



LISTEN UP!

Central Bucks Detachment
P.O. Box 1372
Doylestown, PA 18901

Meets 7:30 P.M. 2nd Wednesday of Month
VFW Post 175
181 South Main Street
Doylestown, PA 18901

"ONCE A MARINE, ALWAYS A MARINE"

COMMANDANT - FRAN MEYERS

EDITOR - BOB SCHAFFER

VOL 5 NO. 5

NEWSLETTER

MAY 1992

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE APRIL MEETING

- * Seventeen members, and two visitors, were present.
- * Paul Seton, Adjutant, Department of Pennsylvania, and Jack Heidel, Sr. Vice Commandant, Department of Pennsylvania, were in attendance to perform the installation ceremony of the elected Detachment officers for 1992. They are as follows:

Fran Meyers	-	Commandant
Bill Haas	-	Sr. Vice
Budd Pearce	-	Jr. Vice
Marlin Miller	-	Judge Advocate
Don Gee	-	Paymaster

Appointed officers:

Ray Krout	-	Adjutant
Bill Plant	-	Quartermaster
Bob Sundling	-	Sgt-at-Arms

- * Following the installation, the Commandant announced some committee chairmen:

POW/MIA	-	Bill Plant
Young Marine	-	Frank Yohe, Bill Plant, George Shannon
Americanism	-	Marlin Miller
Marine of the Year	-	Bob Sundling
Public Relations	-	Mike Waldron


- * Our membership now stands at 46 and is still growing.
- * The Detachment will hold a fund raiser, "Breakfast at Fran's", in New Hope on Saturday, May 16th, 8 am to 12 noon. Volunteers are needed to help serve customers, etc. Please contact Will Haas if you can help out.
- * A motion was made and passed to lower the initial Detachment dues to \$22.00 and renewals to \$17.00. This will take effect July 1, 1992, the start of the fiscal year.
- * Anyone who wishes to be a delegate to the State Convention, June 25-27, will have their registration paid by the Detachment. See Fran about this.

If anyone wishes to attend the Pennsy Pops Concert at the Keswick Theater on May 17th, see Mike Waldron for tickets.


- * Frank Yohe is donating a new American flag, and a pole with an eagle on the top, to the Detachment.
- * The Detachment will donate a share of the expense for memorial plaques to be placed at the War Memorial Field. This project originated with the United Veterans Group.

- * If anyone has used clothing that they would like to donate to the homeless people in Philadelphia, contact Bill Haas for details.
 - * Budd Pearce will attempt to get a list of local Marines that have been discharged from the Corps. They will be contacted to see if they would like to join the Central Bucks Detachment.
 - * Paul Seton spoke on some items of news from the State and National departments. He announced that the V.A. Hospital in Altoona will remain for Veterans only and will not be opened to the public. Paul is running for National Sr. Vice.
- Jack Heidel also spoke briefly to the Detachment. He is a candidate for Department of Pennsylvania Commandant.
- * Sergeant Major Overstreet, the Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps, will be the guest speaker at the State convention.
 - * When you receive your car-raffle tickets in the mail, remember that the local Detachment is able to keep \$.40 from each ticket sold. So, by taking the tickets yourself, or selling them, it will provide some income for the C.B. Detachment. Show your support and remember, you have as good a chance as the next guy to win the car.
 - * Budd Pearce will be gathering information for an outing in July or August on a mule-drawn barge. More on this later.

THE NEXT REGULAR DETACHMENT MEETING WILL BE WEDNESDAY, 13 MAY 1992 (19:30) AT THE V.F.W. POST #175 AT 181 SOUTH MAIN STREET, DOYLESTOWN, PA.



MARINE



The next Agenda Meeting of the Central Bucks Detachment

Will be on _____
at 19:30 hours in the VFW Post 175, 181 S. Main St., Doylestown


The next Regular Meeting of the Central Bucks Detachment

Will be on _____
at 19:30 hours in the VFW Post 175, 181 S. Main St., Doylestown

Your Attendance is Always Appreciated!
Semper Fi

Starting next month, everyone will receive the notice shown to the left, prior to each meeting. All members are invited to attend both the regular and agenda meetings, if they so desire.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO ATTEND THIS EVENT: →
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From The Desk Of FRAN MEYERS, Commandant
Central Bucks Detachment, Marine Corps League



MARINES:

MAY 1992

Will Haas, Budd Pearce and Don Gee are very busy with fund raisers which will help get the Detachment into a good financial position. Our Easter flower sale netted a nice \$482.20 in profits.

On May 3rd, "Cookie" Haas and his crew took the kitchen trailer to Core Creek Park for the annual Kite Day. They sold hamburgers and meatball sandwiches to many hungry visitors. Following that, on Saturday, May 16th, "Chef" Haas will be commanding the "Breakfast at Frai's" operation from 8 am to 12 noon. However, he does need volunteers to help with this one. Please contact him at 257-7828 if you can lend a helping hand for a few hours.

If things go well, our bank account should be very healthy by late spring. However, we cannot rest on our laurels too long since there will be more events coming along to raise funds for continual operating expenses. Keep up the good work!

We have to get moving on the State car-raffle tickets. I think that if our Detachment is in a good financial position we should buy about 200 tickets on behalf of the Detachment. If we should win, it would be nice to turn the money over to the scholarship fund, or a percentage of it.

We will have as our guest on May 13th Bob Hood who is the Teufelhunde Devil Dog, Pound Dog Robber signing up members to advance at the State convention.

Be sure to pick up your copies of the revised Detachment by-laws at our next meeting. We will be voting on at least 2 new applicants into our Detachment - hopefully more.

Please check our new bulletin board at our next meeting for new information. This will save a lot of meeting time.

Our Newsletter still remains #1 in the Department.

Don and Eileen Parzanese are going to let us use their place this year for a picnic after the Memorial Day parade, weather permitting. Let us pay for this out of the Detachment coffers, or everyone bring something. We can finalize this at our meeting on May 13th.

As the Southeast Division Vice Commandant, I will be holding another quarterly meeting on 7 June 1992, at Chester County Detachment's meeting place, the Elks Club, Wayne and West Washington Streets, West Chester, Pa. The phone number is 696-2075. The meeting will start at 14:00 - please try to attend.

If anyone is interested in going to the State convention sign up with Don Gee.

Looking forward to seeing you all soon.

Semper Fi,

Fran

P.S. New members - So get them!!!

DATES OF INTEREST ----

MAY 16th (SAT)..... BREAKFAST AT FRANS, NEW HOPE, PA.
MAY 25th (MON.) MEMORIAL DAY PARADE, DOYLESTOWN, PA.
JUNE 25,26,27 MCL PA. STATE CONVENTION, GETTYSBURG, PA.
AUG. 9-14 MCL NATIONAL CONVENTION, ST. LOUIS, MO.

To date, approximately 616 Marine Corps League license plates have been issued. If you are interested in obtaining a plate for your car they are available immediately. All you do is make out a check for \$20.00 payable to Pa. Dept. Of Transportation and mail with a completed application to Paul Hastings, 1631 Bridge Street, New Cumberland, Penna. 17070. (The applications are available from the detachment Quartermaster)

Don't forget to keep sending your Genuardi cash register tapes in to Don Parzanese for our standing redemption percentage to the detachment. This is easy money for our bank account and every little bit helps.

The Young Marines held a two-day coin toss in New Hope, Pa. recently and collected approximately \$2000.00. Great going fellows. They could teach the rest of us older guys a thing or two about raising money.

The Magnificent Amphibians

by Cpl Marion Hargrove
(Sept 19, 1942)

The United States Marine is a military phenomenon who looks like a soldier, talks like a sailor, fights like a wildcat, and thinks like a princess of the blood royal. Always a modest fellow, the Marine describes himself as a "soldier who can read and write."

The United States Marine, as any United States Marine will tell you with or without provocation, is the best looking, toughest, most intelligent, most polished and most valuable member of the armed forces. When he hears that one-third of the nation is poorly housed, poorly clothed and poorly educated, he knows which third it is. It is the Army, the Navy and the Coast Guard.

Although from year to year the plumage of this magnificent bird has become less and less bright, even today the sight of a full-dressed Marine is a sight to dazzle the eyes of all who behold it. In any shortage of electrical power, you could suspend him from a lamppost and he would provide enough light for his duller looking peers to read a newspaper at a distance of four blocks. This splendid spectacle -- this symphony of blues and whites, or reds and golds -- is fading fast away, leaving the Marine only the splendor of his personal beauty, his proud physique and his pretty phiz, to lend magnificence to the American scene.

All is not peaches and cream in the life of a Marine, though. He gets less liberty than a soldier and a three-day pass doesn't mean as much to him, since half the time must be spent in making himself as pretty as possible. When he leaves his barracks, he must pass the inspection of two full-length mirrors just inside the front door.

The remainder of his leave must be used to best advantage in informing his family, his girl, his old boss, and any other unprotected civilian he might capture just what a great and wonderful thing the United States Marine Corps is and how lucky the civilian is to know someone who is acutally in it.

To make his spiel more effective, a good Marine will always have about him a fresh clipping headed something like "Army Lieutenant Goes Over Hill To Join Marine Corps" and at least one pad of notes to prompt himself on just exactly how the Marine Corps single-handedly won every battle in every war the U. S. has fought.

The Marine Corps does not overlook the value of the Army, the Navy, or the Coast Guard. He knows they were organized and maintained to show, by contrast, the greatness, the wisdom, the courage and the beauty of the United States Marines.

The Marine is extremely proud that he is an amphibious creature. Get one of them to take off his shoes and what do you find? Web feet.

The Marine thinks of his barracks as a ship and speaks of it in nautical terms. A wall is a bulkhead; a floor is a deck, to be holystoned rather than scrubbed. A latrine is a head. The Marine never goes upstairs, he goes topside. When he gets up topside, he isn't on the second floor, but on the second deck. And he didn't get there by the stairs; he went up the ladder.

When a Marine is indoors or has no hat on, he doesn't salute officers. When he is outdoors and salutes, his officer smiles very pleasantly and says "good morning" or some such thing as that. This is because the officer has a deep respect for the Marine. "There is a member of the most efficient fighting force in the world," he says.

Although it is almost unbelievable, these glamour boys actually do KP. They put on their herringbone twill coveralls with the Marine insignia and they work in the kitchen for a month at a time. Unlike the more prosaic soldier, however, the Marine gets \$5 a month to cover the cost of any dishes he might break. If he breaks no dishes, the \$5 is clear profit and the United States Marines win again.



Paul J. Seton

1003 Main Street • Schwenksville, PA 19473
215 • 287 • 9793



CANDIDATE FOR NATIONAL SENIOR VICE COMMANDANT

PAUL SETON is a veteran of 30 years of USMC service, which includes seven years of active duty and 23 years with the Marine Corps Reserve. SETON enlisted in November of 1943 and upon completion of boot camp at Parris Island was assigned to the 47th replacement battalion at Camp Lejeune for infantry training. Upon completion of training he was assigned to the Pacific Theater of operations in March 1944. He participated in the Marianas Campaign with the 5th Amphibious Corps in the assault on Tinian. Following this campaign SETON was assigned to the G-2 section of the 1st Provisional Headquarters on Guam which entailed the constant pursuit of the scattered Japanese forces for 14 months.

Following the Pacific campaign, SETON served at various Marine bases and Air Stations, including Camp Pendleton, where he served with the 7th Marines in 1949. While serving in this organization he participated in the making of the movie "Sands of Iwo Jima" which starred John Wayne and Forrest Tucker. This participation was a most memorable event and a highlight of SETON's career on active duty.

SETON joined the Marine Corps Reserve unit at NAS, Willow Grove, PA in 1958 where he subsequently rose to the rank of Sergeant Major of Headquarters and Maintenance Squadron 49, a CH53 helicopter unit. SETON transferred to the Fleet Reserve in September 1981 and was placed on the retired list in 1985.

SETON first joined the Marine Corps League in 1946. He became active in the League upon formation of the Manatawny Detachment in his area. He served 4 terms as Detachment Commandant. On the Department level he served as a Division Vice Commandant for 2 years with responsibility for the Southeastern quadrant of the state. He was elected, and served one term each as Jr. Vice and Sr. Vice Commandant in the department. He currently serves the department in the capacity as Adjutant.

SETON was elected the National Vice Commandant of the Northeast Division in 1989 and in this capacity he has served on the National Board of Trustees of the Marine Corps League representing the states of New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania. His term will be completed in August 1992.

Some of SETON's accomplishments include being the recipient in 1973 of the George Washington Award from the Freedom Foundation at Valley Forge which provided him with credentials when he was assigned, in 1989, to represent the National Commandant of the Marine Corps League on the Awards Jury at the Freedom Foundation, where he served in the selection process with many distinguished Americans.

SETON takes pride in having participated and completed nine Marine Corps Marathon races in Washington. SETON still serves on the Marine Corps Scholarship Foundation.

While serving as the Department Commandant of the Marine Corps League in Pennsylvania he had the distinct honor of having been elected by his other department commanders as President of the Pennsylvania War Veterans Council, a council comprised of 16 chartered veterans organizations. He also represented the Marine Corps League on the State Veterans Commission during his two terms as Department Commandant.

SETON was the Chairman of the local convention committee that was responsible for the 68th National Convention in Valley Forge in 1991.

SETON's awards from the League include four Distinguished Citizen Medals, Silver; and four Distinguished Citizen Medals, Bronze; Award from the Chapel of the Four Chaplains; Detachment Marine of the Year; Department Marine of the Year; and many numerous certificates of appreciation.

Your consideration and support for the election of PAUL J. SETON to the office of National Senior Vice Commandant is requested. His visits to the national headquarters as well as the many communications he has received from the members within and outside his division has given him an insight as to the complexities of the operation of the League. He has committed to better communications and response to the member.

Let's get rid of U.S. Marine Corps

By Tom Tiede

Newspaper Enterprise Association

QUANTICO, Va. — This is the only American town inside a military reservation, and so it is crowded of late with people concerned with the peace dividend. With the Cold War over, the nation may get rid of 500,000 combatants in the next five years, and residents of the Quantico Marine Corps Base fear it will impair national security.

In this regard, they are mostly concerned with the cuts in their own ranks. The Corps has begun to issue public warnings about troop-trimming consequences. The Bush administration wants to reduce Marine numbers from 194,000 to 159,000 by 1997, and the word at Quantico is that such a cut would create undermining stress in the force.

This is probably correct. The reduction would mean that more than one in five Marines would be fired. That could leave the Corps stretched too thin to carry out its full mission. The better idea might be to toss out the whole lot and turn the mission over to the men and women who will be retained in the Army, Navy and Air Force.

Discharge the Marines? It's a disagreeable idea whose time may nevertheless have arrived. The Corps is the oldest U.S. battle group, its spirit is the stuff of saga, but in terms of national defense it is now expendable; the Marines are as outdated as they are old, and the nation can no longer budget for sentiment.

The Marines were created in the historic tradition of-seaborne soldiers. Under the command of the U.S. Navy, they evolved to become the nation's primary shock troops. They've stormed enemy redoubts from Tripoli to Iwo Jima, using brute force instead of maneuverability, and the tactic has essentially been to kill the enemy faster than it can retaliate.

It's worked often. The problem is that the scheme assumes high casualties. The country was willing to accept the trade-off in distant wars, but it fell out of love with the notion in Vietnam. No one would glorify the deeds at Tarawa today if the 18- and 19-year-olds were being slaugh-



Flag raising by U.S. Marines atop Mount Suribachi on the Japanese island of Iwo Jima during World War II was photographed on Feb. 23, 1945. This image was later used to sculpt the Marine Corps War Memorial in Arlington, Va.

tered live on television screens.

Besides, there is a more efficient way to do it. It's called using the noodle instead of the cannon fodder. The modern U.S. military employs bunker-busting missiles and helicopter transports. It's not necessary anymore to steam men up to a beach, push them into the surf, and suggest it's a good day to die for Old Glory.

The landings at Grenada and Panama are recent examples. They might have been spearheaded by classic Marine Corps activity, but enlightened thought prevailed. The Marines stayed home, in large part, while the Army used helicopters to get the offensive into position quickly, precisely, and with a minimum of casualties.

Officers at Quantico argue that Grenada and Panama were not worth a Marine effort. Groucho Marx might say that Marine logic is to logic what Marine music is to music. The Marine officers here also note that Army helicopters can only drop light power on a target, while the Marines can hit and push on with greater sustaining capabilities.

Furthermore, the Marines, whose motto is "semper fidelis" (always faithful), point out that their singularity is recognized by U.S. law. There is a 1952 statute that requires the maintenance of shipborne troops "in readiness." The law was enacted when Congress decided the nation was not prepared for the Korean War, and it mandated a Corps made up of six ground and air compo-

nents.

The law, of course; can be changed. America once had regulations that called for Indian scouts. The nation can retain those Marine endowments that are still useful by transferring them to the other services, specifically the Army. The Army has been trying to absorb the Marines, by the way, for the last 50 years.

The Army has seven light divisions, any one of them an overall match for the Marine battalions. The Marine outfits have their own supporting air force, which helps; but the Army units can put more men in the field. Adaptation would be necessary; redundancy would not. The Army could make better Marines than the Marines.

The other armed services would also throw the Special Operation Forces into the bargain. The Army, Navy and Air Force already have a strategically integrated body of 38,000 troops who can presage or follow thrust invasions. They include up-to-date Rangers and state-of-the-art SEALs, and it's instructive to add that there are no Marines.

It's furthermore instructive to add that melding the Marines into the Army could be the mother of all peace dividends. Some defense analysts guess as much as \$20 billion could ultimately be saved each year. The end of the Marines would also mean that fewer of the rank and file would have to be released in the other services.

Naturally, there would be a downside. One is that Quantico might launch a pre-emptive political strike on the nation's capital. Harry Truman tried to disband the Marines after World War II, because the Corps was obsolete even then; when he was all but dumped in the brig for it, he admitted that the Marines remained first rate at propaganda.

Actually, the Marines are already occupying Capitol Hill. They have taken their troop cuts to the 31 congressmen who are former Devil Dogs. They may still lose a few good men: But there's no chance they'll all be let go. The Marine Corps insists it will march on forever, from the halls of Montezuma to the halls of redundancy.

Get rid of the Marine Corps?

It's unthinkable

To the Editor:

On April 12 you printed an article by Tom Tiede (syndicated columnist) entitled "Let's get rid of U.S. Marine Corps." This is certainly not a new idea and one that I have heard expressed in a lot more cogent terms than those used by Mr. Tiede. I am, however, disappointed that you printed a story so fraught with error. It is one thing to enter the debate concerning reducing the size of the U.S. military with fact; it is another to wade in with an error-filled piece such as this.

First: The budget for the entire Marine Corps is less than half of the \$20 billion Mr. Tiede cites. Even if our aviation costs are included (they are paid by the Navy as part of naval aviation), our budget is not \$20 billion. Sixty-five percent of that budget is personnel costs, the highest percentage of service. Demographically, we are the youngest of all the services, and we have the highest number of junior personnel proportionally as well. For the bucks we provide a lot of bang.

Second: Mr. Tiede didn't do his homework very well. If he truly studied Grenada, he would find that Marines did much of the fighting. The Army had command and control problems and lacked the mobility assets to get off the airport. The helicopters used in Grenada were for the most part U.S. Marine helicopters operating from U.S. Navy ships. These helicopters are designed for shipboard use and are vastly different from Army helos.

I would also have Mr. Tiede

note that Marines participated in the Panama operation as well by providing the light armored vehicles that were so successful in blocking roads and isolating the battlefield. Marines developed the idea of vertical envelopment (helicopter-borne operations) and are pioneering the use of light armored vehicles for increased mobility. Both of these ideas have found great favor in the U.S. Army.

Third: Marines do not pick and chose where they'll fight. They go where the National Command Authority (the president and the secretary of Defense) send them. The idea behind having different types of forces is to have a wide variety of capabilities to meet many varied threats. While the U.S. Army during the Cold War concentrated on the Soviet Union and the central front of Europe, Marines continued to concentrate on those "small wars" that have traditionally been our mission.

Fourth: We are not just amphibious shock troops who storm ashore from boats as was done from Guadalcanal to Vietnam. We are an "all-up round" ready to go wherever directed by our commander in chief. We bring our own logistics, aviation, command and control, infantry and armored forces, all in one package under one boss.

The Army's light infantry divisions represent another type of capability for a different set of circumstances. I would suggest Mr. Tiede study their performance in Desert Shield/Desert Storm. Compare that to the rapid



deployment of Marine forces and the synergism of the U.S. Army's airborne forces and the Marines in the early defense of Saudi Arabia. Later, during the offensive in Kuwait, Army units and Marine forces were combined into a very effective force. Gen. Schwarzkopf sent that force into the toughest Iraqi defenses, the developed defensive positions in Kuwait itself.

Fifth: Special Operations forces are a colorful lot. They have special capabilities. They are not designed for "forceable entry" to seize and hold airfields and ports of entry as are the Marines. What would have happened in Panama if those nice airfields were not available for the Air Force to bring in the Army? How about Saudi Arabia, where we had available a military infrastructure of airfields and ports that matches anything in the world? Where would the Iraqi divisions, held on the beach, have been deployed if the Navy and Marines had not had an am-

phibious capability just offshore? This capability was Gen. Schwarzkopf's reserve. He would have been less comfortable without it.

There are many reasons to cut defense spending. The Marine Corps is facing those cuts just as are the other services. We don't like them, because we have to tell the best troops in the world they're no longer needed. Ask any employer how hard it is to lay off good people. We are carrying out our mission. We still have almost one-third of our forces forward deployed on ships and in the Far East. The Defense Department and the Congress are trying to develop a military strategy for the future and a military force structure to support that strategy.

Informed debate is part of that process, and rightly so. That's how a free government acts. Poorly researched articles such as Mr. Tiede's do not add to that debate, however. This is a time for smart people to think. In my opinion, and I'm biased, I'll admit, if America didn't have a Marine Corps, we'd invent one. True, Harry Truman tried to disband the Marine Corps. He did, however, see the light and retracted his comments before the Marine Corps League. He would also have had a word for Mr. Tiede's article, and it wouldn't have been manure.

Col. L.A. Wood
U.S. Marine Corps
Commanding officer
NAS, Willow Grove

To the Editor:

In response to Mr. Tiede's article on the U.S. Marines, I would like to make some comments regarding his obvious bias against the corps.

Mr. Tiede was quick to degrade the Marines as a bunch of bar-room brawlers who happen to also have a band. To print such nonsense is misleading to the public, who may not know the actual mission of the Marine Corps. To say that Marines use brute force instead of tactics and maneuverability is absurd. Marine Corps doctrine is based on the principles of fire and maneuver. All Marine Corps training is to that end. Furthermore, the Marine Corps is a force in readiness. With ships prepositioned in locations throughout the world, Marines are able to provide the crucial first strike.

Also, unique among the Marine Corps is its air-ground team — a potent combination of Marines in the air supporting the Marines on the ground. The Marine Corps has been refining and perfecting this team concept for years.

Mr. Tiede also paints a misleading picture of the Marine Corps as a sustaining force used in prolonged land campaigns and whose usefulness is outdated. Nothing could be further from the truth. The Marine Corps is best utilized as a fighting force in low intensity conflicts of short duration, which is probably the battlefield of the future. The Army has traditionally been called on for sustained land campaigns.

Yes, the Marine Corps has a lot of pride and tradition, along with its own language and mannerisms. Marines also have something that will never become outdated: true fighting spirit.

Semper fidelis.

Staff Sgt. K.J. Verdoliva
U.S. Marine Corps
NAS, Willow Grove

To the Editor:

Columnist Tom Tiede of the Newspaper Enterprise Association says let's get rid of the Marine Corps. I say to this association, get rid of Tom Tiede!

He is living the life of a free American today because of the actions of the U.S. Marine Corps and other established military units.

What kind of an American is he that he wants to get rid of the U.S. Marine Corps?

I think Tom Tiede has been out in the sun too long without his helmet.

I am sentimental about the corps, but my chief interest is in its ability as a fast, hard-hitting kind of unit that can get a job done. My 63-year connection as a civilian with the Marines has given me the ability to understand them as individuals and as a unit.

Wear your helmet, Tom, and don't mess up the Marine Corps.

William T. Bryan
Hartboro

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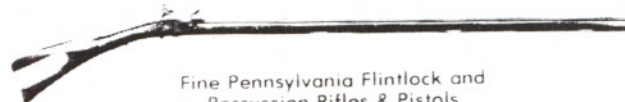
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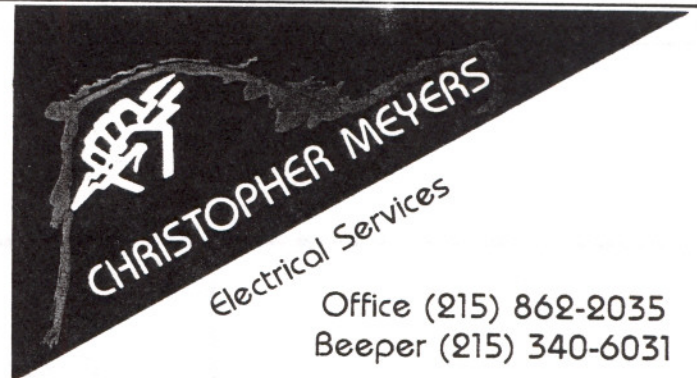
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