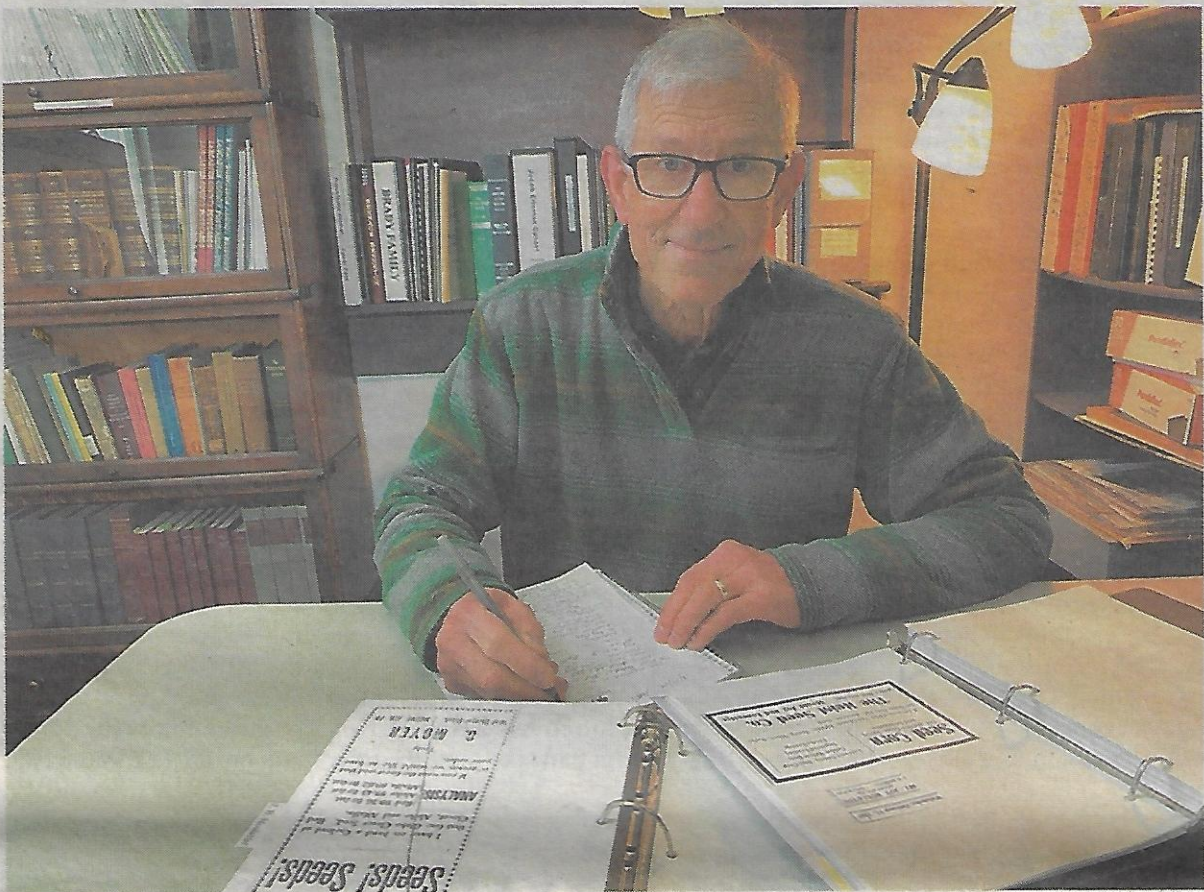




Dave Reist compiles information for his book.

Capturing family history

BY CATHY MOLITORIS

When his grandson was born in 2015, Dave Reist wrote down some stories of his younger days to pass on to the next generation at the request of his daughter. This project prompted Dave to dig even deeper. In January, Dave published "And they left me off at \$1500' - A Century of Progress at Reist Popcorn Company." The book includes stories about the Mount Joy-based company's almost 100-year history as well as tales about Dave's grandfather's life.

"We all need to tell our stories, and it helps my kids understand where they fit in the story," said Dave, the father of four daughters and nine grandchildren.

"What would I give today to have such a book written by each of my four grandparents? That's what prompted me to keep going in the process of writing this book."

"This work has been a labor of love for me."

The Reist Popcorn Company was established as the Reist Seed Company in 1925 by Alvin J. Reist on the family's 118-acre farm in Mount Joy. As the company and its services grew, the business moved to several locations in Mount Joy, becoming the Reist Popcorn Company in 2001. Dave worked for the company for 45 years, becoming president

in 1994 before retiring in 2020. Today, his son-in-law Michael Higgins operates two locations of the business in Mount Joy.

"This work has been a labor of love for me," Dave said of writing the book. "I wanted to create a written history of not only the Reist Popcorn Company, but also of my family, so the generations that come after me know and understand our heritage."

When he started on the book, Dave used an audiotape of his grandfather as inspiration. The recording captures his grandfather recalling the formation of the business, with \$1,500 being the investment Alvin would make as the company president. That inspired the memoir's unique title, Dave said.

Dave pored over historical

See History pg 5

Concer mission

BY CATHY MOLITORIS

This summer, Ginger Molly Wayde will travel to to help others and to meet special friend. The mother daughter will get to see the boy they've sponsored for



Molly (left) and Ginger Wayde, Arm of Hope.

Enjoy b the E

BY CATHY MOLITORIS

Get ready for a new and gear up for Easter a cake breakfast with the Bunny. The event will at St. John's Episcopal 239 E. Market St., Mari Saturday, March 23, fr 10 a.m.

"We always enjoy shar event with the comm celebrate Easter and said Nancy Kulman, chu retary. "We welcome o

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Women's group to conclude year

Women of all ages and preschool children are invited to attend Neighbors Sharing and Caring, a women's ministry of the Chiques Church, 4045 Sunnyside Road, Manheim, on Tuesday, March 19, from 9 to 10:45 a.m. The gathering will be the group's final meeting of the year.

Focusing on the theme "Truth," the event will include music, devotions, prayer, and brunch.

Attendees are asked to bring a hot or cold brunch item to share. Hot items should be pre-baked, and the hostesses will keep these dishes warm.

All women are welcome, and no preregistration is required. During the program, child care will be provided for infants through prekindergartners. Readers may contact Bonnie at 717-361-2613 or Veronica at 717-626-7603 for more information.

Uncharted Lancaster to present annual treasure hunt

For the past three years, Uncharted Lancaster has held an annual real-life treasure hunt involving hundreds of people that has given away \$4,700 to a handful of participants while raising more than \$10,000 for local nonprofits like the Historic Preservation Trust of Lancaster County (HPT).

This year, the tradition will continue with the Raiders of the Golden Osprey Adventure. The treasure hunt will kick off on Saturday, April 6, promising a five-week expedition, weekly cash prizes and the chance to win a share of \$3,250.

Players will explore Lancaster and Lebanon counties over five weeks as they race to uncover the legendary Golden Osprey,

a fictional treasure hidden more than two millennia ago by ancient Phoenician explorers who discovered the Susquehanna River. There will be rewards issued for first-, second- and third-place winners.

An honorable mention will go to the fourth-place

See **Treasure hunt** pg 8

History from pg 1

documents to write his book. His personal library is filled with binders and folders of information, including seed sales bulletins, diaries, letters and old photos.

"Between the many discoveries and my personal memories, I knew I had to capture as much of our family and business history as possible," Dave stated. "Family farms and businesses created around family farms are complex entities."

Along with stories about the company's shift from seed to popcorn production, the book includes tales about Alvin's 1943 airplane and what would become one of Lancaster County's first on-farm airstrips, as well as his contributions as a young man to tobacco production. The book also details what daily farm life was like and highlights the history of area landmarks.

In writing the book, Dave worked with the Mount Joy Area Historical Society, and all proceeds from sales of the book will benefit the organization.

The historical society will host a "Friend Raiser/Meet and Greet the Author" event on Sunday, March 24, from 1 to 4 p.m. at the society building, 120 Fairview St., Mount Joy. Light refreshments will be available, and a scavenger hunt will be held inside the building. Dave will sign copies of his book and give a brief talk at 2 p.m.

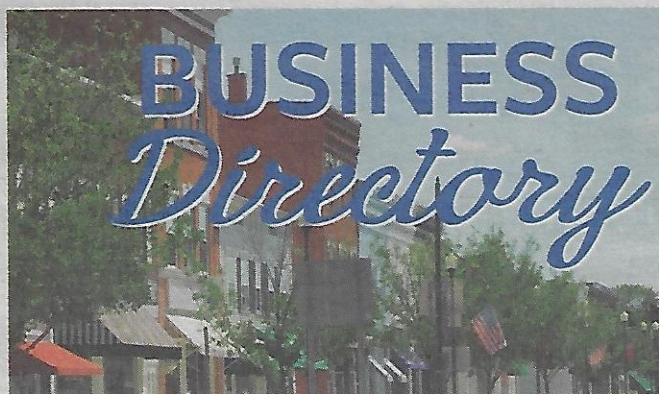
The book is available for purchase at Mount Joy businesses Reist Popcorn Company, The Baker's Book Shoppe at Made With Love Not Gluten Bakery and Time After Time Clocks, as well as at the Mount Joy Area Historical Society's website, www.mountjoyhistory.com.

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