



TOP OF BLUE MOUNTAIN  
FORT D. SNYDER

## FORT DIETRICH SNYDER

History records that Indians roamed this area during the French and Indian War. Because of their hostilities forts were built. One of these was Fort Dietrich Snyder on the mountain's crest where present Pennsylvania State Highway #183 makes its crossing. Its marker is erected on the Berks county side of the mountain south of the Appalachian Trail, within a hundred yards of the first tavern of Henry Neuin.

This trail extends from Maine to Georgia along the border of Schuylkill and Berks County, and just east of Route #183 at the top of the mountain in Wayne Township, there is a shelter for travelers.

## ARROWHEADS

As a child, I can remember my grandfather spending many Sunday afternoons searching the countryside for arrowheads and other Indian relics. He would state, "I would rather hunt for these than for deer, bear, or rabbit." The majority of his find were arrowheads, which varied in size, color and consistency. Most arrowheads are triangular, other types are such as the narrow, oval "drills," jagged edged "barbs," two-pronged "fish-type" pieces, and one that resembles a kite.

Most are made of flint and are grayish black or gray with rust and red tints. Also found were white quartz, pink quartzite and limestone.

Where were many found? The best hunting grounds were along banks of creeks or at the intersection of two streams and at natural springs. These places served as tribal camp sites.

The best time to hunt Indian relics was immediately after a rainfall, since the water cleansed them of dust and dirt and made their shapes and colors stand out.

It must be a pure pleasure spotting an artifact, perhaps centuries old. "No matter how crude the pieces may be, it is something that was formed by a human hand, by somebody who lived way before our time."

