. She arrived at the Oahu naval base on 6 July and laid over there until the 17th when she sailed for the Marshall Islands. On 25 July, Benevolence entered the lagoon at Eniwetok Atoll and remained there through the end of hostilities, ministering to the sick and the wounded. On 16 August, Benevolence stood out of Eniwetok on her way to join Task Group (TG) 30.8, the Third Fleet support group. For about two weeks, she operated in the area set aside for hospital ships providing readily available medical support. On 29 August, the ship anchored at the Yokosuka Naval Base on the island of Honshu in Japan. There, she ministered to many of the liberated prisoners of war and civilian internees.

That and similar duty filled her days and nights until 27 November 1945 when, with about 1,000 passengers embarked, Benevolence began the voyage back to the United States. She brought her precious human cargo safely into San Francisco, Calif., on 12 December. During the following two months, the hospital ship made three round-trip voyages between San Francisco and Pearl Harbor, transporting homeward-bound servicemen on the last leg of their journey across the Pacific Ocean. She concluded her third Magic Carpet voyage at San Francisco on 15 February 1946 and began a six week upkeep period.

On 1 April 1946, Benevolence was assigned to Service Division (ServDiv) 11, Service Squadron (ServRon) 3, Pacific Fleet, and began preparations for duty with Joint Task Force 1, the task organization charged with prosecuting Operation Crossroads, the atomic bomb tests at Bikini Atoll in the Marshall Islands. On 27 April, she stood out of San Francisco on her way to the Marshalls. The hospital ship anchored in the lagoon at Kwajalein Atoll, the staging area for the tests, on 9 May. Twelve days later, Benevolence moved on to the site of the tests in company with the ships of TG 1.8. She remained in the vicinity of Bikini Atoll through the duration of the tests providing medical support services. On 29 August, the hospital ship departed the area for home. She arrived back in San Francisco on 8 September.

Benevolence remained at San Francisco for 19 days. On 27 September 1946, she headed back to the Far East. Arriving in Tsingtao, China, on 14 October, she served as station hospital ship there until 3 March 1947. Benevolence departed Tsingtao on 3 March and arrived at Oakland, Calif., on the 18th. On 1 April 1947, she began inactivation overhaul at the Hunters Point Naval Shipyard. The hospital ship was placed out of commission in reserve. Assigned to the Pacific Reserve Fleet, she lay berthed at Mare Island, Calif., for almost three years.

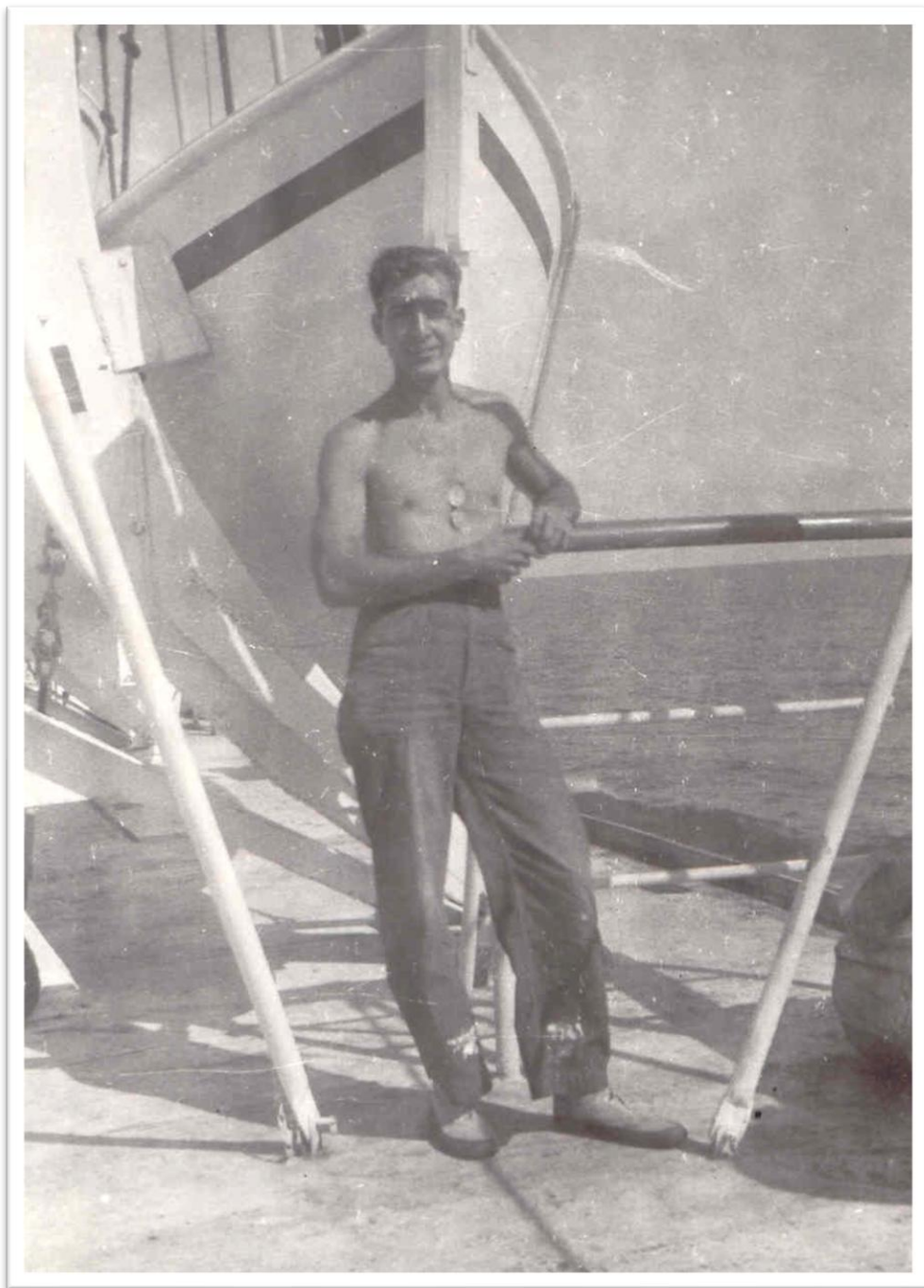
In the summer of 1950, the outbreak of hostilities in Korea prompted the recall of many reserve ships to active service, and Benevolence returned to duty as a unit of the Military Sea Transportation Service during the latter part of August 1950. However, on 25 August 1950, while returning to San Francisco from a trial run in a dense fog, Benevolence was struck by the merchant ship Mary Luckenbach. The hospital ship sank within 20 minutes, about four miles off the Golden Gate. Human losses totaled 18 dead and 13 unaccounted

for, both civilian and naval personnel. Her name was stricken from the Naval Vessel Register on 20 December 1950 after salvage attempts ended in failure.

Raymond A. Mann

7 February 2006

<https://www.history.navy.mil/research/histories/ship-histories/danfs/b/benevolence-i.html>



*Wilden Shiner*

***Benevolence in Tokyo Bay: The USS Benevolence (AH-13)***

*The USS Benevolence was one of three hospital ships in Tokyo Bay on September 2, 1945. The ship served as a haven and first stop in rehabilitation for thousands of Allied POWs.*

*The impressive 300-vessel display of Allied naval power in Tokyo Bay assembled for the Japanese surrender aboard the USS Missouri on September 2, 1945 included three US hospital ships. One was Army-operated—the USAHS Marigold and the others were the Navy ships, USS Rescue and USS Benevolence.*

*The very end of the war saw a tactical shift in the deployment of hospital ships. Initially, they were used as floating ambulances intended to “scoop and sail,” to ferry the wounded from the battlefield to a facility onshore. Later, as combat losses mounted and injuries soared, they became active combat care units. Beginning with the invasion of Iwo Jima, Halsey ordered early, forward use of hospital ships to treat and stage the wounded aboard. Hospital ships used in this way, as operating theaters, allowed for a quicker return-to-duty rate and higher retention of the fighting strength.*

*When the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor, the US Navy had only two hospital ships in service. Due to disagreements over availability and use of these vessels, the Army established its own fleet of hospital ships for use in the Atlantic and Mediterranean. The distances of the Pacific and the insufficient number of specially-outfitted craft remained a problem in the early war years, but by October 1944, additional resources were made available as hospital ships were transferred to the Pacific Fleet and others were newly-commissioned.*

*The proximity of hospital ships to combat operations was tricky for several reasons. Under the protections of the Geneva and Hague Conventions, hospital ships painted white and marked with the Red Cross, were to be sheltered from enemy fire. As protected vessels, the hospital ships were also under orders to remain lit at all times. So within a group of other un-protected vessels, they could be subject to accidental hits—or they could draw fire to nearby unprotected ships by their lights. One hospital ship, the USS Comfort was subject to a kamikaze attack off Okinawa on April 28, 1945, killing 17 in the surgery unit. Even still, the forward deployment of hospital ships during the latter campaigns of the war proved successful.*



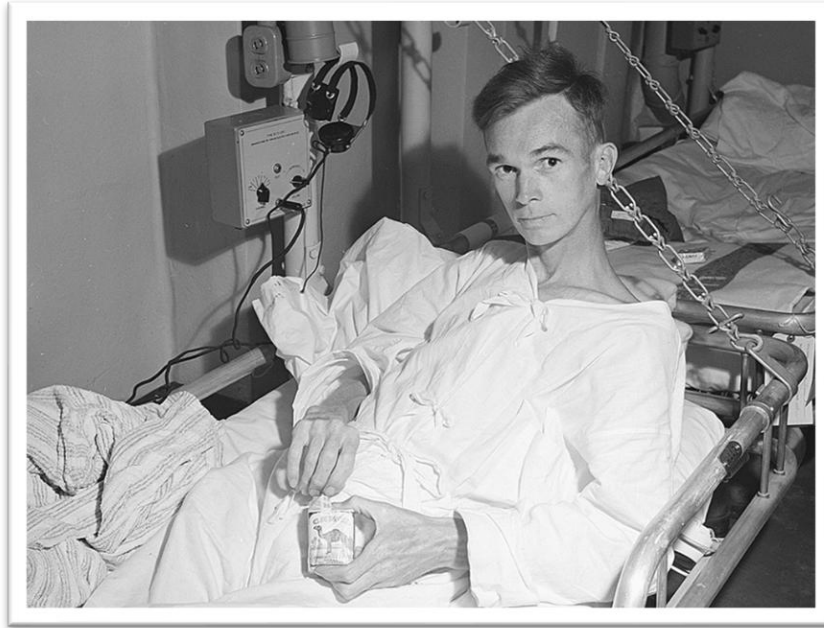
*The USS Benevolence. Picture provided by Martha Torisky Dempsey.*

By the end of the war, the US Navy operated 15 hospital ships. The USS Benevolence (AH-13) was new to the "mercy fleet," commissioned on May 12, 1945. Todd Shipyard in Brooklyn converted the cargo ship SS Marine Lion into a fully outfitted and air-conditioned floating hospital. She had a bed capacity of 802 patients with the ability to increase. The crew consisted of 58 officers, 30 nurses, two Red Cross workers, 24 chief petty officers, 230 crew members, and 238 hospital corpsmen. The Benevolence and other Haven-class ships featured increased numbers of hoists and ladders to take wounded aboard, ready rooms for treating shock patients, and also laboratories. The air-conditioning throughout the hospital and crew's spaces was particularly revolutionary; they were the first Navy vessels to feature this modern convenience. They also featured four operating rooms, a dental clinic, physiotherapy and radiography rooms, and a neuropsychiatric unit. They contained lounges and recreation facilities for the patients. Adding to the patients' comforts was an in bed/berth entertainment system, almost like that of modern airplanes, described as "ear phones or pillow phones hooked into a five-channel entertainment broadcast system. A master receiving set will provide long and short wave radio programs. Phonograph music will be carried over the ship's hookup." The nurses' quarters, referred to as "nurse's country," was a self-contained area with a separate mess. Each floating hospital also carried a packed and crated field hospital, which could be established on shore. For this purpose, they also carried a station wagon and ambulance, which had to be maintained during the voyage.

The Benevolence left Pearl Harbor on July 6, 1945 with Captain C.C. Laws as the Commanding Officer and Capt. F.L. McDaniel, the Senior Medical Officer. They sailed to the Pacific without an escort until Eniwetok, where on July 26, they received their first patients. When embarking patients, the Admitting Officer would make a quick diagnosis on deck and assign the patient to one of the ship's wards. On August 12, they left the Marshall Islands to join the Third Fleet, with the aim of treating troops in the upcoming invasion of Japan. When the atomic bombs were dropped, their mission changed. Instead of tending to casualties, their primary focus was to evaluate and treat liberated prisoners of war, most of whom had spent three long years in Japanese captivity.

On August 29, 1945, the Benevolence and two other hospital ships, the USS Rescue and USS Tranquility, entered Tokyo Bay with the Third Fleet. The waters were still unsecured. Mines had been cut loose from their chains by the Japanese and floated untethered in the bay; danger afloat. Even later, during the surrender ceremony, there were fears that the event could be subject to kamikaze attack.

After only a few hours in Tokyo Bay, the hospital ships began to receive their patients. Rear Admiral Arlene Duerk, one of the Navy's first female Admirals and Chief of the Navy Nurse Corps from 1970-1972, was a nurse aboard the first voyage of the Benevolence. She recalled processing patients for 36 hours straight. After their ship was full, they transferred them to other ships. First stop aboard was a decontamination ward; the ambulatory patients were instructed to strip naked and shower, they were then treated with disinfectants and deloused and issued new uniforms. Some of the men who had been POWs for years were reluctant to give up clothes they had just received from B-29 supply drops after having been in captivity so long without sufficient clothing. Debriefing interviews by military intelligence officers took place and the refeeding process began, accompanied by TLC (actually prescribed in regulations.) Sgt. Ferdinand Spacal from Chicago, 20th Air Force POW, arrived on the Benevolence on August 29. He reported in a letter, "That ship 'Benevolence' sure is swell and up to date in all respects." The Benevolence processed thousands of patients including British Lt. General Arthur Percival and General Jonathan Wainwright as well as several other Medal of Honor recipients including Admiral Richard O'Kane and Major "Pappy" Boyington.



*Former POW Cpl. Leopold Anthony Mulikowski of Muskegon, Michigan on the USS Benevolence, August 30, 1945. Mounted behind him is the "pillow phone" entertainment system. Official US Navy Photograph.*

*Navy Nurse Dorothy Davis, from the USS Rescue, recalled treating the POWs, "It was an interesting experience, though heartbreaking at times, to learn that the elderly-looking, emaciated gentleman before you was a boy in his twenties..." A ship history from the Benevolence notes of the arrival of the newly-liberated men, "Seeing, with our own eyes, these victims of Japanese atrocities, their thin and emaciated bodies, but happy faces (these people—the heroes of any war)—All of us, our thoughts, WHAT PRICE THIS GLORY?"*



*Former POW Alfred Sorenson with Navy Nurse Lt. Asplan on the USS Benevolence on August 30, 1945. Official US Navy Photograph.*

*The patients and crew of the Benevolence were among the thousands who witnessed General Douglas MacArthur declare his hopes for a better world in the 23-minute ceremony on September 2nd. Navy Nurse Ethel Buler said that day aboard the Benevolence was one of the highlights of her career. She recalled, "The Benevolence was docked to the port side of the Missouri and we were able to see the ceremony with the aid of binoculars. Peace at last!" Former POW and patient Sgt. Ferdinand Spacal later wrote a friend, "...I suppose you listened to Japans [sic] surrender on Sept. 2...We all did from the 'Benevolence' while still in Tokyo Bay and sure enjoyed it, too, that was indeed a great day!"*



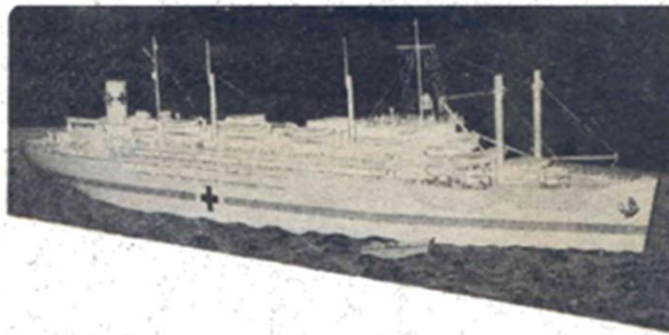
*Navy nurses Martha Torisky (R) and Rita McMahon on the Benevolence in Tokyo Bay.  
Picture provided by Martha Torisky Dempsey.*

*Although most of the other vessels departed in the days and weeks following, the Benevolence stayed on in Tokyo Bay until November, serving as the hospital for the 3rd and 7th Fleets in Yokohama. She returned home in December 1945 and witnessed another legendary event in June 1946, Operation Crossroads at Bikini Atoll. On August 25, 1950, preparing to support Korean War troops, the Benevolence collided with another vessel in heavy fog near San Francisco, sinking with a loss of 23 individuals.*

*Kim Guise. "Benevolence in Tokyo Bay: The USS Benevolence (AH-13)"  
Published September 2, 2020. Accessed March 20, 2026.  
<https://www.nationalww2museum.org/war/articles/uss-benevolence-tokyo-bay>.*

U. S. S. Benevolence AH-13  
Division H (2-A)  
Fleet Post Office  
San Francisco, Calif.

August 26, 1945



UNITED STATES HOSPITAL SHIP  
★ BENEVOLENCE ★

Dear Catherine,  
Sunday and finally  
a day of rest. I cleaned  
up my compartment a little  
this morning and after  
I write this letter I think  
I shall go out and get  
a little sun. I lost some  
of the tan I had and  
now will have to go out and

A letter to Catherine (page 1 of 4)

get it back again. It's really no beautiful  
day out, although the water is quite rough.  
And at present the life is really rocking  
but one gets use to that. As far as  
it makes me feel sleepy, and at night I  
no more than put my sack till I'm off  
to dreamland. I guess when I get home  
once I'll have to put rockers on my bed.  
Or either sleep in Leah's cradle.

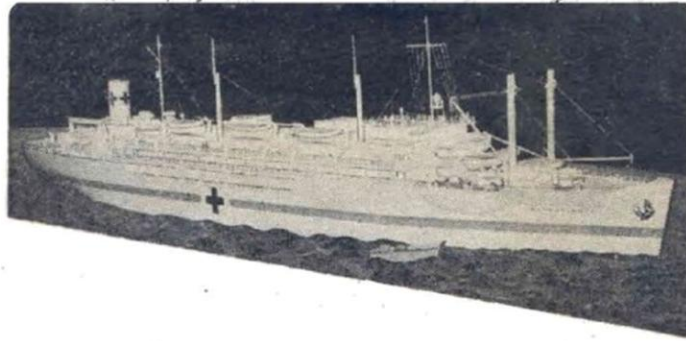
I know before you receive this  
letter Leah will be again starting on  
another term of schooling. I sure hope she  
takes it this year like she did <sup>the</sup> last term.  
Is she still going to continue her music  
lessons? I think sometimes she should give  
them up until next summer or only take  
them every other week well its entirely up to  
you to decide. What ever you do in O.K. with  
me.

Well Japan has finally quit, and although  
the ~~terms~~ <sup>terms</sup> have not yet been signed  
we can now look forward for our return  
to civilian life. We still have lots to do out  
here but I don't think it will take to long.  
Others are just as anxious to get back as  
I am and as for the sick wounded  
well you know they come first. They're  
the ones that have really done the job  
and in my mind they should be given  
first chance to return as a civilian again.  
I feel sorry for morale though we  
I think its going to be an year yet a

A letter to Catherine (page 2 of 4)

A long time. Of course, that is only my opinion. But I think I am right.

Well Catherine, I hope this letter finds you as well & happy as I am. So don't worry when its quite



UNITED STATES HOSPITAL SHIP  
★ BENEVOLENCE ★

some time before you receive any mail. I know its hard not to receive any for I always feel the same but circumstances doesn't permit the mail to come aboard & go off every day so be patient as every thing is all right.

I think we will be bringing patients back to the

A letter to Catherine (page 3 of 4)

states before to long - of course that  
is only a guess but I sure would do  
us all good to see good old U.S.A. once  
again.

Well Catherine I guess I must close as  
I can't think of anything more to say. There  
is so much I'd like to put that I'll  
have to wait until later. They are strict on  
censorship where I am.

Write when you can - and I'll  
do the same.

I'm just sittin' here praying to  
see you soon again.

Love,  
Kilden.

A letter to Catherine (page 4 of 4)

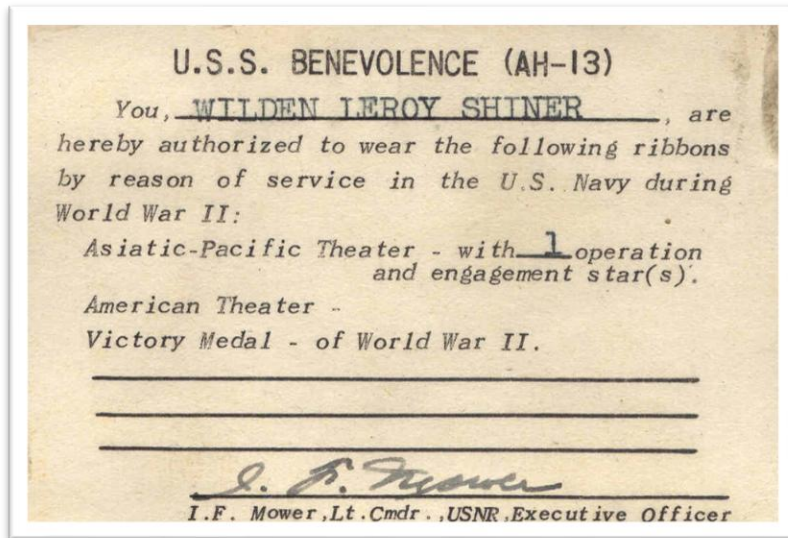


*Wilden Shiner in Navy uniform in front of his house (Unknown year)*




(above) Wilden's Honorably Discharge certificate from the U.S. Navy

(below) Wilden's authorization for ribbons on his uniform



**NOTICE OF SEPARATION FROM U. S. NAVAL SERVICE**  
NAVPERG-553 (REV. 8-45)

1. SERIAL OR FILE NO. 9 2 2 3 3 2 0			2. NAME (LAST) (FIRST) (MIDDLE) SHINER, Wilden Leroy			3. RATE AND CLASS/FOR Hospital Apprentice 1c, SV6, USNR			4. PERMANENT ADDRESS FOR MAILING PURPOSES RD#1, Nescopeck, Luzerne Co., Pennsylvania			5. PLACE OF SEPARATION USN PERSONNEL SEPARATION CENTER, BAINBRIDGE, MD.											
6. CHARACTER OF SEPARATION Honorable						7. ADDRESS FROM WHICH EMPLOYMENT WILL BE SOUGHT RD#1, Nescopeck Luzerne Co, Pa;																	
8. RACE W		9. SEX M		10. MARITAL STATUS M		11. U. S. CITIZEN (YES OR NO) Yes		12. DATE AND PLACE OF BIRTH 8-22-15 Nescopeck, Pennsylvania															
13. REGISTERED <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO						14. SELECTIVE SERVICE BOARD OF REGISTRATION Hazelton, Pennsylvania						15. HOME ADDRESS AT TIME OF ENTRY INTO SERVICE RD#1 Nescopeck, Pennsylvania											
16. MEANS OF ENTRY (INDICATE BY CHECK IN APPROPRIATE BOX)						17. DATE OF ENTRY INTO ACTIVE SERVICE 3-8-44			18. NET SERVICE (FOR PAY PURPOSES) (YRS., MOS., DAYS) 1-9-17														
<input type="checkbox"/> ENLISTED						<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> INDUCTED DATE 3-8-44						<input type="checkbox"/> COMMISSIONED											
19. QUALIFICATIONS, CERTIFICATES HELD, ETC. Those of rate						20. RATINGS HELD HALc, AS, S2c, HA2c						21. FOREIGN AND/OR SEA SERVICE WORLD WAR II <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO											
22. SERVICE SCHOOLS COMPLETED Navy Hosp. Corps. Sch., Bainbridge, Md;						23. WEEKS 8						24. SERVICE (VESSELS AND STATIONS SERVED ON) NTS, Bainbridge, Md; USNH, St Albans, NY; USS Benevolence;											
IMPORTANT: IF PREMIUM IS NOT PAID WHEN DUE OR WITHIN THIRTY-ONE DAYS THEREAFTER, INSURANCE WILL LAPSE. MAKE CHECKS OR MONEY ORDERS PAYABLE TO THE TREASURER OF THE U. S. AND FORWARD TO COLLECTOR'S SUBDIVISION, VETERAN'S ADMINISTRATION, WASHINGTON 25, D. C.																							
25. KIND OF INSURANCE NSLI				26. EFFECTIVE MONTH OF ALLOTMENT DISCONTINUANCE DEC 42				27. MO. NEXT PREMIUM DUE JAN 46				28. AMOUNT OF PREMIUM DUE EACH MONTH 2.00				29. INTENTION OF VETERAN TO CONTINUE INS. No							
30. TOTAL PAYMENT UPON DISCHARGE \$ 38.46				31. TRAVEL OR MILEAGE ALLOWANCE INCLUDED IN TOTAL PAYMENT \$ 8.90				32. INITIAL MUSTERING OUT PAY \$100.00				33. NAME OF DISBURSING OFFICER T.C. CHRISTOPHERSON LIEUT											
34. REMARKS												35. SIGNATURE (BY DIRECTION OF COMMANDING OFFICER)  <i>John J. Noone, Jr.</i>  JOHN J. NOONE, JR., LIEUT. COMDR., USNR											
36. NAME AND ADDRESS OF LAST EMPLOYER American Car & Foundry Co., Berwick, Pennsylvania						37. DATES OF LAST EMPL'Y. FROM Oct 41 TO Mar 44			38. MAIN CIVILIAN OCCUPATION AND D. O. T. NO. Centering machine														
39. JOB PREFERENCE (LIST TYPE, LOCALITY, AND GENERAL AREA) Farming, Pennsylvania						40. PREFERENCE FOR ADDITIONAL TRAINING (TYPE OF TRAINING)																	
41. NON-SERVICE EDU. (YRS. SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED) GRAM. 8   H. S. 4   COLL.				42. DEGREES Comm				43. MAJOR COURSE OR FIELD				44. VOCATIONAL OR TRADE COURSES (NATURE AND LENGTH OF COURSE)											
45. RIGHT INDEX FINGERPRINT 						46. OFF DUTY EDUCATIONAL COURSES COMPLETED						47. DATE OF SEPARATION 12-24-45											
48. SIGNATURE OF PERSON BEING SEPARATED <i>Wilden L. Shiner</i>																							

Wilden's Notice of Separation from the U.S. Navy

Form No. 1 -41837  
 COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
 WORLD WAR II VETERANS' COMPENSATION BUREAU  
**APPLICATION FOR WORLD WAR II COMPENSATION—TO BE USED BY HONORABLY  
 DISCHARGED VETERAN OR PERSON STILL IN SERVICE**

IMPORTANT—Before Filling Out This Form Study it Carefully.  
 Read and Follow Instructions—Print Plainly in Ink or Use Typewriter. DO NOT  
 Use Pencil—All Signatures Must Be in Ink.

Applicant Must Not Write  
 In Space Below  
**MAR 13 1950**  
 Date Application Was Received  
 Batch Control Number  
**10458** or 158  
 Active Domestic Service  
 Months 28 \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Days \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Amount Due \$ 220  
 Active Foreign Service  
 Months \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Days \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Amount Due \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Total Amt. Due \$ 220  
 Audited By T. E. [Signature]  
 Service Computed By \_\_\_\_\_  
 Amounts Extended By \_\_\_\_\_  
 Approved For Payment  
 Date **AUG 23 1950**  
 For A. G. \_\_\_\_\_  
 For Aud. G. \_\_\_\_\_  
 For S. T. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Application Disapproved  
 By \_\_\_\_\_

1—Name of Applicant.  
SHINER WILDEN LeRoy  
 Last First Middle or Initial

2—Address to Which CHECK and MAIL is to be Sent. Box 305, MIRMOR, FLA  
R.D.#1 NESCOPECK Luzerne PA  
 House No. St. R. D. P. O. Box City or Town County State

3—Date and Place of Birth.  
Aug. - 22-1915 Nescopeck Luzerne PA  
 Month Day Year City or Town County State

4—Name Under Which Applicant Served in World War II.  
Shiner Wilden LeRoy  
 Last First Middle or Initial

5—Date of Beginning and Date of Ending of Each Period of Service Between December 7, 1941  
 and March 2, 1946 (Both Dates Inclusive) During Which Applicant Was In DOMESTIC  
 SERVICE.  
MARCH 8, 1944 - 20 - 48 MAY 11, 1945  
Dec. 12, 1945 Dec. 24, 1945  
 Date of Beginning Date of Ending

6—Date of Beginning and Date of Ending of Each Period of Service Between December 7, 1941  
 and March 2, 1946 (Both Dates Inclusive) During Which Applicant Was In FOREIGN SERVICE.  
MAY 11, 1945 - 61 N Dec. 12, 1945  
 Date of Beginning Date of Ending

7—Date and Place Applicant Entered Active Service.  
MARCH 8 1944 HAZLETON, PENNA.  
 Month Day Year Place

8—Service or Serial Numbers Assigned To Applicant.  
 Service No's. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Serial No's. 922 - 33 - 20

9—Date and Place Where Applicant Was Separated From Active Service.  
December 24 1945 U.S.N. Personnel Separation Center  
 Month Day Year Place  
Bainbridge, Md.

10—Is Applicant Now Serving in Armed Forces on Active Duty? Yes  No   
 If Answer is YES—Be Sure To Have Certificate Executed And Filed With Application—See Instruction Sheet.

11—Mark "X" Above Name To Indicate Sex And Branch of Service.  
 Male  Female  Army  Navy  Marine Corps  Coast Guard  Other—Describe \_\_\_\_\_

12—Applicant's Residence At Time of Entry Into Active Service.  
R.D.#1 NESCOPECK Luzerne PENNA.  
 Home No. Street R. D. P. O. Box City or Town County State

13—Applicant Was Registered Under Selective Service As Follows.  
# 6 HAZLETON Luzerne PENNA.  
 Draft Board No. City or Town County State

Wilden's veteran compensation document (page 1 of 4)

14-Did Applicant Apply For, or Receive From Any State, or From Any of the Allies of the United States, A Bonus or Gratuitous Payment Based Upon His (Her) Service in the Armed Forces of the United States or Her Allies During World War II?

N/A

If Answer is Yes, Show Amount Received \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Source \_\_\_\_\_

15-Names And Addresses of Beneficiaries.

Name of Present Wife Mrs. Catherine Shiner

R.N.#1 \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ House No. \_\_\_\_\_ Street Nescopeck City or Town \_\_\_\_\_ County Luzerne State PA.

Full Name, Address and Age of Minor Living Child or Children.

Leah Gail Shiner R.N.#1 Nescopeck PA. 11yrs

Weems Wilden Shiner R.N.#1 Nescopeck PA. 3yrs

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_

Full Name of Living Mother and Father and Address.

Mother's Name Blanche Q. Shiner Address 425 W. 5th St. Nescopeck, PA.

Father's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

16-Applicant Was Discharged Under Honorable Conditions and as Evidence Thereof, Attached Hereto Is Original Discharge or Separation Papers or Other Official Record of Separation—Showing Active Service Between December 7, 1941 and September 2, 1945.

17-Complete the Following Only In Case Applicant's Service Was In the Navy or Its Components. List Below the Stations, Posts, Camps, Vessels or Units, At, On, or With Which Applicant Served From December 7, 1941 to March 2, 1946 (Both Dates Inclusive) Showing Date of Beginning and Date of Ending of Each Period of Service For Which SEA DUTY PAY was RECEIVED.

(U.S.S. Benevolence) May 11, 1945 December 12, 1945

Hospital Ship

Stations—Posts—Etc. \_\_\_\_\_ Beginning Date \_\_\_\_\_ Ending Date \_\_\_\_\_

18-The Applicant, Whose Signature Appears Below, Applies To The Adjutant General Of The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, For World War II Compensation As Authorized By Act 248 Approved June 11, 1947—P. L. 565.

Date of Application January 17, 1950 Signature of Applicant Wilden L. Shiner

COUNTY OF Columbia

STATE OF Pennsylvania } ss.

Personally appeared before me Fred B. Vought, a Notary Public in and for the aforesaid County and State, the above named applicant, who being properly sworn or affirmed, states that he or she is the person who has signed this application, and that he or she is familiar with the contents thereof and that they are true to the best of his or her knowledge, information and belief.

Subscribed and Sworn to \_\_\_\_\_ My Commission Expires: 1-7-1951

This 20th Day Of Jan 19 50

Wilden's veteran compensation document (page 2 of 4)

Navy---Garden City

**COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA**  
**WORLD WAR II VETERANS' COMPENSATION BUREAU**  
**HARRISBURG - PENNSYLVANIA**

Veteran's Name: Shiner, Wilden LeRoy ✓

Address: R. D. #1 Hazelton, Pa.

Serial and/or Service No. 922-33-20 ✓ Batch No. 32158

Branch of Service: Navy

Check in block below information required:

Pa. Local Board of Registration 6 Hazelton, Pa. ✓  
 No. County or City Location

Date and place enlisted or inducted \_\_\_\_\_

Home address at time of entrance or duty \_\_\_\_\_

Date and place entered active duty \_\_\_\_\_

Date and place separated from active duty or discharged \_\_\_\_\_

Date and place of birth 8 22 1915  
 Month Day Year  
 Nescopeck, Pa. ✓

City or Town County State

Type of Separation or Discharge \_\_\_\_\_

Domestic Service - Dates \_\_\_\_\_

Foreign Service - Dates 12 May 45 to 12 Dec 45  
6-32 ✓

*Lucie Jones*  
6-28-51

Form IB61 - 345,000 Revised 8/20/50

Wilden's veteran compensation document (page 3 of 4)

WORLD WAR II VETERANS' COMPENSATION BUREAU

ENTITLEMENT TO ADDITIONAL COMPENSATION

The attached application was paid on the basis of Domestic Service,  
i.e., \$10.00 per month, on Batch Control No. 32158

Previous payment - No. of Months 22 Amount \$ 220

Applicant's Name Shiner, Wilden LeRoy

Address Box 305  
Miami, 2, Florida

Service and/or Serial Number 922-33-20 -

Official government records show applicant is credited with 7  
months of Foreign Service.

<u>SERVICE</u>	<u>MONTHS</u>	<u>DAIS</u>
Domestic Service Credited -	<u>21</u>	<u>18</u>
Foreign Service to be Credited	<u>7</u>	<u>✓</u>
Adjusted Domestic Service -	<u>14</u>	<u>16</u>

ADJUSTED COMPUTATION OF SERVICE

<u>SERVICE</u>	<u>MONTHS</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
Domestic	<u>15</u>	\$ <u>150</u>
Foreign	<u>7</u>	\$ <u>105</u>
TOTAL DUE		\$ <u>255</u>
Less Previous payment (see above)		\$ <u>✓20</u>
Additional Compensation Due		\$ <u>35</u> (H)

Batch Control Number -41837

Approved for payment: \_\_\_\_\_ Date JUL 9 1951

For Adjutant General Smith

For Auditor General Shiner

For State Treasurer Olney

Form AR22C - 90,000 - 8-2-50

Wilden's veteran compensation document (page 4 of 4)

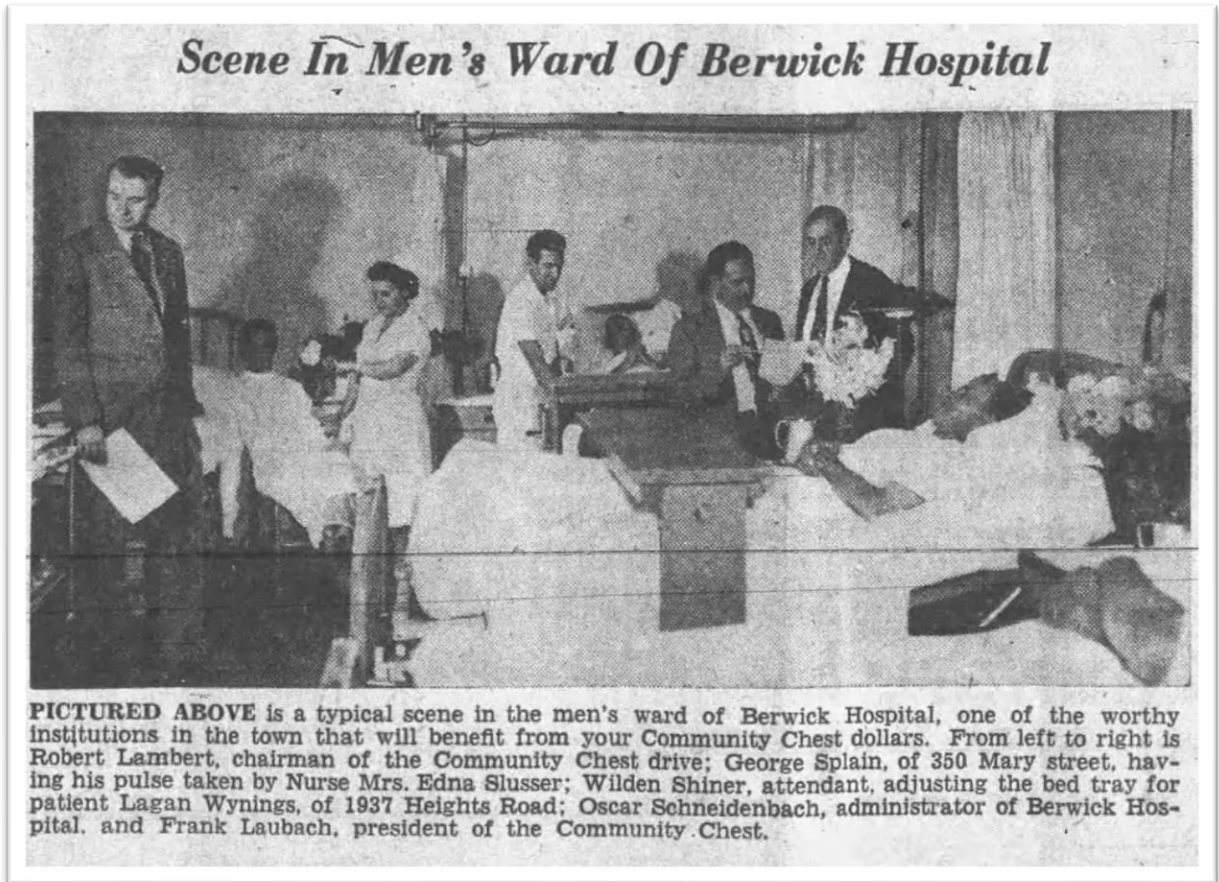


## **POST WAR LIFE**



## Nursing

Following the war Wilden worked at various hospitals. These include the Berwick Hospital in Berwick, Columbia, Pennsylvania and the VA Hospital in Coral Gables, Miami-Dade, Florida.



*Wilden at the Berwick Hospital, Berwick Enterprise (Berwick, Pennsylvania),  
Tuesday, October 18<sup>th</sup>, 1949, page 1*



*Post card of Veteran's Administration (VA)Hospital in Coral Gables. Florida (1955)*

*The Biltmore Hotel was completed in 1926 and became the tallest building in Florida at 315 feet (96 meters) holding the record as Florida's tallest building until 1928 when the Dade County Courthouse was built. At one time, the pool was the largest pool in the world and employed swimming instructor (and later Tarzan actor) Johnny Weissmuller.*

*With the onset of World War II, the War Department took over the hotel, converting it to a 1,200-bed hospital in November 1942. The building was transferred to the Army in 1946 and renamed Pratt General Hospital. Many of the windows were sealed with concrete, and the marble floors covered with government-issue linoleum. The hospital was transferred from the Army to the Veterans Administration (VA) in July 1947. Also the early site of The University of Miami's School of Medicine, Pratt General Hospital remained a VA hospital, with 450 beds, until a newer facility opened nearby in May 1968 and the building was vacated.*

*In 1973, through the Historic Monuments Act and Legacy of Parks program, the City of Coral Gables was granted ownership control. The building remained unoccupied for almost 10 years. Then in 1983, the City oversaw its full restoration to be opened as a grand hotel. In 1986, Miami Biltmore Hotel was designated a National Historic Landmark, and the hotel was reopened on December 31, 1987 as a luxury hotel and resort.*



*Veteran's Administration (VA)Hospital in Coral Gables. Florida*



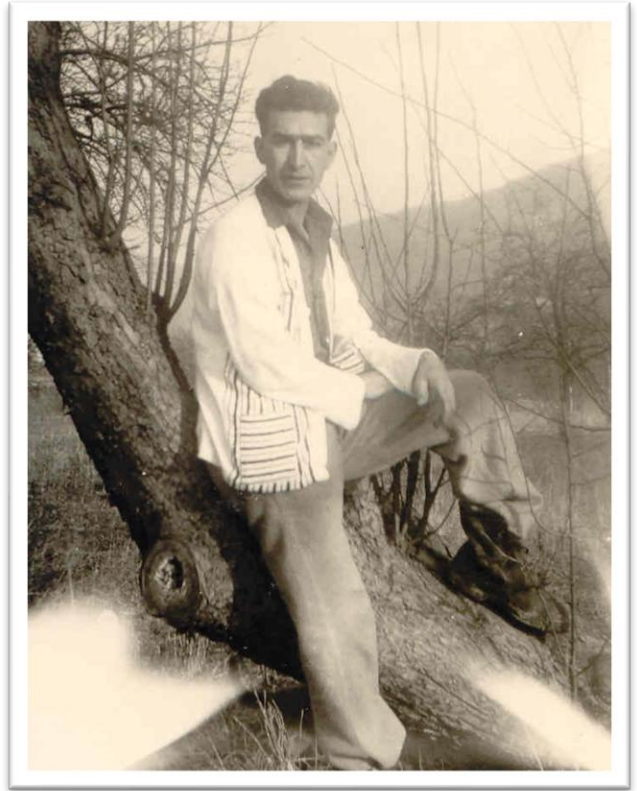
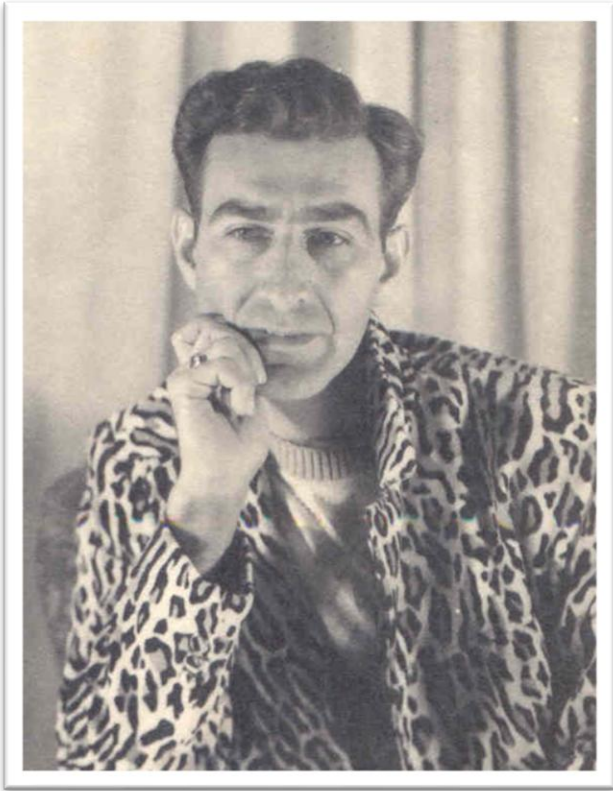
*Wilden cleaning needles at Veteran's Administration (VA)Hospital in Coral Gables.*



*Wilden in training (unknown hospital and year)*



*Catherine, Leah and Wilden Shiner*



*Wilden Leroy Shiner*

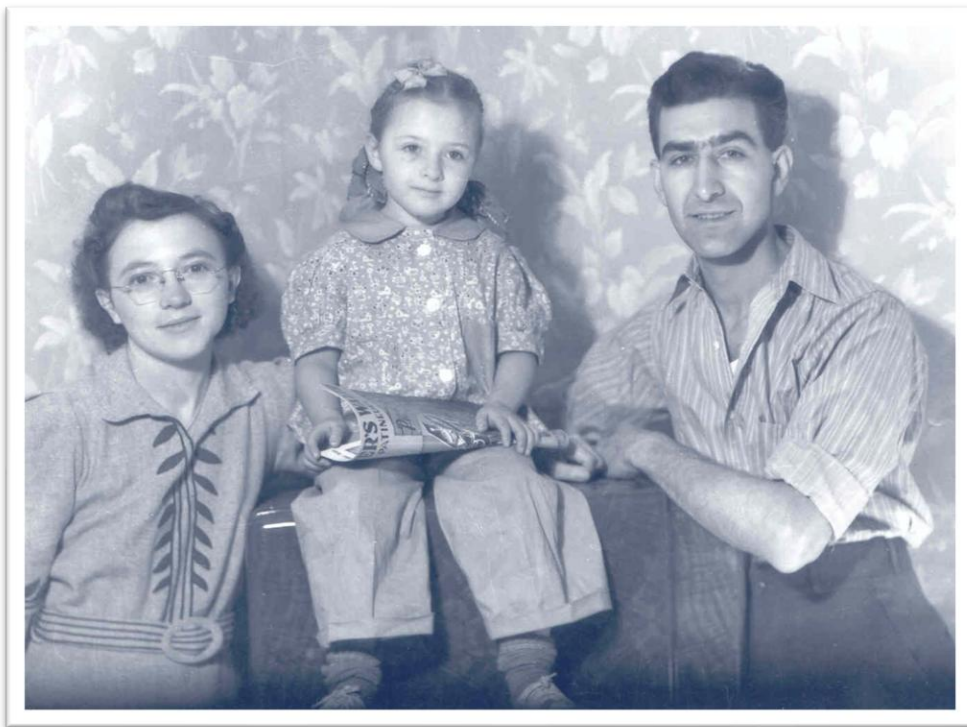




*Catherine, Leah and Wilden Shiner*



*Weems, Wilden and Leah Shiner*



*Catherine, Leah and Wilden Shiner*



Wilden's Superior Performance Award at the VA Hospital

Chief, Nursing Service

4/30/57

Supervisor, Central Supply

Outstanding Rating for Mr. Wilden Shiner, Nursing Assistant

Mr. Wilden Shiner, Nursing Assistant, GS-3, has been assigned to Central Supply under my supervision for the past seven years. The duties of the department include the cleaning, preparation and sterilization of all needles, syringes, instruments, routine and special trays, rubber goods, supplies and flask solutions used on the wards and in the clinics for the care and treatment of patients; sterilize packs, supplies and gloves for surgery. Also all equipment used for the treatment of patients are cleaned, tested and made ready for immediate use. At all times must be prepared and able to handle emergency situations. In a department like this where the work load is invariably heavy, there is a great need for one who is reliable, conscientious; hard-working and one who is able to assume responsibility. I believe Mr. Shiner has not only exceeded all categories of GS-3 but has been outstanding and deserving of commendation.

- i. DEPENDABILITY: Mr. Shiner is dependable, and carries out assignments and instructions accurately without being told. Does equally as good work with or without supervision.
  - a. He consistently carries out assignments, conscientiously and according to the correct procedure, always having the patients comfort in mind. Example - When sterilizing always checks the cyclomatic control to be sure it is the correct degree of heat before sterilizing process starts, never trusts the mechanical control. If supplies are too moist when they are removed from sterilizer, never takes chances that they are sterile, takes care of them in the proper procedure and resterilizes them. Calls the Engineering Department for check of sterilizers.
  - b. Always available for performance of duty and willing to help co-workers.
  - c. Mr. Shiner never reports late for duty or leaves early. Example - Many times in the evening when the sterilizer has not completed the cycle for sterilization and it is time to close, he has volunteered to take care of it. He will go and eat his dinner (he eats in the hospital dining room) then will come back and unload the sterilizer.
  - d. Does not take more than the allotted time for meals and if sent on an errand returns promptly.
  - e. Can be relied upon to carry out assignments given him. Example - I can leave the department and go to meetings and know that he will carry out instructions correctly. Example - On Saturdays when the Nurses are off duty, he is left in charge of the department every other week, he can be relied upon to carry out procedures properly, see to it that the wards have supplies needed and quite capable of taking care of any emergencies that might arise.

*Nursing Review of Wilden Shiner (page 1 of 5)*

-2-

- f. He always plans in advance for annual leave, never complains if he cannot have the time asked for. Example - This last year he took leave early in the year when others did not want it.
  - g. He does not abuse leave. Has not taken emergency leave in the past year. When he was off on sick leave in 1954 he wanted to come back to work much sooner than the doctor would allow him.
  - h. His calm manner, pleasant disposition and ability to establish pleasant working conditions with co-workers qualifies him as an excellent team worker. Example - Never becomes disturbed when he has to stop his work and take care of emergencies or help co-workers.
2. ATTITUDE: Mr. Shiner is eager to learn, works well with others, always willing to give assistance without being asked. He is neat in his work and appearance.
- a. When he has his assignment completed or if co-workers are needing assistance in their assignment he always is willing to help them. Example - Before he has completed his assignment I frequently assign him to filling orders for the wards or clinics, or to deliver oxygen or supplies to the wards for the treatment of patients, he accepts this without complaint.
  - b. He always accepts assignments willingly, does not become upset when changes are made or he is given additional duties. Example - There are times when he has to deliver supplies to wards and clinics in the morning before he can start his assignment, or if someone is off duty in the department, has to take additional duties.
  - c. He is a good team worker. Example - On completion of his assignment offers to assist the Nurses with their work. On occasions he has had to go out on the wards and help the Assistants with the direct care of patients.
  - d. He is aware of the importance his work has to do with the patients stay in the hospital being a pleasant one. Example - When preparing trays, such as a paracentesis tray, he is sure of having the proper equipment such as needles, syringes, trocar and dressing in the tray, and so arranged so that the Doctors or Nurses will not be delayed in carrying out the treatment, which might cause patient to have undue discomfort.
  - e. He accepts constructive criticisms well, rather than with resentment. Does not make the same mistake over and over.
  - f. He is very much interested in In-service Programs, takes an active part, and is very helpful in giving suggestions. Example - He prepared and gave a talk to the Nursing Assistants on care, use, and cost of equipment used for the care and treatment of patients. Everyone who heard the talk said it was very informative.
  - g. He always takes pride in his personal appearance and is neat and clean at all times.
  - h. He has a positive attitude regarding his work. Never feels that he is being imposed upon when he has to take over additional assignments or has to stop his work to take care of emergencies.
3. ABILITY TO PLAN AND ORGANIZE WORK: Mr. Shiner plans his work carefully and conscientiously, budgeting his time so that the greatest amount of work can be accomplished in the shortest time.
- a. Immediately upon reporting on duty he obtains his assignment, checks with the Nurses if there are any tasks they want taken care of first before starting daily assignment or if the Nurses are not there he is well informed as to what is needed by the wards and clinics for the care and treatment of patients.

-3-

- b. The first duties are to see that the soiled supplies are checked from the ward carts and new orders for sterile supplies and equipment are filled as quickly as possible so not to delay the care and treatment of patients.
  - c. In his orderly and systematically way of planning his work he is able to conserve time. Example - When preparing special trays for sterilization, obtains all items needed first such as needles, syringes, dressings and wrappers for all sets, so as to conserve time and energy walking back and forth for each individual one.
  - d. He keeps work current and plans his work in advance so that he can handle interruptions without confusion. Has the ability to differentiate between necessary and routine duties. When assigned to preparing supplies for sterilization and cleaning syringes, always is sure to prepare the items for sterilization first, so as not to detain the person on that assignment, the syringes are not needed until the following day.
4. SKILL: Mr. Shiner works intelligently and applies knowledge effectively.
- a. He always demonstrates skill in the application of techniques and procedures characteristic to this type of work. He is always aware of the importance of carrying them out as taught. He knows the purpose of the procedure and the desired results. Example - When sterilizing he is sure to have all items clean, wrapped properly, and placed in the steam sterilizer rack in horizontal position and packed to allow for free circulation and penetration of steam to all packs. Always sterilizes the load at the correct temperature of 250°F. for thirty minutes to be sure all items are completely sterilized.
  - b. He follows instructions well and does his work in the proper order. Example - Checks soiled supplies and fills new orders for the wards and clinics which are used for the care and treatment of patients. Prepares the most urgent supplies needed first and checks the sterile room for others needed for the day and later.
  - c. Used good hand technique, when handling soiled items always washes hands well before handling clean supplies.
  - d. He practices the proper method to use in a given case. Example - He always sterilizes contaminated supplies when sent from the wards before handling, this is for his own protection and to protect clean area from contamination.
  - e. He always demonstrates skill in the application of all techniques. Example - Understands the application of aseptic technique in removing sterile dressing cans from sterilizing rack after sterilizing. He never takes chances, if there is a possibility that one has been contaminated he puts it back for re-sterilization.
5. INDUSTRY: Mr. Shiner spends time purposefully. Demonstrates in a very efficient manner the ability he has acquired to start and complete his work, without being told to do so.
- a. He plans and organizes his work in such a manner, that he is able to accomplish more than the average Nursing Assistant, but never omits steps or many details that are characteristic to his work. Example - Never fails to check needles that he puts in trays to be sure they are clean, sharp and correct gauge.
  - b. He is friendly and well liked by co-workers but does not waste time on duty visiting or gossiping.

*Nursing Review of Wilden Shiner (page 3 of 5)*

-4-

- a. Mr. Shiner carries more than his share of responsibility. Works rapidly, keeps the work moving and when his assignments are completed assists co-workers. Example - On Saturday when the Nurses are off duty, he is assigned in charge of the department every other week. In addition to this regular assignment he has to see that the wards have there sterile supplies, and take care of any emergencies that might arise. Also he checks to be sure all procedures are carried out properly and that the wards have sufficient supplies and equipment available for the following day for the care and treatment of patients.
6. INITIATIVE: Mr. Shiner practices economy in the use of energy and supplies. Proceeds with assigned duties not waiting to be told.
- a. He shows great initiative in going ahead with duties that have to be carried out. Example - Besides the regular duties for a day, many things come up that have to be taken care of and this in invaluable assistance to the Nurses. Example - When equipment has to be repaired or checked he takes it to the shop for repair, checks levels of supplies in sterile cupboards for sufficient quantity for issue to wards and clinics. If some special item is missing he reports to the Nurse. Checks to be sure all trays and equipment for emergency use are on the wards for use when needed.
  - b. Never has to be reminded of routine duties. Examples - Re-sterilizing sterile supplies when they are over the 90 day dating period. Cleans autoclaves after sterilizing solutions, pours water through the discharge outlet on sterilizers and cleans screen for free passage of condensate, which is very important in the process of correct sterilization.
  - c. Goes from one task to another without being told. Example - Goes about his daily assignment, following from one to another, never has to be told. If some emergency comes up and some particular item is needed on the wards for a treatment, he assumes the responsibility of preparing sterilizing and getting it to the ward.
  - d. Keeps work current and is not disturbed by the many interruptions occurring during the day. Example - Has to answer phone, fill emergency orders when they come from the wards or clinics or deliver an oxygen set up to the wards.
7. INTEGRITY: Mr. Shiner is loyal to his obligations and responsibilities. Maintains discretion in confidential matters.
- a. I have never known him to conduct personal affairs on duty.
  - b. Never borrows money or accepts gifts from patients.
  - c. Does not criticize Doctors, Nurses or other personnel.
  - d. Have never known of him discussing patients and hospital problems in public places or with persons not affiliated with the hospital.
8. OVERALL EFFECTIVENESS: Mr. Shiner knows the hospital policies in regards to his work performance and plans his work accordingly. He is well informed of the patients requirements, properly preparing and caring for equipment in an effort to give the patient the best care possible.
- a. He always maintains equipment properly from the primary essentials of cleaning through the complicated process of servicing, and setting up all types of procedure trays and instruments, following through with the sterilization

-5-

of this equipment as necessary for use on all wards and clinics, which will give the maximum care and treatment to the patients with the least discomfort.

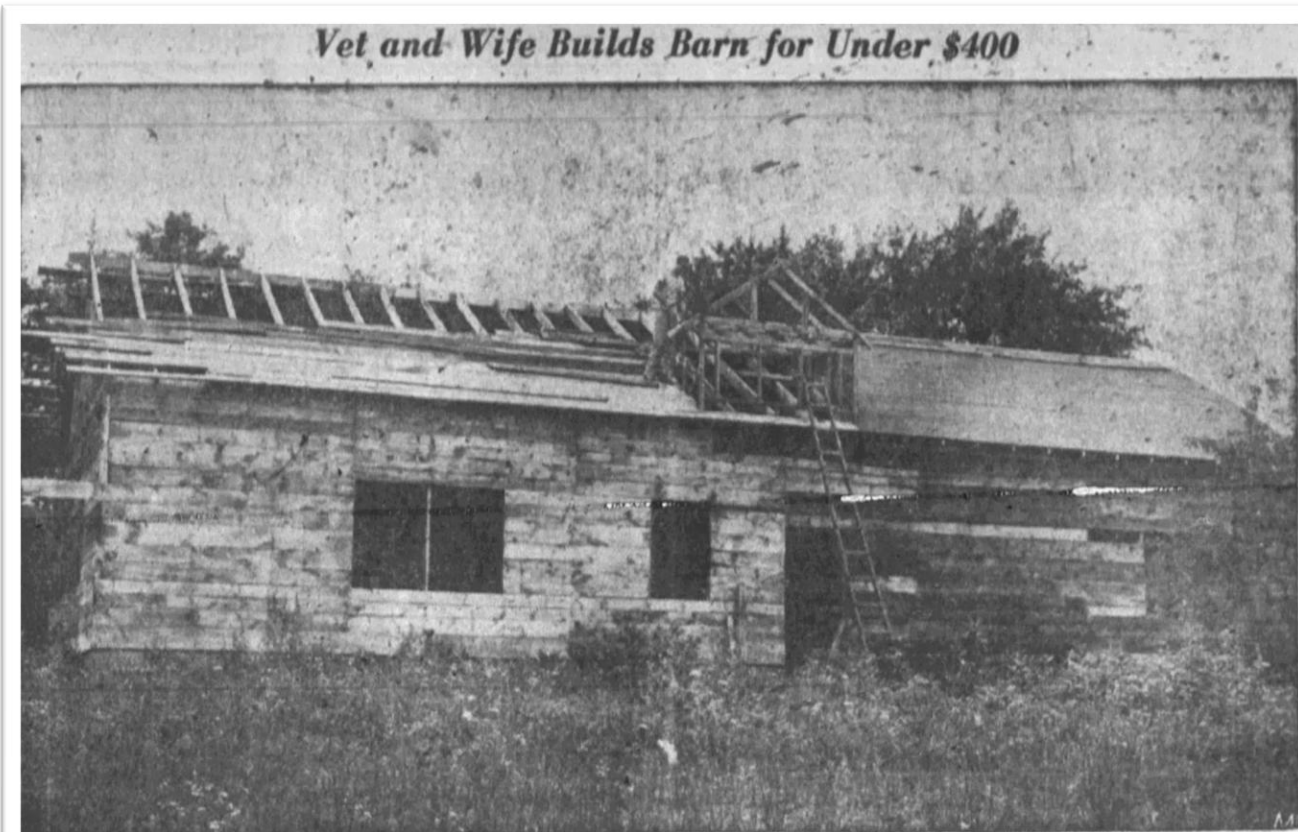
- b. He is quite familiar with the cost, handling and care of hospital equipment.
- c. He understands policies as practiced in the hospital. He is cognizant of his responsibility to these policies and practices them as taught.

*I. Mae Ahn.*  
I. Mae Ahn

*Nursing Review of Wilden Shiner (page 5 of 5)*

## Farming

Following the war Wilden partook in farming in addition to working in a hospital. He had a goose farm that had 100+ geese at one point.



**Vet and Wife Builds Barn for Under \$400**

Wilden Shiner, of Nescopeck, R. D. 1, near Zenith, is shown at work on a barn which he and his wife are constructing at their farm. Shiner is one of the ex-GI's in on-the-farm training. The structure,

30x60, was designed to particularly meet the needs of this forty-seven acre farm. (Morning Press Photo).

### Couple Builds Barn for \$400

War Vet Wilden Shiner Finds a Way; Has Flock Of 100 Geese

Those in military service are apt to find a way to reach the objective and that is what Wilden Shiner, of Nescopeck, R. D. 1, is doing on his forty-seven acre farm

near Zenith. This war veteran needed a barn to replace the structure which had fallen into such a state that it would not have been practical to repair it. His capital for the project was limited but he and his wife, working together, are now nearing the completion of a 30x60 foot structure which Shiner designed to meet the needs of the farm. All of the material from the old barn that could be used was placed in the new structure. Comparatively little had to be purchased, except sheeting and rafters. Part of the cost of this was paid for by selling some of the materials off the old building that he did not need for the new structure. One of the items

sold was a tin roof. The barn has been under construction since Spring and will be ready for use this Fall. That was only possible, however, by Mr. and Mrs. Shiner putting every minute on the project that was not needed to operate the farm. **Has Over Hundred Geese** The veteran is particularly interested in the raising of geese and this year has a flock of one hundred,

probably one of the largest in the whole area. He reports that he has a good demand for the geese and probably will increase the flock to a marked degree in the years ahead. He plans to house geese as well as some chickens in part of the new structure. The remainder of the building will be used for the storing of machinery and crops. One of the strong factors in the progress of this veteran is his abil



Wilden's barn, The Morning Press (Bloomsburg, Pennsylvania), Saturday, September 25th, 1948, page 35



*Wilden Shiner*

**Hayloft Party Held At Farm of W. L. Shiner**

A hayloft party was held recently in the barn on the farm of Mr. and Mrs. Wilden L. Shiner, of Zenith, Nescopeck, R. D.

Texas Slim and his cowboys, including Little Jerry, from Station WAZL in Hazleton, furnished music for the dances.

Other entertainment was a floor show of "The Old Settlers Meeting," and a Hawaiian Dancer who danced the original hula-hula under the beautiful colored lights to the music of the Hawaiian guitars.

Refreshments were served to: Mr. and Mrs. Marlet Lowery, Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Foss, Miss Louise Foss, Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Stout and son Edward, Mr. and Mrs. John Herring, Mrs. Katherine Welsh and son Earl, Mr. and Mrs. Norman Mausteller, Mr. and Mrs. Peter Babich, M. and Mrs. Spencer Shiner, M. and Mrs. Wilbur Keifer, Miss Laura Shine, Mr. and Mrs. Michael Hering, M. and Mrs. Monroe Herring and son Michael, Mr. and Mrs. Ross Herring, Leah and Norman Herring, M. and Ms. Harry Herring, Miss Helen Aten, John Aten.

Mrs. Guy Miller, Dorothy Miller, Eugene Miller, Mrs. Polly Miller, Mr. and Mrs. Peter Reinbolt and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Herring, and daughter, Charles, Miss Ertie Miller and Miss Carmelita Leedy, of Lebanon, Mrs. Marjorie Wall and daughter Jean, of Meyerstown, Clair Miller, Mr. and Mrs. Wilden L. Shiner and daughter, Leah Gail.

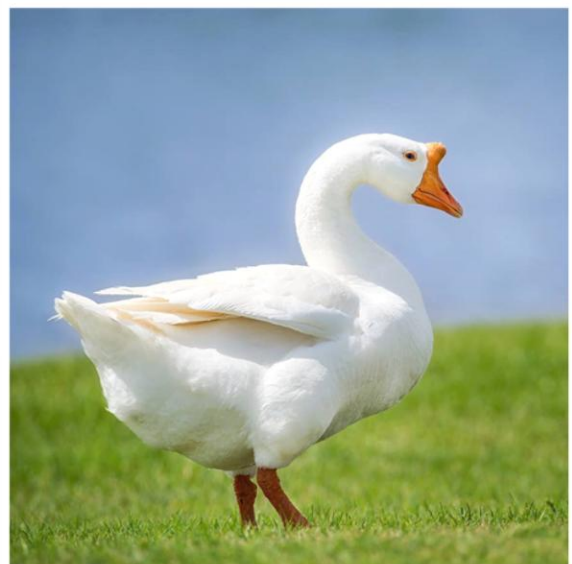
*Barn Party, Berwick Enterprise (Berwick, Pennsylvania), Friday, October 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1942, page 8*

FOR SALE — White Emden geese and white China geese. Mrs. Wilden Shiner, Nescopeck RD 1. 19-3t\*

*Wilden's "geese for sale" advertisement, Berwick Enterprise (Berwick, Pennsylvania), various dates in November, 1952*



*White Emden Goose (above) and White Chinese Goose (below)*





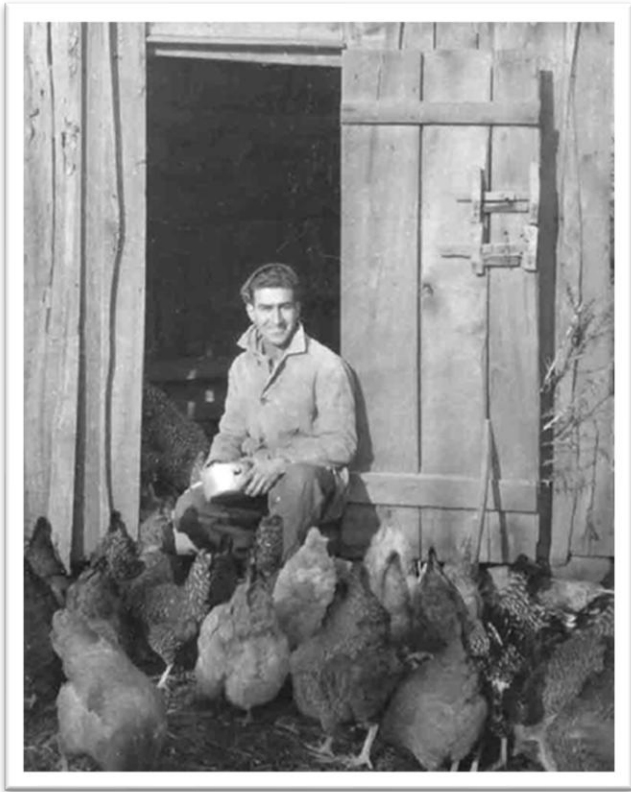
*Wilden Shiner*



*Leah Shiner, Polly Miller, Wilden Shiner*



*Wilden Shiner and Polly Miller (Wilden's grandmother)*



*Wilden Shiner*



*Wilden Shiner*



*Wilden Shiner and Leah Shiner*



*Wilden Shiner and Leah Shiner*



*Wilden Shiner and "Princess"*





# FAMILY PICTURES





*Miller Family*

1. *Blanche (Miller) Shiner*
2. *Polly (Andres) Miller*
3. *Charles John*
4. *unknown*
5. *Hiram Miller*
6. *unknown*

7. *Sarah Andreas*
8. *Phillip Andreas*
9. *John Andreas*
10. *unknown*
11. *unknown*
12. *Wilden Shiner*
13. *Mildred Shiner*



*Wilde, Leah and Catherine Shiner*



*Catherine, Leah and Wilden Shiner*



*Donald Shiner, Spencer Shiner, Blanche Shiner, Leah Shiner, Wilden Shiner, Catherine Shiner*



*Shiner Family*

- 14. Doris (Herring) Babich
- 15. Leah Shiner
- 16. Guy Miller [Blanche's brother]
- 17. Mildred Shiner
- 18. Catherine (Yeager) Shiner
- 19. Wilden Shiner
- 20. Polly (Andreas) Miller

- 21. Edna (Whitebread) Miller [Guy's wife]
- 22. Blanche (Miller) Shiner
- 23. Great Grandma Shiner?
- 24. Dorothy Miller [Guy and Edna's daughter]
- 25. Spencer Shiner
- 26. Gene Miller [Guy and Edna's son]



*Spencer Shiner's Family [1945]*

- |                              |  |
|------------------------------|--|
| 1. Wilden Shiner             | 6. Unknown girlfriend of Donald Shiner |
| 2. Catherine (Yeager) Shiner | 7. Donald Shiner                       |
| 3. Spencer Shiner            | 8. Polly (Andreas) Miller              |
| 4. Mildred Shiner            | 9. Leah Shiner                         |
| 5. Blanche (Miller) Shiner   | 10. Catherine Johnson Shiner           |



*Catherine (Yeager) Shiner, Polly Miller, Catherine Shiner, Leah Shiner, Spencer Shiner, Blanche Shiner  
[1944]*



*Catherine and Wilden, Susan Paden (granddaughter) and Blanche Miller (Wilden's mother)*



*Wilden Shiner and his daughter, Leah Shiner*



*Weems Shiner, Catherine (Yeager) Shiner, Blanche (Miller) Shiner in Florida*



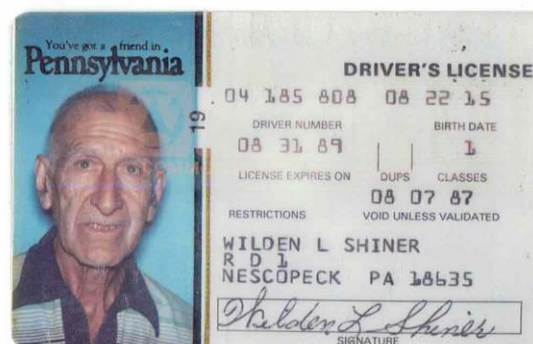
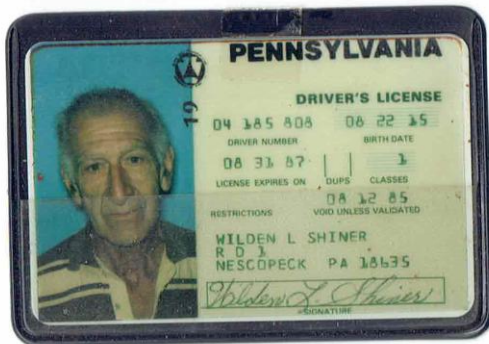
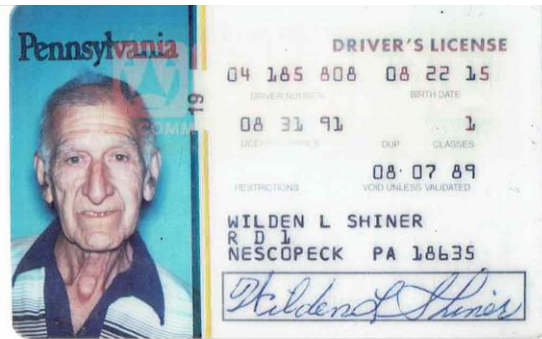
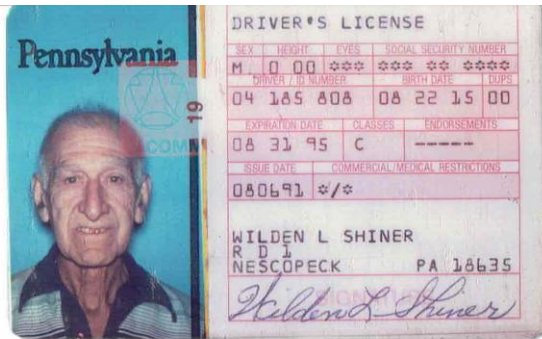
*Leah Shiner, Catherine (Yeager) Shiner, Weems Shiner and Blanche (Miller) Shiner in Florida*



*Peter Babich, Doris (Herring) Babich, Catherine Shiner, Wilden Shiner, Leah Shiner*



Catherine Shiner, Weems Shiner and Leah Shiner



Wilden Shiner driver's licenses



*Wilden Shiner, Catherine Shiner, Weems Shiner, Leah Shiner*



*Leah and Wilden Shiner (standing), Catherine and Weems Shiner (sitting)*



*Catherine, Blanche, Weems, Polly Herring (standing), Wilden, Leah (sitting)*



*Catherine and Wilden Shiner with grandchildren, Brian and Susan Paden*



*Polly E. (Andreas) Miller, Blanche (Miller) Shiner, Wilden, Leah, Susan [November 21<sup>st</sup>, 1961]*



*Leah (Shiner) Paden, Susan Paden, Wilden Shiner, Blanche (Miller) Shiner [Hershey Park, July 1961]*

# Thanks a million, Percy Ross

By VIRGINIA BYNOE  
Staff Writer

**NESCOPECK**— Wilden Shiner didn't know where to turn.

It was December. The 71-year-old man and his 70-year-old arthritic and diabetic wife, Catherine, were running out of fuel.

The exhaust system on Shiner's car was out. He couldn't afford the \$65 it would take to fix it because his wife's doctor's bills and other expenses cost him more than he gets from his monthly Social Security check.

Shiner, a retired woodworker, worried he'd get arrested if he drove his car to get coal for the stove. And he worried about his wife; how he would keep her warm and how he would get her to see a doctor.

Then, Shiner had an idea. His pride was hurt, he said, but he began writing a letter:

"Dear Mr. Ross..."

And Percy Ross, the Minneapolis millionaire whose syndicated column appears in The Times Leader every Tuesday, responded immediately, sending Wilden and Catherine Shiner not the \$65 they requested, but a check for \$300.

Said Ross: "It's especially dangerous during the winter months to have a faulty exhaust system in your car."

Shiner was flabbergasted.

"It's a gift from heaven, I think it's wonderful," Shiner said last week in a telephone interview from his son's residence a half mile away from his rural Nescopeck home.

Shiner's request to Ross is published today on page 4B.

Shiner says he used the money to fix the car, to get a chest X-ray for himself, to pay doctors' bills and to buy medication.

Ross is a 69-year-old, rags-to-riches humanitarian who, in the past nine years, has given away millions to deserving people here and in other countries. About 1,000 letters are sent to Ross daily, many of which are answered in Ross' column.

*Aid for Wilden, The Times Leader (Bloomsburg, Pennsylvania), Tuesday, March 11<sup>th</sup>, 1986, page 11 (above) and page 4B (below)*

## Area man finds Ross has heart

**D**ear Mr. Ross:

My house is heated with a coal stove. In the winter I close up all other rooms except for the kitchen and living room to cut down on heating bills. At night, my wife and I sleep in the living room.

A bag of coal only lasts about a day, so I must make frequent trips to the coal dealer. My car is old and badly needs a new muffler and tail pipe. I'm

arrested because of the noise. I want to get it repaired but can't afford the \$65.

You see, Mr. Ross, I'm 71 and live on Social Security. My wife is a diabetic with rheumatoid arthritis and heart problems. This means she must spend most of her time in bed.

If I could get my car repaired and get a load of wood, I'd feel so much safer. I'd use the wood as heating fuel in case of bad weather when I can't get out for coal.

It hurt my pride to write this letter, so I hope at least you read it.

— Mr. W.L.S.  
Nescopeck



*Wilden "Pappy" Shiner with grandson, Tim Shiner (Christmas 1986)*

## **Married 50 years**

**Mr. and Mrs. Wilden Shiner** of Zenith recently celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary at an open house given in their honor by their children.

They were married by the Rev. Merlin Enders at St. James Lutheran Church in Zenith. Mrs. Shiner is the daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. Mose Yeager. Her husband's parents are the late Mr. and Mrs. Spencer Shiner.

They have two children: Leah Paden of Hershey, and Weems Shiner of Nescopeck R.D. 1; nine grandchildren and three great grandchildren.

*Wilden and Catherine, married 50 years, Press Enterprise (Bloomsburg, Pennsylvania), Tuesday, December 8<sup>th</sup>, 1987, page 24*



*Catherine and Wilden Shiner*



*Catherine and Wilden Shiner with their children, Leah (Shiner) Paden and Weems Shiner*



*Catherine and Wilden Shiner (November 1991), this is the last known picture of Catherine and Wilden together before Catherine's death.*







## DEATH AND BURIAL



## Obituaries and Funerals

### **Catherine D. Shiner**

Mrs. Catherine Daisy Shiner, 74, of Nescopeck RR 1, died Saturday morning in Berwick Hospital Center where she had been a patient since Dec. 21. She had been in ill health 10 years.

She was born June 3, 1917, in Zenith, Pa., daughter of the late Moses and Daisy Kishbaugh Yeager. Mrs. Shiner was a member of St. James Lutheran Church, Zenith.

Surviving are her husband, Wilden L.; son, Weems W., Nescopeck; daughter, Mrs. Kenneth (Leah) Paden, Hershey; nine grandchildren; five great-grandchildren; sister, Arlene Cragle, Berwick.

Funeral will be held Tuesday at 10 from Kelchner-McMichael-Hindman Funeral Home, 119-121 E. Third St., Berwick, with the Rev. Mark L. Russell, pastor, St. Mark's Lutheran Church, Nescopeck, officiating. Interment will be in Mount Zion Cemetery, Briggsville. Friends may call Monday, 7 to 8.

*Catherine's obituary, Citizen's Voice (Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania), Monday, December 30<sup>th</sup>, 1991, page 29*

## **Wilden L. Shiner**

### **Surgical technician worked at area hospitals**

Wilden Leroy Shiner, 80, Nescopeck R.R.1, died early Saturday morning, May 18, 1996, at the Veterans Administration Medical Center and Hospital, Wilkes-Barre, where he had been a patient since May 10. He had been in ill health for several months.

Born Aug. 22, 1915, in Nescopeck, he was a son of the late Spencer and Blanche Miller Shiner.

He was a surgical technician. He had worked at the Berwick Hospital and the Geisinger Medical Center in Danville.

For 18 years during the 1950s and '60s, Mr. Shiner had been employed at the Coral Gables Veterans Administration Hospital, Coral Gables, Fla.

He had also worked at St. Alban's Hospital on Long Island for a year.

Mr. Shiner was last employed by the Valley Bowling Pin Co. in Sugarloaf.

He was a Navy veteran of World War II and served on the USS Benevolence, a hospital ship.

He was a member of the St. James Lutheran Church, Zenith.

Mr. Shiner was a 1933 graduate of the Nescopeck High School.

His wife, the former Catherine Daisy Yeager, died Dec. 28, 1991.

Two brothers, Donald Shiner and Ralph Miller, also died previously.

Surviving are a son, Weems W. Shiner, Nescopeck R.R.1; a daughter, Mrs. Kenneth (Leah) Paden, Hershey; nine grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren; and a sister, Mrs. William (Mildred) Levan, Nescopeck.

Services will be held Wednesday at 11 a.m. at the St. James Lutheran Church, Zenith, with the Rev. Rodney R. Heckert, his pastor, officiating. Burial will be in the Mount Zion Cemetery, Briggsville.

Arrangements are under the direction of the Kelchner-McMichael Funeral Home, 119-121 E. Third St., Berwick.

*Wilden's obituary, Press Enterprise (Bloomsburg, Pennsylvania), Sunday, May 19<sup>th</sup>, 1996, page 4*

*Kelchner, McMichael Funeral Home*  
119 121 East Third Street, Berwick, PA 18603 - (717) 752-3639

*McMichael Funeral Home*  
RR 2, Box 17, Benton, PA 17814 - (717) 925-2385  
William E. Strausser, Supervisor  
W. Bruce McMichael, Jr., Funeral Director/Owner

L: Leroy 379-3884 Julie & Weems  
FAMILY PHONE NO. 379-3378 Residence

Name Wilden L. Shiner Age \_\_\_\_\_

Address RR1, Box 1965 Nescopeck, Twp. Nescopeck City, Twp. Nescopeck County Luzerne State PA Zip 18635

Place of death (city, twp.) \_\_\_\_\_ (county) \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Time \_\_\_\_\_

Sex M Race W How long in Hospital or institution \_\_\_\_\_ Ill Health \_\_\_\_\_

Doctor Leon Francis, MD, 3rd & Race Sts., Mifflinville, PA 18631 Autopsy Yes  No

Cause of Death \_\_\_\_\_ Due to \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth Aug. 22, 1915 Place of Birth Nescopeck, PA 5821

Married  Divorced  Single  Widowed  Name (Husband's Wife) Catherine Daisy Yeager Shiner 12/28/91

Married How Long \_\_\_\_\_

Son Informant Weems W. Shiner Address R. R. 1, Box 1964 Nescopeck, PA 18635 Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation Surgical Technician; worked at the Berwick Hospital and Geisinger Med. Center, Da worked for 18 years at the Coral Gables VA Hospital Social Security No. 185-07-8246

Father's Name Spencer Shiner in Coral Gables, FL in the 1950's and 60's. Also worked at St. Alban's Hospital in Long Island for a year. last worked for the Valley Forge War. CWII in Sugarloaf

Mother's Maiden Name Blanche Miller Service Serial No. US Navy USS Hospital Ship Benevolence

Church Affiliations St. James Lutheran Church / Zenith

Graduate of Nescopeck High School, Class 1933

Lodges, Organizations -- Lodge Services Yes  No

Funeral Services (day) \_\_\_\_\_ Place ~~KMPH~~ Church

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Time \_\_\_\_\_

Clergyman Rev. Pastor Heckert Pastor of St. James Lutheran Church, Zenith

Cemetery Mt. Zion/Briggsville Cem City, Twp. Briggsville County Luzerne State PA

Visitation no evening viewing; only 1 hour prior to service Time \_\_\_\_\_

CONTRIBUTIONS: St. James Lutheran Church, RR1, Nescopeck, PA 18635

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

How Long in Area

in Zenith since 1943

3/19/96; selected Q02 Graytone 20 Ga. Steel Casket; Sealer; silver twill crepe with Std. Concrete Top Seal Vault (Zeiser)

Serv. Charge: \$2495.00 2 D/C  
Casket \$1295.00  
Vault \$ 695.00

Recent Photos

Hair Styling

Selection Hour

Car?

1st Viewing

Car?

Survivors: Son, Weems W. Shiner, Nescopeck RRI

Daughter, Mrs. Kenneth (Leah) Paden, Hershey, PA

9 Grandchildren

7 Great Grandchildren

Bro-Sis:

(Preceded in death by Wife, Catherine Daisy (Yeager)

Shiner on 12/28/91; and by 2 Brothers:

Donald Shiner

Ralph Miller).

Mildred Levan

(Wishes as of 3/16/96: wants to be buried in pajamas and bath robe (Maroon)

does NOT want casket spray of flowers; does not want any flags used for the service in any way.

CHECK WHEN COMPLETED

CIRCLE IF BY FAMILY

- Clergyman St. James / Zenith
- Cemetery Mt. Zion/Briggsville
- Vault Zeiser C30 Top Seal Std
- Flowers
- Memorial Folders - No.
- Clergyman's Record
- Death Certificate Signed
- Certified Copies - No. 2
- Burial Permit
- Lodges Notified
- Hair Dresser
- Different Newspapers to Notify: Press-Enterprise
- Card of Thanks
- Monument/Marker
- Social Security Form Completed
- VA Form Completed
- Co Veterans Form Completed
- VA Monument Form Completed
- Bulletin Board
- Organist
- Permission to Embalm
- Life after Loss
- With Book Letter
- Memorial Book
- Record of Funeral Card
- Memorial Record
- Notify Men
- Car Book
- Pallbearer Letters
- Pallbearers: Grandchildren

**Psalm 23**

*The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.*

*He maketh me to lie down in green pastures; He leadeth me beside the still waters.*

*He restoreth my soul; he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.*

*Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.*

*Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies; thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.*

*Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life; and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.*

*In Loving Memory of*  
**Wilden L. Shiner**

Born  
**Sunday, August 22, 1915**  
Nescoeck, Pennsylvania

Died  
**Saturday, May 18, 1996**  
Veterans Administration Medical Center  
Wilkes Barre, Pennsylvania

Services  
**St. James Lutheran Church**  
Zenith, Pennsylvania  
Wednesday, May 22, 1996, 11:00 A.M.

Officiating  
**The Reverend Rodney R. Heckert**  
St. James Lutheran Church  
Zenith, Pennsylvania

Final Resting Place  
**Schloyersville Cemetery**  
Nescoeck Township, Pennsylvania

Arrangements Under The Direction Of:  
**Kelchner-McMichael Funeral Home**  
W. Bruce McMichael Jr., Owner

*Memorial Card from Wilden's funeral*



**Services**

***Wilden L. Shiner***

***St. James Lutheran Church  
Zenith, Pennsylvania  
Place of Funeral***

***Wednesday,  
May 22, 1996  
11:00 A.M.  
Date and Time of Service***

***Officiating Clergy  
The Reverend Rodney R. Heckert  
St. James Lutheran Church  
Zenith, Pennsylvania***

***Funeral Service Arrangements Under the Direction of  
Kelchner-McMichael Funeral Home  
119-121 East Third Street  
Berwick, Pennsylvania  
W. Bruce McMichael, Jr., Owner***



*Funeral Register Book from Wilden's funeral – service details*



Bearers

TONY SHINER

Name  
488 LEMONT DRIVE P-251 NASHVILLE, TN 37216

Timothy Shiner

Name  
RR #1 Box 1964 Nescopeck, PA 18635

KEVIN PADEN

Name  
246 QUARRY RD HUMMELSTOWN, PA 17036

SUSAN LARSON

Name  
4905 HAMBURG Rd S.W. LANCASTER, OH 43130

DON SHINER RR3 Box 3229 BERWICK, PA 18603

Name  
RAFAEL GONZALES 1148 PALADIN DR. VA. BEACH, VA 23452

"Now the labourer's task is over;  
Now the battle day is past;  
Now upon the farther shore  
Lands the voyager at last.  
Father, in Thy gracious keeping  
Leave we now thy servant sleeping."

—John Ellerton



Funeral Register Book from Wilden's funeral – pallbearers



**Final Resting Place**

***Wilden L. Shiner***

***Date and Time of Interment***

*Wednesday,  
May 22, 1996,  
12:30 P.M.*

***Place of Interment***

*Schloyersville Cemetery,  
Nescopeck Township,  
Luzerne County,  
Pennsylvania*



*Funeral Register Book from Wilden's funeral – interment details*



**Family Record**

***Wilden L. Shiner***

***Spencer Shiner***  
*Father*

***Blanche (Miller) Shiner***  
*Mother*

***Son, Weems W. Shiner, Nescopeck, R R 1***

***Daughter, Mrs. Kenneth (Leah) Paden, Hershey, Pennsylvania***

***9 Grandchildren,  
7 Great Grandchildren***

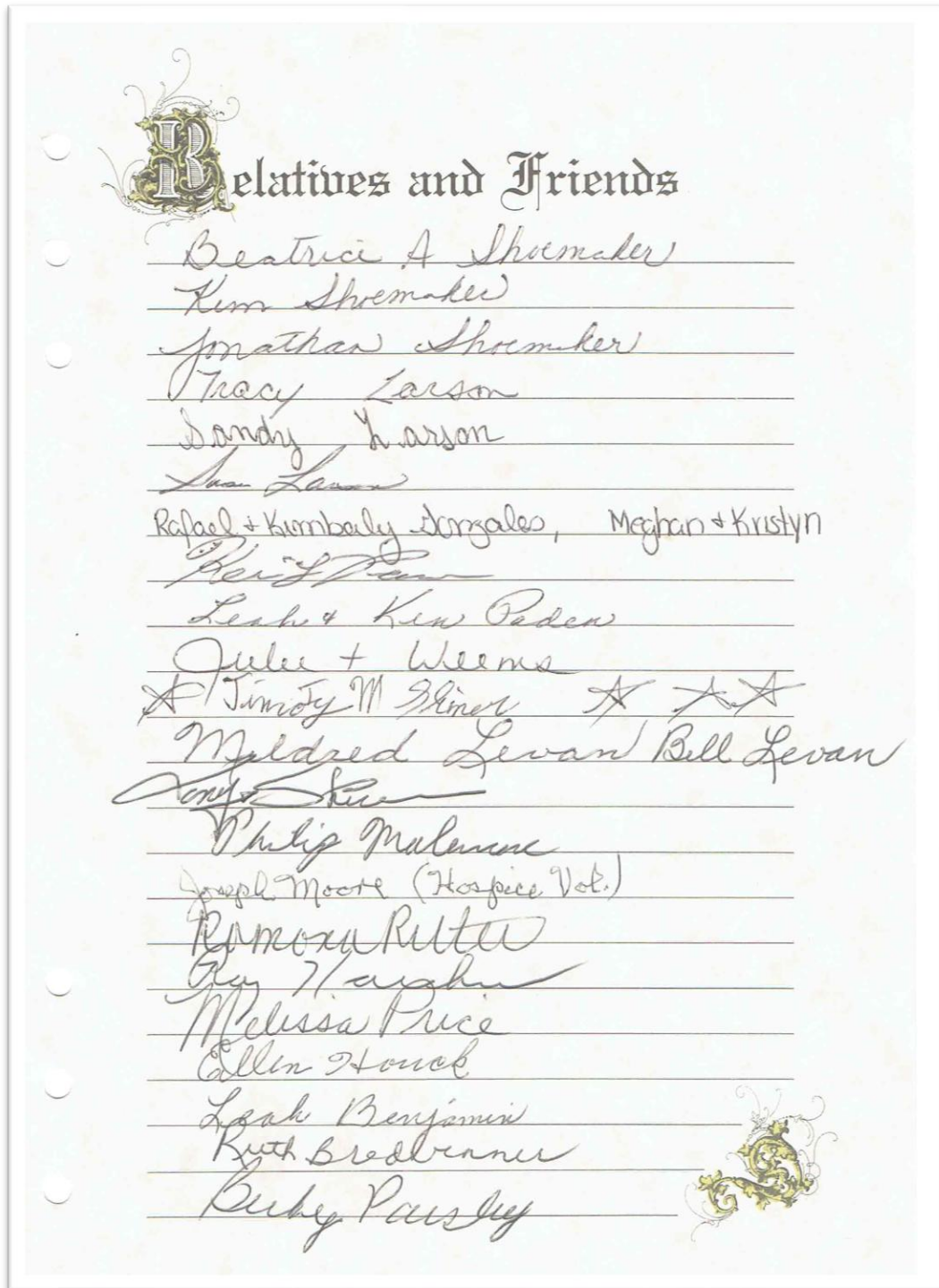
***Sister, Mrs. William (Mildred) Levan, Nescopeck, Pennsylvania***

***He was preceded in death by his Wife,  
Catherine Daisy (Yeager) Shiner on December 28, 1991***


***He was also preceded in death by 2 Brothers:  
Donald Shiner and Ralph Miller***



*Funeral Register Book from Wilden's funeral – family details*



Funeral Register Book from Wilden's funeral - guest signatures (1 of 2)



**B**elatives and Friends

Warren + Helen Elmes

Allen + Sally Yoder

James Risch

Ruth Yoder

Dorothy Wegert

Mauda Messer

Shirley Yoder

Pat Karchner

Timothy Shiner


Maria Shiner

Mary Delpray, August Kuehn

Eric Shiner



Funeral Register Book from Wilden's funeral – guest signatures (2 of 2)



## Notes and Reminders

*Everyone was invited back to the Fellowship Hall of St. James Lutheran Church of Zenith for a Luncheon and a time of fellowship with the Family, immediately following the committal services at the graveside.*

\*\*\*            \*\*\*

*Andy Adams, a good friend of Wilden's, shared some Scriptures and some thoughts at the graveside committal service.*

*Important Papers-Location  
(Deed-Certificate-Receipts, Etc.)*



*Funeral Register Book from Wilden's funeral – service details*

## Mount Zion Cemetery

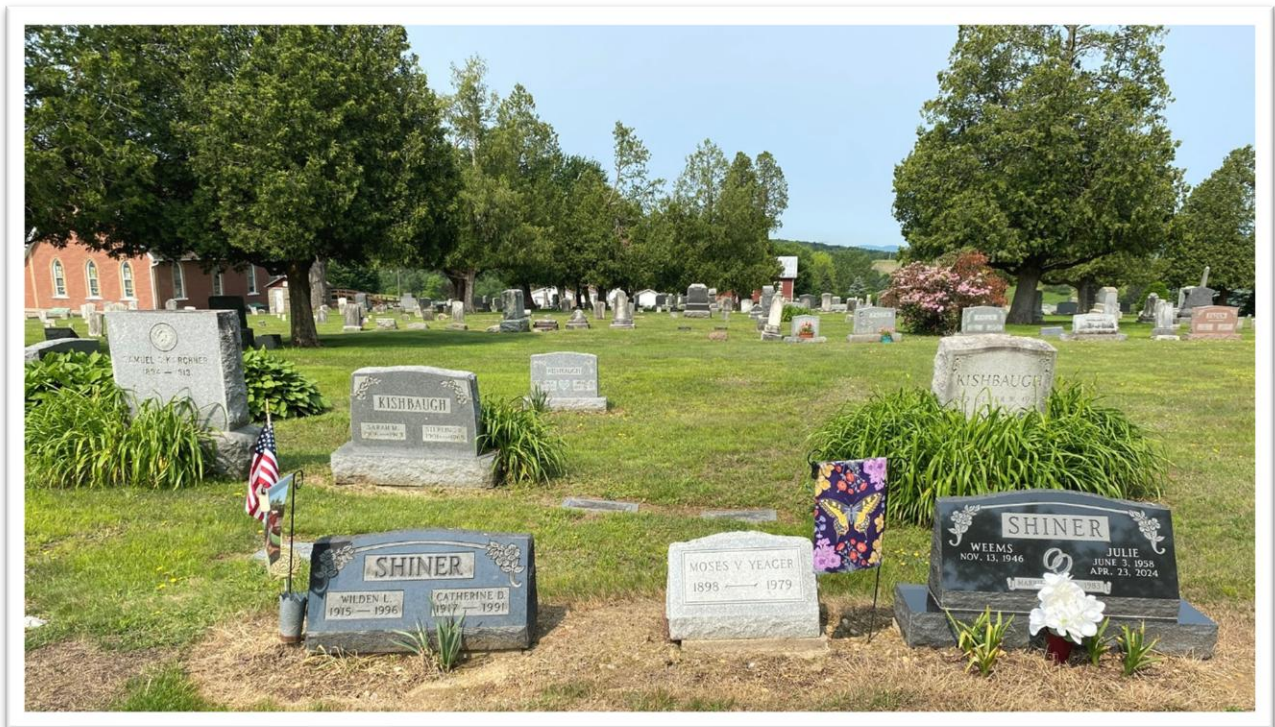
This cemetery is in Nescopeck Township, next to the Mount Zion Church on Church Road about a mile northwest of Briggsville and four miles southeast of Berwick (Columbia County). It is owned by the Schloyersville Cemetery Association and is often referred to as Schloyersville Cemetery in obituaries and on death certificates. This cemetery has an “old” and “new” portion of it, where the old piece was the Schloyersville Cemetery and the new piece the Mount Zion Cemetery. With these cemeteries adjoining they were merged to be just one cemetery – the Mount Zion Cemetery.



*Behind the Mount Zion Church (front of the cemetery). The Schloyersville Cemetery would be on the left side of this picture and the Mount Zion Cemetery would be on the right side of this picture.*



*Wilden and Chatherine's headstone (2025)*



*Headstones for Wilden and Catherine Shiner, Moses Yeager and Weems and Julie Shiner*

## Zenith House Demolition

The house was determined not to be worth the cost of fix it to make it livable. The roof needed reapears, there was no insulation, the electrical wiring was questionable. When the house was pushed down there was dirt and mud falling from the walls, which is what was used for insulation in the house.



*Demolition of Zenith house*



*Demolition of Zenith house*



# INDEX OF PLACES

## **Berwick, Columbia, Pennsylvania, USA**

(41.0545° N, 76.2332° W)

Miller, Blanche Amanda (1890–1975) .....	19
Shiner, Mildred Mae (1913–2010) .....	20
Shiner, Spencer Harvey (1884–1944) .....	19

## **Briggsville, Nescopeck Township, Luzerne, Pennsylvania, USA**

Lapp, Julie Ann (1958–2024) .....	30
-----------------------------------	----

## **Danville, Montour, Pennsylvania, USA**

(40.9634° N, 76.6127° W)

Lapp, Julie Ann (1958–2024) .....	30
-----------------------------------	----

## **Hershey, Dauphin, Pennsylvania, USA**

(40.2859° N, 76.6502° W)

Lapp, Julie Ann (1958–2024) .....	29
Shiner, Weems Wilden (1946–) .....	29

## **Lancaster, Lancaster, Pennsylvania, USA**

(40.0379° N, 76.3055° W)

Lapp, Julie Ann (1958–2024) .....	29
-----------------------------------	----

## **Maryland, USA**

(38.8° N, 76.6917° W)

Shiner, Wilden Leroy (1915–1996) .....	23
--	----

## **Nescopeck, Luzerne, Pennsylvania, USA**

(41.052° N, 76.2207° W)

Miller, Blanche Amanda (1890–1975) .....	19
Paden, Kenneth Harry (1936–) .....	25
Shiner, Donald Spencer (1923–1988) .....	20
Shiner, Leah Gail (1938–) .....	25
Shiner, Mildred Mae (1913–2010) .....	20
Shiner, Spencer Harvey (1884–1944) .....	19
Shiner, Wilden Leroy (1915–1996) .....	20, 23

## **Orangeville, Columbia, Pennsylvania, USA**

(41.0781° N, 76.4144° W)

Shiner, Weems Wilden (1946–) .....	29
Yohey, Sharon Lea (1946–) .....	29

## **Pennsylvania, USA**

(40.8583° N, 76.3834° W)

Shiner, Leah Gail (1938–) .....	24, 25
Shiner, Weems Wilden (1946–) .....	24, 29

## **Sugarloaf, Luzerne, Pennsylvania, USA**

(41.001° N, 76.0737° W)

Shiner, Spencer Harvey (1884–1944) .....	19
--	----

## **Wapwallopen, Luzerne, Pennsylvania, USA**

(41.0744° N, 76.1311° W)

Miller, Blanche Amanda (1890–1975) .....	19
--	----



# INDEX OF INDIVIDUALS

## **Andreas**

Polly Elizabeth (1863–1961)..... 19

## **Holter**

Patricia S. (1926–ca.1990)..... 29

## **Johnson**

Catherine Mary (1855–1948)..... 19

## **Kishbaugh**

Mary Irene (1899–1918).....**63**

## **Lapp**

George Roland Sr (1937–2002) ..... 29

Julie Ann (1958–2024) .....**29**

## **Miller**

Blanche Amanda (1890–1975).....**19**

John Hiram (1856–1922) ..... 19

## **Paden**

Floyd Wilmer (1906–1994)..... 25

Kenneth Harry (1936–).....**25**

## **Sager**

Theora A "Doll" (1937–2022)..... 29

## **Shiner**

Donald Spencer (1923–1988) .....20

John Wesley (1851–1924) .....19

Leah Gail (1938–) .....24, **25**

Mildred Mae (1913–2010).....20

Spencer Harvey (1884–1944) ..... **19**

Weems Wilden (1946–).....24, **29**

Wilden Leroy (1915–1996) .....20, 25, 29

## **Slusser**

Edna Mary (1911–2012).....25

## **Stanley**

Ramona ..... **29**

## **Yeager**

Catherine Daisy (1917–1991) ..... 25, 29, **63**

Moses Victor (1898–1979)..... **63**

## **Yohey**

Arther Allen (1923–1992).....29

Sharon Lea (1946–)..... **29**